Catholic Education Service
Since 1847

Digest of 2025 Census Data for Schools and Colleges in Wales



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Introduction

We are pleased to present the 2025 Catholic schools' Census digest for Wales.

The annual CES Census is the most accurate snapshot of Catholic schools and colleges in Wales, and can be compared with almost a decade's worth of previous data. We are grateful to Catholic maintained schools in Wales for returning their data punctually.

Collating and analysing the data is a quite significant undertaking, and we would like to thank all those involved in the organisation and production of this document.

Chairman



The Right Reverend Marcus Stock MA STL

Bishop of Leeds

Director



Paul Barber

Headlines

There are 81 Catholic schools and colleges in Wales

28,615 pupils are educated in Catholic maintained schools

44.9% of pupils at Catholic maintained schools are Catholic

1,579 teachers work in Catholic maintained schools

41.5% of teachers in Catholic maintained schools are Catholic

1 Schools and Colleges

1.1 Numbers of Schools and Colleges

1.1.1 Numbers of schools by phase and diocese

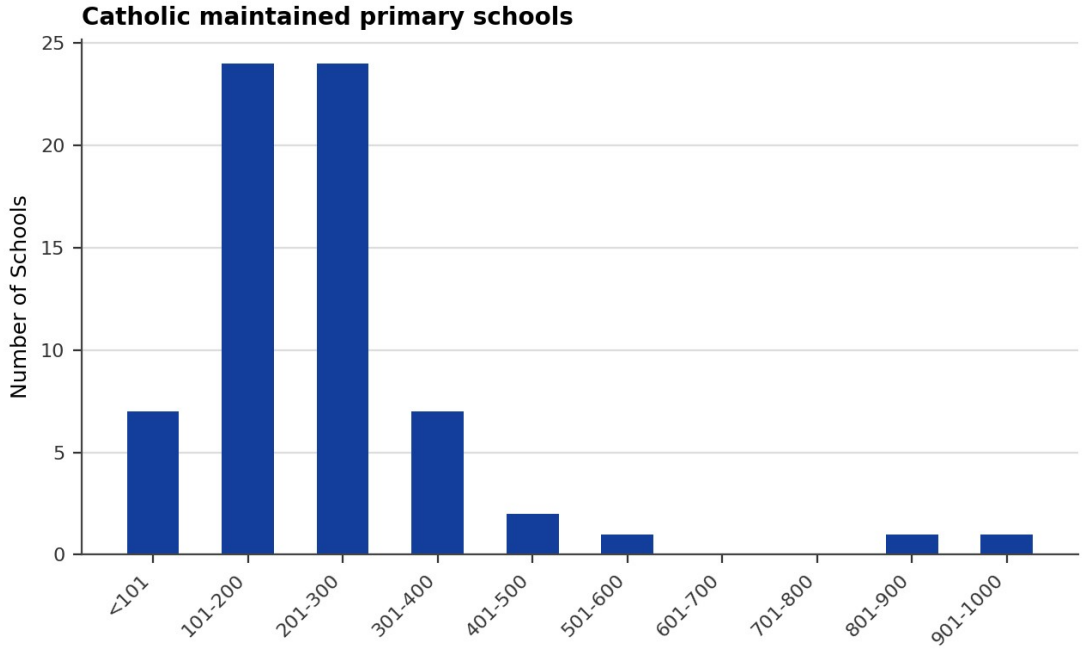
Phase	Cardiff-Menevia	Wrexham	Total
Primary	52	13	65
Secondary	11	2	13
Sixth Form College	1	0	1
All Through	1	1	2
Total	**65**	**16**	**81**

1.2 School sizes

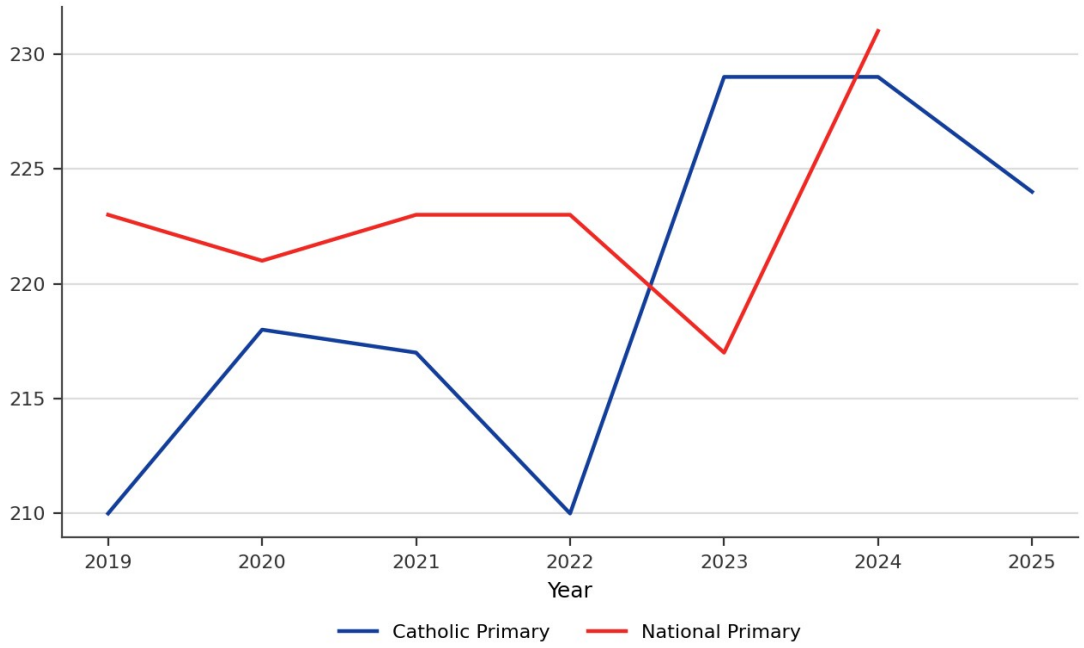
1.2.1 Distribution of sizes in Catholic maintained schools

School size (pupils)	Primary	Secondary and sixth form college
<101	7	0
101-200	24	0
201-300	24	0
301-400	7	0
401-500	2	1
501-600	1	0
601-700	0	0
701-800	0	2
801-900	1	5
901-1000	1	2
1001-1100	0	0
1101-1200	0	1
1201-1300	0	1
Total	**67**	**14**

