

SDR 140/2012

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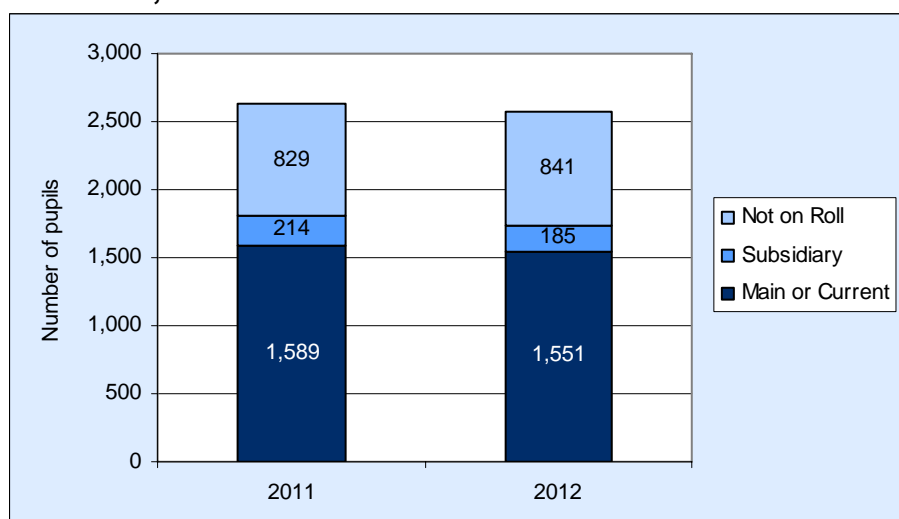
Pupils Educated Other than at School, 2011/12 (Experimental Statistics)

This annual Statistical First Release reports on the number of pupils receiving education outside of school funded by Welsh local authorities and the number of pupils receiving elective home education in Wales. The information relates to the number of pupils receiving these forms of education during a census week in January for the academic years 2009/10 to 2011/12. During the 2011/12 academic year the census week was 16th to 20th January 2012.

Data relating to the 2009/10 academic year excludes 2 local authorities who were unable to supply the relevant information. All 22 local authorities provided data for following years.

Key results

Chart 1: Pupils educated other than at school, by enrolment status at maintained or special schools, 2011/12



Pupils educated other than at school (not including home tuition)

- 2,577 pupils were recorded as being educated other than at school, with 1,026 of these receiving their main education outside of school (Table 1);
- The rate of pupils educated other than at school remains the same as 2010/11 (2.2 per 1,000 pupils) (Table 2);
- Just under 90 per cent of EOTAS pupils receiving their main education outside of school were recorded as having special educational needs (Table 4);
- Pupil referral units were the most frequently-used form of education provided to EOTAS pupils, accounting for almost 40 per cent of all enrolments (Table 7).

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Pupils educated at home

- 986 pupils of compulsory school age were reported to be educated at home during 2011/12 (Table 10);
- Of the pupils being educated at home, just under 20 per cent were 15-year-olds; there were more pupils in this age group than any other age group (Table 7).

Introduction

Chart 1 shows how the EOTAS pupils' enrolment statuses in maintained schools have changed since 2010/11 and Table 1 breaks down these data by local authority for the 2011/12 academic year.

Tables 2 and 3 break down the number of pupils whose main education is other than at school by age, gender and local authority for academic years 2009/10 to 2011/12 and show the rate per 1,000 pupils of these data, giving a more reliable measure of differences between groups of pupils.

Tables 4 to 6 break down the number and percentage of pupils whose main education is other than at school by special educational need, free school meal entitlement and ethnic background. Tables 5 and 6 are new for this edition of the release.

Table 7 shows the types of education being provided for pupils whose main education is other than at school and Chart 2 visualises these data.

Tables 8 and 9 display the number of pupils who are registered at a single pupil referral unit or who are dual registered at a pupil referral unit by age, gender and local authority.

Tables 10 and 11 relate to pupils who are electively home educated and break down the figures by age, gender and local authority. The pupils behind the elective home education data are not included in any other tables in this statistical release.

