



Number of Pupils who are Members of the Traveller Community

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Number of Pupils who are Members of the Traveller Community

An analysis of members of the Traveller community enrolled in primary and post-primary schools

The following analysis is taken from the National School Annual Censuses and from the annual Post-Primary Pupils Returns. Since 2011/2012 data provided from via Census is based on self-identification of pupils who were members of the Traveller community in each school from 2011/2012 to 2015/2016. Self-identification requires parental/guardian consent for schools to identify pupils as members of the Traveller community. Prior to 2011/2012, the Census asked schools for the number of pupils being taught by a Resource Teacher for Travellers. The annual Post-Primary Pupils Returns asked for the number of students in receipt of Traveller support from 2009/2010 onwards. Consent is also required for post-primary schools to return this data. *For further details on the questions asked see Background Notes.*

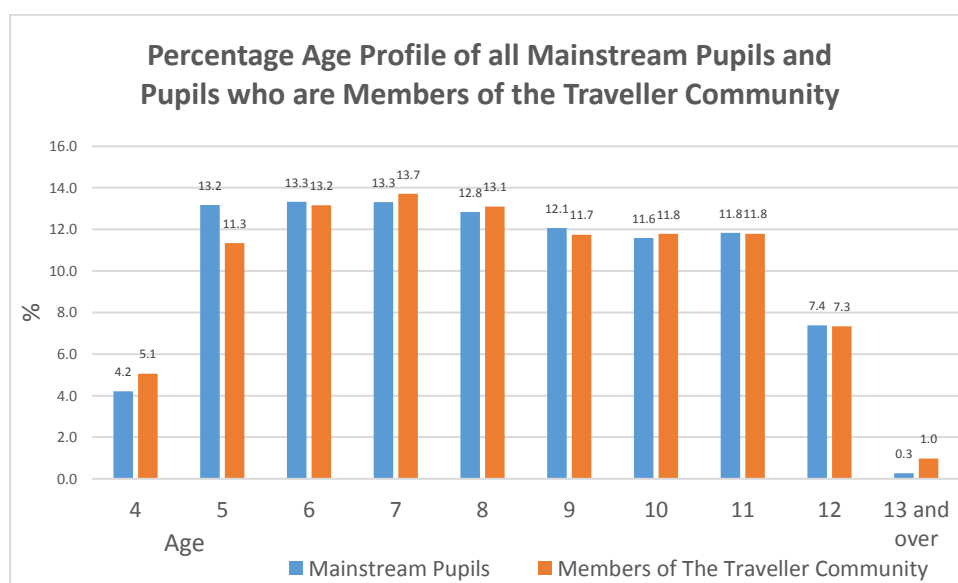
PRIMARY

In 2015/2016 there were 8,207 pupils in mainstream primary schools who identified as members of the Traveller community. This equates to 1.5% of all mainstream pupils. There were also an additional 84 pupils in receipt of education in two separate schools for members of the Traveller community. *See Tables 1a and 1c.*

Profile of these pupils

Of the 8,207 pupils in mainstream schools, 4,036 were boys and 4,171 were girls.

In terms of age profile, a slightly higher proportion of Traveller pupils were aged 4 when compared to all mainstream pupils whereas a lower proportion were 5. Also a higher proportion of Traveller pupils were 13 and over. With the exception of this, the age profiles of both groups were very similar. *See Table 3 and graph below.*



Changes over time

The number of pupils who indicated that they were members of the Traveller community increased from 8,086 in 2011/2012 to 8,207 in 2015/2016. However, in terms of percentage of all mainstream pupils, the numbers decreased very slightly from 1.6% to 1.5% over the same period. *See Table 1a.*

Prior to 2011/2012, the data collected referred to the number of pupils attending a Resource Teacher for Travellers (RTT). These data show that the number of pupils attending a RTT increased from 5,498 in 2001/2002 to 6,958 in 2010/2010. The data from 2010/2011 onwards is not directly comparable with earlier data since not all Traveller pupils necessarily attended a RTT. *See Table 1b.*

