

Item No. 6 b	Classification: Open	Date: 18 November 2024	Meeting Name: Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission
Report title:		Southwark School Permanent Exclusions (November 2024)	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Jenny Brennan, Assistant Director, Family Early Help and Youth Justice	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission are asked to note the contents of this report and officers and representative head teachers will be available at the commission meeting on 18 November to answer questions and support the commission in its work.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The permanent exclusion of a pupil from a school is known to have a significant impact on a child and their family, both in the short and long term.
3. In order to improve the life chances of a child and provide them with the best tools for success in their future, it is therefore important that the council and its partners continue to scrutinise the use of exclusion in the borough, and for agencies to work together to reduce the need to use this sanction, and only use it when there is no alternative.
4. The council's Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission requested the following specific data to support their consideration of inclusion in Southwark schools.
 - Schools with high number of exclusions
 - Demographics of exclusions
 - Schools with no exclusions
5. In order to help the Commission in its work it is important to present such data alongside other data

6. This report serves as an update to the Permanent Exclusions in Southwark 2017-2023 completed in January 2024 (see Appendix 1).
7. Annual comparator data of permanent exclusions was last published in July 2024 for the school year 2022/23.
8. Census and local data has been used to estimate permanent exclusions in the 2023/24 academic year.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Permanent exclusion data

9. The rate of permanent exclusion from Southwark schools remains below the pre-pandemic level of 0.08 having risen to 0.05 in 2022/23 indicative figures for 2023/24 show a decrease to 0.04.
10. These rates equate to 5 pupils in 2021/22, 20 in 2022/23 and an indicative 15 in 2023/24.
11. The permanent exclusion of pupils from Southwark Primary Schools is extremely rare with only 1 recorded in 2023/24 and 1 from a Primary Special School in 2022/23.
12. Overall, permanent exclusion rates in 2022/23 were equivalent to the inner London rate, and lower than the national rate.

Permanent exclusion rates at local authority, Inner London and national level							
Phase	Location	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Local indicative 2023/24
Primary	Southwark	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Inner London	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	National	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.03	
Secondary	Southwark	0.21	0.06	0.07	0.03	0.10	0.07
	Inner London	0.16	0.08	0.06	0.07	0.10	
	National	0.20	0.13	0.10	0.16	0.22	
Special	Southwark	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.00
	Inner London	0.03	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.07	
	National	0.06	0.04	0.03	0.05	0.08	
Total	Southwark	0.08	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.05	0.04
	Inner London	0.07	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.05	
	National	0.10	0.06	0.05	0.08	0.11	
Source: School census, statistics: exclusions – GOV.UK							

Schools with lower and higher numbers of permanent exclusions

13. There are several Southwark secondary schools who have not permanently excluded a pupil in the last 5 years. The free school meal (FSM) rate has been added to give some context to the profile of pupils.

Secondary School with no PEX in previous 5 years	FSM rate
Kingsdale	15.3
St Saviours and St Olave's,	37.5
St Thomas the Apostle College	36.8

14. In the previous 3-year period this also includes the following schools who have not permanently excluded a child.

Secondary School with no PEX in previous 5 years	FSM rate
Harris Academy Peckham	50.1
Charter North Dulwich	16.0

15. Schools excluding the highest number of pupils over a 5-year period are.

Secondary School	Number of PEX over previous 5 academic years	FSM rate
Charter School Bermondsey (Compass)	9	55.2
Bacon's College	8	43.8
City of London Academy	7	43.6
Harris Academy Bermondsey	6	48.3

16. Schools excluding the highest number of pupils over a 3-year period.

Secondary School	Number of PEX over previous 3 academic years	FSM
Bacon's	5	43.8
City of London Academy	5	43.6
Haberdashers' Borough Academy	5	27.6

Demographics of children permanently excluded

Gender

17. The table below outlines the published rates of permanent exclusions from Southwark secondary schools by gender for the last five academic years, as well as indicative data from the most recent academic year.

