

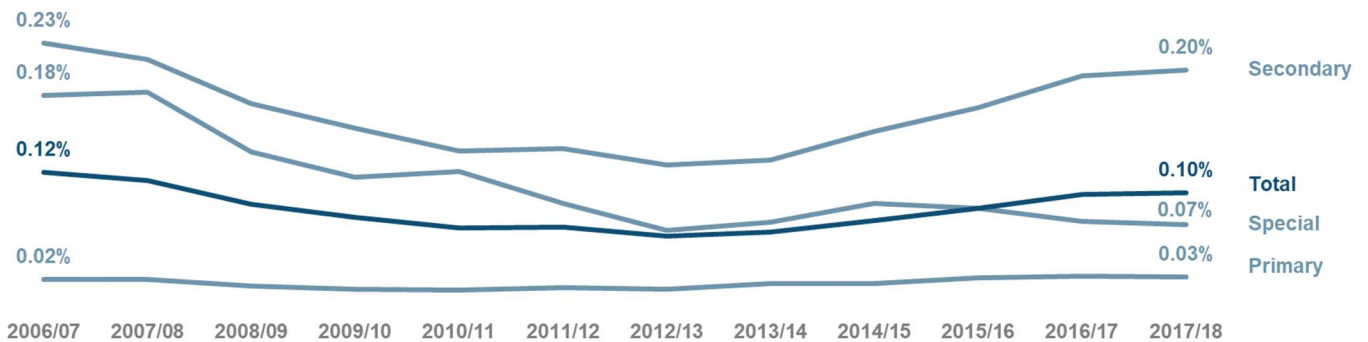


# Permanent and fixed period exclusions in England: 2017 to 2018

Published 25 July 2019

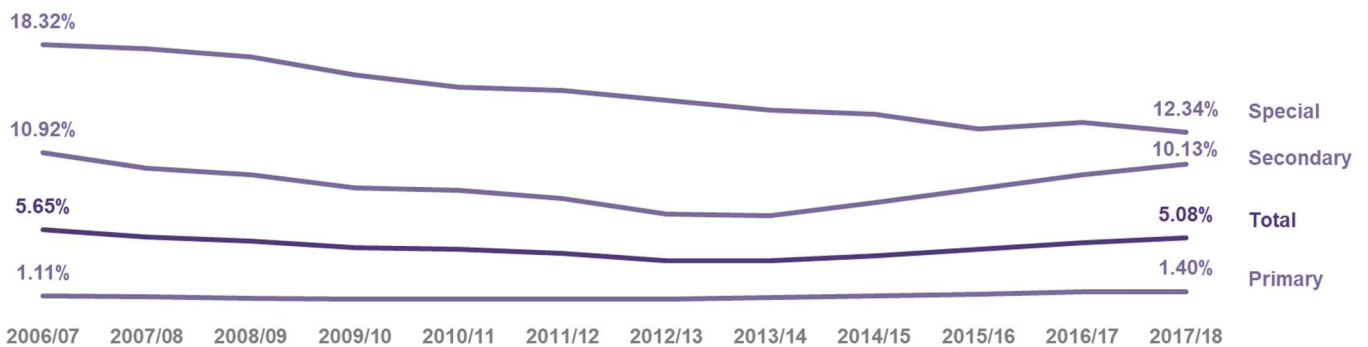
The rate of permanent exclusions has remained stable across all school types

