

## REPORT TO EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE – 18 MARCH 2021

### ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE IN ABERDEENSHIRE SCHOOLS 2019/20

#### 1 Reason for Report / Summary

- 1.1 To provide the Education & Children's Services Committee with information and analysis of the attendance and absence rates of children and young people attending Aberdeenshire schools during the school session 2019/20.

#### 2 Recommendations

**The Committee is recommended to:**

- 2.1 Consider and comment of the contents of this report.**
- 2.2 Recognise and congratulate children and young people, their parents/carers and staff on the continued high levels of attendance in schools across Aberdeenshire.**

#### 3 Purpose and Decision Making Route

- 3.1 The purpose of this report and accompanying appendix is to provide an annual update to Committee on the attendance and absence rates recorded for children and young people attending local authority schools in Aberdeenshire, and how this compares with national levels. This relates to performance and progress achieved towards the former Council Plan Priorities (2017-2022) framework up to December 2020.

In light of the unparalleled impact of Covid-19 on Aberdeenshire communities, the economy and on public services, Full Council formally closed down the Council Plan 2017-2022 and associated priorities at the special meeting of [23rd July 2020](#) (Item 4), and approved a renewed Council Plan 2020-2022 at the special meeting of [7th October 2020](#) (Items 3 and 3a) to better reflect the current challenges being faced by the council and the region – centric to the [three pillars](#) *Our People, Our Environment, and Our Economy*.

Subsequently, Directorate service plans have been advanced to provide more detail around how outcomes are to be delivered with a focus on performance and improvement – setting out high level key themes for performance measures and benchmarking to monitor the progress of our key actions, and accountability for delivery pending realignment to the renewed monitoring and evaluation framework. The ECS Directorate Plan was considered at ECS Committee on [28th January 2021](#) (Item 11).

The former Council Plan 2017-2022 was approved by Full Council at the meeting of [23rd November 2017](#), providing strategic direction through the confirmation of its associated eleven priorities to provide a focus for the delivery

of council services and how the council would engage and work with partners, communities, businesses and the third sector in future years.

- 3.2 As agreed at the Education & Children's Services (ECS) Committee meeting of [17<sup>th</sup> May 2018](#) the Service continues to lead on and scrutinise the delivery plans for the following former council priorities and associated outcomes:



Provide the best life chances for all our children and young people by raising levels of attainment and achievement

An update on the attendance rates during school session 2018/19 was presented to Education & Children's Services Committee at the meeting on [28<sup>th</sup> May 2020](#) (Item 6). The following report provides an update based on the most recent attendance rates, covering school session 2019/20.

- 3.3 The information contained within this report on school session attendance and absence rates has not been considered by this or another committee, however quarterly attendance rates is an outcome indicator presented to this and each area committee within the Council Priorities performance monitoring reporting framework.
- 3.4 2012, the Scottish Government implemented the decision to nationally collect and publish attendance and absence data from schools and local authorities on a biennial basis rather than annually. The cycle of collecting and reporting biennially means that there are not comparative national level figures available for the 2017/18 or 2019/20 sessions, however there are comparative national level data available for 2018/19.
- 3.5 Attendance and absences are recorded in SEEMiS under categories specified by the Scottish Government. The main categories and sub-categories, including the relevant ScotXed codes, are available for reference in Appendix 1 (section 1.4).
- 3.6 Additional attendance and absence codes relating to Covid-19 were introduced from mid-March 2020. Scottish Government closed all schools from 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 until the end of the school session. Figures reported for 2019/20 therefore refer to the dates 21<sup>st</sup> August 2019 to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and comparisons with previous complete school sessions should be made with caution. As the new codes relating to Covid-19 were only introduced in the week before schools closed in March 2020 they were not fully embedded in attendance and absence reporting for 2019/20.
- 3.7 There were further changes to attendance and absence codes relating to Covid-19 from the start of the 2020/21 session and Education and Children's Services have been carrying out detailed weekly monitoring of attendance and

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<sup>1</sup> The full national data breakdown for session 2018/19 was released 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

<sup>1</sup> 2016/17 Scotland figures throughout this report taken from [Summary Statistics for Schools in Scotland, No. 8: 2017 Edition](#) and 2018/19 taken from [Summary Statistics for Schools in Scotland, No. 10: 2019 Edition](#) (and accompanying [supplementary data](#)).

absence broken down by attendance code, school, sector and cluster. From 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020 when schools returned, Scottish Government have collected attendance data from all Local Authorities daily and published summary figures Nationally and for every Local Authority ([Scottish Government Educational Analytical Services: Learning Analysis Tableau](#)).

