

EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 27 SEPTEMBER 2017

EDUCATION EXCLUSIONS

Report by Director for Children's Services

Introduction

1. The aim of this report is to provide data to assist scrutiny of the causes of a rise in fixed term and permanent exclusions.
2. There has been a 28% increase in exclusions overall since last year and a 62% increase in exclusions overall since 2014/15 (see Appendix 1).
3. During the academic year 2016/17 there were 82 permanent exclusions of Oxfordshire pupils from Oxfordshire schools, 21 from primary schools and 61 from secondary schools. Five attended Oxfordshire schools but did not live in Oxfordshire. Two attended non-Oxfordshire school, but were Oxfordshire pupils. Therefore, the County Council was liable to provide provision for 84 pupils.
4. There is an understanding within Oxfordshire that children who are looked after (LAC) are not permanently excluded and alternative support is put in place in liaison with the Virtual School.
5. The fixed term exclusion rate from Oxfordshire schools has been lower than the national average, but shows a steep increase during 2016/17.

Permanent exclusions

Secondary schools

6. There has been an increase of 42% on last year with 39 schools permanently excluding 62 children. These were the highest:

St Gregory the Great	8
Lord Williams's	6
Wheatley Park	4
Oxford Spires	4
North Oxfordshire Academy	3
South	24
City	21
North	17
7. There were 5 times as many boys as girls overall.
8. It is worth noting that 4 schools – The Oxford Academy, The Marlborough, Cheney and Banbury Academy - have reduced their numbers of permanently excluded children.

9. 32 children were receiving some level of Special Educational Needs (SEN) support at the time of exclusion, 2 of which already had an Education Health & Care Plan (EHCP).
10. Four additional children either received support or have moved to an EHCP since being excluded. Therefore, 40% of secondary school excluded children had SEN.

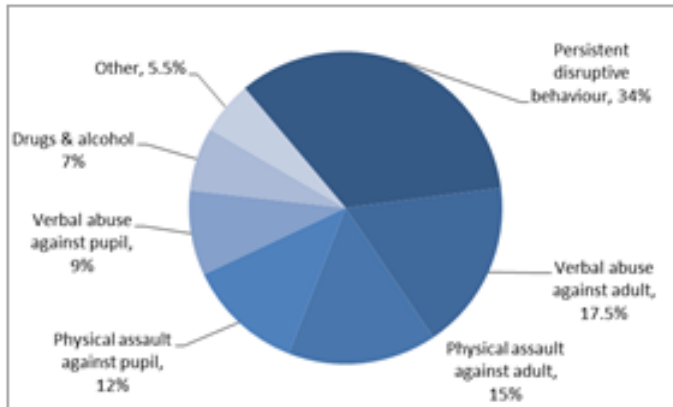
Primary schools

11. There has been an increase of 57% on last year with 19 schools permanently excluding 22 pupils. These were the highest:

John Henry Newman	3
St Joseph's	2
Carterton	2
All others excluded	1 pupil
South	5
City	8
North	9

