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Department for Education

Academic year 2024/25

Suspensions and permanent exclusions in England

Data on suspensions and permanent exclusions, including by reason, duration, by pupil characteristics and data on independent review panels.

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Headline facts and figures

Suspension (rate)

10.88

in 2024/25 academic year. Decreased from 11.31 in 2023/24

► What is the suspension rate?



Suspensions

913,000

in 2024/25 academic year. Decreased from 954,952 in 2023/24

► What are suspensions?



Permanent exclusions (rate)

0.12

in 2024/25 academic year. Decreased from 0.13 in 2023/24

► What is the permanent exclusion rate?



Permanent exclusions

9,906

in 2024/25 academic year. Decreased from 10,885 in 2023/24

► What are permanent exclusions?



The rate and number of suspensions decreased from 2023/24 to 2024/25

The rate of suspensions in the 2024/25 academic year was 10.88 (equivalent to 1,088 suspensions for every 10,000 pupils). This is a decrease from 11.31 in 2023/24. There were 913,000 suspensions in 2024/25, a decrease of 4% from 955,000 in 2023/24.

The rate and number of permanent exclusions also decreased from 2023/24 to 2024/25

The rate of permanent exclusions in the 2024/25 academic year was 0.12 (equivalent to 12 permanent exclusions for every 10,000 pupils). This is a decrease from 0.13 in 2023/24. There were 9,900 permanent exclusions in 2024/25, a decrease of 9% from 10,900 in 2023/24.

Persistent disruptive behaviour continued to be the most common reason for suspension

Persistent disruptive behaviour accounted for 52% of all reasons given for suspension and for 40% of reasons for permanent exclusions.

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Suspensions

[Suspensions](#)  previously known as 'fixed period exclusions', refer to when a pupil is excluded from a school for a set period of time. A suspension can involve a part of the school day and it does not have to be for a continuous period. A pupil may be suspended for one or more periods up to a maximum of 45 school days in a single academic year. This total includes suspensions from previous schools covered by the exclusion legislation.

The suspension rate is calculated as the total number of suspensions, divided by the total number of

pupils (multiplied by 100).

The rate and number of suspensions decreased from 2023/24 to 2024/25

The rate of suspensions decreased from 11.31 in the 2023/24 academic year to 10.88 in 2024/25 (equivalent to 1,088 suspensions for every 10,000 pupils). The rate had previously been increasing since the pandemic up to 2023/24.

The number of suspensions had also been increasing from the pandemic to reach 955,000 in 2023/24, then decreased by 4% to 913,000 in 2024/25.

Suspension rates increased in primary schools and decreased in secondary and special schools

Compared to 2023/24, suspension rates:

- increased in primary schools from 2.27 to 2.47
- decreased in secondary schools from 22.61 to 21.24
- decreased in special schools from 12.62 to 12.32

Secondary schools continue to account for the majority (85%) of suspensions.

Note on data coverage over the pandemic

While suspensions and permanent exclusions were possible throughout the 2019/20 and 2020/21 academic years, national restrictions will have had an impact on the numbers presented and caution should be taken when comparing across years.

