

Annex 1f

Flintshire County Council

Attendance and Exclusions in Flintshire Primary & Secondary Schools:2015

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 the secondary sector being consistently above the national average for Wales. Unauthorised absence in primary and secondary schools stands at 0.3% in both sectors and is the lowest value in Wales.

1.2 Table 1: Flintshire Schools in comparison with Welsh Averages

	Attendance			Unauthorised absence		
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Flintshire Primary Schools	94.1	94.8	94.7	0.5	0.4	0.3
Wales Average	93.7	94.8	94.9	0.9	1.0	1.0
Best in Wales	94.4	95.8	95.8	0.2	0.3	0.3
Flintshire Secondary Schools	93.3	93.8	94.2	0.4	0.5	0.3
Wales Average	92.6	93.6	93.8	1.3	1.3	1.3
Best in Wales	93.6	94.5	94.7	0.4	0.5	0.3

Table 1 demonstrates the continuous trend of improvement in our secondary schools. In the primary sector, a significant improvement occurred in 2014, however a reduction of 0.1% occurred in 2015.

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 areas with a more transient population. The LA recognises the difficulties experienced by particular schools and additional resources have been allocated in some situations to help support improvement.

Table 2 – Range of Attendance Figures

Attendance 2014/15 %	<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	0	2	3	10	18	20	12	1	0	0
Secondary Schools	0	0	0	3	1	7	1	0	0	0	0

1.4 Target Setting

A collective target for attendance was set at 94.9% for primary schools and 94.3% for secondary school for 2014-15. Target setting for attendance has become an integral part of the GwE Challenge Adviser 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 – Number of Schools Achieving Attendance Targets

	Target not met	Target Met or Exceeded
Primary Schools	36	31
Secondary Schools	6	6

Table 4 - % Variation from Attendance Target

% Variation	-7.0 to -4.1	-4.0 to -3.1	-3.0 to -2.1	-2.0 to -1.1	-1.0 to -0.1	+0.0 to +1	+1.1 to +2	+2.1 to +3	+3.1 to +5
Primary	2	1	2	9	23	22	5	3	1
Secondary	0	0	0	1	5	6	0	0	0

1.5 Permanent Exclusions from School

The number of permanent exclusions from Flintshire schools remains very low 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

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

1.6 Fixed Term Exclusions from School

LA officers continue to work alongside schools to reduce the number of days lost through exclusions. Training has been provided for schools to support the development of appropriate engagement strategies and many schools have developed 'Nurture Groups' in response the needs of their pupils.

Table 6: Fixed-Term Exclusions

Year	Exclusion Type	Number of Exclusions		Rate of Exclusion*	Average days lost
		Primary	Secondary		
2013 - 2014	5 Days or Less	202	494	29.7	2.1
	Wales	1992	9789	26.7	N/A
2012 - 2013	Over 5 days	11	31	1.8	9.2
	Wales	129	579	1.6	N/A
2012 - 2013	5 Days or Less	157	532	29.4	2.1
	Wales	1593	10824	27.9	2.0
	Over 5 days	20	47	2.9	10.7
	Wales	139	782	2.1	9.7

*Rate per 1000 pupils

In line with the Estyn recommendations, the rate and average days lost due to exclusions of over 5 days shows a reduction trend however, the rate of exclusions of 5 days or fewer shows an increase of 0.3 % (Welsh Government statistical releases no longer provide the Welsh comparator for number of days lost). Verified data for 2014-15 is released by Welsh Government in September 2016.