

<b>Item No.</b> 6 a	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 18 November 2024	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission
<b>Report title:</b>		Southwark School Persistent Absence (November 2024)	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		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 law entitles every child of compulsory school age to an efficient, full-time education suitable to their age, aptitude, and any special educational need they may have. It is the legal responsibility of every parent to make sure their child receives that education either by attendance at a school or by education otherwise than at a school<sup>1</sup>.
3. Where parents decide to have their child registered at a school, they have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends that school regularly. This means their child must attend every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence in advance from the school.
4. Attendance at school is essential for children to gain the most of their school experience including attainment, wellbeing and wider life chances. Pupils with higher rates of attendance have higher rates of attainment than those with the lowest attainment.
5. Regular school attendance also acts as a protective factor for vulnerable children and research highlights the association between absence and extra familial harm risk. As a proportion of the children who had been cautioned or sentenced for any offence, 81% had evidence of persistent absence and for those in the serious violence cohort this rose to 85%<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> [Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Education, children's social care and offending: local authority level dashboard, Academic year 2019/20 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)

6. In order to improve the life chances of a child and also provide an important protective factor for vulnerable children it is important that the council and its partners continue to scrutinise school attendance.
7. The council's Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission requested the following specific data to support their consideration of inclusion in Southwark schools.
  - Persistent absence (demographics of schools with absences)
8. In order to help the Commission in its work it is important to include general information on attendance as well as the focus requested on persistent absence.
9. Annual comparator data of absence from the census data submissions was last published in March 2024 for the school year 2022/23.
10. For the 24/25 school year, state funded schools have a duty to share information and use the DfE tool provided. The council has access to this tool but has requested schools to sign up to the *Studybugs* platform which provides us with direct access to live data.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

### Statutory requirements

11. Statutory guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities was published in [Working Together to improve school attendance](#) (WTTISA) in August 2024.
12. The guidance promotes a support first approach to attendance issues and includes a new national framework for penalty notices but expects:

*Where absence escalates and pupils miss 10% or more of school (equivalent to 1 day or more a fortnight across a full school year), schools and local authorities are expected to work together to put additional targeted support in place to remove any barriers to attendance and reengage these pupils. In doing so, schools should sensitively consider some of the reasons for absence and understand the importance of school as a place of safety and support for children who might be facing difficulties, rather than reaching immediately for punitive approaches.*

13. Schools have a duty to keep an attendance register, and take the register at the start of each morning session and once during each afternoon session. This requires recording whether a pupil is physically present and if not, the reason why they are not by using the appropriate national attendance and absence codes.
14. From 19/08/2024 all schools are expected to share live attendance information with the DfE through the View Your Education Data (VYED).