Permanent exclusion rate

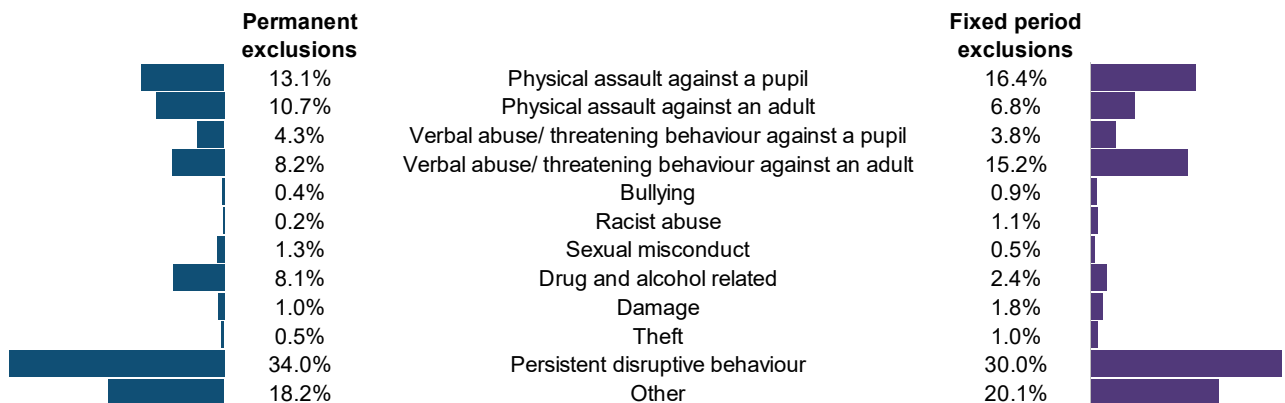


The rate of fixed period exclusions has increased overall but fallen in special school. This increase has been mainly driven by the number of exclusions in the North East.

Fixed period exclusion rate



Persistent disruptive behaviour remains the most common reason for exclusions but permanent exclusions for this reason have fallen for the first time in five years



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### 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 2017/18 academic year as reported in the School Census. This release also includes national level figures on permanent and fixed period exclusions from pupil referral units.

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:

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

The increase in permanent exclusions seen in recent years has slowed, with the number across all state-funded primary, secondary and special schools increasing slightly from 7,700 in 2016/17 to 7,900 in 2017/18.

The resulting rate of permanent exclusions has remained stable at 0.10 per cent, which is equivalent to around 10 pupils per 10,000. This has also remained stable across all school types:

- The rate of permanent exclusions in **primary schools** was 0.03 per cent (3 pupils per 10,000).
- The rate of permanent exclusions in **secondary schools** was 0.20 per cent (20 pupils per 10,000).
- The rate of permanent exclusions in **special schools** was 0.07 per cent (7 pupils per 10,000).

Looking at longer-term trends, the rate of permanent exclusions followed a generally downward trend from 2006/07 when the rate was 0.12 per cent (12 pupils per 10,000) until 2012/13, and began rising since then, although rates are still lower now than in 2006/07.

Whilst primary academies (0.04 per cent compared with 0.02) have higher permanent exclusion rates compared with local authority (LA) maintained schools, secondary academies (0.20 per cent compared with 0.21) and special academies (0.06 per cent compared with 0.07) have lower rates.

# 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.

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

The number of fixed period exclusions across all state-funded primary, secondary and special schools has increased by 8 per cent from 381,900 in 2016/17 to 410,800 in 2017/18.

The resulting rate of fixed period exclusions has increased from 4.76 per cent in 2016/17 to 5.08 per cent in 2017/18, which is equivalent to around 508 pupils per 10,000.

This increase has been driven by secondary schools, while there has been a decrease for special schools:

- The rate of fixed period exclusions in **primary schools** increased from 1.37 per cent to 1.40 between 2016/17 and 2017/18 (140 pupils per 10,000).
- The majority (80 per cent) of fixed period exclusions occurred in **secondary schools** in which the rate of fixed period exclusions increased from 9.40 per cent to 10.13 (1,013 pupils per 10,000).
- The rate of fixed period exclusions in **special schools** decreased from 13.03 per cent to 12.34 (1,234 pupils per 10,000).

Primary, secondary and special **academies** all have higher rates than LA maintained schools.

