

Freedom of Information – Response – 26707

I would like to submit a freedom of information request about your statistics for children missing from education (CME).

The population we are asking about is 5-16 year olds in your local authority from the most recent academic year (or the most recent year of data available):

We can confirm that Suffolk County Council holds information for the following questions, however, some of this information is readily accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain.

Section 21 of the FOIA states that a public authority does not need to provide information under section 1 of the Act if that information is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. Please use the links below to access the requested information.

1. Total number of children in your LA

The population of Suffolk from GP registration data in October 2025, by age on 1 September 2025, was

Age 4	Age 5	Age 6	Age 7	Age 8	Age 9	Age 10	Age 11	Age 12	Age 13	Age 14	Age 15	Age 16
7151	7466	7736	8150	8442	8753	8763	8922	9115	9466	9464	9354	9313

2. Total number of children registered at school

The DfE published data from the January 2025 school census can be found as below. The pupil numbers at maintained and independent schools are here. This will include non-Suffolk residents attending Suffolk schools.

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-catalogue/data-set/77d37133-ab0e-4428-aa62-9aae5bfdfd73>

For the maintained schools only (not independent), the numbers of Suffolk children at non-Suffolk schools and the numbers of non-Suffolk children in Suffolk schools are here.

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-catalogue/data-set/1b55a035-cbb5-4528-9e43-8316b061a34c>

3. Number of children who are electively home educated (EHE)

[Elective home education, Autumn term 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)

4. Number of children who are receiving 'Education otherwise than at school' (EOTAS)

Under Section 19 of the Children and Families Act 2014 - 177

Under Section 61 of the Children and Families Act 2014 – 32

5. *Number of children awaiting a school placement*
Suffolk County Council does not record this information.

6. *Number of children missing from education (CME)*
[Children missing education, Autumn term 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)
The last Census data date was 02-10-2025, with a total of 326 CME Children.

7. *Whether you record reasons for why a child is missing from education*

a. *If so, the number of children under each reason*

Yes, this can be found on the DfE Census data.

8. *If possible, the number of CME by the following demographic characteristics*

a. *Gender*

b. *Age*

c. *NC year*

d. *Ethnicity*

e. *FSM eligibility*

f. *SEN status*

g. *ESL status*

h. *Known to social care*

Yes, all of the above, (although SCC refer to ESL as EAL – English as Additional Language).