

Pupil Wellbeing Survey 2024

School absence – related characteristics and behaviours

Primary pupils

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



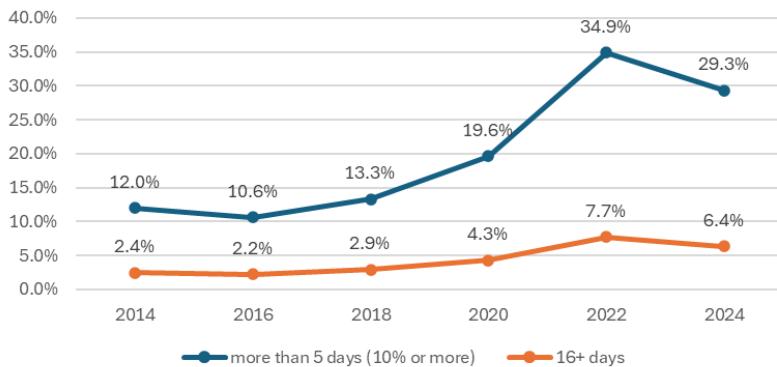
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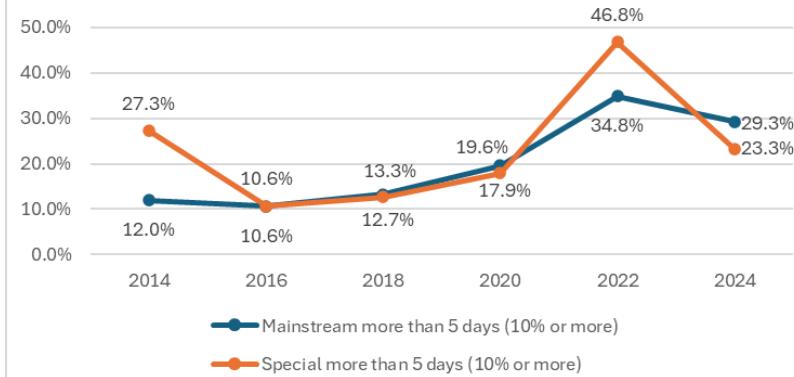
Primary attendance/absence



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



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



Gypsy/Roma (62.1%), Traveller of Irish heritage (48.4%), Black Caribbean (41.6%) and Mixed – white and Black Caribbean (42.2%) backgrounds were significantly more likely to report being absent for more than 5 days of the previous term.

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
- Young Carers – not identified in primary pupils
- Those bullied regularly
- Those with LMW
- Those eligible for FSM

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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).

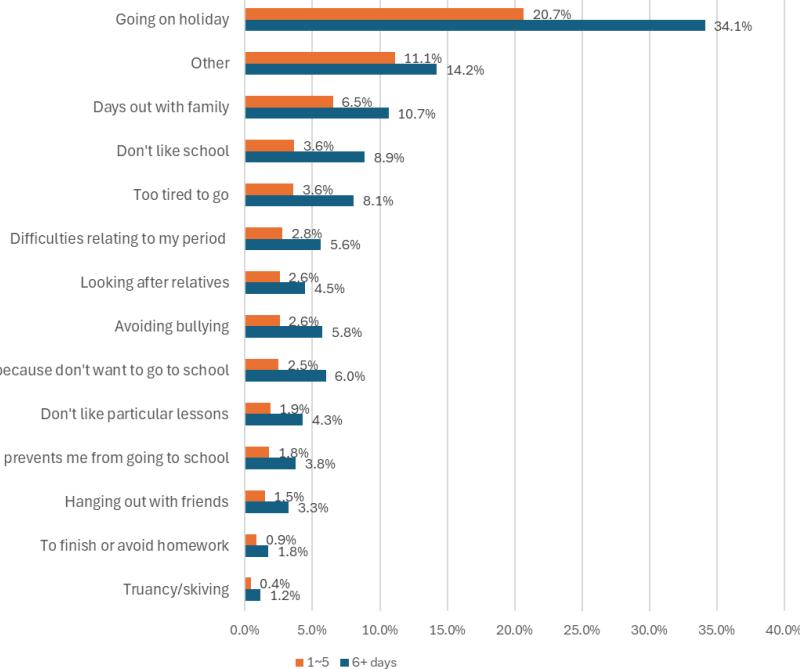
For those reasons that were more likely to be authorised, illness and attending a doctor's appointment there was very little difference between those who had missed 1-5 days and those who had missed more than 5 days.



