

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

John O'Dowd, Minister/Ón Aire
Rathgael House, Balloo Road
Bangor, BT19 7PR

Teach Ráth Giall, Bóthar Bhaile Aodha
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[Roy Beggs] MLA
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont

3 March 2016
AQW 54417/11-16

Roy Beggs has asked:

To ask the Minister of Education

Pursuant to AQW 43027/11-15, to detail (i) the rate per thousand of fifteen to seventeen year old 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.

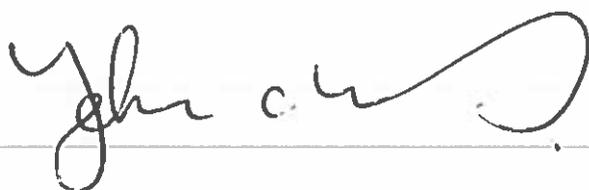
Parents and carers have a statutory duty, to ensure that each child of compulsory school age receives full time education. My Department has issued information reminding parents of their responsibilities in respect of attendance.

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', written over a horizontal line.

John O'Dowd MLA

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Table (i) a: Pupil enrolments aged 15-17 years with less than 85% attendance; rate per thousand: 2014/15 by council area

Council Area	Rate per thousand
Antrim and Newtownabbey	79.0
Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon	80.5
Belfast	109.3
Causeway Coast and Glens	78.6
Derry and Strabane	108.8
Fermanagh and Omagh	75.6
Lisburn and Castlereagh	55.8
Mid and East Antrim	62.6
Mid Ulster	74.7
Newry Mourne and Down	79.3
North Down and Ards	87.2
North of Ireland	84.5

Source: School Census 2015/16

Notes to table:

1. Postcode was not recorded for 188 enrolments, representing 0.4% of all enrolments in 2014/15.

These pupils could not be included in the analysis. Of these, 20 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 aged 15-17 years with less than 85% attendance; rate per thousand: 2014/15 by electoral ward

Ward	Rate per thousand
Abbey (Antrim and Newtownabbey)	94.1
Aldergrove	67.2
Antrim Centre	117.6
Ballyclare East	95.7
Ballyclare West	69.0
Ballyduff	*
Ballyhenry	88.9
Ballynure	*
Ballyrobert	77.9
Burnthill	116.3
Carnmoney	*
Carnmoney Hill	81.1
Clady	35.7
Collinbridge	65.4
Cranfield	57.1
Crumlin	95.2
Doagh	67.3
Fairview	114.8
Fountain Hill	*
Glebe (Antrim and Newtownabbey)	94.3
Glengormley	70.4
Greystone (Antrim and Newtownabbey)	121.6
Hightown	105.9
Jordanstown	43.9
Mallusk	95.9
Monkstown	*
Mossley	95.2
O'Neill	*
Parkgate	46.5
Randalstown	72.1
Rathcoole	0.0
Rostulla	48.0

Ward	Rate per thousand
Shilvodan	60.3
Springfarm	84.7
Steeple	163.9
Stiles	127.9
Templepatrick	76.9
Toome	74.4
Valley (Antrim and Newtownabbey)	116.3
Whitehouse	205.1
Aghagallon	*
Ballybay	321.4
Banbridge East	*
Banbridge North	36.8
Banbridge South	101.7
Banbridge West	137.9
Blackwatertown	50.0
Bleary	61.5
Brownlow	100.7
Cathedral (Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon)	112.0
Corcrain	132.2
Craigavon Centre	74.4
Demesne	57.7
Derrytrasna	77.8
Donaghcloney	42.2
Dromore (Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon)	78.3
Gilford	122.4
Gransha	32.3
Hamiltonsbawn	93.2
Keady	82.9
Kernan	98.0
Killycomain	162.8
Knocknashane	109.4
Lough Road	*

Ward	Rate per thousand
Loughbrickland	45.2
Loughgall	37.3
Magheralin	92.6
Mahon	104.3
Markethill	115.6
Mourneview	164.4
Navan	98.6
Parklake	135.6
Quilly	65.0
Rathfriland	69.2
Richhill	40.7
Seagahan	30.5
Shankill (Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon)	183.7
Tandragee	58.8
The Birches	47.6
The Mall	85.1
Waringstown	93.5
Andersonstown	110.4
Ardoyne	158.5
Ballygomartin	72.2
Ballymacarrett	181.1
Ballymurphy	187.0
Ballysillan	82.7
Beechmount	83.8
Beersbridge	177.8
Bellevue	153.2
Belmont	*
Belvoir	*
Blackstaff	247.4
Bloomfield (Belfast)	104.8
Cavehill	66.7
Central	179.3
Chichester Park	92.5

