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Department for Education

Autumn and spring term 2025/26

Pupil absence in schools in England

Pupil absence, including overall, authorised and unauthorised absence and persistent absence by reason and pupil characteristics for the full academic year.

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Department for Education

Published

15 October 2026



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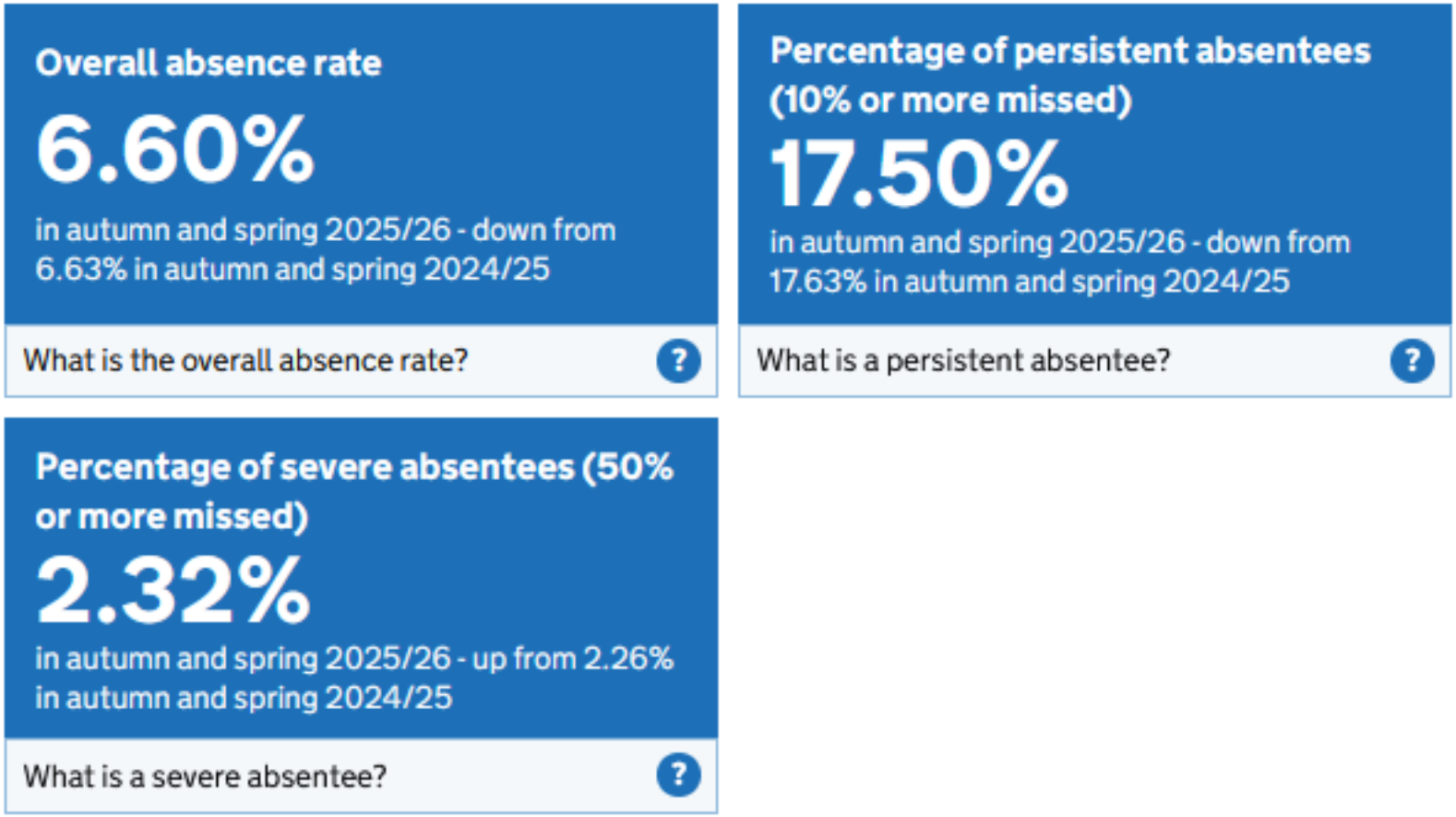

Overall and persistent absence rates decreased compared to the previous autumn and spring terms combined, while the severe absence rate increased.

- The overall absence rate fell to 6.60% in combined autumn and spring terms 2025/26, down from 6.63% in the previous autumn and spring terms, though still above pre-pandemic levels when they were consistently below 5%.
- Illness continues to be the most common reason for absence, accounting for 3.30% of possible sessions. The level of absence due to illness was lower than the same period of 2024/25 (3.38%), but remains higher

than the pre-pandemic levels.

- 17.50% of pupils were persistently absent in combined autumn and spring terms 2025/26 (i.e. missed 10% or more sessions), down from 17.63% in the same period of 2024/25.
- 2.32% of pupils were severely absent in combined autumn and spring terms 2025/26 (i.e. missed 50% or more sessions), up from 2.26% in the same period of 2024/25.

Data covering the 2025/26 full academic year, derived from regular data automatically submitted to the DfE by participating schools, are available in the Pupil attendance in schools publication. This release shows an increase in overall and persistent absence compared to the 2024/25 academic year and shows the latest absence trends for participating schools, which are likely to be reflected in future releases of the pupil absence statistics.

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Background information

This accredited official statistics release looks at pupil absence in the autumn and spring terms in 2025/26, including by reason and school types, derived from the school census.

Official statistics produced from daily data submitted automatically by schools to the Department are available in the Pupil attendance in schools publication. Due to the timeliness of the data and that they are based on a subset of schools, those figures are estimates that we expect to change as registers are adjusted. They should be viewed as an early indicator for the data provided in later accredited official statistics releases.

This release is derived from the school census from which further analysis, such as school level absence rates and additional characteristics, can be produced unlike the daily data.

