

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AN ROINN OIDEACHAIS
MÄNNYSTRIE O LEAR**

John O'Dowd, Minister/Ón Aire
Rathgael House, Balloo Road
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Teach Ráth Giall, Bóthar Bhaile Aodha
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Roy Beggs MLA
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont

3 March 2016
AQW 54418/11-16

Roy Beggs has asked:

To ask the Minister of Education

Pursuant to AQW 43024/11-15, to detail (i) the rate per thousand of post-primary school pupils that had less than 85 per cent attendance in 2014-15, broken down by (a) council area; and (b) electoral ward; and (ii) what further action is being taken to reduce levels of absenteeism.

ANSWER

I have arranged for the answers to parts i(a) and i(b) to be placed in the
Assembly Library

Parents and carers have a statutory duty, to ensure that each child of compulsory school age receives full time education. My Department has issued information reminding parents of their responsibilities in respect of attendance.

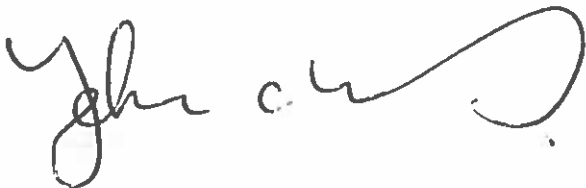
My Department also issues guidance to schools in relation to attendance and absence recording. Schools are required to record and closely monitor pupil attendance and have policies and procedures in place for managing attendance.

Departmental guidance recommends that every school should have an

attendance policy which defines roles and responsibilities for staff, pupils and parents in relation to attendance and reporting absences. If a school has cause for concern, or a pupil's attendance falls below 85%, they should seek support from the Education Authority's (EA) Education Welfare Service (EWS). The EWS provides support for schools, pupils and parents to improve attendance at school.

The Education Authority (EA) can usually as a last resort initiate court action which could result in the parent receiving a fine not exceeding (£1000) for each child. The EA can also apply under the Children (NI) Order 1995 for an Education Supervision Order to be made by the court.

My Department is currently finalising an Improving Pupil Attendance strategy, which will be published for public consultation shortly. This strategy will build upon the good practice already taking place in our schools and will bring together our existing policies to strengthen our determination to improve pupil attendance and reduce unauthorised absence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John O'Dowd', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

John O'Dowd MLA

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Pursuant to AQW 43024/11-15, to detail (i) the rate per thousand of post-primary school pupils that had less than 85 per cent attendance in 2014-15, broken down by (a) council area; and (b) electoral ward; and (ii) what further action is being taken to reduce levels of absenteeism.

Table 1.1 Pupil enrolments; post-primary, with less than 85% attendance; rate per thousand: 2014/15 by Local Government District

Local Government District	Rate per thousand
Antrim and Newtownabbey	86.8
Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon	86.7
Belfast	121.4
Causeway Coast and Glens	88.8
Derry and Strabane	113.4
Fermanagh and Omagh	65.9
Lisburn and Castlereagh	69.2
Mid and East Antrim	82.2
Mid Ulster	74.1
Newry Mourne and Down	73.5
North Down and Ards	96.5
North of Ireland	90.9

Source: School Census 2015/16

Notes to table:

1. Postcode was not recorded for 704 enrolments, representing 0.6% of all enrolments in 2014/15.

These pupils could not be included in the analysis. Of these, 144 had less than 85% attendance.

2. The 2015/16 School Census incorporates attendance returns for 2014/15

3. Rates based on between one and four pupil enrolments have been suppressed and indicated by * in the table

Table 1.2 Pupil enrolments; post-primary, with less than 85% attendance; rate per thousand: 2014/15 by electoral ward

Ward	Rate per thousand
Abbey (Antrim and Newtownabbey)	129.6
Aldergrove	32.5
Antrim Centre	141.2
Ballyclare East	134.3
Ballyclare West	86.2
Ballyduff	114.3
Ballyhenry	105.3
Ballynure	66.0
Ballyrobert	60.0
Burnthill	144.5
Carnmoney	73.5
Carnmoney Hill	60.4
Clady	34.2
Collinbridge	35.7
Cranfield	83.3
Crumlin	78.0
Doagh	78.0
Fairview	131.0
Fountain Hill	70.7
Glebe (Antrim and Newtownabbey)	99.4
Glengormley	93.2
Greystone (Antrim and Newtownabbey)	110.5
Hightown	81.9
Jordanstown	42.2
Mallusk	48.3
Monkstown	89.7
Mossley	160.9
O'Neill	206.9
Parkgate	34.0
Randalstown	88.5
Rathcoole	209.0
Rostulla	37.0
Shilvodan	71.7
Springfarm	95.8
Steeple	109.4
Stiles	165.3
Templepatrick	56.6
Toome	47.8

