

# Children not in school

## Appendix A

*(data taken from published sources and is 2020-21 unless otherwise stated)*



**Walsall Council**



**IMPROVE**  
outcomes and  
customer experience



**IMPROVE**  
employee satisfaction  
and engagement



**IMPROVE**  
service efficiency  
and performance

# Children Living in Walsall

Updated 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022

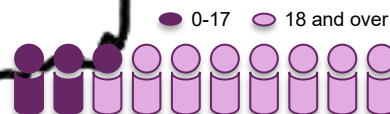
Population of 286,716

69,375 (24.2%) of whom are children aged 0-17

2020 mid-year population estimates

The number of children and young people aged 0-17 is projected to rise to 71,822 by 2030

24.2% of the population are children and young people 2020 mid-year population estimates



● BME ● White

31.2% of Children are from BME backgrounds

2011 Census

● 0-4 ● 5-9 ● 10-14 ● 15-17



28% of children are aged 0-4,

29% are aged 5-9, 28% are aged 10-14 and

15% are aged 15-17 2020 mid-year population estimates



39% of children live in poverty after housing costs Campaign to end child poverty – May 2021

## Deprivation levels are high

In the Indices of Deprivation Affecting Children (IDACI), Walsall is the **19th most deprived Local Authority** in the country with 29% of neighbourhoods in the top 10% of most deprived neighbourhoods nationally which is the 15 highest.

Two of Walsall's three parliamentary constituencies are in the **top 50** constituencies with the highest levels of child poverty

Children and young people have more health challenges than their peers

4.2% of babies are born with a low birth weight

compared with 3.1% the West Midlands and 2.9% nationally (2020 data)

6.8 per 1,000 children die before their first birthday

compared with 5.6 in the West Midlands and 3.9 nationally (2018-2020 data)

2.5% of young girls get pregnant at 15, 16 or 17

compared with 1.8% in the West Midlands and 1.6% nationally (2019 data)

7.9 per 10,000 would be admitted to hospital as an inpatient for mental health issues

compared with 8.6 in the West Midlands and 8.8 nationally (2020-21 data)

1.5 per 10,000 admitted to hospital for alcohol related issues

compared with 2.5 in the West Midlands and 2.9 nationally (2018-19 – 2020-21 data)

# Children attending Walsall Schools *as at January School Census 2022*



**54,917**

**On roll in Walsall Schools**

## Free School Meals



**33.1%**

of children receive FSM in  
**Primary School**

↑ **1.5%pts**

since 2021  
1.7% pts regionally  
1.7% pts stat neighbours  
1.5% pts nationally

Gap between Primary FSM  
in Walsall and stat neigh

➡ **4.9% pts** ⬅  
Gap is reducing  
(slightly)

Gap between Primary FSM  
in Walsall and nationally

➡ **10.0% pts** ⬅  
Gap is stable

**30.2%**

of children receive FSM in  
**Secondary School**

↑ **2.7%pts**

since 2021  
2.3% pts regionally  
2.5% pts stat neighbours  
2.0% pts nationally

Gap between Secondary  
FSM in Walsall and stat neigh

➡ **4.3% pts** ⬅  
Gap is Increasing  
(slightly)

Gap between Secondary FSM  
in Walsall and nationally

➡ **9.3% pts** ⬅  
Gap is Increasing

Significantly more children receive  
free school meals and numbers are  
increasing

## Language & Ethnicity



Significantly more children have  
English as an additional  
language

**25.6%**

of children have EAL in  
**Primary School**

↑ **0.7%pts**

since 2021  
0.3% pts regionally  
0.1% pts stat neighbours  
0.3% pts nationally

Gap between Primary EAL in  
Walsall and stat neigh

➡ **0.4% pts** ⬅  
Gap is increasing

Gap between Primary EAL in  
Walsall and nationally

➡ **4.4% pts** ⬅  
Gap is increasing

**20.5%**

of children have EAL in  
**Secondary School**

↓ **0.6%pts**

since 2021  
0.3% pts regionally  
0.1% pts stat neighbours  
0.3% pts nationally

