



## Permanent and fixed-term exclusions from schools in Wales, 2015/16

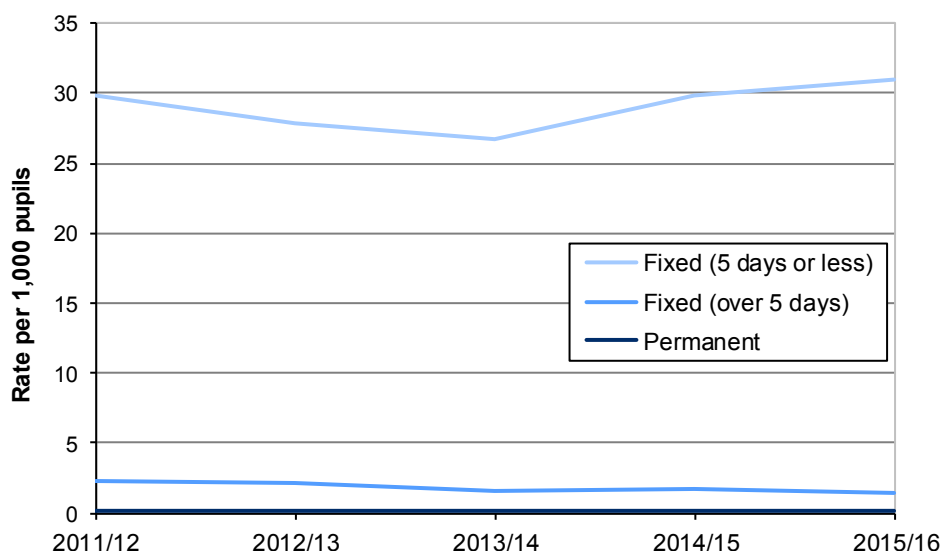
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The rate of **permanent exclusions** from maintained schools and pupil referral units has not changed since 2011/12. It has remained stable at **0.2 exclusions per 1,000 pupils** for five years.

The rates of **fixed term exclusions** fell between 2011/12 and 2013/14, but have increased over the last two years.

In 2015/16 there were **30.9 fixed-term exclusions of 5 days or less per 1,000 pupils** and **1.4 fixed-term exclusions over 5 days per 1,000 pupils**

**Chart 1: Rate of exclusions from maintained schools and pupil referral units in Wales**



This is the second year that pupil-level exclusions data have been collected from pupil referral units. Information relates to the academic years 2011/12 to 2015/16.

This is the first year that pupil-level exclusions data from pupil referral units have been included in all of the tables.

- **'Persistent disruptive behaviour'** was the most common reason given for **fixed-term exclusions of 5 days or less**, and **fixed-term exclusions over 5 days** in 2015/16.
- The most common reason for **permanent exclusions** in 2015/16 was **'physical assault against a pupil'**.

### About this release

This annual Statistical First Release reports on permanent and fixed-term exclusions by all pupils in maintained primary, middle, secondary and special schools and pupil referral units in Wales. It also reports on the reasons given for exclusions.

Data are shown for Wales and at local authority/consortium level.

Exclusions by free school meal entitlement, special educational need and ethnic background are not included in this document, but are included in the accompanying spreadsheet.

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## Introduction

[Chart 1](#) shows how the rate of permanent and fixed-term exclusions from maintained schools and pupil referral units in Wales has changed over time.

[Table 1](#) shows the breakdown of permanent and fixed-term exclusions by school type.

[Tables 2a](#), [2b](#) and [2c](#) show the numbers and rates of permanent and fixed-term exclusions by local authority and consortium. These tables include exclusions from all maintained primary, secondary and special schools.

[Table 3](#) and [Chart 2](#) report on the reasons given for exclusions.

