



## Statistical Bulletin

### Enrolments September 2018- Preliminary Results

This Statistical Bulletin presents first results on enrolments in mainstream primary and post-primary schools on 28th September 2018. The data is preliminary in nature, final data will be published in June 2019.

**Primary:** Total enrolments in mainstream primary schools stood at 559,569 in September 2018, an increase of 4,318 pupils, or 0.8 per cent, on September 2017 (555,251). The number of girls rose by 2,295 pupils, from 271,812 to 274,107, while the number of boys rose by 2,023 from 283,439 to 285,462.

Figure 1 presents total enrolments by school ethos. Total enrolments in Catholic schools stood at 505,053 in September 2018, representing 90.3 per cent of all pupils, down from 90.6 per cent in 2017. Enrolments in multi-denominational schools stood at 32,060, accounting for 5.7 per cent of the total (up from 5.4% in 2017), while Church of Ireland schools had enrolments of 16,514 representing 3.0 per cent of all pupils. Other faiths accounted for 5,848 pupils, or 1.1 per cent.

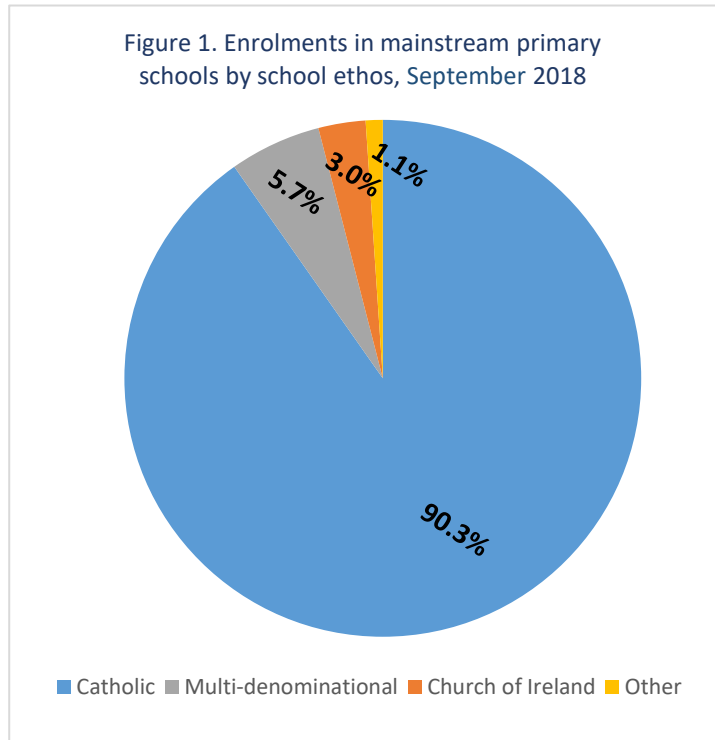


Figure 2 presents the absolute and percentage change by ethos. The fastest growing category in both percentage and absolute terms was multi-denominational schools which increased by 7.7 per cent with an additional 2,284 pupils. This compares with Catholic schools which increased by 0.4 per cent, or 1,966 pupils.

