



An Roinn Oideachais
agus Óige
Department of Education
and Youth

Statistical Bulletin

Preliminary results for the 2025/26 school year

Prepared by the Department of Education and Youth
Statistics Section

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This report may be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/055810-education-statistics/>

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1 Bulletin Overview

This Statistical Bulletin presents first results on enrolments in mainstream primary and post-primary schools on 30th September 2025. The data is preliminary in nature; final data will be published at the end of the school year in June 2026. Please note that enrolment data includes enrolments of Ukrainian children. Further data on Ukrainian enrolments as of December 2025 can be found in the appendix to this document.

The source for this data is the Annual Census for 2025/26, which is returned via the Primary/Post-Primary Online Database (POD/P-POD). The primary level data reports enrolments in mainstream schools only. Data is anchored on the census date of 30th September 2025. Note that only schools aided by the Department of Education are included in this report.

This data is provisional and was published in February 2026. Final data will be published in June 2026. The final data will replace the provisional data.

Queries should be sent to statistics@education.gov.ie or by phone at 01-889 2311.

The detailed Excel data tables for previous years can be downloaded here:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/63363b-data-on-individual-schools/>

2 Primary level

2.1 Summary

In September 2025, the beginning of the 2025/26 school year, total enrolments in mainstream primary schools stood at 535,620 pupils, a decrease of 6,759, or 1.2%, on September 2024 (542,379). The number of girls decreased by 3,422 pupils, from 265,218 to 261,796, and the number of boys decreased by 3,337 from 277,161 to 273,824.

While enrolments in primary schools had been falling since 2018, the recent increase beginning in 2022 was driven by Ukrainian pupils. Ukrainian student enrolments stood at 10,166 in September 2025, a decrease of 152 since September 2024. Excluding Ukrainian pupils, mainstream school enrolments stood at 525,454 in September 2025, a fall of 6,645 from 2024.

All further analysis in this Bulletin includes Ukrainian pupils.

2.2 Enrolments by School Ethos

Figure 1 presents percentage of total enrolments by school ethos. Catholic schools accounted for 88.2% of all pupils, down slightly from 88.4% in 2024/25. Multi-denominational¹ schools represented 8.5% of total enrolments, a slight increase from 8.3%. Church of Ireland schools and schools of other faiths accounted for 2.9% and 0.4% of enrolments respectively.

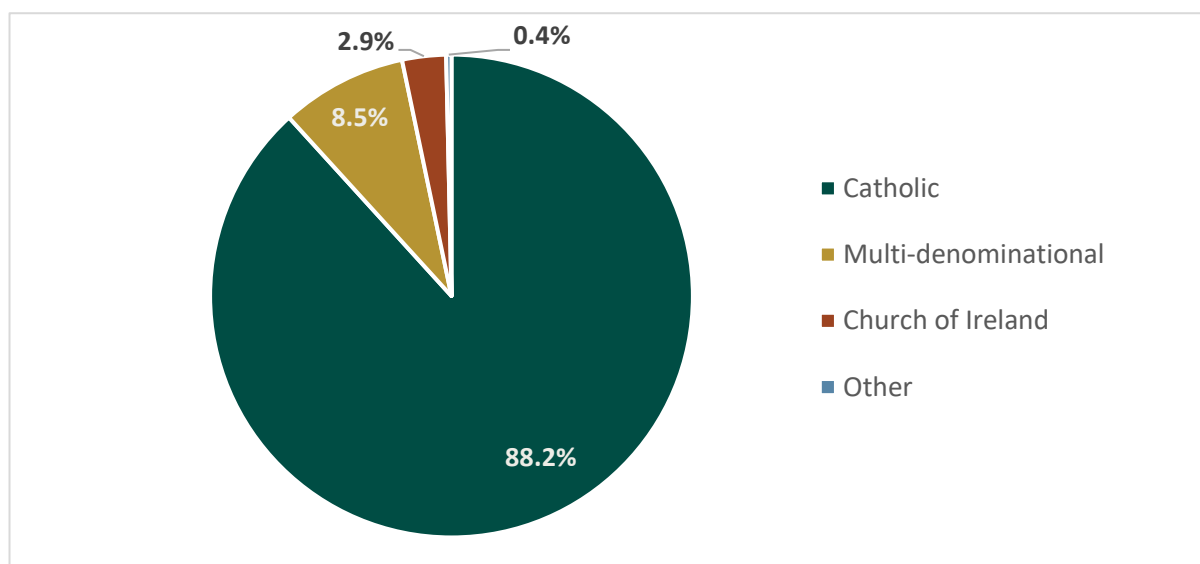


Figure 1 Enrolments in mainstream primary schools by school ethos, September 2025

Total enrolments in Catholic schools stood at 472,651 in September 2025, a fall of 6,786 pupils on 2024 figures. Multi-denominational schools had 45,344 students, a small increase of 302 despite overall falling enrolments. Church of Ireland schools had enrolments of 15,728 pupils, while other faiths accounted for 1,897 pupils.

