

**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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Bang'r, BT19 7PR

Roy Beggs MLA
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont

3 March 2016
AQW 54419/11-16

Roy Beggs has asked:

To ask the Minister of Education

Pursuant to AQW 43025/11-15, to detail (i) the rate per thousand of 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.

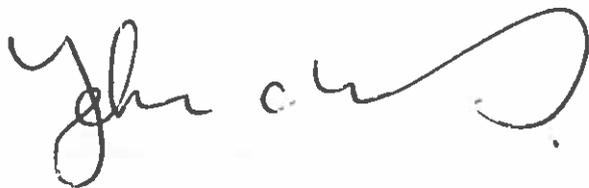
My Department also issues guidance to schools in relation to attendance and absence recording. Schools are required to record and closely monitor pupil attendance and have policies and procedures in place for managing attendance.

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 43025/11-15, to detail (i) the rate per thousand of 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 1.2 Pupil enrolments; primary schools, with less than 85% attendance; rate per thousand: 2014/15 by Local Government District

District Council Area	Rate per thousand
Antrim and Newtownabbey	29.7
Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon	33.7
Belfast	63.3
Causeway Coast and Glens	27.3
Derry And Strabane	53.8
Fermanagh and Omagh	27.5
Lisburn and Castlereagh	35.4
Mid and East Antrim	31.5
Mid Ulster	35.7
Newry Mourne and Down	34.5
North Down and Ards	33.5
North of Ireland	39.7

Source: School Census 2015/16

Notes to table:

1. Postcode was not recorded for 773 enrolments, representing 0.5% of all enrolments in 2014/15.

These pupils could not be included in the analysis. Of these, 72 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; primary schools, with less than 85% attendance; rate per thousand: 2014/15 by ward

Ward	Rate per thousand
Abbey (Antrim and Newtownabbey)	35.2
Aldergrove	23.7
Antrim Centre	36.4
Ballyclare East	40.0
Ballyclare West	47.0
Ballyduff	46.3
Ballyhenry	*
Ballynure	18.9
Ballyrobert	17.4
Burnthill	69.9
Carnmoney	*
Carnmoney Hill	*
Clady	*
Collinbridge	*
Cranfield	18.2
Crumlin	45.6
Doagh	*
Fairview	28.5
Fountain Hill	*
Glebe (Antrim and Newtownabbey)	20.9
Glengormley	36.1
Greystone (Antrim and Newtownabbey)	35.3
Hightown	29.0
Jordanstown	*
Mallusk	*
Monkstown	38.2
Mossley	63.9
O'Neill	60.4
Parkgate	19.6
Randalstown	23.1
Rathcoole	105.9
Rostulla	*
Shilvodan	12.9
Springfarm	36.5
Steeple	44.3
Stiles	29.7
Templepatrick	*

Ward	Rate per thousand
Toome	*
Valley (Antrim and Newtownabbey)	74.1
Whitehouse	*
Aghagallon	18.9
Ballybay	58.5
Banbridge East	*
Banbridge North	16.3
Banbridge South	34.7
Banbridge West	50.4
Blackwatertown	21.4
Bleary	*
Brownlow	74.1
Cathedral (Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon)	85.9
Corcrain	87.3
Craigavon Centre	33.5
Demesne	40.0
Derrytrasna	14.8
Donaghcloney	17.4
Dromore (Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon)	*
Gilford	10.3
Gransha	14.8
Hamiltonsbawn	10.6
Keady	19.2
Kernan	43.4
Killycomain	59.0
Knocknashane	43.5
Lough Road	25.1
Loughbrickland	10.1
Loughgall	17.6
Magheralin	19.8
Mahon	60.9
Markethill	20.6
Mourneview	85.3
Navan	13.5
Parklake	56.6
Quilly	26.5
Rathfriland	22.4
Richhill	22.5
Seagahan	22.6
Shankill (Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon)	57.2

Ward	Rate per thousand
Tandragee	23.0
The Birches	26.3
The Mall	51.3
Waringstown	*
Andersonstown	48.0
Ardoyne	32.2
Ballygomartin	52.1
Ballymacarrett	93.4
Ballymurphy	106.6
Ballysillan	45.5
Beechmount	80.2
Beersbridge	152.9
Bellevue	44.6
Belmont	19.0
Belvoir	64.0
Blackstaff	140.8
Bloomfield (Belfast)	65.5
Cavehill	*
Central	187.9
Chichester Park	44.2
Cliftonville	65.7
Clonard	73.2
Collin Glen	47.1
Connswater	78.6
Cregagh	47.3
Duncairn	79.6
Dunmurry	18.2
Falls	87.6
Falls Park	22.9
Finaghy	*
Forth River	74.4
Fortwilliam	51.5
Garnerville	31.5
Gilnahirk	40.0
Hillfoot	*
Innisfayle	43.7
Knock	22.3
Ladybrook	63.1
Lagmore	54.0
Legoniel	47.2