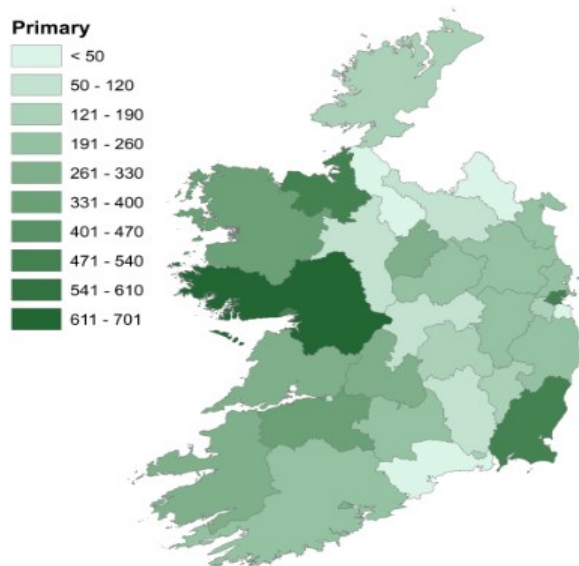
Table 1c shows the number of pupils in Traveller specific schools¹. In 2015/2016 there were 2 such schools with enrolment of 84 pupils. *See Table 1c and Background Notes.*

Some characteristics of the schools attended

In 2015/2016, 4,359 of the pupils who identified themselves as Traveller pupils attended DEIS schools and the remaining 3,848 attended non-DEIS schools. Looking at these figures in terms of proportions of the number of mainstream pupils in schools, Traveller pupils accounted for 4.3% of pupils in DEIS schools compared to 0.9% of those in non-DEIS schools. *See Table 5.*

The number of Traveller pupils varied with local authority area from 701 in the Galway County Council area to 41 in both Leitrim and Monaghan County Councils. *See Table 7 and Map 1 below.*

Map 1: Number of Traveller Pupils Enrolled in Primary Schools, 2015/2016



¹ The primary aim of the Department's Traveller Education Strategy is to ensure a quality, integrated education for Travellers underpinned by the principles of inclusion and mainstreaming.

POST PRIMARY

A question on whether students were in receipt of Traveller Support was first asked in the 2009/2010 post-primary returns. In the 2015/2016 academic year, 2,689 students were in receipt of Traveller support. This equates to 0.8% of all students in post-primary schools. Of these, 1,276 were male and 1,413 were female. *See Tables 8 and 9.*

Table 10 shows the age profile of Traveller pupils – the numbers peak at ages 14 and 15 and drop off after this. This, combined with Table 11 (which shows that in 2015/2016 over 66% of all Traveller student were in junior cycle), indicates that Traveller students may not be as likely to progress through to senior cycle as non-Traveller students. *See Tables 10 and 11.*

Changes over time

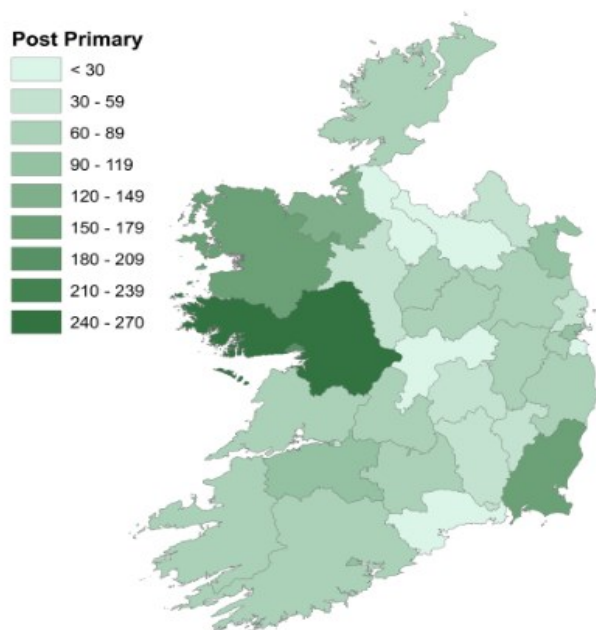
The number of students in receipt of Traveller support increased from 2,190 in 2009/2010 to 2,689 in 2015/2016. While the numbers increased, taken as a percentage of all students, the figure remained fairly static at between 0.7% and 0.9% of the post-primary school population over the period. *See Table 8.*