The Department for Education has been publishing information on pupil absence based on the school census

since 2010. This is currently published termly and provides detailed information on persistent absence, geographical variations and pupil characteristics. Indicative figures on most data points are also published on a fortnightly basis in the pupil attendance in schools publication.

We welcome feedback from users on this release and the underlying data files. Please email us with any comments or suggestions.

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Overall absence

> Absence rate is the total number of sessions missed due to absence for all pupils as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions for all pupils. One session is equal to half a day.

Autumn and spring terms combined

Overall absence decreased compared to the previous combined autumn and spring term

The overall absence rate decreased to 6.60% in autumn and spring terms 2025/26, down from 6.63% in the same period in 2024/25. This is still above pre-pandemic levels of under 5%. The authorised absence rate decreased by 0.06 percentage points, while the unauthorised absence rate increased by 0.02 percentage points.

Overall absence decreased across all school types except special schools

Compared with the combined autumn and spring terms 2024/25, overall absence in the combined autumn and spring terms 2025/26:

- decreased in primary schools from 5.16% to 5.13% (down 0.03pp)
- decreased in secondary schools from 8.09% to 8.01% (down by 0.08pp)
- increased in special schools from 12.77% to 12.86% (up 0.09pp)

Authorised absence rates decreased in all school types. Unauthorised absence rates increased in primary and special schools, but decreased slightly in secondary.

Chart | Table

▶ Export options

Overall absence rate by school type from 2020/21 Autumn and spring term to 2025/26 Autumn and spring term

	2020/21 Autumn and spring term	2021/22 Autumn and spring term	2022/23 Autumn and spring term	2023/24 Autumn and spring term	2024/25 Autumn and spring term	2025/26 Autumn and spring term
Total	4.05%	7.38%	7.28%	6.93%	6.63%	6.60%
State-funded primary	3.25%	6.19%	5.95%	5.40%	5.16%	5.13%
State-funded secondary	4.56%	8.64%	8.67%	8.49%	8.09%	8.01%
Special	17.21%	13.16%	13.20%	12.95%	12.77%	12.86%

Show full screen table

Data symbols

Footnotes

1. Total includes state-funded primary, secondary and special schools. Data for special schools is available from 2016/17 to present.
2. Sessions recorded as not attending due to COVID circumstances are included as possible sessions in 2020/21 and 2021/22 only, but not as an absence within absence rates. Comparisons with these years should be treated with caution.

Source: School Census

Explore and edit this data online

Use our table tool to explore this data.

Explore data

The most common reason recorded for absence continued to be illness

Illness remained the most common reason recorded for absence, accounting for 3.30% of possible sessions. This represents a decrease from 3.38% across the previous autumn and spring terms and remains above the pre-pandemic trend, which was typically below 3%.

Some changes to absence codes were introduced at the start of the 2024/25 academic year, as set out in the working together to improve school attendance (opens in new tab). Since then, absence for holidays during term time can not be authorised and new codes were introduced to record authorised absences due to attending an interview, taking part in a regulated performance, or having a temporary part-time timetable.

▶ Export options

Absence rates by reason between 2020/21 autumn and spring term and 2025/26 autumn and spring term

	2020/21 Autumn and spring term	2021/22 Autumn and spring term	2022/23 Autumn and spring term	2023/24 Autumn and spring term	2024/25 Autumn and spring term	2025/26 Autumn and spring term
Illness rate	1.75%	4.68%	4.09%	3.63%	3.38%	3.30%
Unauthorised	0.80%	1.28%	1.56%	1.59%	1.46%	1.49%

other rate						
Unauthorised holiday rate	0.10%	0.25%	0.38%	0.40%	0.38%	0.38%
Authorised other rate	1.05%	0.48%	0.49%	0.51%	0.38%	0.36%
Medical appointments rate	0.14%	0.27%	0.29%	0.30%	0.32%	0.33%
Temporary reduced timetable rate	z	z	z	z	0.22%	0.25%
Late rate	0.04%	0.10%	0.15%	0.17%	0.22%	0.22%
Excluded rate	0.05%	0.09%	0.13%	0.15%	0.15%	0.14%
Religious observance rate	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.07%	0.08%
No reason yet rate	0.06%	0.07%	0.06%	0.05%	0.03%	0.03%
Interview rate	z	z	z	z	0.01%	0.01%
Traveller rate	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%
Regulated performance	z	z	z	z	0.00%	0.00%

performance rate						
Study leave rate	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Authorised holiday rate	0.01%	0.04%	0.04%	0.04%	z	z

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Data symbols

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Footnotes

1. Total includes state-funded primary, secondary and special schools. Data for special schools is available from 2016/17 to present.
2. Sessions recorded as not attending due to COVID circumstances are included as possible sessions in 2020/21 and 2021/22 only, but not as an absence within absence rates. Comparisons with these years should be treated with caution.

Source: School Census

Explore and edit this data online

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Spring term

Overall absence has increased from autumn 2025/26 to spring 2025/26

The overall absence rate increased from 6.47% in autumn 2025/26 to 6.76% in spring 2025/26, with increases across all school types. An increase from autumn to spring term also occurred in the two previous academic years.

▶ Export options

Overall absence rate in each term by school type, 2023/24 Autumn term to 2025/26 Spring term

	Overall absence rate							
	2023/24 Autumn term	2023/24 Spring term	2023/24 Summer term	2024/25 Autumn term	2024/25 Spring term	2024/25 Summer term	2025/26 Autumn term	2025/26 Spring term
Total	6.69%	7.25%	7.59%	6.38%	6.92%	6.84%	6.47%	6.76%
State-funded primary	5.25%	5.59%	5.77%	5.07%	5.26%	4.76%	5.12%	5.13%
State-funded secondary	8.15%	8.94%	9.73%	7.66%	8.59%	8.99%	7.75%	8.34%
Special	12.71%	13.26%	13.13%	12.55%	13.03%	12.59%	12.73%	13.02%

Show full screen table

Data symbols

Footnotes

1. Total includes state-funded primary, secondary and special schools. Data for special schools is available from 2016/17 to present.
2. Sessions recorded as not attending due to COVID circumstances are included as possible sessions in 2020/21 and 2021/22 only, but not as an absence within absence rates. Comparisons with these years should be treated with caution.

