

## **Appendix 1**

### **1.1 Attendance in Flintshire Schools**

Pupil attendance is measured at local and national level using a number of different factors. The COVID – 19 pandemic has however resulted in the suspension of the regular Welsh Government statistical updates that would provide contextual information with regards to attendance trends across Wales.

The information below utilises preexisting WG statistical publications and is supplemented with data from within FCC for 2019/20. It is not possible to draw a direct comparison between 2019/20 and any of the previous years given the restricted reporting period for 19/20; the data is provided to allow Members to gain some insight into the local trends in 2019/20 prior to the impact of the pandemic.

Table 1 below contains information relating to the attendance of pupils within Flintshire’s mainstream and specialist schools. In the years preceding 2019/20, pupil attendance within the primary sector had remained fairly static. Attendance across secondary schools had seen a dip to below the Welsh average after 2016/17. Illness had been the main reason cited for absence in the years preceding 2019/20 and still accounts for the highest percentage of absence in both sectors.

Schools have generally maintained very low levels of unauthorised absence across Flintshire. There was a small rise in authorised absence for the monitoring period in 2019/20. The overall picture for the monitoring period up to and including 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 suggests a similar pattern of attendance to the previous year.

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

	Attendance (%)			Unauthorised Absence (%)		
	2019/20*	2018/19	2017/18	2019/20*	2018/19	2017/18
<b>FCC Primary Schools</b>	<b>93.2</b>	<b>94.6</b>	<b>94.6</b>	<b>0.85</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<b>FCC Secondary Schools</b>	<b>91.6</b>	<b>93.3</b>	<b>93.7</b>	<b>1.87</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.6</b>

*\*Figures for 1/09/19 to 20/03/20 when lock down commenced*

Table 2 shows the spread of attendance figures across primary and secondary mainstream schools from 2017/18 onwards. This table demonstrates some movement across the range in 2019/20, more so across the primary sector. As with Table 1, the reporting period for 2019/20 has been restricted to the period before lockdown and cannot be used confidently for comparison purposes.

**Table 2: Spread of attendance figures**

Attendance %	Primary			Secondary		
	2019-20*	2018-19	2017-18	2019-20*	2018-19	2017-18
<90	3	1	1	0	0	0
90.0-90.9	0	0	0	0	0	0
91.0-91.9	4	1	0	1	2	2
92.0-92.9	5	4	6	3	3	1
93.0-93.9	12	9	7	3	2	2
94.0-94.9	19	21	21	3	4	5
95.0-95.9	15	20	23	1	0	1
96.0-96.9	4	7	5	0	0	0
97.0-97.9	1	1	1	0	0	0
98.0-98.9	0	0	0	0	0	0
99.0-100	0	0	0	0	0	0

\*Figures for 1/09/19 to 20/03/20 when lock down commenced

Table 3 provides a breakdown of all of the coding applied to authorise absence within Flintshire schools by percentages.

The data clearly demonstrates that illness has remained the predominant reason for pupil absence from Flintshire schools up to and including the period reported for 2019/20. There is a notable reduction in absence due to holidays in the primary sector which can be explained by the omission of the Summer Term in data where most holidays are likely to take place. The increase in the use of C codes across primary schools is likely to relate to the period prior to lockdown when the levels of anxiety around Covid-19 were increasing.

**Table 3: Reasons for authorised absence**

Reason for Absence	Primary (%)			Secondary (%)		
	2019-20*	2018-19	2017-18	2019-20*	2018-19	2017-18
C	11.8	5.99	5.59	17.05	15.45	11.38
F	0.03	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
H	15.75	28.53	27.89	4.81	6.75	7.13
I	62.02	55.21	57.76	66.29	65.84	70.35
M	5.23	6.59	6.72	7.92	8.68	7.09
S	0	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.18	0.40
E	0.41	0.52	0.53	3.21	2.91	3.39
R	0.02	0.12	0.10	0	0.01	0.00
T	4.73	3.12	1.38	0.68	0.10	0.25

\*Figures for 1/09/19 to 20/03/20 when lock down commenced

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

## 1.2 Exclusion of pupils from Flintshire schools

Welsh Government normally report annually on the national levels of fixed term and permanent exclusion. This is usually completed a year in arrears with a publication date in the month of October. As previously stated, WG data collection and publications have been suspended and internal data has been used to inform the report. On this occasion therefore, the data provided includes the academic year 2019/20.

