

## THE JANUARY 2018 SCHOOL CENSUS – WHAT IT TELLS US ABOUT ETHNICITY AND LANGUAGE IN GATESHEAD SCHOOLS

### Background

The School Census is a data collection exercise carried out by the Department of Education three times per year. Submission of data by schools is compulsory. Among the data collected in the January census annually are the ethnicity of pupils and their first language. In the January 2017 School Census, country of birth and proficiency in English were added.

This information has the potential to provide a valuable insight into the diversity of the Gateshead school population and thus inform service provision.

Ethnicity data has been analysed by EMTAS for many years and clear trends can be identified. Language data was analysed for the first time last year. This year, country of birth and proficiency in English have also been included in the analysis.

I am grateful to the educationGateshead data team for extracting and formatting the data which has been used in this analysis.

### Limitations of data

It may be useful to begin by considering the potential limitations of the data obtained.

Although there is a statutory duty on schools to collect the data, there is no standardised data collection form. Schools have designed their own forms and sometimes incorporate it within another communication. This results in parents being asked for information in a variety of formats and contexts and may potentially lead to inconsistent results.

Parents whose first language is not English may find it difficult to understand what they are being asked and why. The accuracy of their responses may therefore be dependent on clarity of the explanation they are given and the quality of support that they receive in completing the form.

Both ethnicity and first language are self-declared. It is understandable that some parents may wish to conceal their ethnicity out of fear of persecution or discrimination. While language may be thought of as less controversial, as potentially indicated by only one refusal to provide that data as opposed to 71 refusals to provide ethnicity data, speakers of a particular language may be disadvantaged socially or economically in certain cultures, so there remains a possibility that this information may be misstated.

Country of birth data was not provided by any academy. It is unclear why this was the case, as there appears to be no exemption in the legislation. As this data was collected for the first time last year, it appears that some other schools have not collected it retrospectively. It is therefore difficult to draw any firm conclusions from this data as far as individual schools are concerned.

It is clear that the data provided by some schools is of poor quality, although the reasons for this are not always apparent. In one primary, 278 parents failed to provide ethnicity data (by simply not answering the question, as opposed to ticking the refusal box), while none did so last year. The procedure for gathering the information and the form used remained unchanged, and the headteacher has been unable to explain the variation.

There has been a significant increase in the number of pupils coded as 'Any other ethnic group'. The range of ethnicity codes is very comprehensive, so it is difficult to suggest any reason for this other than inaccuracies in either parental response or school recording or coding.