Gap between Secondary EAL  
in Walsall and stat neigh

➡ **-0.1% pts** ⬅  
Gap is reducing

Gap between Secondary EAL  
in Walsall and nationally

➡ **3.0% pts** ⬅  
Gap is reducing



## Special Educational Needs and Disabilities



**3.5%**

of children in Walsall  
schools have an  
**EHCP**

**2.1%** in Primary

**1.9%** in Secondary

↑ **0.2%pts**

since 2021  
0.2% pts regionally  
0.3% pts stat neighbours  
0.3% pts nationally

Gap between EHCP in  
Walsall and stat neigh

➡ **0.5% pts** ⬅  
Gap is Increasing

Gap between EHCP in  
Walsall and national

➡ **0.5% pts** ⬅  
Gap is Increasing

**12.6%**

of children in Walsall  
schools receive  
**SEN Support**

**14.1%** in Primary

**11.6%** in Secondary

↑ **0.7%pts**

since 2021  
0.3% pts regionally  
0.4% pts stat neighbours  
0.4% pts nationally

Gap between SEN  
Support in Walsall and  
stat neigh

➡ **0.2% pts** ⬅  
Gap is reducing

Gap between SEN  
Support in Walsall and  
national

➡ **0.0% pts** ⬅  
Gap is reducing

Fewer children have an identified special educational need. For children with an EHCP the gap to stat neighbours and national is similar for both primary and secondary. However, more children receive SEN Support in primary school than comparators, but fewer continue to receive support in secondary schools.



Walsall Council

**PROUD** OF OUR PAST, OUR PRESENT AND FOR OUR FUTURE

# Attendance

## 5.4% Absence Rate

4.90% regionally  
4.78% stat neighbours  
4.60% nationally

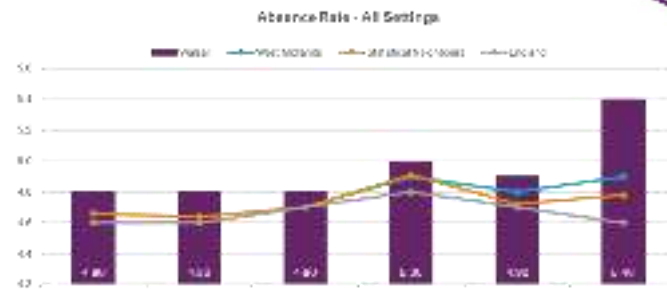
↑ 0.5%<sub>opts</sub>

since 2019  
Compared with  
0.1% points regionally  
0.06% points stat neighbours  
0.1% pts nationally

