



Statistical Bulletin 3/2015

Enrolments at schools and in funded pre-school education in Northern Ireland, 2014/15.

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The purpose of this statistical release is to present final enrolment figures for schools and for children in funded pre-school education for 2014/15.

Key points:

- There are 165,548 pupils in **primary** schools (years 1-7), and this has risen by approximately 11,000 pupils in the last four years.
- In total 142,553 pupils are enrolled in **post-primary** schools, showing a decline for the fourth year in a row. This decrease is witnessed in enrolments to non-grammar schools, but grammar school enrolments remain stable. Enrolments of pupils in sixth form, however, continue to rise.
- There are almost 24,000 pupils in **funded pre-school education**, the highest figure on record.
- There has been an increase in the proportion of pupils entitled to **free school meals**, particularly among post-primary school pupils (rising from 18.5% to 26.1%).

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Introduction

Enrolment data from the 2014/15 annual school census was released in December 2014. The purpose of this statistical release is to present the final enrolment figures, and a more detailed analysis of this information.

The data are taken from the school census exercise, which ran in October 2014. Data collected through the school census exercise are used by the Department of Education (DE) to inform a wide range of policy areas, including finance allocations, school estate development and planning, special education, school improvement, area based planning, extended schools, additional educational needs, early years and integrated and Irish medium education. Other users include the Education and Library Boards (ELBs), the Education and Training Inspectorate and to inform responses to Assembly questions and requests from academic researchers, journalists, lobby groups and the public.

Statistics relating to school numbers and enrolments can be found on the Facts and Figures section of the DE website¹. Analysis is provided at Northern Ireland, Education and Library Board and school level.

¹ http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/facts-and-figures-new/education-statistics/32_statistics_and_research-numbersofschoolsandpupils_pg.htm

Section 1: Funded pre-school education

1.1. Number of institutions

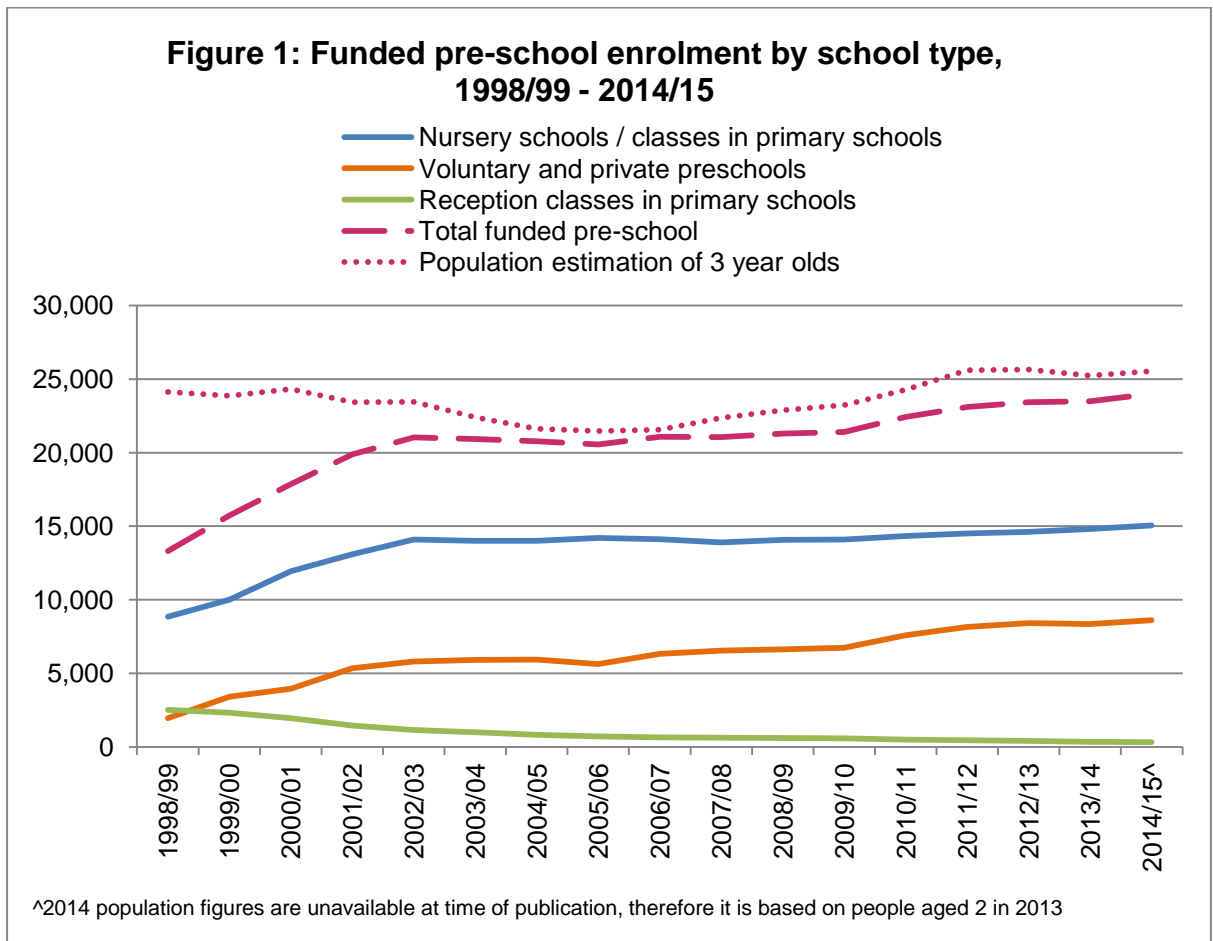
- There are a total of 798 institutions in Northern Ireland providing funded pre-school education (Table 1a).
 - Approximately half of these are voluntary and private pre-school centres (401), and this has increased from 358 in 2009/10.
 - In the same time period, there has been a rise in the number of primary schools with funded nursery units (213 in 2009/10 to 232 in 2014/15), and a substantial decrease in the number of schools with reception classes (108 to 70 this year)².

1.2. Enrolments

- There are almost 24,000 pupils in funded pre-school education (Table 2a), which equates to 91% of all three year olds in the Northern Ireland population³.
- Funded pre-school enrolments have steadily increased over the last decade, with approximately an additional 500 pupils in funded pre-school education compared to last year.
- Most pre-school pupils are enrolled in either nursery classes in primary schools (9,165) or voluntary and private pre-schools (8,621). The increase in overall pre-school enrolments compared to last year can be accounted for by an increase in enrolments in both of these sectors (Figure 1).

