



# Numbers of Jewish children in Jewish schools

## Statistical bulletin for 2015/16 to 2017/18

**Jonathan Boyd / January 2019**

### Introduction

This bulletin, commissioned by the Board of Deputies and produced by the Institute for Jewish Policy Research, contains the most recent data on Jewish school enrolment in the UK.

It builds on previous studies, notably by the Institute for Jewish Policy Research (JPR) and the Board of Deputies of British Jews (2016)<sup>1</sup> which included figures up to the academic year 2014/15, and the Jewish Leadership Council study (2008), which included figures up to 2005/06 (mainstream secondary and strictly Orthodox) and 2006/07 (mainstream primary).<sup>2</sup> They, in turn, built on valuable studies, for example by Braude (1981),<sup>3</sup> Hart, Schmool and Cohen (2007)<sup>4</sup> and Graham and Vulkan (2007).<sup>5</sup>

This new report includes data for three academic years that have not previously been published – 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 – using schools census data in England gathered by the Department for Education and for schools in Scotland gathered by the Scottish Government. It constitutes part of a joint project of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and JPR to ensure that educational policy makers working within and with the Jewish school sector have access to data about the numbers of children enrolled in Jewish schools, both in order to monitor developments over time, and to inform thinking about the development of the field.

- 1 Staetsky, L. D. and Boyd, J. (2016). *The rise and rise of Jewish schools in the United Kingdom: Numbers, trends and policy issues*. London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research and Board of Deputies of British Jews.
- 2 Commission on Jewish Schools (2008). *The Future of Jewish Schools*. London: Jewish Leadership Council.
- 3 Braude, J. (1981). 'Jewish education in Britain today.' In: *Jewish Life in Britain, 1962–1977* (eds. Lipman, S. and Lipman, V.). London: Board of Deputies of British Jews.
- 4 Hart, R., Schmool, M. and Cohen, F. (2007). 'Jewish day schools in Britain, 1992/3 to 2003/4,' *Contemporary Jewry*, 137–155.
- 5 Graham, D. and Vulkan, D. (2007). *Report for the Commission on Jewish Schools. The supply and demand for Jewish day school places in Britain*. London: Board of Deputies of British Jews Community Policy Research Group.

## 2 Numbers of Jewish children in Jewish schools

Amongst the key findings in this paper are:

- There were 34,547 Jewish children studying in Jewish schools in the academic years 2017/18.
- This represents an increase of 3,633 children since the last figures were published (for the academic year 2014/15), or 11.8%.
- This increase can be observed in both the mainstream and strictly Orthodox sectors: the mainstream sector had 1,666 more Jewish children in 2017/18 compared to 2014/15; the strictly Orthodox sector had an additional 2,367 children over the same period.
- 58% of Jewish children in Jewish schools are in strictly Orthodox schools; 42% in non-strictly Orthodox or 'mainstream' Jewish schools.
- Three quarters of all Jewish children in Jewish schools are in schools in the Greater London area or South Hertfordshire.
- This geographical distinction is more pronounced in the mainstream sector (where 85% are in schools in London and the surrounding area), than in the strictly orthodox one (where the equivalent figure is 67%).

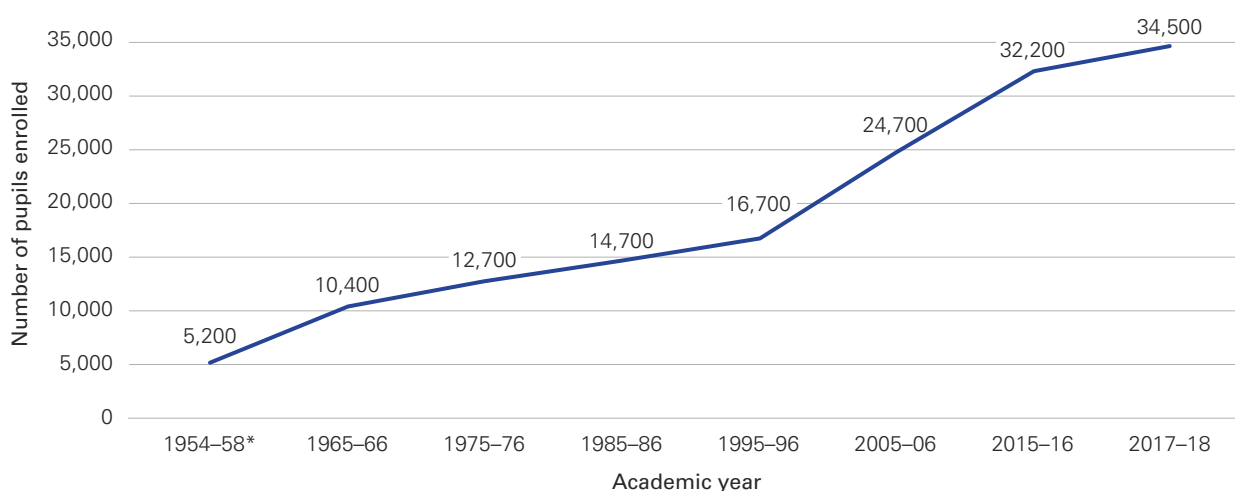
### Key statistics

Data gathered over many years demonstrate that the number of Jewish pupils enrolled in Jewish schools has been climbing consistently for several decades. Numbers have increased particularly dramatically since the mid-1990s, although the increase prior to that is arguably more pronounced than it first appears, as the overall size of Jewish population of the UK in the second half of the twentieth century

