

Permanent and fixed-term exclusions from schools: September 2018 to August 2019

21 October 2020
SFR 183/2020

This release covers all permanent and fixed term exclusions from maintained schools in Wales from September 2018 to August 2019. Although the period covered by this release is before the start of the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, the data was collected during March and April 2020. Due to the pandemic the data collection from pupil referral units (PRUs) was not completed so this release only covers maintained schools.

Chart 1: Rate of fixed term exclusions 5 days or less and over 5 days in maintained schools

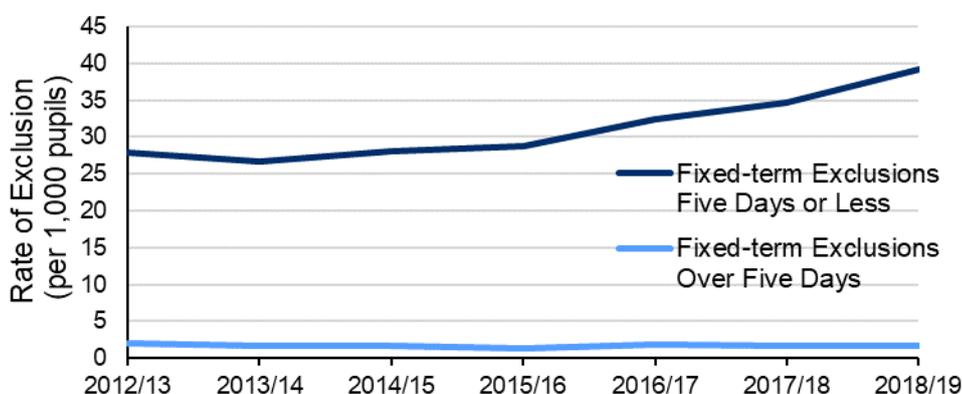
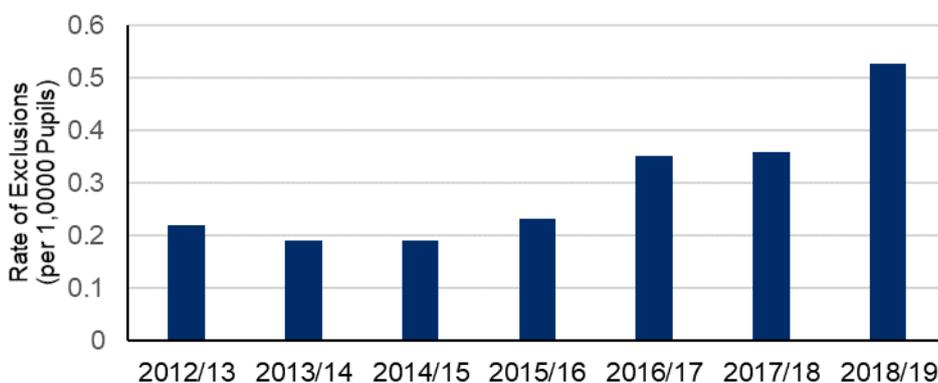


Chart 2: Rate of Permanent Exclusions in Maintained Schools



Key Points – Maintained Schools

- The rate of permanent exclusions has increased slightly (0.5 per 1,000 pupils) in 2018/19, compared to 0.4 per 1,000 pupils in 2017/18.
- The rate of fixed term exclusions (Over 5 Days) has remained the same in 2018/19 (1.7 exclusions per 1,000 pupils).
- The rate of fixed term exclusions (5 Days or Less) has increased in 2018/19 to 39.1 per 1,000 pupils.

About this release

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

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

Accompanying this release

Detailed tables

Technical notes and Key quality information

Types of School 2018/19

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.

Secondary 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 term exclusions (5 days or less), fixed term exclusions (over 5 days) and permanent exclusions in the period 2012/13 to 2018/19.

Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision

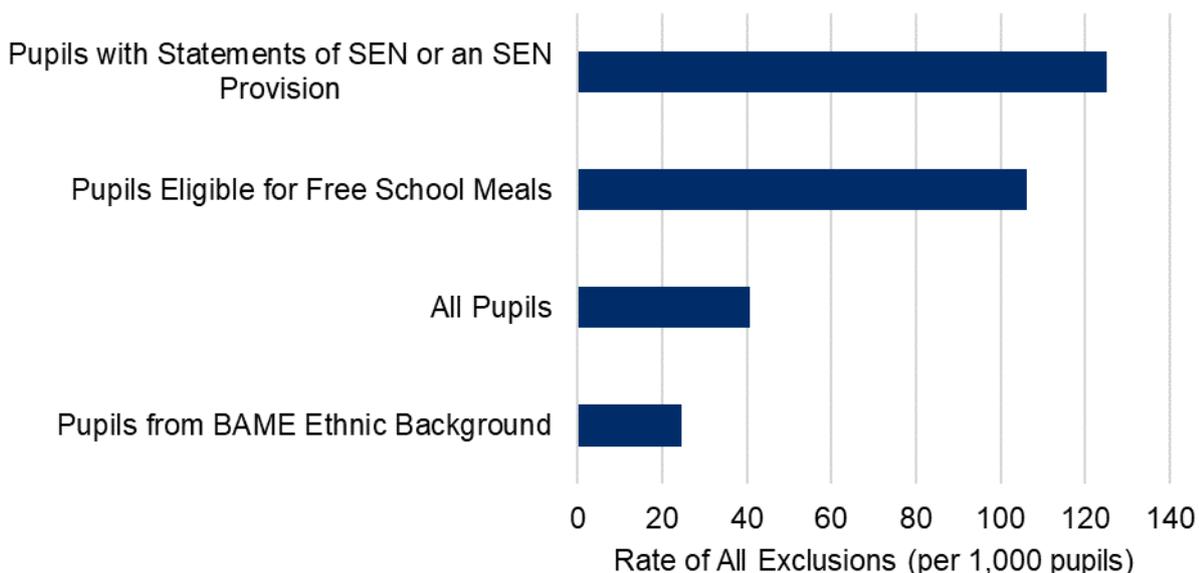
School Action Plus pupils had the highest rate of exclusions out of those pupils with SEN for every year and every type of exclusion.

