

The management information presented in this bulletin was derived from two sources. Firstly, a weekly data collection from grant-aided schools and pre-school education settings to gather information on attendance of workforce and children, collected every Monday starting on the 18th January 2021. Secondly, a cumulative weekly report on pupil attendance that began the week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> August when pupils returned to school. This report is taken direct from the School Information Management System (SIMS) at no further burden to the schools.

Previous publications on workforce and pupil attendance during 2020/21 can be found at:

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-research/management-information-attendance-pupils-and-workforce-schools>

### Pupil Attendance w/c 26 April to w/c 31 May 2021

Week Commencing	In school	Covid-19 Self Isolation & Learning from Home	Covid-19 Learning from Home - Social Distancing	Total Present	Total Absent
W/C 31 May 2021	92.9%	0.4%	0.5%	<b>93.8%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>
W/C 24 May 2021	92.3%	0.8%	0.4%	<b>93.5%</b>	<b>6.5%</b>
W/C 17 May 2021	92.0%	0.9%	0.4%	<b>93.3%</b>	<b>6.7%</b>
W/C 10 May 2021	91.7%	0.7%	0.5%	<b>92.9%</b>	<b>7.1%</b>
W/C 3 May 2021	91.1%	0.8%	0.5%	<b>92.5%</b>	<b>7.5%</b>
W/C 26 April 2021	91.6%	0.9%	0.4%	<b>93.0%</b>	<b>7.0%</b>

Note: Please read methodological note for explanation on (i) missing marks, (j) for NI average and (k) for In school  
Source: SIMS

### Pupil Attendance by school type w/c 31 May 2021

School Type	In school	Covid-19 Self Isolation & Learning from Home	Covid-19 Learning from Home - Social Distancing	Total Present	Total Absent
Primary	94.6%	0.4%	0.1%	<b>95.1%</b>	<b>4.9%</b>
Non Grammar	90.1%	0.5%	0.1%	<b>90.8%</b>	<b>9.2%</b>
Grammar	93.8%	0.3%	1.5%	<b>95.5%</b>	<b>4.5%</b>
Special	84.8%	1.9%	0.7%	<b>87.4%</b>	<b>12.6%</b>
Total	92.9%	0.4%	0.5%	<b>93.8%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>

Note: Please read methodological note for explanation on (i) missing marks, (j) for NI average and (k) for In school  
Source: SIMS

Based on the weekly SIMS report:

- 92.9% of overall attendance was recorded as being on site.
- On site attendance was highest in the primary sector at 94.6%.

## Workforce Attendance – 7 June 2021

### Teaching staff: attendance

Institution type	Date	On site	Not on site (Working remotely)	Total On site or working remotely	Not available to work <sup>1</sup>	Total Not on site
All institutions excl. Special schools	10 May	94.5%	1.9%	<b>96.3%</b>	3.7%	<b>5.5%</b>
	17 May	94.6%	1.6%	<b>96.2%</b>	3.8%	<b>5.4%</b>
	24 May	94.2%	2.1%	<b>96.3%</b>	3.7%	<b>5.8%</b>
	01 Jun <sup>2</sup>	94.1%	2.7%	<b>96.8%</b>	3.2%	<b>5.9%</b>
	07 Jun	94.0%	2.1%	<b>96.1%</b>	3.9%	<b>6.0%</b>
Special Schools	10 May	87.3%	3.3%	<b>90.6%</b>	9.4%	<b>12.7%</b>
	17 May	87.0%	3.2%	<b>90.2%</b>	9.8%	<b>13.0%</b>
	24 May	89.1%	2.0%	<b>91.1%</b>	8.9%	<b>10.9%</b>
	01 Jun <sup>2</sup>	90.7%	1.4%	<b>92.2%</b>	7.8%	<b>9.3%</b>
	07 Jun	89.6%	3.0%	<b>92.6%</b>	7.4%	<b>10.4%</b>

Source: DE weekly survey Note: Due to rounding the totals may not appear to add.