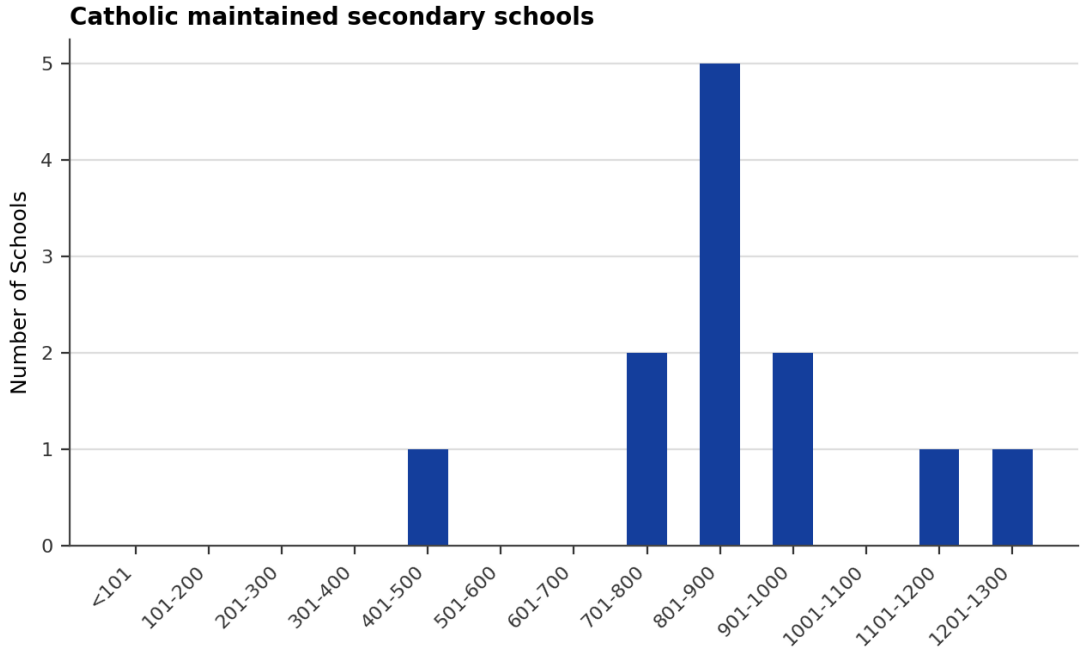
1.2.2 Distribution of size of maintained primary schools



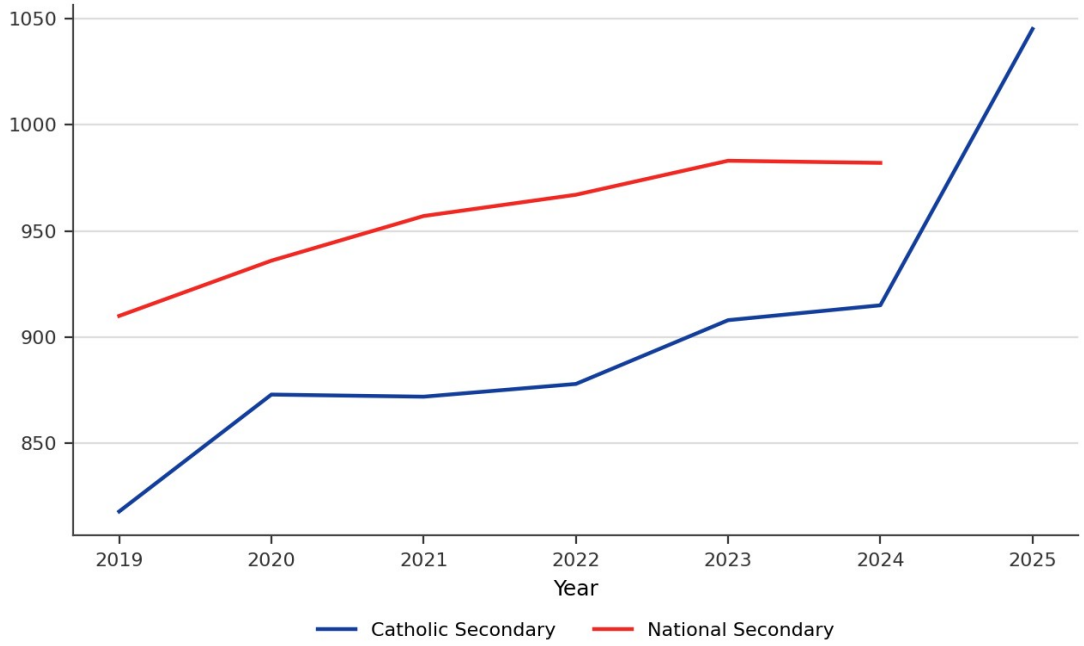
1.2.3 Average maintained primary size (trends)



1.2.4 Distribution of size of maintained secondary schools



1.2.5 Average maintained secondary size (trends)



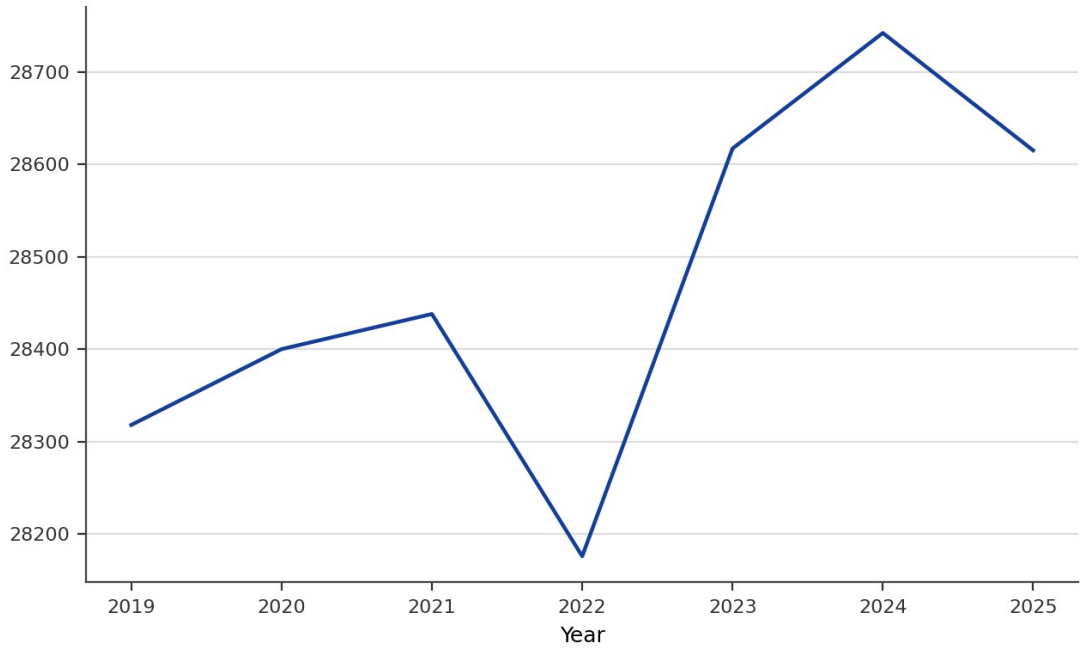
2 Pupils

2.1 Pupil numbers

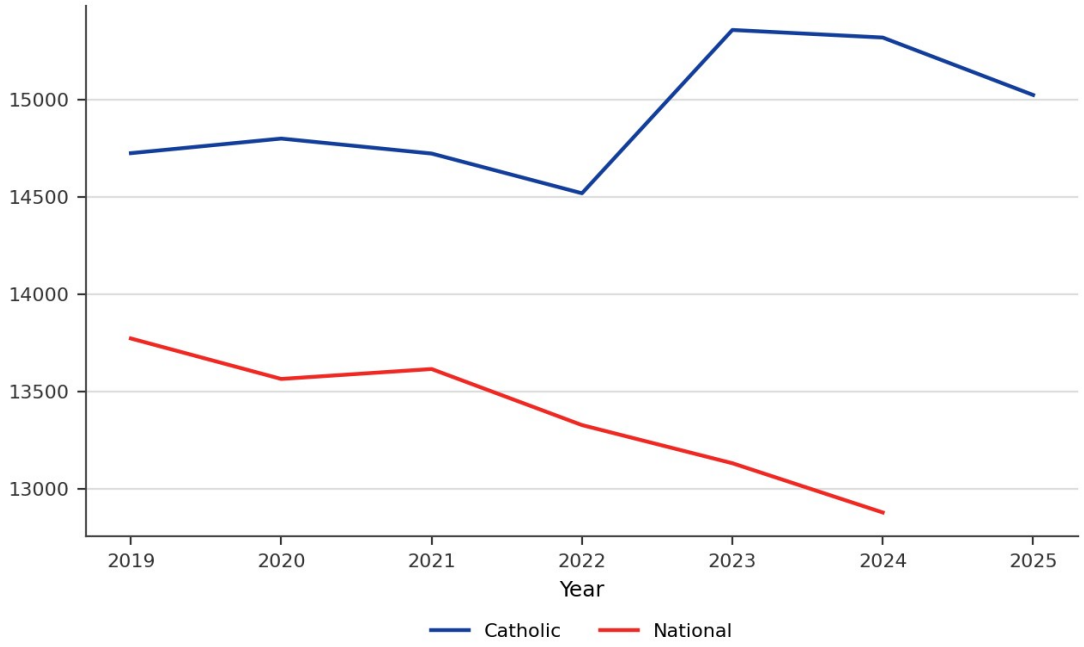
2.1.1 Pupil numbers by phase

Phase	Pupil Numbers
Maintained Primary	15,025
Maintained Secondary and Sixth Form College	13,590
Total	**28,615**