**Table 1: Exclusions from maintained schools and pupil referral units in Wales, by school type**

	Number of exclusions					Rate of exclusions (a)				
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
<b>Permanent</b>										
Primary schools	6	9	7	8	10	*	*	*	*	*
Middle schools (b)	*	*	*	0	*	.	*	*	0.0	*
Secondary schools	84	89	80	81	94	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5
Special schools	*	*	*	0	*	*	*	*	0.0	*
<b>Total - maintained schools</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>*</b>
Pupil referral units (PRUs)	..	..	..	0	*	..	..	..	0.0	*
<b>Total - maintained schools and PRUs</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Fixed-term exclusions (5 days or less)</b>										
Primary schools	998	1,593	1,992	2,188	2,590	3.8	6.0	7.4	8.0	9.4
Middle schools (b)	35	98	164	238	220	.	26.9	46.3	54.4	41.0
Secondary schools	12,459	10,824	9,789	10,096	10,110	62.9	56.6	52.5	55.3	56.6
Special schools	385	402	430	492	492	90.5	93.0	99.1	110.7	108.3
<b>Total - maintained schools</b>	<b>13,877</b>	<b>12,917</b>	<b>12,375</b>	<b>13,014</b>	<b>13,412</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>28.8</b>
Pupil referral units (PRUs)	..	..	..	900	1,012	..	..	..	1.9	2.2
<b>Total - maintained schools and PRUs</b>	<b>13,877</b>	<b>12,917</b>	<b>12,375</b>	<b>13,914</b>	<b>14,424</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>30.9</b>
<b>Fixed-term exclusions (over 5 days)</b>										
Primary schools	57	139	129	138	119	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4
Middle schools (b)	0	0	*	*	7	.	0.0	*	*	1.3
Secondary schools	967	782	579	612	469	4.9	4.1	3.1	3.4	2.6
Special schools	21	41	*	*	32	4.9	9.5	*	*	7.0
<b>Total - maintained schools</b>	<b>1,045</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Pupil referral units (PRUs)	..	..	..	25	27	..	..	..	0.1	0.1
<b>Total - maintained schools and PRUs</b>	<b>1,045</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.4</b>

Source: Pupils' Exclusions Record, Welsh Government

(a) Rate per 1,000 pupils. Full- and part-time pupils of all ages.

(b) In 2012/13, middle schools provided exclusions data for the primary or secondary schools that merged to form them in 2011/12. That is why, although there were no middle schools in 2011/12, exclusions data have been recorded against middle schools for this year.

".." means that the data item was not available.

"." means that the data item is not applicable.

"\*\*" means that the data item is disclosive.

- The rate of permanent exclusions per 1,000 pupils has not changed in five years. In the 2015/16 academic year, as in the four years before, there were 0.2 permanent exclusions per 1,000 pupils in maintained schools and pupil referral units.
- In 2015/16 there were 30.9 fixed-term exclusions of 5 days or fewer per 1,000 pupils in all maintained schools and pupil referral units. There are 28.8 fixed-term exclusions of 5 days or fewer per 1,000 pupils in all maintained schools (excluding pupil referral units).
- There were also 1.4 fixed-term exclusions over 5 days per 1,000 pupils in all maintained schools and pupil referral units, and 1.3 fixed-term exclusions over 5 days per 1,000 pupils in all maintained schools (excluding pupils referral units).
- Exclusions from pupil referral units were included in the figures for the first time in 2014/15. For this reason, caution should be used when comparing the rate of exclusions for all maintained schools and pupil referral units with previous years. The rates of exclusions for maintained schools alone have been included in this table to provide a more reliable way to compare exclusions between years.

- The rates of fixed-term exclusions (5 days or less) from maintained schools had been falling between 2011/12 and 2013/14. The rates have increased over the last two years.
- The rates of fixed-term exclusions over 5 days from maintained schools had been falling between 2011/12 and 2013/14. In 2014/15 the rates increased, but in 2015/16 the rates decreased and are now the lowest they have been since 2011/12.
- Special schools had the highest rate of fixed-term exclusions of 5 days or less, and also the highest rate of fixed-term exclusions over 5 days.

