



School Exclusions, 2019/20

Key findings for the Lancashire-14 area

Kristien Cooper, Performance Officer

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For further information on the work of Business Intelligence, please contact us at:

Business Intelligence
Lancashire County Council
2nd floor Christ Church Precinct
County Hall
Fishergate Hill
Preston
PR1 8XJ

E: BusinessIntelligence.insight@lancashire.gov.uk

W: www.lancashire.gov.uk/lancashire-insight

Contents

1	Overview and background information	1
2	Key findings for the Lancashire-14 area.....	1
2.1	Primary exclusions.....	1
2.2	Secondary Exclusions.....	2
2.3	Total Permanent Exclusions	3

1 Overview and background information

Research has suggested that there is a direct link between being excluded from school and getting involved in crime. A Youth Justice Board survey showed that when compared with other school children, excluded pupils were more than twice as likely to get involved in crime. Consequently, reducing the number of exclusions can have a knock-on effect on reducing crime. During 2019/20, there were 162 permanent exclusions and 5,453 fixed period exclusions in Lancashire schools. The Lancashire-12 rate decreased compared to the previous year for permanent exclusions (0.09%, against 0.19%) but was still higher than the national (0.06%), the regional (0.08%), Blackburn with Darwen (0.08%) and Blackpool (0.07%) rates. Below is a further insight into the data.

2 Key findings for the Lancashire-14 area

2.1 Primary exclusions

Data for 2019/20 (Table 1) indicates that the proportion of permanent exclusions in Lancashire-12 primary schools (0.02%) decreased compared to the previous year (0.03%). This is on par with the national (0.02%) and regional (0.02%) rates, but higher than Blackburn with Darwen (0.01%). The number of permanent primary exclusions was 23. This is the first year since 2010/11, that the Lancashire rate has not been higher than the national rate (both 0.02%).

Table 1: Proportion of pupils permanently excluded in state funded primary schools, 2010/11 to 2019/20

Area	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Lancashire-12	0.03%	0.03%	0.04%	0.06%	0.05%	0.08%	0.06%	0.04%	0.03%	0.02%
Blackburn with Darwen	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.02%	0.04%	0.01%
Blackpool	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.02%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
North West	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%
England	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%

Source: Department for Education (DfE)

The proportion of fixed-term exclusions within Lancashire-12 primary schools decreased during 2019/20 (Table 2). The Lancashire-12 rate (0.71%) was slightly higher than the Blackburn with Darwen (0.62%) rate, but was lower than that regionally (0.76%), nationally (1.00%) and in Blackpool (1.67%). Historical data indicates that Lancashire-12 performance is generally better than the averages regionally, nationally and for the neighbouring unitary authorities of Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool. However, between 2010/11 and 2019/20, and since 2017/18, Blackburn with Darwen has had lower rates (on average: 0.82%) than Lancashire-12.

Table 2: Proportion of pupils subject to fixed-term exclusions in state funded primary schools, 2010/11 to 2019/20

Area	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Lancashire-12	0.64%	0.60%	0.73%	0.89%	0.83%	1.02%	1.16%	1.25%	1.06%	0.71%
Blackburn with Darwen	0.55%	0.49%	0.65%	0.68%	0.88%	1.09%	1.19%	1.07%	1.02%	0.62%
Blackpool	1.93%	1.68%	1.43%	1.63%	1.19%	1.45%	1.70%	2.08%	2.48%	1.67%
North West	0.78%	0.76%	0.76%	0.86%	0.91%	1.01%	1.18%	1.16%	1.12%	0.76%
England	0.91%	0.90%	0.88%	1.02%	1.10%	1.21%	1.37%	1.40%	1.41%	1.00%

Source: DfE

2.2 Secondary Exclusions

Compared to primary schools, the proportion of permanently excluded pupils is higher in Lancashire secondary schools. Data for 2019/20 (Table 3) indicates that the percentage of permanent exclusions was 0.20%, a 0.24% percentage point decrease from the previous year. There were 139 permanent secondary school exclusions in 2019/20. Since 2012/13, the proportion of permanent exclusions in Lancashire secondary schools have been significantly higher than the national and regional figures.