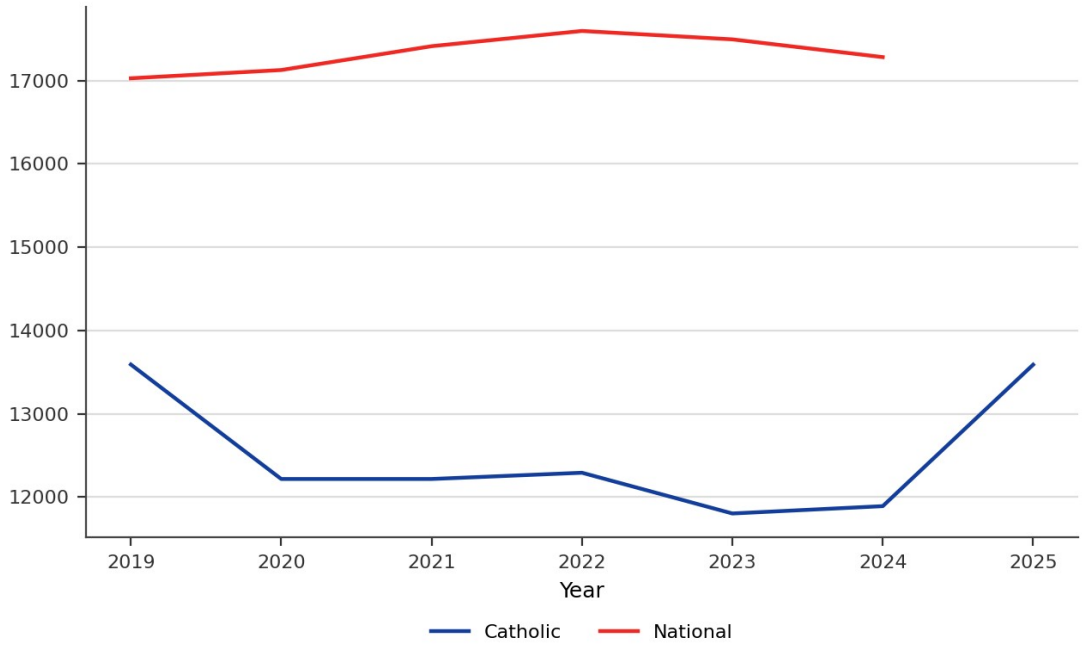
2.1.2 Number of pupils in Catholic schools (trends)



2.1.3 Number of pupils in maintained primary schools (trends)



2.1.4 Number of pupils in maintained secondary and sixth form colleges (trends)

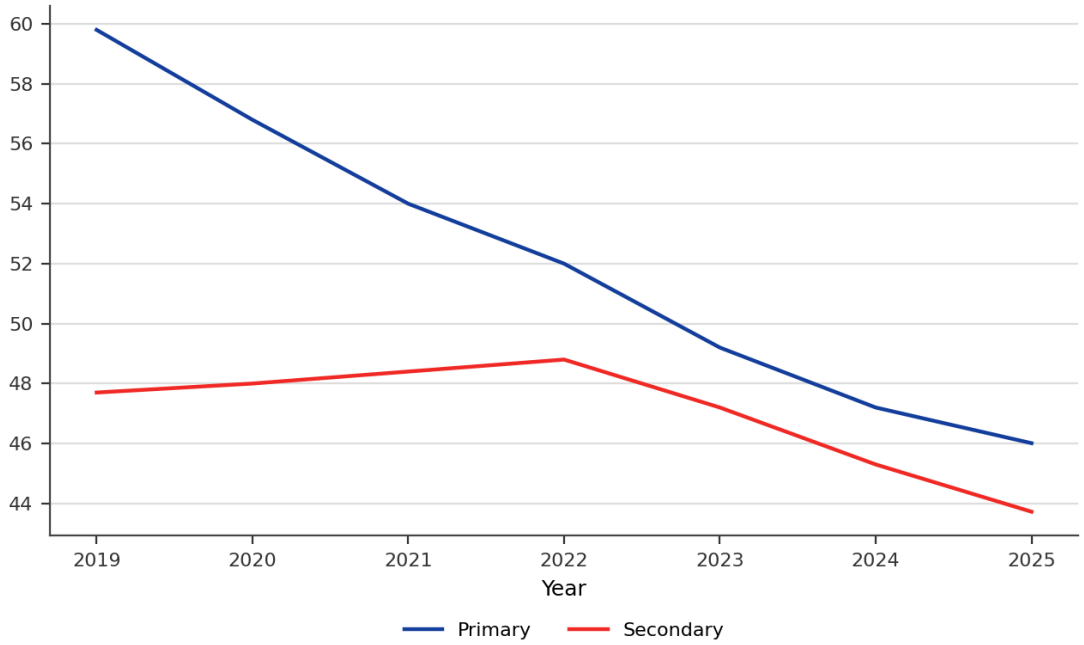


2.2 Pupil Religion

2.2.1 Percentage of Catholic pupils in maintained Catholic schools and colleges

	Number of pupils	Number of Catholic pupils	% Catholic pupils
Maintained Primary	15,025	6,913	46
Maintained Secondary and Sixth Form College	13,590	5,942	43.7
Total	**28,615**	**12,855**	**44.9**

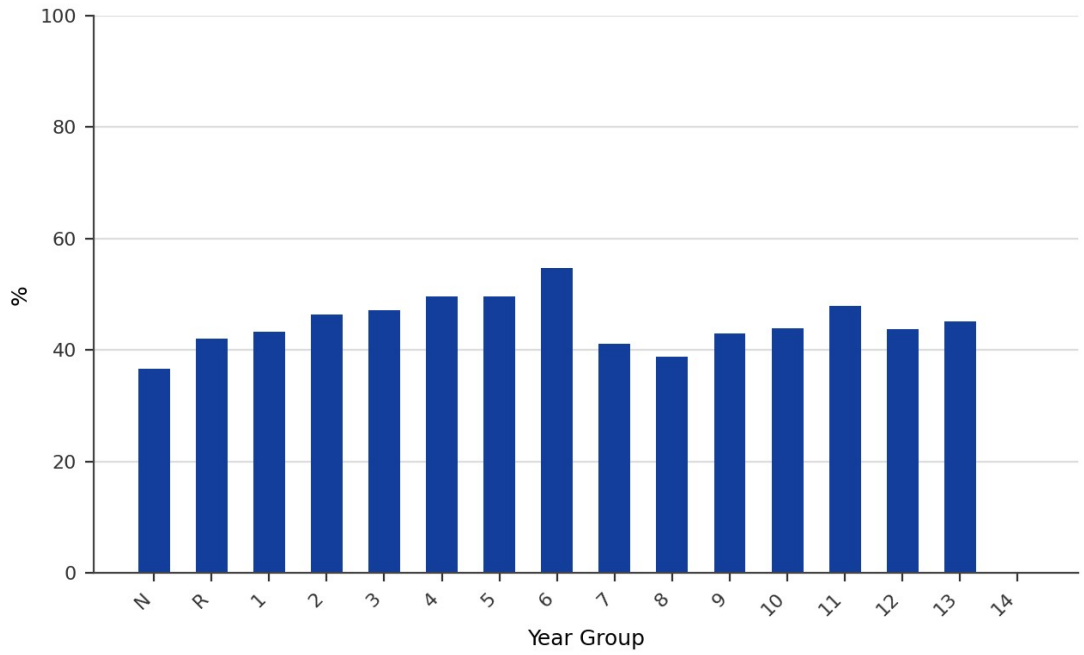
2.2.2 Percentage of Catholic pupils in maintained schools by phase (trends)



