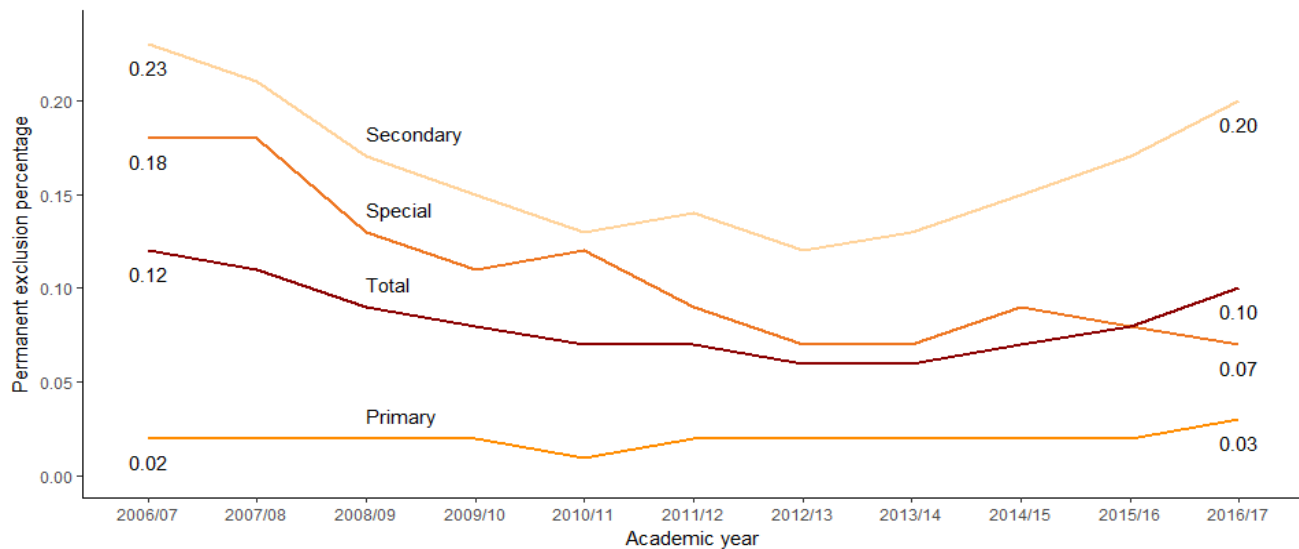




# Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions in England: 2016 to 2017

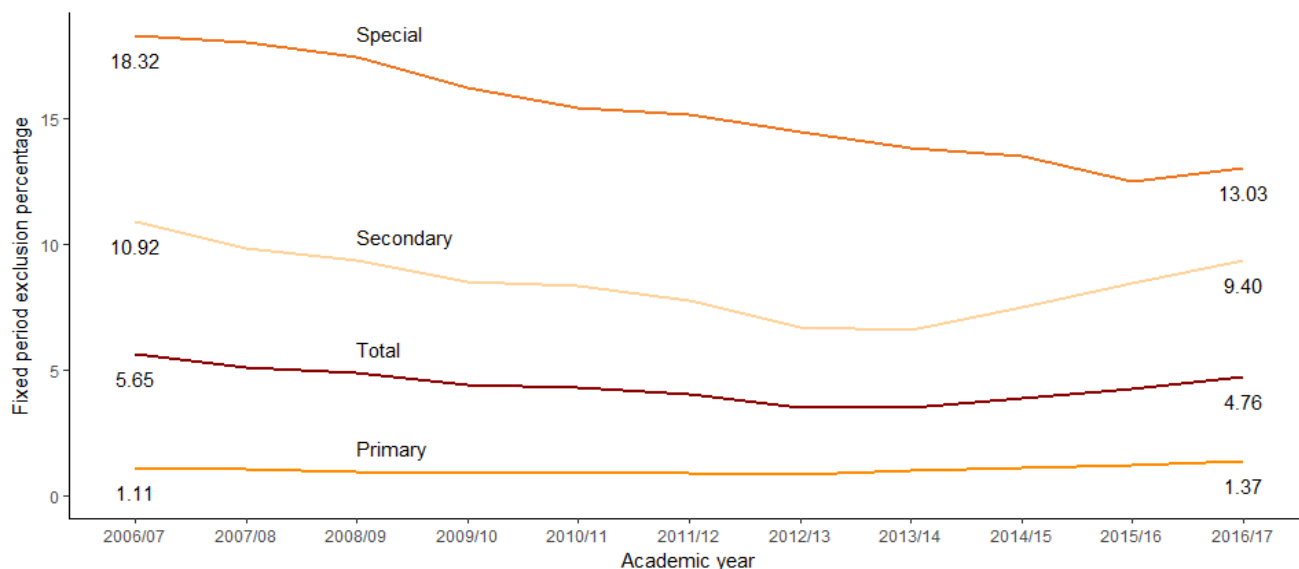
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The number and rate of permanent exclusions have increased since last year



