

# Catholic Education Service Digest of 2023 Census Data for Schools and Colleges in Wales





**Catholic Education Service**  
Supporting Catholic Education Since 1847

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## **Introduction**

I am pleased to present the 2023 Catholic schools' census digest for Wales.

The CES census remains the most accurate report of Welsh Catholic education and we are now able to reflect on almost a decade's worth of precise data.

We are grateful to every Catholic school in Wales, both independent and state-funded, for returning their data in a prompt and timely manner. This year we have seen the number of pupils in maintained Catholic primary schools increase. The CES annual census remains one of the most vital tools in monitoring and promoting the success of our sector. Not only does the census give us the ability to present highly accurate information about Welsh Catholic schools but it also provides us with the essential data needed to monitor long-term trends in Catholic education. As such, the information from the census is invaluable in our discussions with Senedd members, government partners, parliamentarians, local authorities, and the media.

Collating the census data and creating this digest is no small undertaking, so thanks are due specifically Robert Rushworth and Rebekah Hayward for the organisation and production of this document.

**Chairman**

**The Rt Rev Marcus Stock, Bishop of Leeds**

**Director**

**Paul Barber**

# Schools and Colleges





## Headlines

- There are 82 Catholic schools in Wales
- Catholic schools make up 6% of the national total of maintained schools
- 28,755 pupils are educated in Catholic schools
- 48% of pupils at Catholic maintained schools are Catholic
- 1642 teachers work in Catholic maintained schools
- 43% of teachers in Catholic maintained schools are Catholic

## 1 Schools and Colleges

### 1.1 Numbers of Schools and Colleges

Three primary schools and one secondary school in Myrthyr Tydfil have merged to form one all-through school. Pupil numbers in all-through schools are included with primary schools in most data in this digest.

There is one Catholic primary school in Wrexham diocese classed as a Welsh medium school. A further two primary schools in Menevia and Wrexham are classed as English medium but with significant Welsh spoken.

#### 1.1.1 Numbers of schools by phase and diocese

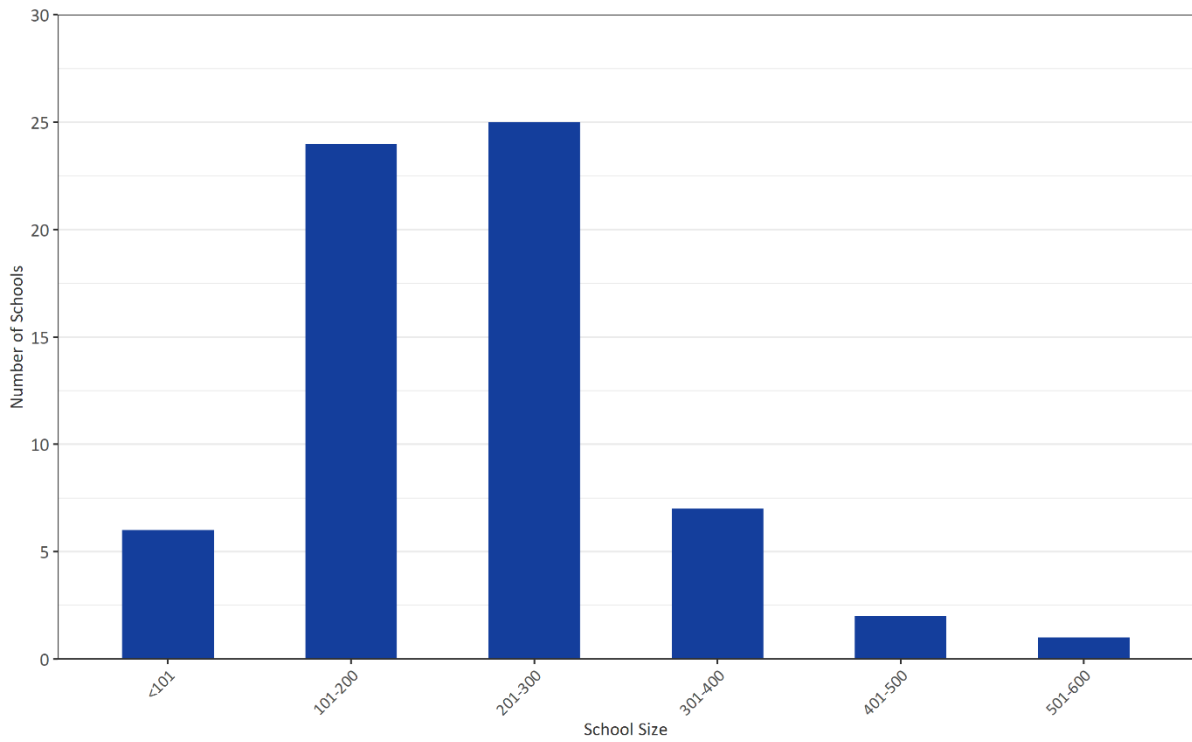
Diocese	Primary	Secondary	Sixth form colleges	All through	Independent	Total
Cardiff	37	8	1	1	0	47
Menevia	15	3	0	0	0	18
Wrexham	13	2	0	1	1	17
Total	65	13	1	2	1	82

### 1.2 School sizes

#### 1.2.1 Distribution of sizes in Catholic maintained schools

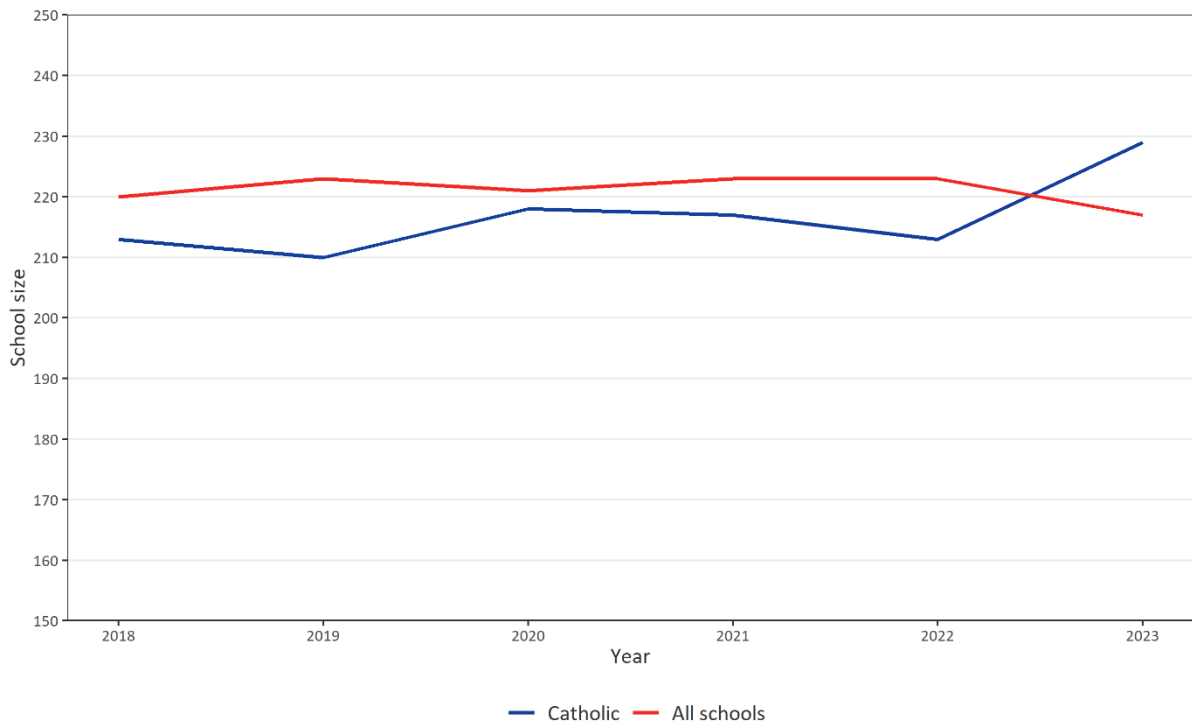
School size (number of pupils)	Number of primary schools	Number of secondary schools	Number of all through schools
<101	6	0	0
101-200	24	0	0
201-300	25	0	0
301-400	7	0	0
401-500	2	1	0
501-600	1	0	0
601-700	0	0	0
701-800	0	2	0
801-900	0	5	0
901-1000	0	2	1
1001-1100	0	1	0
1101-1200	0	1	1
1201-1300	0	0	0
1301-1400	0	0	0
1401-1500	0	1	0
Total	65	13	2

### 1.2.2 Distribution of size of maintained primary schools



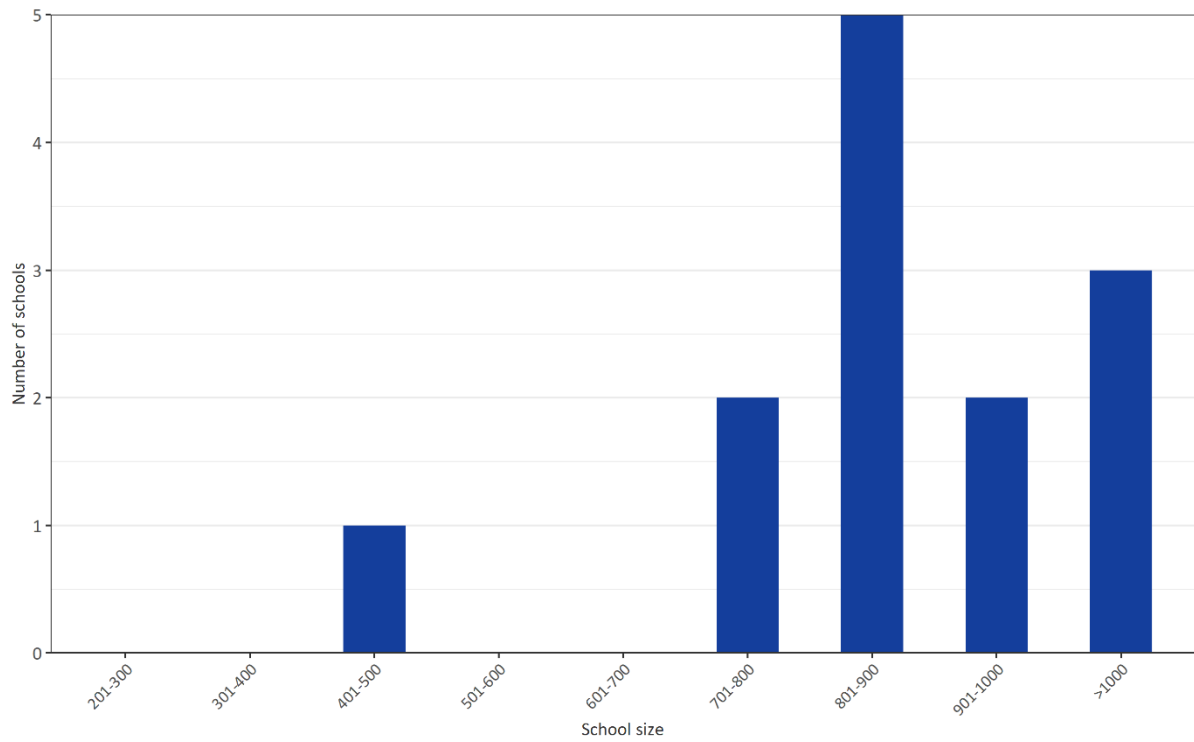
### 1.2.3 Average maintained primary size (trends)

A sharp increase in the average primary school size has been caused by a merger of three primary schools and a secondary school into one all-through school (see 1.1).

