



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

AN ROINN OIDEACHAIS
MÁNNYSTRÍE O LEAR



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Statistical Press Release

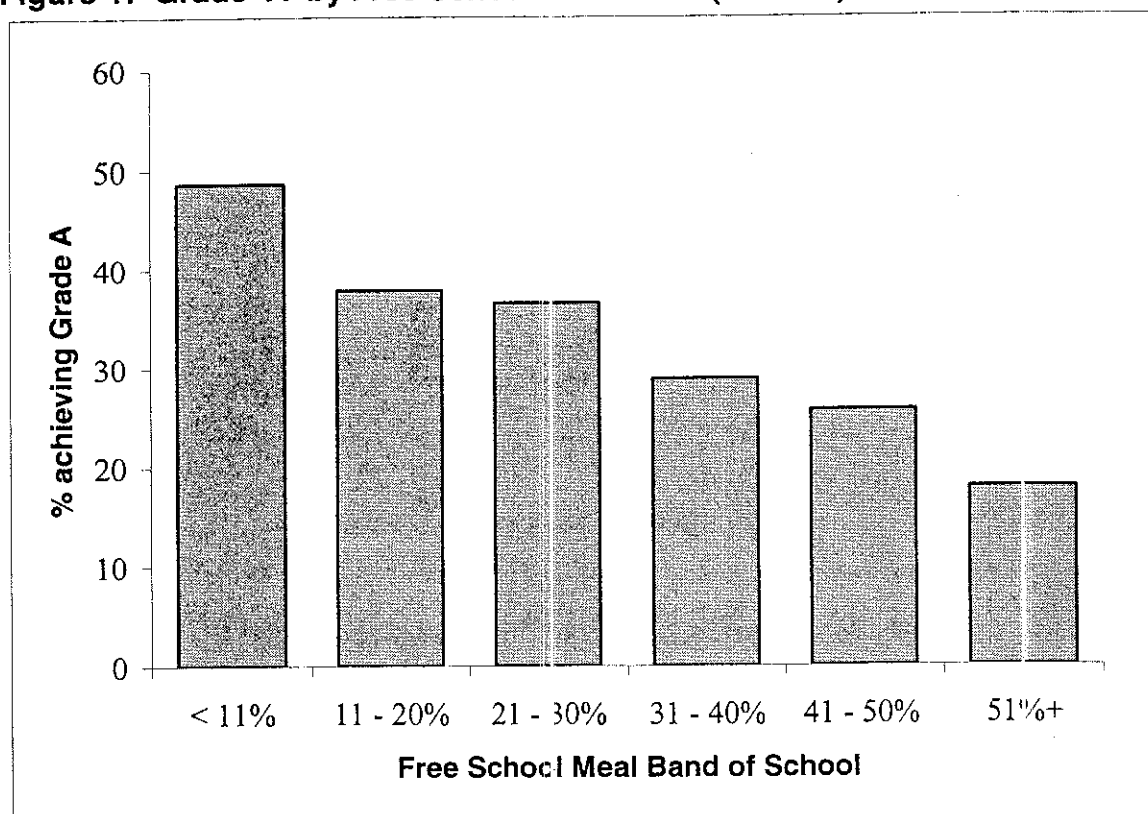
23 May 2002

TRANSFER PROCEDURE TEST RESULTS 2001/02: Analysis by Sex, School Management Type and Free School Meal Band

Key Points

- Of those who sat the Transfer Test, a slightly higher proportion of boys (39.2%) than girls (38.6%) achieved grade A. Each year from 1995/96, apart from 1999/2000, the proportion of boys achieving Grade A has been higher than the proportion of girls although differences have been small – see Figure 3. However, a markedly higher proportion of boys (38%) than girls (31%) did not sit the tests.
- There is a marked relationship between social disadvantage and achievement in the Transfer Test. As the proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals increases, the proportion of pupils achieving grade A decreases – see Figure 1. Of those who sat the test, pupils at schools in the lowest free school meal band were more than two and a half times as likely to achieve a grade A as those at schools in the highest free school meal band. Moreover, in general, as the proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals rose, so too did the proportion of pupils not sitting the test.

