

Pupil suspensions 2019/20

Table 1: Number of pupils suspended by Key Stage in Northern Ireland 2019/20

Key stage	Number of pupils suspended	Percentage of key stage pupil population
Foundation stage & Key stage1 (years 1 to 4)	61	0.1%
Key stage 2 (years 5 to 7)	150	0.2%
Key stage 3 (years 8 to 10)	1700	2.3%
Key stage 4 (Years 11 to 12)	1431	3.1%
Total	3342	1.1%

1. These figures relate to all pupils undertaking Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1-4 in primary, post-primary and special schools.

2. For special school pupils, curriculum year is used as a proxy for Key Stage.

Table 2: Number of pupils suspended in the 2019/20 school year disaggregated by gender

	Male	Female	Total
Number of pupils	2648	694	3342
Percentage of total pupil population	0.9%	0.2%	1.1%
Percentage of each gender	1.7%	0.5%	N/A

1. These figures relate to all pupils undertaking Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1-4 in primary, post-primary and special schools

Table 3: Number of pupils suspended in the 2019/20 year disaggregated by school management type

School type	Management type			
	Controlled ³	Catholic maintained	Other	Total
Primary	123	66	8	197
Secondary	1175	996	378	2549
Grammar	117	N/A	422	539
Special Schools	57	0	0	57
Total	1472	1062	808	3342

1. These figures relate to all pupils undertaking Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1-4 in primary, post-primary and special schools.

2. School management types for grant-aided schools have been amalgamated into three groups. The 'other types' group includes grant maintained integrated schools, voluntary grammar schools (both denominational and non-denominational) and other voluntary maintained schools.

3. The figure for controlled schools includes controlled integrated and controlled Irish medium schools.

Table 4: Number of pupils suspended in the 2019/20 school year disaggregated by frequency of suspension and ethnicity.

Number of times suspended	White	Minority ethnic background	Total	Percentage of the total school population
1	2194	152	2346	0.8%
2	514	34	548	0.2%
3 or more	427	21	448	0.2%
Total	3135	207	3342	1.1%
Percentage of each ethnic group suspended	1.1%	1.4%	N/A	N/A

1. These figures relate to all pupils undertaking Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1-4 in primary, post-primary and special schools.

2. The 'minority ethnic background' classification includes Traveller pupils.

Table 5: Reasons for pupil suspensions in the 2019/20 school year disaggregated by gender

Reason for suspension occasion	Percentage of all suspensions			
	Male	Female	Total ¹	Percentage
Persistent infringements of school rules	1321	389	1710	32.5%
Physical attack on pupil	976	198	1174	22.3%
Verbal abuse of staff	953	180	1133	21.5%
Disruptive behaviour in class	302	41	343	6.5%
Significant damage to property	161	26	187	3.6%
Physical attack on staff	32	191	223	4.2%
Verbal abuse of pupil	106	38	144	2.7%
Bullying of a pupil	85	29	114	2.2%
Substance abuse	121	27	148	2.8%
Stealing	54	5	59	1.1%
Alcohol abuse	7	17	24	0.5%
Total	4118	1141	5259	100.0%

1. The information in the 'Total' column reflects the number of individual suspensions, as opposed to the number of pupils suspended. The overall total is higher than that in the other tables because some of the pupils have been suspended more than once.

General Notes to tables

“*” Indicates a number too small to be released

“#” Indicates that a value has been randomly chosen not to be disclosed as to do so would enable the reader to calculate value(s) that in and of itself / themselves would be too small to be released.