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Table 1: Number of pupils educated other than at school, by local authority, 2011/12 (a)

Local Authority	EOTAS pupils whose main education is outside of school and who			EOTAS pupils who have main or current enrolment status at a maintained school	All pupils receiving EOTAS provision
	are not on roll at a maintained school	have subsidiary enrolment status at a maintained school	Total		
Isle of Anglesey	6	0	6	37	43
Gwynedd	40	0	40	27	67
Conwy	55	0	55	57	112
Denbighshire	59	1	60	59	119
Flintshire	53	0	53	28	81
Wrexham	11	52	63	1	64
Powys	47	2	49	27	76
Ceredigion	24	0	24	19	43
Pembrokeshire	10	0	10	154	164
Carmarthenshire	13	4	17	109	126
Swansea	57	93	150	94	244
Neath Port Talbot	37	2	39	183	222
Bridgend	20	2	22	60	82
The Vale of Glamorgan	52	15	67	6	73
Rhondda Cynon Taff	89	2	91	145	236
Merthyr Tydfil	2	6	8	48	56
Caerphilly	32	0	32	176	208
Blaenau Gwent	5	0	5	48	53
Torfaen	17	0	17	67	84
Monmouthshire	4	0	4	22	26
Newport	64	4	68	55	123
Cardiff	144	2	146	129	275
Wales					
2011/12	841	185	1,026	1,551	2,577
2010/11	829	214	1,043	1,589	2,632
2009/10	773	222	995	1,399	2,394

Sources: EOTAS Pupil Census, Welsh Government
Pupil Level Annual School Census, Welsh Government

(a) 2 local authorities failed to provide useable data for the 2009/10 academic year. All 22 local authorities provided data in following years.

- In 2011/12 2,577 pupils received local authority-funded education other than at school; of these:
 - 841 pupils only received education other than at school;
 - 185 pupils had 'subsidiary' enrolment status in maintained schools in PLASC, meaning that their main education was outside of school; and
 - 1,551 pupils had 'main' or 'current' enrolment status in maintained schools in PLASC, which means that their main education was received in a maintained school.

Table 2: Number of pupils whose main education is other than at school, by local authority (a)

	Number			Rate (b)		
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Isle of Anglesey	..	15	6	..	1.6	0.6
Gwynedd	33	37	40	1.9	2.1	2.3
Conwy	55	67	55	3.4	4.2	3.4
Denbighshire	29	10	60	1.8	0.6	3.8
Flintshire	46	68	53	1.9	2.8	2.2
Wrexham	65	76	63	3.4	4.0	3.3
Powys	92	74	49	4.7	3.8	2.6
Ceredigion	31	27	24	3.1	2.7	2.5
Pembrokeshire	10	9	10	0.5	0.5	0.5
Carmarthenshire	..	22	17	..	0.8	0.6
Swansea	153	141	150	4.4	4.0	4.3
Neath Port Talbot	37	38	39	1.8	1.8	1.9
Bridgend	25	28	22	1.1	1.3	1.0
The Vale of Glamorgan	63	53	67	2.9	2.4	3.0
Rhondda Cynon Taf	116	110	91	2.9	2.8	2.3
Merthyr Tydfil	11	14	8	1.2	1.5	0.9
Caerphilly	34	27	32	1.2	0.9	1.1
Blaenau Gwent	11	6	5	1.0	0.6	0.5
Torfaen	35	16	17	2.2	1.0	1.1
Monmouthshire	10	12	4	0.8	1.0	0.3
Newport	57	78	68	2.4	3.3	2.8
Cardiff	82	115	146	1.7	2.3	2.9
Wales	995	1,043	1,026	2.1	2.2	2.2

Sources: EOTAS Pupil Census, Welsh Government
School Census, Welsh Government

(a) 2 local authorities failed to provide useable data for the 2009/10 academic year. All 22 local authorities provided data in following years.

(b) Rate per 1,000 pupils. Full- and part-time pupils in maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools, independent schools and pupils whose main education is other than at school as in the January School Census and EOTAS Pupil Census.

- Although the number of pupils whose main education is other than at school dropped slightly between 2010/11 and 2011/12, the rate of EOTAS pupils has remained the same, with 2.2 out of every 1,000 pupils in maintained schools or receiving their main education other than at school being an EOTAS pupil;
- In 2011/12 Swansea had the highest rate of EOTAS pupils (4.3 per 1,000 pupils), while Monmouthshire had the lowest rate (0.3 per 1,000 pupils).

