

Statistics of Education:

Pupil absence and truancy from schools in England, 2000/2001



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

*Issue No 13/01
December 2001*

© Crown copyright 2001

Published with the permission of the DfES on behalf of the
Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

ISBN 0 11 271126 X

Applications for reproduction should be made in writing to
The Copyright Unit, Her Majesty's Stationery Office,
St. Clements House, 2-16 Colegate, Norwich NR3 1BQ

Contact points

For enquiries about this publication, contact:

Gillian Blair

Tel: 020 7925 5347

E-mail: Gillian.blair@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

Fax: 020 7925 6322

Letters: Level 6P1, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT

To order this publication, call The Stationery Office on 0870 600 5522.

See also back cover.

For general enquiries about National Statistics contact:

Public Enquiry Service on 020 7533 5888

(minicom: 01633 812399)

E-mail: info@statistics.gov.uk

Fax: 01633 652747

Letters: Room DG/18, 1 Drummond Gate, London SW1V 2QQ

You can also find more statistics about Education and Training on
www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics/

Information about National Statistics can be found on

www.statistics.gov.uk/

A National Statistics publication

Official statistics bearing the National Statistics logo are produced to high professional standards. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

PUPIL ABSENCE AND TRUANCY FROM SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND: 2000/2001

Introduction

1 This Bulletin summarises the information about absence from schools in England and relates it to other measures of performance. It is an update of the Bulletin published in December 2000 (Issue No. 13/00) and together they consolidate the information that has been published since 1994 in the National Pupil Absence Tables, covering absences recorded in the six academic years from 1995/1996 through to 2000/01. Data for earlier years can be found in previous issues of the bulletin. Rates of absence in primary schools were published at school level for the first time this year in the Primary School (KS2) Performance Tables. Additional tables have been included in this year's bulletin which provide more detailed analyses of rates of absence in primary schools.

2 Information derives from several sources: the Absence in Schools Survey (annual absence rates), the Annual Schools' Census carried out in January (pupils known to be eligible for free school meals and ethnicity of pupils) and the Secondary School Performance Tables (examination results) and Primary School Performance Tables (Key Stage 2 results).

Background

3 Promoting regular school attendance is a key component in the Government's strategy to raise educational standards and it is also an important factor in reducing wider problems associated with social exclusion. Pupils who fail to attend regularly experience educational disadvantage at school and impaired prospects later in life. They are also directly at risk of drifting into anti-social and criminal behaviour.

4 The Government has set itself the target to reduce unauthorised absence by one third by the year 2002. Local Education Authorities have been required to reflect this national goal in local targets included in their Education Development Plans. From September 2002, these local targets will be for overall absence to allow LEAs to address the issue of authorised as well as unauthorised absence. Funding has been made available through the Social Inclusion: Pupil Support Grant (Standards Fund) worth in excess of £500m over three years. This provides practical help to schools and Local Education Authorities in reducing levels of unauthorised absence by supporting locally devised projects. The police have also been given new powers to pick up truants found in public places and return them to school. This year 50 schools, which have succeeded in cutting truancy, were awarded a 'Truancy Buster' award. Through their hard work and commitment, these schools have been able to reduce truancy, and improve their overall level of attendance, often under very challenging circumstances. The other key elements of the new drive to stamp out truancy include:

- A co-ordinated programme of truancy sweeps;
- Higher penalties for parents convicted of school attendance offences and tougher rules to ensure that parents of persistent truants attend court;
- Extra money to tackle poor behaviour, with truancy the top priority;
- Extra Learning mentors in Excellence in Cities areas; and
- Setting of new targets for schools with above average truancy records.

5 This Statistical Bulletin reports the findings from surveys of absence from schools for 1995/1996 onwards, with the main emphasis on 2000/01 – the latest year for which figures are available. The tables contained in the Bulletin, in conjunction with the 2001 National Pupil Absence Tables, act as a measure of the extent of absence nationally and at Local Education Authority (LEA) level. The tables also highlight trends in absence over time and compare absence rates with other basic characteristics of schools such as examination and test performance and eligibility for free school meals. Care should be taken when analysing data in respect of school characteristics as these data are based on the character of the school and area, and not based on individual pupil characteristics.

KEY POINTS

Authorised absence

The main points relating to authorised absence are:

- Overall, 6.5 per cent of half days were missed in 2000/01 because of authorised absences.
- The percentage of half days missed in 2000/01 by school type

maintained primary schools	5.6%
maintained secondary schools	8.0%
special schools	9.1%
city technology colleges	6.2%
independent schools	4.0%
- There were variations in the percentage of half days missed by pupils in maintained secondary schools between the Government Office Regions (GORs); the percentage varied from 7.6 per cent in the South East to 8.5 per cent in the North East. In maintained primary schools, the rates varied from 5.3 per cent in the East Midlands to 5.9 per cent in the North East, West Midlands and London with the highest rate, 6.0 per cent in Inner London. The difference in levels of authorised absence between regions has increased compared with previous years.

(A definition of authorised absence is given in paragraph 27.)

Unauthorised absence

The main points relating to unauthorised absence are:

- Overall, 0.7 per cent of half days were missed in 2000/01 because of unauthorised absence.
- The percentage of half days missed in 2000/01 by school type

maintained primary schools	0.5%
maintained secondary schools	1.1%
special schools	2.2%
city technology colleges	0.2%
independent schools	0.1%
- As with authorised absence, there were variations in the percentage of half days missed by pupils in maintained secondary schools between the government office regions: the percentage varied from 0.8 per cent in the East of England and the South West to 1.5 per cent in London and Yorkshire and the Humber. The rates in maintained primary schools varied from 0.3 per cent in the North East to 0.8 per cent in London. In both secondary and primary schools, rates of unauthorised absence were highest in Inner London at 2.2 per cent and 1.4 per cent respectively.

(A definition of unauthorised absence is given in paragraph 28.)

ABSENCE STATISTICS AND TRENDS

Incidence of pupils who are absent from schools in England (Table 1 and Figures 1 and 2)

6 The tables show the percentage of half days missed due to authorised and unauthorised absence in the school year, up to and including the Friday before the last Monday in May. To place these figures in context, the tables also include the average number of half days missed per absent pupil.