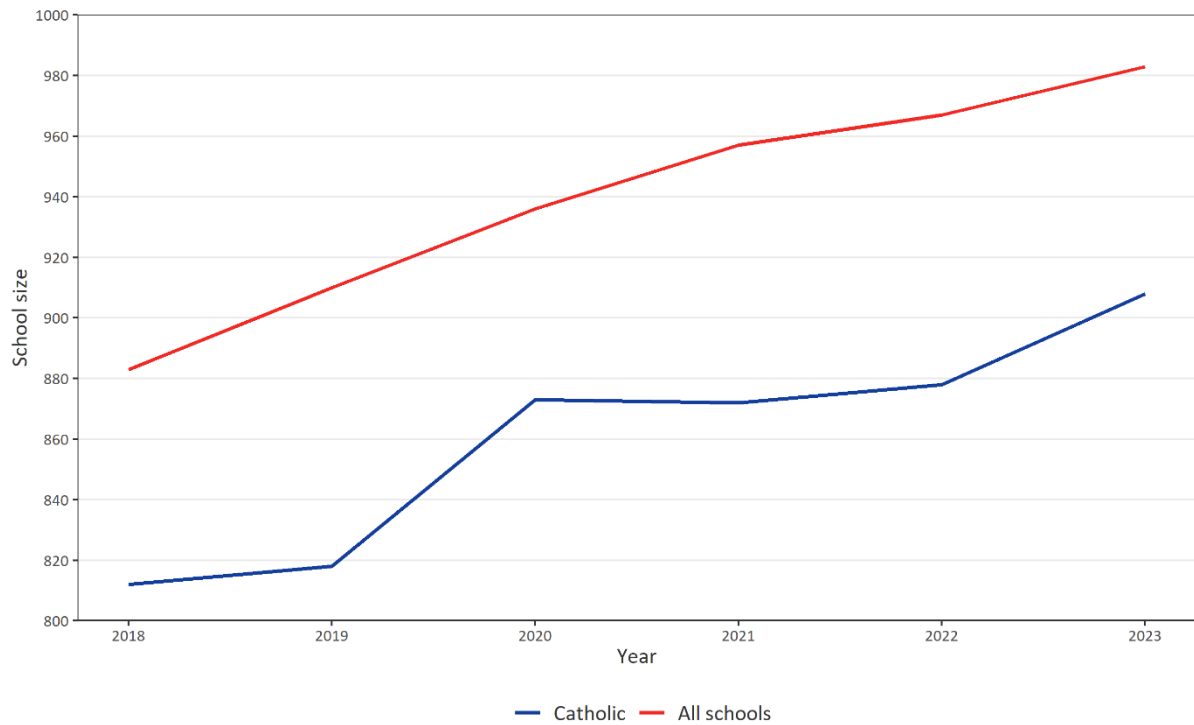




### 1.2.4 Distribution of size of maintained secondary schools



### 1.2.5 Average maintained secondary size (trends)



# Pupils



## 2 Pupils

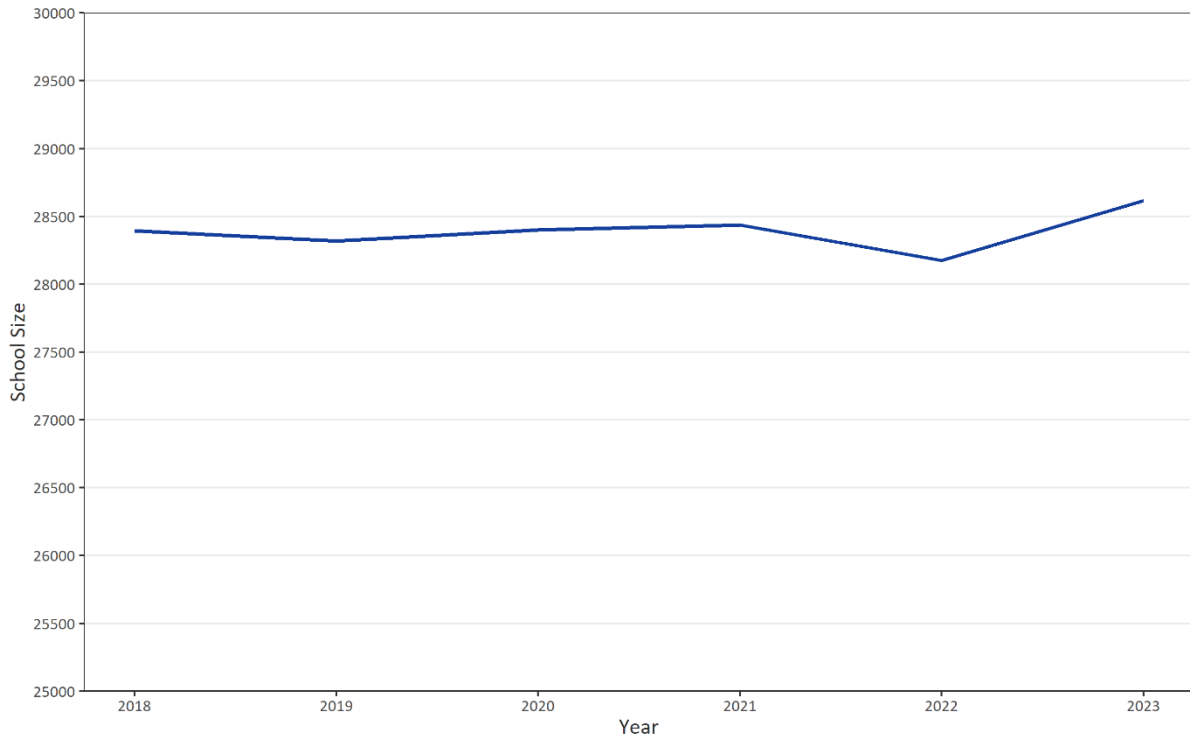
### 2.1 Pupil numbers

Pupils in maintained Catholic primary schools have increased sharply whereas in Catholic secondary schools there was a decrease in pupil numbers. This has been caused in part by the merger of four schools (see 1.1).

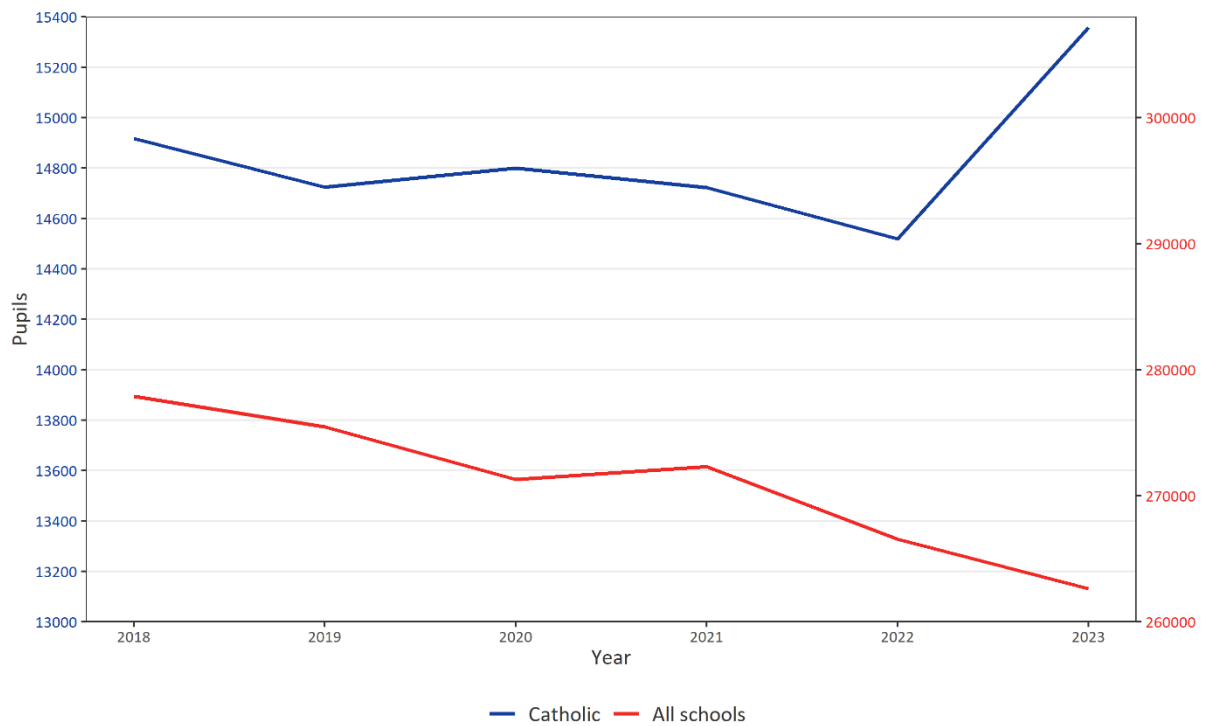
#### 2.1.1 Pupil numbers by phase

Phase	Pupil Numbers
Maintained Primary	15,359
Maintained Secondary	11,804
Maintained Sixth Form Colleges	1,454
Independent	138
Total	28,755

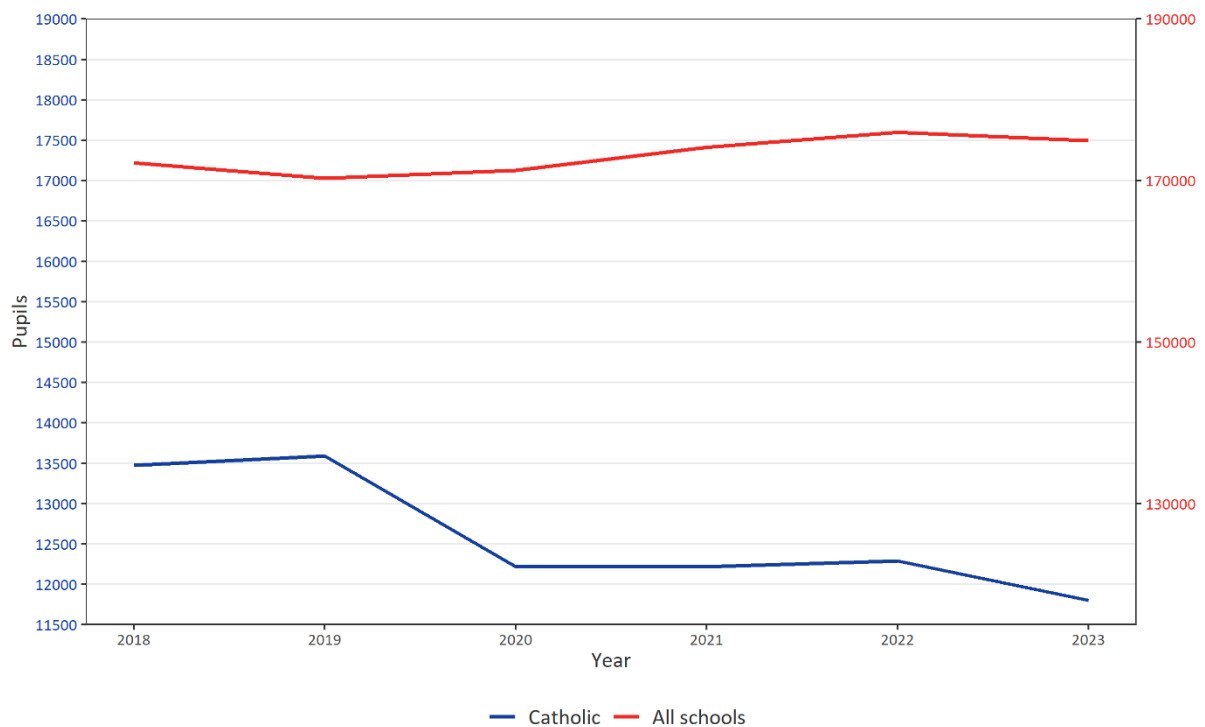
#### 2.1.2 Number of pupils in Catholic schools (trends)



