## **jpr** / Institute for Jewish Policy Research

## **Numbers of Jewish children in Jewish schools**

Statistical bulletin for 2021/22 to 2023/24 Carli Lessof and Adam Possener February 2025



### Numbers of Jewish children in Jewish schools Statistical bulletin for 2021/22 to 2023/24

Carli Lessof and Adam Possener

February 2025

Certain types of data are fundamental to an understanding of how the Jewish community is changing. These include vital statistics about Jewish births, deaths, marriages and divorces, and key information about Jewish institutions such as membership of synagogues and attendance at Jewish schools. The community statistics programme at JPR captures these data so that they underpin various aspects of policy and planning. This bulletin is part of a continuing series which reports on the number of Jewish children in Jewish schools.

### / Introduction

This paper is one element of our research about schools and education and forms part of the JPR community statistics programme. It aims to provide data about the numbers of Jewish children enrolled in Jewish schools so that educational policymakers, working within and with the Jewish school sector, understand change over time, and have the information they need to support planning. This year, a new section has been added that reports on the balance between Jewish state and Jewish independent schools, which now has greater policy relevance due to the introduction of VAT on school fees in January 2025 and other changes in the economic environment that schools operate within. It is important to note that the figures in the report are based solely on Jewish pupils in registered Jewish schools as recorded in Department for Education data. In other words, they do not account for children who attend a yeshiva, seminary or are in other unregistered settings, exclude non-Jewish pupils in Jewish schools, and do not account for Jewish pupils in non-Jewish schools.



### / Key findings

- At the start of the academic year 2023/24, JPR identified 136 Jewish schools in the UK registered at the Department for Education, a net increase of three schools since 2020/21.<sup>1</sup> This is comprised of 45 'mainstream' Jewish schools and 91 Strictly Orthodox schools.<sup>2</sup>
- In the academic year 2023/24, there were 36,064 Jewish pupils<sup>3</sup> attending these 136 Jewish schools, more than double the number found in the mid-1990s.
- That said, this is only a slight increase of 239 pupils, or 0.2% per annum since figures were last published three years ago. However, this growth only occurred in the first two years of this three-year period; in the third year (2023/24), there was a reduction of 471 pupils, a decline of 1.3% on the previous year (2022/23). This is the first decrease in numbers since data was collected annually in 1995/96.<sup>4</sup> In other words, after decades of growth, the number of Jewish pupils attending registered Jewish schools appears to have peaked in 2022/23 and may have started to decline.
- To understand this, the 'mainstream' and Strictly Orthodox sectors must be considered separately.<sup>5</sup> The mainstream sector has seen a small decrease in each of the last three years (that is, from 14,865 in 2020/21 to 14,535 in 2023/24), with a total net fall of 330 pupils, which equates to a decline of 0.7% per annum.
- In contrast, the Strictly Orthodox sector has seen a rise of 569 pupils over the same three-year period (from 20,960 in 2020/21 to 21,529). However, this conceals a *growth* in the first two years (of 927 pupils or about 2.2% per annum), followed by a *fall* in the most recent year (of 358 pupils, a decline of 1.6%). This recent fall is unprecedented and runs counter to the consistent and sustained growth in school numbers seen previously.
- Furthermore, it stands in pointed contrast to the continued growth of the number of Strictly Orthodox children of school age.<sup>6</sup> The decline should be understood as a reduction in the number of pupils recorded in registered, Strictly Orthodox schools. It is

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Similarly, the reported overall increase of 239 Jewish pupils in Jewish schools conceals both the recent decline in the Strictly Orthodox sector and the small decrease in the number of children in Jewish mainstream schools in each of the three years.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> A list of schools registered with the Department for Education is included as Appendix A to this report.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> In the 2023/24 academic year, the 45 schools in the mainstream (not Strictly Orthodox) Jewish sector included 34 primary schools, 9 secondary schools, and 2 schools that comprised both educational stages. Among the 91 Strictly Orthodox schools, 38 are for primary school age pupils, 20 for secondary school age pupils and 33 span both educational stages.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> This figure is based primarily on data from the Department for Education School Census. It underestimates the number of Jewish children in education since boys and girls from the Strictly Orthodox community may attend yeshivot and seminaries that are not included there. We estimate that approximately 25% of all Strictly Orthodox children aged 11-15 do not appear in official statistics – for the academic year 2023/24, this figure amounts to just under 2,500. This is similar to the estimate presented in our last bulletin but is based on an improved methodology. Estimates for Hackney only are referred to in McCallum, R., Baker, B. and Cracknell, K (2023) Unregistered Education Settings (Inquiry Recommendations Update), London Borough of Hackney. A detailed account of their methodology is necessary to make a detailed comparison, but JPR estimates for that area appear to be slightly higher. The difference may be partially explained by the fact that the JPR estimates presented here are based on the most recent 2023/24 school census data, where a drop of pupils in registered Strictly Orthodox schools (discussed below) will have resulted in an increase in the estimate of unregistered children. For the age group 16-18, we estimate that approximately 85% of children do not appear in official statistics – for the academic year 2023/4 this amounts to just under 4,200. See Appendix B for details. Together the estimates for children aged 11-15 and 16-18 amount to approximately 6,650.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> There are a few years (2006/7-2019/10 and 2011/12-2013/14) that we do not have data for, but the overall trend suggests consistent growth until 2023/24.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The listing in Appendix A classifies schools as either Strictly Orthodox or mainstream Jewish. We have arrived at these classifications based on previous reports and input from Jewish educational organisations. We have amended the classification of two schools from previous reports and adjusted historic figures to reflect this.

- not a result of demographic decline and there is no evidence of a shift in parental preferences away from Strictly Orthodox education.
- The patterns of change reported above differ slightly at primary and secondary school level. In the mainstream sector, the number of primary school pupils has fallen consistently in all three years, continuing a pattern observed in our last report, whereas the number of secondary school pupils has declined in the last two years, which has not previously been observed. In the Strictly Orthodox sector, the number of pupils in both registered primary and secondary schools grew in the first two years, then declined in the most recent year.
- Overall, the balance between mainstream and Strictly Orthodox schools has been stable over the past three years; 60% of Jewish pupils in Jewish schools are in Strictly Orthodox schools and 40% are in mainstream Jewish schools. This is a very slight shift from 59% to 41% three years prior, but a significant shift since the mid-1990s, when the ratio was 55% mainstream to 45% Strictly Orthodox.<sup>7</sup>
- With respect to geography, in the mainstream sector, 87% of all Jewish pupils are in schools in Greater London or South Hertfordshire, a rise of 1% since last reported in 2020/21. In the Strictly Orthodox sector, London is less dominant, accounting for 63% of Jewish pupils, a small *decrease* from 64% since last reported in 2020/21.
- Of the 45 Jewish mainstream schools, there are just five independent (private) schools; four of these are primary schools and one school covers both primary and secondary age children. These schools account for 7% of mainstream Jewish pupils in Jewish schools.<sup>8</sup> In contrast, of the 91 registered Strictly Orthodox schools, 76 are independent schools, with 28 primary, 15 secondary and 33 covering both primary and secondary age children. These account for 81% of all pupils in registered Strictly Orthodox schools.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Since we do not account for children in non-Jewish schools, and do not have evidence on whether they attend state or independent schools, we do not know the overall proportion of Jewish children in private schools.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Since not all Strictly Orthodox children are included in these statistics, the true balance leans more heavily towards the Strictly Orthodox sector than these numbers suggest.