The overall rate of permanent exclusions has increased from 0.08 per cent of pupil enrolments in 2015/16 to 0.10 per cent in 2016/17. The number of exclusions has also increased, from 6,685 to 7,720.

The number and rate of fixed period exclusions have also increased since last year



The overall rate of fixed period exclusions increased, from 4.29 per cent of pupil enrolments in 2015/16 to 4.76 per cent in 2016/17. The number of exclusions has also increased, from 339,360 to 381,865.

## Contents

1.	Permanent exclusions .....	3
2.	Fixed period exclusions .....	3
3.	Number and length of fixed period exclusions (Table 11 & 12) .....	4
4.	Reasons for exclusions (Table 4) .....	5
5.	Exclusions by pupil characteristics (Tables 2, 3, 5, 8 & 9).....	6
6.	Independent exclusion reviews (Table 13) .....	7
7.	Exclusions from pupil referral units (Table 15).....	7
8.	Exclusions by local authority (Table 16) .....	8
9.	Background: Additional information and updates .....	8
10.	Accompanying tables .....	8
11.	Further information is available .....	9
12.	Revisions .....	9
13.	National Statistics .....	9
14.	Technical information .....	10
15.	Get in touch .....	10
	Media enquiries .....	10
	Other enquiries/feedback .....	10

### About this release

This National Statistics release reports on permanent and fixed period exclusions from state-funded primary, state-funded secondary and special schools during the 2016/17 academic year as reported in the School Census. This release also includes school level exclusions figures for state-funded primary, secondary and special schools and national level figures on permanent and fixed period exclusions from pupil referral units. All figures in this release are based on unrounded data; therefore, constituent parts may not add up due to rounding.

An [Exclusions statistics guide](#), which provides historical information on exclusion statistics, technical background information to the figures and data collection, and definitions of key terms should be referenced alongside this release.

### In this publication

The following tables are included in the statistical publication:

- National tables (Excel .xls and open format)
- LA tables
- Underlying data (open format .csv and metadata .txt).

The underlying data is accompanied by a metadata document that describes underlying data files.

### Feedback

We welcome feedback on any aspect of this document at [schools.statistics@education.gov.uk](mailto:schools.statistics@education.gov.uk)

# 1. Permanent exclusions

## Permanent exclusion rate definition

A permanent exclusion refers to a pupil who is excluded and who will not come back to that school (unless the exclusion is overturned). The permanent exclusion rate is calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Number of permanent exclusions recorded across the academic year}}{\text{Number of sole and dual registered pupils on roll as at January census day}} \times 100$$

The number of permanent exclusions across all state-funded primary, secondary and special schools has increased from 6,685 in 2015/16 to 7,720 in 2016/17. This corresponds to around 40.6 permanent exclusions per day<sup>1</sup> in 2016/17, up from an average of 35.2 per day in 2015/16.

The rate of permanent exclusions across all state-funded primary, secondary and special schools has also increased from 0.08 per cent to 0.10 per cent of pupil enrolments, which is equivalent to around 10 pupils per 10,000.

