

TITLE:	Attendance Summary
REPORT DATED:	15 November 2024
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The 2024 DfE guidance for school attendance has statutory status with effect from 19th August 2024. In addition to the [Working Together to Improve School Attendance](#) statutory guidance. T

- The [Education \(Information About Individual Pupils\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2024](#). These regulations mandate the sharing of attendance data with the DfE
- The [School Attendance \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2024](#). These regulations govern all aspects of attendance and admission registers. This includes changes to deletions from school roll and the introduction of new attendance and absence codes to support better understanding and analysis of reasons for absence from school
- The [Education \(Penalty Notices\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2024](#). These regulations introduce a standard national approach to how local authorities and schools can issue penalty notices related to absence from school.

2. Implementation of statutory guidance and Regulations

2.1 We have published a suite of guidance documents, resources and templates to support schools with compliance relating to the new statutory guidance and regulations. There has been a review of council processes and procedures that ensure the authority is also compliant and has a clear strategic response to supporting improvements in attendance.

2.2 We will continue to deliver the Improving School Attendance programme throughout this academic year. Feedback from previous sessions indicates that schools have found the focus on improving outcomes for disadvantaged learners has been helpful – supporting them with tools and resources to focus on belonging and attendance for these learners.

2.3 A series of Senior Attendance Champion network meetings has been scheduled:

- 1 session held attended by representatives from 21 schools. The focus of this meeting was the changes to the penalty notice process arising from the new regulations. The next session will focus on Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) at the request of attendees. This session will be led by the Wiltshire Educational Psychology Service

- 2 sessions at the School Business Manager Forum – attendance will be a standing item into next academic year.
- Contribution to new headteacher induction.
- Contribution to new school business manager session.

3. Attendance Data

3.1 Breakdown of the attendance data from Wiltshire schools. This is the latest published data by the DfE (October 2024) Time period: 2023/24 Autumn and Spring term

Source: *Explore Education Statistics > Pupil absence in schools in England > Autumn Spring 2024 data:*

Green highlighting – better than national and regional

Yellow highlighting – higher than national but lower than regional

		South West		England
		Wiltshire	South West	
Total	Number of pupil enrolments	62,115	679,871	7,375,396
	Overall absence rate	5.8%	7.4%	6.9%
	Authorised absence rate	5.1%	5.3%	4.7%
	Unauthorised absence rate	0.8%	2.1%	2.2%
	Percentage of persistent absentees - 10% or more sessions missed	28.1%	20.3%	19.2%
Special	Number of pupil enrolments	946	11,861	138,422
	Overall absence rate	12.1%	13.4%	13.0%
	Authorised absence rate	9.5%	10.2%	9.8%
	Unauthorised absence rate	2.6%	3.2%	3.1%
	Percentage of persistent absentees - 10% or more sessions missed	31.8%	37.8%	36.8%
State-funded primary	Number of pupil enrolments	33,223	356,470	3,904,687
	Overall absence rate	5.1%	5.5%	5.4%
	Authorised absence rate	4.2%	4.3%	4.0%
	Unauthorised absence rate	0.9%	1.2%	1.4%
	Percentage of persistent absentees - 10% or more sessions missed	15.2%	14.4%	14.7%
State-funded secondary	Number of pupil enrolments	27,946	311,540	3,332,287
	Overall absence rate	8.8%	9.5%	8.5%
	Authorised absence rate	6.0%	6.4%	5.3%
	Unauthorised absence rate	2.8%	3.1%	3.2%
	Percentage of persistent absentees - 10% or more sessions missed	33.1%	26.4%	23.9%

3.2 Live attendance data is available via the DfE WONDE portal. The DfE has mandated data sharing through new regulations and WONDE is the preferred mechanism for this. Whilst this data is not published it is a useful tool for benchmarking in real time. We now have 233 Wiltshire schools submitting data via WONDE

In addition we are making use of Group Call to extract and review attendance data from Wiltshire schools. There is now a data analyst in post who is using Group Call data to develop robust attendance review and scrutiny to inform attendance service delivery and facilitate targeted support to schools where attendance may be of concern. We are greatly supported in this by new regulations which introduced new attendance and absence codes to better define absence reasons.

3.3 Source: WONDE DfE

Current academic year up to Thursday 14 November 2024

Number of pupils 68,934		Overall attendance % 94.2%		Overall absence % 5.8%		Unauthorised absence % 1.6%	
Persistently absent				Severely absent			
Number of persistently absent pupils		Percentage of persistently absent pupils		Number of severely absent pupils		Percentage of severely absent pupils	
10,977		15.9%		1,293		1.9%	

The data reflects better performance in Wiltshire than nationally.

94.2% of sessions were recorded as attending in Wiltshire (compared to 94.1% of sessions at national level).

PUPILS WITH AN EHCP

Current academic year up to Thursday 14 November 2024

Number of pupils 4,092		Overall attendance % 86.9%		Overall absence % 13.1%		Unauthorised absence % 3.2%	
Persistently absent				Severely absent			
Number of persistently absent pupils		Percentage of persistently absent pupils		Number of severely absent pupils		Percentage of severely absent pupils	
1,312		32.1%		340		8.3%	

PUPILS WITH SEN SUPPORT INDICATOR

Number of pupils 9,825		Overall attendance % 91.8%		Overall absence % 8.2%		Unauthorised absence % 2.5%	
Persistently absent				Severely absent			
Number of persistently absent pupils		Percentage of persistently absent pupils		Number of severely absent pupils		Percentage of severely absent pupils	
2,162		22.0%		369		3.8%	

PUPILS WITH FSM INDICATOR

Current academic year up to Thursday 14 November 2024

Number of pupils 11,964	Overall attendance % 89.8%	Overall absence % 5.8%	Unauthorised absence % 3.6%
Persistently absent		Severely absent	
Number of persistently absent pupils 3,525	Percentage of persistently absent pupils 29.5%	Number of severely absent pupils 573	Percentage of severely absent pupils 4.8%

4. Recommendation

4.1 For the committee to note this update.