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

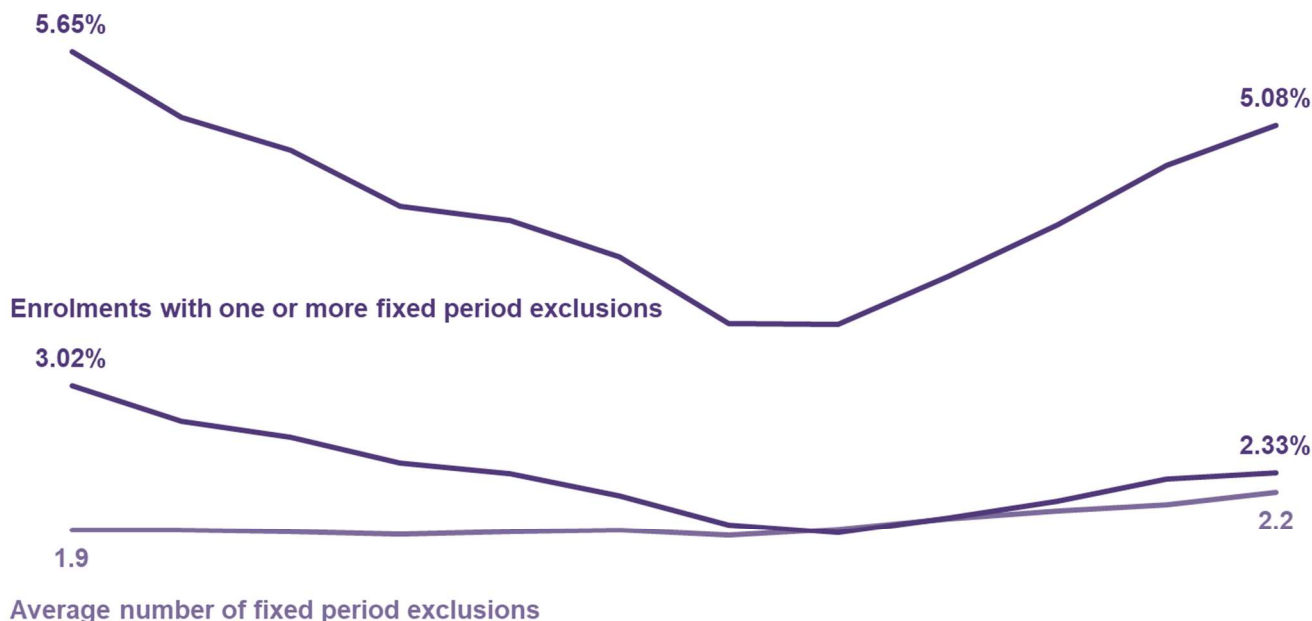
#### Pupil enrolments with one or more fixed period exclusion definition

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. Dual registered pupils with exclusions in multiple schools have each of their enrolments considered separately. This allows for schools to be held accountable for exclusions, as the exclusions are attached to enrolments at a particular school, not the individual pupil.

#### Figure A: Fixed period exclusions have been increasing in recent years

Coverage: State-funded primary, secondary and special schools, England, 2006/07 to 2017/18

##### Fixed period exclusion rate



The increase in fixed period exclusions has been driven most strongly by more pupils having repeated exclusions. 78,900 pupil enrolments had **two or more** fixed period exclusions and the **average number** of fixed period exclusions for those that were excluded was 2.2 in 2017/18. This has been increasing since 2012/13 having remained relatively stable since 2006/07. 188,500 pupil enrolments (2.33 per cent) had **one or more** fixed period exclusions in 2017/18. This is a slight increase from 2.29 per cent in 2016/17 and the proportion has been increasing since 2013/14 (1.86).

The **average length** of fixed period exclusions was 2.0 days, a decrease from 2.1 days in 2016/17. All school types saw a decrease and the differences between them were small with the secondary school average having been 2.1 days and the primary and special school averages having been 1.8 and 1.9 days respectively.