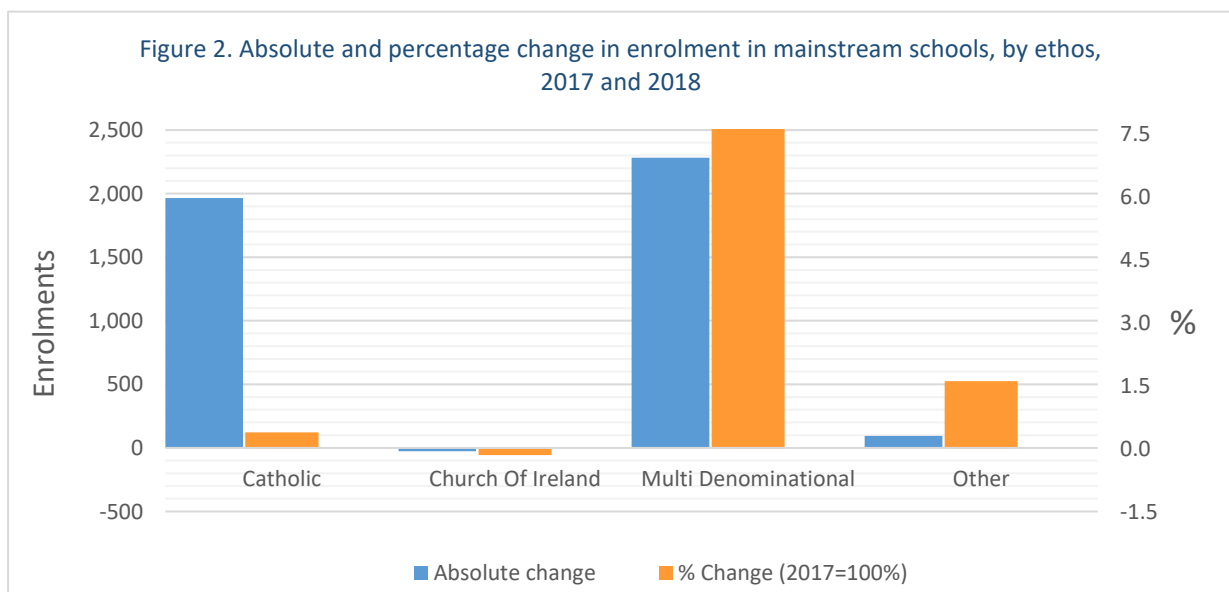
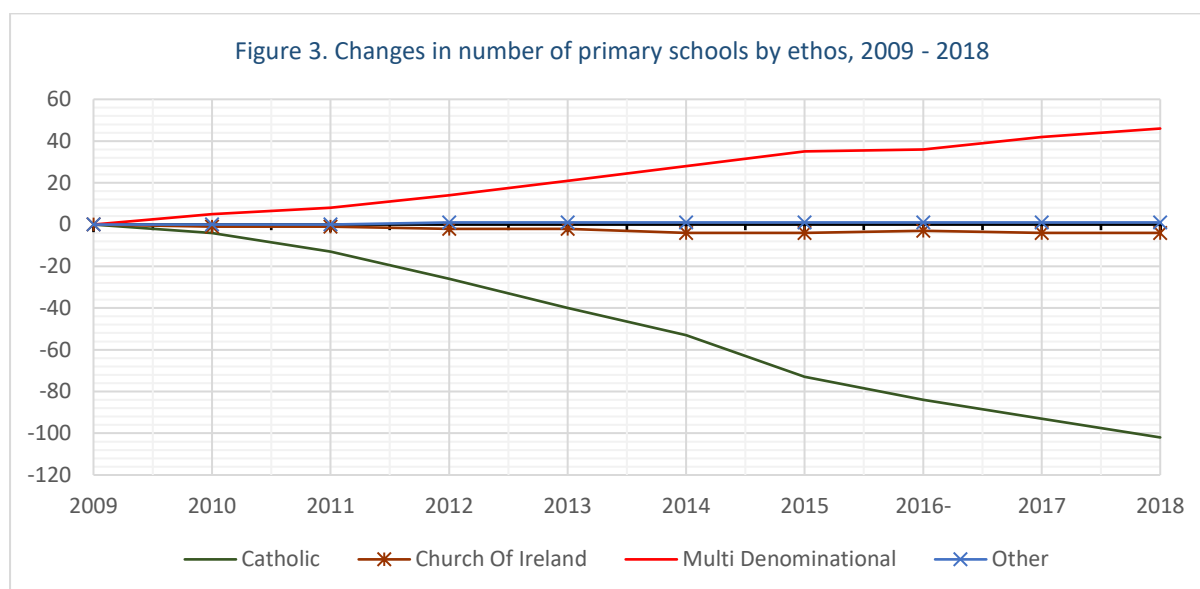


Table 1 presents schools by ethos from 2009 to 2018. Between 2017 and 2018 the number of schools with a Catholic ethos fell by 9, from 2,785 to 2,776 while those with a multi-denominational ethos rose by 4, from 115 to 119. As is illustrated in Figure 3 below this is part of a longer term trend, with the number of Catholic schools falling by more than 100 in the last ten years, while the number of multi-denominational schools has risen from 73 to 119 – an increase of 63 per cent.

