

Section Five Education

Education is commonly seen as a critical step in the achievement of life chances. According to the *National Anti-Poverty Strategy*, for example, educational qualifications, or the lack of them, determine to a large extent the life chances of people (1997, p. 9). It also suggests that the education system has a key role to play in providing a route out of poverty and in the promotion of equality of opportunity (ibid pp. 6-9).

Free second level education was introduced in Ireland in 1967. Given the older age profile of the population in Leitrim, it can be assumed that there are a substantial number of people who did not benefit from this initiative. Information from the Department of Education and Science, which is based on the younger age groups only, show that schools in Leitrim are performing very well in comparison with other areas in the country.

Education is widely recognised as one of the most important means of tackling socio-economic disadvantage (Department of Education and Science, 2002, p. 5). This is reflected in, for example, an analysis carried out by the Central Statistics Office¹ of the information on education and employment/unemployment from the 2002 Census of Population. This analysis clearly demonstrates that the higher the educational level attained the lower the risk of unemployment² and illustrates that educational disadvantage can have consequences for a person throughout his or her life.

Research also indicates that certain individuals are more vulnerable to educational disadvantage than others. In their report, *Early School Leaving* (2002), the National Economic and Social Forum (NESF) highlight that a higher proportion of those leaving school early to take up jobs come from semi-skilled and unskilled manual backgrounds. The findings highlight the over-representation from the lower socio-economic backgrounds of individuals who leave school early with few or no qualifications. The 9.1% of students from the *Unskilled Manual* group who left with no qualifications contrasts with less than 1% from the *Higher Professional, Lower Professional and Salaried Employees* groups (NESF, 2002, p. 33). The Combat Poverty Agency³ has also identified that groups such as people with a disability, members of the Traveller Community and/or other minority ethnic groups are vulnerable to educational disadvantage.

Leitrim: A County in Change examines the highest level of education completed of the population aged 15 years and over whose full-time education has ceased. In particular, it examines those who finished education with no formal education or primary education only and those who finished education with a third level degree or equivalent. The profile also examines those who left school at 15 years of age or younger, and at 20 years or older.

1 In an analysis of the information from the 2002 Census of Population, the CSO estimate that those who have no formal education or primary education only are three times as likely to be unemployed as someone with second level education, and more than four times as likely as someone with third level education (Census 2002 Principal Socio-Economic Results, 2003).

2 Census 2002 Principal Socio-Economic Results, CSO, 2003, p. 19

3 Combat Poverty Agency. Summer 2003. Educational Disadvantage in Ireland, Poverty Briefing Paper No. 14,

5.1 Level of Education

Table 5.1 Persons aged 15 years and Over whose Full-time Education has Ceased by the Highest Level of Education Completed in the Rural Areas, Leitrim and the State, 2002 & 2006

	Total aged 15 years and over	Total whose full time education has ceased	Not stated	Total whose full time education has ceased excluding not stated	No formal or primary education only		Lower secondary education		Total upper secondary		Non-degree		Degree or higher	
					N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
2002														
Ballinamore Rural Area	2,386	2,077	185	1,892	515	27.2%	457	24.2%	550	29.1%	188	9.9%	182	9.6%
Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area	5,363	4,690	231	4,459	1,067	23.9%	1,035	23.2%	1,348	30.2%	421	9.4%	588	13.2%
Kinlough Rural Area	1,499	1,345	27	1,318	395	30.0%	324	24.6%	361	27.4%	98	7.4%	140	10.6%
Manorhamilton Rural Area	5,318	4,634	179	4,455	1,391	31.2%	1,093	24.5%	1,078	24.2%	408	9.2%	485	10.9%
Mohill Rural Area	5,811	5,046	307	4,739	1,480	31.2%	1,193	25.2%	1,324	27.9%	338	7.1%	404	8.5%
Leitrim	20,377	17,792	929	16,863	4,848	28.7%	4,102	24.3%	4,661	27.6%	1,453	8.6%	1,799	10.7%
State	3,089,775	2,622,458	133,869	2,488,589	552,220	22.2%	565,433	22.7%	724,099	29.1%	250,429	10.1%	396,408	15.9%
2006														
Ballinamore Rural Area	2,519	2,156	112	2,044	481	23.5%	476	23.3%	587	28.7%	249	12.2%	251	12.3%
Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area	6,619	5,823	293	5,530	985	17.8%	1,156	20.9%	1,819	32.9%	650	11.8%	920	16.6%
Kinlough Rural Area	1,868	1,652	80	1,572	322	20.5%	369	23.5%	449	28.6%	174	11.1%	258	16.4%
Manorhamilton Rural Area	5,946	5,230	176	5,054	1,270	25.1%	1,157	22.9%	1,284	25.4%	573	11.3%	770	15.2%
Mohill Rural Area	6,100	5,388	118	5,270	1,372	26.0%	1,298	24.6%	1,465	27.8%	533	10.1%	602	11.4%
Leitrim	23,052	20,249	779	19,470	4,430	22.8%	4,456	22.9%	5,604	28.8%	2,179	11.2%	2,801	14.4%
State	3,375,399	2,850,333	130,237	2,720,096	514,085	18.9%	573,411	21.1%	803,498	29.5%	301,327	11.1%	527,775	19.4%

