

Statistical Bulletin 2/2017

Annual enrolments at schools and in funded pre-school education in Northern Ireland, 2016/17

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Statistics & Research Team
Department of Education
Rathgael House
Balloo Road, Rathgill
BANGOR BT19 7PR

Telephone

Press Office:
028 9127 9207
Statistics & Research Team:
028 9127 9717

Statistician: Paul Matthews

Email: statistics@education-ni.gov.uk

Internet

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-research/school-enrolments>

The purpose of this statistical release is to present final enrolment figures for schools and for children in funded pre-school education for 2016/17.

Key points:

- There are 171,612 pupils in **primary** schools (years 1-7), and this has risen by almost 3,000 pupils this year to the highest total since 2000/01.
- In total 140,413 pupils are enrolled in **post-primary** schools, dropping to the lowest level since records began thirty years ago. There are approximately 29,500 pupils in **sixth forms** in schools, 62% of all 16-17 year olds in Northern Ireland.
- There are 23,825 pupils in **funded pre-school education**, a small drop on last year. This is 92% of three year olds in the population.
- More than 100,000 pupils in Northern Ireland are entitled to **free school meals** and this represents three in ten of all pupils.



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Introduction

Enrolment data from the 2016/17 annual school census was released in December 2016. The purpose of this statistical release is to present the final enrolment figures, and a more detailed analysis of this information.

The data are taken from the school census exercise, which ran in October 2016. Data collected through the school census exercise are used by the Department of Education (DE) to inform a wide range of policy areas, including finance allocations, school estate development and planning, special education, school improvement, area based planning, extended schools, additional educational needs, early years and integrated and Irish medium education. Other users include the Education Authority, the Education and Training Inspectorate and to inform responses to Assembly questions and requests from academic researchers, journalists, lobby groups and the public.

Statistics relating to school numbers and enrolments can be found on the Statistics and Research section of the DE website¹. Analysis is provided at Northern Ireland and school level.

This is an annual publication. Provisional data relating to the 2017/18 academic year will be released in December 2017, with a 2017/18 update of this publication being released in February/March 2018.

¹ <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-research/statistics>

Section 1: Funded pre-school education

1.1. Number of institutions

- There are a total of 793 institutions in Northern Ireland providing funded pre-school education (Table 1a). The total number of institutions offering pre-school education has dropped by ten this year.
 - Half of all funded pre-school providers are funded voluntary and private pre-school centres, that is, playgroups and day nurseries. There are 399 funded centres this year².
 - Compared to last year, there are six fewer funded voluntary and private pre-school centres (and 19 fewer unfunded centres). There are also six fewer primary schools that have reception provision compared to last year³.

1.2. Enrolments

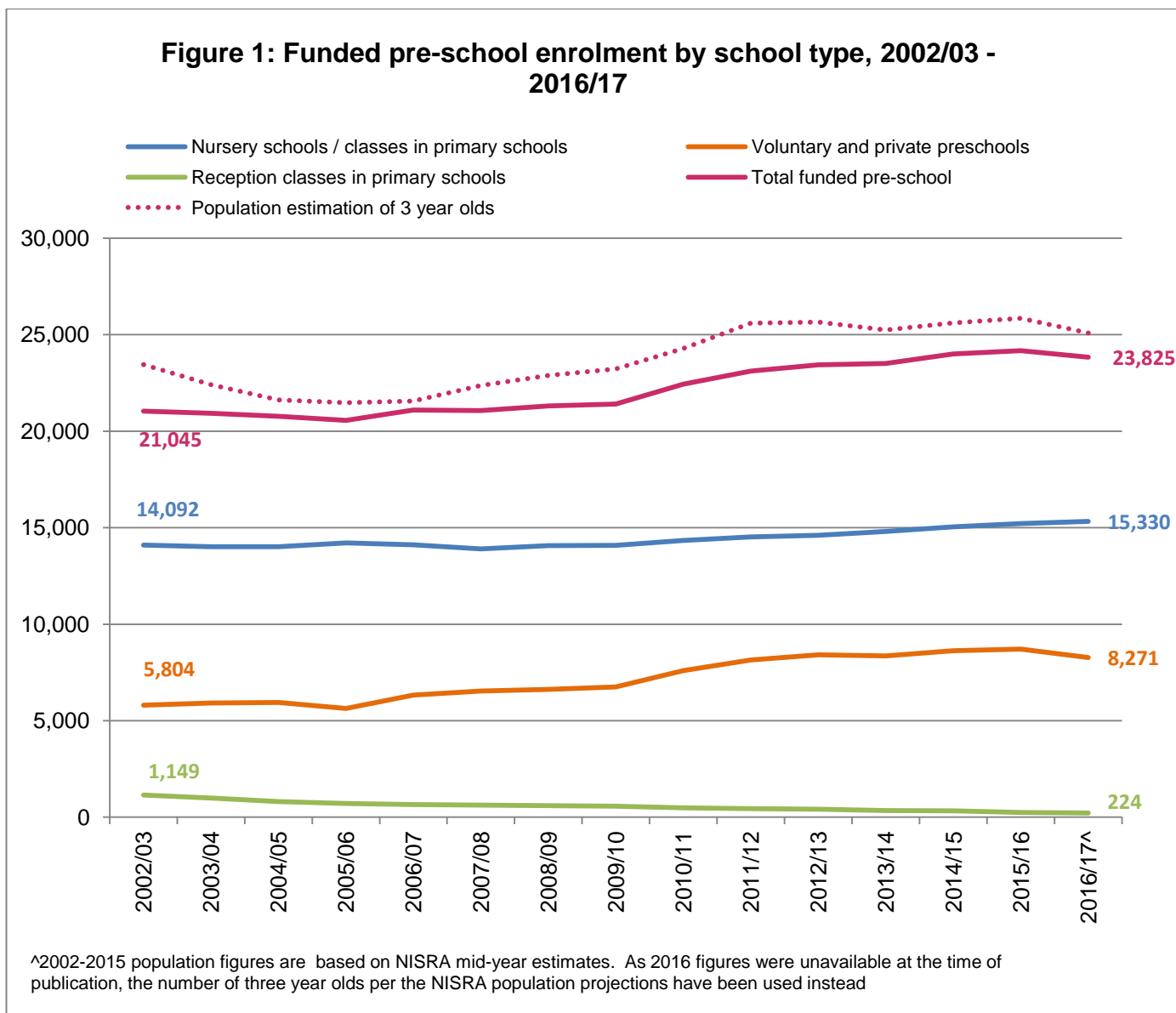
- There are just over 23,800 pupils in funded pre-school education (Table 2a). This has dropped by almost 350 pupils this year compared to last, representing the first time funded pre-school enrolments have decreased since 2007/08.
 - However, this may be explained by there being fewer three year olds in the population this year. In both years, the same proportion (92%) of three year olds in the Northern Ireland population were in funded pre-school education⁴.

² There are a total of 479 voluntary and private pre-school centres in Northern Ireland, but just 399 are fully or partially funded by the Department of Education.

³ Investing in Early Learning, published in 1997, set out the Department's 'intention to replace reception provision with suitable alternative provision so that all children below compulsory school age in school settings will be in planned pre-school provision which meets specified standards' and proposed that 'no new reception provision in primary schools (i.e. provision in schools where a reception class or group does not exist in the 1998/99 school year) will be funded from September 1999'. This policy was implemented with the introduction of the Pre-School Education Expansion Programme in 1998.