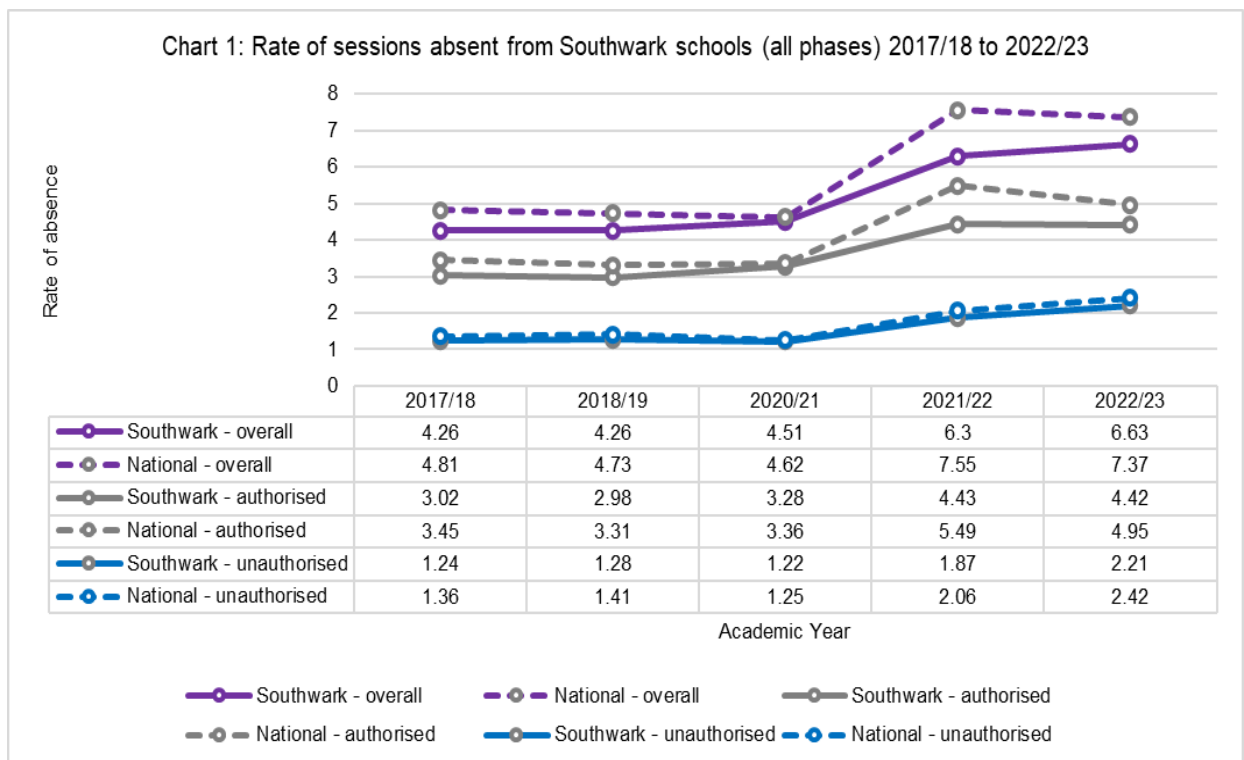
## Overall absence

15. Southwark's overall absence rates are positive, with absence rates for primary and secondary schools below inner London and national rates.
16. Overall absence rates from Southwark schools continue to be higher than pre-pandemic levels, with an increase seen in the most recently published academic year.
17. The overall absence rate from Southwark special schools is 1.5 times higher than pre-covid rates and over one percentage point higher than inner London and national rates.

Phase	Location	2017/18	2018/19	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Primary	Southwark	3.96	3.90	3.76	5.55	5.61
	Inner London	4.13	4.06	4.05	5.93	6.35
	National	4.17	4.03	3.64	6.26	5.90
Secondary	Southwark	4.55	4.59	4.95	6.94	7.47
	Inner London	4.97	4.96	5.21	7.31	7.96
	National	5.53	5.49	5.49	8.99	9.01
Special	Southwark	9.55	10.33	19.68	13.34	14.59
	Inner London	10.18	10.02	12.84	12.68	13.55
	National	10.22	10.13	15.21	13.18	13.02
Total	Southwark	4.26	4.26	4.51	6.30	6.63
	Inner London	4.54	4.51	4.67	6.63	7.18
	National	4.81	4.73	4.62	7.55	7.37

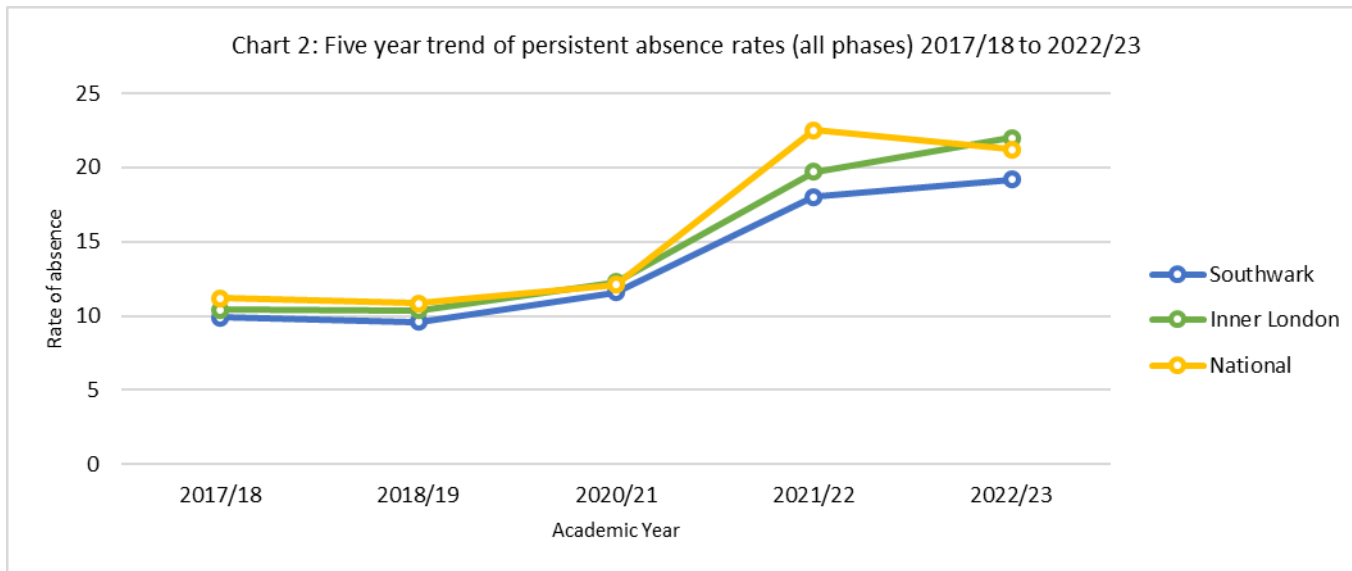
## Authorised and unauthorised absence

18. Authorised absence rates in Southwark are lower than the national authorised absence rates.
19. The rate of unauthorised absence has increased, both nationally and within Southwark. Southwark remains below the national rate.
20. The special phase is the only phase in Southwark with higher levels of authorised and unauthorised absence than the national rates.