Ward	Rate per thousand
Cliftonville	116.2
Clonard	141.6
Collin Glen	142.2
Connswater	127.1
Cregagh	53.8
Duncairn	200.0
Dunmurry	66.3
Falls	230.8
Falls Park	122.1
Finaghy	38.5
Forth River	119.7
Fortwilliam	137.6
Garnerville	98.4
Gilnahirk	91.7
Hillfoot	42.0
Innisfayle	48.6
Knock	102.2
Ladybrook	98.4
Lagmore	72.8
Legoniel	129.0
Malone	*
Merok	*
Musgrave	69.0
New Lodge	214.3
Orangefield	60.6
Ormeau	112.1
Poleglass	147.1
Ravenhill	*
Rosetta	*
Sandown	82.5
Shandon	63.0
Shankill (Belfast)	210.5
Shaw'S Road	104.7
Stewartstown (Belfast)	126.3

Ward	Rate per thousand
Stormont	*
Stranmillis	*
Sydenham	108.9
Turf Lodge	145.1
Twinbrook	120.4
Upper Malone	107.4
Water Works	191.6
Windsor	68.4
Woodstock	160.0
Woodvale	189.5
Aghadowey	*
Altahullion	*
Atlantic	121.6
Ballycastle	96.5
Ballykelly	74.5
Ballymoney East	*
Ballymoney North	74.6
Ballymoney South	98.4
Castlerock	*
Churchland	119.4
Clogh Mills	*
Coolessan	193.5
Dervock	*
Drumsumn	85.3
Dundooan	85.7
Dungiven	51.3
Dunloy	50.4
Feeny	59.3
Garvagh	*
Giant'S Causeway	111.1
Greysteel	49.0
Greystone (Causeway Coast and Glens)	125.0
Hopefield	92.0
Kilrea	*

Ward	Rate per thousand
Kinbane	74.4
Loughguile And Stranocum	52.6
Lurigethan	62.5
Macosquin	*
Magilligan	*
Mountsandel	240.0
Portrush and Dunluce	140.0
Portstewart	*
Quarry	138.3
Rasharkin	63.6
Roeside	*
Route	111.1
Torr Head and Rathlin	*
University	111.1
Waterside	111.1
Windy Hall	166.7
Artigarvan	120.0
Ballycolman	174.2
Ballymagroarty	155.7
Brandywell	187.5
Carn Hill	163.8
Castledearg	100.0
Caw	165.4
City Walls	138.5
Claudy	*
Clondermot	50.5
Creggan	207.7
Creggan South	158.3
Culmore	52.9
Drumahoe	118.1
Dunnamanagh	93.5
Ebrington	149.4
Eglinton	*
Enagh	61.5

Ward	Rate per thousand
Finn	109.3
Foyle Springs	108.1
Galliagh	181.8
Glenderg	102.6
Glenelly Valley	49.2
Kilfennan	73.8
Lisnagelvin	148.9
Madam'S Bank	53.2
New Buildings	121.7
Newtownstewart	63.5
Northland	142.9
Park (Derry and Strabane)	*
Shantallow	105.7
Shantallow East	75.8
Sheriff'S Mountain	100.0
Sion Mills	148.1
Skeoge	111.7
Slievekirk	59.3
Springtown	81.3
Strabane North	161.3
Strabane West	176.5
Victoria (Derry and Strabane)	75.0
Ballinamallard	118.3
Belcoo And Garrison	60.2
Belleek And Boa	70.7
Beragh	47.2
Boho,Cleenish and Letterbreen	67.8
Brookeborough	121.6
Camowen	81.4
Castlecoole	90.9
Coolnagard	90.1
Dergmoney	101.7
Derrygonnelly	65.8
Derrylin	102.9

Ward	Rate per thousand
Donagh	62.5
Dromore (Fermanagh and Omagh)	76.9
Drumnakilly	54.5
Drumquin	*
Ederney and Kesh	174.4
Erne	75.9
Fairy Water	*
Fintona	71.4
Florence Court And Kinawley	*
Gortin	45.8
Gortrush	102.0
Irvinestown	59.5
Killiclogher	79.6
Lisbellaw	*
Lisnarrick	69.3
Lisnaskea	102.9
Maguiresbridge	46.7
Na	*
Newtownbutler	*
Newtownsaville	61.2
Owenkillew	89.1
Portora	*
Rosslea	154.9
Rossorry	185.7
Sixmilecross	55.6
Strule	181.8
Tempo	*
Termon	72.9
Trillick	88.6
Ballinderry	43.9
Ballyhanwood	*
Ballymacash	81.6
Ballymacbrennan	*
Ballymacoss	86.3

Ward	Rate per thousand
Beechill	*
Blaris	87.7
Cairnshill	*
Carrowreagh	64.5
Carryduff East	64.5
Carryduff West	122.8
Derryaghy	97.6
Dromara	*
Drumbo	*
Dundonald	*
Enler	105.3
Galwally	123.5
Glenavy	*
Graham'S Bridge	84.7
Harmony Hill	*
Hilden	*
Hillhall	*
Hillsborough	0.0
Knockbracken	*
Knockmore	113.6
Lagan	*
Lagan Valley	112.7
Lambeg	96.8
Lisnagarvey	77.9
Maghaberry	65.6
Magheralave	*
Maze	*
Moira	*
Moneyreagh	69.8
Newtownbreda	101.7
Old Warren	129.4
Ravernet	*
Stonyford	62.5
Wallace Park	*