Table 3: Number of pupils whose main education is other than at school, by age and gender (a)

	Number			Rate (c)		
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Gender						
Boys	730	760	744	3.1	3.2	3.1
Girls	265	283	282	1.2	1.2	1.2
Pupils	995	1,043	1,026	2.1	2.2	2.2
Age (b)						
19 or over	0	1	0	0.0	6.9	0.0
18	6	11	13	5.2	7.4	8.4
17	17	28	27	1.3	2.2	2.1
16	32	43	64	1.9	2.6	4.0
15	419	427	428	11.5	12.1	12.4
14	216	209	168	6.1	6.0	4.7
13	117	111	114	3.4	3.1	3.3
12	58	79	75	1.6	2.3	2.2
11	46	34	34	1.3	1.0	1.1
10	26	29	30	0.8	0.9	0.9
9	19	27	17	0.6	0.8	0.5
8	14	17	25	0.4	0.5	0.8
7	10	16	9	0.3	0.5	0.3
6	10	8	9	0.3	0.2	0.3
5	4	2	5	0.1	0.1	0.1
Under 5	1	1	8	-	-	0.1
Total	995	1,043	1,026	2.1	2.2	2.2

Sources: EOTAS Pupil Census, Welsh Government
School Census, Welsh Government

(a) 2 local authorities failed to provide useable data for the 2009/10 academic year. All 22 local authorities provided data in following years.

(b) Age as on 31 August at the start of the academic year.

(c) Rate per 1,000 pupils. Full- and part-time pupils in maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools, independent schools and pupils whose main education is other than at school as in the January School Census and EOTAS Pupil Census.

- Just under three quarters of EOTAS pupils were boys;
- In general, the older pupils of compulsory school age are, the more likely they are to receive their main education other than at school. The highest rate is for 15-year-olds, with 12.4 out of 1,000 pupils receiving their main education other than at school.

Table 4: Pupils whose main education is other than at school, by special educational need (SEN) provision (a)

SEN provision	2009/10		2010/11		2011/12	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Statement of SEN	345	34.7	374	35.9	365	35.6
School Action Plus	412	41.4	456	43.7	503	49.0
School Action	51	5.1	58	5.6	54	5.3
No SEN	187	18.8	155	14.9	104	10.1
Total	995	100.0	1,043	100.0	1,026	100.0

Sources: EOTAS Pupil Census, Welsh Government

(a) 2 local authorities failed to provide useable data for the 2009/10 academic year. All 22 local authorities provided data in following years.

- In 2011/12 89.9 per cent of pupils whose main education was other than at school had special educational needs, an increase of 4.7 percentage points from 2010/11.

Table 5: Pupils whose main education is other than at school, by free school meal (FSM) entitlement (a)

Free school meal entitlement	2009/10		2010/11		2011/12	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Entitled to FSM	646	64.9	689	66.1	711	69.3
Not entitled to FSM	349	35.1	354	33.9	315	30.7
Total	995	100.0	1,043	100.0	1,026	100.0

Sources: EOTAS Pupil Census, Welsh Government

(a) 2 local authorities failed to provide useable data for the 2009/10 academic year. All 22 local authorities provided data in following years.

- The percentage of EOTAS pupils entitled to free school meals increased from 66.1 per cent in 2010/11 to 69.3 per cent in 2011/12.

Table 6: Pupils whose main education is other than at school, by ethnic background (a)

