



## London Borough of Enfield

<b>Report Title</b>	School Attendance and Exclusions
<b>Report to</b>	Thriving Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	4 December 2024
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr Abdul Abdullahi
<b>Executive Director / Director</b>	Tony Theodoulou, Executive Director of People and Peter Nathan, Director of Education
<b>Report Authors</b>	Ian Hewison, Head of Admissions, Attendance & School Place Planning Mark Maidens, Head of Service, Primary Behaviour Support Mervin Cato, Head of Service, Secondary Support Service
<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	All
<b>Classification</b>	Part 1 Public

### Purpose of Report

To update the scrutiny panel on the current state of attendance and exclusion in the borough of Enfield

### 1. Main Considerations for the Panel

#### Overview of Attendance and Persistent Absence (PA)

geographic_level	school_type	Att	PA
National	Total	93.07	19.23
National	State-funded primary	94.6	14.66
National	State-funded secondary	91.5	23.85
National	Special	87.05	36.77

geographic_level	school_type	Att	PA
London	Total	93.87	17.23
London	State-funded primary	94.75	14.55
London	State-funded secondary	93.08	19.62
London	Special	87.39	38.06
geographic_level	school_type	Att	PA
Enfield	Total	93.72	18.07
Enfield	State-funded primary	94.6	14.97
Enfield	State-funded secondary	93.05	20.61
Enfield	Special	86.07	41.5

Term 1&2  
Data for  
the  
Academic  
Year  
2023/24 -  
Latest DfE  
release:  
October  
17, 2024

## Key Findings

When comparing to national averages, Enfield performs better in five of the eight areas measured, including total borough attendance and persistent absence in secondary schools. Notably, primary attendance has reached parity with national levels.

However, against London averages, Enfield is lower in seven of the eight metrics, maintaining a marginally equal standing in one area. Ranking among Outer London boroughs, Enfield sits at 17th out of 20 for total attendance.

Enfield's primary school attendance remains below both London and national averages for persistent absence. Despite this, the data indicates an increase in attendance at national, regional, and local levels compared to the same period last year, with Enfield showing greater growth than both national and regional averages.

For secondary schools, attendance is slightly below Outer London averages but exceeds the national average by 1.55%, a significant margin. As with primary schools, secondary attendance has also increased more than national and regional trends.

## 2. Background

### Strategic Plan for Improvement

Recognizing the need for further improvement, I have developed a **Strategic Plan for Improving Attendance and Reducing Persistent Absence in Enfield**.

#### Goals:

- **Short-term (2 years):** Achieve better overall attendance and lower absence rates than Outer London averages.
- **Long-term (4 years):** Position Enfield among the top 25% of Outer London boroughs in attendance metrics.

**Approach:** To achieve these goals, we will implement changes based on the updated guidance in "Working Together to Improve School Attendance." This guidance emphasizes a collaborative approach involving school staff, governing bodies, local authorities, and community partners. Key actions include:

- **Fostering a Culture of Attendance:** Schools will establish consistent messaging and initiatives, such as reward systems for high attendance.
- **Developing Comprehensive Attendance Policies:** Schools will build strong relationships with families to understand and address unique challenges.

**Data-Driven Strategies:** The guidance also encourages schools to share attendance data electronically. Utilizing platforms like Wonde and Studybugs, we will track attendance systematically, enabling us to analyse:

- Attendance at local authority, individual school, and pupil levels
- Breakdown by attendance code
- Vulnerable cohorts (e.g., free school meals, SEN)
- Roll counts by year group and phase
- Notifications of suspensions and exclusions

This data-driven approach will facilitate targeted interventions, allowing us to allocate resources effectively.

**Multi-Disciplinary Support for Severe Absences:** For students with severe absence (below 50%), the local authority (LA) will establish multi-disciplinary support panels (MDSP). These panels will identify students in need and create actionable plans, involving practitioners best suited to address individual needs. Collaboration across various Enfield departments will strengthen support networks.

All schools are expected to track attendance weekly at individual, year group, and whole school levels. Communication should begin as soon as attendance falls below 95%, with initial statutory interventions as needed.

To support schools, we have:

- Shortened statutory legal processes
- Implemented a new penalty notice code of conduct
- Simplified EWO time allocation
- Provided guidance on best practices and the "Working Together" documents

We will monitor live DfE data, half-termly Studybugs reports, and other systems to inform resource allocation throughout the academic year.

