

MONTHLY ATTENDANCE BULLETIN - SEPTEMBER 2025 TO FEBRUARY 2026

The purpose of this bulletin is to keep schools informed of overall attendance data on a monthly basis across all settings and to highlight areas where improvement is required.

The Department receives monthly attendance from C2K in or around the 18th of each month, reflecting attendance data from the start of the academic year until the end of the previous month.

These figures are then summarised and shared with senior management within both the EA and DE.

August/September – February 2026 YTD – Absence % (the previous year's data is shown in brackets.)

| | All | Secondary | Grammar | EOTAS |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Post-Primary – Secondary, Grammar, EOTAS | 9.5% (9.1%) | 11.6% (11.1%) | 6.6% (6.2%) | 30.5% (29.8%) |
| Post-Primary – Secondary, Grammar, EOTAS - FSME Pupils | 15.4% (14.5%) | 16.3% (15.4%) | 11.4% (10.5%) | 31.4% (30.4%) |
| Special | 12.0% (11.9%) | | | |
| Special – FSME Pupils | 11.9% (11.9%) | | | |
| Primary – All Pupils | 5.8% (5.8%) | | | |
| Primary - FSME Pupils | 9.6% (8.8%) | | | |

All settings will by now be aware of the [approach to pupil attendance reporting using absence tiers](#). The following table sets out the most recent statistics broken down across the four absence tiers.

February 2026

| School Type | Regular Perc (Absence 0% to 4.99%) | At Risk Perc (Absence 5% - 9.99%) | Chronic Perc (Absence 10% - 19.99%) | Severe Chronic Perc (Absence 20%+) |
|-------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| Primary | 53.5% | 24.8% | 15.1% | 6.6% |
| Secondary | 34.2% | 25.9% | 23.2% | 16.8% |
| Special | 27.9% | 26.5% | 26.5% | 19.1% |
| Grammar | 51.4% | 27.9% | 15.0% | 5.6% |
| EOTAS | 9.8% | 6.9% | 14.1% | 69.1% |
| Total | 47.1% | 25.7% | 17.6% | 9.6% |
| Total number of pupils | 158,861 | 86,623 | 59,201 | 32,291 |

Compared with the same period last year, there has been:

- a 2.8% point decrease in regular attendance;
- a 0.5% point increase in at risk attendance;
- a 0.8%-point increase in chronic attendance; and
- a 1.5%-point increase in severe chronic attendance

Should you have any queries regarding these figures please contact the Tackling Educational Disadvantage Team by email at: attendance@education-ni.gov.uk

