

Education: School Exclusions/Absence Summary (2023/24)

- **Suspensions have continued to increase locally and nationally** and are **higher** in B&NES than in England (13% vs 11%).
 - Suspensions in the **FSM eligible** cohort continue to be **higher** in B&NES than England and **increased sharply** in B&NES in 2023/24 (43% B&NES, 28% England).
 - Suspensions in the **SEN with EHCP** cohort are **higher** than national and have been for a number of years. Suspensions in the **SEN support** cohort **increased sharply** in B&NES in 2023/24 compared to England and are now **higher** than the rate in the SEN with EHCP cohort.
 - Previously in B&NES, suspension rates were highest amongst Black and Mixed/multiple ethnicity pupils for a number of years. However, since 2022/23, the suspension rate in B&NES has been highest in **Mixed/multiple ethnicity** pupils followed by **White** pupils. In England, the highest suspension rates were seen in White pupils followed by Mixed/multiple ethnicity pupils.
- **Permanent exclusions decreased** in B&NES in 2023/24 and fell **below** the national rate. This equated to **28** permanent exclusions, a decrease from 39 in 2022/23. **Twenty-seven** of these were in **secondary** schools.
 - Although the permanent exclusion rate in the **FSM eligible** cohort **fell** in 2023/24, it is still **notably higher** than national. This represents 22 permanent exclusions in those eligible for FSM.
 - The permanent exclusion rate in the **SEN support cohort** and **SEN with EHCP cohorts** has **decreased** in B&NES in 2023/24, whilst nationally the rates continued to **rise** in these cohorts.
 - The permanent exclusion rate has been higher in males than females in B&NES and England for over a decade. However, in 2023/24, the permanent exclusion rate in **males** in B&NES fell **below** the rate of females and was **noticeably lower** than the national exclusion rate in males. This represents a halving of the number of exclusions in males in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 (12 vs 24).
 - The permanent exclusion rate was **highest** in B&NES in **Mixed/multiple ethnicity** pupils and **White** pupils (equivalent to 2 and 25 permanent exclusions respectively).

Education: School Exclusions/Absence Summary cont. (2023/24)

- The **overall absence rate** is **similar** in B&NES compared to national (both 7%). Prior to the Covid pandemic, overall absence rates were fairly stable at ~5% in B&NES and England for a number of years. Following a sharp increase in 2021/22, overall absence rates remain **above** pre-pandemic levels and are only slowly showing signs of a reduction.
 - Overall absence in the **FSM eligible** cohort is **higher** in B&NES than national. It is **slightly higher** than national in the **SEN with EHCP** cohort and is broadly **similar** to national in the **SEN support** cohort.
- **Persistent absence** (10% or more missed sessions) remains **notably higher** since the pandemic in both B&NES and England. However, the rate in B&NES continues to be **below** national and regional levels (B&NES 18%, England 20%, SW 20%). This equates to **4,260 pupils in B&NES** missing 10% or more of sessions.
 - Persistent absence in the **FSM eligible** cohort is **higher** in B&NES than national. It is **slightly lower** than national levels in the **SEN support** and **SEN with EHCP** cohorts.
- **Severe absence** (50% or more missed sessions) has **more than doubled** since 2017/18. In 2023/24, the severe absence rate was **similar** in B&NES to England (both 2.3%) and **below** the South West level (2.8%). This equates to **535 pupils in B&NES** missing 50% or more sessions.
 - Severe absence in the **FSM eligible** cohort is **higher** in B&NES than national and has **increased more rapidly** in B&NES than England since 2020/21. Severe absence is slightly higher in B&NES than national in the **SEN support** cohort and is broadly **similar** to national in the **SEN with EHCP** cohort. It has **increased more rapidly** in B&NES than England in the SEN support cohort since 2021/22.