Chart

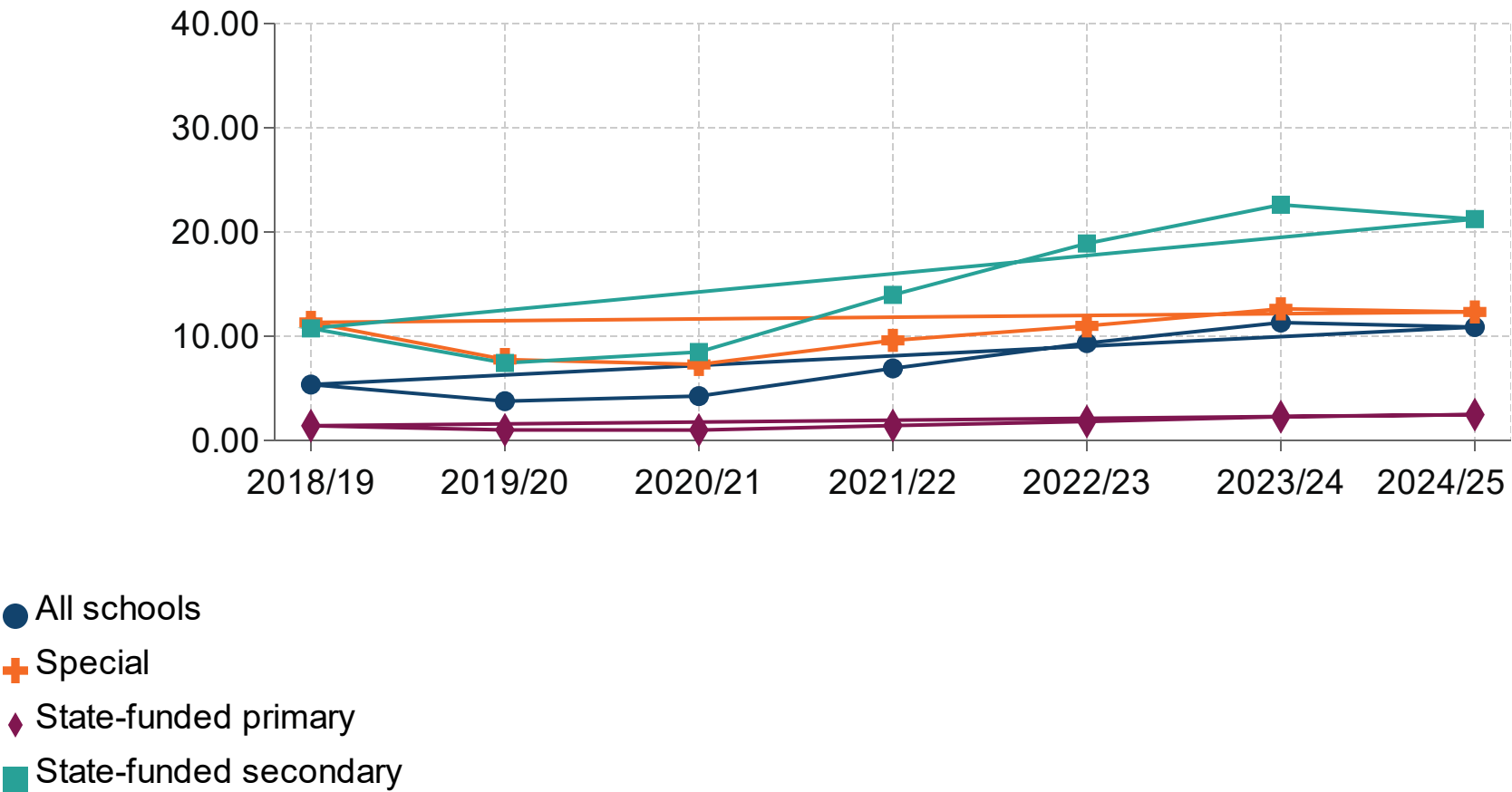
Table

► Export options

Suspensions rates increased since the pandemic but decreased in secondary and special schools in 2024/25

Suspension rates by school type, 2018/19 to 2024/25

Rate of
suspensions
(per 100
pupils)



Footnotes

1. For 2019/20 and 2020/21, while suspensions and permanent exclusions were possible throughout the academic year, pandemic restrictions will have had an impact on the numbers presented and caution should be taken when comparing across years.

Source: School Census

Explore and edit this data online

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Explore data

Suspension rates peaked in autumn term 2023/24 in secondary and special schools

Since the pandemic, the trend of suspensions was generally upward, but with termly fluctuations, to 2023/24. The rates for the all schools total, and secondary and special schools, peaked in autumn term 2023/24. Primary schools peaked in autumn 2024/25. Term lengths vary, with autumn term tending to be the longest term, and spring and summer terms in each year determined by the date of Easter.

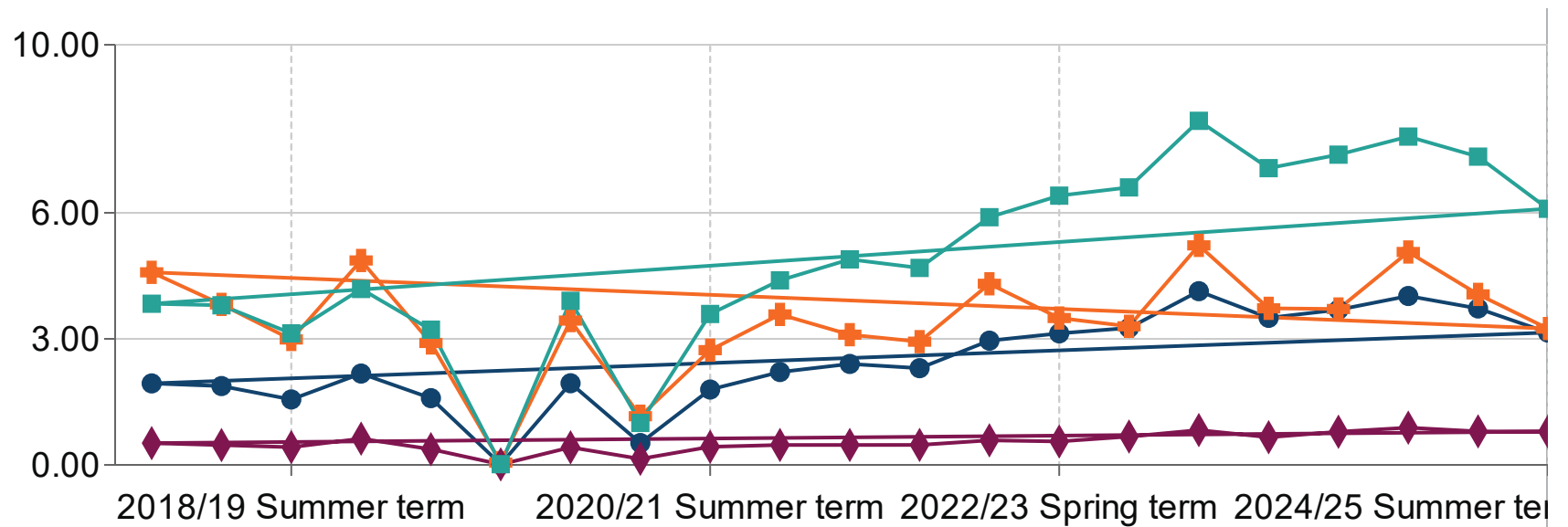
The total suspension rate for 2024/25 were 4.02 in autumn term, 3.72 in spring term and 3.15 in summer term.

Chart Table

► Export options

Suspension rates have generally risen since the pandemic and peaked in Autumn 2023/24 (total all schools)

Suspension rates by term by school type from autumn term 2018/19 to summer term 2024/25



- All schools
- + Special
- ◆ State-funded primary
- State-funded secondary

Footnotes

- For 2019/20 and 2020/21, while suspensions and permanent exclusions were possible throughout the academic year, pandemic restrictions will have had an impact on the numbers presented and caution should be taken when comparing across years.

Source: School Census

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Persistent disruptive behaviour continued to be the most common reason for suspension

Prior to 2020/21, a single reason could be recorded for each suspension and permanent exclusion. From 2020/21, up to three reasons could be recorded. These reasons were recorded without weighting or prioritisation. As such, the sum of the number of reasons will not match the total number of suspensions or permanent exclusions from 2020/21.

As multiple reasons could be recorded, the table below and underlying data refer to a total of 1,073,500 reasons given for the 913,000 suspensions in 2024/25.