### 2.1.3 Number of pupils in maintained primary schools (trends)



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



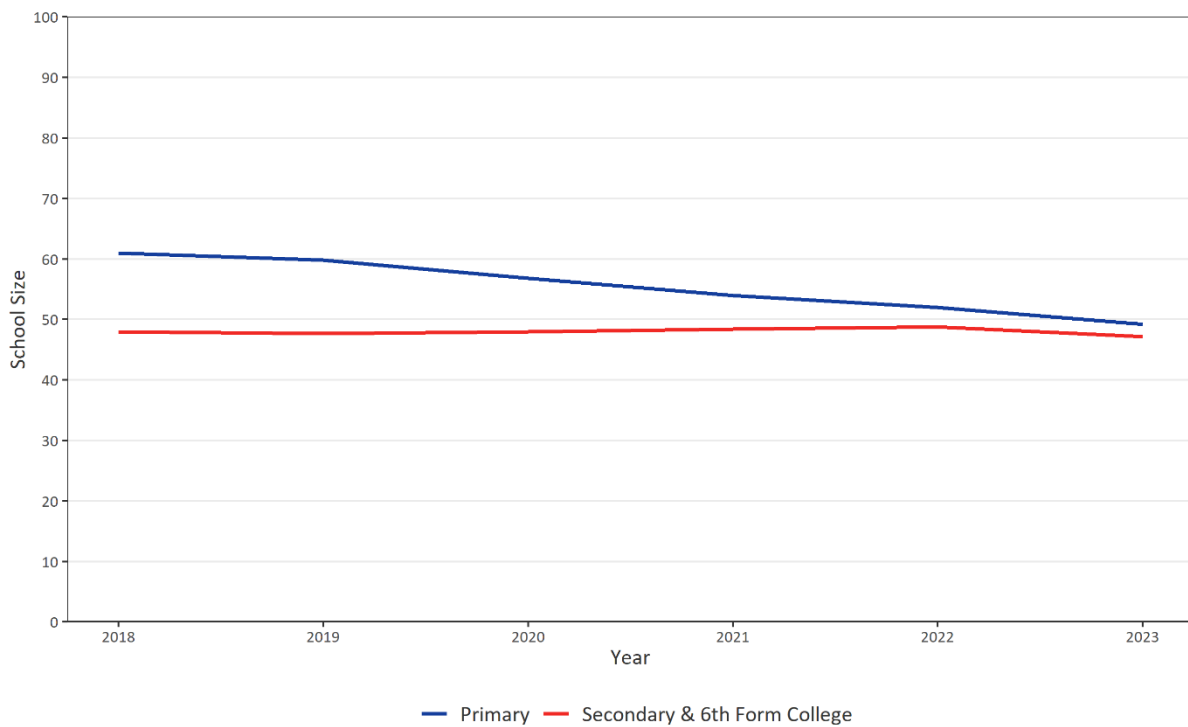
## 2.2 Pupil Religion

Catholic schools in Wales continue to educate not only Catholic pupils but pupils of other faiths and none.

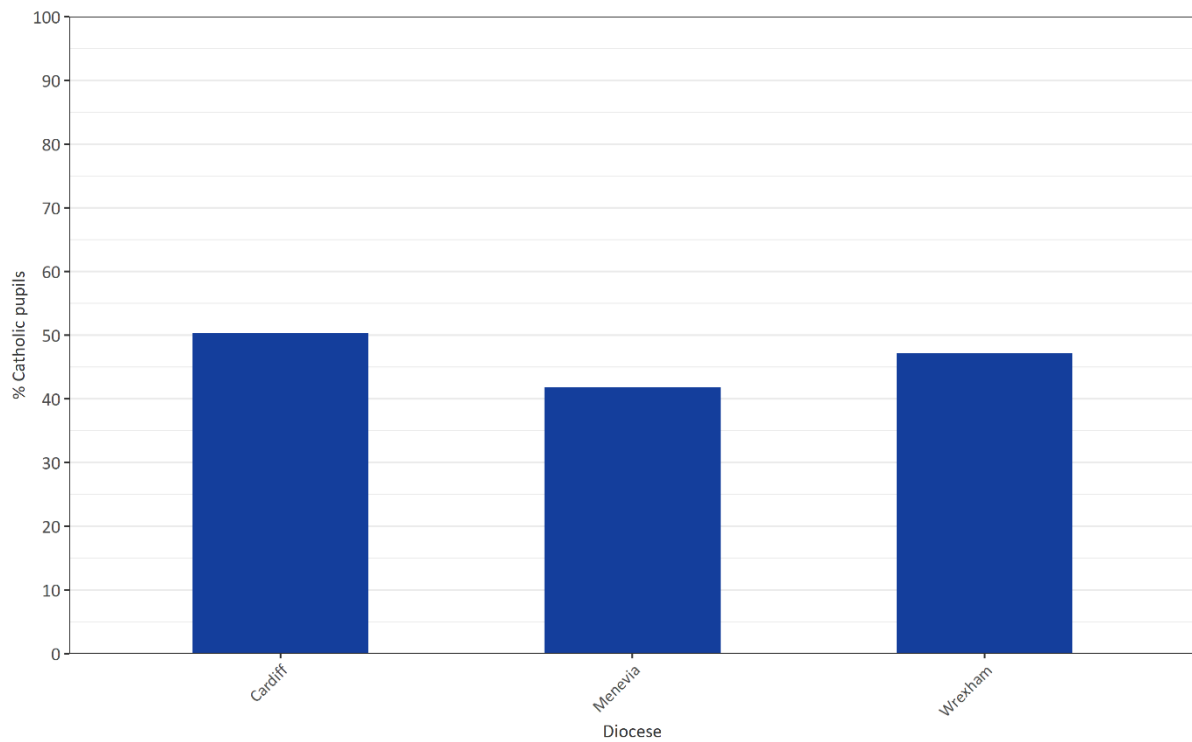
### 2.2.1 Percentage of Catholic pupils in maintained Catholic schools and colleges

	Number of pupils	Number of Catholic pupils	% Catholic pupils
Maintained Schools and Colleges	28,617	13,821	48.3
Maintained Primary Schools	15,359	7,559	49.2
Maintained Secondary Schools (inc sixth form college)	13,258	6,262	47.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,755</b>	<b>13,821</b>	<b>48.1</b>

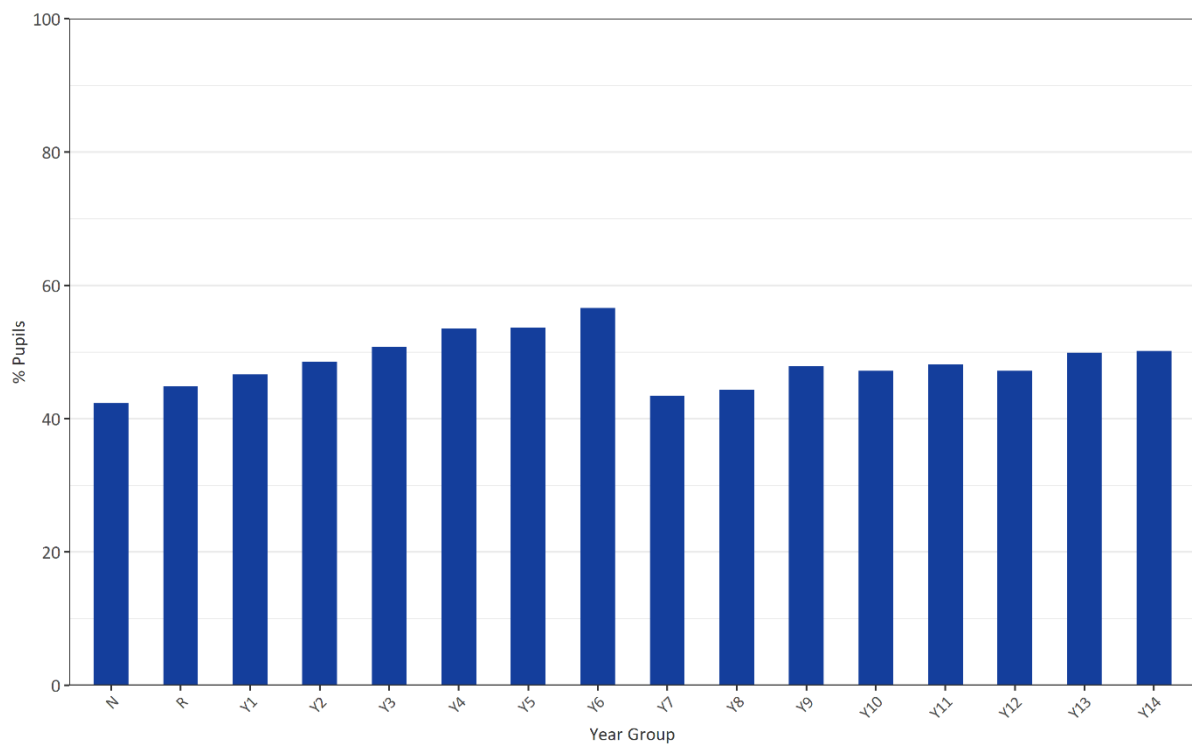
### 2.2.2 Percentage of Catholic pupils in maintained schools by phase (trends)



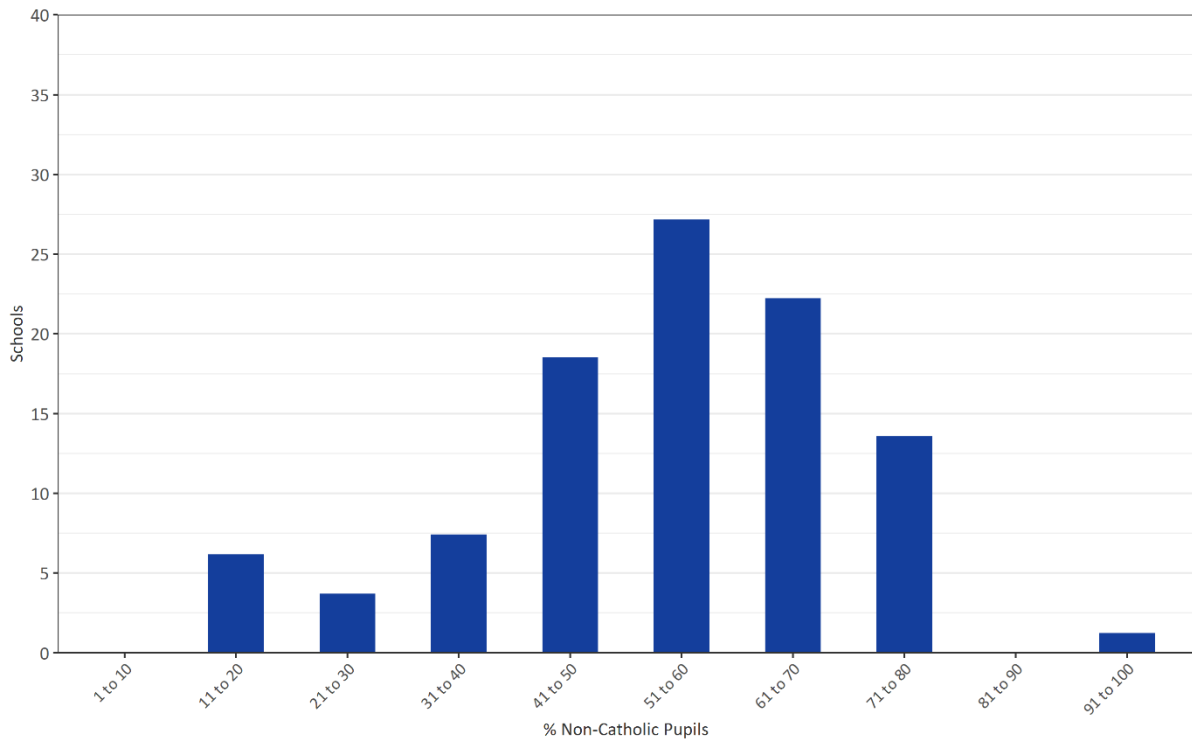
### 2.2.3 Percentage of Catholic pupils in maintained schools by diocese



