Special educational needs
2018/19 - Key statistics

Number of pupils with special educational needs

- 78,917 pupils with special educational needs (22.8% of all pupils)
- 60,492 pupils with special educational needs but not a statement (17.5%)
- 18,425 pupils with a statement of special educational needs (5.3%)
- 41,494 pupils with special educational needs but not a statement, i.e. typically less severe needs

Change on last year
- SEN pupils with a statement: 250
- SEN pupils without a statement: 838
- No special educational needs: 1,588

Special educational needs by school type

- Pre-school: 11,541
  - 87.9% SEN pupils with a statement
  - 11.5% SEN pupils without a statement
  - 0.7% No special educational needs

- Primary (years 1-7): 30,354
  - 77.8% SEN pupils with a statement
  - 18.7% SEN pupils without a statement
  - 3.5% No special educational needs

- Post-primary: 18,062
  - 78.0% SEN pupils with a statement
  - 17.3% SEN pupils without a statement
  - 4.7% No special educational needs

- Special: 19,001
  - 92.7% SEN pupils with a statement
  - 7.3% SEN pupils without a statement
  - 0.0% No special educational needs

Pupils with a statement of special educational needs and where they are educated

- Educated in a mainstream school: 70.0%
- Educated in a special school: 30.0%

Most frequent special educational need types

1. Speech and language difficulties: 5,514
2. Autism: 5,262
3. Moderate learning difficulties: 4,782
4. Social, emotional and behavioural difficulties: 4,085
5. Severe learning difficulties: 2,680

Free school meal entitlement

- SEN with a statement: 47.3%
- SEN without a statement: 42.9%
- No special educational needs: 24.8%

School leavers’ destinations - with and without SEN

2017/18 figures

- Higher Education: 21.1% (With SEN) vs. 49.4% (Without SEN)
- Further Education: 42.9% (With SEN) vs. 30.8% (Without SEN)
- Employment: 10.1% (With SEN) vs. 9.6% (Without SEN)
- Training: 20.3% (With SEN) vs. 7.0% (Without SEN)
- Unemployment: 3.3% (With SEN) vs. 1.7% (Without SEN)

Source: NI school census; School leavers’ survey
Queries? Contact: statistics@education-ni.gov.uk