

Brighton & Hove Schools Open Data Guide

Introduction

This document is a guide intended for developers interested in the use of open government data to create useful websites and apps. The spirit of open data is to work together to make information more accessible to residents and visitors in the city.

This guide is about schools data and will help you understand what is published locally and nationally and give you a sense of what's possible. We think combined data for our schools has great potential to improve the experience of parents when making choices about schools for their children and going through the school admissions process.

In this guide you will find details of the following datasets

- basic school details (name, address, email, phone etc)
- school census (pupil numbers and characteristics)
- school admissions
- school inspection results
- pupil attainment

Brighton & Hove City Council has published the school admissions dataset. We think linking other data sources to our school admissions data could provide a powerful set of data to help parents make decisions, helping answer questions like

- What are my nearest schools?
- What is the Ofsted rating?
- How big is the school?
- How good is behaviour at the school?
- What are the exam results like?
- What are the admissions criteria?
- How likely is my child to get a place?

Other apps

Most other apps built in this area have relied solely on national data. We are providing the local admissions data to make this a really useful way of helping parents and residents understand schools better. National data sources are rapidly improving too, making it easier to re-use better and timelier data.

Here are some examples of apps

- <http://schoolscope.com/>
- http://dclgexamples.mywebcommunity.org/imd_demo_v7.htm (demo includes schools data)
- [Compare Schools](#) (Department for Education example)
- [School Guru](#) (admissions calculator, charging £10 a year)

School Admissions Dataset

We have built this dataset with developers in mind and hope we have provided a data structure that works for you! We have built this data rapidly, mining pdf files and manually transferring information. We have done our best to ensure accuracy, but acknowledge there are some gaps in the data and almost certainly a need to refine our explanations and make the dataset easier to understand. We welcome questions and feedback to Schools.Data@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

We have published this data in response to conversations with the vibrant open data community in the city and are particularly grateful to Tom Smith at local research firm Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI) for his [blog post](#) setting out the problems with access to information for parents choosing a school. We are hoping that you will “mash up” the data listed in this guide and produce really exciting and useful applications that help parents navigate the system better, make more informed choices and help schools improve. You might also want to allow parents to add comments about schools and the relevant local authority (Brighton & Hove City Council is the local authority for Brighton & Hove schools).

We are working hard to make it possible for parents to calculate their own home to school distance. This is calculated using walking distance (a straight line distance calculation could be used in an app with a very big caveat). Look out for an announcement on that on the [School Admissions](#) pages of the council website soon. We aim to provide developers with a way of integrating this function into their apps.

We will be working with schools and anyone else able to help to produce more local schools data. For example, we hope to ‘crowd-source’ school calendar data, so that it will be possible to integrate a schools annual calendar into personal calendars on computers and devices. Any volunteers to help create and maintain such datasets are welcome to contact paul.brewer@brighton-hove.gov.uk. Anyone can contribute and we will help you liaise with your chosen school(s) if needed. Finally, if you need further support to think this all through and to understand the data, you can come in and talk to the team any time. There’s even a desk in our office you can use. We’re in Kings House, Hove. Call Paul Brewer on 07554 115458. Tom Smith at Brighton-based OCSI has also said he and his team of data gurus can help out too <http://www.ocsi.co.uk/contact/>

Open Government Licence & Consultation

Brighton & Hove City Council are committed to releasing data under Open Government Licence as set out in this [paper](#) to Cabinet (Agenda Item 75, page 155). If you are interested in learning more about open data, there is a [Public Consultation](#) which closes on 27 October 2011 on the data.gov.uk site. There is also a [video](#) by Francis Maude (Cabinet Office) describing the government approach to open data and transparency.