<sup>1</sup> Could include, for example, non-Covid illness or planned leave; <sup>2</sup> Data collected on Tuesday due to bank holiday

### Non-Teaching staff: attendance

Institution type	Date	On site	Not on site (Working remotely)	Total On site or working remotely	Not available to work <sup>1</sup>	Total Not on site
All institutions excl. Special schools	10 May	93.4%	2.0%	<b>95.3%</b>	4.7%	<b>6.6%</b>
	17 May	94.1%	1.2%	<b>95.2%</b>	4.8%	<b>5.9%</b>
	24 May	93.6%	1.3%	<b>94.9%</b>	5.1%	<b>6.4%</b>
	01 Jun <sup>2</sup>	93.2%	2.4%	<b>95.6%</b>	4.4%	<b>6.8%</b>
	07 Jun	94.1%	1.0%	<b>95.1%</b>	4.9%	<b>5.9%</b>
Special Schools	10 May	88.7%	1.4%	<b>90.1%</b>	9.9%	<b>11.3%</b>
	17 May	87.0%	0.7%	<b>87.8%</b>	12.2%	<b>13.0%</b>
	24 May	87.1%	0.8%	<b>88.0%</b>	12.0%	<b>12.9%</b>
	01 Jun <sup>2</sup>	87.0%	1.2%	<b>88.2%</b>	11.8%	<b>13.0%</b>
	07 Jun	91.1%	0.6%	<b>91.7%</b>	8.3%	<b>8.9%</b>

Source: DE weekly survey Note: Due to rounding the totals may not appear to add.

<sup>1</sup> Could include, for example, non-Covid illness or planned leave; <sup>2</sup> Data collected on Tuesday due to bank holiday

Based on responses to the weekly survey, on 7 June:

- The percentage of teaching staff on site is 94.0% in all institutions excluding special schools compared with 89.6% of teaching staff in special schools.
- The percentage of non - teaching staff on site in all institutions excluding special schools is 94.1% compared with 91.1% in special schools.

## Workforce - breakdown of reasons provided for staff not available to work

### Teaching staff not available to work: Breakdown of reasons

Institution type	Date	COVID-19 Related Issues	Vulnerable	Other <sup>(1)</sup>
All institutions excl. Special schools	10 May	17.7%	6.7%	75.6%
	17 May	16.5%	8.9%	74.6%
	24 May	18.0%	4.8%	77.2%
	01 Jun <sup>2</sup>	11.6%	7.3%	81.1%
	07 Jun	16.5%	7.3%	76.2%
Special Schools	10 May	10.2%	13.6%	76.3%
	17 May	20.0%	10.0%	70.0%
	24 May	11.4%	11.4%	77.1%
	01 Jun <sup>2</sup>	4.2%	4.2%	91.7%
	07 Jun	20.7%	6.9%	72.4%

**Source:** DE weekly survey **Note:** Due to rounding the totals may not appear to add.

<sup>1</sup> Could include, for example, non-Covid illness or planned leave; <sup>2</sup> Data collected on Tuesday due to bank holiday

### Non-Teaching staff not available to work: Breakdown of reasons

Institution type	Date	COVID-19 Related Issues	Vulnerable	Other <sup>(1)</sup>
All institutions excl. Special schools	10 May	15.6%	8.3%	76.2%
	17 May	16.9%	8.2%	74.9%
	24 May	15.5%	7.8%	76.7%
	01 Jun <sup>2</sup>	17.4%	8.1%	74.6%
	07 Jun	13.9%	5.6%	80.6%
Special Schools	10 May	8.6%	7.2%	84.2%
	17 May	24.3%	5.1%	70.6%
	24 May	13.5%	3.8%	82.7%
	01 Jun <sup>2</sup>	8.9%	7.6%	83.5%
	07 Jun	30.3%	10.6%	59.1%