The most common reason recorded for suspension was persistent disruptive behaviour, accounting for 52% (553,800 instances) of all reasons given. This was followed by verbal abuse or threatening behaviour against an adult with 15% (158,200) and physical assault against a pupil with 12% (132,300) of all reasons given.

► Export options

Suspensions by reason 2023/24 and 2024/25

	2023/24	2024/25
Suspension - Abuse against sexual orientation and gender identity	3,468	3,226
Suspension - Abuse relating to disability	522	532
Suspension - Bullying	2,005	2,000

Suspension - Bullying	9,665	8,293
Suspension - Damage	31,152	29,721
Suspension - Drug and alcohol related	24,554	20,695
Suspension - Inappropriate use of social media or online technology	11,614	10,885
Suspension - Persistent disruptive behaviour	569,921	553,831
Suspension - Physical assault against a pupil	141,830	132,337
Suspension - Physical assault against an adult	62,897	63,846
Suspension - Racist abuse	15,191	16,434
Suspension - Sexual misconduct	6,479	7,278
Suspension - Theft	6,168	6,068
Suspension - Use or threat of use of an offensive weapon or prohibited item	14,770	15,308
Suspension - Verbal abuse or threatening behaviour against a pupil	45,854	41,900
Suspension - Verbal abuse or threatening behaviour against an adult	174,063	158,214
Suspension - Wilful and repeated transgression of protective measures in place to protect public health	4,291	4,973

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Footnotes

1. For 2019/20 and 2020/21, while suspensions and permanent exclusions were possible throughout the academic year, pandemic restrictions will have had an impact on the numbers presented and caution should be taken when comparing across years.
2. Prior to 2020/21, a single reason could be recorded for each permanent exclusion and suspension. From 2020/21, up to three reasons could be recorded. These reasons were recorded without weighting or prioritisation. As such, the sum of the number of reasons will not match the total number of permanent exclusions or suspensions from 2020/21 onwards.

Source: School Census

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The rate of pupils with suspensions decreased to 3.89

‘Pupils with one or more suspensions’ refers to pupil enrolments that had at least one suspension across the full academic year. Dual registered pupils with suspensions in multiple schools have each of their enrolments considered separately. This allows for school's statistics to relate to their own suspensions, as the suspensions are attached to enrolments at a particular school, not the individual pupil.

The rate of pupils with at least one suspension decreased, from 4.04 in 2023/24 to 3.89 in 2024/25, equivalent to 389 pupils in every 10,000. The total number of pupils with at least one suspension decreased by 4% compared to the previous year, from 341,300 to 326,700.

94,400 pupils missed the equivalent of more than one week of school due to suspensions across the academic year

In 2024/25, 46% of suspensions were for one day or less, and 99% of suspensions were for five days or less.

Looking at the cumulative days missed over the academic year, 232,300 pupils missed five days or less (from part of a day to five days). This is 71% of pupils with suspensions. The remaining 29% of pupils with suspensions, 94,400 pupils, missed the equivalent of more than one school week across the academic year. This includes 45,600 (14%) who missed the equivalent of more than two school weeks.

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Permanent exclusions

A [Permanent exclusion](#)  refers to a pupil who is excluded and who will not come back to that school (unless the exclusion is overturned). This data only includes permanent exclusions which have been upheld by the governing body or Independent Review Panel (IRP), and not those which are still ongoing.

The permanent exclusion rate is calculated as the number of permanent exclusions divided by the number of pupils (multiplied by 100). A rate of 0.01 would be equivalent to 1 permanent exclusion for every 10,000 pupils.

The rate and number of permanent exclusions have decreased from 2023/24 to 2024/25

The rate of permanent exclusions have decreased from 0.13 in 2023/24 to 0.12 in 2024/25. This is the equivalent of 12 in every 10,000 pupils. The rate increased after the pandemic up to 2023/24.

The number of permanent exclusions increased after the pandemic and reached 10,900 in 2023/24 . It then decreased by 9% to 9,900 in 2024/25.

Permanent exclusion rates were stable in primary and special schools and decreased in secondary schools

Permanent exclusion rates:

- were stable in primary schools at 0.03 in 2023/24 and 2024/25
- decreased in secondary schools from 0.25 in 2023/24 to 0.23 in 2024/25
- were stable in special schools at 0.08 in 2023/24 and 2024/25

Secondary schools continued to account for the majority (84%) of permanent exclusions.

Note on data coverage over the pandemic

While suspensions and permanent exclusions were possible throughout the 2019/20 and 2020/21 academic years, national restrictions will have had an impact on the numbers presented and caution should be taken when comparing across years.

