

Exclusions Update

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 16 February 2022

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Aims

- In this update we aim to:
 - provide an update on permanent exclusions and suspensions, including pupils with SEND, for the period 2019-2021
 - provide an overview of managed moves and the work of sharing panels
 - highlight the work of the Tackling Exclusions group in developing multi-agency approaches to reducing exclusions
 - set out the next steps and ongoing work in this area, particularly for pupils with SEND

Exclusions

- National and local authority comparator data is available up to the year 2019-20.
- The permanent exclusion rate is measured as the number of permanent exclusions recorded as a percentage of the school population.
- The suspension rate is measured as the number of suspensions recorded as a percentage of the school population.
- Primary permanent exclusions is the significant issue for Birmingham.

Local Authority Data Matrix – 2019/20

Exclusions and Suspensions

	2015/16 %	Rank	2016/17 %	Rank	2017/18 %	Rank	2018/19 %	Rank	2019/20 %	Rank	Latest Quartile Band	Latest England Ave
Permanent - Primary (State-funded)	0.08	147	0.08	149	0.09	150	0.08	149	0.04	137	D	0.02
Permanent - Secondary (State-funded)	0.22	106	0.20	70	0.15	47	0.18	70	0.14	85	C	0.13
Total Permanent Exclusions (rounded)	0.13	124	0.13	107	0.11	87	0.12	93	0.08	100	C	0.06
Suspensions - Primary (State-funded)	1.60	123	1.95	132	1.82	122	1.58	108	1.10	103	C	1.00
Suspensions - Secondary (State-funded)	7.20	62	7.51	53	7.44	45	7.61	46	5.48	41	B	7.43
Total Suspensions (rounded)	3.91	74	4.29	75	4.24	57	4.22	54	3.05	49	B	3.76

Permanent Exclusions

- For 2019-20, when children were out of school from the COVID-19 lockdown from March 23rd to the end of the school year, permanent exclusion rates fell across the country.
- Permanent exclusion rates in Birmingham remain above the overall national rate and across the education phases, but most notably in primary schools.
- Birmingham is ranked 100 out of 152 local authorities overall, with the rank for secondary school pupils at 85 and for primary school pupils at 137.

Year	All schools		Primary schools		Secondary schools	
	Birmingham	England	Birmingham	England	Birmingham	England
2019/20	0.08%	0.06%	0.04%	0.02%	0.14%	0.12%
2018-19	0.12%	0.10%	0.08%	0.02%	0.18%	0.20%
2017-18	0.11%	0.10%	0.09%	0.03%	0.15%	0.20%
2016-17	0.13%	0.10%	0.08%	0.03%	0.20%	0.20%

Permanent Exclusions by comparator councils

- Permanent exclusion rates in primary schools in Birmingham are higher than for core cities and statistical neighbour councils.
- However, for pupils in secondary schools, Birmingham's permanent exclusion rate is lower than for statistical neighbours and on a par with core cities.

Year	All schools		Primary schools		Secondary schools	
	Birmingham	Core Cities	Birmingham	Core Cities	Birmingham	Core Cities
2019/20	0.08%	0.07%	0.04%	0.02%	0.14%	0.14%
2018-19	0.12%	0.09%	0.08%	0.04%	0.18%	0.18%
2017-18	0.11%	0.10%	0.09%	0.04%	0.15%	0.18%
2016-17	0.13%	0.12%	0.08%	0.05%	0.20%	0.22%

Year	All schools		Primary schools		Secondary schools	
	Birmingham	Statistical neighbours	Birmingham	Statistical neighbours	Birmingham	Statistical neighbours
2019/20	0.08%	0.07%	0.04%	0.02%	0.14%	0.16%
2018-19	0.12%	0.11%	0.08%	0.03%	0.18%	0.25%
2017-18	0.11%	0.12%	0.09%	0.03%	0.15%	0.28%
2016-17	0.13%	0.12%	0.08%	0.04%	0.20%	0.25%

Suspensions

- Suspension rates in Birmingham are lower than national average overall. Birmingham is ranked 49 out of 152 local authorities.
- For 2019-20, when children were out of school from the COVID-19 lockdown from March 23rd to the end of the school year, suspension rates fell across the country.
- Suspension rates in primary schools are higher than national average. Birmingham is ranked 103 out of 152 local authorities.
- Suspension rates in secondary schools in Birmingham are ranked 41 out of 152 local authorities.
- Birmingham secondary schools continue to out perform the national average for suspensions.