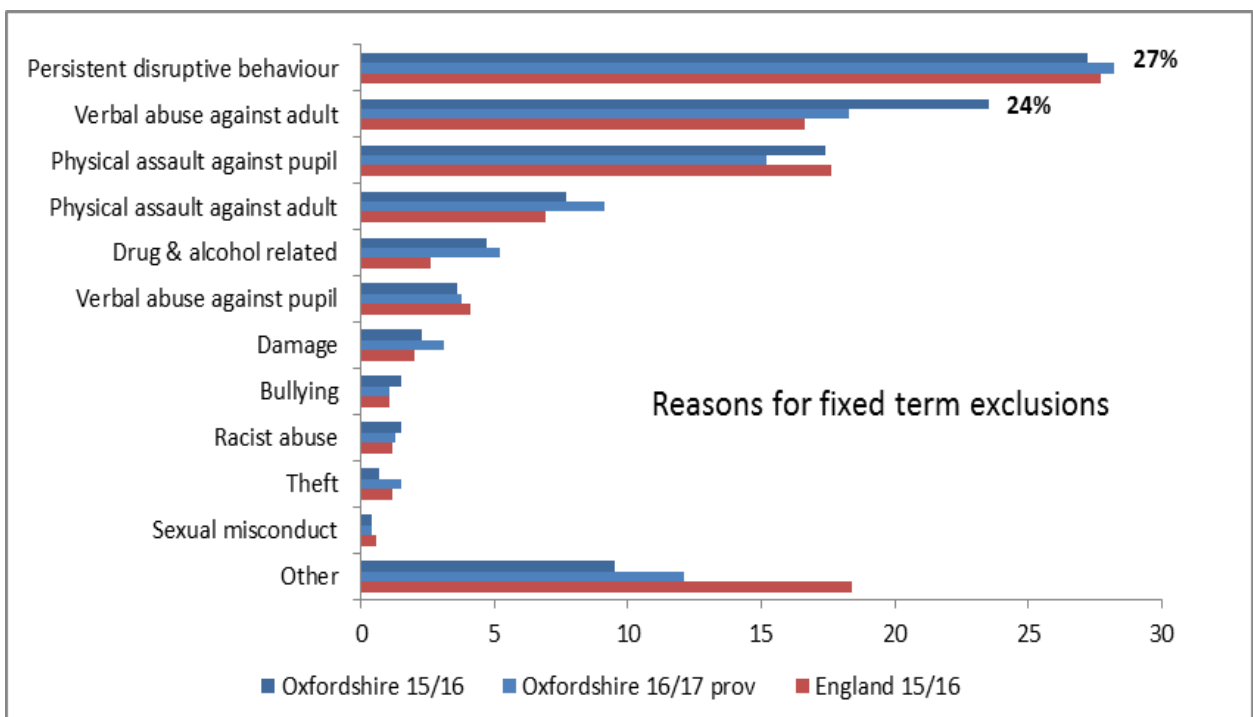
12. Again, there were 5 times as many boys as girls overall.
13. At the time of exclusion, all children were receiving some SEN support, with 4 already with an EHCP. Since being excluded, the number of children with an EHCP increased to 6. Therefore, 100% of primary school age excluded children were receiving some form of SEN support.
14. During the past year, 15 cases have been rescinded. This suggests that the guidance and protocol for permanent exclusions may not be being followed accurately by schools. The Local Authority's role, when requested, is to advise head teachers and governors at the disciplinary committee to ensure they are fulfilling their obligations and that the guidance has been followed and used appropriately. Heads need to be encouraged to share this information so that good practice can be disseminated.
15. The growth in the number of permanent exclusions is most noticeable in year groups 7, 9 and 10. This goes hand in hand with the drop in attendance from year 6 to year 7 suggesting a poor transition period.
16. Nationally published data are lower than internal data. This indicates that increasing numbers of schools are not reporting their permanent exclusions to the DfE through the schools census. This is a statutory requirement.
17. In managing and preventing exclusions, more and more schools are using reduced timetables. Whilst there is a place for them to assist in the re-integration to full-time education, they require close monitoring and review to ensure the child is receiving their allocation.
18. A survey was issued to schools earlier this year requesting the numbers of children on reduced time-tables. There was a response of only 33%. Next year, this information will be collected as part of the Safeguarding Audit by the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board.

19. One third of all permanent exclusions from Oxfordshire schools in 2016/17 were for persistent disruptive behaviour. However, at primary schools, physical assault against an adult is the most frequently given reason for permanent exclusion (41%), followed by persistent disruptive behaviour (32%).



Fixed term exclusions

20. The fixed term exclusion rate from Oxfordshire schools has been lower than the national average, but there has been a steep increase during 2016/17.
21. The exclusion rates from primary schools have been lower than the South East and national figures, but 2016/17 saw a sharp increase from 0.9% to 1.5%.
22. Fixed term exclusion rates from secondary schools are generally in line with the South East average, but lower than the national figure.
23. Persistent disruptive behaviour is the most common reason for fixed term exclusion both in Oxfordshire and nationally.



24. 1,388 days were lost from Oxfordshire primary schools, with 11 pupils having at least 10 exclusions during the year.

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25. 6,361 days were lost from secondary schools, with 17 pupils having at least 10 exclusions.

Further analysis of school exclusion data will be made available to the Education Scrutiny Committee at the meeting, particularly to illustrate any further trends over the previous three years.

