

Cross border mobility of primary school age children in London (2012)

Update 04-2013

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Introduction

This Intelligence Unit *Update* uses Department for Education (DfE) data sources to examine the following:

- Cross border mobility of primary school age children by residence;
- Cross border mobility of primary school age children by school location;
- Comparison of DfE estimates with ONS 2011 Census-based data; and
- Estimates of the number of pupils per borough attending independent school.

Key Findings

- 92.1 per cent of primary school age children who live in Greater London also attend a state-funded school in the region (91.9 per cent for Inner London and 92.3 per cent for Outer London).
- Of the London boroughs (excluding the City of London), Tower Hamlets has the highest percentage of children who live and attend a state-funded primary school in the same borough (97.7 per cent) and Sutton has the lowest (86.4 per cent).
- With the exception of Croydon, over 99.3 per cent of children in each borough attend school in either their borough of residence or a neighbouring borough or authority.
- 92.0 per cent of children attending a state-funded primary school in Greater London also live there.
- Waltham Forest has the highest percentage of children attending a state-funded primary school in the same borough as in which they live with 97.4 per cent whereas Kensington & Chelsea has the lowest (72.2 per cent).
- Three per cent of children attending a state-funded primary school in Kensington & Chelsea travel from a borough or authority outside of Kensington & Chelsea itself and its neighbouring boroughs. This is the highest percentage of cross border travel from non-adjointing boroughs or authorities. Merton has the lowest percentage at only 0.06 per cent.
- Comparison with the 2011 Census-based mid-year estimates shows that 87.7 per cent of children living in Greater London attend a state-funded primary school. For Kensington & Chelsea however this is only 46.9 per cent of resident children whereas Newham has the highest estimate at 99.2 per cent.

- There are 65,220 children attending an independent school at primary level in Greater London. This is split relatively evenly between Inner and Outer London; 53.3 per cent in Inner London and 46.7 per cent in Outer London.
- Of the children attending school in Kensington & Chelsea, over seven thousand go to an independent school at primary level. This is the highest number out of all London boroughs. Kensington & Chelsea also has the most independent provision at primary level. Barking & Dagenham on the other hand is the only London borough with no independent schools at primary level.
- The propensity for primary school children to travel long distances to attend school is lower than for children of secondary school age. Cross border mobility is largely limited to neighbouring boroughs and authorities.
- The size of the borough, number and location of schools, feasible transport links and the socio-economic make-up of the borough will all impact on the mobility of primary school age children.

Background

On 21 June 2012 the DfE released its latest statistical data on schools, pupils and their characteristics based on the January 2012 school census.

The data allows analysis on cross border mobility to be undertaken as both home residence and school location data is available. This *Update* focuses on primary school age children only. In instances where this has had to be manually calculated it includes children aged 4-10 years and those age 11 where there is no secondary component to the school.

The DfE released Table 13a 'Local Authority cross border movement matrix of state-funded primary school pupils resident in England' which allows analysis to be undertaken of where children who live in a London borough go to school and where those who attend schools in London boroughs live.

This analysis only covers the 33 boroughs and authorities that constitute Greater London and the seven authorities and districts which are adjacent to Greater London. Greater London itself is split into Inner and Outer London¹ and the seven outside authorities are: Buckinghamshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Slough UA, Surrey and Thurrock UA. Movement to/from all other authorities and districts are excluded which will have a slight impact on numbers although this will be negligible due to the low numbers of children living in these areas and attending school in Greater London or attending school in these areas and living in Greater London.

The cross border matrix data released by the DfE is suppressed so that counts of two or fewer children are categorised by an 'x'. For the purposes of this analysis these have been translated to equal one.

The analysis in this report is for state-funded non-special schools unless otherwise stated.

The release also contains school level data for all schools in England which allows data for independent schools to be separated and consequently the number of children attending independent schools to be determined. In order to maintain consistency, the data for independent schools also excludes those attending independent special schools. Barking & Dagenham is the only London borough to contain no independent primary schools.