⁴ This is calculated by dividing the number of pupils aged 3 according to the NI school census (23,063) by the number of children aged 3 in the 2016 population projections (25,085) (the most recent available at time of publication): <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/projections/NPP14-sya.xls>.

- Most of the decrease in funded pre-school enrolments comes from the drop of almost 450 pupils enrolled in voluntary and private pre-schools compared to last year. (Figure 1).



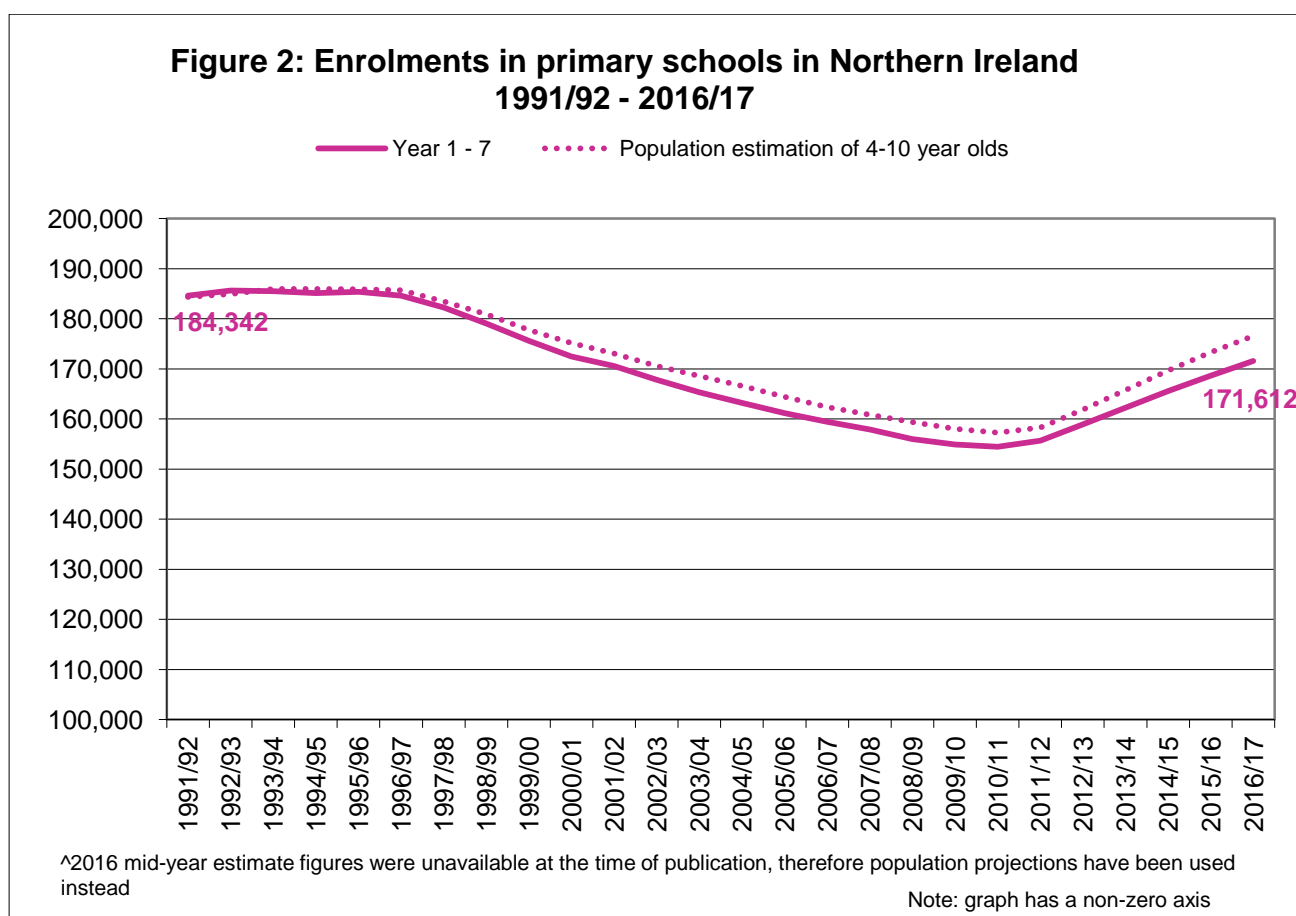
Section 2: Primary school education

2.1. Number of schools

- There are 821 primary schools (including preparatory departments) in Northern Ireland. This has dropped by 33 schools in the last five years (table 1b).

2.2. Enrolments

- Enrolments of pupils in years 1 to 7 have risen for the sixth year in succession. In October 2016 the total number of year 1-7 pupils was 171,612 (Table 2a), its highest level since 2000/01. Enrolments have increased sharply in recent years; by more than 17,000 pupils since 2010/11 and almost 3,000 compared to last year (Figure 2). The increase observed is in line with the rise in the number of 4-10 year olds in NISRA's mid-year estimates over the last six years⁵.



⁵ <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/midyear/NI-sya-6114.xls> and <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/projections/NPP14-sya.xls>

- With the increase in enrolments in primary schools and the reduction in the number of schools, the mean number of pupils per school has risen from 179 in 2010/11 to 209 in 2016/17.

2.3. Class size

- The average number of pupils per class in primary schools (year 1 – year 7) remains steady at 25 (Table 4). Average class sizes differ depending on school type, from 20 in Irish medium schools and preparatory departments, to 27 in grant maintained integrated schools.