### 1 / Background

This bulletin contains the most recent data about the number of Jewish pupils in Jewish schools in the UK, adding to a body of evidence developed over many years. It updates an earlier bulletin by the Institute for Jewish Policy Research (JPR) which included figures up to the academic year 2020/21. It also builds on previous studies, notably two reports by JPR that were part-funded by the Board of Deputies which included figures up to the academic year 2017/18, and a Jewish Leadership Council study which included figures up to 2005/06 (mainstream Jewish secondary and Strictly Orthodox) and 2006/07 (mainstream Jewish primary). These, in turn, built on earlier studies, for example by Braude, Hart, School and Cohen, and Graham and Vulkan.

This new report covers three academic years that have not previously been released: 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24. It draws on school census data in England that were gathered by the Department for Education and school census data in Scotland that were gathered by the Scotlish Government. Numbers have been adjusted to account for non-Jewish pupils enrolled in Jewish schools based on a small-scale survey conducted by JPR.<sup>15</sup>

### 2 / Key statistics

The number of Jewish pupils enrolled in registered Jewish schools has been climbing for several decades, peaking at just over 36,500 in 2022/23, as shown in Figure 1 below. Numbers have increased particularly dramatically since the mid-1990s, although in proportionate terms the increase prior to that is even more pronounced than it first appears, as the overall size of the UK Jewish population was in a state of decline in the second half of the twentieth century – 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 700 pupils per annum across the primary and secondary sectors; today the number of pupils is more than double that found in the mid-1990s. Crucially however, this rate of increase has flattened out and a small decline has been observed in the latest year.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Each year, we survey up to 19 Jewish schools with a substantially mixed intake of Jews and non-Jews and asked for them to identify the number of people who are not Jewish (using any sensible definition) so that they could be taken out of the Department for Education data. We estimate there to be a small margin of error using this method, as sharing religion or ethnicity with schools is optional.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Horup, B., Lessof, C. and Boyd, J. (2021). *Numbers of Jewish children in Jewish school. Statistical bulletin for 2018/19* <u>to 2020/2</u>. London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Staetsky, L. D. and Boyd, J. (2016). <u>The rise and rise of Jewish schools in the United Kingdom: Numbers, trends and policy issues</u>. London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research and Board of Deputies of British Jews. Boyd, J. (2019). <u>Numbers of Jewish children in Jewish schools. Statistical bulletin for 2015/16 to 2017/18</u>. London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research and Board of Deputies of British Jews.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Commission on Jewish Schools (2008). *The Future of Jewish Schools*. London: Jewish Leadership Council.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Braude, J. (1981). 'Jewish education in Britain today.' In: <u>Jewish Life in Britain, 1962-1977</u> (eds. Lipman, S. and Lipman, V.). London: Board of Deputies of British Jews.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Hart, R., Schmool, M. and Cohen, F. (2007). <u>Jewish day schools in Britain, 1992/3 to 2003/4</u>, *Contemporary Jewry.*<sup>14</sup> 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.

40,000 36,500 35,800 35,000 32.000 36,100 30,000 24,700 25,000 20,000 16,700 14,700 15,000 12,700 10,400 10,000 5,200 5.000 1955 1965 1975 1985 1995 2005 2015 2025

Figure 1. Number of Jewish pupils enrolled in registered Jewish schools in the United Kingdom, 1950s-2023/24 (rounded numbers)

Note: \* Estimate based on data from 1954-58.

Whilst there has been a modest rise since figures were last published, we can observe two years of a slowing rate of growth and then a *reduction* in pupil numbers over the last year. This is the first decrease in pupil numbers observed since the first occasion for which year-on-year figures are available; 1995/96.



Figure 2. Total enrolment of Jewish pupils in registered UK Jewish schools, 1995/95 - 2023/24

Notes: Data is not available for the missing years. Pupil numbers are imputed for some Strictly Orthodox schools that did not return data in 2018/19 (21 schools) and 2019/20 (3 schools)

The rise shown when figures were last published for the academic year 2020/21 continued for two school years, 2021/22 and 2022/23, albeit it at a slower pace. The increase over that time amounts to an extra 710 pupils (or 1% per annum); this compares to an additional 1,612 pupils (or 1.6% per annum) in the previous three academic years (from 2017/18 to 2020/21) and an additional 3,303, or 3.4% per annum, over the three academic years before that (from 2014/15 to 2017/18).

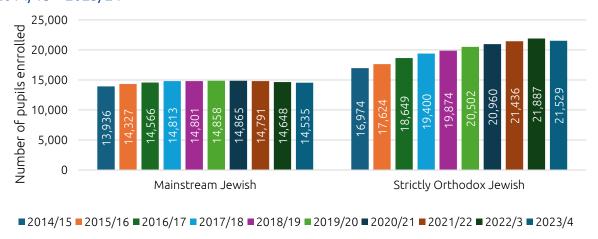


So, whilst there has been an increase of 229 pupils from when we last published figures in 2020/21 to the school year 2023/24, this conceals a *decrease* of 471 pupils (or -1.3%) from 2022/23 to 2023/24. A decrease is observed across both the mainstream and Strictly Orthodox sectors (Figure 3), albeit in different ways and for different reasons.

In the mainstream sector, there are now 330 fewer pupils in the year 2023/24 than there were in our previous report in 2020/21. That report showed that the growth rate had slowed, with an average increase of about 0.1% per annum, or 52 pupils over a three-year period, compared to an average increase of 2.0%, or 877 pupils, from 2014/15 to 2017/18. Our latest data suggests that the slowing growth has now turned into a slow decline. It is unclear at this stage whether that is due to an overall decline in the school-age Jewish population, or whether it reflects a small change in educational preferences.