Source: School Census

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Persistent and severe absence

> A pupil enrolment is identified as persistently absent if they miss 10% or more of their possible sessions, and severely absent if they miss 50% or more of their possible sessions.

Autumn and spring terms combined

Rates of persistent absence decreased and severe absence increased compared to the previous autumn and spring terms

1.27 million (17.50%) pupils were persistently absent in the combined autumn and spring terms 2025/26, a decrease from 1.29 million (17.63%) in the same period of 2024/25.

168,000 (2.32%) pupils were severely absent in combined autumn & spring terms 2025/26, an increase from

166,000 (2.26%) in the same period of 2024/25.

Persistent absence rates decreased across all school types

In the combined autumn and spring term 2025/25, compared with the same period in 2024/25, the rate of persistent absence:

- decreased in primary schools, from 13.31% to 13.25% (down 0.06pp)
- decreased in secondary schools, from 21.86% to 21.55% (down 0.31 pp)
- decreased in special schools, from 35.21% to 34.72% (down 0.49pp)

Severe absence rates increased in primary and special schools and decreased in secondary schools

Between combined Autumn and spring term 2024/25 and 2025/26, the rate of severe absence:

- increased in primary schools, from 0.92% to 1.05% (up 0.13pp)
- decreased in secondary schools, from 3.62% to 3.57% (down 0.05pp)
- increased in special schools, from 6.66% to 6.88% (up 0.22pp)

A further breakdown of pupil enrolments by the percentage of sessions missed is available in the data catalogue of this release.

Please note: these pupils were recorded on the school census as being on the roll of a school, and had possible sessions recorded during the academic year. For information on the number of children who are not in education, please see: Children missing education.

Chart | Table

▶ Export options

Rates of persistent and severe absence by school type, 2020/21

Autumn and spring term to 2025/26 Autumn and spring term

		2020/21 Autumn and spring term	2021/22 Autumn and spring term	2022/23 Autumn and spring term	2023/24 Autumn and spring term	2024/25 Autumn and spring term	2025/26 Autumn and spring term
Percentage of persistent absentees (10% or more missed)	**Total**	10.36%	22.32%	21.23%	19.23%	17.63%	17.50%
	State-funded primary	8.10%	18.21%	17.33%	14.67%	13.31%	13.25%
	State-funded secondary	11.73%	26.65%	25.18%	23.85%	21.86%	21.55%
	Special	49.41%	40.17%	39.08%	36.77%	35.21%	34.72%
Percentage of severe absentees (50% or more missed)	**Total**	1.09%	1.53%	1.90%	2.14%	2.26%	2.32%
	State-funded primary	0.76%	0.63%	0.73%	0.83%	0.92%	1.05%
	State-funded secondary	1.31%	2.47%	3.12%	3.50%	3.62%	3.57%
	Special	6.36%	5.61%	6.09%	6.43%	6.66%	6.88%

Show full screen table

Data symbols

Footnotes

1. Total includes state-funded primary, secondary and special schools. Data for special schools is available from 2016/17 to present.
2. Sessions recorded as not attending due to COVID circumstances are included as possible sessions in 2020/21 and 2021/22 only, but not as an absence within absence rates. Comparisons with these years should be treated with caution.

Source: School Census

Explore and edit this data online

Use our table tool to explore this data.

Explore data

Spring term

The persistent and severe absence rates increased from autumn to spring 2025/26

The persistent absence rate increased from 18.10% in autumn 2025/26 to 18.66% in spring 2025/26. The severe absence rate increased from 2.12% in autumn 2025/26 to 2.32% in spring. Persistent absence increased in primary and secondary but decreased in special schools. Severe absence decreased in primary but increased across the other school types.

In the two preceeding academic years, persistent and severe absence also increased from autumn to spring.

▶ Export options

Termly rates of persistent and severe absence by school type, 2023/24 Autumn term and 2025/26 Spring term

		2023/24 Autumn term	2023/24 Spring term	2023/24 Summer term	2024/25 Autumn term	2024/25 Spring term	2024/25 Summer term	2025/26 Autumn term
Percentage of persistent absentees (10% or more sessions missed)	**Total**	19.44%	21.53%	23.58%	17.79%	20.06%	21.72%	18.10%
	State-funded primary	15.41%	17.52%	17.94%	14.29%	15.97%	16.02%	14.39%
	State-funded secondary	23.44%	25.58%	29.64%	21.09%	24.09%	27.74%	21.53%
	Special	36.19%	36.78%	36.91%	34.90%	35.85%	34.75%	35.09%
Percentage of severe absentees (50% or more sessions missed)	**Total**	1.97%	2.18%	2.41%	2.04%	2.24%	2.55%	2.12%
	State-funded primary	0.81%	0.78%	0.77%	0.89%	0.82%	0.84%	1.02%
	State-funded secondary	3.14%	3.64%	4.13%	3.19%	3.67%	4.31%	3.16%
	Special	6.15%	6.82%	7.06%	6.32%	6.97%	7.34%	6.55%

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Data symbols

Footnotes

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2. Sessions recorded as not attending due to COVID circumstances are included as possible sessions in 2020/21 and 2021/22 only, but not as an absence within absence rates. Comparisons with these years should be treated with caution.

Source: School Census

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Explore data

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Pupil characteristics

The following section looks at absence rates by pupil characteristics, including Free school meal (FSM) eligibility , Special educational needs (SEN) provision, year group, sex and ethnicity. Data for unclassified or unknown characteristics are not presented in the tables due to low numbers, which lead to volatile rates.

