



School Exclusions, 2022/23

Key findings for the Lancashire-14 area

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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 2022/23, there were 440 permanent exclusions and 16,515 fixed period exclusions in Lancashire schools. The Lancashire-12 rate increased compared to the previous year for permanent exclusions (0.25%, against 0.14%) and was still higher than the national (0.11%), the regional (0.16%), Blackburn with Darwen (0.13%) and Blackpool (0.22%) rates. Below is a further insight into the data.

2 Key findings for the Lancashire-14 area

2.1 Primary exclusions

Data for 2022/23 (Table 1) indicates that the proportion of permanent exclusions in Lancashire-12 primary schools (0.05%) increased compared to the previous year (0.03%). This is slightly higher than the national and regional rates and the rate in Blackburn with Darwen (all 0.03%). The number of permanent primary exclusions was 47.

Table 1: Proportion of pupils permanently excluded in state funded primary schools, 2012/13 to 2022/23

Area	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2021-22	2022-23
Lancashire-12	0.04%	0.06%	0.05%	0.08%	0.06%	0.04%	0.03%	0.02%	0.03%	0.05%
Blackburn with Darwen	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.02%	0.04%	0.01%	0.00%	0.03%
Blackpool	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.02%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%
North West	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%
England	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%

Source: Department for Education (DfE) – The figures for 2020/21 have been omitted, as this academic year was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The proportion of fixed-term exclusions within Lancashire-12 primary schools increased during 2022/23 (Table 2). The Lancashire-12 rate (1.82%) was higher than the Blackburn with Darwen (1.32%) rate, regionally (1.41%) and nationally (1.81%), however was lower than the Blackpool rate (2.92%). 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 2012/13 and 2022/23, and since 2017/18, Blackburn with Darwen has had lower rates (on average: 0.95%) than Lancashire-12.

Table 2: Proportion of pupils subject to fixed-term exclusions in state funded primary schools, 2012/13 to 2022/23

Area	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2021-22	2022-23
Lancashire-12	0.73%	0.89%	0.83%	1.02%	1.16%	1.25%	1.06%	0.71%	1.32%	1.82%
Blackburn with Darwen	0.65%	0.68%	0.88%	1.09%	1.19%	1.07%	1.02%	0.62%	0.95%	1.32%
Blackpool	1.43%	1.63%	1.19%	1.45%	1.70%	2.08%	2.48%	1.67%	1.81%	2.92%
North West	0.76%	0.86%	0.91%	1.01%	1.18%	1.16%	1.12%	0.76%	1.10%	1.41%
England	0.88%	1.02%	1.10%	1.21%	1.37%	1.40%	1.41%	1.00%	1.42%	1.81%

Source: DfE – The figures for 2020/21 have been omitted, as this academic year was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

2.2 Secondary Exclusions

Compared to primary schools, the proportion of permanently excluded pupils is higher in Lancashire secondary schools. Data for 2022/23 (Table 3) indicates that the percentage of permanent exclusions was 0.54%, a 0.24 percentage point increase from the previous year. There were 390 permanent secondary school exclusions in 2022/23. 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, 2012/13 to 2022/23

Area	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2021-22	2022-23
Lancashire-12	0.18%	0.22%	0.29%	0.34%	0.45%	0.42%	0.44%	0.20%	0.30%	0.54%
Blackburn with Darwen	0.12%	0.01%	0.01%	0.03%	0.03%	0.06%	0.09%	0.18%	0.15%	0.25%
Blackpool	0.03%	0.14%	0.74%	0.33%	0.59%	0.64%	0.82%	0.2%	0.34%	0.54%
North West	0.14%	0.15%	0.19%	0.24%	0.31%	0.29%	0.30%	0.19%	0.25%	0.34%
England	0.12%	0.13%	0.15%	0.17%	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	0.13%	0.16%	0.22%

Source: DfE – The figures for 2020/21 have been omitted, as this academic year was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The proportion of fixed term exclusions in secondary schools is much higher than in primary schools. The rate in Lancashire-12 increased in 2022/23 to 19.80% (Table 4). This was lower than the regional (20.08%) and Blackpool (43.18%) rates but was still higher than in Blackburn with Darwen (13.46%) and national (18.90%).