In the **Strictly Orthodox** sector, the rate of growth was 2.6%, or 1,560 pupils over the three-year period of our last report (2017/18 to 2020/21). For the first two school years since that report (2021/22 and 2022/23) the rate of growth dropped slightly to 2.2%, or 927 pupils. However, between the years 2022/23 and 2023/24 there was a *reduction* in pupil numbers, a decrease of 1.6%, or 358 pupils, over a single year period (Figure 3). This is largely due to a small number of pupil restriction orders issued by Ofsted to Strictly Orthodox schools in London. This is notable because a decline has not been seen before, although the numbers are relatively small. However, this draws attention to a persistent and more substantial phenomenon, which is that numbers recorded in the school censuses do not accurately account for all Strictly Orthodox children in education. Many children attend yeshivas, seminaries or other unregistered settings, and as these educational facilities are not 'schools' *per se*, they are not registered with the Department of Education and therefore their numbers are not included in this report. However, we do include an estimate of this number in footnote 3, which is explained further in Appendix B.

Figure 3. Number of Jewish pupils in registered Jewish schools in the UK, by sector  $2014/15 - 2023/24^{16}$ 

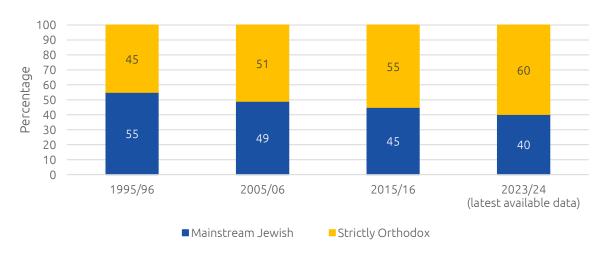


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> The school numbers in the Strictly Orthodox sector since 2014 has been adjusted to reflect a change in allocation of two schools that were previously categorised as Strictly Orthodox but are now considered to have been mainstream schools. The total number of Jewish pupils remains unchanged, but the balance between the sectors has been adjusted.



The most recent figures suggest that there are over 7,000 more Jewish pupils enrolled in Strictly Orthodox schools than in mainstream Jewish schools. In the mid-1990s, there were more Jewish pupils in mainstream Jewish schools that in strictly Orthodox ones (see Figure 4). However, parity occurred around 2005, and today, the split is 60:40.

Figure 4. Compositional change of pupil population in registered UK Jewish schools by sector, 1995/6 to 2023/24



### Geographical distribution

Almost three-quarters (72.7%) of all Jewish children in Jewish schools are in Greater London and South Hertfordshire (shown collectively as 'London' in Figure 5 below). The area with the next largest Jewish pupil population is the North West, which comprises just over one-fifth of the total (22.2%), mainly in Manchester but also includes Liverpool. The North East region constitutes 3.9% of Jewish children in Jewish schools and relates exclusively to Gateshead, one of the key centres of the Strictly Orthodox community. The remaining schools, classified as 'Other', are in Birmingham, Leeds, Glasgow and Westcliff.

Figure 5. Geographical distribution of Jewish pupils in registered Jewish schools, UK, 2023/24

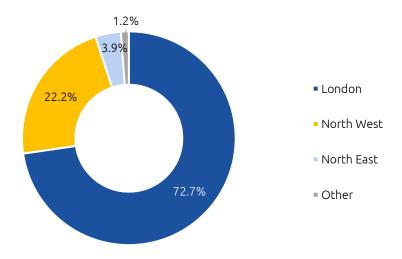




Figure 6 shows how the amount of change has varied by geographical area over the last ten years, with the recent decline concentrated in London and the North East. More specifically, pupil numbers increased in London, the North West and the North East until 2022/23, with growth most notable in the North East with an average increase of 6.2% per annum, followed by 1.0% in London and 0.3% in the North West. However, in the last year reported here (between 2022/23 and 2023/24) there was a reduction of 2.1%, or 555, of pupil numbers in London, and a reduction of 4%, or 62 pupils in the North East. That said, there was modest growth in the North West, of 0.7%, or 58 pupils, and a growth of 67 pupils, or about 18%, in the 'Other' category because of a new school opening in Westcliff.

30,000 25,000 20,000 15,000 10,000 5,000 10,000 0 10,000

Figure 6. Total Jewish enrolments in registered Jewish schools by geography, UK, 2014/15 to 2023/24

### Primary and secondary schools

Determining precisely how many Jewish children are in primary and secondary schools is complicated by the fact that many schools, particularly in the Strictly Orthodox sector, cater for both stages and some transition children at different ages.<sup>17</sup> To accommodate this, the numbers in Figure 7 demonstrate 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) appear in official government statistics. The most recent figures show that between the publication of the last report (for 2020/21) and the year 2022/23 there was an increase in both primary and secondary pupils (on average, by 1.0% and 2.0% per annum). These figures are average changes across the entire Jewish school system and conceal differing trends for pupil numbers by educational stage in the mainstream and Strictly Orthodox sectors (as detailed later in this report). Following this growth, there was a reduction in pupil numbers across the primary and secondary stages of (-1% and -2% per annum) between the years 2022/23 and 2023/24.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Whilst state schools report data in the school census by age *and* by year group, independent schools are only required to report data by age. Therefore, for independent schools that include both primary and secondary stages, we have divided the number of 11-year-olds into primary and secondary age groups, assuming an even distribution of birthdays throughout the year.



25,000 Number of pupils enrolled 20,000 15,000 22,041 21,880 22,038 22,222 21,616 21,982 20,766 21,177 19,917 10,000 14,313 14,082 12,920 5,000 0 **Primary** 

■ 2015/16 ■ 2016/17 ■ 2017/18 ■ 2018/19 ■ 2019/20 ■ 2020/21 ■ 2021/22 ■ 2022/23 ■ 2023/4

Figure 7. Total Jewish enrolments in all Jewish schools by educational stage, UK, 2015/16 – 2023/24

### 3 / Change in the mainstream Jewish sector

The last schools data bulletin described how the annual growth that had been observed in the mainstream Jewish sector since the mid-1990s had slowed significantly; there was just a small rise of 52 pupils, or about 0.1% per annum, between the years 2017/18 and 2020/21. Figure 8 below shows that numbers have actually fallen for each of the last three years. There were 357 fewer pupils in mainstream Jewish schools in 2023/24 than in 2020/21, which equates to an average decline of 0.8% per annum. A feature of this decline is that, conversely, there has been an increase in the number of non-Jewish pupils attending Jewish schools, particularly in areas with declining Jewish populations, such as Leeds, Birmingham and South London. Despite this recent decline, there were still over 5,000 more Jewish pupils in mainstream Jewish schools in 2023/24 than in the mid-1990s, an increase of close to 55%.

