

Councillor Lyndon Jones
Convener – Schools Scrutiny Performance
Panel

BY EMAIL

Please ask for: Councillor Jennifer Raynor
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Our Ref: JR/KH
Your Ref:
Date: 5 March 2020

Dear Councillor Jones

EDUCATION SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE PANEL – 16 JANUARY 2020

Thank you for your letter dated 31 January 2020.

Please find below response to your question raised.

There has been a steady increase in fixed term exclusions over the last five years with some schools evidencing a specific increase in a particular academic year. While there is an increase in frequency, the exclusions are tending to be shorter in duration.

Some schools will evidence a particular increase in exclusions over an academic year or two due to the implementation of a new approach to managing behaviour, in some cases this has been due to a change in the senior leadership team. There has also been an increase in the number of permanent exclusions in secondary schools and as part of the graduated response to behaviour management there would be an expectation that a pupil who receives a permanent exclusion will also have had a number of fixed terms exclusions leading up to this. In recent years, an increase in young people being at risk of criminal exploitation from county lines has led to an increase in fixed term exclusion for drug related incidents. Schools try where possible to avoid permanent exclusions but need to give clear messages to their school community about drug possession and use so may use fixed term exclusions as a strategy.

In Swansea we have also worked closely with schools and headteachers to improve on the recording of fixed term exclusions and to move away from “unofficial” exclusions. This provides an important safeguard for children and young people along with ensuring they have rights in relation to pupil discipline committees and advocacy. The consequence of appropriate recording is that it appears to evidence an increase where in reality it may provide a more accurate picture of the position and ensure that exclusions are considered carefully prior to issue.

Most schools are fairly consistent in number of days lost per year over a five year period however, some primary schools have noticeable “peak” years. This is often due to the challenging behaviour of a very small number or perhaps individual pupil. Capacity in

specialist provision such as special schools or EOTAS provision is in high demand which the current capacity cannot meet. When a learner presents with particularly challenging behaviour which cannot be best met in mainstream provision, fixed term exclusion is an unfortunate but necessary strategy. A peak year in primary schools is often related to an escalation in behaviour of a learner who needs a more specialist provision but is unable to access it due to capacity issues across the EOTAS and special school provision in Swansea.

The figures are also affected by the PRU having frequent half day exclusions for smoking. This keeps the time of exclusion to a minimum while giving a clear message to learners that smoking is not acceptable. While it is cumulatively increasing days lost, it is an improvement from previous practices where shorter, half day exclusions were not always formally recorded which posed a potential safeguarding risk. This practice has stopped but the impact is an increase in fixed term exclusions.

The table below shows the average days lost for exclusions in the last 5 years.

School	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Average
Birchgrove Comprehensive School	3.20	2.88	3.32	3.14	1.93	3.14
Birchgrove Primary School	-	-	-	1.00	-	1.00
Bishop Gore School	6.97	5.82	7.40	2.24	2.04	3.72
Bishop Vaughan Catholic Comprehensive School	2.47	2.19	1.99	1.93	2.20	2.12
Bishopston Comprehensive School	4.50	3.17	3.75	2.44	3.29	3.38
Blaenymaes Primary School	-	-	-	1.63	0.85	1.26
Brynhyfryd Junior School	6.00	-	-	-	-	6.00
Brynhyfryd Primary	-	-	1.00	4.50	-	3.63
Brynmill Primary School	-	1.57	1.50	0.50	0.60	1.14
Burlais Primary School	-	1.50	0.50	1.00	2.05	1.90
Cadle Primary School	14.00	-	2.50	-	-	8.25
Cefn Hengoed Community School	3.44	3.10	4.60	3.00	1.36	2.90
City & County of Swansea PRU	1.72	2.04	1.76	1.47	0.94	1.37
Clwyd Primary School	1.50	2.00	1.67	1.63	-	1.78
Danygraig Primary School	-	-	-	1.00	-	1.00
Dylan Thomas Community School	4.54	3.46	4.30	4.28	4.16	4.25
Gendros Primary School	3.00	2.75	2.00	3.50	5.00	3.00
Gors Primary School	3.50	2.67	3.61	2.75	2.67	3.01
Gorseinon Primary School	-	1.00	3.67	-	2.88	2.90
Gowerton School	3.62	3.89	1.57	1.58	2.35	2.53
Hafod Primary School	4.00	-	-	-	1.50	2.75
Morrleston Comprehensive School	1.97	2.94	1.81	2.66	2.22	2.31
Morrleston Primary School	-	-	-	-	0.50	0.50
Parkland Primary School	-	-	-	3.00	-	3.00
Penclawdd Primary School	-	-	1.50	-	-	1.50
Penllergaer Primary School	-	1.63	-	1.00	-	1.36
Pentrehafod School	1.66	1.94	1.89	3.28	2.34	2.20
Pentre'r Graig Primary School	-	-	5.00	-	-	5.00
Penyrheol Comprehensive School	0.92	1.31	1.00	1.26	1.15	1.17

Penyrheol Primary School	1.33	-	-	-	-	0.44
Pontarddulais Comprehensive School	3.00	4.43	2.96	6.19	2.38	4.20
Pontarddulais Primary School	-	-	-	-	2.77	2.77
Pontybrenin Primary School	-	-	1.50	1.60	-	1.58
Portmead Primary School	-	2.69	3.96	2.03	1.14	2.47
Sea View Primary School	-	-	-	-	3.25	3.25
Talycopa Primary School	-	-	1.00	-	-	1.00
Terrace Road Primary School	-	-	-	3.00	-	3.00
Townhill Primary School	3.25	3.50	4.29	2.00	1.17	3.56
Trallwn Primary School	-	-	-	0.94	1.70	1.48
Waun Wen Primary School	3.00	-	-	-	-	3.00
Whitestone Primary School	0.50	-	-	-	-	0.50
Y G G Bryniago	-	-	-	-	10.00	10.00
Y G G Lonlas	-	-	5.50	-	-	5.50
Y G G Pontybrenin	-	-	-	-	0.50	0.50
Ysgol Gyfun Bryn Tawe	2.00	2.85	3.39	3.28	3.65	3.21
Ysgol Gyfun Gwyr	2.25	2.15	3.29	1.69	2.22	2.30
Ysgol Pen-y-Bryn	6.83	1.00	6.50	3.00	6.63	6.04
Grand Total	3.17	2.59	2.88	2.29	1.76	2.38

Please let me know if you require any more information.

Yours sincerely



Y Cynghorydd / Councillor Jennifer Raynor
Aelod Y Cabinet Dros Wella Addysg, Dysgu A Sgiliau
Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning and Skills