

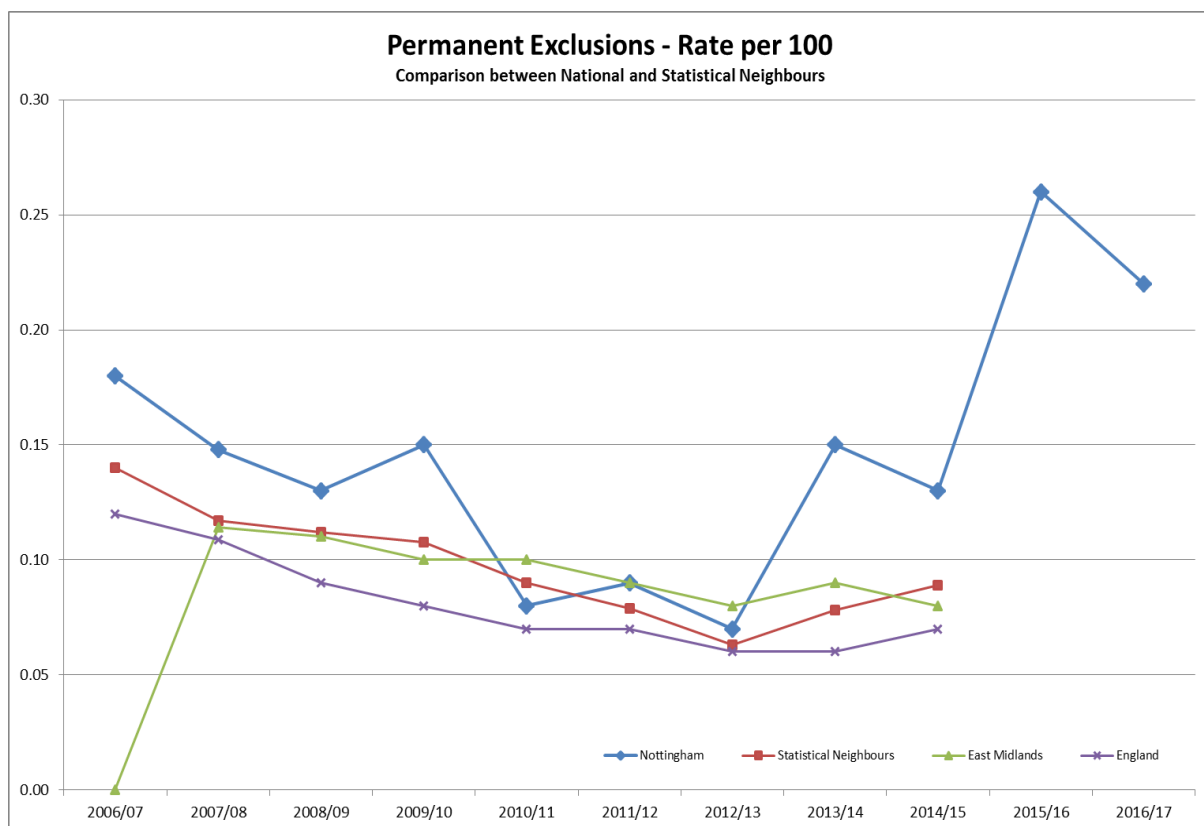


Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee School Exclusions

To review levels of permanent exclusions from schools in Nottingham and the education provision and support available for children and young people permanently excluded from school.