7 **Table 1** shows pupil absence during the academic years 1995/1996 to 2000/01 for all schools in England, broken down by school type - maintained primary and secondary schools, special schools, City Technology Colleges and Independent schools. It shows the percentage of half days missed due to authorised and unauthorised absence, and also the average number of half days missed per pupil. The annual trends in unauthorised absence for primary and secondary schools can be seen in **Figures 1 and 2**.

8 In the academic year 2000/01, 6.5 per cent of half days were missed as a result of authorised absence. This represents a 0.4 percentage point increase in half days missed as a result of authorised absence compared to 1999/2000. Comparisons with earlier years must be treated with caution due to the change in the definition of authorised absence (see paragraph 24).

9 There were significant variations in the levels of authorised absence between different types of school which are shown in the table below, with independent schools having the lowest and special schools the highest rates.

Rates of authorised absence by school type 2000/01

	percentage of half days missed	average number of half days missed per absent pupil
maintained primary schools	5.6	18
maintained secondary schools	8.0	26
special schools	9.1	29
city technology colleges	6.2	21
independent schools	4.0	14
overall	6.5	21

10 The percentage of half days missed as a result of unauthorised absence has remained unchanged since 1994 at 0.7 per cent. As with the levels of authorised absence, there were significant variations in the levels of unauthorised absence between school types (see table below).

Rates of unauthorised absence by school type 2000/01

	percentage of half days missed	average number of half days missed per absent pupil
maintained primary schools	0.5	9
maintained secondary schools	1.1	17
special schools	2.2	25
city technology colleges	0.2	11
independent schools	0.1	8
overall	0.7	13

Rates of absence by Government Office Regions (Tables 2 and 3)

11 **Table 2** show the rates of authorised and unauthorised absence and the average number of half days missed per absent pupil in maintained secondary schools for each Government Office Region (GOR) in England in 1999/2000 and 2000/01. Similar figures for maintained primary schools are shown in **Table 3**.

12 Variations in authorised and unauthorised absence between regions for secondary schools can be seen in **Table 2**. For example, in the South East, the authorised absence rate was 7.6 per cent compared with 8.5 per cent in the North East while unauthorised absence in East of England and the South West was 0.8 per cent compared with 1.5 per cent in London and Yorkshire and The Humber. The authorised absence rates have increased by between 0.2 and 0.5 percentage points between 1999/00 and 2000/01 with the West Midlands showing the smallest increase. The picture for unauthorised absence is slightly different. Although the overall percentage for

England has increased by 0.1 percentage points, two GORs show a slight decrease between the 2 years, namely the North East and West Midlands.

13 Table 3 shows the variations in authorised and unauthorised absence at GOR level for primary schools. For example, the percentage authorised absence rate was 5.3 per cent in the East Midlands compared with 5.9 per cent in London, the West Midlands and the North East. As with the authorised absence in secondary schools, the primary schools also showed increases of between 0.3 and 0.5 percentage points across the regions, the lowest in London, East Midlands and the North West and the highest in the North East and the South West. The rates of unauthorised absence in the regions were very similar to last year and varied from 0.3 per cent in the North East to 0.9 per cent in London, with Inner London having the worst rate of unauthorised absence.

Comparison of Authorised and Unauthorised Absence Rates (Tables 4 and 5)

14 Maintained secondary schools and maintained primary schools were each divided into six groups, based on their levels of unauthorised absence. The same schools were also divided into six further groups based on their levels of authorised absence.

15 There is evidence of a significant positive correlation between levels of authorised and unauthorised absence in maintained secondary schools. **Table 4** shows that there is a tendency for schools with low levels of authorised absence to also have low levels of unauthorised absence and vice versa. Those with higher levels of authorised absence also tend to have higher levels of unauthorised absence. 347 of the 542 schools with low levels (up to 6%) of authorised absence also had low levels (up to 0.3%) of unauthorised absence. 345 of the 514 schools with high levels (10% or above) of authorised absence also had high levels (1% or above) of unauthorised absence.

16 The correlation for primary schools is not quite so significant. **Table 5** shows that 1,483 of the 2,115 with low levels (up to 4%) of authorised absence also had low levels (up to 0.2%) of unauthorised absence. However, only 464 of the 1759 schools with high levels (7.5% or above) of authorised absence had high levels (0.8% and above) of unauthorised absence.

Pupil attainments at GCSE/GNVQ and Key Stage 2 (Tables 6 and 7 and Figures 3 and 4)

17 The performance of schools can be measured in different ways but the measure most commonly employed for secondary schools is the proportion of 15 year old pupils obtaining five or more GCSE/GNVQs at grades A* to C ('high grades'). **Table 6** suggests that there is a strong correlation between absence and exam performance, with low absence rates being associated with good examination performance, and vice-versa.

This is the case for both authorised and unauthorised absence rates. However, care should be taken when analysing these results as they relate to the measure of performance of schools rather than the measure of performance of individual pupils.

18 Table 6 (B) and **Figure 3** show that for schools with less than 0.1 per cent of half days missed as a result of unauthorised absence, 76.3 per cent of pupils achieved 'high grades'. For schools in the highest absence band (2 per cent or more), the proportion of pupils achieving 'high grades' was 29.9 per cent. A similar trend is observable for authorised absence **Table 6 (A)** and for overall absence **Table 6 (C)**.

19 Similarly, the performance of primary schools at Key Stage 2 can be measured by the proportion of eligible pupils achieving level 4 or above in English, mathematics or science. **Table 7** suggests that there is also a strong correlation between absence and KS2 performance, with low absence rates being associated with good performance in the Key Stage 2 tests, and vice-versa. As with performance at GCSE/GNVQ, this is the case for both authorised and unauthorised absence rates. Again, these analyses relate to the performance of schools rather than the measure of performance of individual pupils so care should be taken before forming conclusions.

20 Table 7 (B) and **Figure 4** show that for schools with less than 0.1 per cent of half days missed as a result of unauthorised absence, 81.6 per cent of pupils achieved level 4 or above in English compared with only 59.8 per cent for those where the unauthorised absence rate was 1.5 per cent or higher. Mathematics and science showed a similar pattern with the percentages varying from 77.4 per cent to 56.2 per cent for mathematics and 92.2 per cent and 77.1 per cent for science. A similar trend is observable for authorised absence, **Table 7 (A)**, and for overall absence, **Table 7 (C)**.