18. 2022/23 data showed significant increases permanent exclusions for both girls and boys, although neither were above the national rates. The notable increase in permanent exclusion of girls in both 2020/21 and 2022/23 has now reduced by 4% to 0.04 and is below that of boys.

Table : DfE published rates of permanently excluded pupils (by gender)								
Gender	Southwark rates						National rates	
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24*	2021/22	2022/23
Girls	0.12	0.05	0.09	0.03	0.08	0.04	0.10	0.15
Boys	0.30	0.06	0.04	0.02	0.11	0.10	0.22	0.29
Indicative, using local census exclusions data, and spring census as proxy cohort group								

Year Group

19. Year groups with the highest rate of permanent exclusion in 2022/23 were Years 9 and 10, however neither had exclusion rates above the national.

20. Provisional rates for 2023/24 indicate that the year group with the highest rate of permanent exclusion was Year 10, however this rate is below the Southwark and national 2022/23 rate for this year group.

21. Of emerging concern in 2023/24 is Years 7 and Year 8, both of which saw increases between 2022/23 and 2023/24. Six of the fourteen permanent exclusions from Southwark schools were of pupils in these year groups.

Rates of permanent exclusions from secondary school by year group (NCY)											
NCY	2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23		2023/24
	SW	National	SW	National	SW	National	SW	National	SW	National	SW*
7	0.15	0.11	0.06	0.05	0.03	0.06	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.15	0.09
8	0.13	0.21	0.03	0.12	0.06	0.11	0.00	0.19	0.03	0.28	0.09
9	0.36	0.31	0.07	0.18	0.16	0.15	0.03	0.25	0.30	0.35	0.06
10	0.30	0.38	0.07	0.22	0.10	0.18	0.13	0.28	0.18	0.36	0.12
11	0.32	0.15	0.08	0.14	0.03	0.06	0.00	0.08	0.06	0.11	0.06
12+	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
• Indicative, using local census exclusions data, and spring census as proxy cohort group											

Ethnicity

22. 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) with indicative figures for 2023/24.

Rates of permanent exclusion per ethnicity group in Southwark, compared to the national rate								
Ethnicity	Rate of PEX in secondary schools					National rate	Comparison	2023/24*
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23			
Asian	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	▼	0.07
Black	0.24	0.04	0.05	0.01	0.09	0.17	▼	0.06
Mixed	0.20	0.14	0.18	0.08	0.04	0.28	▼	0.08
White	0.26	0.06	0.10	0.04	0.13	0.25	▼	0.09
Any other ethnic group	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	▼	0.07
Unclassified	0.17	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.39	0.30	▲	0.00

• Indicative, using local census exclusions data, and spring census as proxy cohort group

23. Although an increase was seen in permanent exclusions in 2022/23, no rate was above the national rate, with the exception of 'unclassified' (3 pupils).

24. The table below provides a more detailed breakdown of ethnicity group however given that there were 5 permanent exclusions in 2021/22, multiple ethnic groups saw increases in 2022/23, in terms of both the number and rate.

25. Particular increases were seen in the White British (from 2 to 7) and Black African (1 to 4) ethnic groups.

26. Indicative data for 2023/24 shows the increase in permanent exclusions of White British pupils in 2022/23 has somewhat reduced in 2023/24 (from 0.19 to a predicted 0.11). The group with the largest increase was seen in the Bangladeshi ethnic group – though it must be noted this ethnic group has a small community within Southwark, and the rate of 0.21 relates to one pupil.

27. Other than the artificially high rate for Bangladeshi pupils, when comparing the predicted 2023/24 figures with national figures for 2022/23, no ethnic group has a rate higher than the national rate.

