

2016/17 Academic Year Full Year Data Attendance Report

Version 3

Produced May 2018

Produced by

Operational Intelligence and Performance Team
Commercial Unit



2016/17 ACADEMIC YEAR

ATTENDANCE REPORT



Introduction

This report provides an overview of educational attendance within Staffordshire and gives comparisons to statistical neighbours and national averages.

Data Sources

The data used in this document is a mixture of nationally released DfE statistics and School Census validated data. Where possible the nationally released DfE statistics are used. Where nationally released DfE statistics are not available, manual calculations from the School Census databases have been used. DfE published data is also calculated from the School Census information.

Please note that in 2012/13 Local Authorities did not have access to Academy attendance data, so this is not included within manual calculations.

Middle schools in Staffordshire are all deemed to be secondary school; therefore wherever data is split by phase, middle schools are included in the secondary phase.

Please treat Gypsy/Roma and Traveller of Irish Heritage trends with caution as these groups relate to small numbers of pupils and the DfE have warned that these ethnicities are under reported.

Version Control

Version Number	Date	Updated by	Details of Update
1	11/04/2018	DW	Initial version circulated in preparation for the Attendance Management Meeting on 26/04/2018
2	22/05/2018	DW	Updated version for Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee

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Key Performance Points



Strengths

- ⇒ Absence of four year olds remains below the national average but this gap has narrowed slightly.
- ⇒ Overall absence remains consistently below the national average despite increases nationally and in Staffordshire.
- ⇒ Retrospective calculations for the new ten percent persistent absence measure has shown Staffordshire performing better than national in each of the last five academic years.
- ⇒ Staffordshire ranked joint 19th best local authority for primary absence from 152 authorities.
- ⇒ Staffordshire is ranked third and second of its statistical neighbour authorities respectively for primary and special schools absence.
- ⇒ Staffordshire primary schools have a lower proportion of unauthorised absence than national.



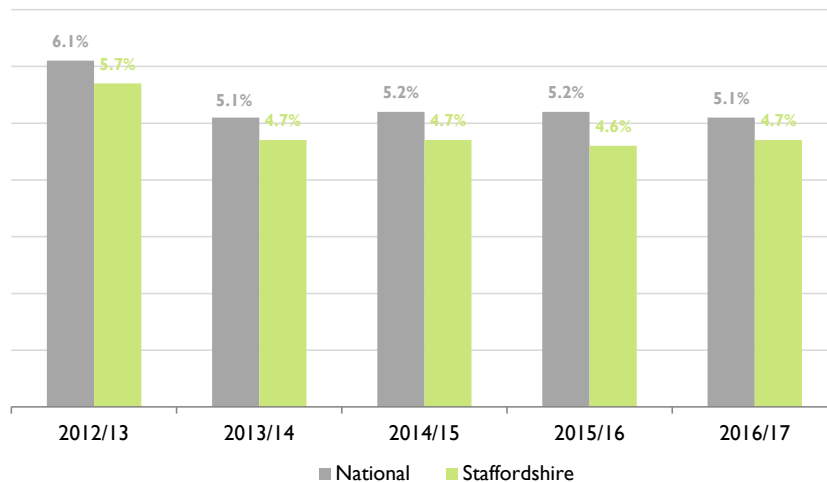
Areas For Improvement

- ⇒ There have been slight increases in absence in Staffordshire, and increases are at a slightly faster rate than increases seen nationally for the overall measure, and at each of primary, secondary, Pupil Referral Units (PRUs), and special schools.
- ⇒ Persistent absenteeism has increased at a faster rate than national (whilst remaining below national).
- ⇒ PRUs remain the area where performance is most poor. Staffordshire's absence percentage worsened and at a faster rate than national, and ranked 130th of 142 LAs with published data, and poorest performing statistical neighbour LAs.
- ⇒ The proportion of absence sessions coded as 'unauthorised holiday' continues to increase. Increases are higher in the primary sector, and Staffordshire is higher than national.
- ⇒ The proportion of absence coded as unauthorised has increased by 2.8pp in the secondary phase, and is the fifth consecutive year that unauthorised absence has increased.
- ⇒ Maintained schools in the secondary phase have worse overall absence and persistent absence percentages than academy schools.