¹ Multi-denominational includes inter-denominational

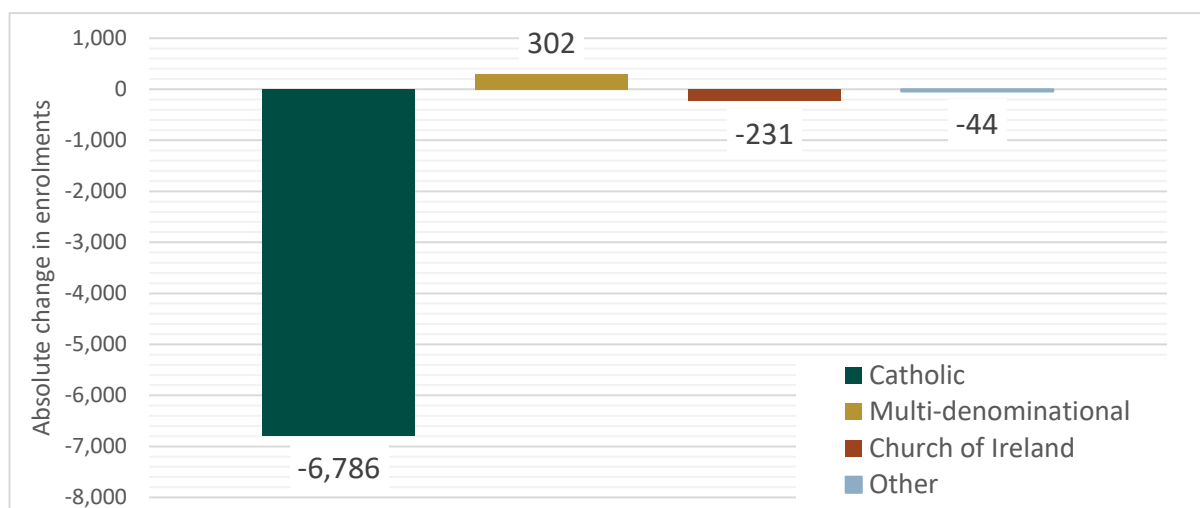


Figure 2 Absolute change in enrolment in mainstream primary schools, by ethos, 2024/25 - 2025/26

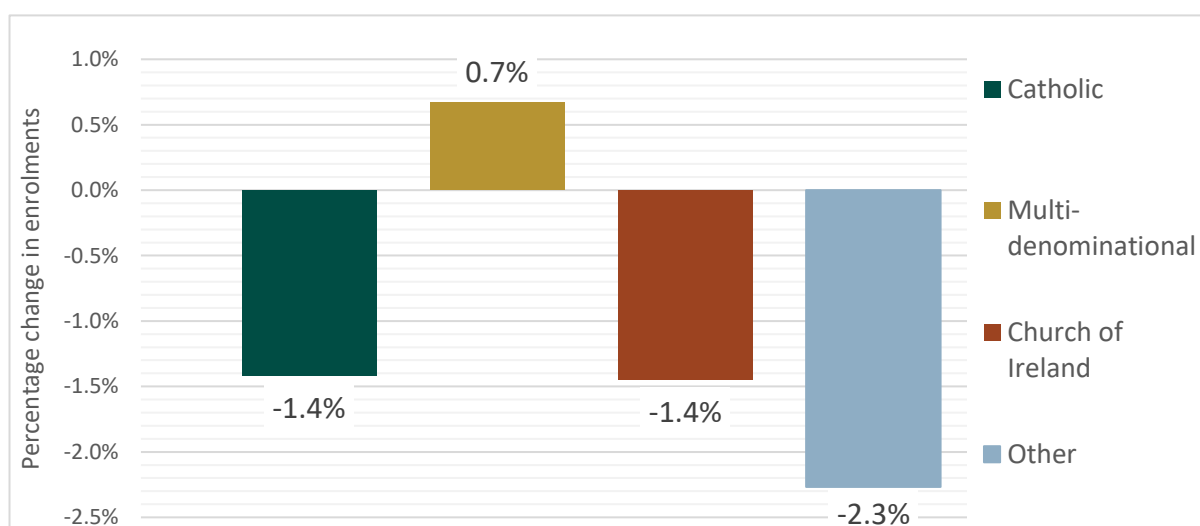


Figure 3 Percentage change in enrolment in mainstream primary schools, by ethos, 2024/25 - 2025/26

Table 1 presents schools by ethos from 2013/14 to 2025/26. Between 2020 and 2025, the number of schools with a Catholic ethos fell by 51, from 2,756 to 2,705, while those with a multi-denominational ethos rose by 13, from 159 to 172. As illustrated in Figure 3, this is part of a longer-term trend. The number of Catholic schools has fallen by 138 in the last twelve years, with 17 of these in the last year. The number of multi-denominational schools has risen from 104 to 172, an increase of 65%. These trends in closures, amalgamations and openings have led to a gradual decline in the total number of mainstream primary schools. Despite these changes, Catholic schools make up the vast majority of mainstream primary schools, with 88.2% of schools having a Catholic ethos in 2025/26.

Table 1. Number of mainstream primary schools by ethos, 2013/14 – 2025/26

	Catholic	Multi-denominational	Church of Ireland	Other	Total
2025/26	2,705	172	168	22	3,067
2024/25	2,722	170	168	22	3,082
2023/24	2,730	169	168	22	3,089
2022/23	2,739	166	168	22	3,095
2021/22	2,749	165	168	22	3,104
2020/21	2,756	159	171	21	3,107
2019/20	2,760	153	172	21	3,106
2018/19	2,776	136	173	21	3,106
2017/18	2,785	132	174	20	3,111
2016/17	2,794	126	175	20	3,115
2015/16	2,808	120	175	21	3,124
2014/15	2,829	113	175	20	3,137
2013/14	2,843	104	179	19	3,145

