

<h1>BRIEFING</h1>	TO:	Schools Forum
	DATE:	September 2024
	LEAD OFFICER:	Sarah Whitby, Head of Service, Access to Education
	TITLE:	Exclusions and Suspensions

1. Background

- 1.1** There is a rising use of suspension and exclusion Nationally, and this trending has been mirrored in Rotherham. Local rates for Permanent Exclusions have risen above National over the last 2 years.
- 1.2** It is evidenced that exclusion impacts on wellbeing, attainment and life chances of children and young people. Inclusion remains in sharp focus for teams and systems supporting children and young people in Rotherham.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1** Rotherham continues to exceed National rate for Exclusions and Permanent exclusions in the latest centrally published data. There is no published data yet available for 2023-24, but our local data evidences that numbers of both permanent exclusions and suspensions have increased again in borough.

Academic Year (Published)	19/20			20/21			21/22			22/23		
	Rotherham	Rotherham Rate	National Rate	Rotherham	Rotherham Rate	National Rate	Rotherham	Rotherham Rate	National Rate	Rotherham	Rotherham Rate	National Rate
Exclusions	30	0.07	0.06	23	0.05	0.05	52	0.12	0.08	62	0.14	0.11
Suspensions	3144	7.07	3.76	2429	5.46	4.25	4275	9.55	6.91	5352	11.88	9.33
1+ Suspensions	1035	2.33	1.87	1081	2.43	2.2	1539	3.44	3.02	1781	3.95	3.6

- 2.2** Comparison within the region places Rotherham just above the Regional rate for Permanent Exclusions, and just below for suspensions and the rate of pupil enrolments with one or more suspension.

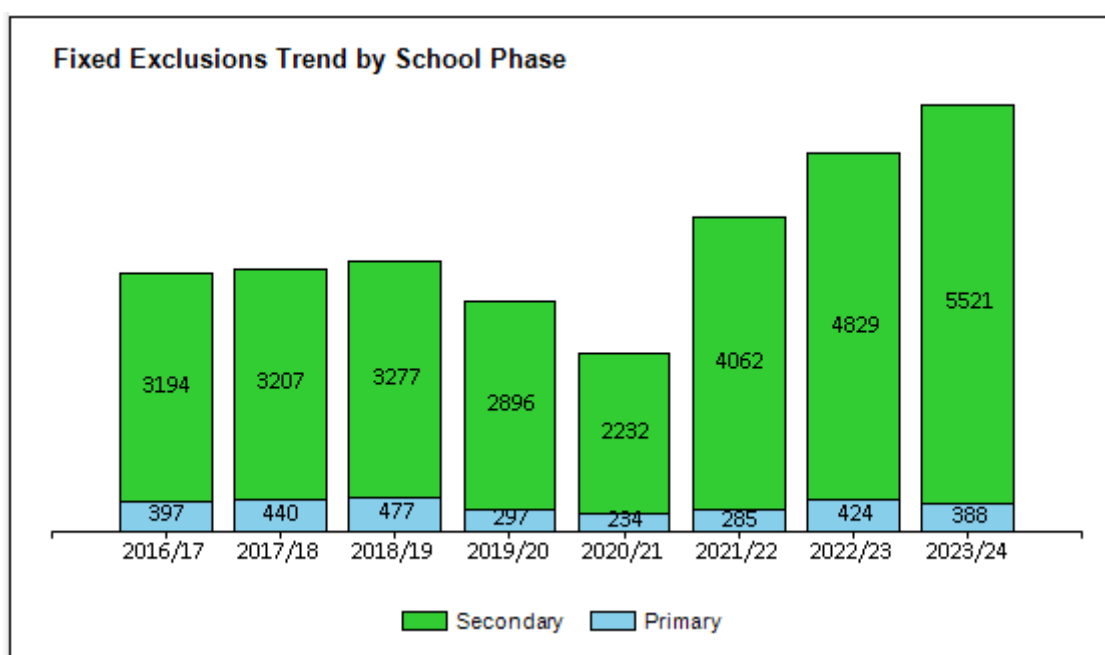
Area	PEx rate	Suspension rate	1+ Suspension rate
National	0.11	9.33	3.61
Yorkshire and Humber	0.12	13.54	4.32
Rotherham	0.14	11.88	3.95
North Lincolnshire	0.11	11.20	4.10
North East Lincolnshire	0.17	13.69	4.64

Barnsley	0.26	20.85	5.08
Sheffield	0.16	14.12	4.80
Doncaster	0.17	24.21	5.74
Wakefield	0.08	14.89	4.39