² Investing in Early Learning, published in 1997, set out the Department's 'intention to replace reception provision with suitable alternative provision so that all children below compulsory school age in school settings will be in planned pre-school provision which meets specified standards' and proposed that 'no new reception provision in primary schools (ie provision in schools where a reception class or group does not exist in the 1998/99 school year) will be funded from September 1999'. This policy was implemented with the introduction of the Pre-School Education Expansion Programme in 1998.

³ This is calculated by dividing the number of pupils aged 3 according to the NI school census (23,281) by the number of children aged 2 in the 2013 mid-year estimates (25,545) (the most recent available at time of publication): [http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/midyear/NI_sya\(1961_2013\).xls](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/midyear/NI_sya(1961_2013).xls)



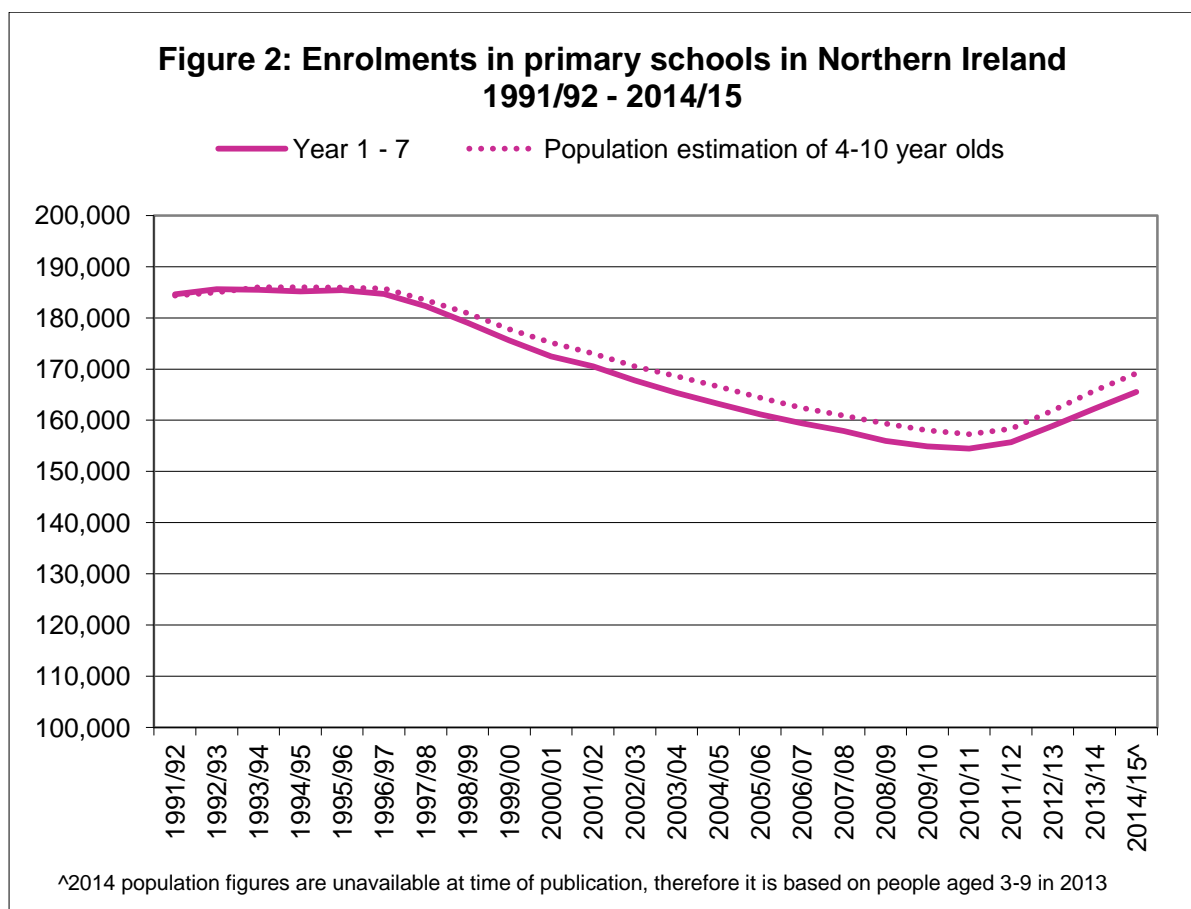
Section 2: Primary school education

2.1. Number of schools

- There are 836 primary schools (including preparatory departments) in Northern Ireland. This has dropped by 30 schools in the last five years (table 1b).

2.2. Enrolments

- Enrolments of pupils in years 1 to 7 continues to rise. In October 2014 the total number of year 1-7 pupils was 165,548 (Table 2b), its highest level since 2002/03. Enrolments have increased sharply in recent years; by 11,000 pupils since 2010/11 and more than 3,300 compared to last year (Figure 2). The increase observed is in line with the rise in the number of 4-10 year olds in NISRA's mid-year estimates over the last three years⁴.



⁴ [http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/midyear/NI_sya\(1961_2013\).xls](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/midyear/NI_sya(1961_2013).xls)

2.3. Class size

- The average number of pupils per class in primary schools (year 1 – year 7) was 24 (Table 4), and this has slowly increased over the last few years. Average class sizes differ depending on school type, from 19 in Irish medium schools and preparatory departments, to 27 in grant maintained integrated schools.

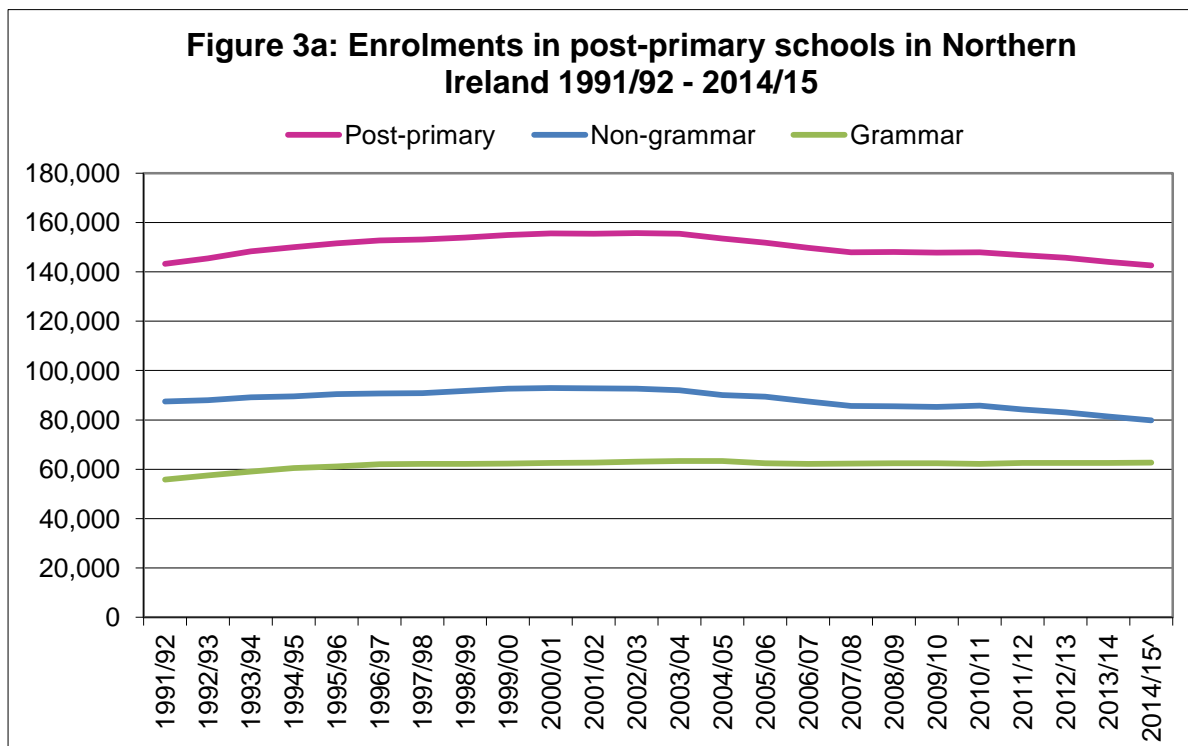
Section 3: Post-primary school education