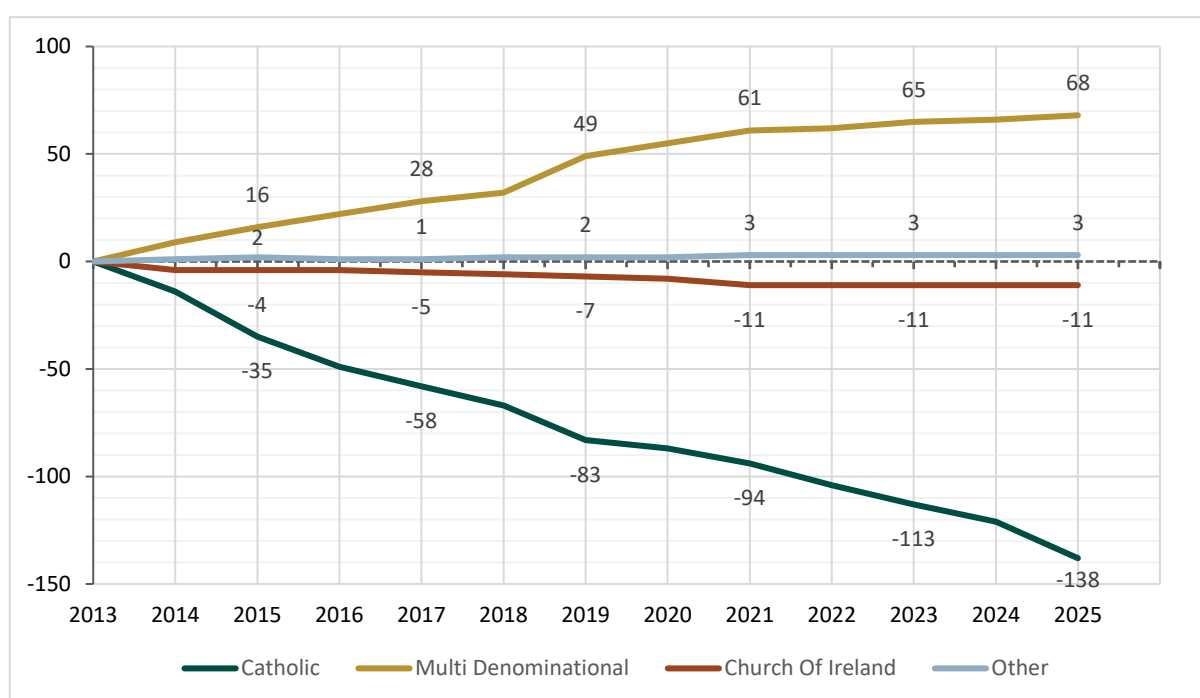


Figure 2 Absolute change in number of mainstream primary school by ethos since 2013/14

2.3 Enrolments by county

Due to the overall trend, most counties saw a decrease in enrolments, with Dublin, Cork, and Galway seeing the highest absolute falls. Tipperary and Louth saw minor increases. Carlow and Kerry saw the largest percentage decreases.

Table 2 Mainstream primary enrolments by administrative county, 2024/25 – 2025/26

	2024/25	2025/26	Absolute change	% Change
Carlow	7,454	7,242	-212	-2.8%
Cavan	9,798	9,711	-87	-0.9%
Clare	13,132	12,915	-217	-1.7%
Cork	61,025	60,003	-1,022	-1.7%
Donegal	19,028	18,876	-152	-0.8%
Dublin	135,040	132,945	-2,095	-1.6%
Galway	29,869	29,404	-465	-1.6%
Kerry	15,924	15,569	-355	-2.2%
Kildare	29,283	28,996	-287	-1.0%
Kilkenny	10,655	10,483	-172	-1.6%
Laois	10,890	10,816	-74	-0.7%
Leitrim	3,940	3,908	-32	-0.8%
Limerick	22,180	21,957	-223	-1.0%
Longford	5,277	5,201	-76	-1.4%
Louth	16,789	16,798	9	0.1%
Mayo	14,792	14,773	-19	-0.1%
Meath	25,840	25,665	-175	-0.7%
Monaghan	7,990	7,958	-32	-0.4%
Offaly	9,474	9,295	-179	-1.9%
Roscommon	8,022	7,953	-69	-0.9%
Sligo	7,545	7,528	-17	-0.2%
Tipperary	18,148	18,173	25	0.1%
Waterford	13,771	13,579	-192	-1.4%
Westmeath	11,240	11,115	-125	-1.1%
Wexford	18,033	17,815	-218	-1.2%
Wicklow	17,240	16,942	-298	-1.7%
Total	542,379	535,620	-6,759	-1.2%

