MONTHLY ATTENDANCE BULLETIN – AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 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 2026 YTD – Absence % (the previous year's data is shown in brackets.)

** Only absence tier data was available for September 2025 therefore, full data comparisons are not possible. **

	All	Secondary	Grammar	EOTAS
Post-Primary – Secondary, Grammar, EOTAS	6.7%	8.4%	4.4%	17.5%
Post-Primary – Secondary, Grammar, EOTAS - FSME Pupils	11.1%	12.0%	7.9%	13.4%
Special	9.4%			
Special – FSME Pupils	9.1%			
Primary – All Pupils	4.3%			
Primary - FSME Pupils	6.6%			

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	76.2%	8.9%	7.5%	7.3%
Secondary	57.3%	15.4%	14.2%	13.1%
Special	49.5%	11.0%	14.4%	25.2%
Grammar	67.6%	11.4%	11.1%	9.9%
EOTAS	15.7%	3.7%	9.1%	71.5%
Total	68.7%	11.2%	10.2%	9.9%
Total number of pupils	227,564	37,121	33,480	32,872

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

- a 2.5% point increase in regular attendance;
- a 0.7% point decrease in at risk attendance;
- a 0.3%-point decrease in chronic attendance; and
- a 1.5%-point decrease 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 - August / September 2026

Primary Schools - August / September 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	97.4%	2.6%	1.4%	1.2%	55.2%	44.8%	82.5%	7.6%	5.4%	4.6%
10.00 - 19.99	96.7%	3.3%	1.7%	1.6%	51.4%	48.6%	79.1%	7.7%	6.2%	7.0%
20.00 - 29.99	95.6%	4.4%	2.1%	2.3%	48.5%	51.5%	76.3%	9.5%	7.8%	6.4%
30.00 - 39.99	94.8%	5.2%	2.3%	2.9%	43.5%	56.5%	72.9%	9.3%	9.0%	8.8%
40.00 - 49.99	93.7%	6.3%	2.4%	3.8%	39.0%	61.0%	68.7%	11.2%	10.0%	10.1%
50.00 - 59.99	93.2%	6.8%	2.5%	4.3%	36.3%	63.7%	69.2%	9.8%	10.2%	10.8%
60+	93.3%	6.7%	3.1%	3.6%	46.5%	53.5%	67.5%	11.4%	10.5%	10.5%
Total	**95.7%**	**4.3%**	**2.0%**	**2.3%**	46.9%	53.1%	76.2%	8.9%	7.5%	7.3%

Non Grammar - August / September 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	93.8%	6.2%	2.9%	3.3%	47.3%	52.7%	63.8%	15.7%	12.1%	8.4%
10.00 - 19.99	94.3%	5.7%	3.7%	2.1%	64.0%	36.0%	64.7%	14.9%	12.0%	8.4%
20.00 - 29.99	92.1%	7.9%	4.4%	3.5%	55.8%	44.2%	56.5%	16.4%	15.1%	12.0%
30.00 - 39.99	90.4%	9.6%	5.3%	4.4%	54.5%	45.5%	55.1%	15.0%	14.8%	15.1%
40.00 - 49.99	89.8%	10.2%	5.9%	4.3%	58.0%	42.0%	56.0%	13.8%	14.5%	15.7%
50.00+	89.3%	10.7%	5.5%	5.2%	51.7%	48.3%	52.7%	15.4%	14.4%	17.5%
Total	91.5%	8.5%	4.7%	3.7%	56.0%	44.0%	57.3%	15.4%	14.2%	13.1%

Grammar - August / September 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	96.9%	3.1%	2.5%	0.6%	80.5%	19.5%	81.1%	9.4%	6.6%	2.9%
5.00 - 9.99	95.9%	4.1%	3.1%	1.1%	74.2%	25.8%	70.7%	11.8%	9.3%	8.3%
10.00 - 14.99	95.0%	5.0%	3.4%	1.7%	66.9%	33.1%	59.5%	11.1%	16.7%	12.7%
15.00 +	93.8%	6.2%	3.8%	2.4%	61.6%	38.4%	57.4%	12.1%	13.9%	16.6%
Total	95.5%	4.5%	3.2%	1.4%	70.0%	30.0%	67.6%	11.4%	11.1%	9.9%

Post Primary - August / September 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	96.0%	4.0%	2.9%	1.1%	73.6%	26.4%	72.6%	11.4%	8.8%	7.2%
10.00 - 19.99	94.6%	5.4%	3.5%	1.9%	64.4%	35.6%	62.1%	13.2%	13.1%	11.6%
20.00 - 29.99	92.4%	7.6%	4.3%	3.3%	57.1%	42.9%	56.6%	15.4%	15.5%	12.5%
30.00 - 39.99	90.4%	9.6%	5.3%	4.4%	54.5%	45.5%	55.1%	15.0%	14.8%	15.1%
40.00 - 49.99	89.8%	10.2%	5.9%	4.3%	58.0%	42.0%	56.0%	13.8%	14.5%	15.7%
50.00+	89.3%	10.7%	5.5%	5.2%	51.7%	48.3%	52.7%	15.4%	14.4%	17.5%
Total	93.2%	6.8%	4.1%	2.7%	60.1%	39.9%	61.7%	13.7%	12.9%	11.8%

Special Schools - August / September 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	89.4%	10.6%	6.5%	4.1%	61.6%	38.4%	36.7%	11.5%	14.7%	37.2%
40.00+	90.0%	10.0%	6.5%	3.4%	65.6%	34.4%	54.3%	10.8%	14.3%	20.6%
Total	89.9%	10.1%	6.5%	3.6%	64.5%	35.5%	49.5%	11.0%	14.4%	25.2%

Source: DE SIMS