The Children's Commissioner's School Survey

1. Introduction

Please note, this survey will remain open into January for any schools or colleges still to respond.

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has a statutory duty to represent the views and interests of children in England to Government.

This survey of all schools and colleges in England aims to drive improvements in the support available to children. It asks about the support your school offers to pupils and their families, your staff roles and responsibilities, and the characteristics and vulnerabilities of your pupils.

The Commissioner has statutory powers under [Section 2F of the Children Act 2004](#) to collect data relating to children and **all public sector organisations in England are required to provide data requested by the Commissioner.** This request is not subject to the same exemptions as a Freedom of Information request, for more information visit our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.

Each school or college should respond **once only**. Multi-academy Trusts should ensure that each of their schools respond. Results from this survey will be published in a non-identifiable format by the Children's Commissioner's office. **Your organisation's name will not be published and raw data will not be shared beyond the office.** For more information and to see our privacy notice visit [our website](#).

How long it takes to complete the survey depends on how available your data is, but once collated, we estimate less than 10 minutes to input responses. You do not have to complete the answers in one go - save your progress and return to complete the survey later by clicking **'Save and Continue Later'** below. This will email you a link to share with colleagues to help assemble your answers.

The original deadline to complete this statutory data collection was the **20th December 2024.**

2. About your school or college

1. What is the name of your school or college?

Start typing in the box below and your school college should be suggested.

[   ]

2. If you could not select your school or college in the question above, please type the name and postcode of your organisation in the text box below.

[   ]

3. Is your school or college willing to be contacted by the Children's Commissioner's office regarding future participation events, such as roundtables, focus groups and interviews?

If so, please provide the email address of the headteacher/principal:

[   ]

3. Staff roles and responsibilities

4. Did your school, college or MAT employ the following full-time equivalent (FTE) roles or staff members in Summer Term 2024?

Select all that apply.

	Yes, more than one full-time equivalent across our MAT	Yes, one or fewer full-time equivalent across our MAT	Yes, more than one full-time equivalent at our school or college	Yes, one or fewer full-time equivalent at our school or college	No, externally-provided services are delivered in our school or college	No, but we signpost to external services not delivered in our school or college	No, we don't have this, but we want to	No, we don't have this, and we don't want to	I don't know
A mental health counsellor	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A school nurse	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A speech and language therapist	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
An Education Mental Health Practitioner (part of Mental Health Support Teams)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
An educational psychologist	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
An English as an Additional Language Coordinator	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

5. Did your school, college or MAT employ the following full-time equivalent (FTE) roles or staff members in Summer Term 2024?

Select all that apply.

	Yes, more than one full-time equivalent across our MAT	Yes, one or fewer full-time equivalent across our MAT	Yes, more than one full-time equivalent at our school or college	Yes, one or fewer full-time equivalent at our school or college	No, externally-provided services are delivered in our school or college	No, we signpost to external services not delivered in our school or college	No, we don't have this, but we want to	No, we don't have this, and we don't want to	I don't know
A family liaison/support officer	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) or Safer Schools Police Officer (SSO)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A social worker	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A staff member for supporting UASC (see definition below)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A staff member for supporting young carers (e.g. Young carers champion)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A youth worker	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

6. The next question is about your Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo), Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Mental Health Lead.

Which of the following applied to your school or college in Summer Term 2024?

- ☐ One member of staff acts as our SENCo, DSL and Mental Health Lead
- ☐ Two members of staff cover these three roles
- ☐ Three separate staff members cover each of these roles
- ☐ We do not have one or more of these roles

Definitions:

An **unaccompanied asylum seeking child (UASC)** is a person who is under 18 years of age when the asylum application is submitted, is applying for asylum in their own right; and is separated from both parents and is not being cared for by an adult who in law or by custom has responsibility to do so.

Youth work is a form of informal, voluntary education which brings young people together and seeks to support their personal, social, emotional and educational development.