Table 1. Mainstream primary schools by ethos, 2009 - 2018

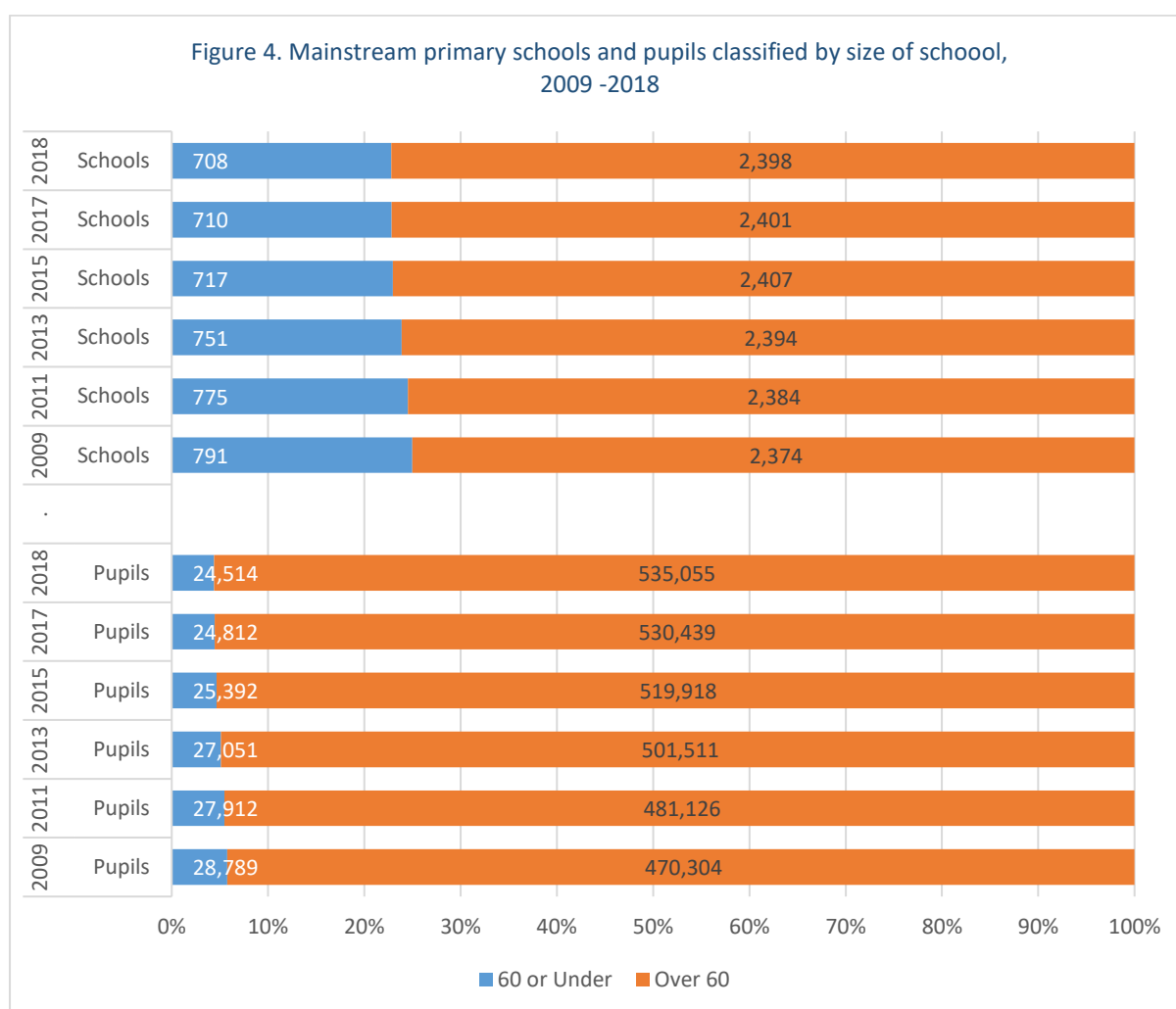
Ethos	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2018
Catholic	2,878	2,865	2,838	2,805	2,785	2,776
Church of Ireland	178	177	176	174	174	174
Multi-denominational	73	81	94	108	115	119
Other	36	36	37	37	37	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,165</b>	<b>3,159</b>	<b>3,145</b>	<b>3,124</b>	<b>3,111</b>	<b>3,106</b>

