

School Data Collection FAQs for Post-Primary Schools

General

1. What will the information sought be used for?

The information sought will be used for statistical and school planning purposes. It will not have a direct impact on a school's allocations or resources.

2. Why is it important to provide the information sought?

It is very important for the Department to have up to date information to enable it to carry out its planning functions. Information provided by schools is key to ensuring that the data used in those planning processes is accurate and current.

3. 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.

School Building Questions

4. In question 1, what is meant by eligible pupils?

Eligible pupils are pupils living in the school feeder area or attending feeder primary schools.

5. For question 3, if a room has a sink, is this termed a general classroom or a specialist room?

A room with a sink is not a specialist classroom. It can be used for general classroom purposes and should be counted as such for the purposes of the response to Q 3.

Special Education Questions

6. What pupils should be included in question 13?

Question 13 should be a total of any pupils in mainstream classes who are receiving additional learning support. So the pupils counted in categories 14 – 18 are included in question 13 as well. However it's not simply a total of the answers for questions 14 to 18, 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 13.

7. 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

8. Does only out-of-class support count for questions 14 and 15?

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

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

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

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

Questions 14 – 18 apply to mainstream class pupil only.

11. For a child to be included in question 16 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 16 (i.e. significant communication difficulties, delayed cognitive development or adaptive functioning, or significant emotional and behavioural difficulties) they should be included in question 13, regardless of whether they have received a diagnosis or not.

12. For question 17 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.

13. For question 18 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.

School heating types

14. In question 29 if I have a mix of heating types in my school, do I tick a box for each heating type?

Yes, where a school has a mix of heating types, a box should be ticked for each type.