## 4 Discussion

4.1 Throughout each school session, attendance and absence is recorded on a half day basis (morning and afternoon) on SEEMiS – the school management information system – for all children and young people attending primary, secondary and special schools in Aberdeenshire. At the start of each school session, the attendance and absence data for the previous session is collated centrally for internal monitoring and as part of the Scottish Government collection. The analysis presented within this report is based on this data.

4.2 Attendance and absences are presented as a percentage of the total possible number of half days of attendance. Typically, this will be 380 half days for each child or young person as the school year is around 190 days for pupils. The percentages for attendance and absence in this report are calculated from the aggregate of half day's actual attendance or absence for all pupils, as a percentage of the aggregate half days possible attendance for all pupils.

### 4.3 Attendance

The percentage attendance in all Aberdeenshire schools over the past three sessions is:

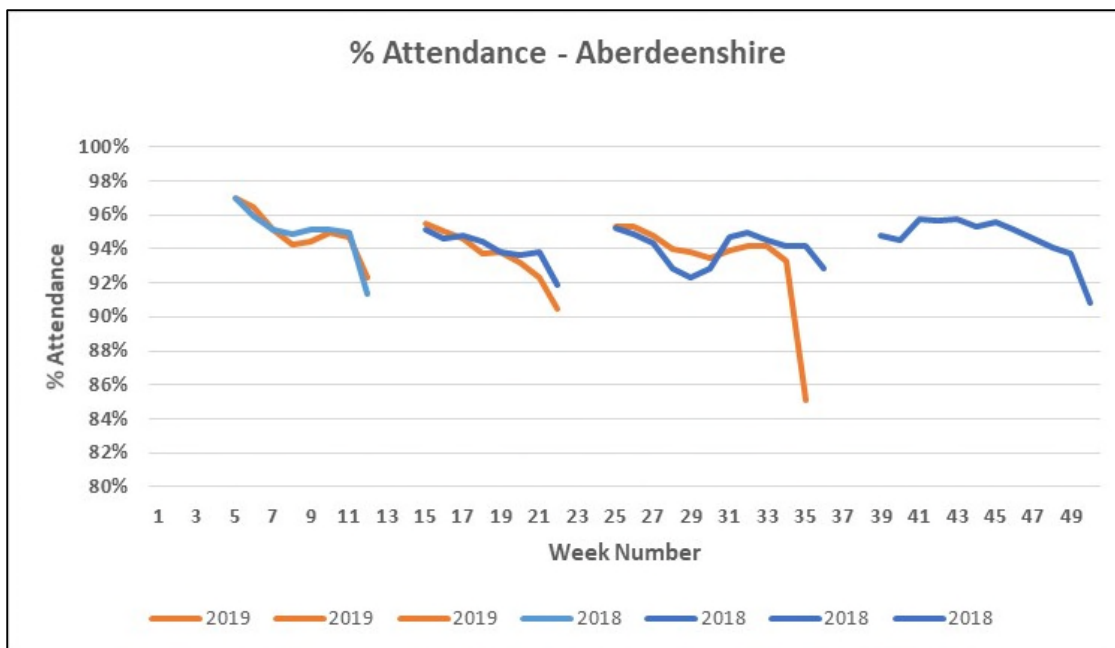
	2019/20*	2018/19	2017/18
Aberdeenshire	93.9%	94.4%	94.4%
Scotland <sup>2</sup>	n/a	93.0%	n/a

\*to 20/3/2020 (week 34)

Attendance in 2019/20 to 20/3/2020 (week 34) is a little lower than previous complete sessions but remains 1% above the latest National figure. Attendance to week 34 in 2018/19 was 94.4% so comparing equivalent periods in 2019/20 and 2018/19 confirms a decrease of 0.5% in attendance in 2019/20. Some of this decrease to week 34 in 2019/20 is due to a drop off in attendance in the week immediately before schools closed, when attendance was only 85.1% during this week (16-20<sup>th</sup> March 2020).

The chart below shows the pattern of attendance each week in 2018/19 and 2019/20. This clearly shows the drop in attendance just before schools closed on 20/3/2020 and also shows that attendance in terms 1 and 2 of 2019/20 was a little lower than terms 1 and 2 of 2018/19. Overall attendance in terms 1 and 2 in 2019/20 was 94.2% and in 2018/19 it was 94.4%, a small decrease of 0.2%. This chart also indicates that attendance tended to drop towards the end of each term in both 2018/19 and 2019/20, in particular in the week before schools closed (week 34) in 2019/20.

<sup>2</sup> 2016/17 Scotland figures throughout this report taken from [Summary Statistics for Schools in Scotland, No. 8: 2017 Edition](#) and 2018/19 taken from [Summary Statistics for Schools in Scotland, No. 10: 2019 Edition](#) (and accompanying [supplementary data](#)).



In summary, attendance in 2019/20 to schools closing on 20/3/2020 is 0.5% lower than 2018/19 with some, but not all, of the reduction coming from a decrease in attendance immediately before schools closed on 20/3/2020.

