

SDR 154/2015

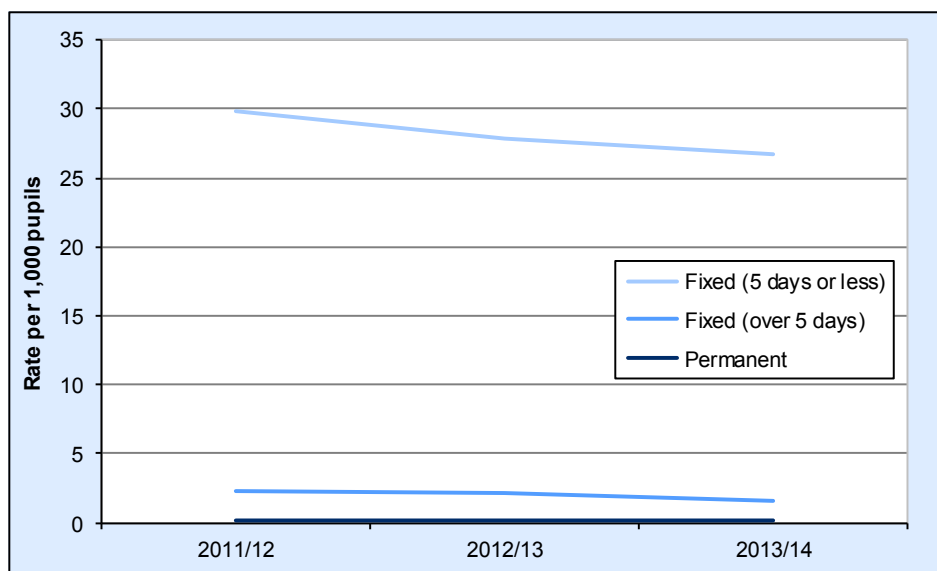
29 September 2015

## Permanent and Fixed-term Exclusions from Schools in Wales, 2013/14

This annual Statistical First Release reports on exclusions of pupils from primary, secondary and special schools in Wales from 2011/12 to 2013/14. The information it contains are based on pupil-level exclusions data collected via the January Pupil-Level Annual School Census (PLASC). This is the first time that such data have been published from this source, so it is not advised to make comparisons between this Statistical First Release and previously-published exclusions data. Please see the notes for more information.

Please also note that exclusions relate to occurrences rather than pupils (i.e. a pupil excluded from two schools within a year would be recorded twice).

**Chart 1: Rate of exclusions from maintained schools in Wales**



The rate of fixed-term exclusions has been falling since 2011/12.

The rate of permanent exclusions has not changed in this time.

**In 2013/14 there were:**

**0.2** permanent exclusions,  
**26.7** fixed-term exclusions (5 days or less), and  
**1.6** fixed-term exclusions (over 5 days)  
 per 1,000 pupils ([Table 1](#)).

[Tables 4](#) and [5](#) show that there were higher rates of exclusions among pupils who:  
 were **eligible for free school meals**  
 had **special educational needs**.

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<b>Contents</b>		Page
Chart 1	<a href="#">Rate of exclusions from maintained schools in Wales</a>	1
Table 1	<a href="#">Exclusions from maintained schools in Wales, by school type</a>	3
<b>Exclusions by local authority</b>		
Table 2a	<a href="#">Permanent exclusions from maintained schools in Wales, by local authority and consortium</a>	4
Table 2b	<a href="#">Fixed-term exclusions (5 days or less) from maintained schools in Wales, by local authority and consortium</a>	5
Table 2c	<a href="#">Fixed-term exclusions (over 5 days) from maintained schools in Wales, by local authority and consortium</a>	6
<b>Reasons for exclusions</b>		
Table 3	<a href="#">Exclusions from maintained primary, secondary and special schools in Wales, by reason for exclusion</a>	7
Chart 2	<a href="#">Percentage of all exclusions, by reason for exclusion</a>	8
<b>Exclusions by pupil characteristics</b>		
Table 4	<a href="#">Exclusions from maintained primary, secondary and special schools in Wales, by free school meal (FSM) entitlement</a>	9
Table 5	<a href="#">Exclusions from maintained primary, secondary and special schools in Wales, by provision for special educational need (SEN)</a>	10
Table 6	<a href="#">Exclusions from maintained primary, secondary and special schools in Wales, by ethnic background</a>	11
<b>Additional information</b>		
	<a href="#">Notes</a>	13

## Introduction

[Chart 1](#) shows how the rate of permanent and fixed-term exclusions from maintained schools in Wales has changed over time.

