



Department of
Education

www.education-ni.gov.uk

Data Compendium

Statistical Data and Survey Resources

Produced by Statistics and Research Team, Department of Education

Issue No 1, October 2025



Education & Training



Northern Ireland
Statistics and Research Agency

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1 Introduction and Overview

Purpose of the Compendium

This compendium provides an overview of the key statistical datasets produced by the Department of Education (DE), as well as several research surveys that provide information relevant to education policy in Northern Ireland. It is designed to support evidence-based decision making by making data more accessible and understandable to a wide audience, including policymakers, researchers, educators, and members of the public.

Where available, infographics offer quick insights into trends and patterns, while dataset descriptions and variable/topic lists support deeper exploration. By bringing this information together in one place, the compendium promotes transparency, encourages collaboration, and supports informed discussion around education policy and practice.

Scope of the Compendium

The compendium covers a range of data collected by the DE Statistics and Research Team and several research surveys that provide information relevant to education policy in Northern Ireland. Where available, the following information is provided – dataset descriptions, key variables/topics, infographics, links to statistical bulletins/research websites. The Compendium begins by showcasing any available infographics – visual representations of key data designed to provide a quick and intuitive understanding of trends and insights.

How to use the Compendium

To support ease of use, the compendium starts with two summary tables outlining the available datasets and surveys, including links to more detailed information. These are followed by infographics that highlight important data and trends. Annexes provide further detail on each dataset or survey, including variable/topic lists and links to relevant publications for deeper analysis.

Future updates

This compendium will be updated annually to reflect the latest data releases, changes to existing datasets, and evolving policy priorities. Feedback is welcome to help improve the usefulness and relevance of this resource. Please send comments or suggestions to statistics@education-ni.gov.uk

2 Summary of Key Datasets

Dataset name	Frequency of update	Link to infographic	Link to Detailed description and variable list	Link to latest statistical bulletin
School Census (Pupil Enrolments, Attendance and Exams)	Annual	Infographic 1 – School Census Weblink: Education Data Infographics 2024/25 Department of Education	Annex 1 DE School Census (Pupil Enrolments, Attendance and Exams)	Annual enrolments at schools and in funded pre-school education in Northern Ireland 2024/25
School Meals Uptake	Annual	Infographic 2 – School Meals Uptake Weblink: School Meals 2024-25 Infographic.pdf (education-ni.gov.uk)	Annex 2 School Meals (Uptake)	School Meals in Northern Ireland 2024-25 (education-ni.gov.uk)
Summary of Annual Examination Results (SAER)	Annual	Infographic 3 – Summary of Annual Examination Results (SAER) Weblink: Year 12 and Year 14 Examination Performance at Post-Primary Schools in Northern Ireland 2023-24-Infographic.PDF (education-ni.gov.uk)	Annex 3 Summary of Annual Examination Results (SAER)	Year 12 and Year 14 Examination Performance at Post-Primary Schools in Northern Ireland 2023-24 (education-ni.gov.uk)

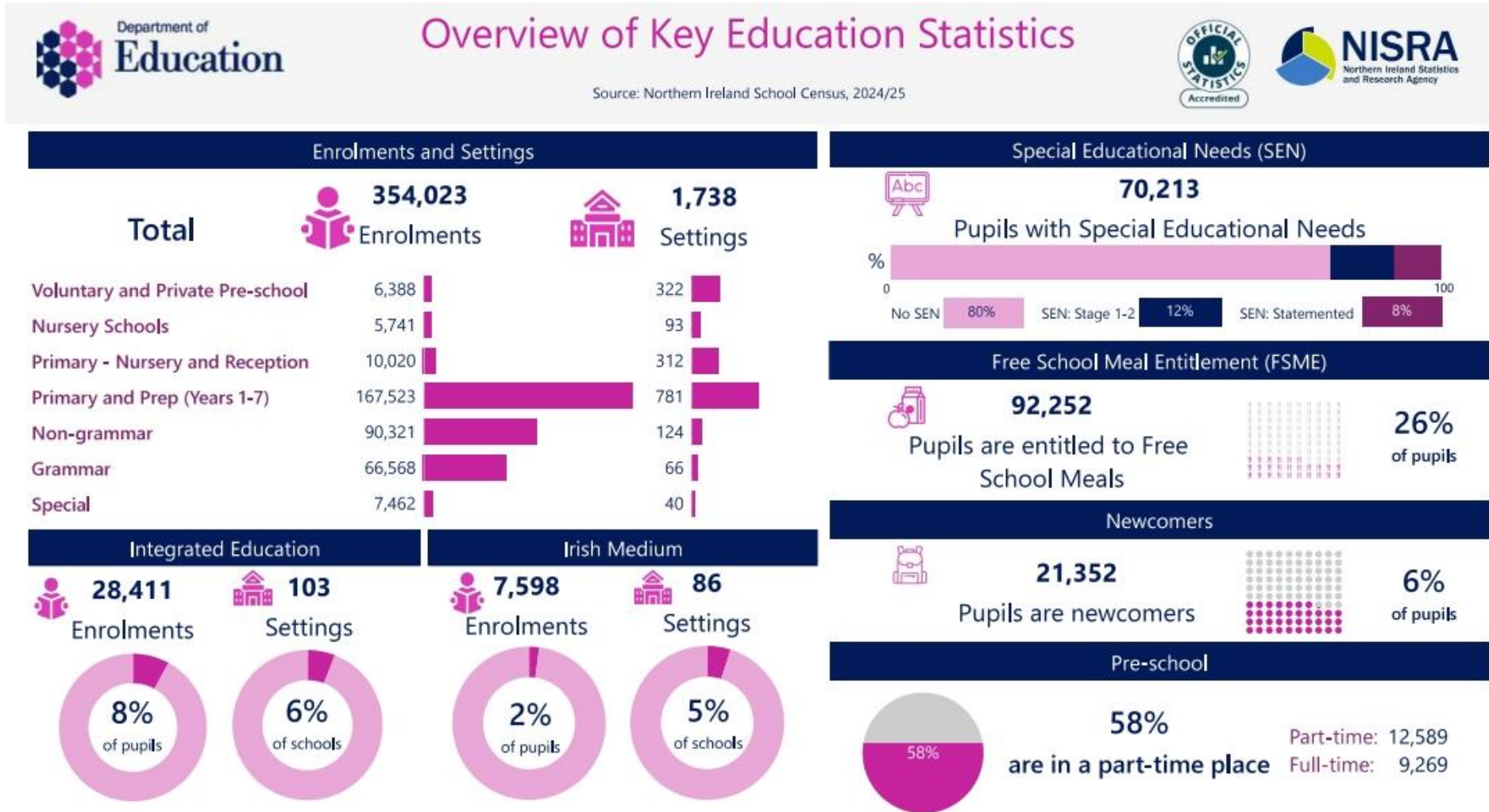
School Leavers	Annual	Infographic 4 – School Leavers Survey Weblink Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers - Infographic 2023-24.pdf	Annex 4 School Leavers Survey	Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers - 2023-24.pdf
Teacher Numbers	Annual	Infographic 5 – Education Workforce Weblink: Teacher-Workforce-Statistics-202425.pdf (education-ni.gov.uk)	Annex 5 Teacher Numbers	Teacher workforce statistics in grant-aided schools in Northern Ireland, 2024/25 (nisra.gov.uk)
Support Staff (Manual and Non-Manual) for VG and GMI schools	Annual	Not available	Annex 6 Support Staff (Manual and Non-Manual) for VG and GMI schools	Not available
Teacher Vacancies	Annual	Infographic 6 – Education Workforce Weblink: Teacher-vacancy-sickness-absence-and-substitution-costs-20245.pdf (education-ni.gov.uk)	Annex 7 Teacher Vacancy Return	Teacher vacancies, sickness absence and substitution statistics in grant-aided schools in Northern Ireland, 2024/25 (nisra.gov.uk)
Suspensions and Expulsions	Annual	Not available	Annex 8 Suspensions and expulsions data	Pupil Suspensions and Expulsions in Northern Ireland 2022 23 Official Statistics in Development.pdf (education-ni.gov.uk)