School characteristics and Absence (Tables 8 to 10)

21 Many schools have groups of pupils who are at risk from circumstances that derive from social deprivation and the locations of schools. This may have an impact on the absence rates at schools. The information gathered by the survey on absence has been supplemented with information about the ethnic background of pupils and the numbers of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals (measure of poverty). In **Tables 8, 9 and 10**, rates of absence within secondary schools are matched against these socio-economic factors although care should be taken when analysing these data to avoid superficial conclusions. Similarly, **Tables 11, 12 and 13** provide equivalent analyses for primary schools.

- i Pupils from ethnic minorities.** Secondary schools with the highest levels of unauthorised absence also have the highest proportions of minority ethnic pupils (**Table 9**). This does not mean that the minority ethnic pupils are more likely to have unauthorised absences (in fact several studies suggest that this is not the case).

A more likely explanation is that schools in deprived areas have high levels of unauthorised absence, and these areas also have a high proportion of people from ethnic minorities. Differences are less marked for rates of authorised absence (**Table 8**). **Tables 11** and **12** shows a similar pattern for primary schools.

- ii **Pupils known to be eligible for free school meals.** Both secondary schools and primary schools with the highest levels of authorised and unauthorised absence have the largest percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals. Schools in the lowest band of authorised absence have 8.6 per cent of their pupils in secondary schools and 8.8 per cent of their pupils in primary schools known to be eligible for free school meals. The equivalent figure for the highest band of absence is 30.1 per cent for secondary schools and 38.0 per cent for primary schools. A similar pattern applies to unauthorised absence where in the lowest band 7.0 per cent of pupils in secondary schools and 12.7 per cent of pupils in primary schools are known to be eligible for free school meals compared to 30.5 per cent and 43.0 per cent, respectively, in the highest band.

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE TABLES

Coverage

22 This Bulletin contains information about absence in schools in England. Annex A provides the data collection form for 2000/01.

23 The tables show the percentage of half days missed due to authorised and unauthorised absence in each school year up to and including the Friday before the last Monday in May (25 May 2001).

The Law on Attendance

24 In law, parents of children of compulsory school age (5-16) are required to ensure that they receive a suitable education either by regular attendance at school or otherwise. Where a pupil is registered at school, the law requires regular attendance. Failure to comply with this statutory duty can lead to prosecution. Local Education Authorities (LEAs) are responsible in law for making sure that pupils attend school and most LEAs employ Education Welfare Officers (EWOs) to work with schools and families to promote regular attendance.

The Taking of Registers

25 Schools are required to take attendance registers twice a day. This is done at the start of the morning and once during the afternoon session. In their register schools are required to distinguish whether pupils are present, engaged in approved educational activity, or are absent.

26 Where a day pupil of compulsory school age is absent, the register must indicate whether the absence was authorised by the school or unauthorised (see below). Parents may not authorise absence; only schools can do this.

Definitions of Absence

27 Authorised absence: Absence with permission from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes instances of absence for which a satisfactory explanation has been provided (e.g. illness).

From 1998 onwards, following a change in registration law, approved and supervised educational activities conducted away from the school site (for example work experience and educational trips and visits) no longer constitute authorised absence. For the purposes of all Absence Surveys since 1997/1998, they are deemed equivalent to present.

28 Unauthorised absence: Absence without permission from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences.

29 Day pupils of compulsory school age: Day pupils aged 5-15 at the start of the academic year on the rolls of responding schools for at least one session.

School performance

30 The Secondary School Performance tables, published annually, provide information about each school's GCSE/GNVQ exam results. The performance of schools in national examinations can be measured in different ways, but the measure most commonly employed in England (and that used in this Bulletin) is the proportion of pupils obtaining five or more GCSE/GNVQs at grades A* to C. Pupils prepare for the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) examination and General National Vocational Qualifications in a number of subjects in their final two years of schooling.

The Primary School Performance Tables, published annually, provide information about each school's Key Stage 2 results in English, mathematics and science. The performance of these schools in the tests can be measured in different ways, but the measure most commonly employed in England (and that used in this Bulletin) is the percentage of eligible pupils that reach level 4 or above in English, mathematics and science.

Minority ethnic pupils

31 Data on ethnic groups shown in this Bulletin derive from the Department's Annual Schools' Census for January 2001 and are as reported by schools.

32 Parents were asked to classify their children according to a classification of broad ethnic groups. This

classification is the same as that used in the 1991 National Census.

Pupils known to be eligible for free school meals

33 Data on free school meals eligibility is derived from the Department's Annual Schools' Census for January 2001. Figures are quoted as a percentage of day pupils.

RELATED STATISTICS

34 Statistics about pupil absence from schools were previously published in a Statistical Bulletin which is available from The Stationery Office (Issue Number 13/00):

Pupil Absence and Truancy from Schools in England: 1999/2000 (*DfES, December 2000*)

and in the following tables:

National Pupil Absence Tables 2001
(*DfEE, December 2001*)

National Pupil Absence Tables 2000
(*DfEE, November 2000*)

National Pupil Absence Tables 1999
(*DfEE, November 1999*)

National Pupil Absence Tables 1998
(*DfEE, December 1998*)

National Pupil Absence Tables 1997
(*DfEE, November 1997*)

National Pupil Absence Tables 1996
(*DfEE, November 1996*)

National Pupil Absence Tables 1995
(*DfEE, November 1995*)

National Pupil Absence Tables 1994
(*DfEE, November 1994*)

35 Copies of these tables are available from the DfEE Publications Centre, Telephone 0845 60 222 60 or via Email: dfes@prolog.uk.com. They are also available on the Internet at <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/performance/tables>

FURTHER INFORMATION

36 Enquiries about statistics on absence in schools in England should be addressed to Gillian Blair, Analytical Services, Department for Education and Skills, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT Telephone **020 7925 5347** or e-mail statistics@dfes.gsi.gov.uk.

37 Press enquiries should be made to the Department's Press Office, at Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3BT. Telephone **020 7925 5476**.

38 Further copies of this Bulletin can be obtained from The Stationery Office at the address given on the back cover of this Bulletin.