## Persistent absence<sup>3</sup>

21. Chart 2 below shows the five-year trend of persistent absence rates in Southwark, compared to the inner London and national rates.



22. Southwark is performing well in this domain. Although substantial increases have been seen between 2021/22 and 2022/23, and rates are far higher than the pre-pandemic period, Southwark's rate is consistently below the inner London and national rates.

23. The national rate fell in the most recent period, although increases were seen in both inner London and Southwark. The rate of increase was steeper in inner London than Southwark.

24. For context, the 2022/23 Southwark rates relate to 6,930 children missing 10% or more of school sessions, up from 6,535 in 2021/22. 2,954 of these children are in primary school, 3,742 of these children in secondary school, and 234 in special schools.

25. Southwark's primary and secondary school persistent absence rates are below inner London and national rates, whereas the rate for special schools is between them.

<sup>3</sup> <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/methodology/pupil-absence-statistics-methodology> a pupil is classified as a persistent absentee if they miss 10% or more of their own possible sessions. Therefore, if an enrolment's overall absence rate is 10% or higher, they will be classified as persistently absent

## Persistence absence by gender

### Primary school

26. Persistent absence rate for boys in primary schools increased between 2021/22 and 2022/23 and is approaching the national rate, but the rate for girls decreased slightly in the same period.

Table 2: Persistent absence rates from Southwark primary schools by gender									
Type	Gender	2017/18	2018/19	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Inner London	National	Benchmarking
Persistent absence	Boys	8.77	8.25	9.34	15.58	16.48	20.10	16.68	▼
	Girls	8.67	8.24	9.29	15.47	15.42	18.59	15.72	▼

### Secondary school

27. Post pandemic, girls in Southwark secondary schools have higher rates of persistent absence than boys and this matches the inner London and national trend.

28. Southwark is below inner London and national rates for persistence absence for both girls and boys.

Table 3: Absence rates from Southwark secondary schools by gender									
Type	Gender	2017/18	2018/19	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Inner London	National	Benchmarking
Persistent absence	Boys	11.70	11.71	12.55	18.92	21.12	24.01	25.28	▼
	Girls	10.43	10.71	12.87	21.38	22.79	24.76	27.80	▼

### Special school

29. Persistent absence for girls in Southwark special schools has doubled since the pandemic and for both boys and has continued to increase over the last 3 school years but remains below the rate for boys.

30. Southwark is above the inner London and national persistent absence rates for boys but the rate for girls is below both.

Table 4: Absence rates from Southwark special schools by gender									
Type	Gender	2017/18	2018/19	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Inner London	National	Benchmarking
Persistent absence	Boys	26.47	30.53	59.66	39.96	41.40	41.22	37.70	▲
	Girls	20.48	19.77	63.55	27.19	38.35	45.96	40.04	▼

## Persistent by year group

31. The tables below illustrate the year groups with the highest rates of persistent absence and how Southwark's rates compare to inner London and national rates.

### Primary schools

32. Years 1 to 4 saw increases in the rate of persistent absence in 2022/23, when compared to the previous academic year, whereas Years 5 and 6 saw small reductions.

Table 5: Persistent absence in Southwark primary schools by year group						
Absence type	Southwark rate			Inner London rate	National rate	Benchmarking
	2021/22	2022/23	DoT	2022/23	2022/23	
Year 1 and below	18.56	18.70	▲	23.61	18.89	▼
Year 2	15.09	16.19	▲	20.16	15.86	◀
Year 3	14.44	14.66	▲	18.09	14.85	▼
Year 4	13.42	14.96	▲	17.56	14.93	◀
Year 5	14.79	14.62	▼	17.49	15.35	▼
Year 6	14.15	13.89	▼	16.33	15.42	▼

33. Southwark's rates are below inner London and national rates for persistent absence in four year groups, and between the inner London and national rate in years 2 and 4.

### Secondary schools

34. Persistent absence increased between 2021/22 and 2022/23 in Southwark secondary schools in the Year 8, 9 and 11 year groups, with the largest increase seen in Year 11 (3.79 percentage points). Overall, Year 10 has the highest persistent absence rate (23.91).

35. Although increases were seen in some year groups between 2021/22 and 2022/23, the persistent absence rate for all year groups was below inner London and national averages.

Table 7: Persistent absence in Southwark secondary schools by year group						
Absence type	Southwark rate			Inner London rate	National rate	Benchmarking
	2021/22	2022/23	DoT	2022/23	2022/23	
Year 7	15.37	15.35	▼	18.28	19.56	▼
Year 8	18.50	21.23	▲	23.16	24.99	▼
Year 9	21.42	23.86	▲	25.96	28.43	▼
Year 10	24.61	23.91	▼	27.58	29.26	▼
Year 11	19.66	23.45	▲	26.49	30.15	▼

## Special schools

36. Except for Year 9, persistent absence increased for all year groups in special schools, with the highest persistent absence rates being in Year 10 (a rate of 49.30).

