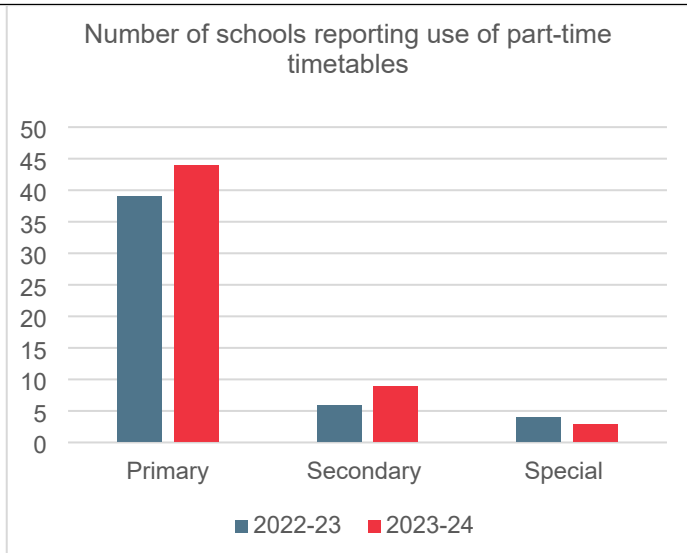


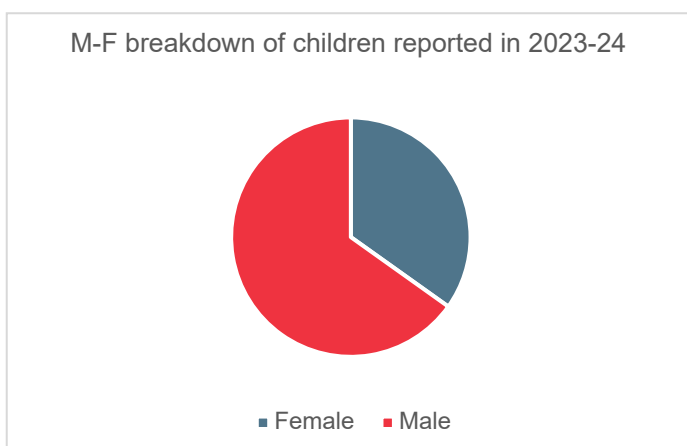
<h1>BRIEFING</h1>	<b>TO:</b>	Schools Forum
	<b>DATE:</b>	September 2024
	<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	Sarah Whitby Head of Service, Access to Education 01709255097
	<b>TITLE:</b>	Use of Part-Time Timetables in Rotherham
<b>1. Background</b>		
<b>1.1</b>	Schools Forum members have been keen to understand the use and prevalence of Part Time Timetables within the Borough. This area of our work is important because we know that children who miss out on education are at significant risk of underachieving, being victims of harm, exploitation or radicalisation, and becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) later in life.	
<b>1.2</b>	All pupils of compulsory school age are entitled to a full-time education. Department for Education Statutory Guidance; <a href="#">Working Together to Improve School Attendance</a> (May 2022, updated August 2024) makes provision for a temporary part-time timetable to be used in very exceptional circumstances, where it is in a pupil's best interests and this is required to meet their individual needs. This could be where a medical condition prevents a pupil from attending full-time education and a part-time timetable is considered as part of a reintegration package. The guidance makes clear that a part-time timetable should not be used to manage a pupil's behaviour.	
<b>1.3</b>	The updated statutory guidance that came into force on 19 August 2024 further clarifies at para 66-69 the responsibilities on schools to be ambitious for children, ensure regular review of provision and involve the child's wider support network in the decisions made.	
<b>2. Key Issues</b>		
<b>2.1</b>	RMBC are required to report on child level data to OFSTED during inspection of Local Authority services for 'children for whom the local authority is responsible who are of school age and who are not in receipt of full-time school education at the time of inspection'. The request we make from all schools in the Borough is in line with this requirement.	
<b>2.2</b>	2023-24 return  61 Schools provided a return during the academic year. Of these, 56 schools reported use of part-time timetables and the data provided is reported on below. Five schools reported a nil return each month. It is not known for the remaining 59 settings in borough, whether they did not report as they had a nil return, or whether they were using part-time timetables and did not report them to the Local Authority. The new collection system will prompt all schools to make a return, including nil returns, to give assurance that details of all children accessing part-time provision are captured.	



