

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016-2017

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

29th SEPTEMBER 2016

**REPORT OF:
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND
LIFELONG LEARNING**

Agenda Item No. 4

**ANNUAL SCHOOL EXCLUSION
PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE
ACADEMIC YEAR 2015-2016**

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**SCHOOL EXCLUSION PERFORMANCE IN RCT FOR THE
ACADEMIC YEAR 2015-2016**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an analysis of school exclusion performance for the academic year 2015/16 and a comparison of performance over the last five years where appropriate.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Scrutinise and comment on the information contained within this report.
- 2.2 Consider whether they wish to scrutinise in greater depth any matters contained in the report.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 Schools must have policies and procedures in place that promote good behaviour and prevent poor behaviour. A school's behaviour and attendance policy should be seen as an integral part of its curriculum, as all schools teach values as well as skills and knowledge. The policy must be based on clear values such as respect, fairness and inclusion, and reflect the school's overall aims and its social, moral and religious education programmes.
- 3.2 These values should be the basis for the principles underlying the school's behaviour and attendance policy. The principles should include promoting self-discipline and respect for others, and the importance of listening to all members of the school community, including the learners. They should be relevant to every member of the school community, including staff, governors and parents/carers.
- 3.3 A decision to exclude a learner should be taken only:
 - in response to serious breaches of the school's behaviour policy; and

- if allowing the learner to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the learner or others in the school.

3.4 Only the headteacher or teacher in charge of a PRU can exclude a learner. If they are absent from school, the most senior teacher may exercise the power of exclusion, though they should make clear that they are acting in the headteacher's absence. The headteacher or teacher in charge cannot routinely, or on an ad hoc basis, delegate the power to exclude to another teacher.

3.5 A decision to exclude a learner permanently is a serious one. It will usually be the **final** step in a process for dealing with disciplinary offences following a wide range of other strategies, which have been tried without success. It is an acknowledgement by the school that it has exhausted all available strategies for dealing with the learner and should normally be used as a last resort.

3.6 There will, however, be exceptional circumstances where in the headteacher's judgement it is appropriate to permanently exclude a learner for a first or one-off offence. These might include:

- serious actual or threatened violence against another learner or a member of staff;
- sexual abuse or assault;
- supplying an illegal drug;
- use or threatened use of an offensive weapon.

In most cases it would be appropriate for schools to inform the police if they believe such a criminal offence has taken place. There may be cases where this approach is appropriate for learners excluded for a fixed-term. Schools should also consider whether or not to inform other agencies, e.g. Youth Offending Team, Children's Services etc.

These instances are not exhaustive, but indicate the severity of such offences and the fact that such behaviour can affect the discipline and well-being of the school community.

3.7 Exclusion should not be used for:

- minor incidents such as failure to do homework;
- poor academic performance;
- lateness or truancy;
- breaches of school uniform rules or rules on appearance (including jewellery and hairstyle), except where these are persistent and in open defiance of such rules and where all other avenues for resolving the uniform dispute have been exhausted.

3.8 Exclusion should not be used if alternative solutions are available. Examples include the following.

- **Pastoral Support Programmes (PSPs)** for learners who are not responding to schools' general actions to combat disengagement and disaffection and are in need of longer-term intervention. PSPs are plans for learners to better manage their behaviour and should be drawn up using a multi-agency approach (including the learner and parents/carers) and reviewed on a regular basis;
- **Restorative approaches**, which gives offending learners the opportunity to redress the harm that has been done to a victim, and enables all parties with a stake in the

outcome to participate fully in the process. All professionals need to be involved in the process and all parties must consent to participate;

- **Internal exclusion** (also known as internal seclusion), which can be used to diffuse situations that occur in school that require a learner to be removed from class but may not require exclusion from the school premises. The exclusion could be to a designated and supervised area within the school, with appropriate support, or to another class on a temporary basis, and may continue during break periods;
- **Managed move:** if a school feels that it can no longer manage the behaviour of a particular learner, the school may arrange, normally through the LA, for another school to take over the learner's education. This should only be done with the full knowledge and cooperation of all parties involved, including the parents/carers and the LA, and in circumstances where it is in the best interests of the learner concerned. Parents/carers should never be pressured into removing their child from school under threat of a permanent exclusion, nor should learners be deleted from the school roll to encourage them to find another school place.

4. **SUMMARY OF EXCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 Table 1 shows the number of permanent and fixed term exclusions and the number of days lost for the academic years 2014/15 and 2015/16.

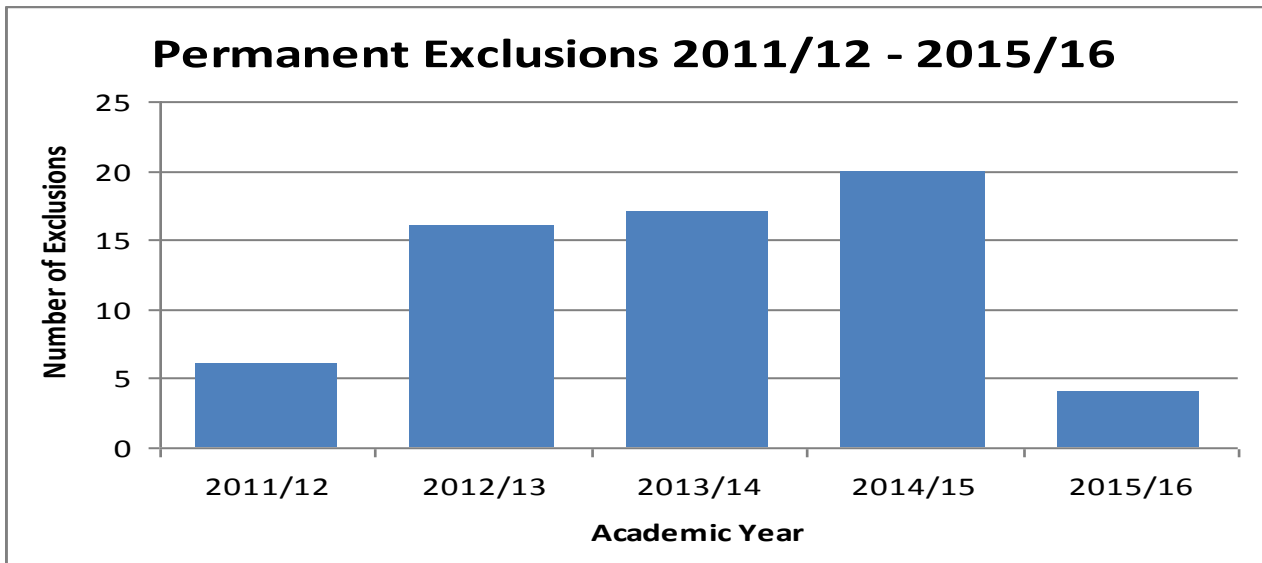
Table1: Summary of Exclusions within RCT in 2014/15 – 2015/16