Most (83 per cent) permanent exclusions occurred in secondary schools. The rate of permanent exclusions in secondary schools increased from 0.17 per cent in 2015/16 to 0.20 per cent in 2016/17, which is equivalent to around 20 pupils per 10,000.

The rate of permanent exclusions also rose in primary schools, at 0.03 per cent, but decreased in special schools from 0.08 per cent in 2015/16 to 0.07 per cent in 2016/17.

Looking at longer-term trends, the rate of permanent exclusions across all state-funded primary, secondary and special schools followed a generally downward trend from 2006/07 when the rate was 0.12 per cent until 2012/13, and has been rising again since then, although rates are still lower now than in 2006/07.

# 2. Fixed period exclusions

## Fixed period exclusion rate definition

Fixed period exclusion refers to a pupil who is excluded from a school for a set period of time. A fixed period exclusion can involve a part of the school day and it does not have to be for a continuous period. A pupil may be excluded for one or more fixed periods up to a maximum of 45 school days in a single academic year. This total includes exclusions from previous schools covered by the exclusion legislation.

$$\frac{\text{Number of fixed period exclusions recorded across the academic year}}{\text{Number of sole and dual registered pupils on roll as at January census day}} \times 100$$

A pupil may receive more than one fixed period exclusion, so pupils with repeat exclusions can inflate fixed period exclusion rates.

The number of fixed period exclusions across all state-funded primary, secondary and special schools has increased from 339,360 in 2015/16 to 381,865 in 2016/17. This corresponds to around 2,010 fixed period exclusions per day<sup>1</sup> in 2016/17, up from an average of 1,786 per day in 2015/16.

The rate of fixed period exclusions across all state-funded primary, secondary and special schools has also increased from 4.29 per cent to per cent of pupil enrolments in 2015/16 to 4.76 per cent in 2016/17, which is equivalent to around 476 pupils per 10,000.

There were increases in the number and rate of fixed period exclusions for state-funded primary and secondary schools and special schools:

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<sup>1</sup> Calculated by dividing the total number of exclusions by 190 school days.

- In state-funded primary schools, the number of fixed period exclusions increased from 55,740 in 2015/16 to 64,340 in 2016/17, whilst the rate of fixed period exclusions increased from 1.21 per cent to 1.37 per cent.
- In state-funded secondary schools, the number of fixed period exclusions increased from 270,135 in 2015/16 to 302,890 in 2016/17, which corresponded to an increase in the rate of fixed period exclusions from 8.46 per cent to 9.4 per cent.
- In special schools, the number of fixed period exclusions increased in special schools from 13,485 in 2015/16 to 14,635 in 2016/17, an increase in the rate of fixed period exclusions from 12.53 per cent to 13.03 per cent.

