## Statistical Bulletin 2/2019

## Annual enrolments at schools and in funded preschool education in Northern Ireland, 2018/19

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This bulletin was revised on the $25^{\text {th }}$ March to correct the number of pupils in years $8-12 /$ sixth form (Fig 3b) and the number of pupils in nursery units/reception (Fig 1, Table 2a, Table 2c, Table 3, Table 7).

The purpose of this statistical release is to present final enrolment figures for schools and for children in funded preschool education for 2018/19.
Key points:

- There are 174,523 pupils in primary schools (years 1-7), and this has risen by nearly 800 pupils this year to the highest total since 1999/00.
- In total 142,239 pupils are enrolled in post-primary schools, increasing by nearly 1,700 pupils from 2017/18. There are approximately 28,000 pupils in sixth forms in schools, $63 \%$ of all 16-17 year olds in Northern Ireland.
- There are 23,576 pupils in funded pre-school education, a slight increase on last year. This is $92 \%$ of three year olds in the population.
- More than 99,000 pupils in Northern Ireland are entitled to free school meals and this represents three in ten of all pupils.


## Contents

Section Title Page
Introduction ..... 3
1 Funded pre-school education ..... 4
2 Primary school education ..... 6
3 Post-primary school education ..... 8
4 Special education ..... 11
5 Free school meal entitlement ..... 13
6 Changes in enrolment patterns ..... 14
Notes for readers ..... 16

## Introduction

Provisional enrolment data from the 2018/19 annual school census was released in December 2018. 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 2018. 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 Authority, 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 Statistics and Research section of the DE website ${ }^{1}$. Analysis is provided at Northern Ireland and school level.

This is an annual publication. Provisional data relating to the 2019/20 academic year will be released in December 2019, with a 2019/20 update of this publication being released in February/March 2020.

[^0]
## Section 1: Funded pre school education

### 1.1. Number of institutions

- There are a total of 771 institutions in Northern Ireland providing funded pre-school education (Table 1a). The total number of institutions offering pre-school education has dropped by two this year.
- Half of all funded pre-school providers are funded voluntary and private pre-school centres, that is, playgroups and day nurseries. There are 386 funded centres this year.
- Compared to last year, there are three more funded voluntary and private pre-school centres. There are also eight fewer primary schools that have reception provision compared to last year². However, there are an additional three primary schools with nursery provision.


### 1.2. Enrolments

- There are 23,576 pupils in funded pre-school education (Table 2a). This has risen by 76 compared to last year representing a slight increase after 2 years of falling enrolments in pre-school.
- However, this is mirrored by a slight increase to the number of three year olds in the population this year. The proportion of three year olds in the Northern Ireland population that were in funded pre-school education has risen slightly this year (92\%) ${ }^{3}$.

[^1]Figure 1: Funded pre-school enrolment by school type, 2002/03 to 2018/19 R


## Section 2: Primary school education

### 2.1. Number of schools

- There are 813 primary schools (including preparatory departments) in Northern Ireland. This has dropped by 26 schools in the last five years (table 1b).


### 2.2. Enrolments

- Enrolments of pupils in years 1 to 7 have risen for the eighth year in succession. In October 2018 the total number of year 1-7 pupils was 174,523 (Table 2a), its highest level since 1999/00. Enrolments have increased sharply in recent years; by more than 20,000 pupils since 2010/11 and by nearly 800 compared to last year (Figure 2). The increase observed is in line with the rise in the number of 410 year olds in NISRA's mid-year estimates over the last eight years ${ }^{4}$.


[^2]- With the increase in enrolments in primary schools and the reduction in the number of schools, the mean number of pupils per school has risen from 179 in 2010/11 to 215 in 2018/19.


### 2.3. Class size

- The average number of pupils per class in primary schools (year 1 - year 7) remains steady at 25 (Table 4). Average class sizes differ depending on school type, from 20 in 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 2018/19 is 196 (Table 1b), a decrease of 14 from five years ago. This is accounted for mainly by a drop in the number of non-grammar schools.
- One-third (66) of post-primary schools are grammar schools and the remaining twothirds (130) are non-grammars.
- A total of $161^{5}$ schools have pupils in sixth form.


### 3.2. Enrolments

- The number of pupils in post-primary schools is 142,239 (Table 2a). Enrolments have dropped by over 13,000 pupils since its peak in 2002/03. However, it has risen almost 1,700 pupils in 2018/19 (Figure 3a).
- Increases in enrolments in both grammar and non-grammar schools are witnessed this year. However, the rise is mainly in non-grammar, accounting for nearly 1,650 of the increase. The proportion of post-primary school pupils attending grammar schools remains high ( $44.2 \%$ in 2018/19 compared to $37.2 \%$ in 1986/87).

[^3]Figure 3a: Enrolments in post-primary schools in Northern Ireland -grammar/non-grammar split, 1991/92 to 2018/19


### 3.3. Enrolments by year groups

- There are more than 2,000 additional pupils in years 8-12 compared to last year. This is reflected in an increase in the number of 11-15 year olds in the population.
- There are more than 28,000 pupils studying A Level or equivalent qualifications in schools in Northern Ireland in 2018/19. This has decreased by nearly 500 pupils compared to last year. This may be explained by the fact that the number of 16 and 17 year olds in the population has also dropped by nearly 1,000 compared to last year.


