

DE/2026-036 – Freedom of Information Request

Request:

I request the Granular Religion Statistics for the 2025/26 school year, based on the School Census conducted on 10 October 2025, in the same format and at the same level of detail as the attached Granular Religion Statistics for 2024/25, which the Department of Education has previously released. Specifically, I am requesting:

Item 2: Total Pupil Population by School and Religion 2025/26

For each grant-aided school (primary, post-primary, and special), broken down by individual school (identified by DENI Reference Number and School Name), showing the number of pupils in each of the following religion categories: Protestant; Catholic; Other Christian; Other Religion; No Religion; Unclassified; and Total.

Item 3: Pupil Religion by Geography and Management Type 2025/26

Aggregate pupil religion figures (using the same six religion categories above) broken down by management type (Controlled, Catholic Maintained, Other Maintained, Controlled Integrated, Grant Maintained Integrated, Voluntary) at each of the following geographic levels:

- (a) Assembly Constituency
- (b) Local Government District
- (c) County
- (d) Education and Library Board area

For each geographic level, figures should be provided separately for primary/preparatory (Nursery to Year 7) and post-primary phases.

I understand that suppression may be applied to small numbers to prevent the identification of individuals, consistent with the Department's statistical disclosure policy, and I am content for the same suppression conventions to be applied as in the 2024/25 release.

I would be grateful to receive the information in electronic format, preferably as an Excel (.xlsx) file.

Department Response:

I refer to your request under the above legislation for information about the granular religion statistics for the 2025/26 school year. This request, received on the 5 March, was for.

- *Granular Religion Statistics for the 2025/26 school year, based on the School Census conducted on 10 October 2025, in the same format and at the same level of detail as the attached Granular Religion Statistics for 2024/25, which the Department of Education has previously released. Specifically:*
- *Item 2: Total Pupil Population by School and Religion 2025/26*
For each grant-aided school (primary, post-primary, and special), broken down by individual school (identified by DENI Reference Number and School Name), showing the number of pupils in each of the following religion categories: Protestant; Catholic; Other Christian; Other Religion; No Religion; Unclassified; and Total.
- *Item 3: Pupil Religion by Geography and Management Type 2025/26*
Aggregate pupil religion figures (using the same six religion categories above) broken down by management type (Controlled, Catholic Maintained, Other Maintained, Controlled Integrated, Grant Maintained Integrated, Voluntary) at each of the following geographic levels:
 - (a) Assembly Constituency*
 - (b) Local Government District*
 - (c) County*
 - (d) Education and Library Board area**For each geographic level, figures should be provided separately for primary/preparatory (Nursery to Year 7) and post-primary phases.*
- *To receive the information in electronic format, preferably as an Excel (.xlsx) file.*

I can confirm that the Department holds the information requested. Please see tables attached in .xlsx format for granular religion statistics broken down by year group, geography and management type. Please note that suppression has been applied to small numbers to prevent the identification of individuals, consistent with the Department's statistical disclosure policy.