[Table 1](#) shows the breakdown of permanent and fixed-term exclusions by school type.

[Tables 2a](#), [2b](#) and [2c](#) show the numbers and rates of permanent and fixed-term exclusions by local authority and consortium. These tables include exclusions from all maintained primary, secondary and special schools.

[Table 3](#) and [Chart 2](#) report on the reasons given for exclusions.

[Tables 4](#), [5](#) and [6](#) present the number and percentage of exclusions by free school meal entitlement, provision for special educational needs and ethnic background.

**Table 1: Exclusions from maintained schools in Wales, by school type**

	Number of exclusions			Rate of exclusions (a)		
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<b>Permanent</b>						
Primary	6	9	7	-	-	-
Middle (b)	*	*	*	*	*	*
Secondary	84	89	80	0.4	0.5	0.4
Special	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total	91	102	89	0.2	0.2	0.2
<b>Fixed-term exclusions (5 days or less)</b>						
Primary	998	1,593	1,992	3.8	6.0	7.4
Middle (b)	35	98	164	9.2	26.9	36.6
Secondary	12,459	10,824	9,789	63.9	56.6	52.7
Special	385	402	430	91.0	93.0	99.1
Total	13,877	12,917	12,375	29.9	27.9	26.7
<b>Fixed-term exclusions (over 5 days)</b>						
Primary	57	139	129	0.2	0.5	0.5
Middle (b)	0	0	*	0.0	0.0	*
Secondary	967	782	579	5.0	4.1	3.1
Special	21	41	*	5.0	9.5	*
Total	1,045	962	738	2.3	2.1	1.6

Source: Pupils' Exclusions Record, Welsh Government

(a) Rate per 1,000 pupils. Full- and part-time pupils of all ages.

(b) In 2012/13, middle schools provided exclusions data for the primary or secondary schools that merged to form them in 2011/12. That is why, although there were no middle schools in 2011/12, exclusions data have been recorded against middle schools for this year.

#### Key points

##### In all maintained schools in 2013/14:

**0.2** the rate of permanent exclusions per 1,000 pupils.

**26.7** the rate of fixed-term exclusions of 5 days or less per 1,000 pupils.

**1.6** the rate of fixed-term exclusions over 5 days.

- The rate of permanent exclusions per 1,000 pupils has not changed in three years. In the 2013/14 academic year, as in the two years before, there were 0.2 permanent exclusions per 1,000 pupils.
- Fixed-term exclusions have been falling since 2011/12. In 2011/12 there were 29.9 fixed-term exclusions of 5 days or less per 1,000 pupils. This rate dropped by 3.2 to 26.7 exclusions per 1,000 pupils in 2013/14. The rate of fixed term exclusions of 6 days or more fell from 2.3 to 1.6 exclusions per 1,000 pupils between 2011/12 and 2013/14.
- Special schools had the highest rate of fixed-term exclusions of 5 days or less.

**Table 2a: Permanent exclusions from maintained schools in Wales, by local authority and consortium**

	Number of exclusions			Rate of exclusions (a)		
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<b>North Wales</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Isle of Anglesey	*	0	0	*	0.0	0.0
Gwynedd	13	*	*	0.8	*	*
Conwy	0	0	*	0.0	0.0	*
Denbighshire	*	*	0	*	*	0.0
Flintshire	*	0	*	*	0.0	*
Wrexham	*	0	*	*	0.0	*
<b>South West and Mid Wales</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Powys	7	6	0	0.4	0.3	0.0
Ceredigion	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pembrokeshire	*	*	*	*	*	*
Carmarthenshire	*	*	*	*	*	*
Swansea	6	5	6	0.2	0.1	0.2
Neath Port Talbot	12	11	11	0.6	0.5	0.5
<b>Central South Wales</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Bridgend	6	11	9	0.3	0.5	0.4
The Vale of Glamorgan	*	*	*	*	*	*
Rhondda Cynon Taf	*	13	16	*	0.3	0.4
Merthyr Tydfil	*	*	*	*	*	*
Cardiff	7	5	5	0.1	0.1	0.1
<b>South East Wales</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.3</b>
Caerphilly	6	8	12	0.2	0.3	0.4
Blaenau Gwent	*	*	*	*	*	*
Torfaen	*	7	*	*	0.5	*
Monmouthshire	0	*	0	0.0	*	0.0
Newport	9	17	10	0.4	0.7	0.4
<b>Wales</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>

Source: Pupils' Exclusions Record, Welsh Government

(a) Rate per 1,000 pupils. Full- and part-time pupils of all ages.

