Interesting Facts – First Look at Data from POD, 2016/2017

This report may be accessed at:

www.education.ie and go to Statistics/Primary Online Database

For further information please contact:

Statistics@education.gov.ie

01 – 889 2085   February 2017

Author Nicola Tickner

Introduction

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

The following are some highlights of the data collected, and refer to pupils enrolled in Department of Education & Skills-aided national schools in the 2016/2017 academic year. In some tables, time series data is shown for comparison purposes; data prior to the 2016/2017 academic year is sourced from the National School Annual Census.

There were 558,420 pupils enrolled in 3,250 National Schools in the 2016/2017 academic year. Data are centred on enrolment as of the 30th of September 2016.
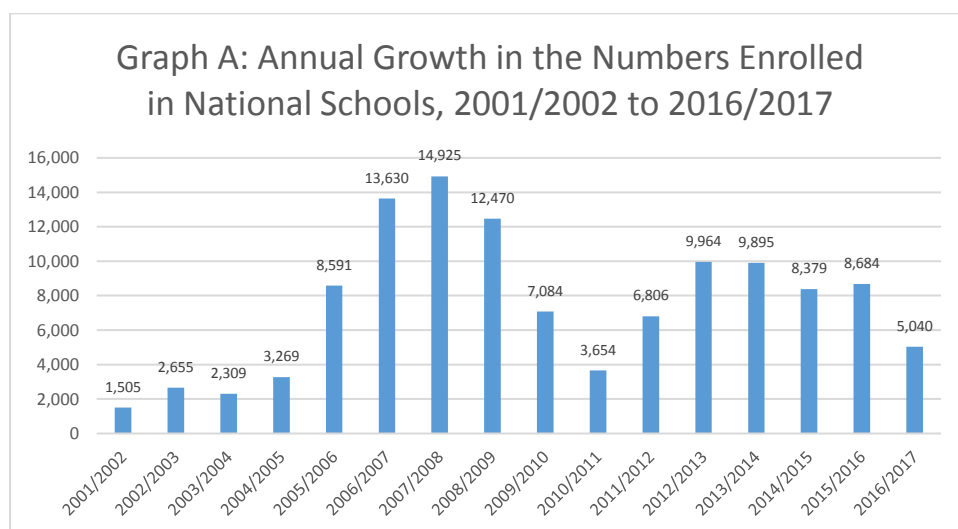
Profile of the schools

The 3,250 schools[1] figure comprises 3,115 mainstream schools, with enrolment of 550,304 pupils and 135 special schools, with enrolment of 8,116 pupils. *See Table 1a.*

Of the mainstream schools, 640 schools, with enrolment of 104,059 pupils, were in the Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) programme. *See Table 1b*.

Just under 90% (2,904) of the schools had a Catholic ethos, followed by 5.4% (175) with a Church of Ireland ethos and 3.7% (120) with a multi-denominational ethos, covering 90.1%, 3.0% and 4.9% of enrolment respectively. *See Table 1c.*

Enrolment changes over time

The enrolment of 558,420 pupils in 2016/2017 was an annual increase of over 5,000 pupils in the year since 2015/2016. However, although the numbers increased, the level of increase has started to slow down. *See Graph A below and 'Who are the pupils?' section on the next page.*