**Table 2a: Permanent exclusions from maintained schools and pupil referral units in Wales, by local authority and consortium**

	Number of exclusions					Rate of exclusions (a)				
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
<b>North Wales</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Isle of Anglesey	*	0	0	0	*	*	0.0	0.0	0.0	*
Gwynedd	13	*	*	6	5	0.8	*	*	0.4	0.3
Conwy	0	0	*	0	*	0.0	0.0	*	0.0	*
Denbighshire	*	*	0	*	*	*	*	0.0	*	*
Flintshire	*	0	*	0	*	*	0.0	*	0.0	*
Wrexham	*	0	*	*	9	*	0.0	*	*	0.5
<b>South West and Mid Wales</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>
Powys	7	6	0	9	12	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.7
Ceredigion	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pembrokeshire	*	*	*	*	5	*	*	*	*	0.3
Carmarthenshire	*	*	*	*	0	*	*	*	*	0.0
Swansea	6	5	6	8	8	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Neath Port Talbot	12	11	11	9	15	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.7
<b>Central South Wales</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Bridgend	6	11	9	*	7	0.3	0.5	0.4	*	0.3
The Vale of Glamorgan	*	*	*	*	0	*	*	*	*	0.0
Rhondda Cynon Taf	*	13	16	17	*	*	0.3	0.4	0.4	*
Merthyr Tydfil	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Cardiff	7	5	5	*	*	0.1	0.1	0.1	*	*
<b>South East Wales</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Caerphilly	6	8	12	9	14	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.5
Blaenau Gwent	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Torfaen	*	7	*	*	*	*	0.5	*	*	*
Monmouthshire	0	*	0	0	*	0.0	*	0.0	0.0	*
Newport	9	17	10	8	10	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.4
<b>Wales</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>

Source: Pupils' Exclusions Record, Welsh Government

(a) Rate per 1,000 pupils. Full- and part-time pupils of all ages.

(b) Exclusions from pupil referral units are only included for 2015/16.

- Rates of permanent exclusions less than 1.0% across all consortia for the past five years.
- Caution should be taken when comparing differences in exclusions between local authorities. Differences in behaviour management practices in local authorities can affect their number and rate of exclusions.
- Caution should also be taken when comparing 2015/16 to previous years as this is the first year that pupil referral units have been included in the figures.

**Table 2b: Fixed-term exclusions (5 days or less) from maintained schools and pupil referral units in Wales, by local authority and consortium**

	Number of exclusions					Rate of exclusions (a)				
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
<b>North Wales</b>	<b>3,027</b>	<b>2,272</b>	<b>2,208</b>	<b>2,550</b>	<b>3,181</b>	<b>29.8</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>31.2</b>
Isle of Anglesey	225	113	87	163	202	23.5	11.8	9.1	17.0	20.9
Gwynedd	234	95	111	157	236	13.6	5.5	6.5	9.2	13.9
Conwy	176	244	150	298	380	10.9	15.2	9.4	18.7	23.8
Denbighshire	574	490	563	734	1,089	36.5	31.3	35.9	46.6	69.3
Flintshire	684	696	704	712	838	28.8	29.4	29.7	30.0	35.3
Wrexham	1,134	634	593	486	436	59.4	33.1	30.7	24.9	22.2
<b>South West and Mid Wales</b>	<b>2,422</b>	<b>2,590</b>	<b>2,867</b>	<b>2,946</b>	<b>3,469</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>26.9</b>
Powys	355	324	299	479	453	18.7	17.1	16.0	26.2	25.1
Ceredigion	120	115	61	85	135	12.4	12.0	6.3	8.9	14.1
Pembrokeshire	113	452	621	747	1,043	6.2	24.9	34.1	41.6	58.7
Carmarthenshire	413	365	456	454	643	15.3	13.5	16.9	16.8	23.7
Swansea	803	684	770	546	580	22.9	19.5	21.8	15.4	16.2
Neath Port Talbot	618	650	660	635	615	29.8	31.7	32.1	30.7	29.6
<b>Central South Wales</b>	<b>5,501</b>	<b>4,974</b>	<b>4,258</b>	<b>4,417</b>	<b>4,499</b>	<b>38.5</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>30.8</b>
Bridgend	646	595	425	549	708	29.0	26.5	18.8	24.0	30.8
The Vale of Glamorgan	236	577	572	472	736	10.9	26.6	26.4	21.6	33.5
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,569	1,491	1,307	1,553	1,445	40.2	38.2	33.6	40.1	37.1
Merthyr Tydfil	149	195	178	197	152	16.3	21.5	20.3	22.9	17.5
Cardiff	2,901	2,116	1,776	1,646	1,458	57.3	41.5	34.2	31.3	27.3
<b>South East Wales</b>	<b>2,927</b>	<b>3,081</b>	<b>3,042</b>	<b>3,101</b>	<b>3,275</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>36.6</b>
Caerphilly	877	702	617	823	769	30.4	24.5	21.5	28.7	26.9
Blaenau Gwent	190	263	412	448	282	18.7	26.9	43.1	47.6	30.1
Torfaen	744	678	455	345	731	47.5	44.1	30.0	22.9	48.7
Monmouthshire	372	323	341	405	468	31.7	27.6	29.5	35.1	40.5
Newport	744	1,115	1,217	1,080	1,025	31.2	46.1	50.0	43.7	41.0
<b>Wales</b>	<b>13,877</b>	<b>12,917</b>	<b>12,375</b>	<b>13,014</b>	<b>14,424</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>30.9</b>

