



Key statistics – update 2018/19

Introduction

The controlled sector is the largest education sector in Northern Ireland. It is diverse in terms of school types and inclusive with regard to religion, special educational needs, newcomer pupils and pupils entitled to free school meals.

This briefing paper provides an update of key statistics, drawn from the latest enrolment data published by the Department of Education in February 2019 (based on the school census in October 2018)¹.

The figures contained in this document are up-to-date and should therefore be used across the organisation going forward.

Rachel McMenemy

Research and Insights Officer

Email: Rachel.mcmenemy@csscni.org.uk

Tel: 028 9531 3046

March 2019

¹ Further updates will be completed in June 2018 with the release of teacher workforce statistics.

Contents

Introduction	1
1. Schools.....	3
2. Pupils.....	4
3. Religion	5
4. Newcomer pupils.....	7
5. Special educational needs (SEN)	8
6. Sixth form provision.....	9
7. Free school meal entitlement.....	10
8. Key statistics 2018/19 infographic	11
Appendix 1	12

Figures

Figure 1: Schools in Northern Ireland by type and management type (2018/19)	3
Figure 2: Controlled schools as a proportion of all schools (2018/19).....	3
Figure 3: Pupils in Northern Ireland by school type and management type (2018/19).....	4
Figure 4: Controlled pupils as a proportion of all pupils (2018/19)	4
Figure 5: Proportions of pupils by religion by management type (2018/19)	5
Figure 6: Religious breakdown by management type (2018/19)	5
Figure 7: Proportion of Protestant pupils in controlled schools over time (2004/05-2018/19).....	6
Figure 8: Newcomer pupils by management type (2018/19).....	7
Figure 9: Newcomer pupils in Northern Ireland (2018/19).....	7
Figure 10: Pupils with SEN by management type (primary and post-primary) (2018/19).....	8
Figure 11: Pupils with SEN in primary and post-primary schools (2018/19).....	8
Figure 12: Pupils with statements in Northern Ireland by management type (2018/19).....	8
Figure 13: Schools without sixth form provision (excluding Dixon plan schools) by sector (2018/19)	9
Figure 14: Proportion of pupils in each sector entitled to free school meals (FMSE) (2018/19).....	10
Figure 15: Free school meal entitlement by sector (2018/19)	10
Figure 16: Religious breakdown of voluntary grammars by management type (2018/19)	12

1. Schools

The controlled sector continues to be the largest education sector in Northern Ireland. The data show that there are 557 controlled schools, representing 49% of all schools.

Figure 1: Schools in Northern Ireland by type and management type (2018/19)

	All schools	Controlled	Catholic Maintained	GMI	Other maintained	Voluntary
Nursery schools	95	64	31	0	0	0
Primary	801	387	363	23	28	0
Preparatory departments ²	12	1	0	0	0	11
Total primary	813	388	0	0	0	11
Secondary	130	53	60	15	2	0
Grammar	66	16	0	0	0	50
Total Post-primary	196	69	60	15	2	50
Special	39	37	1	0	1	0
Total schools³	1131	557	455	38	31	50
Percentages	100	49.2	40.2	3.4	2.7	4.4

Figure 2: Controlled schools as a proportion of all schools (2018/19)

	All schools (N)	Controlled (N)	Proportion of schools which are controlled (%)
Nursery schools	95	64	67
Primary	801	388	48
Secondary	130	53	41
Grammar	66	16	24
Total post-primary	196	69	35
Special	39	37	95
Total schools	1131	557	49

Controlled integrated schools

Controlled integrated schools account for 5% of schools in the controlled sector. There are five post primary schools and 22 primary schools, catering for 7,181 pupils.

² New guidance from DE states that preparatory schools should be counted in the total number of primary schools but not in the total of all schools.

³ As above, preparatory departments are not included in the overall count of schools.

2. Pupils

There are 143,669 pupils attending controlled schools, representing 42% of all pupils. This is an increase of 1,596 pupils compared to 2017/18. Overall there are 2,705 more pupils in the school system in 2018/19 compared to the 2017/18 school year.