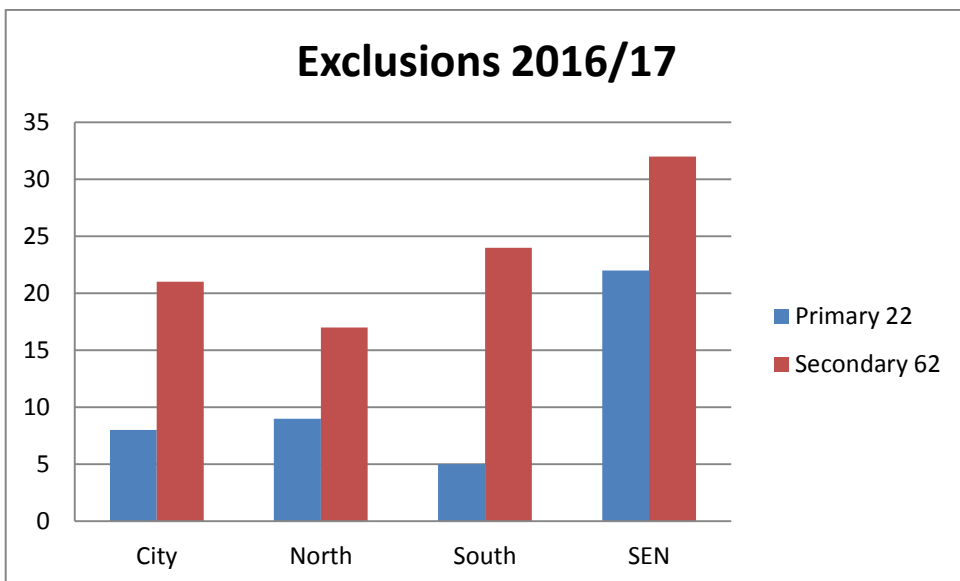
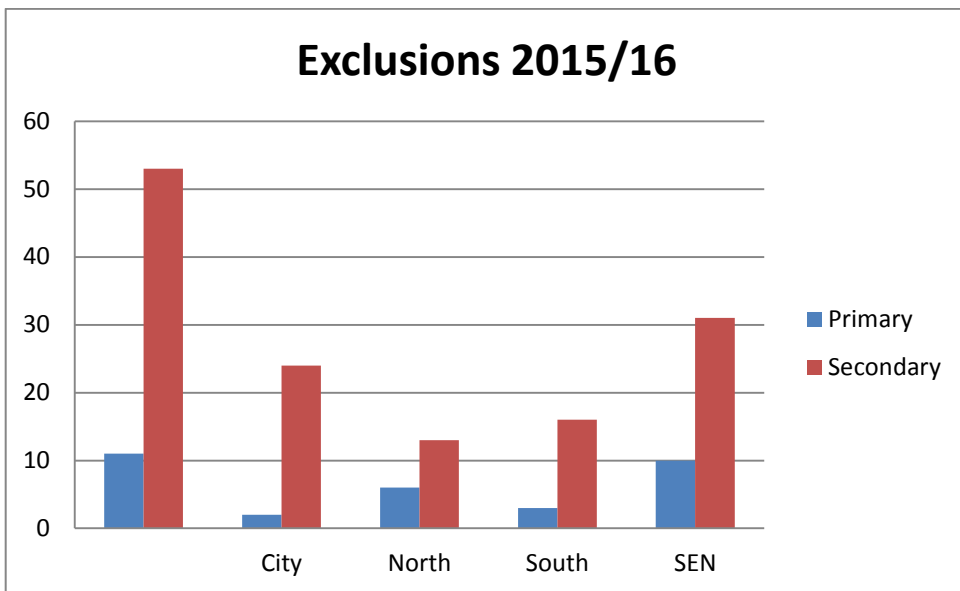
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September 2017

Appendix 1 - Trends in school exclusions



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Number of permanent exclusions by school - excluding those between 0 - 1

	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017
Banbury Academy	6	3	4
St Gregs	6	3	8
St Birinus	4	4	2
Oxford Academy	4	6	2
Warriner	0	4	2
Marlborough	2	0	0
Carterton	2	0	2
Cooper	2	1	1
Cheney	2	3	0
Larkmead	0	3	2
Oxford Spiers	0	3	4
Chilton Edge	2	2	1
Wheatley Park	2	3	4
Faringdon	1	0	4
John Mason	1	1	2
King Alfred's	1	0	2
Lord Williams	1	2	5
North Oxford Academy	1	2	3
Cherwell	1	4	2
Wallingford	1	0	2