Attendance in each school sector is given in the table below:

	2019/20*		2018/19		2017/18	
	Ashire	Scotland	Ashire	Scotland	Ashire	Scotland
Primary	<b>95.3%</b>	<i>n/a</i>	95.7%	94.5%	<b>95.7%</b>	<i>n/a</i>
Secondary	<b>92.0%</b>	<i>n/a</i>	92.5%	90.7%	<b>92.6%</b>	<i>n/a</i>
Special	<b>92.0%</b>	<i>n/a</i>	92.3%	90.1%	<b>92.4%</b>	<i>n/a</i>

\*to 20/3/2020 (week 34)

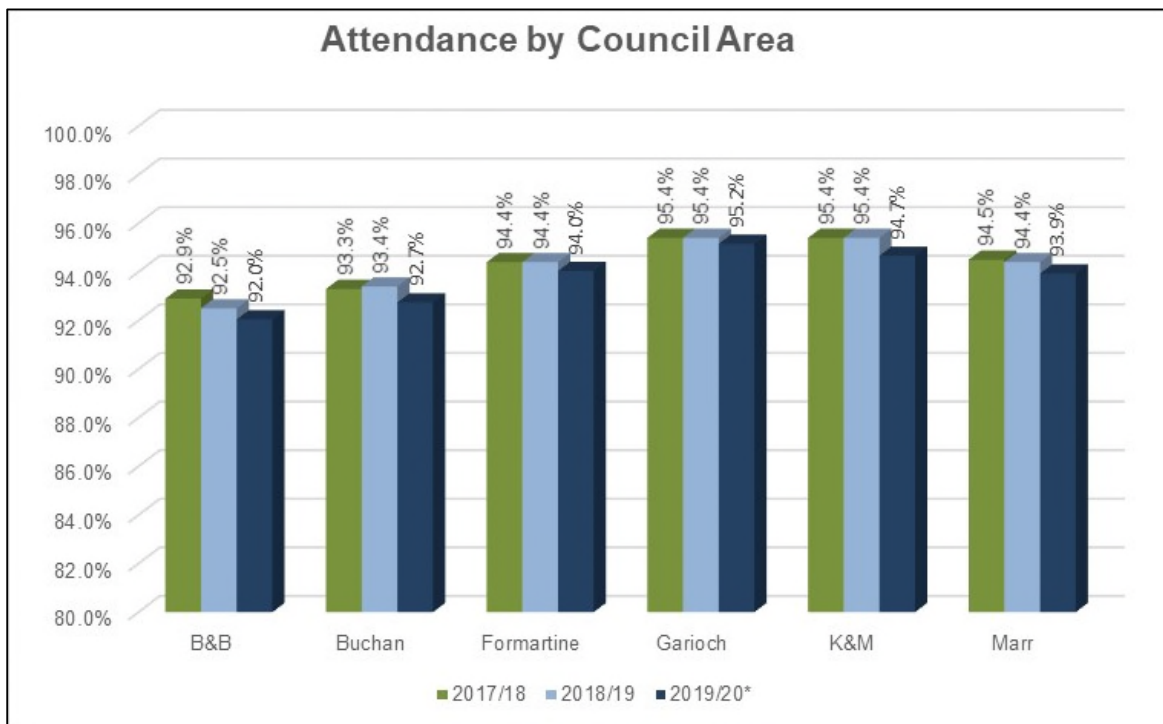
Attendance in all sectors in 2019/20 to 20/3/2020 is 0.3-05% lower than the 2018/19 complete session. Comparing similar periods in 2018/19, attendance to week 34 in 2018/19 was 95.7% in Primary, 92.4% in Secondary and 92.1% in Special schools indicating that the decrease in 2019/20 is not due to the shorter school session although some of the decrease in 2019/20 is due to a decrease in attendance in all sectors in the week running up to schools being closed, when attendance was only 86.2% in primary schools, 83.4% in secondary schools and 81.9% in special schools during this week (16-20<sup>th</sup> March 2020).

Attendance in primary schools in terms 1 and 2 of 2019/20 was 95.7% and this was 0.2% lower than the 95.9% in terms 1 and 2 of 2018/19 indicating that some, but not all, the decrease in primary school attendance in 2019/20 was not all due to the decrease in attendance just before schools closing on 20/3/2020.

Attendance in secondary schools in terms 1 and 2 of 2019/20 was 92.2% and this was 0.2% lower than the 92.4% in terms 1 and 2 of 2018/19 indicating that some, but not all, the decrease in secondary school attendance in 2019/20 was not all due to the decrease in attendance just before schools closing on 20/3/2020.