Section 3: Post-primary school education

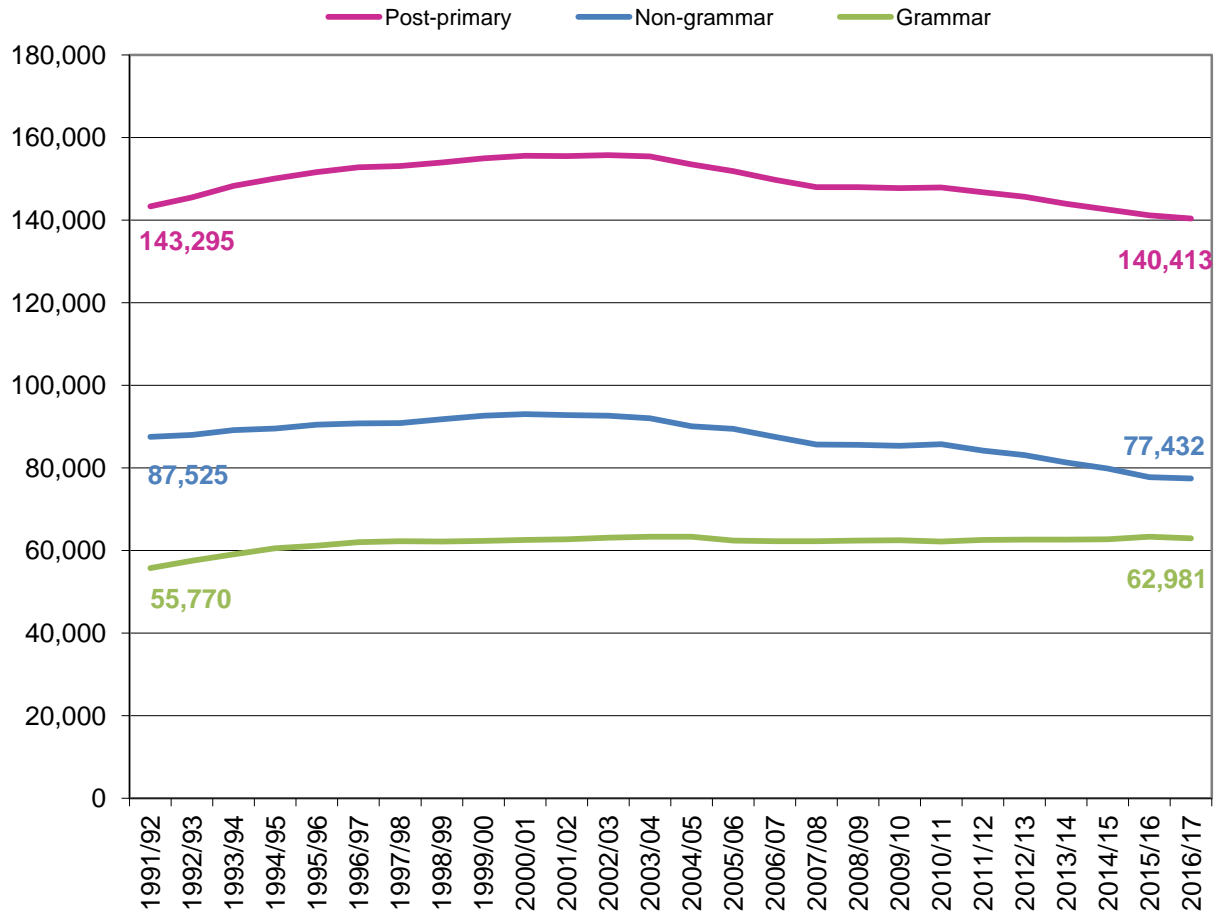
3.1. Number of schools

- The number of post-primary schools in 2016/17 is 201 (Table 1b), a decrease of fifteen from five years ago. This is accounted for by a drop in the number of non-grammar schools.
- One-third (66) of post-primary schools are grammar schools and the remaining two-thirds (135) are non-grammars.
- A total of 166 schools have pupils in sixth form.

3.2. Enrolments

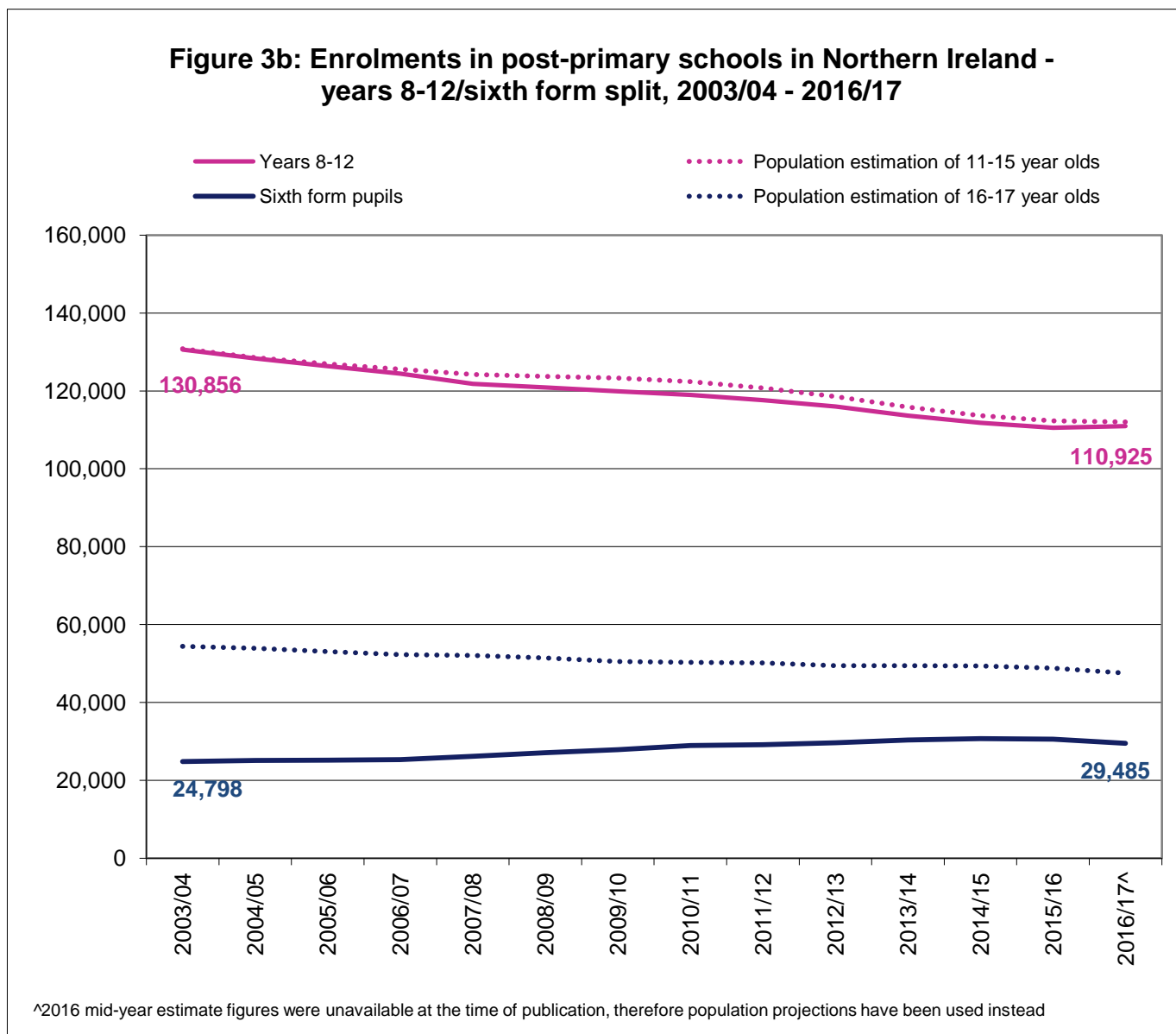
- Unlike primary schools, enrolments in post-primary schools continue to decline. The number of pupils in post-primary schools is 140,413 (Table 2a) – its lowest level ever since data was collected over thirty years ago. Enrolments have dropped by over 15,000 pupils since its peak in 2002/03; and by almost 700 pupils since last year (Figure 3a). Again this mirrors the decrease seen in the number of 11-15 year olds in the population in the same period (Figure 3b).
- The drop in post-primary school enrolments is witnessed in both grammar and non-grammar schools; there are at least 300 fewer pupils in both types of school compared to last year. This is the sixth year in a row that enrolments in non-grammar schools have decreased. However, this year is the first since 2010/11 that enrolments in grammar schools have dropped.
- The proportion of post-primary school pupils attending grammar schools remains at its highest level (44.9% in 2016/17 compared to 37.2% in 1986/87).

Figure 3a: Enrolments in post-primary schools in Northern Ireland - grammar/non-grammar split, 1991/92 - 2016/17



3.3. Sixth form pupils

- There are almost 29,500 pupils studying A Level or equivalent qualifications in schools in Northern Ireland in 2016/17. This has decreased by over 1,000 pupils compared to last year. This may be explained by the fact that number of 16 and 17 year olds in the population has also dropped by over 1,300 compared to last year.