37. Year groups showing the greatest increases in persistent absence in 2022/23 were Year 3, which increased by 19.81 percentage points to 45.45 and Year 2, which increased by 13.89 percentage points to 46.15.

Absence type	Southwark rate			Inner London rate	National rate	Benchmarking
	2021/22	2022/23	DoT	2022/23	2022/23	
Year 1 and below	45.16	47.22	▲	53.23	42.96	◀
Year 2	32.26	46.15	▲	45.88	38.56	▼
Year 3	25.64	45.45	▲	45.37	35.61	▲
Year 4	26.67	34.09	▲	43.73	34.47	▼
Year 5	33.33	34.35	▲	38.68	34.13	◀
Year 6	30.56	35.71	▲	40.57	34.18	◀
Year 7	30.88	34.67	▲	38.11	34.57	◀
Year 8	35.62	37.31	▲	37.00	37.54	◀
Year 9	46.38	34.67	▼	42.61	40.07	▼
Year 10	48.57	49.30	▲	45.61	43.17	▲
Year 11	38.81	39.68	▲	43.55	44.03	▼

38. Except for Years 2, 4, 9 and 11 all persistent absence rates from Southwark special schools are either above the inner London and national rates or between them.

39. The rate of persistent absence of Year 10 pupils in Southwark special schools (49.30) is above the inner London (45.61) and national (43.17) rate.



## Persistent absence by ethnic background

40. Although persistent absence rates increased for Minority Ethnic pupils in 2022/23, when compared to 2021/22 they remain below the inner London and national rates.

41. This is not the case for White British pupils, where although decreases were seen in overall absence, authorised absence, and persistent absence all rates are between inner London and national rates.

<b>Table 11: Persistent absence rates from Southwark schools (all phases) of Minority Ethnic pupils</b>						
Absence type	Southwark rate			Inner London rate	National rate	Benchmarking
	2021/22	2022/23	DoT	2022/23	2022/23	
Persistent absence	16.38	18.34	▲	21.94	21.37	▼

42. Southwark's persistent absence rates for 2022/23 show that White British pupils continue to have higher persistent absence rates than Minority Ethnic pupils.

<b>Table 12: Persistent absence rates from Southwark schools (all phases) of White British pupils</b>						
Absence type	Southwark rate			Inner London rate	National rate	Benchmarking
	2021/22	2022/23	DoT	2022/23	2022/23	
Persistent absence	23.02	21.81	▼	22.23	21.14	◀

## Persistent absence for children with SEND

### Primary schools

43. Persistent absence for children with an EHCP in Southwark primary schools increased between 2021/22 and 2022/23 but remained below the inner London and national rate.

44. The rates of persistent for children with SEN support and severe absence decreased between 2021/22 and 2022/23 and are below inner London and national rates.

45. The persistent absence rate of children with an EHCP is 1.9 times higher than those with no SEND needs in Southwark primary schools and 1.6 times higher for those with SEN support needs.

Table 13: Persistent absence rates per SEN type in Southwark primary schools							
Absence type	SEN type	Southwark rate			Inner London	National	Benchmarking
		2021/22	2022/23	DoT	2022/23	2022/23	
Persistent absence	EHCP	24.92	25.96	▲	31.63	30.99	▼
	SEN support	22.55	22.22	▼	25.92	24.77	▼
	No SEN	13.26	13.75	▲	17.05	13.91	▼

### Secondary schools

46. In terms of secondary schools all groups (EHCP, SEN support and No SEN needs) increased in the rate of persistent absence between 2021/22 and 2022/23 but remained below inner London and national comparator rates.

47. The persistent absence rate for children with SEN support was slightly higher than the rate for children with an EHCP. These rates were 1.6 times higher than for children with no SEND needs.

Table 14: Absence rates per SEN type in Southwark secondary schools							
Absence type	SEN type	Southwark rate			Inner London	National	Benchmarking
		2021/22	2022/23	DoT	2022/23	2022/23	
Persistent absence	EHCP	27.59	31.03	▲	32.51	39.13	▼
	SEN support	29.12	31.83	▲	34.32	39.05	▼
	No SEN	17.73	19.46	▲	22.15	23.78	▼

## Special schools

48. There are far fewer pupils at special schools with SEN support (58, compared to 6045 with EHCPs) therefore the rates generated may be artificially higher for the SEN support category.

49. Persistent absence in special schools increased between 2021/22 and 2022/23, with authorised absence, unauthorised absence and severe absence being above both inner London and national rates.

