

## Appendix 1

### 1.1 Attendance in Flintshire Schools

Pupil attendance is measured at local and national level using a number of different factors. The information below includes a range of these to provide an overview of the levels of attendance/absenteeism across Flintshire schools.

Table 1 below contains information relating to the attendance of pupils within Flintshire's mainstream and specialist schools. Over the last 3 years, pupil attendance within the primary sector has remained fairly static however, in 2017/18 the percentage attendance was above the Welsh average for the first time since 2013/14. Attendance across secondary schools has seen a dip to below the Welsh average for the first time in 2016/17 and 2017/18; in line with the national trend, illness is the main reason cited for absence. Girls in both sectors account for the highest attendance levels although attendance of girls in the secondary sector has dropped below the Welsh average for the first time in 2017/18.

Schools have maintained very low levels of unauthorised absence, with the figure for primary schools sitting at 0.4% (second lowest national value) and 0.9% (fifth lowest national value) across secondary schools.

**Table 1: Levels of attendance and unauthorised absence in Flintshire mainstream and specialist schools.**

	Attendance (%)			Unauthorised Absence (%)		
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
<b>FCC Primary Schools</b>	<b>94.7</b>	<b>94.8</b>	<b>94.6</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<b>Wales Average</b>	94.9	94.9	94.5	1.1	1.1	1.3
<b>Best in Wales</b>	95.7	95.6	95.2	0.2	0.2	0.3
<b>FCC Secondary Schools</b>	<b>94.3</b>	<b>93.9</b>	<b>93.7</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>
<b>Wales Average</b>	94.2	94.1	93.8	1.3	1.4	1.6
<b>Best in Wales</b>	95.0	95.2	94.8	0.4	0.5	0.6

Table 2 provides the attendance figures in relation to the Public Accountability Measures (PAMs) for primary and secondary education. This looks at attendance of pupils in mainstream schools only and are reported in the Council's improvement plan. Similar to Table 1, the levels of attendance in primary mainstream schools has remained fairly consistent, with secondary schools showing a noticeable dip in 2017/18.

**Table 2: Attendance of pupils in mainstream schools**

Attendance (%)	Primary Schools			Secondary Schools		
Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
<b>FCC Schools</b>	<b>94.7</b>	<b>94.7</b>	<b>94.8</b>	<b>94.2</b>	<b>94.3</b>	<b>93.9</b>
<b>Wales Average</b>	95.0	94.9	94.9	93.9	94.2	94.1
<b>Best in Wales</b>	95.8	95.7	95.6	94.8	95.1	95.2

Table 3 shows the spread of attendance figures across primary and secondary mainstream schools in 2017/18. This demonstrates that the majority of primary schools have attendance figures in a tighter cluster around or in excess of the Welsh average. For comparison, in 2015/16, 53% of Flintshire primary schools had levels of attendance above the Welsh average. In 2016/17, this increased to 67% with the overall increase being maintained at 66% in 2017/18.

**Table3: Spread of attendance figures**

Attendance (%)	<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 2017/18	1	0	0	6	7	21	23	5	1	0	0
Primary 2016/17	1	0	0	2	11	10	30	9	0	0	0
Primary 2015/16	1	0	1	3	6	15	19	17	4	1	0
Secondary 2017/18	0	0	2	1	2	5	1	0	0	0	0
Secondary 2016/17	1	1	1	1	3	5	0	0	0	0	0
Secondary 2015/16	0	0	1	1	1	5	4	0	0	0	0

Across the secondary sector, 83% of schools had attendance levels above the Welsh average in 2015/16. This reduced to 58% in 2016/17 and 54% in 2017/18. The closure of a secondary school has impacted on the overall attendance within this sector despite officers working in partnership with schools and families during the transition phase. The closure took place over 2 years between 2015/16 and 2016/17, with the provision being open to only Year 11 in the final year.

Mainstream schools are placed into quartiles for their levels of attendance based on comparisons with 'families' of schools. The table below shows the spread of Flintshire schools across the four quartiles alongside the overall LA ranking. The primary sectors shows a positive movement of schools into the upper quartiles over the last 3 years; there was a slight increase in the secondary sector in 2017/18.