3.1. Number of schools

- The number of post-primary schools in 2014/15 is 208 (Table 1b). One-third (68) of post-primary schools are grammars and the remaining two-thirds (140) are non-grammars. The total number of schools has fallen from 217 in 2010, accounted for by a drop in the number of non-grammar schools.

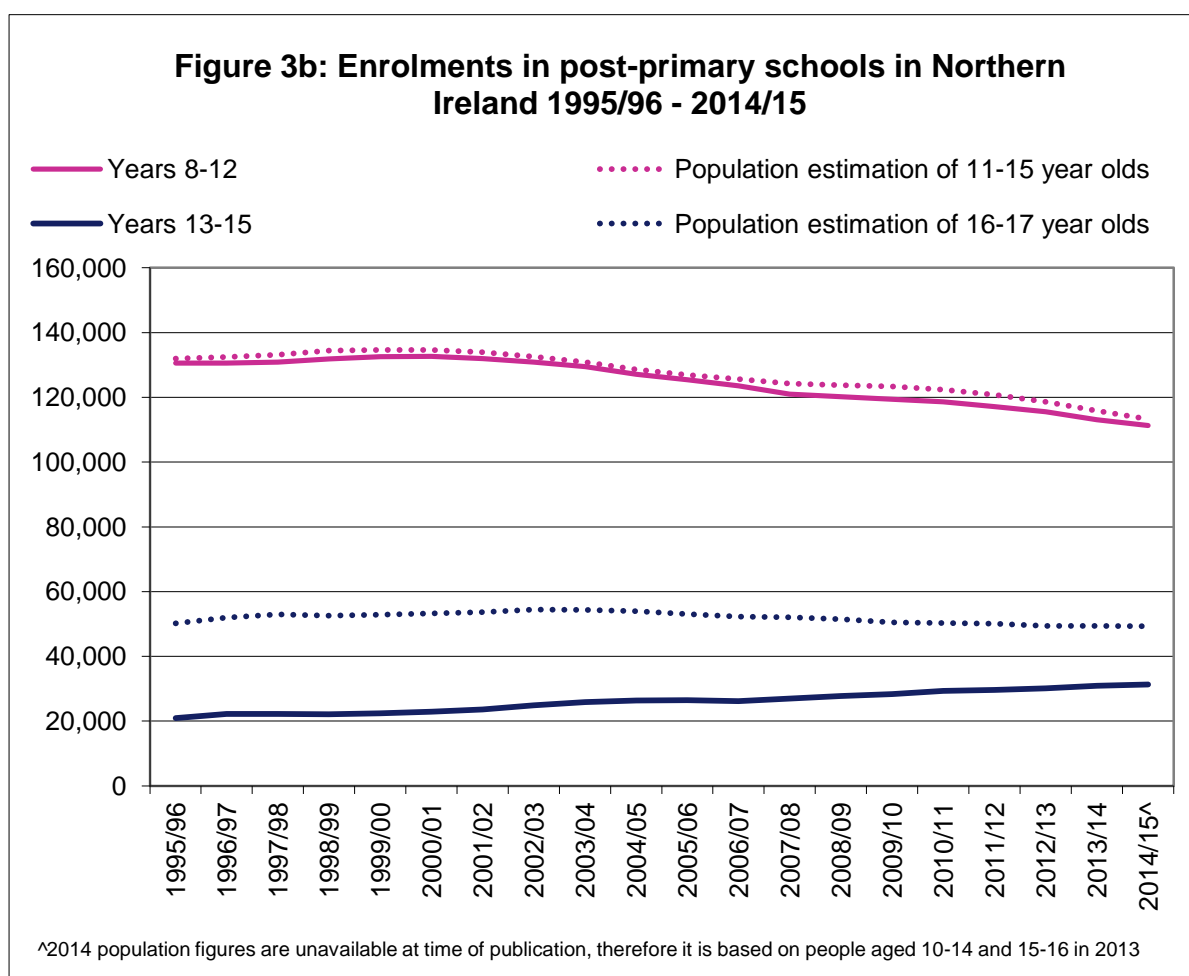
3.2. Enrolments

- Unlike primary schools, enrolments in post-primary schools continue to decline. The number of pupils in post-primary schools is 142,553 (Table 2b), and this has dropped by more than 5,000 pupils in the last four years (Figure 3a). Again this mirrors the decrease seen in NISRA’s population estimates in the same period.
- This trend only exists in secondary (non-grammar) schools; grammar school enrolments have remained stable in recent years (Figure 3a). Given the declining overall post-primary enrolment, a greater proportion of pupils is attending grammar schools than before (44.0% in 2014/15 compared to 41.1% in 2005/06).



3.3. Post year 12 pupils

- The overall decline in post primary pupils conceals a continual increase in the number of post year 12 pupils (Figure 3b). Enrolments have risen by almost 5,000 in the last ten years (26,330 in 2004/05 to 31,267 in 2014/15).
- The number of 16 and 17 year olds in the population has remained relatively stable in the same time period, therefore a greater proportion of the population are staying on in school post year 12, increasing from 48.8% in 2004/05 to 63.4% in 2014/15.