Source: Pupils' Exclusions Record, Welsh Government

(a) Rate per 1,000 pupils. Full- and part-time pupils of all ages.

(b) Exclusions from pupil referral units are only included for 2015/16.

- Denbighshire had the highest rate of fixed-term exclusions of 5 days or less from maintained schools and pupil referral units in 2015/16.
- Gwynedd had the lowest rate of fixed-term exclusions of 5 days or less in 2015/16.
- Caution should be taken when comparing differences in exclusions between local authorities. Differences in behaviour management practices in local authorities can affect their number and rate of exclusions.
- Caution should also be taken when comparing 2015/16 to previous years as this is the first year that pupil referral units have been included in the figures.

**Table 2c: Fixed-term exclusions (over 5 days) from maintained schools and pupil referral units in Wales, by local authority and consortium**

	Number of exclusions					Rate of exclusions (a)				
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
<b>North Wales</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.7</b>
Isle of Anglesey	29	13	*	8	15	3.0	1.4	*	0.8	1.6
Gwynedd	17	11	*	16	22	1.0	0.6	*	0.9	1.3
Conwy	10	20	18	13	40	0.6	1.2	1.1	0.8	2.5
Denbighshire	19	17	17	26	14	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.6	0.9
Flintshire	51	68	42	40	44	2.1	2.9	1.8	1.7	1.9
Wrexham	121	79	50	50	43	6.3	4.1	2.6	2.6	2.2
<b>South West and Mid Wales</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.1</b>
Powys	34	29	31	42	32	1.8	1.5	1.7	2.3	1.8
Ceredigion	*	*	0	0	0	*	*	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pembrokeshire	*	*	20	16	21	*	*	1.1	0.9	1.2
Carmarthenshire	22	16	10	25	18	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.9	0.7
Swansea	92	90	57	74	51	2.6	2.6	1.6	2.1	1.4
Neath Port Talbot	61	46	50	36	20	2.9	2.2	2.4	1.7	1.0
<b>Central South Wales</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Bridgend	49	46	32	40	46	2.2	2.0	1.4	1.8	2.0
The Vale of Glamorgan	27	77	63	19	43	1.2	3.5	2.9	0.9	2.0
Rhondda Cynon Taf	102	73	85	102	65	2.6	1.9	2.2	2.6	1.7
Merthyr Tydfil	20	18	9	16	5	2.2	2.0	1.0	1.9	0.6
Cardiff	170	138	59	97	36	3.4	2.7	1.1	1.8	0.7
<b>South East Wales</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Caerphilly	41	57	55	65	66	1.4	2.0	1.9	2.3	2.3
Blaenau Gwent	29	21	39	17	8	2.9	2.1	4.1	1.8	0.9
Torfaen	57	35	*	*	16	3.6	2.3	*	*	1.1
Monmouthshire	16	7	*	*	5	1.4	0.6	*	*	0.4
Newport	72	88	72	59	44	3.0	3.6	3.0	2.4	1.8
<b>Wales</b>	<b>1,045</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.4</b>