FIGURE 1:
 Percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence in maintained schools; 1995/1996 to 2000/01

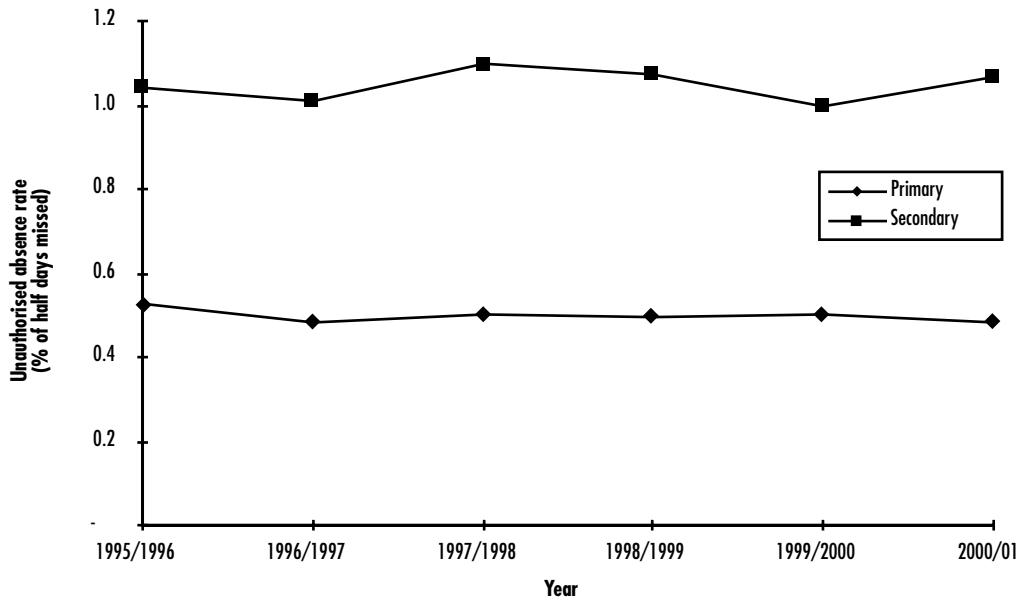


FIGURE 2:
 Average number of half days missed per absent pupil due to unauthorised absence in maintained schools; 1995/1996 to 2000/01

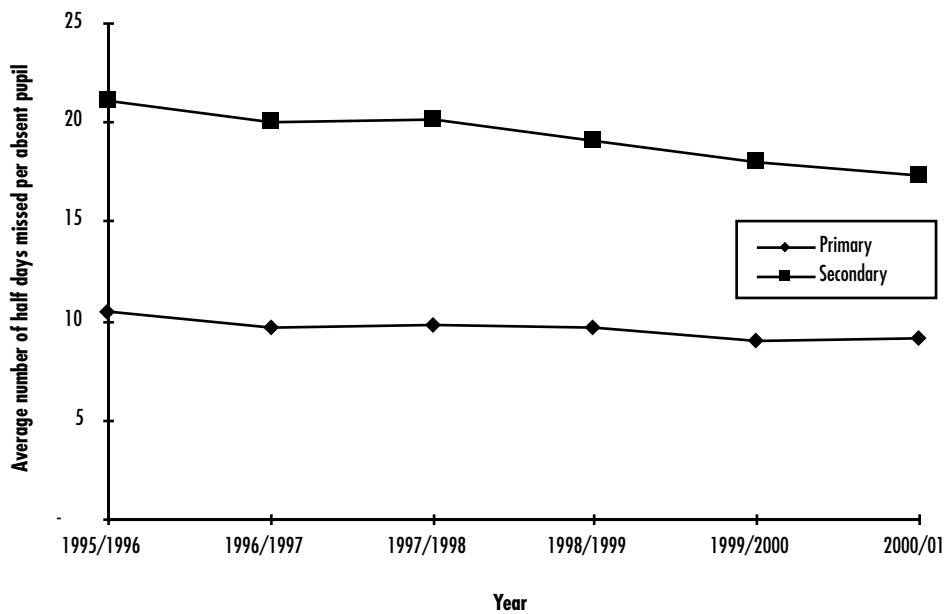


FIGURE 3:

School performance at GCSE/GNVQ in maintained secondary schools by unauthorised absence rate: 2000/01

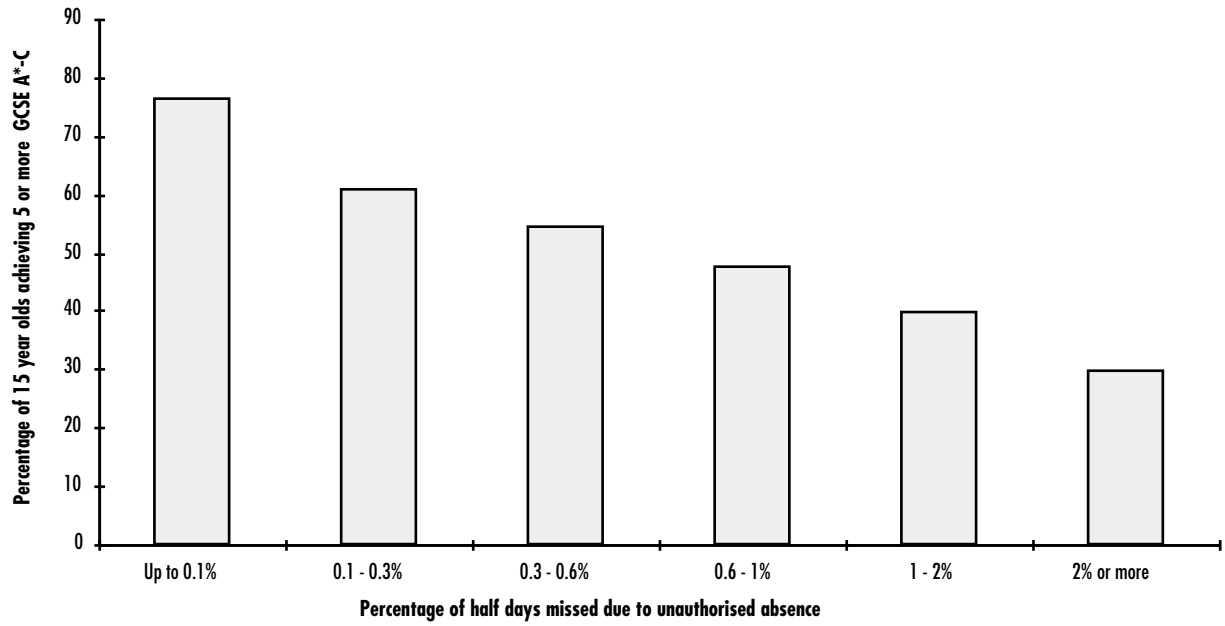


FIGURE 4:

School performance at Key Stage 2 in maintained primary schools by unauthorised absence rate: 2000/01