Table 15: Persistent absence rates per SEN type in Southwark special schools							
Absence type	SEN type	Southwark rate			Inner London	National	Benchmarking
		2021/22	2022/23	DoT	2022/23	2022/23	
Persistent absence	EHCP	36.35	40.04	▲	42.15	37.84	◀
	SEN support	83.33	75.00	▼	62.07	67.11	▲

50. There are clear differences between the rates of persistent absence for children with EHCPs in primary schools, secondary schools, and special schools, with the persistent absence rate 1.3 times higher in special schools.

## Individual school persistent absence rates

### Primary schools

51. For primary schools the persistence absence rate ranges from 4.52 to 36.07

School	Persistent Absence (10) %			
	2018/19	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
John Keats Primary School	n/a	20.99	33.85	36.07
Cobourg Primary School	10.80	10.76	14.17	32.12
Peter Hills with St Mary's and St Paul's CofE Primary School	11.04	9.16	18.18	31.73
Alfred Salter Primary School	9.52	18.10	27.71	27.03
Friars Primary Foundation School	17.32	19.35	28.99	26.62
Oliver Goldsmith Primary School	12.11	14.38	27.21	26.35
Tower Bridge Primary School	10.84	24.84	24.53	25.81
Michael Faraday School	9.27	11.05	20.48	25.00
Comber Grove School	12.24	14.29	26.92	23.53
St Jude's Church of England Primary School	11.83	14.85	15.53	22.99
Harris Primary Free School Peckham	7.90	13.71	13.85	22.90
John Donne Primary School	6.25	10.39	15.92	22.66
Brunswick Park Primary School	5.35	9.23	15.58	22.37
Pilgrims' Way Primary School	8.89	11.11	23.98	22.29
Snowsfields Primary School	14.53	5.29	26.25	21.71
Surrey Square Primary School	9.59	13.82	15.66	21.58
St George's Church of England Primary School	9.03	15.71	25.15	21.56
Galleywall	11.67	6.69	18.06	21.28
Rotherhithe Primary School	10.11	14.08	26.30	20.82
Townsend Primary School	6.58	9.64	20.65	20.66
Bellenden Primary School	10.96	12.57	14.01	20.50
Keyworth Primary School	8.70	12.32	19.29	20.20
Goose Green (2859 & 2008)	10.32	10.20	19.17	20.09
Ilderton Primary School	8.56	10.23	18.99	19.63
St Joseph's Catholic Infants School	7.02	7.38	15.45	19.54
Southwark Park Primary School	13.48	11.17	19.38	19.53
Crampton Primary	8.99	3.85	14.05	18.92
Albion Primary School	10.30	11.46	17.53	18.91
Grange Primary School	15.22	18.15	17.92	18.88
St Francesca Cabrini Primary School	8.73	10.43	14.69	18.75
Saint Joseph's Catholic Primary School, the Borough	2.23	7.51	6.94	18.24
Lyndhurst Primary School	8.52	8.07	19.64	18.18
Charlotte Sharman Primary School	10.08	8.24	9.25	17.96
St John's Roman Catholic Primary School	7.26	11.11	16.48	17.92
Dog Kennel Hill School	11.27	10.34	10.95	17.67
Dulwich Wood Primary School	8.56	11.26	13.46	17.66

Angel Oak Academy	14.04	6.91	13.42	17.63
John Ruskin Primary School and Language Classes	5.42	8.94	12.64	17.43
St James' Church of England Primary School	8.10	8.29	18.62	17.31
Crawford Primary School	9.96	10.84	16.54	17.13
Phoenix Primary School	8.85	9.90	14.20	16.52
St Francis RC Primary School	7.02	8.99	14.11	16.14
Rye Oak Primary School	10.00	10.30	19.64	15.79
St Peter's Church of England Primary School	13.90	10.49	11.76	15.00
Hollydale Primary School	6.88	9.20	13.41	14.86
Victory Primary School	10.45	3.60	18.58	14.15
St Mary Magdalene Church of England Primary School	9.50	14.49	12.15	13.68
St Joseph's Catholic Junior School	9.28	3.77	11.11	13.62
Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park	10.70	12.45	14.35	13.45
Redriff Primary School	7.50	4.27	11.93	13.23
Robert Browning Primary School	2.54	5.52	18.18	12.65
Heber Primary School	10.74	9.20	20.18	11.73
St John's and St Clement's Church of England Primary School	7.04	6.46	13.80	11.25
Harris Primary Academy East Dulwich	0.90	10.20	12.86	10.20
St George's Cathedral Catholic Primary School	4.39	4.65	11.83	10.19
The Cathedral School of St Saviour and St Mary Overie	1.14	1.13	14.20	10.17
Goodrich Community Primary School	5.83	7.80	14.86	10.17
Bessemer Grange Primary School	4.56	7.95	13.15	10.05
Boutcher Church of England Primary School	3.80	4.89	7.03	9.19
Camelot Primary School	8.70	3.73	5.19	9.09
St Paul's CofE Primary School, Walworth (3573 & 2010 for 2018/19)		14.92	13.33	9.04
Ivydale Primary School	8.73	6.19	15.21	8.87
Judith Kerr Primary School	5.56	3.39	15.26	8.52
The Belham Primary School	0.43	11.45	7.65	8.13
St Anthony's Catholic Primary School	2.56	2.42	10.27	8.12
Dulwich Village Church of England Infants' School	2.17	5.59	6.45	7.18
St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School	2.17	2.96	8.96	7.14
Charles Dickens Primary School	7.38	8.20	18.13	7.03
St James the Great Roman Catholic Primary School	8.57	4.60	8.47	6.67
English Martyrs' Roman Catholic Primary School	3.14	2.63	5.32	6.53
Riverside Primary School	6.46	6.39	8.40	5.00
Dulwich Hamlet Junior School	1.93	3.25	8.99	4.92
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	1.76	2.82	4.52	4.52

