

24th June 2008

Theme: Education and Training

STATISTICAL PRESS RELEASE

Pupil:Teacher Ratios in Grant Aided Schools in Northern Ireland 2007/08

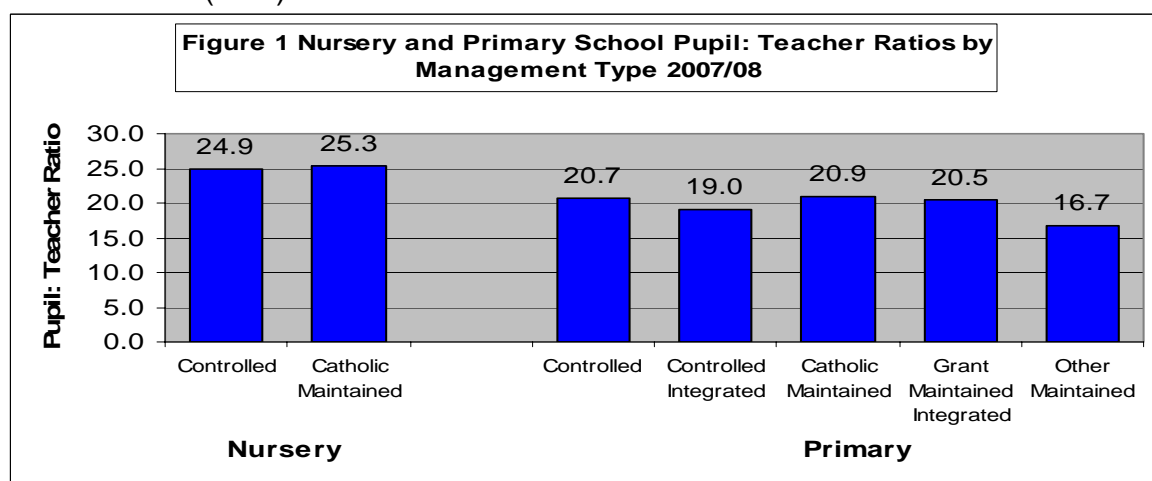
Key Points

- The overall Pupil:Teacher Ratio (PTR) is 16.8 in 2007/08; 0.1 lower than in 2006/07.