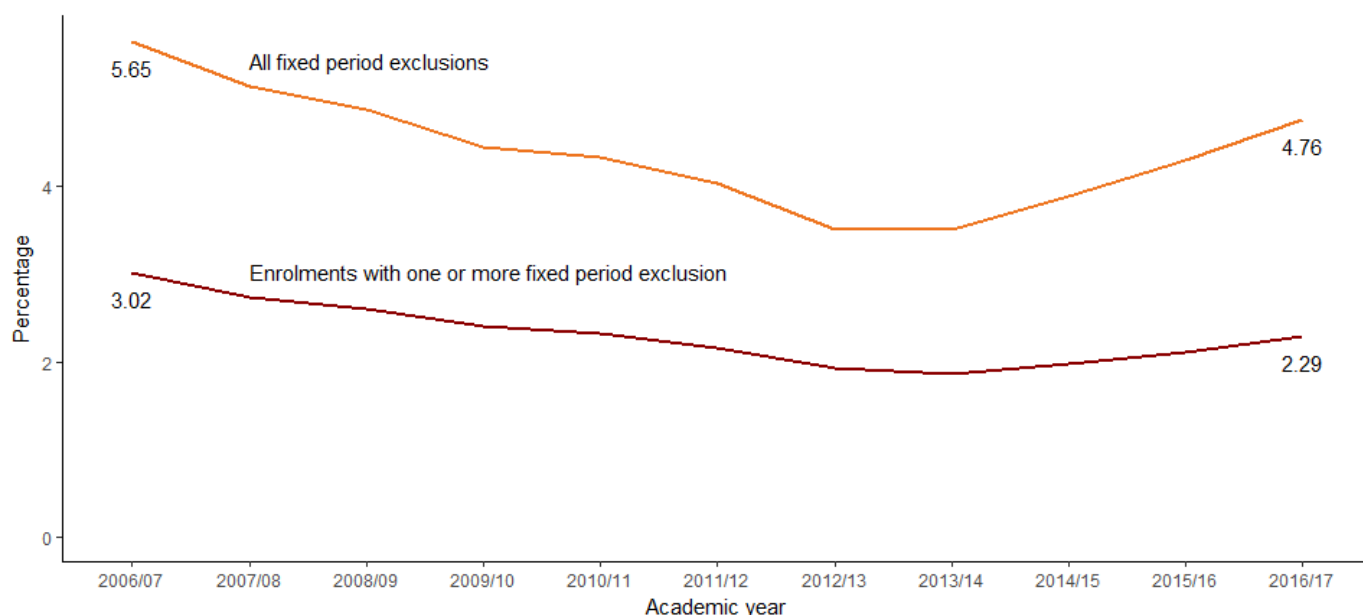
### 3. Number and length of fixed period exclusions (Table 11 & 12)

#### Enrolments with one or more fixed period exclusion definition

Pupils with one or more fixed period exclusion refer to pupil enrolments that had at least one fixed period exclusion across the full academic year. It includes those with repeated fixed period exclusions.

#### Chart 1: Pupil enrolments with at least one fixed period exclusion

England, Academic years 2006/07 to 2016/17



In state-funded primary, secondary and special schools, there were 183,475 pupil enrolments, 2.29 per cent, with at least one fixed term exclusion in 2016/17, up from 167,125 pupil enrolments, 2.11 per cent, in 2015/16.

Of those pupils with at least one fixed period exclusion, 59.1 per cent were excluded only on one occasion, and 1.5 per cent received 10 or more fixed period exclusions during the year. The percentage of pupils with at least one fixed period exclusion that went on to receive a permanent one was 3.5 per cent.

The average length of fixed period exclusions across state-funded primary, secondary and special schools in 2016/17 was 2.1 days, slightly shorter than in 2015/16.

The highest proportion of fixed period exclusions (46.6 per cent) lasted for only one day. Only 2.0 per cent of fixed period exclusions lasted for longer than one week and longer fixed period exclusions were more prevalent in secondary schools.