Change in primary enrolments (2024/25 to 2025/26) by county

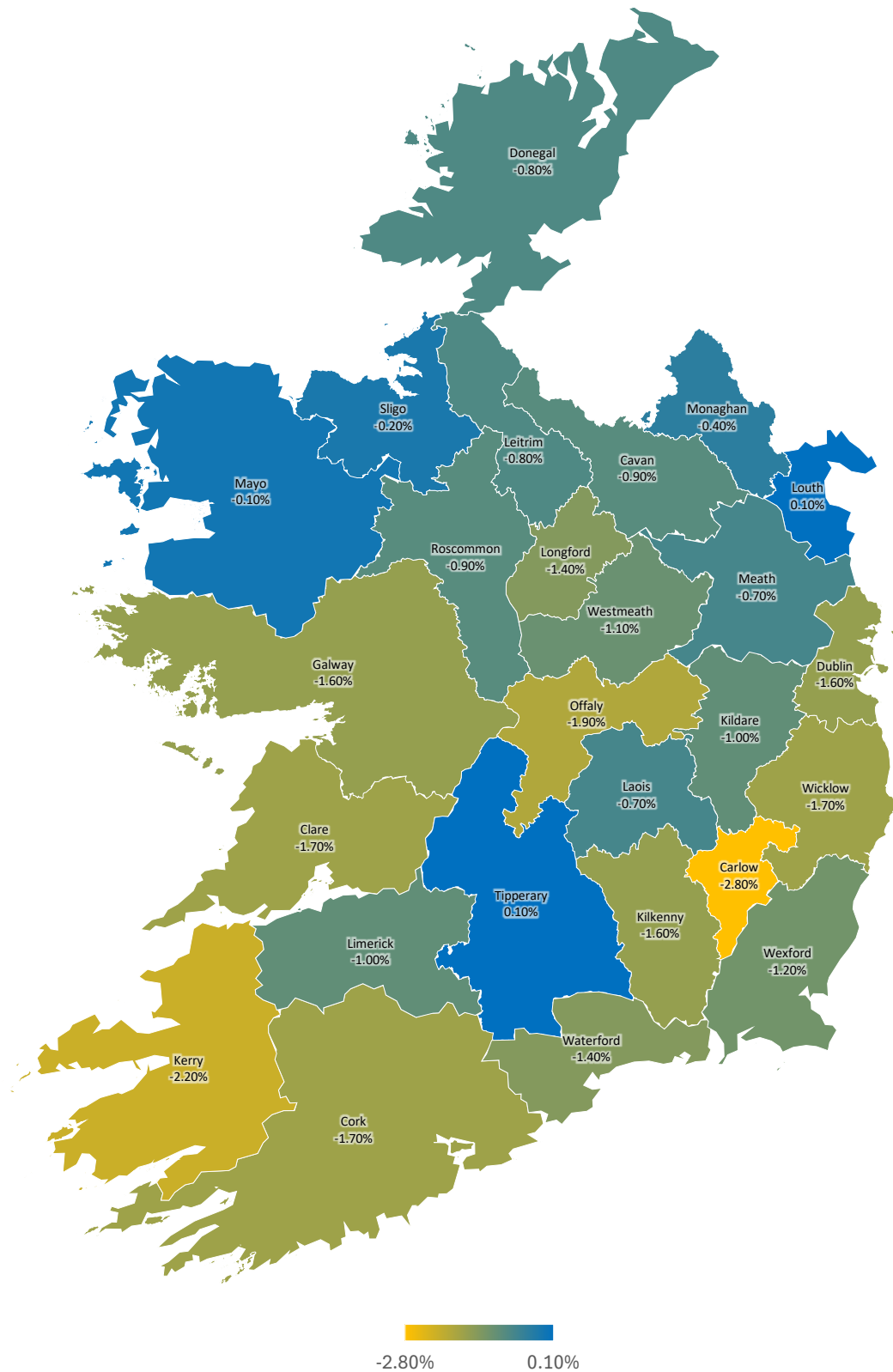


Figure 3 Percentage change in mainstream primary enrolments by administrative county, 2024/25 – 2025/26 – see Table 2

3 Post-primary level

3.1 Summary

Total enrolments in post-primary schools stood at 429,654 in September 2025, an increase of 4,243 pupils, or 1.0%, on September 2024 (425,411). This includes enrolments of 6,922 Ukrainian pupils. Excluding Ukrainian students, enrolments increased by 4,475. The number of girls stood at 212,414 while the number of boys stood at 217,240.

3.2 Enrolments by School Ethos

Figure 6 presents percentage of total enrolments by school ethos. Multi-denominational schools had the most enrolments with 209,341 students, representing 48.7% of enrolments. This was followed by Catholic schools with 204,678 pupils and 12,521 in Church of Ireland schools.

