

Pupil Wellbeing Survey 2024

School absence – related characteristics and behaviours

Secondary pupils

Alternative Provision and Special School pupils

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The Pupil Wellbeing Survey – PWS 2024



The Pupil Wellbeing Survey (PWS) and Online Pupil Survey™(OPS) is a biennial survey that has been undertaken with Gloucestershire school children since 2006.

Children and young people participate in years 4, 5 (added in 2016) and 6 in Primary schools; years 8 and 10 in Secondary schools; and year 12 in Post 16 settings such as Sixth Forms and Colleges.

A large proportion of mainstream, special and independent schools, colleges and educational establishments take part – representing 57.2% of pupils in participating year groups in 2024.

The PWS asks a wide variety of questions about children's characteristics, behaviours and lived experience that could have an impact on their overall wellbeing.

The 2024 PWS was undertaken between January and April 2024

Over 24,500 pupils took part



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Outputs available



- Individual school reports – July 24
- GHLL Review Tool – July 24
- Individual mental health provider reports – September 24
- District Reports – October 24
- District summary table – October 24
- 13 Deep Dive themed reports – December 24
- 8 Theme single page factsheets – December 24
- Overview County Report – March 25
- Ad-hoc analysis - ongoing



Themed deep dive reports and factsheets available on:
gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/children-and-young-people/

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Key points from 2024



Mental health has seen an improvement across all measures. Although some groups haven't seen this improvement, those with a disability, SEN/EHCP and those known to social care

Continued reduction in smoking cigarettes, stabilisation of vaping prevalence

Reduction in Early Sexual Debut

Vulnerable groups continue to have a different lived experience than their less vulnerable peers



Recommended exercise participation has reduced following a boost during covid

Eating 5 a day has reduced

A quarter of pupils reported missing a meal due to food poverty

Self-harm initiation is younger



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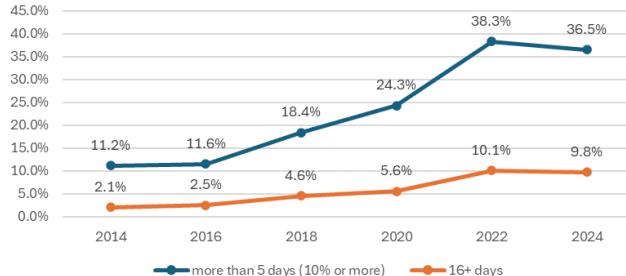


Secondary reported absence

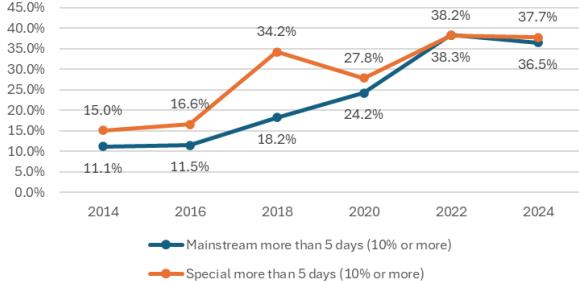
Reported absence does not ask pupils to distinguish authorised or unauthorised absences



Proportion of secondary pupils reporting missing more than 5 days and 16+ days of school the previous term



Proportion of secondary pupils reporting missing more than 5 days of school the previous term



Alternative provision reported absence

Proportion of alternative provision pupils reporting missing more than 5 and 16+ days of school the previous day



Vulnerable pupils significantly more likely to report missing more than 5 days of school:

- Those with a disability
- Those with SEN/EHCP
- Those known to social services
- Those bullied regularly
- Those with LMW
- Those eligible for FSM
- LGBTQ+ pupils
- Young Carers

