

Summary of ethnicity issues pertaining to permanent and fixed period exclusions from Southwark schools

An Excerpt from the main document **School Exclusions in Southwark An analysis of exclusion trends in the London Borough of Southwark, 2014/15 to 2019/20**

Key issues

Ethnicity: In Southwark in 2018/19, the ethnic group with the highest rate of permanent exclusions was **White British** (a rate of 0.26) with the second highest being **Black** (0.24). This is a marked change from 2017/18, where the rate of permanent exclusions of Black children was twice as high, and the rate for Mixed children three times as high as for White British children. However, when the data is examined at a more granular level, it shows that the rate of permanent exclusion for **Black Caribbean children is 1.5 times higher than the rate for White British children**, and the rate for Mixed White and Black Caribbean children slightly (1.1 times) higher.

There is a notable difference between the ethnicity of pupils given permanent exclusions and those given fixed period exclusions, with the overall highest rate of fixed period exclusions being given to Black pupils (a rate of 5.22) and the second highest being Mixed ethnicity children (4.83).

The rates for the detailed ethnicity groups vary by phase, but both show that the rates of **fixed period exclusions of Mixed White and Black Caribbean and Black Caribbean children are higher than those of White British children**. In Southwark secondary schools, the rate of fixed period exclusion for Mixed White and Black Caribbean children is twice as high as the rate for White British children. In primary schools, these rates are even higher, with rates of fixed period exclusions for **Mixed White and Black Caribbean children over three times higher than those for White British children**, and the rate Black Caribbean children three times higher.

Permanent exclusions

The table below shows the rate of permanent exclusions of minority ethnic pupils in Southwark, compared to the national rate.

Rates of Minority Ethnic Pupil permanent exclusions from secondary schools						
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	DoT (last year)
Southwark rate	0.14	0.14	0.25	0.31	0.18	▼
National rate	0.16	0.17	0.19	0.19	0.17	▼
Comparison with national	▼	▼	▲	▲	▼	

- The national rate of permanent exclusions for Minority Ethnic students from secondary schools annually increased from 2014/15 to 2016/17, remained the same in 2017/18, before falling in 2018/19.
- Southwark followed a similar trend, although its rate was below the national rate in 2014/15 and 2015/16, it was considerably above it in 2016/17 and 2017/18. In 2018/19 however the rate dramatically fell, though was still 0.01 point above the national rate.

In order to understand the issues surrounding ethnicity and disproportionality in the borough, it is necessary to examine the data in ethnicity groups and also with a detailed breakdown. The ethnicity group (as published by the DFE) rates of permanent exclusion for pupils in the secondary phase (both in Southwark and nationally) are shown in the table below.

Rates of permanent exclusions per ethnicity group in Southwark, compared to the national rate							
Ethnicity	Rate of PEX in Southwark secondary schools					National rate	Comparison
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2018/19	
Asian	0.00	0.22	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.09	▼
Black	0.19	0.16	0.28	0.35	0.24	0.24	◀
Mixed	0.14	0.14	0.17	0.53	0.20	0.29	▼
White	0.07	0.14	0.21	0.18	0.26	0.21	▲
Minority Ethnic	0.14	0.14	0.25	0.31	0.18	0.17	▲

The table above shows that in 2018/19, the permanent exclusion rates for all non White children in Southwark schools were lower than those of the White children, and were equivalent or below the national rate, although the Minority Ethnic group rate (DFE definition as being all those who are not White British) was one point above the national rate.

In Southwark in 2018/19, the ethnic group with the highest rate of permanent exclusions was **White** (a rate of 0.26) with the second highest being **Black** (0.24). This is a marked change from 2017/18, where the rate of permanent exclusion of Black children was twice as high as the rate for White British children, and the rate of Mixed children three times as high.

In Southwark schools for the most recent period (2019/20), two thirds of permanent exclusions were of Minority Ethnic young people, though this was proportionally higher for those permanently excluded from Southwark schools who were resident in other boroughs.

However, using grouped data can mask what is taking place within the different groupings. The following table shows the rate of permanent exclusions per detailed ethnicity group in secondary schools in 2017/18 and 2018/19, for both Southwark and England.