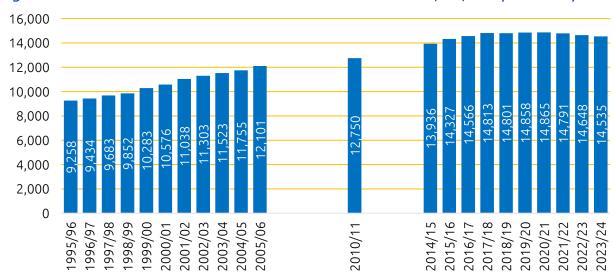


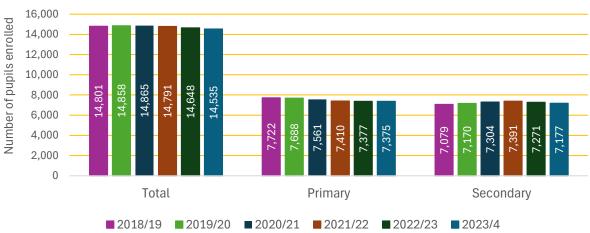
Figure 8. Total Jewish enrolments in mainstream Jewish schools, UK, 1995/96 – 2023/24

The last bulletin, based on data from 2017/8 to 2020/21, showed that the slowdown in growth in mainstream pupil numbers was principally the result of a negative rate of growth in the *primary* stage of education; indeed, Figure 9 below shows that the number of



mainstream primary school pupils has now fallen consistently every year since 2018/19. However, Figure 9 shows that the decline in numbers is now also seen in mainstream secondary schools; the number of mainstream secondary school pupils grew marginally until 2021/22, but numbers have declined between each of the last two reporting years. Several explanations are possible, but it appears that the fall in primary age cohorts are now progressing into secondary school age. This development from a decline in mainstream primary schools to mainstream primary and secondary schools is an important new finding.

Figure 9. Total Jewish enrolments in mainstream Jewish schools by educational stage, 2014/15-2023/24



Geographically, the regional balance of the mainstream Jewish sector remains steady, continuing to shift very gradually in favour of London and Hertfordshire as shown in Figure 10. Historically this shift was substantial; whereas pupils based in London schools represented 71% of the mainstream total in the mid-1990s, today they constitute 87%, reflecting the changing geographical distribution of Jews across the UK. However, most of this change took place in the twenty years between 1995 and 2015; over the last decade the shift has been very gradual.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Graham, D. (2013). *2011 Census Results: Thinning and Thickening - Geographical change in the UK's Jewish Population 2001-2011*. London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research.

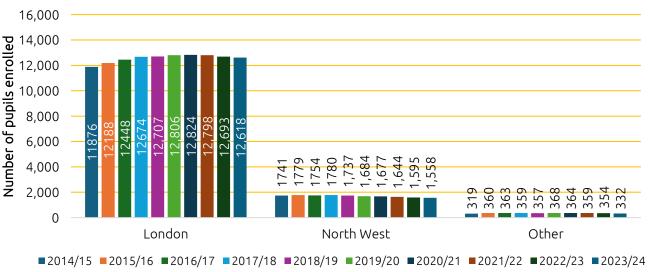


100 13 16 90 22 29 80 70 Percentage 60 50 87 84 40 78 71 30 20 10 0 1995/96 2005/06 2015/16 2023/24 (latest available data) ■London ■Rest of country

Figure 10. Geographical change of pupil population in mainstream Jewish schools, 1995/96 to 2023/24

Given the predominance of mainstream Jewish schooling in London and Hertfordshire, it is these figures that shape the overall picture for the sector, despite the gradual decline in pupil numbers in the North West (Figure 11).





In an earlier report,<sup>19</sup> the first signs of decline were explained as a likely effect of a reduction in births in the mainstream Jewish population between 2012 and 2015. It was argued that this reduced the pool of primary age Jewish children. If correct, this may now be having an impact on the size of the cohorts of secondary age pupils. This requires further analysis of data from Census 2021 triangulated with births data derived from recorded circumcisions and other sources. Other factors which may play a part also need consideration, including the effect of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Mashiah, D. (2018). <u>Vital statistics of the UK Jewish population: births and deaths</u>. London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research and Board of Deputies of British Jews, op. cit., pp.12. reported a reduction in births in 2012. Birth data for the mainstream Jewish population are available for 2007 to 2015 and will soon be extended. It is worth noting, however, that this decline may have been due to changes in the way circumcision data was reported, further research triangulating births data and 2021 census data is needed to provide clarity about this.



the COVID-19 pandemic and Brexit on migration (from and within the UK), which has had an impact on the demand for school places in the general population, and in turn is likely to affect the choices available to Jewish families. Further research is also needed to understand any possible changes in school preferences.<sup>20</sup> In summary, more research is required to explain this decline and better understand future demand for mainstream Jewish primary and secondary school places. <sup>21</sup>

### 4 / Change in the Strictly Orthodox sector

Enrolment in Strictly Orthodox schools has risen dramatically over the last three decades. Since the mid-1990s pupil numbers in this sector have risen by 188%, or over 14,000 pupils. This is substantially greater than the rise in the number of Jewish children in mainstream Jewish schools which, over the same period, has grown by 57% (or just over 5,250 pupils). Furthermore, this increase does not fully reflect the level of growth of the population of Strictly Orthodox children as many attend yeshivot and seminaries that are not registered with the Department for Education, so are not included in the School Census that forms the basis of this analysis. However, what has been observed in recent years (and can be seen in Figure 12) is that the rate of growth in the number of registered Strictly Orthodox school pupils has slowed. Between 2014/15 to 2017/18 the rate of growth was 4.5% per annum, but for the years 2017/18 to 2020/21 it fell to 2.4% per annum, and between the time of our last report (2020/21) and 2022/23, it fell again to 2.2% per annum, with the number of pupils in Strictly Orthodox schools increasing by 927 pupils. Crucially, what is apparent from the latest year of data shown in Figure 12 is that between 2022/23 and 2023/24, the number of recorded pupils in Strictly Orthodox schools has *fallen* by 358 pupils, a reduction of 1.4%.