Ranked  
**136**  
Out of 152 LAs  
Compared with  
103 in 2019

## 14.9% Persistent Absence Rate

13.20% regionally  
12.84% stat neighbours  
12.10% nationally



## Gender

**5.69%**

Of sessions were missed by boys in Walsall

**Absence Rate**

5.05% regionally  
4.73% nationally

↑ 0.69%<sub>opts</sub>

since 2019

**16.16%**

Of boys in Walsall were

**Persistently absent**

13.73% regionally  
12.45% nationally

↑ 1.61%<sub>opts</sub>

since 2019

**5.01%**

Of sessions were missed by girls in Walsall

**Absence Rate**

4.76% regionally  
4.50% nationally

↑ 0.25%<sub>opts</sub>

since 2019

**13.60%**

Of girls in Walsall were

**Persistently absent**

12.72% regionally  
11.69% nationally

↑ 2.36%<sub>opts</sub>

since 2019

**0.68% pts**  
up from 0.24% pts in 2019

## Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

**7.01%**

Of sessions were missed by pupils with SEN Support

**Absence Rate**

6.70% regionally  
6.50% nationally

↑ 0.56%<sub>opts</sub>

since 2019

**20.61%**

Of pupils with SEN Support in Walsall were

**Persistently absent**

19.66% regionally  
18.89% nationally

↑ 3.49%<sub>opts</sub>

since 2019

**4.56%**

Of sessions were missed by pupils with out identified SEN

**Absence Rate**

4.20% regionally  
3.95% nationally

↑ 0.02%<sub>opts</sub>

since 2019

**11.64%**

Of pupils without identified SEN in Walsall were

**Persistently absent**

10.28% regionally  
9.33% nationally

↑ 1.48%<sub>opts</sub>

since 2019

Gap between attendance for pupils with SEN Support and those without identified SEN needs in Walsall

**2.45% pts**  
up from 1.91% pts in 2019

## Free School Meals

**8.06%**

Of sessions were missed by pupils in receipt of FSM

**Absence Rate**

7.78% regionally  
7.83% nationally

↑ 0.73%<sub>opts</sub>

since 2019

**25.34%**

Of pupils in receipt of FSM in Walsall were

**Persistently absent**

24.22% regionally  
24.37% nationally

↑ 3.40%<sub>opts</sub>

since 2019

**4.08%**

Of sessions were missed by pupils not in receipt of FSM

**Absence Rate**

3.94% regionally  
3.74% nationally

↓ 0.05%<sub>opts</sub>

since 2019

**9.48%**

Of pupils not in receipt of FSM in Walsall were

**Persistently absent**

9.02% regionally  
8.30% nationally

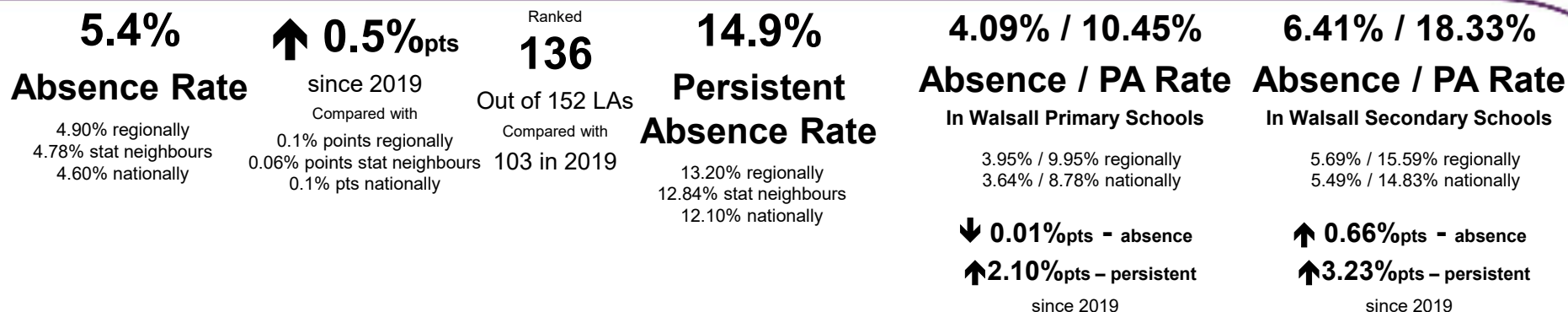
↑ 1.33%<sub>opts</sub>

since 2019

Gap between attendance for pupils in receipt of FSM and those not receipt of FSM in Walsall

**4.02% pts**  
up from 3.19% pts in 2019

# Attendance



The absence rate in Walsall is increasing. It has always been higher than comparators, however, since the Covid-19 pandemic, the gap between attendance rates in Walsall and those regionally and nationally has increased. Persistent absence is also increasing. Absence in secondary schools is 50% higher than in primary schools and the persistent absence rate is 80% higher. Primary school absence is higher than comparators, but only by a small amount, whereas secondary absence, and in particular persistent absence is significantly higher than comparators.