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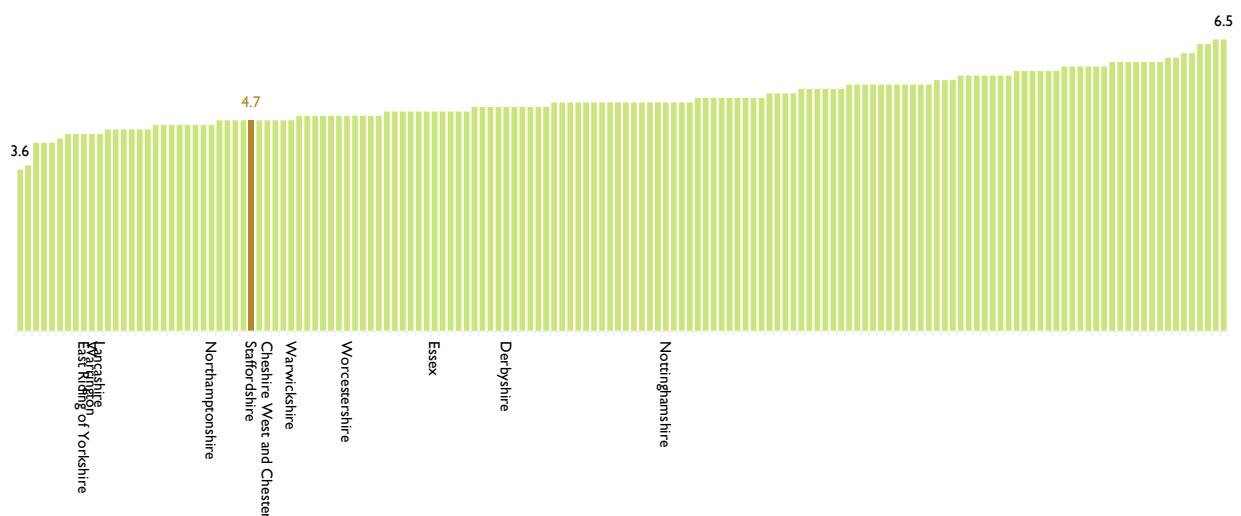
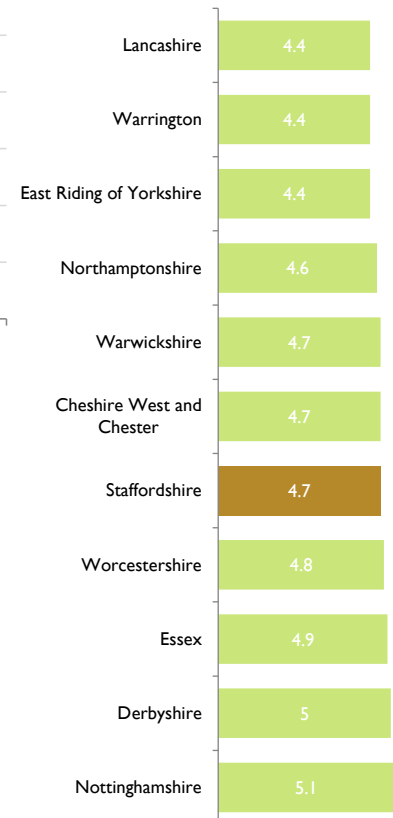
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Absence of four year olds in Staffordshire



- ⇒ Staffordshire remains below the national average for absence for four year olds despite a slight increase of 0.1pp in 2016/17.
- ⇒ The national average improved by 0.1pp resulting in the gap between Staffordshire and national narrowing slightly.
- ⇒ Staffordshire is ranked joint 5th of its statistical neighbour local authorities (LAs), with the best performing LAs having a absence rate of 4.4%, which is 0.3pp better than Staffordshire absence rate of 4.7%.
- ⇒ Staffordshire is ranked joint 26th of 152 LAs nationally.