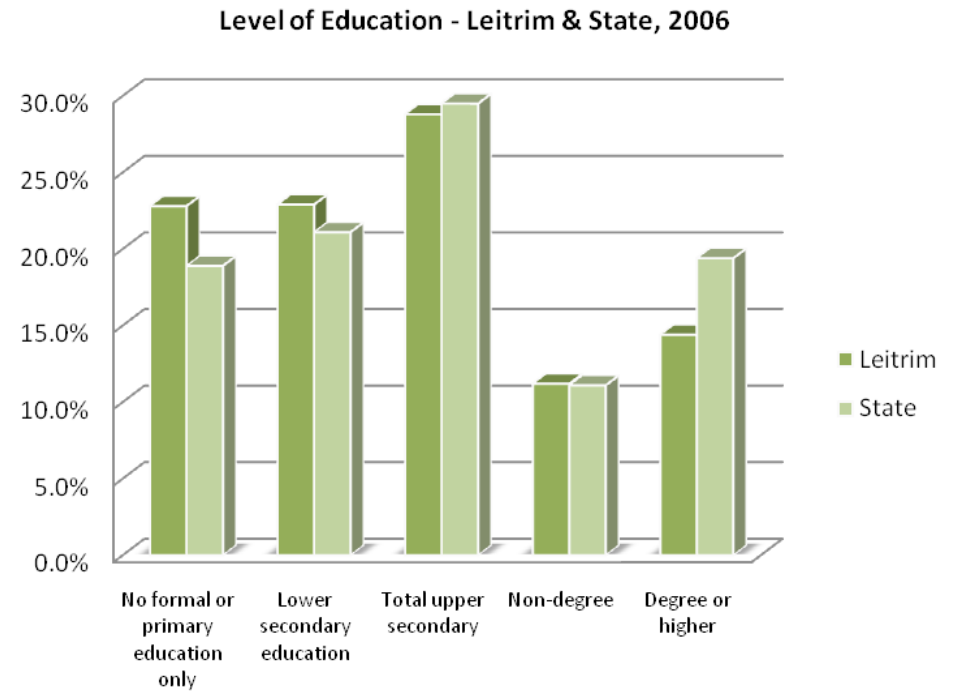
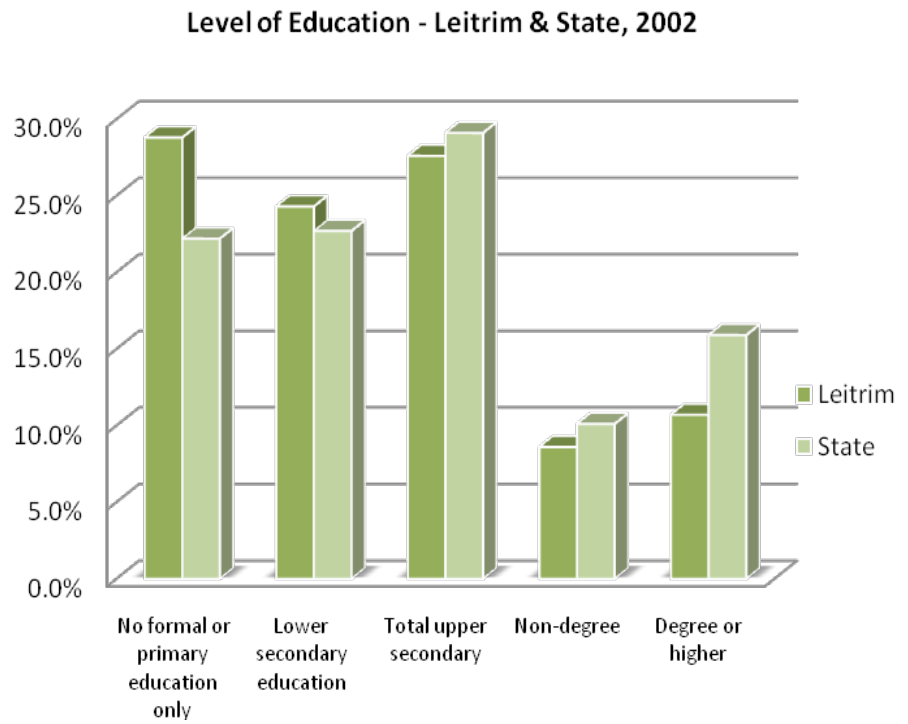
Source: CSO, National Census of Population, 2002 & 2006

Table 5.1 shows the information on levels of education from the 2002 and 2006 National Census of Population. It shows that 22.8% of people aged 15 years and over in Leitrim left education with no formal education or primary education only, a significant decrease on the 28.8% in 2002, and though still higher than the national average of 18.9%, the gap between the State figure and that of Leitrim narrowed considerably between 2002 and 2006.

Almost 46% of people over 15 years in Leitrim have education to lower secondary level only, compared to 40% in the State, though again the gap between the national figures and those for Leitrim narrowed considerably between 2002 and 2006. The proportion of people who have third level education to at least degree level increased in Leitrim from 10.7% in 2002 to 14.4% in 2006, though it is still relatively low compared to the State average of 19.4%.

At rural area level, Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area has a significantly better profile with regard to educational attainment than the other rural areas. Mohill and Manorhamilton Rural Areas have the highest proportions of low educational attainment, and over 25% of the populations aged 15 years and over in both these areas left education with no formal education or primary education only, though this is an improvement on the 2002 figures of 31.2% in each area. Mohill Rural Area continues to have the lowest proportion of its population aged 15 years and over with third level education to at least degree level at 11.4%, though this is an improvement on the 2002 figure of 8.5%.