Ward	Rate per thousand
Malone	0.0
Merok	30.2
Musgrave	32.6
New Lodge	65.5
Orangefield	21.7
Ormeau	81.5
Poleglass	88.2
Ravenhill	30.7
Rosetta	21.4
Sandown	17.7
Shandon	32.6
Shankill (Belfast)	155.0
Shaw's Road	59.9
Stewartstown (Belfast)	49.3
Stormont	34.1
Stranmillis	*
Sydenham	55.7
Turf Lodge	72.6
Twinbrook	71.4
Upper Malone	57.7
Water Works	115.3
Windsor	92.9
Woodstock	122.0
Woodvale	114.4
Aghadowey	*
Altahullion	*
Atlantic	63.7
Ballycastle	64.6
Ballykelly	29.2
Ballymoney East	21.7
Ballymoney North	25.1
Ballymoney South	29.8
Castlerock	39.9
Churchland	21.6
Clogh Mills	28.2
Coolessan	76.6
Dervock	22.4
Drumsum	40.2
Dundooan	29.9
Dungiven	15.5

Ward	Rate per thousand
Dunloy	12.6
Feeny	27.0
Garvagh	*
Giant's Causeway	23.7
Greysteel	26.7
Greystone (Causeway Coast and Glens)	21.9
Hopefield	25.0
Kilrea	18.0
Kinbane	46.4
Loughguile and Stranocum	*
Lurigethan	52.4
Macosquin	*
Magilligan	0.0
Mountsandel	52.9
Portrush and Dunluce	62.9
Portstewart	27.6
Quarry	16.4
Rasharkin	35.1
Roeside	29.4
Route	*
Torr Head and Rathlin	*
University	21.8
Waterside	41.8
Windy Hall	35.1
Artigarvan	59.0
Ballycolman	73.1
Ballymagroarty	107.4
Brandywell	70.8
Carn Hill	48.8
Castlederg	26.6
Caw	72.8
City Walls	93.9
Claudy	33.0
Clondermot	20.1
Creggan	76.2
Creggan South	77.6
Culmore	46.0
Drumahoe	33.2
Dunnamanagh	15.2
Ebrington	56.0

Ward	Rate per thousand
Eglinton	21.5
Enagh	30.7
Finn	38.7
Foyle Springs	24.0
Galliagh	92.4
Glenderg	20.9
Glenelly Valley	25.2
Kilfennan	26.3
Lisnagelvin	53.8
Madam's Bank	29.6
New Buildings	21.3
Newtownstewart	*
Northland	113.8
Park (Derry and Strabane)	24.0
Shantallow	81.3
Shantallow East	105.0
Sheriff's Mountain	75.7
Sion Mills	61.6
Skeoge	66.3
Slievekirk	*
Springtown	78.6
Strabane North	53.5
Strabane West	65.8
Victoria (Derry and Strabane)	50.3
Ballinamallard	20.2
Belcoo and Garrison	21.9
Belleek and Boa	27.4
Beragh	34.7
Boho,Cleenish and Letterbreen	*
Brookeborough	20.7
Camowen	56.9
Castlecoole	47.0
Coolnagard	44.8
Dergmoney	27.2
Derrygonnelly	26.8
Derrylin	26.9
Donagh	*
Dromore (Fermanagh and Omagh)	0.0
Drumnakilly	17.6
Drumquin	18.7

Ward	Rate per thousand
Ederney and Kesh	29.3
Erne	47.2
Fairy Water	*
Fintona	*
Florence Court and Kinawley	*
Gortin	23.0
Gortrush	43.6
Irvinestown	32.2
Killyclogher	37.2
Lisbellaw	36.4
Lisnarrick	33.5
Lisnaskea	58.0
Maguiresbridge	31.4
Newtownbutler	44.0
Newtownsaville	28.7
Owenkillew	17.4
Portora	29.0
Rosslea	*
Rossorry	27.5
Sixmilecross	15.7
Strule	95.5
Tempo	*
Termon	*
Trillick	*
Ballinderry	26.8
Ballyhanwood	37.4
Ballymacash	42.6
Ballymacbrennan	*
Ballymacoss	63.5
Beechill	30.3
Blaris	32.3
Cairnshill	*
Carrowreagh	32.9
Carryduff East	16.0
Carryduff West	18.6
Derryaghy	40.2
Dromara	13.6
Drumbo	0.0
Dundonald	60.7
Enler	80.6

