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| BRIEFING | TO: | Schools' Forum |
| | DATE: | 12 th September 2025 |
| | LEAD OFFICER: | Kelly Robinson Strategic Lead for Inclusion and Alternative Provision |
| | TITLE: | Exclusions and Suspensions Academic Year 2024-2025 |
| 1. Background | | |
| 1.1 | To the end of the academic year 2024-25, in total, there were 84 permanent exclusions through all Rotherham Schools compared with 93 permanent exclusions recorded for 2023-24. This reduction is testament to the collective dedication to inclusion across schools and multi-agency partners. | |
| 1.2 | The strong commitment from headteachers, service leads and professionals across Rotherham remains. Multiagency, collective working is a key focus in Rotherham to further reduce exclusions and suspensions. There is support through inclusion panels and referral to services from; Exclusions team, Fair Access team, Elective Home Education team, Attendance team, Early Help, Education Psychology, Education Health and Care Team, Outreach, Specialist Inclusion, Virtual School and Youth Justice Service to ensure pupils are able to maintain and/or reintegrate to mainstream schools as soon as appropriate and possible. Systems are in place to support schools in working together to further develop proactive pathways to ensure pupils thrive academically, personally, emotionally and socially within their own communities. | |
| 2. Key Issues | | |
| 2.1 | Centrally published data for full academic year 2023-2024 Suspensions and permanent exclusions in England, Academic year 2023/24 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK Centrally published exclusions data is a year in lag. | |
| 2.1.1 | Permanent Exclusion Nationally in 2023-24 there was a 16% increase in PEX from 2022-23 Rotherham permanent exclusions to conclusion 2023-24 represents an increase of 22% from 2022-23 Suspension Nationally in 2023-24 there was a 21% increase in suspensions from 2022/23 Rotherham suspensions showed a 7% increase from 2022/23 | |

| | | 2023/24 | | 2022/23 | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | Suspension (rate) | Permanent exclusions (rate) | Suspension (rate) | Permanent exclusions (rate) |
| England | | 11.31 | 0.13 | 9.33 | 0.11 |
| Yorkshire and The Humber | Yorkshire and The Humber | 16.50 | 0.14 | 13.54 | 0.12 |
| | Rotherham | 12.78 | 0.15 | 11.88 | 0.14 |

Analysis on Permanent Exclusions data for 2023-24 and 2024-25

Please note that all data below covering Permanent Exclusions discounts any exclusions that have been withdrawn or reinstated.

| Permanent Exclusions Summary | | Autumn Term | Spring Term | Summer Term | Overall |
|------------------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Primary | 2023-24 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 10 |
| | 2024-25 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| Secondary | 2023-24 | 39 | 26 | 19 | 84 |
| | 2024-25 | 31 | 24 | 23 | 78 |
| All | 2023-24 | 44 | 30 | 20 | 94 |
| | 2024-25 | 34 | 25 | 25 | 84 |

For all Schools, permanent exclusions overall shows a 10.6% decrease for the academic 2024-25 year against last years position 2023-24

PEX instances are most prevalent in autumn term and transition support from all services, including Aspire Outreach, has been enhanced to further support this trend.

2.1.2

The table below shows the permanent exclusion reasons for 2024-25 academic year. 56.4% of all exclusions in 2024-25 were given as a result of persistent disruption, with a rising number for verbal abuse / threat to adult at 15.3% and 11.1% for physical assault against pupils.

| Exclusion Reasons | PERM Exclusions | No of Suspensions | % of all suspension and exclusions |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Verbal Abuse/Threat - Adult | 17 | 1059 | 15.3% |
| Physical Assault against Pupil | 15 | 770 | 11.1% |
| Physical Assault against Adult | 13 | 355 | 5.2% |
| Drug & Alcohol Related | 12 | 168 | 2.6% |
| Persistent/general disruptive | 10 | 3968 | 56.4% |
| Use/Threat of Offensive Weapon | 7 | 128 | 1.9% |
| Verbal Abuse/Threat - Pupil | 3 | 148 | 2.1% |
| Inappropriate use of Social Media | 3 | 27 | 0.4% |
| Sexual Misconduct | 2 | 48 | 0.7% |
| Racist Abuse | 1 | 70 | 1.0% |
| Damage to Property | 1 | 137 | 2.0% |
| Abuse against SO & GI (LGBT+) | | 32 | 0.5% |
| Bullying | | 35 | 0.5% |
| Theft | | 18 | 0.3% |

2.1.3 From the 84 Permanent Exclusions in 2024-25, 73% of pupils excluded are males and 27% females.

2.1.4 Focus on Year groups and Key Stages evidences that 58.3% of PEX covering 2024-25 are for pupils in KS3. 21 pupils in Year 9, followed by 22 pupils in Year 10.

