**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR MAINSTREAM PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOLS / ACADEMIES REGARDING THE OCTOBER 2024 CENSUS**

The **October 2024 Census (taken on Thursday 3 October)** will be used to calculate core mainstream funding allocations for primary (Reception – Year 6) and secondary (Year 7 – Year 11) schools and academies in the 2025/26 financial year. The October 2024 Census will also be used for other grant funding streams in 2025/26, including the Pupil Premium Grant.

The DfE will provide the Local Authority, in December 2024, with a dataset, which must be used to calculate core mainstream formula funding allocations for 2025/26. As has been the case in previous years, the Authority will have no flexibility to amend any inaccurate data recorded in the October 2024 Census.

**This means that it is imperative that primary and secondary mainstream schools and academies ensure their October 2024 Census data returns are 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 2024/25. The 2025/26 document will be published in the autumn.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-complete-the-authority-proforma-tool-apt-2024-to-2025/schools-block-technical-specification-2024-to-2025-for-use-in-schools-block-allocations>

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>