

# Education: School Exclusions/Persistent Absence Summary (2022/23)

- **Suspensions have continued to increase locally and nationally** with the rate in B&NES being similar to that in England in 2022/23 (both 9.3%).
    - Suspensions in the **FSM eligible** cohort continue to be **higher** in B&NES than England (28% B&NES, 22% England in 2022/23).
    - Suspensions in the **SEN with EHCP cohort** are **higher** than national and have been for a number of years (36% B&NES, 22% England in 2022/23).
    - Previously in B&NES, suspension rates were highest amongst Black and Mixed Race pupils for a number of years. However, in 2022/23 the suspension rate **fell in Black pupils** to below the national level for the first time since at least 2007/8. The highest suspension rates in 2022/23 were in **Mixed Race** and **White** pupils in B&NES as well as England.
  - **Permanent exclusions increased notably** in B&NES in 2022/23 and are higher than the national rate, equating to **39** permanent exclusions, an increase from 13 in 2021/22. **Thirty-six** of the 39 permanent exclusions were in **secondary** schools.
    - There was a **notable increase** in the permanent exclusion rate in the **FSM eligible cohort**, this is equivalent to a rise from 4 permanent exclusions in 2021/22 to 25 in 2022/23.
    - The permanent exclusion rate in the **SEN support cohort** also **increased**, equivalent to a rise from 6 in 2021/22 to 13 in 2022/23.
    - In 2022/23, the permanent exclusion rate was **highest** in B&NES in **Asian** and **White** pupils (equivalent to 1 and 33 permanent exclusions respectively).
- Note:** Given the time-lag\* in the availability of this published data, internal data suggests an **improving trend** in the number of **permanent exclusions** in 2023/24.
- **Persistent absence** is notably higher since the Covid pandemic in both B&NES and England. However, the rates in B&NES continue to be **below** national and regional levels (B&NES 23.4%, England 26.5%, SW 28.1% in secondary schools in 2022/23).



\*Exclusions data is collected two terms in arrears to allow time for any independent review panels and governing body reconsiderations to be concluded before supplying information to DfE. Data on persistent absence is collected one term in arrears in the school census. Data for the previous full academic year is published mid-July for Exclusions and mid-April for persistent absence.