

63358 Bullying in Schools

Can I please request the following information:

1. The number of recorded incidents of bullying in:

a) primary

b) secondary schools

in each academic year from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

2. Broken down by:

a) primary school

b) secondary school

3. Broken down by bullying type, if possible, e.g. cyber, physical, verbal.

Please refer to the table below and accompanying notes. The column headings represent the standard categories for 'Nature of Incident' on the national SEEMiS Bullying and Equalities module.

	Abusive messages online/ phone/ gaming/ social media	Being ignored	Belongings taken or damaged	Gender Based Violence	Hit, tripped, pushed or kicked	Name calling, teased, put down or threatened	Other (Please Specify)	Racism or Racist Incident	Spreading rumours	Targeted because of who they are/ perceived to be	Grand Total
2021-22	91	14	60	8	361	1082	239	109	61	320	2345
Primary	19	13	38	6	236	465	64	68	38	118	1065
Secondary	72	1	22	2	125	617	175	41	23	202	1280
2022-23	114	86	74	93	587	1519	329	1053	45	529	4429
Primary	43	48	20	6	335	462	161	448	16	113	1652
Secondary	71	38	54	87	252	1057	168	605	29	416	2777
2023-24	224	32	83	75	778	1548	296	1036	85	463	4620

Primary	27	24	40	10	513	496	148	636	24	84	2002
Secondary	197	8	43	65	265	1052	148	400	61	379	2618
2024-25	92	24	87	59	670	1183	241	991	75	329	3751
Primary	41	15	34	3	497	515	135	581	30	90	1941
Secondary	51	9	53	56	173	668	106	410	45	239	1810
2025-26	188	98	94	27	1013	2006	229	1005	236	480	5376
Primary	81	97	57	7	650	797	120	563	111	172	2655
Secondary	107	1	37	20	363	1209	109	442	125	308	2721

NOTES:

1. The incident count shown is the highest possible count of incidents; it includes each instance of the nature of the incident, per pupil experiencing, perceived reason and location of incident. For example, if one pupil experienced bullying by 3 other pupils and this involved abusive online messages, this would show as 3 instances.
2. There is a marked increase in the total number of recorded incidents between 2021-22 and 2023-24, with a decrease in 2024-25. This may be explained by measures put in place from 2021 to address inconsistent approaches to dealing with and recording incidents which included: implementing a strengthened 'Preventing and Responding to Bullying and Prejudice' procedure; supplementary guidance on tackling racist incidents; and training for school Equality Co-ordinators. The significant increase in the number of incidents in 2025-26 will be addressed through the implementation of a refreshed Anti-Bullying Policy in 2026-27, with robust monitoring.