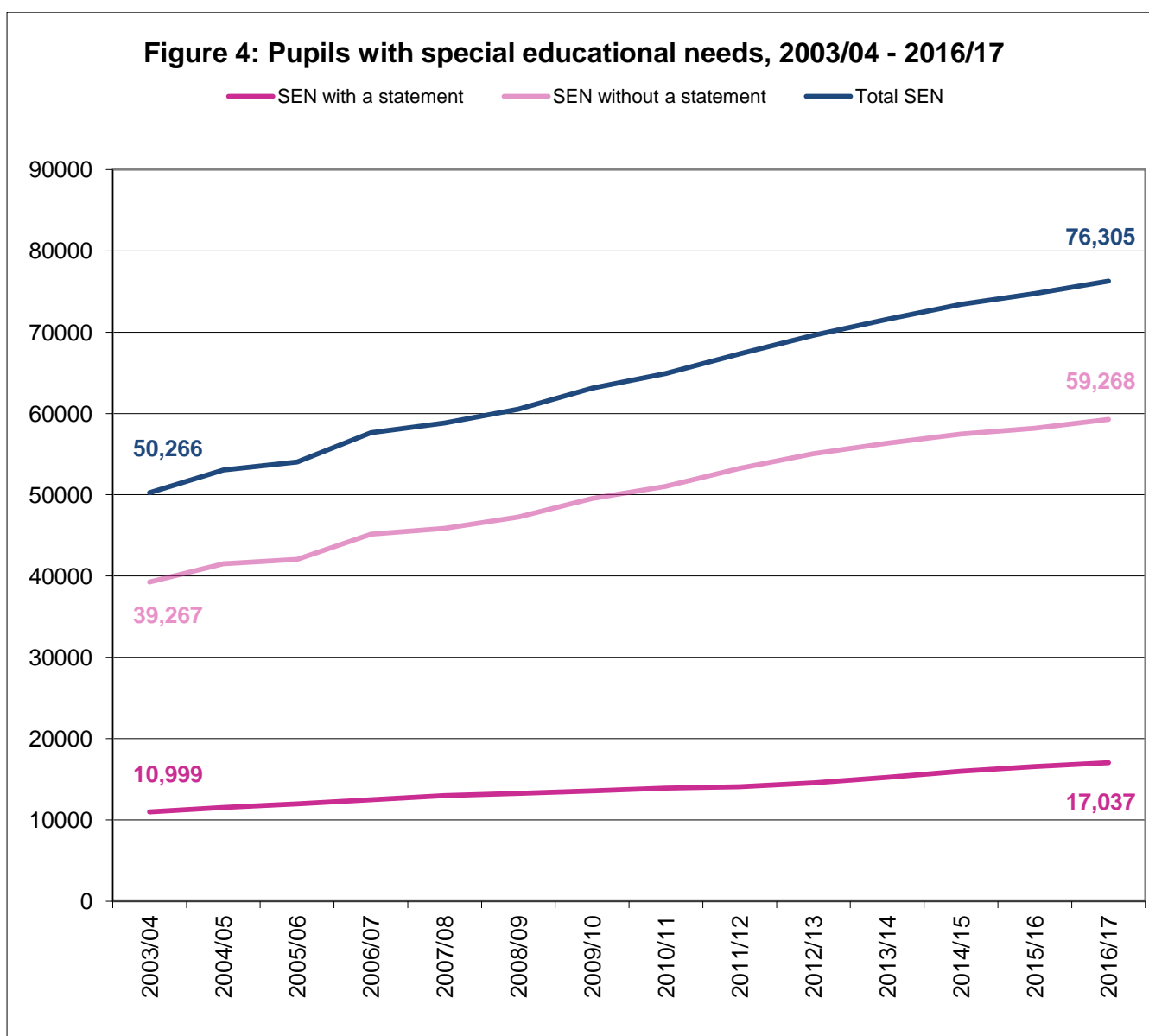


- Overall, 62% of all 16 and 17 year olds in the population are studying A Level or equivalent qualifications in schools. This has dropped by one percentage point compared to last year, but still represents a large increase from 46% in 2003/04.
 - This differs substantially by gender; 71% of all girls aged 16 or 17 are studying A Levels or equivalent in schools compared to 54% of all boys.

Section 4: Special education

4.1. Special educational needs

- More than 76,000 pupils in schools have some form of special educational needs; this is 22.4% of the entire school population. Of this, more than 17,000, or 5.0% of pupils, have a statement of special educational needs (Table 7).
- The number of pupils with special educational needs has been steadily rising, with an additional 1,500 pupils with any needs and almost 500 additional pupils with statements compared to last year (Figure 4).



4.2. Special school enrolments

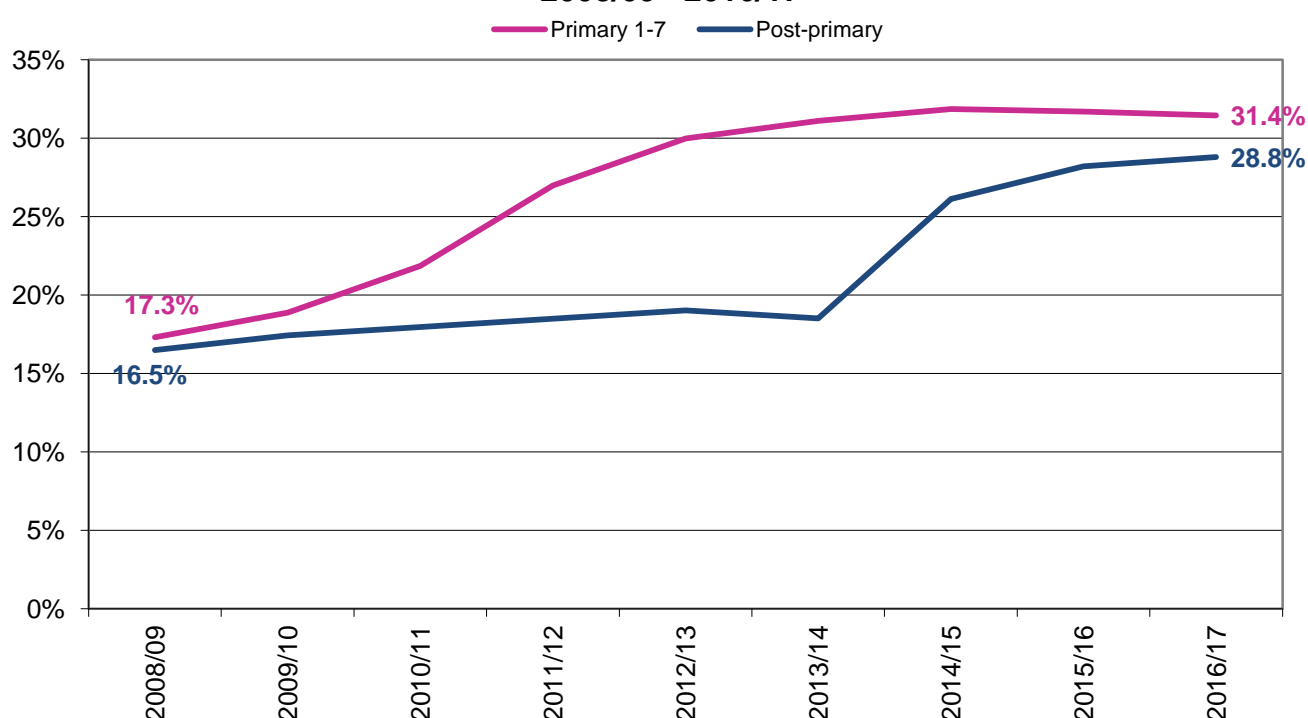
- More than 5,400 pupils are enrolled in 39 dedicated special schools (Table 1b; Table 2a). In addition to this, more than 1,800 are educated in learning support centres in primary and post-primary schools across 91 schools.
- Pupils with special educational needs are increasingly being educated in mainstream schools rather than special schools. In 2003/04, 39.6% of statemented pupils⁶ and 9.8% of pupils with any needs attended special schools. In 2016/17 the corresponding figures have dropped to 30.2% and 7.4% respectively.