Background

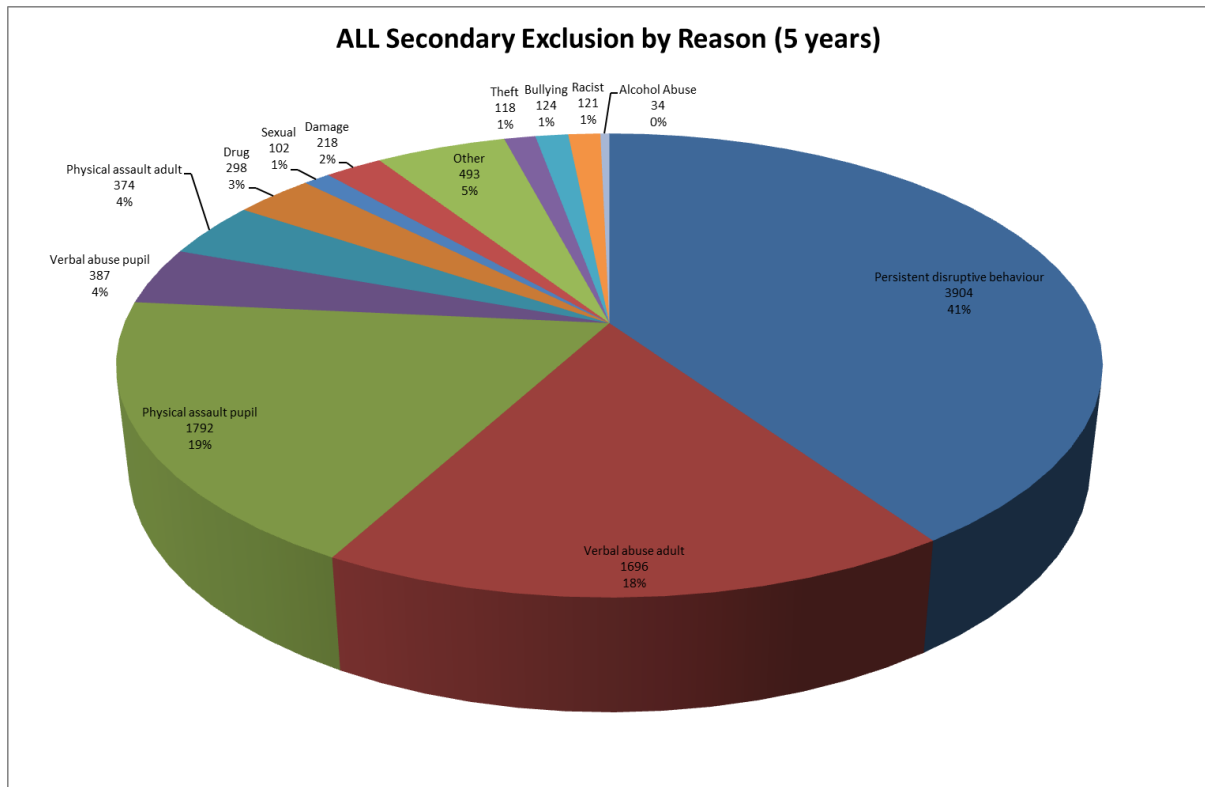
The overall rates of fixed term and permanent exclusions from Nottingham schools have risen above national rates and those of the majority of our statistical neighbours. The trend is increasing. The chart below illustrates how over the last 3 years the Nottingham rate of permanent exclusions has sharply risen against the national, regional and statistical neighbour rates.