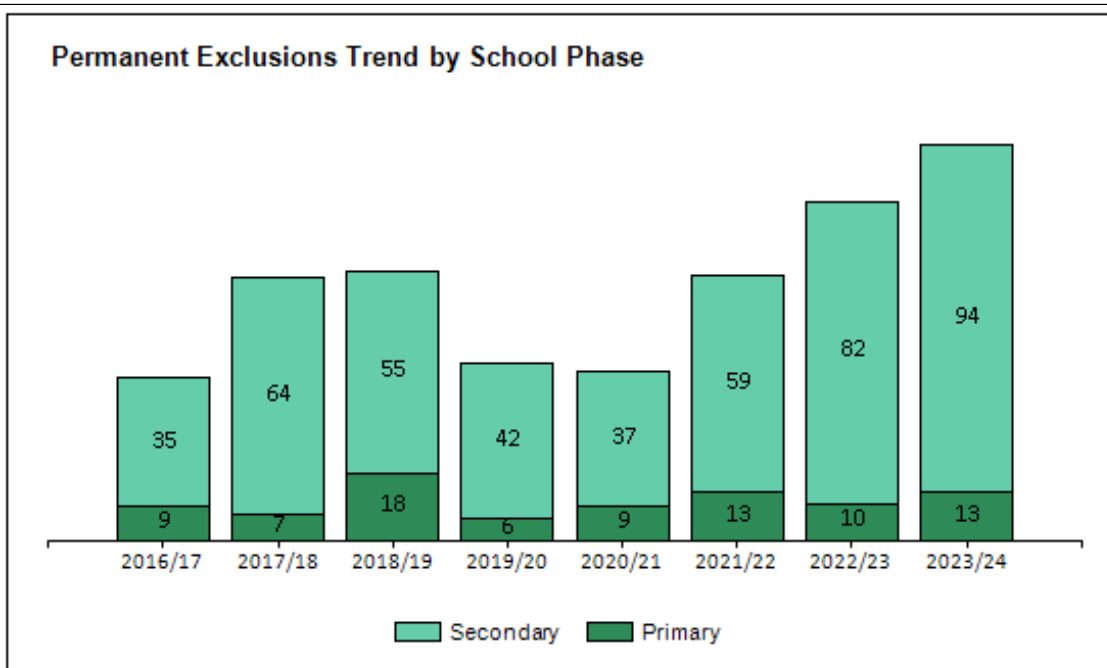
2.3 Our locally collated and verified data shows a difference to the data reported centrally through census and our data team are currently working to understand why this is. Data reported on for the 2023-24 academic year below is taken from our locally reported data, which comes directly from school import and is verified annually with all schools.

Data for the academic years 2019-20 and 2020-2021 is impacted by periods of national lockdown so should be interpreted with caution.

2.4 Fixed term exclusions were maintained at a relatively stable level 2016-19 for Secondary, but have subsequently been on an upward trajectory since 2021. In Primary, numbers fell into 2023-24 and less exclusions have been recorded in this academic year than the lowest yearly number 2016-2019.



2.5 Discarding lockdown data, permanent exclusions have fluctuated at Primary between a low of 7 and a high of 18 yearly. In 2023-24 13 permanent exclusions were issued for Primary age children. The borough wide rise in exclusions has been as a result of the increase in secondary exclusions, which again have risen year on year since 2021.

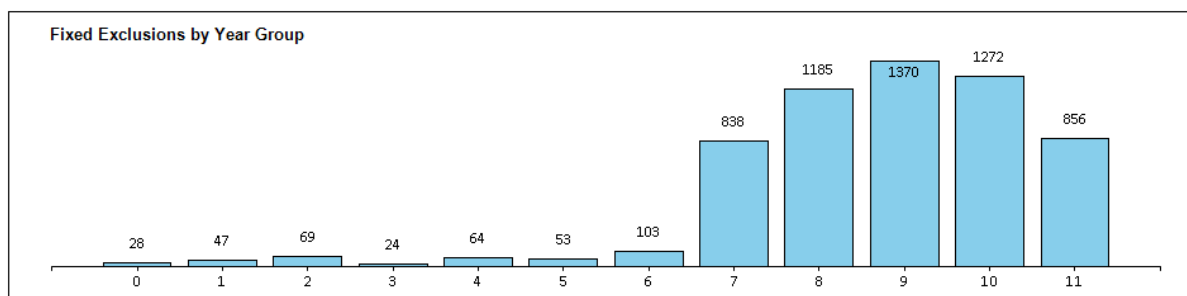


2.6

Closer analysis of the Secondary suspensions data shows a peak at year 9 of 1370 suspensions.

In Primary, although the number of suspensions remained comparatively low there were 69 (18% of primary) reported suspensions at year 2, with a peak to 103 (27%) at year 6.

For suspensions issued across Primary and Secondary phases, 62% of suspensions issued were for children were eligible for Free School Meals, 12% for children with an EHCP and 44% for children who were recorded as SEN K.



