

# Education and Children's Social Care O&S Committee - 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Identification of vulnerable groups who are at risk of being removed from school.



# Identification of vulnerable groups who are at risk of being removed from school

## Off-rolling

### Introduction

While there's no legal definition of off-rolling, the definition provided by OfSTED is very simple.

“Off-rolling is the practice of removing a pupil from the school roll without using a permanent exclusion, when the removal is primarily in the best interests of the school, rather than the best interests of the pupil. This includes pressuring a parent to remove their child from the school roll.

While it may not always be unlawful, OfSTED believes off-rolling is never acceptable.

We know that disadvantaged pupils, those with special educational needs, and pupils with low prior attainment are disproportionately removed from the school roll. In the new inspection framework Ofsted look carefully at children who have left the school.”

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## Off-rolling

Off-rolling is more likely to occur in London and is more prevalent in academies than local authority schools. Conversely, local authority schools seem to be taking on proportionately more pupils.

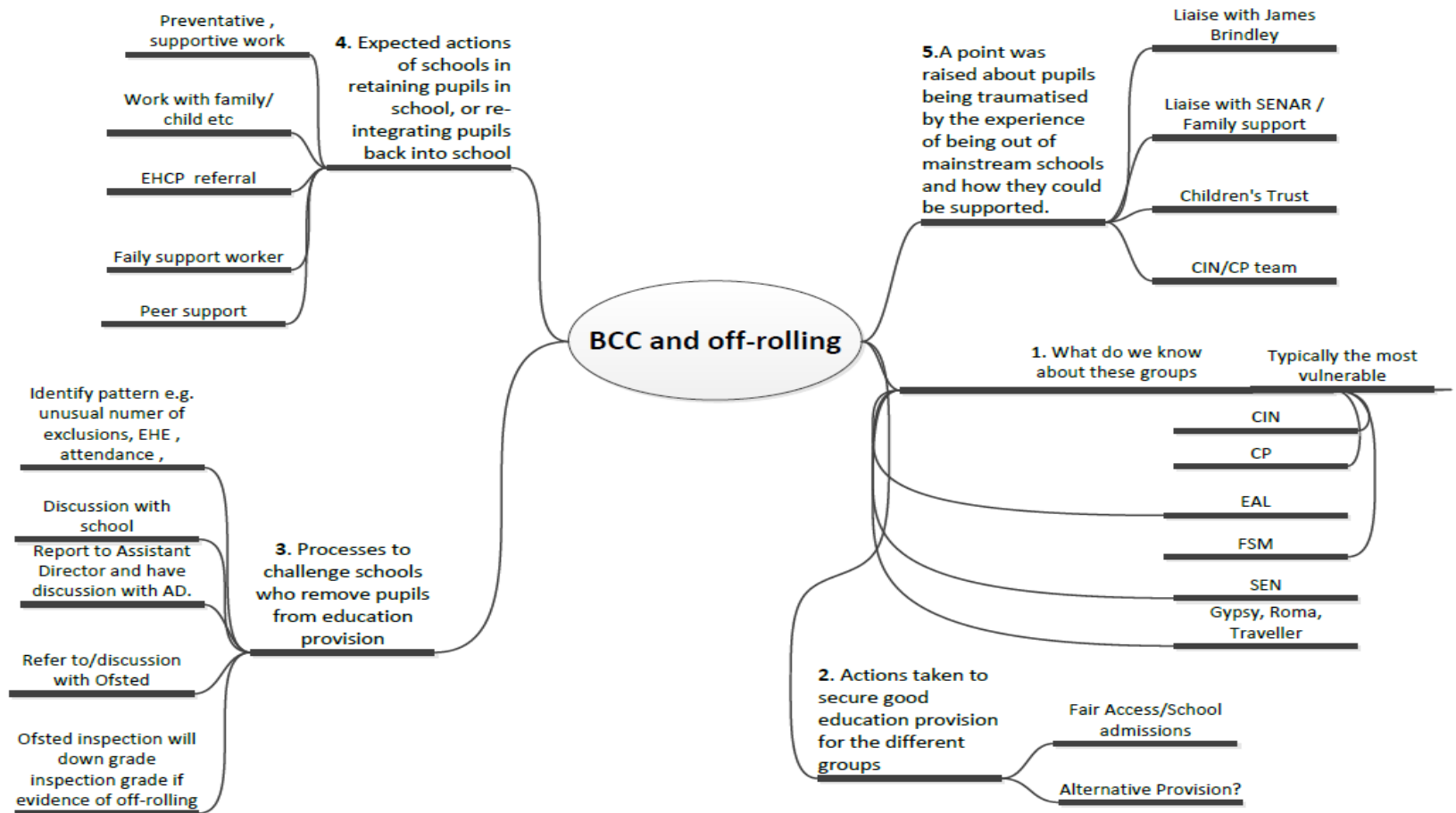
Ofsted have identified 300 schools with significantly higher than predicted rates of off-rolling over the past two years, which suggests that the problem is highly concentrated in a small number of schools.