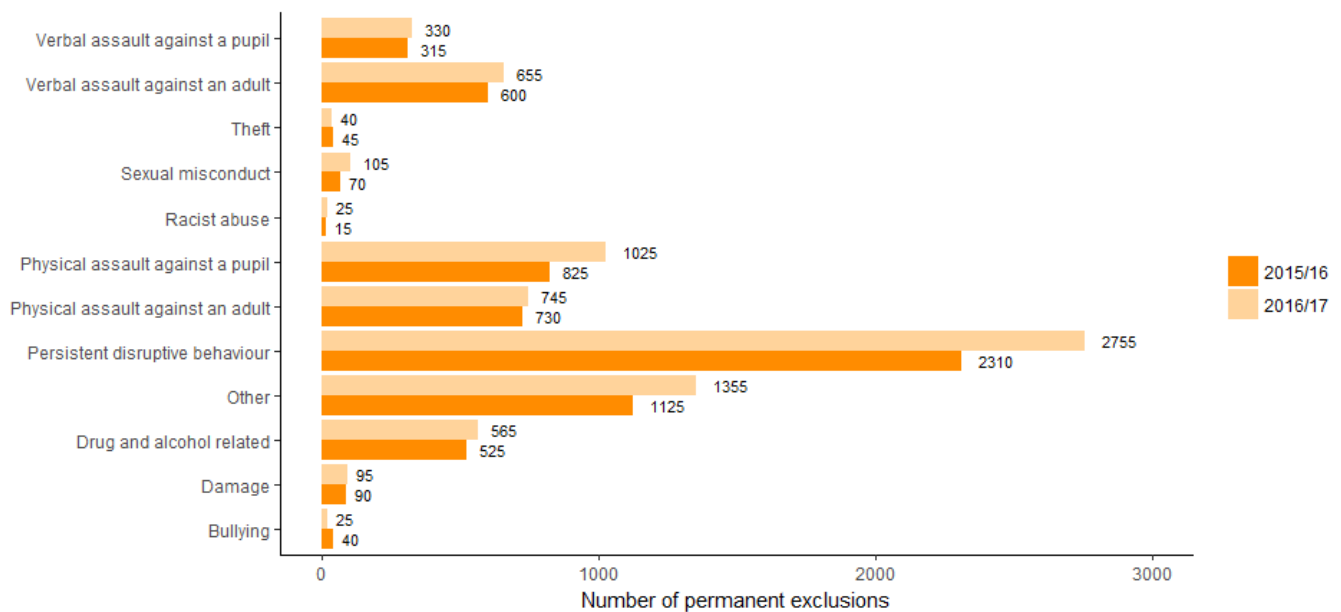
## 4. Reasons for exclusions (Table 4)

Persistent disruptive behaviour remained the most common reason for permanent exclusions in state-funded primary, secondary and special schools - accounting for 2,755 (35.7 per cent) of all permanent exclusions in 2016/17. This is equivalent to 3 permanent exclusions per 10,000 pupils. However, in special schools alone, the most common reason for exclusion was physical assault against an adult, which made up 37.8 per cent of all permanent exclusions and 28.1 per cent of all fixed period exclusions.

All reasons except bullying and theft saw an increase in permanent exclusions since last year. The most common reasons - persistent disruptive behaviour, physical assault against a pupil and other reasons had the largest increases.