### 2.2.4 Percentage of Catholic pupils in maintained schools by year group



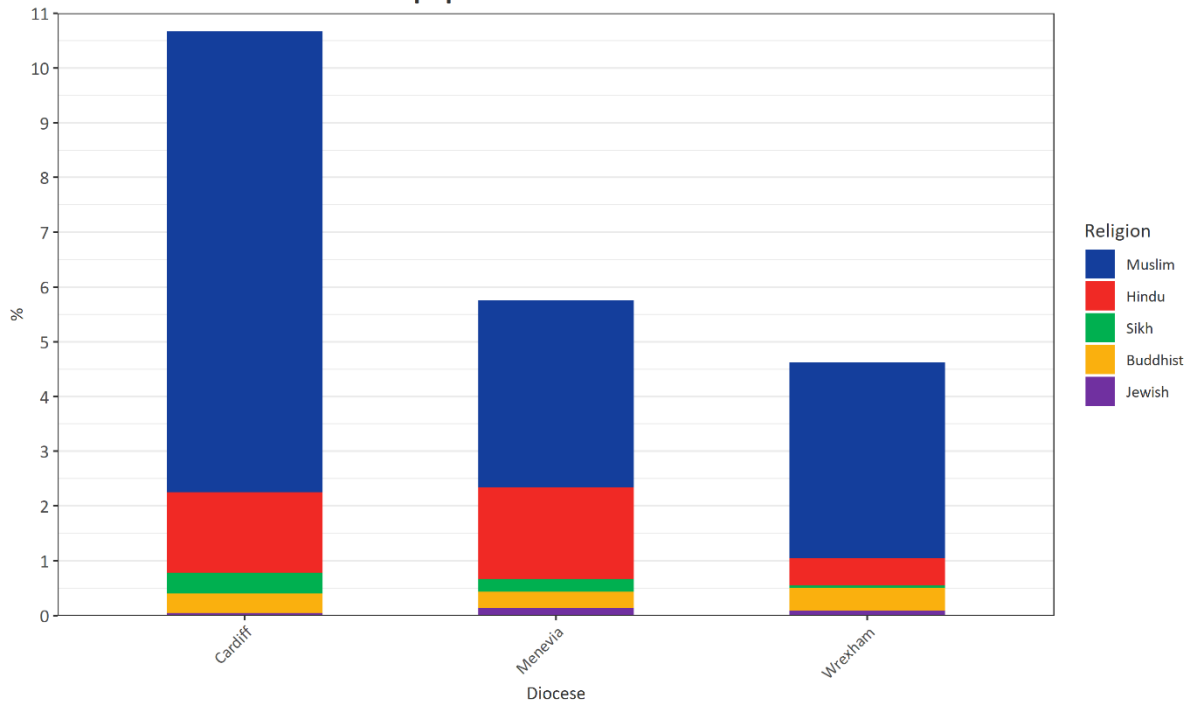
### 2.2.5 Distribution of non-Catholic pupils in maintained schools



### 2.2.6 Breakdown of non-Catholic religions

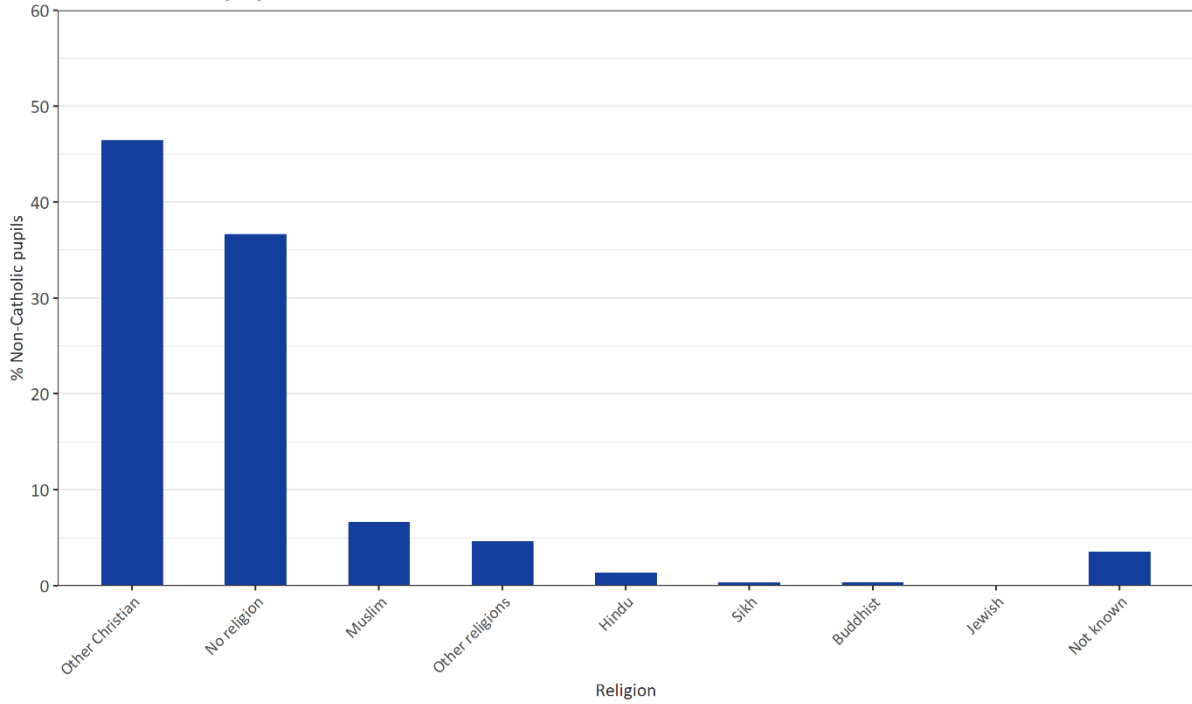
There are 13,821 non-Catholic pupils in maintained schools, just over 50% of the total. 46.4% of non-Catholic pupils are from other Christian denominations. 6.6% are Muslims and 36.7% do not have a religion (a slight decrease from 2022). 72.3% of pupils in maintained Catholic schools are Christians and 79.2% are from a faith background.

**Breakdown of Non-Christian pupils in maintained Catholic schools**

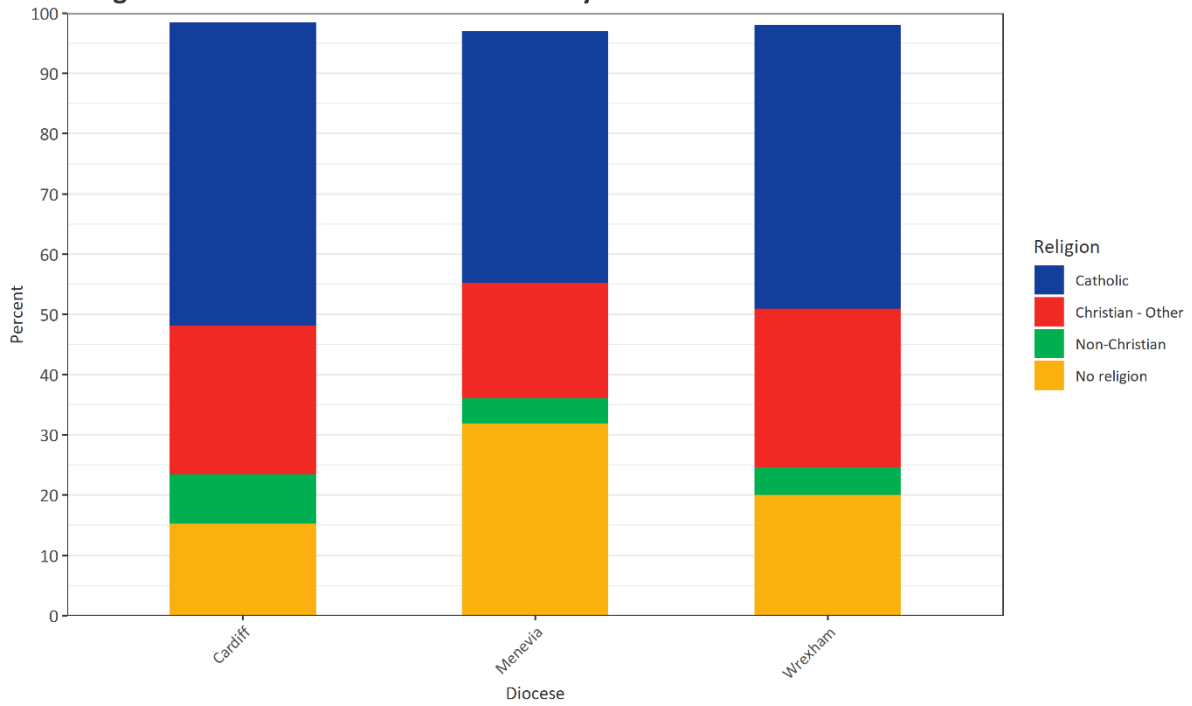




**Non-Catholic pupils in maintained Catholic schools**

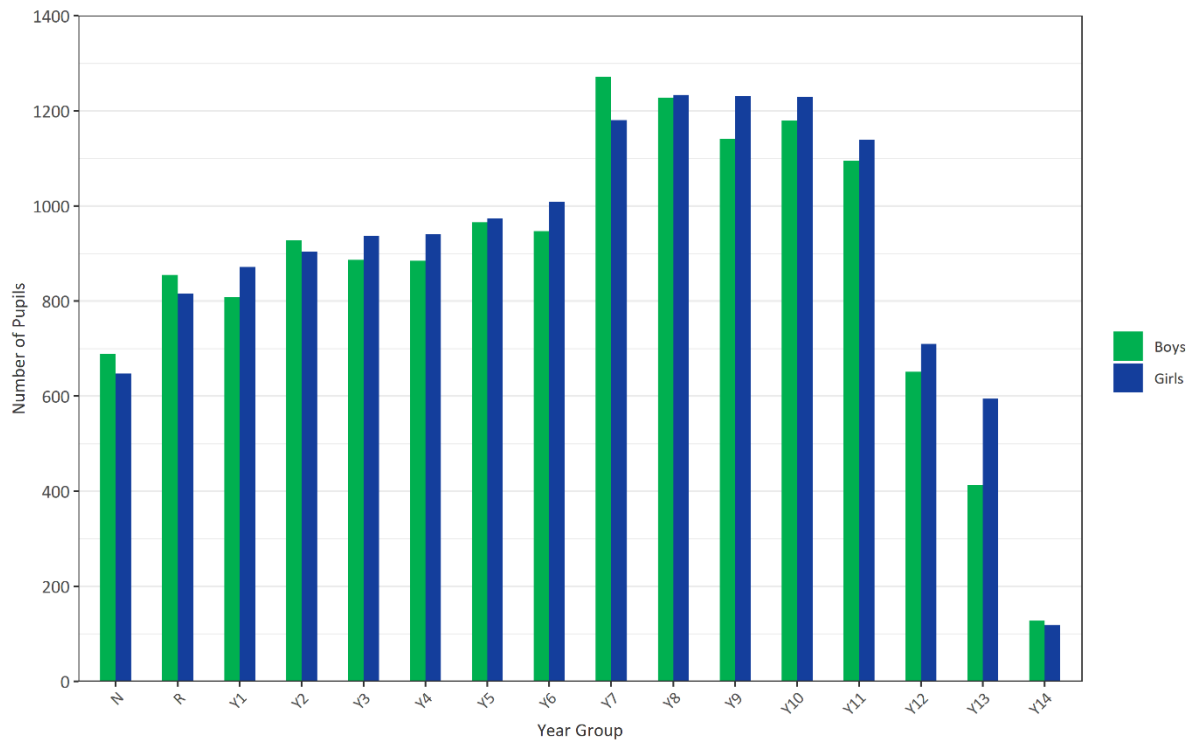


**Religions in maintained Catholic schools by diocese**



## 2.3 Gender

### 2.3.1 Pupil numbers in maintained schools by gender and year group



## 2.4 Withdrawal from Collective worship

Across all Catholic schools two pupils (0.01%) were withdrawn from collective worship.

## 2.5 Withdrawal from Relationship and Sex Education

RSE is mandatory in Welsh schools.

## 2.6 School uniform

99% of Catholic schools in both the maintained and independent sector required a school uniform.