Year	All schools		Primary schools		Senior schools	
	Birmingham	England	Birmingham	England	Birmingham	England
2019/20	3.05%	3.76%	1.10%	1%	5.48%	7.43%
2018-19	4.22%	5.36%	1.58%	1.41%	7.61%	10.75%
2017-18	4.24%	5.08%	1.82%	1.40%	7.44%	10.13%
2016-17	4.29%	4.76%	1.95%	1.37%	7.51%	9.40%

Suspensions by comparator councils

- Birmingham secondary schools continue to out perform comparator authorities for suspensions.
- Suspension rates in primary schools in Birmingham are higher than for core cities and statistical neighbour councils.

Year	All schools		Primary schools		Senior schools	
	Birmingham	Core Cities	Birmingham	Core Cities	Birmingham	Core Cities
2019/20	3.05%	4.10%	1.10%	1.01%	5.48%	8.53%
2018-19	4.22%	5.70%	1.58%	1.48%	7.61%	11.87%
2017-18	4.24%	5.20%	1.82%	1.58%	7.44%	10.46%
2016-17	4.29%	5.80%	1.95%	1.62%	7.51%	12.00%

Year	All schools		Primary schools		Senior schools	
	Birmingham	Statistical neighbours	Birmingham	Statistical neighbours	Birmingham	Statistical neighbours
2019/20	3.05%	3.59%	1.10%	0.76%	5.48%	7.81%
2018-19	4.22%	5.40%	1.58%	1.09%	7.61%	12.03%
2017-18	4.24%	4.92%	1.82%	1.21%	7.44%	10.73%
2016-17	4.29%	4.90%	1.95%	1.23%	7.51%	10.72%

Exclusions for SEN pupils

- Permanent exclusion rates for children with an EHCP or statement have risen slightly against a national reduction and are now higher than the national rates for this cohort.
- Permanent exclusion rates continued to fall for SEN children without an EHCP or statement, and the gap between Birmingham and national children in this cohort has narrowed.
- Permanent exclusion rates are higher than average in special schools in Birmingham whilst suspension rates are lower.
- Suspension rates have fallen for all SEN children and the Birmingham rates remain lower than national.

Exclusions for SEN pupils

	Children with EHCP/statement		SEN Children with SEN support	
Permanent exclusions	Birmingham	England	Birmingham	England
2019-20	0.15%	0.10%	0.27%	0.20%
2018-19	0.14%	0.15%	0.45%	0.32%
2017-18	0.32%	0.16%	0.45%	0.34%
2016-17	0.22%	0.16%	0.47%	0.35%
Suspensions	Birmingham	England	Birmingham	England
2019-20	8.00%	11.70%	8.32%	10.99%
2018-19	11.32%	16.10%	10.27%	15.60%
2017-18	12%	15.90%	10.50%	15.10%
2016-17	12%	15.90%	11.20%	14.80%

Exclusions by ethnic group

- Birmingham mirrors the national picture of higher permanent exclusion and suspension rates for pupils from Black, White and Mixed ethnicities and lower rates for pupils from Asian ethnicities.
- In 2019-20 in Birmingham, the largest reduction was for children of Black ethnicities, with a 47% reduction in the permanent exclusion rate and a 35% reduction in suspensions.

Main ethnic groups	Birmingham					England				
Permanent Exclusions	All	Asian	Black	Mixed	White	All	Asian	Black	Mixed	White
2019/20	0.08%	0.05%	0.10%	0.15%	0.09%	0.06%	0.03%	0.07%	0.08%	0.06%
2018/19	0.12%	0.05%	0.19%	0.23%	0.14%	0.10%	0.04%	0.11%	0.13%	0.10%
2017/18	0.11%	0.05%	0.19%	0.20%	0.14%	0.10%	0.04%	0.13%	0.16%	0.10%
2016/17	0.13%	0.05%	0.18%	0.19%	0.17%	0.10%	0.04%	0.14%	0.14%	0.10%
Suspensions	All	Asian	Black	Mixed	White	All	Asian	Black	Mixed	White
2019/20	2.97%	1.70%	4.14%	4.84%	3.79%	3.76%	1.35%	3.85%	4.34%	4.10%
2018/19	4.22%	2.37%	6.35%	6.74%	4.87%	5.36%	2.03%	5.54%	6.29%	5.80%
2017/18	4.24%	2.30%	6.82%	7.44%	5.76%	5.08%	1.76%	5.56%	5.89%	5.50%
2016/17	4.29%	2.34%	6.97%	6.89%	5.04%	4.76%	1.80%	5.65%	5.73%	5.08%