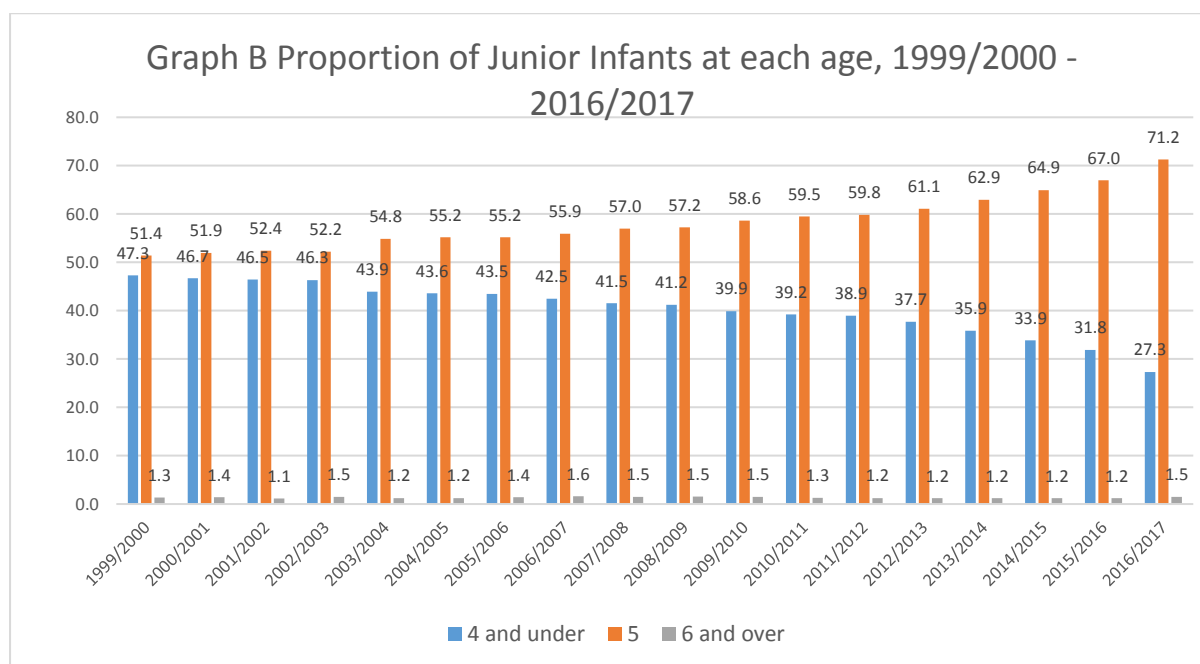Graph A: Annual Growth in the Numbers Enrolled in National Schools, 2001/2002 to 2016/2017

---

[1] There were two additional National Schools in 2016/2017 with combined enrolment of 88. However, for operational reasons the data from these schools is not collected through POD.

Who are the pupils?

The introduction of POD, which includes the collection of dates of birth, means that for the first time data is available on the ages of pupils as of the 30th of September. The previous National School Annual Census collected pupils' ages as of the 1st of January in each academic year.

Table 3a shows the age and sex of all pupils for both mainstream and special schools, as of the 30th of September. Note that there were 220 pupils aged 3 enrolled in mainstream schools, the vast majority of which were in Early Intervention special classes in mainstream schools. A distinctly higher proportion of the 3-year-olds were male (171 out of the 220).

Table 3b shows the age of pupils as of 30th of September classified by the standard they were in. On the 30th of September 2016, 52.5% of junior infants were aged 4 and 46.9% were aged 5. By January 2017, this had changed to 27.3% of junior infants aged 4 and 71.2% aged 5. Table 3d presents a time series of the age of junior infants as of the 1st of January in each academic year. It is notable that the percentage of 4- and 5-years-olds has changed significantly from almost 50/50 (46.7% 4-year-olds to 51.9% 5-year-olds) in 2000/2001 to nearly one quarter 4-year-olds to three-quarter 5-year-olds in 2016/2017 (27.3% 4 years olds to 71.2% 5 year olds). The introduction of the free pre-school (ECCE) year has had an impact on the starting age of children and for the most recent year the impact of the second school year can be clearly observed, with children starting school later. *See Tables 3b, 3c, 3d and Graph B below.*

Graph B Proportion of Junior Infants at each age, 1999/2000 - 2016/2017

Other characteristics

Nationality

The introduction of POD has enabled the collection of data on individual nationalities. Nationality is recorded by the schools as defined by the parents/guardians of the pupils and a drop-down list of all countries is available in POD. The top nationalities in mainstream schools are presented in Table A below. The number of pupils with an Irish nationality was the largest group, representing 89.6% of total enrolment. This was followed by nationality of Poland. There was less variation in nationalities in pupils enrolled in Special Schools, with 91.7% with an Irish nationality followed by 2.2% with a

dual nationality including Ireland as one of the countries and 1.3% Polish. A full list can be found in Tables 4a and 4b.

Table A: Mainstream pupils classified by top nationalities and sex

	Female	Male	**Total**	%
Ireland	241,056	252,184	**493,240**	89.6
Poland	7,675	7,892	**15,567**	2.8
Lithuania	2,299	2,216	**4,515**	0.8
Romania	1,850	1,882	**3,732**	0.7
Dual Nationality (Ireland and other)	1,746	1,916	**3,662**	0.7
United Kingdom	1,731	1,713	**3,444**	0.6
Latvia	1,300	1,303	**2,603**	0.5
India	1,110	1,125	**2,235**	0.4
Nigeria	868	903	**1,771**	0.3
China	589	580	**1,169**	0.2
Pakistan	529	579	**1,108**	0.2
United States of America	508	514	**1,022**	0.2
Spain	526	483	**1,009**	0.2