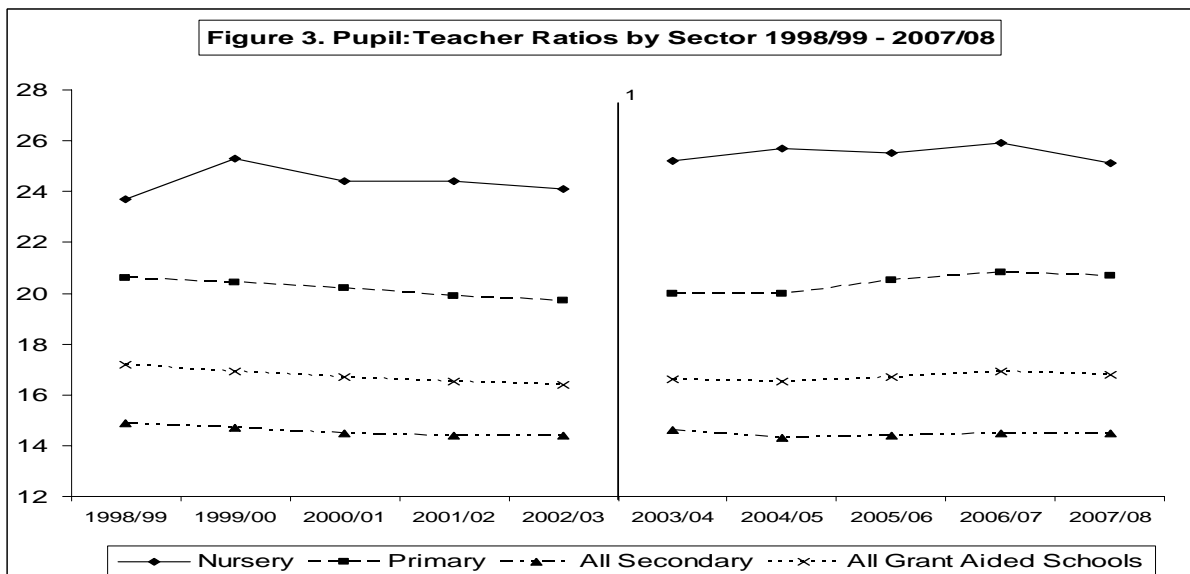
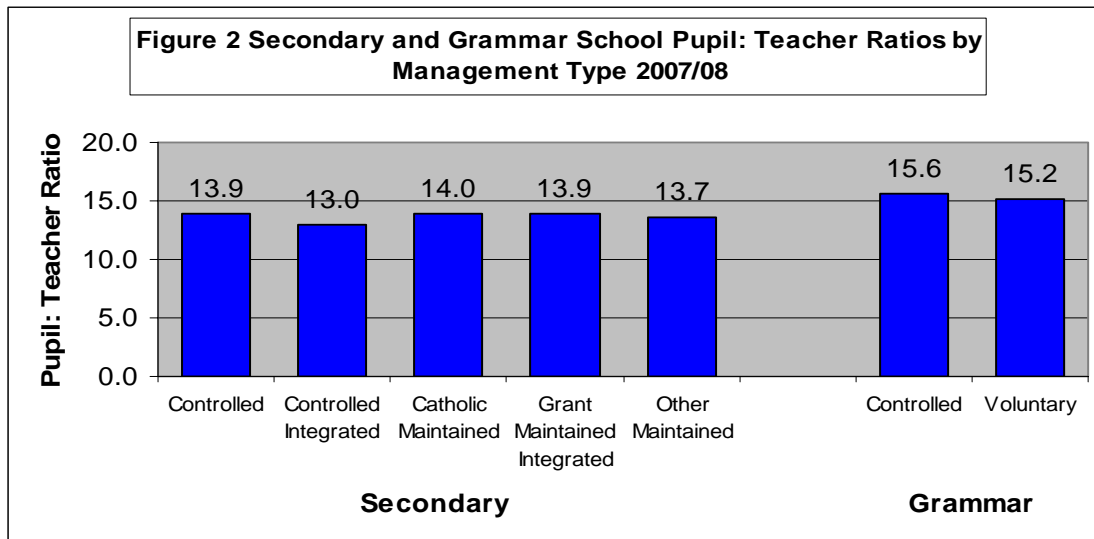
The 2006/07 and 2007/08 PTRs for the main school sectors are as follows:

School Sector	2006/07	2007/08	Difference
Nursery	25.9	25.1	- 0.8
Primary	20.8	20.7	- 0.1
Preparatory	16.8	16.9	+ 0.1
Secondary	14.0	13.9	- 0.1
Grammar	15.3	15.3	0.0
Special	5.9	6.0	+ 0.1
All Grant-aided Schools	16.9	16.8	- 0.1

- The management type with the highest primary school PTR is Catholic Maintained (20.9) and the Management type with the lowest primary school PTR is Other Maintained (16.7).