Figure 3: Pupils in Northern Ireland by school type and management type (2018/19)

	All schools	Controlled	Catholic Maintained	GMI	Other maintained	Voluntary
Nursery Schools	5832	4111	1721	0	0	0
Nursery classes	9564	4644	3899	548	473	0
Reception	158	53	105	0	0	0
Primary school (p1-p7)	172863	83929	79251	6158	3525	0
Preparatory departments	1,660	66	0	0	0	1594
Total primary	174,681	84048	79356	9737	3525	1594
Secondary	79,377	31253	37588	0	799	0
Grammar	62862	14015	0	0	0	48847
Total post-primary	142239	45268	37588	9737	799	48847
Special	5959	5598	282	0	79	0
Total pupils	338275	143669	122846	16443	4876	50441
Percentages	100	42.4	36.3	4.9	1.4	14.9

Figure 4: Controlled pupils as a proportion of all pupils (2018/19)

	All pupils (N)	Controlled (N)	Proportion of pupils which are controlled (%)
Nursery schools	5832	4111	70
Primary	174,681	84048	48
Secondary	79,377	31253	39
Grammar	62862	14015	22
Total post-primary	142239	45268	32
Special	5959	5598	94
Total schools	338275	143669	42

3. Religion

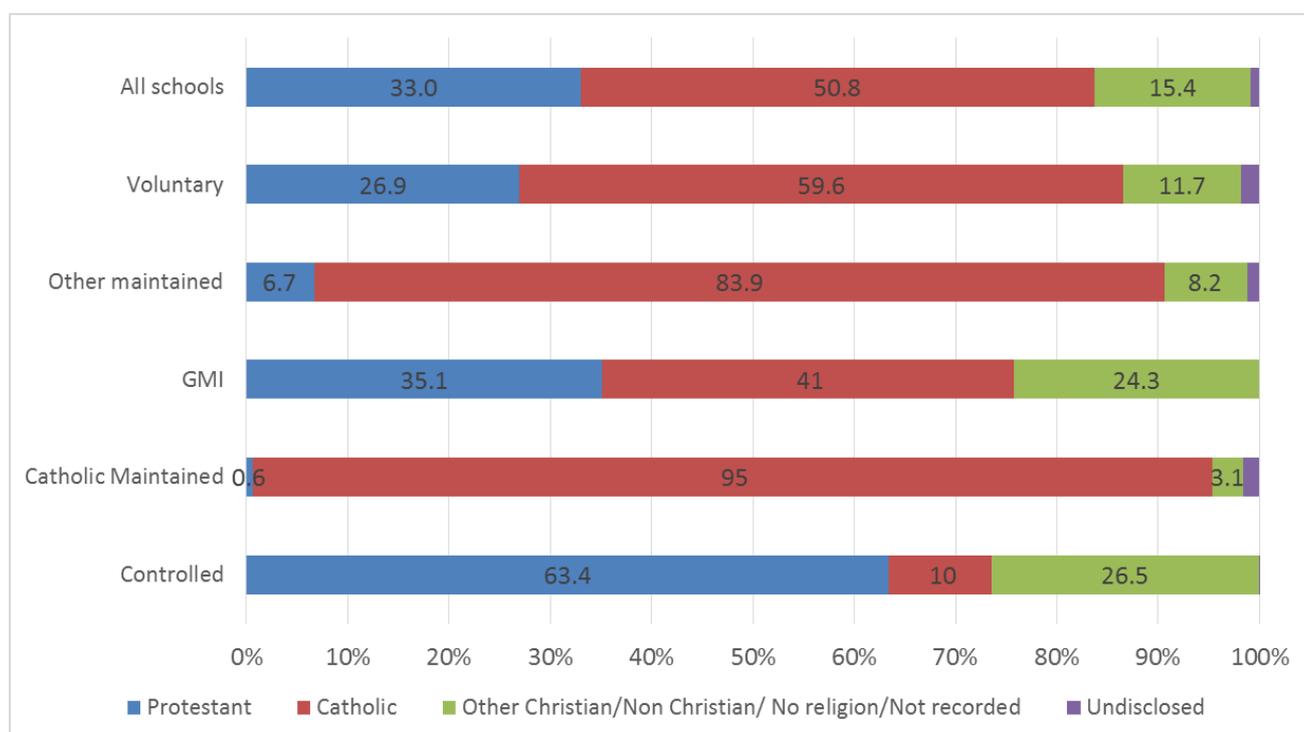
The table below provides a breakdown of pupil religion by school management type.