Source: Pupils' Exclusions Record, Welsh Government

(a) Rate per 1,000 pupils. Full- and part-time pupils of all ages.

(b) Exclusions from pupil referral units are only included for 2015/16.

- Rates of fixed-term exclusions over 5 days from maintained schools were highest in North Wales.
- Rates of fixed-term exclusions over 5 days are lowest in Ceredigion, and highest in Conwy.
- Caution should also be taken when comparing differences in exclusions between local authorities. Differences in behaviour management practices in local authorities can affect their number and rate of exclusions.
- Caution should also be taken when comparing 2015/16 to previous years as this is the first year that pupil referral units have been included in the figures.

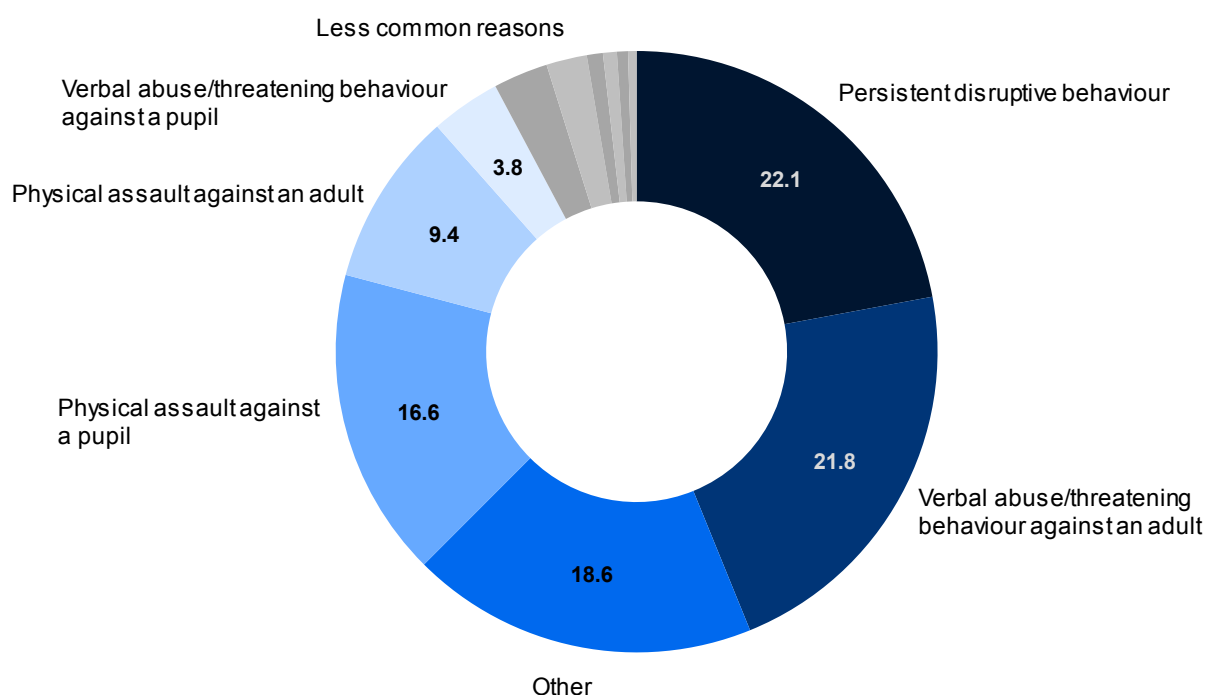
**Table 3: Exclusions from maintained schools and pupil referral units in Wales, by reason for exclusion**