Ethnic background	2009/10		2010/11		2011/12	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
White	855	85.9	904	86.7	892	86.9
White - British	845	84.9	881	84.5	874	85.2
Traveller	5	0.5	8	0.8	7	0.7
Gypsy/Roma	2	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.1
Any other white background	3	0.3	15	1.4	10	1.0
Mixed	30	3.0	26	2.5	23	2.2
White and Black Caribbean	9	0.9	5	0.5	7	0.7
White and Black African	4	0.4	5	0.5	3	0.3
White and Asian	6	0.6	5	0.5	3	0.3
Any Other Mixed Background	11	1.1	11	1.1	10	1.0
Asian	3	0.3	7	0.7	8	0.8
Indian	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Pakistani	0	0.0	4	0.4	4	0.4
Bangladeshi	1	0.1	1	0.1	2	0.2
Any Other Asian Background	2	0.2	2	0.2	2	0.2
Black	2	0.2	4	0.4	6	0.6
Caribbean	1	0.1	0	0.0	2	0.2
African	1	0.1	3	0.3	2	0.2
Any other black background	0	0.0	1	0.1	2	0.2
Chinese or Chinese British	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1
Any other ethnic group	1	0.1	3	0.3	2	0.2
Total with valid category	891	89.5	944	90.5	932	90.8
Unknown or not stated	104	10.5	99	9.5	94	9.2
All pupils	995	100.0	1,043	100.0	1,026	100.0

Sources: EOTAS Pupil Census, Welsh Government

(a) 2 local authorities failed to provide useable data for the 2009/10 academic year. All 22 local authorities provided data in following years.

- In 2011/12 85.2 per cent of pupils whose main education is other than at school were known to be from a white British ethnic background;
- The percentage of EOTAS pupils reported as minority ethnic origin (pupils whose ethnic backgrounds are known and are not white British) decreased from 6.0 per cent in 2010/11 to 5.7 per cent in 2011/12;
- The ethnic background of 9.2 per cent of pupils was either unknown or not stated.

Table 7: Pupils whose main education is other than at school, by educational provision, 2011/12

Since pupils may attend more than one educational provision in a week, some pupils may be counted against more than one provision, which is why the number of enrolments is higher than the number of pupils whose main education is other than at school (1,026 pupils) in Table 1.

Educational provision	Number of enrolments	Percentage of enrolments	Average number of hours a pupil is scheduled to attend in a week
Pupil Referral Unit	464	39.6	21.7
Further Education College	74	6.3	18.0
Maintained school	39	3.3	11.3
Non-maintained special school	38	3.2	26.2
Individual tuition	167	14.2	12.1
Youth Gateway ay	20	1.7	6.0
Work-related education	25	2.1	11.9
Training provider	48	4.1	17.1
Voluntary organisation	1	0.1	10.0
Bought in private sector provision	24	2.0	16.0
Independent school	199	17.0	26.6
Provision not maintained by, or is outside of, authority	34	2.9	23.1
Awaiting provision or not currently in provision	15	1.3	.
Other	24	2.0	16.5
Total	1,172	100.0	19.6

Sources: EOTAS Pupil Census, Welsh Government

- In 2011/12 39.6 per cent of pupil enrolments were at Pupil Referral Units, the most popular educational provision; the next most popular educational provision was at independent schools;
- 39 pupil enrolments took place in a maintained school as part of the local authority-funded EOTAS provision;
- The average number of hours of education provided to pupils whose main education is outside of school was 19.6 hours.

