

School Data Collection FAQs for Primary Schools

General

1. What will the information sought be used for?

The information sought will be used for statistical and school planning purposes. It will not have a direct impact on a school's allocations or resources.

2. Why is it important to provide the information sought?

It is very important for the Department to have up to date information to enable it to carry out its planning functions. Information provided by schools is key to ensuring that the data used in those planning processes is accurate and current.

3. Is it okay to provide this information in the context of GDPR?

As the SDC collects aggregate information only there are no data protection issues with providing this information.

School Building Questions

4. In question 1, what is meant by eligible pupils?

Eligible pupils are pupils living in the school feeder area.

5. In question 2, if I have been approved as, for example, a 3 stream school and I have accommodation for this, but the third stream has not been developed yet, do I include the junior infants in my answer that I could accommodate in my vacant accommodation if the third stream was developed?

The answer is yes. The best way to demonstrate this is by way of an example using the scenario above, which is replicable for all school sizes:

A school is built with 24 classrooms, which is a 3-stream school. Therefore, it can accommodate 3 junior infant intakes. However, it only currently has 2 junior infant intakes and neither of these class groupings are full.

Therefore, when completing Q 2, the response should be the sum of the number of additional pupils that could be accommodated in the existing 2 junior infant class plus the number of junior infants that can be accommodated in the vacant third (stream) junior infant class.

6. Question 3, if I am using one or more mainstream classrooms for ancillary purposes, such as resource teaching, should I include them in my overall count of classrooms?

Yes, all mainstream classrooms must be included in your answer at 3 regardless of what they are currently being used for.

Special Education Questions

7. What pupils should be included in question 11?

Question 11 should be a total of any pupils in mainstream classes who are receiving additional learning support. So the pupils counted in categories 12 – 16 are included in question 11 as well. However it's not simply a total of the answers for questions 12 to 16, as a pupil may be receiving more than one type of support (e.g. additional assistance with literacy and with numeracy) but should only be counted once in question 11.

8. If a whole class is receiving literacy or numeracy support (for example via team teaching or station teaching) should all pupils be included?

No, only pupils who are being specifically targeted as needing additional assistance should be included

9. Does only out-of-class support count for questions 12 and 13?

No, in-class support for literacy and numeracy also counts if it's being given to pupils identified as needing additional assistance

10. Can a pupil only be counted in one category?

No, a pupil can be counted in as many categories as are relevant.

11. Do the Special Educational Needs questions apply to all pupils, or mainstream pupils only?

Questions 11 – 14 apply to mainstream class pupil only, while questions 15 and 16 apply to mainstream and special class pupils.

12. For a child to be included in question 14 do they need to have received a formal diagnosis?

No, if a child is receiving assistance because they have a special educational need that matches those mentioned in question 14 (i.e. significant communication difficulties, delayed cognitive development or adaptive functioning, or significant emotional and behavioural difficulties) they should be included in question 14, regardless of whether they have received a diagnosis or not.

13. For question 15 do pupils need to be taught by a designated EAL teacher?

No. Anyone for whom the school is giving extra EAL support should be counted.

14. For question 16 should the number of SNAs, or the number of pupils receiving support from SNAs be counted?

The number of pupils receiving support from an SNA should be counted. All of the questions on SEN are in relation to pupils.

School heating types

15. In question 26-31, if I have a mix of heating types in my school, do I tick a box for each heating type?

Yes, where a school has a mix of heating types, a box should be ticked for each type.