Figure 5.1 Levels of Education – Comparison between Leitrim and the State, 2002 & 2006



Source: CSO, National Census of Population, 2002 & 2006

Table 5.2 Levels of Education – Comparison between Leitrim and the State 2002 & 2006

	2002		2006	
	Low	High	Low	High
	(No formal, primary education only & lower secondary)	(Upper secondary, non-degree & degree or higher)	(No formal, primary education only & lower secondary)	(Upper secondary, non-degree & degree or higher)
Leitrim	53.1%	46.9%	45.7%	54.3%
State	44.9%	55.1%	40.0%	60.0%

Source: CSO, National Census of Population 2006

Figure 5.1 and table 5.2 compare the levels of education of the population aged 15 years and over in Leitrim and the State. It shows that Leitrim is still above the national average for the bottom two categories that indicate educational disadvantage – *no formal education or primary education only and lower secondary education*, and below average for the top three categories that indicate higher levels of education. However, when compared to the figures for 2002, the levels of education generally in Leitrim are improving and the gaps between Leitrim and the State narrowed considerably between 2002 and 2006.

At ED level 69 of the 78 DEDs have a higher proportion than the national average of people aged 15 and over who finished education with *no formal education or primary education only*. Similar to the figures in 2002, Killarga and Glenfarn in Manorhamilton Rural Area, Oughteragh in Ballinamore Rural Area and Yugan in Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area all have over twice the national average of people aged 15 years and over who finished education with *no education or primary education only*. Carrick-on-Shannon, Leitrim and Gortnagullion, all in Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area, have the lowest proportions of people aged 15 years and over who finished education with *no formal education or primary education only*.

In relation to higher levels of education the proportions of the populations aged 15 years and over who finished education with a *degree or higher* is lower than the national average in 73 of the 78 DEDs in Leitrim. Fewer than 6% of the populations aged 15 years and over of Kiltyclogher and Killarga in Manorhamilton Rural Area, Oughteragh and in Ballinamore Rural Area, and Gowel in Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area finished education with a *degree or equivalent*. Sramore in Manorhamilton Rural Area, Leitrim in Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area, Annaduff and Carrick-on-Shannon in Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area have the highest proportions of population aged 15 years or over who finished education with a *degree or equivalent*.

5.2 Age Education Ceased

The Education (Welfare) Act, 2000 raised the minimum school leaving age from 15 to 16 years, or the completion of three years of post-primary education, whichever is the later⁴. The age that a person finished education can be a good indicator of educational disadvantage and those who left school at age fifteen or younger are considered to be at risk of educational disadvantage. The converse of this is that if a person finishes education later in life, for example at age twenty years or older, they are more likely to have gained better educational qualifications and consequently have higher income generation potential. The CSO *Quarterly National Household Survey* gathers information on education levels of the population in the State. In an examination of educational attainment 2002-2005⁵, the CSO found that “almost 12% of 18-24 year olds leave school early”⁶. Males are more likely to leave school early than their female counterparts with 14.5% of males and 9.3% of females defined as early school leavers (ibid).

4 <http://www.newb.ie/faq/general.asp#leavers>

5 Quarterly National Household Survey Educational Attainment 2002 to 2005, 2006, p. 2

6 Early school leavers are defined as those persons aged 18-24 who have completed their formal education whose highest level of education attained is lower secondary or below.

Table 5.3 Persons Aged 15 years and Over whose Full-time Education has Ceased by Age at which Full-time Education Ceased in the Rural Areas, Leitrim and the State, 2002 & 2006

	Total aged 15 years and over	Total whose full-time education has ceased	Not stated	Total whose full-time education has ceased excl not stated	Aged 15 years or			
					under		20 years & over	
					N	%	N	%
2002								
Ballinamore Rural Area	2,386	2,077	426	1,651	435	26.3%	296	17.9%
Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area	5,363	4,690	602	4,088	964	23.6%	848	20.7%
Kinlough Rural Area	1,499	1,345	87	1,258	385	30.6%	193	15.3%
Manorhamilton Rural Area	5,318	4,634	618	4,016	1,277	31.8%	673	16.8%
Mohill Rural Area	5,811	5,046	798	4,248	1,309	30.8%	591	13.9%
Leitrim	20,377	17,792	2,531	15,261	4,370	28.6%	2,601	17.0%
State	3,089,775	2,622,458	391,458	2,231,000	544,338	24.4%	414,719	18.6%
2006								
Ballinamore Rural Area	2,519	2,156	412	1,744	403	23.1%	401	23.0%
Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area	6,619	5,823	781	5,042	906	18.0%	1,405	27.9%
Kinlough Rural Area	1,868	1,652	260	1,392	302	21.7%	333	23.9%
Manorhamilton Rural Area	5,946	5,230	678	4,552	1,192	26.2%	1,077	23.7%
Mohill Rural Area	6,100	5,388	552	4,836	1,308	27.0%	914	18.9%
Leitrim	23,052	20,249	2,683	17,566	4,111	23.4%	4,130	23.5%
State	3,375,399	2,850,333	419,004	2,431,329	512,367	21.1%	695,755	28.6%

Source: CSO, National Census of Population, 2002 & 2006

Table 5.4 Age education Ceased – Comparison between Leitrim and the State, 2002 & 2006