Section 4: Special education

4.1. Special educational needs

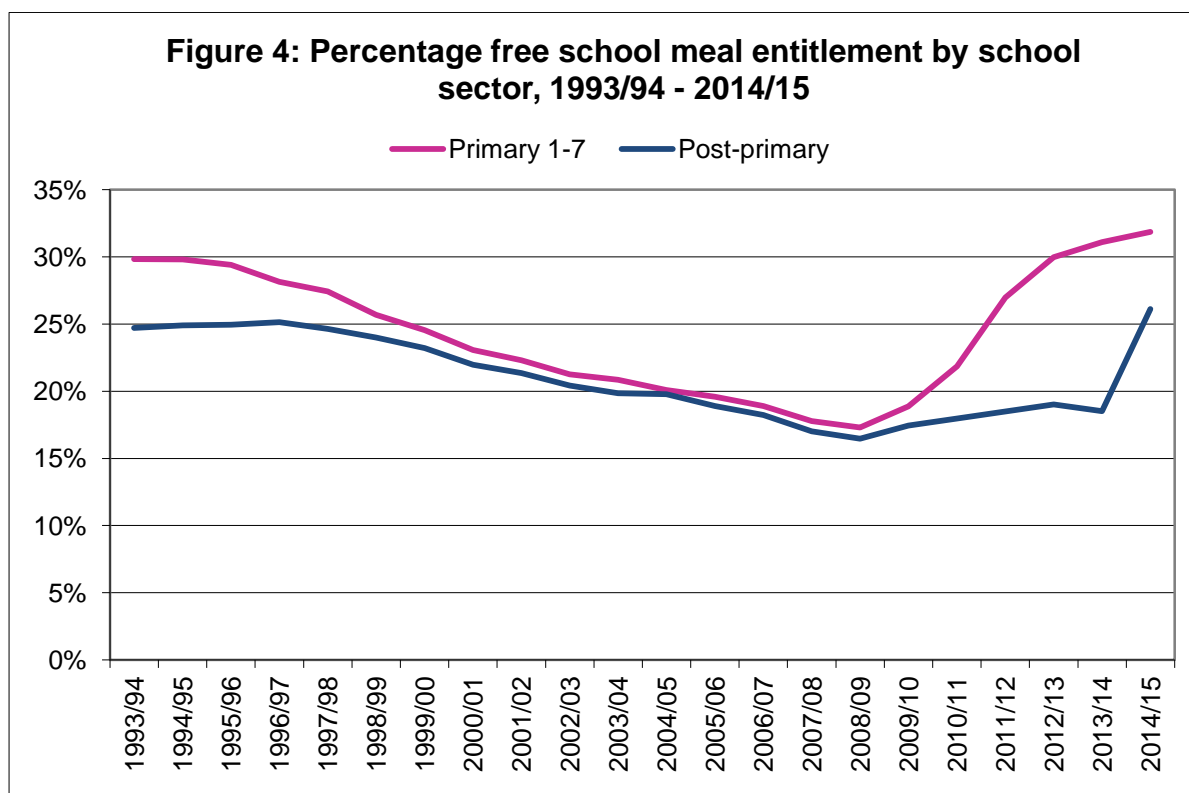
- In total, over 72,000 pupils in schools have some form of special educational needs, and this equates to 22.0% of the entire school population. Of this, almost 16,000, or 4.9%, have a statement of special educational needs (Table 7).
- The number of pupils with special educational needs has been steadily rising, with an additional 1,700 pupils with any needs and more than 700 additional pupils with statements compared to last year.

4.2. Special school enrolments

- More than 5,000 pupils are enrolled in 39 dedicated special schools (Table 1b; Table 2b). A further 1,700 are educated in learning support centres in primary and post-primary schools across 87 schools.
- Pupils with special educational needs are increasingly being educated in mainstream schools rather than special schools. In 2005/06, 34.5% of statemented pupils and 8.6% of pupils with any needs attended special schools. In 2014/15 the corresponding figures have dropped to 30.1% and 7.0% respectively.

Section 5: Free school meal entitlement⁵

- The percentage of children in schools entitled to free school meals has risen from 25.8% last year to 29.7% this year (Tables 3a/b).
- The main reason for this increase is the sharp rise in **post-primary pupils** that are free school meal entitled, increasing from 18.5% to 26.1% (Figure 4). The proportion of non-grammar pupils that are free school meal entitled has risen by ten percentage points to 37.1% this year. Entitlement increases by five percentage points from last year to 12.1% among grammar school pupils.
- This increase is likely to relate to the extension of the Working Tax Credit free school meal criterion to post-primary pupils in September 2014⁶. By comparison, when entitlement was extended for primary school pupils in 2009/10 and 2010/11, the proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals increased from 19.2% (in 2009/10) to 27.0% (in 2011/12).



⁵ http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/support-and-development-2/5-schools_meals/school-milk-and-meals.htm

⁶ Eligibility under the Working Tax Credit free school meal criterion was introduced on a phased basis with Nursery, Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 pupils eligible from September 2010 and Key Stage 2 pupils eligible from September 2011. It was extended to post-primary pupils from September 2014.

- The proportion of pupils that are free school meal entitled has also risen in all other phases; 31.9% year 1-7 pupils in primary schools are entitled compared to 31.1% last year (Figure 4), 32.0% of pupils in nursery classes and schools compared to 31.3% last year, and 52.5% of pupils in special schools compared to 50.9% in 2013/14⁷.

⁷ 2013/14 figures for special schools were unvalidated

Section 6: Changes in enrolment patterns

This final section details changes in enrolment patterns in schools in recent years.

6.1. Irish medium education

- A total of 5,248 pupils participate in Irish medium education, with 4,166 pupils educated in Irish medium schools and a further 1,082 pupils educated in Irish medium units attached to English-medium schools (Table 2c).
- The total number of pupils in Irish medium education has steadily risen over time, increasing by almost 1,200 pupils since 2009/10 and more than 300 pupils since last year. Most of this increase is coming from greater enrolments in Irish medium schools rather than units. One of the reasons for this increase is the fact that there are six additional Irish medium primary schools in this period.

6.2. Newcomer⁸ pupils

- There has also been an increase in the number and proportion of newcomer pupils in schools in Northern Ireland (Table 6c). In 2014/15, there are approximately 11,550 newcomer pupils accounting for 3.5% of the school population. This has risen by almost 4,000 from five years prior. This may be explained by increased levels of migration among school age children over the last number of years⁹.

⁸ A newcomer pupil is one who has enrolled in a school but who does not have the satisfactory language skills to participate fully in the school curriculum, and the wider environment, and does not have a language in common with the teacher, whether that is English or Irish.