Some characteristics of the schools attended

In 2015/2016 there were 1,469 Traveller students in non-DEIS post-primary schools and 1,220 in DEIS post-primary schools. While there were higher numbers of Traveller students in non-DEIS schools, the number of Traveller students in non-DEIS schools as a percentage of all students in non-DEIS schools, at 0.5% of all students, was much lower than the percentage of Traveller students in DEIS schools, where the proportion was 1.8%. *See Table 12.*

The number of Traveller students enrolled in post-primary school ranged from 270 in Galway County Council at the highest to 23 in Leitrim County Council. *See Table 14 and Map 2 below.*

Map 2: Number of Traveller Pupils enrolled in Post Primary School, 2015/2016



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A statistical publication

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Table 1a: Number of Pupils in Mainstream National Schools Who Are Members of the Traveller Community¹, 2011/2012 - 2015/2016

Academic Year	Mainstream Pupils	of which Pupils Who are Members of the Traveller Community	Pupils who are Members of the Traveller Community as a percentage of all mainstream pupils
2011/2012	506,216	8,086	1.6
2012/2013	515,676	8,187	1.6
2013/2014	525,141	8,047	1.5
2014/2015	532,931	8,336	1.6
2015/2016	540,955	8,207	1.5

¹ Question on Membership of the Traveller Community was introduced in 2011/2012

Table 1b: Number of Pupils in Mainstream National Schools Who Were Taught by a Resource Teacher for Travellers (RTT)², 2000/2001 - 2009/2010

Academic Year	Mainstream Pupils plus Pupils Taught by a RTT	of which Pupils Taught By a RTT	Percent of Mainstream Pupils plus pupils taught by a RTT that were taught by a RTT
2000/2001	428,842	5,498	1.3
2002/2002	430,467	5,760	1.3
2002/2003	433,408	5,879	1.4
2003/2004	435,996	6,025	1.4
2004/2005	439,478	6,158	1.4
2005/2006	448,182	6,216	1.4
2006/2007	461,948	6,493	1.4
2007/2008	476,836	6,566	1.4
2008/2009	489,330	6,737	1.4
2009/2010	496,468	6,458	1.3
2010/2011	499,700	6,958	1.4

² The Resource Teacher for Travellers Service was withdrawn in 2011.

Table 1c: Number of Pupils in Separate Schools for Members of the Traveller Community³, 2000/2001 - 2015/2016

Academic Year	
2000/2001	162
2002/2002	175
2002/2003	163
2003/2004	167
2004/2005	131
2005/2006	104
2006/2007	105
2007/2008	94
2008/2009	98
2009/2010	94
2010/2011	90
2011/2012	92
2012/2013	93
2013/2014	94
2014/2015	86
2015/2016	84

³ From the 2005/2006 academic year there were only two such schools: St Kieran's in Bray and St Thomas' in Coolock.

Table 2: Number of Pupils in Mainstream National Schools who are Members of the Traveller Community Classified by Sex, 2011/2012 - 2015/2016

Academic Year	Girls	Boys	Total
2011/2012	4,141	3,945	8,086
2012/2013	4,228	3,959	8,187
2013/2014	4,096	3,951	8,047
2014/2015	4,222	4,114	8,336
2015/2016	4,171	4,036	8,207

Table 3: Age Profile of Mainstream Pupils and Pupils who are Members of the Traveller Community, 2011/2012 - 2015/2016

