



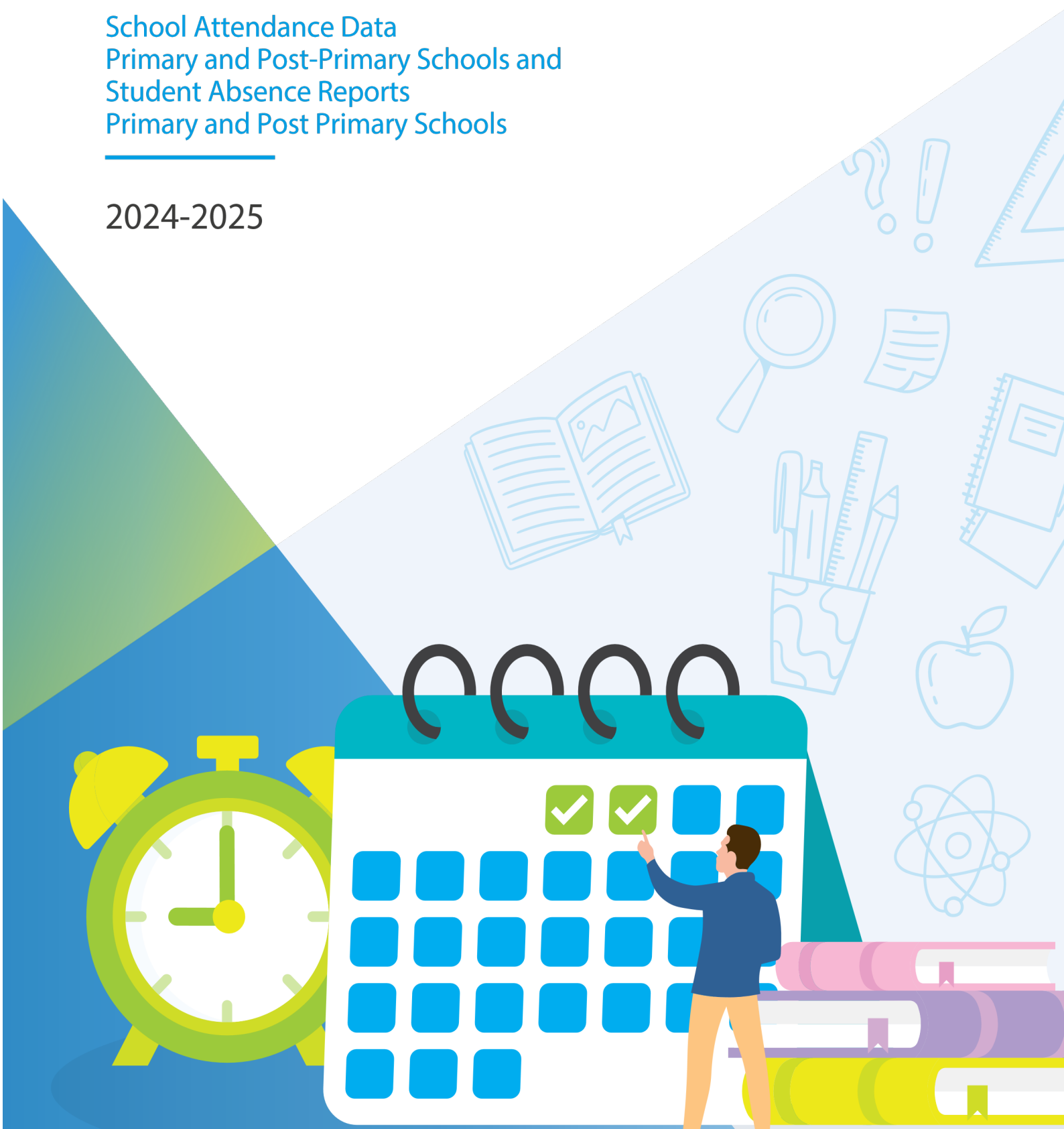
Seirbhís Tacaíochta
Oideachais Tusla

Tusla Education Support Service

Tusla Education Support Service

School Attendance Data
Primary and Post-Primary Schools and
Student Absence Reports
Primary and Post Primary Schools

2024-2025



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1. Introduction

This data is collected using the Tusla Portal hosted by Tusla, the Child and Family Agency to generate two reports.

The data is presented first from the Annual Attendance Report (AAR), which provides four pieces of data:

- total days lost by all students
- total students absent for 20 or more days
- total students suspended
- total students expelled at the school level.

The second, the Student Absence Reports (SAR), first published in the 2017-18 school year, are submitted by schools as a student-level report. These reports provide data on students aged over six and under 16 who are absent for a cumulative total of 20 or more days by the reasons for their absence. The reason for absence are:

- Illness
- Urgent
- Holiday
- Suspension
- Other
- Unexplained

This report is presented in three sections.

Section 1: provides an introduction and executive summary

Section 2: shows the results of the AAR

Section 3: shows the results of the SAR

1.1 Executive Summary

This report for the 2024/25 school year is the 18th publication of school attendance data in state-aided schools over a 22-year period, with the first publication in 2003. In accordance with the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, all recognised schools; primary schools, post primary and special schools, must report annually on student non-attendance at an aggregated level. This data is collected using the Tusla Portal hosted by Tusla, The Child and Family Agency through the Annual Attendance Report (AAR) and also at the student level through the Student Absence Report (SAR).

In 2024-25 a total of 6.16 million days (7.3%) were lost out of a possible 83.4 million at primary level. This is a decline of about 0.087 million from the previous year when 8% of total school days were lost. At post primary level 6.26 million days (10.7%) were lost out of a possible 58.4 million. This was an increase of 0.23 million from the previous year, largely accounted for by an increase in the pupil population of roughly 8k pupils.

The data in this report also shows that there has been a reduction in the level of chronic absenteeism (20 plus days missed in schools) for primary schools from 22.1% in 2023-2024 to 19% in 2024-25. However there has been an increase in post-primary schools 20 plus days absence from 21.2% in 2023-24 to 21.5% in 2024-25.

Overall although school attendance improved slightly in the 2024-2025 school year, the number of students missing significant time from school is still of concern.

To address these concerns Tusla Education Support Services (TESS), Department of Education and Youth and other education partners are actively working to improve school attendance. In the school year 2024-2025, TESS has progressed to year two of implementation of a five-year action plan (2023-2028) which includes initiatives such as the rolling out of the “Anseo” framework which provides schools with tools to effectively plan to improve school attendance along with targeted awareness campaigns around school attendance.

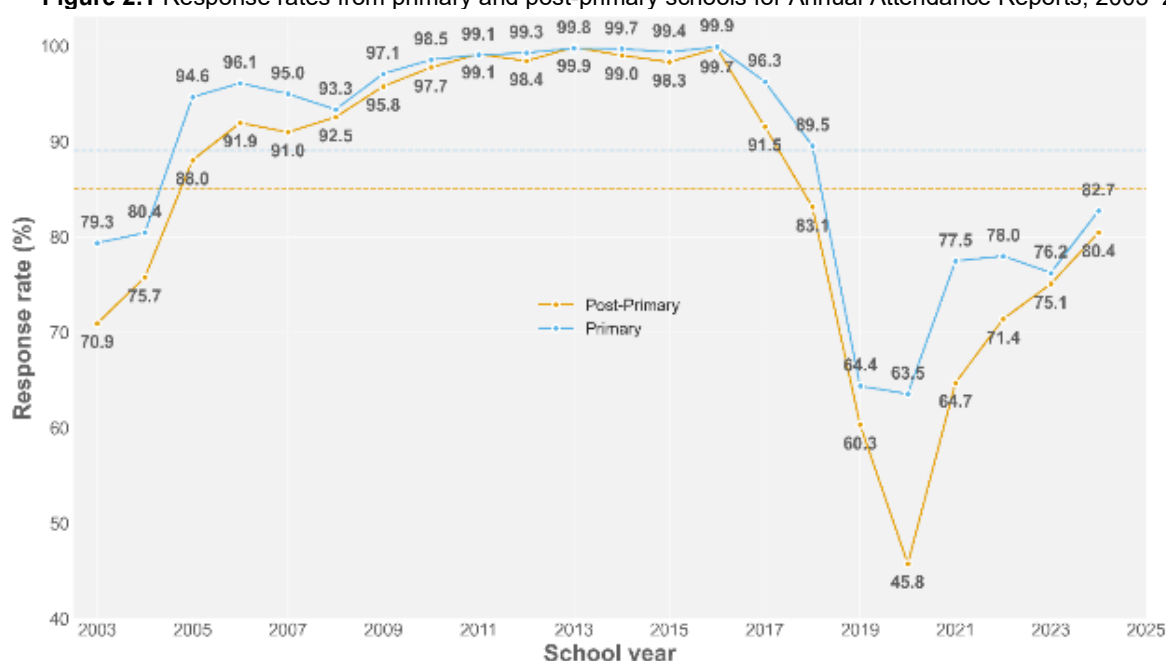
Ultimately, addressing absenteeism is a shared responsibility that requires collaboration across all sectors, including schools, partner agencies and parents. TESS will continue to work to ensure every child receives the support to attend school and reach their potential.

2. Annual Attendance Report

2.1 Response

The response rates of non-attendance from state-aided schools and their enrolled students for the last five years are shown in Figure 2.1. The response rate at primary level has increased significantly to 82.7% from 76.3% last year. At post-primary level there was a significant increase in the response rate from 74.9% last year to 80.4%. The response rates cover 83.4% of primary and 82.9% of post primary student populations levels respectively.

Figure 2.1 Response rates from primary and post-primary schools for Annual Attendance Reports, 2003–2024



Despite the absence of reports from a number of schools, the aggregated responses from responding schools is sufficient to provide an overview of absenteeism in state aided schools.

Table 1.1 Response rates from primary and post-primary schools for Annual Attendance Reports, 2020–2024

School level		2020–21		2021–22		2022–23		2023–24		2024–25	
		<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Primary	Total schools	3,231		3,230		3,221		3,215		3,213	
	- Responded	2,053	63.5	2,502	77.5	2,512	78	2,453	76.3	2,657	82.7
	Total students	561,101		554,464		557,823		556,983		552,862	
	- Responded	359,629	64.1	429,084	77.4	438,740	78.7	428,491	76.9	461,130	83.4
Post-primary	Total schools	730		728		727		722		721	
	- Responded	334	45.8	471	64.7	519	71.4	541	74.9	580	80.4
	Total students	379,184		391,698		406,392		416,620		424,681	
	- Responded	180,836	47.7	257,663	65.8	295,005	72.6	319,215	76.6	351,867	82.9

2.2 Summary Result

Schools report four measures in the AAR

1. Total number of non-attendance or days lost in a school year
2. Total number of students losing 20 days or more
3. Total number of students receiving suspensions
4. Total number of students expelled for whom all appeal processes have been exhausted.

The reported figures from primary and post-primary schools for the last three years are tabulated below (Table 2.2). The summary results are aggregated on a national level of the total represented student population, with percentages reflecting total national measures recorded based on data collected from individual schools.