**Source:** DE weekly survey **Note:** Due to rounding the totals may not appear to add.

<sup>1</sup> Could include, for example, non-Covid illness or planned leave; <sup>2</sup> Data collected on Tuesday due to bank holiday

## NOTES

### Temporary Data Collection

The figures presented are derived from two sources; a temporary management data collection in the form of a weekly survey and a standard report run from the Schools Information Management System (SIMS) of all primary, post primary, special and educated other than at school (EOTAS) settings. The weekly survey began on the 18<sup>th</sup> August before pupils started back to school. The weekly attendance report from (SIMS) contains pupil attendance information relating to the previous school week.

### Data Validation

These figures have been collected in response to COVID-19 and to monitor attendance patterns as the new academic year begins. Data collected are deemed to be management information and have not undergone the same rigorous quality assurance checks that are carried out prior to the publication of Official Statistics, due to the need for a quick turnaround for policy colleagues.

### Methodology - survey

- a) On 18 August 2020, a weekly survey was issued to educational establishments. During this week educational establishments in Northern Ireland were first open to staff but not pupils. Information collected included workforce attendance, intended learning models, use of 'bubbles'.
- b) On 25 August and 1 September the survey collected workforce attendance, learning models being used, vulnerable children attendance and use of 'bubbles'. Schools were open for priority cohorts (Years 7, 12 & 14) and vulnerable children, there is also evidence that some schools opened for other year groups.
- c) It was originally planned that the survey would be for three weeks only but it was decided that the survey would continue beyond these three weeks to collect workforce data only. The survey is the only method presently to capture workforce absence on a weekly basis.
- d) The survey covers Primary, Prep. Departments, Secondary (Non-grammar), Grammar, Special and EOTAS settings. It does not cover Independent Schools or Further Education establishments.
- e) On 12 January this survey was extended to include playgroups, day nurseries and nursery schools and included questions on children attendance as well.
- f) On 18 January the survey moved to gathering data in relation to Mondays (apart from bank holidays when it gathered data in relation to Tuesdays), and a separate survey for Special Schools was run. From 12 April a single survey covering only staff attendance was issued.
- g) Survey response rate: on 7 June the survey had an overall response rate of 53.8%.

### Methodology – SIMS pupil attendance

- h) C2K – The Education Authority generate a pupil attendance report for all primary, post primary, special and EOTAS settings for the entire school week. This report requires no input from schools other than entering their attendance data for pupils as normal.
- i) Circular 2020/08, issued on 14<sup>th</sup> August, informed schools that they must update attendance records on a daily basis in order to facilitate the running of attendance reports. However this has not always been the case with some marks from the latest download not recorded before data extraction the following Monday. In order to produce meaningful management information these missing marks have been removed from the denominator to allow a fairer representation of attendance rates to be produced.
- j) 2017/18 NI Average is the most recent available. Attendance data for the 2018/19 academic year was not processed due to resourcing issues. However attendance data for the 2019/20 academic year will be processed and published in January 2021.
- k) In School includes Present AM, Present PM, Late before registration closed, Study Leave, Educational Visit, Work Experience, AEP, Home hospital provision, Pupil Referral Unit,

Entitlement Framework, Training- Entitlement Framework, FE College Entitlement Framework  
CAMHS, Approved Activity and Intensive Support Unit.

- l) Attendance is reported by schools in half day sessions.
- m) Due to differences in methodologies it was decided not to present comparisons with other devolved administrations.
- n) New pupil attendance codes were introduced from the start of term in January to allow schools to record instances of remote learning, Covid-19 related illness and self-isolation. Guidance was issued to schools on 16 December, informing them of these new codes and asking them to use them with effect from 4 January 2021.

#### FURTHER ENQUIRIES

Analytical Services Unit: John Toogood

(028) 91279638

[statistics@education-ni.gov.uk](mailto:statistics@education-ni.gov.uk)

Press Office: (028) 9127 9772