Ward	Rate per thousand
Valley (Antrim and Newtownabbey)	126.4
Whitehouse	173.5
Aghagallon	83.8
Ballybay	234.6
Banbridge East	55.3
Banbridge North	82.4
Banbridge South	106.5
Banbridge West	136.5
Blackwatertown	52.9
Bleary	47.3
Brownlow	121.2
Cathedral (Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon)	110.4
Corcrain	138.1
Craigavon Centre	94.0
Demesne	53.7
Derrytrasna	51.1
Donaghcloney	74.3
Dromore (Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon)	44.2
Gilford	86.0
Gransha	44.5
Hamiltonsbawn	66.2
Keady	68.8
Kernan	96.6
Killycomain	146.1
Knocknashane	148.8
Lough Road	136.0
Loughbrickland	45.1
Loughgall	49.6
Magheralin	68.8
Mahon	108.8
Markethill	76.5
Mourneview	193.0
Navan	58.6
Parklake	136.1
Quilly	54.8
Rathfriland	64.8
Richhill	59.9
Seagahan	40.8
Shankill (Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon)	146.1

Ward	Rate per thousand
Tandragee	122.3
The Birches	72.0
The Mall	87.7
Waringstown	55.2
Andersonstown	86.0
Ardoyne	197.3
Ballygomartin	143.3
Ballymacarrett	236.9
Ballymurphy	170.0
Ballysillan	122.1
Beechmount	106.0
Beersbridge	208.1
Bellevue	108.0
Belmont	40.2
Belvoir	86.7
Blackstaff	196.7
Bloomfield (Belfast)	99.2
Cavehill	45.3
Central	252.5
Chichester Park	109.1
Cliftonville	126.6
Clonard	137.3
Collin Glen	118.3
Connswater	153.8
Cregagh	52.3
Duncairn	245.8
Dunmurry	53.0
Falls	202.6
Falls Park	92.4
Finaghy	33.9
Forth River	177.0
Fortwilliam	120.2
Garnerville	105.5
Gilnahirk	98.7
Hillfoot	41.1
Innisfayle	64.6
Knock	39.9
Ladybrook	114.6
Lagmore	95.6
Legoniel	151.1

Ward	Rate per thousand
Malone	22.5
Merok	31.1
Musgrave	67.2
New Lodge	182.8
Orangefield	38.3
Ormeau	92.2
Poleglass	153.2
Ravenhill	80.7
Rosetta	*
Sandown	67.1
Shandon	53.7
Shankill (Belfast)	231.8
Shaw's Road	100.0
Stewartstown (Belfast)	137.7
Stormont	34.2
Stranmillis	23.3
Sydenham	150.7
Turf Lodge	138.1
Twinbrook	127.2
Upper Malone	93.6
Water Works	214.1
Windsor	51.2
Woodstock	167.9
Woodvale	247.1
Aghadowey	60.1
Altahullion	54.3
Atlantic	153.4
Ballycastle	102.2
Ballykelly	57.6
Ballymoney East	128.8
Ballymoney North	72.7
Ballymoney South	130.4
Castlerock	116.1
Churchland	94.0
Clogh Mills	50.2
Coolessan	262.3
Dervock	109.4
Drumsum	71.4
Dundooan	84.8
Dungiven	41.5