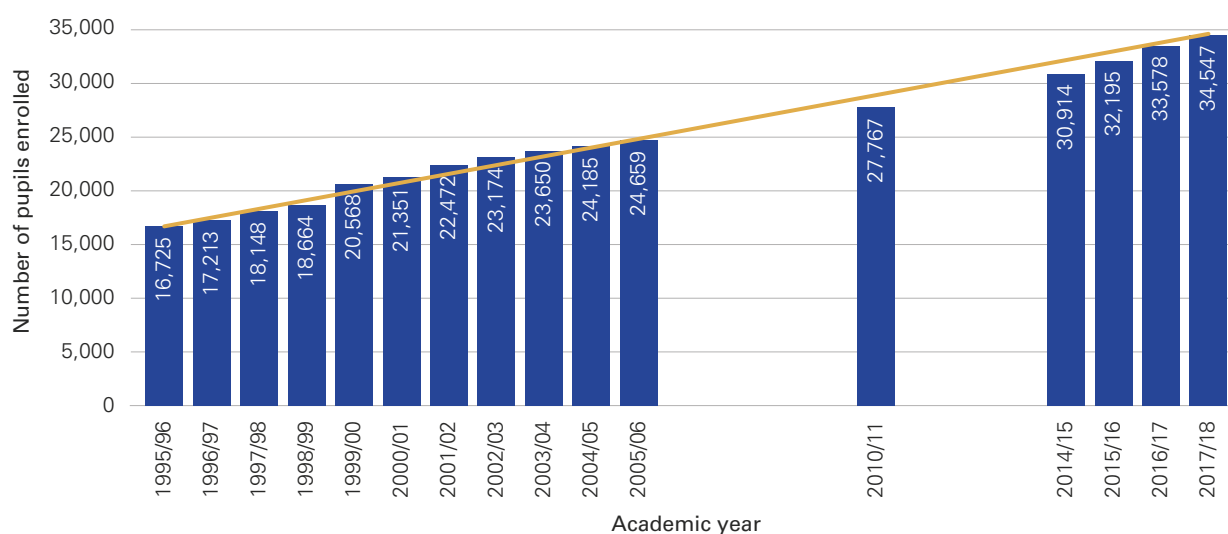
was in a state of decline, falling from an estimated 420,000 in the 1950s to about 290,000 by 2001.

The numbers enrolled since 1995–96 have increased by an average of about 800 children per annum across the primary and secondary sectors; today, the number of pupils is double that found in the mid-1990s.

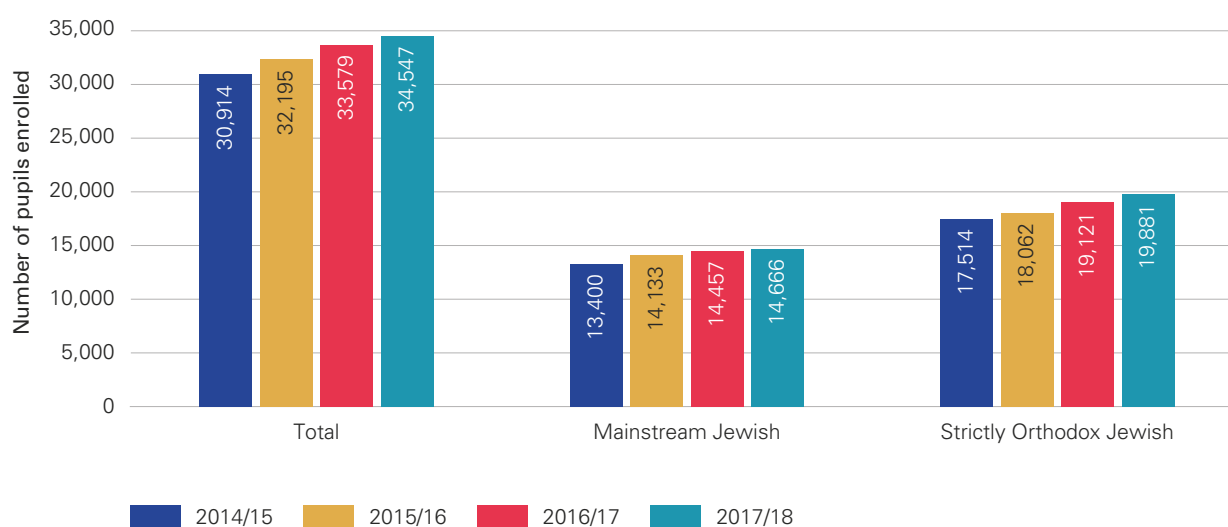
**Figure 1. Number of Jewish pupils enrolled in Jewish schools in the United Kingdom, 1954–2018 (rounded numbers)**



\* Estimated number at these points in time.

