Permanent and fixed-term exclusions from schools in Wales, 2016/17

This release reports on all pupils in maintained primary, middle, secondary and special schools and pupil referral units (PRUs) in Wales. School exclusions can either be for a fixed term or permanent. See definitions for more detail.

Rate of exclusions from maintained schools and PRUs in Wales

The rate of permanent exclusions from maintained schools and PRUs has increased for the first time since 2011/12. (0.4 exclusions per 1,000 pupils in 2016/17)

The rates of fixed term exclusions (5 days or less) have increased over the last three years. (34.4 fixed-term exclusions (5 days or less) per 1,000 pupils in 2016/17)

In 2016/17 there were 1.9 fixed-term exclusions (over 5 days) per 1,000 pupils.

About this release

Data are shown for Wales. Information relates to the academic years 2012/13 to 2016/17. This release also reports on the reasons given for exclusions.

Please note that we no longer publish the local authority breakdown.

We welcome feedback on the new format of this Statistical First Release.

Accompanying this release:

- Detailed tables
- Technical notes and Key quality information

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This report is also available in Welsh

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Types of School, 2016/17

• Special schools had the highest rate of fixed-term exclusions of 5 days or less, and also the highest rate of fixed-term exclusions over 5 days, whereas primary schools had the lowest.

• Middle schools had the highest rate of permanent exclusions.

Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility

• The rate of exclusions is consistently (at least 3 times) higher for those entitled to FSM than not entitled to FSM for fixed exclusions (5 days or less), fixed exclusions (over 5 days) and permanent exclusions in the period 2012/13 to 2016/17.

Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision

• School Action Plus had the highest rate of exclusions out of those pupils with SEN for every year and every type of exclusion.

• Pupils with special educational needs have higher rates of exclusions than those without.

Ethnic Background

• Pupils with a “White” ethnic background have the highest rate of fixed exclusions (5 days or less), fixed exclusions (over 5 days) and permanent exclusions between 2012/13 and 2016/17.

• Pupils with a “Chinese or Chinese British” ethnic background have the lowest rate of exclusions and have had zero exclusions over the past 2 years.

Most common reasons for exclusions, 2016/17

The chart includes all permanent and fixed-term exclusions.

• The most common reason given for all exclusions in 2016/17 was ‘persistent disruptive behaviour’.

• The second most common reason for exclusions was ‘verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult’.

• ‘Persistent disruptive behaviour’ was the most common reason given for fixed-term exclusions (5 days or less) and fixed-term exclusions (over 5 days) only at 21.9 percent, and 20.3 percent of all fixed term exclusions (5 days or less) and (over 5 days) respectively.

• The most common reason for permanent exclusions only was ‘physical assault against an adult’. (18.2 per cent of all permanent exclusions).
Definitions

Types of exclusion and other definitions

A **permanent exclusion** refers to a pupil who is excluded and their name removed from the school register. This 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.

**Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) data**

This is the third year that pupil-level exclusions data have been collected from PRUs, and the second year that pupil referral units have been included. For this reason, caution should be used when comparing the rate of exclusions for all maintained schools and PRUs with previous years.

**Further details**

This release is available at:


England publish exclusions data for state-funded primary, secondary and special schools in the statistical release entitled ‘Permanent and fixed-period exclusions in England: 2015 to 2016’.


Northern Ireland publish the number of pupils expelled or suspended from primary, post-primary and special schools.

The breakdown by local authority has not been published for 2016/17, but is available on request.

**Next update**

September 2019 (provisional)

The next update will include a report covering the 2017/18 academic year.

**We want your feedback**

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to school.stats@gov.wales

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