

School Attendance, 2018/19

Key findings for the Lancashire-14 area

Chris Ayers, Performance Officer

October 2020

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 and secondary attendance	1
3	Attendance in districts	3

1 Overview and background information

Attendance at school is linked directly with better performance in examinations and an increased likelihood of securing employment. Some of those pupils who are absent from school have an increased likelihood of becoming involved in youth offending. They are also more likely to be involved in risk taking behaviours, such as alcohol and drug use. During 2018/19, overall levels of absence in Lancashire-12 schools (4.4%) were lower than the national (4.7%), regional (4.7%), and neighbouring unitary authorities' rates (Blackburn with Darwen 4.7% and Blackpool 5.1%). The level of persistent absenteeism in Lancashire-12 schools (10.0%), under the definition which includes pupils having an overall absence rate of 10 per cent or above, was also lower than the national (10.9%), regional (11.0%) and neighbouring unitary authorities rates (Blackburn with Darwen 11.6% and Blackpool 12.9%).

The overall absence rate for Lancashire-12 was lower than the previous year (4.5%) and remains below comparator rates. The county are in the top quartile nationally and ranked 18 of 152 authorities.

2 Key findings for the Lancashire-14 area

2.1 Primary and secondary attendance

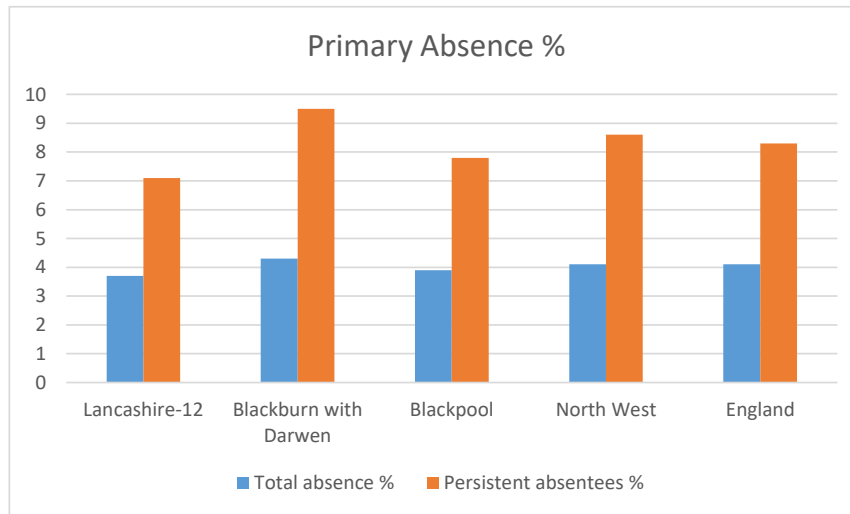
During 2018/19, the proportion of overall absence levels in primary schools within Lancashire-12 (3.7%) (Table 1 and Figure 1) was lower than the national (4.0%), regional (4.0%), and Blackburn with Darwen (4.2%), and Blackpool (4.1%) averages. The level of persistent absenteeism for Lancashire-12 (7.3%) (Defined as pupils having an overall absence rate of around 10 percent of authorised and/or unauthorised absence) was significantly lower than the national (8.2%), regional (8.3%) and neighbouring unitary authority rates (9.7% in Blackburn with Darwen and 8.6% in Blackpool).

Table 1: Absence levels in state funded primary schools, 2018/19 (six half terms)

Absence Type	Total absence %	Persistent absentees %
Lancashire-12	3.7	7.3
Blackburn with Darwen	4.2	9.7
Blackpool	4.1	8.6
North West	4.0	8.3
England	4.0	8.2

Source: Department for Education (DfE)/Lancashire County Council (LCC) Business Intelligence

Figure 1: Absence levels in state funded primary schools, 2018/19 (six half terms)



Source: DfE/LCC Business Intelligence

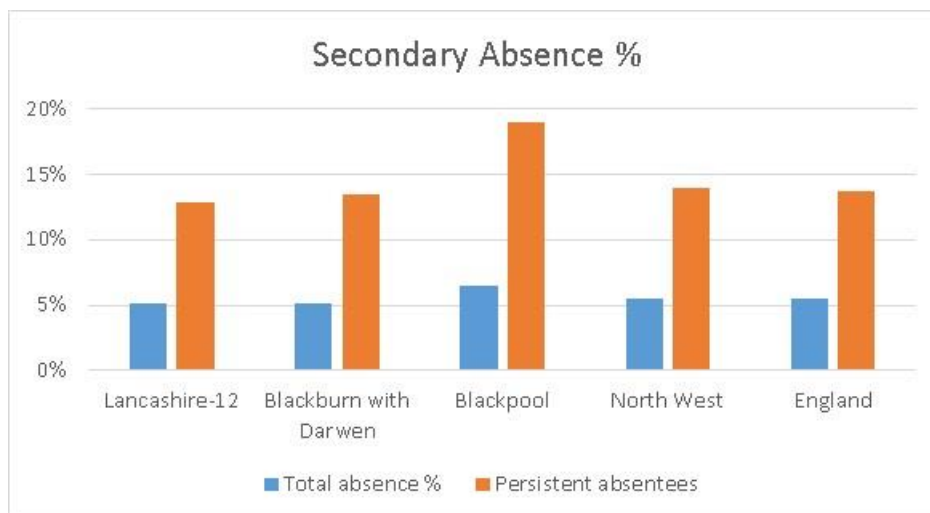
During 2018/19, the overall absence levels in secondary schools within Lancashire-12 (5.2%) (Table 2 and Figure 2) was lower than the national (5.5%), the regional (5.5%) and Blackpool (6.5%) rates, and the same as Blackburn with Darwen (5.2%). The level of persistent absenteeism in Lancashire-12 (12.9%) was also lower than the national (13.7%), regional (14.0%) and unitary authority rates (13.5% in Blackburn with Darwen and 19.0% in Blackpool).

Table 2: Absence levels in state funded secondary schools, 2018/19 (six half terms)

Absence Type	Total absence %	Persistent absentees %
Lancashire-12	5.2	12.9
Blackburn with Darwen	5.2	13.5
Blackpool	6.5	19.0
North West	5.5	14.0
England	5.5	13.7

Source: DfE/LCC Business Intelligence

Figure 2: Absence levels in state funded secondary schools, 2018/19 (six half terms)



Source: DfE/LCC Business Intelligence

3 Attendance in districts

At district level (table 3) reflecting the link between school attendance and deprivation, overall absence was high in Burnley (4.9%), West Lancashire (4.9%), Pendle (4.8%) and Hyndburn (4.6%) where levels of relative deprivation are highest. However Lancaster (4.7%) district which is not considered to be highly deprived had a high level of overall and persistent absence based on school location.

Table 3: Absence levels in state funded schools by Lancashire-12 district, 2018/19 (six half terms)

District	Overall absence %	Persistent absence %
Burnley	4.9	12.2
Chorley	3.8	7.3
Fylde	4.3	9.7
Hyndburn	4.6	11.6
Lancaster	4.7	11.8
Pendle	4.8	11.4
Preston	4.3	9.5
Ribble Valley	3.9	7.3
Rosendale	4.1	8.3
South Ribble	4.1	8.8
West Lancashire	4.9	11.7
Wyre	4.5	10.4

Source: DfE/LCC Business Intelligence

The children and young people dashboard created as part of the Neighbourhood JSNA, includes district and ward level data on pupil absence. This resource can be accessed [here](#).