The highest proportion of fixed period exclusions (49 per cent) lasted for only one day, an increase from 47 per cent in 2016/17. 1.7 per cent of fixed period exclusions lasted for longer than a week, a decrease from 2.0 per cent.

## 4. Reasons for exclusions (Table 4)

Persistent disruptive behaviour remained the **most common reason** for both permanent and fixed-period exclusions overall - accounting for 2,700 (34 per cent) and 123,100 (30 per cent) respectively in 2017/18. The number of permanent exclusions for this reason decreased for the first time in five years.

In **special schools** alone, the most common reason for exclusion was physical assault against an adult – accounting for 40 per cent of permanent exclusions and 30 per cent of fixed period exclusions.

As well as persistent disruptive behaviour, the number of permanent and fixed-period exclusions due to racist abuse, sexual misconduct and damage all saw **decreases** between 2016/17 and 2017/18 despite previous increases. Fixed period exclusions due to bullying and theft also decreased but this was not seen amongst permanent exclusions for this reason.

### Figure B: Permanent exclusions due to persistent disruptive behaviour have decreased. Fixed period exclusions for the most common reasons have increased.

Coverage: State-funded primary, secondary and special schools, England, 2016/07 and 2017/18

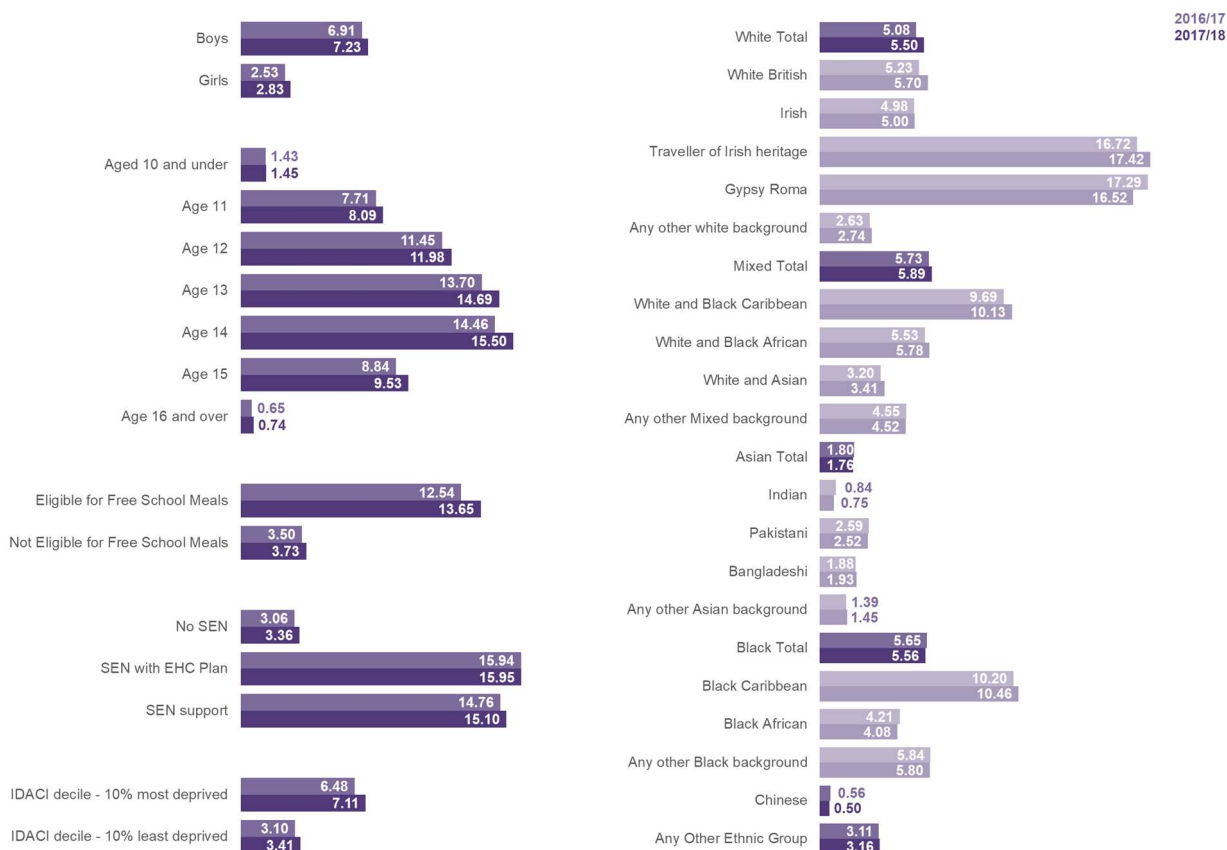
	Permanent exclusions			Fixed period exclusions		
	2016/17	2017/18	<i>difference</i>	2016/17	2017/18	<i>difference</i>
Physical assault against a pupil	1,025	1,037	+1%	64,355	67,227	+4%
Physical assault against an adult	745	845	+13%	26,696	27,796	+4%
Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against a pupil	330	338	+2%	15,172	15,689	+3%
Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult	657	652	-1%	59,674	62,590	+5%
Bullying	25	32	+28%	4,251	3,628	-15%
Racist abuse	24	13	-46%	4,567	4,316	-5%
Sexual misconduct	103	100	-3%	2,235	2,155	-4%
Drug and alcohol related	567	643	+13%	9,077	9,790	+8%
Damage	95	77	-19%	7,685	7,577	-1%
Theft	39	40	+3%	4,320	4,262	-1%
Persistent disruptive behaviour	2,754	2,686	-2%	108,639	123,055	+13%
Other	1,355	1,442	+6%	75,193	82,668	+10%