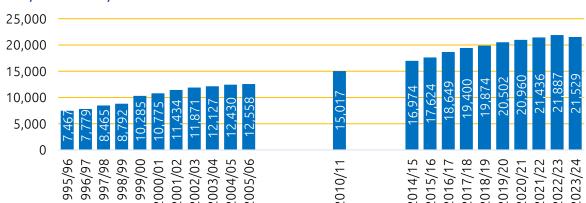


Figure 12. Enrolment of Jewish pupils in registered Strictly Orthodox Jewish schools, UK, 1995/96 to 2023/24

work of this kind has previously been commissioned by Partnership for Jewish Schools (PaJeS) and conducted by JPR, see: Staetsky, D. and Boyd, J. (2017), Will my child get a place? An assessment of supply and demand of Jewish secondary school places in London and surrounding areas, London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research, and Staetsky, D. (2019), 'Projections of demand for places in state-funded mainstream Jewish secondary schools in London: An update', London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research. This type of work rests on community bodies investing in fundamental demographic research on Jews in the UK, which they have not done now for several years.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Initial evidence suggests that demand for Jewish schools may have increased post October 7th due to concerns about antisemitism, see Lessof, C. (2024). *Antisemitism in schools: How prevalent is it, and how might it affect parents' decisions about where to educate their children post-October 7?*. London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research. Indeed, an increase in Israeli families applying for temporary school places was reported in the immediate aftermath of the attacks. However, it will be some time before we can see whether this translates into longer term changes in applications and admissions.

For the first time, the data shows declining enrolment in registered Strictly Orthodox Jewish schools. This decline likely reflects regulatory pressures rather than actual population decrease, since virtually all Strictly Orthodox children attend Jewish schools. These pressures include Ofsted pupil restriction orders preventing new admissions at some schools due to concerns about perceived inadequate standards and overcrowding, alongside difficulties opening new schools due to urban space constraints and Department for Education compliance issues. Thus, the decline reflects the results of the constraints placed on Strictly Orthodox schools and community reactions to them, rather than actual changes in the Strictly Orthodox community's size or growth.

Given the temporary nature of the pupil restriction orders, it is unclear whether this negative rate of growth will continue in subsequent years. It is also unclear how further policy changes, such as the introduction of VAT on private schools<sup>22</sup> will impact on registration and attendance at Strictly Orthodox Jewish schools. Further, the proposed Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill 2024-2025, which has the intention of regulating the sector, would also likely have an effect on the reported number of children in Strictly Orthodox educational settings. At this point, the key issue to acknowledge is that the School Census data concerning the Strictly Orthodox community cannot be seen as a measure of the growth or decline of numbers of children, or as an indicator of a shift in parental preferences; rather, it is a biproduct of the community's response to regulatory pressures in the absence of additional registered schools which might accommodate additional pupils. It will be important to monitor change in the coming years.

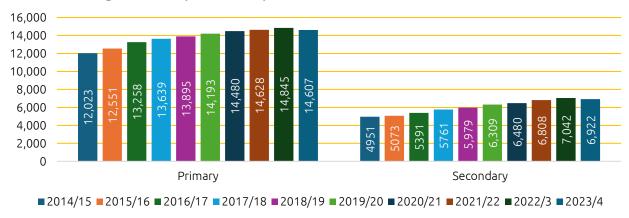
Concerning primary and secondary education, the growth rate between 2021/22 and 2022/23 was higher in the secondary age at 4% per annum than at the primary stage, with a slower growth rate of 1.3% per annum. This is consistent with the growth rates at the time of our previous report (2020/21), where the slower rate of growth was taking place principally in the primary stage of education. While the most obvious explanation for the slower growth in primary pupil numbers would be a decline in the number of Strictly Orthodox births for the years that encompass these children, further research is needed to determine this, as the necessary data collection and analysis of census and births data, by sector, has not yet been carried out.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Mashiah, D. (2018), <u>Vital statistics of the UK Jewish population: births and deaths</u>. London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research and Board of Deputies of British Jews



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> In practice, there have been other changes in the economic environment that may have an impact; these are the removal of business rates relief, and the increase in the national minimum wage and employer National Insurance contributions.

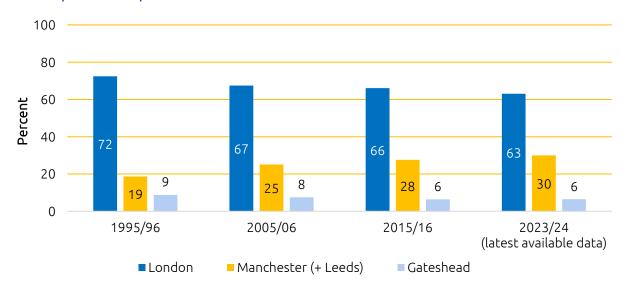
Figure 13. Numbers of Jewish pupils in Strictly Orthodox registered Jewish schools by educational stage, UK 2014/15 to 2023/24



Furthermore, the number of secondary age pupils is far smaller than primary age pupils, as many Strictly Orthodox children attend a registered primary school before going to a yeshiva or seminary, therefore this smaller number of secondary age pupils is more sensitive to fluctuations. Once again, the 'slower' rate of growth in this age group should not be seen as a reflection of birth and population size, rather it reflects a combination of capacity of places in registered schools, and the decision made by Strictly Orthodox families about where to educate their children. We estimate that were all Strictly Orthodox children to attend registered schools until the age of 18, a further 6,650 Jewish children would be in Jewish schools in 2023/24 (see footnote 3 and Appendix B).

Geographically, in contrast to the situation in the mainstream sector, the proportion of Strictly Orthodox pupils in schools in London has been declining compared to other areas, falling from 72% to 63% since the mid-1990s (see Figure 14).

Figure 14. Geographical change of pupil population in Strictly Orthodox Jewish schools, UK 1995/96 to 2023/24



The balance has shifted slowly towards Manchester which has seen steady growth in the Strictly Orthodox population and today has 30% of all Strictly Orthodox pupils in registered Jewish schools, an increase from the 19% found in the mid-1990s. In addition to London, Manchester and Gateshead, 2023/24 also saw the opening of a new school in Westcliff, which makes up 0.4% of the proportion of Strictly Orthodox pupils in 2023/24. The decline in the proportion of pupils in London (shown most clearly in Figure 15) may also be inflated by the fall in numbers of Strictly Orthodox pupils due to school restriction orders which have affected this part of the country.

Figure 15. Enrolment of Jewish pupils in Strictly Orthodox registered Jewish schools by geography, 2014/15-2023/24

### 5 / The balance between state and independent schools

For the first time, this bulletin presents data about the proportion of pupils attending state and independent schools.