Rates of permanent exclusions per detailed ethnicity group in Southwark, compared to the national rate									
Ethnicity	Number			Southwark rate			National rate		
	2017/18	2018/19	DoT	2017/18	2018/19	DoT	2017/18	2018/19	DoT
Any other Asian background	0	0	◀	0.00	0.00	◀	0.08	0.08	◀
Any other Black background	2	1	▼	0.27	0.14	▼	0.30	0.29	▼
Any other Ethnic Group	3	1	▼	0.23	0.08	▼	0.15	0.18	▲
Any other Mixed background	5	2	▼	0.53	0.22	▼	0.30	0.24	▼
Any other White background	1	1	◀	0.08	0.08	◀	0.15	0.13	▼
Bangladeshi	0	0	◀	0.00	0.00	◀	0.09	0.09	◀
Black African	12	9	▼	0.25	0.18	▼	0.18	0.15	▼
Black Caribbean	11	8	▼	0.67	0.49	▼	0.50	0.46	▼
Chinese	0	0	◀	0.00	0.00	◀	0.02	0.02	◀
Gypsy Roma	0	0	◀	0.00	0.00	◀	0.96	1.08	▲
Indian	0	0	◀	0.00	0.00	◀	0.04	0.03	▼
Irish	0	0	◀	0.00	0.00	◀	0.28	0.10	▼
Pakistani	0	0	◀	0.00	0.00	◀	0.14	0.13	▼
Traveller of Irish heritage	0	0	◀	0.00	0.00	◀	0.88	0.91	▲
White and Asian	0	0	◀	0.00	0.00	◀	0.21	0.18	▼
White and Black African	1	0	▼	0.37	0.00	▼	0.32	0.24	▼
White and Black Caribbean	4	2	▼	0.75	0.35	▼	0.58	0.47	▼
White British	7	11	▲	0.22	0.33	▲	0.20	0.22	▲

Nationally, in 2018/19 the groups with the highest rate of permanent exclusions from secondary schools were Gypsy Roma (1.08); Traveller of Irish Heritage (0.91), White and Black Caribbean (0.47) and Black Caribbean (0.46).

In the same period, the ethnicity groups with the highest rate of permanent exclusion from Southwark secondary schools were: Black Caribbean (0.49), White and Black Caribbean (0.35) and White British (0.33). In terms of comparison against the national rates, Southwark had higher rates of permanent exclusions for Black African, Black Caribbean, and White British pupils.

When the rates are examined at a more granular level, it became clear that the rate of permanent exclusion for **Black Caribbean children is 1.5 times higher** and Mixed White and Black Caribbean children slightly (1.1 times) higher than White British children. Nationally, both Black Caribbean children and Mixed White and Black Caribbean children are 2.1 times more likely to be permanently excluded from secondary school.

2019/20 update: Census data, not yet published by the DFE indicates that in 2019/20, of the Black / Black British group of pupils there were more Black African children (8) permanently excluded than Black Caribbean (3), with a further six recorded as mixed White and Black Caribbean.

It is not possible to calculate rates of Southwark pupils permanently excluded from out of borough schools. In 2019/20, twelve of the fourteen young people permanently excluded from out of borough secondary schools were Minority Ethnic (86%), specifically six Black African, two Black Caribbean, two Black Other and two Mixed White and Black Caribbean.

Fixed period exclusions

DFE analysis of nationwide fixed period exclusions in 2018/19 found that exclusion rates widely varied by ethnicity. As in previous years, pupils of Gypsy/Roma ethnic groups had the highest rates of fixed period exclusions (21.26) followed by the Traveller of Irish heritage group at 14.63 (although this had decreased from 2017/18 figures). The fixed period exclusion rate increased for all other ethnic groups, except Black Caribbean and Irish.

The table below shows the number and rate of fixed period exclusions of minority ethnic students in Southwark, compared to national figures (using the most recent DFE data).

Number and rate of fixed period exclusions of minority ethnic pupils, compared to the national rate									
Phase	Number			Southwark rate			National rate		
	2017/18	2018/19	DoT	2017/18	2018/19	DoT	2017/18	2018/19	DoT
Primary	279	208	▼	1.45	1.11	▼	0.94	0.92	▼
Secondary	1123	1133	▲	8.81	8.54	▼	7.80	8.33	▲
Special	50	25	▼	11.74	4.20	▼	8.96	7.77	▼
Total	1452	1366	▼	4.47	4.20	▼	3.66	3.91	▲

It is clear that although the number of fixed period exclusions of minority ethnic pupils from Southwark secondary schools increased in 2018/19, the rate slightly reduced when compared to 2017/18 (as did all fixed period exclusion rates of minority ethnic pupils in the borough). Nationally, the rate of minority ethnic secondary school pupils given fixed period exclusions has increased.