Dataset name	Description	Link to file	Web page	Notes
Edubase	EduBase is a register of all educational establishments in England and Wales, maintained by the Department for Education. It allows both the general public and government officials to access up to date information	http://www.edubase.gov.uk/home.xhtml	http://www.edubase.gov.uk/home.xhtml	<p>This dataset has lots of basic information about the school and is your starting point. Public can subscribe for access http://www.edubase.gov.uk/register/subscription.html.</p> <p>You can get two extracts (excel, xml) per year free. This data is available under Open Government Licence http://www.edubase.gov.uk/about.xhtml).</p> <p>Getting an extract in September would make a lot of sense to tie into school admissions season.</p> <p>NB the local authority code for Brighton & Hove is '846'</p>
School admissions	Released by Brighton & Hove City Council, this dataset contains a range of information with 4 year trend, including preference data, places offered, key dates in the admissions process and admissions criteria	http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/downloads/bhcc/openData/mapFiles/School Admissions Dataset v1.xls	http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/index.cfm?request=b1160744	<p>Contains establishment number and URN to allow for linking. The file has a "data descriptions" tab. Contact SchoolAdmissions@brighton-hove.gov.uk for further information. At present, links to the BHCC website will not render too well on mobile devices, but the BHCC website is being re-built and will be mobile friendly in 2012.</p>

Dataset name	Description	Link to file	Web page	Notes
School inspection results	A really important dataset containing rounded judgements of schools by Ofsted. This will give parents insight into standards of behaviour at school and leadership and management.		<p>Autumn/Spring 2010/11 http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/inspection-judgements-201011-for-maintained-schools-autumn-and-spring-terms</p> <p>2009/10 http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/inspection-judgements-200910-for-maintained-schools</p> <p>2008/9 http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/inspection-judgements-200809-for-maintained-schools</p>	<p>These datasets (the school level ones) use the URN school code contained in the Edubase dataset. The links left are working at time of publication. The data on school inspections is messy as it is cut up into date periods and is difficult to find (job done). A bit of work is needed to create a good single dataset that subsequent data releases can be added into. Numbers will need to be converted into words (e.g. replace “1” with “outstanding”). This web page has a document with links to excel files which contain the data.</p> <p>http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/schedule-for-release-of-official-statistics</p> <p>You will find that the categories in 2008/9 are somewhat different to the later files (a change to the inspection criteria). We would advise looking at 2009/10 and 2010/11 first off.</p> <p>These data files rather handily provide links to the Ofsted report itself.</p>

Dataset name	Description	Link to file	Web page	Notes
Key Stage 2 attainment	The key accepted measure is the achievement of Level 4 or above in both English and Maths at the end of the primary phase.	2009/10 underlying data http://www.education.gov.uk/performance-tables/primary_10/england.shtml	http://www.education.gov.uk/performance-tables/	<p>At the primary phase we could reasonably expect parents to be very focussed on the inspection data and less so on attainment.</p> <p>Hidden away in the performance tables website are underlying data tables for school level data, published for the first time last January. These contain some trend data for key indicators, so are a one stop shop. These datafiles use the Establishment Code, which is contained in the Edubase dataset. The excel files have a “data description” worksheet to explain the codes. The key ones are PEngmatTestL4p08, PEngmatTestL4p09, PEngmatTestL4p10 (3 years trend data)</p> <p>You can download school level data for All England or just a single authority.</p> <p>There are many other measures that could be used from these files, including school attendance and numbers of special educational needs pupils.</p> <p>Provisional 2011 data is expected to be released on Oct 20th 2011 with a finalised dataset in January 2012</p>

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GCSE	The key measure is achieving 5 A*-C including English and Maths at the end of the secondary phase. Other measures may be of interest such as the new baccalaureate	2009/10 underlying data http://www.education.gov.uk/performance/tables/schools_10/england.shtml	http://www.education.gov.uk/performance/tables/	As above. The key field names for the main measure are, P5ACincIEM07, P5ACincIEM08, P5ACincIEM09, P5ACincIEM010. The new baccalaureate code is PEngBacc
School census	This provides numbers and characteristics of school populations, such as the numbers receiving free school meals, the numbers speaking English as an Additional Language, the numbers	http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001012/sfr12-2011udv3.zip	http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001012/index.shtml	An update of this file is not expected until June 2012. The file School_level_schools_pupils_2011.csv in the zip file gets interesting at column CX (!) % eligible for free school meals is at column DL, English as an additional language is at FC. The file School_level_Classes_2011.csv gives average class size for primary schools. Interesting. There is a metadata file in the zip pack.

Please do give us a ring or come in and talk this over with us. Call Paul Brewer on 07554 115458 or email paul.brewer@brighton-hove.gov.uk