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

Permanent exclusion rates have remained stable across most of the main pupil characteristics groups. The largest changes seen compared with 2016/17 are:

- By **gender**, girls' fixed period exclusion rates have increase at a greater proportion (2.53 to 2.83 per cent) compared with boys (6.91 to 7.23 per cent).
- Pupils eligible for **free school meals (FSM)** have seen a large increase in fixed period exclusions (12.54 to 13.65 per cent) but the difference between those not eligible remains around four times higher.
- Fixed period exclusions rates for pupils with **special education needs (SEN)** increased slightly, driven by those with SEN support and those in state-funded secondary schools. However, the proportion of exclusions accounted for by pupils with SEN has fallen – 45 per cent (down from 47 per cent) of all permanent exclusions and 43 per cent of all fixed period exclusions (down from 45).
- Rates vary by **ethnicity**:
  - As in previous years, pupils of Gypsy/Roma and Traveller of Irish Heritage ethnic groups had the highest rates of both permanent and fixed period exclusions.
  - White British, Mixed and Black Caribbean fixed period exclusions rates have increases. Black Caribbean rate disparities when compared to all pupils are similar to 2016/17
- Higher rates of exclusions are seen in areas of high **deprivation**. Amongst pupils going to school in the 10% most deprived areas, the permanent exclusion rate was 0.12 per cent and the fixed period rate 7.1 per cent. This compares with 0.07 per cent and 3.41 per cent respectively for those going to school in the 10% least deprived areas. Both fixed period exclusions rate have increased.

**Figure C: In 2017/18 we saw a similar pattern in fixed period exclusion rates across pupil characteristics to previous years and disparities between ethnicity and all pupils are broadly similar**  
Coverage: State-funded primary, secondary and special schools, England, 2016/17 and 2017/18