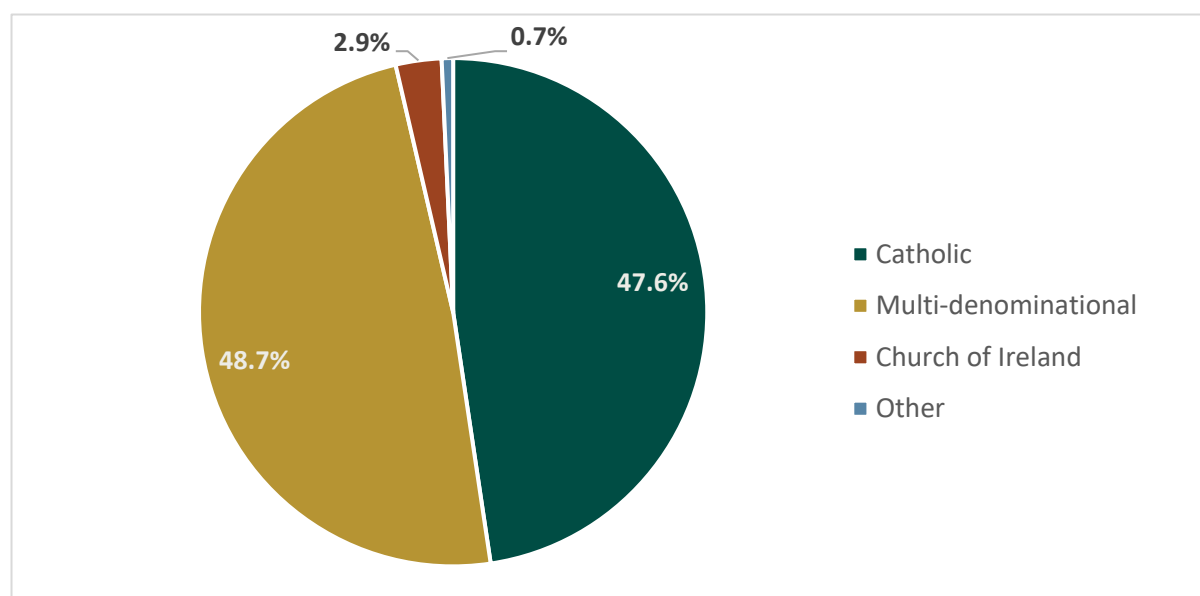


Figure 4 Enrolments in post-primary schools by school ethos, September 2025

Figures 7 and 8 show the absolute and percentage change by ethos. Enrolments in multi-denominational schools increased by 2,556 pupils (1.2%) over the twelve months, which was ahead of the rise in Catholic schools which saw their numbers rise by 1,564 (0.8%). Church of Ireland schools saw an increase in enrolments, from 12,404 in 2024 to 12,521 in 2025, while other schools saw a slight increase from 3,108 to 3,114 pupils.

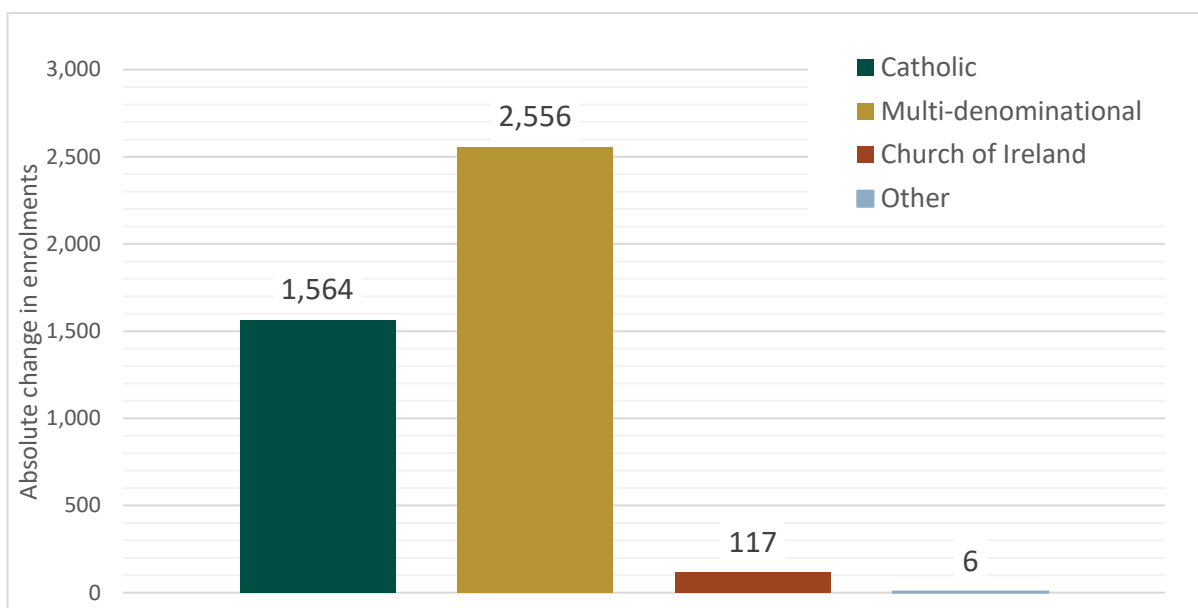


Figure 5 Absolute change in enrolment in post-primary schools, by ethos, 2024/25 - 2025/26

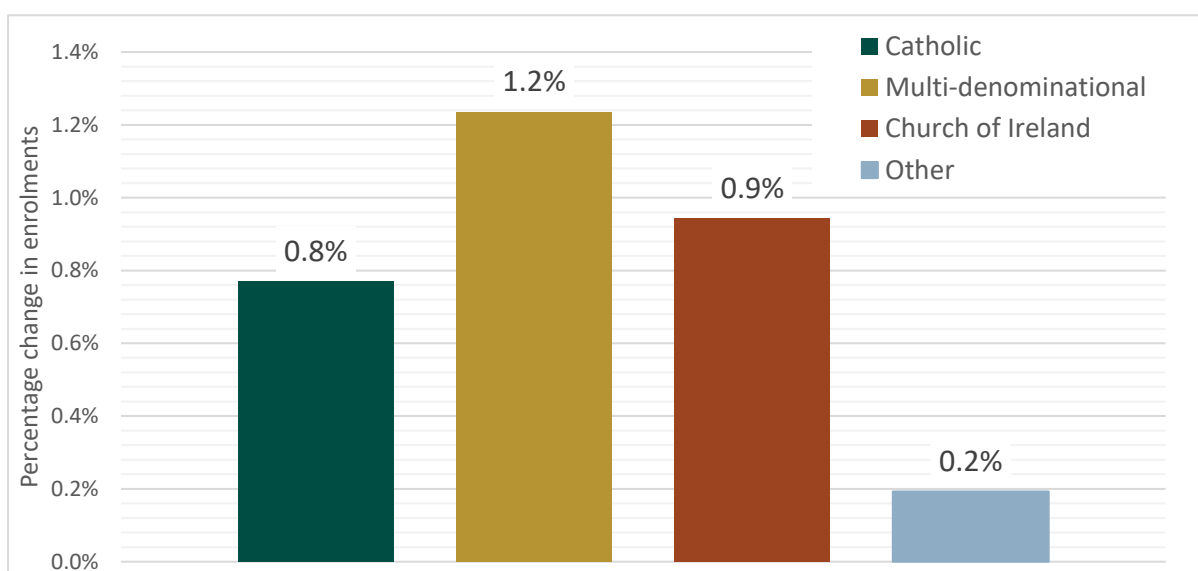


Figure 6 Percentage change in enrolment in post-primary schools, by ethos, 2024/25 - 2025/26