2.2.3 Percentage of Catholic pupils in maintained schools by diocese

Diocese	Pupils	Catholic pupils	% Catholic
Cardiff-Menevia	24,210	10,914	45.1
Wrexham	4,405	1,941	44.1

2.2.4 Percentage of Catholic pupils in maintained schools by year group



2.2.5 Distribution of non-Catholic pupils in maintained schools

Percentage of non-Catholic pupils	Number of schools	Percentage of schools
<1	0	0
1 to 10	0	0
11 to 20	5	6.2
21 to 30	0	0
31 to 40	7	8.6
41 to 50	10	12.4
51 to 60	26	32.1
61 to 70	18	22.2
71 to 80	12	14.8
81 to 90	3	3.7
91 to 100	0	0

2.2.6 Breakdown of non-Catholic religions

Religion	Primary	Secondary	Sixth Form College	Total
Catholic	6,913	5,253	689	12,855
Christian other	3,952	3,129	264	7,345
Buddhist	55	38	0	93
Hindu	194	86	16	296
Jewish	8	5	0	13
Muslim	529	334	320	1,183
Sikh	22	24	9	55
Other	270	277	27	574
No religion	2,942	2,578	289	5,809
Refused	121	251	0	372
Missing	19	1	0	20
Total	**15,025**	**11,976**	**1,614**	**28,615**

2.3 Gender

2.3.1 Pupil numbers in maintained schools by gender and year group

Year group	Boys	Girls	Total
N	697	675	1,372
R	800	792	1,592
1	806	812	1,618
2	897	889	1,786
3	872	950	1,822
4	976	980	1,956
5	955	983	1,938
6	933	976	1,909
7	1,203	1,215	2,418
8	1,195	1,282	2,477
9	1,270	1,223	2,493

10	1,192	1,212	2,404
11	1,131	1,174	2,305
12	662	782	1,444
13	490	591	1,081
14	0	0	0
Total	**14,079**	**14,536**	**28,615**

2.4 Withdrawal from Collective worship

Across Catholic maintained schools the percentage of pupils withdrawn from collective worship is 0.02%.

2.5 Withdrawal from Relationship and Sex Education

Across Catholic maintained schools the percentage of withdrawal from relationship and sex education is 0.0%.

2.6 School uniform

98.8% of Catholic maintained schools have a school uniform.

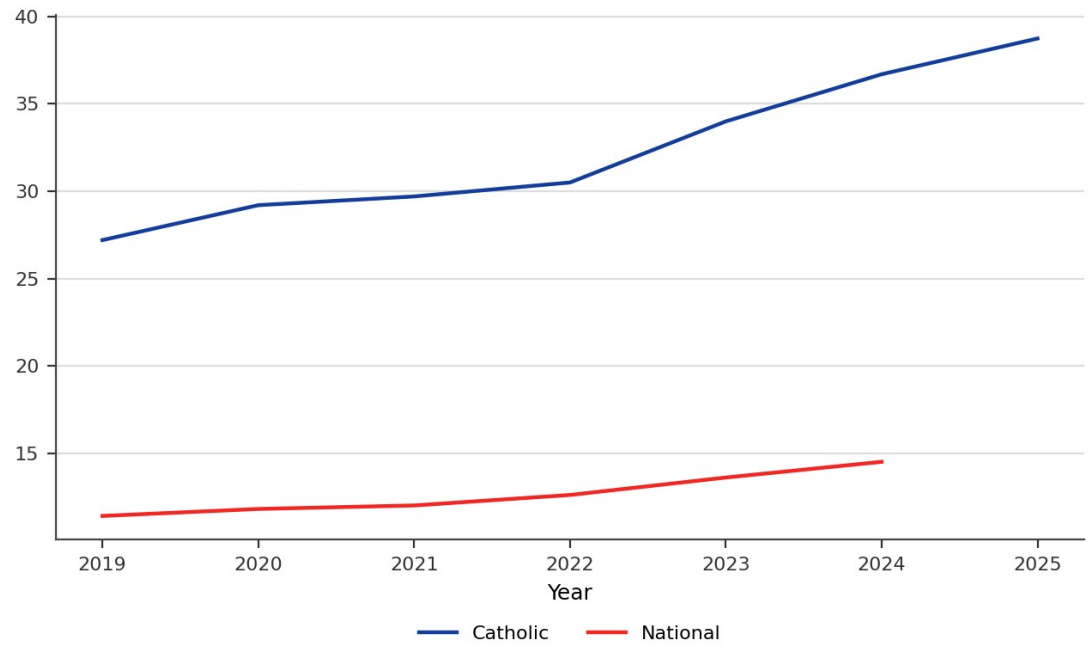
2.7 Ethnicity

2.7.1 Pupil ethnicity

38.7% of pupils in Catholic maintained schools are from minority ethnic groups.

	Number of pupils	% White British	% White Irish	% White other	% Traveller	% Mixed	% Asian	% Black	% Chinese	% Other	% Refused	% Not known
All maintained	28,615	60.2	0	8.9	0.3	7	9	8.2	0.4	4.3	0.2	1.5

2.7.2 Percentage of pupils from minority ethnic groups, maintained schools (trends)



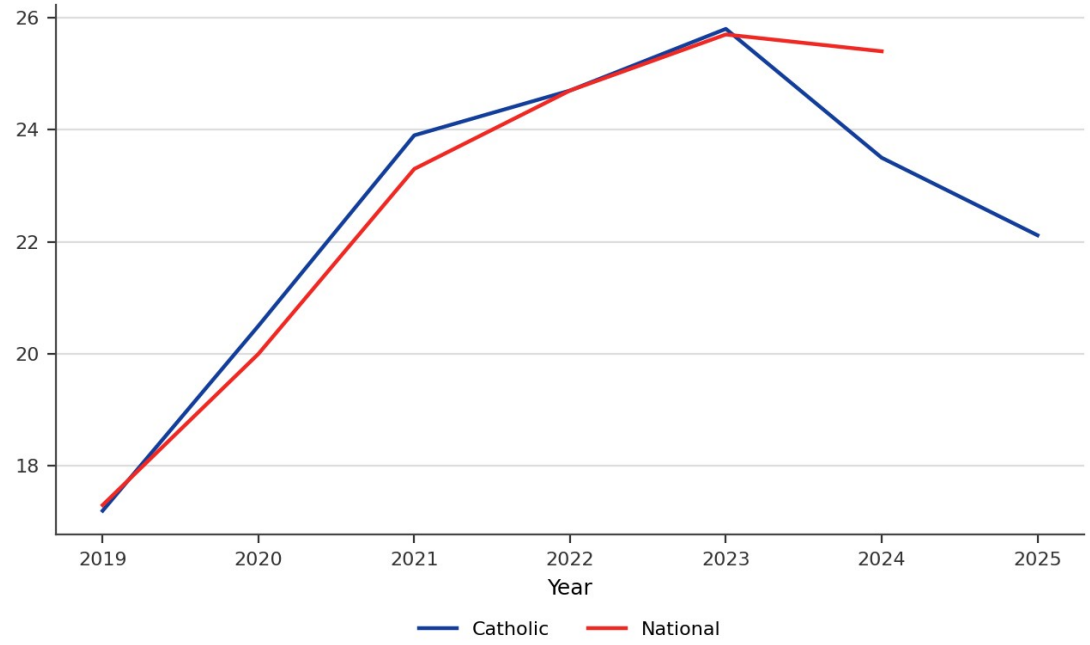
2.8 Free school meals (FSM)

