

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Children, Adults, Health & Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	14th October 2024	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	School Attendance and Exclusions – Key trends across 2022-2023 and 2023-2024	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Equalities Impact Assessment Data Presentation		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 This report provides the panel with an overview of attendance and exclusions key trends across 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.
- 1.2 This report's summary of education performance is drawn from the council's Strategic Evidence Base (SEB) produced by the council's Business Intelligence team and data, and the DFE National statistics:

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/>

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel / Committee is asked to;

- 2.1 Note our pupils' overall positive attendance for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. Our overall absence rate, % persistent absentees and unauthorised absence rate sits below national and regional data.
- 2.2 We are aware that our attendance for children open to CPP is an area that we need to address and this is a target that sits across the children's services directorate.
- 2.3 Note that whilst permanent exclusions rose in 2022-2023, that these were reduced in 2023-2024 to below the 2023 national average.

2.4 Be assured that Local Authority Officers continue to collaborate strategically with schools and partners and the Regional Director's office to improve educational outcomes for all pupils in B&NES.

3 THE REPORT – SUMMARY

3.1 Latest DFE data (2022/2023): Our overall absence rate, % of persistent absentee and unauthorised absence rate is below national and regional data.

3.2 We know we have a target within children's services to raise the attendance for our most vulnerable children open to CPP plans.

3.3 Our % persistent absentee for FSM pupils sits slightly above national. Our % of FSM severely absent pupils sits above national and regional.

3.4 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66bf300da44f1c4c23e5bd1b/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_-_August_2024.pdf
Working together to improve school attendance became a statutory document in August 2024.

3.5 School Permanent Exclusions rose in 2022/2023 placing B&NES above the national average. In 2023/2024 this number has reduced, taking our exclusion rate back to 0.09 which sits at the national average for 2022/2023. We have significantly reduced our permanent exclusions for CIN and CPP and there have been no permanent exclusions for CLA.

3.6 Our permanent exclusion data shows no significant disproportionality in relation to ethnicity but it is difficult to comment on trends due to the small numbers.

3.7 The suspension rate in 2022/2023 continued to rise, in line with the national and regional trends. Our suspension rate remains below national and regional rates.

3.8 The suspension rate for CIN and CPP is above regional and national rates, although it relates to a small number of pupils. The suspension rate for CLA has fallen steadily over the 3 reporting years placing us below the national average.

3.9 Our suspension rate data shows a disproportionality with young people from an ethnicity of major mixed being more likely to be suspended. This is a trend that has been identified in previous years.

4 CLIMATE CHANGE

4.1 This report contains information on attendance and exclusions in B&NES schools. No climate issues have been identified in the production of this report.

5 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 No other options have been considered for writing this report.

6 CONSULTATION

6.1 This report has been developed with the input and consultation of the Council's Business Intelligence team.

7 EQUALITIES

7.1 An equalities impact assessment has been completed and submitted to support this paper. This report reveals several areas where outcomes highlight inequalities between different groups of children in Bath & North East Somerset. The evidence in this SEB will continue to be used to strategically inform several work streams to improve inequalities in outcomes and disproportionality in negative outcomes.

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Background papers	<i>Report attached</i>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	