Statistical Neighbours



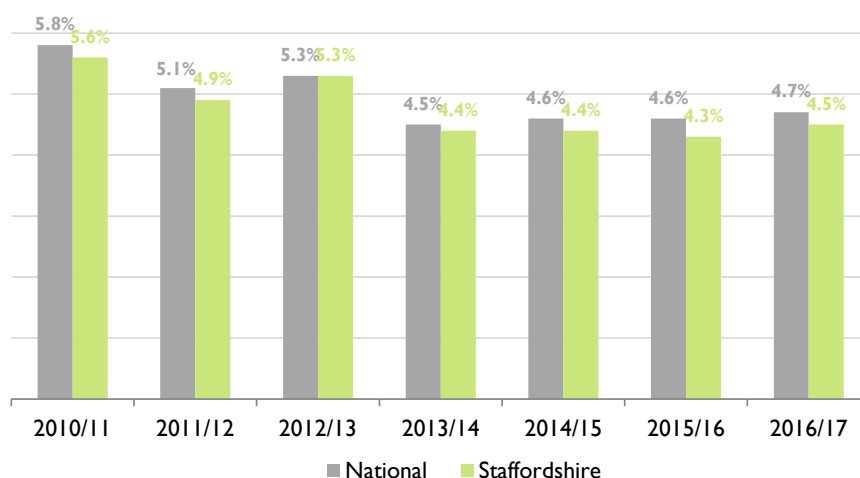
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Overall Absence in Staffordshire

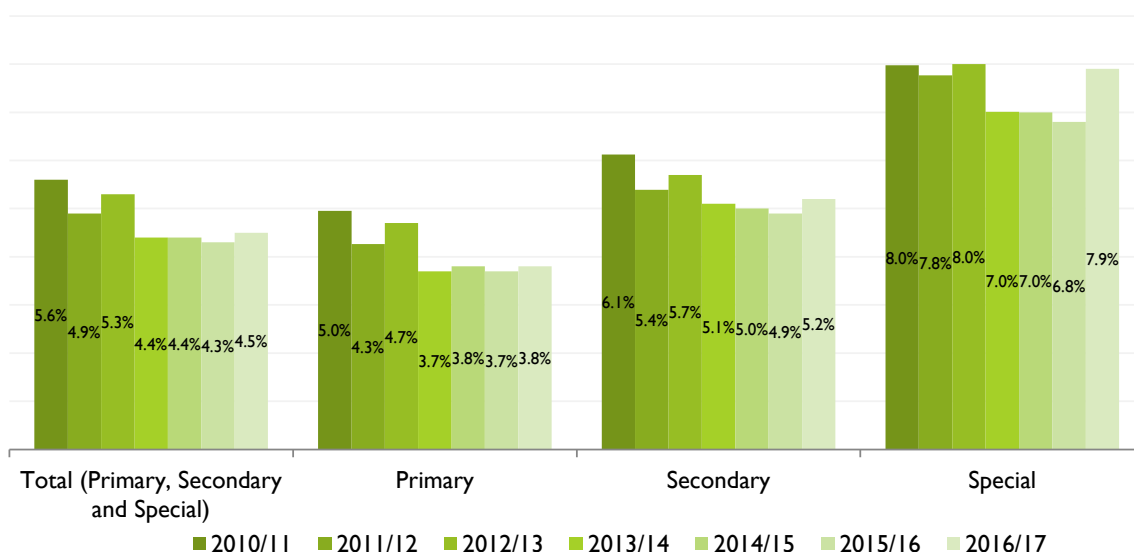
Staffordshire's absence percentage continues to be lower than national annual absence rates, although the gap has narrowed slightly in 2016/17. Both the Staffordshire and national average have experienced a slight increase in 2016/17.