For context, during the combined autumn and spring terms 2025/26, the overall absence rate for all pupils was 6.60%. The persistent absence rate was 17.50%, while the severe absence rate was 2.32%.

Free school meals (FSM) eligibility

Absence rates continued to be higher for pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM)

Compared to the combined autumn and spring terms 2024/25, overall absence remained stable for FSM eligible pupils, and decreased for non-FSM eligible pupils.

Persistent absence rates decreased for both groups. In contrast, severe absence rates increased for FSM eligible pupils and decreased slightly for non-FSM eligible pupils.

▶ Export options

Absence rates by Free School Meal eligibility, 2024/25 autumn and spring term to 2025/26 autumn and spring term

		Overall absence rate		Percentage of persistent absentees (10% missed)		Percentage of severe absentees (50% missed)	
		2024/25 Autumn and spring term	2025/26 Autumn and spring term	2024/25 Autumn and spring term	2025/26 Autumn and spring term	2024/25 Autumn and spring term	2025/26 Autumn and spring term
FSM	**FSM eligible**	10.29%	10.29%	31.03%	30.77%	3.98%	4.03%
	FSM not eligible	5.23%	5.12%	11.92%	11.50%	1.10%	1.09%

Show full screen table

Data symbols

Footnotes

1. Total includes state-funded primary, secondary and special schools. Data for special schools is available from 2016/17 to present.
2. Sessions recorded as not attending due to COVID circumstances are included as possible sessions in 2020/21 and 2021/22 only, but not as an absence within absence rates. Comparisons with these years should be treated with caution.

Source: School Census

Explore and edit this data online

Use our table tool to explore this data.

Explore data

Special educational needs (SEN)

Absence rates continued to be higher for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Overall absence for pupils with education, health and care (EHC) plan increased, while overall absence rates decreased for pupils with SEN support and pupils with no identified SEN.

Both persistent absence and severe absence rates increased for pupils with EHC plans, but decreased for SEN support and no identified SEN. Compared to pupils with no identified SEN, pupils with EHC plans are over seven times as likely to be severe absentees, while pupils receiving SEN support are almost four times as likely.

▶ Export options

Absence rates by Special Educational Needs provision, 2024/25 Autumn and spring term and 2025/26 Autumn and spring term

		Overall absence rate		Percentage of persistent absentees (10% missed)		Percentage of severe absentees (50% missed)	
		2024/25 Autumn and spring term	2025/26 Autumn and spring term	2024/25 Autumn and spring term	2025/26 Autumn and spring term	2024/25 Autumn and spring term	2025/26 Autumn and spring term
SEN provision	**EHC plan**	12.74%	12.99%	33.82%	33.84%	7.30%	7.74%
	SEN support	9.63%	9.53%	26.84%	26.46%	4.18%	4.14%
	No identified SEN	5.66%	5.52%	14.30%	13.88%	1.11%	1.06%

Show full screen table

Data symbols

Footnotes

1. Total includes state-funded primary, secondary and special schools. Data for special schools is available from 2016/17 to present.
2. Sessions recorded as not attending due to COVID circumstances are included as possible sessions in 2020/21 and 2021/22 only, but not as an absence within absence rates. Comparisons with these years should be treated with caution.

Show 2 more footnotes

Source: School Census

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Year group

Absence rates continued to peak in Years 10 and 11

Generally, from year 3 absence rates increase as age increases. The highest overall absence and severe absence rates were in Year 11 at 9.58% and 4.60% respectively. Persistent absence was highest in Year 10 at 24.68%.

▶ Export options

Absence rates by year group, 2024/25 Autumn and spring term and 2025/26 Autumn and spring term

	Overall absence rate		Percentage of persistent absentees (10% missed)		Percentage of severe absentees (50% missed)	
	2024/25 Autumn	2025/26 Autumn	2024/25 Autumn	2025/26 Autumn	2024/25 Autumn	2025/26 Autumn

		Autumn and spring term	Autumn and spring term	Autumn and spring term	Autumn and spring term	Autumn and spring term	Autumn and spring term
Year group	**Year 1 and below**	5.82%	5.63%	15.72%	15.02%	0.78%	0.84%
	Year 2	5.18%	5.12%	13.09%	12.84%	0.59%	0.68%
	Year 3	4.97%	4.89%	12.26%	12.00%	0.56%	0.65%
	Year 4	4.96%	4.99%	12.22%	12.34%	0.58%	0.67%
	Year 5	5.09%	5.10%	12.62%	12.72%	0.65%	0.73%
	Year 6	5.33%	5.40%	13.31%	13.53%	0.72%	0.84%
	Year 7	5.90%	5.85%	15.21%	14.93%	1.44%	1.42%
	Year 8	7.70%	7.65%	20.90%	20.51%	2.70%	2.71%
	Year 9	8.72%	8.75%	23.56%	23.61%	3.67%	3.65%
	Year 10	9.37%	9.29%	25.06%	24.68%	4.31%	4.26%

Year 11	9.82%	9.58%	25.05%	24.33%	4.83%	4.60%

Show full screen table

Data symbols

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Footnotes

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2. Sessions recorded as not attending due to COVID circumstances are included as possible sessions in 2020/21 and 2021/22 only, but not as an absence within absence rates. Comparisons with these years should be treated with caution.

Source: School Census

Explore and edit this data online

Use our table tool to explore this data.

Explore data

Ethnicity

Across autumn and spring terms 2025/26, Irish Traveller and Gypsy/Roma pupils had the highest overall

absence rates at 20.74% and 16.50% respectively. However, caution is recommended when interpreting the rates for these ethnic groups due to relatively small population sizes. Chinese and Black African pupils had the lowest overall absence at 2.84% and 3.62%, respectively. Irish Traveller and Gypsy/Roma pupils also had the highest persistent and severe absence rates, continuing trends seen in previous years.