Mother tongue

An optional question on whether English or Irish is one of the mother tongues of each pupil is also included in POD for mainstream schools. Three-quarters of pupils said that English or Irish was one of their mother tongues. 8.7% or 47,973 pupils said it wasn't and 16% didn't respond to the question. Interestingly, 17,250 or 35.9% of those pupils for whom English or Irish was not one of their mother tongues had an Irish nationality. *See Tables 4b and 4c.*

Ethnic or cultural background and religion

Optional questions on ethnic or cultural background and religion are asked in POD. Note that as these are personal sensitive pieces of information, under data protection these questions must be optional and parental/guardian consent is required for this information. The level of non-response or 'no consent' response is close to 30% so caution is required when interpreting the data.

The proportion of pupils in each category of 'ethnic or cultural background' were very similar for both mainstream and special schools. The largest categories for both special and mainstream schools combined (apart from non-response 98,489/no consent 64,580) were White Irish with 320,773 pupils followed by Other White Background (34,030), Asian or Asian Irish – any other Asian (10,478) and Irish Traveller (7,980). The proportions in each category are similar to those in the 2011 Census of Population. For the first time data is also available on the number of pupils who indicated that they were of a Roma Ethnic or Cultural background (1,323).

Note that the number of pupils in mainstream schools who indicated that they were members of the Traveller community (7,802) was slightly lower than the data collected in previous years via the

National School Annual Census. In the 2015/2016 Census there were 8,000 Traveller pupils in mainstream schools. The data was not previously collected for special schools.

The largest categories (excluding no consent 62,573/non-response 85,674) in response to the religion question were Roman Catholic (359,921 pupils), no religion (10,333) Church of Ireland (Anglican) (9,195), Muslim (Islamic) (8,953). The proportions differ slightly from those of the 2011 Census of Population suggesting that the no consent/non-response may be concentrated more from some categories than others.

When comparing mainstream to special schools there are some differences in the proportions of pupils in the lesser represented religions, however it is worth noting that the figures for these groups in special schools are very small anyway. See Table 4e.

Where did they come from?

The vast majority of Junior Infants came from a pre-school setting (59,874 or 87% of all junior infants). A significant number, 4,697, came directly from home having not gone to pre-school. Other sources worth noting were 266 pupils who came to junior infants from schools abroad, 101 pupils switching from special classes/special schools to junior infants (67 pupils who started in a special class in the school and transferred to a mainstream class, 34 pupils who started in a special school and transferred to junior infants in a mainstream school) and 60 pupils who transferred in from a private primary school. 38 pupils came from schools outside of the State.

Note that the pupil source recorded for nearly 900 (894) junior infant pupils was another mainstream school in the State. This reflects situations at school level where pupils either move during September, or pupils may have accepted places in more than one school and first appear on the POD system in one school even though they physically haven't attended it. The POD system requires that pupils records are be transferred from the first school in which they were registered to the second school. *See Table 5.*

A pupil source of other or not stated accounted for the remaining 2,576 junior infants. *See Table 5.*

Exemptions from the study of Irish

There were 5,128 pupils with an exemption from the study of Irish who were enrolled in mainstream schools in the 2016/2017 academic year. Of these, a greater number of exemptions were granted to males (3,158) than to females (1,970). By far the most common reason given for the exemption was a Learning Disability (3,967 or 77% of all exemptions). POD collects information on the date the exemption was granted – 895 of the exemptions were granted in the 2016/2017 academic year. *See Tables 6a and 6b.*

Special schools – post-primary programmes

As reported in POD, there were 723 students in 36 special schools who were following a post-primary programme. The majority of these special schools offer education programmes from primary through to post-primary levels. The most common programmes followed were the Junior

Certificate Schools Programme (286 students) and the Junior Certificate Programme (251 students) although some students were following Leaving Certificate or equivalent programmes. It is possible that this data is underrepresented, data previously collected via the Special School Annual Census indicates that there were 1,353 pupils following post-primary programmes in 53 special schools in the 2015/2016 academic year. *See Tables 7a and 7b.*

Interesting Facts – First Look at Data from POD, 2016/2017

CONTENTS

Table 1a: Number of national schools and associated enrolment, 2016/2017

School Type Description	Schools	Pupils
Mainstream	3,115	550,304
Special	135	8,116
Grand Total	**3,250**	**558,420**

Source: Primary Pupil Online Database (POD)

Table 1b: Number of national schools and associated enrolment classified by DEIS status of the school, 2016/2017