Exclusion Data	2014/15	2015/16	Percentage Difference
Permanent exclusions	20	4	80% decrease
Fixed term exclusions	1683	1532	8.97% decrease
Number of days lost	4058.5	3284.5	19.07% decrease

Data suggest that there has been a significant decrease in the number of permanent and fixed term exclusions and the number of days lost within RCT schools. The data records the lowest number of incidents of both permanent and fixed term exclusions for 4 years.

- 4.2 Graphs 1 and 2 highlight fluctuating trends over the last 5 years and the significant improvements that have been made in the number of permanent, fixed term exclusions and the number of days lost to exclusions in 2015/16.

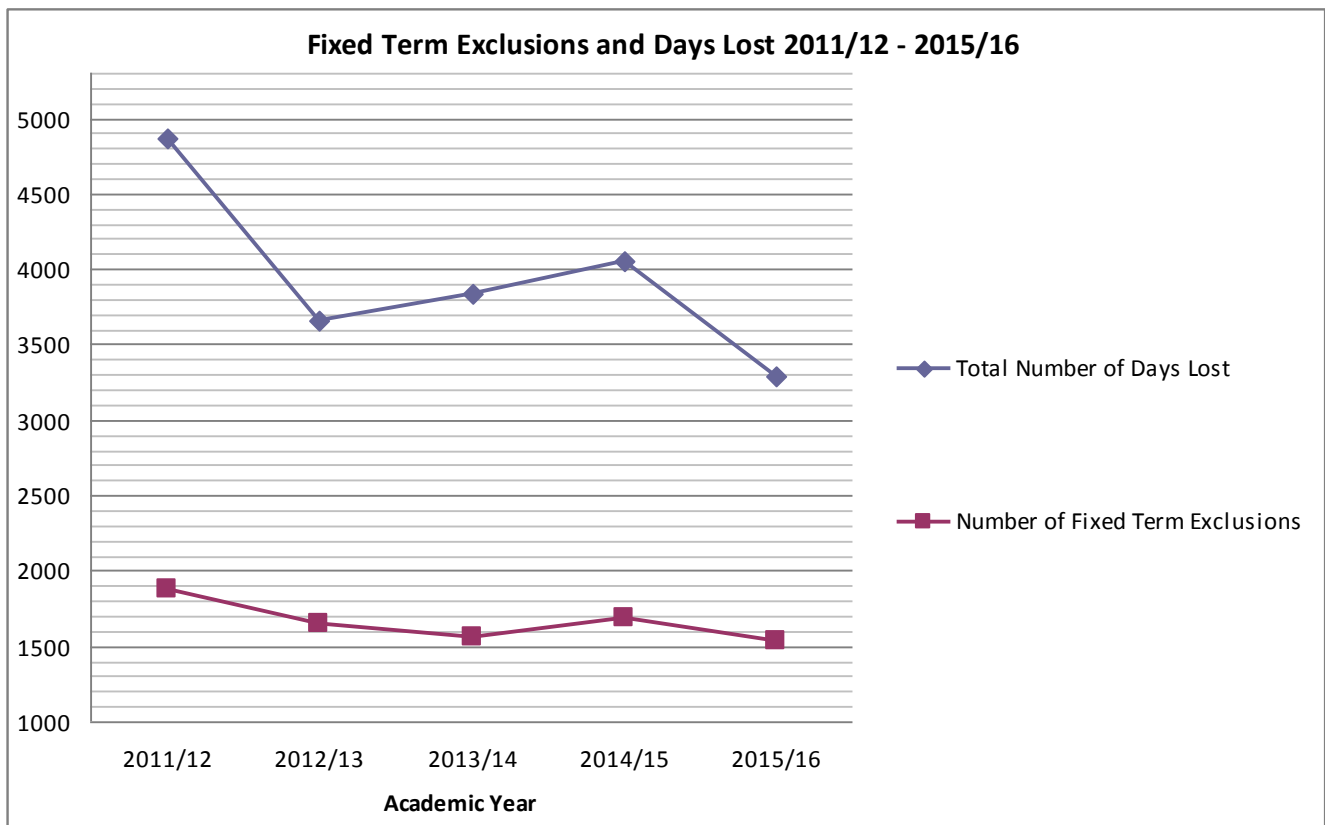
Graph 1: Permanent Exclusions within RCT over 5 years



The permanent exclusion data in Graph 1 shows marked improvement in permanent exclusions.

Graph 2 below illustrates the progress RCT schools have made reducing fixed term exclusions and the number of days lost due to exclusions over the last 5 years.

Graph 2: Fixed Term Exclusions and the number of days lost within RCT over 5 Years



5. NATIONAL BENCHMARKING DATA

5.1 Using the Welsh Government's Stats Wales data, the national context with regards to pupil exclusions is highlighted. The latest comparison data available at the time of writing relates to 2013/14 data sets (First Release: Permanent and Fixed Term Exclusions for Schools in Wales 2013/14) which was published on the 29th September 2015. Welsh Government is currently reviewing the reporting mechanism for exclusions and it is hoped in future that more up to date comparison data will be available earlier than it is currently.

