

## **Appendix 1**

### **1.1 Attendance in Flintshire Schools**

Pupil attendance is measured at local and national level using a number of different factors. The information below includes a range of these to provide an overview of the levels of attendance/absenteeism across Flintshire schools.

Table 1 below contains information relating to the attendance of pupils within Flintshire's mainstream and specialist schools. Over the last 3 years, pupil attendance within the primary sector has remained fairly static. In 2017-18 the percentage attendance was above the Welsh average for the first time since 2013-14; in 2018-19 it was in line with the Welsh average which had increased by 1%.

Attendance across secondary schools dipped below the Welsh average for the first time in 2016/17 and has remained there; in line with the national trend, illness is the main reason cited for absence. For the first time, attendance of girls in Flintshire secondary schools dropped below that of boys in 2018-19, with both being below the Welsh average. Attendance of girls in the primary sector remained higher than boys and was in line with the Welsh average.

Schools have maintained low levels of unauthorised absence, with the figure for primary schools sitting at 0.4% (second lowest national value) and 1.2% (fifth lowest national value) across secondary schools.

**Table 1: Levels of attendance and unauthorised absence in Flintshire mainstream and specialist schools.**

	Attendance (%)			Unauthorised Absence (%)		
	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17
<b>FCC Primary Schools</b>	94.6	94.6	94.8	0.5	0.5	0.4
<b>Wales Average</b>	94.6	94.5	94.9	1.4	1.3	1.1
<b>Best in Wales</b>	95.4	95.2	95.6	0.3	0.3	0.2
<b>FCC Secondary Schools</b>	93.3	93.7	93.9	1.2	0.9	0.8
<b>Wales Average</b>	93.8	93.8	94.1	1.7	1.6	1.4
<b>Best in Wales</b>	94.7	94.8	95.2	0.7	0.6	0.5

Table 2 provides the attendance figures in relation to the Public Accountability Measures (PAMs) for primary and secondary education. This looks at attendance of pupils in mainstream schools only and these figures are reported in the Council's Improvement Plan. Similar to Table 1, the levels of attendance in primary mainstream schools has remained fairly consistent, with secondary schools showing a noticeable downward trend.

**Table 2: Attendance of pupils in mainstream schools**

Attendance (%)	Primary Schools			Secondary Schools		
Year	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17

<b>FCC Schools</b>	94.6	94.8	94.7	93.3	93.9	94.3
<b>Wales Average</b>	94.7	94.9	94.9	93.8	94.1	94.2
<b>Best in Wales</b>	95.2	95.6	95.7	95.0	95.2	95.1

Table 3 shows the spread of attendance figures across primary and secondary mainstream schools over the last 3 years. This demonstrates that the majority of primary schools have attendance figures in a tighter cluster around or in excess of the Welsh average. There has been an improvement in the percentage of schools with attendance above the Welsh average, from 45% in 2017-18 to 51% in 2018-19.

**Table3: Spread of attendance figures**

Attendance %	Primary			Secondary		
	2018 -19	2017-18	2016 -17	2018 -19	2017-18	2016 -17
<90	1	1	1	0	0	1
90.0-90.9	0	0	0	0	0	1
91.0-91.9	1	0	0	2	2	1
92.0-92.9	4	6	2	3	1	1
93.0-93.9	9	7	11	2	2	3
94.0-94.9	21	21	10	4	5	5
95.0-95.9	20	23	30	0	1	0
96.0-96.9	7	5	9	0	0	0
97.0-97.9	1	1	0	0	0	0
98.0-98.9	0	0	0	0	0	0
99.0-100	0	0	0	0	0	0

Across the secondary sector, 36% of schools have attendance levels above the Welsh average. This continues the downward trend, 54% in 2016-17 and 45% in 2017-18.

Mainstream schools are placed into quartiles for their levels of attendance based on comparisons with ‘families’ of schools. The table below shows the spread of Flintshire schools across the four quartiles alongside the overall LA ranking. The positive movement within the primary sector in 2017-18 has remained fairly static for 2018-19 whereas secondary schools have seen a slight downward shift. The LA ranking has seen a noticeable downward shift in both sectors.

**Table 4: School Attendance Quartiles**

	Primary Schools			Secondary Schools		
	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17
<b>LA Ranking</b>	16	11	12	19	14	13
<b>Q1</b>	16	12	9	0	1	1
<b>Q2</b>	15	20	13	2	2	1
<b>Q3</b>	13	15	25	3	2	3
<b>Q4</b>	20	17	17	6	6	6

Table 5 provides a breakdown of all authorised absence into percentages. This clearly demonstrates that illness remains the predominant reason for pupil absence from Flintshire schools. Higher levels of illness related absence within the secondary sector may not initially be expected but is likely to be a result of the increasing levels of absence associated with mental health difficulties. It is notable that whilst holidays account for a significant proportion of absence in primary schools, this is not the case across secondary settings.

**Table 5: Reasons for authorised absence**

Reason for Absence	Primary (%)			Secondary (%)		
	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17
<b>C</b>	5.99	5.59	4.53	15.45	11.38	10.62
<b>F</b>	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>H</b>	28.53	27.89	27.58	6.75	7.13	8.43
<b>I</b>	55.21	57.76	58.23	65.84	70.35	69.73
<b>M</b>	6.59	6.72	7.13	8.68	7.09	7.02
<b>S</b>	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.40	0.68
<b>E</b>	0.52	0.53	0.39	2.91	3.39	3.14
<b>R</b>	0.12	0.10	0.06	0.01	0.00	0.02
<b>T</b>	3.12	1.38	2.03	0.10	0.25	0.35

**Key:** C Other authorised circumstances (not covered by another appropriate code/ description)  
 F Agreed extended family holiday  
 H Agreed family holiday  
 I Illness  
 M Medical or dental appointment  
 S Study leave  
 E Excluded but no alternative provision made  
 R Day set aside exclusively for religious observance  
 T Traveller absence

Whilst levels of unauthorised absence are low across the county, the percentage of persistent absence, i.e. where a pupil's attendance is less than 80% is higher than the Welsh averages in both primary and secondary schools. The number of pupils presenting with persistent levels of absenteeism has increased noticeably across both sectors. Illness remains the most common reason for persistent absenteeism.

**Table 6: Persistent Absenteeism**

	Primary Schools			Secondary Schools		
	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17
<b>Persistent Absence FCC (%)</b>	13.5	11.3	11.5	33.5	28.0	26.8
<b>No. of Pupils</b>	244	216	211	494	410	366
<b>Persistent Absence Wales (%)</b>	9.9	9.2	8.4	25.9	23.0	22.8