4. School and college resources

7. Did your school or college have the following resources <u>on-site</u> as of Summer Term 2024?

Select all that apply.

	Yes, run by the school or college	Yes, run by an external provider (e.g., the local authority, a charity)	No, but we want this	No, but we don't want this	I don't know
A room for children's wellbeing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
An outdoor space for children to play or learn in	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Enrichment activities: art, drama, music	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Enrichment activities: sport	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Holiday activities provided free of charge	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Social and emotional wellbeing interventions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Student participation (e.g. student council)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Youth work	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

8. Did your school or college have the following resources <u>on-site</u> as of Summer Term 2024?

Select all that apply.

	Yes, run by the school or college	Yes, run by an external provider (e.g., the local authority, a charity)	No, but we want this	No, but we don't want this	I don't know
A family hub or children's centre	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A nursery	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A sexual health clinic	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A vaccination clinic	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
An internal Alternative Provision (AP)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Breakfast provision	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Free food provision for families e.g., a food bank	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Wrap-around childcare	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

5. Barriers to providing support

9. Which of the following, if any, are barriers to providing additional support to pupils in your school or college?

Select all that apply.

- [ ] Parent and carer engagement
- [ ] Pupil engagement
- [ ] Availability of funding
- [ ] Short-term funding
- [ ] Availability of local services
- [ ] Insufficient information about local services
- [ ] Quality of relationships with local services
- [ ] Policy at MAT-level
- [ ] Policy at national-level
- [ ] Size of premises
- [ ] Suitability of premises
- [ ] Overall staff capacity
- [ ] Senior leadership capacity
- [ ] None of these
- [ ] Other (please specify):

10. How were the following on-site services funded in the 2023/24 academic year?

Select all that apply.

	Internally funded from the school or college budget	Funded by the school from pupil premium	Funded by our multi-academy trust	Fundraising by school or college/pupils	National government programmes	Local authority funding	External partners (charity)	External partners (corporate)	Service provided but not funded	Service not provided	I don't know
A nursery on site	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A sexual health clinic	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A vaccination clinic	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Breakfast provision	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Enrichment: art, drama, music	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Enrichment: sport	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Family support services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Mental health services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Special educational needs provision	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Youth work	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Wrap-around childcare	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

6. Support for children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)

11. In the 2023/24 academic year, how did your school or college deal with the following types of reasonable adjustments for pupils with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)?

	We were able to make this adjustment	We were unable to make this adjustment	This adjustment was not required	Don't know
Access to mental health counselling	☐	☐	☐	☐
Access to physical therapies	☐	☐	☐	☐
Access to extra teaching assistant support	☐	☐	☐	☐
Adaptation of resources	☐	☐	☐	☐
Adapted behavioural sanctions	☐	☐	☐	☐
Adapted timetable	☐	☐	☐	☐
Alternative pathways	☐	☐	☐	☐
Exam or assessment support	☐	☐	☐	☐
Mentoring	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pass for time out of lesson (including toilet pass and breaks)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Removal from specific subjects	☐	☐	☐	☐
Safety and action plans	☐	☐	☐	☐
Specific equipment	☐	☐	☐	☐
Specific spaces outside of classrooms	☐	☐	☐	☐
Uniform adaptations	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐	☐

12. In the 2023/24 academic year, for which reasons, if any, was your school or college <u>unable</u> to meet the requirements of an EHCP?

Select all that apply.

- [ ] Behaviour policies and procedures
- [ ] Funding did not match need
- [ ] Lack of specialist staffing
- [ ] Lack of suitable/accessible facilities
- [ ] Lack of supervision during time out of lessons
- [ ] Structure of the school day
- [ ] None of the above
- [ ] Other (please specify):

Definitions:

Alternative pathways are educational study programmes offered by independent organisations to young people aged 14-19, and are often called alternative provision or pathways.

