



**GOVERNORS
FOR SCHOOLS**

Hot Topics

**4th June
2020**



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Today's topics:

- Latest DfE (pre-Covid-19) attendance data
- Updated (temporary) DfE Exclusions guidance
- Relationship, Sex and Health Education (Sept 2020)
- School capital funding
- Hidden Harm
- Governance – business as usual

DfE Attendance Data (Autumn term 2019)

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National Statistics

Pupil absence in schools in England: autumn term 2019

Absence statistics on the levels of overall, authorised and unauthorised absence in state funded schools.

Published 28 May 2020

From: [Department for Education](#)



Applies to: **England**

Related content

Collection



DfE Attendance Data (Autumn term 2019)

Headline facts and figures - 2019/20

Summary

Table

Chart

Overall absence rate

4.93%

Increase from 4.3%, all schools

[▶ Help](#)

Authorised absence rate

3.61%

Increase from 3.1%, all schools

[▶ Help](#)

Unauthorised absence rate

1.32%

Increase from 1.2%, all schools

[▶ Help](#)

Percentage of persistent absentees

13.14%

Increase from 10.9%, all schools

[▶ Help](#)

Headline facts and figures for pupil absence in the autumn term, 2019/20

- **Overall absence rate** has increased from 4.3% to **4.9%**
- **Authorised absence** has increased from 3.1% to **3.6%**
- **Unauthorised absence** has increased from 1.2% to **1.3%**
- **Persistent absentees** make up **13.1%** of all enrolments, an increase from 10.9 per cent in Autumn 2018

Attendance - Questions for governors to ask:

- Do we receive attendance data comparing the school to national figures?
- Do we look back at data when termly averages are available?
- Are actions required?
- What are they and what impact will they have?

DfE Exclusions (new regulations)



Department
for Education

Statutory guidance

Changes to the school exclusion process during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

Updated 29 May 2020

Contents

Important dates

Remote access meetings

Arranging a remote access meeting

Timescales for meetings of governing boards

Meetings to consider

This statutory guidance describes the temporary changes we have made to the school exclusion process due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

The [new regulations](#) change some of the procedures that must be followed in relation to an exclusion, to give greater flexibility to schools, parents and local authorities during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. They apply to all maintained schools, academies (including alternative provision academies but excluding 16 to 19 academies) and pupil referral units (PRUs).



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DfE Exclusions

Regulations:

- published 29th May
- cover the period 1 June – 24th September 2020
- amend the *School Discipline (Pupil Exclusions and Reviews) (England) Regulations 2012*
- vary the *usual procedural rules, in response to the coronavirus pandemic.*

Exclusions - Questions for governors to ask:

- Is the school leadership team aware of these new regulations?
- Have risk assessments been undertaken for pupils '*at risk*' of exclusion?

Relationship, Sex and Health Education

Statutory guidance

Relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education

The new curriculum will be mandatory from September 2020. Schools are encouraged to adopt the new curriculum early from September 2019.

Published 25 June 2019

Last updated 25 July 2019 — [see all updates](#)

From: [Department for Education](#)

Applies to: **England**

Related content

[Relationships education, relationships and sex education \(RSE\) and health education: FAQs](#)



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Poll # 1

RSHE – Questions for governors

- Is my school ready to meet the new duty from September 2020?
- Does provision for mental health & well-being reflect post-Covid-19 issues?
- How will governance monitor the impact of any changes?

School Capital Funding

Guidance

School capital funding

An overview of school capital funding, who it's for, current and past allocations, how it's calculated and spending guidance.

Published 4 April 2019

Last updated 27 May 2020 — [see all updates](#)

From: [Department for Education](#)

Applies to: **England**

Contents

— [Overview](#)

Related content

[PE and sport premium: conditions of grant 2019 to 2020](#)

[Condition improvement fund \(CIF\) application outcomes: 2019 to 2020](#)



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Capital Funding – questions for governors

- Is my school aware of the update?
- Has the board reflected on capital works required and where additional funding, above Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) will come from?

Hidden Harm initiative

- Cross-government initiative launched 22nd May
- A new government initiative aimed at tackling three areas of crime with huge impact on children's safeguarding:
 - Domestic abuse
 - Child sexual abuse
 - Modern slavery

Hidden Harm– questions for governors

- Is my school aware of the initiative?
- How significant are these factors within my school(s) context?
- Has the new 2020 guidance, on child sexual abuse, including on line safety, aimed at parents been shared?

The business of governance?

- Governance continues. Boards should be reflecting on:
 - School Development Plan priorities
 - Developing the curriculum
 - Budgetary considerations post-Covid-19
 - Appraisal processes
 - Leadership of governance

Poll # 2

Any further questions?



Further information

- Absence data
<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/pupil-absence-in-schools-in-england-autumn-term>
- Exclusions regulations
www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion/changes-to-the-school-exclusion-process-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak
- Relationship, Sex & Health Education
www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education
- School capital
www.gov.uk/guidance/school-capital-funding
- Hidden harm
www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-announced-ahead-of-hidden-harms-summit

What you need to know, when you need to know it



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