Overall absence for boys higher than for boys and is increasing at a faster rate than absence for girls. Persistent absence for boys is particularly high and although this is not increasing at the same rate as for girls, is much higher than comparators.

Children in receipt of free school meals have almost double the absence rate of pupils without free school meals and over 2.5 times more likely to be persistently absent. While absence and persistent absence rates in Walsall are higher than comparators for both groups, the increased likelihood of being absent from school is reflected at the same levels both regionally and nationally. While issues relating to children with SEN not being in school are well understood, the link between school absence and poverty is more opaque and the reasons more varied, however, as the proportion of children in receipt of FSM increases in Walsall, it is an area that requires further exploration.

Children with SEN Support are 1.5 times more likely to be absent from school and 1.8 times more likely to be persistently absent than their peers who do not have SEN and absence for this group is increasing at a faster rate. Both groups have higher absence and persistent absence in Walsall than regional and national peers with similar gaps.



# Permanent Exclusions

**IMPORTANT:** Exclusions data involves very small numbers of children so should be treated with extreme caution as small fluctuations can have a big impact.

**0.08%**

of children attending Walsall  
Schools received a

## Permanent Exclusion

0.06% regionally  
0.07% stat neighbours  
0.05% nationally

↓ **0.06%pts**

since 2019  
Compared with  
-0.06% points regionally  
-0.09% points stat neighbours  
-0.05% pts nationally

Ranked

**125**

Out of 152 LAs

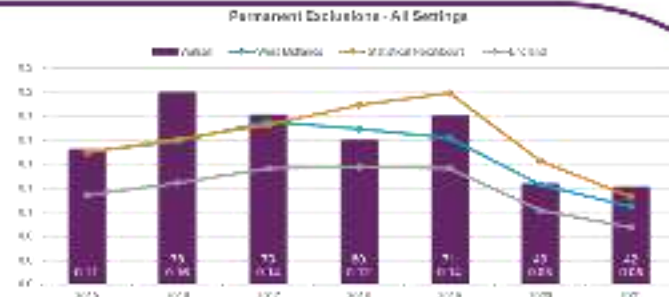
Compared with  
112 in 2019

**42**

Children excluded

Compared with  
71 in 2019

**A decrease  
of 41%**



## Reasons for Exclusion

(2019-20 data)

**Disruptive Behaviour**  
51.2% - 22 Exclusions

**Physical assault against an Adult**  
16.3% - 7 Exclusions

**Drug and / or Alcohol use**  
4.7% - 2 Exclusion

**Physical assault against a/n pupil**  
2.3% - 1 Exclusion

**Verbal abuse against an adult**  
2.3% - 1 Exclusion

The remaining 10 exclusions are categorised  
as 'other'

## Gender

♂ **0.14% (38)**  
of boys in Walsall were  
**Permanently  
Excluded**

0.10% regionally  
0.07% nationally

↓ **0.07%pts**  
since 2019

**0.02% (4)**  
of girls in Walsall were  
**Permanently  
Excluded** ♀

0.03% regionally  
0.02% nationally

↓ **0.04%pts**  
since 2019

Gap between boys and girls in Walsall

**90% of exclusions are  
received by boys**  
Up from 79% in 2019

## Free School Meals

**0.20% (32)**  
of children with FSM were  
**Permanently  
Excluded**

0.14% regionally  
0.12% nationally

↓ **0.08%pts**  
(from 33) since 2019

**0.03% (10)**  
of children without FSM were  
**Permanently  
Excluded**

0.04% regionally  
0.03% nationally

↓ **0.07%pts**  
(from 38) since 2019

Gap between children with and without FSM in Walsall

**76% of exclusions are  
received by children in  
receipt of FSM**  
Up from 46.5% in 2019

## Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

**0.20% (16)**  
of children with SEND in  
Walsall were  
**Permanently  
Excluded**

0.17% regionally  
0.13% nationally

↓ **0.07% pts**  
(from 19) since 2019

**0.06% (26)**  
of children without  
SEND in Walsall were  
**Permanently  
Excluded**

0.05% regionally  
0.03% nationally

↓ **0.06%pts**  
(from 52) since 2019

Gap between children with and  
without SEN in Walsall

**38% of exclusions are  
received by  
Children with SEN**  
Up from 27% in 2019

# Permanent Exclusions

**IMPORTANT:** Exclusions data involves very small numbers of children so should be treated with extreme caution as small fluctuations can have a big impact.