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Reasons for absence

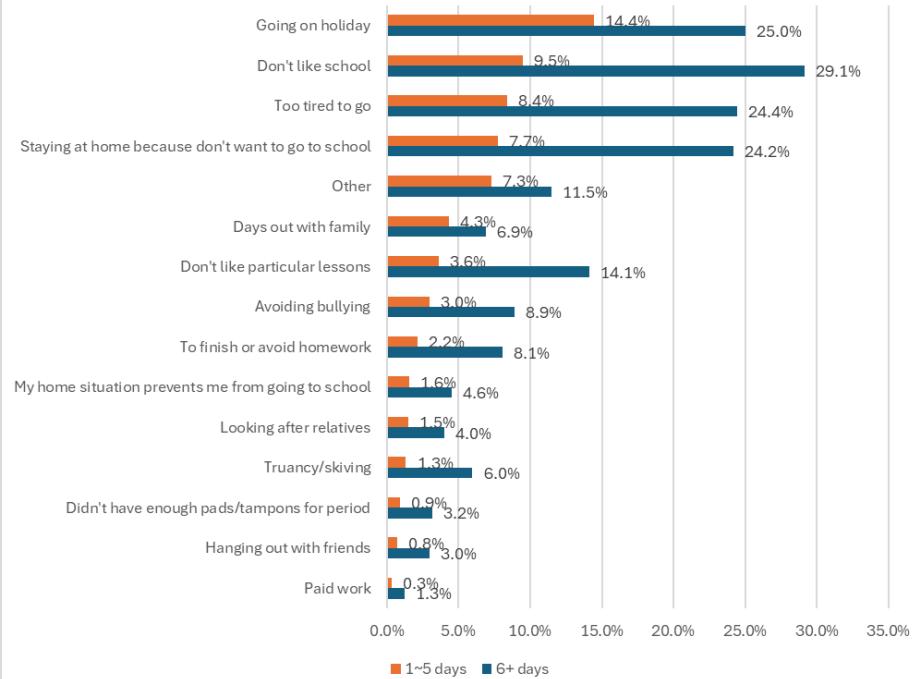
When asked why they had missed school, illness was the most cited reason (83.4% in 2024) for all pupils (missing school due to illness would be an authorised absence).

For those reasons that were more likely to be authorised, illness and attending a doctor's appointment there was very little difference between those who had missed 1-5 days and those who had missed more than 5 days.



Reported absence reduces as deprivation decreases

Reasons for missing school, by days missing - secondary pupils PWS
2024



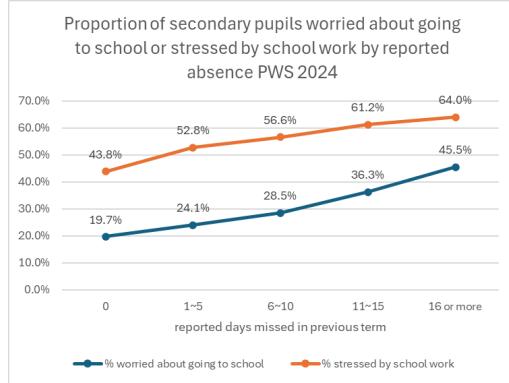
Lived experience of those with higher absence



School experience

Higher absence levels were correlated with a higher proportion of pupils reporting being stressed by school and worried about going to school

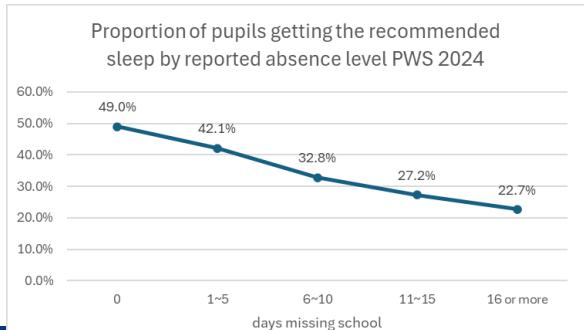
Those bullied regularly were significantly more likely to report missing 10% or more of days



Health protection behaviours

1 in 2 pupils who missed 16+ days report Low Mental Wellbeing vs. 1 in 4 missing 0 days

Those who missed 10% or more days were less likely to report getting the recommended sleep and less likely to report getting recommended exercise.



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Worrying about going to school



Mental Health and Wellbeing

- Free access to the [Lumi Nova](#) app (Years 7&8)
- Free Lumi Nova lesson – [Talking about Worries](#)
- [Removing Barriers to School attendance](#) training ran by Gloucestershire Educational Psychologists
- [Transition to Further Education - Post 16 PfA](#)
- Mental Health First Aid Training – [two day Youth course](#) or [Lite \(half day\) course](#)
- [Resources on Exam Stress](#)
- [Young Minds Matter](#)
- [Beyond Fed Up suicide prevention training](#) (March 20th)



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Healthy Relationships



- [GHLL It's more than just banter –Sexual Harassment Training](#)
- [learning.nspcc.org.uk/services/talk-relationships](#)
- [ReSET Level 1: Relationships and Sex Education Training](#)
- [ReSET Level 2: Sexuality](#)
- [DV, Sexual Exploitation and Consent -KS5](#)