	2002		2006	
	Aged 15 years or under	20 years & over	Aged 15 years or under	20 years & over
Leitrim	28.6%	17.0%	23.4%	23.5%
State	24.4%	18.6%	21.1%	28.6%

Source: CSO, National Census of Population, 2002 & 2006

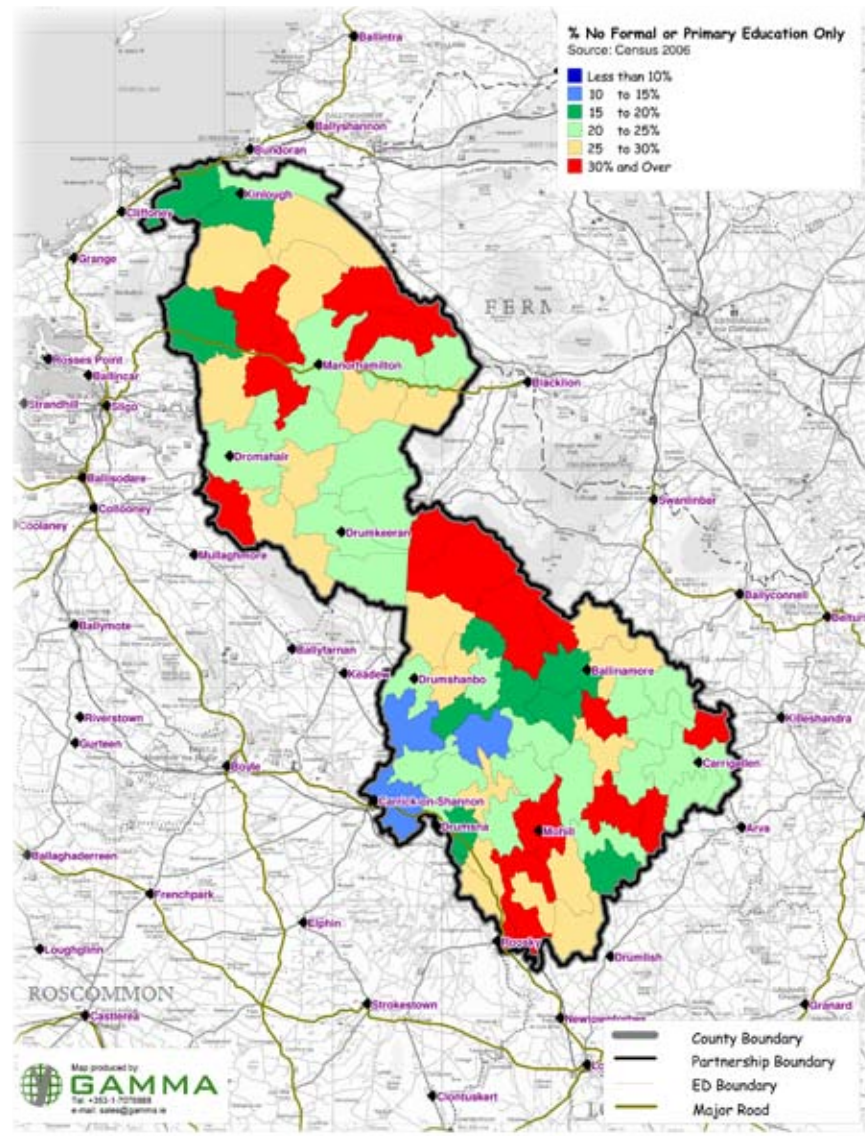
When the information in relation to the age that people left school from the 2006 National Census of Population is analysed it shows that 23.4% of the population aged 15 years and over in Leitrim whose full-time education has ceased finished education at the age of fifteen or younger, compared to 21.1% at national level. At the other end of the spectrum, 23.5% of people aged 15 years and over in Leitrim whose full-time education has ceased finished education at the age of twenty years or older compared to 28.6% of the population in the State. When the figures for 2002 and 2006 are compared they show that the number of people who finished education at aged 15 years or younger decreased from 28.6% in 2002 to 23.4% in 2006, and the number of people who left education at age 20 years or over increased from 17.0% in 2002 to 23.5% in 2006.

At rural area level, Mohill Rural Area has the highest proportion of population aged 15 years and over whose full-time education has ceased and who finished education at the age of fifteen or younger at 27.0%, though the figure decreased from the 30.8% in 2002. The rate in Manorhamilton Rural Area decreased from 31.8% in 2002 to 26.2% in 2006. Mohill Rural Area also has the lowest proportion of population aged 15 years who finished education at aged twenty years or older at 18.9%, an increase on the 2002 figure of 13.9%. Carrick-on-Shannon has the highest proportion of population aged 15 years who finished education at aged twenty years or older at 27.9%, an increase on the 2002 figure of 20.7%.