These clear trends in school ethos are a result of the closure of small schools with declining enrolments and the amalgamation of schools in close proximity to each other, as well as the opening of new multi-denominational schools in response to parental choice. All 24 new mainstream primary schools opened in the last 5 years have been multi-denominational in ethos, although they have been spread across a variety of patrons. These trends in closures, amalgamations and openings have led to a gradual decline overall in the number of primary schools, with an average decrease of 7 schools per year.



## Small schools

Despite these ongoing closures small schools remain a distinctive feature of the Irish education system, with 708 schools having 60 or fewer pupils enrolled for the 2018 academic year, accounting for 22.8 per cent of all schools yet representing just 4.4 per cent of the total enrolments. Since 2010 the number of small primary schools has decreased by 10.4 per cent and the number of pupils attending these schools has decreased by 14.8 per cent.



The prevalence of small schools varies widely by region, with more than half of schools in Mayo and Leitrim having 60 or fewer pupils, in contrast to Cork City, Fingal and South Dublin who have 1 small school each, and Galway City which has no small schools. In no county do pupils in small schools make up more than 20 per cent of enrolments.

Overall, small schools are most common in the west of Ireland (Mayo, Galway and Roscommon), representing 42.3 per cent of schools (12.5% of enrolments), while they are least prevalent in the Dublin region, accounting for only 3.1 per cent of schools and 0.4 per cent of enrolments.

