

Key Statistics 2017/2018 and 2018/2019



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Education and Skills

For Release 4th July 2019

Table 1. Number of Full-Time Students in Institutions Aided by DES		
	2017/2018	2018/2019
First Level	563,459	567,772
Primary Schools	555,251	559,548
<i>Of which Special Class Pupils in Mainstream Schools</i>	5,572	6,229
Special Schools	8,208	8,241
Second Level (excluding number of PLC students)	357,408	362,899
Secondary	197,200	198,839
Vocational	100,311	103,504
Community and Comprehensive	59,897	60,556
Second-Level Students in PLC Courses	30,873	29,368

Time series of the tables in this document and more details can be found on the Department's Educational Statistical Database at

<http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Statistics/Education-Statistics-Database/>

More details can also be found in the Department's Annual Statistical Reports at

<http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Statistics/Statistical-Reports/>

For further information please contact statistics@education.gov.ie

Table 2. Number of Schools Aided by the Department of Education and Skills		
	2017/2018	2018/2019
<i>First Level</i>	<i>3,246</i>	<i>3,240</i>
Primary Schools (Mainstream)	3,111	3,106
Special Schools	135	134
<i>Second Level</i>	<i>715</i>	<i>722</i>
Secondary	374	378
Vocational	245	248
Community and Comprehensive	96	96
<i>Total</i>	<i>3,961</i>	<i>3,962</i>

Table 3. Number of Teaching Staff (Full-time Equivalent Posts Allocated)		
	2017/2018	2018/2019
First Level	36,773	37,341
All Second Level	29,544	30,062
Second Level Excluding PLC	27,919	28,474
PLC	1,625	1,588

Only teachers paid from funds provided by the Department of Education and Skills are included in the above table. Second-level teacher figures exclude all further education except for PLC.

Table 4. Overview of Pupil-Teacher Ratio at First and Second Level		
	2017/2018	2018/2019
First Level	15.3	15.2
All Second Level	13.1	13.0
Second Level Excluding PLC	12.8	12.7
PLC	19	18.5

The pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) is calculated at each level by dividing the total number of pupils by the total number of allocated posts (classroom teachers and support teachers). This calculation differs from other such calculations (for example the staffing schedule at primary level which is the basis for allocating classroom teachers to each school based on their enrolments).

Table 5. Pupil-Teacher Ratio and Average Class Size in National Schools		
	2017/2018	2018/2019
Total enrolment in all national schools (at the start of the school year)	563,419	567,772
Total number of allocated posts (as at the 30 th June in the given school year)	36,773	37,341
Pupil-teacher ratio in all national schools	15.3	15.2
Total enrolment in mainstream classes	549,679	553,319
Teaching teachers of mainstream classes	22,430	22,747
Average class size in mainstream classes	24.5	24.3

Table 6. School Size at First and Second Level in 2018/2019		
Enrolment Size (Number of Pupils)	Number of Schools	
	First Level	Second Level
Fewer than 50 pupils	566	12
50 – 99	681	17
100 – 199	748	67
200 - 299	547	93
300 - 499	428	187
500+	136	346
Total	3,106	722

Table 7. Number of Candidates in State Examinations		
	2017*	2018*
Junior Certificate Candidates	61,654	62,562
Leaving Certificate Candidates	58,543	57,150
<i>of which</i>		
Leaving Certificate School Candidates	52,583	51,445
External Candidates	2,623	2,556
VTOS/PLC Candidates	564	439
Leaving Certificate Applied	2,773	2,710
Total Exam Candidates	120,197	119,712

Note: For exam candidates the year refers to the calendar and not the academic year. The figures given for 2018 are those from the June 2018 exam sittings.

Table 8. Enrolments of Full-Time Students in First and Second Level Institutions Aided by the Department of Education and Skills

Level	1978/1979	1988/1989	1998/1999	2008/2009	2018/2019
First Level	545,218	560,116	452,533	489,914	567,772
Second Level (excludes PLC)	289,196	339,327	339,184	307,944	362,899
PLC	-	-	23,823	33,368	29,368
Total (includes PLC figure, where applicable)	834,414	899,443	815,540	831,226	960,039