Figure 5: Proportions of pupils by religion by management type (2018/19)

% ⁴	Protestant	Catholic	Other Christian/Non-Christian/ No religion/Not recorded	Undisclosed
Controlled	63.4	10	26.5	0
Catholic Maintained	0.6	95	3.1	1.6
GMI	35.1	41	24.3	0
Other maintained	6.7	83.9	8.2	1.2
Voluntary ⁵	26.9	59.6	11.7	1.8
All schools	33.0	50.8	15.4	0.9

The data is presented in the chart below.

Figure 6: Religious breakdown by management type (2018/19)

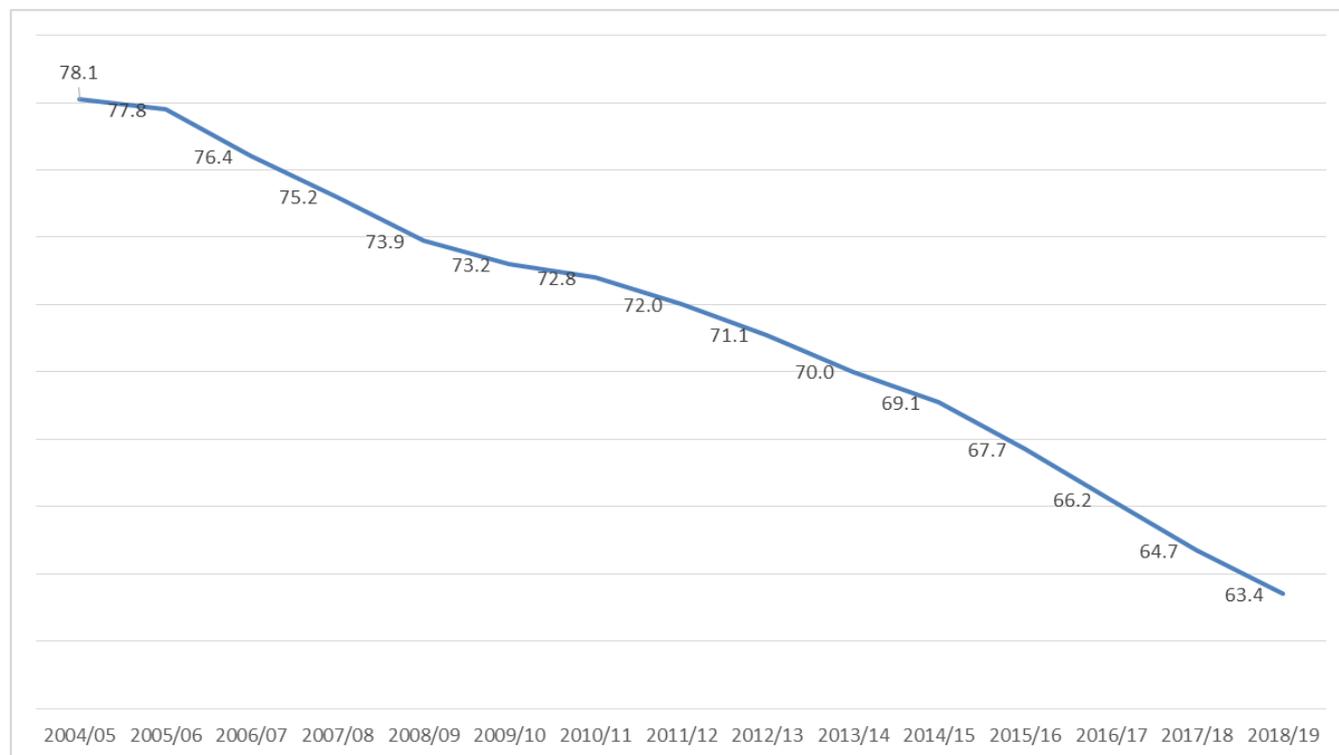


⁴ Numbers may not add due to rounding.

⁵ 21 voluntary grammars are under 'other management' and 29 which are under 'Catholic management'. See Appendix 1 for a religious breakdown of each management type.

The chart below shows the portion of Protestant pupils in controlled schools over time (2004/05 to 2018/19). Since 2004/05 the proportion of Protestant pupils has decreased by 14.7 percentage points.

