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Supplementary Information for Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) on 10 September 2015.

Item 7 - Review of the School Attendance Inquiry Actions (2014) and General Progress Update on School Attendance

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School attendance by SEND children and young people in the 2014/15 academic year

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The tables below show attendance for children and young people with SEN during the autumn and spring terms of the 2014/15 academic year. The data source is school census returns. SEND children includes those classified in the census as having 'SEN support' and those children who have an education, health and care plan. The analysis covers children and young people attending mainstream schools, not SILCs.

Primary

The overall attendance rate by all primary pupils in Leeds schools in the autumn and spring terms of 2014/15 was 96.2 per cent. For young people in the SEND cohort (8,994 young people, compared to the whole cohort of 54,796), the attendance rate was 95.0 per cent. The table below shows for both groups what proportion of all absence is due to what reason.

Reason for absence	SEND pupils	All primary pupils
I - Authorised absence due to Illness (NOT medical or dental etc appointments)	61.4%	65.1%
M - Authorised absence due to medical / dental appointments	7.6%	5.7%
R - Authorised absence due to religious observance	0.9%	1.1%
S - Authorised absence due to study leave	0.0%	0.0%
T - Authorised absence due to traveller absence	0.1%	0.2%
H - Authorised absence due to agreed family holiday	0.6%	0.9%
F - Authorised absence due to agreed extended family holiday	0.0%	0.0%
E - Authorised absence as pupil is excluded, with no alternative provision made	0.7%	0.2%
C - Authorised absence as pupil is absent due to other authorised circumstances	4.0%	3.9%
G - Unauthorised absence as pupil is on a family holiday, not agreed, or is taking days in excess of an agreed family holiday	5.4%	8.0%
U - Unauthorised absence as pupil arrived after registers closed	3.3%	2.3%
O - Unauthorised absence as pupil missed sessions for an unauthorised absence not covered by any other code / description	13.7%	10.7%
N - Unauthorised absence as pupil missed sessions for a reason that has not yet been provided	2.3%	2.0%

Data source: school census

The most common reason for absence for all primary pupils and for primary-age SEND pupils is illness. Proportionally slightly more SEND absence is due to medical /dental appointments than is the case for all pupils. There is also a greater prevalence of lateness for SEND pupils than for the cohort as a whole and slightly more absence due to exclusion. The second-biggest reason for absence among SEND primary pupils is other unauthorised absence, and a greater proportion of all SEND absence is due to this reason than is the case for all primary pupils.

Secondary

The overall attendance rate by all secondary pupils in Leeds schools in the autumn and spring terms of 2014/15 was 94.5 per cent. For young people in the SEND cohort (5,474 young people, compared to the whole cohort of 38,309), the attendance rate was 91.2 per cent. The table below shows for both groups what proportion of all absence is due to what reason.

Reason for absence	SEND pupils	All secondary pupils
I - Authorised absence due to Illness (NOT medical or dental etc appointments)	36.2%	49.6%
M - Authorised absence due to medical / dental appointments	5.2%	6.1%
R - Authorised absence due to religious observance	0.5%	0.6%
S - Authorised absence due to study leave	0.0%	0.0%

Reason for absence	SEND pupils	All secondary pupils
T - Authorised absence due to traveller absence	0.0%	0.0%
H - Authorised absence due to agreed family holiday	0.2%	0.3%
F - Authorised absence due to agreed extended family holiday	0.0%	0.0%
E - Authorised absence as pupil is excluded, with no alternative provision made	5.9%	3.8%
C - Authorised absence as pupil is absent due to other authorised circumstances	7.6%	5.8%
G - Unauthorised absence as pupil is on a family holiday, not agreed, or is taking days in excess of an agreed family holiday	2.1%	3.3%
U - Unauthorised absence as pupil arrived after registers closed	1.4%	1.2%
O - Unauthorised absence as pupil missed sessions for an unauthorised absence not covered by any other code / description	38.6%	27.2%
N - Unauthorised absence as pupil missed sessions for a reason that has not yet been provided	2.2%	2.0%

Data source: school census

Amongst the cohort as a whole, illness is the most common reason for absence but this is not the case for secondary-age SEND pupils. The most common reason for absence among this group is other unauthorised absence. This means that we cannot know what over a third of all absence in the secondary SEND cohort is due to, but we do know that schools have not authorised this absence. There is also a greater prevalence of other authorised absence for secondary SEND pupils than for the cohort as a whole.

Illness is the second most common reason for absence for secondary SEND pupils, with 36.2 per cent of all absence due to this reason. There is proportionally more absence due to exclusion for secondary SEND pupils than for all pupils.

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