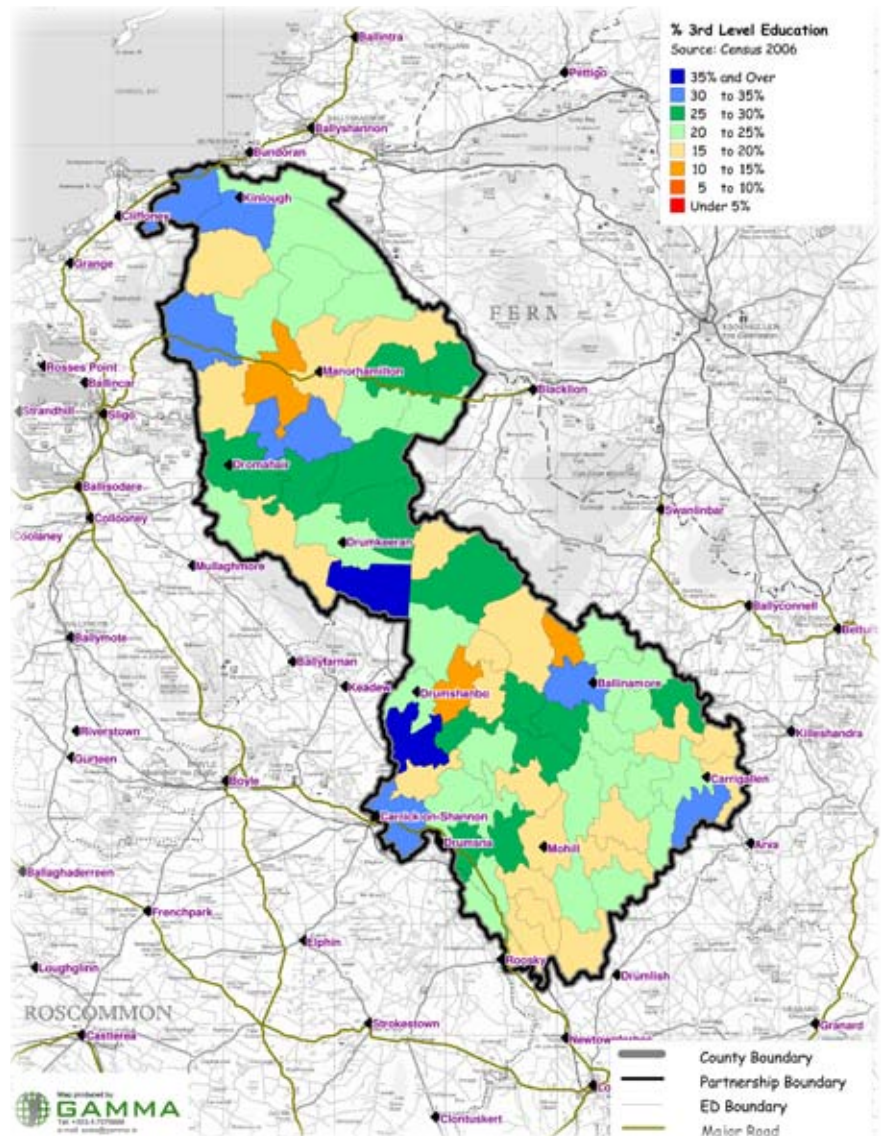
At ED level the proportion of population that ceased education at aged 15 years or younger was lower than those in 2002 in the majority of EDs. The proportion of the population who finished education at age 15 years or younger is greater than the national average in 62 of the 78 EDs, a decrease on the 67 of 78 EDs in 2002.

Drumreilly West/Drumreilly East and Yugan in Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area, Cloone and Cattan in Mohill Rural Area, and Kiltyclogher, and Glenfarn in Manorhamilton Rural Area had the highest proportions of population who finished education at age 15 years or younger. Carrick-on-Shannon in Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area, Kinlough in Kinlough Rural Area and Ballinamore in Ballinamore Rural Area had the smallest proportions of population who finished education at age 15 years or younger at 12.3%, 15.0% and 16.3% respectively.

Map 4 Population with no Formal Education or Primary Education only as a Percent of population aged over 15 whose Full-time Education has Ceased, 2006



Map 5 Population with Third Level Education as a Percent of Population Aged over 15 whose Full-time Education has Ceased, 2006



5.3 Literacy

The official publication of the Irish results of the International Adult Literacy Survey⁷ in 1997 confirmed the extent of the adult literacy problem in Ireland: 25% of adults had very low levels of basic skills and a further 30% had below average literacy skills. Using these figures, it is possible to estimate that 5,095 people in Leitrim have very low levels of literacy and a further 6,113 have below average literacy skills.

5.4 Schools and Retention Rates in Leitrim

Additional information was supplied to this report by the North Western Regional Office of the Department of Education and Science and a brief survey of post-primary schools was also carried out by the Community & Enterprise Unit of Leitrim County Development Board. There are 41 primary schools and nine post primary schools⁸ in Leitrim. There is no Third Level Educational College in Leitrim. However, in 2004, in an attempt to facilitate people who are interested in further education to study in their own county without having to travel long journeys and to further develop inward investment into the county, Leitrim County Development Board organised an Open Evening to assess the level of interest in third level courses and to encourage colleges and universities to provide courses within the county. Large numbers have attended these now annual evenings and a number of courses have successfully taken place. The University of Liverpool, for example, ran an MBA in association with Fermanagh College and University College Cork run a Certificate and Diploma in Food Science and Technology. Leitrim is also in close proximity to a number of third level institutions such as Sligo IT, NUI Galway and Fermanagh College. Additional details on these courses is available on www.leitrimcoco.ie. The County is also in close proximity to a number of colleges including: Sligo IT; Athlone IT, NUI Galway and Fermanagh College.

Table 5.5 shows the primary schools in County Leitrim and the numbers of students enrolled during the school year 2005/2006.