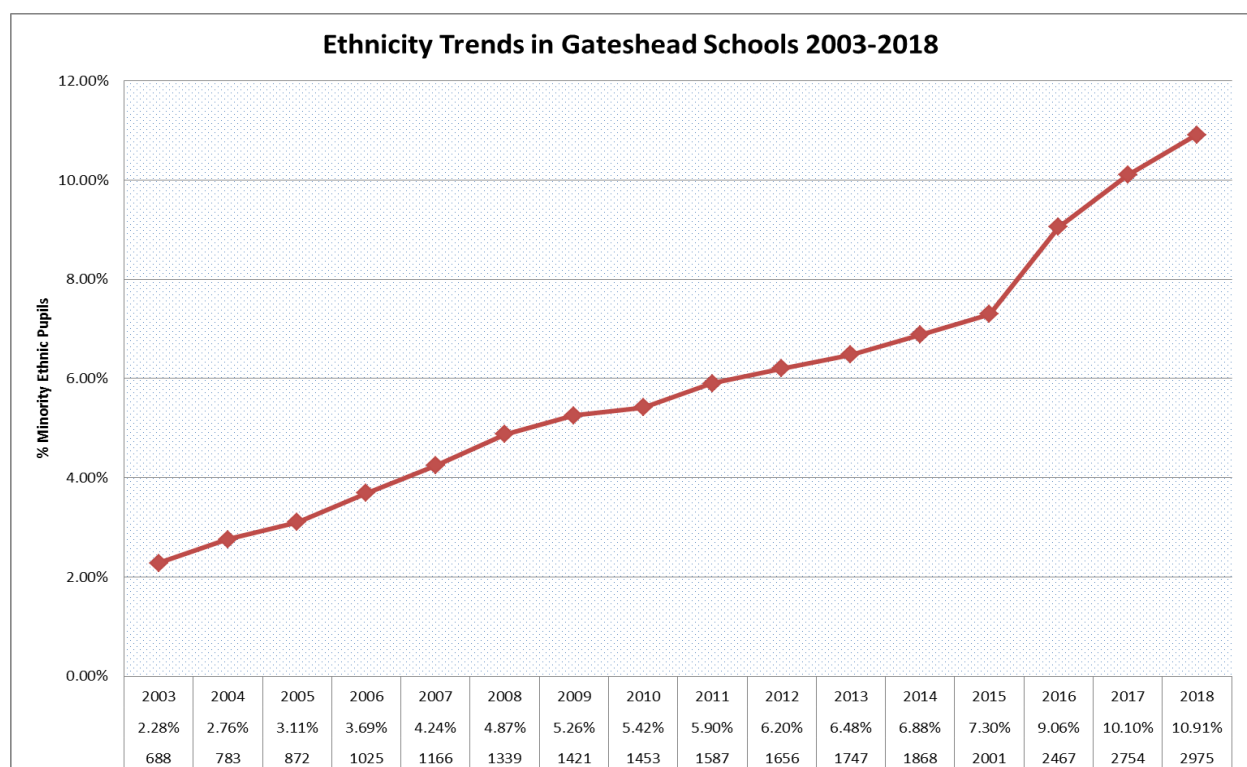
As far as language is concerned, the percentage of pupils coded as 'Other' and 'Believed to be other than English' remains very high in certain schools. Teachers should be aware of this information in order to provide appropriate support, so it is of concern that it is not being accurately recorded.

The range of available language codes includes both wider classifications and more precise geographical variations. It would appear that schools have not been consistent in their coding. For example, one school has recorded a pupil as speaking Algerian and another has recorded four pupils as speaking Syrian, while most schools have simply used the code for Arabic, regardless of which dialect their pupils speak.

It should be borne in mind that, in primary schools, a high percentage may reflect a small number of pupils, while a relatively lower percentage in secondaries, which have a much larger roll, represents a greater absolute number of pupils and therefore potentially a greater need for support. Similarly, a school which has historically had a large percentage of pupils with a language other than English may require less support than a school which has a relatively small percentage for the first time.

### Ethnicity data

The percentage of pupils in Gateshead schools identifying as having a minority ethnic background has increased to 10.91%, up from 10.10% last year. In numbers, this represents 2,975 pupils out of 27,260.



There has been a continual upward trend since 2003, the earliest figures available. The rate of increase has accelerated significantly since 2015.

Although the overall percentage of pupils identifying as having a minority ethnic background is 10.91%, there are wide variations between schools, ranging from 51.11% to 0%.

As may be expected, the schools with the highest percentages of pupils from a minority ethnic background are mainly those towards the centre of the borough. Corpus Christi, the highest at 51.11%, has 46 Black African and 31 East European pupils on roll. It is followed by Kelvin Grove (43.45%), Caedmon (41.04%) and Brandling (38.33%).

The schools with the lowest percentages are River Tyne Academy (3.19%) and Whickham Parochial, Washingwell and Greenside, all with 3.33%. Only Furrowfield has no pupils from a minority ethnic background.

After White British, the single largest ethnic group is White East European (488), followed by White and Asian (204). Overall, 660 pupils are White European, with a further 170 classified as White Other (up from 150 last year). 544 pupils have identified as of mixed heritage, up from 497 last year.

The number of pupils with a Gypsy/Roma/Traveller background has increased from 31 to 34, of whom 10 identify as Irish Travellers. The highest numbers are in Brandling, Kelvin Grove and St Wilfred's.