Figure 1: Grade 'A' by Free School Meal Band (2001/02) *

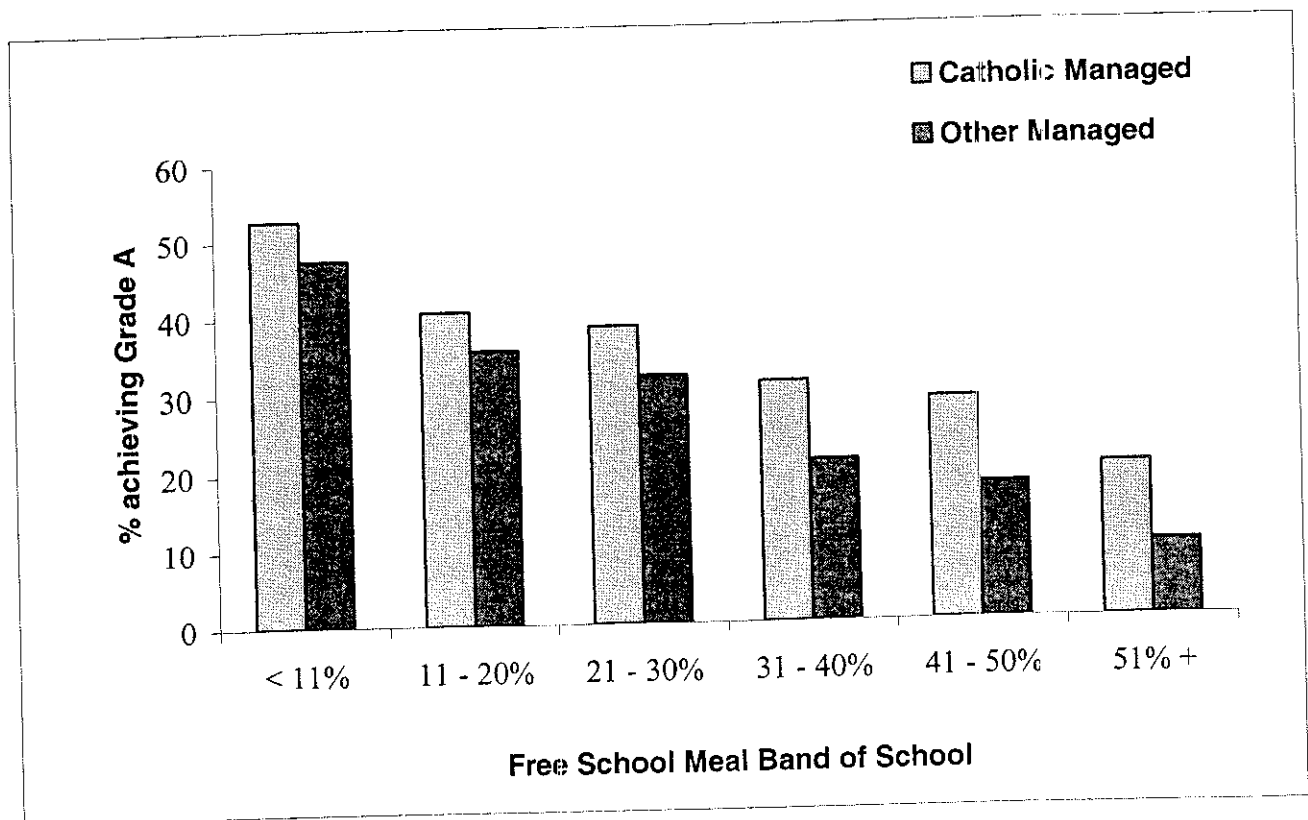


* Percentages achieving Grade A are based on those who sat the test.