	2011/2012		2012/2013		2013/2014		2014/2015		2015/2016	
Age	Mainstream Pupils	of which Members of the Traveller Community	Mainstream Pupils	of which Members of the Traveller Community	Mainstream Pupils	of which Members of the Traveller Community	Mainstream Pupils	of which Members of the Traveller Community	Mainstream Pupils	of which Members of the Traveller Community
4	26,798	501	27,023	489	25,984	449	24,281	422	22,789	413
5	65,280	959	69,174	1,063	71,190	1,019	71,253	1,023	71,267	932
6	63,496	1,066	65,735	1,025	69,616	1,106	71,813	1,132	72,076	1,080
7	64,808	1,079	63,416	1,045	65,641	985	69,522	1,120	71,994	1,125
8	63,545	972	64,299	1,048	63,077	1,029	65,483	1,028	69,409	1,074
9	63,034	950	63,309	959	64,132	1,015	62,795	990	65,301	965
10	61,579	906	62,817	974	63,184	908	63,970	1,024	62,704	968
11	59,465	910	61,296	876	62,366	884	62,997	926	63,998	968
12	36,634	627	37,001	599	38,416	559	39,175	588	39,948	602
13 and over	1,577	116	1,606	109	1,535	93	1,642	83	1,469	80
Grand Total	506,216	8,086	515,676	8,187	525,141	8,047	532,931	8,336	540,955	8,207

Table 4: Number of Mainstream Pupils and Pupils who are Members of the Traveller Community Classified by Age and Standard, 2015/2016

Age	Mainstream Pupils								Mainstream Pupils Total	<i>of which Pupils who are Members of the Traveller Community</i>								Mainstream Traveller Pupils Total
	Junior Infants	Senior Infants	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th		Junior Infants	Senior Infants	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	
4	22,788								22,789	413								413
5	47,928	23,340							71,267	574	358							932
6	837	46,985	24,252	2					72,076	76	632							1,080
7	11	941	46,223	24,813	6				71,994	3	88	651	378	5				1,125
8		14	914	44,180	24,296	5			69,409		1	96	629	347	1			1,074
9			13	1,016	41,594	22,669	9		65,301		3	87	567	304	4			965
10			2	9	1,034	38,939	22,711	9	62,704			4	74	588	296	6		968
11				1	13	1,220	39,410	23,354	63,998				4	81	580	303		968
12							11	1,217	38,720	39,948					3	83	516	602
13 and over								18	1451	1469					2	78		80
Grand Total	71,564	71,280	71,404	70,021	66,943	62,844	63,365	63,534	540,955	1,066	1,079	1,122	1,098	997	977	965	903	8,207

Table 5: Mainstream Pupils and Pupils who are Members of the Traveller Community Classified by DEIS Status of School Attended, 2011/2012 - 2015/2016

	2011/2012		2012/2013		2013/2014		2014/2015		2015/2016	
DEIS (Y/N)	Mainstream Pupils	Members of The Traveller Community	Mainstream Pupils	Members of The Traveller Community	Mainstream Pupils	Members of The Traveller Community	Mainstream Pupils	Members of The Traveller Community	Mainstream Pupils	Members of The Traveller Community
N	411,309	3,995	419,571	4,004	427,139	3,869	434,061	4,036	440,127	3,848
Y	94,907	4,091	96,105	4,183	98,002	4,178	98,870	4,300	100,828	4,359
Grand Total	506,216	8,086	515,676	8,187	525,141	8,047	532,931	8,336	540,955	8,207

Table 6: Mainstream Pupils and Pupils who are Members of the Traveller Community Classified by Medium of Instruction in the School, 2011/2012 - 2015/2016

	2011/2012		2012/2013		2013/2014		2014/2015		2015/2016	
Medium of Instruction	Mainstream Pupils	Members of The Traveller Community	Mainstream Pupils	Members of The Traveller Community	Mainstream Pupils	Members of The Traveller Community	Mainstream Pupils	Members of The Traveller Community	Mainstream Pupils	Members of The Traveller Community
All Irish/Part Irish	42,250	188	43,433	202	44,944	197	46,234	186	47,841	188
No Irish	463,966	7,898	472,243	7,985	480,197	7,850	486,697	8,150	493,114	8,019
Grand Total	506,216	8,086	515,676	8,187	525,141	8,047	532,931	8,336	540,955	8,207