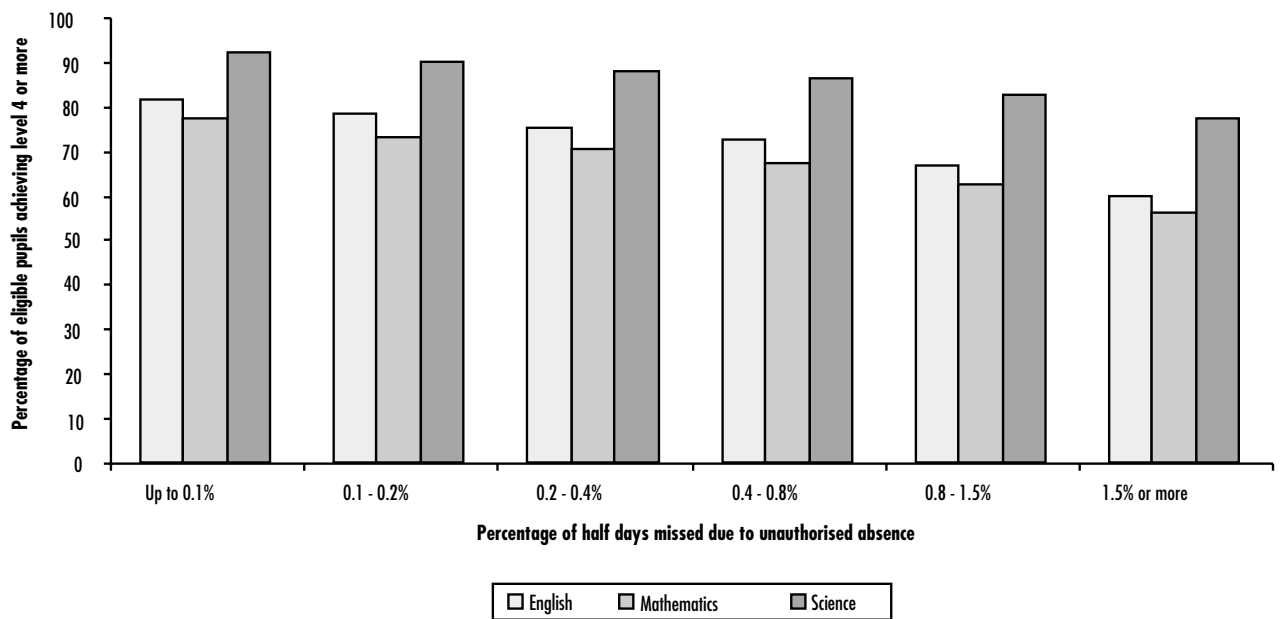


TABLE 1:
Pupil absence by type of school in England: 1995/96-2000/01

	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01
ALL SCHOOLS						
Number of day pupils of compulsory school age	6,827,920	7,011,816	6,977,346	7,071,573	7,102,287	7,176,173
Percentage of half days missed:						
authorised absence ²	6.9	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.1	6.5
unauthorised absence	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Average number of half days missed per absent pupil:						
authorised absence ²	23	21	21	21	20	21
unauthorised absence	15	14	15	14	13	13
Maintained Primary Schools¹						
Number of day pupils of compulsory school age	3,660,713	3,770,801	3,730,357	3,734,768	3,719,189	3,741,370
Percentage of half days missed:						
authorised absence ²	6.0	5.6	5.7	5.4	5.2	5.6
unauthorised absence	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Average number of half days missed per absent pupil:						
authorised absence ²	20	18	19	18	17	18
unauthorised absence	10	10	10	10	9	9
Maintained Secondary Schools¹						
Number of day pupils of compulsory school age	2,724,848	2,790,039	2,786,943	2,872,670	2,917,639	2,956,915
Percentage of half days missed:						
authorised absence ²	8.4	8.1	7.9	7.8	7.6	8.0
unauthorised absence	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1
Average number of half days missed per absent pupil:						
authorised absence ²	28	26	26	26	25	26
unauthorised absence	21	20	20	19	18	17
Special Schools						
Number of day pupils of compulsory school age	80,533	82,040	82,425	82,728	81,544	81,867
Percentage of half days missed:						
authorised absence ²	8.8	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.3	9.1
unauthorised absence	2.7	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.2	2.2
Average number of half days missed per absent pupil:						
authorised absence ²	30	29	28	28	27	29
unauthorised absence	27	25	27	26	23	25
City Technology Colleges						
Number of day pupils of compulsory school age	11,217	12,308	12,650	12,745	12,898	13,060
Percentage of half days missed:						
authorised absence ²	6.5	6.1	6.1	5.8	5.9	6.2
unauthorised absence	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Average number of half days missed per absent pupil:						
authorised absence ²	22	20	20	20	20	21
unauthorised absence	6	9	8	8	11	11
Independent Schools						
Number of day pupils of compulsory school age	350,609	356,628	364,971	368,662	371,017	382,961
Percentage of half days missed:						
authorised absence ²	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.7	4.0
unauthorised absence	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Average number of half days missed per absent pupil:						
authorised absence ²	13	13	13	13	13	14
unauthorised absence	8	7	7	7	7	8

1 Includes middle schools as deemed

2 There was a change in definition of authorised absence in 1998. Please see paragraph 24 of the explanatory notes

TABLE 2:
Authorised and unauthorised absence in maintained secondary schools¹ by Government Office Regions in England: 1999/00 and 2000/01

	1999/2000			2000/01		
	Number of day pupils of compulsory school age	% of half days missed	Average number of half days missed per absent pupil	Number of day pupils of compulsory school age	% of half days missed	Average number of half days missed per absent pupil
AUTHORISED ABSENCE						
ENGLAND	2,917,639	7.6	25	2,956,915	8.0	26
North East	170,663	8.0	26	170,460	8.5	28
North West	431,766	7.9	26	434,052	8.3	27
Yorkshire & The Humber	315,207	7.9	26	314,847	8.2	26
East Midlands	256,913 ¹	7.3	24	258,327	7.8	25
West Midlands	336,958	7.8	25	342,139	8.0	26
East of England	330,242	7.2	23	337,431	7.7	25
London	359,609	7.5	25	368,442	7.9	26
Inner London	115,986	7.5	25	118,651	7.7	26
Outer London	243,623	7.6	25	249,791	7.9	26
South East	435,526	7.2	23	444,134	7.6	24
South West	280,755	7.6	24	287,083	8.0	25

¹ Includes middle schools as deemed.