3 Summary of Key Surveys

Survey name	Frequency of update	Target population	Link to list of topics	Link to reports
Young Life and Times (YLT)	Annual	16 year olds	Annex 9	Young Life and Times Homepage (ark.ac.uk)
Kids Life and Times (KLT)	Annual	P7 pupils	Annex 10	Kids' Life and Times- Northern Ireland: (ark.ac.uk)
Young People's Behaviour and Attitudes (YPBAS)	Every three years	11-16 year olds pupils	Annex 11	Young Persons' Behaviour & Attitudes Survey Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk)
Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT)	Annual	Adults aged 18+	Annex 12	NILT ARK - Access Research Knowledge
Continuous Household Survey (CHS)	Annual	Households and Individual adults	Annex 13	Continuous Household Survey Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk)
School Omnibus	Every two years	Grant aided primary, post-primary and special schools and pre-school settings	Annex 14	Survey reports Department of Education (education-ni.gov.uk)
The Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS)	Every five years	Year 6 pupils	Annex 15	Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) Department of Education (education-ni.gov.uk)
The Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)	Every four years	Year 6 pupils	Annex 16	Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) Department of Education (education-ni.gov.uk)

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)	Every three years	15-year old pupils	Annex 17	Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) Department of Education (education-ni.gov.uk)
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4 Infographics



Free School Meal Entitlement (FSME)



90,935

Total Pupils entitled to Free School Meals*

*excludes Voluntary and Private Preschools



26%
of pupils*

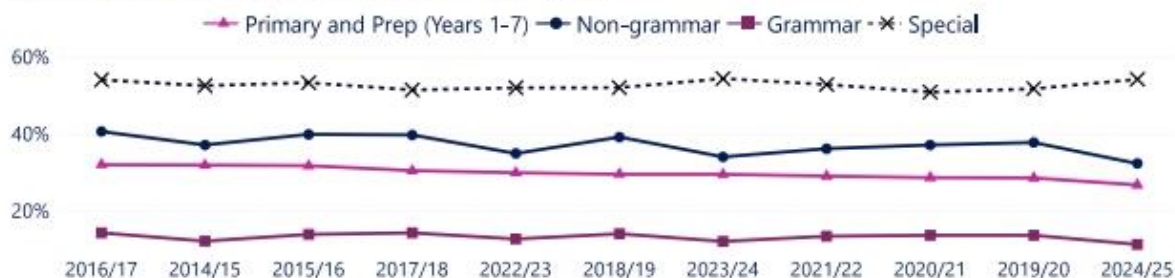
Information

Figures for pupils in nursery schools/units and pre-schools also includes parents who are in receipt of Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment Support Allowance where an award of income-based Jobseeker's Allowance has been converted and the amount of the award remains unchanged; and Universal Credit. These are some of the benefits which determine eligibility for free school meals.

Find out more at the [Education Authority Website](#).

Voluntary and Private Pre-school	1,317	21%
Nursery Schools	2,390	42%
Primary - Nursery and Reception	3,040	30%
Primary and Prep (Years 1-7)	44,804	27%
Non-grammar	29,182	32%
Grammar	7,476	11%
Special	4,043	54%

Free School Meal Entitlement Over Time

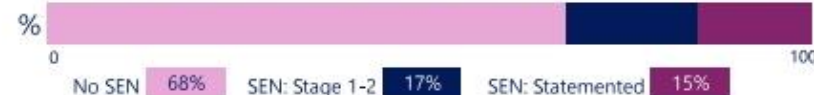


Special Educational Needs (SEN)



29,618

pupils entitled to FSM have special educational needs



Irish Medium



2,406

pupils entitled to FSM are in Irish Medium Education

32%

of pupils in Irish Medium Education are entitled to FSM

25%

of pupils in English Medium Education are entitled to FSM

Integrated Education



8,240

pupils entitled to FSM are in Integrated Education

29%

of pupils in Integrated schools are entitled to FSM

25%

of pupils in Non Integrated schools are entitled to FSM

Newcomers



5,125

newcomers are entitled to FSM

25%

of newcomer pupils are entitled to FSM

26%

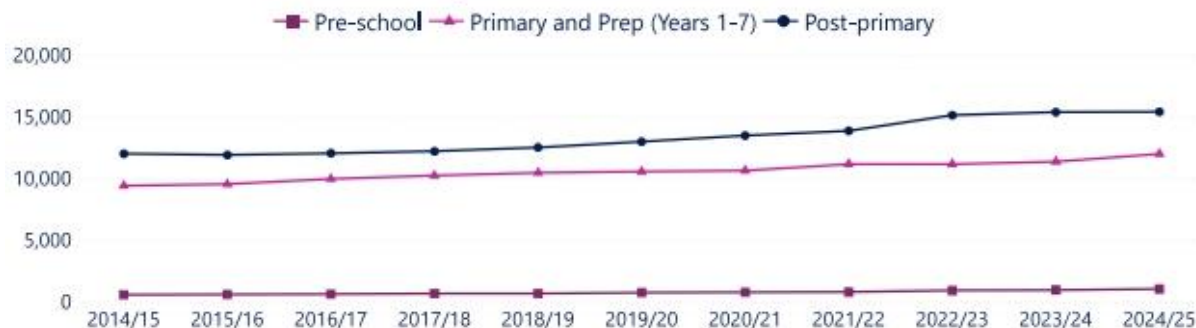
of Non-newcomer pupils are entitled to FSM

Enrolments and Settings



Integrated Education means the education together, in an integrated school, of -
 (a) those of different cultures and religious beliefs and of none, including reasonable numbers of both Protestant and Catholic children or young persons;
 (b) those who are experiencing socio-economic deprivation and those who are not; and
 (c) those of different abilities.

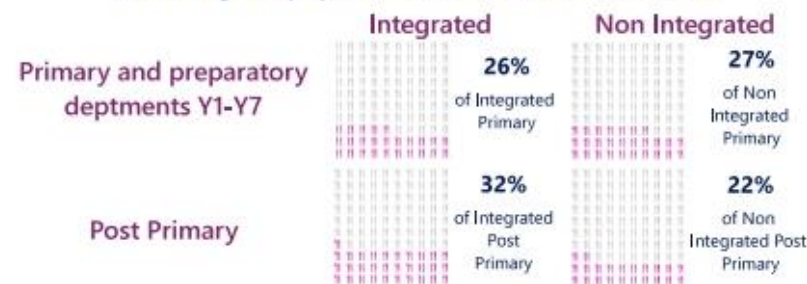
Integrated Education Over Time



Free School Meal Entitlement (FSME)

8,240 pupils in Integrated Education are entitled to Free School Meals

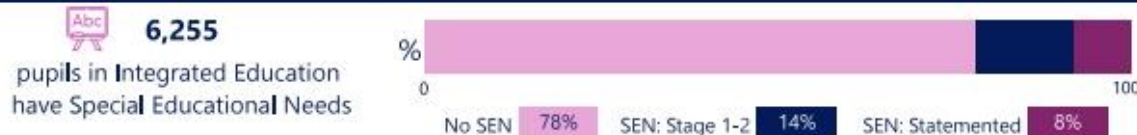
Percentage of pupils entitled to Free School Meals



Religion - Integrated and Non Integrated Pupils



Special Educational Needs (SEN)



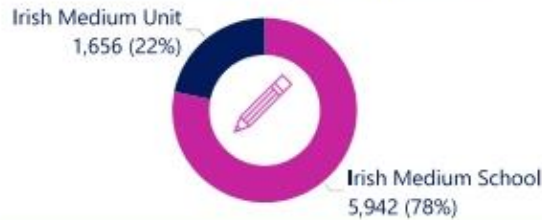
Newcomers



Overview



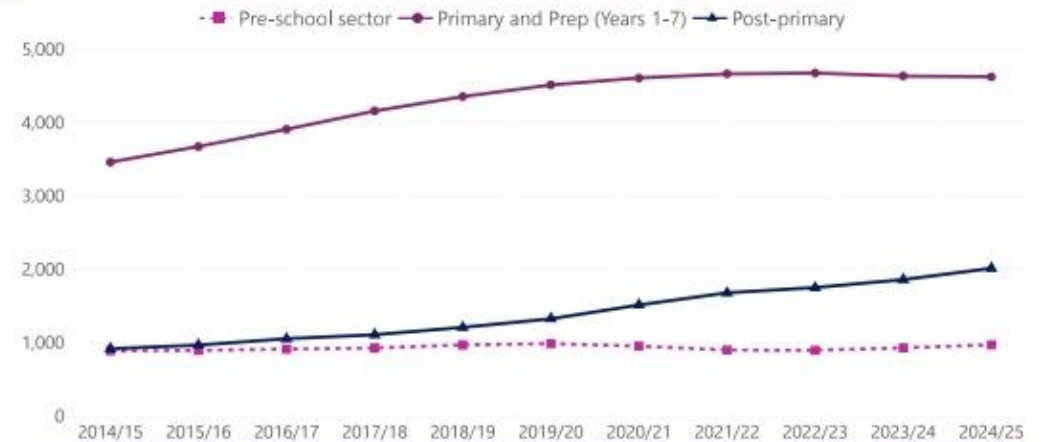
Irish Medium Pupil Distribution



Irish Medium Education

Irish-medium education is education provided in an Irish speaking school or unit. The Department of Education has a duty to encourage and facilitate the development of Irish-medium education.

