

Flintshire County Council

Attendance and Exclusions in Flintshire Primary & Secondary Schools:2013

Background Summary

1.1 School attendance is a high priority both for the Welsh Government and local authorities in their aim to improve standards. Flintshire schools have in the main demonstrated a trend of improvement with figures for both the primary and secondary sector being above the national average for Wales. Unauthorised absence in secondary schools (0.4%) remains the lowest in Wales, whilst in primary schools (0.4%), this was the third lowest value in Wales with the lowest being 0.2% (2011/12).

1.2 Table 1: Flintshire Schools in comparison with Welsh Averages

	Attendance			Unauthorised absence		
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Flintshire Primary Schools	93.7	94.5	94.1	0.6	0.4	0.5
Wales Average	93.3	93.8	93.7	0.9	0.7	0.9
Best in Wales	94.5	94.9	94.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
Flintshire Secondary Schools	92.4	93.0	93.3	0.5	0.5	0.4
Wales Average	91.4	92.2	92.6	1.5	1.4	1.3
Best in Wales	92.5	93.7	93.6	0.5	0.5	0.4

Table 1 demonstrates the continuous trend of improvement in our secondary schools. Despite a dip of 0.4% in the primary sector, this remains an improvement on the 2010/11 and the previous year (2009/10 – 93.7%).

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 greater majority of our schools have attendance figures around or in excess of the Welsh average. Those schools demonstrating lower percentages reflect the trend of poorer attendance in more deprived areas. The LA recognises the difficulties experienced by particular schools and additional resources have been allocated in some situations to help address the issues.

Table 2

Attendance 2012/13 %	<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	2	2	8	16	16	20	4	1	1	0
Secondary Schools	1	1	0	3	3	4	0	0	0	0	0

1.4 Target Setting

A collective target for attendance was set at 94.6 for primary schools and 93.3 for secondary school for 2012/13. Target setting for attendance has become an integral part of the GwE system leader visits to schools and forms part of the challenge to headteachers and governing bodies. Table 3 indicates the level to which targets set were achieved. The data provided in Table 4 highlights the degree to which the school's target was missed or exceeded. It can be seen that the majority of schools were within 1% of achieving their target where this had not been met. Targets are set 18 months in advance and are intended to be aspirational to continue the trend of improvement.

Table 3

	Target not met	Target Met	Target Exceeded
Primary Schools*	37	4	25
Secondary Schools	6	2	4

*data was not available for 5 schools

Table 4

	-4.0 to -3.1	-3.0 to -2.1	-2.0 to -1.1	-1.0 to -0.1	Met	+0.1 to +1	+1.1 to +2	+2.1 to +3
Primary	3	7	7	20	4	18	6	1
Secondary		2	0	4	2	2	1	1

1.5 Permanent Exclusions from School

The number of permanent exclusions from Flintshire schools has continued on a downward trend in both the primary and secondary sector. The Managed Moves Protocol is now used across all sectors and has helped to support this reduction.

Table 5 Number of Permanent Exclusions from Flintshire Schools

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Primary	0	0	0
Secondary	4	1	0

1.6 Fixed Term Exclusions from School

LA officers continue to work along side schools to reduce the number of days lost through exclusions. Training has been provided for schools and Governors and a document outlining suitable exclusion tariffs for common incidents has been developed and shared with schools. The data indicates that there has been a year-on-year reduction in the number of days lost due to exclusions.

The unvalidated data for 2012-13 indicates a rise within the primary sector. This is the first year that schools have used SIMS to instantly record exclusions; previously reports were forwarded to the LA.

Table 6: Fixed-Term Exclusions

	Exclusion Type	Primary	Secondary	Special	PPRU	Total	Days lost	Average
2012-13*	5 Days or Less	168	533	7	90	798	1639	2.05
	6 Days or More	21	47	1	1	70	747	10.67
2011-12	5 Days or Less	99	531	4	101	735	1582	2.15
	6 Days or More	8	43	0	4	55	679	12.35
2010-11	5 Days or Less	106	514	13	85	718	1617	2.25
	6 Days or More	10	77	2	2	91	1192	13.10

*Unvalidated Data

The rates of fixed-term exclusions also demonstrate a reducing trend in the main and are below the Welsh average in 2011-12. (Data for 2012-13 is not currently available).

Table 7

	Exclusion Type	Flintshire Rate per 1000 pupils	Wales Rate per 1000 pupils
2011-12	5 Days or Less	52.1	66.6
	6 Days or More	4.2	5.3
2010-11	5 Days or Less	50.0	66.7
	6 Days or More	7.5	6.0
2009-10	5 Days or Less	58.1	66.4
	6 Days or More	8.0	6.3