**Table 2b: Fixed-term exclusions (5 days or less) from maintained schools in Wales, by local authority and consortium**

	Number of exclusions			Rate of exclusions (a)		
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<b>North Wales</b>	<b>3,027</b>	<b>2,272</b>	<b>2,208</b>	<b>29.8</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>21.8</b>
Isle of Anglesey	225	113	87	23.5	11.8	9.1
Gwynedd	234	95	111	13.6	5.6	6.5
Conwy	176	244	150	10.9	15.2	9.4
Denbighshire	574	490	563	36.5	31.3	35.9
Flintshire	684	696	704	28.8	29.4	29.7
Wrexham	1,134	634	593	59.4	33.1	30.7
<b>South West and Mid Wales</b>	<b>2,422</b>	<b>2,590</b>	<b>2,867</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>22.2</b>
Powys	355	324	299	19.0	17.1	16.0
Ceredigion	120	115	61	12.4	12.0	6.4
Pembrokeshire	113	452	621	6.2	24.9	34.1
Carmarthenshire	413	365	456	15.3	13.5	17.0
Swansea	803	684	770	23.0	19.5	21.8
Neath Port Talbot	618	650	660	29.8	31.7	32.1
<b>Central South Wales</b>	<b>5,501</b>	<b>4,974</b>	<b>4,258</b>	<b>38.5</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>29.7</b>
Bridgend	646	595	425	29.0	26.5	18.8
The Vale of Glamorgan	236	577	572	10.9	26.6	26.4
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,569	1,491	1,307	40.2	38.2	33.8
Merthyr Tydfil	149	195	178	16.3	21.5	20.7
Cardiff	2,901	2,116	1,776	57.4	41.6	34.3
<b>South East Wales</b>	<b>2,927</b>	<b>3,081</b>	<b>3,042</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>34.1</b>
Caerphilly	877	702	617	30.4	24.5	21.5
Blaenau Gwent	190	263	412	18.7	27.1	43.3
Torfaen	744	678	455	47.5	44.1	30.1
Monmouthshire	372	323	341	31.7	27.6	29.5
Newport	744	1,115	1,217	31.2	46.2	50.0
<b>Wales</b>	<b>13,877</b>	<b>12,917</b>	<b>12,375</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>26.7</b>

Source: Pupils' Exclusions Record, Welsh Government

(a) Rate per 1,000 pupils. Full- and part-time pupils of all ages.

- Newport had the highest rate of fixed-term exclusions of 5 days or less from maintained schools in 2013/14.
- Ceredigion had the lowest rate of fixed-term exclusions of 5 days or less in 2013/14.
- Caution should be taken when comparing differences in exclusions between local authorities. Differences in behaviour management practices in local authorities can affect their number and rate of exclusions.

**Table 2c: Fixed-term exclusions (over 5 days) from maintained schools in Wales, by local authority and consortium**

	Number of exclusions			Rate of exclusions (a)		
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<b>North Wales</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.4</b>
Isle of Anglesey	29	13	*	3.0	1.4	*
Gwynedd	17	11	*	1.0	0.6	*
Conwy	10	20	18	0.6	1.2	1.1
Denbighshire	19	17	17	1.2	1.1	1.1
Flintshire	51	68	42	2.1	2.9	1.8
Wrexham	121	79	50	6.3	4.1	2.6
<b>South West and Mid Wales</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Powys	34	29	31	1.8	1.5	1.7
Ceredigion	*	*	0	*	*	0.0
Pembrokeshire	*	*	20	*	*	1.1
Carmarthenshire	22	16	10	0.8	0.6	0.4
Swansea	92	90	57	2.6	2.6	1.6
Neath Port Talbot	61	46	50	2.9	2.2	2.4
<b>Central South Wales</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.7</b>
Bridgend	49	46	32	2.2	2.1	1.4
The Vale of Glamorgan	27	77	63	1.2	3.5	2.9
Rhondda Cynon Taf	102	73	85	2.6	1.9	2.2
Merthyr Tydfil	20	18	9	2.2	2.0	1.0
Cardiff	170	138	59	3.4	2.7	1.1
<b>South East Wales</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Caerphilly	41	57	55	1.4	2.0	1.9
Blaenau Gwent	29	21	39	2.9	2.2	4.1
Torfaen	57	35	*	3.6	2.3	*
Monmouthshire	16	7	*	1.4	0.6	*
Newport	72	88	72	3.0	3.6	3.0
<b>Wales</b>	<b>1,045</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.6</b>