Ward	Rate per thousand
Dunloy	30.6
Feeny	65.3
Garvagh	41.7
Giant's Causeway	170.6
Greysteel	70.7
Greystone (Causeway Coast and Glens)	77.3
Hopefield	101.1
Kilrea	70.4
Kinbane	70.5
Loughguile and Stranocum	55.8
Lurigethan	52.4
Macosquin	102.6
Magilligan	61.9
Mountsandel	161.9
Portrush and Dunluce	155.6
Portstewart	41.0
Quarry	124.5
Rasharkin	116.5
Roeside	104.5
Route	80.5
Torr Head and Rathlin	37.9
University	111.1
Waterside	140.6
Windy Hall	84.5
Artigarvan	124.5
Ballycolman	190.5
Ballymagroarty	193.5
Brandywell	217.9
Carn Hill	105.7
Castlederg	124.4
Caw	94.3
City Walls	155.0
Claudy	31.7
Clondermot	32.0
Creggan	180.8
Creggan South	184.5
Culmore	22.8
Drumahoe	90.1
Dunnamanagh	88.4
Ebrington	104.2

Ward	Rate per thousand
Eglinton	54.7
Enagh	72.5
Finn	127.4
Foyle Springs	71.1
Galliagh	173.9
Glenderg	92.2
Glenelly Valley	67.7
Kilfennan	64.0
Lisnagelvin	70.7
Madam's Bank	36.8
New Buildings	58.0
Newtownstewart	105.0
Northland	160.7
Park (Derry and Strabane)	28.7
Shantallow	157.9
Shantallow East	81.7
Sheriff's Mountain	106.0
Sion Mills	163.6
Skeoge	118.5
Slievekirk	44.2
Springtown	154.2
Strabane North	228.7
Strabane West	208.7
Victoria (Derry and Strabane)	152.9
Ballinamallard	78.4
Belcoo and Garrison	36.1
Belleek and Boa	83.3
Beragh	56.0
Boho,Cleenish and Letterbreen	40.8
Brookeborough	72.6
Camowen	62.9
Castlecoole	103.4
Coolnagard	85.5
Dergmoney	46.9
Derrygonnelly	53.9
Derrylin	62.1
Donagh	35.4
Dromore (Fermanagh and Omagh)	42.6
Drumnakilly	30.0
Drumquin	47.4

Ward	Rate per thousand
Ederney and Kesh	153.4
Erne	75.9
Fairy Water	34.3
Fintona	75.5
Florence Court and Kinawley	46.9
Gortin	35.4
Gortrush	101.4
Irvinestown	67.0
Killyclogher	86.4
Lisbellaw	76.6
Lisnarrick	92.7
Lisnaskea	87.0
Maguiresbridge	100.0
Newtownbutler	32.5
Newtownsaville	86.7
Owenkillew	44.2
Portora	61.3
Rosslea	67.7
Rossorry	93.3
Sixmilecross	*
Strule	185.2
Tempo	51.1
Termon	33.0
Trillick	36.1
Ballinderry	73.3
Ballyhanwood	*
Ballymacash	138.5
Ballymacbrennan	29.2
Ballymacoss	145.6
Beechill	23.1
Blaris	71.9
Cairnshill	27.9
Carrowreagh	53.8
Carryduff East	51.6
Carryduff West	38.5
Derryaghy	118.2
Dromara	30.0
Drumbo	*
Dundonald	42.1
Enler	142.9

Ward	Rate per thousand
Galwally	37.5
Glenavy	30.4
Graham's Bridge	105.3
Harmony Hill	29.2
Hilden	141.2
Hillhall	85.6
Hillsborough	46.4
Knockbracken	31.7
Knockmore	115.0
Lagan	93.4
Lagan Valley	131.6
Lambeg	171.2
Lisnagarvey	87.8
Maghaberry	61.3
Magheralave	45.2
Maze	45.5
Moira	35.2
Moneyreagh	39.7
Newtownbreda	53.6
Old Warren	143.4
Ravernet	*
Stonyford	78.0
Wallace Park	37.6
White Mountain	41.8
Academy	*
Ahoghill	65.4
Ardeevin	72.7
Ballee and Harryville	141.1
Ballycarry and Glynn	55.6
Ballykeel	93.8
Boneybefore	81.3
Braidwater	62.2
Broughshane	55.3
Burleigh Hill	*
Cairncastle	57.9
Carnlough and Glenarm	87.4
Castle (Mid and East Antrim)	169.4
Castle Demesne	167.6
Craigyhill	129.4
Cullybackey	101.6