	Number of exclusions					Percentage of exclusions				
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
<b>Permanent</b>										
Physical assault against a pupil	13	17	11	14	20	14.3	16.7	12.4	15.7	18.3
Physical assault against an adult	18	17	13	12	13	19.8	16.7	14.6	13.5	11.9
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against a pupil	*	5	5	*	8	*	4.9	5.6	*	7.3
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult	*	7	14	14	18	*	6.9	15.7	15.7	16.5
Bullying	0	0	0	*	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	*	0.0
Racist abuse	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sexual misconduct	0	*	0	0	*	0.0	*	0.0	0.0	*
Drug and alcohol related	9	11	18	9	12	9.9	10.8	20.2	10.1	11.0
Damage	*	6	0	*	*	*	5.9	0.0	*	*
Theft	*	*	0	*	0	*	*	0.0	*	0.0
Persistent disruptive behaviour	11	12	12	17	19	12.1	11.8	13.5	19.1	17.4
Possession/use of weapon	*	..	..	..	..	*	..	..	..	..
Defiance of rules/discipline policy	16	..	..	..	..	17.6	..	..	..	..
Threatening or dangerous behaviours	7	..	..	..	..	7.7	..	..	..	..
Other	7	23	16	14	17	7.7	22.5	18.0	15.7	15.6
Total	91	102	89	89	109	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Fixed-term exclusions (5 days or less)</b>										
Physical assault against a pupil	2,463	2,393	2,189	2,264	2,401	17.7	18.5	17.7	17.4	16.6
Physical assault against an adult	579	702	920	979	1,300	4.2	5.4	7.4	7.5	9.0
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against a pupil	110	570	489	498	534	0.8	4.4	4.0	3.8	3.7
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult	0	2,593	2,610	2,776	3,186	0.0	20.1	21.1	21.3	22.1
Bullying	132	136	115	86	126	1.0	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.9
Racist abuse	101	95	112	111	89	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.6
Sexual misconduct	73	54	81	54	56	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.4
Drug and alcohol related	234	293	291	307	276	1.7	2.3	2.4	2.4	1.9
Damage	408	359	289	329	430	2.9	2.8	2.3	2.5	3.0
Theft	184	119	141	101	111	1.3	0.9	1.1	0.8	0.8
Persistent disruptive behaviour	2,081	3,028	2,465	2,888	3,211	15.0	23.4	19.9	22.2	22.3
Possession/use of weapon	48	..	..	..	..	0.3	..	..	..	..
Defiance of rules/discipline policy	2,660	..	..	..	..	19.2	..	..	..	..
Threatening or dangerous behaviours	832	..	..	..	..	6.0	..	..	..	..
Other	1,403	2,575	2,673	2,621	2,704	10.1	19.9	21.6	20.1	18.7
Total	13,877	12,917	12,375	13,014	14,424	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Fixed-term exclusions (over 5 days)</b>										
Physical assault against a pupil	188	142	100	105	104	18.0	14.8	13.6	13.5	15.9
Physical assault against an adult	113	124	97	108	108	10.8	12.9	13.1	13.8	16.5
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against a pupil	*	43	32	30	28	*	4.5	4.3	3.8	4.3
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult	90	130	117	148	103	8.6	13.5	15.9	19.0	15.7
Bullying	11	17	5	8	5	1.1	1.8	0.7	1.0	0.8
Racist abuse	*	*	8	*	*	*	*	1.1	*	*
Sexual misconduct	8	*	8	*	*	0.8	*	1.1	*	*
Drug and alcohol related	58	82	61	64	44	5.6	8.5	8.3	8.2	6.7
Damage	37	39	23	24	15	3.5	4.1	3.1	3.1	2.3
Theft	16	21	29	10	*	1.5	2.2	3.9	1.3	*
Persistent disruptive behaviour	102	193	132	147	122	9.8	20.1	17.9	18.8	18.7
Possession/use of weapon	13	..	..	..	..	1.2	..	..	..	..
Defiance of rules/discipline policy	148	..	..	..	..	14.2	..	..	..	..
Threatening or dangerous behaviours	140	..	..	..	..	13.4	..	..	..	..
Other	110	152	126	126	110	10.5	15.8	17.1	16.2	16.8
Total	1,045	962	738	780	654	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Pupils' Exclusions Record, Welsh Government

(a) Exclusions from pupil referral units are only included for 2015/16.