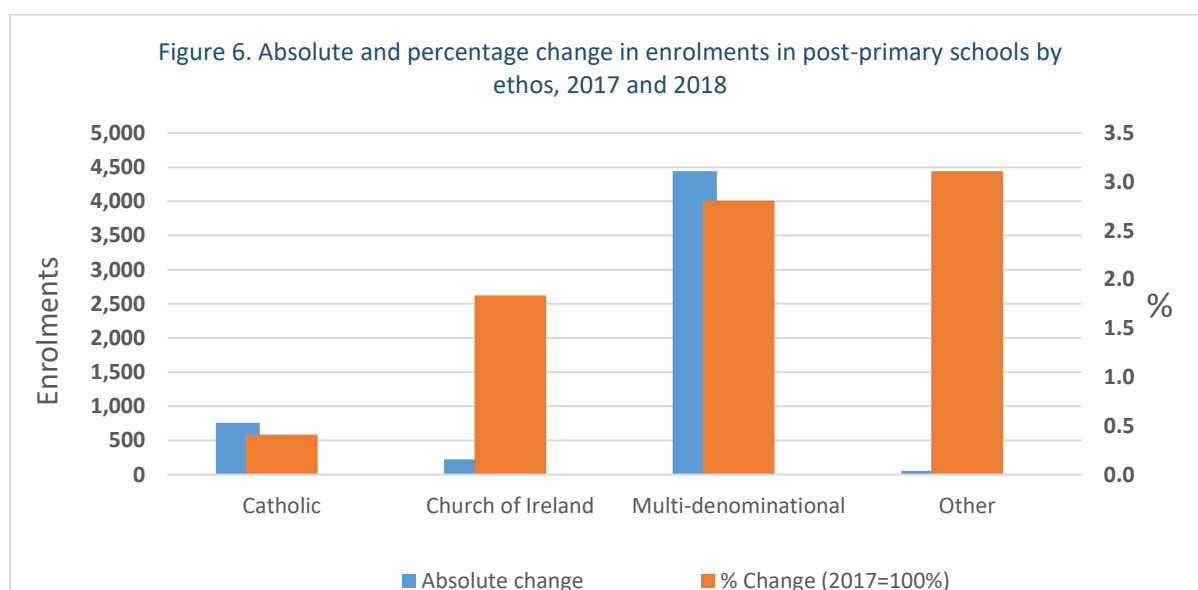
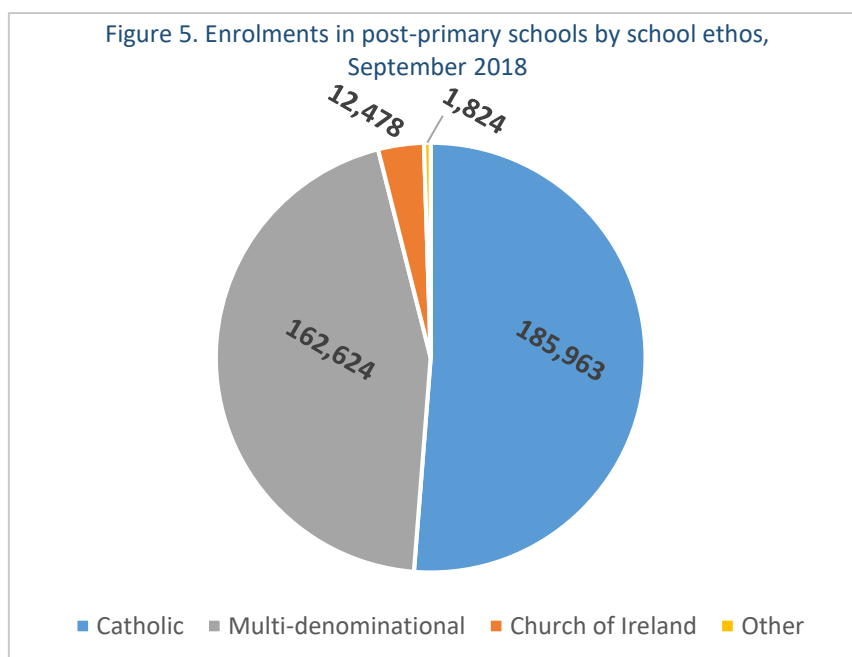
Table 2. Small primary schools and enrolments by administrative county, 2018

Administrative County	% Small Schools (1 - 60 pupils)	% Pupils in Small Schools
<b>Border Region</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>8.2</b>
Cavan County Council	21.3	6.4
Donegal County Council	41.4	12.5
Leitrim County Council	51.4	18.9
Monaghan County Council	27.4	7.5
Sligo County Council	35.8	9.8
<b>West Region</b>	<b>42.3</b>	<b>12.5</b>
Galway City Council	0.0	0.0
Galway County Council	37.9	11.5
Mayo County Council	51.6	18.0
Roscommon County Council	47.8	17.2
<b>Mid-West Region</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>6.9</b>
Clare County Council	39.3	10.5
Tipperary County Council	25.5	8.5
Limerick City and County Council	17.9	3.6
<b>South-East Region</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>3.4</b>
Carlow County Council	16.7	3.6
Kilkenny County Council	23.9	6.2
Waterford City and County Council	10.8	2.1
Wexford County Council	13.7	2.8
<b>South-West Region</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>4.8</b>
Cork City Council	2.0	0.0
Cork County Council	21.9	4.5
Kerry County Council	34.8	9.9
<b>Dublin Region</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Dublin City Council	5.2	0.9
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	3.1	0.6
Fingal County Council	1.1	0.2
South Dublin County Council	1.0	0.1
<b>Mid-East Region</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Kildare County Council	6.0	0.7
Louth County Council	4.3	0.4
Meath County Council	6.1	0.8
Wicklow County Council	13.6	2.3
<b>Midlands Region</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>5.0</b>
Laois County Council	23.4	4.9
Longford County Council	35.1	8.4
Offaly County Council	15.2	3.8
Westmeath County Council	20.5	4.4
<b>Whole Country</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>4.4</b>

**Post-primary:** Total enrolments in post-primary schools stood at 362,889 at September 2018 - an increase of 5,481 pupils, or 1.5 per cent, on September 2017 (357,408). The number of girls stood at 179,452 while the number of boys stood at 183,437.