**Figure 2. Total enrolment of Jewish pupils in Jewish schools, 1995/96–2017/18**

Note. Data not available for missing years.

**Figure 3. Number of Jewish children in Jewish schools in the UK, by sector, 2014/15–2017/18**

The rise shown when figures were last published (for academic year 2014/15)<sup>6</sup> has continued; the actual increase over just the three academic years that have passed since that time amounts to an extra 3,633 pupils.

The rise in recent years has occurred both within the strictly Orthodox and the mainstream sectors, although the strictly Orthodox shows a faster rate of growth – on average, 4.3% per annum over these years – compared to

<sup>6</sup> See: Staetsky and Boyd (2016), *op.cit.*, pp.26–28. We estimate that approximately half of all strictly Orthodox boys aged 13–15 (i.e. post-bar mitzvah, but pre-conclusion of compulsory schooling) do not appear in official Department for Education statistics. In the academic year 2017/18, this figure is estimated to amount to about 900.

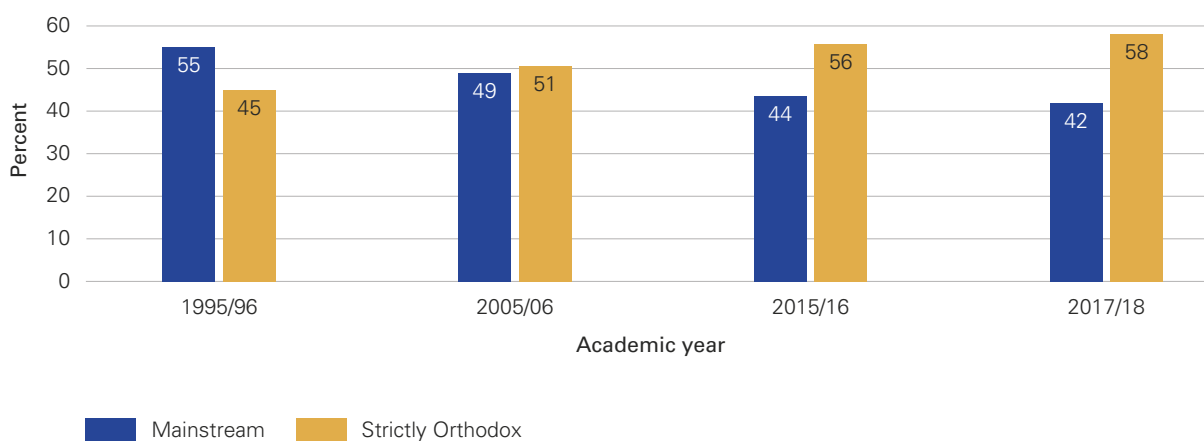
#### 4 Numbers of Jewish children in Jewish schools

an average of 3.1% p.a. in the mainstream sector. The most recent figures (2017/18) reveal that there are over 5,000 more Jewish children enrolled in strictly Orthodox (*haredi*) schools than mainstream ones. In the mid-1990s, there were more Jewish children in mainstream Jewish schools than strictly Orthodox ones, but parity occurred around 2005, and today, the split shown in these figures is close to 60–40 in favour of the *haredi* sector. In fact, the disparity is even greater than this, as a significant number of *haredi* teenagers are known to be studying in *yeshivot* that are not included in Department for

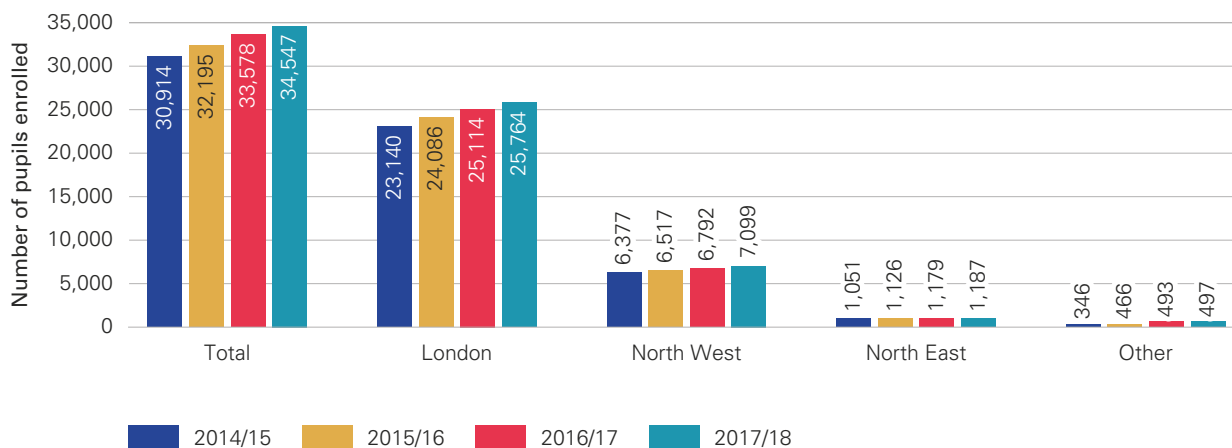
Education figures, as has been demonstrated in previous studies.<sup>7</sup>

Geographically, three-quarters of all these children are in Jewish schools in Greater London and South Hertfordshire (shown collectively as ‘London’ in Figures 5 and 6). The next most populous area is the North West – mainly Manchester, but also Liverpool – which comprises one-fifth of the total. The North East region relates exclusively to Gateshead – one of the key centres of the strictly Orthodox community. Numbers are revealed to have increased in all regions of the country shown.