⁶ Figures relate to primary (years 1-7) and post-primary pupils only

Section 5: Free school meal entitlement⁷

- The overall percentage of children entitled to free school meals remains steady at 30.7% this year. This equates to more than 102,000 free school meal entitled pupils in nursery, primary, post-primary and special schools (Table 3).
- There are only very slight changes compared to last year in the proportion of pupils that are free school meal entitled by school type:
 - A lower proportion of pre-school (23.8% compared to 24.9%) and primary (years 1-7) pupils (31.4% compared to 31.7%) are free school meal entitled compared to last year.
 - A higher proportion of grammar (14.3% compared to 13.9%), non-grammar (40.6% compared to 39.9%) and special school (54.0% compared to 53.3%) pupils are entitled to free school meals than last year.

Figure 5: Percentage free school meal entitlement by school sector, 2008/09 - 2016/17⁸



⁷ <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/school-milk-and-meals-background>

⁸ Eligibility under the Working Tax Credit free school meal criterion was introduced on a phased basis with Nursery, Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 pupils eligible from September 2010 and Key Stage 2 pupils eligible from September 2011. It was extended to post-primary pupils from September 2014.

Section 6: Changes in enrolment patterns

This final section details changes in enrolment patterns in schools in recent years.

6.1. Diversity in schools

- Schools are increasingly becoming more ethnically diverse. There are more than 13,300 pupils in schools in Northern Ireland recorded as “non-white”, and this represents 3.9% of the school population (Table 6a). This is an increase of more than 3,800 pupils and one percentage point compared to five years prior.
- There is also a rise year-on-year in the number of pupils whose first language is not English. In 2016/17, there are more than 80 first languages spoken by pupils, with Polish and Lithuanian being the most common behind English.
- As such, there has been an increase in the number and proportion of newcomer pupils in schools in Northern Ireland (Table 6b). A newcomer pupil is one who has enrolled in a school but who does not have the satisfactory language skills to participate fully in the school curriculum. In 2016/17, there are approximately almost 14,000 newcomer pupils accounting for 4.1% of the school population. This has risen by more than 5,200 pupils from five years prior.
- The growth in diversity in the school system may be explained by increased levels of migration among school age children over the last number of years⁹.

6.2. Integrated education

- There are over 22,600 pupils enrolled in integrated schools – almost 10,600 in primary schools and more than 12,000 in post-primary schools. The number enrolled has increased by almost 600 pupils compared to last year, and 1,500 pupils compared to five years ago.
- This growth is mainly seen in primary schools, and could be explained by the fact that three primary schools transformed to integrated status in the last two years.

⁹ http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/midyear/Net_Mig_sya_0015.xls

6.3. Irish medium education

- More than 5,850 pupils participate in funded Irish medium education, with 4,667 pupils educated in dedicated Irish medium schools and a further 1,187 pupils educated in Irish medium units attached to English-medium schools (Table 2b).
- The total number of pupils in funded Irish medium education has steadily risen over time, increasing by almost 1,500 pupils since 2011/12 and more than 300 pupils since last year. Most of this increase is coming from greater enrolments in Irish medium schools rather than units.

Notes for readers

National Statistics

1. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

2. For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the National Statistics Public Enquiry Service on 0845 601 3034
minicom: 01633 812399

E-mail: info@statistics.gov.uk

Fax: 01633 652747

Letters: Customer Contact Centre, Office for National Statistics, Rm 1.101,
Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, NP10 8XG

3. You can also find National Statistics on the Internet: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk>

School Census

4. The statistics in this release have been derived from the annual school census; details can be found at <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/school-enrolments-data-collection-and-validation>. For voluntary and private pre-school centres, and nursery schools, the census consists of a paper return comprising a number of tables; for post-primary, primary and special schools, it consists of a return comprising individual pupil records, made by Electronic Data Interchange. The tables presented in the release reflect key information on enrolments, as determined by Departmental needs and also on requests for information from other sources.

5. The figures for pre-school children in this release relate to children in funded pre-school education. The figures for nursery *classes* relate to approved nursery classes in primary schools. The figures for reception refer to pupils who were below compulsory school age at 1st July 2016, who were admitted to a reception class or group in primary school following their 4th birthday. Schools may admit reception pupils throughout the year, but only those who have been admitted or will be admitted by 31st October are counted in the school census.
6. Further statistics relating to school numbers and enrolments can be found on the DE website (www.education-ni.gov.uk) under the Facts and Figures section.

The DE website presents figures taken from the school census, summarised at Northern Ireland and school level. Statistics on pupil attendance, pupil: teacher ratios, school leaver destinations and qualifications may also be accessed via the website.

7. The data is produced at aggregate level only, therefore individual pupils cannot be identified. More information on confidentiality can be found in the DE Confidentiality and Access Statement at the following link:
<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/education/Confidentiality%20and%20Access.pdf>

Data quality and coverage

8. In some cases, percentages may not sum due to rounding.

School types

9. Definitions of school management types are as follows:
 - **Controlled:** Schools are managed and funded by the Education Authority (EA) through Boards of Governors (BoG). Primary and post-primary school BoGs consist of representatives of transferors - mainly the Protestant churches - along with representatives of parents, teachers and the EA.
 - **Voluntary:** Self-governing schools, generally of long standing, originally established to provide an academic education at post primary level on a fee paying basis. Now funded by the Department and managed by Boards of Governors. The BoGs are constituted in accordance with each school's scheme of management - usually representatives of foundation governors, parents, teachers and in most cases, DE or EA representatives. The BoGs is the employing authority and is responsible for the employment of all staff in its school.
 - **Maintained** schools are managed by Boards of Governors which consist of members nominated by trustees, along with representatives of parents, teachers and the Education Authority. These schools are funded through the Education Authority for their running costs and directly by the Department in relation to capital building works. For **Catholic Maintained** schools, the Employing Authority is the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS). **Other maintained** schools

are any schools that are not Catholic maintained. They are typically, but not exclusively, **Irish medium schools**.

- **Controlled integrated:** Controlled schools which have acquired integrated status.
- **Grant Maintained integrated:** Self-governing schools with integrated education status, funded directly by the Department of Education and managed by Boards of Governors. The BoG is the employing authority and responsible for employing staff.

10. Definitions of other school types are as follows

- A **special school** is a controlled or voluntary school which is specially organised to provide education for pupils with special needs and is recognised by the DE as a special school.
- An **independent school** is a school at which full-time education is provided for pupils aged from four to 16 and is not grant aided. These schools set their own curriculum and admissions policies and are funded by fees paid by parents and income from investments. Each independent school must be registered with DE and is inspected regularly by ETI.