Overall Absence % in Staffordshire Schools (Primary, Secondary and Special combined)



Overall Absence by Phase

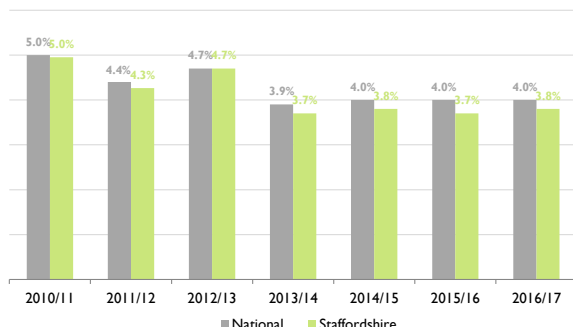
2016/17 absence rates in Staffordshire primary, secondary, special and primary/secondary/special combined have all increased slightly from the previous year. Pupils in secondary schools have higher absence rates to those in primary schools.



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Overall Absence by Phase – National Comparisons

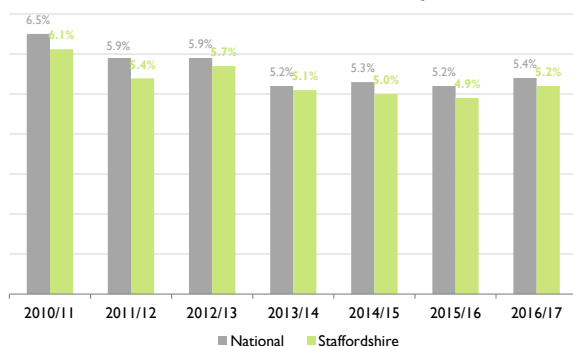
Overall Absence % - Primary



Primary Schools

- ⇒ National absence rates have remained static in 2016/17 whilst Staffordshire has increased slightly.
- ⇒ Staffordshire primary schools continue to perform better than national.

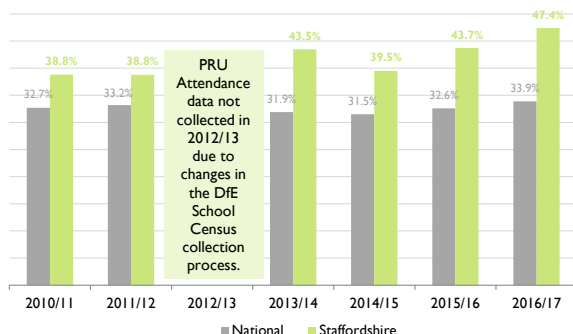
Overall Absence % - Secondary



Secondary Schools

- ⇒ Staffordshire secondary absence has been lower than the national average in each year from 2010/11 to 2016/17.
- ⇒ Staffordshire secondary schools have seen a 0.3pp increase in 2016/17 whilst national have seen a 0.2pp increase.

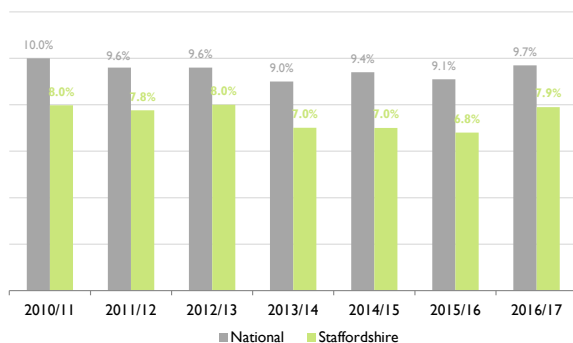
Overall Absence % - PRU



Pupil Referral Units Schools

- ⇒ Both Staffordshire PRUs and national PRUs have seen an increase in absence in 2015/16 and 2016/17.
- ⇒ Staffordshire PRU absence percentage was 47.4% in 2016/17. The gap between Staffordshire and national increased to 13.5pp in 2016/17 from 11.1pp in the previous year.