Key points, continued

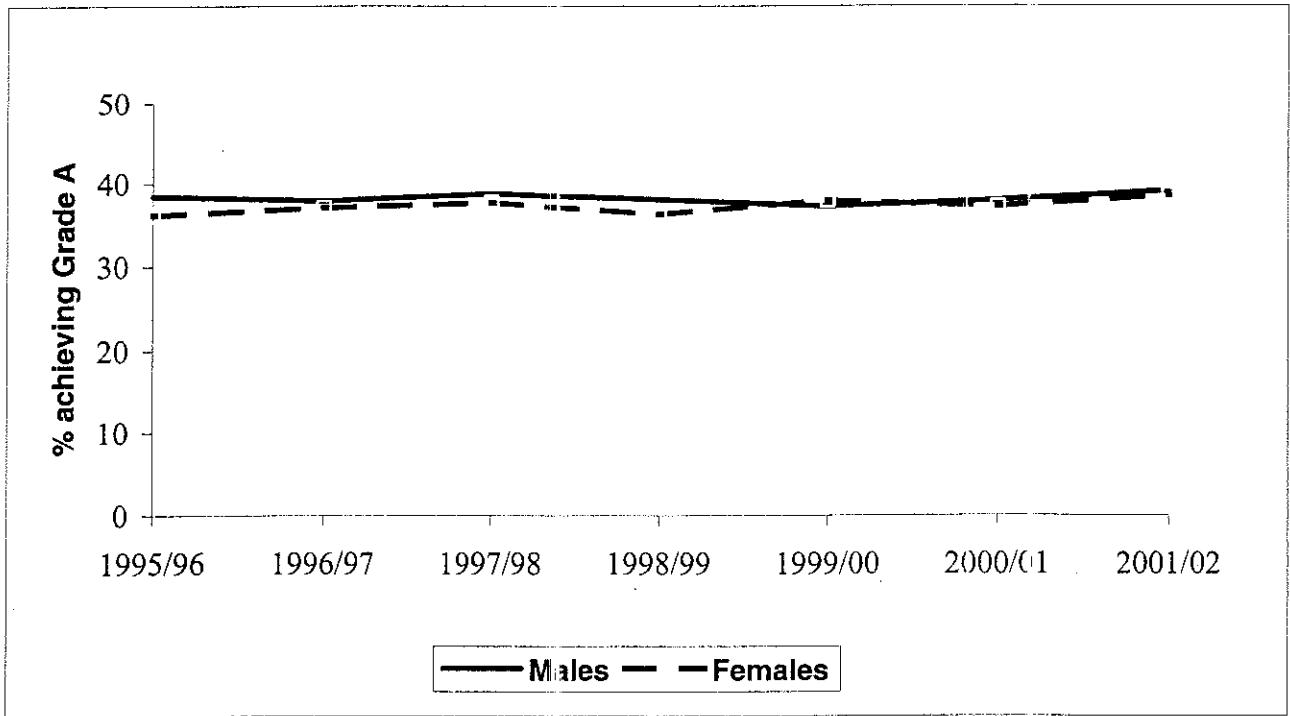
- Of those who sat the test, a lower proportion of pupils at schools under Catholic management achieved a grade A (38%) than at schools under Other management (40%). This pattern has been evident since 1995/96 -- see Figure 4 -- and reflects the higher proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals in Catholic schools (Table 6). Around a third of pupils in each sector did not sit the tests.
- In contrast to the overall position, within each free school meal band a greater proportion of pupils at schools under Catholic management achieved a grade A than at schools under Other management - see Figure 2.

Figure 2: Grade 'A' by Management Type and Free School Meal Band (2001/02) *



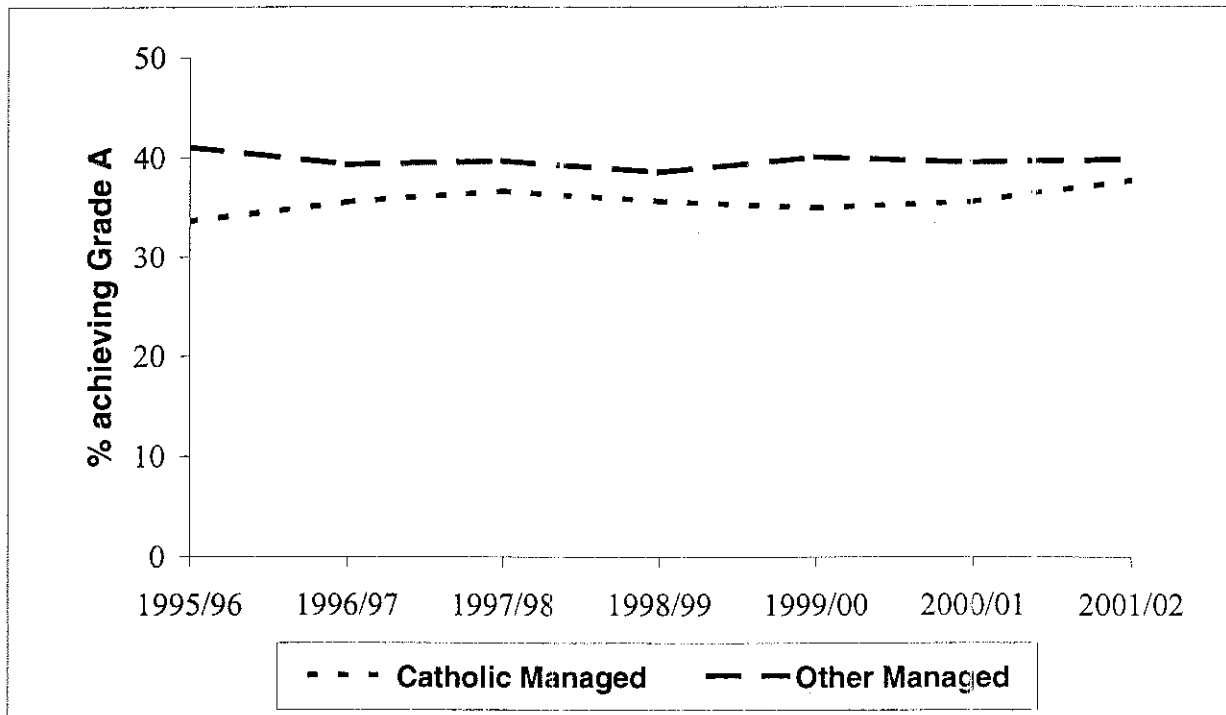
* Percentages achieving Grade A are based on those who sat the test.