	Mainstream Schools		Special Schools	
DEIS Status	Schools	Pupils	Schools	Pupils
Not in DEIS	2,475	446,246	135	8,116
In DEIS	640	104,059		
Grand Total	**3,115**	**550,304**	**135**	**8,116**

Source: Primary Pupil Online Database (POD)

Table 1c: Number of national schools and associated enrolment classified by ethos of the school, 2016/2017

	Mainstream Schools		Special Schools		Total Schools	
Ethos Description	Schools	Pupils	Schools	Pupils	Schools	Pupils
Catholic	2,794	500,726	110	7,372	2,904	508,098
Church of Ireland	175	16,566			175	16,566
Inter-denominational	18	4,584	1	6	19	4,590
Jewish	1	107			1	107
Methodist	1	93			1	93
Multi-denominational	106	26,785	14	470	120	27,255
Muslim	2	537			2	537
Other/Unknown	2	49	10	268	12	317
Presbyterian	15	737			15	737
Quaker	1	120			1	120
Grand Total	**3,115**	**550,304**	**135**	**8,116**	**3,250**	**558,420**

Source: Primary Pupil Online Database (POD)

Table 1d: Number of national schools and associated enrolment classified by medium of instruction in the school, 2016/2017

Medium of Instruction	Mainstream Schools		Special Schools	
	Schools	Pupils	Schools	Pupils
All subjects through Irish	248	44,129		
No subjects through Irish	2,837	501,462	129	7,969
Some subjects through Irish	30	4,714	6	147
Grand Total	**3,115**	**550,304**	**135**	**8,116**

Source: Primary Pupil Online Database (POD)

Table 1e: Number of national schools and associated enrolment classified by whether the school is in the Gaeltacht, 2016/2017

Gaeltacht Indicator	Mainstream Schools		Special Schools	
	Schools	Pupils	Schools	Pupils
Not in Gaeltacht	2,982	539,556	123	8,102
In Gaeltacht	133	10,748	1	14
Grand Total	**3,115**	**550,304**	**135**	**8,116**

Source: Primary Pupil Online Database (POD)

Table 1f: Number of national schools and associated enrolment classified by local authority area of the school, 2016/2017

Local Authority Description	Mainstream Schools		Special Schools	
	Schools	Pupils	Schools	Pupils
Carlow County Council	42	7,654	2	178
Cavan County Council	75	9,789	1	162
Clare County Council	112	13,751	2	155
Cork City Council	50	13,612	10	551
Cork County Council	292	48,801	5	311
Donegal County Council	175	18,880	2	174
Dublin City Council	190	46,096	28	1,734
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	63	19,316	10	500
Fingal County Council	92	37,226	3	91
Galway City Council	25	7,449	5	221
Galway County Council	203	22,618	3	62
Kerry County Council	131	15,983	3	218
Kildare County Council	101	29,384	4	267

Kilkenny County Council	72	11,034	6	235
Laois County Council	64	10,924	2	125
Leitrim County Council	37	3,660		
Limerick City Council	24	6,671	7	482
Limerick County Council	110	15,894	1	110
Longford County Council	37	5,270	1	31
Louth County Council	71	17,002	4	343
Mayo County Council	164	14,440	4	121
Meath County Council	114	26,748	3	233
Monaghan County Council	62	7,694		
Offaly County Council	66	9,923	1	21
Roscommon County Council	91	7,466	1	44
Sligo County Council	67	7,511	2	83
South Dublin County Council	99	34,984	9	426
Tipperary (Nr) County Council	73	8,667	1	50
Tipperary (Sr) County Council	83	10,125	3	324
Waterford City Council	19	6,199	2	161
Waterford County Council	55	8,048	1	53
Westmeath County Council	73	11,134	4	180
Wexford County Council	102	18,497	2	238
Wicklow County Council	81	17,856	3	232
Grand Total	**3,115**	**550,304**	**135**	**8,116**

Source: Primary Pupil Online Database (POD)

Table 1g: Number of national schools and associated enrolment classified by whether the school is located on an island, 2016/2017

	Mainstream Schools		Special Schools	
Island School	Schools	Pupils	Schools	Pupils
Not on an Island	3,103	550,101	135	8,116
On an Island*	12	203		
Grand Total	**3,115**	**550,304**	**135**	**8,116**

Source: Primary Pupil Online Database (POD)