Overall, $63 \%$ of all 16 and 17 year olds in the population are studying A Level or equivalent qualifications in schools. This has stabilised in recent years but still represents a large increase from 46\% in 2003/04.

- This differs substantially by gender; 72\% of all girls aged 16 or 17 are studying A Levels or equivalent in schools compared to $53 \%$ of all boys.


## Section 4: Special education

### 4.1. Special educational needs

- Nearly 79,000 pupils in schools have some form of special educational needs; this is $22.8 \%$ of the entire school population. Of this, more than 18,000 , or $5.3 \%$ of pupils, have a statement of special educational needs ${ }^{6}$ (Table 7).
- The number of pupils with special educational needs has been steadily rising, until now. This year the total number of pupils with any special education needs has decreased by 250 pupils. The main decrease is SEN without a statement, in contrast there are more than 580 additional pupils with statements compared to last year (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Pupils with special educational needs, 2003/04 to 2018/19


Figures include pupils educated other than at school (EOTAS)

[^4]
### 4.2. Special school enrolments

- Almost 6,000 pupils are enrolled in 39 dedicated special schools (Table 1b; Table 2a). In addition to this, more than 1,900 are educated in learning support centres in primary and post-primary schools across 94 schools.
- Pupils with special educational needs are increasingly being educated in mainstream schools rather than special schools. In 2003/04, 39.6\% of statemented pupils ${ }^{7}$ and $9.8 \%$ of pupils with any needs attended special schools. In 2018/19 the corresponding figures have dropped to $30.3 \%$ and $7.8 \%$ respectively.

[^5]
## Section 5: Free school meal entitlement ${ }^{8}$

- The overall percentage of children entitled to free school meals has dropped from $29.9 \%$ to $29.3 \%$ this year. This $29.3 \%$ equates to more than 99,000 free school meal entitled pupils in nursery, primary, post-primary and special schools (Table 3).
- Free school meal entitlement differs significantly by school type. Grammar schools (14.1\%) and pre-school settings (22.5\%) have the lowest proportions of free school meal entitled pupils, whereas non-grammar (39.2\%) and special (52.0\%) have the highest. Primary (year 1-7) (29.5\%) and post primary (28.1\%) have remained fairly constant over the past few years, dropping slightly this year. (Figure 5)

Figure 5: Percentage free school meal entitlement by school sector, 2008/09 to 2018/19


[^6]
## Section 6: Changes in enrolment patterns

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

### 6.1. Diversity in schools

- Schools are increasingly becoming more ethnically diverse. There are more than 16,000 pupils in schools in Northern Ireland recorded as "non-white", and this represents $4.6 \%$ of the school population (Table 6a). This is an increase of almost 4,300 pupils and 1.2 percentage points compared to five years prior.
- There is also a rise year-on-year in the number of pupils whose first language is not English (an increase of more than 1,600 from last year). In 2018/19, there are approximately 90 first languages spoken by pupils, with Polish and Lithuanian being the most common behind English.
- As such, there has been an increase in the number and proportion of newcomer pupils in schools in Northern Ireland (Table 6b). 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. In 2018/19, there are more than 16,200 newcomer pupils accounting for $4.7 \%$ of the school population. This has risen by more than 5,500 pupils from five years prior.
- The growth in diversity in the school system may be explained by increased levels of migration among school age children over the last number of years ${ }^{10}$.


### 6.2. Integrated education

- There are over 23,600 pupils enrolled in integrated schools - over 11,000 in primary schools and more than 12,500 in post-primary schools. The number enrolled has increased by more than 500 pupils compared to last year, and almost 1,900 pupils compared to five years ago.

[^7]- This growth is mainly seen in primary schools, and could be explained by the fact that three primary schools transformed to integrated status in the last three years.


### 6.3. Irish medium education

- Over 6,500 pupils participate in funded Irish medium education, with more than 4,500 pupils educated in dedicated Irish medium schools and pre-school settings and more than 1,300 pupils educated in Irish medium units attached to Englishmedium schools (Table 2b).
- The total number of pupils in funded Irish medium education has steadily risen over time, increasing by over 1,600 pupils since 2013/14 and more than 300 pupils since last year. Most of this increase is coming from greater enrolments in Irish medium schools rather than units.


### 6.4. Educated other than at school (EOTAS)

- This year, for the second time, data was collected on pupils educated in a setting other than a school (EOTAS centres). EOTAS makes educational provision for children with social, emotional, behavioural, medical or other issues who, without its provision cannot access suitable education.
- In total, 676 pupils were enrolled in EOTAS centres in October 2018. This includes pupils that are 'dual registered' with a mainstream school, and may be accessing the EOTAS centre for a temporary period. Just 74 pupils are ‘single registered’ at EOTAS centres; this means that they no longer have a link to a mainstream school.