Revisions

11. The 2016/17 figures in this statistical release are based on information as at 7 October 2016. They may be subject to minor revision and these will be notified in accordance with our revisions policy. This can be accessed at <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/education/Revisions%20policy.pdf>

Details of revisions are as follows:

- 7 March 2017: to correct the number of year 8-12 pupils in integrated secondary schools (table 2c).

Corrected figures in tables are in italics

Further enquiries

Request for further information should be addressed to:-

Paul Matthews
Statistics and Research Team
Department of Education
Rathgael House
Balloo Road
Rathgill
BANGOR
Co. Down
BT19 7PR
Telephone (028) 9127 9717/ Fax (028) 9127 9594
e-mail: statistics@education-ni.gov.uk

Special analyses of the school census can be undertaken on request.

Press enquiries should be made to the Department's Press Office at the same address, telephone (028) 9127 9207 / fax (028) 9127 9271.

Feedback on this publication can be provided directly to Paul Matthews (contact details above) or via the website: <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/contacts/statistics-and-research-team>

Table 1a: The number of pre-school providers with funded places, by centre type and management type, 2011/12-2016/17

		2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Nursery Schools	Controlled	65	65	64	64	64	64
	Catholic Maintained	32	32	32	32	32	31
	TOTAL	97	97	96	96	96	95
Primary Schools with Funded Nursery Units	Controlled	107	109	112	114	115	116
	Catholic Maintained¹	87	87	88	88	89	90
	Other Maintained²	9	11	11	13	13	14
	Controlled Integrated	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Grant Maintained Integrated	14	14	14	14	15	15
	TOTAL	220	224	228	232	235	238
Primary Schools with Funded Reception Classes	Controlled	35	31	26	22	21	23
	Catholic Maintained	61	56	45	43	42	35
	Other Maintained	-	1	1	1	1	-
	Controlled Integrated	3	4	4	4	3	3
	Grant Maintained Integrated	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL	99	92	76	70	67	61
Voluntary and private pre-School centres with funded places	Voluntary	341	343	343	342	343	343
	Private	40	47	53	59	62	56
	TOTAL	381	390	396	401	405	399
All Centres	GRAND TOTAL³	796	802	795	798	803	793

1 Includes one Irish medium school with a nursery class in 2016/17.

2 Excludes one Irish medium school with a nursery class in 2016/17.

3 The sum of the subtotals will not sum to the grand total as some primary schools have both nursery and reception classes

Table 1b: The number of schools by school type and management type, 2011/12-2016/17

		2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Nursery Schools	Controlled	65	65	64	64	64	64
	Catholic Maintained	32	32	32	32	32	31
	TOTAL	97	97	96	96	96	95
Primary Schools	Controlled¹	378	374	370	370	368	366
	Catholic Maintained^{2,5}	392	387	384	381	374	370
	Other Maintained	23	25	25	25	25	25
	Irish Medium³						
	Other	4	4	4	4	4	3
	Controlled Integrated	19	19	19	19	20	22
	Grant Maintained Integrated	23	23	23	23	23	23
TOTAL	839	832	825	822	814	809	
Preparatory Departments⁴	Controlled	3	3	3	3	2	1
	Voluntary	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Schools under Catholic Management	12	12	11	11	11	11
	Schools under Other Management	15	15	14	14	13	12
TOTAL	15	15	14	14	13	12	
Secondary (Non Grammar) Schools	Controlled	56	55	53	51	49	49
	Catholic Maintained⁶	71	71	68	68	64	64
	Other Maintained	1	1	1	1	2	2
	Irish Medium						
	Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Controlled Integrated	5	5	5	5	5	5
	Grant Maintained Integrated	15	15	15	15	15	15
TOTAL	148	147	142	140	135	135	
Grammar Schools	Controlled	17	17	17	18	17	16
	Voluntary	29	29	29	29	29	29
	Schools under Catholic Management⁷	22	22	22	21	21	21
	Schools under Other Management	68	68	68	68	67	66
TOTAL	68	68	68	68	67	66	
Special Schools	TOTAL	41	40	40	39	39	39
Hospital Schools	TOTAL	2	1	1	1	1	1
Independent Schools	TOTAL	15	15	15	14	14	14
All schools	GRAND TOTAL	1,210	1,200	1,187	1,180	1,166	1,159

¹ Includes two Irish Medium Controlled schools in 2016/17.

² Includes one Irish Medium Catholic Maintained school in 2016/17.

³ Excludes two Irish Medium Controlled schools and one Irish Medium Catholic Maintained school in 2016/17.

⁴ These are part of grammar schools.

⁵ Includes 7 schools with Irish medium units.

⁶ Includes 2 schools with Irish medium units in 2016/17

⁷ Includes 1 school with Irish medium units in 2016/17

Table 2a: Pupils by school type and management type, 2016/17

	Controlled	Catholic Maintained	Other Maintained	Controlled Integrated	Grant Maintained Integrated	Voluntary		Non Grant-Aided	Voluntary pre-school centres	Private pre-school centres	Grand Total	
						Schools under Catholic Management	Schools under Other Management					
<u>PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION IN OTHER CENTRES (FUNDED PLACES ONLY)</u>												
Playgroups	Part-time	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,084	353	7,437	
Day Nurseries	Part-time	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	77	757	834	
Other Provision	Part-time	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,161	1,110	8,271	
<u>NURSERY</u>												
Nursery Schools	Full-time	2,389	1,566	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,955	
	Part-time	1,752	157	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,909	
Nursery Classes	Full-time	2,277	2,394	292	78	133	-	-	-	-	5,174	
	Part-time	2,232	1,544	128	-	388	-	-	-	-	4,292	
TOTAL		8,650	5,661	420	78	521	-	-	-	-	15,330	
<u>PRIMARY</u>												
Reception		84	122	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	224	
Primary Schools (Year 1 - Year 7)		78,314	78,451	3,190	4,109	5,844	-	-	-	-	169,908	
Prep. Departments (Year 1- Year 7)		86	-	-	-	-	1,618	-	-	-	1,704	
TOTAL		78,484	78,573	3,190	4,127	5,844	-	1,618	-	-	171,836	
<u>SECONDARY (Year 8 - Year 14)</u>												
Secondary (Non Grammar)		27,434	37,267	694	2,495	9,542	-	-	-	-	77,432	
Grammar		14,267	-	-	-	-	28,135	20,579	-	-	62,981	
TOTAL		41,701	37,267	694	2,495	9,542	28,135	20,579	-	-	140,413	
<u>SPECIAL</u>												
		5,097	232	78	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,407	
<u>INDEPENDENT¹</u>												
		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	514	-	514	
GRAND TOTAL		133,932	121,733	4,382	6,700	15,907	28,135	22,197	514	7,161	1,110	341,771

Note:

