

Latest Government Attendance, Suspensions & Exclusions Data in England

School Attendance and Absence (2024/25 Academic Year)

Data published in March 2026.

Overall Absence Rates

The total number of sessions missed due to absence decreased slightly across the board, though figures remain higher than pre-pandemic levels.

- **Overall absence rate: 6.78%** in 2024/25 (down from 7.15% in 2023/24). For context, the pre-pandemic rate in 2018/19 was 4.73%.
- **Primary schools: 5.20%** (down from 5.53% in 2023/24).
- **Secondary schools: 8.44%** (down from 8.89% in 2023/24).
- **Special schools: 12.76%** (down from 13.01% in 2023/24).

Persistent and Severe Absence

- **Persistent Absentees (missing 10% or more sessions): 18.14%** (approximately 1.34 million pupils) in 2024/25, a decrease from 19.95% in the previous year.
- **Severe Absentees (missing 50% or more sessions): 2.39%** (approximately 176,000 pupils), which is a slight *increase* from 2.30% in 2023/24.
- **Main driver:** Illness remained the most common reason for absence, accounting for **3.22%** of all possible sessions.

Alternative Education & Missing Children

- **Elective Home Education (EHE):** By the Autumn 2025/26 census date, **126,000** children were recorded as being electively home-educated, up from 111,700 in Autumn 2024.
- **Children Missing Education (CME):** Local authorities reported **34,700** children missing education on census day in Autumn 2025, a decrease from 39,200 the year prior.

Suspensions and Permanent Exclusions

Data published between July 2025 and March 2026, reflecting the 2023/24 full academic year and Autumn term 2024/25 trends.

Latest Term Data (Autumn Term 2024/25)

Recent termly data indicates a slight cooling in exclusions compared to the previous year, though secondary schools still account for the vast majority.

- **Suspensions:** The suspension rate was **4.02** per 100 pupils (335,671 total suspensions), down from 4.13 in Autumn 2023/24.
- **Permanent Exclusions:** The permanent exclusion rate dropped slightly to **0.04** per 100 pupils (3,715 total), down from 0.05 in Autumn 2023/24. Secondary schools accounted for 84% of these permanent exclusions.

References

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