## 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.
Annual enrolments at schools and in funded pre-school education in Northern Ireland statistics were re-assessed by the Statistics Authority in June 2009. Following work to address recommendations that were identified from the assessment (https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/assessment-and-action-plan-statistics-enrolment-2009), UKSA confirmed the re-designation of these statistics as National 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 08456013034 minicom: 01633815044

E-mail: info@ons.gsi.gov.uk
Fax: 01633652747
Letters: Customer Contact Centre, Office for National Statistics, Rm D265, Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, NP10 8XG
3. You can also find National Statistics on the Internet: http://www.ons.gov.uk

## School Census

4. The statistics in this release have been derived from the annual school census; details can be found at https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/school-enrolments-data-collection-and-validation. For voluntary and private pre-school centres, and nursery schools, the census consists of a return via an online app/ paper return comprising a number of tables; for post-primary, primary and special schools, and EOTAS centres, 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.

The figures for pre-school children in this release relate to children in funded preschool education. 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 2018, who were admitted to a reception class or group in primary school following their $4^{\text {th }}$ birthday. Schools may admit reception pupils throughout the year, but only those who have been admitted or will be admitted by 31st October are counted in the school census.
5. Further statistics relating to school numbers and enrolments can be found on the DE website (www.education-ni.gov.uk) under the Statistics and Research section.

The DE website presents figures taken from the school census, summarised at Northern Ireland and school level. Statistics on pupil attendance, pupil: teacher ratios, school leaver destinations and qualifications may also be accessed via the website.
6. 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:
https://www.education-
ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/education/Confidentiality\ and\ A ccess.pdf

## School types

7. Definitions of school management types are as follows:

- Controlled: Schools are managed and funded by the Education Authority (EA) through Boards of Governors (BoG). Primary and post-primary school BoGs consist of representatives of transferors - mainly the Protestant churches - along with representatives of parents, teachers and the EA.
- Voluntary: Self-governing schools, generally of long standing, originally established to provide an academic education at post primary level on a fee paying basis. Now funded by the Department and managed by Boards of Governors. The BoGs are constituted in accordance with each school's scheme of management - usually representatives of foundation governors, parents, teachers and in most cases, DE or EA representatives. The BoGs is the employing authority and is responsible for the employment of all staff in its school.
- Maintained schools are managed by Boards of Governors which consist of members nominated by trustees, along with representatives of parents, teachers and the Education Authority. These schools are funded through the Education Authority for their running costs and directly by the Department in relation to capital building works. For Catholic Maintained schools, the Employing Authority is
the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS). Other maintained schools are any schools that are not Catholic maintained. They are typically, but not exclusively, Irish medium schools.
- Controlled integrated: Controlled schools which have acquired integrated status.
- Grant Maintained integrated: Self-governing schools with integrated education status, funded directly by the Department of Education and managed by Boards of Governors. The BoG is the employing authority and responsible for employing staff.

8. Definitions of other school types are as follows

- A special school is a controlled or voluntary school which is specially organised to provide education for pupils with special needs and is recognised by the DE as a special school.
- An independent school is a school at which full-time education is provided for pupils aged from 4 to 16 and is not grant aided. These schools set their own curriculum and admissions policies and are funded by fees paid by parents and income from investments. Each independent school must be registered with DE and is inspected regularly by ETI.
- Education Other Than at School (EOTAS) includes all forms of education that takes place outside the formal school environment.


## Revisions

9. The 2018/19 figures in this statistical release are based on information as at 5 October 2018. They may be subject to minor revision and these will be notified in accordance with our revisions policy. This can be accessed at https://www.educationni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/education/Revisions\ policy.pdf

Details of revisions are as follows:

- $25^{\text {th }}$ March: to correct the number of pupils in years 8 -12/sixth form (Fig 3b)
- 25th March: to correct the number of pupils in nursery units/reception (Fig 1, Table 2a, Table 2c, Table 3, Table 7)

Corrected tables have been marked with an R

## 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) 91279268 / fax (028) 91279271.

Feedback on this publication can be provided directly via the contact details above or via the website: https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/contacts/analytical-services-unit-asu

Table 1a: The number of pre-school providers with funded places, by centre type and management type, 2013/14 to 2018/19

|  |  | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Nursery Schools | Controlled | 64 | 64 | 64 | 64 | 64 | 64 |
|  | Catholic Maintained | 32 | 32 | 32 | 31 | 31 | 31 |
|  | TOTAL | 96 | 96 | 96 | 95 | 95 | 95 |
| Primary Schools with Funded Nursery Units | Controlled ${ }^{1}$ | 112 | 114 | 115 | 116 | 118 | 119 |
|  | Catholic Maintained ${ }^{2}$ | 88 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 90 | 90 |
|  | Other Maintained ${ }^{3}$ | 11 | 13 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
|  | Controlled Integrated | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|  | Grant Maintained Integrated | 14 | 14 | 15 | 15 | 16 | 16 |
|  | TOTAL | 228 | 232 | 235 | 238 | 243 | 246 |
| Primary Schools with Funded Reception Classes | Controlled | 26 | 22 | 21 | 23 | 18 | 13 |
|  | Catholic Maintained | 45 | 43 | 42 | 35 | 31 | 29 |
|  | Other Maintained | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
|  | Controlled Integrated | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
|  | Grant Maintained Integrated |  |  |  |  |  | - |
|  | TOTAL | 76 | 70 | 67 | 61 | 52 | 44 |
| Voluntary and private pre-School centres with funded places | Voluntary | 343 | 342 | 343 | 343 | 329 | 331 |
|  | Private | 53 | 59 | 62 | 56 | 54 | 55 |
|  | TOTAL | 396 | 401 | 405 | 399 | 383 | 386 |
| All Centres | GRAND TOTAL ${ }^{4}$ | 795 | 798 | 803 | 793 | 773 | 771 |