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## Overview



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## The numbers...

		Difference between year groups	JAN-2018	JAN-2019	Difference
296 primary schools	NCYearGroup				
	E1		12	17	5
	E2	123	171	135	-36
	N1	1828	2019	1999	-20
	N2	6234	8675	8253	-422
	R	6965	16067	15640	-427
	1	194	16605	16261	-344
	2	114	16790	16719	-71
	3	-24	16145	16766	621
	4	5	16456	16150	-306
	5	-3	16480	16453	-27
	6	64	15859	16544	685
	7	-1298	14264	14561	297
	8	107	13919	14371	452
	9	73	13902	13992	90
90 secondary schools					
	10	203	13628	14105	477
	11	-210	12650	13418	768
	12	-7278	5384	5372	-12
	13	-633	4712	4751	39
	14	-4539	259	173	-86
	X		22		-22
Total		1925	204019	205680	1661

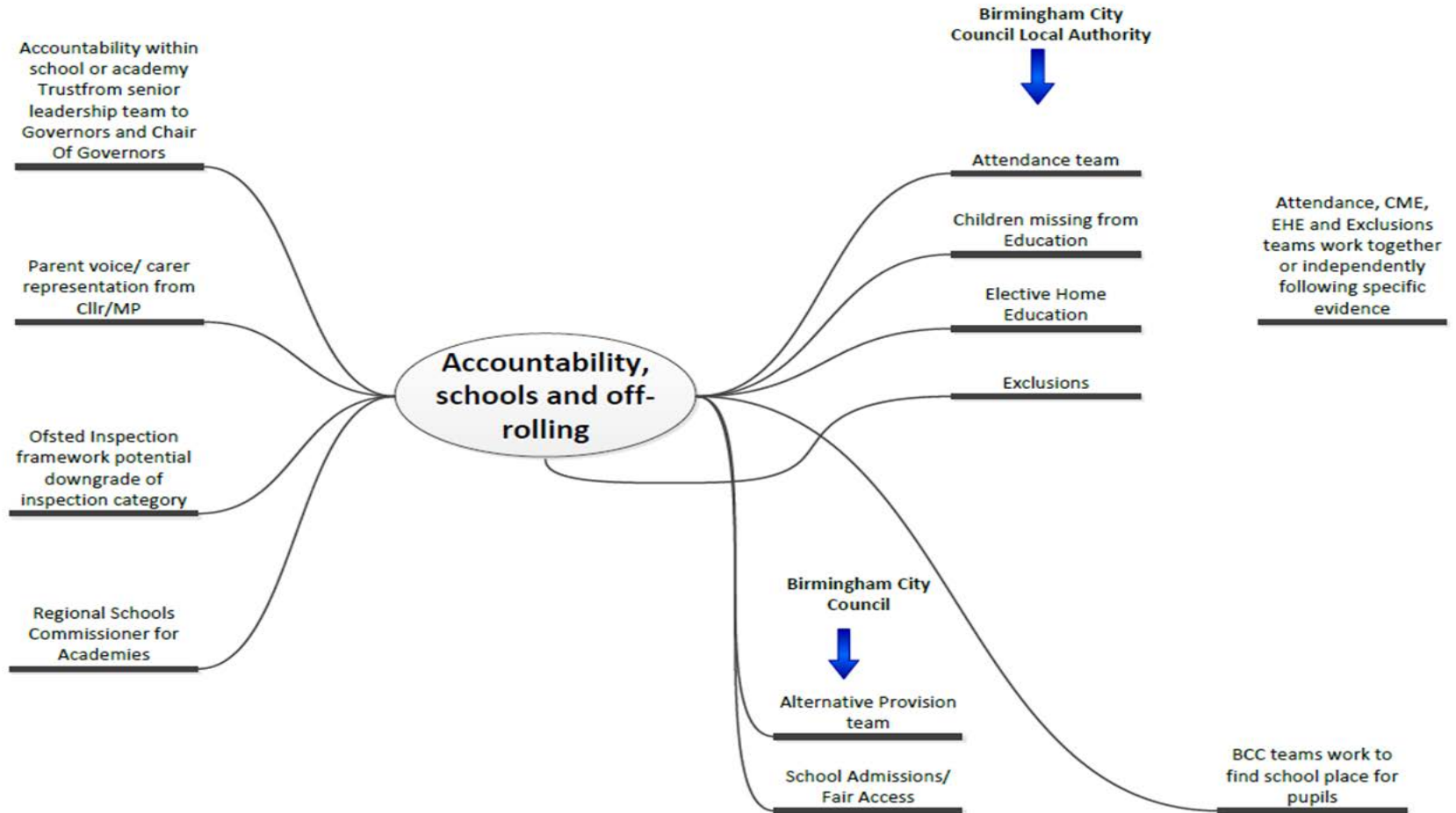
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## **The numbers continued...**