2.8.1 Pupils eligible for FSM

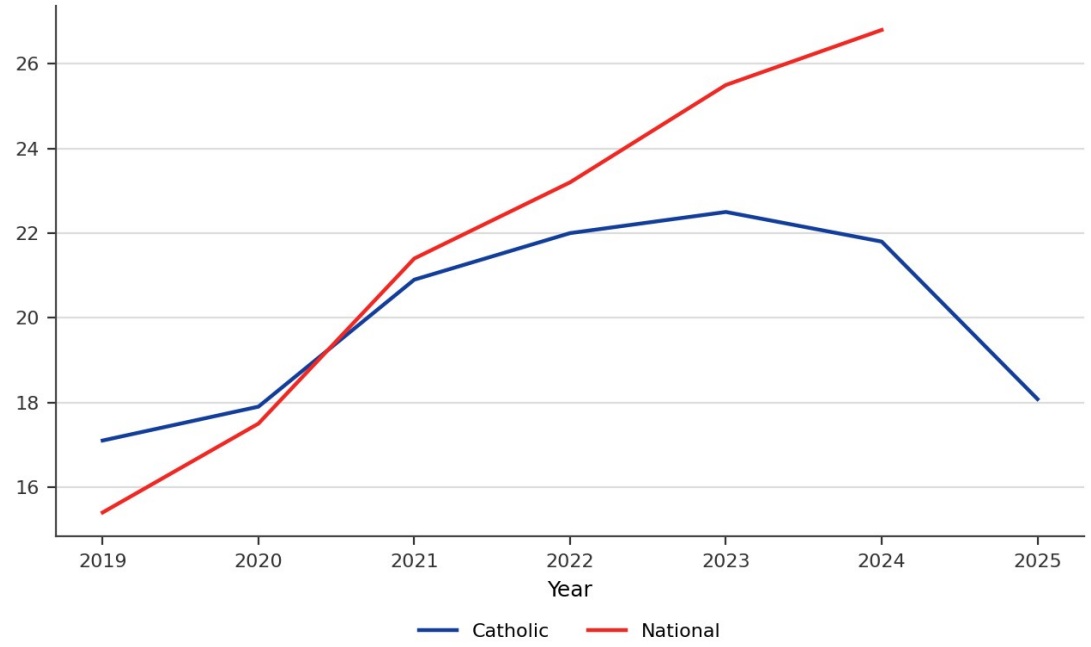
20.2% of pupils in Catholic maintained schools take up free school meals.

	Number of pupils	Number eligible for FSM	% eligible
Maintained Primary	15,025	3,323	22.1
Maintained Secondary and Sixth Form College	13,590	2,457	18.1
Total	**28,615**	**5,780**	**20.2**

2.8.2 Percentage of pupils eligible for FSM, maintained primary schools (trends)



2.8.3 Percentage of pupils eligible for FSM, maintained secondary schools (trends)



2.9 Looked-after children

	Number	%
Maintained schools and colleges	274	1

2.10 Special educational needs (SEN)

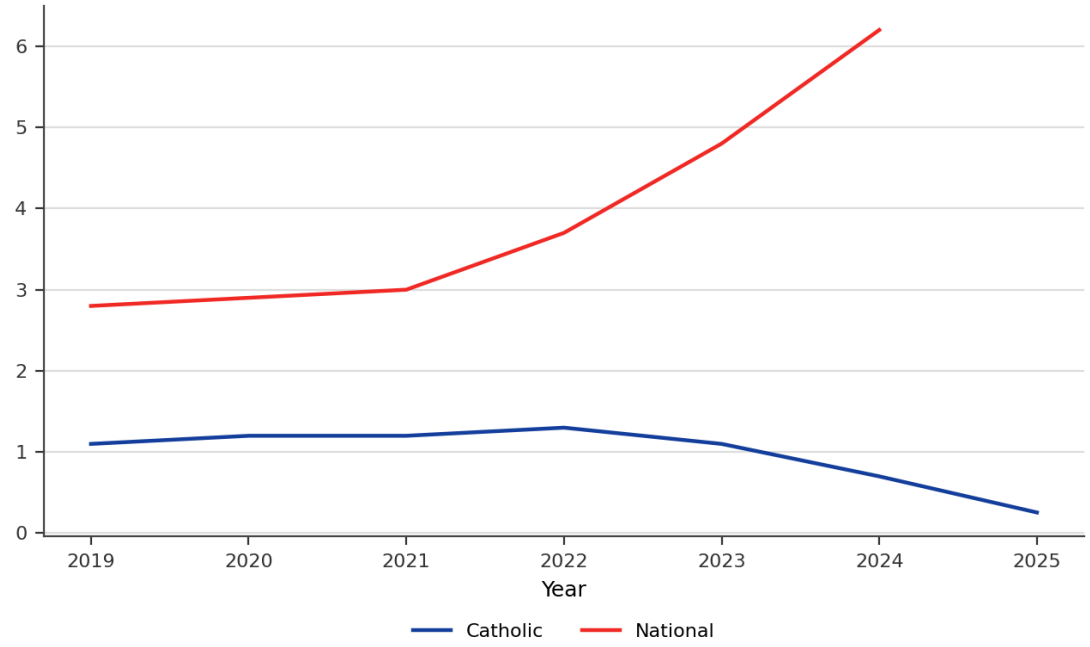
2.10.1 Percentage of pupils with SEN by phase

	% with statement or EHC plan	% SEN without statement
Primary	0.3	6.4
Secondary and Sixth Form College	0.2	5.5
Total	**0.3**	**5.9**