[^8]2 Includes one Irish medium school with a nursery unit in 2018/19
3 Includes one non Irish medium school with a nursery unit in 2018/19
4 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, 2013/14 to 2018/19

|  |  |  | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Nursery Schools | Controlled |  | 64 | 64 | 64 | 64 | 64 | 64 |
|  | Catholic Maintained |  | 32 | 32 | 32 | 31 | 31 | 31 |
|  | TOTAL |  | 96 | 96 | 96 | 95 | 95 | 95 |
| Primary Schools | Controlled ${ }^{1}$ |  | 370 | 370 | 368 | 366 | 365 | 365 |
|  | Catholic Maintained ${ }^{2,5}$ |  | 384 | 381 | 374 | 370 | 367 | 363 |
|  | Other Maintained | Irish Medium ${ }^{3}$ | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 |
|  |  | Other | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
|  | Controlled Integrated |  | 19 | 19 | 20 | 22 | 22 | 22 |
|  | Grant Maintained Integrated |  | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 |
|  | TOTAL |  | 825 | 822 | 814 | 809 | 805 | 801 |
| Preparatory Departments ${ }^{4}$ | Controlled |  | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
|  | Voluntary | Schools under Catholic Management | - | - | - | - | - | - |
|  |  | Schools under Other Management | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
|  | TOTAL |  | 14 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Secondary (Non Grammar) Schools | Controlled |  | 53 | 51 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 48 |
|  | Catholic Maintained ${ }^{6}$ |  | 68 | 68 | 64 | 64 | 62 | 60 |
|  | Other Maintained | Irish Medium | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
|  |  | Other | - | - | - | - | - | - |
|  | Controlled Integrated |  | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
|  | Grant Maintained Integrated |  | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
|  | TOTAL |  | 142 | 140 | 135 | 135 | 133 | 130 |
| Grammar Schools | Controlled |  | 17 | 18 | 17 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
|  | Voluntary | Schools under Catholic Management ${ }^{7}$ | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 |
|  |  | Schools under Other Management | 22 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 |
|  | TOTAL |  | 68 | 68 | 67 | 66 | 66 | 66 |
| Special Schools | TOTAL |  | 40 | 39 | 39 | 39 | 39 | 39 |
| Hospital Schools | TOTAL |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Independent Schools | TOTAL |  | 15 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| All schools | GRAND TOTAL |  | 1,187 | 1,180 | 1,166 | 1,159 | 1,153 | 1,146 |

[^9]${ }^{2}$ Includes one Irish Medium Catholic Maintained school in 2018/19
${ }^{3}$ Excludes two Irish Medium Controlled schools and one Irish Medium Catholic Maintained school in 2018/19
${ }^{4}$ These are part of grammar schools
${ }^{5}$ Includes 7 schools with Irish medium units in 2018/19
${ }^{6}$ Includes 2 schools with Irish medium units in 2018/19
${ }^{7}$ Includes 1 school with Irish medium units in 2018/19

Table 2a: Pupils by school type and management type, 2018/19 R

|  | Controlled | Catholic Maintained | Other Maintained | Controlled Integrated | Grant Maintained Integrated | Voluntary |  | Non GrantAided | Voluntary pre-school centres | $\begin{gathered} \text { Private pre } \\ \text { school } \\ \text { centres } \end{gathered}$ | EOTAS <br> Centres | Grand Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | Schools under Catholic Management | Schools under Other Management |  |  |  |  |  |
| PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION IN OTHER |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Playgroups Part-time <br> Day Nurseries Part-time | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |  | 323 806 | - | 7,142 880 |
| TOTAL | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 6,893 | 1,129 | - | 8,022 |
| NURSERY |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Nursery Schools Full-time | 2,365 | 1,565 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3,930 |
| Part-time | 1,746 | 156 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,902 |
| Nursery Classes Full-time | 2,287 | 2,376 | 317 | 81 | 133 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5,194 |
| Part-time | 2,244 | 1,523 | 156 | 22 | 415 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4,360 |
| TOTAL | 8,642 | 5,620 | 473 | 103 | 548 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 15,386 |
| PRIMARY |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Reception | 46 | 105 | - | 17 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 168 |
| Primary Schools (Year 1 - Year 7) | 79,638 | 79,251 | 3,525 | 4,291 | 6,158 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 172,863 |
| Prep. Departments (Year 1- Year 7) | 66 |  | - | - | - | - | 1,594 | - | - | - | - | 1,660 |
| TOTAL | 79,750 | 79,356 | 3,525 | 4,308 | 6,158 | - | 1,594 | - | - | - | - | 174,691 |
| SECONDARY (Year 8 - Year 14) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Secondary (Non Grammar) | 28,483 | 37,588 | 799 | 2,770 | 9,737 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 79,377 |
| Grammar | 14,015 | - | - | - | - | 28,414 | 20,433 | - | - | - | - | 62,862 |
| TOTAL | 42,498 | 37,588 | 799 | 2,770 | 9,737 | 28,414 | 20,433 | - | - | - | - | 142,239 |
| SPECIAL | 5,598 | 282 | 79 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5,959 |
| Educated off site but not at school (EOTAS) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 74 | 74 |
| INDEPENDENT | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 611 | - | - | - | 611 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 136,488 | 122,846 | 4,876 | 7,181 | 16,443 | 28,414 | 22,027 | 611 | 6,893 | 1,129 | 74 | 346,982 |