## 6. Independent exclusion reviews (Table 13)

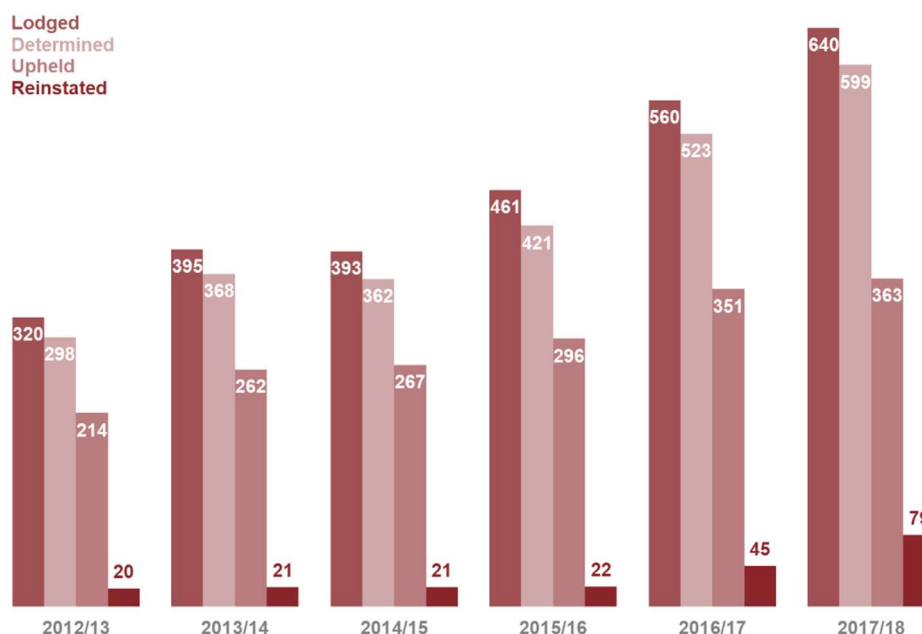
### Independent review Panel definition

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 2017/18 in state-funded primary, secondary and special schools (excluding non-maintained special schools), there were 640 reviews lodged with independent review panels of which 599 (94 per cent) were determined and 79 (12 per cent) resulted in an offer of reinstatement. The proportion of reviews resulting in an offer of reinstatement has continued to increase.

### Figure D: The proportion of exclusion reviews by independent review panels that result in an offer of reinstatement has increased in the past two years

Coverage: State-funded primary, secondary and special schools, England, 2012/13 to 2017/18



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

The rate of permanent exclusions in pupil referral units (including academy and free school alternative provision) increased from 0.13 per cent to 0.16 (16 per 10,000 pupils) but this represents 27 exclusions and so the number remains low. The rate of fixed period exclusions has fallen and the percentage of pupil enrolments with one or more fixed period exclusions fell from 59.2 per cent in 2016/17 to 57.9 per cent.

## 8. Exclusions by local authority (Table 17 to 20)

Exclusion rates vary across local authorities (see accompanying maps on the web page).