**0.08%**

of children attending Walsall  
Schools received a

**Permanent  
Exclusions**

0.06% regionally  
0.07% stat neighbours  
0.05% nationally



**0.06%pts**

since 2019

Compared with

-0.06% points regionally  
-0.09% points stat neighbours  
-0.05% pts nationally

**42**

Children excluded

Compared with

71 in 2019

**A decrease  
of 41%**

**0.02% (7)**

of children attending Walsall

Primary Schools received a

**Permanent Exclusions**

0.01% regionally  
0.01% stat neighbours  
0.01% nationally

**↓ 0.03%pts**

(from 8) since 2019

**0.15% (34)**

of children attending Walsall

Secondary Schools received a

**Permanent Exclusions**

0.13% regionally  
0.17% stat neighbours  
0.10% nationally

**↓ 0.15%pts**

(from 62) since 2019

**17% of exclusions are  
received by children in**

**Primary school**

Up from 11% in 2019

*The 2020-21 academic year was interrupted by the second national lockdown. Schools remained open for vulnerable children and children of key workers and all other children were learning remotely. While permanent exclusions and suspensions were still possible throughout the academic year, school closures have had a substantial effect on the number of permanent exclusions and suspensions and therefore caution should be taken when comparing figures across years. Due to this disruption, the 2019-20 data has been used as a baseline.*

Permanent Exclusions are falling in Walsall and have reduced by 41% since the 2018-19 academic year. The majority of this reduction has been in secondary school exclusions. However, despite this reduction, Walsall still has a slightly higher exclusion rate than comparators - our national ranking is in the bottom quartile.

Boys are significantly more likely to be permanently excluded than girls and of the 42 permanent exclusions in 2020-21, 90% (38) were for boys. This is an increase on 2018-19 when there were 71 exclusions and 79% (56) were boys and 21% (15) were girls. This is also in contrast to regional and national results where boys account for 77% and 75% of permanent exclusions respectively. Regionally and nationally boys are three times more likely to be excluded than girls but in Walsall this increases to seven times more likely.

A higher proportion of exclusions are for children who are in receipt of free school meals are excluded from school than those who are not in receipt of FSM. Exclusions for children in receipt of FSM have remained stable, whereas exclusions for those not in receipt of FSM have fallen, however, because the population of children eligible for FSM has increased, the overall proportion of children in this group who are excluded has reduced. The rate of exclusions for children in receipt of FSM is higher than regional and national comparators and is higher as a proportion of exclusions (76% in Walsall compared to 54% regionally and 52% nationally). In Walsall children in receipt of FSM are over six times more likely to be excluded than their peers who are not in receipt of free school meals compared to three or four times more regionally and nationally.

Children with SEN accounted for 38% of exclusions in 2020-21 compared to 27% of exclusions in 2018-19. Overall exclusions for children with SEN have reduced from 19 to 16 (16%) whereas exclusions for children without SEN have halved from 52 to 26. Children with SEN are over three times more likely to be excluded from school and this is a pattern which is seen both regionally and nationally.

# Suspensions

**IMPORTANT:** Exclusions data involves very small numbers of children so should be treated with extreme caution as small fluctuations can have a big impact.