**Table 4: School Attendance Quartiles**

	Primary Schools			Secondary Schools		
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
LA Ranking	15	12	11	13	13	14
Q1	9	9	12	0	1	1
Q2	13	13	20	4	1	2
Q3	21	25	15	3	3	2
Q4	21	17	17	4	6	6

Table 5 provides a breakdown of all authorised absence into percentages. This clearly demonstrates that illness is the predominant reason for pupil absence from Flintshire schools. Higher levels of illness related absence within the secondary sector may not initially be expected but is likely to be a result of the increasing levels of absence associated with mental health difficulties. It is notable that whilst holidays account for a significant proportion of absence in primary schools, this is not the case across secondary settings.

**Table 5: Reasons for authorised absence**

<b>2015/16</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>T</b>
Primary	4.39%	0.02%	26.96%	58.55%	7.42%	0.00%	0.58%	0.10%	1.97%
Secondary	9.12%	0.00%	8.68%	68.57%	10.12%	0.78%	2.08%	0.03%	0.62%
<b>2016/17</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>T</b>
Primary	4.53%	0.04%	27.58%	58.23%	7.13%	0.00%	0.39%	0.06%	2.03%
Secondary	10.62%	0.00%	8.43%	69.73%	7.02%	0.68%	3.14%	0.02%	0.35%
<b>2017/18</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>T</b>
Primary	5.59%	0.02%	27.89%	57.76%	6.72%	0.00%	0.53%	0.10%	1.38%
Secondary	11.38%	0.00%	7.13%	70.35%	7.09%	0.40%	3.39%	0.00%	0.25%

**Key:**

<i>C</i>	<i>Other authorised circumstances (not covered by another appropriate code/ description)</i>
<i>F</i>	<i>Agreed extended family holiday</i>
<i>H</i>	<i>Agreed family holiday</i>
<i>I</i>	<i>Illness</i>
<i>M</i>	<i>Medical or dental appointment</i>
<i>S</i>	<i>Study leave</i>
<i>E</i>	<i>Excluded but no alternative provision made</i>
<i>R</i>	<i>Day set aside exclusively for religious observance</i>
<i>T</i>	<i>Traveller absence</i>

Whilst levels of unauthorised absence are very low across the county, the percentage of persistent absence, i.e. where a pupil's attendance is less than 80% is higher than the Welsh averages in both primary and secondary schools. The LA has worked with schools and providers to support the broadening of the curriculum offer including the development of bespoke packages in the secondary sector, however there are still a number of pupils with levels of severe anxiety who are increasingly finding it difficult to engage; illness again is the predominant reason for absence.

**Table 6: Persistent Absenteeism**

	Primary Schools			Secondary Schools		
	No. of Pupils	% Persistent Absence FCC	% Persistent Absence Wales	No. of Pupils	% Persistent Absence FCC	% Persistent Absence Wales
<b>2017/18</b>	216	11.3	9.2	410	28.0	23.0
<b>2016/17</b>	211	11.5	8.4	366	26.8	22.8
<b>2015/16</b>	215	11.2	8.2	331	24.5	21.9

## 1.2 Exclusion of pupils from Flintshire schools

Welsh Government report annually on the national levels of fixed term and permanent exclusion. This is always completed a year in arrears with a publication date of October. For this reason, the data included in this report relates to the academic year 2016/17.

Headteachers have the authority to exclude pupils either on either a fixed term or permanent basis for inappropriate conduct. The possible reasons for exclusion are recorded as follows:

- Physical assault against a pupil
- Physical assault against an adult
- Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against a pupil
- Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult
- Bullying
- Racist abuse
- Sexual misconduct
- Drug and alcohol related
- Damage
- Theft
- Persistent disruptive behaviour
- Other

Flintshire has traditionally had low levels of permanent exclusion in both the primary and secondary sector however, there has been a noticeable increase in the numbers since 2016 and this upward trend is evident across Wales.

