

Appendix 1 - Special Schools in Ireland 2016

As of the 2015/2016 school year, there are 138 primary level Special Schools in Ireland with 8,070 pupils, 5464 of whom are boys and 2602 are girls. Special schools constitute 4.4% of primary schools in the country and 01.4% of pupils. There are special schools located in all counties except Leitrim and Monaghan as follows:

Carlow	2	Cavan	1	Clare	2	Cork	15
Donegal	2	Dublin	52	Galway	8	Kerry	3
Kildare	4	Kilkenny	6	Laois	2	Limerick	8
Longford	1	Louth	4	Mayo	4	Meath	3
Offaly	1	Roscommon	1	Sligo	2	Tipperary	4
Westmeath	4	Wexford	2	Wicklow	4		

Schools per pupil number:

The list below shows the number of schools within the various categories of pupil number:

No. Pupils	No. Schools
1-25	35
25-50	33
50-75	35
75-100	17
125-150	10
150-175	3
175-200	3
200-225	1
225-250	1
Total	138

Data Sourced from DES: For the 2015/2016 academic year

Appendix 2 – Staff Numbers in Special Schools

The following table lists real examples of the number of teachers and other staff that Principals manage. Note: Principals are paid an allowance based on the number of class teachers only.

No. of	School 1	School 2	School 3	School 4
Teachers incl. Principal	11	12	18	6
SNAs	31	20	43	21
Bus Escorts	19	20	19	
Ancillary Staff	4	5	5	1
Other		5 part-time second level teachers		1 Behaviour Consultant
Total	65	63*	85	29

**Plus co-ordination of 6 members of multi-disciplinary team under the management of the Brothers of Charity*

Appendix 3 – Managing Travel in Special Schools

The following are some of the tasks/responsibilities associated with managing travel to Special Schools:

- Managing escort rosters and substitutes
- Route planning with Bus Éireann
- Contracts and other HR issues
- Dangerous behaviour and other Health and Safety issues on vehicles – harnesses, hoists, booster seats, seatbelt issues, wheelchair access etc. Some routes are very long and the management of combinations of pupils who pose a risk to others, yet are accommodated on the same school bus, becomes an issue for the principal.
- Escort training – client lifting, epilepsy, diabetes, First Aid, behaviour management
- Medical emergencies on vehicles
- Dealing with parental complaints/expectations
- Liaising with up to 20 drivers and Bus Éireann management to solve problems. Bus Éireann's new tendering process means that drivers and vehicles (and therefore the allocation of escorts) are constantly changing, which is distressing to pupils.