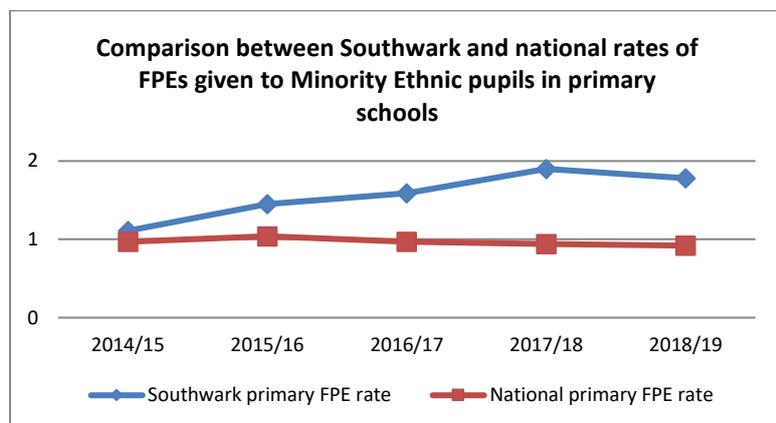
When compared to the national rate, Southwark has higher rates of fixed period exclusions of minority ethnic pupils in both the primary and secondary phase. It is however important to note that the gap between the national and local rates is narrowing, for example, in 2017/18 the rate of fixed period exclusions of Minority Ethnic pupils from Southwark secondary schools was 8.81, compared to the national rate of 7.80. By 2018/19, this had changed significantly, with the Southwark rate now slightly higher than the national rate (8.54 compared to 8.33).

The table below shows the same data, but for White British pupils. This shows that there have been increases in the rate for both the secondary and special phases, which has led to an overall increase in the rate (from 4.18 in 2017/18 to 4.71 in 2018/19, an increase of 52 fixed period exclusions). Rates of fixed period exclusions for White British pupils are below national rates, both overall and for all phases.

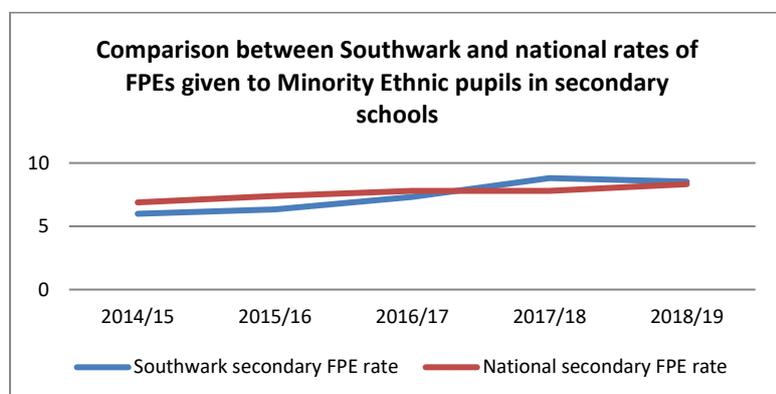
Number and rate of fixed period exclusions of White British pupils, compared to national rate									
Phase	Number			Southwark rate			National rate		
	2017/18	2018/19	DoT	2017/18	2018/19	DoT	2017/18	2018/19	DoT
Primary	87	56	▼	1.63	1.05	▼	1.63	1.66	▲
Secondary	270	349	▲	8.47	10.52	▲	11.09	11.78	▲
Special	3	7	▲	3.57	8.14	▲	13.76	12.86	▲
Total	360	412	▲	4.18	4.71	▲	5.70	6.01	▲

The graphs on the following page compare Southwark rates of Minority Ethnic pupils given fixed period exclusions by phase, compared to the national rate. It is clear from these that Southwark's rate of these fixed period exclusions have risen across both primary and secondary phases over the past four years, yet have both shown decreases in 2018/19. The rate of fixed period exclusions of Minority Ethnic pupils from special schools has substantially decreased over the same period, and in 2018/19 was lower than the national rate.