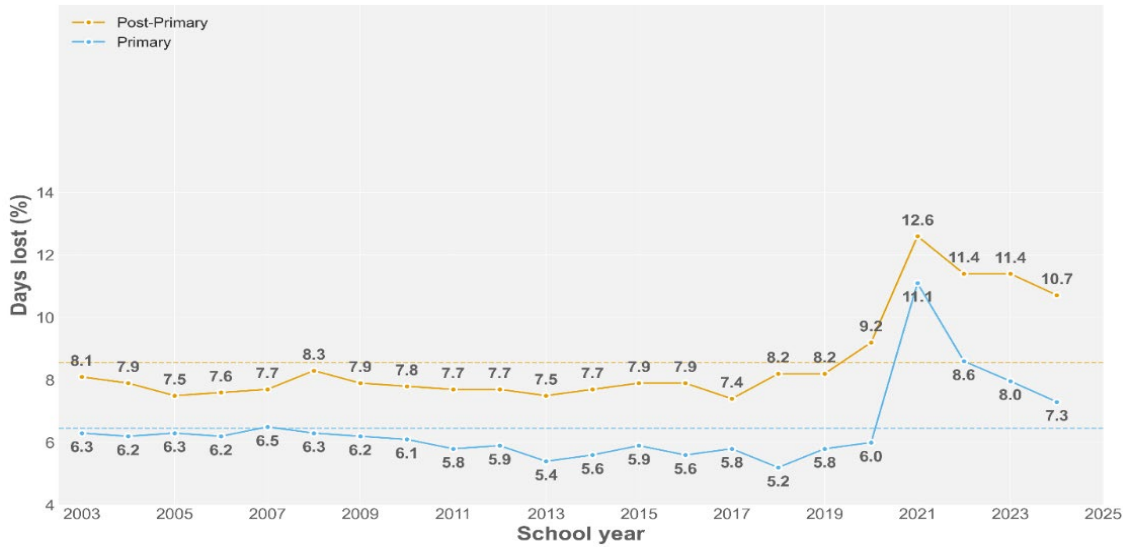
Table 2.2 Summary of non-attendance measures for primary and post-primary schools, 2022–2024

School level		2022–23		2023–24		2024–25	
		<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Primary	Total Students in responding schools	438,740		428,491		461,130	
	Total school days in a full school year	182		182		182	
	- Total school days of students	79,850,680		78,413,853		83,925,660	
	- Total days lost	6,866,145	8.6	6,247,325	8	6,159,851	7.3
	Students who lost 20-plus days	110,151	25.1	94,501	22.1	87,442	19
	Students suspended	1,135	0.26	1,265	0.3	1,432	0.3
	Students expelled	10	0.002	27	0.006	20	0.004
Post-primary	Total Students in school that responded	295,005		319,215		351,867	
	Total school days in a full school year	166		166		166	
	- Total school days of students	48,970,830		53,308,905		58,409,922	
	- Total days lost	5,569,447	11.4	6,029,243	11.3	6,258,760	10.7
	Students who lost 20-plus days	65,883	22.3	67,612	21.2	75,649	21.5
	Students suspended	11,908	4	11,627	3.6	12,467	3.5
	Students expelled	134	0.05	150	0.05	114	0.03

2.2.1 Days Lost

The days lost percentage metric is calculated by summing the total days lost and dividing it by the total number of school days. The total number of school days is the number of students multiplied by the total number of school days in a school year.

Figure 2.2 Percentage of days lost for primary and post-primary schools, 2003–2024

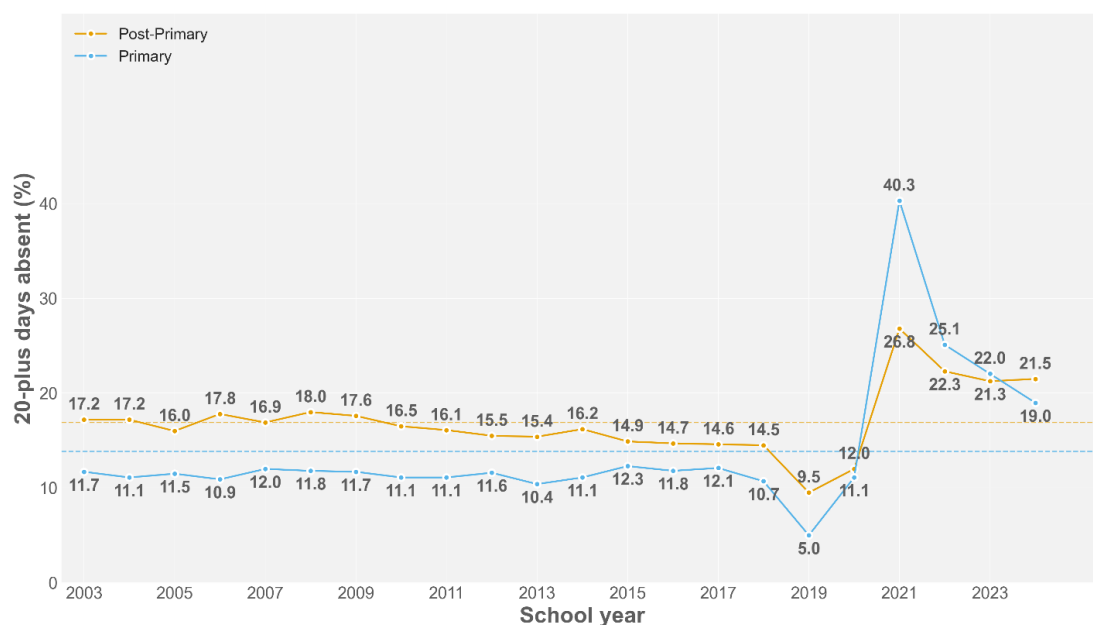


The percentage of days lost continues to hover above pre-pandemic levels for both primary and post-primary schools. However, since 2023/24, the days lost percentage has decreased to 7.3% for primary schools and decreased to 10.7% for post-primary schools. Days lost at primary level are 0.8 percentage points above their 20-year average of 6.5% and at post-primary level they are 2 percentage points above their 20-year average of 8.7%.

2.2.2 20-Plus Days Absences

Schools also submit the number of students absent for 20 days or more (Table 2.2). The numbers are presented as a percentage of the total student population. The pre-pandemic average, covering the years 2003-20 was 11% and 15.6% at primary and post-primary level respectively. The reported figures for 2024/25 of 19% and 21.5% for primary and post-primary schools follow a fourth year of decreases from the 2021-22 highs however are still above the pre-pandemic levels.

Figure 2.3 Percentage of 20-plus days absent for primary and post-primary schools, 2003–2024



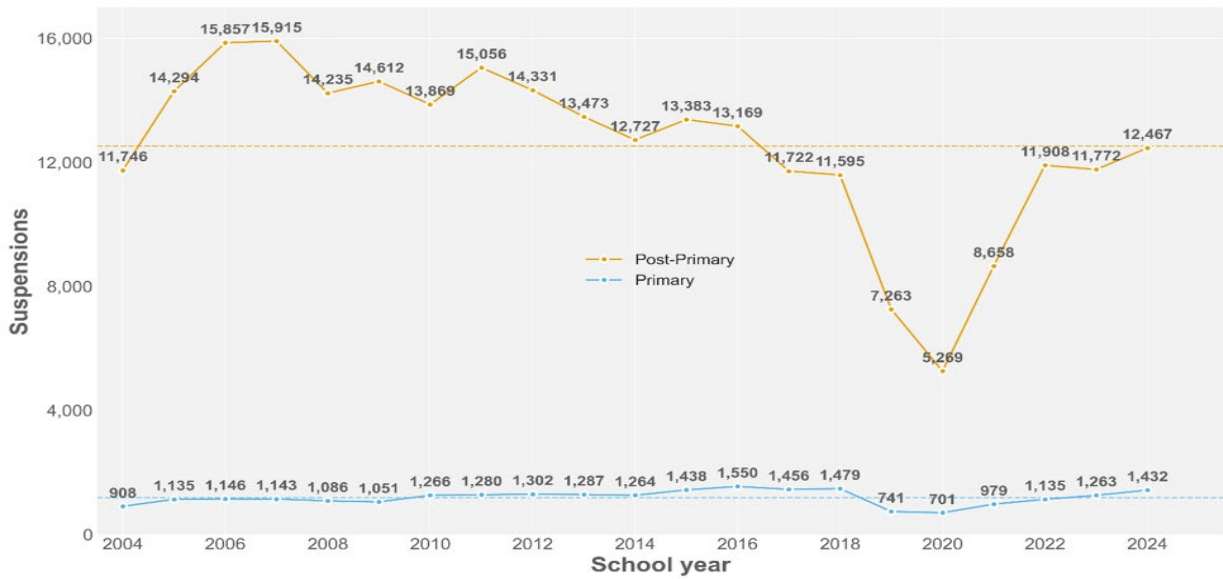
2.2.3 Suspensions

The total number of suspensions have increased at both primary and post-primary levels. The last three reports documented the return of rates of suspensions to their pre-pandemic levels.

The return of suspensions to levels pre-pandemic continued at primary level, with 1,432 suspensions in 2024-25. This was an increase from 1,265 in 2023-24 an increase of 13%. The number of suspensions at post-primary level increased from 11,627 to 12,467, an increase of 7%.

However, suspensions in primary and post-primary schools, like expulsions, should be read with caution when comparing yearly trends. Percentage rates and absolute averages are sensitive to small adjustments of relatively rare suspensions compared to large population sizes.

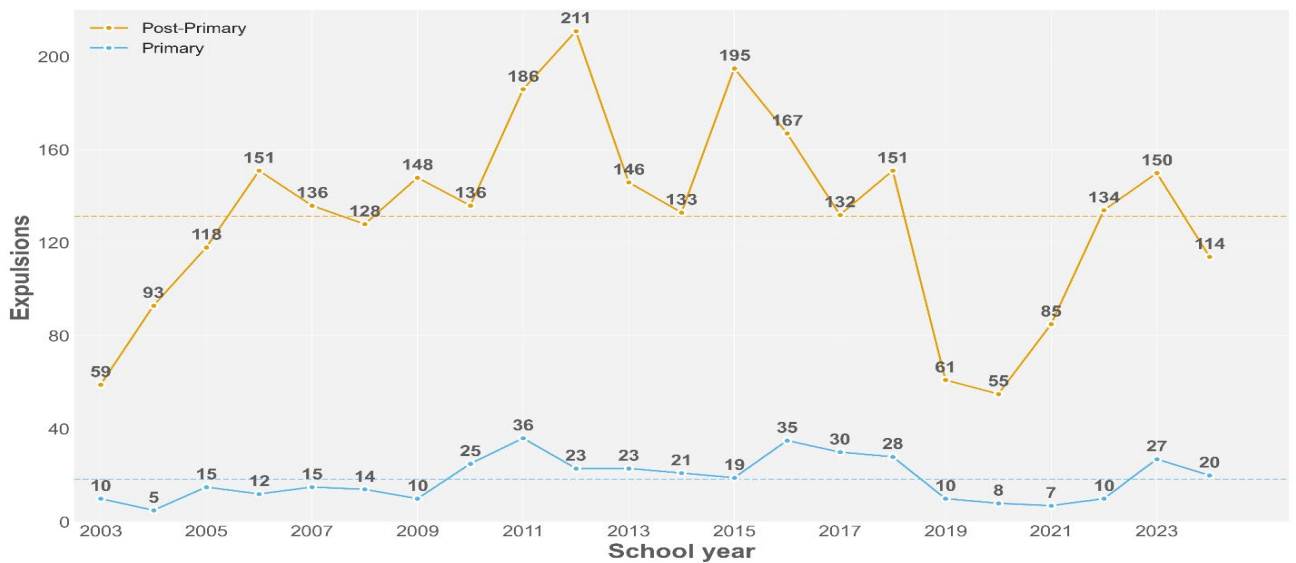
Figure 2.4 Number of student suspensions for primary and post-primary schools, 2004–2024



2.2.4 Expulsions

The number of expulsions fell at primary and post-primary level. Like suspensions, expulsions have re-normed to 2023-24 levels post covid however fell in 2024-25. Expulsions amongst primary students fell to 20 (0.004%) from the previous year's figure of 27 (0.006%), while at post-primary level the figure decreased to 114 (0.03%), from 150 (0.05%).