Exclusions by ethnic group

2019-20	Birmingham		England	
Minor Ethnicity Group	Permanent exclusions	Suspensions	Permanent exclusions	Suspensions
Any other white background	0.00%	1.59%	0.03%	2.03%
Irish	0.00%	2.04%	0.09%	3.69%
Traveller of Irish heritage	0.00%	12.50%	0.14%	10.12%
Indian	0.01%	0.89%	0.01%	0.53%
White and Asian	0.03%	3.35%	0.06%	2.62%
Bangladeshi	0.04%	1.32%	0.03%	1.42%
Black African	0.04%	2.45%	0.04%	2.95%
Any Other Ethnic Group	0.05%	2.01%	0.03%	2.22%
Pakistani	0.06%	1.96%	0.04%	2.05%
Any other Asian background	0.06%	1.76%	0.02%	1.06%
White and Black African	0.08%	4.50%	0.06%	4.21%
Chinese	0.09%	0.28%	0.01%	0.30%
Gypsy Roma	0.09%	2.17%	0.23%	15.28%
White British	0.10%	4.16%	0.07%	4.26%
Any other Mixed background	0.11%	3.99%	0.06%	3.31%
Ethnicity Unclassified	0.11%	4.28%	0.11%	5.88%
Any other black background	0.16%	4.82%	0.09%	4.11%
Black Caribbean	0.21%	7.81%	0.14%	7.03%
White and Black Caribbean	0.27%	6.61%	0.15%	7.64%

Exclusion rates across schools and districts

- Permanent exclusion and suspension rates vary school to school.
- In 2019-2020, 87% of primary schools made no permanent exclusions and 32% made no suspensions. The highest permanent exclusion rate in primary schools was 0.6% and the highest suspension rate was 40.5%.
- In 2019-20, 40.4% of secondary schools made no permanent exclusions and one school made no suspensions. The highest permanent exclusion rate in secondary schools was 1.65% and the highest suspension rate was 38%.
- The following slide shows data for districts where each school is based – not the pupil home address. It shows that:
 - schools located in Hall Green, Hodge Hill, Ladywood, Perry Barr and Sutton Coldfield districts had higher permanent exclusion and suspension rates than the city averages. Rates are also higher than average in Erdington and Edgbaston districts for primary schools
 - Schools located in Northfield, Selly Oak and Yardley districts had lower permanent exclusion and suspension rates than the city averages

Exclusion rates across schools and districts

	All primary and secondary schools 2019-20		Primary schools		Secondary schools	
District	Permanent exclusions	Suspensions	Permanent exclusions	Suspensions	Permanent exclusions	Suspensions
Edgbaston	0.08%	4.24%	0.06%	3.55%	0.11%	4.70%
Erdington	0.13%	2.69%	0.08%	1.32%	0.23%	5.19%
Hall Green	0.05%	1.66%	0.03%	0.77%	0.10%	3.65%
Hodge Hill	0.07%	1.80%	0.03%	0.57%	0.15%	3.92%
Ladywood	0.04%	3.00%	0.02%	0.85%	0.07%	5.35%
Northfield	0.15%	5.79%	0.05%	2.63%	0.36%	12.65%
Perry Barr	0.03%	2.56%	0.02%	0.67%	0.03%	5.25%
Selly Oak	0.11%	3.84%	0.02%	0.72%	0.21%	6.81%
Sutton Coldfield	0.05%	2.95%	0.02%	0.42%	0.08%	5.45%
Yardley	0.12%	3.21%	0.05%	0.79%	0.23%	6.90%
Total	0.08%	3.04%	0.04%	1.09%	0.14%	5.66%

Birmingham Children Partnership (BCP) and the Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) Audit

The recommendations of a 2019 audit of primary age children who had been permanently excluded included:

- increasing the effectiveness of early help intervention, coordination and communication with schools and multi-agencies before an exclusion takes place
- investigating cases where the best work is being done to avoid exclusion as well as learning from places that manage this process well.
- utilising the additional skill sets offered by partners, for example, close working between schools and School Nurses to assist with this strategy
- training and support to governors prior to exclusion so that they are aware what early help is available to schools
- ensuring that schools utilise services across the city more widely when needed, for example input from Forward Thinking Birmingham and the Education Psychology Service
- further work on understanding the lived experience of children and consideration of the impact on family life of domestic violence, substance misuse and undiagnosed learning difficulties

Ongoing work to reduce exclusions

Officers in education have worked with a range of partners on a number of initiatives to reduce exclusions.

These include:

- Tacking Exclusions and Joint Responses group
- Close working with local sharing panels
- Developing specific strategies to support children and young people with SEND
- SAFE Taskforce
- Support for teachers' professional development through the Birmingham Virtual School

Tackling School Exclusions Group

The group comprises colleagues from education, social care, health and police and:

- provides a forum for collaboration, problem solving between partners across the system
- aim is to develop an integrated systems offer via partnership / multi-agency pathways, protocols, and processes

Achievements so far:

- [Right Help Right Time](#) revised so that referrals into CASS for children at risk of primary school permanent exclusion are mandatory
- improved support for schools with early help offered in locality teams by teams around the school
- data sharing processes in place between education and BCT so that areas where suspensions are high are known
- regular training offered to school governors so that governing boards understand the processes for permanent and fixed term exclusions and the range of early help support services that are available
- myths busted across the range of agencies regarding Fair Access protocols and sharing panels
- opportunities for the voice of children and young people to be heard in developing new approaches to reducing exclusions

Managed moves and the role of local sharing panels

Secondary Local Sharing Panels provide a key mechanism for schools to collaborate on the inclusion agenda and:

- are the key decision making for the reintegration arrangements of pupils who have been permanently excluded and are assessed as suitable for a return to mainstream school
- make decisions on the admissions of Fair Access pupils who are deemed to be the most complex and challenging
- provide a vital function in making decisions on managed moves, ensuring that many children continue in a mainstream school and avoid having the experience of permanent exclusion

Local sharing panels are not a legal requirement. There is ongoing work in the primary phase around replicating the same system as in the secondary.

Specific work around preventing exclusions of pupils with SEND

- The Communication and Autism Team's training offer which focusses on supporting:
 - practitioners to have a better understanding of the triggers and managing distressed behaviours
 - parents' autism awareness and their reflection on the challenges and opportunities faced by autistic teenagers
- When a pupil with an EHCP is excluded full-time:
 - the case is notified to SENAR for consideration
 - the pupil is referred to the Home Bridging Team to maintain contact with the family and arrange home education
 - if the school governors uphold the exclusion, SENAR will discuss the need for an urgent annual review, which may lead to an amended plan
 - the Teaching Support Services and Educational Psychology Service will feed into the review as appropriate

Specific work around preventing exclusions of pupils with SEND

- Multi-agency planning meetings are held each term in each school to discuss pupils at risk of exclusion
- Support to schools in working with pupils is provided by:
 - signposting to specialist teaching support, Developing Local Provision (DLP), and Educational Psychology traded support
 - discussions on SEND provision plans
 - urgent annual reviews in cases of EHCP
 - the Special Schools Outreach Service, led by special schools and funded through DLP, also offers mainstream schools support
- Under DLP, some areas of the city have focused on behaviour and in secondary there is a Fair Access Team which supports secondary schools to avoid exclusions

Other initiatives

SAFE Taskforce:

- Birmingham has received £6 million from the DfE to set up a SAFE Taskforce to support young people to attend school and achieve (Support, Attend, Fulfil, Exceed).
- The target is to reach approximately 3000 young people and the taskforce will be made up of mainstream secondary schools, working alongside other multi-agency structures and local experts to commission evidence-based interventions to support those at risk of serious violence; re-engage them in education; improve attendance and behaviour in school and in the community

Birmingham Virtual School:

- Training offered through the Birmingham Virtual School focuses on developing Trauma Informed Attachment Aware approaches and Emotion Coaching for schools, settings and colleges

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