Source: Pupils' Exclusions Record, Welsh Government

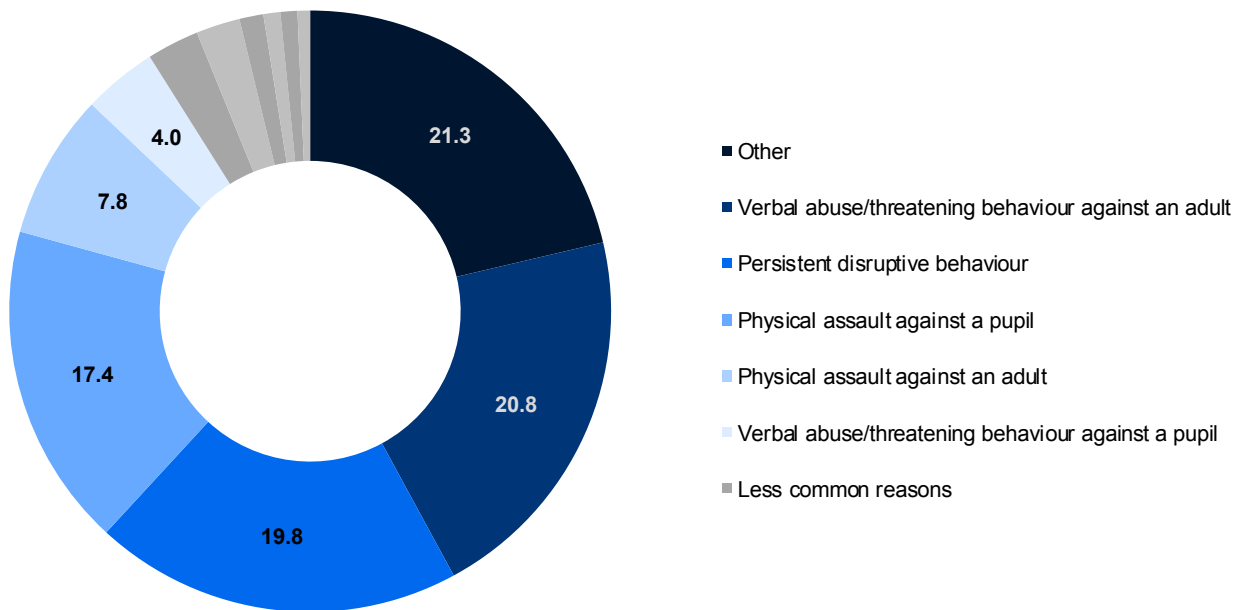
(a) Rate per 1,000 pupils. Full- and part-time pupils of all ages.

**Table 3: Exclusions from maintained primary, secondary and special schools in Wales, by reason for exclusion**

	Number of exclusions			Percentage of exclusions		
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<b>Permanent</b>						
Physical assault against a pupil	13	17	11	14.3	16.7	12.4
Physical assault against an adult	18	17	13	19.8	16.7	14.6
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against a pupil	*	5	5	*	4.9	5.6
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult	*	7	14	*	6.9	15.7
Bullying	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Racist abuse	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sexual misconduct	0	*	0	0.0	*	0.0
Drug and alcohol related	9	11	18	9.9	10.8	20.2
Damage	*	6	0	*	5.9	0.0
Theft	*	*	0	*	*	0.0
Persistent disruptive behaviour	11	12	12	12.1	11.8	13.5
Possession/use of weapon	*	..	..	*	..	..
Defiance of rules/discipline policy	16	..	..	17.6	..	..
Threatening or dangerous behaviour	7	..	..	7.7	..	..
Other	7	23	16	7.7	22.5	18.0
Total	91	102	89	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Fixed-term exclusions (5 days or less)</b>						
Physical assault against a pupil	2,463	2,393	2,189	17.7	18.5	17.7
Physical assault against an adult	579	702	920	4.2	5.4	7.4
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against a pupil	110	570	489	0.8	4.4	4.0
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult	2,569	2,593	2,610	18.5	20.1	21.1
Bullying	132	136	115	1.0	1.1	0.9
Racist abuse	101	95	112	0.7	0.7	0.9
Sexual misconduct	73	54	81	0.5	0.4	0.7
Drug and alcohol related	234	293	291	1.7	2.3	2.4
Damage	408	359	289	2.9	2.8	2.3
Theft	184	119	141	1.3	0.9	1.1
Persistent disruptive behaviour	2,081	3,028	2,465	15.0	23.4	19.9
Possession/use of weapon	48	..	..	0.3	..	..
Defiance of rules/discipline policy	2,660	..	..	19.2	..	..
Threatening or dangerous behaviour	832	..	..	6.0	..	..
Other	1,403	2,575	2,673	10.1	19.9	21.6
Total	13,877	12,917	12,375	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Fixed-term exclusions (over 5 days)</b>						
Physical assault against a pupil	188	142	100	18.0	14.8	13.6
Physical assault against an adult	113	124	97	10.8	12.9	13.1
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against a pupil	*	43	32	*	4.5	4.3
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult	90	130	117	8.6	13.5	15.9
Bullying	11	17	5	1.1	1.8	0.7
Racist abuse	*	*	8	*	*	1.1
Sexual misconduct	8	*	8	0.8	*	1.1
Drug and alcohol related	58	82	61	5.6	8.5	8.3
Damage	37	39	23	3.5	4.1	3.1
Theft	16	21	29	1.5	2.2	3.9
Persistent disruptive behaviour	102	193	132	9.8	20.1	17.9
Possession/use of weapon	13	..	..	1.2	..	..
Defiance of rules/discipline policy	148	..	..	14.2	..	..
Threatening or dangerous behaviour	140	..	..	13.4	..	..
Other	110	152	126	10.5	15.8	17.1
Total	1,045	962	738	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Pupils' Exclusions Record, Welsh Government

