

Statistics Publication Notice

Education Series

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CHILDREN EDUCATED OUTWITH SCHOOL 2009

October 27th, 2009

This publication provides results of the annual survey on children educated outwith school. In previous years, these statistics have been presented with projections of pupil numbers. This year, projections of pupil numbers will form part of Pupils in Scotland which is to be published on 17 November 2009.

The main findings of children educated outwith school are:

- In 2008/09 there were 827 children who received local authority education at home or in hospital due to prolonged **ill-health**, or through special arrangements put in place as a result of family illness (this compares with 872 in 2007/08, a decrease of 5.2 per cent).
- A further 239 children received education at home under 'other **extraordinary circumstances**' (this compares with 225 in 2007/08, an increase of 6.2 per cent). Examples of 'other **extraordinary circumstances**' include: where pupils are unable to attend school because of geographical remoteness, travellers' children who may spend part of the school year outwith school and prolonged adverse weather affecting the ability of island children to attend school.
- In 2008/09, 580 children were known by local authorities to be receiving home education as a result of **parental choice**, who had at some point in the past been in local authority school education (this compares with 579 in 2007/08, no significant change).
- Another 175 children who had never been in local authority school education were known by local authorities to be receiving home education as a result of **parental choice** (this compares with 177 in 2007/08, no significant change). It

is recognised that there may be more children educated outwith school who are not currently known to local authorities. Parents of children who have never attended a local authority school are not required to seek the consent of their local authority in order to educate them at home. If local authorities become aware of such children they have a responsibility to intervene if an efficient and suitable education is not being provided.

- The total number of children known to be educated at home due to **parental choice**, 755, represents 0.1 per cent of the population aged 5-15 (unchanged on 2007/08).

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BACKGROUND NOTES

1. This survey was run for the first time in Autumn 2001. Local authorities provided details of all children who were educated outwith school at any point during the school year, whether out of necessity (Section 14 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980) or by parental choice (Section 30). The survey replaced and extended the previous survey of pupils educated outwith school (SC4) which provided only a snapshot picture of Section 14 children during a given week in September.
2. Following the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 education authorities must make special arrangements for the education of children who are unable to attend school because of prolonged ill-health and exemptions caused by family illness. The Executive issued guidance to authorities on this duty in December 2001. Authorities may also make special arrangements for children who cannot attend because of extraordinary circumstances.
3. Section 30 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 states that parents have a duty to provide efficient education for their school age children which is suited to their age, ability and aptitude. They may do this by ensuring that their child attends a local authority school regularly, or by other means, including the provision of education at home. Children who receive education at home under Section 30 do so as a result of parental choice, and are distinct from those who, due to illness or exceptional circumstances, are unable to attend school.
4. Parents of children who have started to attend a local authority school must seek the LA's consent before withdrawing their child from school to educate them at home. LAs reported that they were aware of 580 such children who were educated at home in 2008/09. Parents of children who have never attended a local authority school are not required to seek the consent of their LA in order to educate them at home. LAs reported that they were aware of 175 such children, although there are likely to be others. If LAs become aware of such children they have a responsibility to intervene if an efficient and suitable education is not being provided.
5. The Scottish Government publishes guidance on home education for local authorities and parents. The purpose of this guidance is to promote a consistency of approach across Scotland by setting out the legislative position, providing advice on the roles and responsibilities of education authorities and parents, and giving examples of good practice. The latest guidance published electronically in January 2008 is available on the Scottish Government website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/12/17133313/0>

Symbols

6. The following symbols are used:
 - = disclosure control
 - * = disclosive data
 - = nil or rounds to nil

General

7. **This is a National Statistics publication.** National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.
8. This report was edited by: Paul Gona and James Boyce
9. All tables are available on the Scottish Government website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00768>

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Statistical Publication Notice

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NB. Table 1 in previous publications of the statistical series: Children Educated Outwith School in Scotland, have presented national level figures on the numbers of children educated outwith school, each year from 2001/02. Table 1 (below) presents data for 2007/08 and 2008/09 only. On the advice of local authorities, we have concerns over the accuracy of figures going back in time. Coupled with previous revisions to these data, we present below the most recent data (2008/09) and revised data for 2007/08.

We will revise previous publications on the Scottish Government website.

Table 1: Children Educated Outwith School in Scotland, 2007/08 to 2008/09

Purpose: This table presents national level statistics for 2008/09 and 2007/08. These statistics relate to children who were educated outwith school at any point during the school year, whether out of necessity (Section 14 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980) or by parental choice (Section 30).

	Receiving education under Section 14			Receiving education under Section 30		
	Due to prolonged ill-health or illness of family member ⁽¹⁾	Other extraordinary circumstances	Total receiving education under Section 14	Withdrawn from local authority school	Never attended local authority school	Total receiving education under Section 30
2007/08	872	225	1,097	579	177	756
2008/09	827	239	1,066	580	175	755

(1) In 2007/08, the published statistics for children receiving education under Section 14 due to prolonged ill-health or illness of family member used 2006/07 figures for Glasgow City (Glasgow City were not able to produce a 2007/08 figure at the time). The 872 figure above includes the revised 2007/08 return for Glasgow City.