As explained earlier, of the 136 registered Jewish schools at the start of the academic year 2023/24, 45 are mainstream and 91 are Strictly Orthodox. Of the 45 mainstream schools, 40 fall within the state sector and just five are independent, four of which are primary while one caters for both primary and secondary age children. These five independent schools account for 1,068 pupils, just 7% of mainstream Jewish pupils in Jewish schools.<sup>24</sup>

In contrast, of the 91 registered Strictly Orthodox schools, 76 are independent schools, <sup>25</sup> with the remaining 15 schools being a mixture of academy and Local Authority maintained schools. Of the 76 independent schools, 28 serve primary age children, 15 secondary, and 33 cover

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Strictly Orthodox independent schools differ from independent schools that serve the general population, with a focus on religious rather than secular education, more limited school facilities, and lower, or sometimes optional, school fees. They also serve families that are markedly more disadvantaged and have more school-aged children than the average British family.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Since we do not collect data about children in non-Jewish schools, and do not know whether they attend state or independent schools, we cannot estimate the overall proportion of mainstream Jewish children in private schools.

both primary and secondary ages. In 2023/24, the number of Strictly Orthodox pupils attending independent schools amounted to 17,451, or 81% of the total number of Strictly Orthodox pupils, with a further 4,078 (19%) in state schools.

It is important to note that the proportion attending independent schools varies widely across the major Strictly Orthodox areas: in Gateshead, there is no state provision at all, so 100% of children attend private Strictly Orthodox schools; in Stamford Hill, 92% of children attending a Jewish school do so in private schools; in Manchester, it is 78%; and in Barnet, 59%. No new Strictly Orthodox state schools have opened in the UK since 2014.

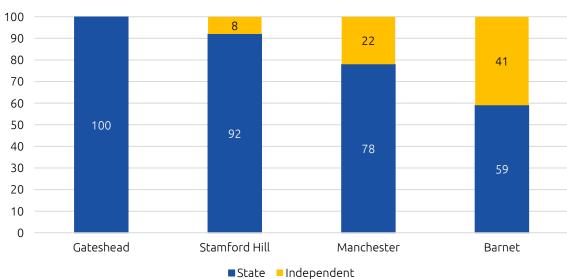


Figure 16. Percentage of Strictly Orthodox pupils in registered state and independent schools by area, 2023/24

The percentage of pupils in state schools has remained almost constant over the past six years, rising very slightly from 80% to 81% in independent schools in that period.

### VAT on fees and other economic changes for independent schools

In January 2025, the Labour government ended the VAT exemption on fees for independent schools in the UK. Although this policy was directed at raising public revenue to strengthen state schools by removing a tax exemption largely benefiting wealthier families, this change is likely to have a significant impact on the Strictly Orthodox community given the high proportion of children educated in independent schools, the large number of children per family and their relatively low socioeconomic status<sup>26</sup>. Given the difficulties the communities face in opening new state schools, it is unclear what will happen to the number of pupils in independent schools as there is currently no capacity for them to move into the state sector. We can speculate that this may compound the decline in pupil numbers recorded in the School Census for the Strictly Orthodox sector, which was first observed in the year 2023/24, with more Jewish children likely being educated outside of the registered school system.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Although we refer here to VAT on school fees, the removal of business rates relief and the increase in the national minimum wage and employer National Insurance contributions may also have an effect.



### 6 / Discussion

After decades of strong growth, the Jewish school sector in the United Kingdom appears to be in a period of flux. For the first time, a decline in the number of Jewish pupils attending Jewish schools in the UK can be seen in government statistics. Beneath this headline shift, the gap between the mainstream and Strictly Orthodox sectors has widened, with two very different but equally uncertain narrative explanations.

Based on the latest available data, the number of Jewish children in Jewish mainstream schools appears to have reached its peak and may now be in decline. However, this could fluctuate for a variety of reasons, for example, if parental preferences shift towards a Jewish education following October 7 and the war in Gaza, or if the increased costs of a private school education, due to the introduction of VAT on school fees, lead to a higher number of applications to mainstream Jewish state schools. The introduction of VAT may also affect the viability of Jewish private schools, which could, in turn, reduce the supply of school places.

In the Strictly Orthodox sector, a large proportion of the community could be affected by the introduction of VAT on school fees, since 80% of school pupils attend independent schools. The impact this will have on pupil numbers in future years is unclear, but barriers to opening new state schools are high, evidenced by the fact that no new Strictly Orthodox state schools have opened since 2014.

The recent implementation of Ofsted's pupil restriction orders on Strictly Orthodox schools demonstrates that Government policy and practice can have a direct and almost immediate impact; in this case the effect appears to have been a reduction in the number of children recorded in Strictly Orthodox schools, at a time when a rise in those numbers would have been expected. In the absence of registered schools which are able to accommodate these children, this has almost inevitably been accompanied by an increase in the number of children *outside* registered schools that are not recorded in the latest school censuses.<sup>27</sup> The figures in the next schools bulletin may look very different to the current figures, depending on the impact of VAT on school fees and whether the Government implements its proposals for the compulsory registration of yeshivot, seminaries and home educated children. These factors could either lead to greater visibility or invisibility of Jewish students recorded in Strictly Orthodox educational settings.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Indeed, the JPR estimate of the number of children in unregistered settings in 2023/24 is directly affected by the drop of 358 children recorded in registered schools reported earlier.



### 7 / Methodological notes

The previously unpublished data contained within this report (for the academic years 2021/22 to 2023/24) are primarily drawn from the statistics on pupils in England as collected in the school censuses conducted by the Department for Education, and in Scotland by the Scotlish Government. We have subtracted the number of non-Jewish children from Jewish schools from the Department for Education figures using data collected in a survey of 19 Jewish schools known to have mixed populations.

The Jewish schools captured in the censuses for 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 are listed below; note that some shown were only operational for one or two of the three academic years, and some that split into separate schools for boys and girls within the analytical period appear both in their original and split form. In some cases, pupil numbers are reported by DfE as separate infant, primary or secondary schools even though they may operate on the same site. These schools are listed and counted separately here. This may lead to a difference in the total number of schools reported here and by other organisations.

The number of children in Strictly Orthodox and mainstream schools going back to 2014/15 has been adjusted to account of a reclassification of two schools as 'mainstream' that we had previously categorised as Strictly Orthodox; these are identified in Appendix A. Historical data comes from previous reports on enrolment in Jewish schools (footnote 10).

### / Acknowledgments

JPR is indebted to the schools that provided pupil data needed to undertake this analysis. Thanks are also due to Dr Daniel Staetsky for his advice on estimating the population of Strictly Orthodox children not in registered schools and to Dr Jonathan Boyd, Dr Daniel Staetsky and Dr David Graham for their helpful comments on this paper.



