

Education: School Exclusions/Absence Summary (2024/25)

- **Suspensions decreased slightly** between 2023/24 and 2024/25 for the first time since prior to the pandemic locally and nationally. The rate in B&NES was **higher** than England (12.2% B&NES, 10.9% England).
 - Suspensions in the **FSM eligible** cohort continue to be **higher** in B&NES than England (40% B&NES, 27% England).
 - Suspensions in the **SEN with EHCP** cohort remains **higher** than national (31% B&NES, 26% England).
Suspensions in the **SEN support** cohort **decreased** in B&NES and England, with **B&NES seeing a larger fall than national**. The rate in B&NES remains **higher** than national (39% B&NES, 29% England).
 - Suspension rates in B&NES are highest in the **Black ethnicity** cohort followed by the **Mixed ethnicity** cohort, whilst in England, the highest suspension rates were seen in White pupils followed by Mixed ethnicity pupils.
- **Permanent exclusions increased marginally** in B&NES in 2024/25 but decreased nationally. The rate in B&NES remains **lower** than national.
 - The permanent exclusion rate in the **FSM eligible** cohort remains **higher** than national.
 - The permanent exclusion rate in the **SEN support** cohort and **SEN with EHCP** cohorts **increased notably** in B&NES. The permanent exclusion rate is **higher** in B&NES than national for both cohorts. There were 7 permanent exclusions in the **SEN with EHCP** cohort and 15 permanent exclusions in the **SEN support** the highest number since at least 2006/07 for both cohorts.
 - The permanent exclusion rate is **higher** in males than females in B&NES as well as nationally (both 0.16%). There was a **notable increase** for **males** (22 permanent exclusions in 2024/25 compared to 12 in 2023/24) and a **decrease** for females in B&NES.
 - The permanent exclusion rate was **highest** in B&NES in the **Black ethnic** cohort, whilst in England, the permanent exclusion rate was highest in the Mixed ethnic cohort.
- **The overall absence rate** is the **same** in B&NES compared to national (both 6.8%) and rates remain **above** pre-pandemic levels.
 - Overall absence in the **FSM eligible** cohort has been consistently **higher** in B&NES than national since at least 2016/17 and remains **higher** than the peak in 2021/22.
 - In the **SEN with EHCP** cohort the rate remains **higher** in B&NES than national and is **broadly similar** to national in the **SEN support** cohort.

Education: School Exclusions/Absence Summary cont. (2024/25)

- **Persistent absence** (10% or more missed sessions) remains **notably higher** since the pandemic in both B&NES and England. The rate in B&NES continues to be **below** national levels.
 - 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** cohort and **slightly higher** than national in the **SEN with EHCP** cohort.
- **Severe absence** (50% or more missed sessions) has **more than doubled** since 2017/18. In 2024/25, the severe absence rate was **similar** in B&NES to England.
 - 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 **broadly similar** in B&NES than national in the **SEN support** cohort and is **higher** than national in the **SEN with EHCP** cohort. This rate has **increased more rapidly in B&NES** compared to England since 2021/22.
- In 2023/24, the **suspension rates** in B&NES were **above** England in the **Children in need (CIN)** cohort, and in the **Children looked after (CLA)** cohort. There have been no permanent exclusions in CLA pupils in B&NES since at least 2017/18.
- In 2024/25, the **overall absence rate** in the **CIN** cohort in B&NES was **above** England, whilst the **persistent absence rate** (10% or more missed sessions) was **similar** to the national level. In the **CLA** cohort, the **overall absence rate** was **higher** than the national level, and the **persistent absence rate** was **above** the national level.