The largest percentage increases have been Filipino (1 to 5), White European (3 to 12), Other Arab (3 to 11), Black African (8 to 19) and Turkish (17 to 26). The schools with the largest percentage increases are Bede (up by 7.36%), Brandling (up by 7.21%) and South Street (up by 6.12%).

The number of pupils identified as 'Any other ethnic group' is 274, up from 133 last year. It seems unlikely that this represents a real change. This is discussed above under limitations of data.

It is important to note that, although 10.91% of pupils belong to ethnic minority groups, only 2.27%, 618 in total, were born outside the UK. Although this data was not reported by all schools, as discussed above, this does seem to indicate that most ethnic minority pupils in Gateshead schools are British born and may, in fact, be second or third generation British.

#### Language data

The number of languages other than English spoken as a first language in Gateshead schools is now at least 90. This figure is a minimum because 10 pupils have been classified as 'Information not yet obtained', 72 as 'Believed to be other than English', 230 as 'Other than English', 10 as 'Other language' and 7 as 'Classification pending'. It is therefore reasonable to assume that there are significantly more languages in use.

Languages other than English are spoken as a first language by 1904 pupils (1791 last year), 6.98% of the total school population (6.54% last year).

The most common languages spoken are Polish (303 speakers, up from 283) and Arabic (158, up from 133), followed by Kurdish (137, up from 95) and Chinese (104, up from 89). 21 languages are spoken by only one pupil each.

The school with the highest percentage of speakers of other languages is Kelvin Grove, with 37.50%, representing 126 pupils. It is followed by Caedmon (37.05%) and St Wilfred's (36.51%). Corpus Christi, which has the highest number of minority ethnic pupils, has 28.00% speakers of other languages.

The schools with the lowest percentages are Oakfield Juniors (0.85% - 2 pupils) Ryton Infants (0.83% - 1 pupil), Winlaton West Lane (0.78% - 3 pupils) and Whickham Parochial (0.48% - 1 pupil). Clover Hill, Furrowfield, River Tyne Academy, St Agnes' and St Joseph's Highfield have no pupils whose first language is not English.

In terms of linguistic diversity within the school, Cardinal Hume has reported 32 languages other than English, followed by Kelvin Grove and Brighton Avenue with 28 languages, while South Street and Riverside Academy each have 21 languages. Non-specific classifications such as 'Believed to be other than English' or 'Classification pending' have not been included on these figures.

For the first time, proficiency in English has been analysed for pupils whose first language is not English. Those on levels A (New to English), B (Early acquisition) and C (Developing competence) may be assumed to require support. 775 learners, 40.70% of the total, are on these levels. The schools with the highest number of learners on levels A-C are Kelvin Grove (98 pupils), Brighton Avenue (65), Caedmon (56), Corpus Christi (56) and Brandling (40). Only 25 secondary pupils in two schools have been reported on levels A-C.

It is important to note that almost 60% of speakers of other languages are proficient or fluent in English. This is consistent with the observation that the majority of ethnic minority pupils are British born and underlines the importance of not making assumptions about a pupil's linguistic skills based on their ethnicity or home language.

### Conclusions and recommendations

The January 2018 Schools Census has once again demonstrated that the overall school population of Gateshead is increasingly diverse in both ethnicity and first language. However, there are significant variations between schools, largely based on their location.

This has implications for language support. For example, some schools will have little experience of pupils with English as an additional language (EAL) and may require proportionally more support with a small number of pupils than schools with a larger number of pupils but greater experience.

In terms of integration, minority ethnic pupils in schools which have historically been and still remain largely monocultural may require more support to integrate and may be more likely to suffer racism.

The quality of data would potentially be improved if schools used a standardised data collection form. This would also ensure that they comply with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation by collecting only the required information and recording it accurately. This form would have to be designed in collaboration with the data protection team and approved and issued by senior management. It is strongly recommended that urgent consideration be given to introducing such a form before September 2018.