# Appendix A: List of Jewish schools in the school censuses for 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24

School name	Local Authority	Sector
Ahavas Torah Boys Academy	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Aim Habonim	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Akiva School	Barnet	Mainstream
Alma Primary	Barnet	Mainstream
Ateres Beis Yaakov	Barnet	Strictly Orthodox
Ateres Elisheva	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
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 Chinuch Lebonos Westcliff†	Southend-on-Sea	Strictly Orthodox
Beis Hatalmud School	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Beis Malka Girls' School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Beis Malka Girls school	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Beis Medrash Elyon	Barnet	Strictly Orthodox
Beis Rochel d'Satmar Girls' School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Beis Rochel d'Satmar School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Beis Rochel Mcr Girls school ltd	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Beis Ruchel D'Satmar London	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Beis Ruchel Girls School	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Beis Ruchel Girls School	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Beis Soroh Schneirer	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 Margulis Viznitz Girls' School	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Bnos Yisroel School Manchester	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Bnos Zion of Bobov	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Bobov Primary Boys School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Brodetsky Primary School	Leeds	Mainstream
Broughton Jewish Cassel Fox Primary School‡	Salford	Mainstream
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	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Etz Chaim Jewish Primary School	Barnet	Mainstream
Gateshead Jewish Boarding School	Gateshead	Strictly Orthodox
Gateshead Jewish Nursery School	Gateshead	Strictly Orthodox
Gateshead Jewish Primary School	Gateshead	Strictly Orthodox
Gesher School	Harrow	Mainstream
Haskel School	Gateshead	Strictly Orthodox
Hasmonean High School for Boys	Barnet	Mainstream
Hasmonean High School for Girls	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
King Solomon High School	Redbridge	Mainstream
Kerem School	Barnet	Mainstream
Kerem Shloime	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Keser Girls School	Gateshead	Strictly Orthodox
King David High School	Liverpool	Mainstream
King David Primary School	Birmingham	Mainstream
King David Primary School	Liverpool	Mainstream
King David Primary School	Manchester	Mainstream
Kisharon School	Barnet	Mainstream
Leeds Jewish Free School	Leeds	Mainstream
Leeds Menorah School	Leeds	Strictly Orthodox
Lubavitch Girls Primary School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Lubavitch House School (Senior Girls)	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Lubavitch Boys' Primary School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Lubavitch Senior Boys School	Barnet	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
Manchester Senior Girls School	Salford	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 for Girls	Barnet	Strictly Orthodox
Menorah Primary School for Boys†	Barnet	Strictly Orthodox
Me'or High School	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Mosaic Jewish Primary School	Wandsworth	Mainstream
Naima Jewish Preparatory School	Westminster	Mainstream
Nancy Reuben Primary School‡	Barnet	Mainstream
North Cheshire Jewish Primary School	Stockport	Mainstream
North West London Jewish Day School	Brent	Mainstream
Oholei Yosef Yitzchok Lubavitch Schools	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Ohr Emes	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
OYY Lubavitch Boys School	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
Shiras Devorah High School	Barnet	Strictly Orthodox
Shoshanim*	Gateshead	Strictly Orthodox
Side By Side School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Simon Marks Jewish Primary School	Hackney	Mainstream
Sinai Jewish Primary School	Brent	Mainstream
Talmud Torah Chaim Meirim Wiznitz School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Talmud Torah Chinuch Norim School	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Talmud Torah D'chassidie Belz†	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Talmud Torah London	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Talmud Torah Machzikei Hadass School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Talmud Torah Tiferes Shlomo	Barnet	Strictly Orthodox
T T T Y Y School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Talmud Torah Yetev Lev	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Talmud Torah Yetev Lev	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Tashbar Boys Nursery	Gateshead	Strictly Orthodox
Tashbar of Edgware	Barnet	Strictly Orthodox
Tashbar of Manchester	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
The Gateshead Cheder Primary School	Gateshead	Strictly Orthodox
The King David High School	Manchester	Mainstream
Shalom Noam Primary School	Barnet	Mainstream
Tiferes	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Tiferes High School	Barnet	Strictly Orthodox



Torah Vodaas	Barnet	Strictly Orthodox
Toras Emes	Salford	Strictly Orthodox
Toras Moshe†	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
Yesodey Hatorah Girls School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Yesodey Hatorah School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Yesodey Hatorah Senior Girls School	Hackney	Strictly Orthodox
Yesoiday Hatorah Boys Academy	Вигу	Strictly Orthodox
Yesoiday Hatorah Girls Academy	Bury	Strictly Orthodox



<sup>\*</sup>A school that closed during the time period for this report.
† A school that opened during the time period for this report.
‡ A school that has been reclassified from Strictly Orthodox to Mainstream since the publication of our last report.

### Appendix B: Estimating number of Strictly Orthodox children not in DfE statistics

The data from the Department for Education School Census underestimates the number of Strictly Orthodox Jewish children in education because many attend yeshivot and seminaries that are not included in the official figures. In this report, we have provided estimates of the number of Strictly Orthodox children in education for age groups 11-15 and, for the first time, from 16-18.

Staetsky and Boyd<sup>28</sup> found that discrepancies between pupil counts and actual numbers of children (inferred from births and migration) in the Strictly Orthodox community are more pronounced for boys than for girls. Thus, we first need to estimate the number of girls for each age group and then estimate the number of boys, based on a standard 51:49 male:female ratio at birth. In order to accurately estimate the number of girls in the Strictly Orthodox community, we need to take account of the fact that many girls in the Strictly Orthodox community begin attending seminary at the age of 16 (while many boys begin attending yeshivot just prior to Bar Mitzvah age, at around 12 to 13). Following Staetsky and Boyd and Graham,<sup>29</sup> we assume that the number of girls aged 5–9 is a relatively good indicator of the population size for this age group, therefore we used the number of girls aged 5–9 in 2018 to estimate the number of 11–15-year-old girls in 2024 (Appendix Table 3).

Year-on-year data shows fluctuations in the number of girls per cohort as they age, likely due to migration (Appendix Table 2). We have therefore accounted for this in our estimation of 16–18-year-olds in 2024. We generated two multipliers for girls: one that estimates 16-18 year olds using the number of 13–15-year-olds in 2021, which takes account of decline in numbers which may be explained by migration (Appendix Table 5), and another that estimates 16-18-year-olds using the number of 5-9 year olds in 2016, based on the assumption that this is the data most correlated to births (Appendix Table 4). Both approaches provide similar estimates (with a difference of 123 children); our judgement is that based on currently available data, the first method provides the more reliable and conservative estimation of undercount.