* Island not connected to the mainland by a road bridge

Table 2: Number of pupils enrolled in national schools, 1999/2000 - 2016/2017

	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017
Mainstream National Schools	437,082	432,436	434,083	436,913	439,311	442,677	451,262	464,941	479,825	492,261	499,093	502,474	509,038	518,757	528,562	536,747	545,310	550,304
Special Schools	7,228	7,124	6,982	6,807	6,718	6,621	6,627	6,578	6,619	6,653	6,905	7,178	7,420	7,665	7,755	7,949	8,070	8,116
Total Enrolment	**444,310**	**439,560**	**441,065**	**443,720**	**446,029**	**449,298**	**457,889**	**471,519**	**486,444**	**498,914**	**505,998**	**509,652**	**516,458**	**526,422**	**536,317**	**544,696**	**553,380**	**558,420**

Source: 1999/2000 - 2015/2016 National School Annual Census, 2016/2017 Primay Online Database (POD)

	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017
Year on Year Changes		-4,750	1,505	2,655	2,309	3,269	8,591	13,630	14,925	12,470	7,084	3,654	6,806	9,964	9,895	8,379	8,684	5,040

Who are the pupils enrolled in 2016/2017?

Table 3a: Pupils enrolled in 2016/2017 classified by age as of 30th of September, sex and school type

Pupil Age at September 30th	Mainstream Female	Mainstream Male	**Mainstream Total**	Special Female	Special Male	**Special Total**
3	49	171	**220**	27	67	**94**
4	18,777	17,785	**36,562**	90	220	**310**
5	35,742	37,024	**72,766**	108	228	**336**
6	35,648	36,763	**72,411**	119	291	**410**
7	35,460	37,119	**72,579**	127	310	**437**
8	35,375	36,901	**72,276**	143	320	**463**
9	33,788	34,843	**68,631**	172	391	**563**
10	31,630	33,159	**64,789**	180	362	**542**
11	31,027	32,561	**63,588**	172	372	**544**
12	11,609	14,290	**25,899**	212	360	**572**
13	232	334	**566**	258	482	**740**
14 and over	8	9	**17**	1,099	2,006	**3,105**
Grand Total	**269,345**	**280,959**	**550,304**	**2,707**	**5,409**	**8,116**

Who are the pupils enrolled in 2016/2017?

Table 3b: Number of pupils in national schools schools by age as of the 30th September 2016 and school type, 2016/2017

Pupil Age at September 30th	Junior Infants	Senior Infants	First Class	Second Class	Third Class	Fourth Class	Fifth Class	Sixth Class	Special Classes in Mainstream Schools	Total Mainstream School	Special School Pupils
3	9								211	220	94
4	36,036	37							489	36,562	310
5	32,164	39,991	40	1					570	72,766	336
6	375	31,018	40,425	50					544	72,411	410
7	9	385	30,330	41,319	57	1			479	72,579	437
8		4	407	29,817	41,559	78			412	72,276	463
9		1	5	394	28,072	39,757	72		330	68,631	563
10				1	10	388	26,752	37,217	118	303	64,789	542
11					12	474	25,330	37,502	270	63,588	544
12					1	5	480	25,217	196	25,899	572
13					1		6	535	24	566	740
14 and over								6	11	17	3,105
Grand Total	68,593	71,436	71,208	71,591	70,090	67,067	63,105	63,378	3,839	550,304	8,116

Table 3c: Number of pupils in national schools schools by age as of the 1st January 2017 and school type, 2016/2017

Pupil Age at January 1st	Junior Infants	Senior Infants	First Class	Second Class	Third Class	Fourth Class	Fifth Class	Sixth Class	Special Classes in Mainstream Schools	Total Mainstream School	Special School Pupils
3	4								130	134	63
4	18,724	6							428	19,158	275
5	48,867	21,859	3	1					565	71,295	307
6	976	48,564	22,789	1					544	72,873	400
7	22	990	47,386	23,881	9				505	72,792	407
8		16	1,015	46,713	24,588	11			421	72,764	470
9		1	14	972	44,521	24,069	11		357	69,944	536
10			1	21	947	41,913	22,385	9	313	65,589	567
11				2	22	1,058	39,461	22,481	280	63,304	545
12					2	16	1,231	39,653	239	41,141	539
13					1		16	1,217	43	1,277	699
14							1	18	14	33	3,308
Grand Total	68,593	71,436	71,208	71,591	70,090	67,067	63,105	63,378	3,839	550,304	8,116

Table 3d: Junior infant pupils classified by age (number and percent), 1999/2000 - 2016/2017