Figure 5 presents total enrolments by school ethos. Catholic schools dominated with 185,963 pupils. There were 162,624 pupils in multi-denominational schools<sup>1</sup> and 12,478 in Church of Ireland schools.

Figure 6 shows the absolute and percentage change by ethos. Pupils in multi-denominational schools increased by 2.8 per cent (4,443 pupils) over the twelve months, far ahead of the rise in Catholic schools which saw their numbers rise by just 758 (0.4%). Church of Ireland schools also saw a modest increase in enrolments, rising by 225 (1.8%).

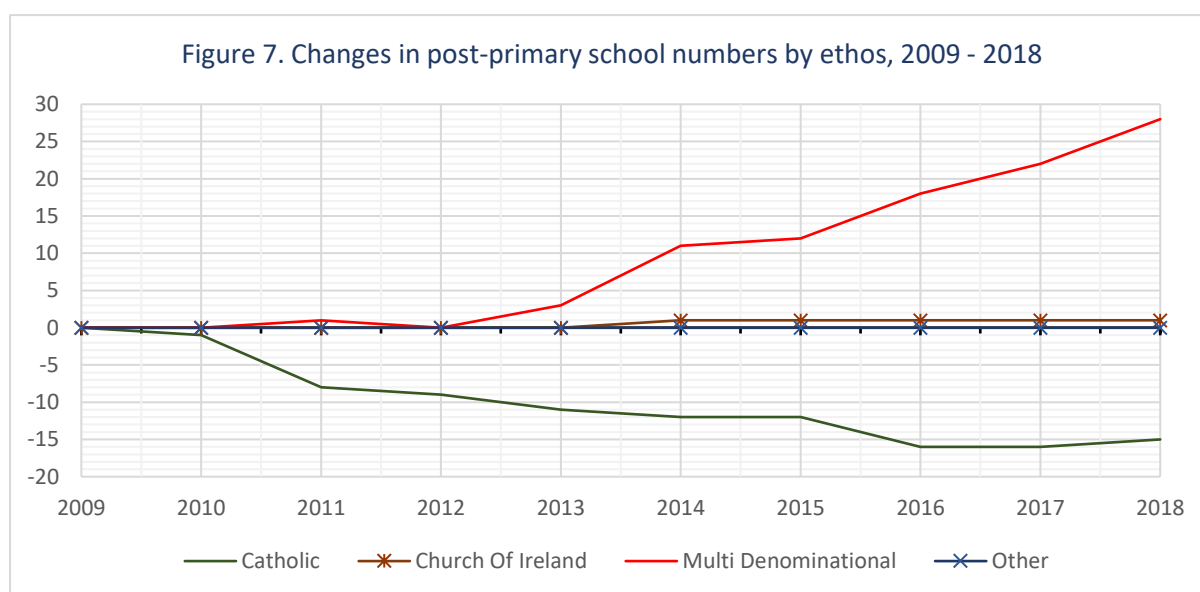


The number of post-primary schools has been gradually rising for the last number of years, going from a low of 700 in 2013 to 722 in 2018. As can be seen in table 3, this growth has been led by multi-denominational schools, which have increased by 8.7 per cent in the last 10 years from 321 in 2009 to 349 in 2018. In the same period the number of Catholic schools has decreased by 4.1 per cent, from 361 to 346.

<sup>1</sup> The majority of schools under the patronage of the Education and Training Boards (ETBs) are categorised as interdenominational, where for a purpose of this report they are combined with multi-denominational schools. For a full list of schools by ethos see the list of individual schools on the Department’s website.