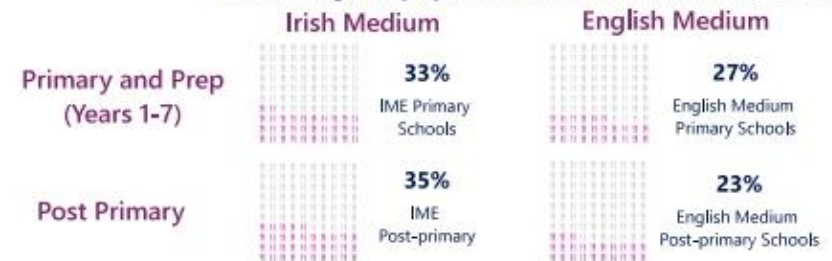
Pupils in Irish Medium Education



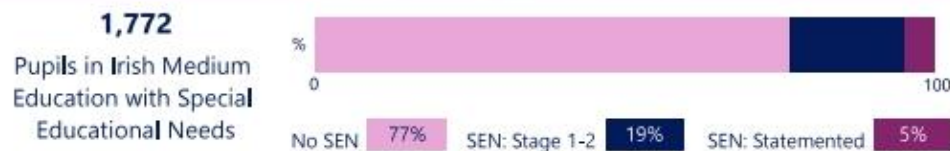
Free School Meal Entitlement (FSME)

2,406 Irish Medium pupils entitled to Free School Meals


Percentage of pupils entitled to Free School Meals



Special Educational Needs (SEN)



Enrolments

 Total Newcomers	21,352	6%
Voluntary and Private Pre-school	182	3%
Nursery Schools	475	8%
Primary - Nursery and Reception	858	9%
Primary and Prep (Years 1-7)	14,613	9%
Non-grammar	4,353	5%
Grammar	662	1%
Special	209	3%

Information

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. It does not refer to indigenous pupils who choose to attend an Irish medium school.

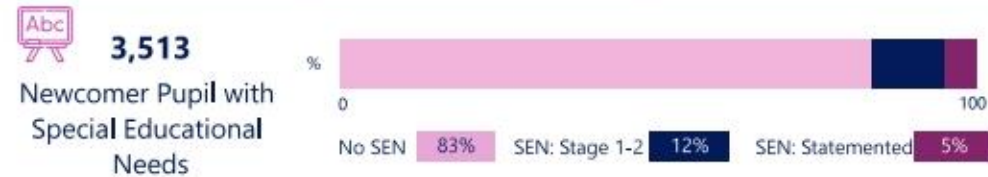
Newcomer pupils over time



Top 5 Languages spoken by Newcomers



Special Educational Needs (SEN)



Free School Meal Entitlement (FSME)



Overview

Total **70,213** Pupils with Special Educational Needs



Pupils with a statement of special educational needs i.e. sets out the child's needs and the support they should have

29,488
8%

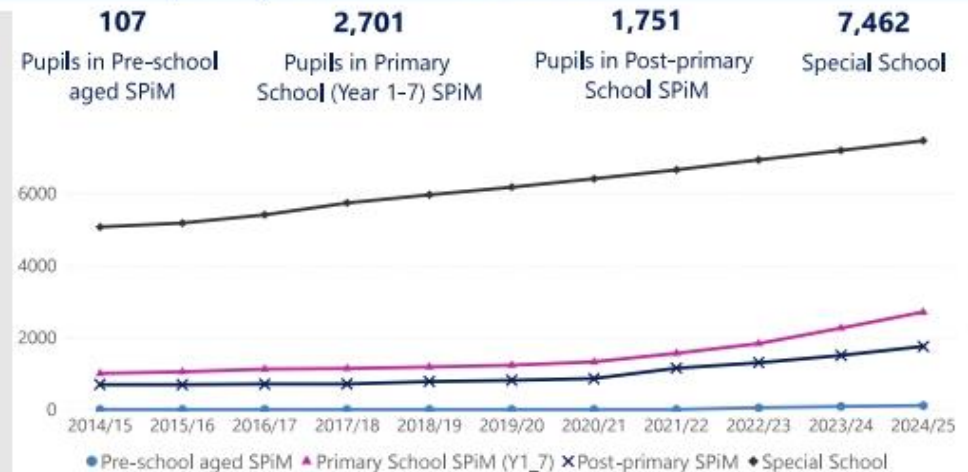
Pupils with special educational needs but not a statement i.e. typically less severe needs

40,725
12%

Specialist Provision in Mainstream (SPiM; previously known as 'Learning Support Centres') refers to classes/units in mainstream schools that have been approved by the Education Authority for the purpose of making educational provision for pupils with a statement of special educational needs.

From 2022/23, Specialist Provision was extended to pre-school aged pupils.

Pupils in Special Educational Provision

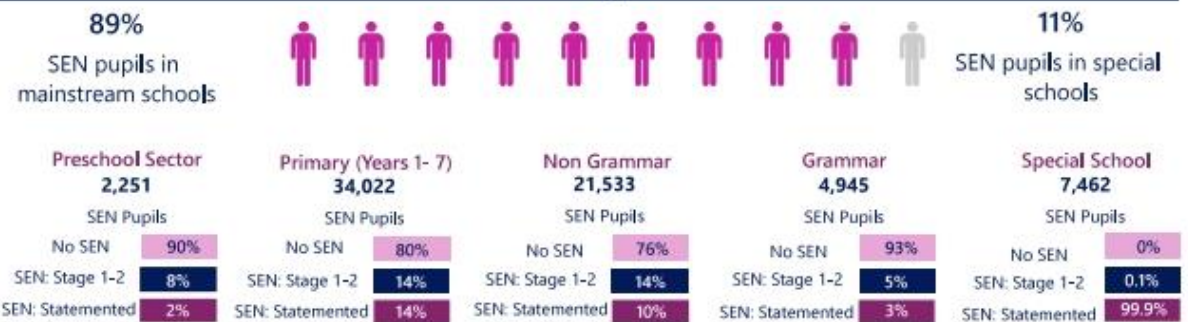


Special Educational Needs (SEN) Type

Most Frequent Special Educational Need Types

Cognition and Learning - language, literacy, mathematics, numeracy	29,441
Social, Behavioural, Emotional and Wellbeing	21,128
Communication and Social Interaction Difficulties	13,986
Speech, Language and Communication Needs	12,031
Dyslexia or Specific Learning Difficulty - Language/Literacy	7,673

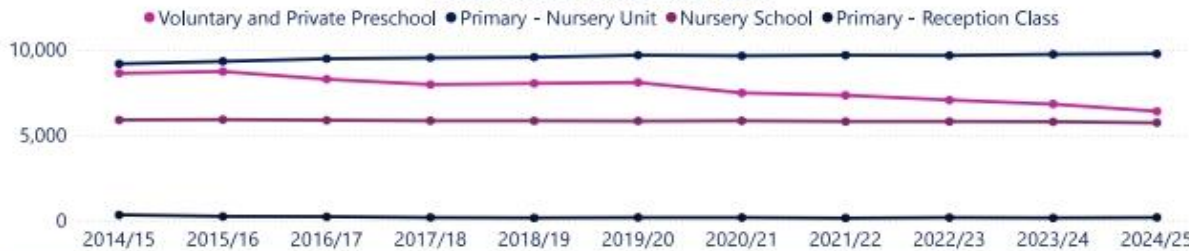
School Type



Enrolments and Settings



Total enrolments over time



Special Educational Needs (SEN)



Irish Medium



Population in Pre-school

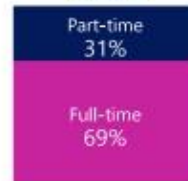
93% of all three year olds are in funded pre-school

58% are in a part-time place
Part-time: 12,589
Full-time: 9,453

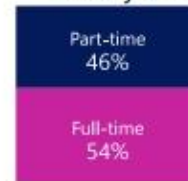
Voluntary & Private Pre-school



Nursery School



Primary - Nursery Unit



Free School Meal Entitlement (FSME)

6,747 Pupils are entitled to Free School Meals



School Meals in Northern Ireland, 2024/25



Published date: 5 June 2025

Official Statistics



Uptake of School Meals (Free and Paid)

School meal uptake data relates to a reference date of 11 October 2024

209,927 school meals were provided for children in Northern Ireland



This is **66.8%** of all pupil lunches



137,640 (65.6%) of school meals provided were paid meals



72,287 (34.4%) of school meals provided were free meals



106,930 (33.7%) of pupil lunches were not provided by the school

- this can include pupils bringing their own food into school

Entitlement to Free School Meals (FSME)