52. The following table describes some of the demographics of the school population that will influence and impact school attendance such as size, location, free school meals, special needs alongside rates of exclusion, suspension and persistent absenteeism.

Primary School	No on roll	FSM rate (summer 2023/24)	Deprivation rate (summer 2023/24)	EHCP rate (2023/24)	SEN support rate (2023/24)	PEX rate 2022/23	Suspension rate 2022/23	Persistent absence 2022/23
John Keats Primary School	319	61.44	28.53	4.08	26.33	0.00	0.00	36.07
Peter Hills with St Mary's and St Paul's CofE Primary School	128	51.56	12.50	12.50	13.28	0.00	0.00	31.73
Alfred Salter Primary School	401	26.43	17.71	6.23	21.45	0.00	1.00	27.03
Friars Primary Foundation School	188	44.68	44.68	4.26	23.94	0.00	0.00	26.62
Oliver Goldsmith Primary School	404	53.22	10.15	2.97	8.42	0.00	0.28	26.35
Tower Bridge Primary School	198	59.09	30.81	4.55	22.73	0.00	10.50	25.81
Michael Faraday School	437	36.38	31.58	2.97	22.65	0.00	1.61	25.00
Comber Grove School	124	37.90	6.45	1.61	16.94	0.00	1.67	23.53
St Jude's Church of England Primary School	74	45.95	20.27	6.76	9.46	0.00	0.00	22.99
John Donne Primary School	401	54.11	17.21	4.74	11.22	0.00	3.69	22.66
Brunswick Park Primary School	411	50.36	3.41	5.35	17.76	0.00	0.00	22.37
Pilgrims' Way Primary School	217	49.31	32.72	2.76	15.21	0.00	1.41	22.29
Snowsfields Primary School	196	52.55	23.47	11.73	15.31	0.00	0.53	21.71
Surrey Square Primary School	467	58.46	25.27	5.35	18.63	0.00	1.95	21.58
St George's Church of England Primary School	173	49.13	9.83	8.09	15.61	0.00	0.00	21.56
Galleywall Primary School	382	42.15	34.82	4.71	16.23	0.00	3.68	21.28
Rotherhithe Primary School	339	43.07	49.56	4.42	19.17	0.00	1.49	20.82
Bellenden Primary School	211	40.76	9.48	2.84	16.59	0.00	0.00	20.50
Keyworth Primary School	356	55.06	6.74	4.21	12.08	0.00	0.00	20.20
Goose Green Primary School	254	45.28	9.06	2.76	22.05	0.00	0.33	20.09
Ilderton Primary School	208	37.02	40.38	4.33	13.94	0.00	0.00	19.63
St Joseph's Camberwell Catholic Schools' Federation (Infants)	106	27.36	12.26	2.83	19.81	0.00	0.00	19.54
Southwark Park Primary School	420	43.57	26.67	6.43	18.57	0.00	4.48	19.53