	1999/2000			2000/01		
	Number of day pupils of compulsory school age	% of half days missed	Average number of half days missed per absent pupil	Number of day pupils of compulsory school age	% of half days missed	Average number of half days missed per absent pupil
UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE						
ENGLAND	2,917,639	1.0	18	2,956,915	1.1	17
North East	170,663	1.0	20	170,460	0.9	20
North West	431,766	1.1	21	434,052	1.1	20
Yorkshire & The Humber	315,207	1.5	20	314,847	1.5	19
East Midlands	256,913	1.2	18	258,327	1.2	18
West Midlands	336,958	1.0	17	342,139	0.9	17
East of England	330,242	0.8	16	337,431	0.8	15
London	359,609	1.4	19	368,442	1.5	18
Inner London	115,986	2.2	20	118,651	2.2	19
Outer London	243,623	1.1	18	249,791	1.2	17
South East	435,526	0.8	16	444,134	0.9	16
South West	280,755	0.8	14	287,083	0.8	13

¹ Includes middle schools as deemed.

TABLE 3:

Authorised and unauthorised absence in maintained primary schools¹ by Government Office Regions in England: 1999/00 and 2000/01

	1999/2000			2000/01		
	Number of day pupils of compulsory school age	% of half days missed	Average number of half days missed per absent pupil	Number of day pupils of compulsory school age	% of half days missed	Average number of half days missed per absent pupil
AUTHORISED ABSENCE						
ENGLAND	3,719,189	5.2	17	3,741,370	5.6	18
North East	189,722	5.4	18	189,706	5.9	19
North West	554,252	5.2	18	550,355	5.5	18
Yorkshire & The Humber	395,373	5.1	17	401,721	5.5	18
East Midlands	322,800	5.0	17	322,192	5.3	17
West Midlands	419,801	5.5	18	417,134	5.9	19
East of England	390,530	4.9	16	395,668	5.4	17
London	513,609	5.6	18	526,819	5.9	19
Inner London	180,490	5.7	19	188,952	6.0	19
Outer London	333,119	5.5	18	337,867	5.9	19
South East	580,456	5.0	16	582,969	5.4	17
South West	352,646	5.0	16	354,806	5.5	17

¹ Includes infant schools and middle schools as deemed.

	1999/2000			2000/01		
	Number of day pupils of compulsory school age	% of half days missed	Average number of half days missed per absent pupil	Number of day pupils of compulsory school age	% of half days missed	Average number of half days missed per absent pupil
UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE						
ENGLAND	3,719,189	0.5	9	3,741,370	0.5	9
North East	189,722	0.2	9	189,706	0.3	9
North West	554,252	0.4	10	550,355	0.4	10
Yorkshire & The Humber	395,373	0.6	9	401,721	0.6	9
East Midlands	322,800	0.4	9	322,192	0.4	9
West Midlands	419,801	0.4	9	417,134	0.4	9
East of England	390,530	0.4	8	395,668	0.4	8
London	513,609	0.9	10	526,819	0.9	10
Inner London	180,490	1.4	11	188,952	1.4	11
Outer London	333,119	0.7	9	337,867	0.7	10
South East	580,456	0.4	8	582,969	0.4	8
South West	352,646	0.4	8	354,806	0.4	8

¹ Includes infant schools and middle schools as deemed.

TABLE 4:
Numbers and proportions of maintained secondary schools¹ with various proportions of authorised and unauthorised absence: 2000/01

	Percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence													
	up to 0.1%		0.1 - 0.3%		0.3 - 0.6%		0.6 - 1%		1 - 2%		2% plus		All schools	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Percentage of half days missed due to authorised absence														
up to 6%	221	6.4	126	3.6	75	2.2	50	1.4	36	1.0	34	1.0	542	15.7
6 - 7%	106	3.1	128	3.7	153	4.4	103	3.0	75	2.2	41	1.2	606	17.5
7 - 8%	76	2.2	122	3.5	159	4.6	159	4.6	132	3.8	74	2.1	722	20.9
8 - 9%	25	0.7	84	2.4	130	3.8	156	4.5	190	5.5	74	2.1	659	19.0
9 - 10%	13	0.4	39	1.1	51	1.5	106	3.1	118	3.4	90	2.6	417	12.1
10% plus	9	0.3	22	0.6	58	1.7	80	2.3	158	4.6	187	5.4	514	14.9
All schools	450	13.0	521	15.1	626	18.1	654	18.9	709	20.5	500	14.5	3,460	100.0

¹ Includes middle schools as deemed.

TABLE 5:
Numbers and proportions of maintained primary schools¹ with various proportions of authorised and unauthorised absence: 2000/01

	Percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence													
	up to 0.1%		0.1 - 0.2%		0.2 - 0.4%		0.4 - 0.8%		0.8 - 1.5%		1.5% plus		All schools	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Percentage of half days missed due to authorised absence														
up to 4%	1,205	6.8	278	1.6	233	1.3	208	1.2	103	0.6	88	0.5	2,115	11.8
4 - 4.5%	1,163	6.5	245	1.4	265	1.5	214	1.2	121	0.7	93	0.5	2,101	11.8
4.5 - 5.5%	2,535	14.2	674	3.8	788	4.4	716	4.0	403	2.3	324	1.8	5,440	30.5
5.5 - 6.5%	1,524	8.5	438	2.5	622	3.5	674	3.8	484	2.7	392	2.2	4,134	23.2
6.5 - 7.5%	710	4.0	244	1.4	324	1.8	419	2.3	345	1.9	259	1.5	2,301	12.9
7.5% plus	541	3.0	187	1.0	247	1.4	320	1.8	256	1.4	208	1.2	1,759	9.9
All schools	7,678	43.0	2,066	11.6	2,479	13.9	2,551	14.3	1,712	9.6	1,364	7.6	17,850	100.0

¹ Includes infant schools and middle schools as deemed.

