

Report on Permanent Exclusion from School

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide members and senior officers with an overview of permanent exclusions of pupils from school and to ascertain if there is any impact on the numbers of permanent exclusions as a result of secondary schools converting to academies.

The tables below summarise the number of permanent exclusions over the past seven academic years. Figures presented in brackets refer to permanent exclusions, by the Head Teacher, that were subsequently withdrawn or overturned. This bracketed figure does not count as a permanent exclusion but generally pupils do not return to the same school as an alternative is often found.

N.B. Not all primary or special schools are included in Tables 1 and 2 as some have not permanently excluded any pupil over this period.

Figures for the academic year 2011-12 still need to be verified; exclusions by the Head Teacher at the end of the academic year will not have been heard by the Governing Body or have been subject to an Independent Appeal. The data for this particular year is split into two columns – those permanent exclusions known to be upheld and the probable final figures.

Table 1 - Primary Schools (by academic year)

SCHOOL	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2011-12
							Actual to date	Probable
P1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
P3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P5	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
P6	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
P7	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1)	0
TOTALS UPHELD	4	2	1	1	1	0	0 (1)	0

Clearly, from Table 1, there have been no permanent exclusions in the primary sector since 2009-10. The numbers have always been relatively low since the peak in 2005-06.

Table 2 - Special Schools (by academic year)

SCHOOL	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2011-12
							Actual to date	Probable
SS 1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
SS 2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL UPHELD	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

From Table 2, it is clear that the number of permanent exclusions of pupils with Statements of SEN from Bath and North East Somerset's Special Schools remains very low.

Table 3 - Secondary Schools and Academies (by academic year)

SCHOOL	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2011-12
							Actual to date	Probable
S1	1	1 (1)	1 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	4	4
S2	2	2	0	1	0	2	2	2
S3	5	1 (1)	0	1	0	0	0	0
S4	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	2
S5	5	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
S6	5	2 (1)	1	1	0	0 (2)	1 (1)	1 (1)
S7	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
S8	3 (1)	1	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	1
S9	6	5	0 (1)	0	2	3 (1)	2	2
S10	2	0	0	1	0	2	1 (1)	1 (1)
S11	6	2	1	1 (1)	1	2	2	2
S12	0	0	0	0	0	0	2 (1)	3
S13	4 (1)	1	1	1 (1)	1 (2)	(3)	0	0
TOTAL UPHELD	41 (2)	17 (3)	5 (2)	8 (3)	4 (3)	13 (6)	17 (3)	19 (2)

From Table 3, the number of permanent exclusions in secondary schools and academies has reduced significantly, since their peak in 2005-06. In 2005-06, permanent exclusions were high nationally and Bath and North East Somerset was the highest excluding authority within the South West region.

By 2009-10, Bath and North East Somerset was the lowest permanently excluding authority in the South West region. This improvement was the result of a number of initiatives, such as a significant change in the statutory guidance on exclusions, a campaign by the National Strategies to reduce exclusions and improve the ability of teachers to better manage poor behaviour and, more locally, the introduction of an agreed scheme where funding was deducted from the excluding school to provide support at the receiving school. In addition, the local authority was able to set up systems, such as the Behaviour and Attendance Panels, that enabled schools to find more flexible responses to poor behaviour e.g. a managed move to another school, rather than a permanent exclusion.

In the last two academic years, the figures have started to rise again; the likely factors in this increase being the demise of the National Strategies, the breakdown of the agreement between schools for funding to follow the excluded pupil and an increase in the number of academies. It is important to note that permanent exclusions have not increased solely in academies (see Tables 5 and 6 below) but the impact on permanent exclusions is more likely to be due to change in cultural expectations and resultant pressures 'on the whole system', due to schools becoming academies.

Interestingly, in 2010-11, the number of permanent exclusions withdrawn by the Head Teacher or overturned by the Governing Body, increased to 6. The withdrawals were generally as a result of alternatives to permanent exclusion being found and, in hindsight, the pressure was likely to have been an indicator for the higher number of permanent exclusions in 2011-12, as well as the lack of suitable, affordable, alternative provision.

Table 4 – Summary of all Schools (by academic year)

ALL SCHOOLS	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2011-12
							Actual to date	Probable
	47 (2)	19 (2)	5 (2)	10 (3)	5 (3)	13 (6)	17 (4)	19 (4)

Table 5 – Academies (7 at 31st July 2012)

SCHOOL	2011-12	2011-12
	Actual to date	Probable
S1	4	4
S5	1	1
S6	1 (1)	1 (1)
S7	0	0
S9	2	2
S12	2 (1)	3
S13	0	0
TOTALS	10 (2)	11 (1)

Table 6 - Maintained Schools (6 at 31st July 2012)

SCHOOL	2011-12	2011-12
	Actual to date	Probable
S2	2	2
S3	0	0
S4	2	2
S8	0	1
S10	1 (1)	1 (1)
S11	2	2
TOTALS	7 (1)	8 (1)

From Tables 5 and 6, overall, there is no significant difference in the number of permanent exclusions dependent on whether the school is maintained or

an academy school. Two academy schools have excluded above the average but the numbers are too small to determine any particular pattern.

Summary Comments:

- There have been no permanent exclusions upheld in the primary sector since 2009-10. There is currently only one primary academy and that has not permanently excluded over the period examined.
- Permanent exclusions from special school are rare and there have been no permanent exclusions from a special school or special academy since 2008-09.
- The number of permanent exclusions in secondary schools and secondary academies has reduced from a peak of 41 in 2005-06, to a low of 5 in 2009-10. Since that point, there has been a steady increase to the current 2011-12 projection of 19 (current actual is 17). This remains lower than the peak in 2005-06 and reflects a national increase in permanent exclusions.
- There is no direct correlation between the increase in the number of permanent exclusions and the increase in the number of academies however; the existence of academies in the education system may have had an impact on expected higher standards of behaviour in all schools.
- The two most likely factors in the increase in permanent exclusions are:
 - The breakdown of the agreement to transfer funding from the excluding school to the receiving school, and;
 - The lack, or perceived lack, of suitable, affordable, alternative provision.
- From 1st September 2012, new statutory guidance will come into force and which will place greater accountability on schools and academies to ensure that permanent exclusions only happen when all other avenues have been explored. It will also enable the LA to adjust the funding of schools and academies that refuse to reinstate a pupil following the recommendations of an Independent Review Panel. The full guidance can be found by entering "Statutory guidance on school exclusions from September 2012" into a search engine or at :
<http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/s/exclusion%20from%201%20sep%202012%20guide%20for%20those%20with%20legal%20responsibilities%20in%20relation%20to%20exclusion%20june.pdf>

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