Chart 2: Pupil enrolments, by educational provision, 2011/12

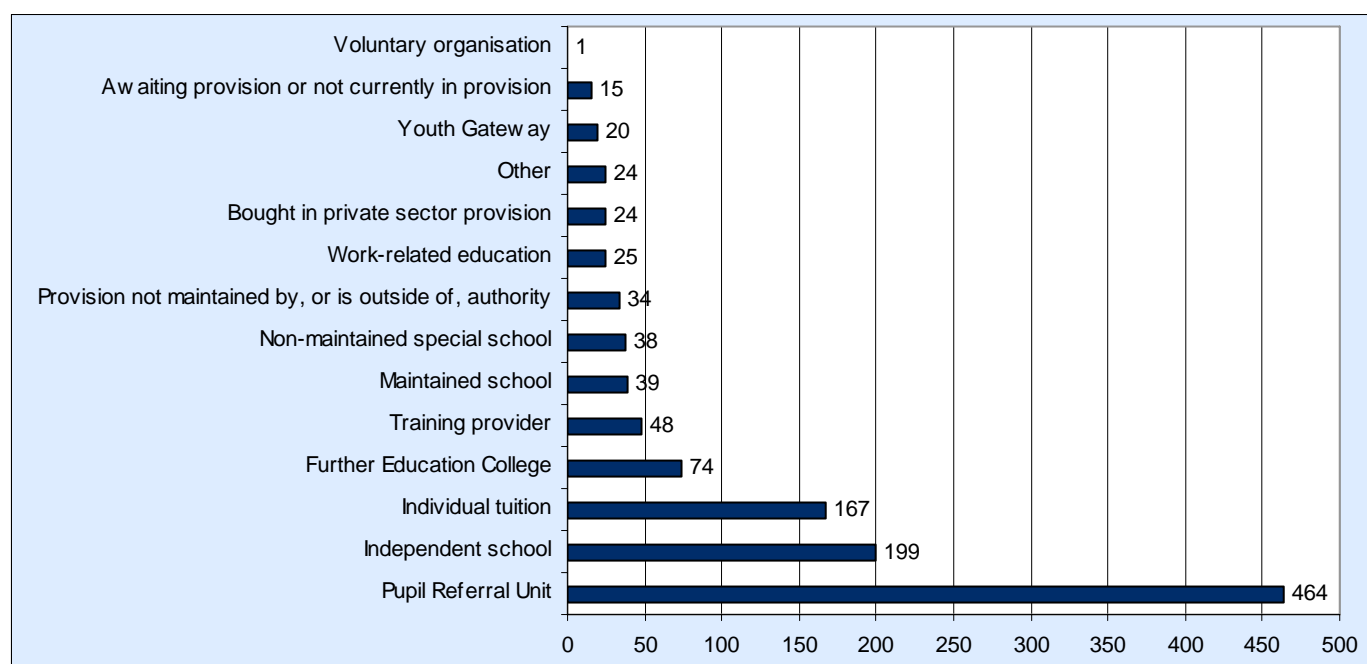


Table 8: Number of pupils attending pupil referral units in Wales, by age, 2011/12

Age (b)	Pupils who are registered at a single PRU (c)			Pupils who are dually registered at a PRU (d)		
	Boys	Girls	Pupil	Boys	Girls	Pupil
19 or over	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	1	0	1	0	0	0
16	6	2	8	0	0	0
15	144	61	205	83	35	118
14	60	24	84	47	39	86
13	51	10	61	67	15	82
12	30	6	36	35	14	49
11	14	0	14	17	1	18
10	15	1	16	30	4	34
9	10	1	11	24	3	27
8	14	1	15	22	1	23
7	6	0	6	7	1	8
6	6	0	6	9	0	9
5	2	0	2	5	1	6
Under 5	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total	359	106	465	347	114	461
Under school leaving age	352	104	456	347	114	461
Over school leaving age	7	2	9	0	0	0

Sources: EOTAS Pupil Census, Welsh Government
Pupil Level Annual School Census, Welsh Government

(a) Age as on 31 August 2011.

(b) Figures relate to pupils educated at only one PRU and include pupils receiving other EOTAS provisions or being recorded as having 'subsidiary' enrolment status at a maintained or special school in the 2011/12 Pupil-Level Annual School Census (PLASC), but exclude those with 'main' or 'current' enrolment in a maintained or special school in PLASC.

(c) Figures relate to pupils educated at more than one PRU or educated at a PRU while having 'main' or 'current' enrolment status at a maintained or special school in the 2011/12 PLASC.

- In the 2011/12 academic year 465 pupils were singly registered at a pupil referral unit, with just over three quarters of these pupils being boys;
- Of those pupils singly registered at a pupil referral unit almost half were aged 15;
- 461 pupils attending pupil referral units were dual registered.

Table 9: Number of pupils attending pupil referral units in Wales, by local authority, 2011/12

Local Authority (a)	Pupils who are registered at a single PRU (b)			Pupils who are dually registered at a PRU (c)		
	Boys	Girls	Pupil	Boys	Girls	Pupil
Isle of Anglesey	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gwynedd	8	6	14	19	1	20
Conwy	18	8	26	38	13	51
Denbighshire	22	5	27	36	15	51
Flintshire	25	9	34	10	9	19
Wrexham	34	28	62	0	1	1
Powys	10	3	13	1	2	3
Ceredigion	6	2	8	6	1	7
Pembrokeshire	0	0	0	21	4	25
Carmarthenshire	2	0	2	6	1	7
Swansea	75	22	97	6	2	8
Neath Port Talbot	2	0	2	17	6	23
Bridgend	4	4	8	9	3	12
The Vale of Glamorgan	34	4	38	3	1	4
Rhondda Cynon Taff	80	6	86	65	20	85
Merthyr Tydfil	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caerphilly	0	0	0	13	0	13
Blaenau Gwent	3	1	4	26	6	32
Torfaen	6	1	7	40	14	54
Monmouthshire	3	0	3	1	0	1
Newport	17	6	23	26	11	37
Cardiff	10	1	11	4	4	8
Wales	359	106	465	347	114	461