After estimating the number of girls in education, we infer the number of boys using the 51:49 sex male:female ratio and generate an undercount by subtracting the estimated figures from those found in the School Census. This process is shown in Appendix Tables 1-8, all figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

It should be noted that the estimates presented here are for 2023/24, at a point when a drop of 358 children in registered Strictly Orthodox schools had been observed, resulting in an increase in the estimated number of children not registered. With additional resource it would be helpful to carry out similar estimates for additional years and to carry out further sensitivity analysis based on the assumptions made. It would also be helpful to carry out a comparison of the methodology used here and in the estimation referred to in McCallum, R., Baker, B. and Cracknell, K. (2023), 'Unregistered Education Settings (Inquiry Recommendations Update)', London Borough of Hackney (footnote 3).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Ibid, and Graham, D. (2023). <u>Assessment of the 2021 Census data on Haredi (Strictly Orthodox) Jewish children in England: Technical paper</u>. London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> 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.

### Appendix Table 1: Estimation of Strictly Orthodox pupils (2023/2024)

Age	Boys	in	Girls	in	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated	School	Under-
Group	2024 School Census		2024 School Census		girls in education	boys in education	total in education	count from school census	count
11-15	2262		4551		4551	4737	9288	6813	2475
16-18	91		553		2356	2452	4808	644	4164

#### Notes to Table 1:

- Boys in 2024 school census is school census data for boys aged 11-15 in registered Strictly Orthodox schools.
- **Girls in 2024 school census** is school census data for girls aged 11-15 in registered Strictly Orthodox schools.
- Estimated girls in school assumes school census data is accurate for girls before seminary age. Estimates for girls aged 16-18 use a multiplier derived from the 2021 school census.
- The **estimated boys in education** is calculated based on a 51:49 male:female ratio.
- The **estimated total in education** is the sum of estimated girls and boys in education.
- The **undercount** is the difference between the school census count and the estimated total in education.

Table 2 below demonstrates how the number of girls in each cohort changes between the 2016, 2018 and 2024 school years. There is a marked increase in the cohort of girls aged 4 in 2016 as they reach compulsory school age and a marked decline in the cohorts as they reach age 16-18 – the age that many Strictly Orthodox girls attend seminary.

### Appendix Table 2: Projection of girls from 2016/2018 to 2024

Age in 2016	Girls in 2016 school census	Age in 2018	Girls in 2018 school census	Age in 2024	Girls in 2024 school census
4	915	6	1056	12	982
5	910	7	939	13	909
6	906	8	961	14	896
7	899	9	933	15	825
8	841	10	881	16	353
9	832	11	790	17	120
10	743	12	690	18	80
Total	6046		6250		4165



### Appendix Table 3: Estimated number of girls aged 11-15 in 2024 (using 2018 figures)

Age in 2024	Estimate (using 2018 figures)	DfE Number	Undercount
11	1006	939	67
12	1056	982	74
13	939	909	30
14	961	896	65
15	933	825	108
Total	4895	4551	344

Note: Appendix Table 3 shows the undercount of girls aged 11-15 in 2024 based on figures projected from those aged 5–9 in 2018. The undercount here is thought to be reflective of net migration, as some Strictly Orthodox families move between the UK and other countries, particularly Israel the US and Belgium.

### Appendix Table 4: Estimated number of girls aged 16-18 in 2024 (using 2016 figures)

Age in 2024	Estimate (using 2016 figures)	DfE Number	Undercount
16	841	353	488
17	832	120	712
18	743	80	663
Total	2416	553	1863

Note: Appendix Table 4 uses estimations based on the 2016 school census, resulting in an undercount of 1863 and suggesting a multiplier of 4.37. However, this may not account for cohort reductions due to migration.

### Appendix Table 5: Estimated number of girls aged 16-18 in 2024 (using 2021 figures)

Age in 2024	Estimate (using 2016 figures)	DfE Number	Undercount
16	796	353	443
17	843	120	723
18	717	80	637
Total	2356	553	1803

Note: Appendix Table 5 uses the most recent school census data (2021) to project the number of girls aged 16-18 not included in the DfE data. This approach minimises the effects of cohort shrinkage due to migration and produces a multiplier of 4.26, slightly lower than that produced in Appendix Table 4.



### Appendix Table 6: Estimation for 2023/2024 (Aged 11-15)

Category	Number
Boys in school census	2262
Girls in school census	4551
Estimated boys in education	4737
Total in education	9288
Count in school census	6813
Undercount	2475

Appendix Table 6 estimates the undercount of Strictly Orthodox pupils aged 11-15 in the 2023/24 census.

### Appendix Table 7: Estimation for 2023/2024 (Aged 16-18) using 2016 multiplier for girls

Category	Number
Boys in school census	91
Girls in school census	553
Estimated girls in education (with 2016 multiplier)	2416
Estimated boys in education	2515
Total in education	4931
School census count	644
Undercount	4287

Table 7 estimates the undercount of Strictly Orthodox pupils aged 16-18 in the 2023/24 census, using data from 2016 that may not account for net migration.

### Appendix Table 8: Estimation for 2023/2024 (Aged 16-18) using 2021 multiplier for girls

Category	Number
Boys in school census	91
Girls in school census	553
Girls in school census (with 2021 multiplier)	2356
Estimated boys in education	2453
Total in education	4809
School census count	644
Undercount	4165

Table 8 estimates the undercount of Strictly Orthodox pupils aged 16-18 in the 2023/24 census, using data from 2021 that likely better accounts for net migration than table 7.



### / About the Institute for Jewish Policy Research (JPR)

The Institute for Jewish Policy Research (JPR) is a London-based research organisation, consultancy and think-tank. It aims to advance the prospects of Jewish communities in the United Kingdom and across Europe by conducting research and informing policy development in dialogue with those best placed to positively influence Jewish life. Web: www.ipr.org.uk.

### / Research team

**Dr Carli Lessof** is a Senior Research Fellow at JPR with responsibility for the JPR Research Panel and community statistics programme. She has an MA in Applied Social Research from Manchester University and a PhD in statistics from University of Southampton. Over her career, Carli has developed and delivered a number of complex, longitudinal surveys at NatCen Social Research and Kantar Public, and carried out research and evaluation in Government (DWP, NAO) and academia (LSE, University of Essex).

Adam Possener is a JPR Student Fellow and recently completed his MRes in Music and Anthropology at University College London. During his fellowship, Adam carried out a survey to estimate the prevalence of non-Jewish pupils in Jewish schools, collated and analysed data from the School Censuses, remodelled the JPR database to provide trend data and co-authored this report.

# **jpr** / Institute for Jewish Policy Research

© Institute for Jewish Policy Research 2025

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reprinted or reproduced or utilised in any form or by any means, now known or hereinafter invented, including photocopying and recording or in any information storage or retrieval system, without the permission in writing of the publisher.

Published by Institute for Jewish Policy Research 6 Greenland Place London NW1 0AP, UK +44 (0)20 7424 9265

jpr@jpr.org.uk

www.jpr.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 252626