### Chart 2: Reasons for permanent exclusions

England, Academic years 2015/16, 2016/17

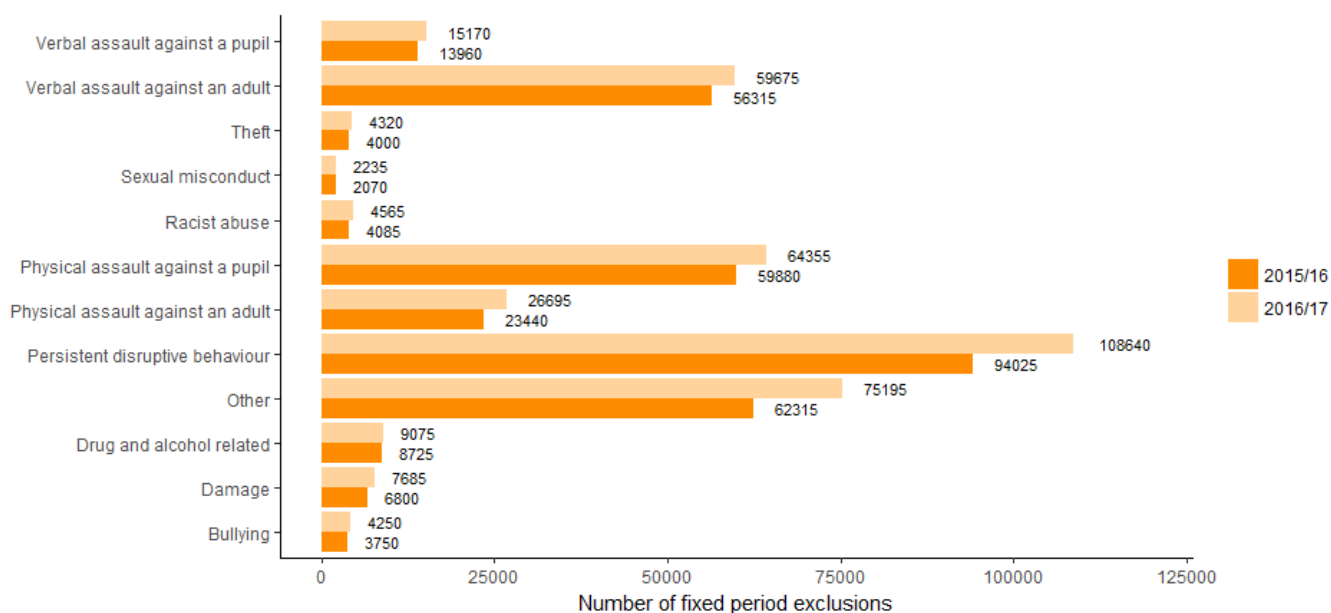


Persistent disruptive behaviour is also the most common reason for fixed period exclusions. The 108,640 fixed period exclusions for persistent disruptive behaviour in state-funded primary, secondary and special schools made up 28.4 per cent of all fixed period exclusions, up from 27.7 per cent in 2015/16. This is equivalent to around 135 fixed period exclusions per 10,000 pupils.

All reasons saw an increase in fixed period exclusions since last year. Persistent disruptive behaviour and other reasons saw the biggest increases.

### Chart 3: Reasons for fixed period exclusions

England, Academic years 2015/16, 2016/17



## 5. Exclusions by pupil characteristics (Tables 2, 3, 5, 8 & 9)

In 2016/17 we saw a similar pattern by pupil characteristics to previous years. The groups that we usually expect to have higher rates are the ones that have increased exclusions since last year e.g. boys, pupils with special educational needs, pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals and national curriculum years 9 and 10.

### Age, national curriculum year group and gender

- Over half of all permanent (57.2 per cent) and fixed period (52.6 per cent) exclusions occur in national curriculum year 9 or above.
- A quarter (25.0 per cent) of all permanent exclusions were for pupils aged 14, and pupils of this age group also had the highest rate of fixed period exclusion, and the highest rate of pupils receiving one or more fixed period exclusion.
- The permanent exclusion rate for boys (0.15 per cent) was over three times higher than that for girls (0.04 per cent) and the fixed period exclusion rate was almost three times higher (6.91 compared with 2.53 per cent).

### Free school meals (FSM) eligibility

- Pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals (FSM) had a permanent exclusion rate of 0.28 per cent and fixed period exclusion rate of 12.54 per cent - around four times higher than those who are not eligible (0.07 and 3.50 per cent respectively).
- Pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals (FSM) accounted for 40.0 per cent of all permanent exclusions and 36.7 per cent of all fixed period exclusions.

### Special educational need (SEN)

- Pupils with identified special educational needs (SEN) accounted for around half of all permanent exclusions (46.7 per cent) and fixed period exclusions (44.9 per cent).
- Pupils with SEN support had the highest permanent exclusion rate at 0.35 per cent. This was six times higher than the rate for pupils with no SEN (0.06 per cent).

- Pupils with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan or with a statement of SEN had the highest fixed period exclusion rate at 15.93 per cent - over five times higher than pupils with no SEN (3.06 per cent).

### Ethnic group

- Pupils of Gypsy/Roma and Traveller of Irish Heritage ethnic groups had the highest rates of both permanent and fixed period exclusions, but as the population is relatively small these figures should be treated with some caution.
- Black Caribbean pupils had a permanent exclusion rate nearly three times higher (0.28 per cent) than the school population as a whole (0.10 per cent). Pupils of Asian ethnic groups had the lowest rates of permanent and fixed period exclusion.