Note:
 Enrolments including these dual registered pupils are 5,989 for special schools and 566 for EOTAS centres. These additional pupils have been counted in another setting in the table above
2. Previous bulletins provided enrolments in hospital schools. These pupils have been counted in their "main" school. There were 59 enrolled on Census day this year.

Table 2b: Pupils in Irish-medium education, 2013/14 to 2018/19

|  |  | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Voluntary and private pre-schools - funded places |  | 476 | 488 | 481 | 485 | 473 | 470 |
| Nursery Classes in Irish-medium Schools | Full-time | 312 | 315 | 354 | 318 | 319 | 366 |
|  | Part-time | - | 52 | 26 | 76 | 105 | 103 |
| Nursery Classes in Irish-medium units | Full-time | 26 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 26 | 26 |
|  | Part-time | - | - | - | - | - |  |
| TOTAL |  | 814 | 885 | 891 | 909 | 923 | 965 |
| PRIMARY |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary Schools (Year 1-Year 7) | schools | 2,570 | 2,738 | 2,906 | 3,103 | 3,324 | 3,473 |
|  | units | 686 | 720 | 764 | 802 | 832 | 878 |
| TOTAL |  | 3,256 | 3,458 | 3,670 | 3,905 | 4,156 | 4,351 |
| POST-PRIMARY (Year 8 - Year 14) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Post-primary Schools | schools | 564 | 581 | 620 | 694 | 734 | 799 |
|  | units | 267 | 332 | 344 | 355 | 371 | 404 |
| TOTAL |  | 831 | 913 | 964 | 1,049 | 1,105 | 1,203 |
| INDEPENDENT |  | 15 | - | - | - | - | - |
| GRAND TOTAL |  | 4,916 | 5,256 | 5,525 | 5,863 | 6,184 | 6,519 |

Note:

1. Figures relate to funded Irish medium provision only

## Table 2c: Pupils in Integrated education ${ }^{\mathbf{1}}$, 2013/14 to 2018/19 R



Note:

1. Figures include children attending Controlled Integrated schools and Grant Maintained Integrated Schools.
2. Sixth form figures are based solely on pupils studying A Level or equivalent qualifications

Table 3: Pupils entitled to Free School Meals ${ }^{1}$ by school type and management type, 2018/19 R