**Chart 2: Percentage of all exclusions, by reason for exclusion**



**Key points**

In 2013/14:

**Drug and alcohol related** was the most common reason for **permanent exclusions**.

**Other** was the most common reason for **fixed-term exclusions (5 days or less)**.

**Persistent disruptive behaviour** was the most common reason for **fixed-term exclusions (over 5 days)**.

- 20.2 per cent of permanent exclusions in 2013/14 were 'Drug and alcohol related'.
- 21.6 per cent of fixed-term exclusions of 5 days or less in 2013/14 were for 'Other' reasons.
- 17.9 per cent of fixed-term exclusions over 5 days in 2013/14 were because of 'Persistent disruptive behaviour'.
- These were the most common reasons given for each type of exclusion.
- The chart above shows the percentage of exclusions in 2013/14 that were recorded against each reason for exclusion. The chart includes all permanent and fixed-term exclusions. Although all reasons for exclusions are included in the chart, only the six most common reasons are highlighted.
- 21.3 per cent of all exclusions were for 'Other' reasons. This was the most common reason given for exclusions in 2013/14. It suggests that the majority of exclusions could not be recorded against any of the other categories.
- The second most common reason for exclusions was 'Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult'.



**Table 4: Exclusions from maintained primary, secondary and special schools in Wales, by free school meal (FSM) entitlement (a) (b)**

	Number of exclusions			Rate of exclusions (c)		
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<b>Permanent</b>						
Not entitled to FSM	31	39	43	0.1	0.1	0.1
Entitled to FSM	38	37	30	0.5	0.4	0.4
Total	69	76	73	0.1	0.2	0.2
<b>Fixed-term exclusions (5 days or less)</b>						
Not entitled to FSM	7,241	6,778	6,472	19.0	17.9	17.0
Entitled to FSM	6,486	5,996	5,749	78.8	72.0	70.8
Total	13,727	12,774	12,221	29.6	27.6	26.4
<b>Fixed-term exclusions (over 5 days)</b>						
Not entitled to FSM	502	492	381	1.3	1.3	1.0
Entitled to FSM	502	440	335	6.1	5.3	4.1
Total	1,004	932	716	2.2	2.0	1.5

Source: Pupils' Exclusions Record, Welsh Government

(a) See the Notes section for an explanation of free school meal entitlement.

(b) Data were created by matching records in the Pupils' Exclusions Record to the Pupil-Level Annual School Census (PLASC). Exclusions were not included if no match could be made, so totals may differ from figures published elsewhere. See the notes section for information regarding this process and the number of exclusions that were excluded.

(c) Rate per 1,000 pupils. Full- and part-time pupils of all ages.

#### Key points

In 2013/14:

**Pupils entitled to FSM** had the highest rate of exclusions.

- Pupils entitled to free school meals were four times more likely to be excluded than pupils not entitled to free school meals.
- For every 1,000 pupils who were not entitled to free school meals in 2013/14 there were 17.0 fixed-term exclusions of 5 days or less. For every 1,000 pupils who were entitled to free school meals there were 70.8 fixed-term exclusions of 5 days or less. That is more than four times the number of exclusions among pupils not entitled to free school meals.

