



Department of
Education
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Benchmark Data for Revised
Integrated Education Strategy
2025 to 2030

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Assessing Indicators

The table below lists the indicators that will measure progress towards achieving the outcomes of the strategy and action plan. They have been identified in consultation with persons with knowledge and experience of Integrated schools including teachers, governors, pupils, families, and sectoral and community bodies.

The indicators will be monitored annually and compared against the baseline year. The baseline year for the majority of indicators is 2022/23, but this may vary where data was not available at that time. Annual monitoring will report on changes over time including comparisons with the baseline year. Four categories will be used to indicate progress:

- Positive change
- No change

- Negative change
- Data under development or not available

The indicators in this document are mainly measured using administrative sources or statistical surveys. As statistical survey estimates are subject to sampling error, differences between estimates from successive years or between population subgroups may occur by chance. It is possible to measure whether this is likely to be the case using standard statistical tests and conclude whether differences are likely to be due to chance or represent a real difference. For the purposes of this exercise, where differences have emerged as being statistically significant, these will be reported at the 5% ($p < 0.05$) level of probability (two-tailed tests). This means that, for any observed result that is found to be statistically significant, one can be 95% confident that this has not happened by chance. Data is not yet available for some indicators and these will develop over time.

	Indicator	Targets	Baseline Data	Data Source and Date
1	Percentage of Integrated Education first preferences met compared to Northern Ireland average by sector and phase.	<p>By 2030, we will aim to achieve a reduction in the post-primary gap between the percentage of first preferences for Integrated Education being met (currently 87%) and the Northern Ireland post-primary average (currently 90%).</p> <p>By June 2025, we will consider the impact of admissions criteria on parity of access to Integrated Education and deliver a DE policy paper for ministerial consideration.</p>	<p>98% of pupils got their 1st preference primary school which was Integrated with 99% of all pupils getting their 1st preference primary school.</p> <p>77% of pupils got their 1st preference post-primary school which was Integrated with 89% of all pupils getting their 1st preference post-primary school.</p>	EA Admission Portal pupil extract - May 2023
2	Number of additional places created and percentage increase.		26 full-time and 52 part-time nursery places, 210 Year 8 places and enrolment of 1,250	DE Area Planning Team
3	Number and percentage of Integrated schools oversubscribed at first preference stage as identified via the EA admissions portal.		<p>9 (19.1%) Integrated primary schools oversubscribed (only 2 schools by more than 10).</p> <p>7 (33.3%) Integrated post-primary schools oversubscribed.</p>	EA Admission Portal - May 2022
4	Number of approved Development Proposals for expansion of existing Integrated schools approved.		3 DPs approved for expansion in 2022/23	DE Area Planning Team

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	Indicator	Targets	Baseline Data	Data Source and Date
5	Number of new integrated schools opened (including Transformations).		2 opened in 2022/23	DE Area Planning Team
6	Number of approved Development Proposals for transformation.		None approved in 2022/23 (1 Sept 22 – 31 Aug 2023) for transformation	DE Area Planning Team
7	Average travelling distance to an Integrated School compared to Northern Ireland average by phase and sector.		<p>All sectors, with the exception of Voluntary, are broadly similar with over 90% of pupils living within 5 miles of their primary school.</p> <p>At post-primary level, most sectors have over 90% of pupils living within 10 miles of their school. The Integrated sector as a whole sees 91% of pupils within 10 miles of their school although there is a difference between Controlled Integrated and Grant Maintained Integrated at 98% and 89% respectively.</p>	DE Area Planning Team

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	Indicator	Targets	Baseline Data	Data Source and Date
8	^Percentage of Protestant, Catholic and Other pupils attending Integrated schools compared to other educational settings and the makeup of their local community.		Integrated Schools 35% Protestant 34% Catholic 31% Other All nursery, primary and post-primary schools 30% Protestant 50% Catholic 20% Other	Annual School Census 2022/23 Nursery, Primary and Post-primary schools
9	The socio-economic mix of children attending Integrated schools compared to Northern Ireland.		Primary Only 13% of pupils attending Integrated schools are resident in the most deprived MDM Quintile compared with 16% Controlled and 27% Catholic Maintained. Post Primary Non Grammar Only 18% of pupils attending Integrated schools are resident in the most deprived MDM Quintile compared with 17% Controlled and 31% Catholic Maintained.	Annual School Census 2022/23 MDM Quintiles

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	Indicator	Targets	Baseline Data	Data Source and Date
10	^Number and percentage of pupils attending Integrated schools and the annual and five year growth rate of Integrated provision.		27,183 pupils enrolled in Integrated schools which is 8% of all pupils enrolled in Nursery, Primary and Post-primary schools	Annual School Census 2022/23 Nursery, Primary and Post-primary schools
11	Number of parental ballots for Transformation held and percentage of parental ballots supporting the decision to seek Transformation.		5 parental ballots for Transformation held in 2022/23 with 100% supporting the decision to seek Transformation.	NICIE
12	Number of schools following up on the 'Call for Transformation'.			Data available following 'Call for Transformation'.
13	Percentage of parents with a preference for Integrated Education taken from Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) survey and admissions survey results.			Data available early spring 2025.
14	Factors underlying parental admissions preferences (NILT and admissions survey data).			Data available early spring 2025.
15	Percentage of children with a statement of SEN who indicate preference for Integrated Education and access it.			Survey data will be collated during 2025.