## 2.7 Ethnicity

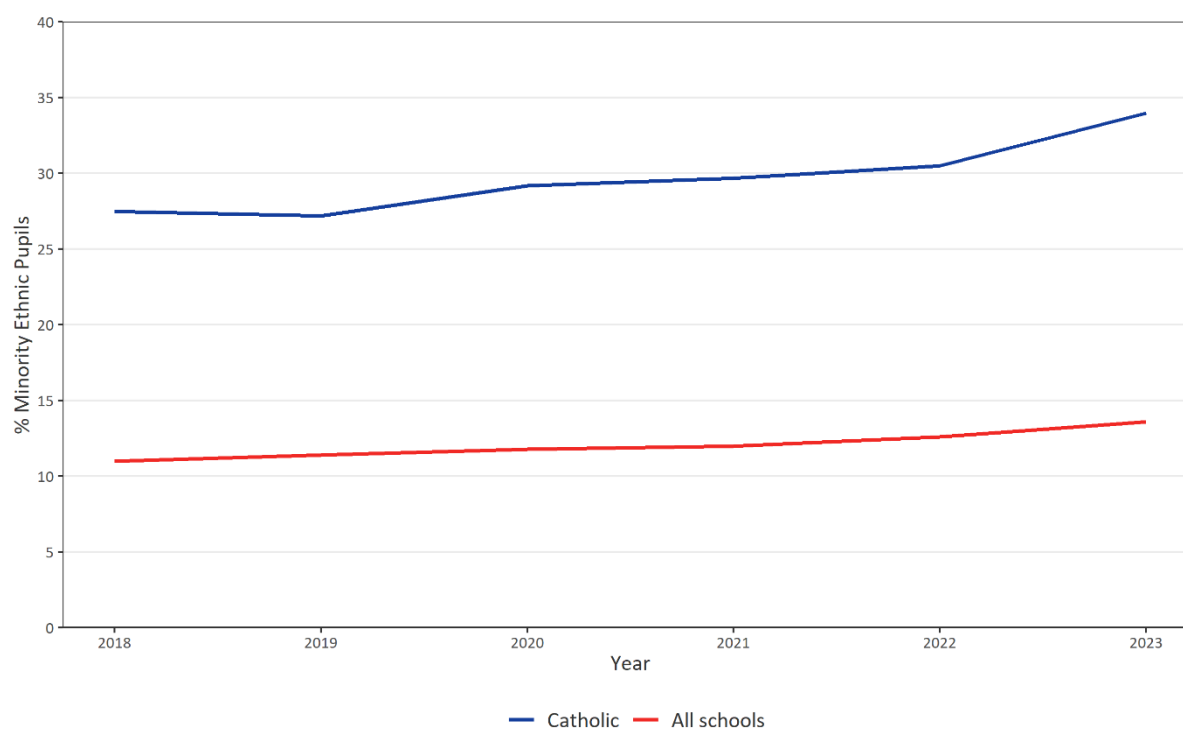
Catholic schools continue to be considerably more ethnically diverse than the national average.

## 2.7.1 Pupil ethnicity

	Number of pupils	% White British	% White Irish	% White Other	% Traveller of Irish / Gypsy / Roma Heritage	% Mixed/Dual	% Asian/Asian British	% Black/Black British	% Chinese	% other ethnic group	% not known
Maintained Catholic	28,617	64.4	0.0	10.4	0.3	6.6	6.8	5.5	0.4	3.8	1.6
All schools	402,416	85.7	See note	3.6	0.3	3.8	2.8	1.3	0.2	1.6	0.7
Primary	15,359	63.3	0.0	10.5	0.4	6.6	7.1	5.9	0.3	3.3	2.6
Secondary + 6th form college	13,258	65.6	0.0	10.4	0.2	6.7	6.5	5.2	0.5	4.5	0.5

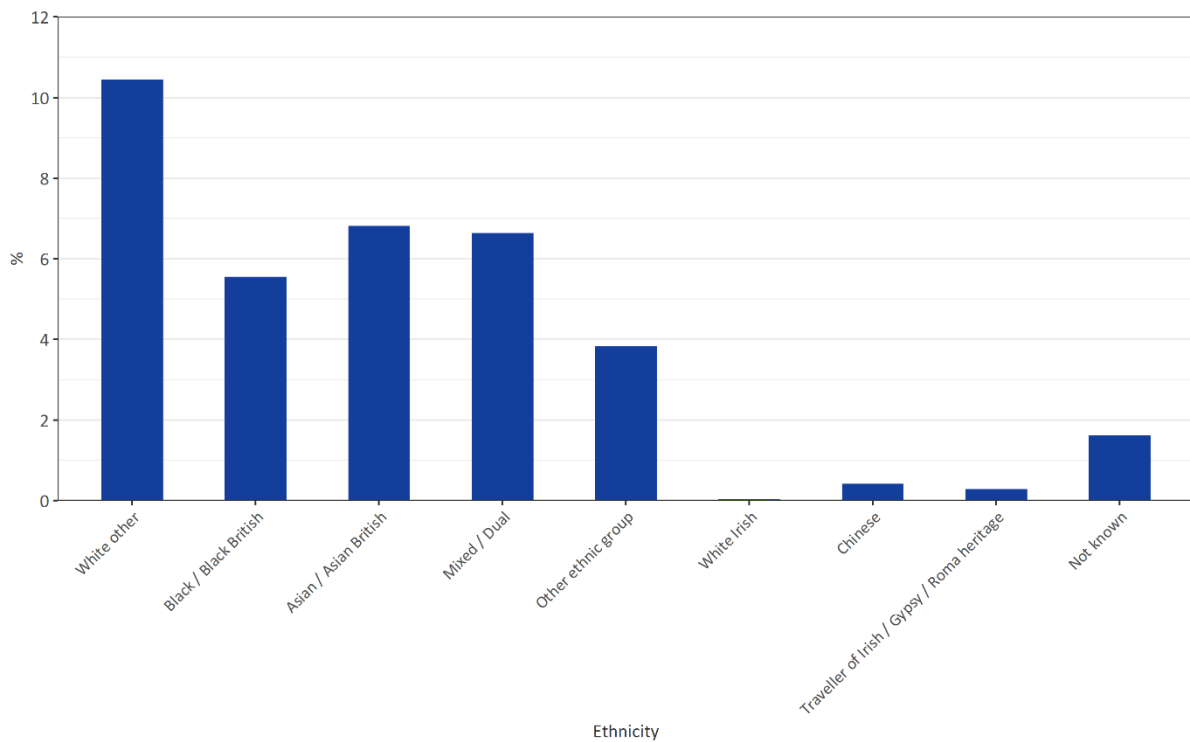
<sup>1</sup> National data includes white Irish with white other)

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

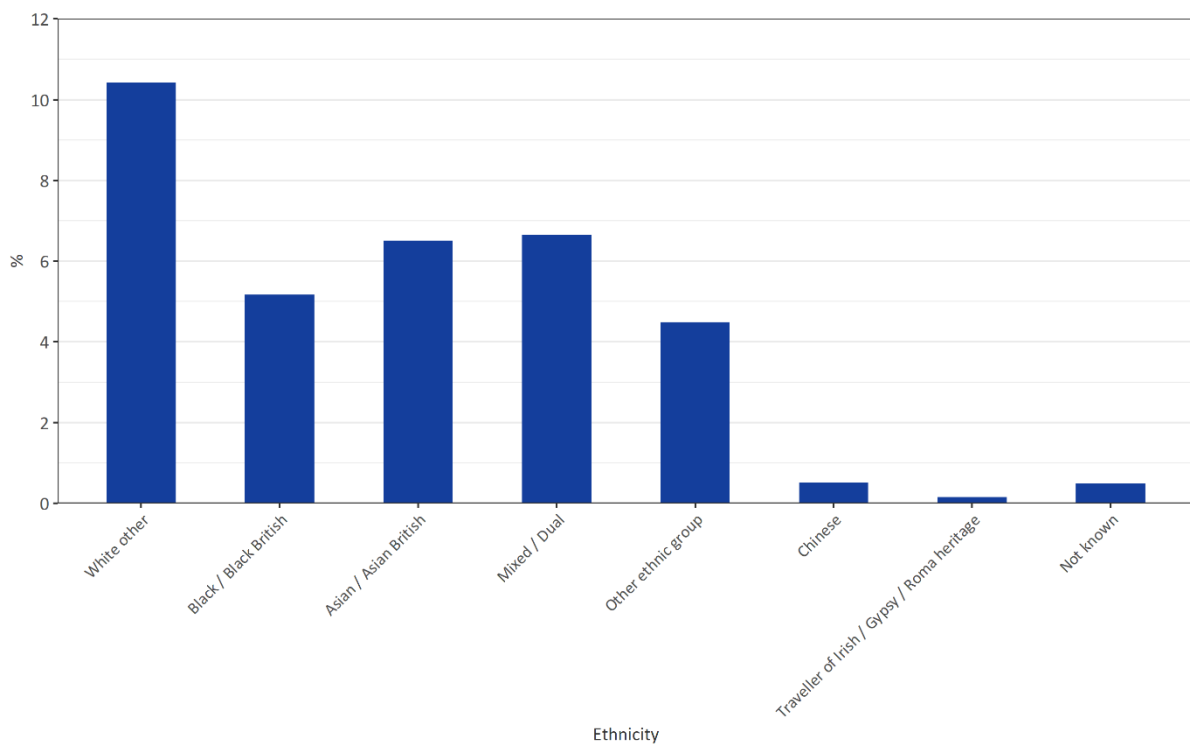


<sup>2</sup> Includes all pupils classified as belonging to an ethnic group other than White British)

### 2.7.3 Pupil ethnicity, minority ethnic groups, in maintained primary schools



### 2.7.4 Pupil ethnicity, minority ethnic groups, maintained secondary schools and sixth form college



## 2.8 Free school meals (FSM)

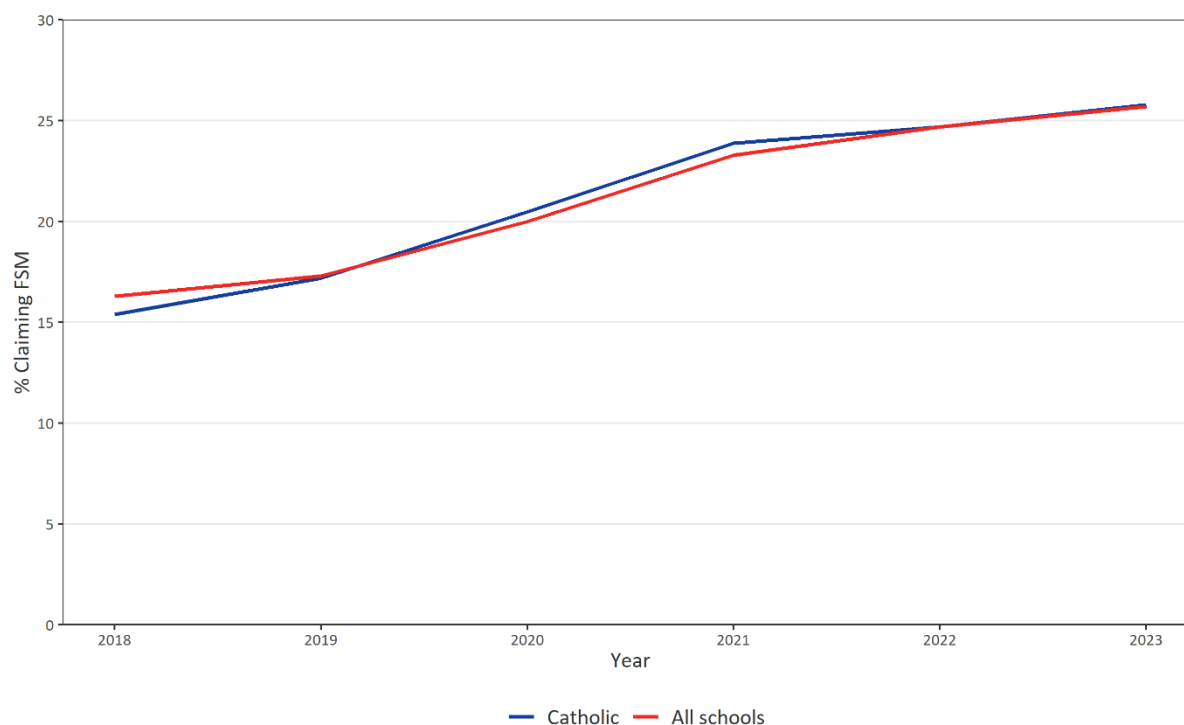
26% of pupils in Catholic primary schools and 22% of pupils in Catholic secondary schools are eligible for free school meals.