Overall Absence % - Special



Special Schools

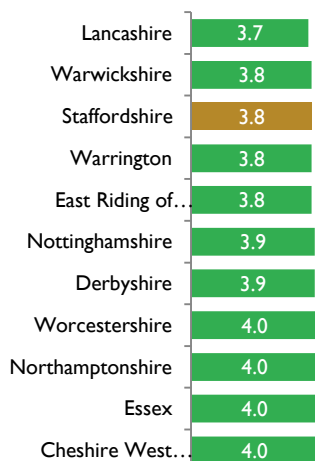
- ⇒ Staffordshire Special schools had an absence rate of 7.9% in 2016/17; this figure has worsened by 0.9pp.
- ⇒ The national average has also worsened by 0.6pp, slightly less than the increase seen in Staffordshire.

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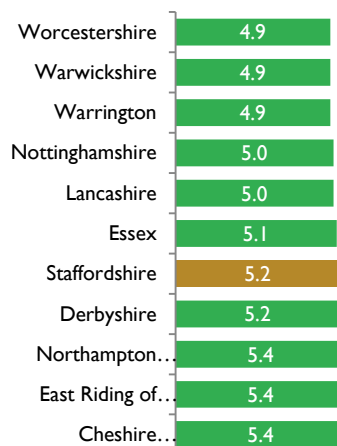
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Statistical Neighbour Comparisons – Overall Absence %