Figure 2.5 Number of student expulsions for primary and post-primary schools, 2003–2024



2.3 Primary Schools

The following section examines figures amongst three primary-level subcategories: school type, DEIS status, and county. Percentage figures presented in this section are

calculated from the average population of a school in each individual subcategory, as opposed to the total population figures presented in section 2.2.

2.3.1 School Type

The Irish education system has three main primary school types: mainstream, mainstream with special classes, and special school. The percentages of total days lost and students absent 20 or more days continued to decrease across all three types.

Special schools also have the highest percentage of students with 20 absences or more at 39%. Mainstream schools with special classes remain the second highest in both number of days lost and students with 20 or more days absent with 7.7% and 21% respectively, as opposed to mainstream schools with 6.5% and 15.3% respectively. The figures for all three school types for the years 2022-23 to 2024-25 are tabulated below (Table 2.3).

Table 2.3 Summary of non-attendance measures for primary schools by school types, 2022–2024

School Type		2022–23		2023–24		2024–25	
		<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Mainstream	Total schools	2,245		2,071		1,784	
	- Responded	1,782	79.4	1,612	77.8	1,508	84.5
	Total students in responding schools	256,510	79.3	220,613	77.5	185,657	84.7
	- Total school days of students	46,684,820		40,372,179		33,975,231	
	- Total days lost	3,777,055	8.1	2,993,153	7.4	2,217,594	6.5
	Students who lost 20-plus days	57,001	22.8	41,591	18.7	28,360	15.3
	Students suspended	382	0.1	326	0.1	235	0.13
	Students expelled	0	0	9	0.006	2	0.001
Mainstream with special classes	Total schools	850		1,017		1,297	
	- Responded	655	77.1	773	76	1,066	82.2
	Total students in responding schools	176,866	78.4	203,101	77.2	269,125	
	- Total school days of students	32,189,612		37,167,483		49,249,875	
	- Total days lost	2,939,175	9.1	3,131,017	8.4	3,776,890	7.7
	Students who lost 20-plus days	50,720	28.7	50,942	25.4	56,609	21
	Students suspended	563	0.4	764	0.5	974	0.4
	Students expelled	5	0.009	13	0.01	13	0.005
Special schools	Total schools	126		127		132	
	- Responded	75	59.5	68	53.5	84	63.6
	Total students in responding schools	5,364	62.2	4,777	53.3	6,348	
	- Total school days of students	976,248		874,191		1,155,336	
	- Total days lost	149,915	15.4	123,155	14.1	165,367	14.3
	Students who lost 20-plus days	2,430	44.8	1,968	41.8	2,473	39
	Students suspended	190	4	175	6	223	3.5
	Students expelled	5	0.1	5	0.175	5	0.079

Response rates have increased significantly across the three school types. In mainstream schools the rate increased from 77.8% to 83.8%, while in mainstream schools with special classes the rate increased from 76% to 82.1%. In special schools the rate increased from 53.5% to 63.4%.

2.3.2 DEIS Status

In 2024-25, DEIS Urban Band 1 (UB1) schools had the highest reported rates of days lost and students with 20-plus days absent (Table 2.4), followed by DEIS Urban Band 2 schools, a trend long established. Rural DEIS schools follow in both days lost and 20-plus day absences. In non-DEIS schools, urban schools continue to report both higher rates of days lost and 20-plus days absences compared to their rural counterparts.

Suspension rates are highest in Urban Band 1 schools, followed by Urban Band 2 schools and rural DEIS schools. Non-DEIS urban schools have a lower rate of suspensions compared to both urban DEIS school types, and a similar rate to that seen in rural DEIS schools. The lowest rate was seen in rural non-DEIS schools.

Expulsion rates follow a similar ordering – Urban Band 1, 2, then urban non-DEIS and rural non-DEIS, followed by rural DEIS schools, which reported zero expulsions in the 2024-25 year.

Figure 2.6 Percentage of days lost for primary schools by DEIS status, 2005–2024

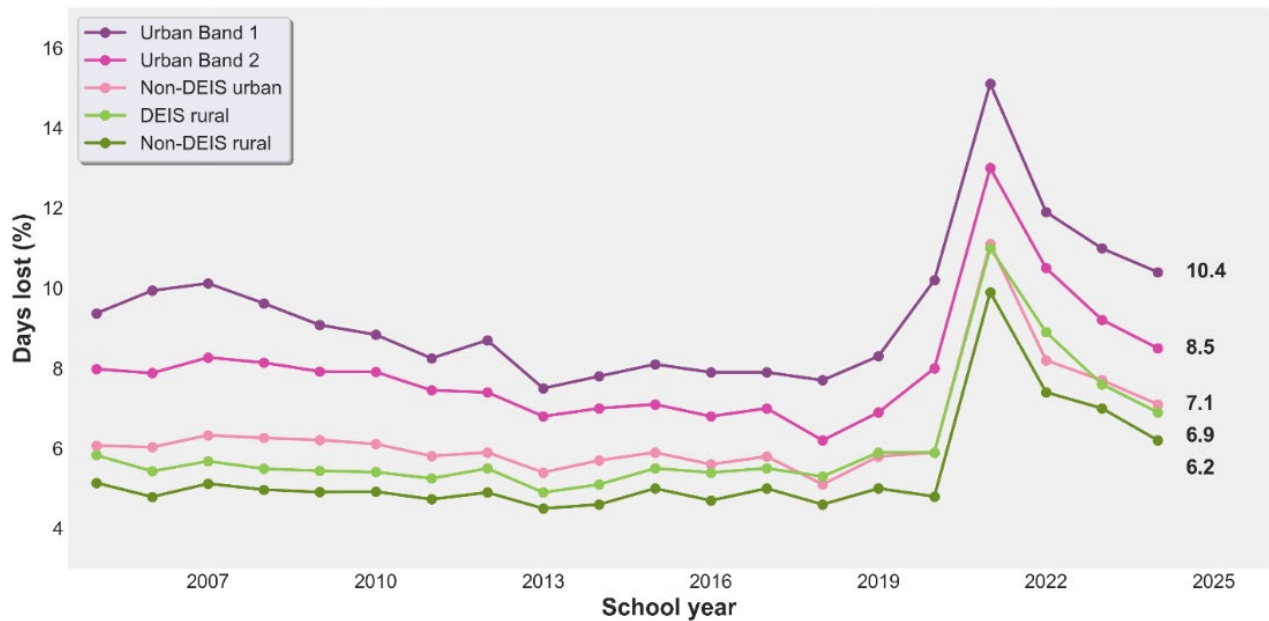


Table 2.4 Summary of non-attendance measures for primary schools by DEIS status, 2022–2024

DEIS status			2022–23		2023–24		2024–25	
			<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Urban	Band 1	Total Schools	306		306		306	
		- Responded	221	72.2	219	71.6	251	82
		Total days lost	1,099,380	11.9	994,183	11	1,097,445	10.4
		Students who lost 20-plus days	21,511	42.9	18,792	38	20,236	35.1
		Students suspended	438	0.9	509	1.1	580	1
		Students expelled	1	0.005	7	0.026	7	0.012
	Band 2	Total Schools	151		150		149	
		- Responded	120	79.5	113	75.3	118	79
		Total days lost	646,261	10.5	562,895	9.2	528,736	8.5
		Students who lost 20-plus days	11,633	33.5	10,682	34	8,903	26.3
		Students suspended	89	0.3	102	0.4	123	0.36
		Students expelled	0	0	3	0.012	1	0.003
	Non-DEIS	Total Schools	795		790		813	
		- Responded	605	76.1	589	74.6	656	81
		Total days lost	2,730,589	8.2	2,511,227	7.7	2,494,892	7.1
		Students who lost 20-plus days	42,955	25.9	36,966	23.7	33,899	17.5
		Students suspended	427	0.6	438	0.8	536	0.27
		Students expelled	8	0.017	8	0.024	7	0.004
Rural	DEIS	Total Schools	509		508		505	
		- Responded	407	80	368	72.4	424	84
		Total days lost	549,233	8.9	415,250	7.6	441,282	6.9
		Students who lost 20-plus days	8,797	28.2	5,927	20.2	5,837	16.7
		Students suspended	45	0.1	56	0.1	48	0.20
		Students expelled	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-DEIS	Total Schools	1,460		1,461		1,440	
		- Responded	1,159	79.4	1,164	79.7	1,209	84
		Total days lost	1,840,682	7.4	1,763,770	7	1,597,496	6.2
		Students who lost 20-plus days	25,255	19.1	22,134	16.3	18,567	13.1
		Students suspended	136	0.1	160	0.1	146	0.16
		Students expelled	1	0.001	9	0.006	5	0.003

2.3.3 County

Table 2.5 presents the mean percentages at county level for days lost and 20-plus day absences. More populated counties tend to have higher rates of non-attendance. Dublin had the most days lost in 2024-25, followed by Laois and Wexford. The highest percentage of students with 20 or more days absent was Dublin, followed by Offaly and Louth.

