

Theme: Children, Education and Skills

13 December 2011

## **ENROLMENTS AT GRANT-AIDED PRIMARY AND POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS 2011/12: BASIC STATISTICS**

The purpose of this statistical release is to present basic enrolment figures for grant aided primary and post primary schools for 2011/12. The data are taken from the school census, which was conducted in October 2011. Data collected through the school census exercise are used to inform Departmental policy development, implementation and evaluation.

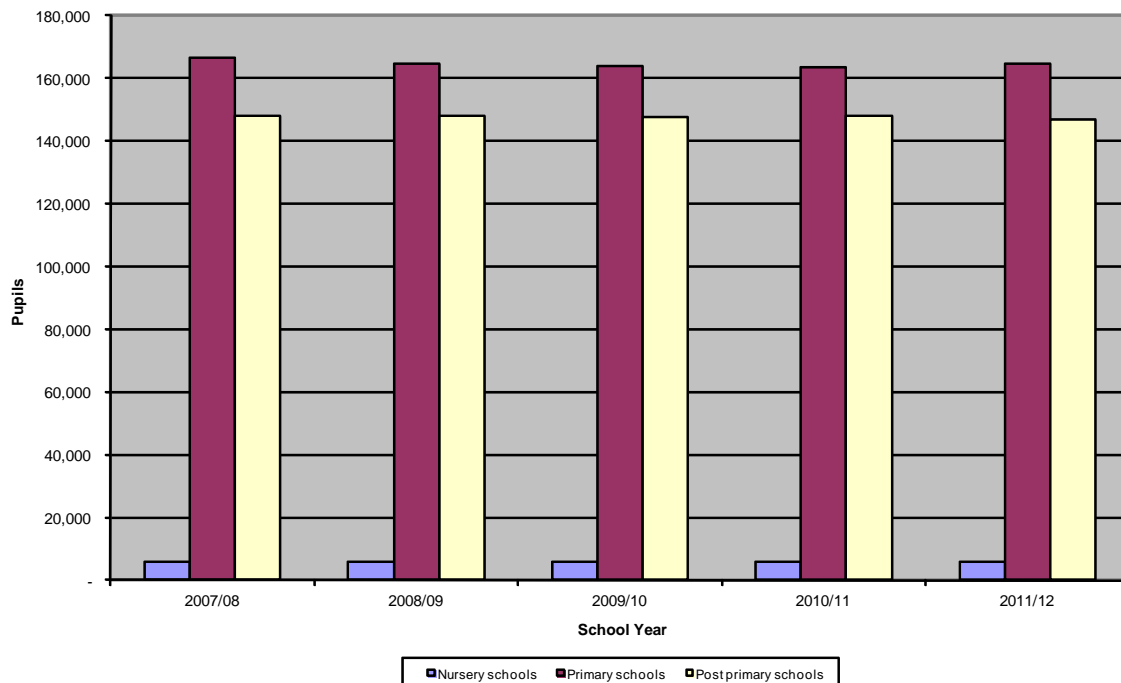
This first release of the basic statistics contains information which is used in the process to allocate funding to schools. A further statistical release, containing a more detailed set of tables, will be published in February 2012.

### **Key Points**

- The total number of pupils in schools in October 2011 was 322,888, a slight increase on the 322,548 pupils recorded in 2010 (Table 1)
- The number of pupils in compulsory primary school education (Year 1 – 7) was 155,687, a rise of over 1,200 since 2010. This breaks the downward trend seen in recent years and brings enrolments back to the level reported in 2008. (Table 1)
- The number of pupils in post-primary schools was 146,751. This is a decrease of 1,151 since 2010, and is most evident in the non-grammar sector. However, this overall decline in post primary pupils masks an increase of over 300 post Year 12 pupils. This continues a trend seen in recent years, where the number of pupils continuing into Year 13 in schools has been increasing. (Table 1)
- The numbers of schools continues to decrease. In October 2011 there were 839 primary schools, a decrease of 29 since October 2007. The number of post-primary schools was 216, compared to 226 in 2007/08. (Table 2)

- The percentage of children in schools entitled to free school meals increased from 20% in 2010/11 to 23% in 2011/12, a continuation of the upward trend which began in 2009/10 after a number of years in which the rate declined. The increase applied across both primary and post-primary sectors, though was more marked in the primary sector following a change in eligibility criteria in this sector from 2010/11 onwards. (Table 3)