Health Harming Behaviours

- 'A Risk worth Taking' workshop on risky behaviours-April 2025
- Free Online Safety Session for parents ran by Gloucestershire Constabulary – Contact simon.williams@gloucestershire.police.uk
- [Whole School Approach to Reducing Vaping training](#)
- [Substance misuse training](#) via the Youth Support Team and also The Talk about Trust (previously AET) & GHLL
- [YGAM Gaming and Gambling Harm Preventions Training](#)



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Reduction in healthy eating and exercise



- [GHLL Review](#) encourages schools to do an audit of their curriculum and environment that should promote Healthy Living
- [KS5 and Post 16 sleep factor lesson pack - The Sleep Factor](#)
- (To learn about managing sleep routines independently, and the impact of sleep on professional and personal wellbeing)
- [Physical Health, healthy Easing, Eating Disorders Resource/toolkit](#)
- [This Girl Can campaign and local examples of school improvement](#)
- [The 5 Ways to Wellbeing - A Whole School Approach](#)
- Pupil voice – are you consulting pupils on what clubs they would like?



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Lived experience of those with higher absence



Home situation

Twice as many pupils who missed over 16 days reported being a young carer than those who missed 0 days (1 in 8 vs. 1 in 16)

Twice as many pupils who missed over 16 days reported being known to social care than those who missed 0 days (1 in 5 vs. 1 in 11)



1 in 25 of those who missed more than 16 days of school reported being a gang member vs. 1 in 100 who had missed no school.



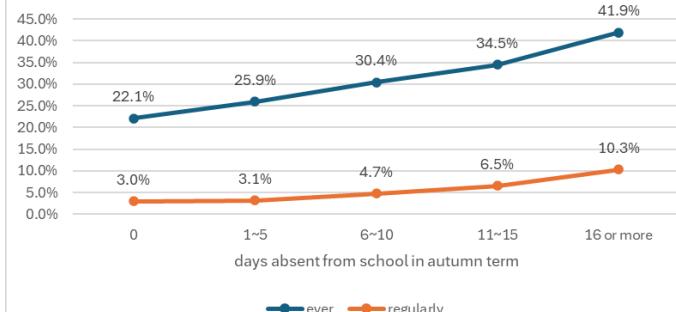
As reported absence increased so did the proportion saying they felt unsafe at home



1 in 10 of those who missed more than 16 days of school reported regularly witnessing domestic abuse



Proportion of pupils reporting witnessing domestic abuse by school absence - PWS 2024



- [A sense of belonging for vulnerable children training](#) via Virtual Schools. The Virtual School also runs a range of other free courses that can help children with specific ACES.
- [Attachment Aware Trauma Recovery Informed Behaviour \(Universal and Targeted\) Emotional Support Training](#) through Virtual School
- [DARE Training](#)
- Free access to the [Lumi Nova](#) app
- Free Lumi Nova lesson – [Talking about Worries](#)
- [TEAA](#) (Trusted Emotionally Available Adult) Training and Resource
- Mental Health First Aid Training – [two day Youth course](#) or [Lite \(half day\) course](#)
- [DV, Sexual Exploitation and Consent -KS5](#)
- [Specialist Support for YP cope with impacts of crime](#)



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Lived experience of those with higher absence



Home situation

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are recognised internationally to have an impact on future life outcomes. Research suggests experiencing 4 or more ACEs leads to significant impacts relating to education, employment and health.

Over half of those with 4+ ACEs reported missing more than 10% of school. (Y10 only)



This was highest where pupils reported:

- You lived with a household member who served time in jail or prison
- You lived with a household member who was depressed, mentally unwell or attempted suicide
- Someone touched your private parts or asked you to touch their private parts in a sexual way that was unwanted, against your will, or made you feel uncomfortable
- More than once, you went without food, clothing, a place to live, or had no one to protect you
- You lived with someone who had a problem with drinking or using drugs

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Anti-Social Behaviour

- County Lines
- [Skillzone](#)
- Individualized support where needed
- The Knife Angel
- Knife safety production in school
- Holly Gazzard
- [Schoolbeat Knife Crime poster](#)
- [Knife Free lesson from the Home Office](#)
- [Knife Crime lesson package](#) from Youth and Policing Education hub
- [Ben Kinsella Knife Trust](#)
- [Getting Court](#)
- [Specialist Support for YP cope with impacts of crime](#)
- [Support for YP who have contact with the police years10-18](#)



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Questions and Queries



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