Table 3. Post-primary schools by ethos, 2009 - 2018

Ethos/Religion	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2018
Catholic	361	353	350	349	345	346
Church of Ireland	22	22	22	23	23	23
Multi-denominational	321	322	324	333	343	349
Other	4	4	4	4	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>722</b>



### Large schools

In addition to the number of schools increasing, the size of post-primary schools is also going up. The number of large post-primary schools (800 students or more) and the number of pupils attending these schools has risen significantly in the last decade, with the number of large schools rising by 83.3 per cent from 54 to 99, and the number of pupils enrolled in these schools showing an increase of 88.6 per cent, from just under 51,000 to over 96,000. This trend can be expected to continue for the next number of years, as post-primary enrolments continue to increase

As with small schools at primary level, there is significant variation in where these schools are situated. As can be seen in table 4, there are 7 local authority areas where there are no large post-primary schools, 6 of which are in the Border and West regions. Whereas in the Mid-East region more than 40 per cent of pupils attend such schools, with the highest concentration found in Kildare where more than half of pupils (55.8%) are enrolled in large schools.

Figure 8. Post-primary schools and pupils classified by enrolment size, 2009 -2018

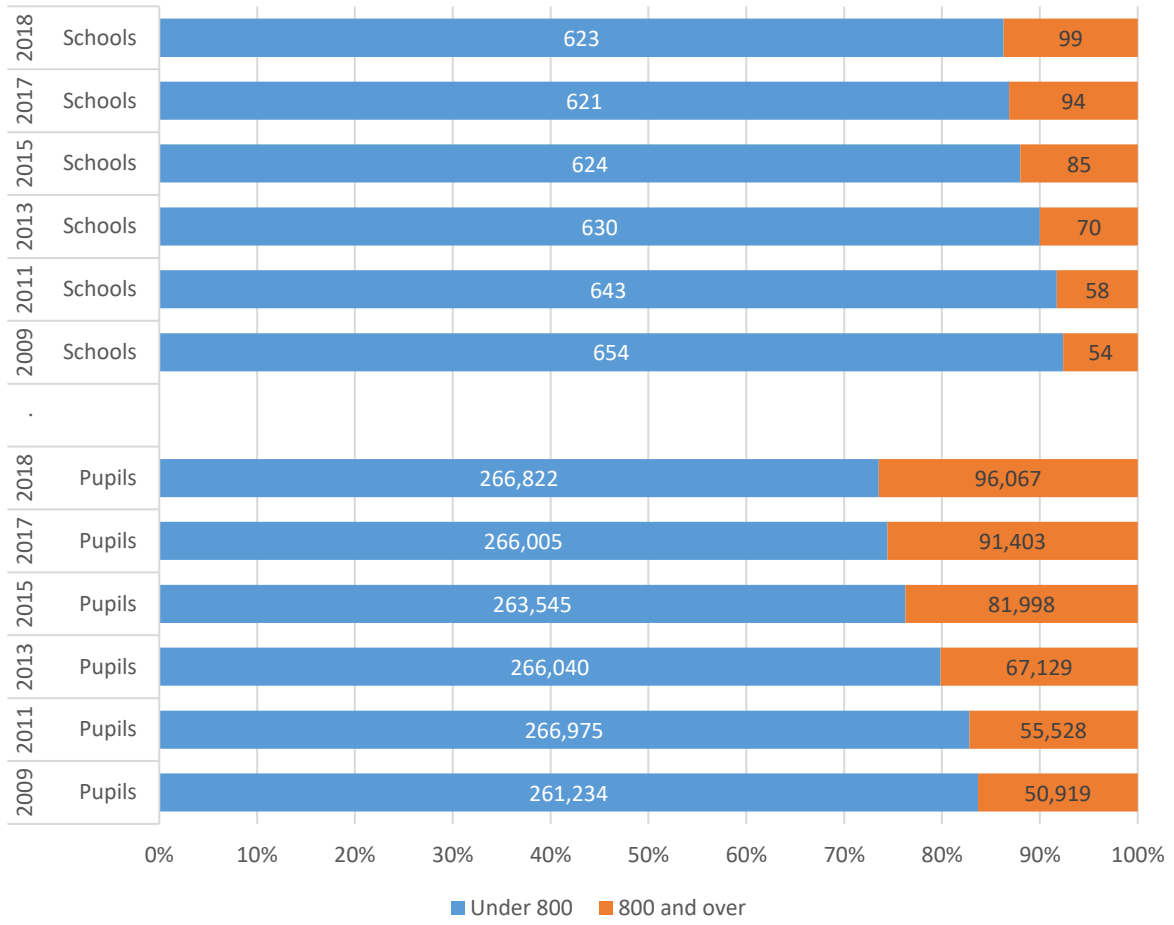


Table 4. Large post-primary schools and enrolments by administrative county, 2018