Eligibility has risen in recent years because of transitional protection during the introduction of universal credit. Any pupil in receipt of free school meals will continue to be eligible even if their parents cease to be eligible for the qualifying benefit.

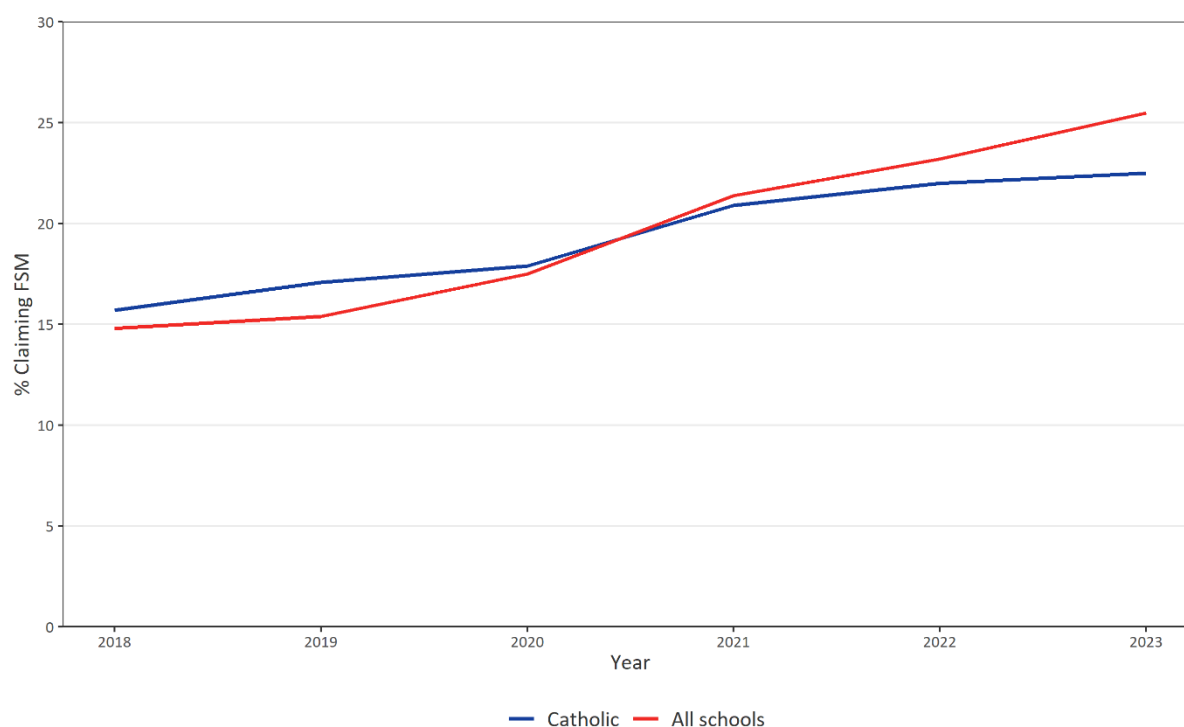
### 2.8.1 Pupils eligible for FSM

Phase	Number of pupils	Number eligible for and taking FSM	% eligible for and taking FSM
Maintained Catholic schools total	28,617	6,609	23.1
Maintained national total	471,131	102,391	26.9
Maintained Catholic primary	15,359	3,956	25.8
Maintained primary national	266,574	65,927	24.7
Maintained Catholic secondary	11,804	2,653	22.5
Maintained secondary national	175,957	40,888	23.2

### 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

1% pupils in Catholic maintained schools were in care on the census date.

### 2.10 Special educational needs (SEN)

There are no Catholic special schools in Wales, therefore we would expect the percentage of pupils with statements to be slightly lower in the Catholic sector.

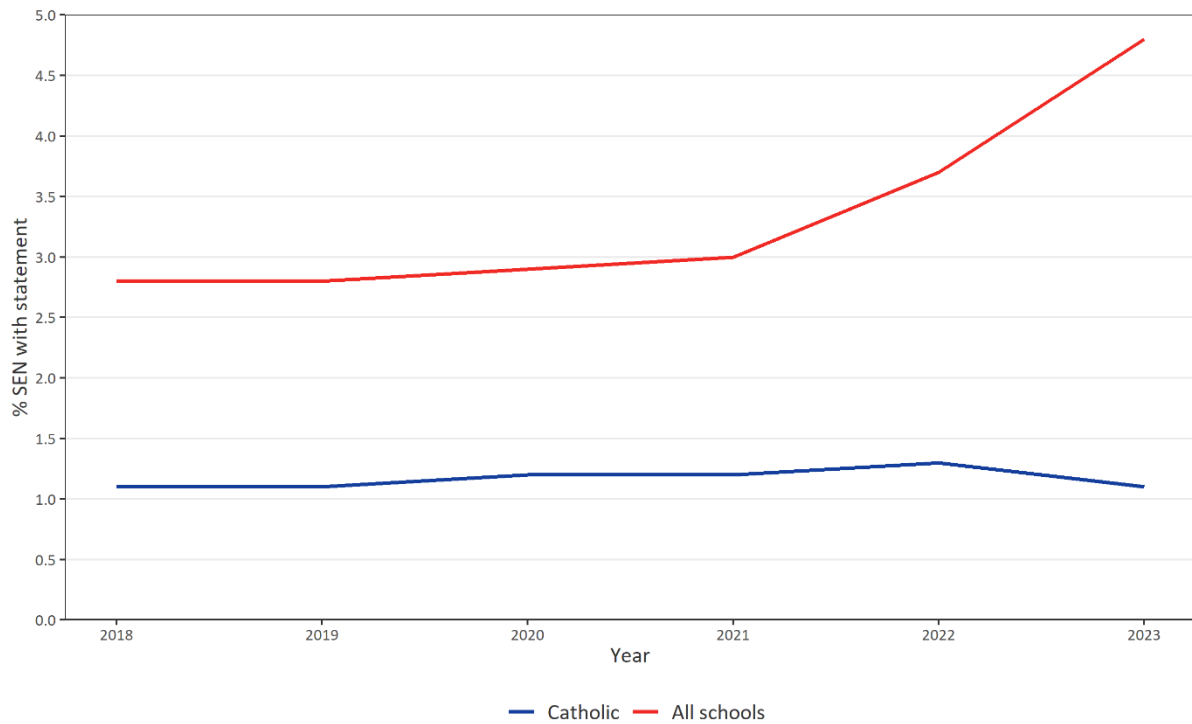
#### 2.10.1 Percentage of pupils with SEN by phase

	Number of pupils	% SEN with statement	% SEN without statement
Primary	15,359	0.9	10.0
Secondary (excluding 6th form college)	11,804	1.5	10.3

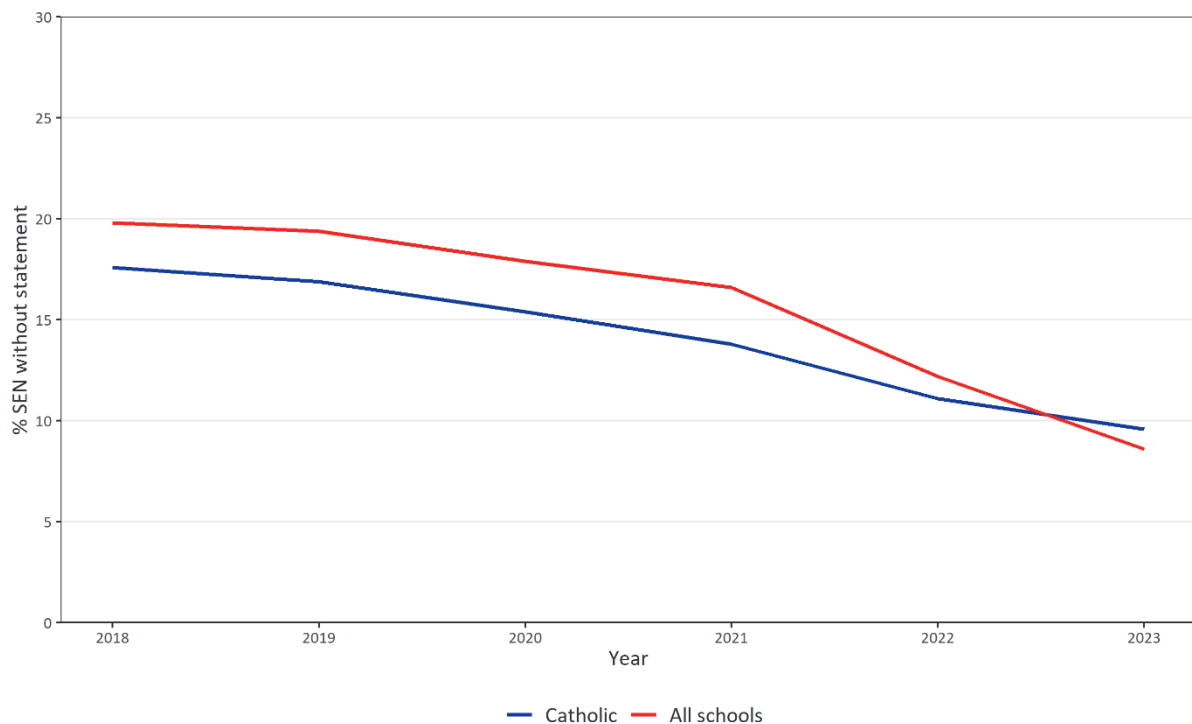
#### 2.10.2 Percentage of pupils with SEN by Diocese

	% SEN with statement	% SEN without statement
Cardiff	0.9	7.4
Menevia	1.5	15.3
Wrexham	1.5	12.4

### 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)





## 2.11 Pupil ability to speak Welsh

These data are obtained from the Pupil Level Annual School Census 2023 and show pupil ability in Welsh as assessed by parents of pupils in primary, middle and secondary schools.