Figure 7: Proportion of Protestant pupils in controlled schools over time (2004/05-2018/19)



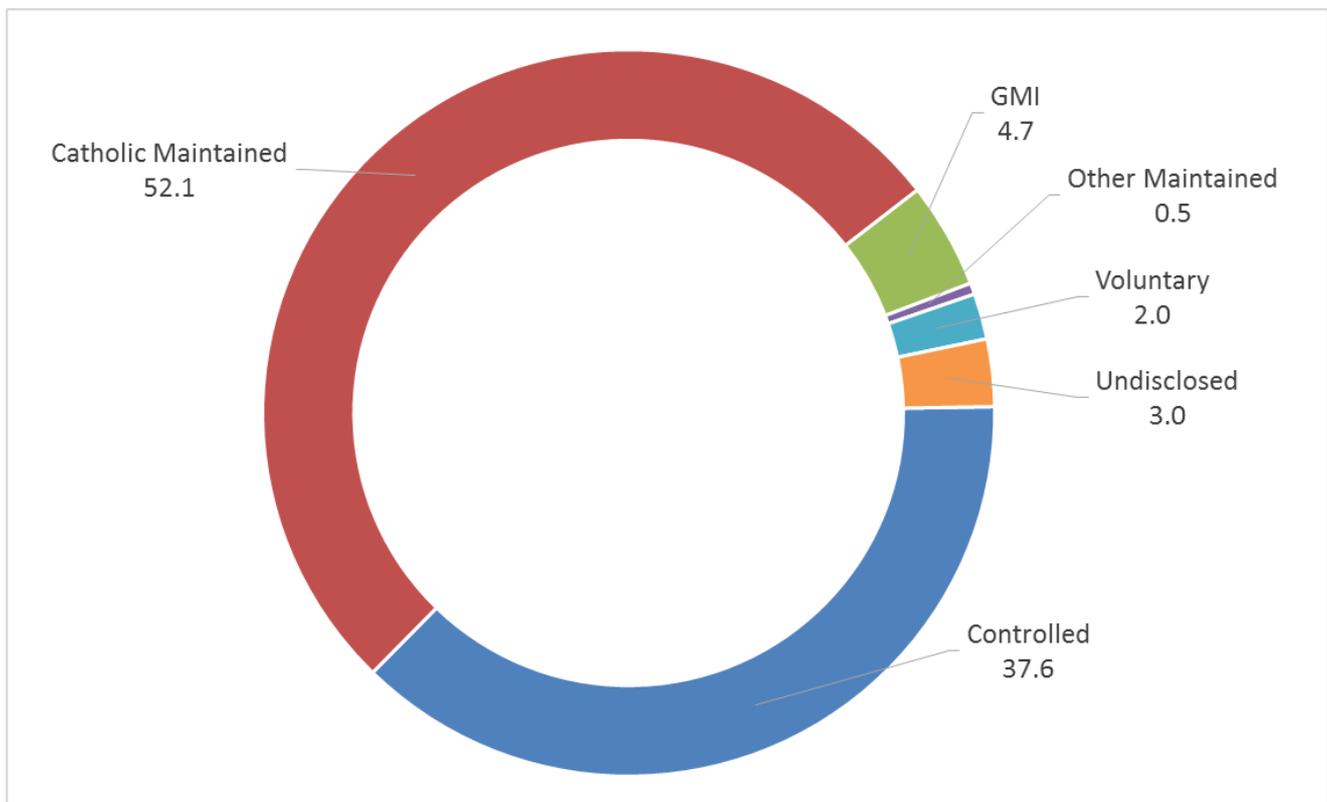
4. Newcomer pupils

There are 15,290 newcomer pupils in primary and post-primary schools in Northern Ireland, of which 37.6% attend controlled schools. Over half of newcomer pupils attend Catholic maintained schools. Figure 9 provides a pie chart of newcomer pupils by management type.