5.2 Table 2 below highlights the trend data for RCT compared to other Authorities. RCT accounted for 18% of all permanent exclusions in 2013/14 within Wales. Performance in 2014/15 (20 permanent exclusions) whilst not nationally recorded, increased however it is noted that performance in 2015/16 shows significant improvement with only 4 permanent exclusions recorded. RCT's national ranking in 2013/14 was 18th and in 2012/13 RCT ranked 16th.

Table 2: Permanent exclusions from maintained schools in Wales, by local authority and consortium

	Number of exclusions			Rate of exclusions (a)		
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
North Wales	20	7	12	0.2	0.1	0.1
Isle of Anglesey	*	0	0	*	0.0	0.0
Gwynedd	13	*	*	0.8	*	*
Conwy	0	0	*	0.0	0.0	*
Denbighshire	*	*	0	*	*	0.0
Flintshire	*	0	*	*	0.0	*
Wrexham	*	0	*	*	0.0	*
South West and Mid Wales	27	25	18	0.2	0.2	0.1
Powys	7	6	0	0.4	0.3	0.0
Ceredigion	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pembrokeshire	*	*	*	*	*	*
Carmarthenshire	*	*	*	*	*	*
Swansea	6	5	6	0.2	0.1	0.2
Neath Port Talbot	12	11	11	0.6	0.5	0.5
Central South Wales	21	35	31	0.1	0.2	0.2
Bridgend	6	11	9	0.3	0.5	0.4
The Vale of Glamorgan	*	*	*	*	*	*
Rhondda Cynon Taf	*	13	16	*	0.3	0.4
Merthyr Tydfil	*	*	*	*	*	*
Cardiff	7	5	5	0.1	0.1	0.1
South East Wales	23	35	28	0.3	0.4	0.3
Caerphilly	6	8	12	0.2	0.3	0.4
Blaenau Gwent	*	*	*	*	*	*
Torfaen	*	7	*	*	0.5	*
Monmouthshire	0	*	0	0.0	*	0.0
Newport	9	17	10	0.4	0.7	0.4
Wales	91	102	89	0.2	0.2	0.2

Source: Pupils' Exclusions Record, Welsh Government

(a) Rate per 1,000 pupils. Full- and part-time pupils of all ages.

- 5.3 Table 3 records the number of fixed term exclusion (5 days or less). Trend data reports a decrease in the number of fixed term exclusions recorded within RCT schools. A significant decrease in the rate of exclusions is evident between 2011/12 and 2013/14 with 40.2 per 1000 pupils being excluded for 5 days or less in 2011/12 compared to of 33.8 per 1000 in 2013/14. RCT's national ranking for 2013/14 was 17th compared to 19th in the previous year. This suggests that significant improvements have been made.

Table 3: Fixed-term exclusions (5 days or less) from maintained schools in Wales, by local authority and consortium

	Number of exclusions			Rate of exclusions (a)		
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
North Wales	3,027	2,272	2,208	29.8	22.5	21.8
Isle of Anglesey	225	113	87	23.5	11.8	9.1
Gwynedd	234	95	111	13.6	5.6	6.5
Conwy	176	244	150	10.9	15.2	9.4
Denbighshire	574	490	563	36.5	31.3	35.9
Flintshire	684	696	704	28.8	29.4	29.7
Wrexham	1,134	634	593	59.4	33.1	30.7
South West and Mid Wales	2,422	2,590	2,867	18.7	20.0	22.2
Powys	355	324	299	19.0	17.1	16.0
Ceredigion	120	115	61	12.4	12.0	6.4
Pembrokeshire	113	452	621	6.2	24.9	34.1
Carmarthenshire	413	365	456	15.3	13.5	17.0
Swansea	803	684	770	23.0	19.5	21.8
Neath Port Talbot	618	650	660	29.8	31.7	32.1
Central South Wales	5,501	4,974	4,258	38.5	34.8	29.7
Bridgend	646	595	425	29.0	26.5	18.8
The Vale of Glamorgan	236	577	572	10.9	26.6	26.4
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,569	1,491	1,307	40.2	38.2	33.8
Merthyr Tydfil	149	195	178	16.3	21.5	20.7
Cardiff	2,901	2,116	1,776	57.4	41.6	34.3
South East Wales	2,927	3,081	3,042	32.4	34.4	34.1
Caerphilly	877	702	617	30.4	24.5	21.5
Blaenau Gwent	190	263	412	18.7	27.1	43.3
Torfaen	744	678	455	47.5	44.1	30.1
Monmouthshire	372	323	341	31.7	27.6	29.5
Newport	744	1,115	1,217	31.2	46.2	50.0
Wales	13,877	12,917	12,375	29.9	27.9	26.7

Source: Pupils' Exclusions Record, Welsh Government

(a) Rate per 1,000 pupils. Full- and part-time pupils of all ages.

- 5.4 Table 4 highlights fixed term exclusions of over 5 days or more and reports an increase in the number and rate of exclusions per 1000 pupils from 73 to 85 and 1.9 to 2.2 respectively. Again whilst national performance was not good at the point of data collection, reporting in section 4 highlights the significant improvements that have been made in 2015/16. This data is not yet reported nationally. RCT's ranking was 17th in 2013/14 compared to 10th in 2012/13. This suggests a deterioration in performance which has recently been addressed with some success.