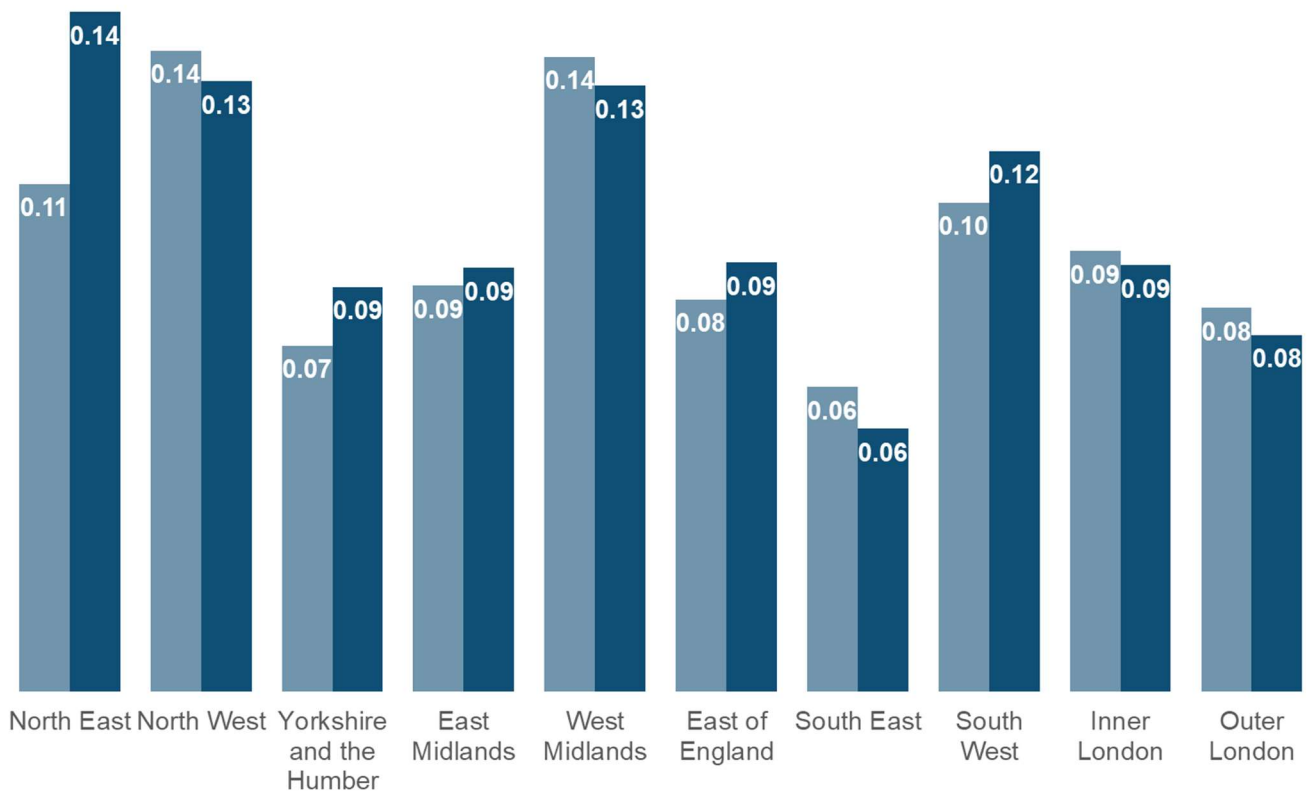
The regions with the highest overall rates of permanent exclusion across state-funded primary, secondary and special schools are the North East (14 per 10,000 pupils) and the North West and West Midlands (both 13 per 10,000 pupils). The region with the lowest rate is the South East (6 per 10,000 pupils).

The region with the highest fixed period exclusion rate is the North East, which has seen a large increase from 592 per 10,000 pupils in 2016/17 to 934 per 10,000 in 2017/18. This has been the main driver in the national increase. The lowest rate was seen in Outer London (339 per 10,000 pupils).

**Figure E: The increase in fixed period exclusions rates has been driven by increases in the North East, particularly in Hartlepool, Stockton-on-Tees and Redcar and Cleveland local authorities**  
 Coverage: State-funded primary, secondary and special schools, England, 2016/17 and 2017/18