Safety and action plans would include any plan developed to be shared with teachers and other staff to keep children safe and to address any difficulties which may arise as a result of their SEND needs.

Additional teaching assistant support may include in-class targeted support to differentiate or deliver lesson content, support behaviour and wellbeing, or implement coping strategies, or to deliver interventions outside of the classroom

7. Contact with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

13. In the 2023/24 academic year, how many referrals did you make to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)?

If you do not know the exact number, please provide an estimate. <u>If you cannot provide an estimate, please write 'don't know'. If zero, write 0.</u>

14. In the 2023/24 academic year, how many pre-referral conversations did you have with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)?

This is the cases included in the question above <u>and</u> any that did not progress to a referral. If you do not know the exact number, please provide an estimate. <u>If you cannot provide an estimate, please write 'don't know'. If zero, write 0.</u>

8. Policing in schools and colleges

15. How many, if any, incidents or concerns involving your pupils led to the school or college contacting the following in the 2023/24 academic year?

If you do not know the exact figure, please provide an estimate. <u>If you cannot provide an estimate, please write 'don't know'. If zero, write 0.</u>

Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) or Safer Schools Police Officer (SSO)	
The police (other than PCSOs or SSOs)	

16. Of these, what were the reasons?

Select all that apply. If multiple reasons apply to one concern or incident, select all reasons. See below for a list of definitions.

	On school or college site	Outside school or college site	Online	Unknown location
Theft	☐	☐	☐	☐
Drugs	☐	☐	☐	☐
Weapons or dangerous objects	☐	☐	☐	☐
Vandalism	☐	☐	☐	☐
Child criminal exploitation	☐	☐	☐	☐
Violence or threat of violence	☐	☐	☐	☐
Child sexual abuse or child sexual exploitation by adults	☐	☐	☐	☐
Child-on-child sexual abuse or harassment	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hate crime	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐	☐

17. How many times, if any, did your school or college follow lockdown procedures due to a security risk in the 2023/24 academic year?

<u>If you cannot provide an estimate, please type 'don't know'. If zero, write 0.</u>

Definitions:

Incident or concerns may include cases where the pupil(s) have been the victim of a crime , involved in criminal activity, or suspected of criminal activity. Do not include any incidents or concerns involving parents or staff where pupils were not involved.

Child sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, non-contact activities, such as the production of sexual images, and can take place online.

Hate crimes are any crime where the offender demonstrated hostility based on race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or transgender identity

Lockdown procedures usually mean that pupils are kept in classrooms and gates, doors and windows are secured, and are set off if there is a perceived threat to pupils, staff or the school itself.

9. School and college policies and procedures

18. Which of the following best describes how pupils are allowed to use mobile phones while at school?

Please select <u>one option</u> that most accurately describes the rules on mobile phones at your school. If the rules vary by year group, please select the option that most accurately describes the rules for the majority of your pupils.

Please note colleges need not respond to this question

- [ ] Pupils can use their mobile phone at any time in school
- [ ] Pupils are only allowed to use their mobile phone during break and lunch time
- [ ] Pupils are only allowed to use their mobile phone when a teacher says they can during lessons
- [ ] Pupils can bring their mobile phone to school but it must be kept out of sight, and they are not allowed to use it
- [ ] Pupils hand their mobile phones in or leave it in a secure place that they cannot access during the school day
- [ ] Pupils are not allowed to bring their mobile phone on to school grounds
- [ ] Other (please specify):

19. Which of the following groups, if any, do you make exceptions for in your school's approach to mobile phones?

Please note colleges need not respond to this question

Select all that apply.

- [ ] Children who are young carers
- [ ] Children who speak English as an additional language
- [ ] Children with medical needs (such as diabetes)
- [ ] Children with mental health difficulties
- [ ] Children with special educational needs
- [ ] Exceptional circumstances (such as parental illness)
- [ ] None of these
- [ ] Other (please specify):

10. Understanding your pupils

20. To the best of your knowledge, how many of your pupils in Summer Term 2024…

If you do not know the exact number, please provide an estimate. <u>If zero, write 0</u>. See below for a list of definitions.