TABLE 6:**A: Pupil attainment in maintained secondary schools¹ in England by authorised absence rate: 2000/01**

Authorised Absence Band	Up to 6%	6 - 7%	7 - 8%	8 - 9%	9 - 10%	10% or more	All Schools
Percentage of 15 year olds achieving 5+ GCSE A*-C	72.2%	58.4%	51.0%	44.6%	38.0%	28.3%	48.6%
Number of schools in category	409	505	667	630	405	500	3,116

B: Pupil attainment in maintained secondary schools¹ in England by unauthorised absence rate: 2000/01

Unauthorised Absence Band	Up to 0.1%	0.1 - 0.3%	0.3 - 0.6%	0.6 - 1%	1 - 2%	2% or more	All Schools
Percentage of 15 year olds achieving 5+ GCSE A*-C	76.3%	60.6%	54.4%	47.6%	39.8%	29.9%	48.6%
Number of schools in category	318	434	569	618	682	495	3,116

C: Pupil attainment in maintained secondary schools¹ in England by overall absence rate: 2000/01

Overall Absence Band	up to 6.5%	6.5 - 7.5%	7.5 - 8.5%	8.5 - 10%	10 - 12%	12% or more	All Schools
Percentage of 15 year olds achieving 5+ GCSE A*-C	77.1%	60.4%	54.5%	45.4%	35.4%	26.0%	48.6%
Number of schools in category	401	425	522	782	524	462	3,116

¹ Excludes middle schools as deemed.

TABLE 7:**A: Pupil attainment in maintained primary schools¹ in England by authorised absence rate: 2000/01**

Authorised Absence Band	Up to 4%	4 - 4.5%	4.5 - 5.5%	5.5 - 6.5%	6.5 - 7.5%	7.5% or more	All Schools
KEY STAGE 2							
Percentage of eligible pupils achieving level 4 + in							
English	84.6%	82.8%	78.7%	72.6%	67.8%	63.7%	75.4%
Mathematics	80.6%	78.3%	74.2%	68.1%	63.5%	59.3%	71.0%
Science	93.2%	92.2%	90.4%	86.6%	83.6%	80.4%	88.1%
Number of schools in category	1,825	1,761	4,500	3,320	1,874	1,341	14,621

B: Pupil attainment in maintained primary schools¹ in England by unauthorised absence rate: 2000/01

Unauthorised Absence Band	Up to 0.1%	0.1 - 0.2%	0.2 - 0.4%	0.4 - 0.8%	0.8 - 1.5%	1.5% or more	All Schools
KEY STAGE 2							
Percentage of eligible pupils achieving level 4 + in							
English	81.6%	78.2%	75.1%	72.3%	66.5%	59.8%	75.4%
Mathematics	77.4%	73.3%	70.3%	67.4%	62.4%	56.2%	71.0%
Science	92.2%	90.1%	88.0%	86.1%	82.5%	77.1%	88.1%
Number of schools in category	6,257	1,690	2,049	2,060	1,403	1,162	14,621

C: Pupil attainment in maintained primary schools¹ in England by overall absence rate: 2000/01

Overall Absence Band	up to 4.5%	4.5 - 5.5%	5.5 - 6.5%	6.5 - 7.5%	7.5 - 8.5%	8.5% or more	All Schools
KEY STAGE 2							
Percentage of eligible pupils achieving level 4 + in							
English	86.3%	81.5%	75.6%	69.8%	64.8%	59.6%	75.4%
Mathematics	82.1%	76.9%	70.8%	65.2%	60.7%	55.8%	71.0%
Science	94.3%	92.1%	88.6%	84.9%	81.4%	77.3%	88.1%
Number of schools in category	2,800	3,859	3,133	2,242	1,345	1,242	14,621

¹ Excludes middle schools as deemed.

TABLE 8:
Characteristics of maintained secondary schools¹ in England by authorised absence rate: 2000/01

Authorised Absence Band	Up to 6%	6 - 7%	7 - 8%	8 - 9%	9 - 10%	10% or more	All Schools
Percentage of:							
Day pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	8.6	11.4	14.3	16.8	20.6	30.1	16.5
Pupils in each ethnic group							
White	84.8	84.8	85.8	88.7	86.5	84.8	86.0
Black Caribbean	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.8	1.4
Black African	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.3	1.2
Black Other	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.2	0.8
Indian	4.0	3.0	2.9	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.6
Pakistani	1.9	2.2	2.6	1.8	2.4	3.4	2.4
Bangladeshi	1.4	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.9	1.0	0.9
Chinese	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4
Other	2.6	2.6	2.5	1.8	2.3	2.9	2.4
Not Classified	1.9	2.7	1.6	2.1	2.4	1.3	2.0
Number of schools in category	542	606	722	659	417	514	3,460

¹ Includes middle schools as deemed.

TABLE 9:
Characteristics of maintained secondary schools¹ in England by unauthorised absence rate: 2000/01

Unauthorised Absence Band	Up to 0.1%	0.1 - 0.3%	0.3 - 0.6%	0.6 - 1%	1 - 2%	2% or more	All Schools
Percentage of:							
Day pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	7.0	9.8	12.4	15.0	20.7	30.5	16.5
Pupils in each ethnic group							
White	89.5	90.0	88.0	87.5	84.0	77.2	86.0
Black Caribbean	0.6	0.8	1.2	1.2	1.5	2.9	1.4
Black African	0.6	0.6	1.0	0.9	1.2	2.7	1.2
Black Other	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.6	0.8
Indian	2.9	2.2	2.5	2.1	3.3	2.5	2.6
Pakistani	1.2	1.0	2.0	2.1	3.0	4.5	2.4
Bangladeshi	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	1.3	2.9	0.9
Chinese	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4
Other	2.2	2.4	2.0	2.0	2.8	3.5	2.4
Not Classified	1.8	2.1	1.9	2.7	1.7	1.8	2.0
Number of schools in category	450	521	626	654	709	500	3,460

¹ Includes middle schools as deemed.

TABLE 10:
Characteristics of maintained secondary schools¹ in England by overall absence rate: 2000/01

Overall Absence Band	up to 6.5%	6.5 - 7.5%	7.5 - 8.5%	8.5 - 10%	10 - 12%	12% plus	All Schools
Percentage of:							
Day pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	6.4	9.7	12.3	16.5	23.0	32.6	16.5
Pupils in each ethnic group							
White	87.9	86.9	86.4	87.1	84.1	82.1	86.0
Black Caribbean	0.8	0.9	1.3	1.4	1.8	2.3	1.4
Black African	0.8	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.8	1.2
Black Other	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	1.1	1.4	0.8
Indian	3.3	2.9	3.1	2.0	2.4	1.8	2.6
Pakistani	1.4	1.7	2.3	2.3	2.7	4.1	2.4
Bangladeshi	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.8	1.8	1.3	0.9
Chinese	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4
Other	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.1	2.5	3.4	2.4
Not Classified	2.0	2.7	1.6	2.2	1.9	1.4	2.0
Number of schools in category	553	516	560	818	547	466	3,460

¹ Includes middle schools as deemed.

