

---

## EXTENDED SERVICES IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

---

*Nicholas Gilby, Tara Mackey, Jo Mason, Anna Ullman, Sam Clemens  
BMRB Social Research*

### Introduction

In 2006 the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) commissioned BMRB Social Research to conduct a nationally representative survey investigating the extent and characteristics of extended services being provided by maintained primary schools throughout England. BMRB conducted a baseline survey of extended services in 2005 and comparisons between primary schools in 2005 and 2006 have been made. Extended services are the services such as childcare, other activities for children, adult education, parenting support and access to health and social care that schools offer to children, families and other members of the community, often beyond the school day.

### Key Findings

- Sixteen per cent of primary schools (which equates to 2,875 schools nationally) currently provide the full childcare offer. Out of those primary schools that do not currently provide the full childcare offer, 48% say they plan to within the next two years. If at least two thirds of these primary schools fulfil their plans, the 2008 target will be met.
- After school provision has increased from a high 2005 base by four percentage points to 91%. There has been an increase of 13 percentage points, from 40% in 2005 to 53% in 2006 in the proportion of primary schools offering before school care. Since 2005, there has been quite a large increase in the proportion of primary schools offering holiday care from 26% to 43% in 2006.
- Ninety eight per cent of primary schools offered specific information sessions to parents when children started at school. Fifty eight per cent offered family learning courses or workshops and 68% offered parenting courses.
- Nearly all (98%) primary schools worked with at least one sort of health professional to help support their pupils. The majority (96%) worked with nurses and 86% worked with other health professionals.
- Most primary schools (81%) allowed use of their facilities (such as the school hall, classrooms or the playground, or any sports, arts or ICT facilities) to people from outside the school.
- There has been a small increase in the number of primary schools that offered nursery education provision for three and four year olds, from 35% in 2005 to 40% in 2006. There has been a large increase in the proportion of primary schools offering integrated care (38%, compared with 22% in 2005). Less than one fifth (18%) of primary schools offered childcare for children aged up to three years old.

## Policy Background

The Government has set out a core offer<sup>1</sup> of the extended services that all schools should be able to offer by 2010 (with half of all primary schools doing so by 2008). This core offer will comprise:

- Childcare/varied menu of activities for children and young people between the hours of 8am-6pm, all year round;
- Varied menu of study support activities;
- Parenting support, including family learning;
- Ensuring swift referral from schools to a wider range of specialised support services for pupils;
- Widespread community use of the school's facilities.

Schools will make this offer themselves or in partnership with other schools or the private, voluntary and community sector. Provision will mainly be on school sites, at a neighbouring school or on a different site.

## Methodology

The survey was conducted using BMRB's Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) technology, between 5<sup>th</sup> June 2006 and 14<sup>th</sup> July 2006. Interviews were carried out by The Operations Centre<sup>2</sup> (TOC) fully trained telephone interviewers.

In total 2,174 interviews were carried out with maintained primary schools in England. The average interview length was just under 12 minutes.

The headteachers of all schools included in the issued sample were sent an advance letter, a datasheet and an information leaflet. For each

---

1 "Extended Schools: Access to Opportunities and Services for All". DfES, 2005.

2 BMRB is part of the Kantar Group, the information and consultancy arm of WPP, BMRB's parent company. In addition to BMRB, other market research agencies in the Kantar Group include Research International and Millward Brown, as well as a number of smaller, specialist organisations. In April 2004 the operational services of the Kantar companies were grouped to form a shared resource called The Operations Centre. The majority of BMRB's existing operational services, including field management, sampling and data processing continue to be based at BMRB's Head Office in Ealing but, while still wholly owned by WPP, the new operations centre is now a separate legal entity from BMRB. The Operations Centre has since been renamed Kantar Operations. Kantar Operations continues to work to existing quality standards and BMRB continue to take responsibility for the quality of the work undertaken by their support services.

school sampled, interviewers attempted to make contact with the headteacher to complete the survey. In some cases the headteacher referred the interviewer to another member of staff such as a deputy head or a member of staff with specific responsibility for extended services.

At the end of fieldwork 2,174 interviews had been completed out of 3,100 schools sampled. This represented a response rate of 70%.<sup>3</sup>

## Summary

### *Childcare and study support activities*

In 2006, primary schools in England are more or less on course for achieving the DfES target of 50% of schools offering the full childcare offer by 2008. Sixteen per cent of primary schools currently provide the full childcare offer, an increase of 14 percentage points since 2005. Forty eight per cent of the primary schools that did not currently provide the full childcare offer plan to do so within the next two years. If all of these schools go ahead with their plans, the target of 50% of primary schools providing the full childcare offer by 2008 will easily be met. Even if the amount of schools providing this offer increases by only 17 percentage points each year for the next two years they will still be on track to meet the DfES target. The proportion of schools providing the full childcare offer will then need to increase by 25 percentage points per year in order to meet the 2010 target of 100%.

There has been an increase of 13 percentage points in primary schools offering regular activities or childcare for pupils before school, from 40% in 2005 to 53% in 2006. The vast majority of those offering before school care offered this on site (92%). Of those primary schools offering before school care, 24% had a contract with other providers to offer off site before school care as well.

Most primary schools (91%) offer regular activities for children or childcare after the standard school day. Sixty nine per cent provide after-school activities on site. Where care was provided off site, seven in ten schools always provided supervised transport. Thirty nine per cent had a written agreement or contract with an outside provider.