Table 7: Mainstream Pupils and Pupils who are Members of the Traveller Community Classified by Local Authority Area of the School, 2011/2012 - 2015/2016

Local Authority Area	2011/2012		2012/2013		2013/2014		2014/2015		2015/2016	
	Mainstream Pupils	Members of The Traveller Community	Mainstream Pupils	Members of The Traveller Community	Mainstream Pupils	Members of The Traveller Community	Mainstream Pupils	Members of The Traveller Community	Mainstream Pupils	Members of The Traveller Community
Carlow County Council	7,067	130	7,190	136	7,327	159	7,438	153	7,521	143
Cavan County Council	9,004	108	9,139	107	9,259	78	9,442	104	9,569	113
Clare County Council	13,512	281	13,501	318	13,613	252	13,697	290	13,600	310
Cork City Council	13,331	286	13,330	286	13,406	293	13,467	297	13,494	288
Cork County Council	43,309	243	44,453	228	45,593	244	46,618	305	47,591	253
Donegal County Council	18,544	196	18,702	165	18,785	149	18,730	143	18,856	128
Dublin City Council	41,398	536	41,926	546	43,230	531	43,897	556	44,949	538
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	16,708	83	17,188	60	17,858	35	18,284	54	18,913	47
Fingal County Council	32,506	232	34,057	266	34,719	265	35,514	240	36,211	239
Galway City Council	6,913	502	7,074	488	7,197	535	7,192	524	7,311	478
Galway County Council	20,733	594	21,165	649	21,595	653	21,891	675	22,252	701
Kerry County Council	15,298	263	15,459	272	15,616	256	15,787	296	15,865	304
Kildare County Council	27,296	288	28,004	277	28,409	255	28,721	229	29,034	250
Kilkenny County Council	10,348	102	10,447	88	10,607	83	10,729	82	10,899	100
Laois County Council	9,858	183	10,177	169	10,445	164	10,676	171	10,810	183
Leitrim County Council	3,616	80	3,556	74	3,625	67	3,624	55	3,646	41
Limerick City Council	6,617	99	6,663	120	6,701	117	6,765	116	6,568	92
Limerick County Council	14,226	264	14,482	258	14,793	299	15,009	282	15,674	340
Longford County Council	4,921	248	5,017	255	5,068	251	5,122	290	5,140	288
Louth County Council	15,753	236	16,011	219	16,286	216	16,510	260	16,750	232
Mayo County Council	14,314	370	14,315	379	14,257	372	14,301	341	14,318	359
Meath County Council	23,757	230	24,434	226	25,116	212	25,769	232	26,320	253
Monaghan County Council	6,935	74	7,155	65	7,249	49	7,401	59	7,561	41
Offaly County Council	9,432	205	9,509	217	9,590	230	9,627	280	9,720	268
Roscommon County Council	7,124	99	7,145	104	7,153	94	7,241	109	7,400	105
Sligo County Council	6,958	120	7,033	118	7,098	123	7,230	111	7,364	108
South Dublin County Council	31,237	594	32,243	601	33,066	562	33,889	537	34,215	508
Tipperary (NR) County Council	8,171	162	8,204	175	8,202	169	8,302	196	8,429	180
Tipperary (SR) County Council	9,905	163	9,907	182	9,941	194	9,968	204	9,979	206
Waterford City Council	5,997	113	6,057	122	6,102	133	6,116	148	6,146	162
Waterford County Council	7,598	30	7,670	27	7,837	37	7,899	14	7,991	37
Westmeath County Council	10,581	296	10,646	320	10,725	295	10,852	285	11,046	246
Wexford County Council	17,453	470	17,663	487	18,048	494	18,157	481	18,343	474
Wicklow County Council	15,796	206	16,154	183	16,625	181	17,066	217	17,470	192
Grand Total	506,216	8,086	515,676	8,187	525,141	8,047	532,931	8,336	540,955	8,207

