



**West  
Northamptonshire  
Council**

# Exclusions, Children Missing from Education and Elective Home Education

February 2024



## Overview

### Overview

- Responsibility for Electively Home Educated pupils, Children missing from Education (CME) and all attendance concerns including suspensions and exclusions, sits within the School Attendance and Inclusion Support Service (formerly the Education Inclusion Partnership Team)
- Service comprises:
  - 1.6 Managers (fulltime manager leaving at the end of Feb)
  - 1 Senior Practitioner
  - 7 School Attendance Support Officers
  - 3.4 EHE Officers
  - 2.4 CME tracking Officers
  - 1 Child in employment or Entertainment Officer
  - 2 Pupil Advocates
- Service came under new leadership in September 2022.
- October 2022 ILACs inspection took place – this recognised recent improvements but highlighted this area for specific action

## Developments

### Developments since September 2022 include:

- All School Attendance Support Officers (SASOs) allocated to schools
- Termly meeting held with schools
- Proforma developed to record termly discussions
- Reduced timetable Guidance developed
- Reviewed processes but further review and developments required
- Contracts developed with Alternative Providers
- Quality Assurance Framework developed
- Research based draft Alternative Provision proposal developed
- AP monitoring proforma developed
- Termly meetings with APs held to review progress
- Increased the number of EHE officers (+2)
- Creation of 2 new roles: Pupil Advocates.

## Electively Home Educated Pupils – Headline data

Key Stats	Total	Female	Male	N/K
Current EHE children	1013	532	480	1
Rate Per 10,000 Population (Age 4-15)	158.31	169.32	147.37	-
Open to Social Care (CIN) *	16	8	8	0
Open to Social Care (CP) *	4	3	1	0
Open to Social Care (LAC or LAC & CP) *	0	0	0	0
Current EHCP **	49	12	37	0
	4.84%	2.26%	7.71%	0.00%
Claimed for FSM	376	193	183	0
	37.12%	36.28%	38.13%	0.00%

### Overview Headlines

Every parent has the right to choose to educate their child at home. The Council retains the responsibility to ensure that these children are safe and receiving a suitable education.

As at the beginning of January 2024, 1,013 children in West Northants are electively home educated of which:

- 47% Male, 53% Female (1 x gender not recorded)
- 20 pupils open to social care. Data split into 3 categories
- 0 pupils - LAC (looked after children) or LAC & CP (Child Protection)
- 4 pupils – CP
- 16 pupils - CIN (Children in Need)
- 49 pupils – EHCP
- 376 - FSM

## Electively Home Educated Pupils – Headline data

### Key Stage Headlines

- 36% of pupils are in KS4
- 33% of pupils are in KS3
- 22% of pupils are in KS2
- 7% of pupils are in KS1

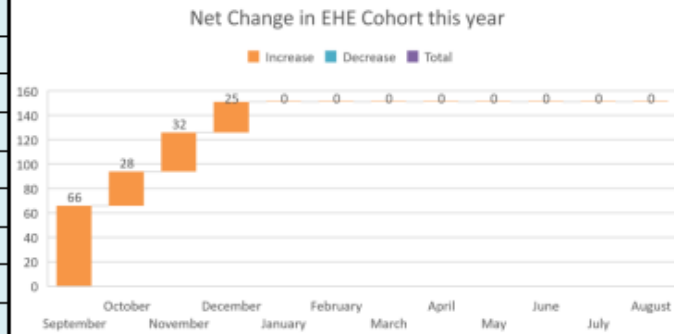
	Total	Female	Male	N/K	%	Phase	
Foundation	14	4	10	0	1.38%		
Key stage 1	71	40	30	1	7.01%	Primary	30.11%
Key stage 2	220	104	116	0	21.72%		
Key stage 3	334	178	156	0	32.97%	Secondary	69.10%
Key stage 4	366	205	161	0	36.13%		
Not statutory sch age	8	1	7	0	0.79%		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1013</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		<b>99.21%</b>

## Electively Home Educated Pupils – Headline data

### Headlines

- 255 pupils new to EHE since September 2023
- 104 pupils leaving EHE since September 2023