Sources: EOTAS Pupil Census, Welsh Government
Pupil Level Annual School Census, Welsh Government

- (a) Refers to the local authority in which pupils attended PRUs, not the local authority funding the provision.
- (b) Figures relate to pupils educated at only one PRU and include pupils receiving other EOTAS provisions or being recorded as having 'subsidiary' enrolment status at a maintained or special school in the 2011/12 Pupil-Level Annual School Census (PLASC), but exclude those with 'main' or 'current' enrolment in a maintained or special school in PLASC.
- (c) Figures relate to pupils educated at more than one PRU or educated at a PRU while having 'main' or 'current' enrolment status at a maintained or special school in the 2011/12 PLASC.

- Of the local authorities that had pupil referral units in 2011/12 Monmouthshire had the least number of pupils on roll (8 pupils), while Rhondda Cynon Taff had the most number of pupils attending pupil referral units (171 pupils);
- With the exception of Isle of Anglesey which has no PRUs and Merthyr Tydfil which had no pupils on roll, every local authority had more boys in attendance at their PRUs than girls.

Table 10: Number of pupils of compulsory school age electively educated at home, by gender and age (a)

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Gender			
Boys	340	425	477
Girls	288	416	439
Pupils (b)	722	896	986
Age (c)			
15	161	160	174
14	86	139	158
13	90	114	117
12	87	100	100
11	67	78	91
10	44	68	79
9	57	73	61
8	52	55	62
7	37	44	53
6	24	39	46
5	17	26	45
Total	722	896	986

Sources: EOTAS Pupil Census, Welsh Government

(a) 2 local authorities failed to provide useable data for the 2009/10 academic year. All 22 local authorities provided data in following years.

(b) The total number of pupils does not equal the sum of boys and girls as one local authority did not supply gender information.

(c) Age as on 31 August at the start of the academic year. Where local authorities do not know a pupil's age they were asked to provide an estimate.

- In 2011/12 there were 986 pupils of compulsory school age recorded as being electively home educated;
- There were more pupils aged 15 recorded as being electively home educated than any other age group, with a little under one fifth of pupils in this age group.

Table 11: Number of pupils of compulsory school age electively educated at home, by local authority (a)

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Isle of Anglesey	..	7	2
Gwynedd	34	36	53
Conwy	33	43	53
Denbighshire	34	66	50
Flintshire	27	30	40
Wrexham	31	26	20
Powys	42	84	99
Ceredigion	78	111	117
Pembrokeshire	94	55	70
Carmarthenshire	..	78	82
Swansea	49	72	69
Neath Port Talbot	44	36	36
Bridgend	15	22	43
The Vale of Glamorgan	28	28	17
Rhondda Cynon Taff	33	31	37
Merthyr Tydfil	8	9	9
Caerphilly	32	10	29
Blaenau Gwent	7	7	8
Torfaen	12	16	16
Monmouthshire	11	8	17
Newport	23	27	27
Cardiff	87	94	92
Wales	722	896	986

Sources: EOTAS Pupil Census, Welsh Government

(a) 2 local authorities failed to provide useable data for the 2009/10 academic year. All 22 local authorities provided data in following years.

- In 2011/12 Isle of Anglesey had the lowest number of pupils of compulsory school age being electively home educated (2 pupils), while Ceredigion had the highest number (117 pupils).

Notes

1 Context

1.1 Policy/Operational

Local authorities are required to provide suitable education at school or otherwise than at school for those children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless such arrangements are made for them.