Table 4: Fixed-term exclusions (over 5 days) from maintained schools in Wales, by local authority and consortium

	Number of exclusions			Rate of exclusions (a)		
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
North Wales	247	208	145	2.4	2.1	1.4
Isle of Anglesey	29	13	*	3.0	1.4	*
Gwynedd	17	11	*	1.0	0.6	*
Conwy	10	20	18	0.6	1.2	1.1
Denbighshire	19	17	17	1.2	1.1	1.1
Flintshire	51	68	42	2.1	2.9	1.8
Wrexham	121	79	50	6.3	4.1	2.6
South West and Mid Wales	215	194	168	1.7	1.5	1.3
Powys	34	29	31	1.8	1.5	1.7
Ceredigion	*	*	0	*	*	0.0
Pembrokeshire	*	*	20	*	*	1.1
Carmarthenshire	22	16	10	0.8	0.6	0.4
Swansea	92	90	57	2.6	2.6	1.6
Neath Port Talbot	61	46	50	2.9	2.2	2.4
Central South Wales	368	352	248	2.6	2.5	1.7
Bridgend	49	46	32	2.2	2.1	1.4
The Vale of Glamorgan	27	77	63	1.2	3.5	2.9
Rhondda Cynon Taf	102	73	85	2.6	1.9	2.2
Merthyr Tydfil	20	18	9	2.2	2.0	1.0
Cardiff	170	138	59	3.4	2.7	1.1
South East Wales	215	208	177	2.4	2.3	2.0
Caerphilly	41	57	55	1.4	2.0	1.9
Blaenau Gwent	29	21	39	2.9	2.2	4.1
Torfaen	57	35	*	3.6	2.3	*
Monmouthshire	16	7	*	1.4	0.6	*
Newport	72	88	72	3.0	3.6	3.0
Wales	1,045	962	738	2.3	2.1	1.6

Source: Pupils' Exclusions Record, Welsh Government

(a) Rate per 1,000 pupils. Full- and part-time pupils of all ages.

6. **LOCAL CONTEXT: AN ANALYSIS OF PERMANENT EXCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 Table 5 shows the number of permanent exclusions in Rhondda Cynon Taf for 2014/15 and 2015/16 and suggests significant improvements

Table 5: Year Groups of Permanently Excluded Pupils over last 2 years

Year Group	2014/15	2015/16
Year 8	1	1
Year 9	5	1
Year 10	7	1
Year 11	7	1
Total	20	4

- 6.2 There has been an 80% reduction in the number of permanent exclusions in schools within RCT during 2015/16. The introduction of the new role within the Access & Inclusion Service of Exclusion Prevention/Intervention Officer in September 2015 has assisted in this respect. The service also continues to undertake support and challenge visits to schools and these collective efforts, coupled with schools commitment to making reductions have resulted in significant improvements.
- 6.3 Permanent exclusions within RCT are at their lowest in 4 years (since 2011/12).
- 6.4 Of the 24 pupils permanently excluded over the two years, 8 were female and 12 were male. In 2015/16 all permanently excluded pupils were male.
- 6.5 The permanent exclusions for the academic year 2015/16 were in the following secondary schools.

Aberdare Community School (1 pupil)
 Hawthorn High School (1 pupil)
 Tonyrefail College (1 pupil)
 Y Pant Comprehensive (1 pupil)

There were no permanent exclusions in our primary schools during 2014/15 and 2015/16.

7 **LOCAL CONTEXT: AN ANALYSIS OF FIXED TERM EXCLUSION 5 DAYS OF MORE**

- 7.1 Table 6 details the number of incidents of 5 days or more. Fixed term exclusions of 5 days or more have fluctuated over the last 5 years, but a significant decrease was evident in 2015/16 and levels are now at their lowest in 5 years:

Table 6: Number of Fixed Term Exclusions of 5 days of more within RCT over 5 years

Academic Year	Number of incidents of exclusions 5 days or more *
2011/12	124
2012/13	70
2013/14	103
2014/15	103
2015/16	66

*please note that slight variations in local and nationally reported datasets are evident.

- 7.2 Number of school days lost over the last 5 years has also reduced as detailed in table 7:

Table 7: Number of School Days lost due to exclusions of 5 days or more within RCT over 5 years

Academic Year	Number of school days lost
2011/12	1347
2012/13	670
2013/14	1071.5
2014/15	1049
2015/16	679

- 7.3 Over the last 5 years the common reason for exclusion has been 'other' with a total of 76 incidents. Categorisation of exclusion and reporting mechanism has improved in 2015/16 following the introduction of new Welsh Government categories. The most common reason for 5 days or more exclusion in 2015/16 was 'verbal/threatening behaviour towards an adult' with 21 incidents.
- 7.4 The pupil level data highlighted in table 8 suggests that of the 466 incidents of 5 days or more fixed term exclusions issued over the 5 year period a total of 382 pupils were excluded. Of this total 9 pupils had 3 exclusions and 2 pupils had 4 exclusions.

Table 8: Number of pupils with repeat exclusions of 5 days or more within RCT over 5 year period

Number of pupils	Incidents
311	Pupils had 1 exclusion
60	Pupils had 2 exclusions
9	Pupils had 3 exclusions
2	Pupils had 4 exclusions

- 7.5 In 2015/16 of the 66 incidents of fixed term exclusions of 5 days or more: 60 pupils were excluded within this total only 4 pupils had 2 exclusions of more than 5 days, and 1 pupil had 3 exclusions:

Table 9: Number of pupils with repeat exclusions of 5 days or more during 2015/16

Number of pupils	Incidents
55	Pupils had 1 exclusion
4	Pupils had 2 exclusions
1	Pupils had 3 exclusions

- 7.6 To put this data into context, the one pupil with 3 incidents of exclusions of 5 days or more was attending a comprehensive school but was also dual registered and attending Ty Gwyn (a pupil referral unit) from March 2015 because of significant social, emotional and behavioural needs. This placement was requested by parents and professionals as it was felt the provision would better support the pupil's needs. The pupil concerned has not been excluded since this placement was put in place.

8 AN ANALYSIS OF FIXED TERM EXCLUSION 5 DAYS OR LESS

- 8.1 Fixed term exclusion of 5 days or less has fluctuated over the last 5 years, but a significant decrease was evident in 2015/16 (Table 10).

Table 10: Number of exclusions 5 days or less within RCT over 5 year period

Academic Year	Number of incidents exclusions of 5 days or less *
2011/12	1760
2012/13	1575
2013/14	1459
2014/15	1580
2015/16	1466

*please note that slight variations in local and nationally reported datasets are evident.