| Numbers and percentages ${ }^{2}$ |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Number | Enrolment | Percentage |
| Voluntary and Private Voluntary | 685 | 6,893 | 9.9 |
| Pre-School Centres Private | 43 | 1,129 | 3.8 |
| (funded places only) <br> TOTAL | 728 | 8,022 | 9.1 |
| Nursery Schools Controlled | 1,003 | 2,365 | 42.4 |
| Full-time Catholic Maintained | 795 | 1,565 | 50.8 |
| TOTAL | 1,798 | 3,930 | 45.8 |
| Nursery Schools Controlled | 190 | 1,746 | 10.9 |
| Part-time Catholic Maintained | 9 | 156 | 5.8 |
| TOTAL | 199 | 1,902 | 10.5 |
| Nursery Classes Controlled | 882 | 2,287 | 38.6 |
| Full-time Catholic Maintained | 958 | 2,376 | 40.3 |
| Other Maintained | 135 | 317 | 42.6 |
| Controlled Integrated | 42 | 81 | 51.9 |
| Grant Maintained Integrated | 58 | 133 | 43.6 |
| TOTAL | 2,075 | 5,194 | 39.9 |
| Nursery Classes Controlled | 238 | 2,244 | 10.6 |
| Part-time Catholic Maintained | 175 | 1,523 | 11.5 |
| Other Maintained | 24 | 156 | 15.4 |
| Controlled Integrated | 5 | 22 | 22.7 |
| Grant Maintained Integrated | 36 | 415 | 8.7 |
| TOTAL | 478 | 4,360 | 11.0 |
| Reception pupils ${ }^{3}$ TOTAL | 23 | 168 | 13.7 |
| TOTAL PRE-SCHOOL | 5,301 | 23,576 | 22.5 |
| Primary Schools Controlled | 21,980 | 79,638 | 27.6 |
| (Year 1-Year 7) Catholic Maintained | 25,256 | 79,251 | 31.9 |
| Other Maintained - Irish Medium | 1,301 | 3,164 | 41.1 |
| Other Maintained - Other | 44 | 361 | 12.2 |
| Controlled Integrated | 1,355 | 4,291 | 31.6 |
| Grant Maintained Integrated | 1,576 | 6,158 | 25.6 |
| TOTAL | 51,512 | 172,863 | 29.8 |
| Prep. Departments ${ }^{3}$ TOTAL | 29 | 1,660 | 1.7 |
| ALL PRIMARY AND PREP YEAR 1-7 PUPILS | 51,541 | 174,523 | 29.5 |
| Secondary Controlled | 10,057 | 28,483 | 35.3 |
| (Non Grammar) Catholic Maintained | 15,819 | 37,588 | 42.1 |
| Schools Other Maintained - Irish Medium | 457 | 799 | 57.2 |
| Controlled Integrated | 1,078 | 2,770 | 38.9 |
| Grant Maintained Integrated | 3,669 | 9,737 | 37.7 |
| TOTAL | 31,080 | 79,377 | 39.2 |
| Grammar Schools Controlled | 1,746 | 14,015 | 12.5 |
| Voluntary - Schools under Catholic Management | 1,990 | 20,433 | 9.7 |
| Voluntary - Schools under Other Management | 5,112 | 28,414 | 18.0 |
| TOTAL | 8,848 | 62,862 | 14.1 |
| ALL POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS | 39,928 | 142,239 | 28.1 |
| ALL PRIMARY AND POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS | 91,469 | 316,762 | 28.9 |
| ALL SPECIAL SCHOOLS | 3,100 | 5,959 | 52.0 |
| EOTAS Centres | 24 | 74 | 32.4 |
| ALL NURSERY, PRIMARY, POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS, SPECIAL SCHOOLS | 99,142 | 338,275 | 29.3 |
| ALL NURSERY, PRIMARY, POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS, SPECIAL SCHOOLS and EOTAS Centres ${ }^{5}$ | 99,166 | 338,349 | 29.3 |

[^10]Table 4: Average class size ${ }^{1,2,3,4}$ by school type and management type, 2018/19

|  |  |  | Average number of pupils per class |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Nursery Schools | Controlled |  | 26 |
|  | Catholic Maintained |  | 26 |
|  | TOTAL |  | 26 |
| Nursery Classes | Controlled ${ }^{5}$ |  | 26 |
|  | Catholic Maintained ${ }^{6}$ |  | 26 |
|  | Other Maintained | Irish Medium | 26 |
|  |  | Other | 27 |
|  | Controlled Integrated |  | 23 |
|  | Grant Maintained Integrated |  | 26 |
|  | TOTAL |  | 26 |
| Primary Schools | Controlled ${ }^{7}$ |  | 26 |
| (Year 1 - Year 7) | Catholic Maintained ${ }^{6}$ |  | 25 |
|  | Other Maintained | Irish Medium ${ }^{8}$ | 22 |
|  |  | Other | 23 |
|  | Controlled Integrated |  | 25 |
|  | Grant Maintained Integrated |  | 27 |
|  | TOTAL |  | 25 |
| Preparatory Departments | Controlled |  | 11 |
| (Year 1 - Year 7) | Voluntary | Schools under Catholic Management | - |
|  |  | Schools under Other Management | 20 |
|  | TOTAL |  | 20 |

[^11]Table 5: Religion of pupils by school type and management type, 2018/19 Nursery, Primary, Post Primary and Special Schools