1. Independent school enrolments refer to all schools with the exception of The Holywood Rudolf Steiner School

Table 2b: Pupils in Irish-medium education, 2011/12 - 2016/17

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Voluntary and private pre-schools - funded places	473	468	476	488	481	476
Nursery Classes in Irish-medium Schools						
Full-time	258	309	312	315	354	318
Part-time	-	-	-	52	26	76
Nursery Classes in Irish-medium units						
Full-time	26	26	26	30	30	30
Part-time	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	757	803	814	885	891	900
<i>PRIMARY</i>						
Primary Schools (Year 1 - Year 7)						
schools	2,191	2,411	2,570	2,738	2,906	3,103
units	682	644	686	720	764	802
TOTAL	2,873	3,055	3,256	3,458	3,670	3,905
<i>POST-PRIMARY (Year 8 - Year 14)</i>						
Post-primary Schools						
schools	550	541	564	581	620	694
units	212	228	267	332	344	355
TOTAL	762	769	831	913	964	1,049
<i>INDEPENDENT</i>	7	6	15	-	-	-
GRAND TOTAL	4,399	4,633	4,916	5,256	5,525	5,854

Note:

1. Figures relate to funded Irish medium provision only

Table 2c: Pupils in Integrated education¹, 2011/12 - 2016/17

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	
<i>PRIMARY</i>							
Nursery Classes	Full-time	235	212	212	213	212	211
	Part-time	263	287	317	337	367	388
Reception	16	10	10	8	15	18	
Year 1 - Year 7	8,525	8,881	9,100	9,404	9,529	9,953	
TOTAL	9,039	9,390	9,639	9,962	10,123	10,570	
<i>SECONDARY (Year 8 - Year 14)</i>							
Year 8 - Year 12	10,421	10,291	10,210	10,063	9,988	10,186	
Sixth form²	1,710	1,822	1,896	1,931	1,906	1,851	
TOTAL	12,131	12,113	12,106	11,994	11,894	12,037	
GRAND TOTAL	21,170	21,503	21,745	21,956	22,017	22,607	

Note:

1. Figures include children attending Controlled Integrated schools and Grant Maintained Integrated Schools.
2. Sixth form figures are based solely on pupils studying A Level or equivalent qualifications
3. Pupils aged 16+ that are not studying level 2 or 3 qualifications have been recorded as year 12 pupils

Table 3: Pupils entitled to Free School Meals¹ by school type and management type, 2016/17

Numbers and percentages²

		Number	Enrolment	Percentage
Voluntary and Private Pre-School Centres (funded places only)	Voluntary	830	7,161	11.6
	Private	39	1,110	3.5
	TOTAL	869	8,271	10.5
Nursery Schools <i>Full-time</i>	Controlled	1,087	2,389	45.5
	Catholic Maintained	807	1,566	51.5
	TOTAL	1,894	3,955	47.9
Nursery Schools <i>Part-time</i>	Controlled	182	1,752	10.4
	Catholic Maintained	9	157	5.7
	TOTAL	191	1,909	10.0
Nursery Classes <i>Full-time</i>	Controlled	981	2,277	43.1
	Catholic Maintained	976	2,394	40.8
	Other Maintained	127	292	43.5
	Controlled Integrated	45	78	57.7
	Grant Maintained Integrated	48	133	36.1
	TOTAL	2,177	5,174	42.1
Nursery Classes <i>Part-time</i>	Controlled	235	2,232	10.5
	Catholic Maintained	192	1,544	12.4
	Other Maintained	20	128	15.6
	Grant Maintained Integrated	47	388	12.1
	TOTAL	494	4,292	11.5
Reception pupils ³	TOTAL	39	224	17.4
TOTAL PRE-SCHOOL		5,664	23,825	23.8
Primary Schools (Year 1-Year 7)	Controlled	22,878	78,314	29.2
	Catholic Maintained	26,737	78,451	34.1
	Other Maintained - Irish Medium	1,274	2,836	44.9
	Other Maintained - Other	61	354	17.2
	Controlled Integrated	1,395	4,109	33.9
	Grant Maintained Integrated	1,598	5,844	27.3
	TOTAL	53,943	169,908	31.7
Prep. Departments ³	TOTAL	28	1,704	1.6
ALL PRIMARY AND PREP YEAR 1 - 7 PUPILS		53,971	171,612	31.4
Secondary (Non Grammar) Schools	Controlled	9,868	27,434	36.0
	Catholic Maintained	16,500	37,267	44.3
	Other Maintained - Irish Medium	427	694	61.5
	Controlled Integrated	992	2,495	39.8
	Grant Maintained Integrated	3,674	9,542	38.5
TOTAL	31,461	77,432	40.6	
Grammar Schools	Controlled	1,779	14,267	12.5
	Voluntary - Schools under Catholic Management	5,222	28,135	18.6
	Voluntary - Schools under Other Management	1,977	20,579	9.6
	TOTAL	8,978	62,981	14.3
ALL POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS		40,439	140,413	28.8
ALL PRIMARY AND POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS		94,410	312,025	30.3
ALL SPECIAL SCHOOLS		2,922	5,407	54.0
ALL NURSERY, PRIMARY, POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS⁴		102,127	332,986	30.7

* Fewer than 5 cases.

Number suppressed.

¹ Income Support and income-based Jobseeker's Allowance are two of the benefits which determine eligibility for free school meals. As school meals are not universally available to children in pre-school education, parental receipt of these benefits is a better indicator of social disadvantage for the pre-school sector. Pupils who are recorded as entitled to free school meals in nursery classes in primary schools are also included in the totals.

² Percentages express the number of children in funded places whose parents were in receipt of Income Support or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance at the time of first application for admission, as a proportion of all children in funded places. Thus, for example, 45.5% of children in full-time places in controlled nursery schools had parents in receipt of these benefits.

³ Due to the small numbers when analysing by management type, only the total has been provided.

⁴ Overall total excludes voluntary and private pre-school centres

Table 4: Average class size^{1,2,3,4} by school type and management type, 2016/17

		Average number of pupils per class
Nursery Schools	Controlled	26
	Catholic Maintained	26
	TOTAL	26
Nursery Classes	Controlled	26
	Catholic Maintained⁵	26
	Other Maintained	26
	Irish Medium	26
	Other	26
	Controlled Integrated	26
	Grant Maintained Integrated	26
TOTAL	26	
Primary Schools (Year 1 - Year 7)⁵	Controlled ⁶	25
	Catholic Maintained ⁷	24
	Other Maintained	20
	Irish Medium ⁸	24
	Other	24
	Controlled Integrated	25
	Grant Maintained Integrated	27
TOTAL	25	
Preparatory Departments (Year 1 - Year 7)	Controlled	12
	Voluntary	-
	Schools under Catholic Management	20
	Schools under Other Management	20
	TOTAL	20

¹. Class size data is only collected in respect of nursery and primary schools and prep. departments.

². Children in learning support centres are excluded.

³. Any reception pupils in primary classes are excluded.

⁴. Any primary school classes that are solely reception have been excluded.

⁵. Includes one Irish medium school.

⁶. Includes two Irish medium schools.

⁷. Includes one Irish medium school.