Chart

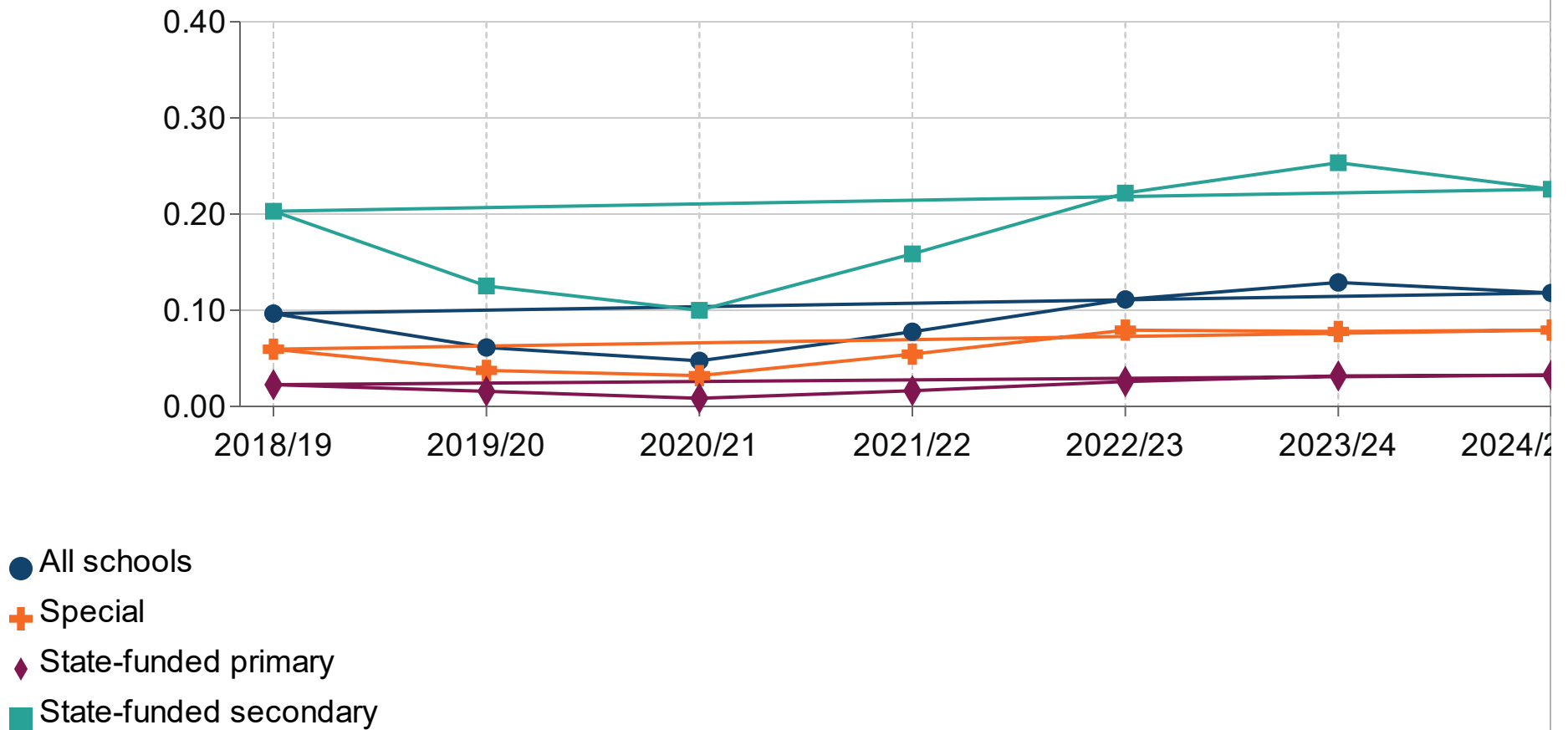
Table

► Export options

Permanent exclusion rates increased since the pandemic but decreased in secondary from

2023/24 to 2024/25

Permanent exclusion rates by school type, 2018/19 to 2024/25



Footnotes

1. For 2019/20 and 2020/21, while suspensions and permanent exclusions were possible throughout the academic year, pandemic restrictions will have had an impact on the numbers presented and caution should be taken when comparing across years.

Source: School Census

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Total permanent exclusions peaked in the autumn term 2023/24, then decreased

Since the pandemic, the trend of permanent exclusion rates was generally upward, but with termly fluctuations, peaking in autumn 2023/24. This was mainly driven by secondary schools, whilst Special schools peaked in autumn 2024/25 and primary school rates have been broadly consistent.

The permanent exclusion rate across all school phases for 2024/25 were 0.04 in autumn and spring terms and 0.03 in summer term.

Term lengths vary, with autumn term tending to be the longest term, and spring and summer terms in each year determined by the date of Easter.

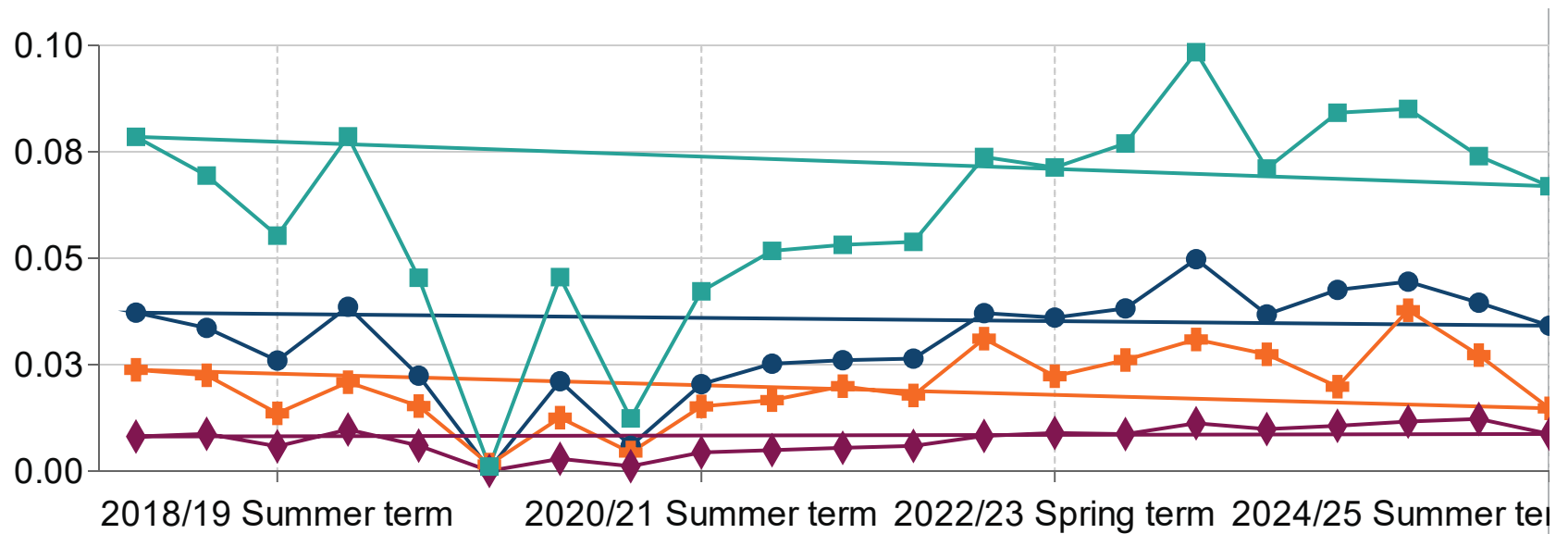
Chart

Table

► Export options

The total permanent exclusion rate peaked in autumn 2023/24

Permanent exclusion rates by term and school type, autumn term 2018/19 to summer term 2024/25



- All schools
- + Special
- ◆ State-funded primary
- State-funded secondary

Footnotes

- For 2019/20 and 2020/21, while suspensions and permanent exclusions were possible throughout the academic year, pandemic restrictions will have had an impact on the numbers presented and caution should be taken when comparing across years.