<b>Administrative County</b>	<b>% Large Schools (800+ Pupils)</b>	<b>% Pupils in Large Schools</b>
<b>Border Region</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>17.4</b>
Cavan County Council	0.0	0.0
Donegal County Council	18.5	34.8
Leitrim County Council	0.0	0.0
Monaghan County Council	0.0	0.0
Sligo County Council	7.7	18.9
<b>West Region</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>11.4</b>
Galway City Council	0.0	0.0
Galway County Council	10.8	26.6
Mayo County Council	0.0	0.0
Roscommon County Council	0.0	0.0
<b>Mid-West Region</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>16.4</b>
Clare County Council	11.1	25.5
Limerick City and County Council	10.7	20.4
Tipperary County Council	3.3	6.3
<b>South-East Region</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>31.5</b>
Carlow County Council	16.7	31.9
Kilkenny County Council	18.8	35.8
Waterford City and County Council	17.6	35.0
Wexford County Council	13.6	26.1
<b>South-West Region</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>22.6</b>
Cork City Council	10.7	22.2
Cork County Council	14.0	26.5
Kerry County Council	3.8	12.0
<b>Dublin Region</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>27.7</b>
Dublin City Council	3.8	9.0
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	12.1	24.8
Fingal County Council	27.8	46.2
South Dublin County Council	23.1	35.6
<b>Mid-East Region</b>	<b>28.4</b>	<b>42.4</b>
Kildare County Council	40.7	55.8
Louth County Council	27.8	39.5
Meath County Council	33.3	47.4
Wicklow County Council	9.1	16.1
<b>Midlands Region</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>33.7</b>
Laois County Council	30.0	47.8
Longford County Council	0.0	0.0
Offaly County Council	18.2	27.7
Westmeath County Council	30.8	44.5
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>26.5</b>



## All schools

Table 5 shows the primary and post-primary enrolments by schools ethos for years 2017 and 2018, and percentage change on 2017. As can be seen the largest increase in both sectors occurred in multi-denominational schools with rises of 7.7 per cent and 2.8 per cent in primary and post-primary respectively. When combined multi-denominational schools increased by 3.6 per cent between 2017 and 2018.

Table 5. Primary and post-primary schools enrolments by school ethos, 2017 and 2018

	<b>Ethos/Religion</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Difference (2017=100%)</b>
<b>Primary</b>	Catholic	503,087	505,053	0.4
	Church of Ireland	16,540	16,514	-0.2
	Multi-denominational	29,776	32,060	7.7
	Other	5,848	5,942	1.6
<b>Post-primary</b>	Catholic	185,205	185,963	0.4
	Church of Ireland	12,253	12,478	1.8
	Multi-denominational	158,181	162,624	2.8
	Other	1,769	1,824	3.1
<b>Primary &amp; Post-primary</b>	Catholic	688,292	691,016	0.4
	Church of Ireland	28,793	28,992	0.7
	Multi-denominational	187,957	194,684	3.6
	Other	7,617	7,766	2.0

Background Notes:

The source for this data is the Annual Census for 2018/2019, which is returned via the Primary/Post-Primary Online Database (POD/P-POD). The primary level data is reporting enrolments in mainstream schools only. Data is anchored on the census data of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Note that only schools aided by the Department of Education and Skills are included in this report.

This data is provisional and was published in December 2018. Final data will be published in June 2019. The final data will replace the provisional data.

Queries should be sent to [statistics@education.gov.ie](mailto:statistics@education.gov.ie) or by phone at 01-889 2085.

The detailed Excel data tables for previous years can be downloaded here: <https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Statistics/Data-on-Individual-Schools/>