Table 2.5 Summary of total days lost and 20-plus day absences for primary schools by county, 2020–2024

Region	Total days lost					Students who lost 20-plus days				
	20–21	21–22	22–23	23–24	24–25	20–21	21–22	22–23	23–24	24–25
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Carlow	6.1	11.5	10.7	7.4	7.4	11.2	42.3	25	20	17.1
Cavan	5.2	10.1	7.7	6.5	6.5	8.3	33.1	18.9	15.3	15.5
Clare	4.9	9.7	8.5	7.7	7.7	8.4	32.8	24.3	28.1	17.9
Cork	5.2	10.8	7.9	7.7	7.7	8.3	36.7	21.8	19.9	17.6
Donegal	6.1	10.4	8.4	7.1	7.1	10.4	36.1	23.4	18.2	15.5
Dublin	7.6	12.3	10.1	9.5	9.5	16.5	45.5	31.2	28.2	24.9
Galway	4.9	10	10.6	8.5	8.5	7.5	34.6	29.7	21.6	15.1
Kerry	5.6	10.8	9	8	8.0	9	37	25.4	20.9	17.5
Kildare	6.6	12.4	9.9	7.8	7.8	10.5	43.5	26.6	20.3	17.6
Kilkenny	5	10.2	7.4	7.8	7.8	8.1	36.8	18.5	16.1	14.5
Laois	6.9	12.1	9.3	8.1	8.1	12.3	45.2	26.1	22.5	19.5
Leitrim	5.9	10.9	8.6	7.4	7.4	8	36.2	22.9	20.2	14.5
Limerick	6.8	11.4	8.3	7.5	7.5	13.6	40.1	22.2	20	18.7
Longford	7.2	11.3	8.6	7.4	7.4	14.9	43.6	25.1	18	17.9
Louth	6.6	11.9	8.8	8.1	8.1	11.8	44.3	26.3	23.5	20.1
Mayo	4.8	11.2	8.4	7.6	7.6	6.3	39.7	23.3	19.5	17.1
Meath	5.5	10.6	8.5	7.6	7.6	8.9	37.4	23.2	19.3	17.6
Monaghan	4.8	9.1	7	6.3	6.3	6.3	28.5	15.9	12.4	11.9
Offaly	6	11.1	8.4	7.9	7.9	11.1	46.1	24.3	22.2	20.9
Roscommon	6.2	11.2	8.9	8	8.0	10	36.6	26.9	21.2	19.3
Sligo	5.6	9.9	8.3	7.2	7.2	8.3	34.2	22	16.4	13.8
Tipperary	5	10.1	8.4	8.4	8.4	7.8	36	22.3	22.2	15.6
Waterford	5.5	10.3	8.2	7.6	7.6	9.3	37	23.1	20.7	17.6
Westmeath	6.2	11.1	8.6	7.8	7.8	11.9	41.1	28.3	20.8	17.5
Wexford	5.9	11.4	9.1	10.2	10.2	10.8	41.5	26	20.7	19.2
Wicklow	5.3	11.4	8.2	7.6	7.6	8.4	42.2	23.3	20.1	18.5
State	5.9	11	8.9	8.1	7.7	10.4	39	25	21.4	17.4

Suspensions and expulsions are rare events at county level. The highest suspension rates were in Dublin with 0.96% of students receiving a suspension, followed by Tipperary with 0.8% and Limerick with 0.6%. Expulsions are less widespread than reported in the previous year, when 13 counties reported expulsions. In 2024/25, 11 counties reported at least one expulsion: Carlow, Cork, Dublin, Kerry, Kildare, Limerick, Louth, Mayo, and Tipperary.

2.4 Post-Primary Schools

This section follows the same format as the previous section, with post-primary schools divided into school type, DEIS status and county. The percentages presented are calculated in the same manner outlined there.

2.4.1 School Type

At post-primary level there are three school subcategories: voluntary secondary (VS), community and comprehensive (C&C), and education and training boards (ETB). The 2024-25 school year saw VS schools continue to have the lowest percentage of both total days lost and percentage of students absent for 20-plus days. The total days lost and proportion of students missing 20-plus days both decreased in VS schools. A similar decrease was seen in ETB schools, while C&C schools saw an increase in both metrics.

Suspensions decreased in VS and C&C schools and rose slightly in ETB schools. Expulsions decreased in all three subcategories. The full results for three school years are presented below (Table 2.6).

Table 2.6 Summary of non-attendance measures for post-primary schools by school type, 2022–2024

School Type		2022–23		2023–24		2024–25	
		<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Voluntary secondary	Total schools	384		379		379	
	- Responded	270	70.3	268	70.7	299	78.9
	Students in responding schools	152,816	70.8	157,790	71.8	181,278	81
	- Total school days of students	25,367,456		26,350,930		30,092,148	
	- Total days lost	2,612,650	10.3	2,902,474	11	2,950,553	9.8
	Students who lost 20-plus days	29,413	19.9	29,324	18.7	33,524	18.5
	Students suspended	4,669	3.3	4,427	2.9	4,709	2.6
	Students expelled	52	0.043	53	0.045	60	0.03
Community & comprehensive	Total schools	96		97		96	
	- Responded	69	71.9	81	83.5	84	87.5
	Students in responding schools	47,573	73	55,124	82.3	58,694	87.3
	- Total school days of students	7,897,118		9,205,708		9,743,204	
	- Total days lost	1,041,124	13.2	1,077,488	11.7	1,195,173	12.3
	Students who lost 20-plus days	11,886	26.7	12,370	23.1	14,543	25.2
	Students suspended	2,489	5.2	2,042	4.1	2,291	3.9
	Students expelled	20	0.047	29	0.066	13	0.02
Education and training boards	Total schools	247		246		246	
	- Responded	180	72.9	192	78.1	197	80.1
	Students in responding schools	94,616	75.5	106,301	81.8	111,895	83.7
	- Total school days of students	15,706,256		17,752,267		18,574,570	
	- Total days lost	1,915,673	12.2	2,049,281	11.5	2,113,034	11.4
	Students who lost 20-plus days	24,584	27	25,918	25.6	27,582	24.7
	Students suspended	4,750	5.2	5,158	4.8	5,467	4.9
	Students expelled	62	0.07	68	0.06	41	0.04

2.4.2 DEIS Status

At post-primary level DEIS status schools have the highest figures for all four absentee measures (Table 2.7). Total days lost decreased slightly to 13% from 14.1%, while the percentage of students missing 20 days or more increased slightly to 28.9% from 28.3%. Suspensions decreased slightly to 5.4% from 5.7% while expulsions increased to 0.1% from 0.094%. In non-DEIS schools, total days lost sat 3.1 points lower than their DEIS counterparts at 9.9%, a decrease of 10.2% last year. The percentage of students absent for 20 days or more sat at 18.9%, 10 points lower than that seen in DEIS schools and up from 18.6% last year. The suspension rate was 2.9%, 2.4 points below the DEIS figure and up from 2.8% last year. The expulsion rate was 0.077 points lower than in DEIS at 0.023%, down from 0.034% last year.

Table 2.7 Summary of non-attendance measures for post-primary schools by DEIS status, 2022–2024

DEIS Status		2022–23		2023–24		2024–25	
		<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
DEIS	Total schools	235		232		233	
	- Responded	171	72.8	178	76.7	185	79.4
	Students in responding schools	77,156		85,152	79.4	92,914	
	- Total school days of students	12,807,896		14,220,384		15,423,724	
	- Total days lost	1,786,395	13.9	1,999,770	14.1	2,004,423	13
	Students who lost 20-plus days	23,665	30.7	24,111	28.3	26,818	28.9
	Students suspended	5,054	6.8	4,758	5.7	5,003	5.4
	Students expelled	81	0.113	69	0.094	55	0.1
Non-DEIS	Total schools	492		490		488	
	- Responded	348	70.7	363	74.1	395	80.9
	Students in responding schools	217,849		234,063	75.7	258,953	
	- Total school days of students	36,162,934		39,088,521		42,986,198	
	- Total days lost	3,783,052	10.5	4,029,473	10.3	4,254,337	9.9
	Students who lost 20-plus days	42,228	19.5	43,501	18.6	48,831	18.9
	Students suspended	6,854	3.1	6,869	2.8	7,464	2.9
	Students expelled	53	0.023	81	0.034	59	0.023

2.4.3 County

At county level, Longford had the highest proportion of days lost at 18.3%, followed by Wexford and Westmeath, both at 13.5%. Offaly had the lowest proportion of days lost of all counties at 8.5%

Longford also had the highest proportion of students missing 20-plus days at 32.2%, followed by Mayo at 30.5% and Kilkenny at 26.6%. The figures for total days lost and 20 days plus absences for the last five years is tabulated in Table 2.8

Table 2.8 Summary of total days lost and 20-plus day absences for post-primary schools by county, 2020–2024

Region	Total days lost					Students who lost 20-plus days				
	20–21	21–22	22–23	23–24	24–25	20–21	21–22	22–23	23–24	24–25
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Carlow	11.7	15.2	12.9	15	12.8	15.9	24	25.8	18.3	18.9
Cavan	8.2	11.9	12.4	11.9	11.5	11	24.6	20.1	19	22.9
Clare	8.5	11.5	13	10.1	9.3	11.2	24	20.6	17.5	17.4
Cork	8.5	11.4	11.4	11.8	9.2	10.8	21.4	20.9	21.1	20.6
Donegal	12.4	14.1	11.1	15.1	11.0	17.7	33.6	27	23.1	23.6
Dublin	10	13.4	11	10	10.3	14.6	28.1	22.4	20.8	20.1
Galway	10	12.9	12.4	12.5	12.1	14.2	30.2	23.5	27.3	25.2
Kerry	10	13.3	12.4	13.1	12.4	14.6	28.6	25	21.7	18.3
Kildare	7	10.7	10.3	10	10.8	9	28.5	22.2	18.8	21.4
Kilkenny	8.7	10.6	9.6	8.8	10.3	12.8	26.1	20.6	21.7	26.6
Laois	10.4	12.1	13.1	12.2	8.9	23.7	44.6	39	23.8	20.6
Leitrim	17.8	19.5	21.7	14.6	16.1	15.8	18.9	26.6	18.2	16.1
Limerick	7.3	14.3	11.4	9.7	11.8	9.4	33.5	22.9	19.3	18.3
Longford	16.8	15.8	16	19.2	18.3	26.3	32.9	33.7	31.7	32.2
Louth	9	9.4	11.1	16.3	11.1	10.6	24.1	22.1	19.8	24.1
Mayo	9	13.5	12.5	11.9	12.5	12.2	31	27.7	27.3	30.5
Meath	6.4	12.5	12	9.4	10.3	7.9	29	26.3	19.1	22.6
Monaghan	6.4	11.4	9	7.5	9.8	13.4	30.8	14.8	15.8	23.5
Offaly	7.3	11	14.4	15.8	8.5	4.4	22.9	22.1	19.9	16.0
Roscommon	9.6	11.2	12.9	11.3	10.8	15	25.8	23.2	25.3	23.7
Sligo	11.9	17.2	14.2	11	11.3	18	30.9	25.7	25	24.9
Tipperary	6.6	10.9	9.2	9	8.9	7.4	24.2	16.4	18.7	17.2
Waterford	9.4	12.8	10.7	11.8	12.2	12	23.9	22.3	24.9	23.3
Westmeath	9.5	14.3	14.1	12.2	13.5	17.6	35.2	25.8	24.5	24.8
Wexford	10	14.6	13.5	12.4	13.5	14.5	34.5	30	28.3	25.4
Wicklow	9.6	13.8	12.7	10.9	9.2	14.2	31.5	27.4	24	19.8
State	9.5	12.9	11.7	11.4	11.4	13.3	28	23.3	21.8	22.2

The highest suspension rates were in Waterford with 5.6% of students receiving a suspension, followed by Dublin at 5% and Kildare at 4.6%. Expulsions are rare events at county level but are more widespread and frequent than at primary level. This year, only five counties reported zero expulsions: Carlow, Kerry, Kilkenny, Leitrim and Sligo

3. Student Absence Report

This section presents data on the reasons supplied by schools for the reported 20-day plus absences via the SAR. The SAR is restricted to the age range 6-16 years. This means that the SAR is not directly comparable to the results of the AAR, although it can be assumed with confidence that the result will be similar. SARs are submitted twice a year by schools. The reasons for absence are recorded under six categories: illness, urgent, holidays, suspensions, other, and unexplained.

3.1 Submissions

SAR submissions continue to be above pre-pandemic levels however are decreasing year on year since 2021.

The total number of submissions was 76,786 down from 84,106 for primary the previous year, while the total at post-primary level decreased significantly to 44,943 from 50,627. The SAR totals for 2017 to 2024 incl. are graphed below in Figure 3.1, and the response rates are tabled on the next page in Table 3.1.