**2.89%**  
**Suspensions**  
 as a % of pupils

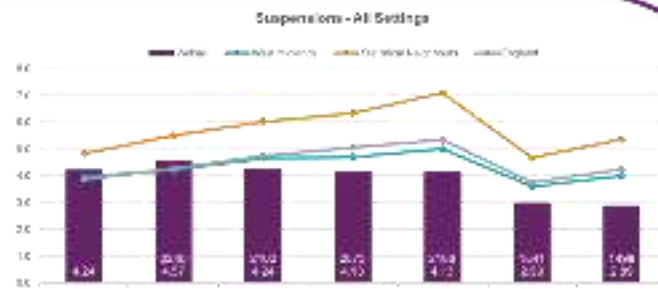
4.00% regionally  
 5.38% stat neighbours  
 4.25% nationally

**1.81% of pupils** received a suspension  
 compared with 2.3% regionally and 2.2% nationally

↓ **1.25%<sub>opts</sub>**  
 since 2019  
 Compared with  
 -1.01% points regionally  
 -1.73% points stat neighbours  
 -1.11% pts nationally

Ranked  
**30**  
 Out of 152 LAs  
 Compared with  
 52 in 2019

**1,498**  
 Suspensions for **941** pupils  
 Compared with  
 2,106 for 1,195 pupils in 2019  
**A decrease of 29% in  
 suspensions and 21% in  
 pupils suspended**



## Reasons for Suspension (2019-20 data)

**Disruptive Behaviour**  
**30.0% - 463 Suspensions**

**Physical assault against a/n pupil**  
**21.1% - 341 Suspensions**

**Verbal abuse against an adult**  
**15.0% - 231 Suspensions**

**Physical assault against an Adult**  
**8.5% - 131 Suspensions**

**Verbal assault against a/n pupil**  
**4.7% - 72 Suspensions**

**Other**  
**14.0% - 215 Suspensions**

The remaining 88 suspensions are a combination of factors

## Gender

♂ **2.61% (691)**  
 boys in Walsall were  
**Suspended**  
 3.14% regionally  
 3.02% nationally

↓ **0.81%<sub>opts</sub>**  
 since 2019

**0.99% (250)**  
 girls in Walsall were  
**Suspended**  
 1.32% regionally  
 1.34% nationally

↓ **0.24%<sub>opts</sub>**  
 since 2019

Gap between boys and girls in Walsall  
**73% of pupils suspended are boys**  
 down from 74% in 2019



## Free School Meals

**2.87% (449)**  
 of children with FSM were  
**Suspended**  
 4.12% regionally  
 4.53% nationally

↓ **1.43%<sub>opts</sub>**  
 (from 498) since 2019

**1.36% (492)**  
 of children without FSM were  
**Suspended**  
 1.65% regionally  
 1.59% nationally

↓ **0.41%<sub>opts</sub>**  
 (from 696) since 2019

Gap between children with and without FSM in Walsall  
**48% of pupils who receive a suspension are in receipt of FSM**  
 Up from 42% in 2019

## Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

**4.05% (324)**  
 of children with SEND in  
 Walsall were  
**Suspended**  
 5.28% regionally  
 5.54% nationally  
 ↓ **1.32% pts**  
 (from 350) since 2019