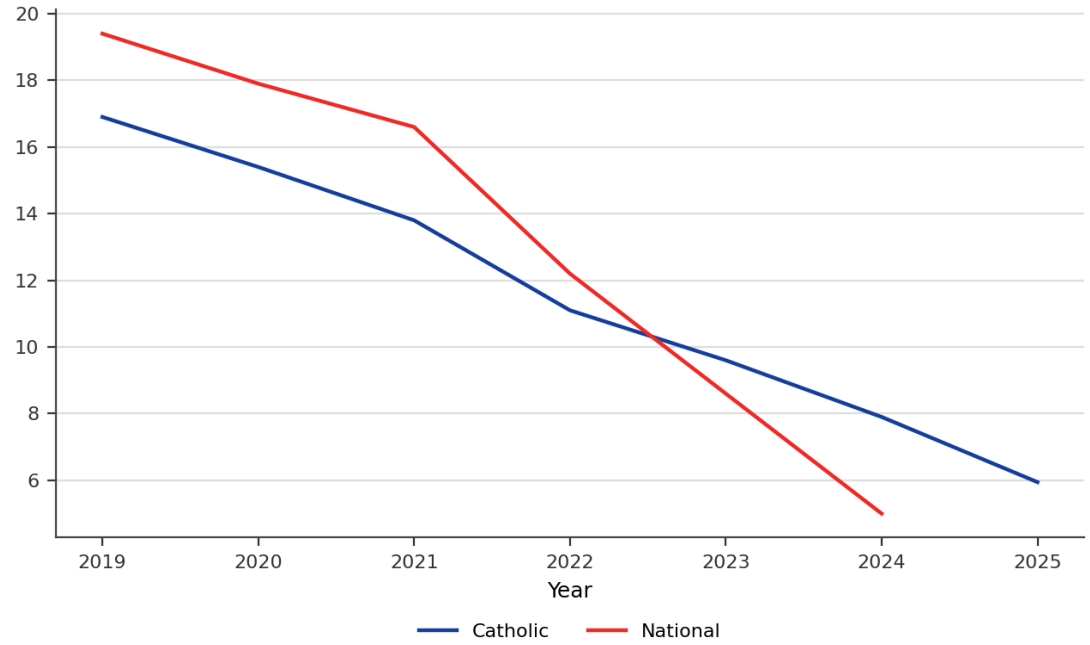
2.10.2 Percentage of pupils with SEN by diocese

Diocese	% with statement or EHC plan	% SEN support
Cardiff-Menevia	0.2	5.6
Wrexham	0.6	8

2.10.3 Pupils with SEN with statement, maintained schools (trends)



2.10.4 Pupils with SEN without statement or EHC plan, maintained schools (trends)



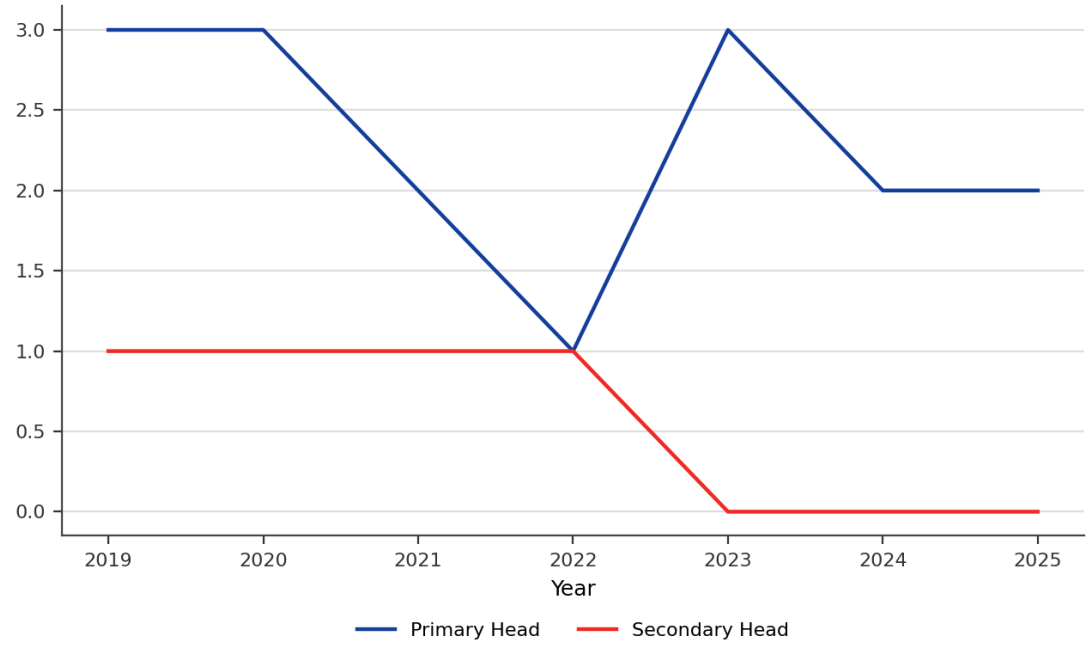
3 Staff

3.1 Leadership Teams

3.1.1 Leadership vacancies, NPQH and gender

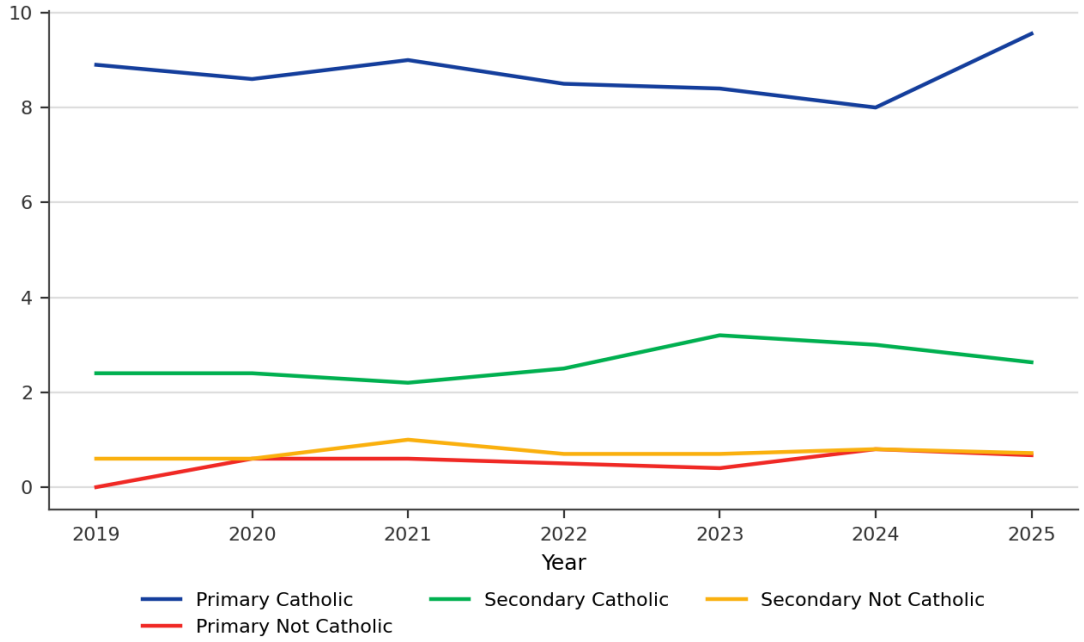
	Schools	Headship vacancies	Deputy / assistant head vacancies	% Catholic with NPQH	% Not Catholic with NPQH	% Catholic taking NPQH	% Not Catholic taking NPQH
Primary	67	2	0	9.6	0.7	0.1	0.3
Secondary	13	0	2	3	0.8	0.1	0
Independent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3.1.2 Headship vacancies, maintained schools (trends)