| Year and Key Stages | 2023-2024 | 2024-2025 | % total PEX 2024 -2025 |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| | Full Academic Year | Full Academic Year | |
| Key Stage 1 | 2 | 1 | 1.2% |
| Key Stage 2 | 7 | 5 | 6.0% |
| Year 7 | 15 | 16 | |
| Year 8 | 11 | 12 | |
| Year 9 | 20 | 21 | |
| Key Stage 3 | 46 | 49 | 58.3% |
| Year 10 | 32 | 22 | |
| Year 11 | 6 | 7 | |
| Key Stage 4 | 38 | 29 | 34.5% |

2.1.5 At the point of their permanent exclusion in 2024-25, 68% of pupils have a SEND need identified with 59% of these being pupils recorded as SEN Support. This compares to 23.5% of the whole Rotherham school age population who are identified with a SEND need (SEN support or EHCP).

| | No SEND | SEND Support | EHCP | SEND NEEDS |
|-----------|------------|--------------|----------|------------|
| Primary | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Secondary | 26 | 48 | 4 | 52 |
| Total | 27 (32.1%) | 49 (58.3%) | 8 (9.5%) | 58 (69.0%) |

2.1.6 76% of permanently excluded pupils in 2024-25, were also eligible for Free School meals (FSM), this compares to 31.4% of the whole Rotherham school age population.

2.1.7 Across the total number of permanent exclusions in 2024-25, 62.4% were White British pupils with 11.8% identifying as Gypsy/Roma Traveller. This compares with 76% whole Rotherham school age population identifying as White British and 1.6% identifying as Gypsy/Roma Traveller. GRT exclusions account for 10 children, none of whom were known to Early Help or Social Care at the point of their exclusion.

2.2 Suspensions

| Suspensions Summary | | Autumn Term | | Spring Term | | Summer Term | |
|---------------------|---------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| | | Suspensions | No Pupils | Suspensions | No Pupils | Suspensions | No Pupils |
| Primary | 2023-24 | 170 | 95 | 110 | 79 | 119 | 88 |
| | 2024-25 | 188 | 118 | 208 | 123 | 206 | 136 |
| Secondary | 2023-24 | 2281 | 1089 | 1659 | 911 | 1602 | 874 |
| | 2024-25 | 2416 | 1064 | 1979 | 995 | 1972 | 936 |
| All | 2023-24 | 2451 | 1185 | 1769 | 990 | 1721 | 962 |
| | 2024-25 | 2604 | 1182 | 2187 | 1118 | 2178 | 1072 |

Suspensions have increased across all school phases since 2020/2021 with this rise continuing in 2024-2025, albeit at a slower rate.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| | <p>Autumn term 2024 saw 2604 suspensions (based on 1182 pupils) against 2451 in autumn 2023 (based on 1185 pupils).</p> <p>Spring term 2025 saw a total of 2187 suspensions (based on 1118 pupils) against 1769 in Spring 2024 (based on 990 pupils). Although this represents an increase, when comparing this to the autumn term 2024 this shows a decrease in suspensions occurred and a decrease in the number of individual pupils.</p> <p>Summer Term 2025 saw a total of 2178 suspensions (based on 1072 pupils) against 1721 in summer 2024 (based on 962 pupils)</p> <p>Primary suspensions increased across each term during 2024-25 in comparison with the same term during 2023-24. Autumn increase (10.58%) spring increase (89%) and summer increase (73%) with total annual increase 50.87%</p> |
| 2.2.1 | Data across all suspensions this academic year shows that 63% of pupils suspended are male and 37% female. |
| 2.2.2 | At the point of suspension in 2024-25, 60% of pupils have SEND needs identified. This breaks down as 44% identified as SEND support and 14.5% with an EHCP in place. The whole Rotherham comparator is 23.5% of pupils are identified with any form of SEND, breaking down as 6.3% of pupils have a EHCP and 17.2% of pupils are identified as SEN Support. |
| 2.2.3 | The 2024/25 Suspension data shows that 57% of that cohort are also eligible for FSM, compared to 31.4% across the whole Rotherham school population. |
| 2.2.4 | 76% of suspensions were for White British Ethnicity pupils, followed by 4.5% of pupils recorded as not obtained. 4% of suspension are from pupils recorded as Gypsy Roma and 4% from Asian Pakistani pupils. |
| | *Whole Rotherham comparator taken from Spring Census 2025 |
| 3. Key Actions and Timelines | |
| 3.1 | <p>September 2025 -Send out of exclusions data across all phases to allow for local comparison and benchmarking, to be repeated on a termly basis.</p> <p>September 2025- Launch of updated monthly online inclusion events with focussed monthly sessions including information, advice, guidance and best practice.</p> <p>Autumn 2025 – Outreach offer to target support and promote reintegration of pupils to transition from Aspire to mainstream as well as exit plans for partnership placement pupils.</p> |
| 4. Recommendations | |
| 4.1 | That Schools Forum note the content of the briefing and consider any additional actions required. |