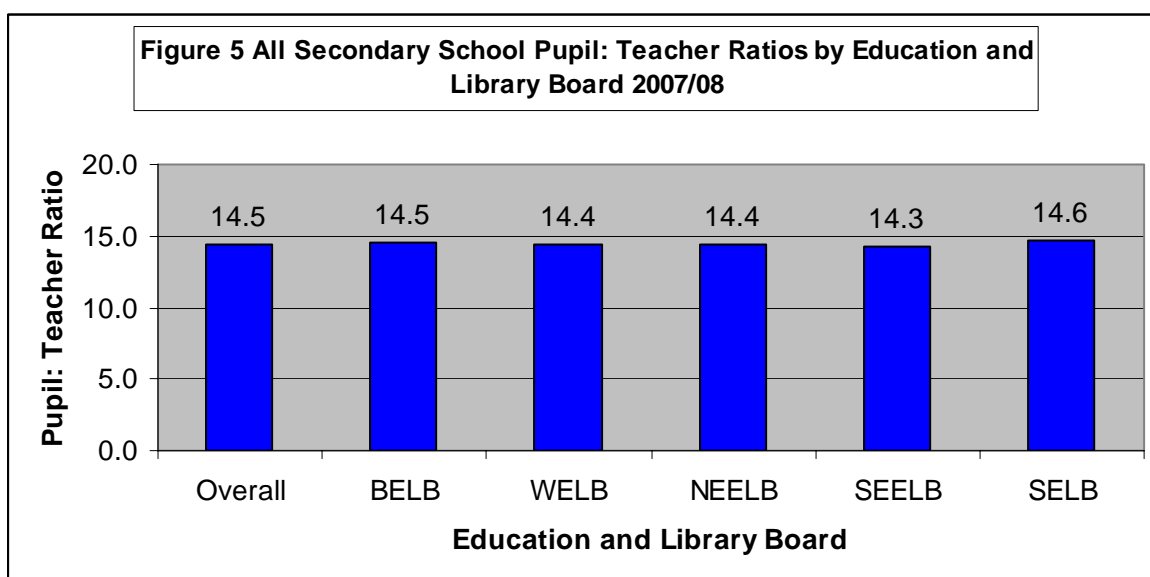
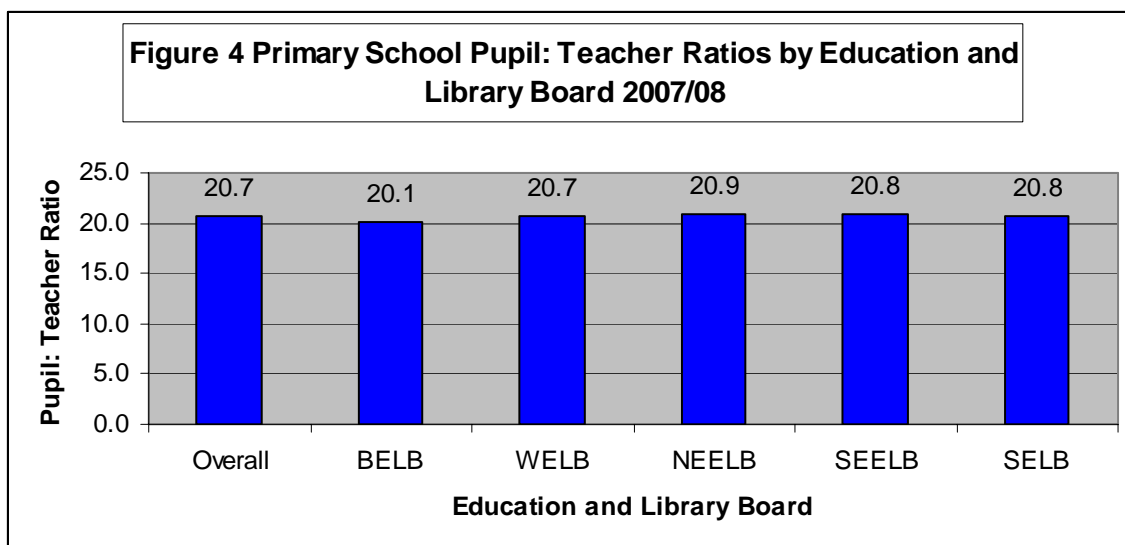


- For secondary (non-grammar) schools the PTR is highest in the Catholic Maintained (14.0) and lowest in the Controlled Integrated sector (13.0). The PTR in voluntary grammar schools (15.2) is lower than in controlled grammar schools (15.6). (Table 2)



1. Since 2003/04 the PTRs have been compiled using teacher data collected on a new, improved basis which involves verification with schools. See Notes to Editors, paragraph 6.