The data to accompany this *Update* can be viewed as interactive thematic maps via InstantAtlas. This tool allows a home or school borough to be selected from a dropdown menu and the map will highlight either the boroughs and authorities to which children travel to school, or from which children travel to school. An interactive map showing the percentage of children who live in each borough and are estimated to attend a state-funded primary school is also available. Data tables to accompany each map are downloadable via the map itself. The InstantAtlas map tool to accompany this *Update* is accessible from the Datastore.

<http://data.london.gov.uk/datastore/package/cross-border-mobility-primary-school-age-children-london>

¹ Inner London: Camden, City of London, Hackney, Hammersmith & Fulham, Haringey, Islington, Kensington & Chelsea, Lambeth, Lewisham, Newham, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Wandsworth and Westminster (a total of 14).
Outer London: Barking & Dagenham, Barnet, Bexley, Brent, Bromley, Croydon, Ealing, Enfield, Greenwich, Harrow, Havering, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kingston upon Thames, Merton, Redbridge, Richmond upon Thames, Sutton and Waltham Forest (a total of 19).

Home residence

Table 1 is based on the home residence of primary school age children who attend a state-funded primary school. The table only takes into account those children whose home residence is in Greater London and who go to a state-funded primary school in either Greater London or one of the seven neighbouring authorities which borders Greater London.

The data shows that 604,624 children live in a London borough and attend a state-funded primary school in either a London borough or one of the seven neighbouring authorities which border Greater London. 92.1 per cent of these children go to school within a London borough. Outer London boroughs have a slightly higher proportion of children who live and attend school in the same borough when compared with Inner London boroughs; 92.3 per cent to 91.9 per cent. This could be partly attributable to the larger geographical size of outer boroughs.

With the exception of the City of London, more than 86.0 per cent of children live and attend school in their borough of residence. This highlights a limited level of cross border mobility which is to be expected given the low propensity of children to travel far to attend primary school. In the City of London only 44.3 per cent of children who live in the borough also go to primary school in the borough. This could be because of the small size of the City of London in comparison to other London boroughs or due to the City of London only having one state-funded primary school.

Sutton has the second lowest number of children who live and attend school in the same borough with 86.4 per cent followed by Camden with 86.5 per cent. Tower Hamlets on the other hand has the highest proportion of children who live and go to school in the same borough with 97.7 per cent closely followed by Richmond upon Thames with 97.5 per cent and Newham with 97.4 per cent.

Table 1 also gives the percentage of children who live in each borough and go to school in another borough or authority with which it shares a boundary. For example, Waltham Forest shares a boundary with five London boroughs (Hackney, Haringey, Newham, Enfield and Redbridge) and one non-London authority (Essex). Primary school children as mentioned previously are less likely to travel a long distance to school when compared to secondary school children and therefore it is expected that nearly all children who live in Greater London will attend a primary school which is either in the borough of residence or in a neighbouring borough or authority. The results show that with the exception of Croydon, this is the case for over 99.2 per cent of children in the remaining 31 London boroughs and for all children living in the City of London. Even in Croydon, only 1.1 per cent of children do not attend a school in the borough or a neighbouring borough or authority.

Overall, less than 0.5 per cent of children who live in Greater London attend a state-funded school in a borough or authority which is not or does not neighbour the one in which they live. There is little difference between Inner and Outer London in terms of this. Inner London boroughs have a slightly higher percentage of children who travel out of their home borough to attend school when compared to Outer London boroughs. This could be because of the generally smaller size of Inner London boroughs.

As mentioned previously the data only takes into account primary school age children who live in a London borough and attend a state-funded primary school in either Greater London or one of its seven neighbouring authorities.