Crampton Primary School	208	34.62	5.29	1.92	24.52	0.00	0.98	18.92
Albion Primary School	448	38.39	30.36	4.91	20.31	0.00	0.23	18.91
Grange Primary School	313	52.08	41.85	4.79	21.09	0.00	2.79	18.88
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, the Borough	183	37.70	27.32	6.56	18.58	0.00	3.08	18.24
Lyndhurst Primary School	431	22.97	2.09	3.94	12.99	0.00	8.52	18.18
Charlotte Sharman Primary School	181	38.67	28.18	3.31	18.23	0.00	1.63	17.96
St Johns Primary School	228	29.39	22.81	3.07	15.35	0.00	1.38	17.92
Dog Kennel Hill School	246	39.02	10.16	3.25	16.67	0.00	0.00	17.67
Dulwich Wood Primary School	405	25.68	34.07	2.47	31.60	0.00	1.02	17.66
Angel Oak Academy	411	46.96	15.57	4.62	7.06	0.00	0.73	17.63
John Ruskin Primary School and Language Classes	490	47.76	19.80	11.84	12.45	0.00	1.04	17.43
St James' Church of England Primary School	412	69.66	43.45	6.55	18.20	0.00	0.00	17.31
Crawford Primary School	373	48.53	13.14	1.88	30.56	0.00	2.20	17.13
Phoenix Primary School	512	39.26	29.69	0.78	16.02	0.00	1.27	16.52
St Francis RC Primary School	289	39.10	17.99	6.23	17.65	0.00	0.00	16.14
Rye Oak Primary School	283	56.89	13.43	12.01	30.74	0.00	0.73	15.79
St Peter's Church of England Primary School	161	50.31	24.22	4.97	10.56	0.00	3.93	15.00
Hollydale Primary School	151	38.41	12.58	5.96	16.56	0.00	1.27	14.86
Victory Primary School	140	50.00	25.71	2.14	22.14	0.00	0.00	14.15
St Mary Magdalene CofE Primary School	103	49.51	8.74	7.77	26.21	0.00	0.88	13.68
St Joseph's Camberwell Catholic Schools' Federation (KS2)	226	40.71	11.06	4.87	13.72	0.00	0.00	13.62
Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park	352	55.97	17.33	2.84	8.24	0.00	0.00	13.45
Redriff Primary School	493	22.11	12.17	6.90	15.82	0.00	5.39	13.23
Robert Browning Primary School	206	46.12	23.79	11.17	36.89	0.00	1.99	12.65
Heber Primary School	422	13.27	1.90	2.37	12.80	0.00	0.00	11.73
St John's and St Clement's Church of England Primary School	361	21.05	4.16	4.43	15.79	0.00	1.68	11.25
Harris Primary Academy East Dulwich	373	18.23	3.75	1.88	13.40	0.00	0.00	10.20
St George's Cathedral Catholic Primary	186	33.33	22.58	3.23	17.74	0.00	0.00	10.19
Goodrich Community Primary School	508	22.05	1.18	1.57	20.87	0.00	0.19	10.17
The Cathedral School of St Saviour and St Mary Overy	212	19.81	25.47	2.83	16.04	0.00	0.00	10.17
Bessemer Grange Primary School	569	21.27	3.69	3.34	11.95	0.00	0.00	10.05
Boutcher Church of England Primary School	209	33.97	43.06	2.87	25.36	0.00	0.00	9.19

St Paul's CE Primary School	185	45.95	19.46	1.62	20.54	0.00	0.52	9.04
Ivydale Primary School	486	16.67	14.61	4.32	15.43	0.00	0.20	8.87
Judith Kerr Primary School	393	4.58	5.09	2.29	9.16	0.00	0.79	8.52
The Belham Primary School	398	13.82	1.51	2.01	9.55	0.00	5.49	8.13
St Anthony's Catholic Primary School	437	27.69	7.32	3.66	18.31	0.00	0.46	8.12
Dulwich Village Church of England Infants' School	249	8.03	1.61	4.82	9.24	0.00	0.00	7.18
St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School (George Row)	326	29.75	34.05	2.15	8.90	0.00	0.00	7.14
Charles Dickens Primary School	478	41.63	25.94	3.35	12.55	0.00	0.82	7.03
St James the Great Primary School	235	38.30	11.91	4.26	15.32	0.00	0.00	6.67
English Martyrs Primary School	373	38.07	30.03	2.14	16.89	0.00	0.00	6.53
Riverside Primary School	290	36.55	36.55	2.76	12.76	0.00	0.00	5.00
Dulwich Hamlet Junior School	357	14.57	1.68	5.60	14.01	0.00	3.07	4.92
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Gomm Road)	222	26.13	43.69	4.05	11.26	0.00	0.00	4.52
Bird In Bush School	485	51.55	17.32	4.33	23.30			



## Secondary schools

53. All schools have faced challenges with persistent absence post covid but rates of persistent absenteeism vary from 9.62 to 37.74 (2022/23 data).

School	Persistent Absence (10) %			
	2018/19	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
South Bank University Academy (OPENED 01/09/2014)	11.40	17.43	32.81	37.74
Bacon's College (6911 & 4005)	14.67	15.04	26.61	28.38
Ark Walworth Academy	13.61	24.34	26.10	28.19
The Charter School East Dulwich (OPENED 12/09/2016)	11.21	10.65	20.19	27.35
Compass School Southwark	20.15	21.03	34.22	27.33
Haberdashers' Borough Academy (OPENED 02/09/2019)	n/a	9.43	19.31	27.24
Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich	8.01	10.42	23.77	27.23
City of London Academy (Southwark)	18.33	22.16	31.25	26.60
Harris Academy Peckham	14.49	16.10	19.83	24.41
Ark All Saints Academy	11.66	12.91	21.41	20.81
Notre Dame Roman Catholic Girls' School	11.99	10.66	19.48	20.43
The Charter School North Dulwich	10.33	7.83	21.46	20.17
Harris Academy Bermondsey	12.15	11.24	20.07	20.09
St Saviour's and St Olave's Church of England School	8.52	8.65	13.35	17.38
Kingsdale Foundation School	5.44	8.15	12.54	16.09
Harris Boys' Academy East Dulwich	7.61	4.95	15.04	15.84
The St Thomas the Apostle College	11.74	7.13	11.88	13.65
St Michael's Catholic College	6.62	8.53	11.76	12.30
Sacred Heart Catholic School	9.42	4.72	11.35	9.62