EHE Starters and Leavers	2023-24		Net Change
	Starters	Leavers	
September	105	39	66
October	58	30	28
November	59	27	32
December	33	8	25
January	0	0	0
February	0	0	0
March	0	0	0
April	0	0	0
May	0	0	0
June	0	0	0
July	0	0	0
August	0	0	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>151</b>

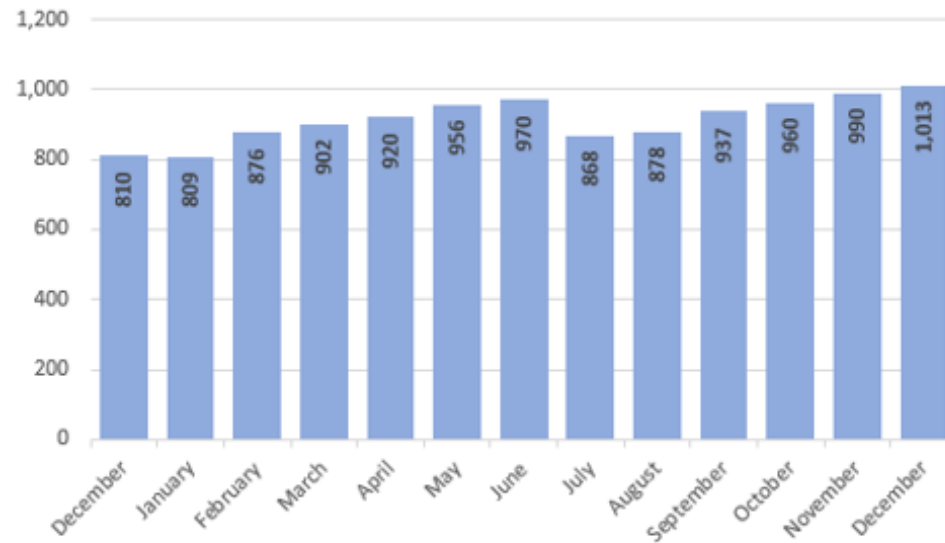


## December 2022 – December 2023 data

### Headlines

The numbers of EHE have increased each month since the reduction in July, up by 23 this month. The reduction in July is mainly due to year 11s being closed on 30<sup>th</sup> June rather than pupils returning to mainstream education.

Based on the Spring census taken in May '23 (latest comparator available), the West Northants rate of EHE is 135.6 per 10k population, is similar to the stat neighbour average of 137.7 per 10k but is higher than the national average of 116.2 per 10k.



## Challenges

### Challenges - Headlines

- Whilst the number of EHE officers has increased since the ILACs inspection (October 2022), the trajectory of increasing numbers puts strain on an already stretched team. In order to implement suggested actions effectively to ensure that the service is proactive not reactive, increased resource is required to meet demands upon the service. There is so much more that we could do; capacity to do it is limited.
- Some parents who choose to electively home educated their children to not engage with the Council as effectively as we would like.
- Annual reviews are offered but families do not have to accept this offer. This presents a safeguarding risk.
- Historically, the number of annual reviews accepted has not been monitored although these are recorded individually on CAPITA. This presents a challenge in terms of analysing take up.



## Intended Actions

### Actions

- Sharing all cases with social care where it is deemed necessary to issue a School Attendance Order even where they are **not** open to social care.
- Tighten up on review processes for those pupils with an EHCP.
- Monitor and evaluate the take up of annual reviews.
- Improve the number of home visits that are taken up by parents; the team are generating ideas about 'incentives' such as museum passes, activity passes etc. that can be given on home visits.
- Establishing an EHE forum
- Looking at how data identifying reasons for EHE can be gathered quickly and effectively to enable scrutiny and analysis.
- Termly meetings to be held to look at new EHE cases – where have the pupils come from and why? This will enable the team to challenge schools as and where required
- Using good practice in other LAs to develop website

## Children Missing From Education Headline Data

Key Stats	Total	Female	Male	N/K
Current CME children	260	123	133	4
Rate Per 10,000 Population (Age 4-15)	40.63	39.15	40.84	-
Open to Social Care (CIN) *	5	2	3	0
Open to Social Care (CP) *	1	0	1	0
Open to Social Care (LAC or LAC & CP) *	0	0	0	0
Current EHCP **	3	2	1	0
	1.15%	1.63%	0.75%	0.00%
Claimed for FSM	30	16	14	0
	11.54%	13.01%	10.53%	0.00%