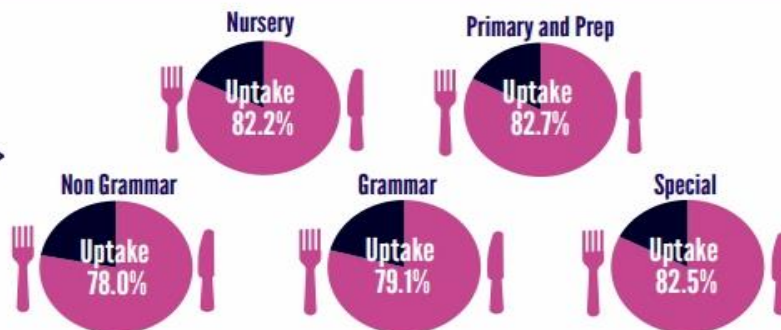
Change from 2023/24 ↓ ↑

Across all grant-aided schools, **90,935** (26.2%) pupils were entitled to free school meals, a decrease of 4,031 on 2023/24 ↓

Nursery		41.6%	↑	Grammar		11.2%	↓
Primary and Prep		26.9%	↓	Special		54.2%	↓
Non Grammar		32.3%	↓	Total		26.2%	↓

Uptake of Free School Meals

72,287
free school meals
were taken by FSME pupils
Uptake 80.8%



Source: DE; NI education school meals uptake data collection, 2024/25

Contact: Mealcensus@education-ni.gov.uk

Infographic 3 – Summary of Annual Examination Results (SAER)

Year 12 and Year 14 Examination Performance at Post-Primary Schools in Northern Ireland 2023/24

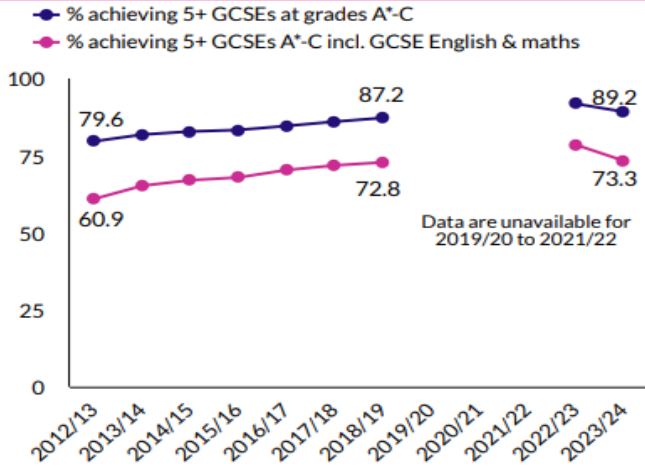


Department of Education
Northern Ireland
2023/24

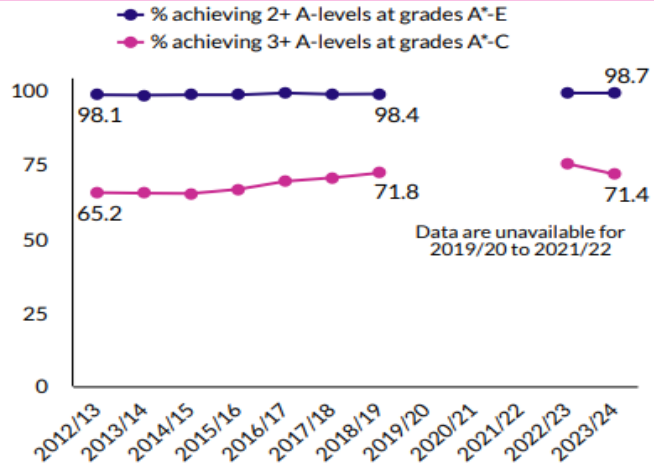


Note: Caution is required if drawing conclusions regarding changes in performance with 2022/23. Summer 2024 saw the first full series of CCEA examinations following a period of alternative awarding and a stepped return to pre-pandemic arrangements. In addition, in 2022/23, some data were not made available due to ongoing Action Short of Strike in schools. Changes, compared with 2022/23, may be due to a combination of these factors rather than reflecting changes in underlying performance.

Year 12 GCSE Examination Results

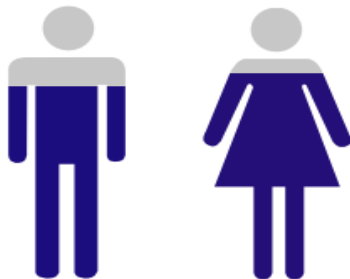


Year 14 A-level Examination Results



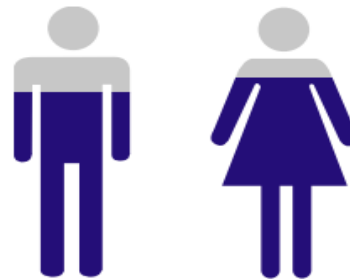
Sex

Pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C incl. English and maths



Male: 70.6% Female: 76.1%

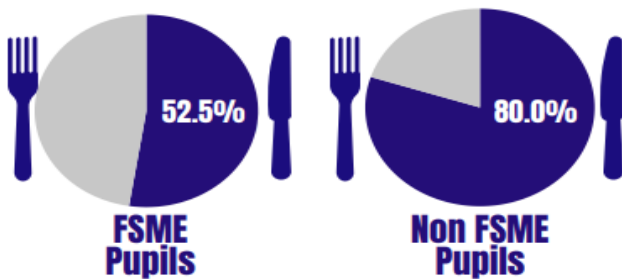
Pupils achieving 3+ A-levels at grades A*-C



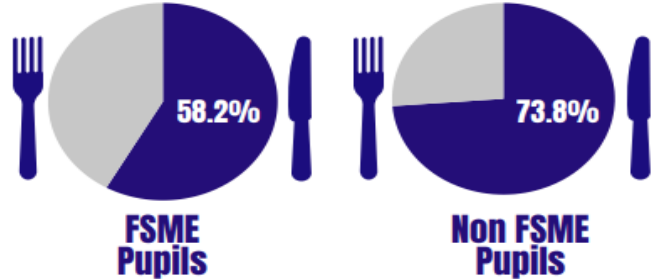
Male: 68.0% Female: 74.1%

Free School Meal Entitlement (FSME)

Pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C incl. English and maths



Pupils achieving 3+ A-levels at grades A*-C



Source: Summary of Annual Examination Results

Queries? E-mail: saer@education-ni.gov.uk

Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers 2023/24



Note: due to the COVID-19 pandemic, year-on-year changes for 2019/20 onward might have been affected by alternative awarding and assessment processes rather than reflect changes in underlying performance.

All Leavers

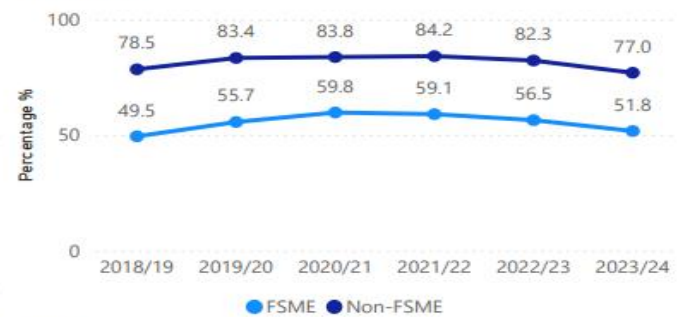
School Leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs at A*-C (or equivalents) incl. GCSE English and maths



Increase of 0.8 of a percentage point since 2018/19

Free School Meal Entitlement (FSME)

FSME and Non-FSME pupils achieving at least 5 GCSEs at A*-C (or equivalents) incl. GCSE English and maths



Gap between FSME and Non-FSME pupils decreased by 3.7 percentage points since 2018/19

Sex

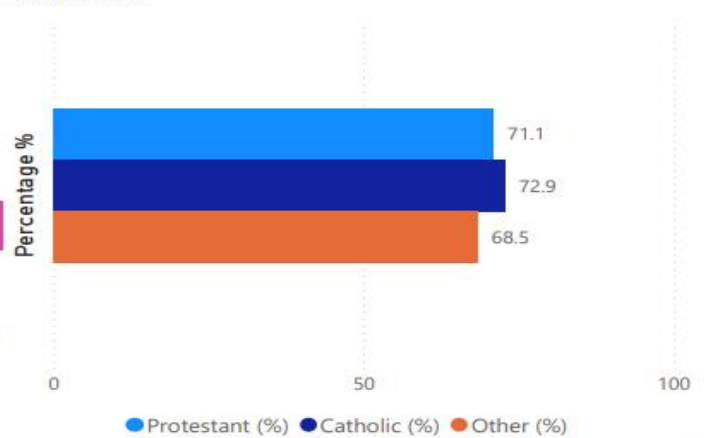
75.3% of females achieved at least 5 GCSEs at A*-C (or equivalents) incl. GCSE English and maths