Ability to speak Welsh & speaking Welsh at home as assessed by parents		National	%	Catholic	%
Can speak Welsh but not fluently	Speaks Welsh at home	9295	2.46	90	0.33
	Does not speak Welsh at home	75050	19.82	7405	27.26
Fluent in Welsh	Speaks Welsh at home	28600	7.55	40	0.15
	Does not speak Welsh at home	21875	5.78	35	0.13
Cannot speak Welsh		188245	49.72	13220	48.67

# Staff



### 3 Staff

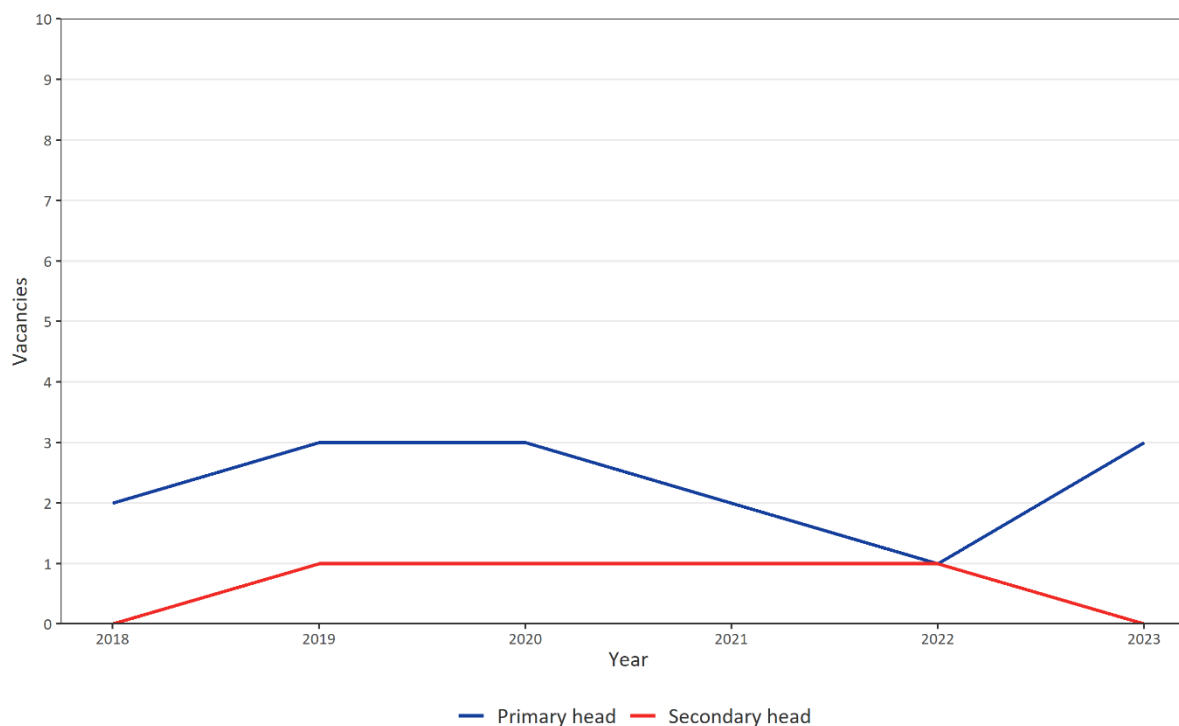
#### 3.1 Leadership Teams

Headship vacancies have increased in primary schools and decreased in secondary schools. The proportion of Catholic staff with National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) has decreased in Catholic primary schools and increased slightly in Catholic secondary schools.

##### 3.1.1 Leadership vacancies, NPQH and gender

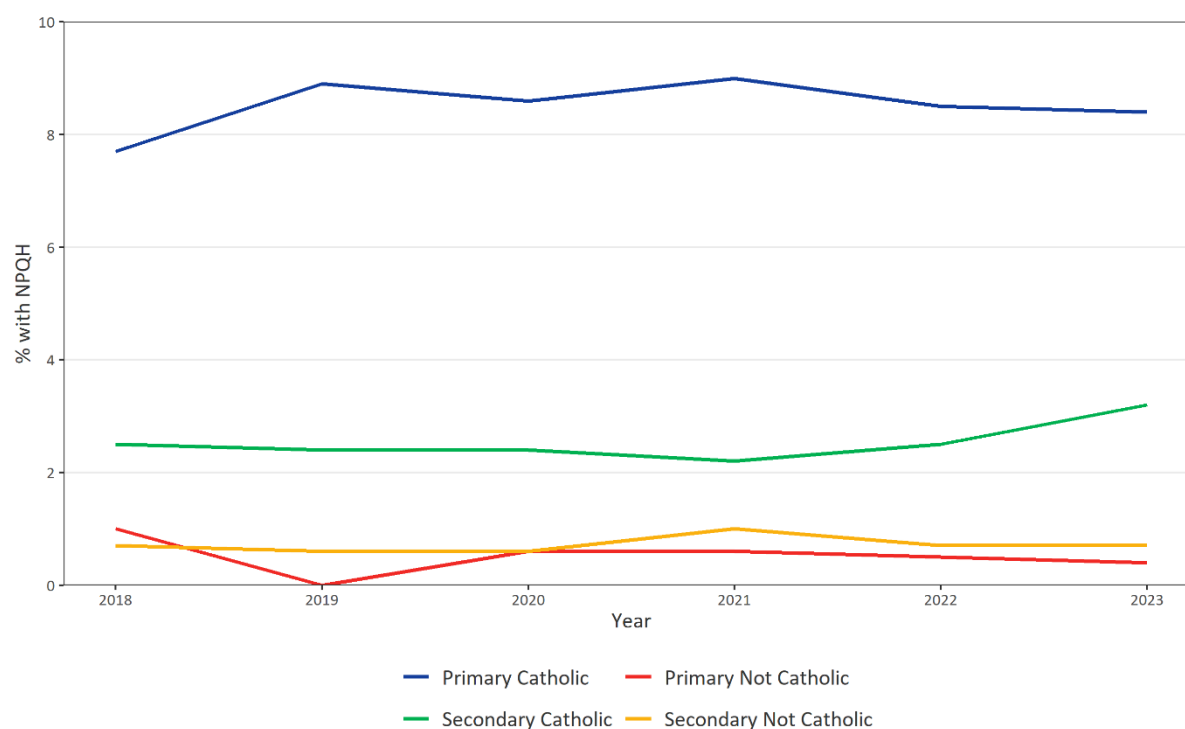
	Schools	Headship vacancies	Deputy / assistant vacancies	% Catholic with NPQH	% Not Catholic with NPQH	% Catholic taking NPQH	% Not Catholic taking NPQH	Gender of heads %F/%M
Primary	67	3	1	8.4	0.4	0.3	0.1	76/24
Secondary	13	0	1	3.1	0.7	0.1	0.0	23/77

##### 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)



NPQH has not been mandatory for head teachers since 2011.

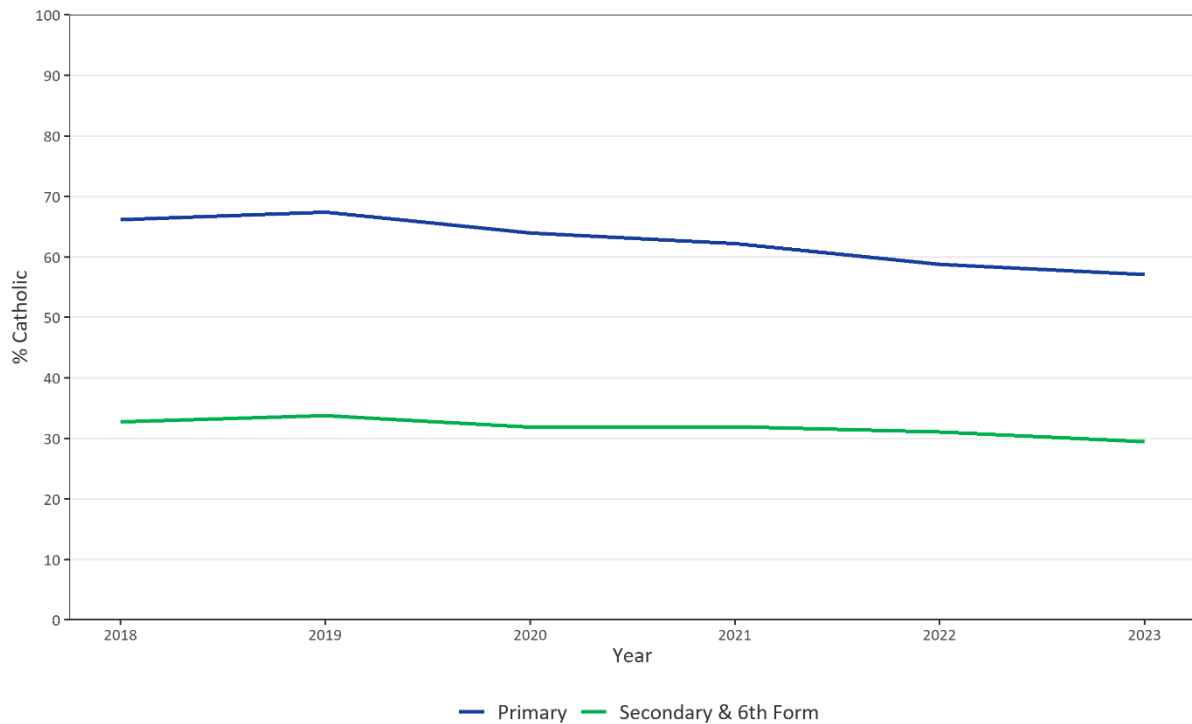
### 3.3 Staff Catholicity

In primary schools, staff Catholicity has decreased by 9% since 2018. In secondary schools, staff Catholicity decreased by 3% during the same period.

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

	Number of teachers	% Catholic teachers	Number of staff with CCRS	% with CCRS
Primary	784	57.1	191	24.4
Secondary (inc 6th form college)	858	29.5	44	5.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,642</b>	<b>42.7</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>14.3</b>

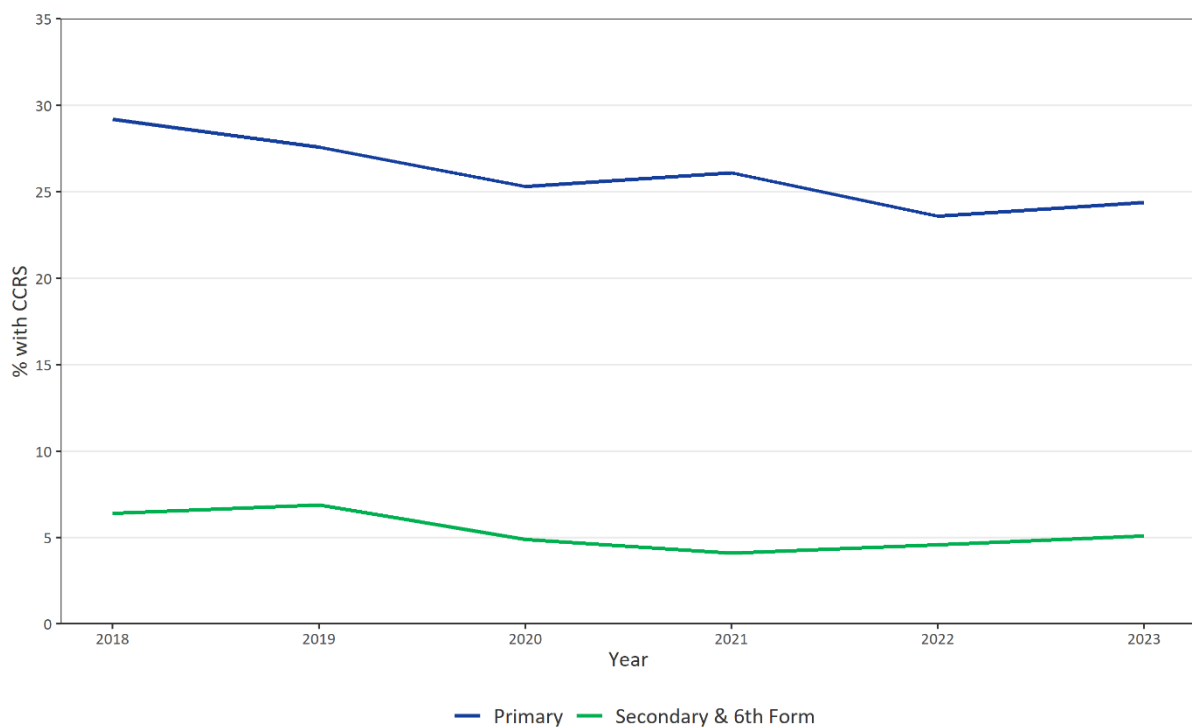
### 3.3.2 Staff Catholicity, maintained schools (trends)



### 3.4 Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS)

In primary schools there has been a small increase in the number of staff with the CCRS qualification after decreasing in 2022. In secondary schools the percentage of staff with CCRS has risen slightly for the second successive year.