**Table 5: Exclusions from maintained primary, secondary and special schools in Wales, by provision for special educational need (SEN) (a) (b)**

	Number of exclusions			Rate of exclusions (c)		
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<b>Permanent</b>						
Stated	*	*	*	*	*	*
School Action Plus	29	24	34	0.9	0.7	1.0
School Action	*	*	*	*	*	*
No SEN	26	33	20	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	69	76	73	0.1	0.2	0.2
<b>Fixed-term exclusions (5 days or less)</b>						
Stated	1,402	1,289	1,363	107.4	101.5	109.0
School Action Plus	4,399	4,339	4,356	132.2	124.2	126.6
School Action	2,834	2,579	2,551	50.3	46.2	44.0
No SEN	5,092	4,567	3,951	14.1	12.7	11.0
Total	13,727	12,774	12,221	29.6	27.6	26.4
<b>Fixed-term exclusions (over 5 days)</b>						
Stated	107	97	90	8.2	7.6	7.2
School Action Plus	390	347	299	11.7	9.9	8.7
School Action	171	176	126	3.0	3.2	2.2
No SEN	336	312	201	0.9	0.9	0.6
Total	1,004	932	716	2.2	2.0	1.5

Source: Pupils' Exclusions Record, Welsh Government

(a) See the Notes section for an explanation of provision for special educational need.

(b) Data were created by matching records in the Pupils' Exclusions Record to the Pupil-Level Annual School Census (PLASC). Exclusions were not included if no match could be made, so totals may differ from figures published elsewhere. See the notes section for information regarding this process and the number of exclusions that were excluded.

(c) Rate per 1,000 pupils. Full- and part-time pupils of all ages.

### Key points

In 2013/14:

**Pupils with School Action Plus** had the highest rate of exclusions.

- Pupils with special educational needs (SEN) had higher rates of exclusions than pupils without special educational needs. Pupils with a School Action Plus provision for their special educational need had the highest rates of fixed-term exclusions in 2013/14.
- In 2013/14, there were 126.6 fixed-term exclusions of 5 days or less per 1,000 pupils with School Action Plus. This rate was more than ten times higher than the rate of fixed-term exclusions of 5 days or less for pupils without SEN.
- The rate of fixed-term exclusions over 5 days was also much higher among pupils with School Action Plus than pupils with no SEN. In 2013/14, the rate for pupils with School Action Plus was more than fifteen times the rate for pupils with no SEN.

**Table 6: Exclusions from maintained primary, secondary and special schools in Wales, by ethnic background (a)**

	Number of exclusions			Rate of exclusions (b)		
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<b>Permanent</b>						
White	61	72	71	0.1	0.2	0.2
Mixed	5	*	*	0.5	*	*
Asian or Asian British	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black or Black British	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chinese or Chinese British	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Any other ethnic background	*	*	*	*	*	*
Unknown or not stated	*	0	0	*	0.0	0.0
Total	69	76	73	0.1	0.2	0.2
<b>Fixed-term exclusions (5 days or less)</b>						
White	12,848	12,070	11,420	30.0	28.2	26.8
Mixed	418	320	407	40.4	29.5	35.5
Asian or Asian British	123	144	152	12.6	14.3	14.5
Black or Black British	150	105	111	44.5	30.4	31.2
Chinese or Chinese British	0	*	5	0.0	*	5.9
Any other ethnic background	81	73	49	16.1	15.1	9.8
Unknown or not stated	107	*	75	25.6	*	25.3
Total	13,727	12,774	12,219	29.7	27.7	26.5
<b>Fixed-term exclusions (over 5 days)</b>						
White	930	876	676	2.2	2.0	1.6
Mixed	38	27	17	3.7	2.5	1.5
Asian or Asian British	7	9	13	0.7	0.9	1.2
Black or Black British	12	*	*	3.6	*	*
Chinese or Chinese British	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Any other ethnic background	6	10	8	1.2	2.1	1.6
Unknown or not stated	11	*	*	2.6	*	*
Total	1,004	932	716	2.2	2.0	1.6

Source: Pupils' Exclusions Record, Welsh Government

(a) Data were created by matching records in the Pupils' Exclusions Record to the Pupil-Level Annual School Census (PLASC). Exclusions were not included if no match could be made, so totals may differ from figures published elsewhere. See the notes section for information regarding this process and the number of exclusions that were excluded.

