

Dear Colleagues,

In April 2020, to help reduce the burden on educational and care settings the Department for Education (DfE) and its agencies cancelled or paused until June 2020 all but the most essential data collections, services and requests.

A review of the list has now taken place and it has been agreed the autumn school census will take place as planned.

The latest status of the full list of data collections, services and requests can be found on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)

School census data collection guidance

The school census manual for the 2020 to 2021 academic year is available on the [school census website](#)

New data items

Post 16

For students undertaking 16-19 programmes:

- Programme aim
- Programme type
- Work placement start date
- Work placement end date
- Work placement hours

- Work placement mode
- Work placement employer ID
- T level planned hours
- T level planned employability, enrichment and pastoral hours

Attendance

For schools who do not use electronic attendance registers, we will be collecting in the spring 2021 census:

- Total number of sessions attending approved educational activity
- Total number of sessions unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances

Existing Data Items

Termly attendance module

From spring 2021 census we will be collecting all categories of school attendance, rather than just absence.

Exclusion reasons

From the start of the autumn term 2020 (2020-08-01), the codeset for exclusion reasons will change to include additional codes. Also, from the autumn term schools will be able to record up to three reasons per exclusion.

Following the expansion of the categories and the collection of multiple reasons, 'Other' will no longer be recorded as category for exclusions with a start date on or after 2020-08-01.

The first collection of up to three reasons and new codes will occur in the spring 2021 census.

Deleted items

There are no deleted items

Changes for autumn 2020 only

Due to the impact of COVID 19 and the absence of the summer school census we have made the following changes:

Termly attendance module

Summer term attendance will not be collected however, we still require: pupil no longer on roll records for all pupils with DOB between 2003-09-01 and 2015-08-31 (aged between 4 and 15 as at 2019-08-31), with a leaving date between 2020-01-01 and 2020-07-31 and are not a boarder.

To reduce burdens on providers any attendance data present will be stripped out by the department when uploading the file onto COLLECT.

Exclusion collection period

Due to the absence of a summer census collection, the department have decided to re-collect any exclusion with a start date in the full 2019 to 2020 academic year in the autumn 2020 census.

FSM eligibility period

Due to the absence of a summer census collection, the department have decided to amend the 'end date' range for autumn 2020 census to collect: an FSM eligibility end date that is, on or after 2020-01-17 and up to and including the autumn census day (2020-10-01)

Further support

Please refer to the school census manual for further details of the requirements for the 2020-21 school census paying particular attention to new or changed data items.

A data collection forum is available for all data collection contacts to access. The purpose of the forum is to provide a facility to allow customers to exchange ideas and good practice relating to specific data collections and related EDD systems. To gain access to the forum please complete a [data collections service request form](#)

As always, if you have any queries about any of the points covered in this note, COLLECT or school census in general, please use the data collections service request form. Please use the [feedback form](#) if you have any comments about the data collection content on the web site, the service offered by the data collection helpdesk, the COLLECT system or any other aspect of our data collection service.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Kind regards

Education Data Division Helpdesk