Rates of permanent exclusion per detailed ethnicity group in Southwark										
Ethnicity	Number			Southwark Rate			National rate	2023/24*		
	2021/22	2022/23	DoT	2021/22	2022/23	DoT	2022/23			
Any other Asian background	0	0	▼	0.00	0.00	◀	0.08	0.00		
Any other Black background	0	1	▲	0.00	0.11	▲	0.22	0.00		
Any other Ethnic group	0	1	▲	0.00	0.07	▲	0.13	0.07		
Any other Mixed background	1	1	◀	0.09	0.09	▼	0.19	0.09		
Any other White background	0	0	▼	0.00	0.00	▼	0.13	0.06		
Bangladeshi	0	0	▼	0.00	0.00	◀	0.06	0.21		
Black African	1	4	▲	0.02	0.07	▲	0.12	0.05		
Black Caribbean	0	2	▲	0.00	0.13	▲	0.33	0.13		
Chinese	0	0	▼	0.00	0.00	◀	0.02	0.00		
Gypsy Roma	0	0	▼	0.00	0.00	◀	1.19	0.00		
Indian	0	0	▼	0.00	0.00	◀	0.03	0.00		
Irish	0	0	▼	0.00	0.00	▼	0.23	0.00		
Pakistani	0	0	▼	0.00	0.00	◀	0.13	0.00		
Traveller of Irish Heritage	0	0	▼	0.00	0.00	◀	1.19	0.00		
White and Asian	0	0	▼	0.00	0.00	◀	0.20	0.00		
White and Black African	1	0	▼	0.23	0.00	▼	0.28	0.00		
White and Black Caribbean	0	0	▼	0.00	0.00	▼	0.50	0.16		
White British	2	7	▲	0.06	0.19	▲	0.26	0.11		

Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

28. The table below shows the rate of permanent exclusions from Southwark secondary schools in terms of SEN status. There was an increase in both the number and rate of permanent exclusion of children with SEN support in 2022/23.

29. Indicative 2023/24 data shows that of the 14 pupils permanently excluded from Southwark secondary schools, none had an EHCP at the time of permanent exclusion and 8 were in receipt of SEN support (57% with SEND). This was a lower proportion than the 73% of children permanently excluded in 2022/23 who had SEND needs.

Number and rate of secondary phase permanent exclusions per SEN type in Southwark, compared to national rate										
SEN type	PEX (numbers)				PEX rate in Southwark			National PEX rate		
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24 ¹	DoT	2021/22	2022/23	DoT	2021/22	2022/23	DoT
EHCP	0	1	0	☐	0.00	0.19	☐	0.27	0.41	☐
SEN support	2	7	8	☐	0.07	0.25	☐	0.50	0.71	☐
No SEN	3	11	6	☐	0.02	0.07	☐	0.11	0.15	☐

Free school meals (FSM) eligibility

30. Eight of the fourteen permanent exclusions from 2023/24 were eligible for free school meals (57%)

Rates of permanent exclusions from secondary school by FSM eligibility											
	2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23		2023/24
	SW	National	SW	National	SW	National	SW	National	SW	National	SW
FSM eligible	0.45	0.60	0.10	0.35	0.10	0.27	0.05	0.44	0.14	0.60	0.11
FSM non eligible	0.13	0.14	0.04	0.08	0.06	0.06	0.02	0.08	0.07	0.11	0.05

¹ The one child permanently excluded from a primary school in 2023/24 had an EHCP.
Southwark School Permanent Exclusions (November 2024)

Alternatives to Permanent Exclusion and promoting inclusion

31. Following a Keeping Children in Education conference with schools and partners in 2020 an inclusion charter was developed with 14 principles and a focus on the need for cross system working to support children.
32. A cross system group for attendance and inclusion has been leading this work within the council alongside our response to the new statutory guidance on [Working Together to Improve School Attendance](#).
33. Progress against the Inclusion Charter principles are reviewed by the cross system group and the impact of this multi-agency collaboration with schools is reflected in the maintenance of exclusion rates below the national average.
34. Key achievements against the principles of multi-agency, evidence based working and collaborative support to work with schools, families and children include:
 - a) 177 Team Around the School (TAS) / Targeting Support meetings (TSM) held with 82 schools in 2023/24
 - b) Schools access to the Education Inclusion Handbook outlining the three-stage approach to attendance and inclusion: encouraging schools to have conversations with young people and their parents at the earliest opportunity; with the local authority able to provide help and support around often challenging conversations. Restorative trained staff are available to support conversations with parents as well as TAS and Team Around the Family (TAF) support for schools in assisting with managing relationships with parents
 - c) 768 consultations in the 2023/24 school year were provided by the Family Early Help Education Inclusion Team (an increase of 11% from 2022/23)
 - d) All children at risk of permanent exclusion offered whole family support and mentoring support provision through Power2 and St Giles Trust VRU funded provision (24 pupils)
 - e) Managed transfer to Southwark Inclusive Learning Service (SILS) process updated in 2023/24 with secondary schools (16 requests made and 13 approved)