**Pupils at schools 2007/08 – 2011/12**



**Table 1: Number of Pupils in Schools and Children in Funded Pre-school Education by Type of Establishment attended**

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
<b>VOLUNTARY and PRIVATE</b>					
<b>PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION CENTRES<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>6,535</b>	<b>6,629</b>	<b>6,744</b>	<b>7,599</b>	<b>na</b>
<b>NURSERY SCHOOLS</b>					
Full-time	4,005	3,997	3,996	4,033	3,981
Part-time	1,850	1,872	1,861	1,873	1,930
<b>Total nursery school pupils</b>	<b>5,855</b>	<b>5,869</b>	<b>5,857</b>	<b>5,906</b>	<b>5,911</b>
<b>PRIMARY SCHOOLS and PREPARATORY DEPARTMENTS</b>					
<b>Nursery class pupils</b>					
Full-time	4,146	4,350	4,494	4,829	5,144
Part-time	3,952	3,876	3,800	3,673	3,525
<b>Total nursery class pupils</b>	<b>8,098</b>	<b>8,226</b>	<b>8,294</b>	<b>8,502</b>	<b>8,669</b>
Primary: reception	625	601	576	491	444
Grammar preparatory: reception	5	6	14	6	5
<b>Total reception pupils</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>449</b>
Primary schools (year 1 - 7)	155,500	153,551	152,552	152,333	153,732
Grammar school preparatory depts. (year 1 - 7)	2,411	2,427	2,335	2,119	1,955
<b>Total year 1 - 7 pupils</b>	<b>157,911</b>	<b>155,978</b>	<b>154,887</b>	<b>154,452</b>	<b>155,687</b>
<b>Total primary pupils</b>	<b>166,639</b>	<b>164,811</b>	<b>163,771</b>	<b>163,451</b>	<b>164,805</b>
<b>POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS</b>					
Secondary (non grammar) schools	85,663	85,576	85,315	85,769	84,197
Grammar schools	62,279	62,410	62,444	62,133	62,554
<b>Total post primary pupils</b>	<b>147,942</b>	<b>147,986</b>	<b>147,759</b>	<b>147,902</b>	<b>146,751</b>
<b>SPECIAL SCHOOLS<sup>2</sup> Total</b>	<b>4,611</b>	<b>4,598</b>	<b>4,443</b>	<b>4,458</b>	<b>4,549</b>
<b>HOSPITAL SCHOOLS Total</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>191</b>
<b>INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS Total</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>681</b>
<b>ALL SCHOOLS Total</b>	<b>326,114</b>	<b>324,173</b>	<b>322,713</b>	<b>322,548</b>	<b>322,888</b>
<b>ALL SCHOOLS AND PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION CENTRES</b>	<b>332,649</b>	<b>330,802</b>	<b>329,457</b>	<b>330,147</b>	<b>na</b>

1. Voluntary and private centres funded under the Pre-school Education Expansion Programme, which began in 1998/99.

2. Pupils placed in special schools or units on a temporary basis were counted at their main school from 2009/10 onwards.

**Table 2: Number of Schools and Pre-school Education Centres by Management Type**

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
<b>VOLUNTARY and PRIVATE PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION CENTRES<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>366</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>381</b>
<b>NURSERY SCHOOLS</b>					
Controlled	65	65	65	65	65
Catholic Maintained	33	33	33	33	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>PRIMARY SCHOOLS</b>					
Controlled	401	391	386	383	378
Catholic Maintained	404	402	398	396	392
Other Maintained	24	24	24	25	27
Controlled Integrated	16	16	18	19	19
Grant Maintained Integrated	23	23	23	23	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>839</b>
Grammar school preparatory depts.	17	17	17	17	15
<b>Total primary schools and preparatory depts.</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>854</b>
<b>POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS</b>					
<b>Secondary (non grammar) schools</b>					
Controlled	63	61	57	57	56
Catholic Maintained	73	72	72	71	71
Other Maintained	1	1	1	1	1
Controlled Integrated	5	4	5	5	5
Grant Maintained Integrated	15	16	15	15	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>Grammar schools</b>					
Controlled	17	17	17	17	17
Voluntary					
Under Catholic management	30	30	30	30	29
Under other management	22	22	22	21	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Total Post Primary schools</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>216</b>
<b>SPECIAL SCHOOLS</b> <b>Total</b>	43	42	41	41	41
<b>HOSPITAL SCHOOLS</b> <b>Total</b>	2	2	2	2	2
<b>INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS</b> <b>Total</b>	17	16	14	15	15
<b>ALL SCHOOLS</b> <b>Total</b>	<b>1,254</b>	<b>1,237</b>	<b>1,223</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>1,210</b>
<b>ALL SCHOOLS AND PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION CENTRES</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>1,591</b>	<b>1,581</b>	<b>1,599</b>	<b>1,591</b>