Source: School Census

Explore and edit this data online

Use our table tool to explore this data.

Persistent disruptive behaviour continued to be the most common reason for permanent exclusions

Prior to 2020/21, a single reason could be recorded for each suspension and permanent exclusion. From 2020/21, up to three reasons could be recorded. These reasons were recorded without weighting or prioritisation. As such, the sum of the number of reasons will not match the total number of suspensions or permanent exclusions from 2020/21.

As multiple reasons could be recorded, the table below and underlying data refer to a total of 13,300 reasons given for the 9,900 permanent exclusions in 2024/25.

The most common reason recorded for permanent exclusion was persistent disruptive behaviour, accounting for 40% (5,300 instances) of all reasons given. This was followed by physical assault against a pupil with 16% (2,100) and physical assault against an adult with 12% (1,600) of all reasons given.

► [Export options](#)

Permanent exclusions by reasons 2023/24 to 2024/25

	2023/24	2024/25
Permanent - Abuse against sexual orientation and gender identity	23	20
Permanent - Abuse relating to disability	1	5
Permanent - Bullying	22	77

Permanent - Bullying	99	11
Permanent - Damage	398	383
Permanent - Drug and alcohol related	742	614
Permanent - Inappropriate use of social media or online technology	116	102
Permanent - Persistent disruptive behaviour	5,833	5,254
Permanent - Physical assault against a pupil	2,342	2,077
Permanent - Physical assault against an adult	1,860	1,593
Permanent - Racist abuse	70	87
Permanent - Sexual misconduct	151	143
Permanent - Theft	69	50
Permanent - Use or threat of use of an offensive weapon or prohibited item	703	766
Permanent - Verbal abuse or threatening behaviour against a pupil	690	620
Permanent - Verbal abuse or threatening behaviour against an adult	1,724	1,429
Permanent - Wilful and repeated transgression of protective measures in place to protect public health	70	64

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Footnotes

1. For 2019/20 and 2020/21, while suspensions and permanent exclusions were possible throughout the academic year, pandemic restrictions will have had an impact on the numbers presented and caution should be taken when comparing across years.
2. Prior to 2020/21, a single reason could be recorded for each permanent exclusion and suspension. From 2020/21, up to three reasons could be recorded. These reasons were recorded without weighting or prioritisation. As such, the sum of the number of reasons will not match the total number of permanent exclusions or suspensions from 2020/21 onwards.

Source: School Census

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Region and local authority level data

Both suspension and permanent exclusion rates varied across regions and local authorities

Suspension rates have decreased in every region from 2023/24 to 2024/25. Permanent exclusion rates have remained consistent in the North East and East of England, and decreased in all other regions.

The North East continued to have both the highest suspension and permanent exclusion rates in 2024/25, at 17.41 and 0.25, respectively. The lowest suspension rate continued to be in London at 5.26 and the lowest permanent exclusion rates continued to be in London and the South East at 0.06.

Chart

Table

► Export options

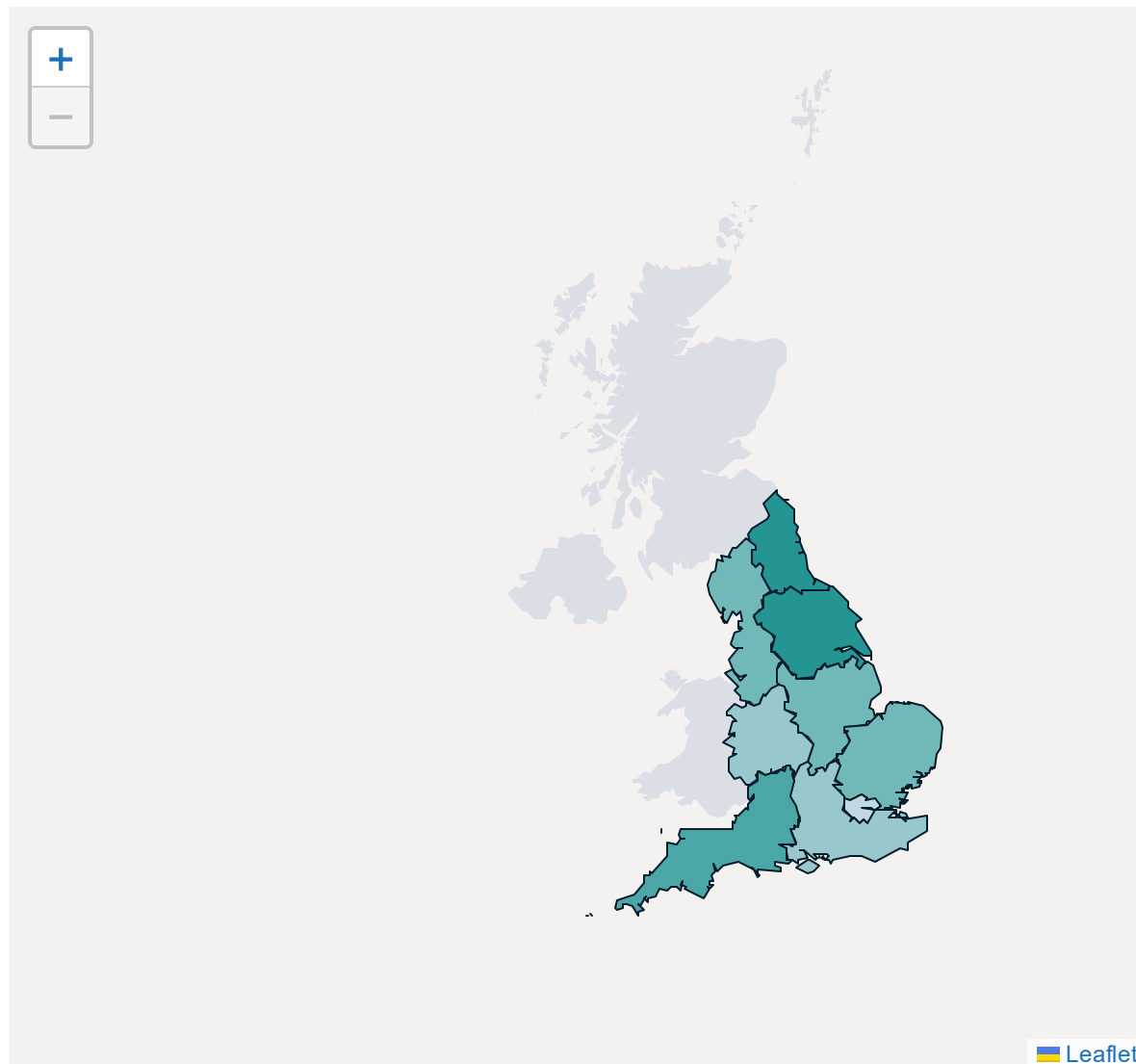
Suspensions and permanent exclusions by region from 2023/24 to 2024/25