### Headlines

This captures children who are missing from education (i.e. they have an allocated school place but they are not attending the school they should be and/or we do not know where they are)

As of the beginning of January, 260 children in West Northants are Children Missing from Education of which:

- 51% Male, 47% Female (4 x gender not recorded)
- 6 pupils open to social care. Data split into 3 categories
  - 0 pupils - LAC (looked after children) or LAC & CP (Child Protection)
  - 1 pupil - CP
  - 5 pupils - CIN (Children in Need)
- 3 pupils - EHCP
- 30 pupils eligible for FSM

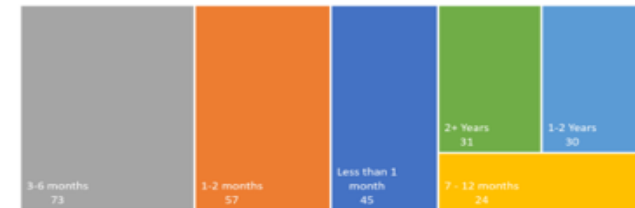
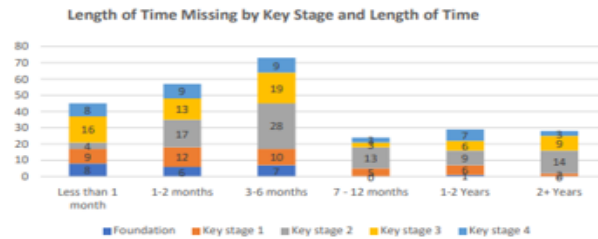
# Children Missing From Education Headline Data

## Key Stage Headlines

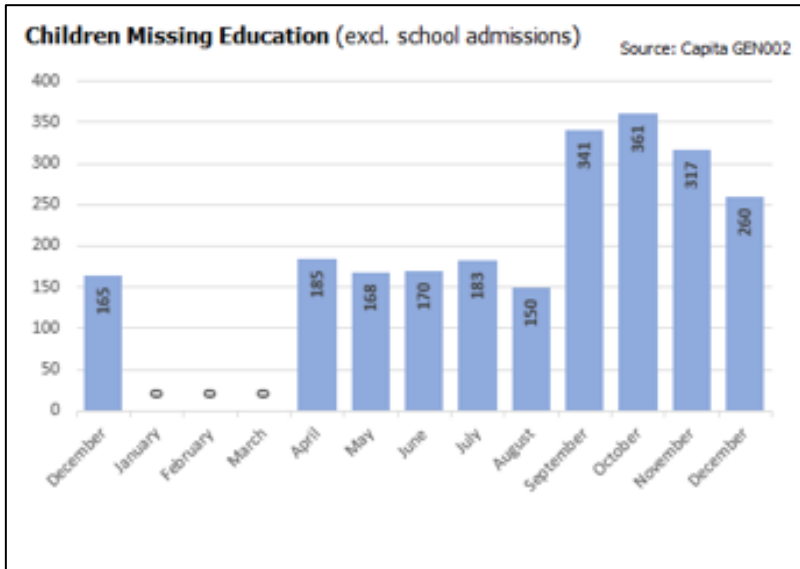
- 17% - KS1
- 33% - KS2
- 25% - KS3
- 15% - KS4

Summary by Key Stage	Total	Female	Male	N/K	%	Phase	
Foundation	22	10	12	0	8.46%	Primary	58.08%
Key stage 1	44	21	23	0	16.92%		
Key stage 2	85	38	45	2	32.69%		
Key stage 3	66	30	34	2	25.38%	Secondary	40.38%
Key stage 4	39	22	17	0	15.00%		
Not statutory sch age	4	2	2	0	1.54%		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		<b>98.46%</b>

Length of Time CME for Open CME Children	Less than 1 month	1-2 months	3-6 months	7 - 12 months	1-2 Years	2+ Years	% Missing 2+ Years
Foundation	8	6	7	0	1	0	0.0%
Key stage 1	9	12	10	5	6	2	4.5%
Key stage 2	4	17	28	13	9	14	16.5%
Key stage 3	16	13	19	3	6	9	13.6%
Key stage 4	8	9	9	3	7	3	7.7%
Not statutory sch age	0	0	0	0	1	3	75.0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>117.3%</b>



## Children Missing From Education



### Headlines

- The number of CME decreased in December, with a reduction of 57.
- Based on the Spring census taken in May '23 (latest comparator available), the West Northants rate of CME is 72 per 10k population, this is much higher than the stat neighbour average of 32.1 per 10k and the national average of 35.2 per 10k.
- Although there are known challenges with this data publication in that not all local authorities have included the same cohorts, DfE has published clarity in the guidance which should result in better comparisons moving forwards.