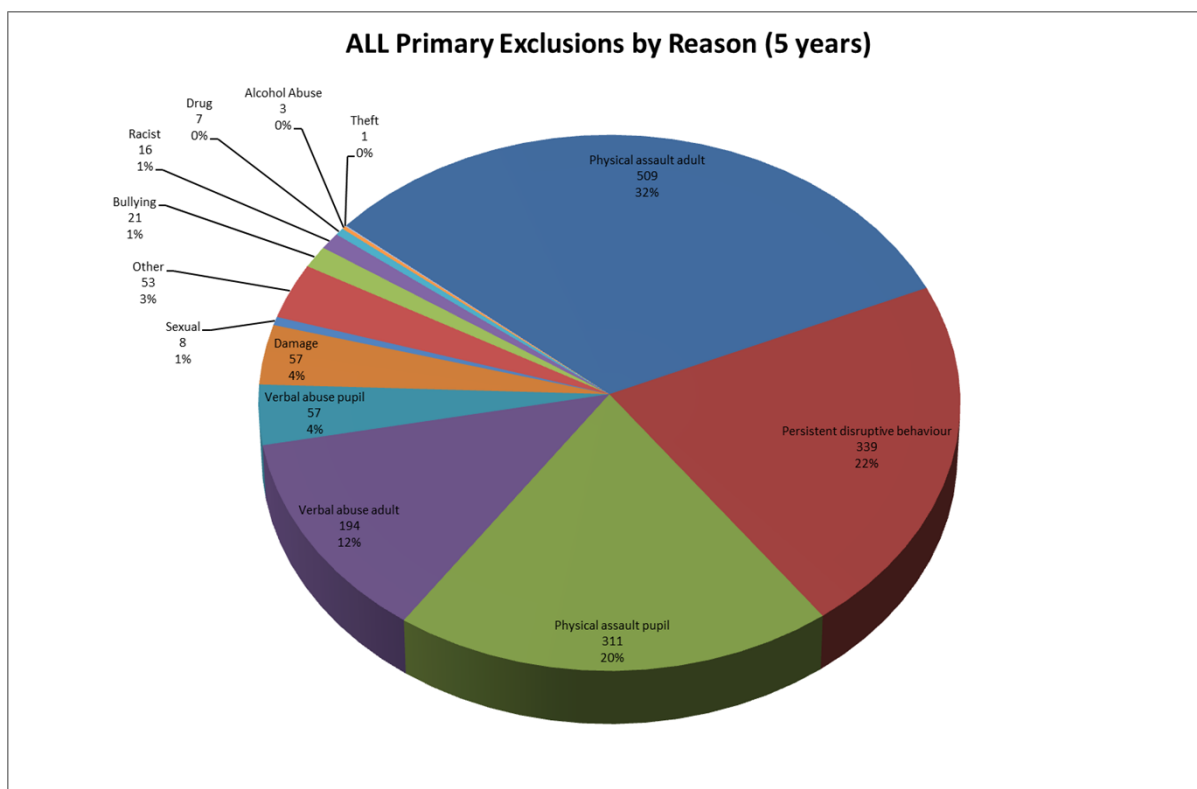


Clearly this is a matter of concern in terms of outcomes for children and young people in the city who are subject to exclusion from mainstream schools. It is also

creating significant financial pressure on the High Level Needs funding available to the city as places outside of mainstream schools are significantly more expensive than the funding required for educating a child or young person in a mainstream school.

There are a wide range of issues that result in a child or young person being excluded from school. The charts below illustrate the recorded reasons by school phase over the last 5 years.





The rate of permanent exclusions in the current academic year is showing no significant change from the preceding two years. This is a matter of concern to the City Council, but is also being reflected in conversations the Council is having with the Regional Schools Commissioner (in relation to the exclusion rates of certain academies) and Ofsted in terms of its school inspection findings.

Nottingham City Council Response

As an initial response to stem the rate of permanent exclusions, the Council initiated a pilot scheme that saw the devolvement of funding to secondary schools who committed to a zero exclusion policy. The intention of the pilot was for schools to use the funding to create their own “in house” responses to pupils at risk of exclusion. This might be in the form of additional resources being directed at earlier intervention for pupils with poor behavior, or developing on site alternative provision units.

5 of the 16 secondary providers in the city participated in this pilot, which is due to finish in March 2018. To date none of the pilot schools have permanently excluded any children (academic year 2016/17 and to date in 2017/18) A review of the pilot is being undertaken this month to identify the learning and recommendations for future practice.

Given the partial take up of the devolved funding pilot a School Exclusions Early Intervention working group was established in June 2017 by the City Council to explore other options to address the issue. This group includes representatives from the primary, secondary and pupil referral unit sectors; the Police, Youth Offending Team, Futures, mental health service, social care and the full range of City Council

Education directorate SEN and Inclusion services. It is chaired by the Head of Access and Inclusion At the City Council.

The key themes the group have been focusing on have been:

- Early identification of pupils with behavioural issues. Developing the work of Routes to Inclusion (R2I) – a behaviour toolkit for city primary schools
- Development of “Team around the Family” models – to enable a multi-agency, holistic response to support the needs of pupils at risk of exclusion.
- Mapping of support services and creation of a directory of services and referral routes – to enable schools to access better support in a timely fashion
- Appropriate and consistent responses to high profile issues such drug use/possession and knife possession
- Learning from the pilot schools and other good practice

A report making recommendations in relation to investment in early intervention services and the management of the financial impact of permanent exclusions is being prepared that will be presented to Schools Forum in February 2018.

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