



Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel

Attendance Summary

4th December 2023

Why does good attendance matter?

‘Children with no absence are 1.3 times more likely to achieve a level 4 at GCSE and 3 times more likely to achieve a level 5 compared to children with between 10 and 15% absence during key stage 4’.

DfE Link Between Absence and Attainment

Headline Attendance Data

The table below shows the rate of attendance in Middlesbrough for the period 1.9.23 to 20.11.23.

	Overall Attendance %		
	Middlesbrough	PA	SA
All pupils	92.1	25.4	2.4
Secondary	89.7	29.7	4.5
Primary	93.9	22	1
Special	87.8	34.2	6.5

Headline Attendance Data (last year)

The table below shows the rate of attendance in Middlesbrough for school year 2022 – 23, compared to regional and national.

	Overall Attendance %		
	Middlesbrough	National	Regional
All pupils	90	92.4	92.2
Secondary	87	90.8	89.9
Primary	92.9	93.8	94.1
Special	89.9	87	87.6

1. Attendance is lower in Middlesbrough than the regional or national for all categories other than special.
2. Secondary attendance is of particular concern.

Headline Persistent Absence Data (last year)

The table below shows the rate of persistent absence in Middlesbrough for school year 2022 – 23, with regional and national comparators.

	Overall Attendance %		
	Middlesbrough PA	National PA	Regional PA
All pupils	33	24	24
Secondary	51	28	29
Primary	29	20	19
Special	23	40	36

1. PA is higher in Middlesbrough than regional or national for all categories other than special.
2. Secondary PA is of particular concern.

Attendance of Vulnerable Groups (last year)

The table below shows the rate of attendance (%) of vulnerable children.

	EHCP	SEN Support	FSM	CiN	CP	CLA
All pupil	87	87	88	83	81	89
Secondary	84	84	84	70	69	85
Primary	86	90	91	89	89	95
Special	88.0					

1. CP and CiN children have the poorest rate of attendance.
2. CP and CiN children's attendance is particularly concerning at secondary.


Special Schools

The table below shows the rate of attendance (%) in Middlesbrough for school year September 2023 to 10.10.23.

	Special School Attendance %		
	Attendance	PA	SA
Hollis Academy	63.1	70	32
Priory Woods	87.9	35	6
Beverley	91.4	25	2
Holmwood	94.1	15	2
Discovery	94.9	17	0.6

1. Special schools generally have high rates of attendance.
2. Hollis Academy has lower attendance and a high level of persistent absence.

Actions

- LA with the support of DfE Attendance Advisor has developed an Attendance Strategy to help support school leaders to address poor attendance.
 - LA is recruiting additional EWO staff so that more targeted support can be offered to schools and families.
 - LA is part of the Attendance Alliance that is being developed in the North East by DfE.
 - LA has put in place a project (VCAP) to bring together social workers, schools and families to help remove barriers to attendance for children with a social worker.
 - LA is working with DfE to recruit additional staff to help support those schools where PA is significantly high.
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Actions

- DfE has commissioned Barnardos to run an attendance mentoring programme in Middlesbrough where mentors work directly with children and their families where attendance is identified by the school as a significant issue.
- LA Ed Psych team is developing a piece of work on emotionally based school avoidance, with the aim of developing bespoke strategies to support children to improve their attendance.
- All social workers have been supplied with easier access to attendance data for their children, to ensure they have a clear understanding of when attendance becomes a concern.
- LA is providing schools with opportunities to share best practice in improving attendance, for example the Attendance Conference on 7th November.