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

The level of exclusion across Flintshire schools started to rise noticeably from 2016 and mirrored a national trend across Wales. A reduction in the level of both permanent and fixed-term exclusion remains a priority for schools and the Education and Youth Portfolio and a number of strategic actions have been identified to support a reduction. These include awareness raising across the school sector of the impact of exclusion, investment in the training of school staff on the National Nurturing Schools Programme and a shift to a nurture/wellbeing emphasis for central services, e.g. Behaviour Support Team.

The data for 2019/20 on the face of it shows a reduction in the levels of exclusion but this is set against a reduced school year due to Covid-19 lockdown restrictions.

**Table 4: Number of Permanent Exclusions from Flintshire Schools**

	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18
<b>Primary</b>	1	3	5
<b>Secondary</b>	19	24	23

Table 5 shows the levels of fixed-term exclusion across primary and secondary schools. The figure within the brackets indicates the number of pupils who received one or more exclusion.

**Table 5: Fixed-Term Exclusions**

Type of Exclusion	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18
	Number of incidents (Number of pupils)	Number of incidents (Number of pupils)	Number of incidents (Number of pupils)
<b>Primary 5 Days or Less</b>	144 (70)	251 (102)	172 (80)
<b>Primary Over 5 days</b>	1 (1)	12 (10)	10 (7)
<b>Secondary 5 Days or Less</b>	879 (405)	1188 (533)	1059 (515)

<b>Secondary Over 5 days</b>	19 (18)	22 (19)	39 (34)
	<b>Rate of exclusion per 1000 pupils (Primary &amp; Secondary combined)</b>		
<b>5 Days or Less</b>	43.4	61.2	52.2
<b>Over 5 days</b>	0.8	1.4	2.1

**Reasons for exclusion.**

The primary reasons for exclusion are documented in Table 6. Whilst the number of incidents recorded for 2019/20 has reduced as a result of the pandemic, the spread across the various reasons mirrors that of previous years. As can be seen, the main reasons for exclusion remain Physical assault against a pupil, Verbal/threatening behaviour against an adult, Persistent disruptive behaviour and Other.

**Table 6: Reasons for exclusion (number of incidents)**

Reason Exclusion	for	2019/20							2018/19							2017/18						
		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		31	121	0	3	0	4	159	39	247	1	3	0	4	294	42	194	1	4	0	4	245
Physical assault against an adult		28	17	0	1	0	1	47	34	18	1	0	1	0	54	43	20	4	1	5	1	74
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against a pupil		9	38	0	1	0	0	48	11	50	0	0	0	1	62	9	42	0	3	0	0	54
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult		23	166	0	4	0	1	194	34	243	1	4	2	1	285	15	244	0	9	0	3	271
Bullying		1	6	0	0	0	0	7	2	15	0	1	0	0	18	2	11	0	0	0	0	13
Racist abuse		0	10	0	0	0	0	10	3	13	0	0	0	0	16	1	10	0	0	0	0	11
Sexual misconduct		0	5	0	0	0	0	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Drug and alcohol related		0	8	0	1	0	5	14	0	14	0	1	0	8	23	0	26	0	2	0	3	31
Damage		2	12	0	0	0	0	14	4	28	0	0	0	0	32	2	41	0	0	0	1	44
Theft		0	9	0	0	0	0	9	2	13	0	0	0	0	15	1	12	0	0	0	0	13
Persistent disruptive behaviour		49	284	0	5	1	1	340	11	200	4	3	0	3	321	47	157	4	6	0	1	215
Other		2	203	1	4	0	7	217	11	345	5	10	0	7	378	10	299	1	14	0	10	334

**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