Figure 8: Newcomer pupils by management type (2018/19)

	N	%
Controlled	5750	37.6
Catholic maintained	7973	52.1
GMI	721	4.7
Other maintained	77	0.5
Voluntary	311	2.0
Undisclosed	458	3.0
Total	15290	100

Figure 9: Newcomer pupils in Northern Ireland (2018/19)



5. Special educational needs (SEN)

There are 70,431 pupils in mainstream primary and post-primary schools (not including children in special schools) with SEN (stage 1-5 on the code of practice), 41.3% of children with SEN attend controlled mainstream schools. Figure 10 provides a breakdown by management type.

Figure 10: Pupils in mainstream schools with SEN by management type (primary and post-primary) (2018/19)

	Stage 1-5 on SEN code of practice	
	N	%
Controlled	29117	41.3
Catholic maintained	29275	41.6
GMI	4608	6.5
Other maintained	1313	1.9
Voluntary	6063	8.6
Undisclosed	55	0.1
Total	70431	100

Figure 11: Pupils with SEN in primary and post primary mainstream schools (2018/19)

	Stage 1-5 on SEN code of practice			
	Primary		Post-primary	
	N	%	N	%
Controlled	18858	48.2	10259	32.8
Catholic maintained	17472	44.7	11803	37.7
GMI	1518	3.9	3090	9.9
Other maintained	925	2.4	388	1.2
Voluntary	303	0.8	5760	18.4
undisclosed	55	0.1	0	0.0
Total	39131	100	31300	100

In the controlled sector, 17% of pupils with SEN in mainstream schools have a statement of SEN. Figure 12 shows the proportion of pupils with a statement in primary and post-primary schools by sector.

Figure 12: Pupils with a statement of SEN in Northern Ireland primary and post primary schools by management type (2018/19)

	Statement of Special Educational Needs	
	N	%
Controlled	4989	39.0
Catholic maintained	4966	38.8
GMI	1033	8.1
Other maintained	76	0.6
Voluntary	910	7.1
Undisclosed	816	6.4
Total	12790	100

6. Sixth form provision

There are 36 schools in Northern Ireland which do not have sixth form provision. Five of these schools are part of the Dickson plan: four junior high schools and one senior high school.

The table below sets out the proportion of schools without sixth form provision by management type.

Figure 13: Schools without sixth form provision (excluding Dickson plan schools) by sector (2018/19)

	N	%
Controlled	16	51.6
Catholic maintained	13	42
GMI	1	3.2
Other maintained	1	3.2
Voluntary	0	0
Total	31	100

The following controlled schools (in alphabetical order) do not currently have sixth form provision:

1. Aghnacloy High School
2. Ballymoney High School
3. Brownlow Integrated College
4. City Armagh High School
5. Coleraine College
6. Crumlin Integrated College
7. Drumglass High School
8. Dundonald High School
9. Dunluce School
10. Markethill High School
11. Movilla High School
12. Nendrum College
13. Newtownhamilton High School
14. Rathfriland High School
15. Saintfield High School
16. The High School Ballynahinch

Proportionally 23% of controlled post primary schools do not have sixth form provision (excluding Dickson plan schools), this is similar to the proportion of maintained schools (22%).

7. Free school meal entitlement

In the controlled sector 29% of pupils (41,441) are entitled to free school meals. The figure below shows the proportions for each sector.

Figure 14: Proportion of pupils within each sector entitled to free school meals (FMSE) (2018/19)

	N	Total pupils in sector	% FSME in each sector
Controlled	41,441	143669	29
Maintained	43,213	122846	35
Other maintained	1,997	4876	41
GMI	5,339	16443	32
Voluntary	7,131	50441	14
Undisclosed ⁶	21		-
Total – all schools	99,142	338275	29

Looking at all FSME pupils in Northern Ireland (99,142), 41.8% attend schools in the controlled sector.

Figure 15 shows the breakdown of free school meal entitled pupils across the sectors.

Figure 15: Free school meal entitlement by sector (2018/19)

	N	%
Controlled	41441	41.8
Maintained	43213	43.59
Other maintained	1,997	2.01
GMI	5339	5.39
Voluntary	7131	7.19
Undisclosed ⁷	21	0.02
Total	99142	100

Of those entitled to free school meals, 44% attend Catholic maintained schools. Only 7% of pupils entitled to free school meals attend voluntary schools.

⁶ The undisclosed pupils are those in reception classes, accounting for 21 FSME pupils.

⁷ As above.