**Chart 2: Percentage of all exclusions, by reason for exclusion**



- 18.3 per cent of permanent exclusions in 2015/16 were due to ‘physical assault against a pupil’.
- 22.3 per cent of fixed-term exclusions of 5 days or less in 2015/16, and 18.7 per cent of fixed-term exclusions over 5 days in 2015/16 were due to ‘persistent disruptive behaviour’.
- These were the most common reasons given for each type of exclusion.
- The chart above shows the percentage of exclusions in 2015/16 that were recorded against each reason for exclusion. The chart includes all permanent and fixed-term exclusions. Although all reasons for exclusions are included in the chart, only the six most common reasons are highlighted.
- The most common reason given for all exclusions in 2015/16 was ‘persistent disruptive behaviour’. The second most common reason for exclusions was ‘verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult’.
- Please be careful when making comparisons to previous years as 2015/16 is the first year that pupil referral units have been included in the above chart.



## Context

### Policy/operational

Updated guidance on [Exclusion from Schools and Pupil Referral Units \(Circular No: 171/2015\)](#) was issued in April 2015 and provides guidance on exclusions and appeals procedures. The procedures set out in this guidance apply to all maintained schools and PRUs and all pupils in them. It is for individual schools to determine their behaviour policies and to work with their local authority on exclusions.

Differing practices operating within the guidelines will affect the varying rates across Wales.

### Data source

Since January 2013 exclusions data have been collected in the January [Pupil-Level Annual School Census \(PLASC\)](#). It was not possible to publish these new data immediately because their quality had to be evaluated. Now that the quality of the data has been confirmed, the pupil-level exclusions data obtained from the January PLASC are being used as the basis of this statistical first release. Pupil numbers used to calculate exclusion rates are also taken from the January PLASC and the EOTAS collection. The data collection is carried out by Knowledge and Analytical Services within the Welsh Government.

## Key quality information

### Relevance

The statistics are used both within and outside the Welsh Government to monitor educational trends and as a baseline for further analysis of the underlying data. Some of the key users are:

- Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;
- The Department for Education in England;
- other government departments;
- Local Authorities;
- Estyn, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education and Training in Wales;
- Wales Audit Office;
- Education Directorate;
- other areas of the Welsh Government;
- the research community;
- students, academics and universities;
- individual citizens and private companies.

These statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these are:

- advice to Ministers;
- local authority comparisons and benchmarks;
- to inform the education policy decision-making process in Wales;

- to inform ESTYN during school inspections;
- contributes to the Core Strategic Indicators;
- international benchmarking;
- the education domain of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation;
- to assist in research in educational attainment.

### **Accuracy**

Various stages of automated validation and sense-checking are built into the data collection process to ensure a high quality of data.

### **Timeliness and punctuality**

The data are collected in the January following the academic year in which the exclusions took place. Following the collection of the data and quality assurance, they are published at the earliest possible date. Because the data collection has moved from a local authority survey that used to take place in November to the January PLASC the publication date is later than the previous exclusions statistical release.

### **Accessibility and clarity**

This Statistical First Release is pre-announced and then published on the Statistics section of the Welsh Government website.

### **Comparability and coherence**

The 2013/14 edition of this Statistical First Release moved to using data collected in a new way via the January Pupil-Level Annual School Census (PLASC). Caution should therefore be taken when comparing data in this new statistical release and the old report called 'Exclusions from Schools in Wales'.