The number of post-primary schools has been gradually rising for the last number of years, going from a low of 700 in 2013 to a high of 730 in 2020. Numbers have since fallen to 721 in 2025 due to a decrease in Catholic schools. As shown in Table 3 and Figure 9, numbers of multi-denominational schools have increased by 11.5% in the last twelve years from 321 in 2013 to 358 in 2025. In the same period the number of Catholic schools has decreased by 4.3%, from 350 to 337.

Table 3 Post-primary schools by ethos, 2013/14 – 2025/26

	Catholic	Multi-denominational	Church of Ireland	Other	Total
2025/26	337	358	21	5	721
2024/25	338	358	21	5	722
2023/24	338	358	21	5	722
2022/23	343	358	21	5	727
2021/22	344	358	21	5	728
2020/21	344	359	22	5	730
2019/20	344	352	22	5	723
2018/19	346	349	22	4	722
2017/18	345	343	23	4	715
2016/17	344	340	23	4	711
2015/16	349	333	23	4	709
2014/15	349	332	23	4	708
2013/14	350	321	22	4	700

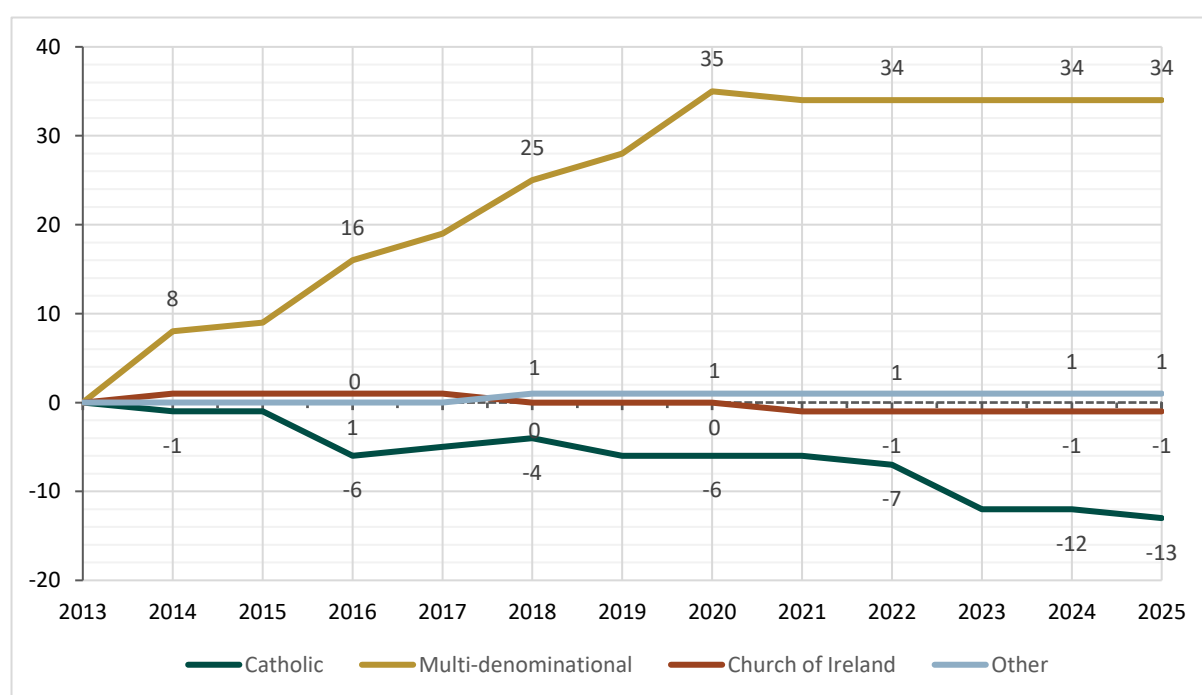


Figure 9 Absolute change in post-primary school numbers by ethos since 2013

3.3 Enrolments by county

Table 4 and Figure 10 show the change in enrolments by administrative county since 2024/25. Dublin showed the largest absolute increase with an additional 1,505 students on 2024/25 figures, followed by Cork and Meath with increases of 428 and 343 respectively. Four counties saw small decreases, the most seen in Clare and Louth with a fall of 62 and 54 respectively.