1. Select data to view

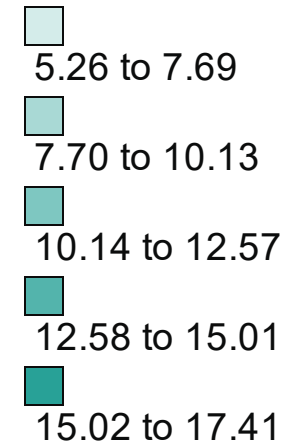
Suspension (rate) (2024/25)

2. Select a Region

None selected



Key to Suspension (rate) (2024/25)



Footnotes

1. For 2019/20 and 2020/21, while suspensions and permanent exclusions were possible throughout the academic year, pandemic restrictions will have had an impact on the numbers presented and caution should be taken when comparing across years.
2. This map uses the boundary data Regions England BUC 2022/12

Source: School Census

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The map and table below shows the rates for suspensions and permanent exclusions at local authority level. Suspension rates in around 60% of LAs decreased compared to 2023/24.

Chart

Table

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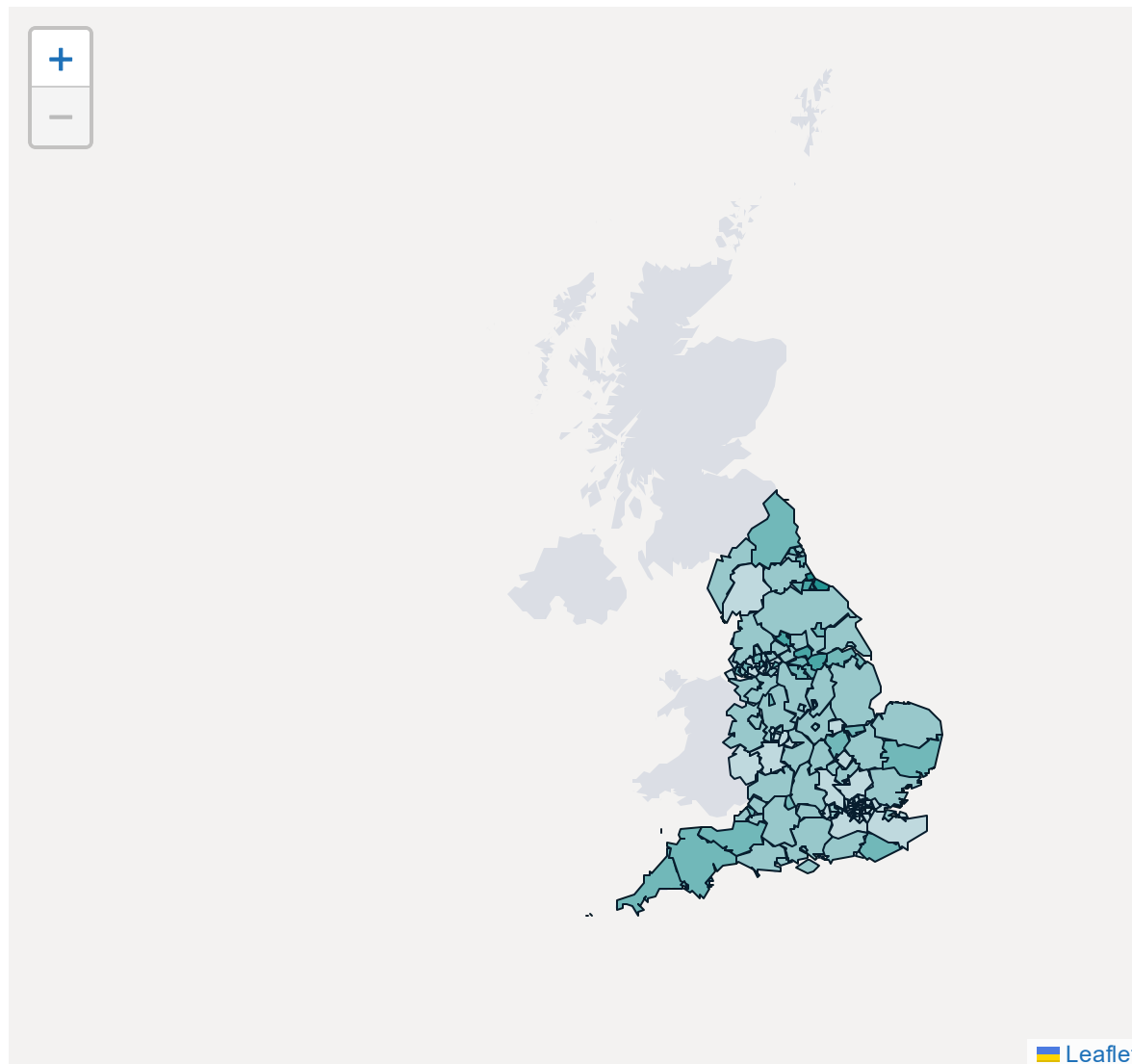
Suspensions and permanent exclusions by local authority, 2023/24 and 2024/25