⁷ Figures were estimated by the International Adult Literacy Survey, which was conceived of and co-ordinated by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the results for Ireland were published in 1997 by the Department of Education and Science. The Survey was conducted in Ireland by a team from the Educational Research Centre. Though these figures are not eleven years old, they remain the official figures used by the National Adult Literacy Association (NALA).

⁸ A list of the schools, the subjects they offer and the numbers of pupils is available in Appendix 2.

Table 5.5 Primary Schools in Leitrim

School Name	Address	Enrolment
St Patricks Ns	Drumshambo, Co. Leitrim	158 Mixed
S N Naomh Padraig	Tearmon Spencer Harbour, Carrick-On-Shannon, Co. Leitrim	23 Mixed
St Josephs N S	Killenumery, Dromahair, Co. Leitrim	52 Mixed
Newtowngore N S 1	Carrick On Shannon, Co. Leitrim	31 Mixed
S N Naomh Mhuire	Leckann, Co Leitrim	28 Mixed
S N Corr Na Gaoithe	Dowra, Carrick On Shannon, Co. Leitrim	48 Mixed
S N Brid Naofa	Beal An Atha Moir, Carrick On Shannon, Co. Leitrim	120 Senior Girls/Infant Mixed
S N Naomh Mhuire	Drumlea, CarrigAllen, Via Cavan Co. Leitrim	39 Mixed
S N Mhic Diarmada	Coillte Clochair, Co. Leitrim	40 Mixed
SN Beal An Atha Mhoir	Scoil Naomh Padraig, Beal An Atha Mhoir, Co. Leitrim	50 Boys
Marist G N S	Cara Droma Ruisc, Co. Leitrim	210 Senior Girls/Infant Mixed
S N Naomh Brighid	Coill Na Gcros, Carrick On Shannon, Co. Leitrim	37 Mixed
St Michaels NS	Glenfarne, Co. Leitrim	67 Mixed
Drumnamore N S	Lawderdale, Carrick On Shannon, Co. Leitrim	14 Mixed
Ballaghameehan N S	Rossinver, Sligo	27 Mixed
Achadh Na Sileann	Achadh Na Sileann, Cora Droma Ruisc, Co. Liatroma	58 Mixed
Drumlease N S	Dromahair, Co. Leitrim	138 Mixed
Annaduff Mxd N S	Aghamore, Carrick On Shannon, Co. Leitrim	118 Mixed
S N Rosan	Carrigallen, Via Cavan, Co Leitrim	19 Mixed
Achad An Measa	S N Achadh Easa, Achadh Easa, An Chorr Dubh, Co. Cabhan	58 Mixed
Glebe N S	Largy NS, Kinlough, Co. Leitrim	33 Mixed
Manorhamilton B N S	Scoil San Clar, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim	216 Mixed
Scoil Mhuire	Bornacoola, Carrick On Shannon, Co. Leitrim	71 Mixed
Ardvarney Mxd N S	Dromahair, Co. Leitrim	30 Mixed
St Brides	Drumcong Central School, Drumcong, Co. Leitrim	120 Mixed
S N Achadh	Mhaolain, Garadice, Carrick On Shannon, Co. Leitrim	28 Mixed
Gortletteragh Central	Fornocht, Cara Droma Ruisc, Co. Leitrim	69 Mixed
Leitrim Mxd N S	Carrick On Shannon, Co. Leitrim	135 Mixed
St Marys N.S.	Summerhill, Carrick -On-Shannon, Co Leitrim	66 Boys
S N Na Craoibheleithe	Drumkeeran, Co. Leitrim	22 Mixed
Gaelscoil Liatroma	C L G Maomh Mhuire, Attyfinlay, Cora Droma Ruisc, Co. Liatroma (All Irish School)	120 Mixed
Naomh Caillin	Fiodhnach, Foxfield, Carrick On Shannon, Co Leitrim	125 Mixed
Mastersons N S	Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim	28 Mixed
Four Masters NS	Kinlough, Co. Leitrim	217 Mixed
Drumeela N S	Carrigallen PO, Co. Leitrim, Via Cavan	24 Mixed
The Hunt National School	Castle Street, Mohill, Co. Leitrim	34 Mixed

Carrigallen N S	Carrigallen, Co. Leitrim	122 Mixed
Faitima N S	Cluana, Carrick On Shannon, Co. Leitrim	63 Mixed
Drumkeerin Central NS	Drumkeerin Central Sch, Drumkeerin, Co. Leitrim	63 Mixed
Mohill N S	Mohill, Co. Leitrim	193 Mixed
Differeen N S	Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim	33 Mixed

Source: Dept of Education & Science Regional Office, Sligo, May 2008

Table 5.6 Average Class Sizes in National Schools, 2001-2004

Average class* size in national schools					
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2006/07
State	24.0	23.8	23.6	23.7	24.1
Leitrim	21.3	21.5	21.9	21.5	21.9

Source: Department of Education and Science * Ordinary classes

Table 5.6 shows the class sizes in Leitrim and the State. Nationally the average national school class size in 2006/07 was 24.1. In Leitrim the average class size was lower at 21.9.