|  |  | Protestant | Catholic | Other <br> Christian/Non Christian/ No religion/Not recorded | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Voluntary and Private Pre-School Centres (funded children only) | Voluntary | 1,783 | 3,349 | 1,761 | 6,893 |
|  | Private | 373 | 323 | 433 | 1,129 |
|  | TOTAL | 2,156 | 3,672 | 2,194 | 8,022 |
| Nursery Schools | Controlled | 1,833 | 1,234 | 1,044 | 4,111 |
|  | Catholic Maintained | 32 | 1,475 | 214 | 1,721 |
|  | TOTAL | 1,865 | 2,709 | 1,258 | 5,832 |
| Nursery Classes \& | Controlled | 2,286 | 556 | 1,735 | 4,577 |
| Reception | Catholic Maintained | 62 | 3,682 | 260 | 4,004 |
|  | Other Maintained | 39 | 386 | 48 | 473 |
|  | Controlled Integrated | 33 | 48 | 39 | 120 |
|  | Grant Maintained Integrated | 154 | 211 | 183 | 548 |
|  | TOTAL | 2,574 | 4,883 | 2,265 | 9,722 |
| Primary Schools (Year 1 - Year 7) | Controlled | 49,936 | 6,278 | 23,424 | 79,638 |
|  | Catholic Maintained | 637 | 75,330 | 3,284 | 79,251 |
|  | Other Maintained | 264 | 2,933 | 328 | 3,525 |
|  | Controlled Integrated | 1,569 | 1,189 | 1,533 | 4,291 |
|  | Grant Maintained Integrated | 1,825 | 2,556 | 1,777 | 6,158 |
|  | TOTAL | 54,231 | 88,286 | 30,346 | 172,863 |
| Prep. Departments (Year 1 - Year 7) | Controlled | 35 | * | \# | 66 |
|  | Voluntary | 696 | \# | \# | 1,594 |
|  | TOTAL | 731 | 228 | 701 | 1,660 |
| Secondary ( Non Grammar) Schools | Controlled | 22,028 | 1,131 | 5,324 | 28,483 |
|  | Catholic Maintained | \# | 35,597 | \# | 37,588 |
|  | Other Maintained | * | 741 | \# | 799 |
|  | Controlled Integrated | 1,600 | 422 | 748 | 2,770 |
|  | Grant Maintained Integrated | 3,796 | 3,908 | 2,033 | 9,737 |
|  | TOTAL | 28,026 | 41,799 | 9,552 | 79,377 |
| Grammar Schools (Year 8 - Year 14) | Controlled | 9,723 | 1,404 | 2,888 | 14,015 |
|  | Voluntary - Schools under Catholic Management | 360 | 27,295 | 759 | 28,414 |
|  | Voluntary - Schools under Other Management | 12,528 | 2,786 | 5,119 | 20,433 |
|  | TOTAL | 22,611 | 31,485 | 8,766 | 62,862 |
| Special Schools | Controlled | 2,063 | 2,265 | 1,270 | 5,598 |
|  | Catholic Maintained | 8 | 260 | 14 | 282 |
|  | Other Maintained | 25 | 30 | 24 | 79 |
|  | TOTAL | 2,096 | 2,555 | 1,308 | 5,959 |
| EOTAS Centres |  | 24 | 32 | 18 | 74 |
| ALL FUNDED PRE-SCHOOL, NURSERY, PRIMARY, POST-PRIMARY AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS |  | 114,290 | 175,617 | 56,390 | 346,297 |
| ALL FUNDED PRE-SCHOOL, NURSERY, PRIMARY, POST-PRIMARY, SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND EOTAS CENTRES |  | 114,314 | 175,649 | 56,408 | 346,371 |

* Fewer than 5 cases.
\# Number suppressed.
${ }^{\text {1. Enrolments for special schools and EOTAS centres relate those where pupils are single registered to the school, or are dual registered and the special }}$ school/EOTAS centre is recorded as the main school.

Table 6a: Ethnicity of pupils by school type, 2018/19 Funded pre-school education, 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 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Voluntary and Private Pre-School Centres (funded children only) | 7,689 | 17 | \# | 26 | \# | 23 | \# | \# | 8,022 |
| Nursery Schools | 5,560 | 22 | 18 | 24 | 7 | 34 | 61 | 106 | 5,832 |
| Nursery Classes \& Reception | 9,195 | 44 | 24 | 60 | 17 | 68 | 121 | 193 | 9,722 |
| Primary Schools \& Prep. Departments (Year 1 Year 7) | 165,989 | 675 | 667 | 950 | 203 | 961 | 2,197 | 2,881 | 174,523 |
| Secondary (Non Grammar) Schools | 76,228 | 167 | 262 | 129 | 59 | 587 | 1,054 | 891 | 79,377 |
| Grammar Schools (Year 8 - Year 14) | 59,981 | 462 | 12 | 537 | 86 | 205 | 780 | 799 | 62,862 |
| Special Schools | 5,655 | 22 | 62 | 27 | 6 | 30 | 74 | 83 | 5,959 |
| EOTAS Centres | 62 | - | * | - | * | 6 | * | * | 74 |
| ALL FUNDED PRE-SCHOOL, NURSERY, PRIMARY, POST-PRIMARY AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS | 330,297 | 1,409 | 1,058 | 1,753 | 388 | 1,908 | 4,421 | 5,063 | 346,297 |
| ALL FUNDED PRE-SCHOOL, NURSERY, PRIMARY, POST-PRIMARY, SPECIAL SCHOOLS and EOTAS Centres | 330,359 | 1,409 | 1,059 | 1,753 | 389 | 1,914 | 4,424 | 5,064 | 346,371 |

* Fewer than 5 cases.
\# Number suppressed.
${ }^{1}$. Enrolments for special schools and EOTAS centres relate those where pupils are single registered to the school, or are dual registered and the special school/EOTAS centre is recorded as the main school.