- Nationally the percentage of pupils who do not progress from year 10 to year 11 is 4%.
- <https://tinyurl.com/y8ttgef4>
- The equivalent number for Birmingham is 1.5%.
- Around 30% of pupils who leave their school between years 10 and 11 have special educational needs
- The equivalent percentage for Birmingham is approximately 10%

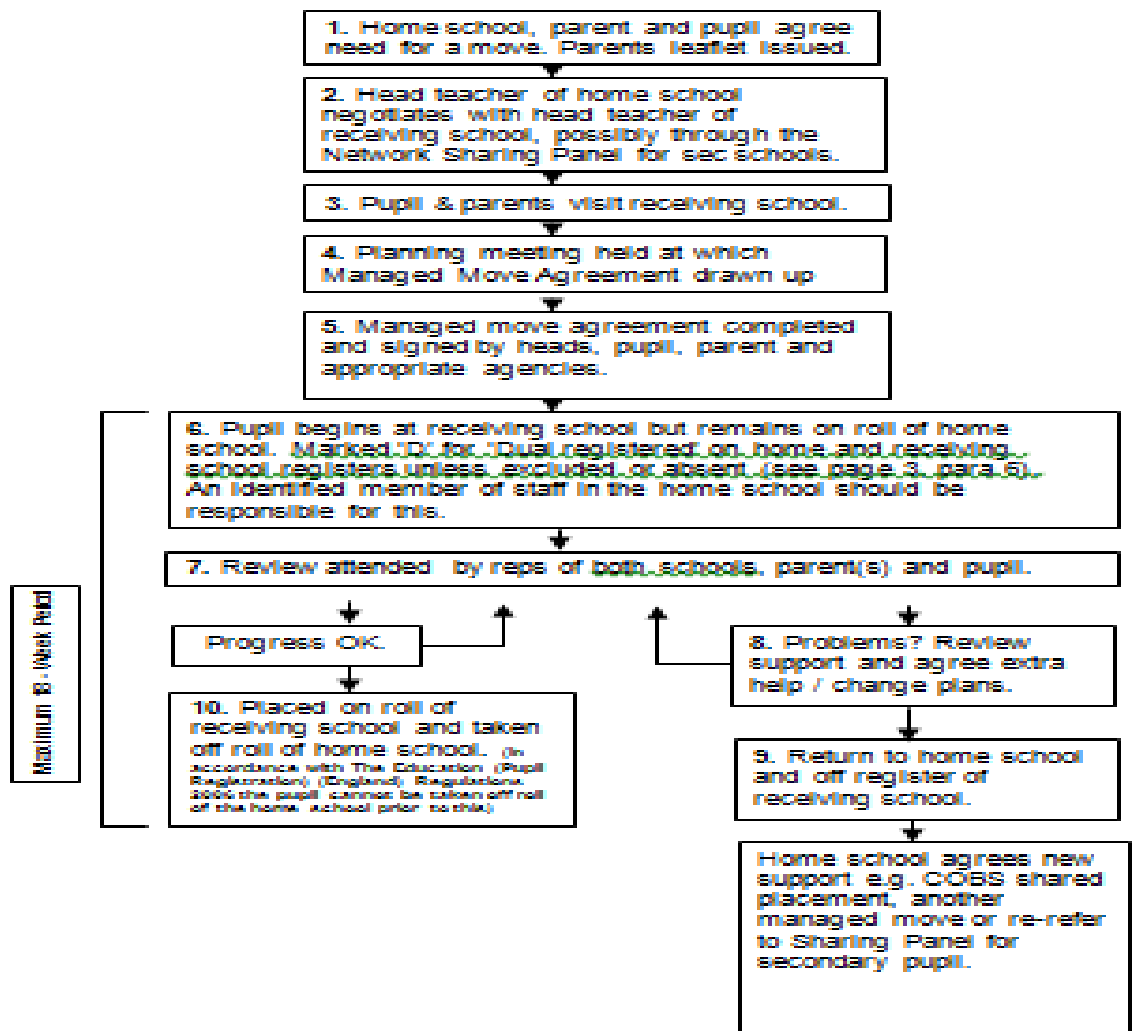
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## The detail