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May 2018

**Appendix A: Ethnicity data for Gateshead schools from January 2018 School Census**

<b>School</b>	<b>No of minority ethnic pupils</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>% minority ethnic pupils</b>	<b>2017</b>
Barley Mow Primary School	14	13	7.29%	6.10%
Bede Community Primary School	82	59	37.61%	30.26%
Bensham Grove Community Nursery School	18	19	26.09%	23.75%
Bill Quay Primary School	11	11	5.19%	5.29%
Birtley East Community Primary School	30	35	11.76%	13.67%
Blaydon West Primary School	14	14	8.28%	9.15%
Brandling Primary School	69	47	38.33%	31.13%
Brighton Avenue Primary School	102	97	32.48%	31.91%
Caedmon Community Primary School	103	95	41.04%	40.43%
Cardinal Hume Catholic School	207	196	15.03%	14.46%
Carr Hill Community Primary School	41	41	12.62%	11.82%
Chopwell Primary School	21	18	8.43%	6.77%
Clover Hill Community Primary School	7	8	3.40%	3.86%
Colegate Community Primary School	18	13	9.14%	6.40%
Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School	115	106	51.11%	48.40%
Crookhill Community Primary School	16	15	8.56%	7.94%
Dryden School	8	7	14.81%	12.50%
Dunston Hill Community Primary School	35	28	7.64%	6.24%
Emmaville Primary School	30	27	8.04%	8.08%
Eslington Primary School	4	3	6.78%	5.77%
Falla Park Community Primary School	36	37	15.00%	14.18%
Fell Dyke Community Primary School	53	62	17.10%	19.38%
Fellside Community Primary School	16	15	6.48%	6.05%
Front Street Community Primary School	50	41	10.99%	9.17%
Furrowfield School	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Gibside School	25	24	17.99%	17.91%
Glynwood Community Primary School	29	14	6.97%	3.74%
Greenside Primary School	7	7	3.33%	3.45%
Harlow Green Community Primary School	27	30	6.31%	6.83%
Heworth Grange Comprehensive School	69	68	6.23%	6.08%
High Spenn Primary School	16	14	8.56%	7.29%
Highfield Community Primary School	8	3	5.59%	2.16%
Hill Top School	4	5	3.54%	4.27%
Joseph Swan Academy	145	133	14.23%	13.34%
Kells Lane Primary School	24	27	5.77%	6.52%
Kelvin Grove Community Primary School	146	145	43.45%	42.03%
Kibblesworth Academy	7	9	3.65%	5.14%
Kingsmeadow Community Comprehensive School	58	47	8.98%	7.97%
Larkspur Community Primary School	18	20	12.24%	11.56%
Lingey House Primary School	23	23	5.03%	4.87%
Lobley Hill Primary School	53	44	12.27%	10.21%

Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy	83	68	5.67%	4.69%
Oakfield Infant School	13	12	7.26%	6.67%
Oakfield Junior School	8	8	3.40%	3.35%
Parkhead Community Primary School	23	20	6.08%	5.43%
Portobello Primary School	15	17	7.43%	8.06%
Ravensworth Terrace Primary School	20	23	7.14%	9.13%
River Tyne Academy	3	4	3.19%	3.03%
Riverside Primary Academy	74	69	26.24%	25.18%
Roman Road Primary School	13	14	6.16%	6.54%
Rowlands Gill Primary School	18	17	5.86%	5.15%
Ryton Community Infant School	6	4	4.96%	2.92%
Ryton Community Junior School	6	9	3.45%	4.79%
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	12	6	5.63%	3.57%
South Street Community Primary School	78	65	27.08%	20.97%
St Agnes Catholic Primary School	10	11	5.05%	5.29%
St Aidan's CoE Primary School	40	39	18.43%	17.41%
St Alban's Catholic Primary School	34	21	14.05%	9.05%
St Anne's Catholic Primary School	5	3	3.88%	2.36%
St Augustine's Roman Catholic VA Primary School	38	41	10.56%	11.55%
St Joseph's Catholic Infant School, Birtley	13	12	15.29%	13.64%
St Joseph's Catholic Junior School, Birtley	16	14	14.04%	12.39%
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Blaydon	11	8	5.21%	3.76%
St Joseph's Catholic VA Primary School, Highfield	6	6	5.41%	5.00%
St Joseph's Roman Catholic VA Primary School, Gateshead	62	59	31.31%	29.65%
St Mary and St Thomas' Aquinas Catholic Primary School	20	21	7.55%	8.33%
St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School	8	8	3.86%	3.85%
St Oswald's Roman Catholic VA Primary School	30	33	13.70%	15.64%
St Peter's Roman Catholic VA Primary School	29	26	13.81%	12.38%
St Philip Neri Roman Catholic Primary School	42	39	23.08%	23.78%
St Thomas More Catholic School	106	96	7.06%	6.47%
St Wilfrid's Roman Catholic VA Primary School	47	55	37.30%	40.15%
Swalwell Primary School	14	15	7.65%	7.98%
The Cedars Academy	13	14	7.65%	9.66%
The Drive Community Primary School	29	27	14.08%	12.98%
The Thomas Hepburn Community Academy	45	52	11.11%	10.90%
Thorp Academy	44	41	4.62%	4.06%
Wardley Primary School	25	25	7.91%	8.22%
Washingwell Community Primary School	5	5	3.33%	3.13%
Whickham Parochial Church of England Primary School	7	8	3.33%	3.76%
Whickham School	86	80	5.62%	5.07%
White Mere Community Primary School	6	5	3.97%	3.31%
Windy Nook Primary School	11	11	3.47%	3.35%
Winlaton West Lane Community Primary School	42	23	10.88%	5.93%

## Appendix B: Language data for Gateshead schools from January 2018 School Census

	No of pupils first lang not English	2017	% pupils first lang not English	2017	No of other langs*
Barley Mow Primary School	8	8	4.17%	3.76%	3
Bede Community Primary School	74	52	33.94%	26.53%	17
Bensham Grove Community Nursery School	12	8	17.39%	10.00%	8
Bill Quay Primary School	3	4	1.42%	1.92%	0
Birtley East Community Primary School	23	22	9.02%	8.59%	3
Blaydon West Primary School	8	8	4.73%	5.23%	5
Brandling Primary School	47	35	26.11%	21.74%	10
Brighton Avenue Primary School	91	94	28.98%	30.92%	28
Caedmon Community Primary School	93	82	37.05%	34.89%	18
Cardinal Hume Catholic School	79	68	5.74%	5.02%	32
Carr Hill Community Primary School	31	29	9.54%	8.36%	11
Chopwell Primary School	17	16	6.83%	5.99%	0
Clover Hill Community Primary School	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0
Colegate Community Primary School	13	9	6.60%	4.43%	4
Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School	63	65	28.00%	29.68%	16
Crookhill Community Primary School	5	5	2.67%	2.65%	2
Dryden School	4	4	7.41%	7.14%	3
Dunston Hill Community Primary School	24	13	5.24%	2.89%	1
Emmaville Primary School	4	5	1.07%	1.50%	2
Eslington Primary School	2	2	3.39%	3.57%	1
Falla Park Community Primary School	34	31	14.17%	11.88%	9
Fell Dyke Community Primary School	43	51	13.87%	15.94%	19
Fellside Community Primary School	6	8	2.43%	3.23%	5
Front Street Community Primary School	22	15	4.84%	3.36%	9
Furrowfield School	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0
Gibside School	12	14	8.63%	10.45%	8
Glynwood Community Primary School	19	16	4.57%	4.28%	9
Greenside Primary School	2	2	0.95%	0.98%	0
Harlow Green Community Primary School	17	18	3.97%	4.09%	8
Heworth Grange Comprehensive School	41	46	3.70%	4.11%	20
High Spen Primary School	14	13	7.49%	6.77%	2
Highfield Community Primary School	3	1	2.10%	0.71%	2
Hill Top School	2	4	1.77%	3.42%	0
Joseph Swan Academy	123	113	12.07%	11.33%	1
Kells Lane Primary School	8	9	1.92%	2.17%	5
Kelvin Grove Community Primary School	126	130	37.50%	37.57%	28
Kibblesworth Academy	3	5	1.56%	2.86%	2
Kingsmeadow Community Comprehensive School	42	35	6.50%	5.93%	14
Larkspur Community Primary School	16	20	10.88%	11.56%	7