Table 5: Religion of pupils by school type and management type, 2016/17
Nursery, Primary, Post Primary and Special Schools

		Protestant	Catholic	Other Christian	Non Christian	No Religion / Not recorded	Total
Voluntary and Private Pre-School Centres (funded children only)	Voluntary	1,782	3,531	119	81	1,648	7,161
	Private	389	276	12	12	421	1,110
	TOTAL	2,171	3,807	131	93	2,069	8,271
Nursery Schools	Controlled	1,962	1,182	186	47	764	4,141
	Catholic Maintained	86	1,411	11	22	193	1,723
	TOTAL	2,048	2,593	197	69	957	5,864
Nursery Classes & Reception	Controlled	2,471	522	275	66	1,259	4,593
	Catholic Maintained	66	3,810	23	52	109	4,060
	Other Maintained	34	328	5	*	#	420
	Controlled Integrated	36	40	5	*	#	96
	Grant Maintained Integrated	158	201	29	12	121	521
	TOTAL	2,765	4,901	337	135	1,552	9,690
Primary Schools (Year 1 - Year 7)	Controlled	51,147	5,740	4,799	798	15,830	78,314
	Catholic Maintained	605	75,267	570	#	#	78,451
	Other Maintained	263	2,679	35	*	#	3,190
	Controlled Integrated	1,625	1,197	209	60	1,018	4,109
	Grant Maintained Integrated	1,781	2,464	420	87	1,092	5,844
	TOTAL	55,421	87,347	6,033	1,547	19,560	169,908
Prep. Departments (Year 1 - Year 7)	Controlled	52	*	6	-	#	86
	Voluntary	741	#	220	36	#	1,618
	TOTAL	793	213	226	36	436	1,704
Secondary (Non Grammar) Schools	Controlled	21,952	978	1,112	148	3,244	27,434
	Catholic Maintained	528	35,801	#	186	#	37,267
	Other Maintained	-	644	*	-	#	694
	Controlled Integrated	1,542	379	110	29	435	2,495
	Grant Maintained Integrated	3,843	3,899	502	134	1,164	9,542
	TOTAL	27,865	41,701	1,992	497	5,377	77,432
Grammar Schools (Year 8 - Year 14)	Controlled	10,352	1,297	780	103	1,735	14,267
	Voluntary - Schools under Catholic Management	298	27,243	171	110	313	28,135
	Voluntary - Schools under Other Management	13,307	2,599	1,500	280	2,893	20,579
	TOTAL	23,957	31,139	2,451	493	4,941	62,981
Special Schools	Controlled	1,928	2,103	#	#	882	5,097
	Catholic Maintained	5	218	*	*	*	232
	Other Maintained	33	27	*	*	#	78
	TOTAL	1,966	2,348	145	46	902	5,407
ALL FUNDED PRE-SCHOOL, NURSERY, PRIMARY, POST-PRIMARY AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS		116,986	174,049	11,512	2,916	35,794	341,257

* Fewer than 5 cases.

Number suppressed.

Table 6a: Ethnicity of pupils by school type, 2016/17
Funded pre-school education, Primary, Post Primary and Special Schools

	White (excluding Irish Traveller)	Chinese	Irish Traveller	Indian/Sri Lankan	Pakistani	Black	Other ethnic group	Mixed ethnic group	Total
Voluntary and Private Pre-School Centres (funded children only)	7,913	24	16	32	*	31	#	115	8,271
Nursery Schools	5,606	33	16	30	#	26	#	90	5,864
Nursery Classes & Reception	9,187	30	35	66	16	76	113	167	9,690
Primary Schools & Prep. Departments (Year 1 - Year 7)	164,362	633	647	933	162	788	1,687	2,400	171,612
Secondary (Non Grammar) Schools	74,950	152	264	119	61	436	773	677	77,432
Grammar Schools (Year 8 - Year 14)	60,757	434	12	414	76	135	479	674	62,981
Special Schools	5,175	21	44	20	6	19	49	73	5,407
ALL FUNDED PRE-SCHOOL, NURSERY, PRIMARY, POST-PRIMARY AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS	327,950	1,327	1,034	1,614	334	1,511	3,291	4,196	341,257

* Fewer than 5 cases.

Number suppressed.

Table 6b: Newcomer pupils by school type, 2011/12 - 2016/17
Nursery, Primary, Post Primary and Special Schools

	2011/12		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15		2015/16		2016/17	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Voluntary and Private Pre-School Centres (funded children only)	256	3.1%	330	3.9%	341	4.1%	335	3.9%	364	4.2%	356	4.3%
Nursery Schools	242	4.1%	327	5.5%	330	5.6%	323	5.5%	382	6.5%	409	7.0%
Nursery Classes & Reception	483	5.3%	512	5.6%	570	6.1%	598	6.3%	654	6.8%	691	7.1%
Primary Schools & Prep. Departments (Year 1 - Year 7)	5,149	3.3%	5,969	3.8%	6,854	4.2%	8,080	4.9%	8,853	5.2%	9,703	5.7%
Secondary (Non Grammar) Schools	2,218	2.6%	2,244	2.7%	2,288	2.8%	2,219	2.8%	2,279	2.9%	2,381	3.1%
Grammar Schools (Year 8 - Year 14)	264	0.4%	274	0.4%	213	0.3%	232	0.4%	271	0.4%	262	0.4%
Special Schools	62	1.4%	91	2.0%	101	2.1%	113	2.2%	129	2.5%	141	2.6%
ALL FUNDED PRE-SCHOOL, NURSERY, PRIMARY, POST-PRIMARY AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS	8,674	2.6%	9,747	2.9%	10,697	3.2%	11,900	3.5%	12,932	3.8%	13,943	4.1%

1. A newcomer pupil is one who has enrolled in a school but who does not have the satisfactory language skills to participate fully in the school curriculum, and the wider environment, and does not have a language in common with the teacher, whether that is English or Irish. This has previously been referred to as English an Additional Language. It does not refer to indigenous pupils who choose to attend an Irish medium school.

Table 7: Percentage of children with Special Education Needs¹ at schools and funded pre-school education centres in 2016/17

	Statemented	STAGE 1 - 4	TOTAL ENROLMENT	% Statemented children	% SEN children (non- statemented)	% SEN children (stage 1 - 5)	
VOLUNTARY and PRIVATE PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION CENTRES²	31	1,056	8,271	0.4%	12.8%	13.1%	
NURSERY SCHOOLS							
Total nursery school pupils	75	1,475	5,864	1.3%	25.2%	26.4%	
PRIMARY SCHOOLS and PREPARATORY DEPARTMENTS							
Total nursery class pupils	#	#	9,466	#	#	4.3%	
Total reception pupils	*	#	224	*	#	4.9%	
Primary schools (year 1 - 7)	5,539	31,844	169,908	3.3%	18.7%	22.0%	
Grammar school Preparatory Depts.(year 1 - 7)	35	269	1,704	2.1%	15.8%	17.8%	
Total year 1 - 7 pupils	5,574	32,113	171,612	3.2%	18.7%	22.0%	
Total primary pupils	5,648	32,455	181,302	3.1%	17.9%	21.0%	
POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS							
Secondary (non grammar) schools	5,225	18,692	77,432	6.7%	24.1%	30.9%	
Grammar Schools	969	5,272	62,981	1.5%	8.4%	9.9%	
Total post primary pupils	6,194	23,964	140,413	4.4%	17.1%	21.5%	
SPECIAL SCHOOLS	Total	5,089	318	5,407	94.1%	5.9%	100.0%
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS³	Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
ALL SCHOOLS⁴	Total	17,006	58,212	332,986	5.1%	17.5%	22.6%
ALL SCHOOLS AND PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION CENTRES⁴		17,037	59,268	341,257	5.0%	17.4%	22.4%

1. Children with Special Education Needs are assessed under the 5 stages of the SEN Code of Practice.
2. Voluntary and private centres funded under the Pre-school Education Expansion Programme.
3. Special needs data is not collected in respect of Independent schools.
4. Excluding Hospital and Independent schools.