# The managed move process

## Managed Moves Flowchart





## Principles surrounding managed moves

- The needs of the young person should be paramount.
- A managed move should only take place if all parties consider there is a chance it may address a young person's difficulties and a school can be identified to offer that opportunity.
- Managed moves should only take place if the pupil's parents are in agreement and the pupil is willing to transfer to and attend the new school.
- There should be a written agreement summarising the arrangements for each managed move, using the form on page 6 of this guidance.
- Managed moves should be for a time-limited period of no more than 12 – 18 school weeks, with regular, recorded review, involving all parties. There should be a planned date for a final review at which a decision is made over whether the move can become permanent.

# The City of Birmingham School

- The Local Authority commissions places for around 450 pupils age 5-16 who may be:
- Permanently excluded, or at risk of this
- Supported by an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for behaviour, emotional and/or social difficulties
- Anxious, depressed, school phobic
- Remanded by the courts to the care of the Local Authority

**COBS aim to make things better for pupils experiencing difficulties in other schools and offer high quality outreach support on a [traded basis](#) to the Birmingham Family of Schools as well as schools and settings beyond Birmingham**

## What help is available to parents, if they feel their child has been unlawfully excluded from school?

- Parents are able to contact the following teams if they feel their child is being unlawfully removed from school:
  - Alternative Provision Team
  - Attendance Team
  - Exclusions Team
  - Safeguarding Team
  - School Admissions/Fair Access
  - SENDIASS
- Parents may also wish to contact the City Of Birmingham School, who are in a strong position to advise on school exclusion/inclusion