### **3. Relevance to Council Plans and Strategies**

#### **Timeline for Implementation**

##### **This Academic Year:**



Suspension rate	10.9	<b>9.2</b>	5.85	9.22	<b>8.1</b>	5.11	18.9	<b>13.9</b>	8.5
Permanent exclusion	0.03	<b>0.03</b>	0.04	0.13	<b>0.09</b>	0.07	0.22	<b>0.15</b>	0.99
Total									
Suspension rate	5.9	<b>4.7</b>	2.9	4.77	<b>4.1</b>	2.6	9.33	<b>6.9</b>	4.3
Permanent exclusion	0.01	<b>0.16</b>	0.16	0.07	<b>0.05</b>	0.03	0.11	<b>0.07</b>	0.05

The National permanent exclusion rate for all schools is 0.11%, with Enfield's rate at 0.01%, (eight pupils) making it the third lowest in London and the sixth lowest nationally. This achievement reflects the exceptional work of the secondary behaviour support team.

For suspensions, the national rate is 9.33%, while Enfield's rate of 5.9% places it in the top quarter of performance.

Notably, half of our permanent exclusions originated from a single academy, and a quarter of our suspensions were reported by a different academy.

For the eighth consecutive year, Enfield recorded zero permanent exclusions in the primary phase.

## 2. Background

### **Primary team - Strengthening Wellbeing, Emotional health, Relationships and Readiness for Learning (SWERRL)**

The SWERRL Team provide a specialist multi-disciplinary service to schools. The team supports schools in their positive inclusion of primary aged pupils who experience social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) difficulties. When a school raise their concern that a pupil is at risk of permanent exclusion, SWERRL initiate a multi-agency meeting (MAC) involving Admissions, EPS, SWERRL, Virtual School, and any other agencies where necessary. These are known as MAC meetings and explore other options which may have not been considered.

The Service provide both Outreach and Onsite assessment and bespoke interventions. The Service also provide tailored professional learning to Enfield school staff in relation to children's social, emotional, and mental health needs. This means that there were also **ZERO** permanent exclusions for 2023 – 2024.

The numbers behind this excellent work are:

- Worked with **50** Enfield Primary Schools, supporting **87** pupils who needed interventions.
- Delivered **8** whole school training sessions.
- Delivered Restraint training to **149** members of staff.
- Delivered over **500** individual pupil consultations.

- **25** families, including **42** pupils supported through family interventions.

## **Secondary Behaviour Support Service (SBSS) NEXUS**

NEXUS has built positive relationships with all schools in order to collaborate with students, family, staff and community with the shared goal of reducing permanent exclusions and young people's involvement in criminal activity or violence. An agreement was put in place with Headteachers that before they permanent exclusion they would contact SBSS to discuss.

Permanent exclusions have a detrimental impact on young people and the wider community, creating significant educational gaps that affect life chances. Excluded children are more vulnerable to criminal exploitation, violence, and face long-term academic and social struggles. Evidence shows that criminals often exploit exclusion to manipulate behaviour for further exploitation. It is vital that this cycle is broken.

By reducing permanent exclusions, NEXUS within the Secondary Behaviour Support Service in Enfield, aims to decrease youth crime by keeping young people in school, supporting schools, and providing diversionary activities.

Created in 2018, with the support of councillors in Enfield, NEXUS has addressed high exclusion rates and the disconnection between young people, schools, and the community. It provides an innovative, community-based response, offering support to schools through organizations and community leaders to reduce exclusions and foster a cultural shift in how young people are supported.

### **3. Relevance to Council Plans and Strategies**

Both SWERRL and SBSS are working on **Year 6 – 7 Transition Project**. **Both teams are** working collaboratively with a small cohort of identified pupils over the second half term of summer 24 and first half term of autumn 24. This entailed individual work with pupils, building key relationships with their secondary schools and follow up sessions in the secondary schools.

It is hoped that this approach will lower permanent exclusions in years 7 and 8.

Report Authors: Ian Hewison  
Head of Service – Attendance and Admissions  
[ian.hewison@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:ian.hewison@enfield.gov.uk)  
020 8132 0395

Mark Maidens  
Head of Service – Primary Behaviour Support  
[Mark.Maidens@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.Maidens@enfield.gov.uk)  
020 3855 5879

Mervin Cato  
Head of Service – Secondary Support Service  
[mervin.cato@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:mervin.cato@enfield.gov.uk)  
020 8132 0317

**Appendices**

N/A

**Background Papers**

N/A

**Departmental reference number, if relevant:**

N/A