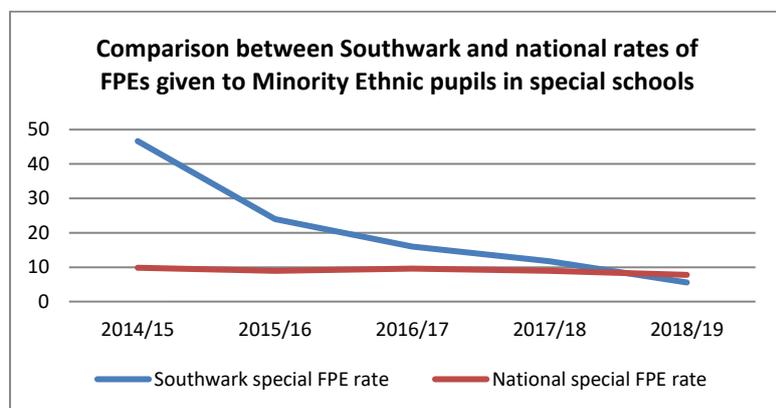
Overall, the rates from the last year would suggest that following a plateau, the national rate for fixed period exclusions of Minority Ethnic pupils has started to rise, whereas Southwark, with higher rates of such fixed period exclusions over a number of years, has shown a decrease in their figures.



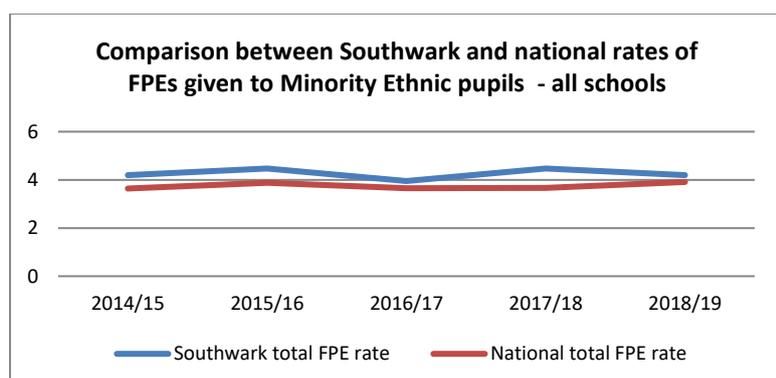
The fixed period exclusion rate of Minority Ethnic pupils from Southwark primary schools is consistently higher than the national rate; though the range is small (all figures are between 0.92 and 1.90). Southwark's rate has risen from 2014/15, peaking in 2017/18, before seeing a decrease in 2018/19. Other than a slight increase in 2015/16, the national rate has slowly decreased year on year.



Prior to (and including) 2016/17, the fixed period exclusion rate of Minority Ethnic pupils from Southwark secondary schools was lower than the national rate, though in 2017/18 this rate was higher (9.81 in Southwark, compared to 7.79 nationally). An increase in the national rate counterbalanced by a decrease in Southwark's rate in 2018/19 meant that Southwark was in line with the national rate (Southwark: 8.54, National: 8.33).



Southwark's special schools have seen a significant decrease in their rate of FPE of Minority Ethnic pupils in recent years, and in 2018/19 for the first time had a rate that was lower than the national rate.



When looking at the overall rate (all phases combined), there is much less fluctuation in the rates. Southwark is consistently approximately one point away from the national rate – however this gap has narrowed in the most recent period, as Southwark's rate stood at 4.20, compared to the national rate of 3.91.

However, in order to understand the issues surrounding ethnicity and disproportionality in the borough, it is necessary to examine the data in a more granular fashion.

The table below indicates the grouped ethnicity rates for pupils across all phases in Southwark schools. It is clear from this that the ethnicities with the highest rates of fixed period exclusions in 2018/19 were Black (with a rate of 5.22) and Mixed (4.83). In Southwark, when compared to the national rate, in 2018/19 Minority Ethnic pupils were the only group with a higher rate of fixed period exclusion than the national rate.

Rates of fixed period exclusions per ethnicity group in Southwark, compared to the national rate						
Ethnicity	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	National rate (2018/19)
Asian	1.40	1.01	1.18	0.82	0.58	2.03
Black	5.34	5.23	5.07	5.84	5.22	5.54
Mixed	4.66	4.99	4.85	5.33	4.83	6.29
Unknown	3.93	4.58	5.39	3.07	4.52	8.47
White	3.22	3.43	2.79	3.53	3.9	5.80
Minority Ethnic	4.19	4.11	3.95	4.47	4.20	3.91

However, within these broad classifications, there are many different ethnicities, and it would be wrong to suggest that the same patterns apply within each group. The table below shows data for all pupils (not divided into phases) within their detailed ethnicity groups.