Figure 3: Grade 'A' by Sex (1995/96 – 2001/02)*



* Percentages achieving Grade A are based on those who sat the test.

Figure 4: Grade 'A' by Management Type (1995/96 - 2001/02) *



* Percentages achieving Grade A are based on those who sat the test.

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Notes to Editors

Data sources and coverage

The statistics on Transfer Procedure grades are taken from a dataset supplied by the Northern Ireland Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA). CCEA is responsible for developing, setting and marking the test papers.

The Transfer Procedure data in this Press Release relate to primary schools and to preparatory departments of grammar schools. Candidates who were entered privately for the Transfer Test, and those who attended special, hospital, and independent schools (a total of 22 candidates in 2001/02) have been excluded from the analysis.

Data on free school meal entitlement and Year 7 pupil numbers are taken from the annual School Census for that academic year. Year 7 data relate to *all* Year 7 pupils (including pupils with a statement of special educational need) in primary schools and preparatory departments, irrespective of whether any pupil at the school sat the Transfer Test.

All data included in this press release are subject to thorough validation checks.

Definitions

'Schools under Catholic management' in this analysis consist of Catholic Maintained schools. 'Schools under Other management' comprise Controlled, Other Maintained (including Irish-Medium) and integrated schools, and preparatory departments of grammar schools.

The 'free school meal band' of a school is based on the proportion of all Year 1-Year 7 pupils at the school who are entitled to free school meals. The band labelled '11-20%' covers the range greater than or equal to 11 but less than 21; and similarly for the other bands.

Purpose of the Transfer Procedure Test

The Transfer Test results are used by grammar schools (and secondary schools that have grammar school streams approved by the Department) to help them to decide which pupils to admit.

The Transfer Test is not compulsory; only those pupils whose parents wish them to be considered for a grammar school place need to be entered. In the Craigavon area a system operates whereby pupils may transfer to a non-selective junior high school at age 11. The majority of pupils in this area take up this option though some choose to sit the tests and seek places in grammar schools.

Pupils with a statement of special educational need are not entered for the test.

Format of Transfer Procedure Test

Since 1993/94 the Transfer Test has been administered through two papers with questions on English, maths and science asked in each. The questions are based on the statutory programmes of study for Key Stage 2. Since 1997/98, technology questions have been included along with science.

Marking Scheme

Grade A is awarded to the top 25% of the entire age group eligible to transfer. B1 is awarded to the next 5%, B2 to the next 5% and so on until grade D, which is awarded to the balance of candidates.

Further Information

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

Ms Patricia Wyers
Statistics and Research Branch
Department of Education
Rathgael House
Balloo Road
Bangor
BT19 7PR

Telephone (028) 9127 9252
Fax (028) 9127 9594
e-mail patricia.wyers@deni.gov.uk

DE Statistical Press Releases can be accessed at the DE Internet site - www.deni.gov.uk/facts_figures

Press enquiries should be made to the Department's Press Office at the same address, telephone (028) 9127 9268/fax (028) 9127 9271.