**Figure 4. Compositional change of pupil population in Jewish schools, 1995/96–2017/18**

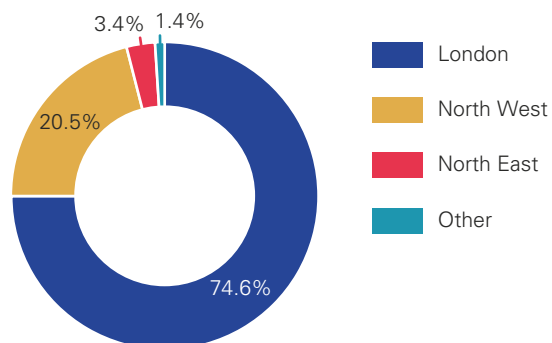


**Figure 5. Enrolment of Jewish pupils in Jewish schools by geography, 2014/15–2017/18**



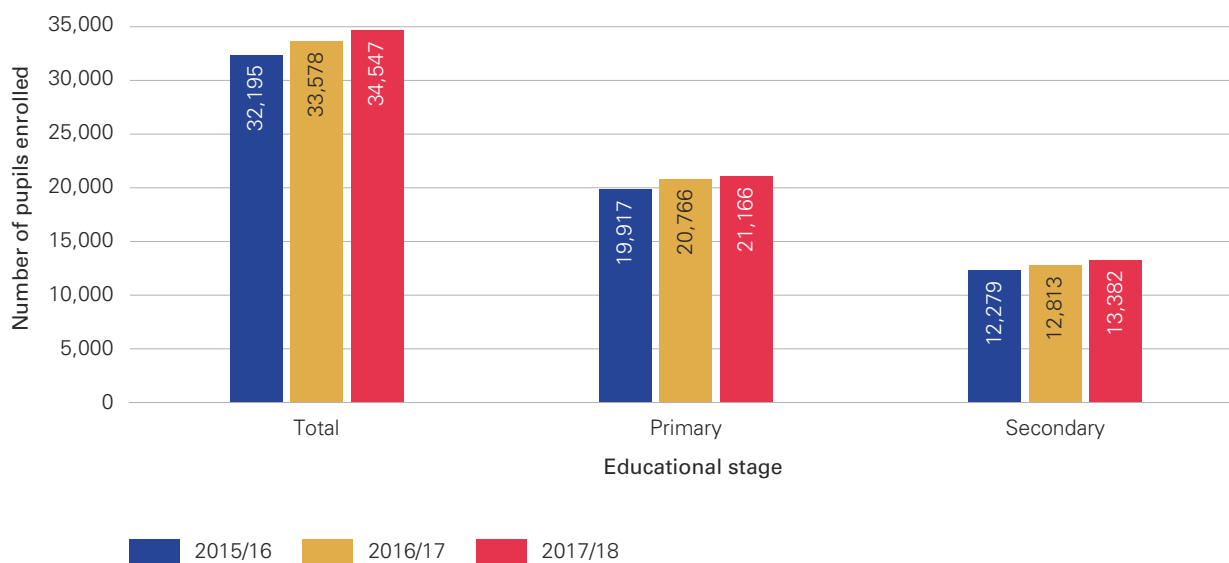
7 Ibid., pp.26–28.

**Figure 6. Where Jewish children in Jewish schools are, by geographical region, 2017/18**



Determining precisely how many children are in the primary and secondary sectors is complicated by the fact that many schools, particularly in the strictly Orthodox sector, cross the line between the two stages. Furthermore, as previously noted, children enrolled in strictly Orthodox *yeshivot*, all of whom are of secondary school age (particularly boys aged 13 and over), are not shown in the figures below. Nevertheless, the numbers show how many children of primary school age (i.e. 4–11 years, or Reception to Year 6) and secondary school age (i.e. 11–18 years, or Years 7–13) are in official government statistics.