Age as of 1st January in academic year	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017
4 and under	24564	24576	25662	26172	25073	24674	25404	26094	26256	26931	25894	25016	26768	26924	25966	24279	22788	18728
5	26695	27341	28957	29518	31278	31217	32248	34330	36043	37416	38027	37947	41126	43653	45570	46528	47928	48876
6 and over	687	726	617	830	703	700	806	987	953	1013	953	821	851	858	856	855	848	998
Total Junior Infants	**51946**	**52643**	**55236**	**56520**	**57054**	**56591**	**58458**	**61411**	**63252**	**65360**	**64874**	**63784**	**68745**	**71435**	**72392**	**71662**	**71564**	**68602**

Percentage at each age	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017
4 and under	47.3	46.7	46.5	46.3	43.9	43.6	43.5	42.5	41.5	41.2	39.9	39.2	38.9	37.7	35.9	33.9	31.8	27.3
5	51.4	51.9	52.4	52.2	54.8	55.2	55.2	55.9	57.0	57.2	58.6	59.5	59.8	61.1	62.9	64.9	67.0	71.2
6 and over	1.3	1.4	1.1	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.5
Total Junior Infants	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Further characteristics of the pupils enrolled in 2016/2017

Table 4a: Pupils enrolled in 2016/2017 classified by nationality and sex, mainstream schools

	Female	Male	Total
Ireland	241,056	252,184	**493,240**
Poland	7,675	7,892	**15,567**
Lithuania	2,299	2,216	**4,515**
Romania	1,850	1,882	**3,732**
Dual Nationality (Ireland and other)	1,746	1,916	**3,662**
United Kingdom	1,731	1,713	**3,444**
Latvia	1,300	1,303	**2,603**
India	1,110	1,125	**2,235**
Nigeria	868	903	**1,771**
China	589	580	**1,169**
Pakistan	529	579	**1,108**
United States of America	508	514	**1,022**
Spain	526	483	**1,009**
Philippines	491	485	**976**
Hungary	447	432	**879**
Slovakia	413	389	**802**
Brazil	300	307	**607**
Italy	303	300	**603**
Croatia	302	292	**594**
France	240	252	**492**
Russian Federation	211	255	**466**
South Africa	201	211	**412**
Czech Republic	195	214	**409**
Portugal	202	201	**403**
Germany, Federal Republic of	192	209	**401**
Moldova, Republic of	193	205	**398**
Dual Nationality (both non-Ireland)	160	206	**366**
Australia	195	165	**360**
Bulgaria	135	145	**280**
Egypt	131	147	**278**
Bangladesh	123	147	**270**
Sudan	144	125	**269**
Afghanistan	111	150	**261**
Ukraine	111	115	**226**

Table 4b: Pupils enrolled in 2016/2017 classified by nationality and sex, special schools

Nationality Description	Female	Male	Total
Ireland	2,471	4,971	**7,442**
Dual Nationality (Ireland and other)	57	121	**178**
Poland	47	63	**110**
United Kingdom	21	35	**56**
Lithuania	23	25	**48**
Nigeria	7	24	**31**
Latvia	9	14	**23**
Pakistan	6	17	**23**
Other	66	139	205
Total	**2,707**	**5,409**	**8,116**

Malaysia	105	120	**225**
Saudi Arabia	106	112	**218**
Syrian Arab Republic	115	102	**217**
Estonia	104	109	**213**
Netherlands	96	103	**199**
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	99	86	**185**
Vietnam	126	53	**179**
Zimbabwe	83	84	**167**
Iraq	78	79	**157**
Israel	70	86	**156**
Thailand	85	67	**152**
Libya	74	72	**146**
Albania	80	65	**145**
Mauritius	61	70	**131**
Somalia	65	66	**131**
Ghana	57	66	**123**
Algeria	57	65	**122**
Canada	48	49	**97**
New Zealand	55	42	**97**
Mongolia	47	48	**95**
Ethiopia	53	37	**90**
Congo, Republic of the	39	44	**83**
Greece	35	45	**80**
Turkey	42	35	**77**
Bosnia and Herzegovina	32	32	**64**
Georgia	33	31	**64**
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	27	37	**64**
Cameroon	35	27	**62**
Denmark	31	31	**62**
Sweden	30	32	**62**
Austria	28	32	**60**
Belgium	25	32	**57**
Kenya	28	25	**53**
Japan	26	26	**52**
Kosovo	26	25	**51**
Belarus	23	27	**50**
Central African Republic	22	26	**48**
Morocco	25	21	**46**
Angola	25	20	**45**
Malawi	24	21	**45**

