

Looked after Children Attendance and Suspension Autumn Term 2024



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 Middlesbrough
moving forward

Good school attendance is defined as attending school at least 95% of the time.

This means a student should not miss more than 10 days in a school year.

High attendance rates are crucial because they are directly linked to academic success and overall well-being.

Yearly Attendance	Yearly Days Missed	Yearly Learning Hours Missed	Learning Hours Missed Over 5 Years
100%	0	0	0
97%	6	30	150
95%	10	50	250
90%	20	100	500
80%	40	200	1000
50%	100	500	2500

Overall attendance for all statutory school aged CLA from 1st September to 22nd November 2024 was 86.2%.

8.1% of absences were authorised

5.8% of absences were unauthorised

Overall attendance by key stage is:

KS1 – 94.5%

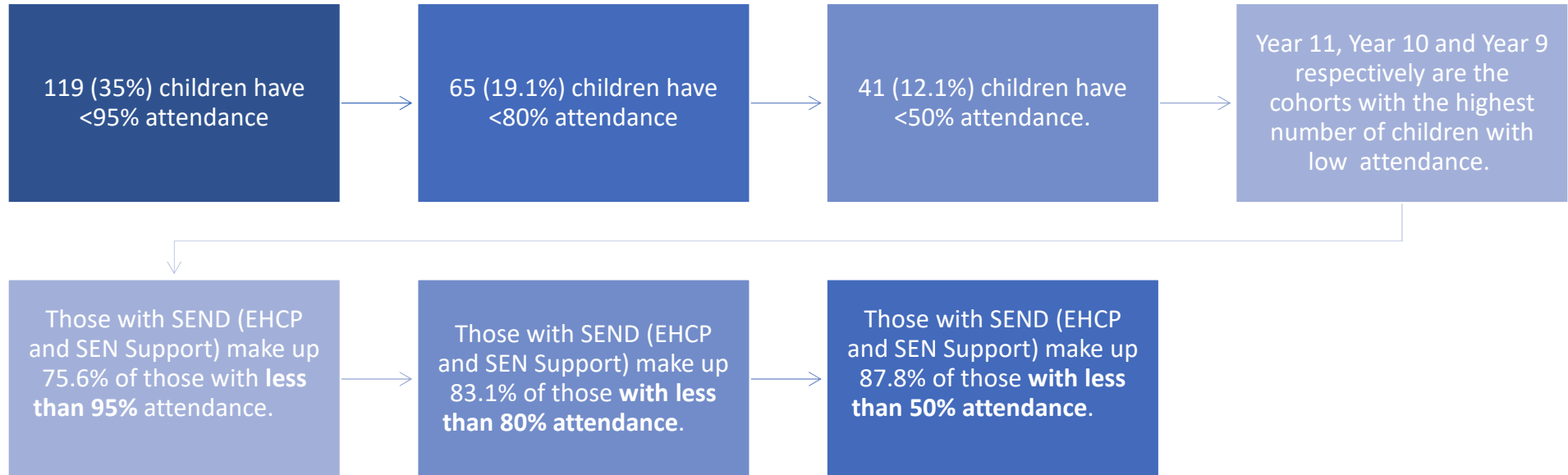
KS2 – 97.8%

KS3 – 85.6%

KS4 – 70.3%

Year Group	Present Days %	Authorised Absence %	Unauthorised Absence %
Reception	88.2%	10.9%	0.9%
Year 1	90.7%	9.0%	0.3%
Year 2	98.5%	1.1%	0.4%
Year 3	97.3%	1.9%	0.8%
Year 4	99.2%	0.7%	0.1%
Year 5	98.3%	1.3%	0.5%
Year 6	95.8%	3.9%	0.3%
Year 7	94.3%	4.6%	1.1%
Year 8	84.1%	7.0%	8.8%
Year 9	80.2%	10.2%	9.7%
Year 10	72.8%	15.2%	12.0%
Year 11	68.2%	16.5%	15.3%