Figure 3.1 Number of submissions from primary and post-primary schools for School Absence Reports, 2017–2024

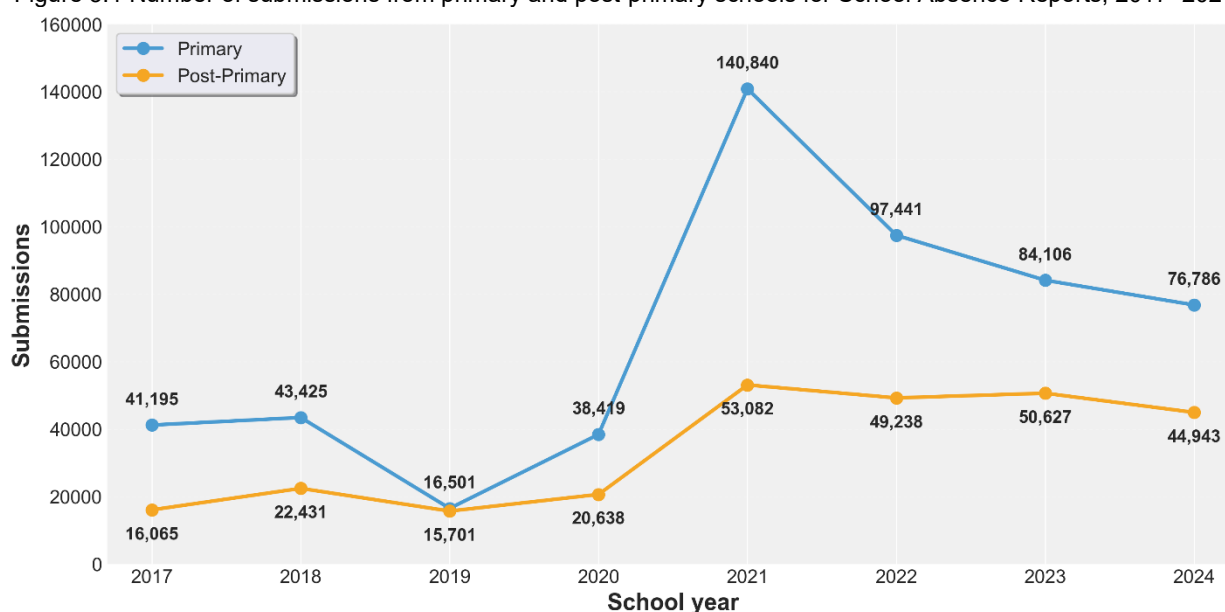
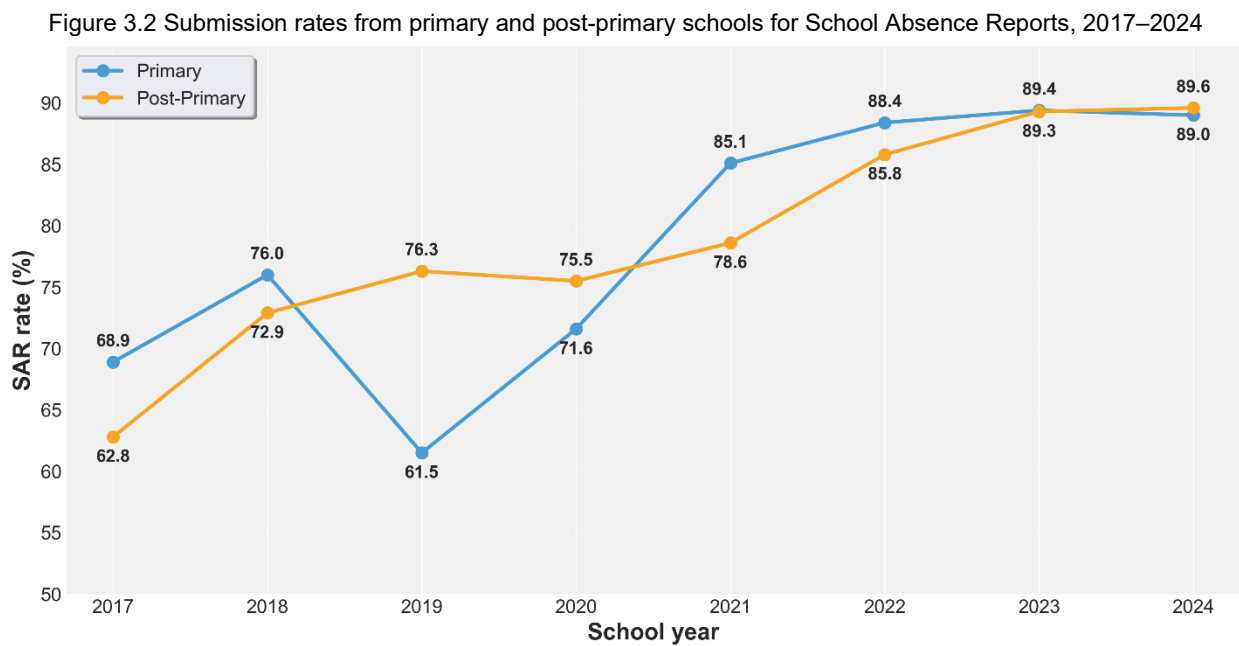


Table 3.1 Submission rates from primary and post-primary schools for School Absence Reports, 2022–2024

School level		2022–23		2023–24		2024–25	
		<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Primary	Total schools	3,221		3,215		3,213	
	- Responded	2,846	88.4	2,875	89.4	2,861	89
	Total students	557,823		556,983		552,862	
	- In responding schools	507,284	90.9	512,436	92	509,464	92
	- Who lost 20-plus days	97,441	19.2	84,106	16.4	76,786	15.1
Post-primary	Total schools	727		722		721	
	- Responded	624	85.8	645	89.3	646	89.6
	Total students	406,392		416,620		424,681	
	- In responding schools	355,232	87.4	380,277	91.3	383,755	90.4
	- Who lost 20-plus days	49,238	13.9	50,627	13.3	44,943	11.7

The response rates from both primary and post-primary schools had increased gradually since the introduction of the SAR system at the start of the school year 2017-18. This trend continued in 2024-25 at post-primary level, with the response rate increasing slightly to 89.6% from 89.3% while at primary level the response rate decreased from 89.4% to 89%, the first decrease since 2019-20.

The difference between the response rate for AAR and SAR has decreased to 6.4 points from 10.4 at primary level, while at post-primary level the gap has fallen from 10.9 points to 9.2 points.



3.2 Summary Results

In this section we present results from the SAR for 2024-25. Tabled below (Table 3.2) are the aggregate results at primary and post-primary levels for the last three years 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25. At primary level, *illness* once again accounted for the largest share of absences at 36.7%, a decrease of 3.2 points from the previous year. In line with previous years, the next most cited explanations were *unexplained* and *other* sitting at 29.9% and 14.6% respectively. *Other* absences increased by 1.8 points from the previous year, and *unexplained* accounted for roughly the same proportion as the previous year.

At post-primary level, *unexplained* was the most cited category of absence at 48.9%. The next most cited explanations were *illness* and *other* at 29% and 16.2%, an increase of 0.9 and 1.3 percentage points respectively.

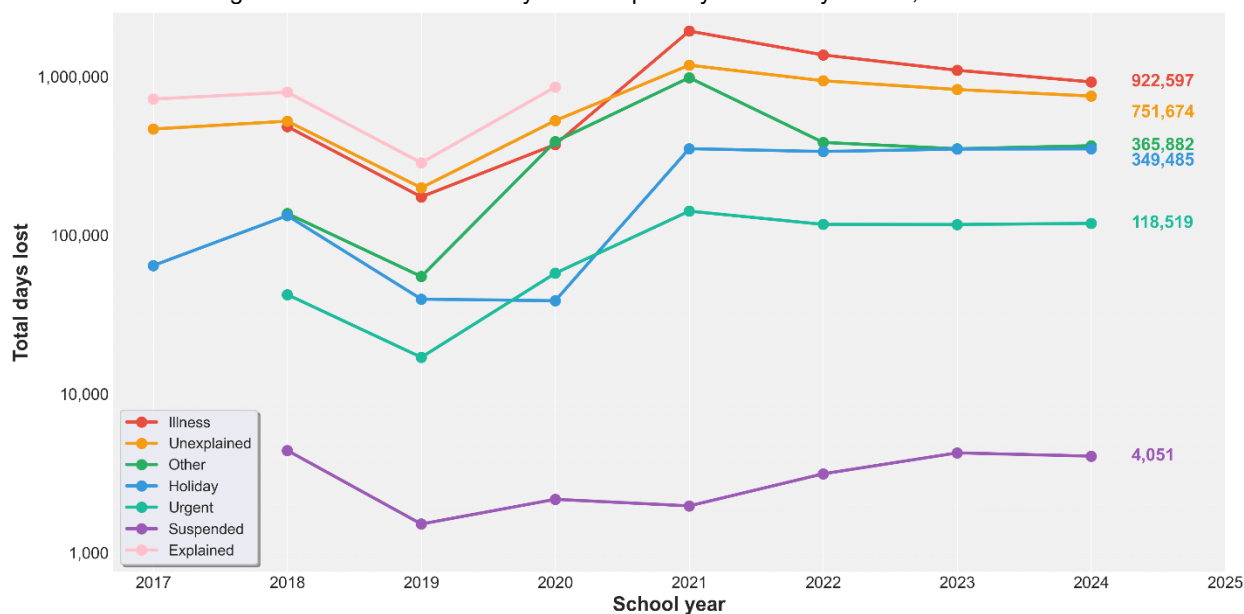
Table 3.2 Summary of reasons for student absences from primary and post-primary schools, 2022–2024

School level		2022–23		2023–24		2024–25	
		<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Primary	Total schools	3,221		3,215		3,213	
	- Responded	2,846	88.4	2,875	89.4	2,861	89
	Total students	557,823		556,983		552,862	
	- In responding schools	507,284	90.9	512,436	92	509,464	92.2
	- Who lost 20-plus days	97,441	19.2	84,106	16.4	76,786	13.9
	Total days lost	3,173,325		2,738,417		2,512,208	
	- Illness	1,364,841	43	1,092,979	39.9	922,597	36.7
	- Urgent	116,824	3.7	116,613	4.3	118,519	4.7
	- Holiday	366,159	11.5	348,398	12.7	349,485	13.9
	- Suspended	3,134	0.1	4,247	0.2	4,051	0.2
	- Other	383,639	12.1	349,891	12.8	365,882	14.6
	- Unexplained	938,728	29.6	826,289	30.2	751,674	29.9
Post-primary	Total schools	727		722		721	
	- Responded	624	85.8	645	89.3	646	90
	Total students	406,392		416,620		424,681	
	- In responding schools	355,232	87.4	380,277	91.3	383,755	90.4
	- Who lost 20-plus days	49,238	13.9	50,627	13.3	44,943	10.6
	Total days lost	1,940,720		1,983,155		1,748,742	
	- Illness	538,934	27.8	556,832	28.1	507,314	29
	- Urgent	47,507	2.4	50,571	2.6	44,266	2.5
	- Holiday	26,949	1.4	43,522	2.2	44,330	2.5
	- Suspended	16,886	0.9	16,547	0.8	14,014	0.8
	- Other	287,688	14.8	296,144	14.9	284,026	16.2
	- Unexplained	1,022,756	52.7	1,019,539	51.4	854,792	48.9

In the first SAR report published for the school year 2017-18, there were only three categories of absence: *explained*, *unexplained*, and *holidays*. In 2018-19 the explained category was subdivided into *illness*, *suspensions*, *other* and *urgent*.