Table 4 Change in post-primary enrolments by administrative county, 2024/25 – 2025/26

	2024/25	2025/26	Absolute change	% Change
Carlow	6,625	6,643	18	0.3%
Cavan	6,830	6,829	-1	0.0%
Clare	9,583	9,521	-62	-0.6%
Cork	48,879	49,307	428	0.9%
Donegal	14,903	14,979	76	0.5%
Dublin	105,818	107,323	1,505	1.4%
Galway	23,309	23,354	45	0.2%
Kerry	12,497	12,597	100	0.8%
Kildare	22,564	22,823	259	1.1%
Kilkenny	8,781	8,857	76	0.9%
Laois	7,154	7,325	171	2.4%
Leitrim	2,934	3,040	106	3.6%
Limerick	17,671	17,780	109	0.6%
Longford	4,581	4,578	-3	-0.1%
Louth	15,098	15,044	-54	-0.4%
Mayo	11,580	11,640	60	0.5%
Meath	18,253	18,596	343	1.9%
Monaghan	6,326	6,448	122	1.9%
Offaly	7,015	7,060	45	0.6%
Roscommon	4,978	5,171	193	3.9%
Sligo	5,900	6,014	114	1.9%
Tipperary	15,713	15,921	208	1.3%
Waterford	10,356	10,396	40	0.4%
Westmeath	9,149	9,144	-5	-0.1%
Wexford	14,614	14,707	93	0.6%
Wicklow	14,300	14,557	257	1.8%
Total	425,411	429,654	4,243	1.0%

Change in post primary enrolments (2024/25 to 2025/26) by county

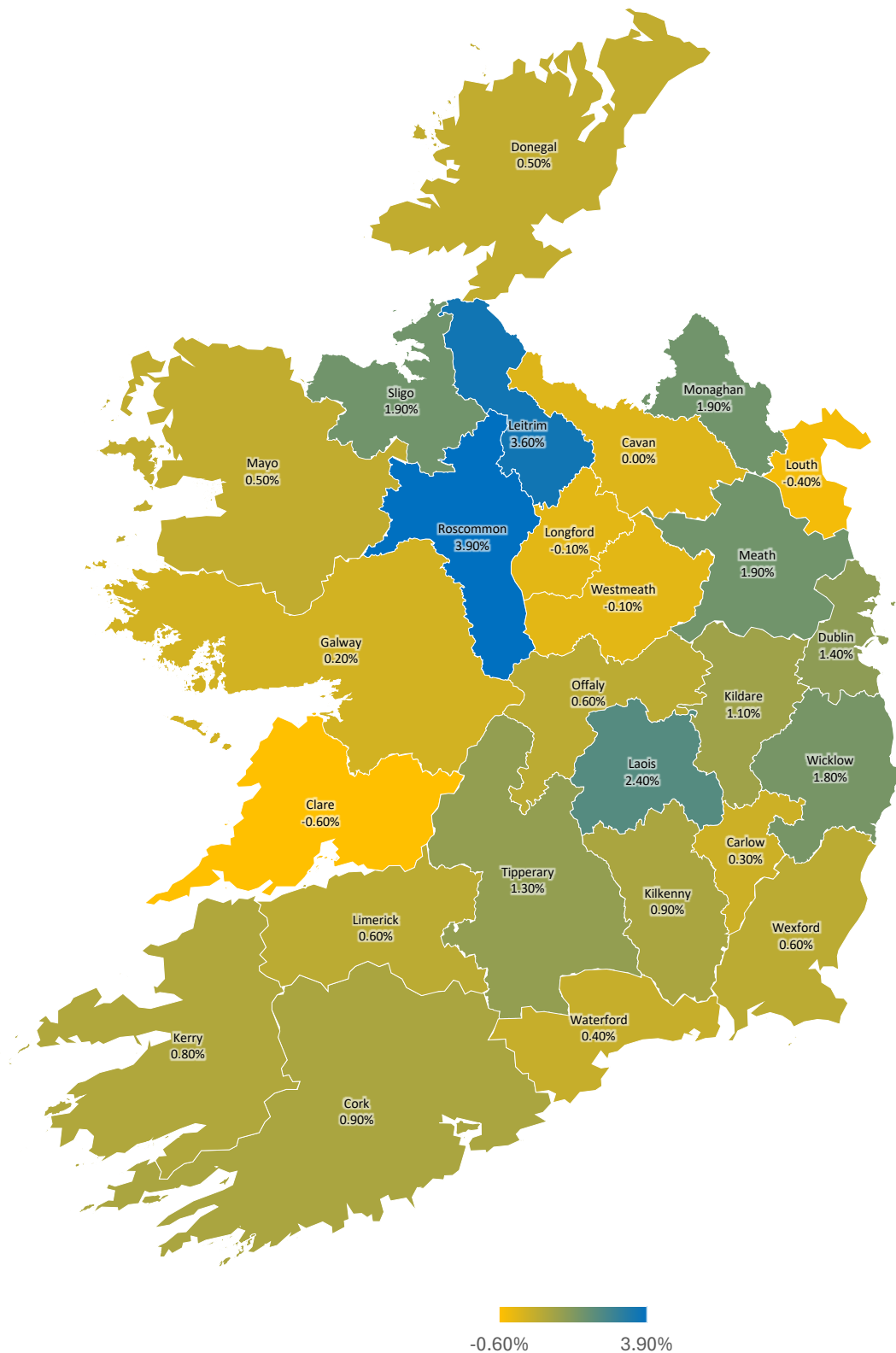


Figure 10 Percentage change in post-primary enrolments by administrative county, 2024/25 – 2025/26 – see Table 4

4 Primary and Post-primary levels

4.1 Enrolments by School Ethos

Table 5 shows primary and post-primary enrolments by school ethos for 2024/25 and 2025/26, and percentage change on 2024/25. As shown, the largest increase in enrolments in both sectors combined occurred in multi-denominational schools with rises of 2,858 (1.1%) between 2024 and 2025, followed by an increase in other school ethos, i.e., a rise of 82 (1.4%).