Table 3: Proportion of pupils permanently excluded in state funded secondary schools, 2010/11 to 2019/20

Area	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Lancashire-12	0.20%	0.18%	0.18%	0.22%	0.29%	0.34%	0.45%	0.42%	0.44%	0.20%
Blackburn with Darwen	0.09%	0.17%	0.12%	0.01%	0.01%	0.03%	0.03%	0.06%	0.09%	0.18%
Blackpool	0.00%	0.03%	0.03%	0.14%	0.74%	0.33%	0.59%	0.64%	0.82%	0.2%
North West	0.15%	0.15%	0.14%	0.15%	0.19%	0.24%	0.31%	0.29%	0.30%	0.19%
England	0.13%	0.14%	0.12%	0.13%	0.15%	0.17%	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	0.13%

Source: DfE

The proportion of fixed term exclusions in secondary schools is much higher than in primary schools. However, the rate in Lancashire-12 decreased in 2019/20 to 6.41% (Table 4). This was lower than the national (7.43%), regional (7.57%) and Blackpool (15.65%) rates, but was still higher than in Blackburn with Darwen (4.12%).

Table 4: Proportion of pupils subject to fixed-term exclusions in state funded secondary schools, 2010/11 to 2019/20

Area	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Lancashire-12	6.78%	6.53%	6.07%	6.42%	6.67%	8.15%	8.93%	8.59%	10.47%	6.41%
Blackburn with Darwen	4.26%	3.92%	3.41%	1.80%	2.12%	2.67%	3.66%	4.57%	4.74%	4.12%
Blackpool	9.49%	10.74%	11.34%	11.79%	21.61%	15.24%	19.17%	19.41%	29.63%	15.65%
North West	8.84%	7.88%	7.07%	7.05%	8.10%	8.67%	9.42%	9.81%	11.33%	7.57%
England	8.34%	7.80%	6.72%	6.62%	7.51%	8.46%	9.40%	10.13%	10.75%	7.43%

Source: DfE

2.3 Total Permanent Exclusions

Recent data published by the Department for Education confirms there were 162 permanent exclusions during the 2019/20 period in Lancashire schools. Table 5 shows that this equates to a rate of 0.09% and is an decrease on 2018/19 (by 0.10 percentage points) and was above the national (0.06%) and regional rates (0.08%). It was also above Blackburn with Darwen (0.08%) and neighbouring authority of Blackpool (0.07%).

Table 5: Proportion of pupils subject to total permanent exclusions in state funded secondary schools, 2010/11 to 2019/20

Area	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Lancashire-12	0.11%	0.09%	0.10%	0.12%	0.15%	0.18%	0.21%	0.18%	0.19%	0.09%
Blackburn with Darwen	0.04%	0.00%	0.05%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.03%	0.06%	0.08%
Blackpool	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.06%	0.27%	0.12%	0.22%	0.22%	0.29%	0.07%
North West	0.07%	0.07%	0.07%	0.07%	0.09%	0.11%	0.14%	0.13%	0.12%	0.08%
England	0.07%	0.07%	0.06%	0.06%	0.07%	0.08%	0.10%	0.10%	0.09%	0.06%

Source: DfE

The 2019/20 data should be treated with caution as it was interrupted by with the first national lockdown on 23 March 2020, during the spring term. Schools remained open for vulnerable children and children of key workers. While permanent exclusions and suspensions were still possible throughout the academic year, school closures have had a substantial effect on the number of permanent exclusions and suspension and therefore caution should be taken when comparing figures across years.

Addressing exclusions and their causes is an ongoing focus for the service and is one of 5 priorities in the draft Education Strategy that will be presented to cabinet for ratification in December 2021. Where exclusion rates are high, schools are challenged and although directives are seen as a last resort, some schools have been directed to take pupils where there is a need to. Locality level data dashboards have been created to interrogate the rates of exclusions across the county so that patterns and trends are identified and addressed.

This work is part of the same principles under the Alternative Provision Strategy and SEND Sufficiency Strategy and the Team Around the School and Settings model (the locality partnership model for school improvement) where there is an increased focus on more vulnerable children.