54. The following table describes some of the demographics of the

school population that will influence and impact school attendance such as size, location, free school meals, special needs alongside rates of exclusion, suspension and persistent absenteeism.

Secondary School	No on roll	FSM rate (summer 2023/24)	Deprivation rate (summer 2023/24)	EHCP rate (2023/24)	SEN support rate (2023/24)	PEX rate 2022/23	Suspension rate 2022/23	Persistent absence 2022/23
University Academy of Engineering South Bank	587	46.17	18.74	2.56	7.84	0.31	28.13	37.74
Bacon's College	1016	44.49	26.48	2.95	11.42	0.19	11.28	28.38
Ark Walworth Academy	997	62.59	26.88	2.11	13.04	0.00	0.19	28.19
The Charter School East Dulwich	1249	23.38	2.64	4.00	15.85	0.00	11.76	27.35
The Charter School Bermondsey	446	56.05	32.51	5.83	25.11	0.25	13.58	27.33
Haberdashers' Borough Academy	870	34.14	30.00	2.64	17.36	0.43	24.86	27.24
Harris Girls Academy East Dulwich	864	39.00	14.24	1.62	7.52	0.23	7.76	27.23
City of London Academy	1561	43.88	28.06	2.31	15.50	0.13	18.96	26.60
Ark Globe Academy	1317	60.52	25.51	2.66	17.54	0.07	20.61	25.51
Harris Academy Peckham	623	50.88	12.20	1.28	18.46	0.00	4.24	24.41
Ark All Saints Academy	587	59.63	9.20	3.75	16.52	0.00	11.39	20.81
Notre Dame School	506	41.90	17.19	4.15	3.56	0.38	14.78	20.43
The Charter School North Dulwich	1322	15.96	3.33	5.45	18.23	0.00	7.29	20.17
Harris Academy Bermondsey	866	49.88	30.72	0.92	8.66	0.23	7.84	20.09
St. Saviour's & St. Olave's School	742	41.64	23.99	1.89	11.46	0.00	12.20	17.38
Kingsdale Secondary School	2521	15.31	7.42	3.21	15.83	0.00	0.04	16.09
Harris Boys' Academy East Dulwich	883	34.65	11.10	2.04	14.27	0.23	2.62	15.84
St Thomas the Apostle College	1107	37.76	18.70	2.80	10.03	0.00	9.70	13.65
St Michael's Catholic College	955	30.26	21.88	3.35	7.23	0.00	8.63	12.30
Sacred Heart RC School	865	39.54	15.95	2.66	7.63	0.00	13.91	9.62

## Promoting school attendance

55. The council's Family Early Help Service deliver a Team Around the School approach and have single points of contacts for all schools with the council's Education Inclusion Team also available for consultation. This team also hold the statutory duties for enforcement and use of sanctions.

56. In the 2023/24 school year Family Early Help facilitated 177 Team Around the School meetings and trialed the new Targeting Support Meetings required as part of the new [Working Together to Improve School Attendance](#) (WTTISA) duties. The aim of these is to:

- identify, discuss, and agree action plans and joint approaches for severely absent pupils (attendance less than 50%) where they do not already have a plan in place;
- discuss and agree approaches for persistently absent pupils where they have barriers to attendance that require a multi-agency response to overcome;
- agree which agency will act as lead practitioner, which will be the school in most cases, but can be a local authority or partner team where there are multiple needs if they are the most appropriate service.

57. Over 1300 children where the were attendance concerns were discussed in these meetings and actions agreed to support improvements.

58. 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 WTTISA.

## Policy implications

59. 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**

60. Inclusive practice within education benefits all members of the school and wider community. For children who are persistently absent from school a systemic approach is needed with responsibilities shared to reduce inequalities, empower children and families and offer a preventative support first approach.

## **Resource implications**

61. 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 attendance.

## **Consultation**

62. All schools and their attendance champions were invited to a Keeping Children in Education network meeting in October 2024 to share best practice. This will become a termly event and opportunity for partners to work with schools to promote what works to improve attendance.

63. 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
<a href="#">Working Together to Improve School Attendance</a>		
<a href="#">Education, children's social care and offending: local authority level dashboard, Academic year 2019/20 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK</a>		

## APPENDICES

No.	Title

## AUDIT TRAIL

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