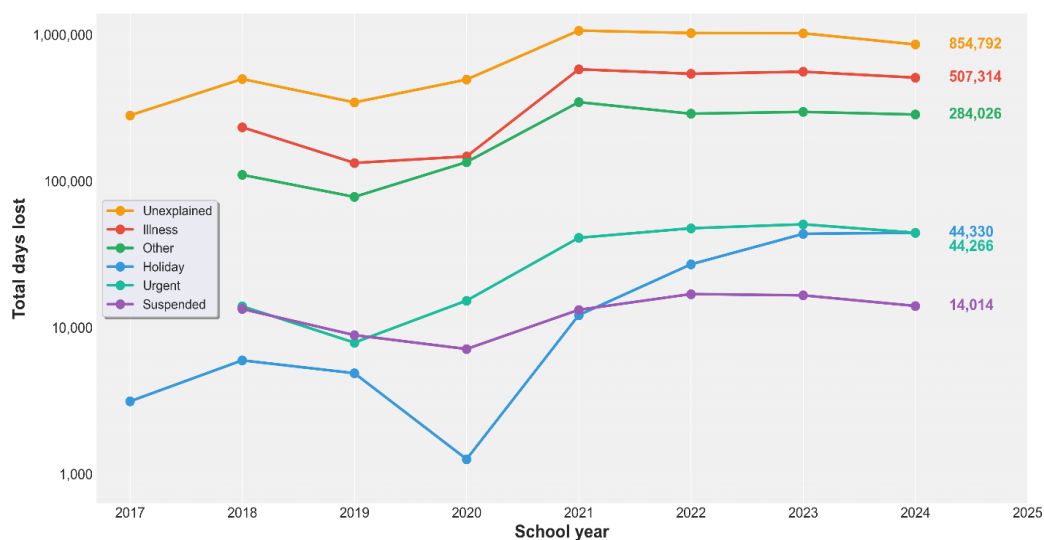
The figure below (Figure 3.3) shows that the bulk of the decrease in total days lost at primary level is accounted for by a reduction in the total days lost due to *illness* and *unexplained* absences. The number of *other*, *urgent* and *holiday* absences have remained static. *Urgent* and *holiday* absences have remained static since the 2021-22 school year.

Figure 3.3 Number of total days lost for primary schools by reason, 2017–2024



At post-primary level, the ordering of the reasons cited for absences have remained consistent (Figure 3.4). The total numbers of days lost has remained elevated since the pandemic. The number of citations for each category has remained stable since 2021-22. Days lost and 20-days absent rates at post primary level continue to be well in excess of those seen at primary level.

Figure 3.2 Number of total days lost for post-primary schools by reason, 2017–2024



3.3 Primary Schools

This section follows the same outline as that seen in section 2.3, providing an overview of SAR submissions by school type, DEIS status and county. We also include a breakdown by class year, from junior infants up to sixth class.

3.3.1 School Type

For mainstream and mainstream schools with special classes, *illness* was the most cited reason for 20-day plus absences. In mainstream schools, this was 37.7%, down from 41.7% in 2023-24. In mainstream schools with special classes, this figure was 35.7%, down from 39%. In special schools the most cited explanation for absence was *other* at 31.8%, while *unexplained* was the second most cited, accounting for 31.8% of absences. The next most cited for the mainstream and mainstream with special classes schools were *unexplained*, accounting for 29% and 32% of absences respectively, and in third was holiday, at 14.6% and 13% respectively. The third most cited for special schools was *illness* at 29.8%.

The full results over the last three years, 2022-23, 2013-24 and 2024-25 are presented in Table 3.3.

A visual breakdown of total days lost for the last six years by school type is presented on the next page in Figure 3.5.

Figure 3.5 Number of total days lost for primary schools by reason, 2018–2024

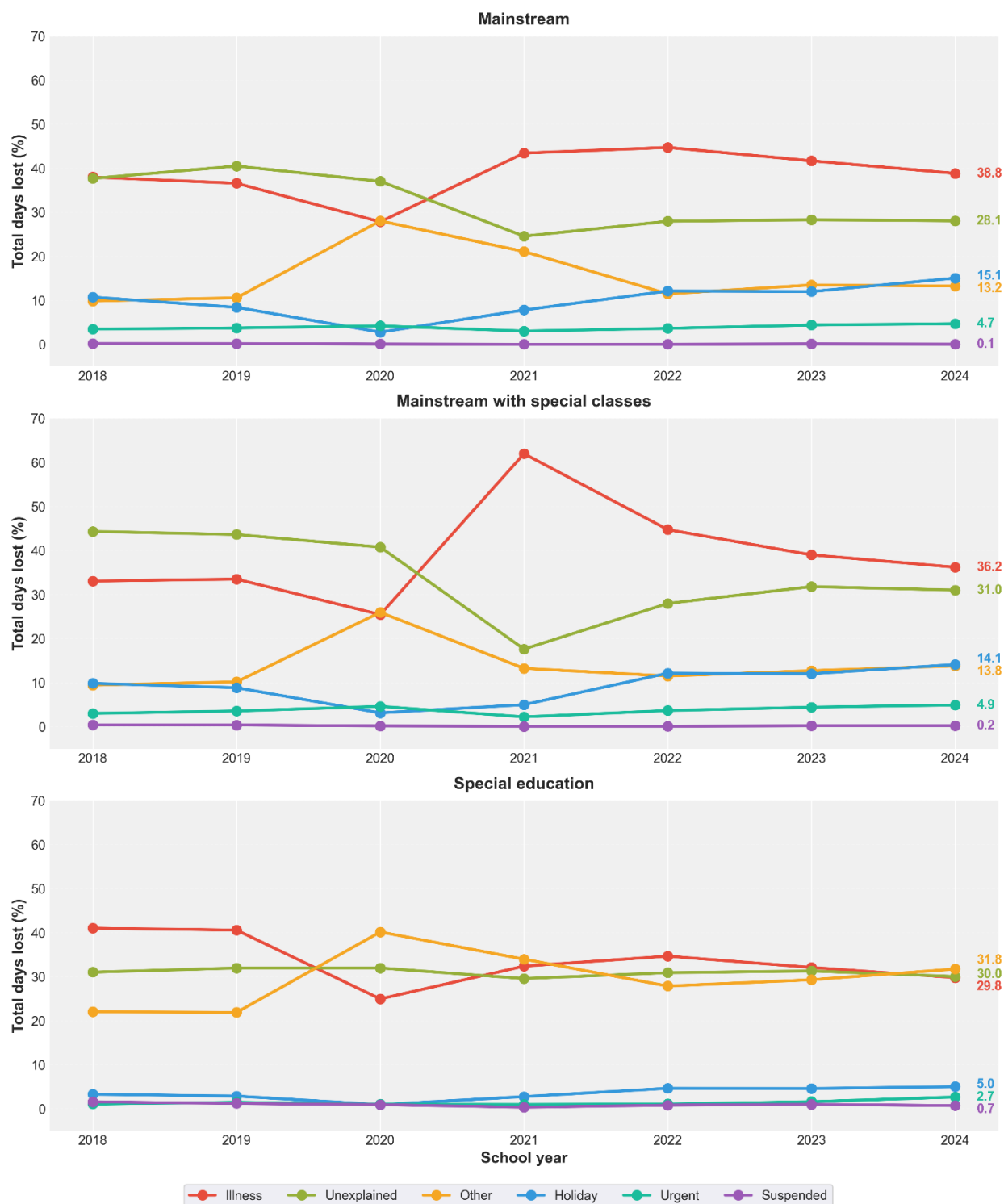


Table 3.5 Summary of reasons for student absences from primary schools by school type, 2022–2024

School Type		2022–23		2023–24		2024–25	
		<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Mainstream	Total schools	2,245		2,071		1,784	
	- Responded	1,985	88.4	1,839	88.8	1,566	87.8
	Students in responding schools	296,161		262,599		203,445	
	- Who lost 20-plus days	51,082	17.2	38,528	14.7	26,198	12.9
	Total days lost	1,610,055		1,206,549		814,589	
	- Illness	720,308	44.7	503,680	41.7	316,391	38.8
	- Urgent	58,560	3.6	52,631	4.4	38,338	4.7
	- Holiday	195,287	12.1	163,424	13.5	122,794	15.1
	- Suspended	649	0	819	0.1	481	0.1
	- Other	184,890	11.5	145,024	12	107,943	13.3
	- Unexplained	450,361	28	340,971	28.3	228,642	28.1
Mainstream with special classes	Total schools	850		1,017		1,297	
	- Responded	763	89.8	929	91.3	1,183	91.2
	Students in responding schools	204,105		242,318		298,157	
	- Who lost 20-plus days	43,626	21.4	42,854	17.7	47,799	16
	Total days lost	1,430,345		1,406,048		1,560,270	
	- Illness	598,467	41.8	547,886	39	564,785	36.2
	- Urgent	56,816	4	61,658	4.4	76,423	4.9
	- Holiday	164,687	11.5	178,484	12.7	219,213	14
	- Suspended	1,392	0.1	2,147	0.2	2,611	0.2
	- Other	161,708	11.3	169,367	12	215,128	13.8
	- Unexplained	447,275	31.3	446,506	31.8	482,110	30.9
Special schools	Total schools	126		127		132	
	- Responded	98	77.8	102	80.3	104	78.8
	Students in responding schools	7,018		7,519		7,862	
	- Who lost 20-plus days	2,733	38.9	2,461	32.7	2,636	32.7
	Total days lost	132,925		118,026		132,565	
	- Illness	46,066	34.7	37,911	32.1	39,490	29.8
	- Urgent	1,448	1.1	1,863	1.6	3,527	2.7
	- Holiday	6,185	4.7	5,466	4.6	6,671	5
	- Suspended	1,093	0.8	1,238	1	959	0.7
	- Other	37,041	27.9	34,590	29.3	42,090	31.8
	- Unexplained	41,092	30.9	36,958	31.3	39,828	30

3.3.2 DEIS status

In Urban Band 1 DEIS schools, unexplained absences have decreased slightly to 41.5% and continues to be the most cited reason for absence, followed by illness, which has decreased to 30.4% from 32.6%. For all other categories (except rural DEIS), illness continues to be the most cited reason for *absence*, followed by *unexplained* absences. In rural DEIS schools, this order is reversed, with *unexplained* accounting for 28.3% of absences.