Nationally, the groups with the highest rate of exclusions were Gypsy Roma (21.26); Traveller of Irish Heritage (14.63), White and Black Caribbean (10.69) and Black Caribbean (10.37).

Pupil groups with the highest rates of fixed period exclusions in Southwark in 2018/19 were Gypsy Roma (27.78), Black Caribbean (9.31) and Irish (6.10).

In terms of comparison against the national rates, Southwark had higher rates of fixed period exclusion (in 2018/19) for Black African, Chinese and Gypsy Roma pupils, however, the number of fixed period exclusions for Gypsy Roma and Chinese children was low (each had five).

Rates of fixed period exclusions per detailed ethnicity group in Southwark, compared to the national rate									
Ethnicity	Number			Southwark rate			National rate		
	2017/18	2018/19	DoT	2017/18	2018/19	DoT	2017/18	2018/19	DoT
Any other Asian background	9	1	▼	1.27	0.15	▼	1.45	1.50	▲
Any other Black background	135	99	▼	5.56	4.40	▼	5.80	5.91	▲
Any Other Ethnic Group	57	101	▲	1.84	3.26	▲	3.16	3.34	▲
Any other Mixed background	87	77	▼	3.65	3.20	▼	4.52	4.89	▲
Any other white background	67	64	▼	1.87	1.75	▼	2.74	2.89	▲
Bangladeshi	5	9	▲	0.49	0.91	▲	1.93	1.97	▲
Black African	551	502	▼	4.67	4.21	▼	4.08	4.13	▲
Black Caribbean	345	316	▼	10.01	9.31	▼	10.46	10.37	▼
Chinese	0	5	▲	0.00	0.88	▲	0.50	0.56	▲
Gypsy Roma	2	5	▲	11.11	27.78	▲	16.52	21.26	▲
Indian	0	0	◀	0.00	0.00	◀	0.75	0.88	▲
Irish	9	13	▲	4.59	6.10	▲	5.00	4.93	▼
Pakistani	5	3	▼	1.74	1.07	▼	2.52	3.10	▲
Traveller of Irish heritage	2	0	▼	4.88	0.00	▼	17.42	14.63	▼
White and Asian	2	5	▲	0.41	0.91	▲	3.41	3.79	▲
White and Black African	36	29	▼	4.65	3.59	▼	5.78	6.22	▲
White and Black Caribbean	140	137	▼	10.56	9.97	▼	10.13	10.69	▲
White British	360	412	▲	4.18	4.71	▲	5.70	6.01	▲

However, it is likely that there are differences between the fixed periods of exclusion given to pupils from differing ethnicities in the separate phases. The table below shows the rates of fixed period exclusions for each of the above ethnicities by phase, and compares these to the 2018/19 national rate (for each phase).

Rates of fixed period exclusions per detailed ethnicity group in Southwark (by phase)												
Phase / location	Primary schools				Secondary schools				Special schools			
	Southwark			National	Southwark			National	Southwark			National
	2017/18	2018/19	DoT	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	DoT	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	DoT	2018/19
Any other Asian background	0.23	0.00	▼	0.22	2.91	0.35	▼	3.30	0.00	0.00	◀	1.26
Any other Black background	2.01	0.47	▼	1.41	13.48	12.59	▼	12.46	0.00	2.94	▲	10.28
Any Other Ethnic Group	0.50	0.57	▲	0.54	3.72	6.94	▲	7.57	0.00	0.00	◀	4.22
Any other Mixed background	1.04	1.48	▲	1.40	6.81	6.17	▼	10.30	0.00	40.00	▲	13.83
Any other white background	0.38	0.42	▲	0.61	4.92	4.28	▼	7.06	0.00	0.00	◀	4.20
Bangladeshi	0.00	0.00	◀	0.20	1.08	1.89	▲	4.27	0.00	0.00	◀	1.89
Black African	1.87	1.04	▼	1.06	8.67	8.37	▼	8.25	3.43	5.71	▲	4.15
Black Caribbean	3.03	3.22	▲	3.05	16.88	14.86	▼	17.50	23.68	18.29	▼	27.70
Chinese	0.00	0.27	▲	0.15	0.00	2.03	▲	1.28	0.00	0.00	◀	0.00
Gypsy Roma	0.00	0.00	◀	4.58	50.00	100.00	▲	58.79	0.00	0.00	◀	15.14
Indian	0.00	0.00	◀	0.13	0.00	0.00	◀	1.98	0.00	0.00	◀	0.49
Irish	0.94	0.00	▼	1.46	9.20	14.44	▲	8.66	0.00	0.00	◀	10.98
Pakistani	1.73	0.00	▼	0.39	1.82	2.91	▲	6.96	0.00	0.00	◀	2.22
Traveller of Irish heritage	0.00	0.00	◀	6.33	33.33	0.00	▼	45.62	0.00	0.00	◀	38.06
White and Asian	0.00	0.28	▲	0.91	1.21	2.07	▲	8.24	0.00	0.00	◀	12.03
White and Black African	0.60	1.43	▲	2.17	7.06	7.17	▲	13.10	0.00	175.00	▲	12.02
White and Black Caribbean	3.22	3.45	▲	3.12	21.58	19.06	▼	21.51	5.26	0.00	▼	29.07
White British	1.63	1.05	▼	1.66	8.47	10.52	▲	11.78	8.14	3.57	▼	12.86