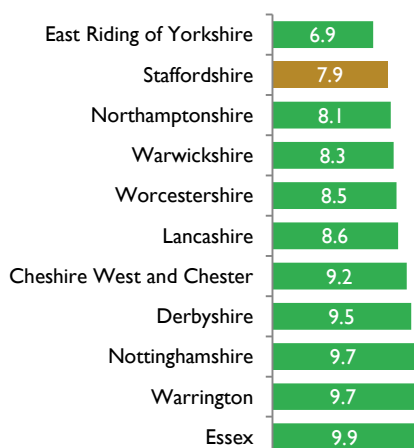
Primary



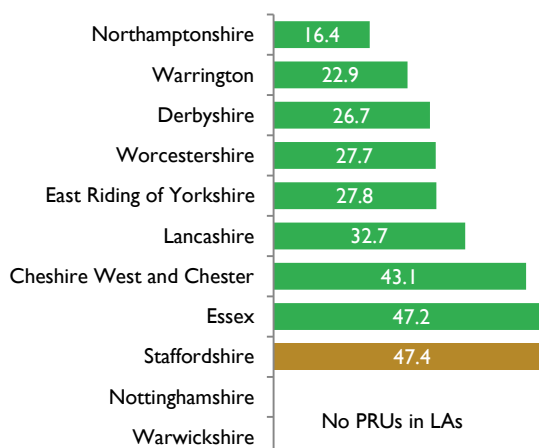
Secondary



Special



PRU

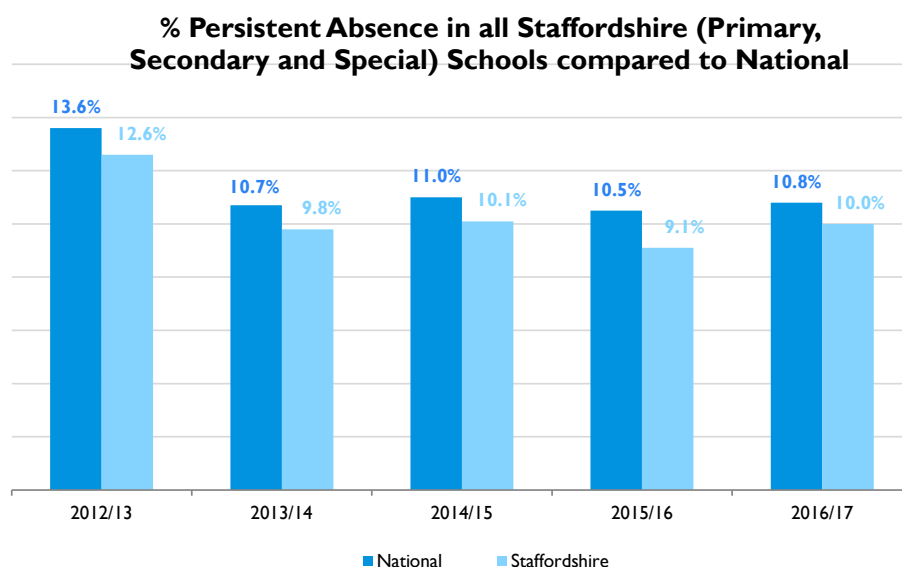


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Persistent Absence in Staffordshire

Staffordshire's persistent absence percentage has been consistently below the national average in each of the last five academic years. Both Staffordshire and the national average have seen an increase in persistent absence in 2016/17.

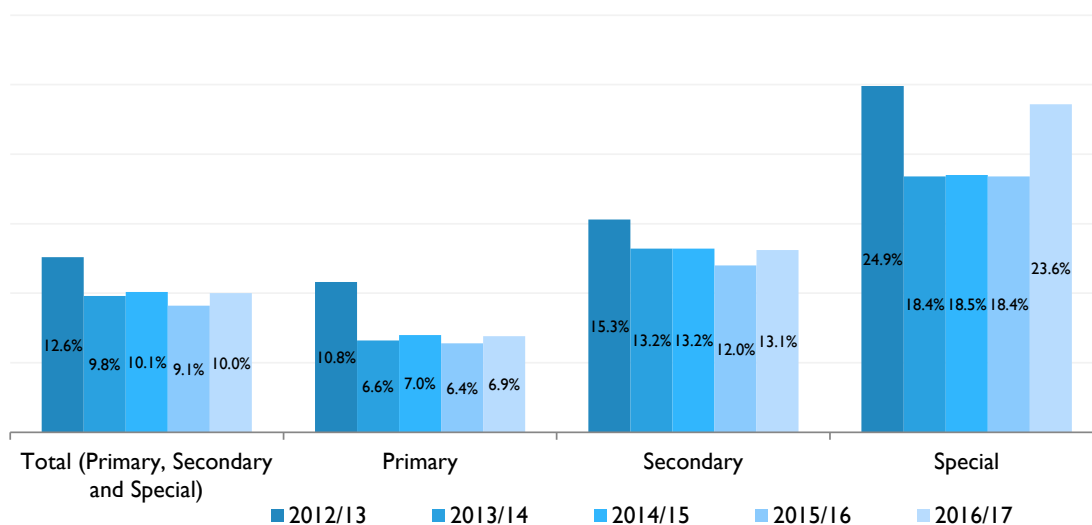


New Arrangements

From September 2015 (start of the 2015/16 academic year) schools will be judged against a persistent absence rate of 10 per cent rather than 15 per cent. The DfE have calculated the new 10 per cent measure retrospectively for previous years to provide year-on-year comparisons.

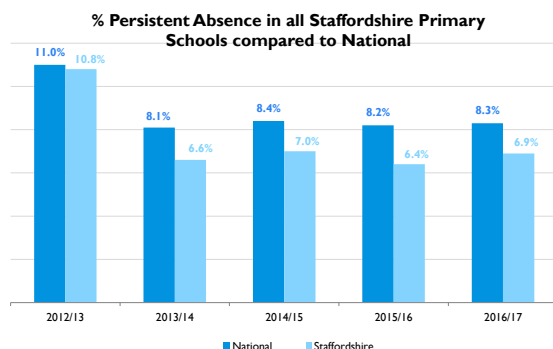
Persistent Absence by Phase

The percentage of pupils classed as persistent absentees has increased in primary, secondary and special schools in 2016/17. Staffordshire's overall combined average has increased from 9.1% to 10.0% in 2016/17.



