Flintshire County Council

Attendance and Exclusions in Flintshire Primary & Secondary Schools: 2016/17

Background Summary

1.1 School attendance is a high priority both for the Welsh Government and local authorities in their aim to improve standards. Unauthorised absence across Flintshire schools remains very low at 0.4% in primary schools and 0.8% in secondary schools, both of which are the second lowest value in Wales. Authorised absence includes family holidays, medical/dental appointments, study leave, Traveller absence, exclusion and pupil illness which continues to be one of the main factors affecting attendance rates.

1.2 **Table 1: Flintshire Schools in comparison with Welsh Averages**

		Attendance			Unauthorised absence			
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Flintshire Primary Schools	**94.8**	**94.7**	**94.7**	**94.8**	**0.4**	**0.3**	**0.3**	**0.4**
Wales Average	94.8	94.9	94.9	94.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1
Best in Wales	95.8	95.8	95.7	95.6	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
Flintshire Secondary Schools	**93.8**	**94.2**	**94.3**	**93.9**	**0.5**	**0.3**	**0.4**	**0.8**
Wales Average	93.6	93.8	94.2	94.1	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4
Best in Wales	94.5	94.7	95.0	95.2	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.5

Attendance in primary schools showed a slight improvement of 0.1% on the previous year 2015/16 however, there was a reduction of 0.4% across secondary schools.

1.3 **Range of Attendance across Schools**

Table 2 below shows the spread of attendance figures across the primary and secondary sectors. This demonstrates that the majority of our schools have attendance figures around or in excess of the Welsh average. Those schools showing lower percentages include the areas with a more transient population and in particular a high school which closed at the end of the academic year. The LA recognises the difficulties experienced by particular schools and both the LA and schools have targeted resources to help support improvement.

Table 2 – Range of Attendance Figures

Attendance 2016/17 % (2015/16)	<90	90.0-90.9	91.0-91.9	92.0-92.9	93.0-93.9	94.0-94.9	95.0-95.9	96.0-96.9	97.0-97.9	98.0-98.9	99.0-100
Primary schools	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (1)	2 (3)	11 (6)	10 (15)	30 (19)	9 (17)	1 (4)	0 (1)	0 (0)
Secondary Schools	1 (0)	1 (0)	1 (1)	1 (1)	3 (1)	5 (5)	0 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

1.5 Permanent Exclusions from School

The number of permanent exclusions from Flintshire schools remained very low in both the primary and secondary sector. The year reported is 2015/16 in line with Welsh Government reports. Internal data shows an increase in permanent exclusions in 2016/17. This will be reported as validated data following the statistical release from Welsh Government.

Table 5 - Number of Permanent Exclusions from Flintshire Schools

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Primary	0	0	0	1	1
Secondary	4	1	0	3	2

1.6 Fixed Term Exclusions from School

The number of fixed term exclusions for 5 days or less and for more than 5 days increased from the previous year. LA officers continue to work alongside schools to target a reduction in the number of days lost through exclusions. Training has been provided for schools to support the development of appropriate engagement strategies such as the ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) programme, Person Centred Planning and also the establishment of the Family Engagement Forum.

Table 6: Fixed-Term Exclusions

Year	Exclusion Type	Number of Exclusions		Rate of Exclusion*
		Primary	Secondary	
2015 - 2016	5 Days or Less	838		35.3
	Wales	2810	10110	30.9
	Over 5 days	44		1.9
	Wales	126	469	1.4
2014 - 2015	5 Days or Less	712		30
	Wales	2188	10096	29.9
	Over 5 days	40		1.7
	Wales	138	612	1.7
2013 – 2014	5 Days or Less	202	494	29.7
	Wales	1992	9789	26.7
	Over 5 days	11	31	1.8
	Wales	129	579	1.6

*Rate per 1000 pupils

The rate due to exclusions of over 5 days was 1.9 compared to the Welsh Average of 1.4. Whilst there has been a slight increase of 0.1 in the rate compared to 2014/15, this remains significantly lower than that of 2.9 in 2012/2013. The rate of exclusions of 5 days appears to show a significant increase however, the dataset for 2015/16 now includes exclusions form Pupil Referral Units making it difficult to make direct comparisons to previous years. Nationally, this accounts for an increase in rate per 1000 pupils from 28.8 to 30.9. The most common reason for exclusions of this type is persistent, disruptive behaviour. Verified data for 2016-17 is released by Welsh Government in September 2018.