## 6. Independent exclusion reviews (Table 13)

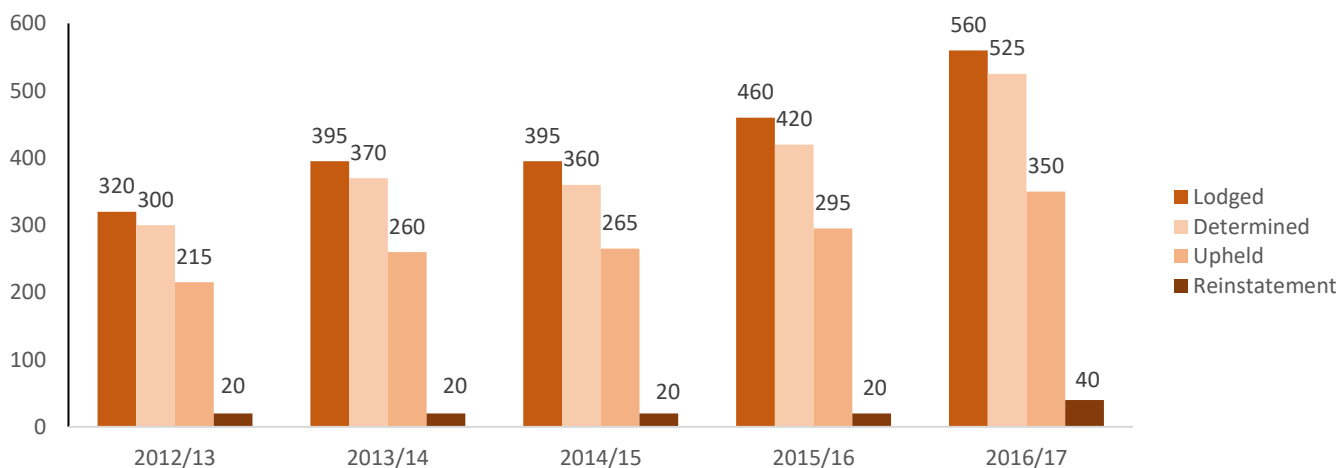
### Independent review Panel definition

Parents (and pupils if aged over 18) are able to request a review of a permanent exclusion. An independent review panel's role is to review the decision of the governing body not to reinstate a permanently excluded pupil. The panel must consider the interests and circumstances of the excluded pupil, including the circumstances in which the pupil was excluded and have regard to the interests of other pupils and people working at the school.

In 2016/17 in maintained primary, secondary and special schools and academies there were 560 reviews lodged with independent review panels of which 525 (93.4%) were determined and 45 (8.0%) resulted in an offer of reinstatement.

### Chart 4: Outcomes of independent reviews

England, Academic years 2013/13 to 2016/17



## 7. Exclusions from pupil referral units (Table 15)

The rate of permanent exclusion in pupil referral units decreased from 0.14 per cent in 2015/16 to 0.13 in 2016/17. After an increase from 2013/14 to 2014/15, permanent exclusions rates have remained fairly steady. There were 25,815 fixed period exclusions in pupil referral units in 2016/17, up from 23,400 in 2015/16. The fixed period exclusion rate has been steadily increasing since 2013/14.

The percentage of pupil enrolments in pupil referral units who one or more fixed period exclusion was 59.17 per cent in 2016/17, up from 58.15 per cent in 2015/16.

## 8. Exclusions by local authority (Table 16)

There is considerable variation in the permanent and fixed period exclusion rate at local authority level (see accompanying maps on the web page).

The regions with the highest overall rates of permanent exclusion across state-funded primary, secondary and special schools are the West Midlands and the North West (at 0.14 per cent). The regions with the lowest rates are the South East (at 0.06 per cent) and Yorkshire and the Humber (at 0.07 per cent).

The region with the highest fixed period exclusion rate is Yorkshire and the Humber (at 7.22 per cent), whilst the lowest rate was seen in Outer London (3.49 per cent).

These regions also had the highest and lowest rates of exclusion in the previous academic year.

## 9. Background: Additional information and updates

This National Statistics release is accompanied by underlying data, including national, local authority and school level information. The accompanying file includes a metadata document which provides further information on the contents of these files. This data is released under the terms of the Open Government License and is intended to meet at least 3 stars for Open Data.