Table 1: Cross border mobility of primary school children by borough of residence, 2012

	No. of children who live in the borough and attend school in London or neighbouring authority	% of children who live and go to school in the borough	% of children who live in the borough and go to school in another borough or authority which shares a boundary	% of children who live in the borough and go to school in a non-adjacent borough or authority
Camden	10,991	86.51%	13.31%	0.18%
City of London	140	44.29%	55.71%	0.00%
Hackney	17,506	89.40%	10.04%	0.57%
Hammersmith & Fulham	8,845	91.20%	8.30%	0.50%
Haringey	18,949	91.50%	8.35%	0.15%
Islington	11,673	90.55%	8.93%	0.52%
Kensington & Chelsea	5,091	93.36%	6.31%	0.33%
Lambeth	19,843	87.13%	12.30%	0.57%
Lewisham	21,420	89.67%	9.57%	0.76%
Newham	29,413	97.42%	2.31%	0.28%
Southwark	20,084	93.11%	6.12%	0.77%
Tower Hamlets	20,981	97.72%	1.85%	0.43%
Wandsworth	16,148	90.83%	9.05%	0.12%
Westminster	9,351	90.23%	9.29%	0.48%
Barking & Dagenham	20,637	93.12%	6.19%	0.68%
Barnet	26,028	90.55%	8.97%	0.48%
Bexley	18,694	93.31%	6.43%	0.26%
Brent	23,772	88.15%	11.69%	0.16%
Bromley	23,361	94.76%	5.17%	0.07%
Croydon	28,793	91.74%	7.15%	1.11%
Ealing	26,213	92.37%	7.20%	0.43%
Enfield	28,118	93.36%	6.13%	0.51%
Greenwich	20,846	89.13%	10.40%	0.48%
Harrow	17,787	90.31%	9.55%	0.15%
Havering	18,238	96.00%	3.61%	0.39%
Hillingdon	22,593	94.71%	5.09%	0.21%
Hounslow	20,112	88.90%	10.86%	0.24%
Kingston upon Thames	11,340	93.10%	6.75%	0.16%
Merton	14,538	89.61%	10.17%	0.21%
Redbridge	24,013	94.73%	4.61%	0.66%
Richmond upon Thames	12,398	97.50%	2.40%	0.10%
Sutton	15,192	86.39%	12.97%	0.64%
Waltham Forest	21,516	95.18%	4.33%	0.49%
Greater London	604,624	92.13%	7.44%	0.43%
Inner London	210,435	91.91%	7.65%	0.44%
Outer London	394,189	92.25%	7.33%	0.42%

Source: Table 13a 'Local Authority cross border movement matrix of state-funded primary school pupils resident in England', DfE, 2012

School location

Table 2 is based on the location of state-funded primary schools. Only those primary schools located within Greater London have been taken into account as part of this analysis.

605,543 children attending a state-funded primary school in Greater London also live there or in one of the seven neighbouring authorities outside. This equates to 92.0 per cent of children at school in Greater London. For Inner London and Outer London the split is 90.1 per cent and 92.8 per cent highlighting that a slightly higher proportion of children at school in an Inner London borough will travel from outside the school borough to attend school. This is backed-up by 8.4 per cent of children at school in an Inner London borough living in a borough neighbouring the one in which the school is located and 1.1 per cent travelling from a non-adjacent borough when compared to 6.9 per cent and 0.3 per cent for Outer London boroughs.

Only 29.8 per cent of children at school in the City of London also live there. The majority (66.8 per cent) live in one of the seven boroughs which border the City of London. Kensington & Chelsea has the second lowest proportion of children going to school and living in the same borough with 72.2 per cent. At the opposite end of the scale, Waltham Forest has the highest proportion of children attending school and living in the same borough with 97.4 per cent followed by Newham with 96.9 per cent and Tower Hamlets with 96.3 per cent.

Those boroughs with a lower proportion of children who also live in the borough in which they go to school tend to attract a higher proportion of children from a neighbouring borough or authority. 24.4 per cent of children at school in Kensington & Chelsea travel from a neighbouring borough. This is followed by Westminster with 15.5 per cent, Islington with 13.3 per cent and Haringey with 13.0 per cent. Waltham Forest, Newham and Tower Hamlets all attract fewer than three per cent of children from a neighbouring borough or authority.