Ward	Rate per thousand
Curran and Inver	69.0
Fair Green	150.9
Galgorm	*
Gardenmore	113.9
Glenravel	40.2
Glenwhirry	43.3
Gortalee	185.2
Grange	50.4
Greenisland	48.5
Islandmagee	107.6
Kells	59.8
Kilroot	67.2
Kilwaughter	58.2
Kirkinriola	31.3
Love Lane	132.9
Maine	28.2
Park (Mid and East Antrim)	56.0
Portglenone	26.3
Slemish	41.5
Sunnylands	180.8
The Maidens	133.7
Victoria (Mid and East Antrim)	115.2
Whitehead South	127.6
Woodburn	75.5
Ardboe	87.5
Augher and Clogher	106.8
Aughnacloy	74.2
Ballygawley	87.0
Ballymaguigan	45.9
Ballysaggart	124.6
Bellaghy	19.7
Caledon	37.5
Castlecaulfield	53.4
Castledawson	64.1
Coagh	131.4
Coalisland North	128.0
Coalisland South	118.6
Cookstown East	151.5
Cookstown South	106.3
Cookstown West	121.2

Ward	Rate per thousand
Coolshinny	39.8
Donaghmore	48.7
Draperstown	31.3
Fivemiletown	100.6
Glebe (Mid Ulster)	55.6
Killyman	37.2
Killymeal	132.8
Lissan	62.0
Loughry	144.5
Lower Glenshane	0.0
Maghera	114.6
Moy	53.1
Moygashel	77.3
Mullaghmore	73.6
Oaklands	38.3
Pomeroy	76.4
Stewartstown (Mid Ulster)	100.0
Swatragh	34.1
Tamlaght O'Crilly	47.6
The Loup	33.2
Tobermore	47.2
Town Parks East	107.3
Valley (Mid Ulster)	31.4
Washing Bay	60.3
Abbey (Newry, Mourne and Down)	71.7
Annalong	47.2
Ballybot	118.3
Ballydugan	73.2
Ballynahinch	134.8
Ballyward	77.2
Bessbrook	150.0
Binnian	54.3
Burren	*
Camlough	66.0
Castlewellan	115.4
Cathedral (Newry, Mourne and Down)	36.0
Crossgar and Killyleagh	148.9
Crossmaglen	47.4
Damolly	88.4
Derryboy	40.5

Ward	Rate per thousand
Derryleckagh	25.9
Donard	61.9
Drumalane	102.0
Drumaness	65.6
Dundrum	76.1
Fathom	89.9
Forkhill	58.6
Hilltown	60.5
Kilkeel	96.0
Kilmore	50.4
Knocknashinna	78.6
Lecale	104.9
Lisnacree	86.2
Mayobridge	41.1
Mullaghbane	25.9
Murlough	158.6
Newtownhamilton	64.1
Quoile	35.4
Rostrevor	53.0
Saintfield	48.8
St. Patrick's	55.9
Strangford	76.6
Tollymore	67.6
Warrenpoint	97.7
Whitecross	80.7
Ballycrochan	69.2
Ballygowan	52.0
Ballygrainey	118.8
Ballyholme	44.8
Ballymagee	37.0
Ballywalter	129.0
Bloomfield (North Down and Ards)	138.9
Broadway	92.0
Bryansburn	39.5
Carrowdore	72.2
Castle (North Down and Ards)	178.8
Clandeboye	69.4
Comber North	125.0
Comber South	68.0
Comber West	71.9

Ward	Rate per thousand
Conway Square	203.9
Cronstown	71.9
Cultra	24.3
Donaghadee	94.8
Glen	148.0
Gregstown	112.2
Groomsport	94.9
Harbour	72.1
Helen's Bay	43.2
Hollywood	27.0
Kilcooley	187.3
Killinchy	29.3
Kircubbin	104.5
Loughries	86.0
Loughview	94.6
Movilla	168.7
Portaferry	68.5
Portavogie	135.0
Rathgael	98.0
Rathmore	36.8
Scrabo	58.8
Silverbirch	105.5
Silverstream	136.1
Warren	97.7
West Winds	194.0
North of Ireland	90.9

Source: School Census 2015/16

Notes to table:

1. Postcode was not recorded for 704 enrolments, representing 0.6% of all enrolments in 2014/15. These pupils could not be included in the analysis. Of these, 144 had less than 85% attendance.
2. The 2015/16 School Census incorporates attendance returns for 2014/15
3. Rates based on between one and four pupil enrolments have been suppressed and indicated by * in the table