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



### 3.5 RE Teaching

#### 3.5.1 Teachers of RE by phase

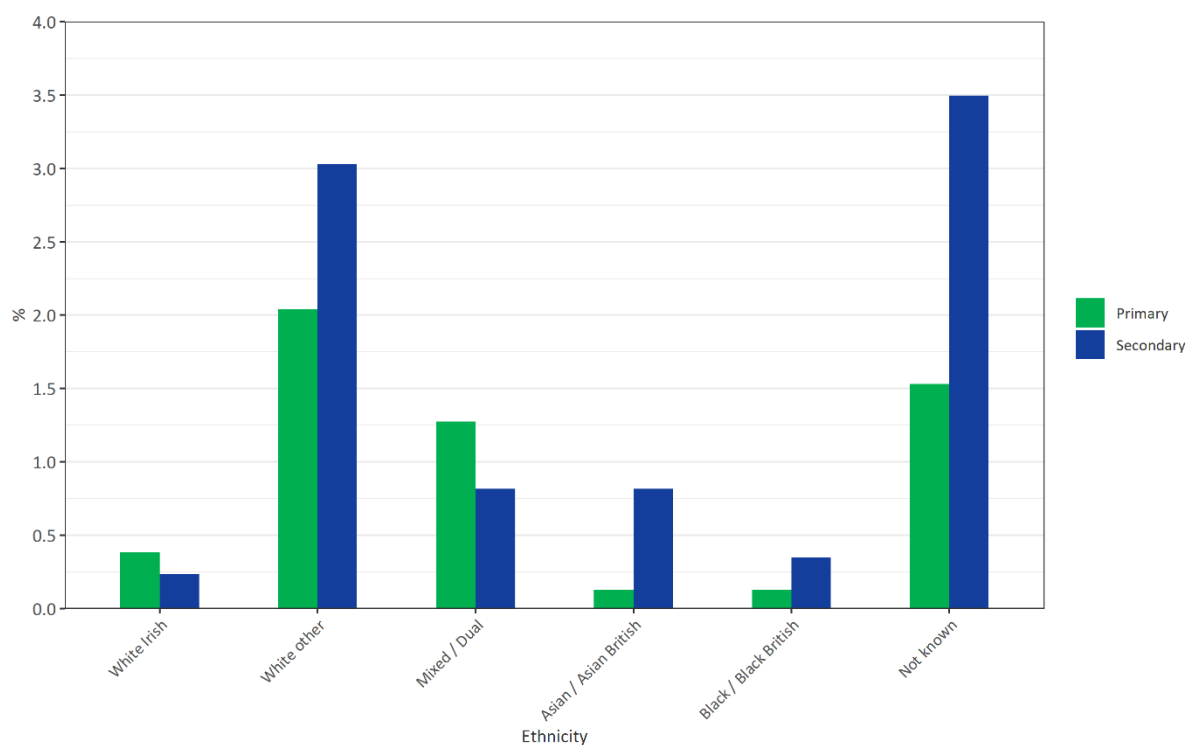
Phase	Number of teachers	Number of specialist qualified RE teachers	Percentage specialist qualified RE teachers	Number of staff teaching RE	Percentage of staff teaching RE	Number of staff teaching RE for 50%+ of timetable	Percentage of staff teaching RE for 50%+ of timetable	Number of settings where RE classes taken by teaching assistants
Primary	784	38	4.8	524	66.8	8	1.0	8
Secondary (inc 6th form colleges)	858	63	7.3	70	8.2	55	6.4	0

### 3.6 Staff Ethnicity

#### 3.6.1 Ethnicity of teachers overall and by phase

Phase	% White British	% White Irish	% White Other	% Irish / Gypsy / Roma	% Mixed / Dual	% Asian / Asian British	% Black / Black British	% Chinese	% Other Ethnic Group	% Not Known
All Catholic Maintained	92.5	0.3	2.6	0.0	1.0	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.3	2.6
Catholic Primary	94.0	0.4	2.0	0.0	1.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.6	1.5
Catholic Secondary (inc 6 <sup>th</sup> form college)	91.1	0.2	3.0	0.0	0.8	0.8	0.3	0.0	0.0	3.5

### 3.6.2 Staff ethnicity, minority ethnic groups, in maintained schools



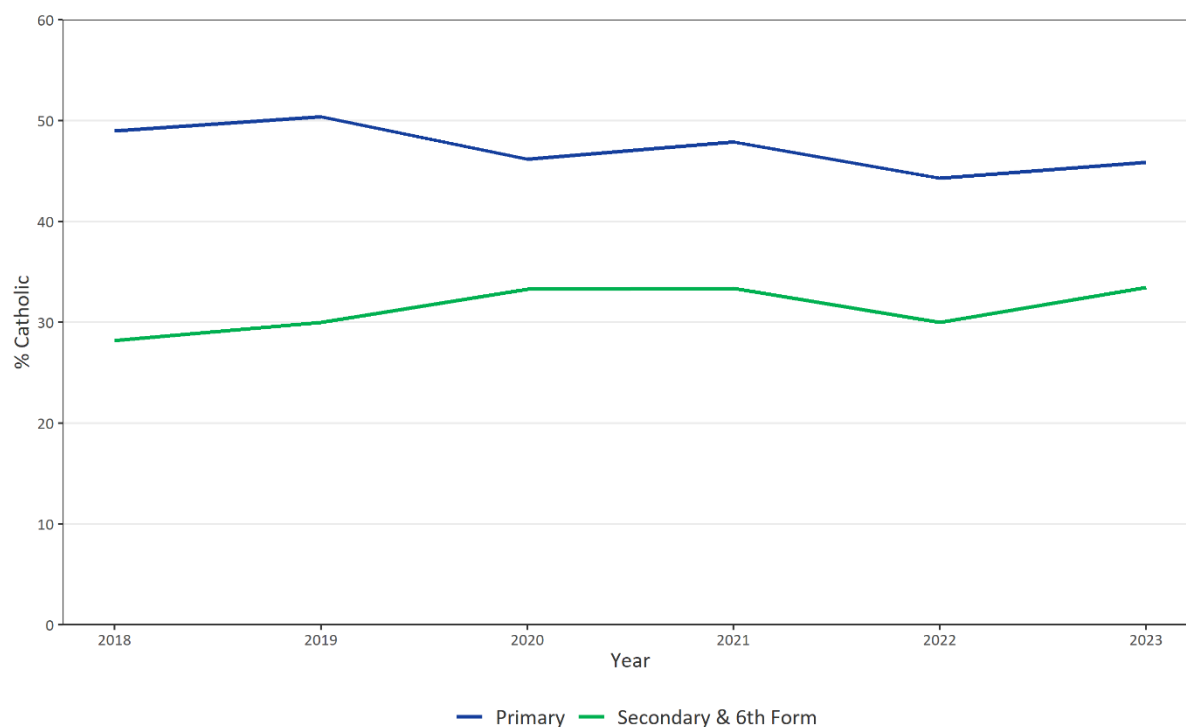
### 3.7 Education Support Staff

#### 3.7.1 Percentage and Catholicity of education support staff

Phase	Number of teachers	Number of support staff	Ratio of support staff to teachers	Percentage Catholic support staff
Primary	784	710	0.9	45.9
Secondary (inc 6th form college)	858	325	0.4	33.5



### 3.7.2 Percentage of Catholic education support staff (trends)



### 3.8 Staff ability to speak Welsh

Number of school teachers who have declared that they are fluent or fairly fluent in the Welsh language (yes, no, not known):

	National		Catholic	
	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	11,884	33.2	191	12.5
No	23,043	64.3	1,287	84.1
Unknown	910	2.5	53	3.5
Total	35,837	100	1,531	100

Number of school teachers who have declared that they are trained to work, currently work or have ever worked in the medium of Welsh or feel confident to do so (yes, no, not known):

	National		Catholic	
	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	9,492	26.5	107	7.0
No	25,422	70.9	1,370	89.5
Unknown	923	2.6	54	3.5
Total	35,837	100	1,531	100

The data is supplied by the Education Workforce Council.

# Appendix



## Appendix

### Maintained schools' totals referenced in tables

Totals in this table are used to calculate percentages in the following tables: A.2; A.3; A.6; A.7.

Diocese	Number of pupils	Number of teachers
Cardiff	18,980	1,098
Menevia	5,136	284
Wrexham	4,501	260
Total	28,617	1,642

### A.1 Numbers of pupils in maintained schools by diocese

Diocese	Number of pupils in primary schools	Number of pupils in secondary schools & 6th form college
Cardiff	8,634	9,243
Menevia	2,648	2,488
Wrexham	2,974	1,527
Total	14,256	13,258

### A.2 FSM, SEN & looked after children by diocese

Diocese	% Eligible for FSM	% SEN with statement or EHC plan	% SEN no statement	% Looked-after children
Cardiff	22.6	0.9	7.4	1.1
Menevia	23.7	1.5	15.3	0.7
Wrexham	24.7	1.5	12.4	0.9
Total	23.1	1.1	9.6	1.0

### A.3 Ethnicity of pupils by diocese

Diocese	% White British	% White Irish	% White Other	% Irish / Gypsy / Roma Heritage	% Mixed/Dual	% Asian/Asian British	% Black/Black British	% Chinese	% Other ethnic group	% Not known
Cardiff	62.9	0.0	9.1	0.2	7.2	7.4	6.3	0.5	4.1	2.1
Menevia	67.3	0.0	9.4	0.7	5.1	7.0	5.7	0.1	4.3	0.4
Wrexham	67.1	0.0	17.1	0.3	5.9	4.1	2.2	0.3	2.0	1.0
Total	64.4	0.0	10.4	0.3	6.6	6.8	5.5	0.4	3.8	1.6

#### A.4 Catholicity and CCRS by diocese

Diocese	Number of Catholic teaching staff	% Catholic teachers	% with CCRS
Cardiff	465	42.3	11.9
Menevia	134	47.2	18.7
Wrexham	102	39.2	19.6
Total	701	42.7	14.3

#### A.5 Ethnicity of teachers by diocese

Diocese	% White British	% White Irish	% White Other	% Irish / Gypsy / Roma Heritage	% Mixed/Dual	% Asian/Asian British	% Black/Black British	% Chinese	% Other ethnic group	% Not known
Cardiff	91.1	0.3	2.8	0.0	1.3	0.7	0.3	0.0	0.4	3.2
Menevia	95.4	0.7	2.8	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4
Wrexham	95.4	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	2.3
Total	92.5	0.3	2.6	0.0	1.0	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.3	2.6

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

Yr Group	N	R	1	2	3	4	5	6
% Catholic	42	45	47	49	51	54	54	57

Yr Group	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
% Catholic	43	44	48	47	48	47	50	50

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

Percentage of non-Catholic Pupils	Number of schools	Percentage of schools
1 to 10	0	0.0
11 to 20	5	6.2
21 to 30	3	3.7
31 to 40	6	7.4
41 to 50	15	18.5
51 to 60	22	27.2
61 to 70	18	22.2
71 to 80	11	13.6
81 to 90	0	0.0

### A.8 Non-Catholic pupil religions by diocese

	% other Christian	% Buddhist	% Hindu	% Jewish	% Muslim	% Sikh	% Other religions	% No religion	% Religion not known
Cardiff	49.9	0.4	1.5	0.0	8.4	0.4	5.8	30.6	3.1
Menevia	32.9	0.3	1.7	0.1	3.4	0.2	1.6	54.7	5.1
Wrexham	49.9	0.4	0.5	0.1	3.6	0.0	4.0	37.8	3.6

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

	N	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Boys	689	855	809	928	887	885	966	947
Girls	648	816	872	905	937	941	974	1,009
Total	1,337	1,671	1,681	1,833	1,824	1,826	1,940	1,956

	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13	Y14
Boys	1,272	1,228	1,142	1,180	1,095	652	413	128
Girls	1,181	1,234	1,231	1,229	1,140	710	595	119
Total	2,453	2,462	2,373	2,409	2,235	1,362	1,008	247

### A.10 Headline data, England and Wales

	England	Wales
Total pupils	821,549	28,755
Total pupils (state-funded)	786,629	28,617
Total pupils (independent)	34,920	138
Total schools	2087	82
Total schools (state-funded)	1,989	81
Total schools (independent)	98	1
Pupil Catholicity (state-funded)	58%	48%
Pupil Catholicity (independent)	30%	
Total teachers (state-funded)	47,307	1642
Staff Catholicity (state-funded)	46%	43%

A.11 Map showing the Catholic dioceses in Wales





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