---

3 Response rate calculations are based on the number of interviews completed divided by the total sample issued, excluding those schools that were out of our scope i.e. that had closed down.

Holiday activities or childcare were less common. Forty three per cent of primary schools offered childcare or activities in the school holidays. A third (34%) had a written agreement or contract with another provider to supply holiday care. The majority of primary schools offering holiday care only used staff employed by another organisation (72%), an increase of 11 percentage points since 2005.

There has been a small increase in the number of primary schools that offered nursery education provision for three and four year olds, from 35% in 2005 to 40% in 2006. There has been a larger increase in the proportion of primary schools offering integrated care (38%, compared with 22% in 2005).

Twenty eight per cent of primary schools that provided childcare for 3-4 year olds had a written partnership agreement or contract with someone outside the school to offer care.

Forty seven per cent of primary schools that provided childcare for 3-4 year olds only used staff employed by the school to provide this care, more than a third (35%) only used staff employed by another organisation, and 13% used both.

Sixteen per cent of primary schools provided the full childcare offer to school age children but only 4% provided the same full service for 3-4 year olds.

Expansion of extended services is being driven by the employment of non-school staff, with between three and four in ten primary schools putting written agreements in place for each aspect of childcare.

Headteachers had mixed views on extended services. Nineteen per cent of head teachers said that they thought 8am-6pm year round childcare was a good idea. However there were some general concerns related to funding, resources and workload, as well as concerns about long schooldays and management responsibilities.

### ***Parenting support***

Ninety-eight per cent of primary schools offered specific information sessions to parents when children started at school. There has been an increase since 2005 of:

- family learning courses or workshops (offered by 58% of primary schools, an increase of 19 percentage points since 2005).
- parenting courses (offered by 68% of primary schools compared with 42% in 2005).

A large proportion (70%) of schools offered specialised support to parent and carers, and the vast majority (97%) offered information on the advice and support available to parents.

### ***Support for pupils***

In general the number of primary schools working with non teaching professionals is quite high. Ninety six per cent of primary schools work with nurses, an increase of eight percentage points since 2005. The percentage of schools working with youth workers has risen from 21% in 2005 to 35% in 2006. Two in three (66%) work with a parenting or family support practitioner and 84% with a social care practitioner.

### ***Community use***

There has been a six percentage point increase in primary schools that allowed people from outside school to use at least one of their facilities (sports, ICT, library or arts facilities and other rooms or space). This figure has risen from 75% in 2005 to 81% in 2006.

Thirty nine per cent of primary schools offer courses on non parenting issues, an increase of seven percentage points since 2005. There has been little change in the proportion of schools offering health and therapeutic services and advice services to the local community. However, there has been a decline in the number of schools offering social services to their community (nine per cent in 2006 compared with 20% in 2005).

### ***Drivers of full childcare offer***

Rural primary schools, smaller schools, schools with more pupils eligible for free school meals and schools with at least 10% black or ethnic minority pupils were more likely to have no plans to provide childcare than their counterparts. Voluntary and Foundation schools were more likely to have no plans to provide childcare than community schools.

### ***Progress since 2005***

The table below summarises progress in 2006 since

2005. As can be seen the vast majority of primary schools in 2006 provided after-school childcare and activities, parenting support, and access for people from outside the school to at least some school facilities. However, to increase the proportion of

primary schools offering the full childcare offer in the next two years, efforts need to be concentrated on before school and holiday childcare and activities.

Summary table	% OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN 2005	% OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN 2006	CHANGE
<b>SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN - FULL CHILDCARE OFFER</b>			
All year round 8-6 full offer	2	16	+14
<b>SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN - SOME LEVEL OF CHILDCARE</b>			
Some before-school childcare/ activities	40	53	+13
Some after-school childcare/ activities	87	91	+4
Some holiday childcare/ activities	26	43	+17
<b>PARENTING SUPPORT</b>			
Any parenting support <sup>4</sup>	65	97	+32
Family learning	39	58	+19
Parenting courses	42	68	+26
<b>COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>			
Access for people from outside the school to at least some school facilities	75	81	+6
Health/therapeutic, social and/or advice services to the local community	29	25	-4
<b>SUPPORT FOR PUPILS</b>			
Works with at least one type of health professional to support pupils	99	98	-1
Worked with social care professionals to support pupils	80	84	+4

Base: All primary schools (2,174 unweighted in 2006; 1,181 unweighted in 2005)

#### **Additional Information**

Copies of the full report (RR809) - priced £4.95 - are available by writing to DfES Publications, PO Box 5050, Sherwood Park, Annesley, Nottingham NG15 0DJ. Cheques should be made payable to "DfES Priced Publications".

Copies of this Research Brief (RB809) are available free of charge from the above address (tel: 0845 60 222 60). Research Briefs and Research Reports can also be accessed at [www.dfes.gov.uk/research/](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/)

Further information about this research can be obtained from Kate Ridley-Moy, 2A, DfES, Caxton

House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NA. Email: [kate.ridley-moy@dfes.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:kate.ridley-moy@dfes.gsi.gov.uk)

The views expressed in this report are the authors' and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department for Education and Skills

<sup>4</sup> Includes parenting courses, family support worker, advice for parents, a parents' room, other parenting support groups and facilities, and family learning