

Managed moves vs permanent exclusions – methodology

We can identify pupils undergoing managed moves using the enrolment status recorded in termly school census returns.

This is shown using the example below. In the autumn term, the pupil is undergoing a managed move from School A to School B and so is dual registered. By the spring term, the pupil has been formally taken onto the roll of School B and so their enrolment status is set to 'current'.

Example termly school census records for a pupil undergoing a managed move

School	Term	Enrolment Status
A	Autumn	Main
B	Autumn	Subsidiary
B	Spring	Current

Using the three termly school census returns from 2015/16, I observe just over 5,000 pupils move from dual registration to a single registration at an establishment (including pupil referral units and AP free schools and academies) who previously held a subsidiary registration at that establishment. Admission dates into the subsidiary registration schools were all between 1st September 2015 and 31st July 2016.

These are conservative estimates as I have only considered moves between schools in the same local authority. I do not have a sense at the moment of the extent of cross-border managed moves. It may be the case that a pupil moves to a school in a different local authority as a result of a managed move if they live in that authority.

Also, I do not know for sure that these are managed moves. In some cases, they coincide with permanent exclusions. Assuming that the remainder are genuine managed moves, I am only observing successful moves. I have not attempted to identify managed moves which do not work out for whatever reason. It is possible that there are many that do not.

In addition, school census only takes place three times a year. Some managed moves may not be observed because they take place in-between census returns.