**Figure 7. Numbers of Jewish children in Jewish schools by educational stage, 2015/16–2017/18\***



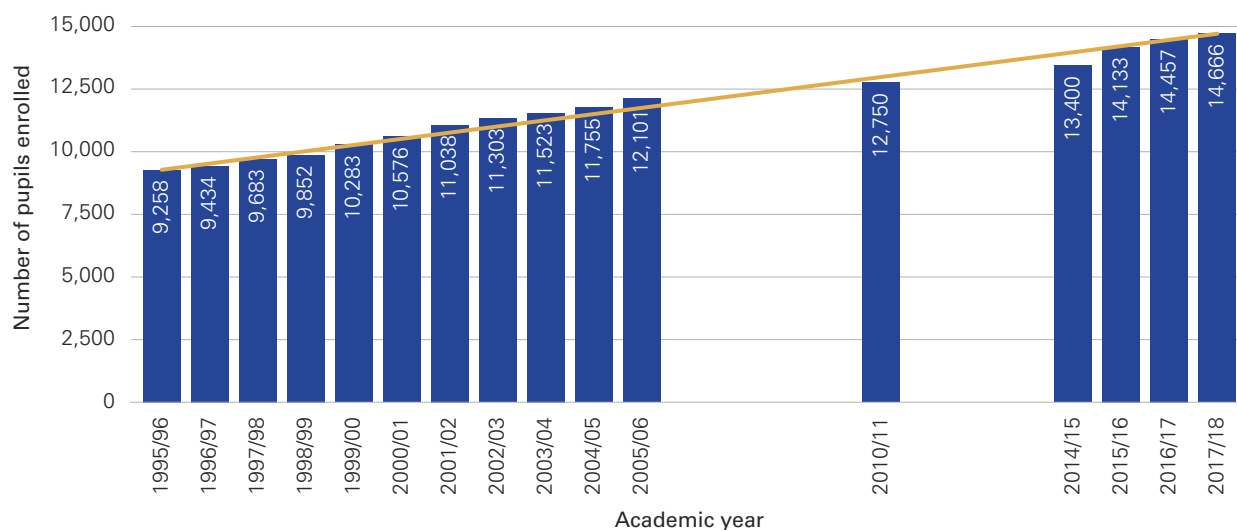
\* Note that the numbers shown only include those in schools registered in the annual school census. This fails to capture some children in unregistered *yeshivot* in the secondary stage age band. Numbers do not sum precisely to totals due to rounding.

## Mainstream Jewish sector

Focusing on the mainstream sector specifically, the growth seen in recent years continues the trend seen over the course of the past generation and beyond. There are over 5,000 more children in mainstream Jewish schools today compared to the mid-1990s, an increase of close to 60%.

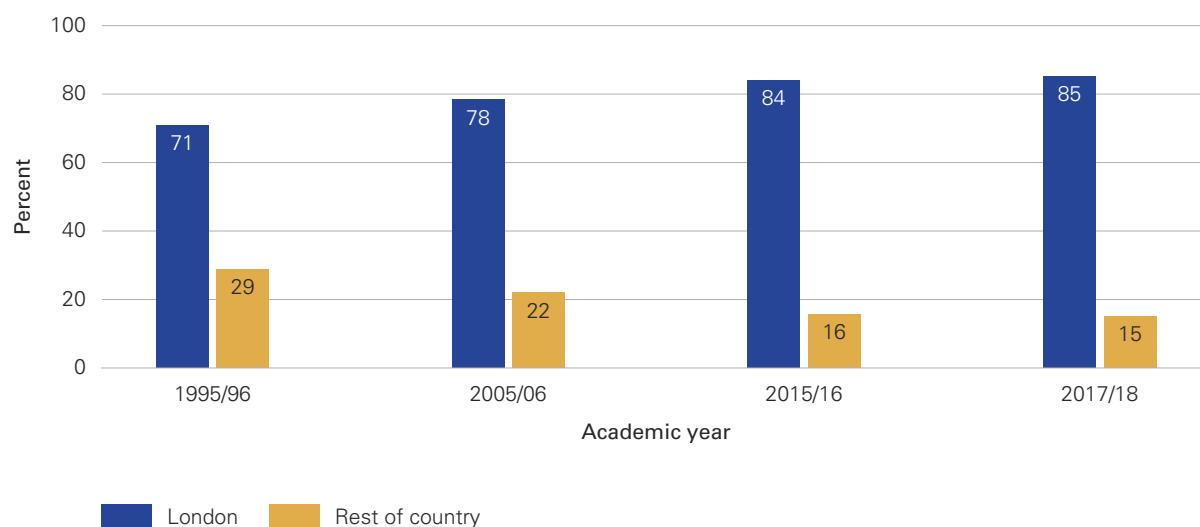
However, geographically, the picture within this sector is changing. Whereas pupils based in London schools comprised about 70% of the total in the mid-1990s, today they comprise 85%. Thus, the London/regional balance is clearly shifting over time in favour of London.

**Figure 8. Enrolment of Jewish pupils in mainstream Jewish schools, 1995/96–2017/18**



Note. Data not available for missing years.

