

MONTHLY ATTENDANCE BULLETIN - SEPTEMBER 2025 TO MARCH 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 – March 2026 YTD – Absence % (the previous year's data is shown in brackets.)

	All	Secondary	Grammar	EOTAS
Post-Primary – Secondary, Grammar, EOTAS	9.7% (9.4%)	11.8% (11.3%)	6.8% (6.4%)	31.4% (30.7%)
Post-Primary – Secondary, Grammar, EOTAS - FSME Pupils	15.8% (14.8%)	16.8% (15.8%)	11.8% (10.8%)	31.9% (31.1%)
Special	12.1% (9.2%)			
Special – FSME Pupils	12.1% (11.9%)			
Primary – All Pupils	5.9% (5.8%)			
Primary - FSME Pupils	9.4% (8.9%)			

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.

March 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	52.0%	26.1%	15.5%	6.5%
Secondary	34.4%	25.8%	22.6%	17.2%
Special	33.2%	25.3%	23.4%	18.0%
Grammar	50.9%	28.3%	15.0%	5.8%
EOTAS	9.8%	7.4%	15.2%	67.6%
Total	46.4%	26.4%	17.5%	9.6%
Total number of pupils	156,918	89,222	59,098	32,597

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

- a 3.2% point decrease in regular attendance;
- a 0.5% point increase in at risk attendance;
- a 1.0%-point increase in chronic attendance; and
- a 1.6%-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 March 2026

Primary Schools - September 2025 to March 2026 (Cumulative)

FSM Band	% Present	% Absent	% Authorised Absence	% Unauthorised Absence	Absence Tiers					
					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%	1.3%	67.6%	32.4%	62.2%	24.4%	10.5%	2.9%
10.00 - 19.99	95.1%	4.9%	3.2%	1.8%	64.3%	35.7%	56.0%	26.3%	13.3%	4.4%
20.00 - 29.99	93.6%	6.4%	3.8%	2.6%	59.1%	40.9%	50.2%	26.9%	16.2%	6.7%
30.00 - 39.99	91.8%	8.2%	4.0%	4.2%	49.2%	50.8%	41.9%	26.0%	20.2%	11.8%
40.00 - 49.99	91.3%	8.7%	4.4%	4.4%	50.1%	49.9%	39.6%	26.5%	22.4%	11.5%
50.00 - 59.99	90.8%	9.2%	4.8%	4.4%	52.1%	47.9%	37.7%	25.9%	23.0%	13.4%
60+	90.0%	10.0%	4.6%	5.4%	46.3%	53.7%	34.2%	27.5%	25.8%	12.5%
Total	94.1%	5.9%	3.5%	2.5%	58.6%	41.4%	51.9%	26.1%	15.5%	6.5%

Non Grammar - September 2025 to March 2026 (Cumulative)

FSM Band	% Present	% Absent	% Authorised Absence	% Unauthorised Absence	Absence Tiers					
					Authorised as % of Total Absence	Unauthorised as % of Total Absence	% Regular	% At Risk	% Chronic	% Severe Chronic
0.00 - 9.99	93.5%	6.5%	4.2%	2.2%	65.2%	34.8%	49.6%	26.8%	13.5%	10.0%
10.00 - 19.99	90.4%	9.6%	5.7%	4.0%	58.7%	41.3%	38.1%	28.7%	21.4%	11.8%
20.00 - 29.99	87.9%	12.1%	6.5%	5.6%	53.5%	46.5%	32.5%	26.6%	23.6%	17.3%
30.00 - 39.99	86.0%	14.0%	7.5%	6.5%	53.5%	46.5%	31.8%	23.2%	23.2%	21.9%
40.00 - 49.99	86.7%	13.3%	7.1%	6.2%	53.2%	46.8%	33.7%	22.3%	22.8%	21.2%
50.00+	80.4%	19.6%	7.5%	12.0%	38.5%	61.5%	21.4%	19.0%	26.7%	32.9%
Total	88.1%	11.9%	6.4%	5.4%	54.2%	45.8%	34.3%	25.8%	22.6%	17.3%

Grammar - September 2025 to March 2026 (Cumulative)

FSM Band	% Present	% Absent	% Authorised Absence	% Unauthorised Absence	Absence Tiers					
					Authorised as % of Total Absence	Unauthorised as % of Total Absence	% Regular	% At Risk	% Chronic	% Severe Chronic
0.00 - 4.99	94.7%	5.3%	4.0%	1.3%	75.7%	24.3%	63.2%	23.0%	9.9%	3.9%
5.00 - 9.99	93.6%	6.4%	4.9%	1.5%	76.8%	23.2%	52.8%	29.2%	13.9%	4.2%
10.00 - 14.99	92.4%	7.6%	5.0%	2.5%	66.4%	33.6%	44.8%	30.6%	18.1%	6.5%
15.00 +	90.9%	9.1%	5.7%	3.4%	62.8%	37.2%	39.3%	29.2%	20.4%	11.1%
Total	93.1%	6.9%	4.9%	2.0%	71.5%	28.5%	50.9%	28.3%	15.0%	5.8%

Post Primary - September 2025 to March 2026 (Cumulative)

FSM Band	% Present	% Absent	% Authorised Absence	% Unauthorised Absence	Absence Tiers					
					Authorised as % of Total Absence	Unauthorised as % of Total Absence	% Regular	% At Risk	% Chronic	% Severe Chronic
0.00 - 9.99	93.9%	6.1%	4.6%	1.5%	75.7%	24.3%	55.1%	27.5%	12.9%	4.6%
10.00 - 19.99	90.9%	9.1%	5.5%	3.5%	60.9%	39.1%	40.1%	29.2%	20.6%	10.2%
20.00 - 29.99	88.3%	11.7%	6.4%	5.3%	54.4%	45.6%	33.1%	26.9%	23.1%	16.9%
30.00 - 39.99	86.0%	14.0%	7.5%	6.5%	53.5%	46.5%	31.8%	23.2%	23.2%	21.9%
40.00 - 49.99	86.7%	13.3%	7.1%	6.2%	53.2%	46.8%	33.7%	22.3%	22.8%	21.2%
50.00+	80.4%	19.6%	7.5%	12.0%	38.5%	61.5%	21.4%	19.0%	26.7%	32.9%
Total	90.3%	9.7%	5.8%	3.9%	59.5%	40.5%	41.3%	26.9%	19.4%	12.4%

Special Schools - September 2025 to March 2026 (Cumulative)

FSM Band	% Present	% Absent	% Authorised Absence	% Unauthorised Absence	Absence Tiers					
					Authorised as % of Total Absence	Unauthorised as % of Total Absence	% Regular	% At Risk	% Chronic	% Severe Chronic
0.00 - 39.99	87.6%	12.4%	8.4%	4.0%	67.9%	32.1%	32.0%	25.3%	23.7%	19.0%
40.00+	87.9%	12.1%	7.8%	4.4%	64.0%	36.0%	34.5%	25.3%	23.1%	17.0%
Total	87.7%	12.3%	8.1%	4.2%	65.9%	34.1%	33.2%	25.3%	23.4%	18.0%

Source: DE SIMS