TABLE 11:
Characteristics of maintained primary schools¹ in England by authorised absence rate: 2000/01

Authorised Absence Band	Up to 4%	4 - 4.5%	4.5 - 5.5%	5.5 - 6.5%	6.5 - 7.5%	7.5% or more	All Schools
Percentage of:							
Day pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	8.8	9.8	14.5	23.4	31.4	38.0	20.1
Pupils in each ethnic group							
White	78.6	77.7	75.2	68.6	63.1	57.8	70.7
Black Caribbean	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.4	1.9	1.9	1.3
Black African	1.3	0.9	1.0	1.3	1.7	1.6	1.2
Black Other	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.1	0.8
Indian	0.8	1.1	1.5	2.2	2.9	2.5	1.9
Pakistani	0.7	0.8	1.1	2.7	3.7	6.5	2.3
Bangladeshi	0.2	0.4	0.4	1.1	1.3	2.6	0.9
Chinese	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Other	1.5	1.7	1.8	2.2	3.0	3.1	2.2
Not Classified	15.2	15.8	17.1	19.4	21.0	22.7	18.4
Number of schools in category	2115	2101	5440	4134	2301	1759	17,850

¹ Includes infant schools and middle schools as deemed.

TABLE 12:
Characteristics of maintained primary schools¹ in England by unauthorised absence rate: 2000/01

Unauthorised Absence Band	Up to 0.1%	0.1 - 0.2%	0.2 - 0.4%	0.4 - 0.8%	0.8 - 1.5%	1.5% or more	All Schools
Percentage of:							
Day pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	12.7	15.7	18.1	23.2	31.0	43.0	20.1
Pupils in each ethnic group							
White	76.3	74.3	73.5	68.2	62.1	52.5	70.7
Black Caribbean	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.5	2.0	3.5	1.3
Black African	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.3	2.0	4.4	1.2
Black Other	0.5	0.6	0.6	1.0	1.2	1.8	0.8
Indian	1.3	1.8	1.8	2.3	2.6	2.7	1.9
Pakistani	1.1	1.7	1.8	2.7	4.5	6.2	2.3
Bangladeshi	0.3	0.3	0.5	1.0	2.2	3.2	0.9
Chinese	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Other	1.5	2.0	1.8	2.5	3.0	4.2	2.2
Not Classified	17.5	17.4	17.9	19.2	20.2	21.1	18.4
Number of schools in category	7678	2066	2479	2551	1712	1364	17,850

¹ Includes infant schools and middle schools as deemed.

TABLE 13:
Characteristics of maintained primary schools¹ in England by overall absence rate: 2000/01

Overall Absence Band	up to 5%	5 - 6%	6 - 7%	7 - 8%	8 - 9%	9% plus	All Schools
Percentage of:							
Day pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	7.6	14.0	23.2	31.8	40.0	44.2	20.1
Pupils in each ethnic group							
White	80.1	75.8	68.7	61.9	57.5	51.5	70.7
Black Caribbean	0.5	0.8	1.4	2.2	2.4	2.4	1.3
Black African	0.6	0.8	1.2	2.1	2.4	2.6	1.2
Black Other	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.3	1.4	1.3	0.8
Indian	0.9	1.4	2.6	3.1	2.2	2.8	1.9
Pakistani	0.5	1.0	2.3	3.9	5.7	8.1	2.3
Bangladeshi	0.1	0.2	0.7	1.7	2.3	3.9	0.9
Chinese	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Other	1.3	1.8	2.3	3.1	3.5	3.6	2.2
Not Classified	15.5	17.3	19.5	20.3	22.2	23.6	18.4
Number of schools in category	5589	4464	3381	2109	1223	1084	17,850

¹ Includes infant schools and middle schools as deemed.

ANNEX A

Department for Education and Skills	
SCHOOL PERFORMANCE INFORMATION: ABSENCE RETURN 2000/01	

DfEE Number

School Name:
Address:

HELP LINE : 020-7819-1040

**PLEASE READ THE ACCOMPANYING
NOTES FOR GUIDANCE BEFORE
COMPLETING THIS FORM**

FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS RETURN, THE SCHOOL YEAR IS CONSIDERED TO END ON 25th MAY 2001
Please complete this form for **DAY PUPILS** of compulsory school age **ONLY**.

SECTION A : Tick here if school is FULLY BOARDING i.e. no day pupils of compulsory school age

SECTION B : If School is not Fully Boarding, please answer Questions 1-6

PUPIL INFORMATION FOR THE PERIOD

If nil, please enter zero (0)

1. NUMBER OF DAY PUPILS OF COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE ON THE ROLL **FOR AT LEAST ONE SESSION**
(See Notes for Guidance and Annex 2)

--	--	--	--

2. NUMBER OF PUPIL SESSIONS
(See Notes for Guidance and Annex 2)

--	--	--	--	--	--

AUTHORISED ABSENCE IN THE PERIOD

3. NUMBER OF **AUTHORISED** ABSENCES
(This must be less than the entry in Question 2)

--	--	--	--	--	--

4. NUMBER OF DAY PUPILS WITH AT LEAST ONE **AUTHORISED** ABSENCE
(This must be no greater than the entry in Question 1 and no greater than the entry in Question 3)

--	--	--	--

UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE IN THE PERIOD

5. NUMBER OF **UNAUTHORISED** ABSENCES
(This must be less than the entry in Question 2)

--	--	--	--	--	--

6. NUMBER OF DAY PUPILS WITH AT LEAST ONE **UNAUTHORISED** ABSENCE
(This must be no greater than the entry in Question 1 and no greater than the entry in Question 5)

--	--	--	--

SECTION C : Acknowledgment (To be completed by all Schools)

I confirm that I have taken reasonable steps to satisfy myself as to the accuracy of the information supplied on this form :

Name of school absence contact (please print)	
Position	
Date	
Telephone number (Inc STD code)	

Internet site: www.dfes.gov.uk/ptforms

OR

enclosed pre-paid envelope

FORVUS, 53 CLAPHAM COMMON, SOUTH SIDE, LONDON SW4 9BX