1 Voluntary and private centres funded under the Pre-school Education Expansion Programme, which began in 1998/99.

**Table 3: Percentage of Children Entitled to Free School Meals<sup>1,5</sup>  
by Type of Establishment attended**

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
<b>VOLUNTARY and PRIVATE</b>	11	10	10	11	na
<b>PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION CENTRES<sup>1,2</sup></b>					
<b>NURSERY SCHOOLS<sup>1</sup></b>					
Full-time	30	28	29	39	43
Part-time	6	8	9	9	10
<b>All nursery schools</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>PRIMARY SCHOOLS</b>					
<b>Nursery class pupils<sup>1,5</sup></b>					
Full-time	29	26	27	34	36
Part-time	7	7	9	10	11
<b>Total nursery class pupils</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>26</b>
Primary: reception	8	9	10	12	13
Grammar preparatory: reception					-
<b>Total reception pupils</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
Primary schools (year 1 - 7)	18	18	19	22	27
Grammar school preparatory depts. (year 1 - 7)	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Total year 1 - 7 pupils</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Total primary pupils</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS</b>					
Secondary (non grammar) schools	25	24	26	26	27
Grammar schools	6	6	6	7	7
<b>TOTAL POST PRIMARY PUPILS</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>ALL SCHOOLS<sup>3</sup> Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>TOTAL SCHOOLS AND PRE-EDUCATION CENTRES</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>na</b>

1. For pupils and children in the nursery sector and in voluntary and private pre-school centres, where free school meal entitlement data is not appropriate, the number of pupils with (a) parent(s) in receipt of Job Seeker's allowance or Income Support is used instead of free school meal entitlement.

2. Voluntary and private centres funded under the Pre-school Education Expansion Programme, which began in 1998/99.

3. Free school meal entitlement data is not collected for pupils at special schools, hospital schools or at independent schools.

4. " - " means zero cases. "0" means less than 1%.

5. From 2010/11, additional criteria applied to children in full-time nursery places and in Key Stage 1 and from 2011/12 to children in Key Stage 2, in relation to entitlement for free schools meals.

6. These figures may be subject to minor revision once the Education and Library Boards' auditing process is completed.

## Notes to 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](mailto: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 [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

### ***School Census***

4. The statistics in this release have been derived from the annual School Census; details about the survey may be found at [http://www.deni.gov.uk/census\\_description\\_for\\_web\\_1112.docx](http://www.deni.gov.uk/census_description_for_web_1112.docx). 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.
5. The 2011/12 figures in this statistical release are based on information as at 7th October 2011. They may be subject to minor revision and these will be notified in accordance with our revisions policy. This can be accessed at [http://www.deni.gov.uk/de\\_statement\\_on\\_statistical\\_revisions-2.doc](http://www.deni.gov.uk/de_statement_on_statistical_revisions-2.doc). A further statistical release, containing a more detailed set of tables, will be published in February 2012.
6. 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 2011, who were admitted to a reception class or group in primary school following their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. Schools may

admit reception pupils throughout the year, but only those who have been admitted by 31st October are counted in the school census.

7. Further statistics relating to school numbers and enrolments can be found on the DE website ([www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk)) under the Statistics and Research section.

The DE website presents figures taken from the school census, summarised at regional, Education and Library Board and school level. Statistics on participation rates, pupil attendance, pupil: teacher ratios, school leaver destinations and qualifications may also be accessed via the website.

8. Information on enrolments collected via the school census process are used to inform DE policy and procedures (particularly School Funding), as well as to inform Education and Library Boards (ELBs) of detailed information useful to them in their auditing processes.

### **Further enquiries**

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e-mail: [statistics@deni.gov.uk](mailto:statistics@deni.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 9268 / fax (028) 9127 9271.**

Feedback on this publication can be provided directly to Gemma Reid (contact details above) or via the feedback questionnaire on our website. <http://www.deni.gov.uk/feedback-pg.htm>