**Figure 9. Geographical change of pupil population in mainstream Jewish schools, 1995/96–2017/18**

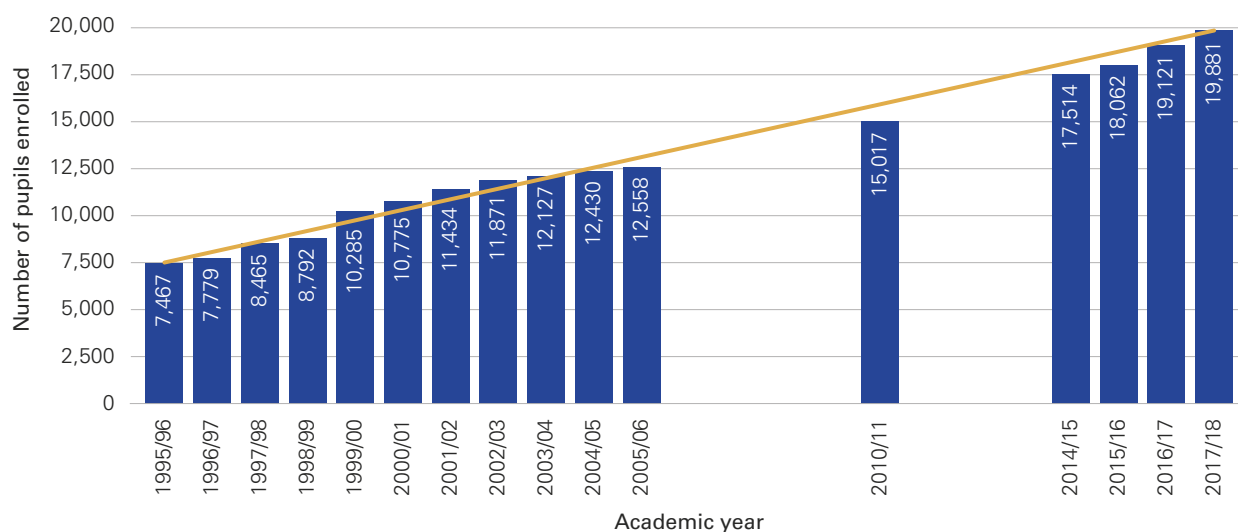


## Strictly Orthodox sector

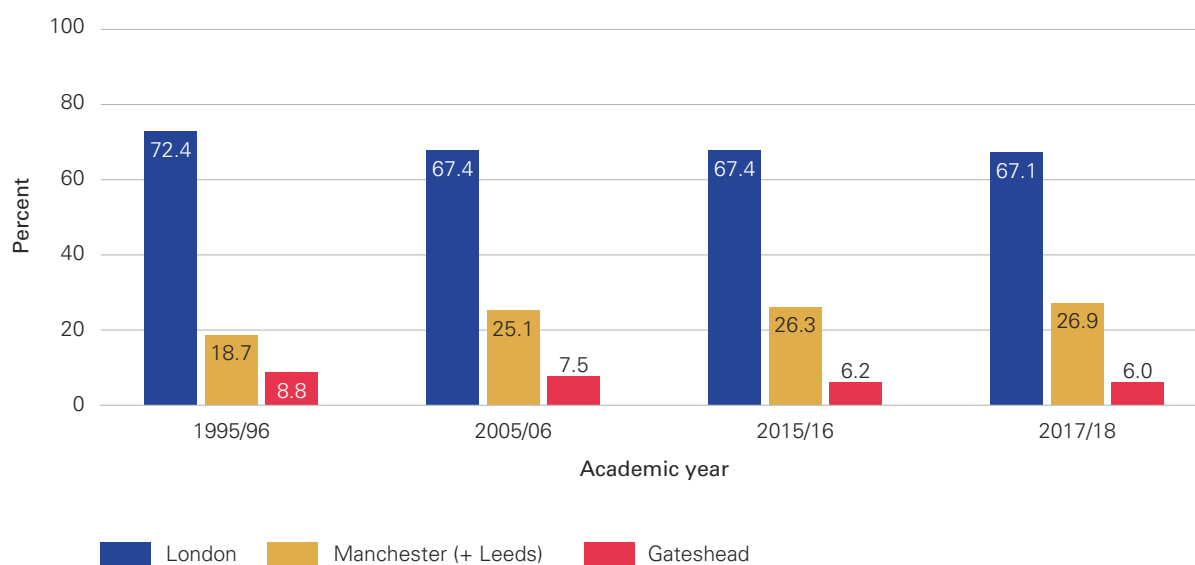
Enrolment in strictly Orthodox schools continues to increase dramatically over time, increasing by 166%, or over 12,000 children, since the mid-1990s. Moreover, as stated previously, the figures in this report fail to capture *haredi* children in unregistered strictly

Orthodox yeshivot, so all figures here should be regarded as underestimates. We estimate the annual growth rate based on these figures at about 4.2%, which is largely in line with other data on population growth rates among the strictly Orthodox.<sup>8</sup>

8 See, for example: Staetsky, L. D. and Boyd, J. (2015). *Strictly Orthodox rising. What the demography of British Jews tells us about the future of the community*. London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research.