1. Select data to view

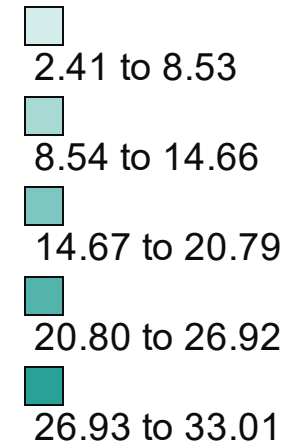
Suspension (rate) (2024/25)

2. Select a Local Authority

None selected



Key to Suspension (rate) (2024/25)



Footnotes

1. For 2019/20 and 2020/21, while suspensions and permanent exclusions were possible throughout the academic year, pandemic restrictions will have had an impact on the numbers presented and caution should be taken when comparing across years.
2. This map uses the boundary data Counties and Unitary Authorities UK BUC 2023/12

Source: School Census

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Pupil characteristics

The section below shows counts and rates of suspensions and permanent exclusions by free school meal (FSM) eligibility, special educational need (SEN) provision, year group, sex and ethnicity. Data for unclassified/unknown sex, FSM status, SEN provision, and year group are not presented in the tables due to very low numbers, which lead to volatile rates.

For context, the overall suspension rate for academic year 2024/25 was 10.88 and the permanent exclusion rate was 0.12.

Pupils with SEN and FSM eligibility continued to have some of the highest rates of suspensions and permanent exclusions

Free school meals (FSM) eligibility

The suspension rate for pupils eligible for [FSM](#)  continued to be more than four times that of pupils who were

not eligible, with rates of 26.66 and 5.41, respectively. Permanent exclusion rates were more than six times higher for FSM-eligible pupils, with a rate of 0.32 compared to 0.05 for pupils who were not eligible.

► Export options

Suspensions and permanent exclusions by FSM eligibility,
2024/25

		2024/25			
		Suspension (rate)	Suspensions	Permanent exclusions (rate)	Permanent exclusions
FSM	FSM - Eligible	26.66	575,305	0.32	6,820
	FSM - Not eligible	5.41	337,695	0.05	3,086

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[Data symbols](#) ?

Footnotes

1. For 2019/20 and 2020/21, while suspensions and permanent exclusions were possible throughout the academic year, pandemic restrictions will have had an impact on the numbers presented and caution should be taken when comparing across years.

Source: School Census

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Special educational needs (SEN)

There are large variations in rates of suspensions and permanent exclusions by [Special educational needs \(SEN\)](#) .

The suspension rate for pupils with an [Education, health and care \(EHC\) plan](#)  was 26.45, which is more than three times the rate for pupils with no identified SEN at 6.78. The suspension rate for pupils with [Special educational needs \(SEN\) support](#)  was 28.86, more than four times the rate for pupils with no identified SEN.

The permanent exclusion rate for pupils with an education, health and care (EHC) plan was 0.27, more than four times the rate for pupils with no identified SEN at 0.06. The permanent exclusion rate for pupils with SEN support was 0.37, which is six times the rate for pupils with no identified SEN.

► Export options

**Suspensions and permanent exclusions by SEN provision,
2024/25**

		2024/25			
		Suspension (rate)	Suspensions	Permanent exclusions (rate)	Permanent exclusions
SEN provision	EHC plan	26.45	116,188	0.27	1,198
	SEN support	28.86	336,484	0.37	4,370
	No identified SEN	6.78	460,328	0.06	4,338

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Footnotes

1. For 2019/20 and 2020/21, while suspensions and permanent exclusions were possible throughout the academic year, pandemic restrictions will have had an impact on the numbers presented and caution should be taken when comparing across years.
2. EHC plans – A pupil has an EHC plan when a formal assessment has been made. A document is in place that sets out the child's need and the extra help they should receive. EHC plans were introduced in September 2014 replacing Statements of SEN, with these being phased out by April 2018. This category therefore includes Statements of SEN for the years up to 2018.

[Show 1 more footnote](#)

Source: School Census

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Explore data

Year group

Year 9 had the highest suspension rate in 2024/25 at 30.01. Years 9 and 10 had the highest rates of permanent exclusion at 0.35.

In the primary phase, Year 6 had the highest suspension rate at 3.53 and Year 5 has the highest permanent exclusion rate at 0.05.

► Export options

Suspensions and permanent exclusions by year group, 2024/25

		2024/25			
		Suspension (rate)	Suspensions	Permanent exclusions (rate)	Permanent exclusions
Year group	Year 1 and below	1.52	22,290	0.02	234
	Year 2	2.75	17,190	0.04	229
	Year 3	2.84	18,202	0.04	238
	Year 4	2.86	18,777	0.04	260
	Year 5	3.05	19,941	0.05	311
	Year 6	3.53	23,127	0.04	250
	Year 7	18.40	120,257	0.15	999
	Year 8	28.24	187,405	0.29	1,947
	Year 9	30.01	196,705	0.35	2,301
	Year 10	27.77	177,977	0.35	2,222
	Year 11	16.07	100,382	0.12	738
	Year 12 and above	0.93	4,236	0.01	36

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Footnotes

1. For 2019/20 and 2020/21, while suspensions and permanent exclusions were possible throughout the academic year, pandemic restrictions will have had an impact on the numbers presented and caution should be taken when comparing across years.