Since exclusions data are collected in the PLASC and EOTAS collection following the end of the academic year, some schools closed before they were able to report their exclusions. It was decided to identify such schools and not include the number of pupils that they had on roll in the pupil numbers used to calculate rates. The 2014/15 edition of this Statistical First Release uses a simpler and less time-consuming method. To calculate the rate of exclusions per 1,000 pupils, the number of exclusions were divided by the number of pupils with 'main' or 'current' enrolment status reported by all schools in January PLASC, ignoring the marginal effect of closed schools. These figures can be obtained from [StatsWales](#). This method is simpler, easier for our users to replicate and understand and allows us to produce more timely data. Because of this change, it is not advised to compare rates in the 2013/14 edition with the 2014/15 edition of this Statistical First Release. Comparable figures can be produced on request if necessary.

Due to the effect that the implementation of different behaviour management and exclusion intervention practices, such as managed moves, have on the number of exclusions, comparisons over time and between local authorities should be interpreted with caution.

Exclusions data for Wales are based on the number of exclusions during the academic year whereas Northern Ireland publish the number of pupils excluded, so the two sets of data are not directly comparable. Information on the number of pupils excluded in Wales is available on request.

## Definitions

### Coverage

The exclusions information in this Statistical First Release relates to the number of permanent and fixed-term exclusions of pupils of all ages from maintained primary, secondary and special schools and pupil referral units during the whole academic year. Only permanent exclusions upheld by the Governing Body's Pupil Discipline Committee are included in the data since they are collected after the outcome of all independent appeals have been finalised. Data on the number of exclusions overturned after independent appeal are also available on request.

Data are collected from maintained primary, secondary and special schools in the January PLASC and also for pupil referral units from the EOTAS collection following the academic year during which the exclusions took place. For example, exclusions for the 2015/16 academic year were collected in the January 2017 PLASC. If two schools merge before the next January PLASC, the schools' exclusions data will be submitted by the new school. If a school closes before the next January PLASC, the exclusions data from that school are not provided.

Pupil numbers used to calculate rates of exclusions within this Statistical First Release include all full-time and part-time pupils in maintained primary, secondary and special schools, and pupils in pupil referral units. They only include pupils from schools that were still open to provide exclusions data in the next January PLASC. In the event that a newly-merged school provided exclusions data, all schools that merged to form that school will also be included in the totals.

Data relate to the number of exclusions, not the number of pupils excluded. For example, a pupil excluded twice during an academic year would appear twice for that year.

### Types of exclusion and other definitions

A **permanent exclusion** refers to a pupil who is excluded and their name is removed from the school register. Such a pupil would then be educated at another school or via some other form of provision.

A **fixed-term exclusion** refers to a pupil who is excluded from a school but remains on the register of that school because they are expected to return when the exclusion period is completed.

A **managed move** is an arrangement whereby parents of pupils in danger of exclusion agree with schools and local authorities that it is in the best interests of their child that they be removed from the roll of the current school and placed in another educational establishment. Data for managed moves are not currently available.

## **National Statistics status**

The [United Kingdom Statistics Authority](#) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is Welsh Government's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

## **Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)**

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators ("national indicators") that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016.

Information on indicators and associated technical information - [How do you measure a nation's progress? - National Indicators](#)

[Further information on the Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015.](#)

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

## Further details

This release is available at: <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/permanent-fixed-term-exclusions-from-schools/?lang=en>

England publish exclusions data for state-funded primary, secondary and special schools in the statistical release entitled '[Permanent and fixed-period exclusions in England: 2014 to 2015](#)'.

Scotland publish exclusions data for maintained primary, secondary and special schools in the statistical bulletin '[Summary statistics for schools in Scotland - No. 6: 2015 Edition](#)'.

Northern Ireland publish the [number of pupils expelled or suspended from primary, post-primary and special schools](#).

## Next update

September 2018 (provisional)

The next update will include a report covering the 2017/18 academic year.

## We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to [school.stats@gov.wales](mailto:school.stats@gov.wales)

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