Mexico	20	25	**45**
Finland	25	19	**44**
Serbia	20	23	**43**
Oman	19	18	**37**
Argentina	12	24	**36**
Sri Lanka	24	12	**36**
Uganda	15	20	**35**
Armenia	13	17	**30**
Palestine	10	19	**29**
Switzerland	8	19	**27**
Myanmar (Burma)	13	13	**26**
Venezuela	11	15	**26**
Eritrea	16	8	**24**
Korea South, Republic of	9	15	**24**
Nepal	13	11	**24**
Colombia	11	12	**23**
Kuwait	8	14	**22**
Norway	12	10	**22**
Indonesia	8	13	**21**
Mauritania	13	8	**21**
Slovenia	12	9	**21**
Togo	11	10	**21**
Iceland	8	11	**19**
Liberia	11	7	**18**
Sierra Leone	10	8	**18**
Tanzania, United Republic of	12	6	**18**
Tunisia	6	12	**18**
Botswana	8	9	**17**
Jordan	8	9	**17**
United Arab Emirates	9	6	**15**
Peru	6	8	**14**
Guinea	6	6	**12**
Other	151	151	302
Grand Total	**269,345**	**280,959**	**550,304**

Table 4c: Pupils enrolled in 2016/2017 classified by whether English or Irish is one of their mother tongues, sex and school type

Mother Tongue (English/Irish)	Female	Male	Mainstream
Not one of Mother Tongues	23,834	24,139	**47,973**
Yes, one of Mother Tongues	201,843	210,969	**412,812**
Not Stated	43,668	45,851	**89,519**
Grand Total	**269,345**	**280,959**	**550,304**

Table 4d: Pupils enrolled in 2016/2017 who indicated that English or Irish was not one of their mother tongues classified by nationality (mainstream schools only)

Nationality Description	Not Mother Tongue
Ireland	17,250
Poland	10,502
Lithuania	2,967
Romania	2,464
Latvia	1,632
Dual Nationality (Ireland and Other)	1,439
India	1,251
Pakistan	711
China	660
Hungary	624
Spain	588
Slovakia	542
Croatia	407
Brazil	395
Nigeria	363
Italy	327
Philippines	270
Czech Republic	267
Russian Federation	247
Portugal	242
Moldova, Republic of	240
France	232

Sudan	222
Afghanistan	210
Egypt	207
Bulgaria	203
Bangladesh	191
Syrian Arab Republic	171
Saudi Arabia	161
Ukraine	149
Germany, Federal Republic of	148
Dual Nationality (Both non-Ireland)	146
Estonia	129
United Kingdom	129
Israel	102
Malaysia	101
Other	2,084
Grand Total	**47,973**

Table 4e: Pupils enrolled in 2016/2017 classified by Ethnic or Cultural Background, sex and school type

Ethnic or Cultural Background Description	Mainstream Female	Mainstream Male	Mainstream Total	Special Female	Special Male	Special Total
White Irish	154,394	161,681	316,075	1,533	3,165	4,698
Irish Traveller	3,828	3,974	7,802	73	105	178
Roma	656	647	1,303	8	12	20
Any other White Background	16,550	17,193	33,743	112	175	287
Black or Black Irish - African	4,132	4,237	8,369	62	184	246
Black or Black Irish - any other Black background	681	705	1,386	10	34	44
Asian or Asian Irish - Chinese	1,149	1,148	2,297	14	11	25
Asian or Asian Irish - any other Asian background	5,175	5,176	10,351	36	91	127
Other (inc. mixed background)	4,059	4,226	8,285	36	79	115
No Consent	31,918	32,269	64,187	118	275	393
Not Provided	46,803	49,703	96,506	705	1,278	1,983
Grand Total	**269,345**	**280,959**	**550,304**	**2,707**	**5,409**	**8,116**

Table 4f: Pupils enrolled in 2016/2017 classified by religion, sex and school type