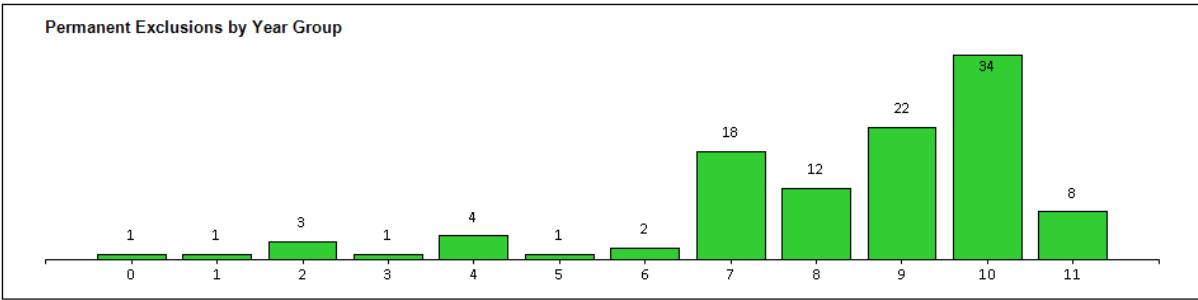
2.7

Permanent exclusions were highest in year 10 at Secondary with 34 (36% of Secondary) exclusions issued. Year 7 exclusions are raised as a concern, there were 18 exclusions (19% of Secondary) issued for this year group, 13 of which were for a physical assault against an adult or pupil.

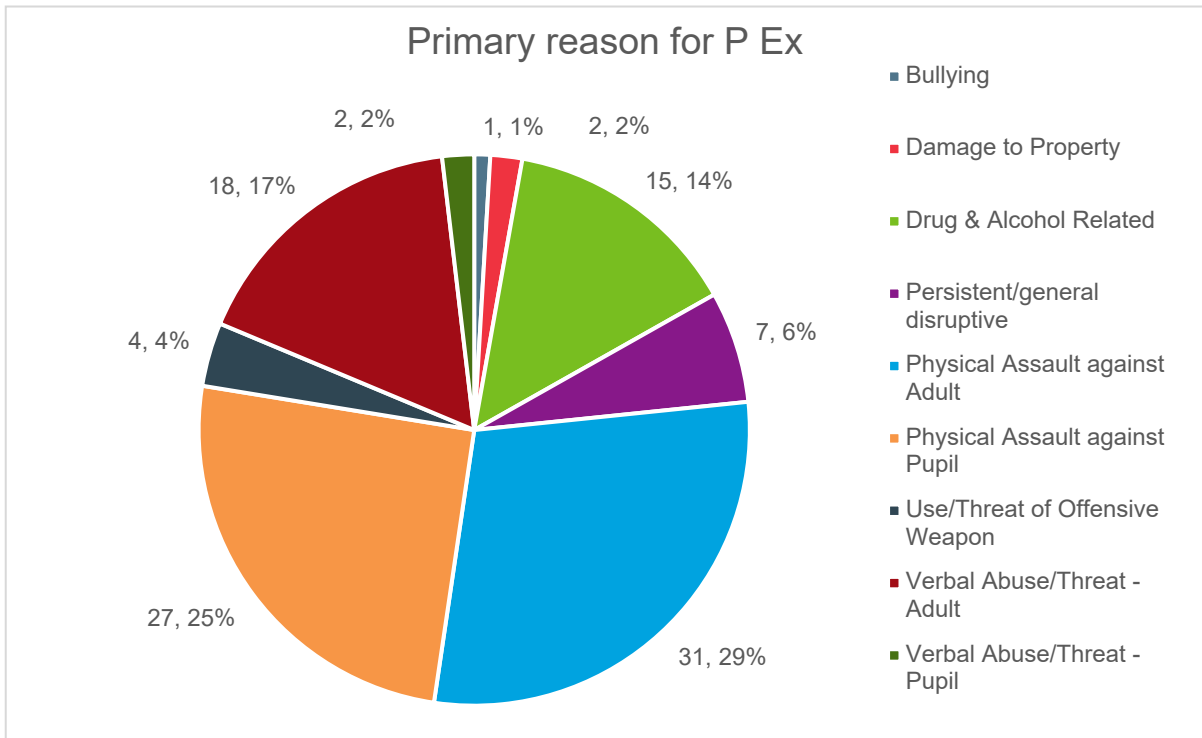
In Primary, the highest numbers were at year 2 and 4, 6 out of the total 7 exclusions for these year groups were for physical assault against an adult or pupil.

For Exclusions issued across Primary and Secondary, 65% were for children who were Free School Meal eligible, 8% for children with an EHCP and 43% children who were recorded as SEN K.

72.9% of Permanent Exclusions were for White British Young people, with the next highest being for Roma young people (4.7%) and then Gypsy/ Roma and White/ Asian young people (3.7%).



2.8 The highest number of exclusions across both Primary and Secondary were for Physical Assault against an Adult (31 exclusions, 29%) and Physical Assault against a Pupil (27 exclusions, 25%).



3. Key Actions and Timelines

- 3.1** July 2024- Send out of exclusions data across all phases to allow for local comparison and benchmarking, to be completed on a termly basis.
- 3.2** September 2024- Enhancements to locality inclusion model at Secondary and revised Fair Access arrangements to provide a more effective system for support and challenge in relation to children at risk of exclusion and those already excluded.
- 3.3** September 2024- Enhancements to Outreach offer to target support and link with PRU preventative offer, where capacity allows. Promotion of Team Teach training to support settings in working with children who display behaviours that challenge.
- 3.4** October 2024- launch of updated inclusion toolkit and guidance.

4. Recommendations

4.1	That Schools Forum note the content of the briefing and consider any additional actions required.
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