68.1% of males achieved at least 5 GCSEs at A*-C (or equivalents) incl. GCSE English and maths

Religion

Religion of School Leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs at A*-C (or equivalents) incl. GCSE English and maths



School Type

School Leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs at A*-C (or equivalents) incl. GCSE English and maths by School Type

94.5% of pupils leaving grammar schools



55.3% of pupils leaving non-grammar schools

School Leaver Destinations

Higher Education 40.3%



Further Education 30.8%



Employment 11.3%



Training 13.6%



Unemployment 2.4%



Source: [Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers 2023/24](#)

Queries? Contact: statistics@education-ni.gov.uk

Teacher workforce statistics in grant-aided schools in Northern Ireland, 2024/25

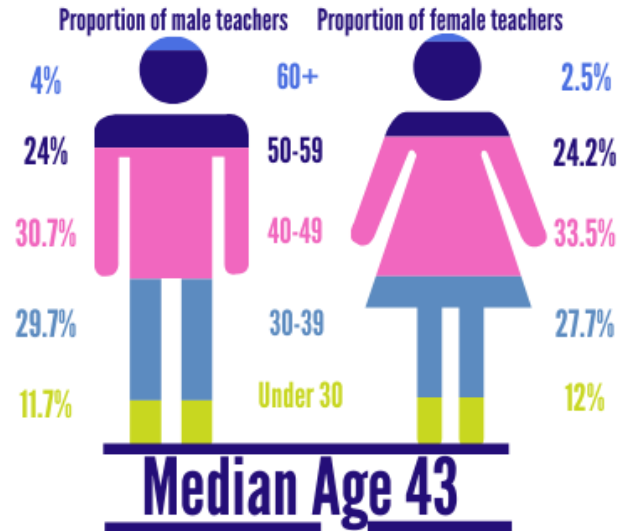
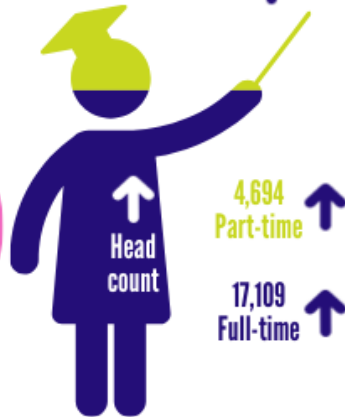
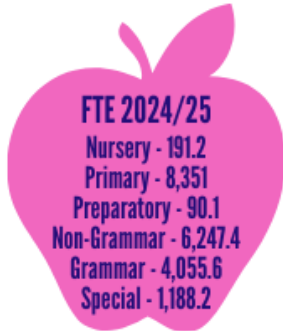


Number and age of teachers

Change from last years



20,123.6 full-time equivalent teachers ↑
21,803 total teacher headcount ↑



Gender of teachers, Principals and Vice Principals

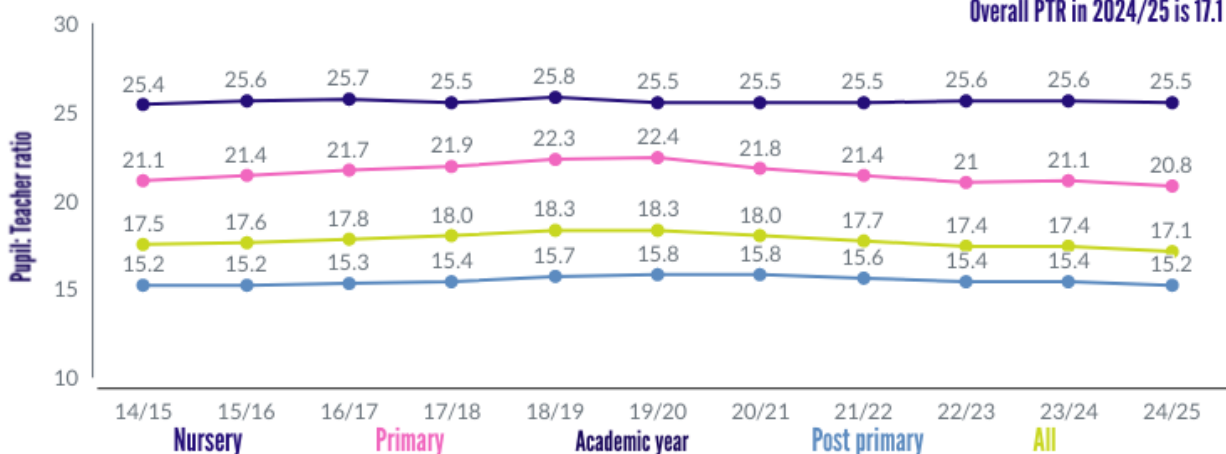
Proportion of teachers that are female



Across all schools..

- 61% of Principals, and 64.7% of Vice Principals are female
- In Nursery, primary and preparatory schools, 63.3% of Principals are female
- In all post primary schools, 48.9% of Principals are female
- In Special schools, 69.2% of Principal are female

Pupil: Teacher Ratios



Source: DE; NI education workforce statistics 2023/24

Contact: TeacherData@education-ni.gov.uk

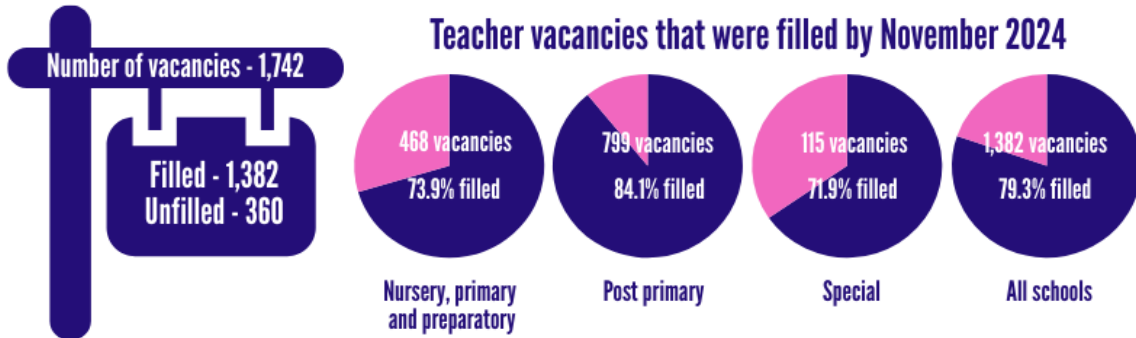
Teacher vacancies, sickness absence and substitution statistics in grant-aided schools in Northern Ireland, 2024/25



Official statistics



Teacher vacancies



Teacher sickness absence



60.6% (10,893) of teachers took a period of sickness absence

9.4 days on average were lost due to sickness per teacher

168,797 days were lost due to sickness absence



20.9% of sickness absences were 5 days or less in duration

13.3% of sickness absences were 6 to 20 days in duration

65.8% of sickness absences were more than 20 days in duration

Teacher substitution costs

Teacher substitution costs decreased to
£112.1 million



Nursery and primary
 £61,853,706.270
Post primary
 £36,828,359.80
Special
 £11,098,987.95
Peripatetic
 £2,341,623.12
COVID-19
 £19,407.89

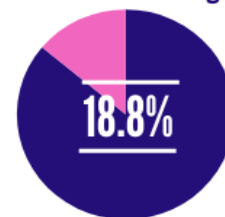
Substitution days as a proportion of total teaching days

Total teaching days

3,180,645

Substitution days

598,949



Highest costing reasons for substitution cover

Number	Reason	Cost	% of yearly total
<u>1.</u>	Vacant posts	£38,107,194.65	34%
<u>2.</u>	Sickness	£22,521,021.81	20.1%
<u>3.</u>	Maternity/Adoption/Paternity	£16,644,314.80	14.8%