Religion Description	Mainstream Female	Mainstream Male	Mainstream Total	Special Female	Special Male	Special Total
Roman Catholic	173,812	181,206	355,018	1,629	3,274	4,903
Church of Ireland (Anglican)	4,407	4,692	9,099	43	53	96
Presbyterian	620	567	1,187	3	5	8
Methodist, Wesleyan	270	307	577	3	3	6
Jewish	70	91	161			
Muslim (Islamic)	4,277	4,542	8,819	35	99	134
Orthodox (Greek, Coptic, Russian)	2,781	2,863	5,644	15	30	45
Apostolic or Pentecostal	1,737	1,784	3,521	22	59	81
Hindu	730	758	1,488	8	10	18
Buddhist	325	311	636	1	3	4
Jehovah's Witness	294	327	621	4	10	14
Lutheran	206	246	452			
Atheist	270	292	562	2	4	6
Baptist	348	336	684	5	9	14
Agnostic	156	130	286	1	1	2
Christian religion, not further defined	791	889	1,680	23	52	75
Protestant	94	125	219	4	11	15
Evangelical	47	45	92	1	8	9
Other Religions	1,809	1,810	3,619	17	29	46
No Religion	4,833	5,382	10,215	41	77	118
No Consent	30,843	31,244	62,087	124	361	485
Not Provided	40,625	43,012	83,637	726	1,311	2,037
Grand Total	**269,345**	**280,959**	**550,304**	**2,707**	**5,409**	**8,116**

Table 5: Source of junior infants in 2016/2017, classified by sex

Pupil Source Description	Female	Male	Total
Another Mainstream National School in the State	402	493	895
Changing Pupil Type - Remaining in this School	30	37	67
Childcare Setting/Pre-Primary Education/Early Start Programme	29,735	30,259	59,994
From Home/Not in any School/Childcare Setting/Pre-primary Education	2,206	2,491	4,697
Private Primary School in the State	31	29	60
Schools Abroad (excluding Northern Ireland)	133	133	266
Schools in Northern Ireland	3	1	4
Special School in the State	7	27	34
Other/Not provided	1,268	1,308	2,576
Grand Total	**33,815**	**34,778**	**68,593**

Table 6a: Number of pupils in the 2016/2017 academic year with exemptions from the study of Irish classified by reason for exemption and gender

Exemption Type	Female	Male	Total
Children Of Foreign Diplomats/Consulars/ Children of Political Refugees As Designated By The	14	7	21
Education Up To 11 Years Received Outside Of The Republic Of Ireland	127	143	270
Learning Disability	1,344	2,623	3,967
Pupils From Abroad With No Understanding Of English When Enrolled	478	370	848
Re-Enrolment After Minimum 3 Years Abroad And Minimum 11 Years On Enrolment	7	15	22
Grand Total	**1,970**	**3,158**	**5,128**

Table 6b: Number of exemptions from the study of Irish granted during the 2016/2017 academic year*

Exemption Type	Female	Male	Total
Children Of Foreign Diplomats/Consulars/ Children of Political Refugees As Designated By The	6	4	**10**
Education Up To 11 Years Received Outside Of The Republic Of Ireland	79	86	**165**
Learning Disability	172	317	**489**
Pupils From Abroad With No Understanding Of English When Enrolled	126	92	**218**
Re-Enrolment After Minimum 3 Years Abroad And Minimum 11 Years On Enrolment	4	9	**13**
Grand Total	**387**	**508**	**895**

As of February 2017

Table 7a: Pupils in special schools in 2016/2017 classified by whether they are following a post-primary programme

Following a post-primary programe	723
Not following a post-primary programe	7,393
Grand Total	**8,116**

Table 7b: Pupils in special schools following a post-primary programme classified by type of programme

Programme Type	
Junior Certificate	251
Junior Certificate Schools Programme	286
Leaving Certificate	57
Leaving Certificate Applied	59
Other programme at Levels 1,2 or 3 on the NFQ or equivalent	120
Other programme at Level 4 or above on the NFQ or equivalent	33

Note the total is greater than 723 as the categories are not mutually exclusive (i.e a pupil could be following one subject in a Leaving Certificate programme and another subject at Level 4 on the NFQ

These pupils were in 36 schools.

Background Notes

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. POD is an individualised database of pupils enrolled in primary schools which are recognised by the Department. POD is a live database which allows for the updating of information throughout the year. The purpose of POD is to monitor the progress of children through the education system in order to ensure that every student can meet their educational potential, and to ensure that every child of compulsory school age is in receipt of an education. POD data will underpin the provision of education in primary schools, with grant payments and teacher allocations to schools based on the individually verified data.

There were two additional National Schools in 2016/2017 with combined enrolment of 88. However, for operational reasons the data from these schools is not collected through POD.

The ethnic/cultural background of the pupil, and the pupil's religion are personal sensitive data items and in relation to these fields, the express written consent of the parents/guardians is required before this data can be recorded for a student on POD and accessed by the Department of Education and Skills.

Further details on POD can be found in the Department's Fair Processing Notice at http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Statistics/Primary-Online-Database-POD-/POD-Fair-Processing-Notice.pdf