Table 8: Total Post-Primary* Students and Total in Receipt of Support for Members of the Traveller Community

Academic Year	Total Pupils	<i>of which Pupils who are In Receipt of Support for Members of the Traveller Community</i>	<i>Percent of Pupils that are Members of the Traveller Community</i>
2009/2010	312,159	2,190	0.7
2010/2011	317,427	2,767	0.9
2011/2012	322,519	2,699	0.8
2012/2013	327,323	2,582	0.8
2013/2014	333,175	2,563	0.8
2014/2015	339,207	2,620	0.8
2015/2016	345,550	2,689	0.8

*Excludes PLC students

Table 9: Total Students in Receipt of Support for Members of the Traveller Community Classified by Sex, 2009/2010 - 2015/2016

Academic Year	Girls	Boys	Total
2009/2010	1,133	1,057	2,190
2010/2011	1,476	1,291	2,767
2011/2012	1,427	1,272	2,699
2012/2013	1,377	1,205	2,582
2013/2014	1,369	1,194	2,563
2014/2015	1,412	1,208	2,620
2015/2016	1,413	1,276	2,689

Table 10: Total Students in Receipt of Support for Members of the Traveller Community Classified by Age, 2009/2010 - 2015/2016

Academic Year	Age								Total
	12 and under	13	14	15	16	17	18	19 and over	
2009/2010	172	535	560	500	269	128	18	8	2,190
2010/2011	196	620	687	625	397	187	48	7	2,767
2011/2012	144	550	671	630	453	195	50	6	2,699
2012/2013	186	440	617	621	449	226	35	8	2,582
2013/2014	171	521	550	613	434	219	49	6	2,563
2014/2015	184	507	628	579	453	226	35	8	2,620
2015/2016	189	524	597	595	447	272	58	7	2,689

Table 11: Total Students in Receipt of Support for Members of the Traveller Community Classified by Programme Followed, 2009/2010 - 2015/2016

Academic Year	Junior Cert/JCSP/Junior Cycle	Transition Year	Leaving Cert (includes LC repeats)	Leaving Cert Vocational Programme	Leaving Cert Applied	Total
2009/2010	1,734	51	140	96	169	2,190
2010/2011	2,054	86	202	169	256	2,767
2011/2012	1,898	102	259	175	265	2,699
2012/2013	1,801	59	307	149	266	2,582
2013/2014	1,772	93	282	154	262	2,563
2014/2015	1,829	108	252	182	249	2,620
2015/2016	1,790	119	302	178	300	2,689

Table 12: Total students in Receipt of Support for Members of the Traveller Community Classified by DEIS Status of School, 2009/2010 - 2015/2016

Academic Year	All Students in DEIS schools	<i>of which in Receipt of Traveller Support</i>	<i>Traveller Students as a Percentage of all Students</i>	All Students in non-DEIS Schools	<i>of which in Receipt of Traveller Support</i>	<i>Traveller Students as a Percentage of all Students</i>
2009/2010	59,232	983	1.7	252,921	1,207	0.5
2010/2011	60,627	1,244	2.1	256,796	1,523	0.6
2011/2012	61,908	1,232	2.0	260,595	1,467	0.6
2012/2013	63,048	1,162	1.8	264,266	1,420	0.5
2013/2014	64,129	1,167	1.8	269,040	1,396	0.5
2014/2015	65,459	1,201	1.8	273,740	1,419	0.5
2015/2016	66,841	1,220	1.8	278,703	1,469	0.5

Table 13: Total Students in Receipt of Support for Members of the Traveller Community Classified by Medium of Instruction of the School Attended, 2009/2010 - 2015/2016