Source: DE; NI education workforce statistics 2024/25

Contact: TeacherData@education-ni.gov.uk

5 Annexes

Dataset/Survey Overviews and Variable/Topic Lists

Dataset Overview

<p>Description</p>	<p>The school census gathers details on, for example, pupil sex, year group, religion, ethnicity, special educational needs, etc. Schools are classified according to type, or management type, to allow analysis of various sectors to take place. Geographical analysis is also conducted, at various levels, for example at former Education and Library Board and District Council levels.</p> <p>The data is analysed to produce overall attendance figures for each academic year, including information on the levels of absence, type of absence and reason for absence. Attendance and absence rates, both authorised and unauthorised, for each school in Northern Ireland are also produced, where available.</p> <p>The examination results data for post-primary schools enables subject averages and subject trends analyses to be produced.</p>
<p>Lead statistician</p>	<p>Gemma Thomson and Leonie Robinson (Pupil Enrolments)</p> <p>John Toogood (Attendance)</p> <p>Trevor Campbell (Exams)</p>
<p>Frequency of update</p>	<p>Annual</p>
<p>Date of latest publication</p>	<p>Pupil Enrolments - March 2025 (revised April 2025)</p> <p>Attendance - January 2025</p> <p>Exams – Not published</p>
<p>Infographic weblinks</p>	<p>Education Data Infographics 2024/25 Department of Education (education-ni.gov.uk)</p> <p>Or see Infographic 1 in this document.</p>
<p>Statistical bulletin weblinks</p>	<p>For more information please see the reports on DE website - school enrolments and DE website - pupil attendance.</p>

Variable list

<p>Data collected at individual pupil level via EDI for post primary schools</p>	<p>Sex</p>
	<p>Date of birth</p>
	<p>Unique Pupil Identifier</p>
	<p>Unique Learning Number</p>
	<p>Admission number</p>

Pupil name
Number of ½ day sessions attended
Number of ½ day sessions missed
Reason for absence
Religion
Ethnicity
Highest level of study
Free school meal entitlement
Actual Year group
Registration group
SEN stage
SEN need type
Boarder
Fee payer
Date of arrival at school
Dual registered pupils
Referral reason for dual registration
In Specialist Provision in Mainstream School
Type of Specialist Provision in Mainstream School
In Irish Medium unit
Full address (inc. home postcode and Country of residence)
First language
Newcomer child with English as an additional language
Length of time pupils are recorded as a newcomer
'Children Looked After'
Living arrangements for 'Children Looked After'
Health Trust for 'Children Looked After'
Personal Education Plan for 'Children Looked After'
Children of forces personnel
Level achieved at KS2 in English and mathematics (Y8)
Reasons KS2 not achieved in English and mathematics (Y8)
Type of accommodation (for Travellers)
Pupils with a disability
Type of disability (Physical/mental/both)
Pupil in receipt of EMA
Pupil was previously registered with a Sure Start
Pupil previously attended a Sure Start developmental programme for 2 and 3 year olds
Level of study (pupils in years 11 – 15 only)
Currently in Nurture unit
Previously in Nurture unit
FSM ever 6 (pupil has been entitled to free school meals in any of the last 6 years)
Pupil is engaged in shared education
Ever in care
Medical conditions
X and Y coordinates of pupil home address (not fully rolled out yet across all schools)

	Qualification Accreditation Number (QAN Code)
	Examination Board
	Qualification Type
	Discount Code
	Year and Season examination awarded
	Grade awarded
	Grade points value
	Key Stage 4 A*-C value
	Key Stage 4 A*-E value
	Key Stage 4 A*-G value
	Level 3 A*-C value
	Level 3 A*-E value
Data collected at summary level for post primary schools	Pupils not domiciled in NI
	Projected enrolments by year group
	In-migration and Out-migration to NI over the past year
	Number of special units in the school
	Level achieved at KS3 in English and mathematics (senior highs only)
	Reasons KS3 not achieved in English and mathematics (senior highs only)

Data collected at individual pupil level via EDI for special schools	Sex
	Date of birth
	Unique Pupil Identifier
	Admission number
	Pupil name
	Number of ½ day sessions attended
	Number of ½ day sessions missed
	Reason for absence
	Religion
	Ethnicity
	First language
	Newcomer child
	Length of time pupils are recorded as a newcomer
	Free school meal entitlement
	'Children Looked After'
	Living arrangements for 'Children Looked After'
	Health Trust for 'Children Looked After'
	Personal Education Plan for 'Children Looked After'
	SEN stage
	SEN need type
	Referral reason for dual registration
	Dual registered pupils
	Date of arrival at school
	Full address (inc. home postcode and Country of residence)
	Year Group
	Registration group
	Children of forces personnel
	Type of accommodation (for Travellers)
	Pupils with a disability
	Type of disability (Physical/mental/both)

	Pupil was previously registered with a Surestart
	Pupil previously attended a Surestart developmental programme for 2 and 3 year olds
	Currently in Nurture unit
	Previously in Nurture unit
	FSM ever 6 (pupil has been entitled to free school meals in any of the last 6 years)
	Pupil is engaged in shared education
	Ever in care
	Medical conditions
	X and Y coordinates of pupil home address (not fully rolled out yet across all schools)
Data collected at summary level for special schools	Pupils not domiciled in NI
	Projected enrolments by year group
	In-migration and Out-migration to NI over the past year

Data collected at individual pupil level via EDI for primary schools	Sex
	Date of birth
	Unique Pupil Identifier
	Admission number
	Pupil name
	Number of ½ day sessions attended
	Number of ½ day sessions missed
	Reason for absence
	Religion
	Ethnicity
	Free school meal entitlement
	Pupils with parent in receipt of JSA/Income Support (nursery pupils only)
	Year group
	Pattern of attendance for nursery pupils
	SEN stage
	SEN need type
	Boarder
	Fee payer
	Referral reason for dual registration
	Dual registered pupils
	Date of arrival at the school
	In Specialist Provision in Mainstream School
	Type of Specialist Provision in Mainstream School
	In Irish Medium unit
	Full address (inc. home postcode and Country of residence)
	First language
	Newcomer child
	Length of time pupils are recorded as a newcomer
	'Children Looked After'
	Living arrangements for 'Children Looked After'
	Health Trust for 'Children Looked After'
	Personal Education Plan for 'Children Looked After'
Registration groups (including composite classes).	

	Children of forces personnel
	Pupils with a disability
	Type of disability (Physical/mental/both)
	Previous educational experience of year 1
	Type of accommodation (for Travellers)
	Pupil was previously registered with a Sure Start
	Pupil previously attended a Sure Start developmental programme for 2 and 3 year olds
	Currently in Nurture unit
	Previously in Nurture unit
	FSM ever 6 (pupil has been entitled to free school meals in any of the last 6 years)
	Pupil is engaged in shared education
	Ever in care
	Medical conditions
	X and Y coordinates of pupil home address (not fully rolled out yet across all schools)
Data collected at summary level for primary schools	Pupils not domiciled in NI
	Projected enrolments by year group
	In-migration and Out-migration to NI over the past year
	Number of special units in a school

Data collected at summary level for nursery schools	Sex
	Pattern of attendance
	Age (Under 3, aged 3, over 3 only)
	Projected numbers by age and pattern of attendance
	'Children Looked After'
	Living arrangements for 'Children Looked After'
	Class size and numbers
	Pupils with parent in receipt of JSA/Income Support
	Religion
	Ethnicity
	Newcomer children
	SEN stage
	SEN need type
	Medical Conditions
	Children of forces Personnel
	Children not domiciled in Northern Ireland.
	Type of accommodation (for Travellers)
	Children with a disability
Data collected at pupil level for nursery schools	Home postcode

Data collected at summary level voluntary and private pre-school centres	Number of hours of pre-school activity provided per day
	Total children in centre
	Number of funded children
	For funded children:
	Sex
	Pattern of attendance
	Projected numbers by age and pattern of attendance

	'Children Looked After'
	Living arrangements for 'Children Looked After'
	Class size and numbers
	Pupils with parent in receipt of JSA/Income Support
	Religion
	Ethnicity
	Newcomer children
	SEN stage
	SEN need type
	Medical Conditions
	Type of accommodation (for Travellers)
	Children with a disability
Data collected at pupil level for voluntary and private pre-school centres	Home postcode

Annex 2 School Meals (Uptake)

Dataset Overview

Description	The information collected in the School Meals Uptake data collection combined with information on FSME in the main School Census allows the comparison of uptake of free school meals against entitlement.
Lead statistician	Helen McClure
Frequency of update	Annual (but not updated in 2024 or 2022)
Date of latest publication	June 2025
Infographic weblinks	School Meals 2024-25 Infographic.pdf (education-ni.gov.uk) Or see Infographic 2 in this document.
Statistical bulletin weblinks	For more information please see the reports on DE website - school meals .