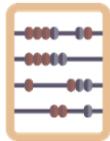
8. Key statistics 2018/19 infographic

The controlled sector is...

Large



557
schools



49% of NI
schools



143,669
pupils



8,600
teachers*

Diverse



64 nursery
schools



388 primary
schools**



69 post primary
[53 secondary
16 grammar]



37 special
schools

Including...



27 integrated
schools



2 Irish
medium schools

Inclusive



Pupils'
religion

63% Protestant

10% Catholic

27% Other***



29% entitled
to free school
meals

38% of NI
Newcomer pupils



Over 29,000 pupils
with SEN

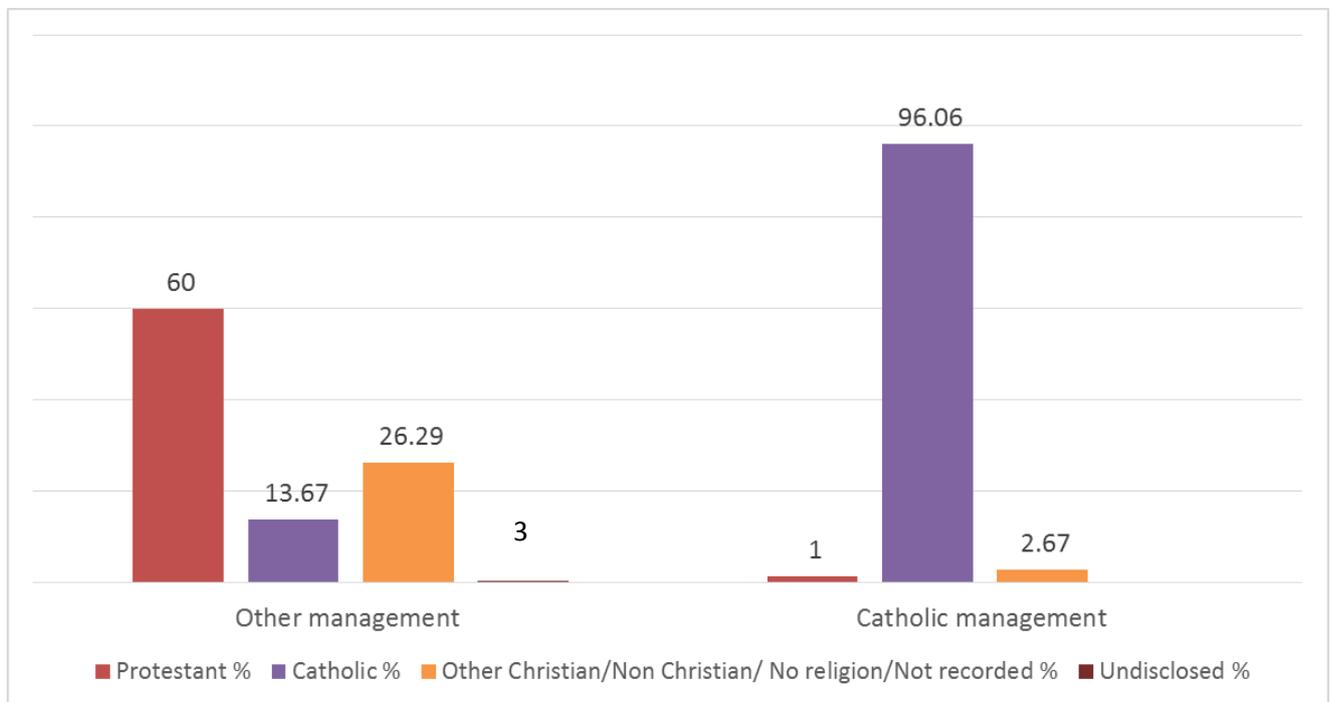
*2017/18 – to be updated June 2019
**Includes one preparatory school which is not
counted in the overall total of schools.
***Other Christian/Non-Christian/No
religion/Not recorded.

Source: DE School Census 2018/19

Appendix 1

The chart below provides a breakdown of voluntary grammar pupils by religion for each management type.

Figure 16: Religious breakdown of voluntary grammars by management type (2018/19)



There are 29 voluntary grammars under Catholic management with 28,414 pupils. There are 21 voluntary grammars under 'other' management, catering for 22,027 pupils.