

Pupil absence – national and local update

Director's meeting with Primary headteachers – 24 April 2014

Attendance 2012/13 – national headlines - 1

- Persistent absence declined further
- Persistent absenteeism now counts for less overall absence
- Overall absence gap PAs/others widened
- Largest falls seen in secondary schools
- Lower levels of PA in primary than secondary
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-absence-in-schools-in-england-2012-to-2013>

Attendance 2012/13 – national headlines – 2

- Overall absence increased slightly but trend still downwards (exceptionally low illness in 2011/12)
- Increase in overall absence in 2012/13 because of more authorised absence
- Percentage of unauthorised absence stable over past 5 years
- Overall absence rate for six half terms higher than five – more unauthorised absence and family holidays
- Persistent absence levels remained the same over six half terms

Attendance 2012/13 – national headlines - 3

- Illness most common reason for absence, followed by family holidays
- FSM pupils have more absence – little change over last five years and high PA
- Absence levels (including PA) higher for SEN pupils than national average – pupils in special schools missed most days
- Higher absence in deprived areas
- Data for four-year-olds included in 2012/13 but not from PRUs

Absence in Barnet - primary

- 0.1% above national average, 0.3% above London average (5 half terms)
- Second highest rate of absence in outer London
- Authorised absence higher in Barnet than in all but two other London authorities
- Authorised absence 0.5% above London average
- PA level 0.1% below national, 0.1% above London average

Absence in Barnet – primary (cont)

- Range (over five half terms) 89.6% - 96.7%
- 50 schools below 95.2% attendance (national average)
- 19 schools 1% or more below national average
- 10 schools 1.5% or more below national average (the bottom 10% nationally)
- 6 schools 2% or more below national average

Absence in Barnet - secondary

- 0.7% below national average but 0.1% above London average (5 half terms)
- 6th highest absence in outer London
- Authorised absence levels 0.3% above national average, 0.4% above London average
- Clear link between lower levels of authorisation and lower overall levels of absence
- Persistent absence 1.1% below national average and 0.1% below London

Action to improve attendance - LA

- Primary attendance subject of LA level action plan
- Template for school action planning and planning for attendance interventions developed and made available to schools
- Regular discussion item at Network Meetings
- Web-site under construction to provide “one stop shop” for advice and guidance and forum for sharing initiatives
- Attendance conference planned

Action to improve attendance – suggestions for schools

- Review data – groups issue: FSM, SEN, White British?
- Develop action plan and attendance interventions
- Consider use of pupil premium funding to overcome barriers to attendance
- Review policy and practice, particularly in respect of authorisation of absence
- Appoint attendance champion on governing body