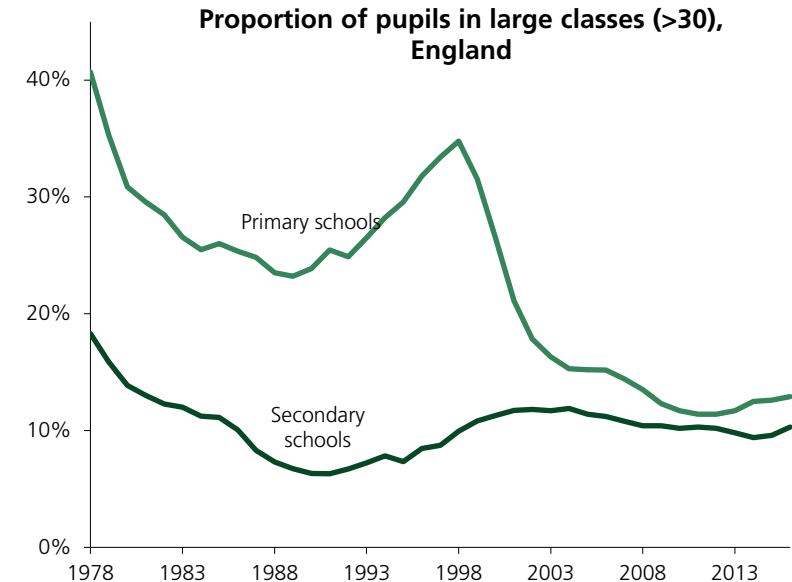


Schools and class sizes in England & UK

- The number of primary schools declined by 5,845 (22%) between 1970/71 and 2015/16.
- The number of secondary schools fell by 1,842 (31%) over the same period.
- Since 1950 the average size of a primary school has gone through a cyclical trend in a range of 180 to 220 pupils. In 2015/16 the average primary school size had risen slightly to around 260 pupils.
- Over the same period the average size of secondary schools has also gone through cycles based on changes in pupil numbers, but the dominant trend has been to increase. In 2015/16 average secondary school size was 910 pupils.
- The proportion of primary school pupils in England in large classes peaked at nearly 35% in 1998. It subsequently declined sharply to 18% in 2002 and continued to gradually decline until 2011. Since then it has slightly increased.
- In the secondary sector the trend was upwards during most of the 1990s. The proportion of pupils in large class sizes rose from below 9% (1997) to nearly 12% in 2004 before falling to below 10% from 2013 to 2015 before rising again in 2016.



Public sector primary and secondary schools
UK, academic years

	Primary	Secondary	Total
1970/71	26,799	6,010	32,809
1980/81	26,504	5,542	32,046
1990/91	24,135	4,790	28,925
2000/01	22,902	4,337	27,239
2010/11	21,281	4,121	25,402
2011/12	21,165	4,072	25,237
2012/13	21,069	4,077	25,146
2013/14	21,040	4,116	25,156
2014/15	20,980	4,158	25,138
2015/16	20,954	4,169	25,123

Source: ONS, *Annual Abstract of Statistics*, various

Education departments' reports of school/pupil censuses

