

**DE/2026-043 – Freedom of Information Request**

**Request:**

I would like to request the following information from the Education Authority in relation to enrolment at Sperrinview Special School, Dungannon.

Please provide the following:

Of the 143 pupils currently enrolled at Sperrinview Special School, how many identify as being from a Protestant background?

Of the 143 pupils currently enrolled at Sperrinview Special School, how many identify as being from a Roman Catholic background?

Of the 143 pupils currently enrolled at Sperrinview Special School, how many identify as being from neither a Protestant nor Roman Catholic background, or identify as “Other”?

How many pupils from a Protestant background currently hold a Severe Special Educational Needs statement and are awaiting to be granted a place at Sperrinview Special School?

**Department Response:**

I refer to your request under the above legislation for information in relation to enrolment at Sperrinview Special School, Dungannon. This request, received on the 13 March, was for:

- *The enrolment at Sperrinview Special School, Dungannon. Specifically:*
  - *Of the 143 pupils currently enrolled, how many identify as being from a Protestant background?*
  - *Of the 143 pupils currently enrolled, how many identify as being from a Roman Catholic background?*
  - *Of the 143 pupils currently enrolled, how many identify as being from neither a Protestant nor Roman Catholic background, or identify as “Other”?*

Please see the table below showing enrolment at Sperrinview Special School broken down by religion, based on the most recent school census. You referred to an enrolment figure of 143 pupils. This does not match the enrolment recorded in the most recent school census (174 pupils). This difference may reflect changes in enrolment after Census Day.

**Religion breakdown in Sperrinview Special School (5316523), 2025-26**

Protestant	Catholic	Other	Enrolment
28	116	30	174

Source: NI school census

Notes:

Data is based on pupils enrolled on Census day i.e. The Friday of the first full week in October (In 2025/26 this was the 10 October 2025)

The 'Other' category includes pupils that are classified as other Christian, non-Christian, no religion or where religion is unknown or not provided

In relation to your query:

*How many pupils from a Protestant background currently hold a Severe SEN statement and are awaiting a place at Sperrinview Special School?*

The Department does not hold the information requested above. The placement of pupils into special schools is the responsibility of the Education Authority (EA), and operational data relating to individual placements is held by the EA rather than the Department.