

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

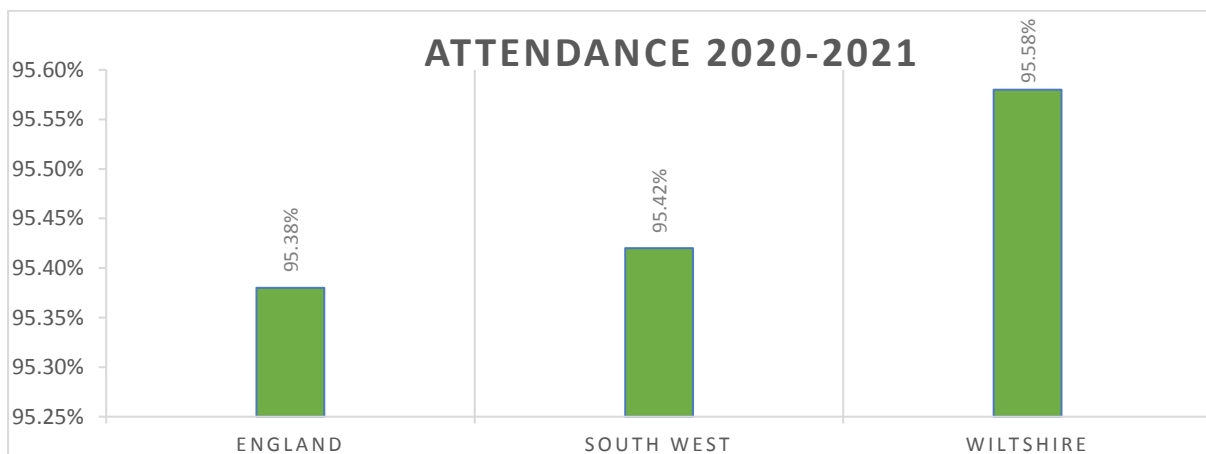
25 October 2022

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## Regular Update to Children's Select Committee: Working Together to Support School Attendance

### DfE Published Attendance Data

1. The impact of robust attendance practice can be seen in Wiltshire's published attendance data for 2020-2021.



2. Wiltshire had better attendance than 128 other local authorities in England, placing Wiltshire in the top 15% of local authorities for attendance performance in 2020-2021
3. Wiltshire ranks as 14<sup>th</sup> nationally for attendance performance.

### Attendance in 2022-2023

4. As previously reported to the Children's Select Committee, we are re-modelling the attendance offer in Wiltshire in line with new DfE guidance 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance' (effective September 2022). Current practice includes:
  - a. Maintained schools receive an allocation of Education Welfare Service (EWS) time which can be used for consultation, support and guidance, strategic development and case management processes. Academies who subscribe to EWS will receive the same offer of service dependent on the hours they choose to purchase.

- b. All schools (maintained and academies) will have a Targeting Support Meeting in the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms. We will prioritise schools where we have identified higher rates of persistent and severe absence from our analysis of attendance data.
- c. All Education Welfare Officers will offer a fortnightly attendance focus/surgery for their designated schools. This will be an online group drop-in session where schools can discuss concerns, seek advice, guidance and solutions, and share good practice.

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Karen Green – Assistant Manager, Education Welfare Service

On behalf of Kathryn Davis – Head of Targeted Education

11<sup>th</sup> October 2022