▶ Export options

Absence rates by ethnicity, 2024/25 Autumn and spring term and 2025/26 Autumn and spring term

		Overall absence rate		Percentage of persistent absentees (10% missed)		Percentage of severe absentees (50% missed)	
		2024/25 Autumn and spring term	2025/26 Autumn and spring term	2024/25 Autumn and spring term	2025/26 Autumn and spring term	2024/25 Autumn and spring term	2025/26 Autumn and spring term
Minor ethnic groups	**African**	3.70%	3.62%	8.71%	8.45%	1.21%	1.18%
	Any other Asian background	5.16%	5.14%	13.33%	13.36%	1.14%	1.18%
	Any other Black / African / Caribbean background	5.36%	5.23%	14.85%	14.47%	1.61%	1.69%

Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background	6.60%	6.56%	18.52%	18.18%	1.96%	2.08%
Any other White background	6.14%	5.88%	16.45%	15.48%	1.64%	1.58%
Any other ethnic group	6.04%	5.89%	17.07%	16.32%	1.78%	1.74%
Bangladeshi	6.66%	6.65%	20.06%	19.63%	0.97%	1.01%
Caribbean	7.49%	7.43%	23.41%	23.16%	2.16%	2.25%
Chinese	2.87%	2.84%	4.79%	4.58%	0.53%	0.46%
English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	6.95%	6.99%	17.96%	18.11%	2.57%	2.68%
Gypsy Roma	16.58%	16.50%	56.25%	55.22%	8.86%	9.09%
Indian	4.89%	4.79%	12.63%	12.21%	0.80%	0.80%
Irish	7.63%	7.57%	20.64%	20.31%	3.11%	3.22%
Irish Traveller	20.32%	20.74%	65.23%	65.76%	12.84%	13.17%
Pakistani	7.09%	6.95%	21.70%	21.03%	1.31%	1.39%

White and Asian	6.14%	6.07%	15.97%	15.82%	1.78%	1.85%
White and Black African	6.69%	6.70%	18.13%	18.32%	2.32%	2.48%
White and Black Caribbean	9.20%	9.18%	27.56%	27.48%	3.63%	3.76%

Show full screen table

Data symbols

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Footnotes

1. Total includes state-funded primary, secondary and special schools. Data for special schools is available from 2016/17 to present.
2. Sessions recorded as not attending due to COVID circumstances are included as possible sessions in 2020/21 and 2021/22 only, but not as an absence within absence rates. Comparisons with these years should be treated with caution.

Show 1 more footnote

Source: School Census

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Explore data

Sex

Female pupils continued to have slightly higher overall and persistent absence rates

Compared to the previous combined autumn and spring terms, overall and persistent absence rates during autumn and spring 2025/26 decreased for both female and male pupils. Female pupils continued to have slightly higher overall, persistent absence and severe absence compared to male pupils.

▶ Export options

Absence rates by sex, 2024/25 Autumn and spring term and 2025/26 Autumn and spring term

		Overall absence rate		Percentage of persistent absentees (10% missed)		Percentage of severe absentees (50% missed)	
		2024/25 Autumn and spring term	2025/26 Autumn and spring term	2024/25 Autumn and spring term	2025/26 Autumn and spring term	2024/25 Autumn and spring term	2025/26 Autumn and spring term
Sex	**Female**	6.64%	6.63%	17.65%	17.63%	2.29%	2.36%
	Male	6.62%	6.57%	17.60%	17.38%	2.23%	2.29%

Show full screen table

Data symbols

Footnotes

1. Total includes state-funded primary, secondary and special schools. Data for special schools is available from 2016/17 to present.
2. Sessions recorded as not attending due to COVID circumstances are included as possible sessions in 2020/21 and 2021/22 only, but not as an absence within absence rates. Comparisons with these years should be treated with caution.

Show 1 more footnote

Source: School Census

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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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Geographical variations

Absence rates continued to be lowest in London and highest in the North East

London had the lowest absence rates across all absence types, with overall absence at 6.04%, persistent absence at 16.56% and severe absence at 1.61%.

The North East had the highest overall (7.10%) and persistent absence (18.95%) rates, while Yorkshire and The Humber had the highest severe absence rate (2.78%).

Overall absence rates varied across local authorities, from 4.42% in the City of London (which contained one school) to 8.20% in Knowsley. Trafford had the second lowest overall absence rate at 5.17%.

Chart | Table

▶ Export options

Absence rates by region, 2024/25 Autumn and spring term and 2025/26 Autumn and spring term

	Overall absence rate		Percentage of persistent absentees (10% or more missed)		Percentage of severe absentees (50% or more missed)	
	2024/25 Autumn and spring term	2025/26 Autumn and spring term	2024/25 Autumn and spring term	2025/26 Autumn and spring term	2024/25 Autumn and spring term	2025/26 Autumn and spring term
North East	6.97%	7.10%	18.52%	18.95%	2.59%	2.62%
North West	6.65%	6.69%	17.74%	17.91%	2.21%	2.31%
Yorkshire and The Humber	6.89%	6.97%	18.62%	18.78%	2.66%	2.78%
East Midlands	6.53%	6.49%	17.05%	17.01%	2.31%	2.35%
West Midlands	6.68%	6.61%	18.27%	18.14%	2.27%	2.34%
East of England	6.56%	6.51%	16.93%	16.73%	2.25%	2.36%

London	6.14%	6.04%	16.97%	16.56%	1.58%	1.61%
South East	6.68%	6.56%	17.37%	16.95%	2.31%	2.36%
South West	6.94%	6.90%	18.03%	17.85%	2.65%	2.66%

Show full screen table

Data symbols

Footnotes

1. Total includes state-funded primary, secondary and special schools. Data for special schools is available from 2016/17 to present.
2. Sessions recorded as not attending due to COVID circumstances are included as possible sessions in 2020/21 and 2021/22 only, but not as an absence within absence rates. Comparisons with these years should be treated with caution.