Variable list

Data is collected at summary level from each grant-aided school	Type of meal provision
	Number of pupils present on the reference date
	Number of pupils present on the reference date but not availing of a midday break
	Number of pupils taking traditional meal – paying
	Number of pupils taking traditional meal – free
	Number of pupils taking cash cafeteria meal – paying
	Number of pupils taking cash cafeteria meal – free
	Number of pupils making other lunch arrangements (including pupils bringing own food)
	Number of adults taking school meal – paying
	Number of adults taking school meal – free – kitchen staff
	Number of adults taking school meal – free – midday supervisors

Annex 3 Summary of Annual Examination Results (SAER)

Dataset Overview

Description	Data on Year 12 and Year 14 examination performance in Northern Ireland post-primary schools.
Lead statistician	Rosie O'Neill
Frequency of update	Annual
Date of latest publication	December 2024
Infographic weblinks	Year 12 and Year 14 Examination Performance at Post-Primary Schools in Northern Ireland 2023 24-Infographic.PDF (education-ni.gov.uk) Or see Infographic 3 in this document.
Statistical bulletin weblinks	For more information please see the reports on DE website - school performance

Variable list

Variables collected during the Summary of Annual Examination Results (SAER) process	Sex
	Free school meal entitlement
	Number of pupils in Year 12 eligible for examinations
	Number of pupils in Year 12 entered for 5+ GCSEs (or equivalent)
	Number of pupils in Year 12 entered for 7+ GCSEs (or equivalent)
	Number of pupils achieving 7+ GCSEs at grades A*-C (or equivalent)
	Number of pupils achieving 7+ GCSEs at grades A*-C (or equivalent) incl. GCSE English and GCSE maths
	Number of pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C (or equivalent)
	Number of pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C (or equivalent) incl. GCSE English and GCSE maths
	Number of pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-E (or equivalent)
	Number of pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-G (or equivalent)

	Number of pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-G (or equivalent) incl. GCSE English and GCSE maths
	Number of pupils achieving 1-4 GCSEs at grades A*-C (or equivalent)
	Number of pupils achieving 1-4 GCSEs at grades A*-G (or equivalent)
	Number of pupils achieving no GCSEs at grades A*-G (or equivalent)
	Number of pupils in the final year of an A-level (or equivalent) course of study
	Achieving 3+ A-levels at grades A*-C (or equivalent)
	Achieving 3+ A-levels at grades A*-E (or equivalent)
	Achieving 2+ A-levels at grades A*-C (or equivalent)
	Achieving 2+ A-levels at grades A*-E (or equivalent)
	Achieving 1+ A-levels at grades A*-E (or equivalent)
	Number of pupils ineligible for inclusion in SAER returns and reason for ineligibility

Dataset Overview

Description	The Department of Education collects data annually on the highest qualification level and destination of Northern Ireland grammar and non-grammar school leavers.
Lead statistician	Caoimhe Stewart
Frequency of update	Annual
Date of latest publication	29 May 2025
Infographic weblinks	Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers - Infographic 2023-24.pdf Or see Infographic 4 in this document.
Statistical bulletin weblinks	For more information please see the reports on DE website - school leavers .

Variable list

Data collected at individual pupil level via Electronic Data Interchange for pupils leaving post primary schools	Sex
	Date of birth
	Unique Pupil Identifier/Admission number
	Admission number
	Pupil name (for validation only)
	Religion
	Ethnicity
	Free school meal entitlement
	FSM ever (pupil has ever been entitled to free school meals)
	Actual Year group
	Registration Year group
	Dual registered pupils
	Referral reason for dual registration
	SEN stage
	SEN need type
	Medical conditions
	Boarder
	Fee payer
	Date of arrival at school
	Educated off-site but not in a school
Gap year	

	In Specialist Provision in Mainstream School
	In Irish Medium Unit
	Home postcode
	First language
	Newcomer child with English as an additional language
	Children Looked After
	Living arrangements for 'Children Looked After'
	Health Trust for 'Children Looked After'
	Ever in Care
	Fee Payer
	Postcode
	Children of forces personnel
	Type of accommodation (for Travellers)
	Pupils with a disability
	Date of leaving the school
	Reason (destination) for leaving school
	Pupil in receipt of EMA
	English as an additional language start date
	English as an additional language end date
	Learning Support Centre
	School DENI Number
	School name

Annex 5 Teacher Numbers

Dataset Overview

Description	The Department of Education collects data on teacher numbers and combined with information on pupil enrolment in the main School Census allows the calculation of Pupil : Teacher ratios
Lead statistician	Christine Bowden
Frequency of update	Annual
Date of latest publication	June 2025
Infographic weblinks	Teacher-Workforce-Statistics-202425.pdf (education-ni.gov.uk) Or see Infographic 5 in this document.
Statistical bulletin weblinks	For more information please see the reports on DE website - education workforce.

Variable list

Data collected at individual teacher level via an online return	Sex
	Teacher Reference Number
	Age
	Full-time or part-time working pattern
	Contract type
	Hours worked per week
	Department
	Hours worked per week in primary
	Hours worked per week in post-primary
	Principals and Vice-Principals

Annex 6 Support Staff (Manual and Non-Manual) for VG and GMI schools

Dataset Overview

Description	Data is collected on support staff for VG and GMI schools
Lead statistician	Christine Bowden
Frequency of update	Annual
Date of latest publication	Not published
Infographic weblinks	N/A
Statistical bulletin weblinks	N/A

Variable list

Data collected at school level for VG and GMI schools	Admin/Clerical/Finance staff
	Nursery Assistants
	Classroom Assistants
	General Assistants
	Technicians/Lab Assistants
	Foreign Language Assistants
	Library Staff
	School Nurse/Matron
	Pupil Welfare
	Learning Support
	Community/Extended Schools
	Sports Coaches
	Supervisory
	Catering Staff
	Maintenance/Caretaker
	Building Cleaning Staff
	School Crossing Patrol
	Transport Escorts
	Transport/ Driver
	Other Support Staff
Sex	
Full-time or part-time working pattern	

Annex 7 Teacher Vacancies, Sickness Absence and Substitution Costs

Dataset Overview

Description	Data on teacher vacancies, sickness absence and substitution costs
Lead statistician	Christine Bowden
Frequency of update	Annual
Date of latest publication	June 2025
Infographic weblinks	Teacher-vacancy-sickness-absence-and-substitution-costs-20245.pdf (education-ni.gov.uk) Or see Infographic 6 in this document.
Statistical bulletin weblinks	For more information please see the reports on DE website - education workforce .

Variable list

Data is collected at school level by Central Survey Unit via the Teacher Vacancy Return	Vacancies filled and vacancies still to be filled
	Grade of post (Principal / Vice Principal or classroom teacher)
	Type of contract (Permanent / Temporary)
	Full-time or part-time vacancies
	Main subject of vacancy
	Number of vacancies filled by newly qualified teachers
	Number of vacancies that could be filled by newly qualified teachers

Data is taken from the Teachers' Payroll System at individual teacher sickness absence	Full-time or part-time
	Sex
	Length of absence
	Teacher reference number

Data is taken from the Teachers' Payroll System for substitution costs	School type
	Management type
	Reason for substitution cover

Annex 8 Suspensions and expulsions data

Dataset Overview

Description	These data are collected by the Education Authority at the request of the Department's Additional Educational Needs Team and subsequently passed to SRT for analysis. The suspensions data collection form Notification of Pupil Suspension to EA.pdf (education-ni.gov.uk) was reviewed and amended by the Department's Additional Educational Needs Team for the 2023/24 academic year.
Lead statistician	Michael Woods
Frequency of update	Annual
Date of latest publication	April 2025
Infographics	N/A
Statistical bulletins	For more information please see the reports on DE website - pupil suspensions and expulsions.

Variable list

Data collected suspensions	School name
	DENI reference number
	Unique Pupil Number
	Year group
	Stud ID
	Sex
	Postcode
	Ethnicity
	SEN
	SEN Stage
	Date of birth
	Child Looked After
	Disabled
	Type of suspension
	Start date
Length of suspension	
Reason for suspension	
Data collected expulsions	Year group
	Unique Pupil Number
	Sex

	Ethnicity
	SEN stage
	Disability
	School management type
	Reason for expulsion
	Reinstated on appeal
	Date reinstated

Survey Overview

Target population	16 year olds
Frequency	Annual
Design	Systematic random sample of 16 year olds from Child Benefit Register
Reports	Young Life and Times Homepage (ark.ac.uk)

Topic list

	2024	2023	2022	2020-21
Age of Criminal Responsibility		✓		
Background	✓	✓	✓	✓
Community Relations	✓	✓	✓	✓
Community Safety and Perceptions of Paramilitary Influence	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cross Community Contact	✓	✓	✓	✓
Education	✓	✓	✓	✓
Family	✓	✓	✓	✓
Financial Wellbeing		✓		
Gender Based Violence	✓	✓	✓	
Health and Wellbeing	✓	✓		✓
Identity	✓	✓	✓	✓
Minority Ethnic Groups	✓	✓	✓	✓
Relationships	✓	✓		
Sport		✓		
Coronavirus			✓	✓
Politics			✓	✓
Coercive Control				✓
Rights	✓			✓