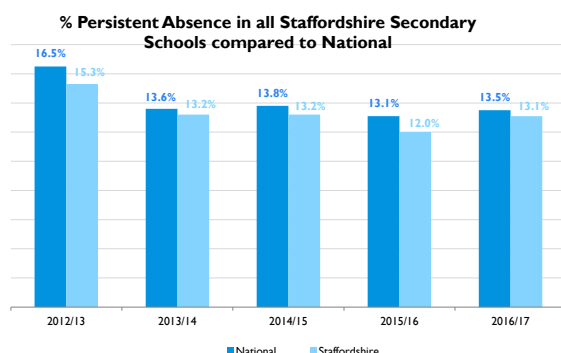
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Persistent Absence in Staffordshire – National Comparisons



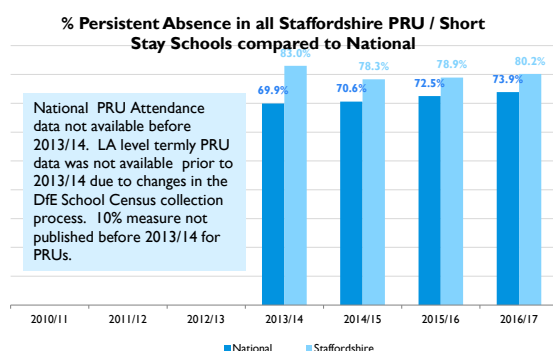
Primary Schools

- ⇒ The Staffordshire Primary persistent absence rate has been consistently below the national average.
- ⇒ National and Staffordshire Primary persistent absence rates have increased slightly in 2016/17 with Staffordshire having worsened at a faster rate.



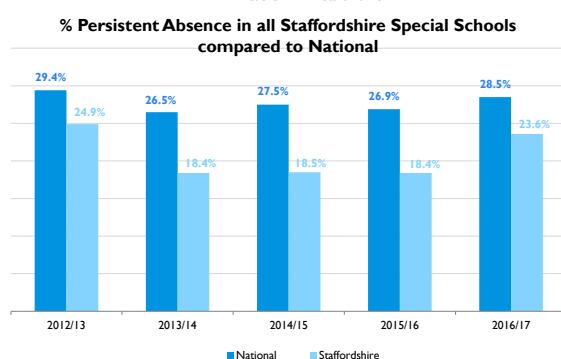
Secondary Schools

- ⇒ Staffordshire secondary persistent absence has been lower than the national average in each year since 2012/13.
- ⇒ The persistent absence rate for Staffordshire secondary schools has worsened at a faster rate than national in 2016/17 and is now 0.6pp below national.



Pupil Referral Units Schools

- ⇒ Pupil Referral Units in Staffordshire had a persistent absence rate of 80.2% in 2016/17; this is 1.3pp above the previous year (78.9%).
- ⇒ The gap between the Staffordshire PRU persistent absence percentage and the national average is narrowing due to the national persistent absence rate increasing at a faster rate.



Special Schools

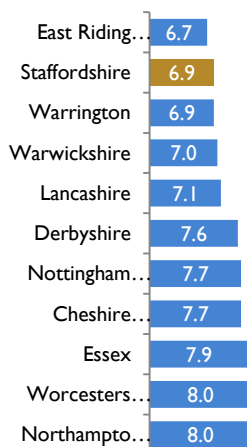
- ⇒ There is a smaller percentage of pupils in Staffordshire special schools who are persistent absentees than national.
- ⇒ The gap between Staffordshire and national has narrowed slightly but still remains below national.