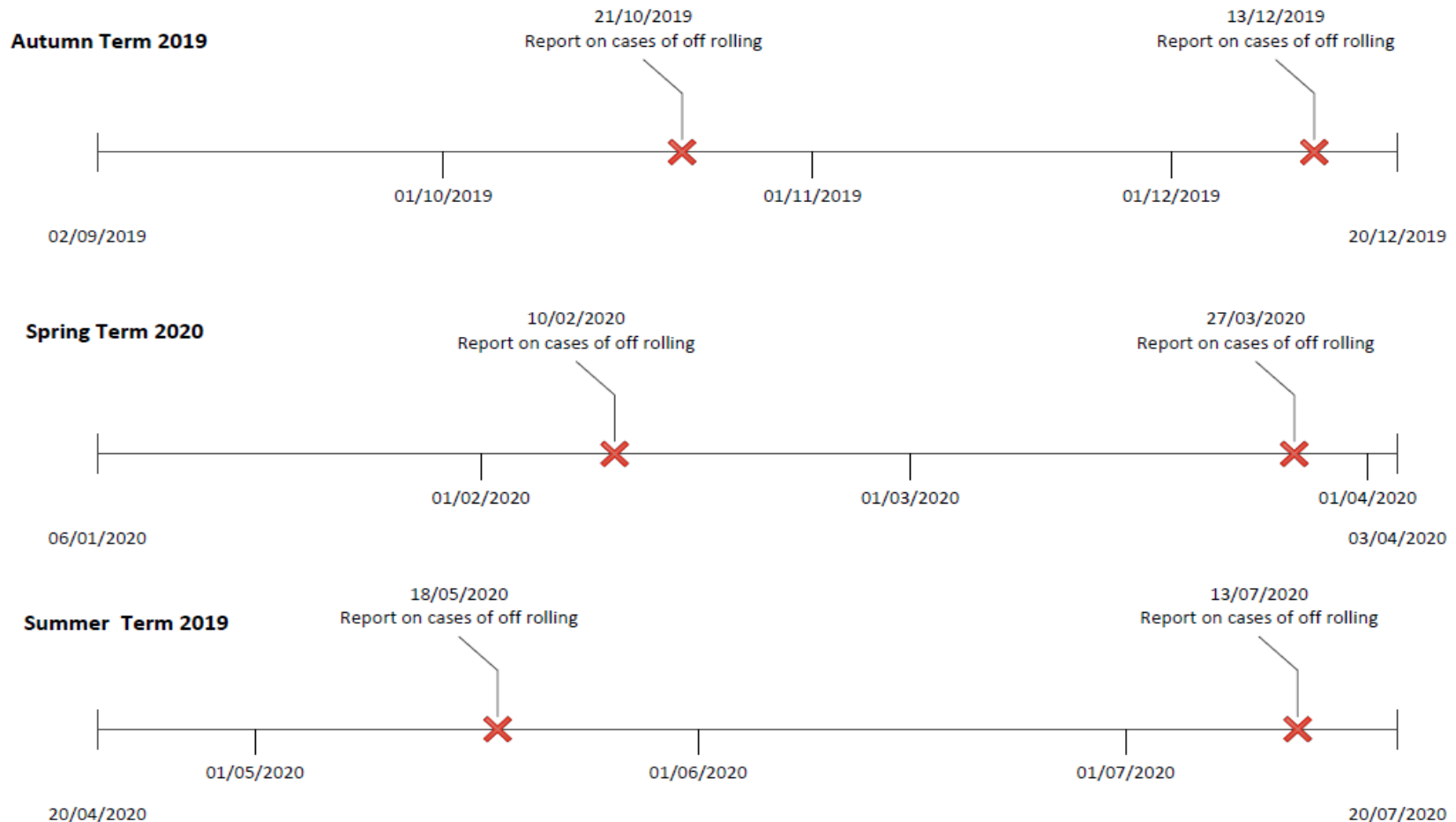
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## To conclude

- We do have a number of children who have left the mainstream education in year 11, from our evidence 210 of a cohort of 13628
- We do not firm have evidence that this is due to off-rolling
- This can be explained for reasons other than off rolling: permanent exclusion, elective home education, children who have moved to other local authorities, and also moved abroad, children who have moved into the independent sector
- **Recommendations:**
- To submit a data set every half term to Assistant Directors and elected members
- To continue to challenge schools and to report this through our half termly report schools when we have evidence of off-rolling taking place
- **Final words from Ofsted**
- It's not possible to know from the data available the reasons why so many pupils are leaving a school, and whether those moves are in the best interests of the pupils. But the data gives a starting point to have these important conversations..

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## Suggested timeline to return data to elected members



# Identification of vulnerable groups who are at risk of being removed from school

- **Sources:**
- Appendix 1 Unlawful deletion
- Case studies from schools: anonymised
- Discussions with: Birmingham City Council Alternative Provision, Attendance, Children Missing from Education, Elective Home Education, Exclusions and West Midlands Local Authority representatives
- Exploring the issue of off-rolling:
- OfSTED <https://tinyurl.com/y8ttgef4>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/off-rolling-exploring-the-issue>
- Schoolsweek