- 8.2 Number of school days lost over the last 5 years has also reduced and is at its lowest in 5 years:

Table 11: Number of school days due to exclusions of 5 days or less lost over a 5 year period

Academic Year	Number of school days lost
2011/12	3522
2012/13	2984.5
2013/14	2766.5
2014/15	3009.5
2015/16	2605.5

- 8.3 When pupils are excluded schools are required to record the reason for the exclusion (e.g. disruptive behaviour, substance misuse, etc). Over the last 5 years the highest reason for exclusion has been 'other' with 1461 incidents. Categorisation of exclusions and reporting mechanism has improved in 2015/16 but these are set by Welsh Government and can be open to interpretation. The highest reason for 5 day or less exclusion in 2015/16 was physical abuse against a pupil with 347 incidents.
- 8.4 Pupil level data highlights that of the 7840 incidents of 5 days or less fixed term exclusions over the 5 year period, a total of 3036 pupils were excluded.
- 8.5 Table 12 highlights that in 2015/16 of the 1466 incidents of fixed term exclusions of 5 days or less 799 pupils were excluded. The number of repeat exclusions is summarised as follows:

Table 12: Number of repeat exclusions of 5 days or less 2015/16

Number of pupils	Incidents
501	Pupils had 1 exclusion
148	Pupils had 2 exclusions
62	Pupils had 3 exclusions
38	Pupils had 4 exclusions
22	Pupils had 5 exclusions
12	Pupils had 6 exclusions
2	Pupils had 7 exclusions
5	Pupils had 8 exclusions
5	Pupils had 9 exclusions
1	Pupil had 10 exclusions
1	Pupil had 11 exclusions
1	Pupil had 13 exclusions
1	Pupil had 16 exclusions

- 8.6 To put this data into context, the pupil with 16 incidents of exclusion was attending a mainstream secondary school and is being supported by the Educational Psychology Service, Behaviour Support Team and is accessing specialist provision.

- 8.7 The pupil with 13 incidents of exclusion was attending a mainstream primary school and has significant needs. This child is being supported by Education Psychology Service, Behaviour Support Team and is under investigation for a potential medical diagnosis.
- 8.8 Repeatedly excluded pupils are now being closely monitored by the Exclusion Intervention/Prevention Officer to ensure schools are following Welsh Government Guidance on the reporting of these pupils. The LA is supporting and challenging schools who are repeatedly excluding pupils to ensure that appropriate support is being provided at School Action Plus/Early Years Action Plus in accordance with the SEN Code of Practice for Wales requirements.

9. AN ANALYSIS OF PRIMARY FIXED TERM EXCLUSIONS

- 9.1 Exclusions within primary schools have reduced when compared to previous academic years. Table 13 below shows the overall primary school exclusions rates (including both 5 days or less and 5 days or more) in RCT over the last two years:

Table 13: Fixed Term Exclusions with Primary Schools during 2014/15 – 2015/16

Primary Data	2014/15	2015/16	Improvements
Incidents of exclusion	196	293	49.49% increase
Total number of days lost	421	625.5	48.57% increase
Average length of exclusion	2.15	2.13	0.93% decrease
Number of pupils excluded	204	303	48.53% increase

Whilst the overall exclusion figures have for RCT decreased, exclusions within primary schools have increased when compared with last year's data set.

- 9.2 A breakdown of school performance on incidents of exclusions, number of days lost and per 1000 pupil rates are detailed at appendix 1.
- 9.3 Primary Schools with the highest exclusion per 1000 pupils are as follows:

Llwynceilyn Infants School	173.33 per 1000 pupils
Cwmclydach Primary School	81.20 per 1000 pupils
Hafod Primary School	79.65 per 1000 pupils

The primary schools with the highest number of incidents of exclusions were:

Tonyrefail Primary	23 (7.85%) incidents (5 pupils who lost 51.5 (8.23%) days)
Heol Y Celyn Primary	23 (7.85%) incidents (8 pupils who lost 48.5 (7.75%) days)
Coedpenmaen Primary	20 (6.83%) incidents (6 pupils who lost 28.5 (4.56%) days)

Highest number of incidents of exclusions of 5 days or less were:

Heol Y Celyn Primary	23 (8.39%) incidents (8 pupils who lost 48.5 (10.92%) days)
Tonyrefail Primary	22 (8.03%) incidents (5 pupils who lost 41.5 (9.35%) days)
Coedpenmaen Primary	20 (7.30%) incidents (6 pupils who lost 28.5 (6.42%) days)

Highest number of incidents of exclusions of more than 5 days:

Penywaun Primary	3 (15.79%) incidents (3 pupils who lost 30 (16.532%) days)
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Hirwaun Primary	2 (10.53%) incidents (1 pupils who lost 12.5 (6.89%) days)
Hendreforgan Primary	2 (10.53%) incidents (2 pupils who lost 18 (9.92%) days)
Hafod Primary	2 (10.53%) incidents (1 pupils who lost 23.5 (12.95%) days)
Cymmer Junior	2 (10.53%) incidents (1 pupils who lost 21 (11.57%) days)

We continue to undertake support and challenge visits to schools causing concern.

10. AN ANALYSIS OF SECONDARY SCHOOL FIXED TERM EXCLUSIONS

10.1 Table 14 shows the overall secondary school exclusion rates in RCT over the last two years.

Table 14: Fixed Term Exclusions within Secondary Schools 2014/15 – 2015/16

Secondary Data	2014/15	2015/16	Improvements
Incidents of exclusion	1430	1130	20.98% decrease
Total number of days lost	3403.5	2313.5	32.03% decrease
Average length of exclusion	2.38	2.05	13.87% decrease
Number of pupils excluded	1479	1229	16.90% decrease

10.2 A breakdown of school performance on incidents of exclusions, number of days lost and per 1000 pupil rates are detailed at appendix 2.

