**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOLS / ACADEMIES REGARDING THE OCTOBER 2020 CENSUS**

The October 2020 Census (taken Thursday 1 October) will be used to calculate funding allocations for primary (Reception – Year 6) and secondary (Year 7 – Year 11) schools and academies in the 2021/22 financial year (and academic year in the case of academies).

The DfE will provide the Local Authority in December 2020 with a dataset, which must be used to calculate formula funding allocation for 2021/22. As has been the case in previous years, the Authority will have no flexibility to amend any inaccurate data recorded in the October 2020 Census.

**This means that it is imperative that primary and secondary mainstream schools and academies ensure their October 2020 Census data return is 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 2020/21. The 2021/22 document will be published in the autumn.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/authority-proforma-tool-apt-information-for-local-authorities#schools-block-dataset-2020-to-2021-technical-specification>

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>