Table 3.6 Summary of reasons for student absences of total days lost in primary schools by DEIS status, 2021–2024

School type	DEIS status	Measure	2022–23		2023–24		2024–25	
			<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Urban	Band 1	Illness	222,420	35.8	188,973	32.6	167,783	30.4
		Urgent	20,993	3.4	23,494	4.1	23,391	4.2
		Holiday	55,398	8.9	57,982	10	60,938	11.1
		Suspended	919	0.1	1,411	0.2	1,454	0.3
		Other	63,765	10.3	60,457	10.4	68,648	12.5
		Unexplained	257,880	41.5	246,980	42.6	228,978	41.5
	Band 2	Illness	145,520	41.8	102,286	38.7	96,726	36.1
		Urgent	16,199	4.7	13,757	5.2	15,104	5.6
		Holiday	40,856	11.7	33,607	12.7	39,206	14.6
		Suspended	197	0.1	255	0.1	361	0.1
		Other	40,311	11.6	33,758	12.8	35,458	13.2
		Unexplained	104,788	30.1	80,738	30.5	80,830	30.2
	Non-DEIS	Illness	545,839	44.1	433,991	41.6	371,134	38.2
		Urgent	50,527	4.1	47,063	4.5	48,592	5
		Holiday	162,904	13.2	152,062	14.6	151,408	15.6
		Suspended	1,532	0.1	1,702	0.2	1,616	0.2
		Other	157,588	12.7	143,268	13.7	149,502	15.4
		Unexplained	318,035	25.7	266,087	25.5	250,175	25.7
Rural	DEIS	Illness	111,373	44.1	79,888	40.9	66,483	38.5
		Urgent	8,344	3.3	7,460	3.8	7,862	4.5
		Holiday	22,548	8.9	19,199	9.8	20,471	11.8
		Suspended	132	0.1	161	0.1	140	0.1
		Other	31,641	12.5	24,834	12.7	25,042	14.5
		Unexplained	78,532	31.1	63,825	32.7	63,825	30.6
	Non-DEIS	Illness	339,689	47.5	284,339	43.9	218,540	40.2
		Urgent	20,761	2.9	24,378	3.8	23,339	4.3
		Holiday	84,453	11.8	84,524	13.1	76,655	14.1
		Suspended	354	0	675	0.1	480	0.1
		Other	90,334	12.6	86,664	13.4	86,511	15.9
		Unexplained	179,493	25.1	166,805	25.8	137,778	25.4

3.3.3 County

The SAR result breakdown by county at primary level is presented in the appendix in [Table 0.1](#). Notable figures include Longford, where *unexplained* absences were ~33% higher than the State average, and Clare and Limerick where suspensions were more than double the State average.

3.3.4 Class Year

At primary level, the trend of absence increasing alongside the class standard remains. SARs are submitted for students over 6 years of age. Most 7-year-olds will be enrolled in 1st class. Consequently, smaller numbers of reports are submitted for junior and senior infants. Students in special classes have once again the highest incidence of 20 days absent reports, at 33%, a significant decrease from 44% in 2023-2024 school year. Amongst the rest of primary school classes, sixth class students have the highest rate of SAR reports, at 20.1%, a decrease from 20.9% in the previous school year. The full breakdown by class year is presented in [Table 0.2](#) in the appendix.

3.4 Post-Primary Schools

This section provides an overview of the SAR results by school type, DEIS type, county, and class year within post-primary schools. The categories of class year within post-primary schools range from 1st year to 6th year. SARs are only submitted for students under the age of 16, who are, at most, typically enrolled in the Junior Cycle programme or a transition year (4th year). Some class reports are included for 5th and 6th year students, but these are far less numerous as the report is not mandatory for these students. Because of this, the results of these senior cycle years need to be treated with caution.

3.4.1 School Type

Across all three school types, *unexplained* was the most cited reason for absence. Voluntary secondary schools have the lowest recorded figure (43.1%), a slight decrease from last year figure of 45.5%, followed by Community and Comprehensive (48.1%) and Education and Training Boards (56%). *Illness* was the second most cited reason for absence across all three types, and the highest figure was seen in Voluntary Secondary schools (32.9%), followed by Community and Comprehensive (29.6%) and Education and Training Boards (24.3%). The third most common reason cited for absences was the *other* category for all three types.

Table 3.2 Summary of reasons for student absences from post-primary schools by school type, 2022–2024

School type	Measure	2022–23		2023–24		2024–25	
		<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Voluntary secondary	Total schools	384		379		379	
	- Responded	331	86.2	342	90.2	342	90.2
	Students in responding schools	189,438		200,676		203,700	
	- Who lost 20-plus days	21,645	11.4	22,100	11	19,896	9.8
	Total days lost	823,473		844,347		752,848	
	- Illness	261,897	31.8	269,910	32	248,027	32.9
	- Urgent	25,223	3.1	27,984	3.3	22,620	3
	- Holiday	13,854	1.7	21,171	2.5	21,598	2.9
	- Suspended	6,167	0.7	6,419	0.8	4,915	0.7
	- Other	132,652	16.1	134,789	16	131,369	17.4
	- Unexplained	383,680	46.6	384,074	45.5	324,319	43.1
Community & comprehensive	Total schools	96		97		97	
	- Responded	84	87.5	86	88.7	84	87.5
	Students in responding schools	56,826		60,492		58,056	
	- Who lost 20-plus days	8,487	14.9	9,151	15.1	7,886	13.6
	Total days lost	339,536		363,938		311,374	
	- Illness	95,898	28.2	101,301	27.8	92,285	29.6
	- Urgent	9,135	2.7	9,770	2.7	8,990	2.9
	- Holiday	4,771	1.4	9,316	2.6	8,188	2.6
	- Suspended	2,656	0.8	2,779	0.8	2,444	0.8
	- Other	40,141	11.8	44,450	12.2	49,823	16
	- Unexplained	186,935	55.1	196,322	53.9	149,644	48.1
Education and training boards	Total schools	247		246		246	
	- Responded	209	84.6	216	87.8	218	88.6
	Students in responding schools	108,968		129,980		121,999	
	- Who lost 20-plus days	19,106	17.5	19,283	14.8	16,946	13.9
	Total days lost	777,711		771,335		676,037	
	- Illness	181,139	23.3	184,670	23.9	164,229	24.3
	- Urgent	13,149	1.7	12,750	1.7	12,483	1.7
	- Holiday	8,324	1.1	12,993	1.7	14,158	1.7
	- Suspended	8,063	1	7,338	1	6,582	1
	- Other	114,895	14.8	116,366	15.1	100,401	15.1
	- Unexplained	452,141	58.1	437,218	56.7	378,184	56.7

3.4.2 DEIS Status

At post-primary level, schools are categorised as DEIS or non-DEIS only. DEIS schools had 59.2% *unexplained* absences (Table 3.6). This is in line with previous years. In non-DEIS schools the proportion of unexplained absences is 17.1 percentage points lower than DEIS schools at 42.1%. This gap has increased by 0.4 percentage points from last year. Illness is the second most cited reason for absence, at 22.1% in DEIS schools and 33.6% in non-DEIS schools, a difference of 11.5% which is an increase of 1.1 points from the previous year.

Table 3.3 Summary of reasons for student absences from post-primary schools by DEIS status, 2022–2024

DEIS status	Measure	2022–23		2023–24		2024–25	
		<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
DEIS	Total schools	235		232		233	
	- Responded	200	85.1	203	87.5	202	86.7
	Students who lost 20-plus days	18,351		18,972		16,923	
	Total days lost	774,691		784,443		695,581	
	- Illness	167,508	21.6	171,101	21.8	153,936	22.1
	- Urgent	14,324	1.8	15,454	2	12,213	2.1
	- Holiday	9,521	1.2	14,400	1.8	14,459	1.8
	- Suspended	9,243	1.2	8,706	1.1	7,955	1.1
	- Other	93,103	12	92,155	11.7	94,958	13.7
	- Unexplained	480,992	62.1	482,627	61.5	412,060	59.2
Non-DEIS	Total schools	492		490		488	
	- Responded	424	86.2	441	90	442	90
	Students who lost 20-plus days	30,887		31,562		27,805	
	Total days lost	1,166,029		1,195,177		1,044,678	
	- Illness	371,426	31.9	384,780	32.2	350,605	33.6
	- Urgent	33,183	2.8	35,050	2.9	31,880	3.1
	- Holiday	17,428	1.5	29,080	2.4	29,485	2.8
	- Suspended	7,643	0.7	7,830	0.7	5,986	0.6
	- Other	194,585	16.7	203,450	17	186,635	17.9
	- Unexplained	541,764	46.5	534,987	44.8	440,087	42.1

3.4.3 County

At county level, populated regions with large urban areas have the highest number of submissions, with Dublin, Cork, and Kildare the highest, all submitting over 100,000 reports in 2024-25 (Appendix Table 0.3). As in 2023/24, Longford is an outlier, reporting 21.2% of students as having missed 20-days or more, well above the State average of 12.2%, though this figure is down from 25.3% in the previous year.

Longford was followed by Leitrim (15.8%) and Mayo (15.4%), while Kilkenny reported the lowest rate of 7.2%. *Unexplained* was the most cited reason for absences for all counties except for Carlow and Kilkenny, where *Illness* was the most cited reason.

3.4.4 Class Year

Within post-primary class years, most 15-year-olds are found in third year or transition year (4th year), with a smaller proportion in the first year of the Leaving Certificate programmes (5th year). SAR is only required if a student is aged under 16 years. While some 15-year-olds are found in other class year groupings up to and including sixth year, they are extremely rare. The figures beyond third year should be treated with caution.

The number of students with 20 or more days absences peaked in third year at 17.2%, possibly due to the criteria for under 16 years of age for a SAR submission. The most frequently cited reason for absences was *unexplained* across all class years and was at least 43.9% for all class years (Appendix Table 4.4)

4. Methodology

4.1 Data

The legal reason for data collection and reporting is outlined in the Education (Welfare) Act, 2000, Section 21(1–6) which states that:

“(1) The principal of a recognised school shall cause to be maintained in respect of each school year a record of the attendance or non-attendance on each school day of each student registered at that school...(2)(b) where a student fails to so attend, the fact of his or her failure and the reasons for such failure...(4) Where—(a) a student is suspended from a recognised school for a period of not less than 6 days, (b) the aggregate number of school days on which a student is absent from a recognised school during a school year is not less than 20...(d) a student is, in the opinion of the principal of the recognised school at which he or she is registered, not attending school regularly...(6) The board of management of a recognised school shall, not later than 6 weeks after the end of each school year, submit a report to “the educational welfare officer and the parents’ association of the recognised school.

Unlike previous data before 2019–20, no prior proxy data has been used for anomalous data due to the impact of the pandemic in 2019. Earlier years are not representative of the current situation of elevated absenteeism.

4.2 Schools

Hospital schools and schools with only children younger than seven are excluded at primary level. Post-primary schools where students are all over 15 years of age were also excluded. The excluded post-primary schools provide only Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses or Repeat Leaving Certificate programmes.