- The Belfast Board has the lowest primary PTR (20.1) while the 'all secondary' PTR is lowest in the South Eastern Board (14.3). The North Eastern Board has the highest primary PTR (20.9) and the Southern Board has the highest 'all secondary' PTR (14.6). (Table 2)



Comparisons with England and Scotland

PTRs are below those in England in all sectors except nursery and higher than both primary and secondary in Scotland. However, the comparison needs to be treated with caution as it is affected by varying school size distributions and, in the case of secondary PTRs, by the fact that teachers and students in sixth form colleges in England are not included. A PTR for pre-schools in Scotland was not available at the time of publication.

School Sector	2007/08		
	N. Ireland	England (provisional)	Scotland
Nursery	25.1	16.5	N/A
Primary	20.7	21.6	16.0
All Secondary	14.5	16.1	11.7

Tables

Table 1 shows the Pupil:Teacher Ratios for Northern Ireland between 1998/99 and 2007/08 broken down by school type and management type.

Table 2 shows the Pupil:Teacher Ratios for 2007/08 broken down by area board, school type and management type.

Notes to Editors

National Statistics

1. This is a National Statistics publication. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.
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Pupil:Teacher Ratios

4. Since the introduction of Local Management of Schools (LMS) in 1991/92 all secondary schools have had fully delegated budgets, which means that decisions on staffing levels are taken by the schools themselves. LMS has also been phased in gradually in the primary schools sector with the result that all primary schools have had fully delegated budgets from 1998/99.
5. **Teachers**

The teacher numbers are based on the reference week in the autumn term.

The following types of teacher are taken into account in calculating the Pupil:Teacher Ratio:

- full-time teachers;
- part-time teachers;
- temporary teachers who are filling a vacancy pending the appointment of a permanent teacher; and
- teachers paid on a 1/365th basis. (These are temporary teachers who are appointed for a period of not less than one year).

Numbers are expressed as full-time equivalents and part-time hours are converted on the basis of a 32.4 hour week.

Excluded from the teacher element of the calculation are:

- substitute teachers; and
- peripatetic teachers.

6. New (verified) basis for teacher numbers from 2003/04 onwards

Prior to 2003/04, the figures for nursery, primary, secondary (non-grammar), and special schools were extracted from the computerised teachers' payroll system,

whilst the figures for grammar schools were obtained from a statistical return completed by the schools. Now each nursery, primary, secondary (non-grammar), grammar and special school is sent a list of teachers from the computerised teachers' payroll system, and asked to mark any amendments. This change was introduced from 2003/04 for nursery, primary, secondary (non-grammar) and special schools, from 2005/06 for controlled grammar schools and from 2007/08 for voluntary grammar schools.

The net effect of the change in 2003/04 was that the number of teachers as verified by schools was some 400 lower than the number of teachers extracted from the computerised teachers' payroll system, e.g. because substitute teachers had been incorrectly recorded.

7. Pupils

Pupil figures are taken from the Annual School Census conducted in October each year.

Pupils include those on a full-time and part-time attendance mode expressed as full-time equivalents. A part-time pupil is counted as 0.5 of a full-time pupil.

8. Comparisons

Comparisons of PTRs between area boards, management types and territories must be interpreted with caution as differences will reflect varying school size distributions and differences in the proportion of schools of each type (nursery, primary and secondary). It should also be noted that since 1 April 1993 sixth form colleges in England were reclassified as further education colleges. Teachers and students in these colleges do not feature in the PTRs for England.

9. Further statistics relating to PTRs and teacher number can be found on the DE website (www.deni.gov.uk) under the Statistics and Research section.

Statistics on school numbers and enrolment, participation rates and school leavers destinations and qualifications may also be accessed via the website.