10.3 Schools with the highest exclusion per 1000 pupils are as follows:

Hawthorn High School	119.21 per 1000 pupils
Porth County Community School	109.60 per 1000 pupils
Aberdare Community School	108.68 per 1000 pupils

The secondary schools with the highest number of incidents of exclusions were:

Treorchy Comprehensive	169 (14.96%) incidents (102 pupils who lost 307 (13.27%) days)
Aberdare Community	144 (12.74%) incidents (75 pupils who lost 241 (10.42%) days)
Y Pant	114 (10.09%) incidents (54 pupils who lost 203 (8.77%) days)

The secondary schools with the highest number of incidents of 5 days or less exclusions were:

Treorchy Comprehensive	163 (14.94%) incidents (100 pupils who lost 249 (13.08% days)
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Aberdare Community	141 (12.92%) incidents (75 pupils who lost 201 (10.56%) days)
Y Pant:	113 (10.36%) incidents (53 pupils who lost 193.5 (10.17%) days)

The secondary schools with the highest number of incidents of more than 5 days exclusions were:

Treorchy Comprehensive	6 (15.38%) incidents (6 pupils who lost 58 (14.13%) days)
Hawthorn High	6 (15.38%) incidents (12 pupils who lost 54 (13.15%) days)
Ferndale Community	5 (12.82%) incidents (3 pupils who lost 65 (15.83%) days)
Cardinal Newman RC	5 (12.82%) incidents (5 pupils who lost 50 (12.18%) days)

- 10.4 Significant improvements have been evident in numerous schools when comparing the number of incidents per 1000 pupils between 2014/15 and 2015/16 data sets. These include:

Table 15: Schools showing significant improvements: number of incidents of exclusion per 1000 pupils

School	2014/15 Incidents per 1000	2015/16 Incidents per 1000	Decrease in Incidents per 1000	% Percentage Decrease in Incidents per 1000
Ferndale Community School *	182.39	100.33	-82.06	-44.99%
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bodringallt	83.33	20.83	-62.50	-75.00%
Pontypridd High School *	123.18	68.25	-54.93	-44.59%
Bryncelynnog Comprehensive School *	71.70	22.99	-48.71	-67.94%
Aberdare Community School *	146.69	108.68	-38.01	-25.91%
Trehopcyn Primary School	37.38	0	-37.38	-100.00%
Penyreglyn Primary School	41.98	10.95	-31.04	-73.92%

*It is interesting to note that four of the schools showing significant improvements have all been involved in the Restorative Approaches in Schools (RAIS) initiative.

11 EXCLUSION RATES OF VULNERABLE GROUPS IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF

11.1 Exclusions are analysed by fixed term 5 days or less, fixed term 5 days or more, permanent exclusions and by school phase and individually. A further analysis is completed of vulnerable groups to monitor the rates of exclusion for our most vulnerable pupils

11.2 Of the 1532 total number of incidents of fixed term exclusions in 2015/16, a total of 397 (25.91%) were female and 1135 (94.09%) were male. This is a reduction when compared with 2014/15 data set of which 1683 pupils were subject to a fixed term exclusion with 463 of these being female and 1220 male. Over the last 5 years male pupils have consistently been excluded more than their female counterparts.

11.3 The year groups with the highest exclusion rates in 2015/16 were:

Year 10 (21.21%) with 325 exclusions
 Year 9 (19.19%) with 294 exclusions
 Year 8 (15.93%) with 244 exclusions

This is consistent with exclusions in 2014/15.

11.4 Table 16 highlights the number of pupils subject to a fixed term exclusion by Special Education Needs (SEN) as defined by SEN Code of Practice for Wales and free school Meal status over the last 2 academic years:

Table 16: RCT exclusion performance over last 2 academic years for vulnerable groups of learners

Data set	2014/15	2015/16	Changes
Pupils eligible for free school meals	400 (44.69%)	337 (41.35%)	3.34% decrease
Pupils with statements of SEN	34 (3.8)	47 (5.77%) *	1.97% increase
Pupils currently progressing through the statutory assessment process	8 (0.89%)	17 (2.09%) *	1.2% increase
School Action Plus	177 (19.78%)	170 (20.86%)	1.08% decrease
School Action	517 (57.8%)	236 (28.96%)	28.84% decrease
No SEN recorded	418 (46.70%)	345 (42.33%)	4.37% decrease

* This coincides with the increase in requests for statutory assessments

11.5 Table 17 data relates to the exclusion rates of children and young people who are looked after for the last 4 years and suggest significant improvements.

Table 17: Children and young people who are looked after and have been excluded over the last 4 academic years

Academic Year	Total number of excluded LAC pupils	RCT exclusion cohort	Rate per 1000 excluded pupils
2012/13	74	940	78.72
2013/14	52	840	61.90
2014/15	41	895	45.81
2015/16	32	815	39.26

- 11.6 During 2015/16 81 incidents were related to children and young people who were looked after at the time of their exclusion (83 incidents in 2014/15). These incidents related to 32 pupils which accounted for a loss of 71.5 school days (61 were lost in 2014/15). A reduction in the number of children/young people looked after involved in exclusion incidents is noted. It is noted that the rate of exclusion per 1000 excluded pupils has decreased significantly by 6.55.

12. CASE STUDY

- 12.1 When Access & Inclusion Service presented the exclusion report in February 2016 members requested contextual information to support the reported data. The following is a case study of a project that has been undertaken in an RCT secondary school.

A focused intervention was developed to: reduce the number of fixed term exclusions, increase capacity to deliver qualifications for 'at risk' students; and to support the integration of pupils with Behaviour Support Plans so as to strengthen the graduated response adopted and facilitate re-engagement.

The school previously had one of the highest fixed term exclusion rates in the Authority, although behaviour was generally good across the school. In order to address this issue the school became involved in the Restorative Approaches in Schools (RAIS) initiative. It also changed its way of working with the Behaviour Support Service and secured some additional resources to establish an inclusion facility in the school. Links with the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) were established and more bespoke curriculum options provided.