3.2 National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH)

3.2.1 Percentage of teaching staff holding NPQH, maintained schools (trends)

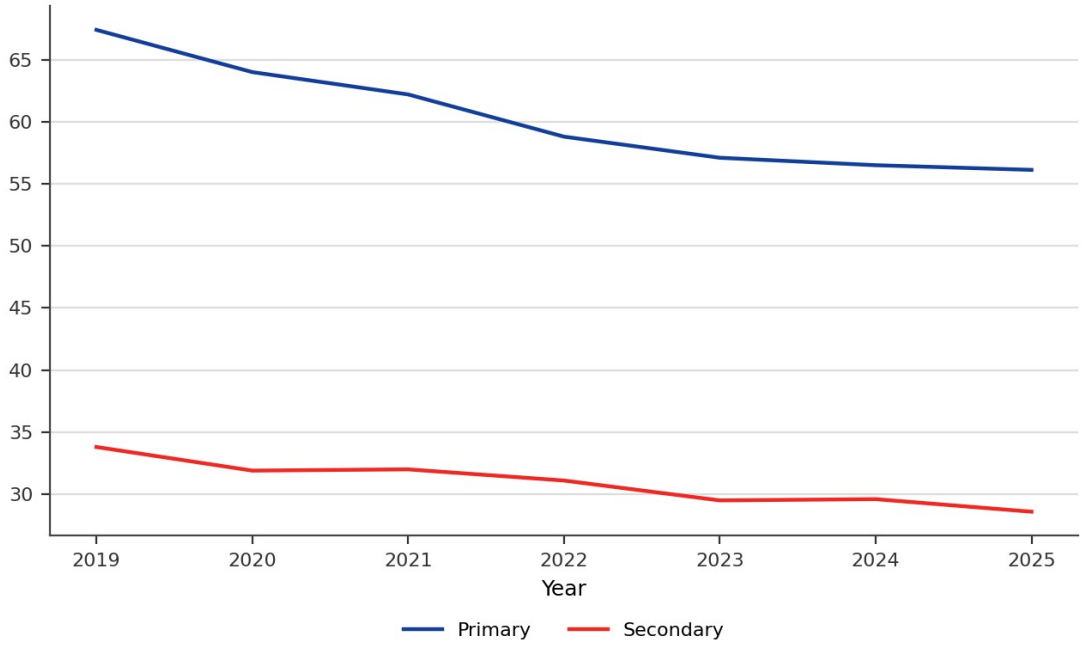


3.3 Staff Catholicity

3.3.1 Staff Catholicity and the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS)

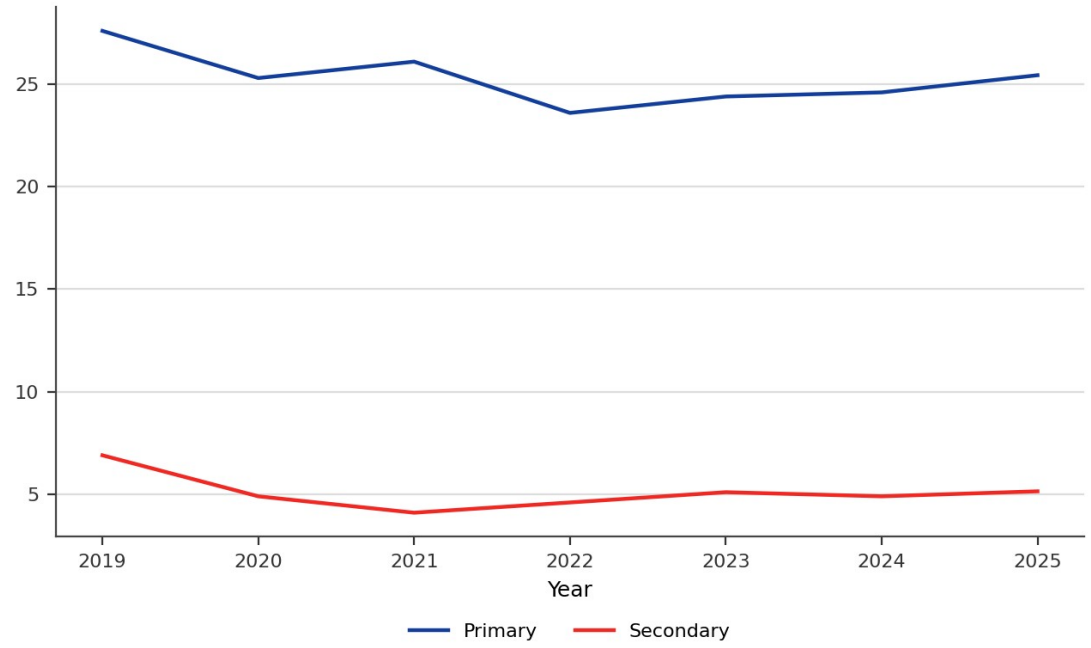
	Number of teachers	% Catholic teachers	Number with CCRS	% with CCRS
Primary	743	56.1	189	25.4
Secondary and Sixth Form College	836	28.6	43	5.1
Total	**1,579**	**41.6**	**232**	**14.7**

3.3.2 Staff Catholicity, maintained schools (trends)



3.4 Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS)

3.4.1 Percentage of teaching staff holding CCRS, maintained schools (trends)



3.5 RE Teaching

3.5.1 Teachers of RE by phase

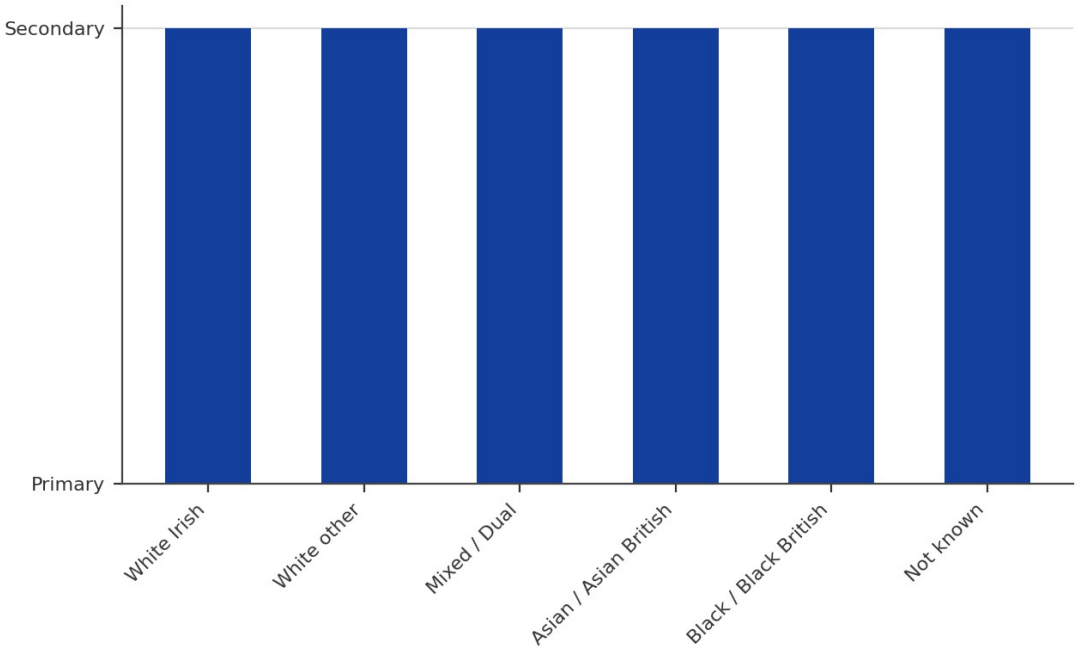
	Specialist qualified RE teachers	Headcount of staff who teach RE	Staff with over 50% RE timetable	Schools where TAs take RE
Primary	22	496	26	5
Secondary	54	72	48	0
6th Form	5	7	20	0
Independent	0	0	0	0

3.6 Staff Ethnicity

3.6.1 Ethnicity of teachers overall and by phase

	Teachers	% White British	% White Irish	% White other	% Traveller	% Mixed	% Asian	% Black	% Chinese	% Other	% Not known
All maintained	1,579	92.9	0.4	2.3	0	1.1	0.3	0.4	0	0.2	2.3