Overall, pupils with special educational needs have higher rates of exclusions than those without.

Ethnic Background

For pupils with a stated ethnic background, those with a “White” ethnic background have the highest rate of fixed term exclusions (5 days or less), whilst pupils with a Chinese or Chinese British background have the lowest rates of exclusion.

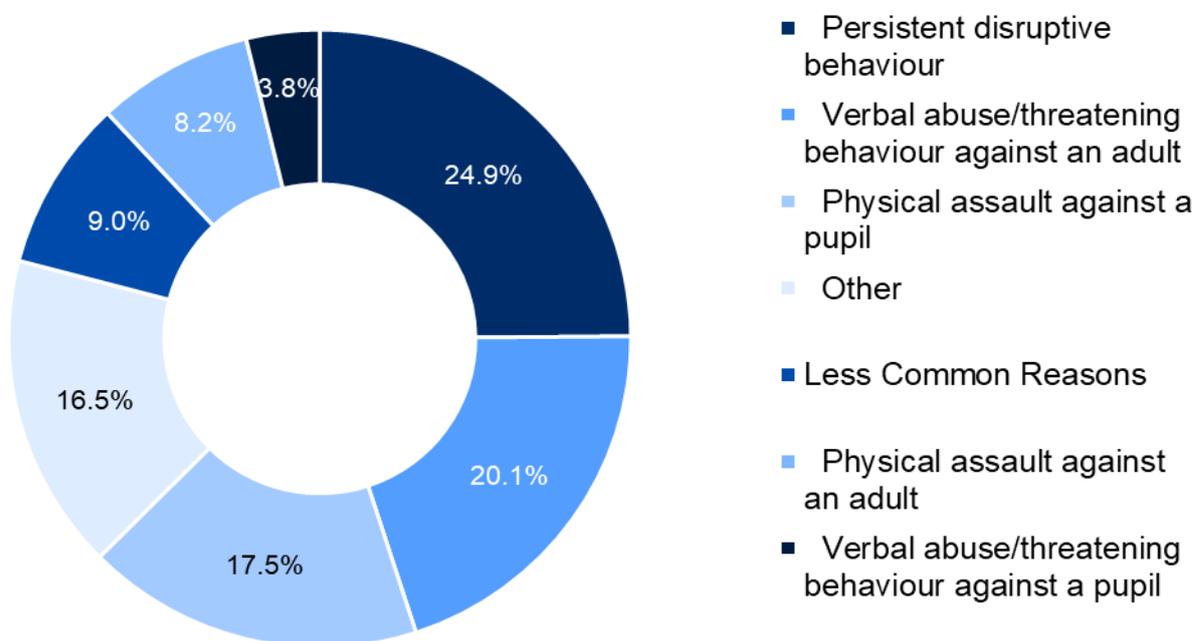
Chart 3: Rate of all exclusions by pupil characteristics



(a) BAME - Black Asian and Minority Ethnic

Reasons for Exclusions

Chart 4: Percentage of exclusions from maintained schools by exclusion reason, 2018/19



The most common reason given for all exclusions in 2018/19 was 'persistent disruptive behaviour'.

'Persistent disruptive behaviour' was the most common reason given for fixed-term exclusions (5 days or less) at 25.3% of all fixed term exclusions (5 days or less).

'Persistent disruptive behaviour' was also the most common reason for fixed term exclusions of 5 days or more accounting for 19.6% of all fixed term exclusions of 5 days or more.

The most common reasons for permanent exclusions were 'physical assault against a pupil' (25.6%).

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.

Further details

This release is available at:

<https://gov.wales/permanent-and-fixed-term-exclusions-schools>

England publish exclusions data for state-funded primary, secondary and special schools in the statistical release entitled '[Permanent and fixed-period exclusions in England: 2017 to 2018](#)'.

Scotland publish exclusions data for maintained primary, secondary and special schools biennially in the statistical bulletin '[Summary statistics for schools in Scotland](#)'.

Northern Ireland publish the [number of pupils expelled or suspended from primary, post-primary and special schools](#).

Next update

September 2021 (provisional)

The next update will include a report covering the 2019/20 academic year. It is likely that this data will be impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

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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