**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR MAINSTREAM PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOLS / ACADEMIES REGARDING THE OCTOBER 2025 CENSUS**

The **October 2025 Census (taken on Thursday 2 October)** will be used to calculate core mainstream funding allocations for primary (Reception – Year 6) and secondary (Year 7 – Year 11) schools and academies in the 2026/27 financial year. The October 2025 Census will also be used for other grant funding streams in 2026/27, including the Pupil Premium Grant.

The DfE will provide the Local Authority, in December 2025, with a dataset, which must be used to calculate core mainstream formula funding allocations for 2026/27. As has been the case in previous years, the Authority will have no flexibility to amend any inaccurate data recorded in the October 2025 Census.

**This means that it is imperative that primary and secondary mainstream schools and academies ensure their October 2025 Census data returns are accurate.**

For reference, the link below will take you to the DfE webpage on which you will find the ‘Schools Block dataset technical specification’ published by the DfE, which sets out the data that was used to calculate Schools Block allocations in 2025/26. The 2026/27 document will be published in the autumn.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-complete-the-authority-proforma-tool-apt-2025-to-2026/schools-block-technical-specification-2025-to-2026-for-use-in-schools-block-allocations>

This document gives further information on the census fields that will feed into the formula funding dataset.

*Further technical information on the Census is available on the DfE website through the below address and links on this page:*

<https://www.gov.uk/education/school-censuses-and-slasc>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/complete-the-school-census/data-items-2025-to-2026>