⁹ http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/migration/Net_Mig_2000_2013.xls

Notes for readers

National Statistics

1. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

2. For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the National Statistics Public Enquiry Service on 0845 601 3034
minicom: 01633 812399

E-mail: info@statistics.gov.uk

Fax: 01633 652747

Letters: Customer Contact Centre, Office for National Statistics, Rm 1.101,
Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, NP10 8XG

3. You can also find National Statistics on the Internet: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk>

School Census

4. The statistics in this release have been derived from the annual school census; details can be found at http://www.deni.gov.uk/census_description_for_web_14_15_r1.docx. For voluntary and private pre-school centres, and nursery schools, the census consists of a paper return comprising a number of tables; for post-primary, primary and special schools, it consists of a return comprising individual pupil records, made by Electronic Data Interchange. The tables presented in the release reflect key information on enrolments, as determined by Departmental needs and also on requests for information from other sources.
5. The 2014/15 figures in this statistical release are based on information as at 10 October 2014. They may be subject to minor revision and these will be notified in accordance with our revisions policy. This can be accessed at http://www.deni.gov.uk/de_statement_on_statistical_revisions-2.doc.

6. The figures for nursery *classes* relate to approved nursery classes in primary schools. The figures for reception refer to pupils who were below compulsory school age at 1st July 2014, who were admitted to a reception class or group in primary school following their 4th birthday. Schools may admit reception pupils throughout the year, but only those who have been admitted by 31st October are counted in the school census.
7. The figures for pre-school children in this release relate to children in funded pre-school education. Previous releases included small numbers of children in non-funded pre-school places in preparatory departments of grammar schools. While previous statistical releases have not been revised to take account of this minor change, time series and other tables available on the Education statistics section of the DE website have been revised, so that the figures are consistent in definition and relate to children in funded pre-school education.
8. Further statistics relating to school numbers and enrolments can be found on the DE website (www.deni.gov.uk) under the Facts and Figures section.

The DE website presents figures taken from the school census, summarised at regional, Education and Library Board and school level. Statistics on pupil attendance, pupil: teacher ratios, school leaver destinations and qualifications may also be accessed via the website.

9. The data is produced at aggregate level only, therefore individual pupils cannot be identified. More information on confidentiality can be found in the DE Confidentiality and Access Statement at the following link:
http://www.deni.gov.uk/de_statement_on_data_confidentiality_and_access_r1.doc

Data quality and coverage

10. In some cases, percentages may not sum due to rounding.

Further enquiries

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Special analyses of the school census can be undertaken on request.

Press enquiries should be made to the Department's Press Office at the same address, telephone (028) 9127 9207 / fax (028) 9127 9271.

Feedback on this publication can be provided directly to Paul Matthews (contact details above) or via the feedback questionnaire on our website.

<http://www.deni.gov.uk/feedback.htm>

Table 1a: The number of pre-school providers with funded places, by centre type and management type, 2009/10-2014/15

		2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Nursery Schools	Controlled	65	65	65	65	64	64
	Catholic Maintained	33	33	32	32	32	32
	TOTAL	98	98	97	97	96	96
Primary Schools with Funded Nursery Units	Controlled	106	107	107	109	112	114
	Catholic Maintained ¹	85	85	87	87	88	88
	Other Maintained ²	5	9	9	11	11	13
	Controlled Integrated	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Grant Maintained Integrated	14	14	14	14	14	14
	TOTAL	213	218	220	224	228	232
Primary Schools with Funded Reception Classes	Controlled	39	30	35	31	26	22
	Catholic Maintained	66	67	61	56	45	43
	Other Maintained	-	1	-	1	1	1
	Controlled Integrated	3	4	3	4	4	4
	Grant Maintained Integrated	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL	108	102	99	92	76	70
Voluntary and private pre-School centres with funded places	Voluntary	330	345	341	343	343	342
	Private	28	35	40	47	53	59
	TOTAL	358	380	381	390	396	401
All Centres	GRAND TOTAL³	772	794	796	802	795	798

¹ Includes one Irish medium school with a nursery class in 2014/15.

² Excludes one Irish medium school with a nursery class in 2014/15.

³ The sum of the subtotals will not sum to the grand total as some primary schools have both nursery and reception classes

Table 1b: The number of schools by school type and management type, 2009/10-2014/15

		2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Nursery Schools	Controlled	65	65	65	65	64	64
	Catholic Maintained	33	33	32	32	32	32
	TOTAL	98	98	97	97	96	96
Primary Schools	Controlled¹	386	383	378	374	370	370
	Catholic Maintained^{2,5}	398	396	392	387	384	381
	Other Maintained	20	21	23	25	25	25
	Irish Medium³						
	Other	4	4	4	4	4	4
	Controlled Integrated	18	19	19	19	19	19
Grant Maintained Integrated	23	23	23	23	23	23	
TOTAL		849	846	839	832	825	822
Preparatory Departments⁴	Controlled	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Voluntary	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Schools under Catholic Management	14	14	12	12	11	11
	Schools under Other Management						
TOTAL		17	17	15	15	14	14
Secondary (Non Grammar) Schools	Controlled	57	57	56	55	53	51
	Catholic Maintained⁶	72	71	71	71	68	68
	Other Maintained	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Irish Medium						
	Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Controlled Integrated	5	5	5	5	5	5
Grant Maintained Integrated	15	15	15	15	15	15	
TOTAL		150	149	148	147	142	140
Grammar Schools	Controlled	17	17	17	17	17	18
	Voluntary	30	29	29	29	29	29
	Schools under Catholic Management⁷	22	22	22	22	22	21
	Schools under Other Management						
TOTAL		69	68	68	68	68	68
Special Schools	TOTAL	41	41	41	40	40	39
Hospital Schools	TOTAL	2	2	2	1	1	1
Independent Schools	TOTAL	14	15	15	15	15	14
All schools	GRAND TOTAL	1,223	1,219	1,210	1,200	1,187	1,180

¹ Includes two Irish Medium Controlled schools in 2014/15.

² Includes one Irish Medium Catholic Maintained school in 2014/15.

³ Excludes two Irish Medium Controlled schools and one Irish Medium Catholic Maintained school in 2014/15.

⁴ These are part of grammar schools.

⁵ Includes 7 schools with Irish medium units.

⁶ Includes 3 schools with Irish medium units in 2014/15.

⁷ Includes 1 school with Irish medium units in 2014/15.