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	Indicator	Targets	Baseline Data	Data Source and Date
16	Number and Percentage of Integrated schools with sustainable enrolments and comparison with other sectors.		<p>Enrolment above Bain Threshold</p> <p>PRIMARY</p> <p>Integrated 39 (83.0%)</p> <p>Controlled 251 (70.7%)</p> <p>Catholic Maintained 240 (67.8%)</p> <p>POST-PRIMARY</p> <p>Integrated</p> <p>Yr 8-12 14 (66.7%)</p> <p>6th Form 10 (55.6%)</p> <p>*3 schools did not have a 6th form</p> <p>Controlled</p> <p>Yr 8-12 4 (69.8%)</p> <p>6th Form* 30 (68.2%)</p> <p>*19 schools did not have a 6th form</p> <p>Catholic Maintained</p> <p>Yr 8-12 32 (57.1%)</p> <p>6th Form 27 (60.0%)</p> <p>*11 schools did not have a 6th form</p> <p>Grammar</p> <p>Yr 8-12 7 (94.0%)</p> <p>6th Form 50 (100%)</p>	DE Statistics and Research Team

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	Indicator	Targets	Baseline Data	Data Source and Date
17	Number and percentage of schools using the self-evaluation 'Framework for Integrated Education' Toolkit to expand and embed Integrated practice.			No benchmark currently available. Final version of Toolkit is going live on EA website 26 February 2025
18	Percentage of Transforming schools that have used the Framework to develop the 3-Year Transformation Plan.	90% of schools in the first 5 years following Ministerial Approval for Transformation are using the Framework to develop high quality Integrated provision.	4 out of 4 (100%) schools submitted 3-Year Transformation Plan	EA
19	Percentage of Integrated schools which currently hold the Excellence in Integrated Education Award (EIEA).	By March 2026, 80% of eligible Integrated Schools will have participated or engaged in the Excellence in Integrated Education award scheme.	14 out of 64 eligible schools* 22% hold EIEA 10 out of 64 eligible schools 16% working towards EIEA <i>*Schools should be a minimum of 5 years post-Transformation before eligible to undertake EIEA</i>	NICIE
20	Increase in knowledge of Integrated Education as evidenced by regular NILT survey results.			Data available early spring 2025.

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	Indicator	Targets	Baseline Data	Data Source and Date
21	<p>Data from the TEO Northern Ireland Good Relations Indicators including:</p> <p>Percentage of young people who think that relations between Protestants and Catholics are better now than they were five years ago.</p> <p>Percentage of young people who think that relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better in five years time.</p> <p>Percentage of young people who feel favourable towards people from: Catholic communities, Protestant communities, Minority Ethnic communities.</p>		<p>In 2022, 38% of adults and 37% of young people think that relations are better now than they were five years ago. (In 2021, 27% for young people but no significant difference for adults).</p> <p>In 2022, 31% of adults and 37% of young people think that relations will be better in five years' time.</p> <p>58% of young people feel favourable towards people from Catholic communities; 48% towards people from Protestant communities; and 51% towards people from Minority Ethnic communities. This remains significantly lower than the proportion of adults who feel favourable towards people from: Catholic communities, 75%; Protestant communities, 68%; and Minority Ethnic communities, 63%.</p>	<p>Northern Ireland Good Relations Indicators 2022 Report</p> <p>Data taken for Life and Times Survey 2022 and Young Life and Times Survey 2022</p>

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	Indicator	Targets	Baseline Data	Data Source and Date
21	<p>Percentage of young people who regularly socialise or play sport with people from a different religious community.</p> <p>Percentage of young people who have shared sports facilities or equipment; shared classes; or done projects, with pupils from other schools where the pupils are from a different religious background.</p>		<p>58% of young people 'very often' or 'sometimes' socialise or play sport with people from a different religious community. Young people with no religion (63%) are significantly more likely than Catholic young people (52%) to report this, however, there were no other significant differences when analysed by religion. A significantly higher proportion of young male people (64%) report this than young female people (54%).</p> <p>In 2022, 60% of young people have been involved in Shared education with another school. Of those who have been involved in Shared Education, 60% have 'done projects' with pupils from other schools; 48% have 'shared classes'; and 28% 'shared sports facilities or equipment'.</p> <p>https://datavis.nisra.gov.uk/executiveofficeni/ni-good-relations-2022-report.html#</p>	

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	Indicator	Targets	Baseline Data	Data Source and Date
22	Number and percentage of Integrated schools engaged in Shared Education programmes.		A total of 42 Integrated schools were engaged in Shared Education in the 22/23 AY, supported via mainstreamed funding (26) and previous PEACE IV CASE programme (16), representing 60% of the IE sector overall (i.e. 70 schools).	DE Shared Education Team
23	Number and percentage of Integrated schools engaged in other partnership programmes.			Data will be collated during 2025.
24	Number and percentage of Integrated schools engaged in Integrated Education networks.		At June 2023, 63 schools out of 70 (90%) involved in Integrated Education networks.	NICIE
25	Percentage of Integrated schools participating in the Peace Plus Aspire programme.			DE Shared Education Team Peace Plus supported Aspire programme was not operational in 2022/23; funding awarded in June 2024 with project implementation commencing thereafter during 2024/25

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Indicators with a ^ are composed of official statistics which adhere to the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#). The Code is based on three pillars - Trustworthiness, Quality and Value. It outlines principles and practices to follow when producing statistics to ensure high quality, reliable outputs. The remaining indicators have been developed to support delivery of the Strategy with the input of departmental statisticians.

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