All staff accessed intensive training in restorative approaches so that the quality of relationships and interactions were further improved, and focussed interventions put in place following conflict so as to repair and restore positive relationships. More bespoke curriculum and vocational opportunities were provided for disengaged learners and intensive support put in place to ensure successful re-engagement in learning. Links with the PRU were also strengthened.

As a result fixed term exclusions reduced from 214 incidents in 2013/14 to 116 incidents in 2014/15 and 61 incidents in 2015/16. Number of days lost were also reduced from 292 days in 2013/14 to 261.5 days in 2014/15 to 180 days in 261.5 days. Permanent exclusions have also remained consistently low (1 only in 2014/15 and 2015/16).

13. CONCLUSION

- 13.1 The Local Authority has made reducing school exclusions a priority for schools. It is pleasing to see the continued overall progress made by schools in 2015/16 in reducing the number of exclusions particularly in the secondary sector. If this continued focus on exclusions is maintained with enhanced focus on our primary schools it will continue to impact on educational standards in the future.
- 13.2 Even though school exclusion rates are significantly better than in previous years continued focus supporting and challenging schools is necessary in order to secure the best outcomes for pupils.

Comparison Information of Fixed Term Exclusions 2015/16 – Primary Schools

APPENDIX 1

	Autumn 2015/16			Spring 2015/16			Summer 2015/16			Total			NOR	Incidents per 1000
	Actual Duration	Number of Incidents	Average Length (Days)	Actual Duration	Number of Incidents	Average Length (Days)	Actual Duration	Number of Incidents	Average Length (Days)	Actual Duration	Incidents	Average Length of Days		
Bodringallt Primary School							4.50	2	2.25	4.5	2	2.25	91	21.98
Caegarw Primary School	0.50	1	0.50							0.5	1	0.50	193	5.18
Capcoch Primary School	4.00	1	4.00				4.00	2	2.00	8.0	3	2.67	144	20.83
Caradog Primary School	4.00	2	2.00	2.00	1	2.00	8.50	4	2.13	14.5	7	2.07	213	32.86
Cefn Primary School	8.00	1	8.00	5.00	1	5.00				13.0	2	6.50	126	15.87
Coedpenmaen Primary School	7.00	7	1.00	9.00	5	1.80	12.50	8	1.56	28.5	20	1.43	282	70.92
Cwmbach C in W Primary School				2.00	1	2.00	30.00	4	7.50	32.0	5	6.40	90	55.56
Cwmclydach Community Primary School	9.00	7	1.29	14.00	9	1.56	4.00	3	1.33	27.0	19	1.42	234	81.20
Cymmer Junior School	6.00	1	6.00	2.50	2	1.25	20.00	2	10.00	28.5	5	5.70	133	37.59
Darran Park Primary School				0.50	1	0.50	8.00	4	2.00	8.5	5	1.70	311	16.08
Dolau Primary School	1.50	1	1.50	2.50	2	1.25	5.00	2	2.50	9.0	5	1.80	474	10.55
Ffynnon Taf Primary School	2.50	2	1.25	3.00	3	1.00				5.5	5	1.10	210	23.81
Gelli Primary School	6.00	3	2.00	11.00	5	2.20	3.00	3	1.00	20.0	11	1.82	225	48.89
Glenboi Primary School	12.00	1	12.00							12.0	1	12.00	126	7.94
Gwauncelyn Primary School				5.00	1	5.00	1.00	1	1.00	6.0	2	3.00	406	4.93
Hafod Primary School	16.50	7	2.36				10.50	2	5.25	27.0	9	3.00	113	79.65
Hawthorn Primary School	7.00	3	2.33				0.50	1	0.50	7.5	4	1.88	274	14.60
Hendreforgan Primary School	5.50	3	1.83	8.00	2	4.00	20.00	5	4.00	33.5	10	3.35	202	49.50
Heol Y Celyn Primary School	30.50	15	2.03	8.00	3	2.67	10.00	5	2.00	48.5	23	2.11	352	65.34
Hirwaun Primary School	7.50	2	3.75	7.00	1	7.00				14.5	3	4.83	233	12.88
Llanharan Primary School	6.50	2	3.25							6.5	2	3.25	143	13.99
Llanhari Primary School				4.00	3	1.33	14.00	9	1.56	18.0	12	1.50	186	64.52
Llanilltud Faerdref Primary School	3.50	2	1.75							3.5	2	1.75	207	9.66

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Llwynceylun Infants School	5.00	10	0.50	3.50	3	1.17				8.5	13	0.65	75	173.33
Maerdy Primary School	1.00	1	1.00	1.00	1	1.00				2.0	2	1.00	242	8.26
Miskin Primary School				1.00	1	1.00	1.00	1	1.00	2.0	2	1.00	131	15.27
Pengeulan Primary School				1.00	1	1.00	4.00	2	2.00	5.0	3	1.67	136	22.06
Penrhiwceibr Primary School							1.50	1	1.50	1.5	1	1.50	151	6.62
Penrhys Primary School	1.00	1	1.00				1.50	1	1.50	2.5	2	1.25	134	14.93
Penyreglyn Primary School							1.50	3	0.50	1.5	3	0.50	274	10.95
Penywaun Primary School	6.50	5	1.30	22.50	3	7.50	10.00	1	10.00	39.0	9	4.33	233	38.63
Pontyclun Primary School	4.50	3	1.50							4.5	3	1.50	527	5.69
Pontygwaith Primary School				8.50	3	2.83				8.5	3	2.83	210	14.29
Porth Junior School	4.00	4	1.00				6.00	5	1.20	10.0	9	1.11	121	74.38
Rhigos Primary School	3.50	3	1.17	1.00	2	0.50				4.5	5	0.90	72	69.44
SS Gabriel and Raphael RC Primary School				3.00	1	3.00				3.0	1	3.00	135	7.41
St Margaret's RC Primary School				4.00	1	4.00	1.50	1	1.50	5.5	2	2.75	137	14.60
Ton Infants School				1.50	2	0.75				1.5	2	0.75	195	10.26
Ton Pentre Junior School				3.00	1	3.00				3.0	1	3.00	155	6.45
Tonyrefail Primary School	9.50	8	1.19	25.50	12	2.13	16.50	3	5.50	51.5	23	2.24	303	75.91
Tref Y Rhyg Primary School				5.00	1	5.00	2.00	2	1.00	7.0	3	2.33	104	28.85
Treorchy Primary School							7.00	2	3.50	7.0	2	3.50	433	4.62
Trerobart Primary School	15.00	6	2.50	1.00	1	1.00	2.50	1	2.50	18.5	8	2.31	237	33.76
Ynysboeth Primary School	2.00	1	2.00	2.50	2	1.25	7.00	3	2.33	11.5	6	1.92	181	33.15
Ynysshir Community Primary School				1.50	1	1.50	15.00	4	3.75	16.5	5	3.30	263	19.01
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdar				1.00	1	1.00				1.0	1	1.00	421	2.38
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bodringallt	1.00	1	1.00	5.50	2	2.75				6.5	3	2.17	144	20.83
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bronllwyn	1.00	1	1.00							1.0	1	1.00	258	3.88
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llyn Y Forwyn	1.00	1	1.00	6.00	1	6.00	2.00	2	1.00	9.0	4	2.25	201	19.90
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pontsionnorton	3.50	3	1.17	0.50	1	0.50	3.00	4	0.75	7.0	8	0.88	281	28.47
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Tonyrefail	0.50	1	0.50	2.00	2	1.00	3.00	4	0.75	5.5	7	0.79	233	30.04

Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Ynyswen	1.00	1	1.00	2.00	1	2.00	1.50	1	1.50	4.5	3	1.50	287	10.45
	197.50	111	1.78	186.00	84	2.21	242.00	98	2.47	625.5	293	2.13	22548	12.99

Comparison Information of Fixed Term Exclusions 2015/16 – Secondary Schools

APPENDIX 2

	Autumn 2015/16			Spring 2015/16			Summer 2015/16			Total			NOR	Incidents per 1000
	Actual Duration	Number of Incidents	Average Length (Days)	Actual Duration	Number of Incidents	Average Length (Days)	Actual Duration	Number of Incidents	Average Length (Days)	Actual Duration	Incidents	Average Length		
Aberdare Community School	77.00	31	2.48	60.50	52	1.16	103.50	61	1.70	241.0	144	1.67	1,325	108.68
Bryncelynog Comprehensive School	6.00	6	1.00	16.00	9	1.78	16.00	9	1.78	38.0	24	1.58	1,044	22.99
Cardinal Newman RC Comprehensive School	25.00	14	1.79	45.00	9	5.00	48.00	17	2.82	118.0	40	2.95	777	51.48
Ferndale Community School	43.00	14	3.07	78.00	18	4.33	59.00	29	2.03	180.0	61	2.95	608	100.33
Hawthorn High School	175.00	64	2.73	41.50	11	3.77	62.00	15	4.13	278.5	90	3.09	755	119.21
Mountain Ash Comprehensive School	34.00	27	1.26	26.00	17	1.53	53.00	32	1.66	113.0	76	1.49	858	88.58
Pontypridd High School	57.50	20	2.88	24.50	17	1.44	51.50	29	1.78	133.5	66	2.02	967	68.25
Porth County Community School	56.00	29	1.93	102.00	44	2.32	68.00	24	2.83	226.0	97	2.33	885	109.60
St John Baptist C in W High School	15.00	7	2.14	3.00	2	1.50	33.00	8	4.13	51.0	17	3.00	1,039	16.36
Tonypany Community College	59.50	41	1.45	21.00	12	1.75	42.00	23	1.83	122.5	76	1.61	701	108.42
Tonyrefail School	10.00	8	1.25	39.50	14	2.82	25.50	14	1.82	75.0	36	2.08	924	38.96
Treorchy Comprehensive School	77.00	50	1.54	94.00	48	1.96	136.00	71	1.92	307.0	169	1.82	1,609	105.03
Y Pant Comprehensive School	76.50	39	1.96	54.00	35	1.54	72.50	40	1.81	203.0	114	1.78	1,281	88.99
Ysgol Gyfun Cymer Rhondda	17.50	13	1.35	21.00	11	1.91	58.00	23	2.52	96.5	47	2.05	725	64.83
Ysgol Gyfun Garth Olwg	5.00	3	1.67	34.00	15	2.27	14.00	9	1.56	53.0	27	1.96	807	33.46
Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun	15.00	7	2.14	13.00	9	1.44	46.50	27	1.72	74.5	43	1.73	980	43.88
Ysgol Llanhari	2.00	2	1.00				1.00	1	1.00	3.0	3	1.00	519	5.78
	751.00	375	2.00	673.00	323	2.08	889.50	432	2.06	2,313.5	1,130	2.05	15697	71.99

PRU/Special School Data Incidents of Fixed Term Exclusions – Academic year 2015/16

	Autumn 2015/16			Spring 2015/16			Summer 2015/16			Total			NOR	Incidents per 1000
	Actual Duration	Number of Incidents	Average Length (Days)	Actual Duration	Number of Incidents	Average Length (Days)	Actual Duration	Number of Incidents	Average Length (Days)	Actual Duration	Number of Incidents	Average Length of Days		
Maesgwyn Special School	39.00	13	3.00	27.00	11	2.45	56.00	8	7.00	122.0	32	3.81	139	230.22
Tai Education Centre	5.00	4	1.25	6.00	2	3.00	5.50	4	1.38	16.5	10	1.65	25	400.00
Ty Gwyn Education Centre	82.00	26	3.15	89.00	25	3.56	31.00	15	2.07	202.0	66	3.06	68	970.59
Ysgol Hen Felin				5.00	1	5.00				5.0	1	5.00	170	5.88
	126.00	43	2.93	127.00	39	3.26	92.50	27	3.43	345.5	109	3.17	531	205.27

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