The proportion of children who attend a school in Greater London but live in a borough or authority which is not adjacent to the one in which they go to school varies from zero per cent in Bromley to 3.4 per cent in the City of London. Kensington & Chelsea and Camden also have greater than three per cent of their children travelling to school from further afield than a neighbouring borough; 3.3 per cent and 3.1 per cent respectively. Seven other boroughs attract more than one per cent of children from a non-neighbouring borough including Westminster with 2.7 per cent. Only 0.06 per cent of children at school in Merton live in a non-adjacent borough or authority closely followed by 0.07 per cent of children in Ealing and Harrow and 0.08 per cent in Bexley and Havering.

Geographically, schools tend to attract children from those boroughs and authorities which are closest. However schools in Westminster attract children from a wide area encompassing all London boroughs – only the City of London has no children which travel to school in Westminster – plus two neighbouring authorities (Hertfordshire and Thurrock UA).

Table 2: Cross border mobility of primary school children by school borough, 2012

	No. of children who attend school and live in London or a neighbouring authority	% of children who go to school and live in the borough	% of children who go to school in the borough and live in another borough or authority which shares a boundary	% of children who go to school in the borough and live in a non-adjacent borough or authority
Camden	10,486	90.67%	6.19%	3.14%
City of London	208	29.81%	66.83%	3.37%
Hackney	16,584	94.37%	4.56%	1.07%
Hammersmith & Fulham	9,036	89.28%	10.13%	0.60%
Haringey	19,986	86.76%	13.02%	0.23%
Islington	12,428	85.05%	13.32%	1.63%
Kensington & Chelsea	6,581	72.22%	24.43%	3.34%
Lambeth	19,535	88.51%	10.83%	0.67%
Lewisham	20,770	92.47%	6.94%	0.59%
Newham	29,580	96.87%	2.89%	0.24%
Southwark	20,660	90.51%	8.60%	0.89%
Tower Hamlets	21,298	96.27%	2.65%	1.08%
Wandsworth	16,261	90.20%	8.01%	1.79%
Westminster	10,315	81.79%	15.50%	2.70%
Barking & Dagenham	20,014	96.02%	3.74%	0.24%
Barnet	25,533	92.30%	6.43%	1.27%
Bexley	19,106	91.30%	8.62%	0.08%
Brent	23,170	90.44%	8.14%	1.42%
Bromley	23,779	93.09%	6.90%	0.00%
Croydon	28,367	93.12%	6.56%	0.32%
Ealing	25,895	93.50%	6.43%	0.07%
Enfield	27,976	93.83%	5.99%	0.18%
Greenwich	19,910	93.31%	6.51%	0.17%
Harrow	17,834	90.07%	9.86%	0.07%
Havering	18,603	94.11%	5.81%	0.08%
Hillingdon	23,206	92.20%	7.70%	0.10%
Hounslow	18,624	96.00%	3.88%	0.12%
Kingston upon Thames	11,491	91.87%	8.03%	0.10%
Merton	14,837	87.81%	12.13%	0.06%
Redbridge	24,709	92.06%	7.75%	0.19%
Richmond upon Thames	13,741	87.97%	11.86%	0.17%
Sutton	13,984	93.85%	6.01%	0.14%
Waltham Forest	21,036	97.35%	2.25%	0.40%
Greater London	605,543	91.99%	7.43%	0.58%
Inner London	213,728	90.49%	8.41%	1.10%
Outer London	391,815	92.81%	6.89%	0.30%

Source: Table 13a 'Local Authority cross border movement matrix of state-funded primary school pupils resident in England', DfE, 2012

Comparison with 2011 Census-based mid-year estimates

Table 3 gives the 2011 Census-based mid-year estimates² for the number of primary school aged children (4-10 years) who live in each London borough. The 2011 Census allows us to estimate the percentage of children who live in the borough and attend a state-funded school using this data alongside the data in Table 1. As before this analysis excludes children attending state-funded special schools.