9. Further Enquiries

For more details about any of the statistics in this Press Release, please contact:

Mrs Christine Bowden
Statistics and Research Branch
Department of Education
Rathgael House
Balloo Road
Bangor
BT19 7PR
Telephone 028 9127 9985

Special analyses of PTR or Teacher data can be produced on request.

DE Statistical Press Releases can be accessed at the DE website –
www.deni.gov.uk under the Statistics and Research Section.

Press enquiries should be made to the Department's Press Office at the same address, telephone 028 9127 9701.

Table 1

PUPIL:TEACHER RATIOS 1998/99 - 2007/08

School Type	Management Type	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	New (verified) basis				
								2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Nursery	Controlled	24.1	25.3	24.3	23.9	23.5	24.3	25.2	25.5	25.6	25.8	24.9
	Catholic Maintained	22.9	25.1	24.8	25.5	25.2	24.5	25.1	26.1	25.4	26.0	25.3
	Total	23.7	25.3	24.4	24.4	24.1	24.4	25.2	25.7	25.5	25.9	25.1
Primary*	Controlled	20.8	20.8	20.4	20.2	20.0	19.7	20.3	20.2	20.6	20.8	20.7
	Controlled Integrated	25.3	18.7	17.6	18.4	17.8	17.3	17.8	18.4	18.4	19.5	19.0
	Catholic Maintained	20.4	20.0	20.0	19.7	19.4	19.2	19.8	19.9	20.5	21.0	20.9
	Grant Maintained Integrated	20.6	20.5	20.6	19.8	20.7	20.9	21.5	20.9	20.8	21.2	20.5
	Other Maintained	18.2	18.1	18.4	17.2	17.8	17.7	17.6	18.2	17.4	17.1	16.7
Total	20.6	20.4	20.2	19.9	19.7	19.4	20.0	20.0	20.5	20.8	20.7	
Grammar Preparatory Departments	Controlled	18.7	18.5	17.9	18.4	18.1	17.0	17.0	16.8	18.6	16.6	17.3
	Voluntary	17.1	17.4	16.4	16.6	17.1	17.0	17.0	17.4	17.3	16.8	16.8
	Total	17.3	17.5	16.6	16.9	17.2	17.0	17.0	17.3	17.5	16.8	16.9
Secondary (Excl Grammar)	Controlled	14.4	14.3	14.1	14.0	13.8	13.8	14.2	13.9	14.1	14.2	13.9
	Controlled Integrated	14.3	13.6	13.5	13.1	13.3	13.6	13.7	13.4	13.7	13.3	13.0
	Catholic Maintained	14.4	14.2	13.9	13.9	13.9	13.8	14.1	13.7	13.8	13.9	14.0
	Grant Maintained Integrated	13.3	13.0	13.1	13.0	13.5	13.8	14.2	14.1	13.9	14.0	13.9
	Other Maintained	15.7	12.1	11.6	11.2	10.5	11.5	11.5	13.4	12.7	13.1	13.7
Total	14.3	14.1	13.9	13.8	13.8	13.8	14.1	13.8	13.9	14.0	13.9	
Grammar Secondary Departments	Controlled	15.7	15.5	15.4	15.4	15.7	15.5	15.5	15.4	15.5	15.6	15.7
	Voluntary	15.7	15.6	15.4	15.2	15.2	15.2	15.2	15.1	15.2	15.2	15.2
	Total	15.7	15.6	15.4	15.3	15.3	15.2	15.2	15.2	15.3	15.3	15.3
All Secondary	Total	14.9	14.7	14.5	14.4	14.4	14.3	14.6	14.3	14.4	14.5	14.5
Special (excl. Hospital Schools)	Controlled	6.7	6.3	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.2
	Catholic Maintained	5.4	5.0	4.8	5.3	5.2	4.4	4.6	4.7	5.1	5.3	5.2
	Other Maintained	4.0	4.3	4.3	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.5	3.2	3.8	2.9
	Total	6.5	6.2	5.9	5.9	6.0	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.9	6.0
All Grant-Aided Schools	Controlled	17.3	17.1	16.8	16.6	16.4	16.3	16.7	16.5	16.8	16.9	16.8
	Controlled Integrated	17.6	15.5	15.0	14.9	14.9	15.1	15.4	15.5	15.7	15.9	15.4
	Catholic Maintained	17.7	17.5	17.3	17.2	17.0	16.8	17.3	17.1	17.5	17.8	17.8
	Grant Maintained Integrated	15.5	15.1	15.1	14.8	15.4	15.7	16.1	15.9	15.8	16.0	15.8
	Other Maintained	14.5	13.9	14.0	13.6	14.1	14.5	14.4	15.2	14.7	15.1	14.7
	Voluntary	15.8	15.7	15.4	15.3	15.3	15.2	15.2	15.2	15.3	15.2	15.2
Total	17.2	16.9	16.7	16.5	16.4	16.3	16.6	16.5	16.7	16.9	16.8	