Source: School Census

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Explore data

Chart | Table

Some rows and columns are not shown in this table as the data does not exist in the underlying file.

▶ Export options

Absence rates by local authority, 2024/25 Autumn and spring term and 2025/26 Autumn and spring term

		Overall absence rate		Percentage of persistent absentees (10% or more missed)		Percentage of severe absentees (50% or more missed)	
		2024/25 Autumn and spring term	2025/26 Autumn and spring term	2024/25 Autumn and spring term	2025/26 Autumn and spring term	2024/25 Autumn and spring term	2025/26 Autumn and spring term
North East	**County Durham**	6.81%	6.79%	18.54%	18.63%	2.34%	2.28%
	Darlington	6.67%	6.93%	19.11%	19.29%	2.51%	2.33%
	Gateshead	6.69%	6.82%	16.50%	17.04%	2.68%	2.75%
	Hartlepool	7.14%	7.03%	19.11%	18.92%	2.65%	2.96%
	Middlesbrough	7.33%	7.25%	20.95%	20.84%	3.07%	2.69%

	Newcastle upon Tyne	7.48%	7.54%	19.60%	19.48%	2.93%	3.00%
	North Tyneside	6.29%	6.59%	15.98%	16.80%	2.06%	2.05%
	Northumberland	6.92%	7.27%	17.26%	18.49%	2.54%	2.64%
	Redcar and Cleveland	6.99%	7.42%	18.21%	20.14%	2.77%	3.21%
	South Tyneside	7.28%	7.49%	19.75%	20.56%	2.49%	2.67%
	Stockton-on-Tees	6.82%	6.72%	18.28%	18.01%	2.52%	2.38%
	Sunderland	7.20%	7.45%	19.71%	20.31%	2.77%	2.92%
North West	**Blackburn with Darwen**	6.50%	6.68%	18.19%	18.68%	1.99%	2.29%
	Blackpool	7.44%	6.57%	21.99%	19.82%	2.79%	1.80%
	Bolton	6.48%	6.56%	17.60%	17.89%	1.80%	2.25%
	Bury	6.66%	6.82%	17.60%	17.99%	2.40%	2.57%
	Cheshire East	5.95%	5.99%	14.36%	14.70%	1.83%	1.93%
	Cheshire West and Chester	6.73%	6.80%	17.41%	17.55%	2.35%	2.42%
	Cumberland	6.44%	6.64%	16.26%	17.21%	1.99%	2.12%
	Halton	7.32%	7.65%	20.54%	21.03%	2.43%	2.87%

	Knowsley	7.93%	8.20%	23.65%	24.44%	2.40%	2.80%
	Lancashire	6.51%	6.54%	17.27%	17.32%	2.13%	2.19%
	Liverpool	7.23%	7.40%	20.11%	20.42%	2.65%	2.61%
	Manchester	6.73%	6.72%	18.43%	18.64%	2.44%	2.45%
	Oldham	6.60%	6.74%	18.33%	19.16%	1.90%	1.99%
	Rochdale	6.90%	6.94%	19.31%	19.97%	2.26%	2.49%
	Salford	7.07%	7.31%	19.89%	20.47%	2.71%	3.10%
	Sefton	7.38%	7.45%	20.19%	20.34%	2.71%	2.81%
	St. Helens	6.84%	6.77%	17.77%	17.21%	2.62%	2.46%
	Stockport	6.44%	6.35%	16.27%	16.05%	2.32%	2.32%
	Tameside	6.62%	6.79%	17.56%	18.25%	2.50%	2.56%
	Trafford	5.22%	5.17%	12.30%	12.05%	1.29%	1.45%
	Warrington	5.88%	5.85%	14.03%	14.16%	1.73%	1.86%
	Westmorland and Furness	6.19%	6.40%	15.32%	15.55%	1.78%	1.98%
	Wigan	6.47%	6.49%	16.84%	16.65%	2.08%	2.18%
	Wirral	7.39%	7.18%	20.08%	19.20%	2.40%	2.38%
Yorkshire	**Barnsley**	6.92%	7.34%	17.93%	19.35%	2.92%	3.20%

and The Humber	**Bradford**	7.91%	7.89%	22.59%	22.58%	3.24%	3.24%
	Calderdale	6.26%	6.32%	17.01%	17.06%	1.77%	1.99%
	Doncaster	6.23%	6.31%	17.46%	17.63%	2.15%	2.40%
	East Riding of Yorkshire	6.15%	6.22%	16.07%	16.31%	1.77%	1.79%
	Kingston upon Hull, City of	6.82%	6.85%	19.36%	19.58%	2.50%	2.72%
	Kirklees	6.49%	6.31%	17.48%	16.63%	2.05%	2.08%
	Leeds	6.84%	6.97%	18.51%	18.48%	2.77%	2.96%
	North East Lincolnshire	6.87%	7.23%	18.94%	20.57%	2.53%	2.93%
	North Lincolnshire	6.65%	6.62%	17.46%	17.81%	2.43%	2.17%
	North Yorkshire	6.62%	6.67%	16.52%	16.65%	2.50%	2.50%
	Rotherham	7.12%	7.15%	19.56%	19.67%	2.84%	2.79%
	Sheffield	7.24%	7.57%	19.77%	20.71%	3.21%	3.51%
	Wakefield	7.08%	7.03%	18.96%	18.45%	3.00%	3.06%
	York	6.93%	7.10%	16.77%	17.04%	3.07%	3.26%
East	**Derby**	6.89%	7.08%	19.54%	19.92%	2.22%	2.44%