It cannot be assumed that the percentage of children not attending a state-funded school for each borough equals the percentage attending an independent school. Although a large proportion are likely to be attending independent school, this category may also include children who are home-schooled, children at boarding school and those not accounted for in the state-funded school data.

Outer London boroughs have the highest estimated percentage of children attending a state-funded primary school at 90.2 per cent. The percentage in Inner London boroughs drops to only 83.4 per cent. Greater London as a whole falls in-between with 87.7 per cent.

Newham has the highest estimated percentage of children living in the borough attending a state-funded primary school (albeit not necessarily in the borough of residence) with 99.2 per cent. It is closely followed by Barking & Dagenham with 99.1 per cent. In total it is estimated that 13 boroughs have more than 90 per cent of their resident children attending a state-funded primary school.

At the other end of the scale, Kensington & Chelsea has the lowest percentage at only 46.9 per cent indicating that less than half of all primary school age children living in the borough go to a state-funded school. City of London and Westminster are the only other two authorities with less than 70 per cent of children estimated to attend a state-funded primary school; 56.2 per cent and 67.9 per cent respectively.

² The 2011 Census mid-year estimates were produced by ONS and released on the 25th September 2012.

Table 3: Estimate of children attending a state-funded primary school by resident borough, 2012

	No. of children who live in the borough – 2011 Census based MYE (age 4-10)	No. of children who live in the borough and go to a state-funded school (not necessarily in the same borough)	Estimated % of children who live in the borough and attend a state-funded school (school not necessarily in the same borough)
Newham	29,650	29,413	99.20%
Barking & Dagenham	20,831	20,637	99.07%
Havering	18,757	18,238	97.23%
Tower Hamlets	21,925	20,981	95.69%
Sutton	15,930	15,192	95.37%
Hounslow	21,376	20,112	94.09%
Enfield	29,962	28,118	93.85%
Hillingdon	24,087	22,593	93.80%
Bexley	19,991	18,694	93.51%
Waltham Forest	23,687	21,516	90.83%
Southwark	22,138	20,084	90.72%
Bromley	25,836	23,361	90.42%
Ealing	29,046	26,213	90.25%
Outer London	436,839	394,189	90.24%
Greenwich	23,283	20,846	89.53%
Brent	26,554	23,772	89.52%
Lewisham	23,955	21,420	89.42%
Merton	16,381	14,538	88.75%
Kingston upon Thames	12,779	11,340	88.74%
Redbridge	27,115	24,013	88.56%
Greater London	689,219	604,624	87.73%
Harrow	20,398	17,787	87.20%
Croydon	33,212	28,793	86.69%
Lambeth	23,216	19,843	85.47%
Haringey	22,182	18,949	85.43%
Islington	13,673	11,673	85.37%
Inner London	252,380	210,435	83.38%
Barnet	31,738	26,028	82.01%
Hackney	21,886	17,506	79.99%
Richmond upon Thames	15,876	12,398	78.09%
Wandsworth	21,073	16,148	76.63%
Camden	15,363	10,991	71.54%
Hammersmith & Fulham	12,435	8,845	71.13%
Westminster	13,777	9,351	67.87%
City of London	249	140	56.22%
Kensington & Chelsea	10,858	5,091	46.89%

Sources: Table 13a 'Local Authority cross border movement matrix of state-funded primary school pupils resident in England', DfE, 2012 and 2011 Census mid-year estimates single year of age, ONS

Estimates of children in independent schools

The cross border movement matrix released by DfE does not take into account those children who attend an independent school. However, the release by DfE also contains school level data for all schools in England. This means that the total number of children attending an independent primary school (excluding independent special schools) full-time in each borough can be calculated. Using this data for independent schools which contain both primary and secondary level children it is not possible to distinguish between the children aged 11 at primary level and those at secondary level. Therefore all children aged 11 where the school contains both a primary and secondary component have been allocated to the secondary school totals and are therefore discounted in this analysis. No conclusions can be drawn from the data as to the place of residence of the children.