Ward	Rate per thousand
Galwally	30.0
Glenavy	25.3
Graham's Bridge	90.6
Harmony Hill	21.3
Hilden	91.9
Hillhall	37.7
Hillsborough	*
Knockbracken	20.3
Knockmore	42.0
Lagan	35.2
Lagan Valley	63.2
Lambeg	49.8
Lisnagarvey	76.0
Maghaberry	17.8
Magheralave	37.2
Maze	19.4
Moira	16.1
Moneyreagh	30.2
Newtownbreda	*
Old Warren	83.9
Ravernet	*
Stonyford	*
Wallace Park	25.5
White Mountain	19.1
Academy	42.8
Ahoghill	20.9
Ardeevin	*
Ballee and Harryville	59.3
Ballycarry and Glynn	32.4
Ballykeel	23.1
Boneybefore	22.3
Braidwater	40.3
Broughshane	19.2
Burleigh Hill	*
Cairncastle	20.1
Carnlough and Glenarm	19.0
Castle (Mid and East Antrim)	60.7
Castle Demesne	94.3
Craigyhill	36.5
Cullybackey	*

Ward	Rate per thousand
Curran and Inver	34.5
Fair Green	85.1
Galgorm	*
Gardenmore	45.9
Glenravel	16.0
Glenwhirry	22.8
Gortalee	*
Grange	12.7
Greenisland	20.5
Islandmagee	33.8
Kells	21.6
Kilroot	14.2
Kilwaughter	18.7
Kirkinriola	*
Love Lane	44.0
Maine	*
Park (Mid and East Antrim)	45.8
Portglenone	*
Slemish	22.5
Sunnylands	91.1
The Maidens	48.6
Victoria (Mid and East Antrim)	41.2
Whitehead South	31.3
Woodburn	21.8
Ardboe	35.7
Augher and Clogher	25.2
Aughnacloy	19.0
Ballygawley	13.0
Ballymaguigan	21.5
Ballysaggart	72.3
Bellaghy	*
Caledon	17.1
Castlecaulfield	*
Castledawson	19.4
Coagh	*
Coalisland North	82.2
Coalisland South	95.0
Cookstown East	33.1
Cookstown South	19.4
Cookstown West	42.3

Ward	Rate per thousand
Coolshinny	19.9
Donaghmore	36.3
Draperstown	51.8
Fivemiletown	44.8
Glebe (Mid Ulster)	67.7
Killyman	22.2
Killymeal	103.0
Lissan	13.7
Loughry	44.7
Lower Glenshane	*
Maghera	33.6
Moy	16.9
Moygashel	37.2
Mullaghmore	62.7
Oaklands	*
Pomeroy	27.0
Stewartstown (Mid Ulster)	0.0
Swatragh	*
Tamlaght O'Crilly	*
The Loup	43.3
Tobermore	31.6
Town Parks East	111.1
Valley (Mid Ulster)	20.9
Washing Bay	28.0
Abbey (Newry, Mourne and Down)	74.6
Annalong	41.1
Ballybot	90.9
Ballydugan	21.9
Ballynahinch	24.2
Ballyward	11.4
Bessbrook	60.6
Binnian	26.4
Burren	25.2
Camlough	*
Castlewellan	36.6
Cathedral (Newry, Mourne and Down)	42.5
Crossgar and Killyleagh	34.0
Crossmaglen	26.4
Damolly	61.9
Derryboy	18.5

Ward	Rate per thousand
Derryleckagh	15.7
Donard	33.8
Drumalane	100.0
Drumaness	29.7
Dundrum	19.5
Fathom	61.4
Forkhill	15.2
Hilltown	16.3
Kilkeel	46.0
Kilmore	*
Knocknashinna	34.6
Lecale	31.4
Lisnacree	21.7
Mayobridge	16.8
Mullaghbane	30.0
Murlough	66.0
Newtownhamilton	16.4
Quoile	33.2
Rostrevor	19.2
Saintfield	*
St. Patrick's	30.7
Strangford	22.2
Tollymore	17.5
Warrenpoint	54.1
Whitecross	22.2
Ballycrochan	*
Ballygowan	*
Ballygrainey	52.0
Ballyholme	16.6
Ballymagee	*
Ballywalter	51.0
Bloomfield (North Down and Ards)	27.1
Broadway	31.0
Bryansburn	*
Carrowdore	39.5
Castle (North Down and Ards)	61.6
Clandeboye	12.7
Comber North	39.7
Comber South	40.0
Comber West	26.5

Ward	Rate per thousand
Conway Square	57.6
Cronstown	*
Cultra	*
Donaghadee	22.7
Glen	43.7
Gregstown	71.2
Groomsport	21.2
Harbour	28.2
Helen's Bay	*
Hollywood	31.3
Kilcooley	55.2
Killinchy	23.9
Kircubbin	37.3
Loughries	27.1
Loughview	46.5
Movilla	44.2
Portaferry	37.2
Portavogie	45.9
Rathgael	23.1
Rathmore	24.4
Scrabo	22.0
Silverbirch	*
Silverstream	52.6
Warren	40.0
West Winds	56.4
North of Ireland	39.4

Source: School Census 2015/16

Notes to table:

1. Postcode was not recorded for 773 enrolments, representing 0.5% of all enrolments in 2014/15.

These pupils could not be included in the analysis. Of these, 72 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