Ward	Rate per thousand
White Mountain	34.7
Academy	*
Ahoghill	52.6
Ardeevin	*
Ballee and Harryville	87.7
Ballycarry and Glynn	49.0
Ballykeel	*
Boneybefore	64.1
Braidwater	78.9
Broughshane	*
Burleigh Hill	*
Cairncastle	57.9
Carnlough and Glenarm	54.5
Castle (Mid and East Antrim)	152.2
Castle Demesne	109.6
Craigyhill	114.3
Cullybackey	123.1
Curran And Inver	*
Fair Green	161.3
Galgorm	*
Gardenmore	104.5
Glenravel	50.0
Glenwhirry	65.4
Gortalee	115.4
Grange	*
Greenisland	53.6
Islandmagee	70.6
Kells	55.6
Kilroot	69.2
Kilwaughter	*
Kirkinriola	*
Love Lane	68.5
Maine	*
Park (Mid and East Antrim)	0.0

Ward	Rate per thousand
Portglenone	*
Slemish	*
Sunnylands	166.7
The Maidens	103.9
Victoria (Mid and East Antrim)	69.0
Whitehead South	86.4
Woodburn	41.0
Ardboe	80.6
Augher and Clogher	94.7
Aughnacloy	*
Ballygawley	125.0
Ballymaguigan	62.5
Ballysaggart	115.4
Bellaghy	41.3
Caledon	44.2
Castlecaulfield	68.2
Castledawson	*
Coagh	61.0
Coalisland North	96.0
Coalisland South	125.9
Cookstown East	156.6
Cookstown South	135.9
Cookstown West	119.6
Coolshinny	47.6
Donaghmore	42.3
Draperstown	*
Fivemiletown	154.9
Glebe (Mid Ulster)	59.3
Killyman	*
Killymeal	81.3
Lissan	89.3
Loughry	187.5
Lower Glenshane	*
Maghera	*

Ward	Rate per thousand
Moy	47.6
Moygashel	68.5
Mullaghmore	85.7
Oaklands	56.6
Pomeroy	84.6
Stewartstown (Mid Ulster)	76.2
Swatragh	*
Tamlaght O'Crilly	57.1
The Loup	101.7
Tobermore	73.7
Town Parks East	100.8
Valley (Mid Ulster)	*
Washing Bay	63.6
Abbey (Newry, Mourne and Down)	74.8
Annalong	*
Ballybot	133.3
Ballydugan	42.9
Ballynahinch	137.9
Ballyward	51.9
Bessbrook	231.3
Binnian	53.8
Burren	*
Camlough	105.6
Castlewellan	113.3
Cathedral (Newry, Mourne and Down)	72.0
Crossgar And Killyleagh	115.4
Crossmaglen	64.0
Damolly	94.0
Derryboy	38.5
Derryleckagh	38.3
Donard	76.3
Drumalane	140.2
Drumaness	76.9
Dundrum	65.6

Ward	Rate per thousand
Fathom	148.1
Forkhill	85.1
Hilltown	94.1
Kilkeel	84.3
Kilmore	85.3
Knocknashinna	124.0
Lecale	86.7
Lisnacree	102.0
Mayobridge	44.4
Mullaghbane	*
Murlough	118.1
Newtownhamilton	69.8
Quoile	45.0
Rostrevor	41.1
Saintfield	36.5
St. Patrick'S	60.2
Strangford	42.0
Tollymore	*
Warrenpoint	122.1
Whitecross	64.3
Ballycrochan	72.3
Ballygowan	54.3
Ballygrainey	149.5
Ballyholme	50.0
Ballymagee	68.8
Ballywalter	58.3
Bloomfield (North Down and Ards)	124.0
Broadway	97.2
Bryansburn	*
Carrowdore	64.8
Castle (North Down and Ards)	187.5
Clandeboye	45.8
Comber North	87.5
Comber South	58.3

Ward	Rate per thousand
Comber West	*
Conway Square	184.6
Cronstown	39.1
Cultra	*
Donaghadee	110.1
Glen	120.4
Gregstown	75.0
Groomsport	79.4
Harbour	*
Helen'S Bay	*
Hollywood	*
Kilcooley	168.4
Killinchy	41.7
Kircubbin	132.7
Loughries	*
Loughview	138.9
Movilla	151.8
Portaferry	70.0
Portavogie	115.4
Rathgael	116.3
Rathmore	*
Scrabo	93.0
Silverbirch	123.0
Silverstream	134.3
Warren	103.4
West Winds	238.6
North of Ireland	79.2

Source: School Census 2015/16

Notes to table:

1. Postcode was not recorded for 188 enrolments, representing 0.4% of all enrolments in 2014/15.
These pupils could not be included in the analysis. Of these, 20 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