**Enrolments**

The Northern Ireland School Census takes place in October each year and provides a snapshot of the situation in schools at that time. Information from the School Census shows that the total number of enrolments in educational establishments in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough increased year on year between 2014/15 and 2022/23 with a total increase of 9.4% (3,656 pupils). The 2023/24 school year was the first time that enrolments fell for those years presented below. There was a decrease in enrolments in pre-school education centres (-5.4%) and primary schools (-1.6%).

The numbers enrolled in pre-school education centres have fluctuated slightly over the years presented with a high in 2015/16 of 1,000 enrolments, dropping to a low of 811 in 2023/24. This represents a fall of 46 since 2022/23. Nursery school enrolments have remained relatively steady since 2014/15 and are currently the same in 2023/24 as they were in 2014/15. Primary school enrolments have been decreasing each year since 2018/19 when they were at their highest. However , overall, since 2014/15, total enrolments have increased by 877. Post-primary school enrolments have increased year on year since 2015/16 and overall, since 2014/15, enrolments have increased by 2,619 or 16.9%. Special schools have seen the greatest percentage increase in enrolments between 2014/15 and 2023/24, rising by 51.4% to 477 in 2023/24.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **Pre-school education centres** | **Nursery schools** | **Primary schools** | **Post-primary schools** | **Special schools** | **Total** |
| **2014/15** | 912 | 737 | 21,389 | 15,474 | 315 | 38,827 |
| **2015/16** | 1,000 | 738 | 21,999 | 15,433 | 308 | 39,478 |
| **2016/17** | 934 | 738 | 22,483 | 15,581 | 313 | 40,049 |
| **2017/18** | 905 | 740 | 22,838 | 15,793 | 332 | 40,608 |
| **2018/19** | 886 | 733 | 22,965 | 16,195 | 344 | 41,123 |
| **2019/20** | 912 | 734 | 22,824 | 16,601 | 376 | 41,447 |
| **2020/21** | 895 | 737 | 22,775 | 17,099 | 404 | 41,910 |
| **2021/22** | 854 | 743 | 22,734 | 17,459 | 424 | 42,214 |
| **2022/23** | 857 | 732 | 22,620 | 17,819 | 455 | 42,483 |
| **2023/24** | 811 | 737 | 22,266 | 18,093 | 477 | 42,384 |

*Table 1: Number of enrolments in educational establishments in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2014/15 to 2023/24. Source: Northern Ireland School Census, Department of Education.*

In October 2024 there were 37 voluntary and private pre-school education centres in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in which there were 811 pupils enrolled.

*Figure 1: Number of enrolments in pre-school education centres in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2014/15 to 2023/24. Source: Northern Ireland School Census, Department of Education.*

There were 737 pupils enrolled in 12 nursery schools in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in October 2023.

*Figure 2: Number of enrolments in nursery schools in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2014/15 to 2023/24. Source: Northern Ireland School Census, Department of Education.*

A total of 22,266 pupils were enrolled in 90 primary schools across the borough when the Northern Ireland School Census was conducted in October 2023.

*Figure 3: Number of enrolments in primary schools in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2014/15 to 2023/24. Source: Northern Ireland School Census, Department of Education.*

In October 2023 there were a total of 23 post-primary schools in the borough in which there were 18,093 pupils enrolled.

*Figure 4: Number of enrolments in post-primary schools in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2014/15 to 2023/24. Source: Northern Ireland School Census, Department of Education.*

There were 477 pupils enrolled in 3 special schools in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in October 2023.

*Figure 5: Number of enrolments in special schools in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2014/15 to 2023/24. Source: Northern Ireland School Census, Department of Education.*

Further information on school enrolments can be found via the following link:

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-research/school-enrolments>