Table 2a: Children in funded pre-school education by centre type and management type, 2014/15

		Controlled Schools	Catholic Maintained Schools	Other Maintained Schools	Controlled Integrated Schools	Grant Maintained Integrated Schools	Voluntary Schools	Voluntary Pre-School Centres	Private Pre-School Centres	Grand Total
<u>PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS</u>										
Nursery Schools	Full-time	2,368	1,632	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,000
	Part-time	1,726	156	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,882
Nursery Classes	Full-time	2,282	2,319	289	80	133	-	-	-	5,103
	Part-time	2,139	1,482	104	-	337	-	-	-	4,062
TOTAL		8,515	5,589	393	80	470	-	-	-	15,047
Reception	Full-time	105	213	3	8	-	-	-	-	329
<u>PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION IN OTHER CENTRES (FUNDED PLACES ONLY)</u>										
Playgroups	Part-time	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,437	394	7,831
Day Nurseries	Part-time	-	-	-	-	-	-	79	711	790
Other Provision	Part-time	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		-	-	-	-	-	-	7,516	1,105	8,621
GRAND TOTAL		8,620	5,802	396	88	470	-	7,516	1,105	23,997

Table 2b: Pupils by school type and management type, 2014/15

	Controlled	Catholic Maintained	Other Maintained	Controlled Integrated	Grant Maintained Integrated	Voluntary		Non Grant-Aided	Grand Total
						Schools under Catholic Management	Schools under Other Management		
<u>NURSERY</u>									
Nursery Schools	Full-time	2,368	1,632	-	-	-	-	-	4,000
	Part-time	1,726	156	-	-	-	-	-	1,882
Nursery Classes	Full-time	2,282	2,319	289	80	133	-	-	5,103
	Part-time	2,139	1,482	104	-	337	-	-	4,062
TOTAL		8,515	5,589	393	80	470	-	-	15,047
<u>PRIMARY</u>									
Reception		105	213	3	8	-	-	-	329
Primary Schools (Year 1 - Year 7)		75,688	75,771	2,872	3,733	5,671	-	-	163,735
Prep. Departments (Year 1- Year 7)		186	-	-	-	-	-	1,627	1,813
TOTAL		75,979	75,984	2,875	3,741	5,671	-	1,627	165,877
<u>SECONDARY (Year 8 - Year 14)</u>									
Secondary (Non Grammar)		27,918	39,347	581	2,502	9,492	-	-	79,840
Grammar		15,787	-	-	-	-	27,391	19,535	62,713
TOTAL		43,705	39,347	581	2,502	9,492	27,391	19,535	142,553
<u>SPECIAL</u>									
		4,762	234	67	-	-	-	-	5,063
<u>HOSPITAL</u>									
		112	-	-	-	-	-	-	112
<u>INDEPENDENT</u>									
		-	-	-	-	-	-	643	643
GRAND TOTAL		133,073	121,154	3,916	6,323	15,633	27,391	21,162	329,295

Table 2c: Pupils in Irish-medium education, 2009/10 - 2014/15

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Voluntary and private pre-schools - funded places	435	434	473	468	467	480
Nursery Classes in Irish-medium Schools						
Full-time	104	235	258	309	312	315
Part-time	52	23	-	-	-	52
Nursery Classes in Irish-medium units						
Full-time	26	26	26	26	26	30
Part-time	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reception	5	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	622	718	757	803	805	877
<u>PRIMARY</u>						
Primary Schools (Year 1 - Year 7)						
schools	2,097	2,137	2,191	2,411	2,570	2,738
units	650	670	682	644	686	720
TOTAL	2,747	2,807	2,873	3,055	3,256	3,458
<u>POST-PRIMARY (Year 8 - Year 14)</u>						
Post-primary Schools						
schools	561	553	550	541	564	581
units	145	159	212	228	267	332
TOTAL	706	712	762	769	831	913
<u>INDEPENDENT</u>	-	11	7	6	15	-
GRAND TOTAL	4,075	4,248	4,399	4,633	4,907	5,248

Table 2d: Pupils in Integrated education, 2009/10 - 2014/15

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	
<i>PRIMARY</i>							
Nursery Classes	Full-time	261	238	235	212	212	213
	Part-time	237	260	263	287	317	337
Reception	12	18	16	10	10	8	
Year 1 - Year 7	8,105	8,402	8,525	8,881	9,100	9,404	
TOTAL	8,615	8,918	9,039	9,390	9,639	9,962	
<i>SECONDARY (Year 8 - Year 14)</i>							
Year 8 - Year 12	10,418	10,417	10,405	10,279	10,194	10,050	
Year 13 - Year 14	1,681	1,716	1,726	1,834	1,912	1,944	
TOTAL	12,099	12,133	12,131	12,113	12,106	11,994	
GRAND TOTAL	20,714	21,051	21,170	21,503	21,745	21,956	

Note:

1. Figures include children attending Controlled Integrated schools and Grant Maintained Integrated Schools.

Table 3a(i) : Children in funded pre-school education¹ whose parents were in receipt of Income Support or Income based Jobseeker's Allowance², by centre type and management type, 2014/15

Numbers and Percentages³

		Number	Enrolment	Percentage
Nursery Schools				
<i>Full-time</i>	Controlled	1,074	2,368	45.4
	Catholic Maintained	816	1,632	50.0
	TOTAL	1,890	4,000	47.3
Nursery Schools				
<i>Part-time</i>	Controlled	194	1,726	11.2
	Catholic Maintained	12	156	7.7
	TOTAL⁴	206	1,882	10.9
Nursery Classes				
<i>Full-time</i>	Controlled	951	2,282	41.7
	Voluntary	-	-	-
	Catholic Maintained	1,030	2,319	44.4
	Other Maintained	151	289	52.2
	Controlled Integrated	44	80	55.0
	Grant Maintained Integrated	47	133	35.3
	TOTAL	2,223	5,103	43.6
Nursery Classes				
<i>Part-time</i>	Controlled	245	2,139	11.5
	Voluntary	-	-	-
	Catholic Maintained	196	1,482	13.2
	Other Maintained	11	104	-
	Controlled Integrated	-	-	-
	Grant Maintained Integrated	42	337	12.5
	TOTAL	494	4,062	12.2
All Nursery Provision				
<i>Full- and part-time</i>	Controlled	2,464	8,515	28.9
	Voluntary	-	-	-
	Catholic Maintained	2,054	5,589	36.8
	Other Maintained	162	393	41.2
	Controlled Integrated	44	80	55.0
	Grant Maintained Integrated	89	470	18.9
	TOTAL	4,813	15,047	32.0
Voluntary and Private Pre-School Centres (funded places only)				
<i>Part-time</i>	Voluntary	931	7,516	12.4
	Private	48	1,105	4.3
	TOTAL	979	8,621	11.4
TOTAL		5,792	23,668	24.5

¹ Excludes reception pupils, since data on whether the parents of these pupils were in receipt of Income Support or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance are not collected.