Midlands	**Derbyshire**	6.37%	6.41%	15.67%	15.78%	2.28%	2.21%
	Leicester	6.80%	6.52%	19.61%	18.72%	2.44%	2.40%
	Leicestershire	6.25%	6.19%	14.92%	15.00%	2.11%	2.20%
	Lincolnshire	6.59%	6.53%	17.50%	17.64%	2.34%	2.41%
	North Northamptonshire	6.72%	6.84%	17.46%	18.23%	2.48%	2.64%
	Nottingham	7.19%	7.10%	20.42%	20.14%	2.65%	2.57%
	Nottinghamshire	6.34%	6.24%	16.42%	16.07%	2.17%	2.17%
	Rutland	5.76%	6.02%	13.69%	14.04%	2.45%	2.18%
	West Northamptonshire	6.47%	6.35%	16.39%	16.21%	2.43%	2.49%
West Midlands	**Birmingham**	6.89%	6.73%	20.00%	19.71%	2.35%	2.32%
	Coventry	7.02%	6.99%	19.58%	19.75%	2.92%	2.87%
	Dudley	6.83%	6.68%	19.36%	18.81%	2.58%	2.54%
	Herefordshire, County of	6.22%	6.11%	15.69%	15.54%	1.82%	1.98%
	Sandwell	6.64%	6.52%	19.15%	19.19%	2.12%	2.04%
	Shropshire	6.53%	6.63%	17.32%	17.41%	1.93%	2.25%

	Solihull	6.76%	6.74%	17.63%	17.88%	2.29%	2.49%
	Staffordshire	6.04%	6.02%	15.39%	15.52%	1.73%	1.75%
	Stoke-on-Trent	6.94%	6.84%	19.49%	19.53%	2.45%	2.55%
	Telford and Wrekin	6.24%	6.27%	16.39%	16.33%	2.01%	2.08%
	Walsall	7.28%	7.09%	20.94%	20.53%	2.52%	2.85%
	Warwickshire	6.88%	6.80%	17.28%	16.94%	2.74%	2.79%
	Wolverhampton	6.30%	6.40%	17.56%	18.01%	1.65%	1.98%
	Worcestershire	6.72%	6.64%	17.45%	17.00%	2.32%	2.50%
East of England	**Bedford**	6.44%	6.27%	17.92%	17.18%	2.03%	2.00%
	Cambridgeshire	6.53%	6.46%	15.94%	15.65%	2.51%	2.62%
	Central Bedfordshire	6.26%	6.25%	15.83%	15.75%	2.02%	2.24%
	Essex	6.73%	6.68%	17.47%	17.27%	2.38%	2.53%
	Hertfordshire	6.25%	6.23%	15.70%	15.52%	1.95%	2.02%
	Luton	6.14%	6.14%	17.30%	16.91%	1.46%	1.52%
	Norfolk	6.94%	6.95%	17.65%	17.86%	2.64%	2.80%
	Peterborough	6.54%	6.44%	18.13%	17.45%	2.05%	1.97%

	Southend-on-Sea	6.15%	6.24%	16.67%	16.73%	1.93%	2.08%
	Suffolk	6.93%	6.90%	17.82%	17.79%	2.65%	2.75%
	Thurrock	6.05%	5.74%	16.69%	15.52%	1.90%	1.91%
London	**Barking and Dagenham**	5.94%	5.95%	17.50%	17.36%	1.47%	1.45%
	Barnet	5.80%	5.58%	14.88%	13.91%	1.23%	1.41%
	Bexley	5.81%	5.78%	15.17%	14.91%	1.65%	1.71%
	Brent	5.80%	5.78%	16.29%	16.00%	1.20%	1.20%
	Bromley	5.89%	5.65%	14.82%	13.87%	1.55%	1.45%
	Camden	7.48%	7.56%	22.08%	21.96%	2.38%	2.50%
	City of London	3.97%	4.42%	7.57%	10.67%	0.00%	0.00%
	Croydon	6.49%	6.32%	18.37%	18.06%	1.89%	1.79%
	Ealing	6.29%	5.97%	17.46%	16.34%	1.77%	1.73%
	Enfield	6.30%	6.28%	17.87%	17.91%	1.71%	1.64%
	Greenwich	6.02%	5.97%	16.08%	15.86%	1.66%	1.65%
	Hackney	6.31%	6.34%	17.53%	17.81%	1.61%	1.79%
	Hammersmith and Fulham	6.29%	6.09%	17.14%	16.20%	1.54%	1.52%
	Haringey	6.25%	6.15%	18.21%	17.20%	1.79%	1.66%

Haringey	6.35%	6.15%	18.31%	17.39%	1.79%	1.66%
Harrow	5.62%	5.56%	15.23%	15.16%	1.28%	1.50%
Havering	5.71%	5.78%	14.93%	15.47%	1.49%	1.44%
Hillingdon	6.67%	6.68%	18.61%	18.71%	1.63%	1.96%
Hounslow	6.32%	6.23%	17.99%	17.09%	1.31%	1.55%
Islington	7.50%	7.15%	21.43%	20.25%	2.36%	2.24%
Kensington and Chelsea	7.08%	6.69%	19.86%	18.63%	2.06%	2.06%
Kingston upon Thames	5.58%	5.38%	13.64%	12.87%	1.44%	1.37%
Lambeth	6.49%	6.32%	18.72%	18.40%	1.83%	1.72%
Lewisham	5.94%	5.71%	16.27%	15.37%	1.53%	1.51%
Merton	5.73%	5.61%	14.55%	14.65%	1.28%	1.43%
Newham	6.36%	6.41%	19.11%	19.09%	2.16%	2.21%
Redbridge	6.06%	6.06%	17.09%	16.92%	1.23%	1.27%
Richmond upon Thames	5.24%	5.25%	12.05%	12.02%	1.35%	1.45%
Southwark	6.04%	6.03%	16.86%	16.64%	1.60%	1.55%
Sutton	5.64%	5.56%	14.06%	13.78%	1.44%	1.49%