Academic Year	All Irish/Part Irish	<i>of which in Receipt of Traveller Support</i>	<i>Traveller Students as a Percentage of all Students</i>	No Irish	<i>of which in Receipt of Traveller Support</i>	<i>Traveller Students as a Percentage of all Students</i>
2009/2010	19,177	106	0.6	292,976	2,084	0.7
2010/2011	19,770	85	0.4	297,653	2,682	0.9
2011/2012	20,649	140	0.7	301,854	2,559	0.8
2012/2013	21,298	153	0.7	306,016	2,429	0.8
2013/2014	21,874	141	0.6	311,295	2,422	0.8
2014/2015	22,341	145	0.6	316,858	2,475	0.8
2015/2016	23,287	138	0.6	322,257	2,551	0.8

Table 14: The Number of Traveller Students Enrolled in Post-Primary School Classified by Local Authority Area of the School

Local Authority Area	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
Carlow County Council	28	39	38	37	34	45	31
Cavan County Council	37	48	37	41	36	33	27
Clare County Council	67	72	82	81	72	75	70
Cork City Council	91	98	96	95	106	92	105
Cork County Council	70	101	115	102	85	86	82
Donegal County Council	66	75	64	61	75	68	60
Dublin City Council	146	177	189	167	153	125	117
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	37	39	31	32	37	33	27
Fingal County Council	67	108	86	87	60	60	57
Galway City Council	111	182	188	163	179	178	200
Galway County Council	205	259	268	275	240	267	270
Kerry County Council	73	70	84	76	75	77	78
Kildare County Council	45	54	47	53	55	65	65
Kilkenny County Council	27	36	34	37	33	34	37
Laois County Council	13	23	36	34	54	47	48
Leitrim County Council	19	9	16	18	18	18	23
Limerick City Council	20	36	22	26	28	31	33
Limerick County Council	70	51	80	92	99	101	91
Longford County Council	91	91	82	93	83	81	87
Louth County Council	88	100	78	78	74	92	117
Mayo County Council	149	151	150	161	134	173	177
Meath County Council	88	100	102	80	79	74	77
Monaghan County Council	32	39	33	32	36	37	36
Offaly County Council	60	97	91	59	78	79	78
Roscommon County Council	39	39	36	27	23	21	29
Sligo County Council	37	42	43	42	38	35	39
South Dublin County Council	150	208	155	143	172	154	131
Tipperary (NR) County Council	77	88	83	75	68	66	86
Tipperary (SR) County Council	27	40	42	55	49	59	68
Waterford (City Council and County Council)	29	54	39	24	32	40	44
Westmeath County Council	45	114	123	105	74	71	72
Wexford County Council	65	101	98	107	142	146	152
Wicklow County Council	21	26	31	24	42	57	75
Grand Total	2,190	2,767	2,699	2,582	2,563	2,620	2,689

Note that some cells have been amalgamated for confidentiality

Primary

The definitive source of statistics on pupils in primary schools up until and including the 2015/2016 academic year was the National School Annual Census. From the 2016/2017 academic year onwards, the Primary Online Database (POD) replaced the National School Annual Census as the definitive source of statistics.

A question on membership of the Traveller community was first included in the 2011/2012 National School Annual Census. This question is necessary for statistical purposes and for the continued allocation of the Traveller Capitation Grant. Prior to this, schools returned information on the number of pupils availing of a Resource Teacher for Travellers (RTT). RTTs were withdrawn in 2011 (Circular 0017/2011).

Post Primary

The Post-Primary Pupil Database contains information on whether an application for Traveller Support has been made for a pupil. Additional teaching hours are provided for children who are members of the Traveller community. This information was first sought as part of the Post-Primary Pupil Database data collection in 2009/2010.

Possible Under-Representation

Written parental/guardian consent (or individual consent for older students) is required in order for schools to count a pupil/student as a member of the Traveller community. Therefore it is possible that the number of Traveller pupils/students is underestimated.

Traveller Education Strategy

The Departments Traveller Education Strategy is available at

http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/des_recom_traveller_educ_strategy.pdf

The Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy is currently being developed by the Department of Justice and Equality. DES officials are participating in the development of this strategy.