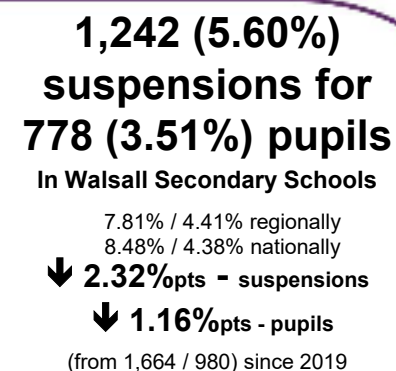
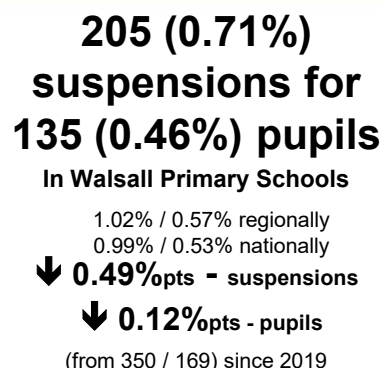
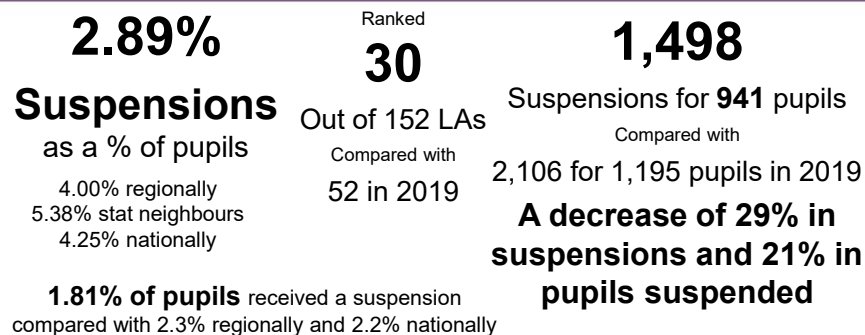
**1.41% (617)**  
 of children without  
 SEND in Walsall were  
**Suspended**  
 1.66% regionally  
 1.58% nationally  
 ↓ **0.46%<sub>opts</sub>**  
 (from 725) since 2019

Gap between children with and without SEN in Walsall  
**34% of suspensions are received by Children with SEN**  
 Up from 32% in 2019



# Suspensions

**IMPORTANT:** Exclusions data involves very small numbers of children so should be treated with extreme caution as small fluctuations can have a big impact.



*The 2020-21 academic year was interrupted by the second national lockdown. Schools remained open for vulnerable children and children of key workers and all other children were learning remotely. While permanent exclusions and suspensions were still possible throughout the academic year, school closures have had a substantial effect on the number of permanent exclusions and suspensions and therefore caution should be taken when comparing figures across years. Due to this disruption, the 2019-20 data has been used as a baseline.*

Suspensions are falling in Walsall and have reduced by 29% since the 2018-19 academic year with 21% fewer pupils receiving a suspension. The majority of this reduction has been in secondary school exclusions. Walsall has a much lower suspension rate than comparators regionally, nationally and among statistical neighbours.

As with permanent exclusions, boys are significantly more likely to be suspended than girls and of the 941 pupils suspended 2020-21, 73% (691) were boys. This is a slight increase on 2018-19 when 1,195 pupils were suspended and 74% were boys. Suspensions for boys are slightly higher than regional and national results where boys account for 71% and 70% of pupils suspended respectively. Overall boys are almost three times more likely to be suspended than girls.

A slightly higher proportion of children in receipt of free school meals receive suspensions than those not in receipt of free school meals, however, unlike permanent exclusions children in receipt of FSM make up a smaller proportion of the cohort who are suspended – just 48%. While the percentage of children in receipt of FSM who are suspended has fallen at a faster rate than those who are not in receipt of FSM, the overall number has not, down by just 9.8% compared with 29.3% for those not in receipt of FSM meaning that overall the proportion of suspensions for these children have increased and they remain more than twice as likely to be suspended. However, the proportion of children with FSM who are suspended is significantly lower in Walsall than the proportions regionally and nationally where this group of children are between three and four times more likely to receive a suspension.

Children with SEN accounted for 34% of suspensions in 2020-21 compared with 32% in 2018-19. Suspensions for this group fell by 7.4% compared with 14.9% for children without SEN, however, as a percentage of the population of pupils with SEN, the proportion with suspensions is falling at a faster rate. This is in partly due to smaller cohorts as well as increasing identification of SEN. In Walsall children with SEN are just under three times more likely than those without SEN to be suspended compared with just over three times more likely regionally and three and half times more likely nationally.