Table 4 sets out this data by borough and shows that there are 65,220 children attending an independent school at primary level in Greater London. This is higher in Inner London than Outer London; 34,751 to 30,469 children. When comparing the number of children attending independent school as a proportion of the number at school in total (state-funded and independent), this is nearly double for Inner London than Outer London; 14.0 per cent to 7.2 per cent.

Of the children attending an independent school, Kensington & Chelsea has the highest number at primary level with over seven thousand. It is followed by four other boroughs each with more than four thousand children at an independent school; Wandsworth, Camden, Hammersmith & Fulham and Richmond upon Thames

Islington has the lowest number of children at an independent school with 358 followed by Bexley with 455, City of London with 475 and Newham with 490.

Combining the number of children per borough attending independent school with the number at a state-funded school allows the percentage of children attending an independent school per borough to be implied. In spite of having a low number of children at independent school, 69.6 per cent of children at school in the City of London are estimated to attend independent school. This is the highest percentage in London. It is followed by Kensington & Chelsea with 52.0 per cent, Camden with 31.6 per cent and Wandsworth with 26.4 per cent.

Islington, Lewisham, Newham, Tower Hamlets, Bexley, Enfield, Havering and Waltham Forest all have fewer than four per cent of children at an independent school. Barking & Dagenham has no independent schools at primary level and is consequently the only borough to have no children at an independent school.

Table 4: Estimate of primary children attending independent school by school borough, 2012

	No. of children who go to independent school in the borough regardless of home residence	Total no. of children at school in the borough (maintained plus independent)	Implied % children who attend an independent school in the borough	No. of independent primary level schools in the borough
Camden	4,844	15,330	31.60%	28
City of London	475	683	69.55%	3
Hackney	4,434	21,018	21.10%	25
Hammersmith & Fulham	3,023	12,059	25.07%	14
Haringey	977	20,963	4.66%	8
Islington	358	12,786	2.80%	4
Kensington & Chelsea	7,131	13,712	52.01%	30
Lambeth	877	20,412	4.30%	7
Lewisham	703	21,473	3.27%	6
Newham	490	30,070	1.63%	7
Southwark	1,724	22,384	7.70%	9
Tower Hamlets	682	21,980	3.10%	6
Wandsworth	5,830	22,091	26.39%	25
Westminster	3,203	13,518	23.69%	20
Barking & Dagenham	0	20,014	0.00%	0
Barnet	3,216	28,749	11.19%	23
Bexley	455	19,561	2.33%	3
Brent	1,067	24,237	4.40%	11
Bromley	2,043	25,822	7.91%	11
Croydon	2,375	30,742	7.73%	17
Ealing	2,334	28,229	8.27%	17
Enfield	927	28,903	3.21%	7
Greenwich	1,564	21,474	7.28%	7
Harrow	1,485	19,319	7.69%	10
Havering	570	19,173	2.97%	6
Hillingdon	1,840	25,046	7.35%	7
Hounslow	818	19,442	4.21%	7
Kingston upon Thames	1,494	12,985	11.51%	9
Merton	2,015	16,852	11.96%	10
Redbridge	2,656	27,365	9.71%	17
Richmond upon Thames	4,234	17,975	23.55%	22
Sutton	819	14,803	5.53%	5
Waltham Forest	557	21,593	2.58%	6
Greater London	65,220	670,763	9.72%	387
Inner London	34,751	248,479	13.99%	192
Outer London	30,469	422,284	7.22%	195

Source: Table 13a 'Local Authority cross border movement matrix of state-funded primary school pupils resident in England', DfE, 2012 and 'School level pupil data', DfE, 2012

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