## 10. Accompanying tables

The following tables are available in Excel format on the Department's statistics website.

### National tables

1. Permanent and fixed period exclusions by type of school
2. Permanent and fixed period exclusions by age and gender
3. Permanent and fixed period exclusions by national curriculum year group and gender
4. Permanent and fixed period exclusions by reason for exclusion
5. Permanent and fixed period exclusions by special educational need
6. Permanent and fixed period exclusions by type of special educational need
7. Permanent and fixed period exclusions by reason by special educational need
8. Permanent and fixed period exclusions by ethnic group and gender
9. Permanent and fixed period exclusions by free school meal eligibility
10. Permanent and fixed period exclusions by level of deprivation of school
11. Duration of fixed period exclusions
12. Number of times pupil enrolments were excluded for a fixed period
13. School exclusion independent review panels
14. Permanent and fixed period exclusions in academies
15. Permanent and fixed period exclusions in pupil referral units

### Local authority tables

16. Permanent and fixed period exclusions by type of school
17. Length and number of fixed period exclusions by type of school
18. Permanent exclusions by reason for exclusion
19. Fixed period exclusions by reason for exclusion



When reviewing the tables, please note that:

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We preserve confidentiality	The Code of Practice for Official Statistics requires that reasonable steps should be taken to ensure that all published or disseminated statistics produced by the Department for Education protect confidentiality.
We round numbers	Enrolment numbers at national and regional levels have been rounded to the nearest 5. Enrolment numbers of 1 or 2 have been suppressed to protect confidentiality. Where any number is shown as 0, the original figure was also 0. Where the numerator or denominator of any percentage calculated on enrolment numbers is less than 3, the percentage has been suppressed. This suppression is consistent with the Departmental statistical policy.
We adopt symbols to help identify suppression	Symbols are used in the tables as follows: 0 zero x small number suppressed to preserve confidentiality . not applicable .. not available

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## 11. Further information is available

For recent pupil exclusion figures visit: [Statistics: exclusions](#)

The School Census only collects absence information from schools in England. For information for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, contact the departments below or access their statistics at the following links:

**Wales:** [school.stats@wales.gov.uk](mailto:school.stats@wales.gov.uk) or [Welsh Government Statistics and Research](#)

**Scotland:** [school.stats@scotland.gov.uk](mailto:school.stats@scotland.gov.uk) or [Scottish Government School Education Statistics](#)

**Northern Ireland:** [statistics@deni.gov.uk](mailto:statistics@deni.gov.uk) or [Department of Education - Education Statistics](#)

## 12. Revisions

There are no further planned revisions to this Statistical First Release. However, if at a later date we need to make a revision, this will comply with the Departmental revisions policy.

## 13. National Statistics

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

The Department has a set of statistical policies in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

## 14. Technical information

A "[Guide to exclusion statistics](#)", which provides historical information on exclusion statistics, technical background information to the figures and data collection, and definitions of key terms should be referenced alongside this release.

The following technical notes are specific to this publication.

- Exclusions data are collected two terms in arrears, meaning that where a school closes data are not collected for the last two terms that the school was open. The main impact in recent years is where a school closes and is replaced by a sponsored academy. In such cases data are not available for the last two terms that the predecessor school was open.
- Prior to our analysis any predecessor school information submitted by sponsor led academies was removed. Of which, 6 permanent exclusions and 918 fixed period exclusions were removed as they had been submitted with an exclusion start date before their school open date. In addition to this, 6 permanent exclusions and 583 fixed period exclusions are omitted which were submitted by sponsor led academies which opened in the 2016/17 academic year.

## 15. Get in touch

### Media enquiries

Press Office News Desk, Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT. Tel: 020 7783 8300

### Other enquiries/feedback

Absence and Exclusions team, Data Insight and Statistics Division, Level 2, Department for Education, Bishopsgate House, Darlington, DL1 5QE. Email: [Schools.statistics@education.gov.uk](mailto:Schools.statistics@education.gov.uk)