

## **How many Looked after Children of statutory school age (5 to 15) are not in full-time education?**

### **Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) data:**

PLASC is an electronic collection of pupil and school level data provided by all maintained schools (nursery, primary, secondary, middle and special) in January each year. For children of statutory school age (5 to 15), data is collected on whether a child is listed as being part-time i.e. if a child has a medical condition that prevents them from attending full-time education.

The PLASC Census does not include children who are solely registered as being Educated Other Than At Home (EOTAS). This data is collected separately in the EOTAS Census in January each year. Data is not collected on those that are educated as part-time in this Census.

### **Children Receiving Care and Support (CRCS) Census and Children in Need (CIN) Census data:**

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act came into effect on 6 April 2016. It is the new legal framework that brings together and modernises social services law in Wales. From 6 April 2016, Section 17 of the Children Act 1989, which defines 'Children in Need', was repealed. As a result, the Children in Need Census was changed to the 'Children Receiving Care and Support' Census. From 2016, local authorities were expected to collect and return data through the Children Receiving Care and Support Census. Therefore the latest year statistics are published as experimental statistics, due to the scale of change continuing to happen in social services and ongoing system changes.

A child is allocated a UPN when they first attend a maintained school (Nursery, Primary, Middle, Secondary, and Special).

For each child, the Unique Pupil Number (UPN) was collected to allow anonymous matching of children in the relevant age groups with the PLASC Census, so that records could be summarised for looked after children who were included in the CRCS and the CIN Census' without having to collect this information from local authorities. All children's UPNs from both Census' could be matched to the PLASC database in regards to their mode of study.

The Census' numbers are based on children whose case had been open for 3 months or more at the census date of 31 March, i.e. was in place on or before 1 January and remained at 31 March, so the final figures does not represent a full year's worth of data.

### **Mode of study of looked after children recorded in the CRCS Census (Post 2016)**

Using the statutory school age (i.e. 5 to 15 years old) there were 3,610 Non-EOTAS looked after children receiving care and support at the 31 March 2018 and 3,340 children at the 31 March 2017. All of these children are shown as being in full-time education when matched to the PLASC Census.

### **Mode of study for looked after children recorded in the CIN Census (Prior to 2016)**

There were 3,310 looked after children recorded in the children in need Census at the 31 March 2016. Again, all of these children are shown as being in full-time education when matched to the PLASC Census.

Local authorities may hold information on the mode of study for looked after children recorded in these Census', who were classified as being EOTAS, or were without a UPN.