Secondary schools

Year on year increases were seen in the rates for certain groups (notably Any Other Ethnic Group, White British and White and Black African, though other ethnicities saw smaller increases). However, in terms of comparison to the national average Southwark saw higher rates of Gypsy Roma, Irish, Black African and Any Other Black background – although for the first two of these categories, this is a rate based upon a very low local population.

Pupil level census data, held locally suggests that:

- The proportion of Minority Ethnic children being given fixed period exclusions from Southwark secondary schools has a fairly narrow range, from 72.4% in 2018/19 to 76.2% in 2014/15.
- In 2018/19, just under half (49.6%) of fixed period exclusions were of Black children.
- There has been a reduction in the fixed period exclusions of Black / Black British young people over recent years, with a corresponding increase being seen in the Other Ethnic Group and White categories.

However, scrutiny of the detailed ethnic groups showed that:

- Reductions seen in the Black / Black British category are a result of fewer Black Caribbean children being given fixed period exclusions. Black African and most of the other Black African subgroups saw increases. This mirrors DFE findings – as not only the number but the ‘rate’ of FPEs given to Black Caribbean children has fallen.
- The ‘Other Ethnic Group’, has a number of nationalities showing significant change over time, with the principal increase in the last two years being in the OLAM – Latin/South/C American subgroup, with minor fluctuations and decreases seen in the other groups.
- The proportion of FPEs given to White British children in Southwark secondary schools has also increased in the last year, with an additional small increase noted in the WTUC – Turkish Cypriot ethnic group.

Primary schools

In the primary phase, the rates of fixed period exclusions for many of the different ethnic groups have increased slightly, with the most notable increases seen in the Any Other Mixed Background and Mixed – White and Black African ethnicities. However, when comparing to the national average, it is clear that although rates increased for some groups, in most the rate in Southwark primary schools was lower than the national rate, with the exceptions being the Black Caribbean, Mixed White and Black Caribbean, Any other Mixed background, Any other white background, Any Other Ethnic Group and Chinese ethnic groups, all of which had slightly higher rates in Southwark than nationally.

Census data shows that generally between 77 and 85% of all FPEs given in Southwark primary schools are to Minority Ethnic pupils. The proportion rose to 84.5% in 2019/20 from 77.5% in 2018/19.

- Although proportions fluctuate, Black / Black British children consistently make up between 50 and 60% of all fixed period exclusions from Southwark primary schools and in the most recent two years children of dual heritage have represented over 20%.
- The number (and proportion) of Mixed White and Black Caribbean children has been steadily increasing by small increments year on year to the end of 2018/19. The greatest change in the Mixed category – and responsible for the increase seen in the most recent years is an increase in the ‘Other Mixed background’ category – which increased from 8 in 2018/19 to 24 in 2019/20.

Special schools

The rate of FPEs from Southwark special schools is only higher than the national rate in three categories, White and Black African, Any other Mixed background and Black African.

Data from the most recent census indicates that 75% of children attending Southwark special schools are Minority Ethnic; with the principal ethnicities in these schools being ‘Other Black African’ (23%), White British (16%), Black Caribbean (13%) and Any Other Black background (8%).

The proportion of FPEs given to Minority Ethnic children from Southwark special schools fluctuates year on year, with a range of 72% to 93%.