

School Data Collection FAQs

1. Who should be included in question 1?

Question 5 should be a total of any pupils in mainstream classes who are receiving additional learning support. So the pupils counted in categories 2 – 6 are included in question 1 as well. However it's not simply a total of the answers for questions 2 to 6, as a pupil may be receiving more than one type of support (e.g. additional assistance with literacy and with numeracy) but should only be counted once in question 1.

2. If a whole class is receiving literacy or numeracy support (for example via team teaching or station teaching) should all pupils be included?

No, only pupils who are being specifically targeted as needing additional assistance should be included

3. Does only out-of-class support count for questions 2 and 3?

No, in-class support for literacy and numeracy also counts if it's being given to pupils identified as needing additional assistance

4. Can a pupil only be counted in one category?

No, a pupil can be counted in as many categories as are relevant.

5. Do the Special Educational Needs questions apply to all pupils, or mainstream pupils only?

Questions 1 – 4 apply to mainstream class pupil only, while questions 5 and 6 apply to mainstream and special class pupils.

6. For a child to be included in question 4 do they need to have received a formal diagnosis?

No, if a child is receiving assistance because they have a special educational need that matches those mentioned in question 3 (i.e. significant communication difficulties, delayed cognitive development or adaptive functioning, or significant emotional and behavioural difficulties) they should be included in question 4, regardless of whether they have received a diagnosis or not.

7. For question 5 do pupils need to be taught by a designated EAL teacher?

No. Anyone for whom the school is giving extra EAL support should be counted.

8. For question 6 should the number of SNAs, or the number of pupils receiving support from SNAs be counted?

The number of pupils receiving support from an SNA should be counted. All of the questions on SEN are in relation to pupils.

9. Question 11 refers to the physical space available to accommodate more Junior Infant or 1st year pupils rather than the teacher/pupil ratio available, if any, to accommodate more pupils

10. What will this information be used for?

This information will be used for statistical and planning purposes – it will not have a direct impact on a school's SEN allocation or your school's resources.

11. Is it okay to provide this information under GDPR?

As the SDC collects aggregate information only there are no data protection issues with providing this information.