² Income Support and income-based Jobseeker's Allowance are two of the benefits which determine eligibility for free school meals. As school meals are not universally available to children in pre-school education, parental receipt of these benefits is a better indicator of social disadvantage for the pre-school sector. Pupils who are recorded as entitled to free school meals in nursery classes in primary schools are also included in the totals.

³ Percentages express the number of children in funded places whose parents were in receipt of Income Support or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance at the time of first application for admission, as a proportion of all children in funded places. Thus, for example, 45.4% of children in full-time places in controlled nursery schools had parents in receipt of these benefits.

Table 3a(ii) : Reception pupils entitled to Free School Meals by management type, 2014/15

Numbers and Percentages¹

		Number	Enrolment	Percentage
Reception pupils				
<i>Full-time</i>	Controlled	#	#	#
	Catholic Maintained	43	213	20.2
	Other Maintained	*	*	*
	Controlled Integrated	-	8	0.0
	Grant Maintained Integrated	-	-	0.0
	Voluntary	-	-	0.0
	TOTAL	63	329	19.1

¹ Percentages express the number of pupils entitled to free school meals in a particular category as a proportion of all pupils in the same category. Thus, for example, 20.2% of all reception pupils at Catholic Maintained schools in 2014/15 are entitled to free school meals.

**Table 3b: Pupils entitled to Free School Meals by school type and management type, 2014/15:
Primary and Post-Primary schools**

*Numbers and percentages*¹

		Number	Enrolment	Percentage
Primary Schools (Year 1-Year 7)	Controlled	21,930	75,688	29.0
	Catholic Maintained	26,708	75,771	35.2
	Other Maintained	1,193	2,491	47.9
	Irish Medium			
	Other	56	381	14.7
	Controlled Integrated	1,297	3,733	34.7
	Grant Maintained Integrated	1,545	5,671	27.2
TOTAL	52,729	163,735	32.2	
Prep. Departments	Controlled	5	186	2.7
	Voluntary	12	1,627	0.7
	TOTAL	17	1,813	0.9
ALL PRIMARY AND PREP YEAR 1 - 7 PUPILS		52,746	165,548	31.9
Secondary (Non Grammar) Schools	Controlled	8,639	27,918	30.9
	Catholic Maintained	16,480	39,347	41.9
	Other Maintained	352	581	60.6
	Irish Medium			
	Controlled Integrated	825	2,502	33.0
Grant Maintained Integrated	3,330	9,492	35.1	
TOTAL	29,626	79,840	37.1	
Grammar Schools	Controlled	1,599	15,787	10.1
	Voluntary	4,524	27,391	16.5
	Schools under Catholic Management	1,487	19,535	7.6
	Schools under Other Management			
TOTAL	7,610	62,713	12.1	
ALL POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS		37,236	142,553	26.1
ALL PRIMARY AND POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS		89,982	308,101	29.2
ALL SPECIAL SCHOOLS		2,659	5,063	52.5

* Fewer than 5 cases.

Number suppressed.

¹ Percentages express the number of pupils entitled to free school meals in a particular category (e.g. those at primary school) as a proportion of all pupils in the same category. Thus, for example, 32.2% of all Year 1 - 7 primary school pupils in 2014/15 are entitled to free school meals.

Table 4: Average class size^{1,2} by school type and management type, 2014/15

		Average number of pupils per class
Nursery Schools	Controlled	26
	Catholic Maintained	26
	TOTAL	26
Nursery Classes	Controlled	26
	Catholic Maintained ³	26
	Other Maintained	26
	Irish Medium	26
	Other	26
	Controlled Integrated	27
	Grant Maintained Integrated	26
TOTAL	26	
Reception Classes ⁴	Controlled	10
	Catholic Maintained	20
	Other Maintained	-
	Irish Medium	-
	Other	-
	TOTAL	14
Primary Schools (Year 1 - Year 7) ⁵	Controlled ⁶	25
	Catholic Maintained ⁷	24
	Other Maintained	19
	Irish Medium ⁸	21
	Other	25
	Controlled Integrated	27
	Grant Maintained Integrated	24
TOTAL	24	
Preparatory Departments (Year 1 - Year 7) ⁵	Controlled	12
	Voluntary	-
	Schools under Catholic Management	19
	Schools under Other Management	18
TOTAL	18	

¹ Class size data is only collected in respect of nursery and primary schools and prep. departments.

² Children in learning support centres are excluded.

³ Includes one Irish medium school.

⁴ These are classes consisting solely of reception pupils. (See Notes to Readers point 6)

⁵ Any reception pupils integrated into primary classes are excluded.

⁶ Includes two Irish medium schools.

⁷ Includes one Irish medium school.

⁸ Excludes two Controlled and one Catholic maintained Irish medium school.

Table 5a: Religion of children in funded pre-school education by centre type and management type, 2014/15

		Protestant	Catholic	Other Christian	Non Christian	No Religion / Not recorded	Total
Nursery Schools	Controlled	1,947	1,190	202	59	696	4,094
	Catholic Maintained	38	1,574	14	13	149	1,788
	TOTAL	1,985	2,764	216	72	845	5,882
Nursery Classes & Reception	Controlled	2,613	530	207	46	1,130	4,526
	Voluntary						-
	Catholic Maintained	48	3,772	24	#	#	4,014
	Other Maintained	41	314	-	-	41	396
	Controlled Integrated	41	31	*	-	#	88
	Grant Maintained Integrated	139	171	#	*	126	470
TOTAL	2,882	4,818	262	95	1,437	9,494	
Voluntary and Private Pre-School Centres (funded children only)	Voluntary	1,937	3,473	169	47	1,890	7,516
	Private	392	278	23	6	406	1,105
	TOTAL	2,329	3,751	192	53	2,296	8,621
ALL FUNDED PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION		7,196	11,333	670	220	4,578	23,997

* Fewer than 5 cases.

Number suppressed.