Table 5.7 Post Primary Schools in Leitrim and Subjects Offered

Name of school	Junior Cert Subjects	Leaving Cert Subjects	Number of Students 2006 / 2007	Number of Teachers	Number of Students in Leaving Certificate in 2006
Ballinamore Post Primary School	Irish English Maths History Geography French Science Home Economics Woodwork Metalwork Typewriting Business Studies Technical Graphics SPHE CSPE Religion	Irish English Maths History Geography French Construction Studies Technical Drawing Engineering Accounting Business Physics & Chemistry Economics Religion Biology Agricultural Science	296	26	61
Marian College, Mohill Offers a transition year programme also.	Irish English Maths French German History Geography Business Science Woodwork SPHE CSPE Home Economics	Irish English Maths French German Accounting Business Physics-Chem (Yr 2) Construction Studies Home Economics Religion Technical Drawing History Geography LCVP	150	23	41

Name of school	Junior Cert Subjects	Leaving Cert Subjects	Number of Students	Number of Teachers	Number of Students in Leaving Certificate in 2006
Community School Carrick-on-Shannon Offers Leaving Cert Applied	Irish English Maths History Geography French German Home Economics Science Home Economics Music Woodwork Metalwork Art Business Studies Technical Graphics Technology SPHE CSPE Religion	Irish English Maths History Geography French German Home Economics Construction Studies Technical Graphics Engineering Accounting Business Physics Art Chemistry Religion Biology Agricultural Science Career Guidance LCVP	589	55	145
St. Clare's Comprehensive Manorhamilton	Irish English Maths History Geography French Science Home Economics Music	Irish English Maths History Geography French Home Economics Construction Technical Graphics			

Name of school	Junior Cert Subjects	Leaving Cert Subjects	Number of Students	Number of Teachers	Number of Students in Leaving Certificate in 2006
	Woodwork Metalwork Art ICT Business Technical Graphics SPHE CSPE Religion PE	Engineering Accounting Business Physics Art Chemistry Religion Biology Agricultural Science Career Guidance ICT PE LCVP	451	34	75
Carrigallen Vocational School	Irish English Maths History Geography French Science Home Economics Music Woodwork Metalwork Art Business Studies Technical Graphics CSPE Religion Computer Studies	Irish English Maths History Geography French Home Economics Construction Technical Graphics Engineering Accounting Business Physics Art Religion Biology Agricultural Science Life Skills Computer Studies LCVP	214		

Name of school	Junior Cert Subjects	Leaving Cert Subjects	Number of Students	Number of Teachers	Number of Students in Leaving Certificate in 2006
Drumshanbo Vocational School Junior Cert Leaving Cert Traditional Leaving Cert Vocational Leaving Cert Applied 4 PLC Courses	Irish English Maths History Geography French Science Home Economics Music Woodwork Metalwork Art Religion Business Studies Technical Graphics SPHE CSPE	Irish English Maths History Geography French Home Economics Construction Technical Drawing Engineering Workshop Business Music Art Religion Biology Agricultural Science LCVP	298	30	46
Lough Allen College Drumkeerin	Irish English Maths History Geography French Science Home Economics Music Woodwork	Irish English Maths History Geography French Home Economics Construction Technical Drawing Engineering			

Name of school	Junior Cert Subjects	Leaving Cert Subjects	Number of Students	Number of Teachers	Number of Students in Leaving Certificate in 2006
Lough Allen College Drumkeerin	Metalwork Art/ Craft/Design Computers Business Studies Technical Graphics SPHE CSPE Religion PE Choir	Accounting Business Organisation Physics Art Religion Biology Music LCVP	214	22	39
Mohill Vocational School Offers Leaving Cert Applied	Irish English Maths History Geography French Science Home Economics Woodwork Metalwork Art Business Studies Technical Graphics SPHE CSPE Religion Computer / IT	Irish English Maths History Geography French Home Economics Building Construction Technical Drawing Engineering Business Physics Art Religion Biology Computers (ECDL Course)	153	18	17

Source: Questionnaire sent to schools by Leitrim Community & Enterprise Unit

Table 5.7 shows the post primary schools in Leitrim, the subjects they provide and the numbers of students and teachers. The post-primary schools are made up of secondary schools, Community & Comprehensive Schools, Vocational Schools and Comprehensive Colleges. Leaving Certificate Applied is an option in a number of the schools.

Table 5.8 Retention Rates in Leitrim & the State for 1999 Cohort

Retention Rate Of 1996 & 1999 Cohort			
	Year 1	Junior Cert "Sits" 1999	Leaving Cert "Sits" 1999
		%	%
Leitrim	480	97.1%	87.1%
Country	60,786	94.6%	77.8%

Source: Department of Education and Science, 2005 Retention Rates of Pupils in Second-level Schools, 1996 & 1999 Cohort

Table 5.8 shows the retention rates to Junior and Leaving Certificate level in the post primary schools. The eight schools that made returns in Leitrim have a combined retention level of 71.1% to Junior Cert level and 87.1% to Leaving Certificate level. These levels are both higher than the national average of 94.6% and 77.8% respectively. The retention rate to Leaving Cert level is the highest in the country. Information from Leitrim Partnership suggests that there is an average of 23 early school leavers in Leitrim every year. The main reason for leaving school is to go into employment.

Table 5.9 Leaving Certificate Results for Students in 2005 in the State, Leitrim, Sligo and Donegal

Area	Numbers that sat the Leaving Certificate	Number of candidates who received a minimum of 5 Grade D3's at any level	
		N	%*
State	54,073	49,027	90.7%
Leitrim	494	482	97.6%

Source: Department of Education and Science

* % of the total number that sat the Leaving Certificate

Table 5.9 shows the numbers of students sitting the Leaving Certificate and results received. Proportionally, Leitrim has the higher percentage of students who received a minimum of five pass grades in the Leaving Certificate in 2005 than the State.