In practice, local authorities respond to that duty in widely varying ways, relating to their individual circumstances, such as their geography, socio-economic situation and educational policies. A key action within the Welsh Government's Behaviour and Attendance Action Plan is to raise the standards of EOTAS provision across Wales, through the implementation of a specific action plan relating to EOTAS. This can be found at the following link:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/pupilsupport/?lang=en>

1.2 Related Publications

England publish the number of pupils on roll at Pupil Referral Units in the statistical release entitled 'Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics, January 2012'. The latest available statistics can be found here:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001071/index.shtml>

2 Data Source

The EOTAS Pupil Census is carried out annually and collects data on pupils educated other than at school from local authorities electronically via a secure website. The collection is carried out by the Statistical Directorate within the Welsh Government.

3 Definitions

3.1 Coverage

The information in this Statistical First Release relates to pupils receiving local authority-funded education outside of the mainstream school environment during a census week each January and the number of pupils of compulsory school age (aged 5 to 15 on 31 August before the start of the academic year) known by local authorities to be electively home educated. For the 2011/12 academic year the census week was 16 to 20 January 2012.

Data for the 2009/10 academic year excluded 2 local authorities that were unable to supply useable data in time for publication and therefore gave an incomplete picture of the number of pupils educated other than at school in Wales. All 22 local authorities provided data for the following academic years.

In 2011/12 data were received on 2,577 pupils receiving education other than at school from all 22 local authorities in Wales. Of the 2,577 pupils receiving EOTAS provision 1,551 were recorded in the January 2012 Pupil-Level Annual School Census as having 'main' or 'current' enrolment status in maintained primary, secondary or special schools and were therefore considered to be receiving their main education in a maintained school. The remaining 1,026 pupils were considered to be receiving their main education outside of school. The focus of this Statistical First Release is on pupils mainly educated other than at school, but to give a complete picture it was necessary to include all pupils receiving EOTAS provision in Chart 1 and Tables 1, 8 and 9.

Local authorities reported that in 2011/12 1,027 pupils were being electively home educated. Of these pupils 41 were not of compulsory school age so they were excluded from the figures contained in this release, leaving a total of 986 pupils.

3.2 Definitions of Pupils Educated Other than at School

In the context of this statistical release:

- a pupil being **educated other than at school (EOTAS)** was recorded as receiving or awaiting education provision funded by the local authority otherwise than in a maintained school setting during the census week of the EOTAS Pupil Census. A pupil may also be included in this category if they:
 - attend an independent or non-maintained special school for which the local authority is responsible for paying all or part of the tuition fees;
 - are placed in a maintained school as part of their education funded by the local authority.
- the phrase **EOTAS pupil** is used to refer to a pupil educated other than at school as defined above.
- an EOTAS pupil **whose main education is other than at school** is a pupil being educated other than at school who is either not on roll at a maintained school or is recorded as having a 'subsidiary' enrolment status at a maintained school in the January Pupil-Level Annual School Census.
- an EOTAS pupil **whose main education is in a maintained school** is a pupil being educated other than at school with a 'main' or 'current' enrolment status in the January Pupil-Level Annual School Census.
- pupils being **electively home educated** are children whose parents have decided to educate at home rather than at school and are not classed as EOTAS pupils. Although by definition they are educated other than at school, education for these pupils is not funded by the local authority and there is no legal basis under which the local authority can collect personal data about them. Data on electively home educated pupils are restricted to headcounts by local authority, gender and age and are provided voluntarily by the local authority. Figures related to pupils electively home educated have been reported in separate tables to those relating to EOTAS pupils.

4 Rounding and Symbols

In tables where figures have been rounded to the nearest final digit, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total shown.

The following symbols have been used throughout this publication:

- . data item is not applicable;
- .. data item is not available;
- data item is not zero, but would be rounded to zero because less than half the final digit is shown.

5 Key Quality Information

This section provides a summary of information on this output against five dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Timeliness and Punctuality, Accessibility and Clarity, and Comparability.

5.1 Relevance

The statistics are used both within and outside the Welsh Government to monitor educational trends and as a baseline for further analysis of the underlying data. Some of the key users are:

- Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;
- other government departments;
- local authorities and schools;
- ESTYN, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education and Training in Wales;

- The Department for Education and Skills in the Welsh Government;
- other areas of the Welsh Government;
- the research community;
- students, academics and universities;
- individual citizens, private companies and the media.

These statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these are:

- advice to Ministers;
- to inform the education policy decision-making process in Wales;
- to inform ESTYN during school inspections;
- to assist in research in educational attainment.

5.2 Accuracy

The Welsh Government works closely with local authorities in order to ensure all data are validated before tables are published. Data is collated into an electronic return and submitted to the Welsh Government through DEWi, a secure online data transfer system developed by the Welsh Government. Various stages of automated validation and sense-checking are built into the process to ensure a high quality of data.

Following the collection of the data for the 2011/12 academic year an additional four week validation period was carried out in which local authorities were sent summary tables of their data and asked to check that they were correct. While most of the data were confirmed to be correct, this checking period highlighted problems with several local authorities' data which were resolved, further improving the accuracy of the data.

The first edition of this statistical first release was labelled as 'experimental statistics', which are new official statistics undergoing evaluation. Experimental statistics are published in order to involve users and stakeholders in their development and as a means to build in quality at an early stage. Issues raised regarding the coverage and quality of the data behind the statistical first release 'Pupils Educated Other than at School, 2009/10' and some of the tables within have been addressed in the latest edition, improving the accuracy and usefulness of the statistics presented. Despite full coverage for the 2010/11 and 2011/12 academic years, and the improvement in data quality through increased validation and verification checks, the 'experimental statistics' label remains this year. Time constraints meant that the thorough evaluation needed to upgrade the data to 'official statistics' could not be carried out before publication the publication date, but it will hopefully be completed by the time the 2012/13 data are published.

5.3 Timeliness and Punctuality

DEWi was available for uploading files on 23 January 2012, with local authorities asked to submit data for all pupils receiving or awaiting local authority-funded education outside of the maintained school environment during the census week of 16 to 23 January 2012. Local authorities were then asked to validate their data within the validation period, which was extended to allow more in-depth checks to be carried out for the first time and closed on 13 July 2012.

Continuing technical issues in several local authorities and the a new four-week checking period delayed the time it took to validate the data, but lessons learned during the previous two years and improved validation checks, along with the help of colleagues in local authorities, have allowed us to bring forward the publication of this statistical first release by two weeks.

5.4 Accessibility and Clarity

This Statistical First Release is pre-announced and then published on the Statistics section of the Welsh Government website. It will be accompanied by more detailed tables about the number of pupils at

Pupil Referral Units on StatsWales, a free to use service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download data.

5.5 Comparability

Two local authorities failed to provide useable data for the 2009/10 academic year and the data's quality was questionable, so caution should be used when comparing data with this year.

Tables 8 and 9 contain the number of pupils only on roll at Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) in Wales by gender, age and local authority, which in previous years have been published in the Welsh Government's publication entitled 'Schools in Wales: General Statistics.' Prior to 2009/10 the figures for this table were collected directly from PRUs via the STATS1 form. Tables 8 and 9 are now based upon data from the EOTAS Pupil Census and the January Pupil-Level Annual School Census. Because of the change in methodology used the number of pupils that would have been reported as only being on roll at a PRU in the STATS1 form may differ slightly from those that have been produced for this statistical first release.

In the 2009/10 edition of this release Table 4 presented the number of pupils only registered at a PRU (which included pupils registered at more than one PRU) and the number of pupils registered at a PRU and other educational institutions. To meet with user demand this table (now Table 5) was changed in the 2010/11 edition to present the number of pupils only registered at a single PRU and the number of pupils dual registered at more than one PRU or at a PRU and another maintained school. The new definitions have also been used in Table 6 and match the definitions previously used when presenting the number of pupils attending PRUs. Since Table 4 in the 2009/10 release and Table 5 in subsequent releases have different definitions for single and dual registered pupils it is not recommended that they be compared. Comparable data are available from the Statistical Directorate of the Welsh Government on request.

Tables and charts in this statistical first release contain data about different groups of EOTAS pupils as defined in section 3.2. Whether the tables and charts are referring to EOTAS pupils whose main education is other than at school, whose main education is at a maintained school or all EOTAS pupils is clearly indicated, so before comparing two tables or charts please check that they are referring to the same group of EOTAS pupils.

Pupils by age (Table 2) and by SEN (Table 3) can be set in context by comparing to the general school population. The relevant data can be found in the publication of final school census results here: <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/schools/?lang=en>.