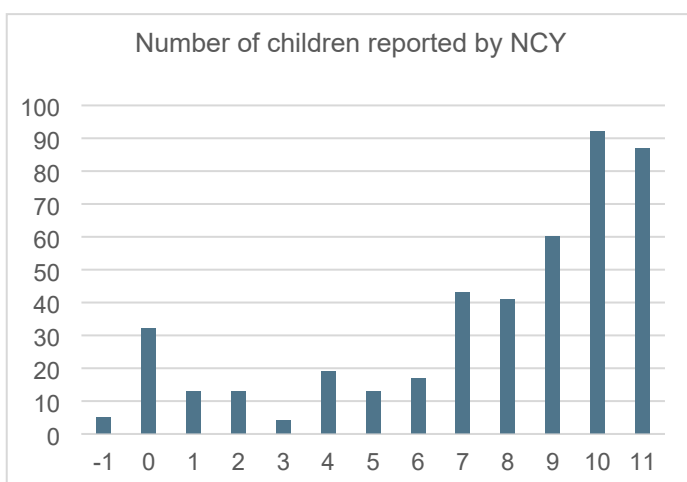
- Primary includes stand alone Infant and Junior schools

**2.3** The total number of children reported through the collection in 2023-24 was 439, this compares to 391 in 2022-23.

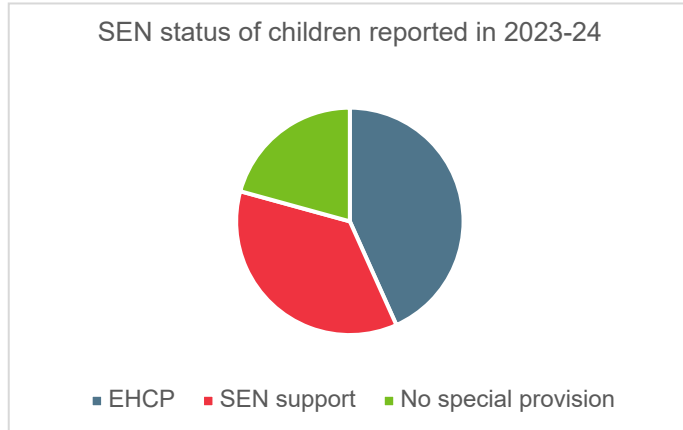
**2.4** There were more male students than female students reported as being in receipt of a part-time timetable (65% male, and 35% female)



**2.5** The use of part time timetables increases into Secondary, with a peak at KS4. The highest use of part-time timetables at Primary is for Reception, suggesting that schools may be using them at this point to support a gradual integration of children. It should also be remembered, that some children in Reception will not yet have achieved statutory school age.



**2.6** 79% of students reported were on the SEND register, with 43% having an EHCP. It is essential that the EHCP team is included before decisions are made about placing a child on a part-time timetable. To keep the use of part-time provision for students with an EHCP in close focus. It has been agreed that details will be sent termly to the EHCP team of all students with an EHCP identified through the collection. This will provide the EHCP team with additional oversight of these children.



**2.7** 96 (22%) of children reported in 2023-24 had an open Social Care involvement within the academic year, and 207 (47%) had at least one open Early Help involvement within the academic year. Update training for Social Care and Early Help colleagues is planned early in the academic year to ensure that those working with vulnerable children and young people have the skills and knowledge to support and challenge where provision being made does not appear to be in the best interests of the child involved. 2024 Guidance sets out the expectations that, where a child has a social worker, schools keep them informed and involved in any process relating to a part time timetable.

**2.8** For 164 children, schools reported that the part-time timetable had ended at a point in the academic year. This figure should be interpreted with some caution as it is possible that there were instances where schools ended a part-time provision but did not subsequently update their return. The future reporting system will issue a prompt to schools to report reviews and end dates at specified intervals.

### 3. Key Actions and Timelines

<b>3.1</b>	January- September 2024	Development of online reporting form for schools to use when reporting Part Time Timetables to RMBC
	September 2024	Re-launch of RMBC Part Time Timetable guidance alongside new online reporting form
	December 2024	Termly analysis of data to begin, identification of key issues and actions to support these. Distribution of child level data to relevant teams- Social Care, Early Help, Youth Justice, Virtual School, EHCP
	September 2025	Proposed report to Schools Forum as part of annual reporting cycle

#### 4. Recommendations

4.1	That Schools Forum note the content of the briefing and agree to receive an annual update.
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