Lingey House Primary School	12	13	2.63%	2.75%	8
Lobley Hill Primary School	20	18	4.63%	4.18%	7
Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy	46	34	3.14%	2.34%	19
Oakfield Infant School	6	6	3.35%	3.33%	0
Oakfield Junior School	2	2	0.85%	0.84%	1
Parkhead Community Primary School	11	11	2.91%	2.99%	4
Portobello Primary School	9	10	4.46%	4.72%	2
Ravensworth Terrace Primary School	11	11	3.93%	4.37%	6
River Tyne Academy	0	2	0.00%	1.04%	0
Riverside Primary Academy	61	57	21.63%	20.80%	21
Roman Road Primary School	4	5	1.90%	2.34%	3
Rowlands Gill Primary School	4	4	1.30%	1.21%	2
Ryton Community Infant School	1	1	0.83%	0.73%	0
Ryton Community Junior School	2	3	1.15%	1.60%	0
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	5	4	2.35%	2.38%	2
South Street Community Primary School	71	58	24.65%	18.65%	21
St Agnes Catholic Primary School	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0
St Aidan's CoE Primary School	20	22	9.22%	9.82%	13
St Alban's Catholic Primary School	27	14	11.16%	6.03%	7
St Anne's Catholic Primary School	5	2	3.88%	1.56%	4
St Augustine's Roman Catholic VA Primary School	26	25	3.65%	7.04%	8
St Joseph's Catholic Infant School, Birtley	12	11	14.12%	12.50%	2
St Joseph's Catholic Junior School, Birtley	11	10	9.65%	8.77%	5
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Blaydon	3	3	1.42%	1.41%	0
St Joseph's Catholic VA Primary School, Highfield	0	0	0.00%	0	0
St Joseph's Roman Catholic VA Primary School, Gateshead	57	54	28.79%	27.14%	20
St Mary and St Thomas' Aquinas Catholic Primary School	3	3	1.13%	1.19%	2
St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School	2	0	0.97%	0.00%	2
St Oswald's Roman Catholic VA Primary School	28	28	12.79%	13.21%	5
St Peter's Roman Catholic VA Primary School	12	11	5.71%	5.21%	4
St Philip Neri Roman Catholic Primary School	46	36	25.27%	21.95%	14
St Thomas More Catholic School	51	49	3.40%	3.30%	20
St Wilfrid's Roman Catholic VA Primary School	46	43	36.51%	31.39%	14
Swalwell Primary School	14	15	7.65%	7.98%	6
The Cedars Academy	6	8	3.53%	5.52%	5
The Drive Community Primary School	14	14	6.80%	6.73%	7
The Thomas Hepburn Community Academy	38	47	9.38%	9.85%	12
Thorp Academy	11	11	1.15%	1.09%	7
Wardley Primary School	17	14	5.38%	4.61%	8
Washingwell Community Primary School	5	5	3.33%	3.13%	3
Whickham Parochial Church of England Primary School	1	57	0.48%	3.61%	0
Whickham School	42	1	2.75%	0.47%	1
White Mere Community Primary School	2	2	1.32%	1.32%	2
Windy Nook Primary School	3	3	0.95%	0.91%	3
Winlaton West Lane Community Primary School	3	4	0.78%	1.03%	3

\* Number of languages other than English reported, excluding non-specific classifications.