Table 6b: Newcomer pupils by school type, 2013/14 to 2018/19
Nursery, Primary, Post Primary and Special Schools

|  | 2013/14 |  | 2014/15 |  | 2015/16 |  | 2016/17 |  | 2017/18 |  | 2018/19 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | n | \% | n | \% | n | \% | n | \% | n | \% | n | \% |
| Voluntary and Private Pre-School Centres (funded children only) | 341 | 4.1\% | 335 | 3.9\% | 364 | 4.2\% | 356 | 4.3\% | 337 | 4.2\% | 332 | 4.1\% |
| Nursery Schools | 330 | 5.6\% | 323 | 5.5\% | 382 | 6.5\% | 409 | 7.0\% | 452 | 7.7\% | 439 | 7.5\% |
| Nursery Classes \& Reception | 570 | 6.1\% | 598 | 6.3\% | 654 | 6.8\% | 691 | 7.1\% | 699 | 7.2\% | 736 | 7.6\% |
| Primary Schools \& Prep. Departments (Year 1 - Year 7) | 6,854 | 4.2\% | 8,080 | 4.9\% | 8,853 | 5.2\% | 9,703 | 5.7\% | 10,724 | 6.2\% | 11,435 | 6.6\% |
| Secondary (Non Grammar) Schools | 2,288 | 2.8\% | 2,219 | 2.8\% | 2,279 | 2.9\% | 2,381 | 3.1\% | 2,562 | 3.3\% | 2,751 | 3.5\% |
| Grammar Schools (Year 8 - Year 14) | 213 | 0.3\% | 232 | 0.4\% | 271 | 0.4\% | 262 | 0.4\% | 277 | 0.4\% | 368 | 0.6\% |
| Special Schools | 101 | 2.1\% | 113 | 2.2\% | 129 | 2.5\% | 141 | 2.6\% | 169 | 2.9\% | 177 | 3.0\% |
| EOTAS Centres | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |  | 0.0\% | - | 0.0\% |
| ALL FUNDED PRE-SCHOOL, NURSERY, PRIMARY, POST-PRIMARY, SPECIAL SCHOOLS and EOTAS CENTRES | 10,697 | 3.2\% | 11,900 | 3.5\% | 12,932 | 3.8\% | 13,943 | 4.1\% | 15,220 | 4.4\% | 16,238 | 4.7\% |

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 lrish. 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.
${ }^{2}$. Enrolments for special schools and EOTAS centres relate those where pupils are single registered to the school, or are dual registered and the special school/EOTAS centre is recorded as the main school.

Table 7: Percentage of children with Special Education Needs ${ }^{1}$ at schools and funded pre-school education centres in 2018/19 R


1. Children with Special Education Needs are assessed under the 5 stages of the SEN Code of Practice.
2. Enrolments for special schools and EOTAS centres relate those where pupils are single registered to the school, or are dual registered and the special school/EOTAS centre is recorded as the main school.
3. Special needs data is not collected in respect of Independent schools.

[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-research/statistics

[^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 preschool provision which meets specified standards' and proposed that' no new reception provision in primary schools (i.e. 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 Programme in 1998. ${ }^{3}$ This is calculated by dividing the number of pupils aged 3 in preschool education according to the NI school census $(22,715)$ by the number of children aged 3 in the 2018 population projections $(24,758)$ (the most recent available at time of publication): https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/NPP16-ppp-sya 0.xls

[^2]:    ${ }^{4}$ https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/NI sya $7117 . x$ xsx and https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/NPP16-ppp-sya 0.xls

[^3]:    ${ }^{5}$ St Joseph's College, Coleraine has been included in this figure, however, this school is on a phased closure; there are only 7 pupils enrolled in year 14 this academic year.

[^4]:    ${ }^{6}$ A statement of special educational needs is issued to children with the most severe needs. It sets out the child's needs and the help they should have.

[^5]:    ${ }^{7}$ Figures relate to primary (years 1-7) and post-primary pupils only

[^6]:    ${ }^{8}$ https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/school-milk-and-meals-background
    ${ }^{9}$ Eligibility under 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.

[^7]:    ${ }^{10}$ https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/NI NetMig sya 0117.xlsx

[^8]:    1 Includes two Irish medium schools with a nursery unit in 2018/19

[^9]:    ${ }^{1}$ Includes one Irish Medium Controlled school in 2018/19

[^10]:    ${ }^{1}$ Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment Support Allowance where an award of income-based jobseekers allowance has been converted and the amount of the award remains unchanged; and Universal Credit are some 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.
    ${ }^{2}$ Percentages express the number of children in funded places whose parents were in receipt of Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment Support Allowance where an award of income-based job-seekers allowance has been converted and the amount of the award remains unchanged; and Universal Credit at the time of first application for admission, as a proportion of all children in funded places. Thus, for example, $42.4 \%$ of children in full-time places in controlled nursery schools had parents in receipt of these benefits.
    ${ }^{3}$ Due to the small numbers when analysing by management type, only the total has been provided.
    ${ }^{\text {4. }}$ Enrolments for special schools and EOTAS centres relate those where pupils are single registered to the school, or are dual registered and the special school/EOTAS centre is recorded as the main school.
    ${ }^{5}$ Overall total excludes voluntary and private pre-school centres

[^11]:    ${ }^{1}$. 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. Any reception pupils in primary classes are excluded.
    4. Any primary school classes that are solely reception have been excluded.
    ${ }^{5}$. Includes one Irish medium school.
    6. Includes one Irish medium school.
    7. Includes two Irish medium schools.
    ${ }^{8}$ Excludes two Controlled and one Catholic maintained Irish medium school.