Reported absence reduces as deprivation decreases



Reasons for missing school by days missing - primary pupils PWS 2024



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Lived experience of those with higher absence



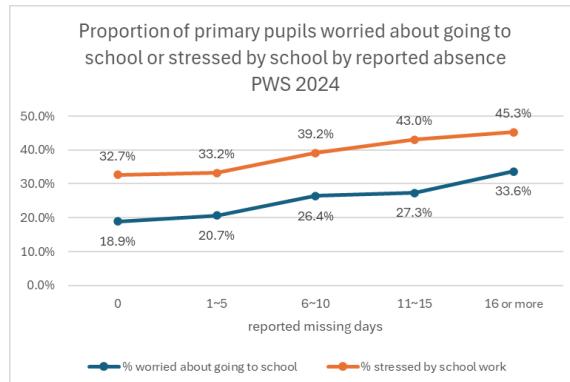
School experience

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

Pupils who missed more than 16 days of school (48.0%) were significantly less likely to report they found it easy to make and keep friends than those who missed no school (57.7%)

1 in 4 pupils who missed 16+ days report Low Mental Wellbeing vs. 1 in 6 missing 0 days.



Worrying about going to school



Mental Health and Wellbeing

- Free access to the [Lumi Nova](#) app
- Free Lumi Nova lesson – [Talking about Worries](#)
- [TEAA](#) (Trusted Emotionally Available Adult) Training and Resource
- [Removing Barriers to School attendance](#) training ran by Gloucestershire Educational Psychologists
- [Transition lessons and activities from YMM](#)
- Mental Health First Aid Training – [two day Youth course](#) or [Lite \(half day\) course](#)
- Primary lessons written and signposted around [mental health](#) and [healthy relationships](#)
- [Young Minds Matter](#)
- Myhappymind trial in the county



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- [Self-harm awareness training](#)
- Mental Health First Aid Training – [two day Youth course](#) or [Lite \(half day\) course](#)
- [Beyond Fed Up suicide prevention training](#)

Health Harming Behaviours

- Free [Primary RSHE Training](#)
- Free lessons written and signposted linked to [health harming](#) behaviours (e.g. drugs and alcohol)



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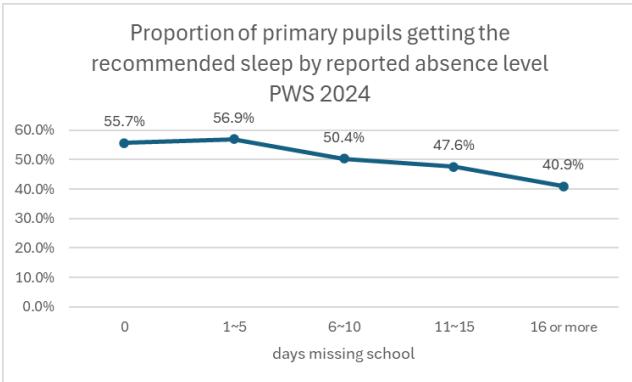


Health protection behaviours

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

Those who said they **never washed their hands** before a meal were significantly more likely to have missed 10% or more days than those who regularly washed their hands.

Pupils who missed more than 16 days were significantly less likely to report brushing their teeth twice a day than those who missed no school (68.4% vs. 78.6%). They were also less likely to have visited a dentist in the last 12 months compared to those with no absence.



Health protection behaviours



- [e-bug](#)
- Toothbrushing initiative in the county
- [Counting Sleep Resource](#)
- [Free lessons](#) written and signposted for all areas of healthy living



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Lived experience of those with higher absence



Home situation

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



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

Primary pupils who missed over 16 days were more likely to report being known to social care than those who missed 0 days (1 in 7 vs. 1 in 11)



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

Pupils in special schools were the most likely to report missing over 16 days of school.



1 in 20 pupils who missed more than 16 days school said they felt they never had healthy food on offer at home.



Pupils who missed 16 or more days were twice as likely to report excessive screen time than those who had missed no school (37.7% vs. 18.9%)

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- 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
- Primary lessons written and signposted around mental health and healthy relationships
- Myhappymind trial in the county



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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
- Pupil voice – are you consulting pupils on what clubs they would like?
- Free lessons written and signposted to encourage [healthy eating](#) and [exercise](#)
- [Beezee](#) offer a range of support for families and young children around healthy eating



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Excessive Screen Time



- Free lessons written and signposted linked to healthy technology use, including links to online safety.
- Free Online Safety Session for parents ran by Gloucestershire Constabulary – Contact Simon Williams to book - simon.williams@gloucestershire.police.uk



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Questions and Queries



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Integrity

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Excellence