- f) Increased mental health support to schools through the Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) in schools and The Nest School Engagement Team (30 Primary and 14 Secondary School) and Trauma Informed Weapons Awareness Programme providing targeted support in secondary schools from the Youth Justice Service
- g) The Education Psychology Service (EPS) provide a consultation model service, to a range of educational settings providing support for children from 0-25. EPS uses psychological and evidence-based approaches to work collaboratively with children, teaching staff and families to explore and problem solve issues that may impact on a child's access to education and/or the social, emotional and mental health
- h) SEND consultant link for all schools for advice and support
- i) EPS provides a Parent Consultation Service for families that wish to discuss home based issues – this is solution focused brief intervention. The service also includes Video Interactive Guidance (VIG) Practitioners which is a strengths-based intervention that focuses on attunement and positive interaction between parent and child or a key staff member and child.
- j) School nursing implementation of the Lancaster Model surveying 500 Year 9 children in 2023/24 and working in these schools to provide follow up whole school and targeted support
- k) Coordinated approach to all year 6 children in 2023/24 school year to offer transition support across education psychology, family early help, adolescent sure start and VCS provision to ensure all vulnerable children were offered targeted support (including 80 vulnerable children invited to a 10 day [Learning for Life](#) summer programme with evidence of increased confidence). SENDIP transition process embedded and available across all schools.
- l) Liaison with the SAFE Taskforce targeted mentoring, sports and cognitive behavioural therapy provision to develop an evidence base for what works to prevent serious youth violence.
- m) Launch of termly Keeping Children in Education forum for schools and partners 21/10/24 attended by over 100 school, local authority and partner agency staff
- n) Families of children & young people with SEND access impartial advice and support from [SIAS](#) in relation to exclusions or risk related issues. Families can self-refer to the service at any stage.

- o) Southwark Virtual School has purchased membership of the Attachment Research Community (ARC) for all Southwark Schools. ARC offers a framework for schools to audit trauma-informed practice in their school, review the need for trauma-informed training for staff and achieve a bronze, silver, gold kite mark for trauma-informed and relational practice. After nomination by the Virtual School Beormund School has been shortlisted for the Alex Timpson Award for trauma-informed practice which is a national award. Currently 47 Southwark schools have signed up to use the ARC tools and access the online learning.

Policy implications

- 35. Southwark 2030 ambitions include a good start in life and effective engagement in school life and academic achievement are key to realising this goal for all children.

Community impact statement

- 36. Inclusive practice within education benefits all members of the school and wider community. For children at risk of exclusion from school a systemic approach is needed with responsibilities shared to reduce inequalities, empower children and families and offer a preventative approach.

Resource implications

- 37. Additional interim staff have been approved to implement the new statutory duties contained within [Working Together to Improve School Attendance](#) which will also include support for inclusion.

Consultation

- 38. Secondary schools through SASH have had annual reports on permanent exclusions and suspensions circulated.
- 39. Southwark Youth Parliament were consulted on attendance issues in September 2024 and interested in ongoing engagement in our work on inclusion and attendance.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Working Together to Improve School Attendance		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Permanent Exclusions in Southwark 2017-2023

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Alasdair Smith, Director of Children's Services	
Report Author	Jenny Brennan, Assistant Director, Family Early Help and Youth Justice	
Version	Final	
Dated	8 November 2024	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Legal Services	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No
Cabinet Member	Yes/No	Yes/No
Date final report sent to Scrutiny Team	9 Nov 2024	