**Table 7: Number of Permanent Exclusions from Flintshire Schools**

	2014-15	2015-16	2016/17
<b>Primary</b>	0	1	4
<b>Secondary</b>	0	0	8
<b>Wales</b>	89	109	165

There has also been an increase in the level of fixed-term exclusions, noticeably in the secondary sector with the rate of exclusion increasing over the last 3 years in comparison with the Welsh average. The figure within the brackets (Table 8), indicates the number of pupils who received one or more exclusion.

**Table 8: Fixed-Term Exclusions**

Year	Exclusion Type	Number of Exclusions		Rate of Exclusion*
		Primary	Secondary	
<b>2016 - 2017</b>	FCC 5 Days or Less	<b>196 (77)</b>	<b>884 (453)</b>	<b>46.3</b>
	Wales	2590	11198	30.6
	FCC Over 5 days	<b>13 (6)</b>	<b>51 (24)</b>	<b>2.7</b>
	Wales	148	469	1.4
<b>2015 - 2016</b>	FCC 5 Days or Less	<b>209 (77)</b>	<b>605 (336)</b>	<b>34.7</b>
	Wales	2810	10110	30.9

	FCC Over 5 days	<b>14 (7)</b>	<b>29 (19)</b>	<b>1.8</b>
	Wales	126	469	1.4
<b>2014 - 2015</b>	FCC 5 Days or Less	<b>172 (62)</b>	<b>529 (287)</b>	<b>30.0</b>
	Wales	2188	10096	29.9
	FCC Over 5 days	<b>11 (8)</b>	<b>29 (18)</b>	<b>1.7</b>
	Wales	138	612	1.7

\*Rate per 1000 pupils

Table 9 outlines the main reasons for exclusion. The main reasons for exclusion are Physical assault against a pupil, Verbal/threatening behaviour against an adult, Persistent and disruptive behaviour and Other. There have been notable increases in the number or exclusions related to Verbal/threatening behaviour against an adult and Other.

**Table 9: Reasons for exclusion (number of incidents)**

Reason for Exclusion	2014-15								2015-16								2016-17							
	Fixed ≤5 days		Fixed >5 days		Perm		T	Fixed ≤5 days		Fixed >5 days		Perm		T	Fixed ≤5 days		Fixed >5 days		Perm		T			
	P	S	P	S	P	S		P	S	P	S	P	S		P	S	P	S	P	S				
Physical assault against a pupil	51	116	1	10			<b>178</b>	29	122	2	11			<b>164</b>	20	148	1	8			2	<b>179</b>		
Physical assault against an adult	58	1	3				<b>62</b>	71	4	4				<b>79</b>	53	11	6	2	2	2	2	<b>76</b>		
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against a pupil	5	26		3			<b>34</b>	9	19		1			<b>29</b>	7	39		2				<b>48</b>		
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult	13	110	2	5			<b>130</b>	26	157	1	5			<b>189</b>	25	219	1	9	1			<b>255</b>		
Bullying		4					<b>4</b>	2	4		2			<b>8</b>	3	12						<b>15</b>		
Racist abuse	1	3					<b>4</b>	4	2					<b>6</b>	1	5						<b>6</b>		
Sexual misconduct			1				<b>1</b>		1					<b>1</b>	1	2	1					<b>4</b>		
Drug and alcohol related		11					<b>11</b>		7					<b>7</b>		33		8			2	<b>43</b>		
Damage	1	21		3			<b>25</b>	3	18					<b>21</b>	7	26					1	<b>34</b>		
Theft		8	1				<b>9</b>		11					<b>11</b>		4						<b>4</b>		
Persistent disruptive behaviour	28	102	1	3			<b>134</b>	55	147	6	5	1		<b>214</b>	69	148	4	12	1	2	2	<b>236</b>		
Other	10	127	2	5			<b>144</b>	10	113	1	5			<b>129</b>	10	237		10				<b>257</b>		

**Key:** *Fixed ≤5 days – Fixed term exclusion, 5 days or less*  
*Fixed >5 days – Fixed term Exclusion, over 5 days*  
*Perm – Permanent exclusion*  
*P – Primary*  
*S – Secondary*  
*T – Total of primary and secondary*