

Your School Data.

Key stages 3/4

Following are a few ideas of things to do with the database of your own schools information for CensusAtSchool. An apology if some of this is obvious!

You would be advised to protect your schools data so that pupils cannot change the original data by mistake or design! The easiest way to do this in Excel is to give the data permanent Read-only protection with a password that only you know. When your schools data is in one file choose *File / SaveAs*, click *Options* and enter a password in the "Password to modify box". (The password must be exact case and can be composed of letters, numbers and symbols). Click *OK* and you will be asked to re-enter the password then click *OK* and *Save*. You need to confirm the replacement of the original file by clicking *Yes* and to activate the protection the file must be closed and then reopened. Now although pupils can use the data for their graphs and calculations they cannot save it with its original name so you always have the original data.

Whatever information you are trying to find, calculate or display always ask the pupils to predict the outcome before accessing the data. This will create extra interest from the pupils and give them an opportunity to say if their initial guesses were accurate.

Ask the pupils to try to discover rogue data and validate the database. See if they can discover what effect rogue data has. E.g. In a school of 652 pupils just 1 mis-entered height of 16cm instead of 160cm causes the average to change from 163.22cm to 163.44cm. Get the pupils to give sensible limits for the items of data e.g. all heights should be between *** and ***.

Choose a theme and get pupils to investigate it. E.g. Football team analysis, Height or Getting to School. Use factors of year group or gender to see if there are differences. Ask pupils to write a report about their theme. (This might be able to be used in School bulletins, Newsletters, Magazines or even in marketing literature ?)

Make up a Hypothesis and ask pupils to use the data to see if it is true.

E.g. Taller boys are more likely to cycle to school.

Girls will support local teams or show no interest in football while boys will support the teams at the top of the Premiership.

Key Stage 4 pupils drink more from cans and bottles than Key Stage 3 pupils

There are some example files in both MS Word and PDF, on this web page, to illustrate possible ways to present some of these ideas to pupils. More ideas can be found in the curriculum activities section of the website.