CLA with less than 95%, 80% and 50%

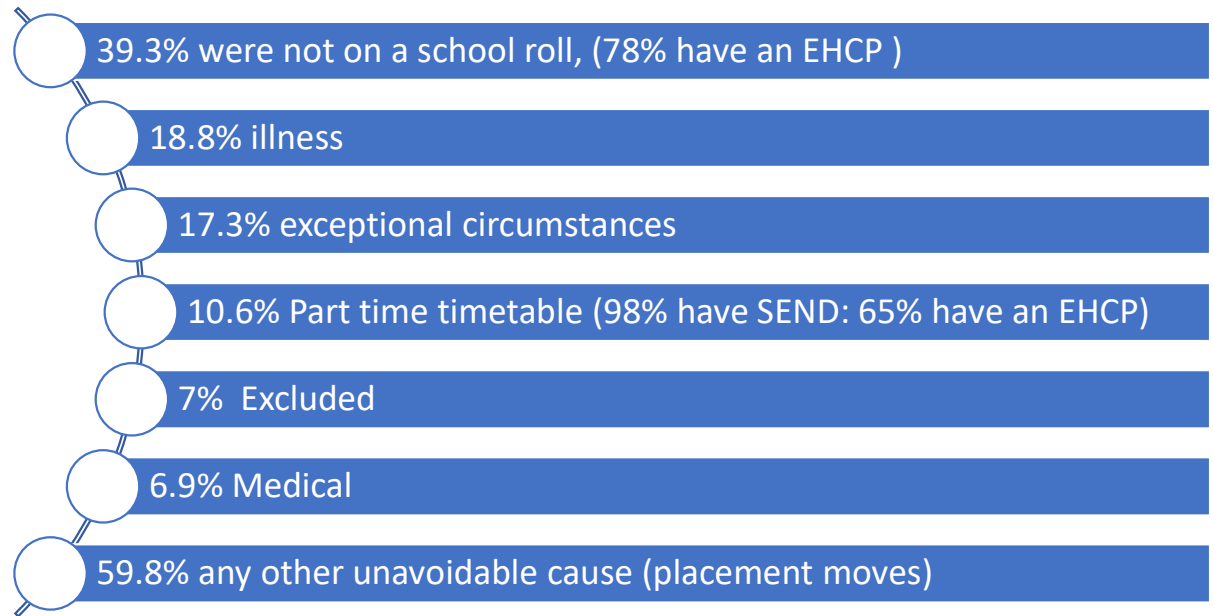


Severe Absence: less than 50%

	No. Children	%
Less than 50% attendance	41	12.1% of SSA cohort
Year 0	0	0% of those <50%
Year 1	1	2.4%
Year 2	0	0.0%
Year 3	0	0.0%
Year 4	0	0.0%
Year 5	1	2.4%
Year 6	0	0.0%
Year 7	2	4.9%
Year 8	5	12.2%
Year 9	6	14.6%
Year 10	10	24.4%
Year 11	16	39.0%
No SEN	5	12.2%
SEN Support	15	36.6%
EHCP	21	51.2%
Total EHCP and SEN Support	36	87.8%

- The majority of primary school CLA are attending school more than 50% of the time
- SA begins to escalate in year 9
- Year 11 has the most CLA who are SA
- Almost 90% of SA CLA have SEND and half of the children who are SA have an EHCP

Authorised Absence



Authorised Absence

Demographic	Z: Not on roll	M: Medical or dental appointments	G: Family holiday (not authorised by the school)
Total No. days / %	574 (39.3%)	101 (6.9%)	29 (2.6%)
Year 0	13 (2.3%)	11.5 (11.4%)	6 (20.7%)
Year 1	13 (2.3%)	6 (5.9%)	0
Year 2	0	5.5 (5.4%)	0
Year 3	0	8 (7.9%)	0
Year 4	0	3.5 (3.5%)	0
Year 5	0	2.5 (2.5%)	2 (6.9%)
Year 6	0	6.5 (6.4%)	3 (10.3%)
Year 7	46 (8%)	4 (4%)	0
Year 8	50 (8.7%)	11.5 (11.4%)	0
Year 9	114 (19.9%)	11 (10.9%)	10 (34.5%)
Year 10	78 (13.6%)	19.5 (19.3%)	8 (27.6%)
Year 11	260 (45.3%)	11.5 (11.4%)	0
No SEN	102.5 (17.9%)	31 (30.7%)	8 (27.6%)
SEN Support	24 (4.2%)	22.5 (22.3%)	1 (3.4%)
EHCP	447.5 (78%)	47.5 (47%)	20 (69%)
Total EHCP and SEN Support	471.5 (82.1%)	70 (69.3%)	21 (72.4%)

- CLA children lost 574 days attendance as they were not on a school roll
- 101 days were lost due to medical appointments
- 29 days were lost to authorised school holidays
- The children with the most authorised absences were children with an EHCP, in year 11 because they do not have a school roll.

Attendance Summary

18% of absences are due to illness

There are 41 looked after children who are severely absent from school

Looked after Children with an EHCP are less likely to be on school roll than those who do not have an EHCP

Looked after children with SEND have the lowest attendance overall

Looked after children in year 10 and 11 have the lowest attendance of any year group

10% absence codes are due part time timetables

60% of authorised absences are due to unavoidable causes (placement moves)



Suspensions and Exclusions

Permanent exclusion of looked after children is considered a last resort due to the significant impact it can have on their education and well-being.

National guidance encourage Schools to work closely with social workers and virtual schools to provide support and prevent exclusions whenever possible.

- No Middlesbrough looked after child has been excluded for 7 years
- Nationally in 22/23 there were 50 looked after children excluded
- There were looked after children excluded in the north east in 22/23
- The Virtual School has worked with partners to avoid 4 exclusion this year

Month	No. of Suspension Episodes	No. of Children Suspended	Total Suspensions (Sessions)	Total Suspensions (Days)
Sept. 2024	10	8	28	14
October 2024	20	13	74	37
1 st -22 nd Nov	12	9	68	34

Since the start of the academic year, from 1st September to 22nd November, there have been a total of 42 suspensions, for 85 days, by 21 children.

Of the 21 children that had a suspension this academic year:

- 10 (47.6%) were male
- 12 (57.1%) were suspended from a school within Middlesbrough
- 1 (4.8%) child was in KS2
- 7 (33.3%) were in KS3
- 13 (61.9%) were in KS4
- 5 (23.8%) had an EHCP
- 12 (57.1%) had SEN support
- 4 (19%) had no SEN

Early Communication with stakeholders.

When a school finds that a child's behaviour cannot be managed successfully via the internal behaviour management system, contact should be made with the Virtual School in order to seek support.



Assess Risk. The school should assess the level of risk to determine to what extent potential harm to other students' safety, wellbeing and learning can be reduced. The school should complete a Risk Assessment and Inclusion Support Plan – the Virtual School can provide guidance on how to do this.



Engage behaviour support Contact the Virtual School for advice or request the Virtual School convene a Cross-Professional CLA Education Meeting. This might include a referral to the inclusion team.



Internal exclusion. Should be for the shortest possible time and be subject to regular review.



Preventative arrangements. Specific arrangement may also be developed as part of partnership work between schools and appropriate specialist settings.

Reducing suspensions