| Pupil Absence Data by Free School Meal Bands - September 2025 to February 2026 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|--|--|
| Primary Schools - September 2025 to February 2026 (Cumulative) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Absence Tiers | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FSM Band | % Present | % Absent | % Authorised Absence | % Unauthorised Absence | Authorised as % of Total Absence | Unauthorised as % of Total Absence | % Regular | % At Risk | % Chronic | % Severe Chronic | | |
| 0.00 - 9.99 | 96.1% | 3.9% | 2.6% | 1.2% | 68.3% | 31.7% | 64.5% | 22.2% | 9.8% | 3.5% | | |
| 10.00 - 19.99 | 95.1% | 4.9% | 3.2% | 1.7% | 65.0% | 35.0% | 57.3% | 24.7% | 13.3% | 4.7% | | |
| 20.00 - 29.99 | 93.6% | 6.4% | 3.8% | 2.6% | 58.9% | 41.1% | 51.0% | 26.1% | 16.1% | 6.7% | | |
| 30.00 - 39.99 | 91.8% | 8.2% | 4.1% | 4.1% | 49.5% | 50.5% | 43.4% | 25.3% | 19.8% | 11.5% | | |
| 40.00 - 49.99 | 91.5% | 8.5% | 4.4% | 4.1% | 51.3% | 48.7% | 41.0% | 26.3% | 21.3% | 11.3% | | |
| 50.00 - 59.99 | 91.0% | 9.0% | 4.8% | 4.3% | 52.5% | 47.5% | 40.6% | 25.0% | 21.5% | 12.9% | | |
| 60+ | 90.2% | 9.8% | 4.7% | 5.2% | 47.4% | 52.6% | 35.3% | 25.9% | 26.3% | 12.4% | | |
| Total | 94.1% | 5.9% | 3.5% | 2.4% | 59.1% | 40.9% | 53.5% | 24.8% | 15.1% | 6.6% | | |
| Non Grammar - September 2025 to February 2026 (Cumulative) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FSM Band | % Present | % Absent | % Authorised Absence | % Unauthorised Absence | Authorised as % of Total Absence | Unauthorised as % of Total Absence | % Regular | % At Risk | % Chronic | % Severe Chronic | | |
| 0.00 - 9.99 | 93.7% | 6.3% | 4.2% | 2.2% | 66.0% | 34.0% | 50.7% | 25.5% | 13.7% | 10.0% | | |
| 10.00 - 19.99 | 90.6% | 9.4% | 5.6% | 3.8% | 59.3% | 40.7% | 38.1% | 29.0% | 21.5% | 11.5% | | |
| 20.00 - 29.99 | 88.3% | 11.7% | 6.3% | 5.4% | 54.0% | 46.0% | 33.0% | 26.2% | 24.2% | 16.6% | | |
| 30.00 - 39.99 | 86.0% | 14.0% | 7.7% | 6.3% | 55.2% | 44.8% | 29.9% | 24.0% | 24.7% | 21.4% | | |
| 40.00 - 49.99 | 86.6% | 13.4% | 7.0% | 6.3% | 52.6% | 47.4% | 31.9% | 22.1% | 24.1% | 21.9% | | |
| 50.00+ | 81.0% | 19.0% | 7.2% | 11.8% | 37.9% | 62.1% | 21.1% | 19.5% | 27.8% | 31.6% | | |
| Total | 88.4% | 11.6% | 6.4% | 5.2% | 54.9% | 45.1% | 34.2% | 25.9% | 23.2% | 16.8% | | |
| Grammar - September 2025 to February 2026 (Cumulative) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FSM Band | % Present | % Absent | % Authorised Absence | % Unauthorised Absence | Authorised as % of Total Absence | Unauthorised as % of Total Absence | % Regular | % At Risk | % Chronic | % Severe Chronic | | |
| 0.00 - 4.99 | 95.0% | 5.0% | 3.9% | 1.2% | 77.0% | 23.0% | 64.1% | 22.4% | 9.9% | 3.7% | | |
| 5.00 - 9.99 | 93.7% | 6.3% | 4.8% | 1.4% | 77.5% | 22.5% | 52.1% | 29.4% | 14.3% | 4.2% | | |
| 10.00 - 14.99 | 92.6% | 7.4% | 4.9% | 2.5% | 66.4% | 33.6% | 47.7% | 28.8% | 17.3% | 6.2% | | |
| 15.00 + | 91.2% | 8.8% | 5.6% | 3.2% | 63.4% | 36.6% | 40.5% | 28.7% | 20.0% | 10.8% | | |
| Total | 93.3% | 6.7% | 4.8% | 1.8% | 72.3% | 27.7% | 51.4% | 27.9% | 15.0% | 5.6% | | |
| Post Primary - September 2025 to February 2026 (Cumulative) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FSM Band | % Present | % Absent | % Authorised Absence | % Unauthorised Absence | Authorised as % of Total Absence | Unauthorised as % of Total Absence | % Regular | % At Risk | % Chronic | % Severe Chronic | | |
| 0.00 - 9.99 | 94.0% | 6.0% | 4.6% | 1.4% | 76.5% | 23.5% | 54.9% | 27.4% | 13.2% | 4.5% | | |
| 10.00 - 19.99 | 91.2% | 8.8% | 5.4% | 3.4% | 61.4% | 38.6% | 41.0% | 28.8% | 20.4% | 9.8% | | |
| 20.00 - 29.99 | 88.6% | 11.4% | 6.2% | 5.1% | 54.9% | 45.1% | 33.7% | 26.5% | 23.6% | 16.2% | | |
| 30.00 - 39.99 | 86.0% | 14.0% | 7.7% | 6.3% | 55.2% | 44.8% | 29.9% | 24.0% | 24.7% | 21.4% | | |
| 40.00 - 49.99 | 86.6% | 13.4% | 7.0% | 6.3% | 52.6% | 47.4% | 31.9% | 22.1% | 24.1% | 21.9% | | |
| 50.00+ | 81.0% | 19.0% | 7.2% | 11.8% | 37.9% | 62.1% | 21.1% | 19.5% | 27.8% | 31.6% | | |
| Total | 90.6% | 9.4% | 5.7% | 3.8% | 60.2% | 39.8% | 41.4% | 26.7% | 19.8% | 12.0% | | |
| Special Schools - September 2025 to February 2026 (Cumulative) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FSM Band | % Present | % Absent | % Authorised Absence | % Unauthorised Absence | Authorised as % of Total Absence | Unauthorised as % of Total Absence | % Regular | % At Risk | % Chronic | % Severe Chronic | | |
| 0.00 - 39.99 | 87.7% | 12.3% | 8.4% | 4.0% | 67.9% | 32.1% | 24.4% | 26.8% | 28.1% | 20.6% | | |
| 40.00+ | 87.8% | 12.2% | 7.8% | 4.4% | 63.8% | 36.2% | 31.4% | 26.2% | 24.9% | 17.5% | | |
| Total | 87.7% | 12.3% | 8.1% | 4.2% | 65.8% | 34.2% | 27.9% | 26.5% | 26.5% | 19.1% | | |

Source: DE SIMS