Appendix

Primary SAR reports by County

Table 0.1 Summary of reasons for student absences from primary schools by county, 2024–25 ([return to text](#))

Region	Total students			Total days lost												
	In responding schools	Who lost 20-plus days		Total	Illness		Urgent		Holiday		Suspended		Other		Unexplained	
		n	%		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Carlow	7,014	1,051	15	33,388	14,387	43.1	1,584	4.7	4,797	14.4	104	0.31	5,523	16.5	6,993	20.9
Cavan	9,386	1,416	15.1	43,875	17,150	39.1	2,782	6.3	5,576	12.7	20	0.05	6,172	14.1	12,175	27.7
Clare	12,619	2,098	16.6	68,941	25,860	37.5	3,104	4.5	9,321	13.5	240	0.35	10,211	14.8	20,205	29.3
Cork	58,561	8,067	13.8	264,782	99,328	37.5	11,907	4.5	36,611	13.8	309	0.12	45,535	17.2	71,092	26.8
Donegal	17,680	2,451	13.9	78,758	29,125	37	3,593	4.6	10,123	12.9	33	0.04	10,939	13.9	24,945	31.7
Dublin	127,384	20,054	15.7	667,645	233,271	34.9	31,658	4.7	98,495	14.8	1,224	0.18	88,731	13.3	214,266	32.1
Galway	25,764	3,432	13.3	109,184	40,199	36.8	5,404	4.9	14,472	13.3	58	0.05	16,718	15.3	32,333	29.6
Kerry	15,019	2,419	16.1	80,992	29,255	36.1	3,793	4.7	11,542	14.3	77	0.1	11,757	14.5	24,568	30.3
Kildare	28,165	3,980	14.1	129,015	49,279	38.2	6,441	5	18,978	14.7	155	0.12	17,968	13.9	36,194	28.1
Kilkenny	10,328	1,281	12.4	39,784	14,928	37.5	1,962	4.9	6,027	15.1	42	0.11	6,256	15.7	10,569	26.6
Laois	10,362	1,836	17.7	60,929	21,785	35.8	2,897	4.8	7,917	13	83	0.14	8,762	14.4	19,485	32
Leitrim	3,705	591	16	18,896	6,458	34.2	1,095	5.8	2,574	13.6	1	0.01	2,349	12.4	6,419	34
Limerick	21,984	3,418	15.5	112,311	37,509	33.4	4,951	4.4	13,097	11.7	400	0.36	20,970	18.7	35,384	31.5
Longford	4,819	868	18	29,440	9,438	32.1	1,338	4.5	3,022	10.3	41	0.14	3,777	12.8	11,824	40.2
Louth	16,512	3,039	18.4	101,490	39,813	39.2	6,169	6.1	14,691	14.5	219	0.22	14,568	14.4	26,030	25.6
Mayo	12,742	1,776	13.9	55,741	22,333	40.1	2,017	3.6	7,313	13.1	30	0.05	8,740	15.7	15,308	27.5
Meath	24,151	3,456	14.3	108,397	43,450	40.1	5,315	4.9	16,941	15.6	122	0.11	16,013	14.8	26,556	24.5
Monaghan	6,801	695	10.2	21,734	8,281	38.1	1,139	5.2	2,776	12.8	39	0.18	2,582	11.9	6,917	31.8
Offaly	9,082	1,421	15.6	46,719	17,165	36.7	2,275	4.9	5,717	12.2	30	0.06	6,355	13.6	15,177	32.5
Roscommon	7,413	1,127	15.2	37,218	11,016	29.6	1,540	4.1	4,719	12.7	44	0.12	5,255	14.1	14,644	39.3
Sligo	6,271	925	14.8	29,098	9,905	34	1,501	5.2	4,572	15.7	6	0.02	3,547	12.2	9,567	32.9
Tipperary	16,781	2,304	13.7	74,390	28,878	38.8	3,507	4.7	9,208	12.4	219	0.29	10,901	14.7	21,677	29.1
Waterford	13,134	2,237	17	71,918	28,184	39.2	3,641	5.1	11,416	15.9	108	0.15	9,151	12.7	19,418	27
Westmeath	11,079	1,717	15.5	57,306	21,268	37.1	2,218	3.9	8,268	14.4	103	0.18	8,116	14.2	17,333	30.2
Wexford	16,124	2,685	16.7	91,965	33,381	36.3	3,852	4.2	10,173	11.1	234	0.25	12,988	14.1	31,337	34.1
Wicklow	16,584	2,289	13.8	73,508	29,020	39.5	2,605	3.5	10,332	14.1	110	0.15	11,277	15.3	20,164	27.4
State	509,464	76,633	15	2,507,424	920,666		118,288		348,678		4,051		365,161		750,580	

Primary SAR reports by Class Year

Table 0.2 Summary of reasons for student absences from primary schools by class year, 2024–25 ([return to text](#))

Class year	Total students			Total days lost												
	In responding schools	Who lost 20-plus days		Total	Illness		Urgent		Holiday		Suspended		Other		Unexplained	
		<i>n</i>	%		<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Junior infants	56,576	1060	1.9	38,407	13,043	34	1,742	4.5	3,539	9.2	66	0.17	6,023	15.7	13,994	36.4
Senior infants	58,412	7,482	12.8	245,503	90,795	37	14,076	5.7	36,528	14.9	187	0.08	31,160	12.7	72,757	29.6
First class	60,249	9,334	15.5	292,989	108,022	36.9	16,565	5.7	48,864	16.7	144	0.05	37,943	13	81,451	27.8
Second class	61,560	9,491	15.4	295,632	109,367	37	14,756	5	47,807	16.2	200	0.07	38,400	13	85,102	28.8
Third class	61,427	9,334	15.2	293,916	105,862	36	15,125	5.1	44,293	15.1	262	0.09	37,837	12.9	90,537	30.8
Fourth class	63,552	10,466	16.5	334,300	125,244	37.5	15,924	4.8	48,127	14.4	456	0.14	44,290	13.2	100,259	30
Fifth class	64,538	11,364	17.6	364,289	137,739	37.8	16,076	4.4	50,014	13.7	741	0.20	48,258	13.2	111,461	30.6
Sixth class	64,566	12,977	20.1	425,141	157,596	37.1	16,616	3.9	51,431	12.1	866	0.20	61,808	14.5	136,824	32.2
Special class	16,795	5,541	33.0	222,031	74,929	33.7	7,639	3.4	18,882	8.5	1129	0.51	60,163	27.1	59,289	26.7
Total	507,675	77,049	16.2	2,512,208	922,597		118,519		349,485		4,051		365,882		751,674	

Post-Primary SAR reports by County

Table 0.3 Summary of reasons for student absences from post-primary schools by county, 2024–25 ([return to text](#))

Region	Total students			Total days lost												
	In responding schools	Who lost 20-plus days		Total	Illness		Urgent		Holiday		Suspended		Other		Unexplained	
		n	%		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Carlow	6,625	667	10.1	25,857	13,440	52	192	0.7	591	2.3	263	1.02	1,810	7	9,561	37
Cavan	6,829	802	11.7	31,013	10,073	32.5	1500	4.8	1251	4	279	0.9	3,137	10.1	14,773	47.6
Clare	8,254	895	10.8	33,918	11,810	34.8	660	1.9	623	1.8	214	0.63	4,873	14.4	15,738	46.4
Cork	41,088	4,115	10	150,491	49,165	32.7	4,687	3.1	3,360	2.2	1,071	0.71	28,911	19.2	63,297	42.1
Donegal	14,282	2,053	14.4	76,569	20,633	26.9	1,620	2.1	1,877	2.5	405	0.53	11,380	14.9	40,654	53.1
Dublin	97,257	11,536	11.9	458,085	119,010	26	9,989	2.2	13,335	2.9	4,899	1.07	75,560	16.5	235,292	51.4
Galway	18,777	2,412	12.8	96,444	25,071	26	2,427	2.5	2,161	2.2	844	0.88	14,492	15	51,449	53.3
Kerry	12,076	1,141	9.4	46,816	11,973	25.6	1,188	2.5	1,153	2.5	150	0.32	9,843	21	22,509	48.1
Kildare	20,468	2,626	12.8	102,707	38,259	37.3	3,850	3.7	3,005	2.9	563	0.55	17,237	16.8	39,793	38.7
Kilkenny	8,781	636	7.2	22,892	8,542	37.3	721	3.1	782	3.4	66	0.29	5,654	24.7	7,127	31.1
Laois	4,691	596	12.7	23,685	8,427	35.6	338	1.4	659	2.8	233	0.98	2,790	11.8	11,238	47.4
Leitrim	2,461	389	15.8	13,817	3,869	28	746	5.4	431	3.1	32	0.23	2,184	15.8	6,555	47.4
Limerick	15,069	1,642	10.9	60,044	21,363	35.6	1,226	2	1,363	2.3	432	0.72	10,028	16.7	25,632	42.7
Longford	3,451	732	21.2	29,976	5,698	19	649	2.2	586	2	305	1.02	4,411	14.7	18,327	61.1
Louth	14,244	1,482	10.4	58,288	17,841	30.6	1,487	2.6	1,626	2.8	542	0.93	5,503	9.4	31,289	53.7
Mayo	10,804	1,665	15.4	62,628	19,819	31.6	2,093	3.3	2,107	3.4	357	0.57	10,261	16.4	27,991	44.7
Meath	18,253	2,008	11.0	79,776	23,359	29.3	2,763	3.5	2,144	2.7	585	0.73	12,889	16.2	38,036	47.7
Monaghan	5,626	658	11.7	24,533	5,143	21	99	0.4	119	0.5	141	0.57	6,078	24.8	12,953	52.8
Offaly	5,589	769	13.8	33,498	10,257	30.6	691	2.1	683	2	232	0.69	5,095	15.2	16,540	49.4
Roscommon	4,978	442	8.9	16,800	6,618	39.4	697	4.1	318	1.9	56	0.33	1,839	10.9	7,272	43.3
Sligo	5,900	853	14.5	31,258	8,242	26.4	1,429	4.6	914	2.9	145	0.46	6,135	19.6	14,393	46
Tipperary	12,589	1,491	11.8	56,862	17,280	30.4	1,152	2	1,453	2.6	283	0.5	4,156	7.3	32,538	57.2
Waterford	9,361	983	10.5	37,581	12,166	32.4	1959	5.2	386	1	455	1.21	4,739	12.6	17,876	47.6
Westmeath	8,024	1,055	13.1	42,318	7,976	18.8	147	0.3	518	1.2	447	1.06	9,220	21.8	24,010	56.7
Wexford	14,354	1,962	13.7	79,915	16,957	21.2	808	1.0	1,329	1.7	571	0.71	15,728	19.7	44,522	55.7
Wicklow	12,789	1,333	10.4	52,971	14,323	27	1,148	2.2	1,556	2.9	444	0.84	10,073	19	25,427	48
State	380,277	50,534	13.3	2,030,798	555,881		50,504		43,480		16,536		295,605		1,017,614	

Post-Primary SAR reports by Class Year

Table 4.4 Summary of reasons for student absences from post-primary schools by class year, 2024–25 [\(return to text\)](#)

Class year	Total students			Total days lost												
	In responding schools	Who lost 20-plus days		Total	Illness		Urgent		Holiday		Suspended		Other		Unexplained	
		<i>n</i>	%		<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
First year	66,098	7,912	12	284,405	95,669	33.6	8,105	2.8	8,650	3	3,107	1.1	41,111	14.5	127,763	44.9
Second year	68,870	12,086	17.5	469,962	145,955	31.1	11,860	2.5	13,169	2.8	4,696	1	68,643	14.6	225,639	48
Third year	68,391	13,045	19.1	533,171	152,335	28.6	12,761	2.4	11,391	2.1	4,438	0.8	82,043	15.4	270,203	50.7
Fourth year	54,776	6,696	12.2	234,825	61,868	26.3	7,050	3	7,459	3.2	630	0.3	54,833	23.4	102,985	43.9
Fifth year	67,187	3,095	4.6	130,146	32,454	24.9	3,063	2.4	2,572	2	647	0.5	21,081	16.2	70,329	54
Sixth year	59,156	1,540	2.6	63,403	14,296	22.5	1,084	1.7	722	1.1	285	0.4	12,616	19.9	34,400	54.3
Other		715		32,830	4,737	14.4	343	1	367	1.1	211	0.6	3,699	11.3	23,473	71.5
Total	379,840	50,733	13.4	1,982,083	556,575		50,541		43,503		16,525		296,007		1,018,932	