Table 1: Grade 'A' by Sex (1995/96 – 2001/02)

Year	% of those sitting			Number		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1995/96	38.5	36.2	37.3	3,432	3,279	6,711
1996/97	37.9	37.1	37.5	3,407	3,430	6,837
1997/98	38.8	37.7	38.2	3,496	3,464	6,960
1998/99	38.1	36.3	37.2	3,341	3,333	6,674
1999/00	37.3	38.0	37.6	3,220	3,400	6,620
2000/01	38.0	37.2	37.6	3,147	3,261	6,408
2001/02	39.2	38.6	38.9	3,230	3,353	6,583

Table 2: Transfer Results by Grade and Sex (2001/02)

Grade	% of those sitting			Number		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
A	39.2	38.6	38.9	3,230	3,353	6,583
B1	8.3	8.3	8.3	682	724	1,406
B2	7.8	7.8	7.8	641	674	1,315
C1	8.6	8.0	8.3	709	699	1,408
C2	7.8	8.8	8.3	644	768	1,412
D	28.3	28.5	28.4	2,332	2,474	4,806

Table 3: Grade 'A' by Free School Meal Band (2001/02)

Free School Meal Band	Grade A	
	% of those sitting	Number
< 11%	48.7	3,194
11 - 20%	37.9	1,414
21 - 30%	36.6	1,106
31 - 40%	28.8	442
41 - 50%	25.6	178
51%+	17.9	249

Table 4: Grade 'A' by Management Type (1995/96 – 2001/02)

Year	% of those sitting		Number	
	Schools Under Catholic Management	Schools Under Other Management	Schools Under Catholic Management	Schools Under Other Management
1995/96	33.7	41.1	3,059	3,652
1996/97	35.6	39.3	3,189	3,648
1997/98	36.7	39.7	3,293	3,667
1998/99	35.7	38.6	3,166	3,508
1999/00	35.0	40.1	3,006	3,614
2000/01	35.6	39.5	2,918	3,490
2001/02	37.8	39.9	3,073	3,510

Table 5: Transfer Results by Grade and Management Type (2001/02)

Grade	% of those sitting		Number	
	Schools Under Catholic Management	School Under Other Management	Schools Under Catholic Management	School Under Other Management
A	37.8	39.9	3,073	3,510
B1	8.4	8.2	686	720
B2	7.7	7.8	627	688
C1	8.7	8.0	708	700
C2	8.5	8.2	695	717
D	28.8	28.0	2,347	2,459

Table 6: Grade 'A' by Free School Meal Band and Management Type (2001/02)

Free School Meal Band	% of those sitting		Number	
	Schools Under Catholic Management	Schools Under Other Management	Schools Under Catholic Management	Schools Under Other Management
< 11%	52.7	47.4	858	2,336
11 - 20%	40.6	35.6	699	715
21 - 30%	38.6	32.2	791	315
31 - 40%	31.2	21.1	365	77
41 - 50%	28.8	17.8	142	36
51% +	20.2	9.8	218	31

Table 7: Pupils not sitting the Transfer Test by sex (1995/96– 2001/02)

Year	% of Year 7			Number		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1995/96	33.7	29.5	31.6	4,522	3,789	8,311
1996/97	33.8	28.9	31.4	4,590	3,763	8,353
1997/98	34.0	29.7	31.9	4,638	3,880	8,518
1998/99	34.8	29.9	32.4	4,677	3,914	8,591
1999/00	35.1	29.5	32.3	4,664	3,734	8,398
2000/01	37.4	30.8	34.2	4,949	3,907	8,856
2001/02	37.7	31.4	34.6	4,983	3,973	8,956

Table 8: Pupils not sitting the Transfer Test by Management Type (1995/96 – 2001/02)

Year	% of Year 7		Number	
	Schools Under Catholic Management	Schools Under Other Management	Schools Under Catholic Management	Schools Under Other Management
1995/96	30.4	32.9	3,960	4,351
1996/97	31.2	31.6	4,067	4,286
1997/98	31.4	32.3	4,106	4,412
1998/99	30.9	33.7	3,970	4,621
1999/00	31.3	33.2	3,915	4,483
2000/01	33.2	35.1	4,073	4,783
2001/02	33.7	35.4	4,127	4,829

Table 9: Pupils not sitting the test by Free School Meal band (2001/02)

Free School Meal Band	% of Year 7	Number
< 11%	24.9	2,179
11 - 20%	35.1	2,012
21 - 30%	37.8	1,842
31 - 40%	37.2	909
41 - 50%	47.7	634
51%+	49.8	1,380