

County Council Meeting – 20 July 2023**Question to Councillor Jonathan Price
Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND)****By Councillor Charlotte Atkins**

Question

What is the current level of pupil absence in Staffordshire schools? How does that compare with pre Covid pandemic levels of absence? Are there areas where attendance is particularly poor or good? What impact does socio economic factors and pupil age have on attendance?

Reply

Overall attendance in Staffordshire compares favourably with the national and regional averages. Although there is no current validated data to make comparisons, the DfE is publishing unvalidated data that can be used to compare Staffordshire attendance data. The latest information available indicates that attendance in the primary phase is 94.9% compared with the national average of 94%. In secondary schools the attendance rate is 90.5% compared with 87.9% nationally and in Staffordshire special schools the latest attendance rate is 90% compared with the national rate of 85.9%.

The current overall absence rate is 7.2%. Whilst attendance has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels, it has improved since last year which was 7.6% and we continue to support schools where there are concerns about pupil absence.

As you will see from the above information, absence rates are higher in secondary schools.

In the latest published data (2022) Staffordshire is ranked in the second quartile for attendance with an absence rate in line with the national average and below both the regional and statistical neighbour averages.