Survey Overview

Target population	P7 pupils
Frequency	Annual
Design	Three stage sample design
Reports	Kids' Life and Times- Northern Ireland: (ark.ac.uk)

Topic list

	2024	2023	2022	2020-21
Background	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bullying	✓	✓	✓	✓
Financial wellbeing		✓		
Kidscreen	✓	✓	✓	✓
School	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sport		✓		
Wellbeing		✓		
Environment			✓	
Self Esteem	✓		✓	
Shared Education	✓		✓	✓
Transfer Test			✓	
Coronavirus				✓
Rights	✓			✓
Technology	✓			

Annex 11 Young People's Behaviour and Attitudes (YPBAS)

Survey Overview

Target population	11-16 year olds pupils
Frequency	Every three years
Design	Three stage sample design
Reports	Young Persons' Behaviour & Attitudes Survey Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk)

Topic list

	2022		2022
Sport & Physical Activity	✓	Social Media	✓
Travelling to School	✓	School	✓
Road Safety	✓	Subject Choices	✓
Careers Advice & Guidance	✓	Next Steps	✓
Future Intentions	✓	Health & Wellbeing	✓
Long Term Conditions	✓	Gambling	✓
Young Carer	✓	Sexual Health	✓
Medicines	✓	More About You	✓
CPR Training	✓	Smoking	✓
Personal Wellbeing	✓	Alcohol	✓
Self-Efficacy	✓	Solvents & Drugs	✓
Locus of Control	✓	Personal Safety	✓
Libraries	✓	Nutrition	✓
Museums & Science Centres	✓	More About Your Health	✓
Historic Environment	✓		
Arts	✓		
Sign Language	✓		
Irish & Ulster Scots Language	✓		
Breastfeeding	✓		
Organ Donation	✓		
Attitudes Towards Domestic Violence	✓		
Care in the Sun	✓		
Sunbeds	✓		
More About Your Health	✓		
Equality	✓		
Volunteering	✓		
Play & Leisure	✓		

Survey Overview

Target population	Adults aged 18+
Frequency	Annual
Design	Three stage sample design
Reports	NILT ARK - Access Research Knowledge

Topic list

	2024	2023	2022	2021
Background	✓	✓	✓	✓
Community/Good Relations	✓	✓	✓	✓
Community Safety and Perceptions of Paramilitary Influence	✓	✓	✓	✓
Criminal Justice System	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gender-based Violence	✓	✓	✓	
Income and Poverty	✓	✓	✓	✓
Minority Ethnic People	✓	✓	✓	✓
Palliative Care			✓	
Politics	✓	✓	✓	✓
Respect	✓	✓	✓	✓
COVID-19				✓
Mental Health		✓		✓
Coercive Control				
Safeguarding	✓			
Skills	✓			
Education	✓			
Climate Change	✓			
Road Safety		✓		

Survey Overview

Target population	Households and Individual adults
Frequency	Annual
Design	Systematic random sample of addresses
Reports	Continuous Household Survey Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk)

Topic list

Household Schedule
Household Information
Accommodation, Tenure & Home Heating
Household Internet Access & Car Access
Domestic Tourism: Overnight Trips
Children Play Facilities/Travel to School
Individual Schedule
Flights
Sports Participation
Use of Public Library Services
Use of Museum Services
Participation in Arts Activities & Events/Volunteering
Use of PRONI/Heritage/Irish-Ulster Scots/Gift cards
Environment
Wellbeing/Housing Satisfaction
Education & UNCRC
Health/Smoking & Drinking Alcohol
Mobile Phone/Individual Internet Access & Usage
Employment
Accidents and Illness at Work
Road Safety/Graduated Driving Licence
Walking & Cycling
Public Transport & Journey Planning
eCar Ownership
Religion, Sexual & Gender ID, National Identity & Dependents
Benefits
PCOS

Survey Overview

Target population	Grant aided primary, post-primary and special schools and pre-school settings
Frequency	Every two years
Design	Census
Reports	Survey reports Department of Education (education-ni.gov.uk)

Topic list

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2018	2022	2024
Sustainable schools					✓	✓	
Shared Education	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Play in schools					✓	✓	
Children's Services and Co-operation Act (Northern Ireland) 2015.					✓	✓	
Community use of school premises					✓		
Pupil participation				✓	✓		
Use of external providers to support the delivery of the statutory curriculum.					✓		
Art and design in primary schools				✓			
Early years and reception provision.				✓			
ICT				✓			
Peer mentoring				✓			
Free school meals				✓		✓	
Business education				✓			
Middletown Centre for Autism						✓	✓
CPR in schools (post-primary only)						✓	
Pre-employment Vetting	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Relationships and Sexual Education (RSE)			✓	✓		✓	✓
School Transport			✓	✓			
School Counselling			✓	✓			
Gifted and Talented Children			✓	✓			
Physical Education	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
School Uniform		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender issues		✓		✓			
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2018	2022	2024

Pupil participation and community use of schools	✓	✓					
School Assessments		✓					
Cycling and physical activity		✓					
Breakfast provision		✓				✓	
Education Other Than at School and Alternative Education Provision		✓					
Employment of teachers in the post-primary sector		✓					
Foundation stage		✓					
Transition from primary to post-primary school		✓					
Stemworks and business education	✓						
Websites and communication	✓						
Supporting pupils with medication needs	✓						
SEN End to End Review							✓
Addressing Bullying in Schools Act (Northern Ireland) 2016							✓
Community of Lifesavers							✓
Specialist provisions in mainstream schools (SPiMS)							✓
SEN Pupil Support Services							✓
Special schools and mainstream schools connections							✓
Children Looked After							✓
End to End Review of School Improvement							✓
Pre-school Setting: Remote and Blended Learning						✓	
Pre-school Setting: Penultimate Pre-school Children						✓	

Survey Overview

Target population	Year 6 pupils
Frequency	Every five years
Design	Two stage stratified random sample
Reports	Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) Department of Education (education-ni.gov.uk)

Topic list

Contextualisation Questionnaires
Student Questionnaire Content:
Home learning environment
Sense of belonging
Bullying
Confidence in reading
Attitudes to reading
Pupils' digital self-efficacy
Use of digital devices in school and out of school
School Questionnaire Content:
School characteristics
Pupil demographics
School environment
School resources
Emphasis on academic success
Teacher Questionnaire Content:
Characteristics of the class
Reading instructional time
Instructional approaches
Career satisfaction
professional development
Education
Pupils' readiness for lessons
Limitations on teaching and learning
Home Questionnaire Content:
languages spoken in the home
parents' reading activities
parents' attitudes toward reading
parents' education and occupation

early literacy and numeracy activities
child's reading readiness

Note the home questionnaire was not administered after the 2021 cycle of PIRLS

Survey Overview

Target population	Year 6 pupils
Frequency	Every four years
Design	Two stage stratified random sample
Reports	Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) Department of Education (education-ni.gov.uk)

Topic list

Contextualisation Questionnaires
Student Questionnaire Content:
Home learning environment
Sense of belonging
Bullying
Confidence in mathematics and science
Attitudes to mathematics and science
Pupils' digital self-efficacy
Use of digital devices in school and out of school
School Questionnaire Content:
School characteristics
Pupil demographics
School environment
School resources
Emphasis on academic success
Teacher Questionnaire Content:
Characteristics of the class
Mathematics and science instructional time
Instructional approaches
Career satisfaction
professional development
Education
Pupils' readiness for lessons
Limitations on teaching and learning
Home Questionnaire Content:
languages spoken in the home
parents' mathematics and science activities
parents' attitudes toward mathematics and science
parents' education and occupation

early numeracy and scientific activities
child's mathematics and science readiness

Note the home questionnaire was not administered after the 2019 cycle of TIMSS

Survey Overview

Target population	15-year old pupils
Frequency	Every three years until 2025, after which every four years
Design	Two stage stratified random sample
Reports	Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) Department of Education (education-ni.gov.uk)

Topic list

<i>Contextualisation questionnaires</i>
1. School Questionnaire Content:
School management and policies
School characteristics
School admissions policies
Pupil grouping policies
School assessment policies and practices
Monitoring and evaluation
Professional development
Barriers to teaching and learning at school
Parental engagement
Extra-curricular activities
Career development activities
2. Student Questionnaire Content:
Pupils' life satisfaction
Pupils' perceptions of school safety
Pupils' sense of belonging at school
Pupils' experiences of bullying at school
Pupils' sense of relative family wealth
Pupils' attitudes towards learning
Pupils' growth mindsets
Pupil aspirations
Pupil's anxiety
Pupil attitudes towards mathematics, English and science
Pupil time spent on learning-related activities
Pupil use of digital devices