

Dear

ATISN 27428 – Looked after children

Thank you for your request to Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 27th August 2026, relating to looked after children.

You requested the following information:

1. **Total placements for each local authority** for children looked-after in year 2015-2016 only, as per Welsh Government estimates in previous years, or as close to it:
<https://stats.gov.wales/en-GB/23acb719-adcc-43ca-91b2-fbf6d88ac32d>
2. **Attendance rate and Unauthorised absence rate** for children looked-after in Wales for each LA for the years noted below. Some years are not available on the National Portal
<https://socialcaredata.wales/dataset?c=302&p=5,46&i=71322&d=&dig=&g=1,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,2,20,21,22,3,4,5,6,7,8,9&v=>. We are aware of the COVID-19 limitations so any estimates available will be appreciated.
 - a. 2015/16 for each LA
 - b. 2019/20 for each LA
 - c. 2020/21 for each LA
 - d. 2021/22 for each LA
 - e. 2023/24 for each LA
 - f. 2024/25 for each LA
3. The **percentage** of children looked-after with **one or more fixed-term exclusion from school** as shown in
<https://www.socialcaredata.wales/dataset?c=268&p=5,46&i=72686&d=&dig=&g=1,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,2,20,21,22,3,4,5,6,7,8,9&v=>. We are aware of the COVID-19 limitations so any estimates available will be appreciated. For the years of:
 - a. 2016/17 for each LA
 - b. 2017/18 for each LA
 - c. 2018/19 for each LA
 - d. 2019/20 for each LA
 - e. 2020/21 for each LA
 - f. 2021/22 for each LA
 - g. 2022/23 for each LA
 - h. 2023/24 for each LA
 - i. 2024/25 for each LA
4. **Percentage** of children looked-after achieving **5 A* - G GCSEs** as shown
<https://www.socialcaredata.wales/dataset?c=260&p=5,46&i=72444&d=&dig=&g=1,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,2,20,21,22,3,4,5,6,7,8,9&v=> but is not working; we are aware of COVID-19 limitations and will accept teacher assessment.
 - a. 2015/16 for each LA
 - b. 2016/17 for each LA
 - c. 2017/18 for each LA
 - d. 2018/19 for each LA
 - e. 2019/20 for each LA
 - f. 2020/21 for each LA

- g. 2021/22 for each LA
 - h. 2022/23 for each LA
 - i. 2023/24 for each LA
 - j. 2024/25 for each LA
5. **Percentage of children looked-after achieving 5 A* - C including Language and Mathematics GCSEs as shown**
<https://www.socialcaredata.wales/dataset?c=260&p=5,46&i=72044&d=&dig=&g=1,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,2,20,21,22,3,4,5,6,7,8,9&v=> but is not working; we are aware of COVID-19 limitations and will accept teacher assessment.
- a. 2015/16 for each LA
 - b. 2016/17 for each LA
 - c. 2017/18 for each LA
 - d. 2018/19 for each LA
 - e. 2019/20 for each LA
 - f. 2020/21 for each LA
 - g. 2021/22 for each LA
 - h. 2022/23 for each LA
 - i. 2023/24 for each LA
 - j. 2024/25 for each LA
6. **Average number of GCSEs A* - G attained by children looked-after if available; we are aware of COVID-19 limitations and will accept teacher assessment.**
- a. 2015/16 for each LA
 - b. 2016/17 for each LA
 - c. 2017/18 for each LA
 - d. 2018/19 for each LA
 - e. 2019/20 for each LA
 - f. 2020/21 for each LA
 - g. 2021/22 for each LA
 - h. 2022/23 for each LA
 - i. 2023/24 for each LA
 - j. 2024/25 for each LA

Our Response

1. This information is publicly available and can be found here: [Children looked after on 31 March by placement type | StatsWales](#)

This shows the number of children looked after by placement on 31 March each year.

Note you can filter variables using the options on the left of the page. Note that all figures have been rounded to the nearest five. Where there are fewer than five children in any group, the actual number has been suppressed and replaced by the symbol 'c'.

2. This information is publicly available and can be found here: [School attendance of children receiving care and support by child status | StatsWales](#) .

To find out specific statistics for children looked after you will need to select the relevant box in the Child Status filter.

Note that National Statistics on attendance are not available for the school years 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22. Children receiving care and support census data for 2023-24 and 2024-25 is currently being validated and is due to be published later in the year.

3. The Welsh Government does not hold this information. This data was available as part of analysis on the Children in Need Census and the data series came to an end in 2015-16.
4. The Welsh Government does not hold this information. This data was available as part of analysis on the Children in Need Census and the data series came to an end in 2015-16.
5. This data is available for the years 2016-17 to 2018-19 at Wales level however it is not currently published on StatsWales.

Percentage of children achieving the level 2 threshold including English/Welsh and Mathematics at key stage 4 [Note 1]

	2017	2018	2019
Children looked after on 31 March [Note 2]	12.8%	20.1%	16.9%

Source: Children Receiving Care and Support Census, Welsh Government

[Note 1] Includes all pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year. Level 2: a volume of qualifications at Level 2 is equivalent to the volume of 5 GCSEs at grade A*-C. Children who were new to the English or Welsh based education system are included in the Wales total but some are excluded at local authority level.

[Note 2] Children looked after may also have been on the child protection register on 31 March.

6. The Welsh Government does not hold this information.

Next Steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane

Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,