

Schools COVID Update

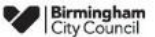
Local COVID Outbreak Engagement Board 23 February 2021

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Aims for this session

- To update on:
 - Attendance and COVID absence data for Birmingham schools
 - Current guidance for schools
 - Current impact of COVID in Birmingham schools
 - Work with Birmingham Children's Trust to support vulnerable pupils
 - Joint working between BCC Education and Skills and Public Health

Attendance data as at Thursday 10th February 2022

- Attendance rates have been improving steadily since mid-January
- The attendance rate for Birmingham was 89.9%, compared to a national figure of 89.7%
- At the last presentation (data from 20th Jan) ,the attendance rate for Birmingham was 85.4%, compared to a national figure of 87.3%

Pupil Group	Birmingham	Core Cities	Statistical Neighbours	West Midlands	England
Pupils onsite	89.9	89.4	89.7	89.8	89.7
Children with EHCP	80.5	81.8	83.6	83.7	84.2
Children with social worker	81.2	81.7	82.2	83.9	82.9
FSM Eligible	88.9	87.6	88.8	88.1	87.5

Attendance data as at Thursday 10th February 2022

- Pupils attending on site by phase, compared to the data presented last time:

Phase	Thu 10/02 (Birmingham)	Thu 10/02 (National)	Thu 20/01 (Birmingham)	Thu 20/01 (National)
Primary	92.2	92.5	87.7	89
Secondary	88.3	86.8	83.8	85.7
Special	74.9	81.7	67.9	78.4
PRU/Alternate	49.6	55.9	46.7	51.4
16 Plus	74.5	80.3	71.4	79.5
Not Applicable	91.3	89.9	89	89.2
State Funded	89.9	89.7	85.4	87.3

COVID absences as at Thursday 10th February 2022

- Birmingham COVID absence rate (including confirmed, suspected, not vaccinated and other) for state funded schools was 1.7% (down from 5.7% in the last presentation)
- COVID absence rate for state funded schools nationally was 2.7% (down from 5% in the last presentation)

Phase	Thu 10/02 (Bham)	Thu 10/02 (National)
Primary	1.8	2.5
Secondary	1.4	2.8
Special	7.7	5
PRU/Alternate	5.5	3.7
16 Plus	0.6	2.4
Not Applicable	2.2	3
State Funded	1.7	2.7

Guidance for schools

- Public Health Birmingham continues to offer regular, updated guidance and support to schools
- Dr Justin Varney is holding another webinar for schools after half-term to provide them with an updated overview on the current situation and answer any questions they may have
- Schools should still have outbreak management plans in place.
- BCC has provided a template: [BCC Outbreak Management Plan Template](#).
- Schools continue to work with Health Protection teams in cases of local outbreaks
- Local Health Protection teams may advise schools to consider additional measures, including temporarily restricting attendance, during an outbreak if other measures do not contain the spread

Current situation in Birmingham schools

- The period up to half-term (particularly around mid-January) was very challenging for schools
- High case rates led to outbreaks in schools that required support from Public Health colleagues and additional measures to break chains of transmission
- We have seen things start to improve in recent weeks as the case rate has come down – demonstrated by improving attendance figures
- A webinar has been arranged with Dr Justin Varney for 2 March so that schools can continue to be supported after half-term.

Vulnerable pupils

- Officers from Education and Skills continue to work closely with their colleagues in Birmingham Children's Trust to ensure support is in place for vulnerable pupils during the pandemic
- Schools are able to submit referrals using the [Right Help Right Time](#) threshold document for any children they are concerned about
- The [Family Connect Form](#) can also be submitted by schools or other professionals to request support for families through the early help system
- The early help service contacts/visits children of concern that are not open to social workers
- Social work team managers linked to schools provide general support to schools

BCC support for schools and settings

- [Outbreak management plan template](#)
- [Regular webinars \(Public Health, ventilation, attendance etc\)](#)
- Close liaison with Birmingham Public Health and UK Health Security Agency
- [Public Health documents](#) including FAQs, checklist and flowchart, regularly updated to take account of most up to date guidance
- Regular bulletins sent to schools and posted on our [Noticeboard site](#)