



# AGAINST BORDERS FOR CHILDREN

## Campaign Summary

Against Borders for Children started in August 2016 and we are a coalition of parents, teachers, schools, NGOs and campaigners.

Our aim this year is to reverse the Department of Education's (DfE) policy, effective from September 2016, to collect country of birth and nationality information on **8 million children** aged between 2 and 19 in England in order to extend the government's hostile environment agenda to schools and migrant children.

In September we organised and launched a [national boycott](#) of the country of birth and nationality questions, which will continue until the Department of Education reverses this policy. We also called on the DfE to commit to safeguarding children from the stigma of anti-immigrant rhetoric and the violence that accompanies it. In November 2016, we won a concession from the DfE which removed pre-school children (under 5s) from the foreign children database.

[The Guardian reports](#) that DfE officials have an agreement, since June 2015, to share the personal data of up to 1,500 schoolchildren a month with the Home Office. In 2015, as Home Secretary, Theresa May wanted schools to check children's immigration status prior to enrolment, and proposed 'deprioritising' the children of irregular migrants for school places. Although that policy was not taken forward, this data-sharing agreement was the compromise she struck with the DfE.

According to the DfE's own guidelines, providing this data is **optional** and **does not affect school funding**. By the DfE's own admission, if large numbers of parents refuse to answer the new questions in the January and May censuses, the data collected will be useless and they may be forced to scrap the data collection entirely.

This means parents and schools can legally work together to stop this information going to DfE and the Home Office. If a significant minority continue the boycott then this policy will fall. #BoycottSchoolCensus