Table 5.10 Students in Leitrim by Rates of Admission to Higher Education by Type of College, 2004

Area	All Colleges		Universities		Institutes of Technology		Colleges of Education		Other Colleges	
	Place	%	Place	%	Place	%	Place	%	Place	%
State										
Leitrim	5 th	64.2%	16 th	23.0%	2 nd	35.3%	6 th	4.2%	13 th	1.6%

Source: Who Went to College in 2004? A National Survey of New Entrants to Higher Education, Higher Education Authority, 2006

An examination of Who Went to College in 2004? A National Survey of New Entrants to Higher Education published by the Higher Education Authority in 2006, shows that students in Leitrim have the fifth highest entrance rate (as a percentage of the overall age cohort in the county) to higher education at 64.2%, after Sligo (70.5%), Galway (67.4%), Kerry (67%) and Mayo (66.8%). Table 5.8 shows that the majority of these students went to Institutes of Technology, followed by Universities. The report also shows that the admission rate to higher education by students from Leitrim has consistently increased between 1986 and 2004 (from 34% in 1986 to 42% in 1992 to 52% in 1998 to 64.2% in 2004).

DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools)

DEIS is the Department of Education and Science new action plan for educational inclusion provides for a standardised system for identifying levels of disadvantage and a new integrated School Support Programme (SSP). The DEIS plan states that as well as provision being made for schools with a concentrated level of disadvantage, financial support will also continue to be provided for other primary schools where the level of disadvantage is more dispersed. Existing programmes will be integrated into the SSP under DEIS on a phased basis over the five year implementation plan 2005/2006 - 2009/2010.

DEIS is designed to ensure that the schools serving the most disadvantaged communities benefit from the maximum level of support available. Schools which have not qualified for inclusion in DEIS, and which are receiving additional resources under pre-existing schemes for addressing disadvantage, can be assured that they will continue to get support to enable them to maintain services for their disadvantaged pupils.

As a result of the identification and review processes, 873 schools have been invited to participate in the new Programme. These comprise 670 primary schools (338 urban/town schools and 332 rural schools) and 203 second-level schools. Eleven primary schools have been included under the SSP to counteract educational disadvantage in Leitrim.

Table 5.11 Primary Schools in the School Support Programme (SSP) under the DEIS Action Plan for Educational Inclusion, 2008

School Name	Area
Drumeela National School	Carrigallen
Ardvarney National School	Dromahai
Carrigallen National School	Carrigallen
Scoil Náisiúnta Na Craobheleithe	Drumkeeran
Differeen National School	Manorhamilton
Scoil Náisiúnta Naomh Padraig	Tearmon Spencer Harbour, Carrick-On-Shannon
Faitima National School	Carrick- On-Shannon
Achadh Na Sileann	Cora Droma Ruisc
Scoil Náisiúnta Naomh Sheosamh	Mohill
Aughavas National School	Carrigallen
St. Mary's Boys National School	Carrick On Shannon

Source: Department of Education and Science, http://www.education.ie/servlet/blobServlet/deis_school_list.htm?language=EN#ub3 , 2008

5.5 Conclusion and Commentary

According to the information from the 2006 National Census of Population proportionally more people in Leitrim (aged fifteen years and over) finished education with no formal education, primary education only and lower secondary only than the national averages; fewer people finished education with upper secondary and third level; more people finished education at fifteen years or younger and fewer people finished education age twenty years or older than the national average. Despite this, the level of education in Leitrim improved considerably between 2002 and 2006. For example, between 2002 and 2006 the number of people aged 15 years and over in Leitrim who left education with no formal education or primary education only decreased significantly, as did the number of people who finished education at age fifteen years or younger. At the other end of the spectrum, the number of people who finished education with third level education increased in Leitrim, as did the number of people who ceased education at age twenty years or older.

The gap between Leitrim and the State in relation to educational attainment also narrowed significantly between 2002 and 2006 for all categories except for those who ceased education aged 20 years or older. This category increased in Leitrim between 2002 and 2006 but the gap between the Leitrim and the State in this area also increased significantly from 1.6% in 2002 to 5.1% in 2006, reflecting the national trend towards people remaining in education longer.

The information from sources other than the National Census of Population that in general relates to the younger age groups, shows that educationally, Leitrim is performing relatively well. The information on retention rates in Leitrim suggests that most young people are remaining in education until Junior Certificate and, in a large number of cases, Leaving Certificate level, with the average number of people sitting the Leaving Certificate significantly higher than the national average. The information on the number of students from Leitrim progressing to third level education is particularly encouraging, especially considering students travel outside the county to access higher education, although further education and higher education colleges are within close proximity to the county.

At a sub-county level, Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area continues to have the best educational profile with the lowest proportion of people with no formal education, primary education only and lower secondary only and the highest proportion of people with third level education. Mohill Rural Area continues to have the largest proportion of people no formal education, primary education only and lower secondary only and the lowest proportion of people with third level education.

The EDs that consistently performed poorly in relation to education were Killarga, Glenfarn and Kiltyclogher in Manorhamilton Rural Area, Oughteragh in Ballinamore Rural Area, Cattan and Cloone in Mohill Rural Area and Yugan in Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area.