

School estate briefing and analysis 2018

- The overall picture on the school estate is generally positive.
- 85,947 pupils (13% of the school roll) are in schools in “poor” or “bad” condition but this is the lowest since comparable statistics began in 2007.

Background

As part of the School Estates Core Facts survey information is collected on the size, condition, suitability and capacity of all schools open on 1st April. Information is also collected on all schools that had been built or substantially refurbished during the financial year 2016-17. Changes to the estate which have occurred after 1 April are not reflected in this survey.

Responsibility for the provision, management and maintenance of the school estate rests with the education authorities. They need to plan and put in place any investment needed.

The Government’s manifesto states:

No child should have to learn in a school that is in poor or bad condition. Modern, accessible buildings help create the right environment for children to learn and teachers to work in. In the next Parliament, we will bring forward new proposals to build upon the success of Our Schools for the Future programme which rebuilt or refurbished 607 schools – almost a quarter of the school estate – between 2007 and 2015. We will also work to ensure that our schools are sustainably built, refurbished and maintained and are world-leading in energy efficiency.

The Government has made significant progress in helping education authorities improve the quality of Scotland’s school estate through the Schools for the Future programme. Nevertheless, in spite of this good work, there is still more to do and is why the Manifesto indicated that the Government would bring forward new proposals to build on the success of the Schools for the Future programme.

A new Learning Estate Investment Plan was announced by DFM on 22 November as a means to delivering on the PfG statement in September that we will develop an Education Infrastructure Plan. The detail of this will be developed early in 2018 in collaboration with colleagues in early years and further education.

Consideration is being given on the schools only investment element of the plan and more detail discussion with Finance colleagues will resume after the budget process has concluded. At this stage no decisions have been taken as to the precise form that these new proposals might take.

Main Points

- Over the last ten financial years, 2007-08 to 2016-17, a total of 751 schools have been built or substantially refurbished.

- The proportion of schools reported as being in good or satisfactory condition has increased from 61% in April 2007 to 86% in April 2017 (2% points higher than 2016). The number of pupils educated in poor or bad condition schools has decreased from 256,794 (37% of pupils) in April 2007 to 85,947 (13% of pupils) in April 2017.
- 703 school buildings were in the top condition category of 'good', which is the highest since 2007 when the data collection started.
- The proportion of schools with good or satisfactory suitability has increased from 74 per cent in April 2010 to 81 per cent in April 2017 (same as 2016). This has resulted in the proportion of pupils in schools with a good or satisfactory suitability 76 per cent in April 2010 to 84 per cent in April 2017 (slightly higher than 2016).

Table 6.1: Schools built or substantially refurbished

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Primary	60	67	53	45	37	43	50	71	33	82
Secondary	28	34	48	8	6	14	8	5	9	11
Special	5	5	2	2	3	3	5	5	2	7
Total number built or refurbished	93	106	103	55	46	60	63	81	44	100

Lines to take

- When complete in 2020 the Schools for the Future Programme will have delivered 117 top quality school projects for more than 60,000 pupils – this does not include the local authorities' own school improvement Programmes.
- 751 school building projects (almost 30% of all schools) have been completed during the last 10 years (2007-08 to 2016-17). By comparison, this is more than double the amount of schools (328) completed over the preceding 8 years.
- The proportion of schools in good or satisfactory condition has increased from 61% in April 2007 to 86% in April 2017. This means the number of pupils educated in schools in "poor" or "bad" condition has fallen from some 257,000 (37% of all pupils) in 2007 to around 86,000 (13% of all pupils) in 2017 – a reduction of over 66%.
- Investment plans are in place to improve the condition/suitability of some 118 schools (primary, secondary and special) currently in condition C (Poor) or D (Bad) to the benefit of c.37,500 pupils.
- During the lifetime of this administration (2007-08 to 2016-17), 751 school building projects have been completed. By comparison, this is more than double the amount of schools (328) completed over the preceding 8 years.
- The proportion of schools reported as being in good or satisfactory condition has increased to 86% (84% in 2016). This is substantially higher than in April 2007 (61 per cent).
- The proportion of pupils educated in schools in "poor" or "bad" condition has decreased from 37% of all pupils (around 257,000) in 2007 to 13% of all pupils (about 86,000) in 2017.

Since 2007-08, 751 schools have been built or substantially refurbished (includes those with cost of £0.5m+ for primary or £1m+ for secondary and special).

- The £1.8 billion Scotland's Schools for the Future programme involves £1.13 billion of Scottish Government funding with local authorities contributing £665 million.