## Challenges and Actions

### Challenges

- Numbers of CME increase in September putting pressure on the team
- Need to understand why the rate of CME is so much higher in WNC than nationally
- Some Multi Academy Trusts do not engage with the Council as well as others
- Children who are not in school are not learning, but are also at higher risk of neglect, abuse and other forms of exploitation

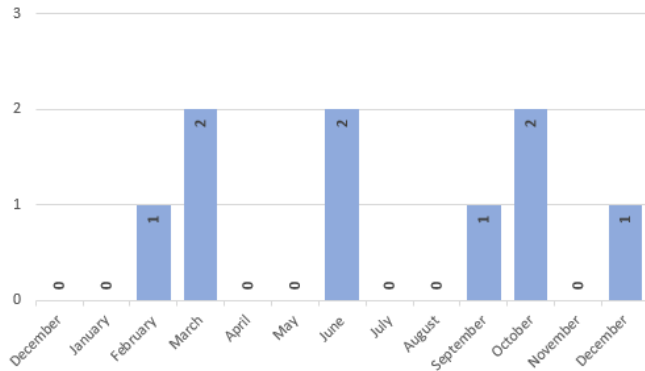
### Actions

- Continue to support and embed the work of the CME tracking officers (recognised as a high performing team)
- The new management structure and leadership in this area is leading to improved outcomes
- Facilitate discussions with regional and local leaders, including through Local Area Partnerships, to understand why CME is high and develop appropriate actions to minimise risks to children

# Suspensions and exclusions

## Permanent Exclusions - Primary

Source: Capita EET007



### Performance Info

Latest Month	1
Target	Not set
Stat Neigh	-
England Ave	-

### Trend Info

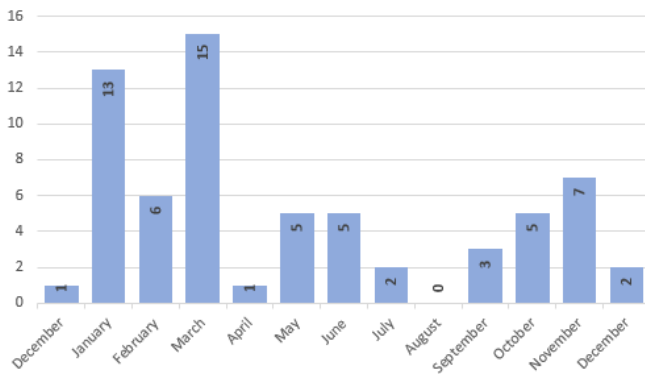
	small numbers
Monthly Change	
ACY to Date	4
Last 12 Months	9

## Headlines

- There are very few permanent exclusions recorded in primary schools.
- 1 Permanent exclusion in December and 4 for the ACY to date, compared to a total of 6 across the last ACY.
- Of the 6 permanent exclusions seen this year (as of 24.01.24), the most common reasons are as follows:
  - physical assault against an adult (3)
  - disruptive behaviour (2)
  - Physical assault against a pupil (1)