3.6.2 Staff ethnicity, minority ethnic groups, in maintained schools

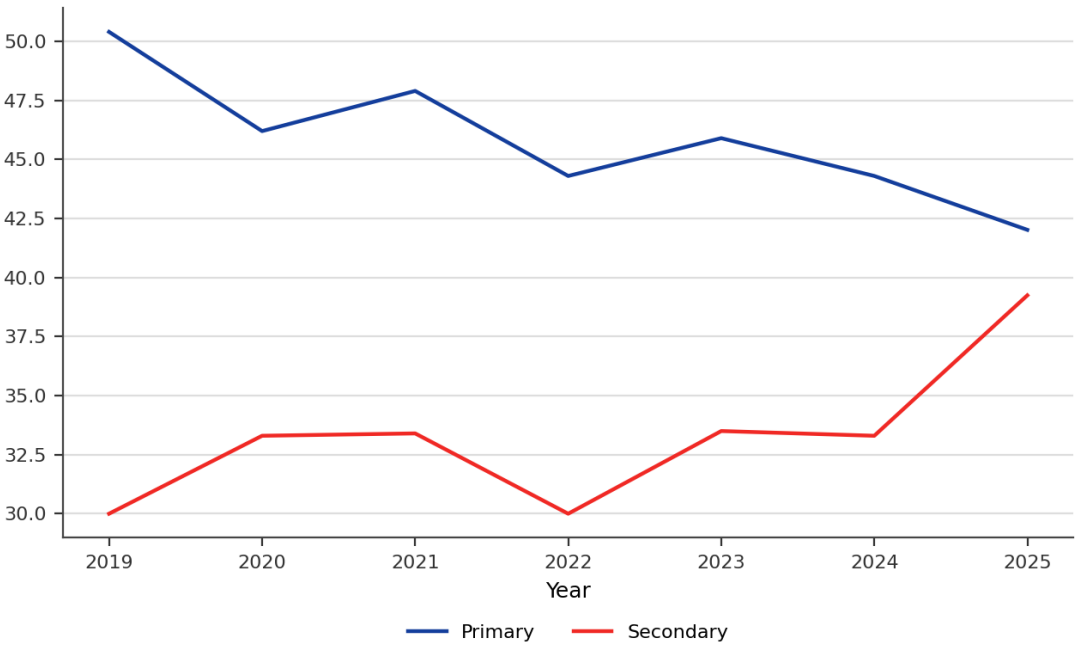


3.7 Education Support Staff

3.7.1 Percentage and Catholicity of education support staff

	Teachers	Support staff	Ratio	% Catholic support staff
All maintained	1,579	998	0.6	41.3

3.7.2 Percentage of Catholic education support staff (trends)



Appendix

A.1 Numbers of pupils in maintained schools by diocese

Diocese	Pupils	Catholic pupils	% Catholic
Cardiff-Menevia	24,210	10,914	45.1
Wrexham	4,405	1,941	44.1

A.2 FSM, SEN and looked-after children by diocese

Diocese	% FSM	% Ever 6	% EHCP	% SEN support	% looked-after
Cardiff-Menevia	19.5	0	0.2	5.6	1
Wrexham	24.1	0	0.6	8	1

A.3 Ethnicity of pupils by diocese

Diocese	Number of pupils	% White British	% White Irish	% White other	% Traveller	% Mixed	% Asian	% Black	% Chinese	% Other	% Refused	% Not known
Cardiff-Menevia	24,210	59.6	0	7.8	0.2	7.1	9.4	9.1	0.5	4.6	0.2	1.6
Wrexham	4,405	63.7	0.1	15.1	0.5	6.6	7.1	3.3	0.2	2.5	0.3	0.8

A.4 Catholicity and CCRS by diocese

Diocese	Number of Catholic teachers	% Catholic teachers	% with CCRS
Cardiff-Menevia	560	41.8	13.7
Wrexham	96	40.2	20.1

A.5 Ethnicity of teachers by diocese

Diocese	Teachers	% White British	% White Irish	% White other	% Traveller	% Mixed	% Asian	% Black	% Chinese	% Other	% Not known
Cardiff-Menevia	1,340	92.3	0.2	2.5	0	1.3	0.3	0.5	0	0.2	2.7
Wrexham	239	96.2	1.7	1.3	0	0.4	0	0	0	0	0.4

A.6 Percentage of Catholic pupils in maintained schools by year group

Yr Group	N	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
% Catholic	36.7	42	43.3	46.4	47.1	49.6	49.7	54.8	41.1	38.8	43	44	48	43.8	45.2	0

A.7 Distribution of non-Catholic pupils in maintained schools

Percentage of non-Catholic pupils	Number of schools	Percentage of schools
<1	0	0
1 to 10	0	0
11 to 20	5	6.2
21 to 30	0	0
31 to 40	7	8.6

41 to 50	10	12.4
51 to 60	26	32.1
61 to 70	18	22.2
71 to 80	12	14.8
81 to 90	3	3.7
91 to 100	0	0

A.8 Non-Catholic pupil religions by diocese

Diocese	% other Christian	% Buddhist	% Hindu	% Jewish	% Muslim	% Sikh	% Other	% No religion	% Refused	% Missing
Cardiff-Menevia	46.1	0.6	2	0.1	8.1	0.4	3.6	36.9	2.2	0
Wrexham	49.4	0.7	1.3	0	4.1	0	3.9	36.7	3	0.7

A.9 Pupil numbers in maintained schools by gender and year group

Year group	Boys	Girls	Total
N	697	675	1,372
R	800	792	1,592
1	806	812	1,618
2	897	889	1,786
3	872	950	1,822
4	976	980	1,956
5	955	983	1,938
6	933	976	1,909
7	1,203	1,215	2,418
8	1,195	1,282	2,477
9	1,270	1,223	2,493
10	1,192	1,212	2,404
11	1,131	1,174	2,305
12	662	782	1,444
13	490	591	1,081
14	0	0	0
Total	**14,079**	**14,536**	**28,615**

A.10 Headline data, England and Wales

	England	Wales	Total
Total pupils	**807,476**	**28,615**	**836,091**
Total pupils (state-funded)	**776,342**	**28,615**	**804,957**
Total pupils (independent)	**31,134**	**0**	**31,134**
Total pupils (nursery years)	**26,382**	**1,372**	**27,754**
Total pupils (primary years)	**394,737**	**12,621**	**407,358**
Total pupils (secondary years)	**386,357**	**14,622**	**400,979**
Total schools and colleges	**2,065**	**81**	**2,146**
Total schools (state-funded)	**1,978**	**81**	**2,059**

Total schools (independent)	**87**	**0**	**87**
Total schools (primary)	**1,677**	**65**	**1,742**
Total schools (secondary)	**335**	**13**	**348**
Total schools (all-through)	**40**	**2**	**42**
Total schools (sixth form college)	**13**	**1**	**14**
Pupil Catholicity (state-funded) %	53.6	44.9	
Pupil Catholicity (independent) %	28.6		
Total teachers (state-funded)	**45,762**	**1,579**	**47,341**
Staff Catholicity (state-funded) %	43.9	41.5	



Catholic Education Service
Since 1847

Catholic Education Service

39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX

catholiceducation.org.uk

Census data collected and processed by the Catholic Education Service.

National comparators: Department for Education publications.

Images by Mazur/CBCEW, St Benedict Catholic Academy Trust and St Mary's Preparatory School.