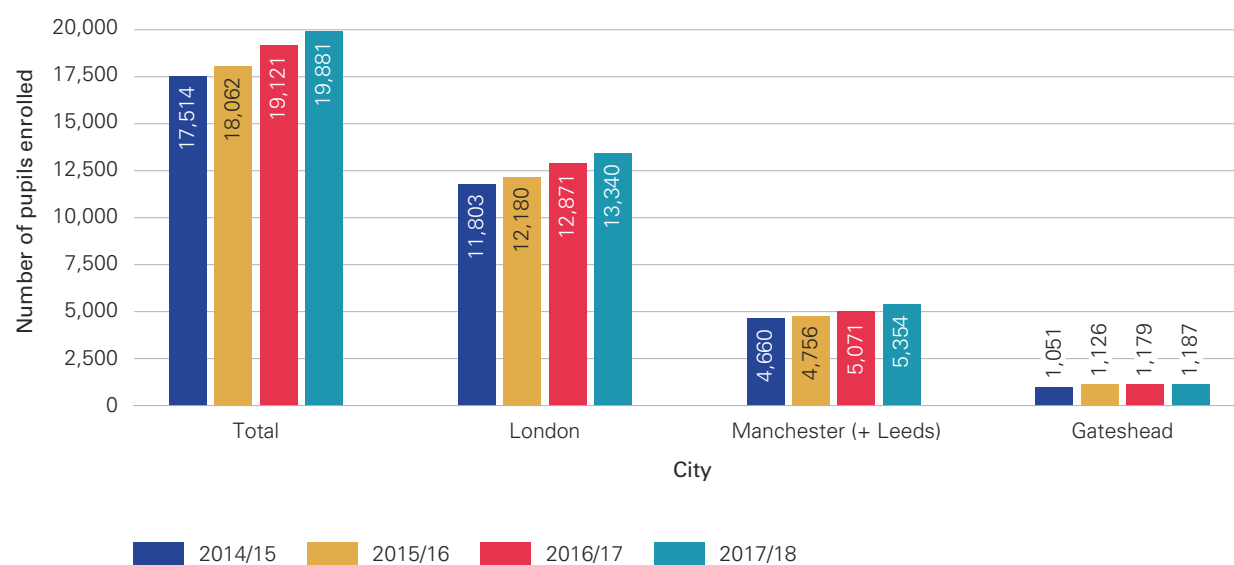
**Figure 10. Enrolment of Jewish pupils in strictly Orthodox Jewish schools, 1995/96–2017/18**

Note. Data not available for missing years.

**Figure 11. Geographical change of pupil population in strictly Orthodox schools, 1995/96–2017/18**

In contrast to the situation in the mainstream sector, the proportion of *haredi* children in schools in London compared to elsewhere has been declining over time, falling from 72% to 67% since the mid-1990s (Figure 10). The balance

is seen to be shifting slowly to Manchester, which today has 27% of all *haredi* children in Jewish schools, an increase from the 19% found in the mid-1990s. Of course, the actual numbers continue to increase in both places.

**Figure 12. Numbers of children enrolled in strictly Orthodox schools, by geography**

## Methodological notes

The previously unpublished data contained within this report (for academic years 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18) are primarily drawn from the statistics on pupils in England as collected in the relevant school censuses conducted by the Department for Education, and in Scotland by the Scottish Government. Numbers have been adjusted to account for non-Jewish

students enrolled in Jewish schools. Schools captured in these new data are listed below; note that some of the schools shown were only operational for one or two of the academic years 2015/16, 2016/17, and 2017/18. Historical data come from previous reports on enrolment in Jewish schools, most notably Staetsky and Boyd (2016) (see footnote 1).

Name of School	Local Authority	Sector
Ahavas Torah Boys Academy	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Aim Habonim	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Akiva School	Barnet	Mainstream
Alma Primary	Barnet	Mainstream
Ateres Girls High School	Gateshead	Strictly Orthodox
Avigdor Hirsch Torah Temimah Primary School	Brent	Strictly Orthodox
Beis Aharon School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Beis Chinuch Lebonos Girls School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Beis Hatalmud School	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Beis Malka Belz Girls School	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Beis Malka Girls' School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Beis Medrash Elyon	Barnet	Strictly Orthodox
Beis Rochel d'Satmar Girls' School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Beis Ruchel D'Satmar London	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox



<b>Name of School</b>	<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Sector</b>
Beis Ruchel Girls School	Manchester	Strictly Orthodox
Beis Ruchel Girls School	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Beis Soroh Schneier	Barnet	Strictly Orthodox
Beis Trana Girls' School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Beis Yaakov Girls School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Beis Yaakov High School	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Beis Yaakov Primary School	Barnet	Strictly Orthodox
Beit Shvidler Primary School	Barnet	Mainstream
Beth Jacob Grammar School for Girls	Barnet	Strictly Orthodox
Bnei Zion Community School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Bnois Jerusalem Girls School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Bnos Beis Yaakov Primary School	Brent	Strictly Orthodox
Bnos Yisroel School Manchester	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Bnos Zion of Bobov	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Brodetsky Primary School	Leeds	Mainstream
Broughton Jewish Cassel Fox Primary School	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Bury and Whitefield Jewish Primary School	Bury	Mainstream
Calderwood Lodge	East Renfrewshire	Mainstream
Clore Shalom School	Hertfordshire	Mainstream
Clore Tikva School	Redbridge	Mainstream
Eden Primary	Haringey	Mainstream
Edgware Jewish Girls – Beis Chinuch	Barnet	Strictly Orthodox
Etz Chaim Boys School	Manchester	Strictly Orthodox
Etz Chaim Jewish Primary School	Barnet	Mainstream
Gateshead Jewish Boarding School	Gateshead	Strictly Orthodox
Gateshead Jewish High School for Girls	Gateshead	Strictly Orthodox
Gateshead Jewish Nursery School	Gateshead	Strictly Orthodox
Gateshead Jewish Primary School	Gateshead	Strictly Orthodox
Getters Talmud Torah	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Haskel School	Gateshead	Strictly Orthodox
Hasmonean High School	Barnet	Mainstream
Hasmonean Primary School	Barnet	Mainstream
Hertsmere Jewish Primary School	Hertfordshire	Mainstream
Immanuel College	Hertfordshire	Mainstream
Independent Jewish Day School	Barnet	Mainstream
JCoSS	Barnet	Mainstream
JFS	Brent	Mainstream
Kantor King Solomon High School	Redbridge	Mainstream
Kerem School	Barnet	Mainstream
Kerem Shloime	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
King David High School	Liverpool	Mainstream
King David Junior and Infant School	Birmingham	Mainstream
King David Primary School	Liverpool	Mainstream
King David Primary School	Manchester	Mainstream