Table 2: Children Educated Outwith School, by Local Authority, 2008/09⁽¹⁾

	Receiving education under Section 14		Receiving education under Section 30		Total children educated outwith school	Population aged 5-15 ⁽²⁾
	Due to prolonged ill-health or illness of family member	Other extraordinary circumstances	Withdrawn from local authority school	Never attended local authority school		
Aberdeen City	13	-	11	5	29	22,119
Aberdeenshire	-----3-----		37	8	48	32,486
Angus	8	-	16	11	35	13,905
Argyll & Bute	15	2	25	2	44	10,949
Clackmannanshire	-	-	10	4	14	6,649
Dumfries & Galloway	8	4	29	1	42	17,774
Dundee City	7	-	13	-	20	15,809
East Ayrshire	8	2	24	4	38	14,968
East Dunbartonshire	22	-	10	-	32	14,160
East Lothian	17	-	11	1	29	12,944
East Renfrewshire	-----1-----		-	8	9	12,992
Edinburgh, City of	155	19	33	-	207	47,088
Eilean Siar	5	-	3	6	14	3,226
Falkirk	12	-	20	-	32	19,230
Fife	32	24	49	3	108	44,823
Glasgow City	317	136	20	4	477	63,751
Highland	17	9	47	50	123	27,463
Inverclyde	4	14	-----1-----		19	9,863
Midlothian	7	7	-----4-----		18	10,682
Moray	5	3	14	2	24	11,072
North Ayrshire	17	-	23	14	54	17,353
North Lanarkshire	34	-	39	4	77	43,256
Orkney Islands	-----1-----		8	5	14	2,491
Perth & Kinross	17	-	29	8	54	17,891
Renfrewshire	23	-	6	-	29	21,114
Scottish Borders	15	8	37	8	68	14,198
Shetland Islands	6	-	10	8	24	3,033
South Ayrshire	15	9	20	5	49	13,150
South Lanarkshire	18	-	16	5	39	39,566
Stirling	9	-	5	4	18	11,664
West Dunbartonshire	-----4-----		-----3-----		7	11,184
West Lothian	14	-	7	5	26	23,709
Scotland	827	239	580	175	1,821	630,562

(1) Data has been merged where the total number of pupils in a section is less than five.

(2) Mid-year population estimates as at 30th June 2008. Please note, however, that children being educated outwith school may be aged under 5 or over 15 years old.

Table 3: Children receiving education under section 14, 2007/08 to 2008/09⁽¹⁾

	Receiving education under Section 14			
	Due to prolonged ill-health or illness of family member ⁽²⁾		Other extraordinary circumstances	
	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09
Aberdeen City	13	13	-	-
Aberdeenshire	*	*	*	*
Angus	15	8	-	-
Argyll & Bute	17	15	3	2
Clackmannanshire	*	-	*	-
Dumfries & Galloway	6	8	-	4
Dundee City	12	7	-	-
East Ayrshire	20	8	1	2
East Dunbartonshire	22	22	-	-
East Lothian	14	17	1	-
East Renfrewshire	-	*	-	*
Edinburgh, City of	123	155	19	19
Eilean Siar	-	5	-	-
Falkirk	24	12	-	-
Fife	37	32	24	24
Glasgow City	327	317	123	136
Highland	28	17	9	9
Inverclyde	13	4	6	14
Midlothian	8	7	7	7
Moray	3	5	6	3
North Ayrshire	48	17	-	-
North Lanarkshire	15	34	-	-
Orkney Islands	*	*	*	*
Perth & Kinross	8	17	1	-
Renfrewshire	10	23	-	-
Scottish Borders	15	15	6	8
Shetland Islands	5	6	-	-
South Ayrshire	8	15	9	9
South Lanarkshire	28	18	-	-
Stirling	25	9	7	-
West Dunbartonshire	*	*	*	*
West Lothian	17	14	1	-
Scotland	872	827	225	239

(1) Data has been disclosure checked where total number of pupils in a section is less than five.

(2) In 2007/08, the published statistics for children receiving education under Section 14 due to prolonged ill-health or illness of family member used 2006/07 figures for Glasgow City. The 327 figure is the revised Glasgow City return.

Table 4: Children receiving education under section 30, 2007/08 to 2008/09⁽¹⁾

	Receiving education under Section 30			
	Withdrawn from local authority school		Never attended local authority school	
	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09
Aberdeen City	15	11	7	5
Aberdeenshire	39	37	7	8
Angus	12	16	8	11
Argyll & Bute	27	25	3	2
Clackmannanshire	11	10	5	4
Dumfries & Galloway	27	29	3	1
Dundee City	10	13	-	-
East Ayrshire	14	24	7	4
East Dunbartonshire	5	10	-	-
East Lothian	13	11	1	1
East Renfrewshire	1	-	12	8
Edinburgh, City of	43	33	-	-
Eilean Siar	5	3	7	6
Falkirk	15	20	-	-
Fife	49	49	8	3
Glasgow City	25	20	4	4
Highland	48	47	38	50
Inverclyde	*	*	*	*
Midlothian	*	*	*	*
Moray	19	14	2	2
North Ayrshire	21	23	12	14
North Lanarkshire	44	39	4	4
Orkney Islands	3	8	7	5
Perth & Kinross	33	29	8	8
Renfrewshire	6	6	-	-
Scottish Borders	27	37	7	8
Shetland Islands	11	10	8	8
South Ayrshire	17	20	7	5
South Lanarkshire	20	16	6	5
Stirling	7	5	2	4
West Dunbartonshire	*	*	*	*
West Lothian	7	7	4	5
Scotland	579	580	177	175

(1) Data has been disclosure checked where total number of pupils in a section is less than five.

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