	Tower Hamlets	6.42%	6.30%	18.87%	18.17%	1.19%	1.13%
	Waltham Forest	6.22%	6.12%	17.81%	17.11%	1.43%	1.43%
	Wandsworth	6.09%	6.07%	16.64%	16.42%	1.51%	1.71%
	Westminster	7.01%	6.64%	20.93%	19.28%	2.01%	1.87%
South East	**Bracknell Forest**	5.85%	5.70%	13.90%	13.83%	1.71%	1.58%
	Brighton and Hove	7.86%	7.58%	20.56%	19.55%	3.03%	3.01%
	Buckinghamshire	6.40%	6.30%	16.34%	16.02%	2.01%	2.00%
	East Sussex	7.54%	7.41%	20.24%	19.63%	2.92%	2.95%
	Hampshire	6.37%	6.31%	15.51%	15.57%	2.32%	2.41%
	Isle of Wight	7.73%	7.87%	22.30%	22.36%	3.03%	3.59%
	Kent	6.84%	6.72%	18.93%	18.48%	2.26%	2.27%
	Medway	6.50%	6.46%	17.65%	17.73%	2.28%	2.38%
	Milton Keynes	6.69%	6.25%	17.58%	15.99%	2.43%	2.37%
	Oxfordshire	7.12%	6.85%	17.77%	16.86%	2.73%	2.77%
	Portsmouth	7.62%	7.55%	19.31%	19.05%	3.30%	3.31%
	Reading	6.59%	6.52%	19.05%	17.38%	2.40%	2.30%
	Slough	6.34%	6.38%	17.60%	17.94%	1.63%	1.60%

	Slough	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	Southampton	7.80%	7.68%	20.87%	20.40%	3.17%	3.26%
	Surrey	6.06%	5.91%	14.74%	14.42%	1.95%	1.95%
	West Berkshire	6.62%	6.60%	16.46%	16.42%	2.31%	2.50%
	West Sussex	6.69%	6.61%	17.53%	17.03%	2.16%	2.28%
	Windsor and Maidenhead	6.50%	6.35%	17.22%	16.47%	2.10%	1.87%
	Wokingham	5.53%	5.61%	13.37%	12.82%	1.31%	1.69%
South West	**Bath and North East Somerset**	6.55%	6.52%	16.23%	15.94%	2.31%	2.34%
	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	6.44%	6.23%	16.65%	15.78%	2.15%	2.08%
	Bristol, City of	7.67%	7.73%	21.35%	21.34%	3.09%	3.32%
	Cornwall	6.97%	7.09%	18.77%	19.25%	2.47%	2.56%
	Devon	7.13%	7.12%	18.21%	18.26%	3.00%	2.99%
	Dorset	7.36%	7.14%	18.92%	18.76%	2.96%	2.67%
	Gloucestershire	6.54%	6.48%	16.52%	16.62%	2.22%	2.31%
	Isles of Scilly	7.11%	6.16%	20.75%	16.51%	1.66%	0.92%
	North Somerset	6.84%	6.86%	17.44%	17.47%	2.57%	2.61%

Plymouth	7.48%	7.14%	20.20%	19.27%	3.10%	2.81%
Somerset	7.30%	7.36%	18.83%	18.79%	2.87%	3.01%
South Gloucestershire	6.64%	6.58%	17.06%	16.58%	2.52%	2.66%
Swindon	6.56%	6.30%	17.92%	16.46%	2.39%	2.39%
Torbay	7.21%	7.53%	18.58%	19.40%	3.11%	2.96%
Wiltshire	6.53%	6.45%	15.89%	15.47%	2.50%	2.40%

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Data symbols

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Footnotes

1. Total includes state-funded primary, secondary and special schools. Data for special schools is available from 2016/17 to present.
2. Sessions recorded as not attending due to COVID circumstances are included as possible sessions in 2020/21 and 2021/22 only, but not as an absence within absence rates. Comparisons with these years should be treated with caution.

Source: School Census

Explore and edit this data online

Use our table tool to explore this data.

Explore data

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Absence in state-funded alternative provision

State-funded alternative provision (AP) includes Pupil referral unit (PRUs) , alternative provision academies and alternative provision free schools.

Absence in state-funded alternative provision increased compared to previous combined autumn & spring term

Overall absence in state-funded AP was 42.27% in autumn and spring terms 2025/26, up from 42.04% in the same period in 2024/25. Both persistent and severe absence continued to increase, compared to the autumn and spring terms 2024/25. The increase in overall absence was driven by an increase in unauthorised absence.

▶ Export options

Absence rates in state-funded alternative provision, from 2020/21

Autumn and spring term to 2025/26 Autumn and spring term

	2020/21 Autumn and spring term	2021/22 Autumn and spring term	2022/23 Autumn and spring term	2023/24 Autumn and spring term	2024/25 Autumn and spring term	2025/26 Autumn and spring term
Overall absence rate	32.81%	37.40%	40.75%	41.59%	42.04%	42.27%
Authorised absence rate	21.99%	21.41%	22.16%	22.43%	23.28%	23.26%
Unauthorised absence rate	10.81%	15.99%	18.59%	19.16%	18.76%	19.02%

Show full screen table

Data symbols

Footnotes

1. Sessions recorded as not attending due to COVID circumstances are included as possible sessions in 2020/21 and 2021/22 only, but not as an absence within absence rates. Comparisons with these years should be treated with caution.

Source: School Census

Explore and edit this data online

Use our table tool to explore this data.

Explore data

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Further absence and attendance data sources

Further data from this release is available in the data catalogue, or you can create your own tables using the table tool including:

- absence by pupil characteristics including SEN primary need
- pupil enrolments with one or more absences
- school level absence
- absence for 4 year olds

Official statistics produced from daily data submitted automatically by schools to the Department are available in the Pupil attendance in schools publication. Due to the timeliness of the data the figures are estimates that we expect to change as registers are adjusted. They should be viewed as an early indicator for the data provided in later accredited official statistics releases.

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Contact us

If you have a specific enquiry about Pupil absence in schools 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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