## 10 Numbers of Jewish children in Jewish schools

<b>Name of School</b>	<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Sector</b>
Kisharon School	Barnet	Mainstream
Leeds Jewish Free School	Leeds	Mainstream
Leeds Menorah School	Leeds	Strictly Orthodox
Lubavitch House School (Senior Girls)	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Lubavitch Junior Boys	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Lubavitch Ruth Lunzer Girls Primary School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Lubavitch Senior Boys' School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Lubavitch Yeshiva Ketanah of London	Barnet	Strictly Orthodox
Manchester Jewish School for Special Education	Manchester	Strictly Orthodox
Manchester Junior Girls' School	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Manchester Mesivta School	Bury	Strictly Orthodox
Mathilda Marks-Kennedy Jewish Primary School	Barnet	Mainstream
Mechinoh School	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Menorah Foundation School	Barnet	Strictly Orthodox
Menorah Grammar School	Barnet	Strictly Orthodox
Menorah High School for Girls	Barnet	Strictly Orthodox
Menorah Primary School	Barnet	Strictly Orthodox
Mosaic Jewish Primary School	Wandsworth	Mainstream
Naima Jewish Preparatory School	Westminster	Mainstream
Nancy Reuben Primary School	Barnet	Strictly Orthodox
North Cheshire Jewish Primary School	Stockport	Mainstream
North West London Jewish Day School	Brent	Mainstream
Oholei Yosef Yitzchok Lubavitch Schools	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Pardes House Grammar School	Barnet	Strictly Orthodox
Pardes House Primary School	Barnet	Strictly Orthodox
Peninim	Barnet	Strictly Orthodox
Rimon Jewish Primary School	Barnet	Mainstream
Rosh Pinah Primary School	Barnet	Mainstream
Sacks Morasha Jewish Primary School	Barnet	Mainstream
Side By Side School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Simon Marks Jewish Primary School	Hackney	Mainstream
Sinai Jewish Primary School	Brent	Mainstream
Talmud Torah Bobov Primary School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Talmud Torah Chaim Meirim Wiznitz School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Talmud Torah Chinuch Norim School	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Talmud Torah London	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Talmud Torah Machzikei Hadass School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Talmud Torah Tiferes Shlomoh	Barnet	Strictly Orthodox
Talmud Torah Toldos Yakov Yosef School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Talmud Torah Yetev Lev	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Talmud Torah Yetev Lev	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Tashbar of Edgware	Barnet	Strictly Orthodox
Tashbar of Manchester	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
The Gateshead Cheder Primary School	Gateshead	Strictly Orthodox

<b>Name of School</b>	<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Sector</b>
The King David High School	Manchester	Mainstream
The Moriah Jewish Day School	Harrow	Mainstream
The Noam Primary School	Brent	Mainstream
Tiferes	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Tiferes High School	Barnet	Strictly Orthodox
Torah Vodaas	Barnet	Strictly Orthodox
Toras Emes	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
TTD Gur School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Vishnitz Girls School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Wiznitz Cheder School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Wohl Ilford Jewish Primary School	Redbridge	Mainstream
Wolfson Hillel Primary School	Enfield	Mainstream
Yavneh College	Hertfordshire	Mainstream
Yavneh Primary School	Hertfordshire	Mainstream
Yeshiva Lezeirim Preparatory Academy	Gateshead	Strictly Orthodox
Yeshivah Ohr Torah School	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Yesodey Hatorah School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Yesodey Hatorah Senior Girls School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Yesoiday Hatorah School	Bury	Strictly Orthodox

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The **Board of Deputies of British Jews** is the voice of British Jewry – the only organisation based on cross-communal, democratic, grassroots representation. It is the first port of call for Government, media and others seeking to understand the Jewish community's interests and concerns.

### Author

**Dr Jonathan Boyd** is Executive Director of JPR. A specialist in the study of contemporary Jewry, he is a former Jerusalem Fellow at the Mandel Institute in Israel, and has held professional positions in research and policy at the JDC International Centre for Community Development, the Jewish Agency for Israel, the United Jewish Israel Appeal and the Holocaust Educational Trust. He holds a doctorate in education from the University of Nottingham, and an MA and BA in modern Jewish history from University College London. He is the author of numerous reports on British and European Jewish life, a Board member of the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry, and a columnist for the *Jewish Chronicle*.