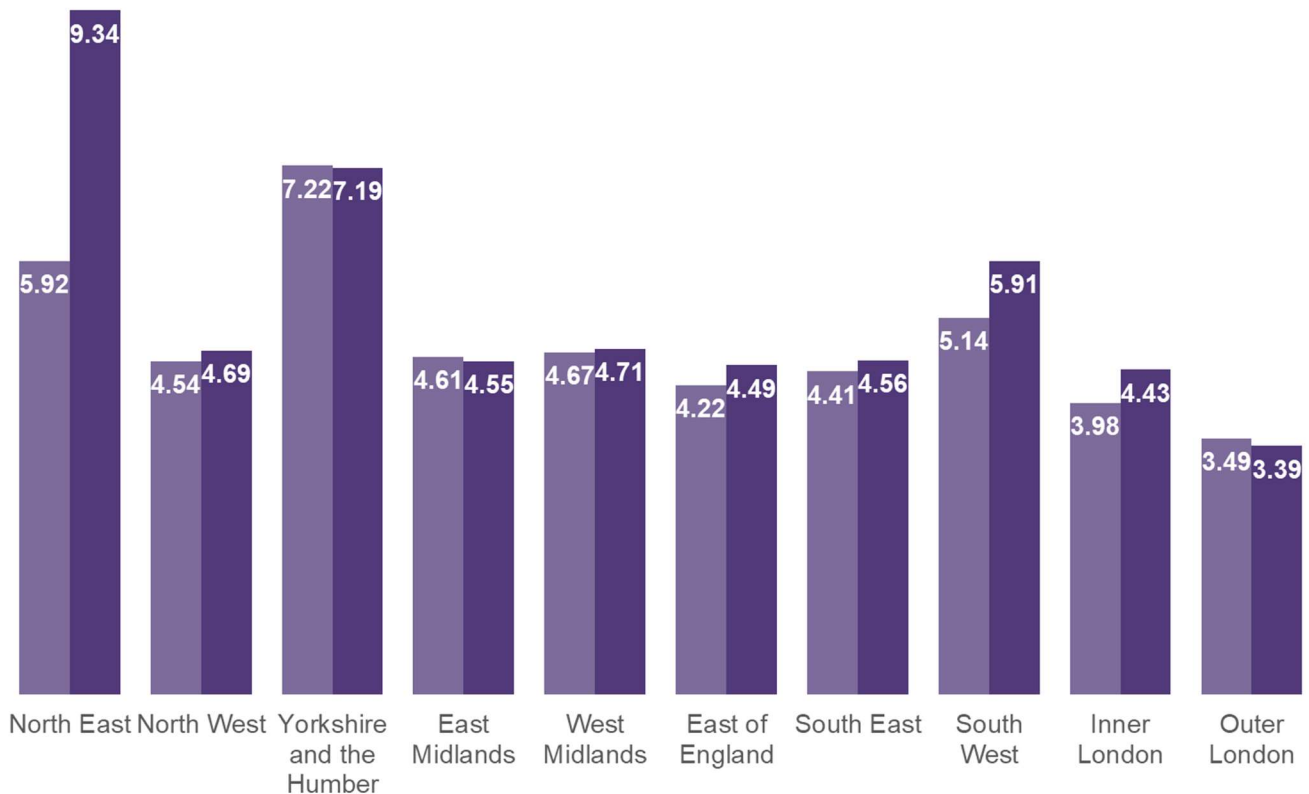
**Permanent exclusions**

2016/17  
2017/18



**Fixed period exclusions**

2016/17  
2017/18





## 9. Accompanying tables

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.

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
16. [Experimental statistics] Permanent and fixed period exclusions of former looked after children who have been adopted, or were the subject of a special guardianship order (SGO) or a child arrangements order (CAO)

### Local authority tables

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

The following symbols are used in the tables as follows:

0 zero

. not applicable

.. not available

## 10. Further information

For previous releases 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:

**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](#)

## 11. 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.

## 12. National Statistics

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics in [October 2017](#) 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. Information on improvements made to these statistics to continue their compliance with the Code of Practice are provided in the accompanying methodology document.

The Department has a set of [statistical policies](#) in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

## 13. 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, 24 permanent exclusions and 772 fixed period exclusions were removed as they had been submitted with an exclusion start date before their school open date. In addition to this, 18 permanent exclusions and 841 fixed period exclusions are omitted which were submitted by sponsor led academies which opened in the 2018/19 academic year.

## 14. 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

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Department  
for Education



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email [psi@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gov.uk)  
write to Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London, TW9 4DU

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Email: [Schools.statistics@education.gov.uk](mailto:Schools.statistics@education.gov.uk)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-exclusions>

Reference: Permanent and fixed-period exclusions in England: 2017 to 2018



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