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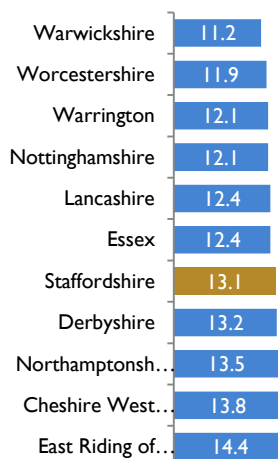
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Statistical Neighbour Comparisons – Persistent Absence

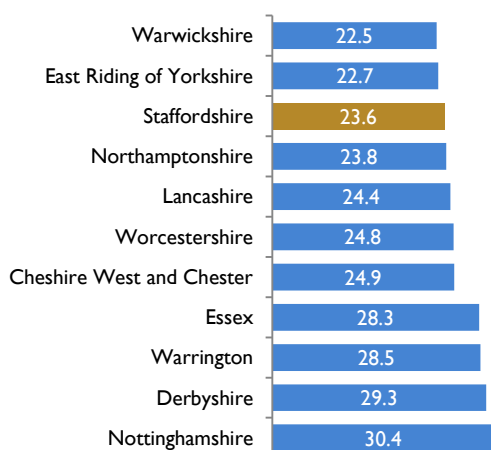
Primary



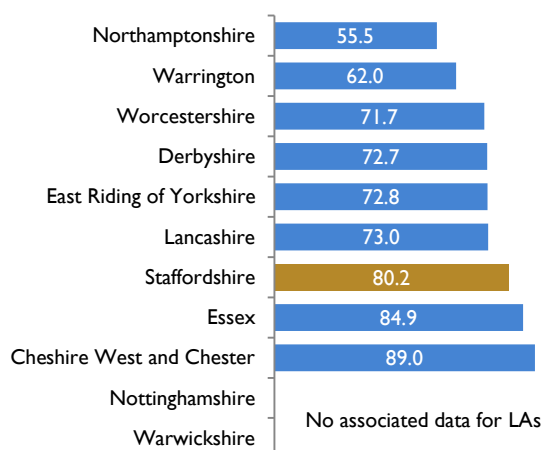
Secondary



Special



PRU



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Academy / Maintained comparison

Academy status as at 12 September in each academic year

Overall Absence

Phase	Status	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Change
Primary	Staffordshire Total	3.7%	3.8%	3.7%	3.8%	0.1pp
	Academy	3.8%	4.1%	3.8%	3.9%	0.1pp
	Maintained	3.7%	3.7%	3.6%	3.8%	0.1pp
	Difference	-0.1 pp	-0.4 pp	-0.2 pp	-0.1 pp	0.0pp
Secondary	Staffordshire Total	5.1%	5.0%	4.9%	5.2%	0.1pp
	Academy	5.1%	5.0%	4.9%	5.1%	0.0pp
	Maintained	5.1%	5.0%	5.0%	5.3%	0.2pp
	Difference	0.0 pp	0.0 pp	0.1 pp	0.2 pp	0.2pp

- ⇒ Primary academy schools have seen higher absence than maintained schools in each of the last four years.
- ⇒ Academy schools have had lower absence than maintained schools in the secondary phase in each of the last two years.

Persistent Absentees

Phase	Status	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Change
Primary	Staffordshire Total	6.6%	7.0%	6.4%	6.9%	0.4pp
	Academy	7.8%	8.9%	7.1%	7.7%	1.1pp
	Maintained	6.5%	6.6%	6.3%	6.7%	0.1pp
	Difference	-1.3 pp	-2.3 pp	-0.8 pp	-1.0 pp	-1.0pp
Secondary	Staffordshire Total	13.2%	13.2%	12.0%	13.1%	0.0pp
	Academy	13.4%	12.6%	11.8%	12.8%	-0.8pp
	Maintained	13.1%	13.2%	12.4%	13.4%	0.1pp
	Difference	-0.3 pp	0.6 pp	0.6 pp	0.7 pp	0.9pp

- ⇒ Primary academy schools had a persistent absence rate higher than those of maintained schools for the last four years.
- ⇒ Secondary academy schools had lower persistent absence percentages than maintained schools in each of the last three years.