(b) Rate per 1,000 pupils. Full- and part-time pupils of all ages.



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## Notes

### 1 Context

#### 1.1 Policy/Operational

Updated guidance on Exclusion from Schools and Pupil Referral Units (Circular No: 081/2012) was issued in September 2012 and provides guidance on exclusions and appeals procedures. The procedures set out in this guidance apply to all maintained schools and PRUs and all pupils in them. It is for individual schools to determine their behaviour policies and to work with their local authority on exclusions. Differing practices operating within the guidelines will affect the varying rates across Wales.

#### 1.2 Related Publications

England publish exclusions data for state-funded primary, secondary and special schools in the statistical release entitled 'Permanent and fixed-period exclusions in England: 2013 to 2014'. The latest available statistics can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/permanent-and-fixed-period-exclusions-in-england-2013-to-2014>

Scotland publish exclusions data for maintained primary, secondary and special schools in the statistical bulletin 'Summary Statistics for Schools in Scotland, No.4 : 2013 Edition'. The latest available statistics can be found here: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/PubExclusions>

Northern Ireland publish the number of pupils expelled or suspended from primary, post-primary and special schools. The latest available statistics for Northern Ireland can be found here: <http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/facts-and-figures-new/education-statistics/suspensions-and-expulsions.htm>

### 2 Data Source

Since January 2013 exclusions data have been collected in the January Pupil-Level Annual School Census (PLASC). It was not possible to publish these new data immediately because their quality had to be evaluated. Now that the quality of the data has been confirmed, the pupil-level exclusions data obtained from the January PLASC are being used as the basis of this statistical first release. Pupil numbers used to calculate exclusion rates are also taken from the January PLASC. The data collection is carried out by Knowledge and Analytical Services within the Welsh Government.

### 3 Definitions

#### 3.1 Coverage

The exclusions information in this Statistical First Release relates to the number of permanent and fixed-term exclusions of pupils of all ages from maintained primary, secondary and special schools and pupil referral units during the whole academic year. Only permanent exclusions upheld by the Governing Body's Pupil Discipline Committee are included in the data since they are collected after the outcome of all independent appeals have been finalised. Data on the number of exclusions overturned after independent appeal are also available on request.

Data are collected from maintained primary, secondary and special schools in the January PLASC following the academic year during which the exclusions took place. For example, exclusions for the 2013/14 academic year were collected in the January 2015 PLASC. If two schools merge before the next January PLASC, the schools' exclusions data will be submitted by the new school. If a school closes before the next January PLASC, the exclusions data from that school are not provided.

Pupil numbers used to calculate rates of exclusions within this Statistical First Release include all full-time and part-time pupils in maintained primary, secondary and special schools. They only include pupils from schools that were still open to provide exclusions data in the next January PLASC. In the

event that a newly-merged school provided exclusions data, all schools that merged to form that school will also be included in the totals.

Data relate to the number of exclusions, not the number of pupils excluded. For example, a pupil excluded twice during an academic year would appear twice for that year.

### 3.2 Types of Exclusion and Other Definitions

A **permanent exclusion** refers to a pupil who is excluded and their name is removed from the school register. Such a pupil would then be educated at another school or via some other form of provision.

A **fixed-term exclusion** refers to a pupil who is excluded from a school but remains on the register of that school because they are expected to return when the exclusion period is completed.

A **managed move** is an arrangement whereby parents of pupils in danger of exclusion agree with schools and local authorities that it is in the best interests of their child that they be removed from the roll of the current school and placed in another educational establishment. Data for managed moves are not currently available.

**Alternative provision** information relates to the educational provision being made for excluded pupils on the sixteenth school day after exclusion. A single category is recorded for each case of exclusion.

### 3.3 Free school meal (FSM) eligibility

Children whose parents receive the following support payments are eligible to receive free school meals in maintained schools in Wales:

- Income Support.
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance.
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and their annual income does not exceed £16,190.
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit.
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.
- Universal Credit.

Children who receive income related employment and support allowance, Universal Credit, Income Support or Income Based Job Seekers Allowance in their own right are also eligible to receive Free School Meals.

Pupils should only be recorded as eligible if they have applied for free school meals to the local authority and (1) the relevant authority has confirmed their eligibility, or (2) final confirmation of eligibility is still awaited but the school has seen documents that strongly indicate eligibility.

