

School Performance 2016 – 2017 for Vulnerable Pupils**Focus on Exclusion and Attendance****Exclusion****0-11 Exclusions**

1. There were no permanent exclusions from primary schools in 2016-17, a trend that has continued for over ten years.
2. In 2016-17 there were 99 fixed term exclusions from 24 schools. 53 individual children were excluded. Of these 53 children, 45 were boys and 8 were girls.
3. Of these, 44 of the pupils either were at the time of exclusion, or have since been registered as having special educational needs. The highest number of days lost in any one school due to exclusion was five.
4. In 2015-16 the national average for fixed term exclusions was 1.21% for fixed-term and 0.02% for permanent exclusion for 0-11 year olds. During 2016-17 Stockton primary schools fixed term exclusion rate was better than national average at 0.57%.

11-16 Exclusions

5. Exclusions from secondary schools have increased significantly in 2016/2017; both permanent and fixed term exclusions. The number of permanent exclusions in 2016-17 was 35; a significant increase from the previous year. 9 of the 13 Stockton secondary schools permanently excluded children. The overall 11-16 age permanent exclusion rate of 0.44% is above the national 2015/16 rate of 0.17%.

School	FTEX 15/16		PEX 15/16		FTEX 16/17		PEX 16/17	
	Number of exclusions	% of population	Number	% of pop.	Number	% of pop	Number	% of pop
All Saints CE Academy	37	5.25%	1	0.14%	70	9.86%	1	0.14%
Bishopsgarth School	404	73.45%	1	0.18%	1568	294.74%	9	1.69%
Conyers School	43	4.13%	2	0.19%	59	5.72%	3	0.29%
Egglescliffe School	24	2.05%	0	0.00%	53	4.54%	0	0.00%
Ian Ramsey CE Academy	52	4.48%	2	0.17%	75	6.43%	0	0.00%
Ingleby Manor Free School & Sixth Form	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
North Shore Academy	210	32.71%	2	0.31%	426	66.88%	5	0.78%
Northfield School	59	4.46%	2	0.15%	145	10.72%	4	0.30%
Our Lady & St Bede's Catholic Academy	66	9.54%	1	0.14%	112	15.20%	2	0.27%
St Michael's RC Academy	101	12.10%	1	0.12%	67	7.83%	2	0.23%
St Patrick's Catholic College	67	13.24%	2	0.40%	73	14.51%	2	0.40%
The Grangefield Academy	20	3.41%	2	0.34%	57	10.12%	3	0.53%
Thornaby Academy	57	14.96%	2	0.52%	253	67.83%	4	1.07%
Total	1140	11.88%	18	0.19%	2958	29.65%	35	0.44%

6. The table above shows the number of exclusions and then the percentage of exclusions against the total cohort size. For example, Bishopsgarth has issued 1,568 fixed term exclusions; their total pupil population is 532 and therefore the percentage of exclusions against cohort size is 294.74%. This is of concern to the council and will be shared with the Regional Schools Commissioner.
7. In response to this LA officers have engaged with the academies, including Heads of School, Executive Headteachers and Chief Executives of the trusts, to discuss concerns regarding numbers of exclusions, the use of repeat exclusions and individual pupil contexts, providing challenge and support with the aim of ensuring that Stockton schools remain appropriately inclusive whilst maintaining standards.
8. These issues were also discussed at a conference on 15th June 2017 with all secondary schools and colleges present. Since then several actions have been taken:
 - Training has been delivered to schools around the expectations of support for students in line with the recently revised Department for Education exclusion guidelines, Ofsted concerns regarding 'off-rolling' and the Tom Bennett report March 2017 'Creating a Culture: how school leaders can optimise behaviour'.
 - Guidance has been given to governors to challenge exclusions robustly and ensure all reasonable adjustments have been made for students.
 - The procedure for in year transfers has been withdrawn and a significantly different parent guide drafted to ensure moves are minimised and any relating to behaviour/bullying are intercepted.
 - The Managed Move protocols and processes have been revised.
 - Fair access protocols have been revised.
9. Peer support and challenge is established through a panel of school leaders which meets on a fortnightly basis to discuss children at risk of exclusion and agree school based responses. This panel – Pupil Inclusion Panel – is chaired by a school leader and has the authority to agree solutions which could include:
 - recommendations for the referring school to implement further strategies or access support from LA services;
 - collaborative approaches between local schools to provide a full time education programme;
 - referral to other agencies;
 - a Managed Move to another school – using the updated protocol and paperwork;
 - consideration of admission to Bishopton;
 - An alternative provision placement.
10. The Pupil Inclusion Panel also links with the Solutions Panel– a multi-agency panel providing early help and interventions.
11. Additional places for alternative provision for students at risk of exclusion are being sourced as well as places for alternative curriculum to ensure students are maintained on a purposeful and motivating curriculum. The colleges are supporting with alternative curriculum options.

12. A scrutiny review of the role of education services within the council will examine further the council's role in supporting vulnerable children and young people and promoting inclusion.

Attendance

13. Primary school attendance in 2016/17 is in line with national average figure for 2016/17. Overall primary persistent absence (PA) in 2016/17 is 0.5% below the national figure for 2016-17, with 34 of primary schools having a PA figure which is lower than the national average of 8.7%.
14. Secondary school attendance is 0.3% below the 2016/17 national average of 94.5%. 7 secondary schools have an attendance rate above national average. There are 7 secondary schools with a persistent absence rate above the 2016-17 national average of 12.8%. Secondary attendance figures continue to be negatively impacted by the increase in exclusions.
15. The Attendance team offers robust challenge through register checks, individual pupil referrals and regular targeted weekly visits. Support and guidance is also offered through training sessions and attendance case conferences.
16. Secondary attendance

2 Terms - 2016/17			
School	NOR	Attendance %	PA 90%
All Saints CE School	712	95.6	11
Bishopsgarth School	537	90.3	28.4
Conyers School	1039	95.3	11.2
Egglescliffe School	1165	95.5	10.2
Grangefield School	553	94.9	13.7
Ian Ramsey CE School	1161	94.9	13.3
North Shore Academy	650	91.8	26.8
Northfield School	1358	95.3	9.7
Our Lady and St Bede's RC School	739	93	18.5
St Michael's RC School	858	95	9.5
St Patrick's Catholic College	507	93.3	19.2
Thornaby Academy	374	91.9	28.9
LA AVERAGE		94.5	14.8
NATIONAL AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 2016/17		94.8	12.8

17. Five secondary schools have a persistent absence rate which is less than the 2016-17 national average rate of 12.8%.
18. Whole school attendance in Outwood Bishopsgarth has been significantly affected by fixed term exclusions.
19. 333 penalty notices for unauthorised leave of absence in term time have been issued since we reinstated the process in June following the supreme court judgement on the Isle of Wight case. Schools continue to attempt to tackle unauthorised leave of absence in term time by using the penalty notice procedure to get the message to parents that requests for leave of absence in term time are not only disruptive to a child's learning but can also affect the child's educational outcomes.

20. In addition to bespoke support and challenge by LA officers to schools, an Attendance Leaders Network will be re-launched this academic year to promote and share good practice, provide Ofsted updates and the direction of travel from DfE regarding attendance and related themes. It is hoped this event will assist with the drive forward to improve attendance in individual schools and across the Borough.
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21. This information will also be presented to Cabinet as part of a wider report. The report will note the concerns around increased use of exclusions, both fixed term and permanent, at secondary schools in 2016/2017, and that this issue will now be a focus for this scrutiny review.