Table 5 Primary and post-primary schools enrolments by school ethos, 2024/25 – 2025/26

	Ethos / Religion	2024/25	2025/26	Difference
Primary	Catholic	479,437	472,651	-1.4%
	Multi-denominational	45,042	45,344	0.7%
	Church of Ireland	15,959	15,728	-1.4%
	Other	1,941	1,897	-2.3%
Post-primary	Catholic	203,114	204,678	0.8%
	Multi-denominational	206,785	209,341	1.2%
	Church of Ireland	12,404	12,521	0.9%
	Other	3,108	3,114	0.2%
Primary + Post-primary	Catholic	682,551	677,329	-0.8%
	Multi-denominational	251,827	254,685	1.1%
	Church of Ireland	28,363	28,249	-0.4%
	Other	5,049	5,011	-0.8%
	Total	967,790	965,274	-0.3%

Appendix: Ukrainian pupils' enrolments

The enrolment data shown below provides insights into Ireland's response to the Ukrainian crisis, particularly, the primary and secondary school pupils' enrolments who arrived from Ukraine since the start of Russian invasion of Ukraine, on 24th February 2022.

A.1 Primary level enrolments

In September 2025, there were 10,166 Ukrainian pupils enrolled in primary level, a decrease of 400 (3.8%) since 19th June 2024 (10,566). Table A.1.1 shows enrolment by standards with the highest enrolment in fifth class (15%).

Table A.1.1 Ukrainian pupils' enrolment in primary schools by standard, Dec 2025

Standard	Total to date	%
Junior Infants	897	8.8%
Senior Infants	1047	10.3%
First Class	1193	11.7%
Second Class	1302	12.8%
Third Class	1243	12.2%
Fourth Class	1329	13.1%
Fifth Class	1525	15.0%
Sixth Class	1506	14.8%
Special Class	124	1.2%
Total	10,166	100%

In total there were 1,782 primary schools where Ukrainian pupils were enrolled. Of these, 303 schools had 10 or more pupils and 192 schools had 10% or more Ukrainians enrolled (Tab A.1.2).

Table A.1.2 Primary schools with Ukrainian pupils' enrolment

Primary Schools	Number
Schools with current enrolments	1,782
Schools with 10 or more Ukrainian pupils	303
Schools with 10% or more Ukrainian pupils	192

The enrolment distribution by county is shown in Table A.1.3. Dublin has the highest percent of Ukrainian enrolments (9.5%) with Donegal being the second (9.4%).

Table A.1.3 Ukrainian pupils' enrolment in primary schools by County

County	Total to date	%
Dublin	962	9.5%
Donegal	954	9.4%
Cork	899	8.8%
Kerry	845	8.3%
Wexford	579	5.7%
Mayo	544	5.4%
Tipperary	543	5.3%
Galway	439	4.3%
Clare	376	3.7%
Limerick	361	3.6%
Waterford	320	3.1%
Offaly	312	3.1%
Wicklow	306	3.0%
Cavan	265	2.6%
Leitrim	260	2.6%
Westmeath	258	2.5%
Sligo	252	2.5%
Meath	250	2.5%
Louth	248	2.4%
Roscommon	248	2.4%
Kildare	203	2.0%
Laois	200	2.0%
Kilkenny	166	1.6%
Carlow	148	1.5%
Longford	132	1.3%
Monaghan	96	0.9%
Total	10,166	100%

A.2 Post-primary level enrolments

In September 2025, there were 7,173 Ukrainian pupils enrolled in post-primary level, an increase of 251 (3.6%) since May 2025 (6,922). Table A.2.1 shows enrolment by programme with the highest enrolment seen in JC2 and JC3 (19.7%).

Table A.2.1 Ukrainian pupils' enrolment in post-primary schools by programme

Programme	Total to date	%
JC1	1,363	19.0%
JC2	1,411	19.7%
JC3	1,413	19.7%
TY	626	8.7%
LC1	1,403	19.6%
LC2	957	13.3%
Total	6,924	100%

In total there were 626 post-primary schools where Ukrainian pupils were enrolled. Of these, 248 schools had 10 or more pupils and 28 schools had 10% or more Ukrainians enrolled (Tab A.2.2).

Table A.2.2 Post-primary schools with Ukrainian pupils' enrolment

Post-Primary Schools	Number
Schools with current enrolments	626
Schools with 10 or more Ukrainian pupils	248
Schools with 10% or more Ukrainian pupils	28

The post-primary schools enrolment distribution by county is shown in Table A.2.3. Similar to the primary schools distribution, Dublin and Donegal have the highest percent of Ukrainian enrolments at 11.2% and 9.6% respectively, with Cork being the third highest (9.0%).

Table A.2.3 Ukrainian pupils' enrolment in post-primary schools by county

County	Total to date	%
Dublin	803	11.2%
Donegal	692	9.6%
Cork	642	9.0%
Kerry	575	8.0%
Tipperary	382	5.3%
Mayo	372	5.2%
Wexford	345	4.8%
Galway	331	4.6%
Clare	269	3.8%
Limerick	263	3.7%
Waterford	259	3.6%
Wicklow	212	3.0%
Louth	209	2.9%
Leitrim	188	2.6%
Offaly	175	2.4%
Sligo	170	2.4%
Cavan	169	2.4%
Westmeath	157	2.2%
Kildare	152	2.1%
Meath	147	2.0%
Laois	141	2.0%
Kilkenny	124	1.7%
Roscommon	124	1.7%
Longford	103	1.4%
Carlow	101	1.4%
Monaghan	68	0.9%
Total	7,173	100%