## Permanent Exclusions - Secondary

Source: Capita EET007



### Performance Info

Latest Month	2
Target	Not set
Stat Neigh	-
England Ave	-

### Trend Info

	small numbers
Monthly Change	
ACY to Date	17
Last 12 Months	64

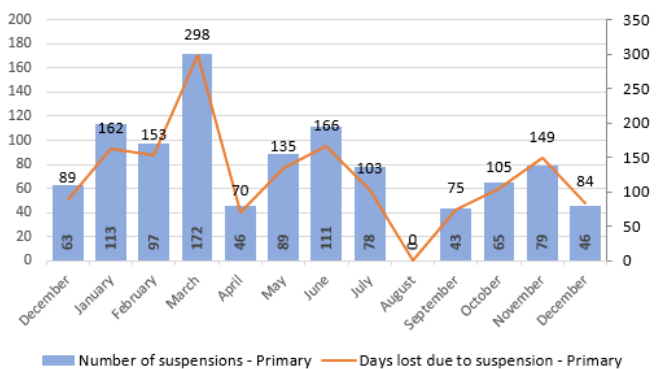
## Headlines

- There have been 2 permanent exclusions in December. This figure has reduced from the same period last year.
- Of the 20 permanent exclusions seen this year (as of 24.01.24), the most common reasons are as follows:
  - physical assault against an pupil (7)
  - disruptive behaviour (5)
  - Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour (3)
  - Use/threat of an offensive weapon (2)
  - Physical assault against an adult (1)

# Suspensions and Exclusions

## Suspensions - Primary

Source: Capita EET007



### Performance Info

Latest Month - Num	46
Latest Month - Days	84
Stat Neigh	-
England Ave	-

### Trend Info

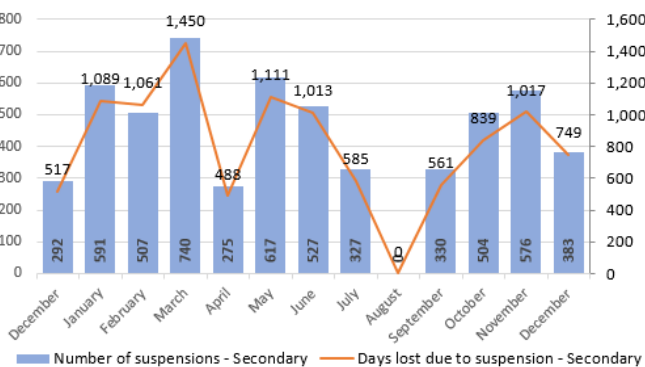
ACY to Date - Num	233
ACY to Date - Days	412
Last 12 months - Num	939
Last 12 months - Day	1,498

## Headlines

- There were 46 suspensions in December, resulting in 84 days of lost education.
- This is a decrease on the same period last year, but this figure may update next month via school census data.
- The most common reason for suspensions is 'Physical Assault against Adult' (18)
- Over the past 12 months there has been 939 suspensions resulting in 1,498 days of lost education in primary phase education.

## Suspensions - Secondary

Source: Capita EET007



### Performance Info

Latest Month - Num	383
Latest Month - Days	749
Stat Neigh	-
England Ave	-

### Trend Info

ACY to Date - Num	1,793
ACY to Date - Days	3,165
Last 12 months - Num	5,377
Last 12 months - Day	9,961

## Headlines

- There were 383 suspensions in December, resulting in 749 days of lost education.
- This is an increase on the same period last year, but this figure may update next month and via school census data.
- The most common reason for suspensions is Disruptive Behaviour (189).
- The three schools with the highest number of suspensions in December are account for 38% of suspensions. The top two schools are the same as last month.

## Challenges

### Challenges include:

- Limited DfE registered Alternative provision across West Northants of varying quality
- Lack of LA oversight of pupils in AP commissioned by school
- AP not always able to meet the needs of pupils leading to reliance on non-DfE registered provision to meet the needs of some pupils – Maximum of 3 days
- Lack of consistency in school behaviour policies and their application
- SEMH needs have increased significantly since COVID
- No current SEMH offer to Secondary schools
- Lack of comprehensive AP list
- Lack of QA frameworks in place
- Limited monitoring and focus on reintegration
- Fractious relationships with some APs
- Capacity issues within the service – commissioning; Pupils Advocates; Early intervention; attendance monitoring to ensure early intervention



## Intended Actions

### Actions include:

- Draft proposal for a research-informed model of practice for the decision-making, funding and commissioning for alternative provision
- Developing relationships with AP and commissioning based on needs identified
- Additional AP – to include school sector (link to proposal)
- Therapeutic Thinking offered to all schools
- Expanding SEMH offer to Primary schools – linked to Therapeutic Thinking
- Developing SEMH offer to secondary using models of effective practice
- QA Frameworks have been implemented but not in place for all APs (capacity issue)
- Focus on reintegration readiness during termly monitoring visits with APs
- Developing youth offer to support reintegration