### 3.4 Special educational needs (SEN)

Pupils known to have special educational needs can be in one of the following categories:

- **School Action:** When a class or subject teacher identifies that a pupil has special educational needs they provide interventions that are additional to, or different from, those provided as part of the school's usual curriculum.
- **School Action Plus:** When the class or subject teacher and the SEN Co-ordinator are provided with advice or support from outside specialists, so that alternative interventions additional to, or different from, those provided for the pupil through 'School Action' can be put in place.

- **Statement:** Pupils for whom the local authority maintains a statement of special educational needs under Part IV of the Education Act 1996. A statement may be issued by the local authority after assessment of a child's needs.

### 3.5 Missing Data

- .. means that the data item is not available.
- . means that the data item is not applicable.
- \* means that the data item is disclosive.

## 4 Key Quality Information

This section provides a summary of information on this output against five dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Timeliness and Punctuality, Accessibility and Clarity, and Comparability. Between September and November 2010 we conducted a public consultation on our Education Statistics outputs in which we asked for feedback on the quality of the outputs. A summary of the responses has been published and is available here: <http://gov.wales/consultations/statistics/education/?lang=en>

### 4.1 Relevance

The statistics are used both within and outside the Welsh Government to monitor educational trends and as a baseline for further analysis of the underlying data. Some of the key users are:

- Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;
- The Department for Education in England;
- other government departments;
- Local Authorities;
- Estyn, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education and Training in Wales;
- Wales Audit Office;
- The Department for Education and Skills in the Welsh Government;
- other areas of the Welsh Government;
- the research community;
- students, academics and universities;
- individual citizens and private companies.

These statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these are:

- advice to Ministers;
- local authority comparisons and benchmarks;
- to inform the education policy decision-making process in Wales;
- to inform ESTYN during school inspections;
- contributes to the Core Strategic Indicators;
- international benchmarking;
- the education domain of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation;
- to assist in research in educational attainment.

### 4.2 Accuracy

Various stages of automated validation and sense-checking are built into the data collection process to ensure a high quality of data.

### 4.3 Timeliness and Punctuality

The data are collected in the January following the academic year in which the exclusions took place. Following the collection of the data and quality assurance, they are published at the earliest possible date. Because the data collection has moved from a local authority survey that used to take place in

November to the January PLASC the publication date is later than the previous exclusions statistical release.

#### 4.4 Accessibility and Clarity

This Statistical First Release is pre-announced and then published on the Statistics section of the Welsh Government website.

#### 4.5 Comparability

In order to improve the quality and usefulness of exclusions data, it was decided to collect exclusions data in a new way via the January Pupil-Level Annual School Census (PLASC). Although it is expected that these new data will be more useful to users, comparing them with data collected using the old method is not advised. There are several reasons for this: 1) These data do not include exclusions from pupil referral units, 2) The data do not include data from schools that closed before the following January PLASC, and 3) When investigating the differences between the two sets of data it was found that the data collected from PLASC included some exclusions that were not included in the old data, while the old data included some exclusions that were not collected via PLASC. Caution should therefore be taken when comparing data in this new statistical release and the old report called 'Exclusions from Schools in Wales'. The following table shows the difference between the numbers and rates of exclusions using the old and the new method for 2012/12 and 2012/13 when data were collected using both methods.

#### The number and rate of exclusions collected using the old and new methods

	Number of exclusions		Rate of exclusions (a)	
	2011/12	2012/13	2011/12	2012/13
<b>Old method</b>				
Permanent exclusions	101	99	0.3	0.3
Fixed-term exclusions (5 days or fewer)	15,356	13,132	38.9	33.4
Fixed-term exclusions (6 days or more)	1,189	953	3.0	2.4
<b>New method</b>				
Permanent exclusions	91	102	0.2	0.2
Fixed-term exclusions (5 days or less)	13,877	12,917	29.9	27.9
Fixed-term exclusions (over 5 days)	1,045	962	2.3	2.1

(a) Rate per 1,000 pupils. Rates for exclusions collected using the old method only included full-time pupils aged 5 and over. Rates for exclusions collected using the new method include full- and part-time pupils of all ages.

Due to the effect that the implementation of different behaviour management and exclusion intervention practices, such as managed moves, have on the number of exclusions, comparisons over time and between local authorities should be interpreted with caution.

Exclusions data for Wales are based on the number of exclusions during the academic year whereas Northern Ireland publish the number of pupils excluded, so the two sets of data are not directly comparable. Information on the number of pupils excluded in Wales is available on request.