The management information presented in this bulletin was derived from two sources. Firstly, a weekly data collection from grant-aided schools and pre-school settings to gather information on attendance of workforce and children, collected every Tuesday starting on the 12th January 2021. Secondly, a cumulative weekly report on pupil attendance that began the week commencing 24th 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/management-information-attendance-pupils-and-workforce-schools

Pupil Attendance

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. Understandably, it will take time for schools to become accustomed to the new codes as they have been focusing on the preparation of lessons for remote learning as well as key worker and vulnerable children in school. The Department has decided not to publish pupil attendance data for the first week of the new term. Weekly attendance data will be published for week commencing 11 January 2021 onwards.

Workforce Attendance - 12 January 2021

Data for 12 January includes responses from pre-schools and nurseries and is therefore not directly comparable with results from previous surveys.

Teaching staff: attendance

Date	On site	Not on site (Working remotely)	Total On site or working remotely	Not available for work[1]	Total Not on site
All institutions exc. Special schools	29.0%	64.2%	**93.2%**	6.8%	**71.0%**
Special Schools	72.0%	13.4%	**85.5%**	14.5%	**28.0%**

Source: DE weekly survey Note: Due to rounding the totals may not appear to add. [1] Could include, for example, non-Covid illness or planned leave

Non-Teaching staff: attendance

Date	On site	Not on site (Working remotely)	Total On site or working remotely	Not available for work[1]	Total Not on site
All institutions exc. Special schools	43.6%	48.6%	**92.2%**	7.8%	**56.4%**
Special Schools	78.2%	4.6%	**82.9%**	17.1%	**21.8%**

Source: DE weekly survey Note: Due to rounding the totals may not appear to add. [1] Could include, for example, non-Covid illness or planned leave

Based on responses to the weekly survey, on 12th January:

- The percentage of teaching staff on site is 29.0% in all institutions excluding special schools compared with 72.0% of teaching staff in special schools.
- The percentage of non - teaching staff on site in all institutions excluding special schools is 43.6% compared with 78.2% in special schools.

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

Data for 12 January includes responses from pre-schools and nurseries and is therefore not directly comparable with results from previous surveys. In addition it only relates to staff who were not available to work. In previous surveys this was also asked of staff who were not on site but working remotely.

Teaching staff not on site: Breakdown of reasons

Date	They or member of household has confirmed COVID19	Identified by PHA Testing and Tracing to self-isolate	They or member of household showing symptoms of COVID19	Vulnerable category	In quarantine due to travel	Other[1]
All institutions exc. Special schools	22.9%	13.8%	8.4%	20.7%	0.7%	33.6%
Special Schools	11.4%	15.0%	5.0%	24.3%	0.7%	43.6%

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

[1] Could include, for example, non-Covid illness or planned leave

Non-Teaching staff not on site: Breakdown of reasons

Date	They or member of household has confirmed COVID19	Identified by PHA Testing and Tracing to self-isolate	They or member of household showing symptoms of COVID19	Vulnerable category / shielding	In quarantine due to travel	Other[1]
All institutions exc. Special schools	20.7%	12.2%	7.4%	23.2%	0.3%	36.3%
Special Schools	12.3%	17.9%	4.7%	20.8%	0.0%	44.3%

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

[1] Could include, for example, non-Covid illness or planned leave

Key Worker and Vulnerable Children

Based on responses from 28 Special Schools to the survey on 12 January 2021:

- Response rate of 70%.
- 28 (100%) reported as being open to receive key worker / vulnerable children.
- 2,591 (47.7%) children in total were reported to be on site.
- 1,954 (36.0%) children in total were reported to be learning remotely.
- 890 (16.4%) children were reported to be not on site or learning remotely.

Based on responses from 1,009 other institutions (excluding special schools) to the survey on 12 January 2021:

- Response rate of 69%.
- 851 (84.3%) reported as being open to receive key worker / vulnerable children.
- 158 (15.7%) reported as being closed to receive key worker / vulnerable children.
- 146 (92.4%) of those reporting as being closed stated this was due to "No demand from parents".
- 14,787 (7.3%) children in total were reported to be on site.
- 180,109 (89.4%) children in total were reported to be learning remotely.
- 6,528 (3.2%) children were reported to be not on site or learning remotely.
- 3,279 (15.8%) vulnerable children were reported to be on site.
- 13,549 (65.2%) vulnerable children were reported to be learning remotely.
- 3,960 (19.0%) vulnerable children were reported to be not on site or learning remotely.

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 18th 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 18th 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 25th August & 1st 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 12th January this survey was extended to include playgroups, day nurseries and nursery schools and included questions on children attendance as well.

f) Survey response rate: On 12th January the survey had a response rate of 69%.

Methodology – SIMS pupil attendance

g) 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.

h) Circular 2020/08, issued on 14th 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.

i) 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.

j) 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.

k) Attendance is reported by schools in half day sessions.

l) Due to differences in methodologies it was decided not to present comparisons with other devolved administrations.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES

Analytical Services Unit: John Toogood

(028) 91279638

statistics@education-ni.gov.uk

Press Office: (028) 9127 9772