Table 5b: Religion of pupils by school type and management type, 2014/15
Nursery, Primary, Post Primary and Special Schools

		Protestant	Catholic	Other Christian	Non Christian	No Religion / Not recorded	Total
Nursery Schools	Controlled	1,947	1,190	202	59	696	4,094
	Catholic Maintained	38	1,574	14	13	149	1,788
	TOTAL	1,985	2,764	216	72	845	5,882
Nursery Classes & Reception	Controlled	2,613	530	207	46	1,130	4,526
	Voluntary	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Catholic Maintained	48	3,772	24	#	#	3,844
	Other Maintained	41	314	-	-	41	396
	Controlled Integrated	41	31	*	-	#	72
	Grant Maintained Integrated	139	171	#	*	126	436
	TOTAL	2,882	4,818	231	46	1,297	9,274
Primary Schools (Year 1 - Year 7)	Controlled	51,708	5,051	4,101	751	14,077	75,688
	Catholic Maintained	579	73,197	403	478	1,114	75,771
	Other Maintained	276	2,369	49	8	170	2,872
	Controlled Integrated	1,518	1,118	203	61	833	3,733
	Grant Maintained Integrated	1,800	2,443	411	70	947	5,671
	TOTAL	55,881	84,178	5,167	1,368	17,141	163,735
Prep. Departments (Year 1 - Year 7)	Controlled	119	8	14	-	45	186
	Voluntary	787	204	215	37	384	1,627
	TOTAL	906	212	229	37	429	1,813
Secondary (Non Grammar) Schools	Controlled	22,714	860	1,082	158	3,104	27,918
	Catholic Maintained	467	38,189	203	123	365	39,347
	Other Maintained	-	542	*	-	#	581
	Controlled Integrated	1,634	402	#	23	#	2,502
	Grant Maintained Integrated	4,026	3,867	458	99	1,042	9,492
	TOTAL	28,841	43,860	1,832	403	4,904	79,840
Grammar Schools (Year 8 - Year 14)	Controlled	11,959	1,335	792	94	1,607	15,787
	Voluntary	260	26,658	150	82	241	27,391
			Schools under Catholic Management				
			Schools under Other Management				
		12,701	2,381	1,310	236	2,907	19,535
TOTAL	24,920	30,374	2,252	412	4,755	62,713	
Special Schools	Controlled	1,850	1,994	#	#	763	4,762
	Catholic Maintained	*	224	-	*	5	234
	Other Maintained	#	21	*	*	13	67
	TOTAL	1,885	2,239	128	30	781	5,063
ALL NURSERY, PRIMARY, POST-PRIMARY AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS		117,300	168,446	10,086	2,417	30,292	328,541

* Fewer than 5 cases.

Number suppressed.

Table 6a: Ethnicity of children in funded pre-school education by centre type, 2014/15

	White (excluding Irish Traveller)	Chinese	Irish Traveller	Indian/Sri Lankan	Pakistani	Black	Other ethnic group	Mixed ethnic group	Total
Nursery Schools	5,637	25	6	#	*	22	62	96	5,882
Nursery Classes & Reception	9,110	42	36	#	#	48	79	102	9,494
Voluntary and Private Pre-School Centres (funded children only)	8,288	24	14	36	8	25	130	96	8,621
ALL FUNDED PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION	23,035	91	56	137	18	95	271	294	23,997

* Fewer than 5 cases.

Number suppressed.

Table 6b: Ethnicity of pupils by school type, 2014/15
Nursery, Primary, Post Primary and Special Schools

	White (excluding Irish Traveller)	Chinese	Irish Traveller	Indian/Sri Lankan	Pakistani	Black	Other ethnic group	Mixed ethnic group	Total
Nursery Schools	5,637	25	6	#	*	22	62	96	5,848
Nursery Classes & Reception	9,110	42	36	#	#	48	79	102	9,417
Primary Schools & Prep. Departments (Year 1 - Year 7)	159,039	549	642	876	161	702	1,490	2,089	165,548
Secondary (Non Grammar) Schools	77,651	147	262	124	57	422	628	549	79,840
Grammar Schools (Year 8 - Year 14)	60,862	395	9	338	61	100	395	553	62,713
Special Schools	4,861	16	43	18	5	11	53	56	5,063
ALL NURSERY, PRIMARY, POST-PRIMARY AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS	317,160	1,174	998	1,457	294	1,305	2,707	3,445	328,541

* Fewer than 5 cases.

Number suppressed.

Table 6c: Newcomer pupils by school type, 2009/10 - 2014/15
Nursery, Primary, Post Primary and Special Schools

	2009/10		2010/11		2011/12		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Nursery Schools	175	3.0%	191	3.2%	242	4.1%	327	5.5%	330	5.6%	323	5.5%
Nursery Classes & Reception	342	3.9%	373	4.2%	483	5.3%	512	5.6%	570	6.1%	598	6.3%
Primary Schools & Prep. Departments (Year 1 - Year 7)	4,788	3.1%	5,019	3.2%	5,149	3.3%	5,969	3.8%	6,854	4.2%	8,080	4.9%
Secondary (Non Grammar) Schools	2,001	2.3%	2,114	2.5%	2,218	2.6%	2,244	2.7%	2,288	2.8%	2,219	2.8%
Grammar Schools (Year 8 - Year 14)	401	0.6%	336	0.5%	264	0.4%	274	0.4%	213	0.3%	232	0.4%
Special Schools	47	1.1%	60	1.3%	62	1.4%	91	2.0%	101	2.1%	113	2.2%
ALL NURSERY, PRIMARY, POST- PRIMARY AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS	7,754	2.4%	8,093	2.5%	8,418	2.6%	9,417	2.9%	10,356	3.2%	11,565	3.5%

1.A newcomer pupil is one who has enrolled in a school but who does not have the satisfactory language skills to participate fully in the school curriculum, and the wider environment, and does not have a language in common with the teacher, whether that is English or Irish. This has previously been referred to as English an Additional Language. It does not refer to indigenous pupils who choose to attend an Irish medium school.

Table 7: Percentage of children with Special Education Needs¹ at schools and funded pre-school education centres in 2014/15

	% Statemented children	% SEN children (non- statemented)	% SEN children (stage 1 - 5)
VOLUNTARY and PRIVATE PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION CENTRES²	0.4%	11.1%	11.6%
NURSERY SCHOOLS			
Total nursery school pupils	1.3%	22.9%	24.2%
PRIMARY SCHOOLS and PREPARATORY DEPARTMENTS			
Total nursery class pupils	#	#	4.5%
Total reception pupils	*	#	4.9%
Primary schools (year 1 - 7)	3.1%	18.6%	21.7%
Grammar school Preparatory Depts.(year 1 - 7)	1.4%	13.3%	14.7%
Total year 1 - 7 pupils	3.0%	18.6%	21.6%
Total primary pupils	2.9%	17.8%	20.7%
POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS			
Secondary (non grammar) schools	6.5%	23.7%	30.2%
Grammar Schools	1.3%	7.7%	9.0%
Total post primary pupils	4.2%	16.7%	20.9%
SPECIAL SCHOOLS Total	94.7%	5.3%	100.0%
ALL SCHOOLS Total	4.9%	17.2%	22.0%
ALL SCHOOLS AND PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION CENTRES	4.7%	17.0%	21.8%

1. Children with Special Education Needs are assessed under the 5 stages of the SEN Code of Practice.

2. Voluntary and private centres funded under the Pre-school Education Expansion Programme.