Table 4: Proportion of pupils subject to fixed-term exclusions in state funded secondary schools, 2012/13 to 2022/23

Area	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2021-22	2022-23
Lancashire-12	6.07%	6.42%	6.67%	8.15%	8.93%	8.59%	10.47%	6.41%	15.07%	19.80%
Blackburn with Darwen	3.41%	1.80%	2.12%	2.67%	3.66%	4.57%	4.74%	4.12%	10.71%	13.46%
Blackpool	11.34%	11.79%	21.61%	15.24%	19.17%	19.41%	29.63%	15.65%	23.81%	43.18%
North West	7.07%	7.05%	8.10%	8.67%	9.42%	9.81%	11.33%	7.57%	15.50%	20.08%
England	6.72%	6.62%	7.51%	8.46%	9.40%	10.13%	10.75%	7.43%	13.96%	18.90%

Source: DfE – The figures for 2020/21 have been omitted, as this academic year was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

2.3 Total Exclusions

Recent data published by the Department for Education confirms there were 440 permanent exclusions during the 2022/23 period in Lancashire schools. Table 5 shows that this equates to a rate of 0.25% and is an increase on 2021/22 rate (by 0.11 percentage points) and was above the national (0.11%) and regional rates (0.16%). It was also above Blackburn with Darwen (0.13%) and neighbouring authority of Blackpool (0.22%). Lancashire-12 were positioned in quartile 4 nationally and were ranked 147 out of 152 LAs.

Table 5: Proportion of pupils subject to total permanent exclusions in all state funded primary and secondary schools, 2012/13 to 2022/23

Area	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2021-22	2022-23
Lancashire-12	0.10%	0.12%	0.15%	0.18%	0.21%	0.18%	0.19%	0.09%	0.14%	0.25%
Blackburn with Darwen	0.05%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.03%	0.06%	0.08%	0.07%	0.13%
Blackpool	0.01%	0.06%	0.27%	0.12%	0.22%	0.22%	0.29%	0.07%	0.13%	0.22%
North West	0.07%	0.07%	0.09%	0.11%	0.14%	0.13%	0.12%	0.08%	0.11%	0.16%
England	0.06%	0.06%	0.07%	0.08%	0.10%	0.10%	0.09%	0.06%	0.08%	0.11%

Source: DfE – The figures for 2020/21 have been omitted, as this academic year was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The proportion of fixed term exclusions in all state funded schools is higher in 2022/23 compared to previous years. The rate in Lancashire-12 increased in 2022/23 to 9.37% (Table 6). This was lower than the Blackpool (18.90%) rate but was still higher than the national (9.34%), regional (9.23%) and Blackburn with Darwen (6.80%) rates. Lancashire-12 were positioned in quartile 3 nationally and were ranked 88 out of 152 LAs.

Table 6: Proportion of pupils subject to fixed term exclusions in all state funded primary and secondary schools, 2013/14 to 2022/23

Area	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2021-22	2022-23
Lancashire-12	3.42%	3.36%	4.05%	4.42%	4.36%	5.06%	3.13%	7.12%	9.37%
Blackburn with Darwen	1.12%	1.38%	1.76%	2.34%	2.90%	2.83%	2.25%	5.49%	6.80%
Blackpool	5.43%	8.61%	6.42%	7.99%	8.15%	12.06%	6.72%	10.34%	18.90%
North West	3.51%	3.90%	4.15%	4.81%	4.69%	5.30%	3.58%	7.12%	9.23%
England	3.50%	3.88%	4.29%	4.76%	5.08%	5.36%	3.76%	6.91%	9.34%

Source: DfE – The figures for 2020/21 have been omitted, as this academic year was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 Authority.

Causes: There has been a rise in complex behaviours as schools due to rise in mental health needs, increase in complexity of special needs – some of this is caused by non-socialisation during Covid but some is due to not being assessed during Covid, and reduction in support staff due to lower school budgets and difficulty in recruiting quality teaching assistants.

Actions: Services continues to provide free specialist early intervention work where possible, behaviour consultant training, behaviour quality audits, increase in special school places, however this is difficult as capacity of staff is stretched in local authority SEND service, NHS and schools. Lancashire Skills Hub is going to run Skills Bootcamps for teaching assistants, LPDS have put in a bid for us to run these and this will help to train and engage more support staff.