NOTES:

* includes pupils and teachers in nursery classes

Table 2

PTR's FOR 2007/08 BY AREA BOARD AND MANAGEMENT TYPE

School type	Management Type	Belfast	Western	North Eastern	South Eastern	Southern	Total
Nursery	Controlled	25.6	26.0	22.8	25.2	25.6	24.9
	Catholic Maintained	25.7	-	25.6	24.5	25.3	25.3
	Total	25.7	26.0	23.1	24.9	25.5	25.1
Primary*	Controlled	19.8	20.5	21.1	21.0	20.6	20.7
	Controlled Integrated	25.1	11.3	16.4	20.1	19.4	19.0
	Catholic Maintained	20.6	20.9	20.9	20.9	21.0	20.9
	Grant Maintained Integrated	20.7	18.9	21.7	19.7	21.5	20.5
	Other Maintained	17.2	18.7	13.7	14.3	17.4	16.7
Total	20.1	20.7	20.9	20.8	20.8	20.7	
Grammar Preparatory Departments	Controlled	-	-	-	17.3	-	17.3
	Voluntary	16.9	-	14.9	17.3	13.6	16.8
	Total	16.9	-	14.9	17.3	13.6	16.9
Secondary (Excl Grammar)	Controlled	13.6	14.0	13.9	13.6	14.2	13.9
	Controlled Integrated	-	-	12.7	13.0	13.2	13.0
	Catholic Maintained	13.5	13.8	13.9	13.7	14.5	14.0
	Grant Maintained Integrated	13.8	14.4	13.3	14.5	13.5	13.9
	Other Maintained	13.7	-	-	-	-	13.7
Total	13.6	13.9	13.8	13.7	14.3	13.9	
Grammar Secondary Departments	Controlled	15.3	16.1	15.4	16.1	15.4	15.7
	Voluntary	15.4	15.0	15.1	14.9	15.2	15.2
	Total	15.4	15.2	15.2	15.3	15.3	15.3
All Secondary	Total	14.5	14.4	14.4	14.3	14.6	14.5
Special (Excl Hospital Schools)	Controlled	5.5	5.7	6.8	6.5	6.5	6.2
	Catholic Maintained	5.2	-	-	-	-	5.2
	Other Maintained	-	-	2.9	-	-	2.9
	Total	5.5	5.7	6.3	6.5	6.5	6.0
All Grant-Aided Schools	Controlled	15.5	16.3	17.2	17.1	17.1	16.8
	Controlled Integrated	25.1	11.3	14.9	15.4	14.1	15.4
	Catholic Maintained	16.8	17.8	17.9	18.1	18.2	17.8
	Grant Maintained Integrated	15.3	15.7	15.5	15.9	16.7	15.8
	Other Maintained	15.8	18.7	7.8	14.3	17.4	14.7
	Voluntary	15.5	15.0	15.1	15.1	15.2	15.2
Total	16.0	16.8	16.9	16.9	17.3	16.8	

Note:

* includes pupils and teachers in nursery classes

- indicates no schools in this category