Source: School Census

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Sex

The suspension rate for male pupils was more than 1.5 times that of female pupils, with rates of 13.47 and 8.17, respectively. Male pupils also had a higher permanent exclusion rate of 0.16, which is more than twice that of female pupils, who had a rate of 0.07.

► [Export options](#)

Suspensions and permanent exclusions by sex, 2024/25

		2024/25			
		Suspension (rate)	Suspensions	Permanent exclusions (rate)	Permanent exclusions
Sex	Sex female	8.17	335,743	0.07	2,965
	Sex male	13.47	577,257	0.16	6,941

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[Data symbols](#) 

Footnotes

1. For 2019/20 and 2020/21, while suspensions and permanent exclusions were possible throughout the academic year, pandemic restrictions will have had an impact on the numbers presented and caution should be taken when comparing across years.
2. From 2023/24 the school census data item 'sex' replaced 'gender'. Historical use of the word "gender" in the data collection may have meant that "gender identity" was reported in some cases, as opposed to legal sex. While this is unlikely to have a significant effect on overall figures, it may affect figures in more granular subdivisions. Time-series in this publication prior to spring 2023 which contained gender as a category may be affected.

Source: School Census

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Ethnicity

Gypsy/Roma and Traveller of Irish Heritage pupils have the highest rates of suspensions and permanent exclusions consistently over time. However, caution is recommended when interpreting the rates for these ethnicity groups due to relatively small population sizes.

Pupils in the Chinese and Indian ethnic groups continued to have the lowest rates of suspensions and permanent exclusions in 2024/25.

► Export options

Suspensions and permanent exclusions by ethnicity, 2024/25

		2024/25			
		Suspension (rate)	Suspensions	Permanent exclusions (rate)	Permanent exclusions
Ethnicity Minor	African	5.65	24,570	0.06	259
	Any other Asian background	3.48	6,774	0.04	82
	Any other Black / African / Caribbean background	8.89	5,929	0.11	74

Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background	8.68	21,057	0.11	264
Any other White background	6.54	39,024	0.07	403
Bangladeshi	2.84	4,282	0.03	45
Caribbean	14.21	10,762	0.22	163
Chinese	1.10	719	0.01	5
English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	13.29	673,387	0.14	7,051
Gypsy / Roma	40.32	11,331	0.46	128
Indian	1.31	4,589	0.01	44
Irish	9.23	1,846	0.10	19
Pakistani	6.02	23,469	0.08	301
Traveller of Irish heritage	30.72	2,008	0.49	32
White and Asian	7.47	10,857	0.09	132
White and Black African	10.98	8,783	0.12	99
White and Black Caribbean	19.86	26,296	0.26	350

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Footnotes

1. For 2019/20 and 2020/21, while suspensions and permanent exclusions were possible throughout the academic year, pandemic restrictions will have had an impact on the numbers presented and caution should be taken when comparing across years.
2. Caution is recommended when interpreting the data for Traveller of Irish Heritage and Gypsy/Roma children due to small population sizes.

Source: School Census

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Explore data

Ethnicity by FSM eligibility

Further information on absence rates by ethnicity and FSM eligibility is available in the [data catalogue](#), or you can create your own tables using the [table tool](#).

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State-funded alternative provision

State-funded alternative provision (AP) includes pupil referral units, alternative provision academies and alternative provision free schools.

Suspensions in state-funded alternative provision continued to increase, from 40,200 in 2023/24 to 41,300 in 2024/25. The number of permanent exclusions was small; increasing from 39 in 2023/24 to 50 in 2024/25.

Suspension and permanent exclusion rates for alternative provision are not presented here but are included in the underlying data files. Caution is advised when using these, as alternative provision settings tend to be disproportionately affected by dual subsidiary pupils not being included in the headcount when calculating suspensions and permanent exclusion rates, which may result in rates that appear significantly higher than other phases.

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Exclusion reviews

Parents are able to request an independent review of a permanent exclusion. An independent review panel's role is to review the decision of the governing body not to reinstate a permanently excluded pupil. The panel must consider the interests and circumstances of the excluded pupil, including the circumstances in which the pupil was excluded and have regard to the interests of other pupils and

people working at the school.

The number of independent reviews lodged was 777 in 2024/25, a decrease from 810 in 2023/24.

65% of exclusions were upheld at the independent review panel in 2024/25, an increase from 61% in 2023/24.

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Further data

The headline figures in this publication cover the full academic year 2024/25 and comparisons to the previous year are presented. The next publication in the series will cover the autumn term 2025/26.

Past releases for autumn terms and spring terms are available via the All releases in the series tab at the top of this publication.

Further data is available in the [data catalogue](#), or you can create your own tables using the [table tool](#) including:

- Permanent exclusions and suspensions by pupil characteristics
- Suspensions - Number of days missed
- Suspensions - Duration of suspensions
- Suspensions - Average days missed
- Suspensions - Number of suspensions

Contact us

If you have a specific enquiry about Suspensions and permanent exclusions in England statistics and data:

Attendance and exclusions statistics team

Email: schools.statistics@education.gov.uk

Contact name: Attendance and exclusions statistics team

Press office

If you have a media enquiry:

Telephone: 020 7783 8300

Public enquiries

If you have a general enquiry about the Department for Education (DfE) or education:

Phone: 0370 000 2288

Opening times

Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 5.30pm (closed on bank holidays)

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