Please note, colleges should provide the following numbers only for students aged 18 or under

...were on roll in your school or college?

...were receiving Free School Meals (FSM)?

...were on waiting lists for mental health support (including CAMHS)?

…were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children?

…were young carers?

…were unable to attend school or college, or attend full-time, due to treatment for serious or complex illnesses?

…were living in formal or informal kinship care?

…were living in unsuitable accommodation?

…had a parent or carer in prison?

...vaped or used e-cigarettes?

…had experienced the bereavement of someone important to them?

We will be taking information on other characteristics of your pupils, including social care involvement, from other data sources.

21. For each of the above, is each value the actual number or an estimate?

	Actual number	An estimate	I can't provide an estimate
Pupils on school or college roll	☐	☐	☐
Pupils receiving Free School Meals (FSM)	☐	☐	☐
Pupils on waiting lists for mental health support (including CAMHS)	☐	☐	☐
Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children	☐	☐	☐
Young carers	☐	☐	☐
Pupils unable to attend school or college, or attend full time, due to treatment for serious or complex illnesses	☐	☐	☐
Pupils living in formal or informal kinship care	☐	☐	☐
Pupils living in unsuitable accommodation	☐	☐	☐
Pupils with a parent or carer in prison	☐	☐	☐
Pupils who vape or use e-cigarettes	☐	☐	☐
Pupils who have experienced the bereavement of someone important to them	☐	☐	☐

	Actual number	An estimate	I can't provide an estimate

Definitions:

The number of pupils 'on roll' is defined as the number of pupils registered to be attending a specific school or college. The roll is the list of students who are expected to be, and should be, present in school or college.

Pupils receiving Free School Meals (FSM). This may or may not be the same number as the number of your pupils who are *eligible* for FSM. FSMs are a statutory benefit available to school-aged children from families who receive other qualifying benefits and who have been through the relevant registration process.

An unaccompanied asylum seeking child (UASC) is a person who is under 18 years of age when the asylum application is submitted, is applying for asylum in their own right; and is separated from both parents and is not being cared for by an adult who in law or by custom has responsibility to do so.

Young carers are children who regularly provide emotional and/or practical support and assistance for a family member.

Kinship care is any situation where a child is being raised by a family member or friend who is not their parent. It is sometimes called family and friends care.

Unsuitable accommodation includes temporary accommodation, hotels, B&Bs, and overcrowded homes, homes with cold, damp and/or mould issues, or other poor-quality housing.

22. Which of the following are the most concerning issues for children in your school or college? Select up to four.

☐ Attainment

☐ Attendance

☐ Behaviour

☐ Careers and support for post-16

☐ Curriculum

☐ Experiences and progress of children on Pupil Premium

☐ Experiences and progress of children with EHCPs/on SEND support

☐ Funding of wider services for children

☐ Racism

☐ School or college funding

☐ School or college infrastructure, including access to facilities and technology

☐ Sexism and misogyny

☐ Staffing

☐ Supporting equality and diversity

23. Which of the following are the most concerning issues for children in your local area? Select up to four.

☐ CAMHS

☐ Child safety in the local area

☐ Child safety online

☐ Children's Social Care

☐ Community cohesion

☐ Early help services

☐ Local housing

☐ Poverty

☐ Transport

☐ Young people's aspirations

24. Is there anything else you would like to tell the Children's Commissioner?

Please note this text box is limited to 100 words

25. Final question - which staff members have contributed answers?

Select all that apply.

- [ ] Headteacher/Principal
- [ ] Deputy Headteacher/Principal
- [ ] Assistant Headteacher/Principal
- [ ] Designated Safeguarding Lead
- [ ] Other leadership role
- [ ] Other (please specify):