Attendance in special schools in terms 1 and 2 of 2019/20 was 92.6% and this was 0.2% higher than the 92.4% in terms 1 and 2 of 2018/19 indicating that the decrease in special school attendance in 2019/20 was due to a decrease in attendance in term 3. Due to the small number of special school pupils compared to the total number of pupils in Aberdeenshire, the attendance of special school pupils has a small influence on total attendance for Aberdeenshire.

Similarly, attendance in 2019/20 to 20/3/2020 has decreased in each Council Area. The chart below shows that Garioch and Kincardine & Mearns continue to have the highest levels of attendance across the six areas and Banff and Buchan has the lowest level of attendance each year from 2017/18 to 2019/20.



\*to 20/3/2020

#### 4.4 Absence

Absence represents the total of 'authorised' absence and 'unauthorised' absence combined.

Aberdeenshire authorised, unauthorised and total absence rates for school session 2019/20 to 20/3/2020 and the two years prior, together with the latest national comparison rates available, are presented below:

		2019/20*	2018/19	2017/18
Total Absence	Aberdeenshire	<b>6.1%**</b>	5.6%	5.5%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	7.0%	<i>n/a</i>
Authorised Absence	Aberdeenshire	<b>4.6%</b>	4.1%	4.2%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	4.4%	<i>n/a</i>
Unauthorised Absence	Aberdeenshire	<b>1.5%</b>	1.5%	1.3%

\*to 20/3/2020 (week 34)

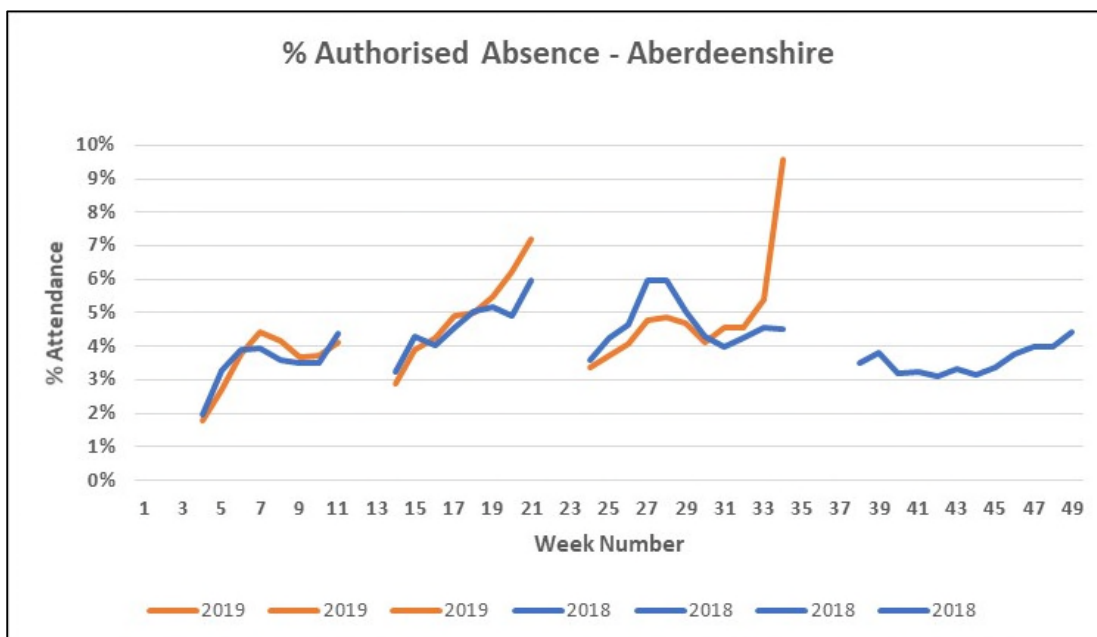
\*\*All percentages are rounded separately to 1 decimal place, so some breakdowns may not sum to the total shown.

Absence rates have increased in 2019/20 due to an increase in authorised absence from 4.1% in 2018/19 to 4.6% in 2019/20. Authorised absence did increase in the week leading up to schools closing on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 (authorised absence was 9.6% in week 34 in 2019/20 and 4.5% in week 34 in 2018/19) but this does not account for all of the increase in authorised absence in 2019/20. Unauthorised absence remained the same in 2019/20 compared to 2018/19.

As with attendance, comparing authorised absence in terms 1 and 2 in 2019/20 and 2018/19 indicated that some, but not all, of the increase in authorised absence in 2019/20 is due to an increase just before schools closed on 20/3/2020. Authorised absence in terms 1 and 2 in 2019/20 was 4.3% compared to 4.1% in terms 1 and 2 of 2018/19. Unauthorised absence in terms 1 and 2 was 1.4% in both 2019/20 and 2018/19.

The chart below shows the pattern of authorised absence each week in 2018/19 and 2019/20. This clearly shows the increase in authorised absence just before schools closed on 20/3/2020 and also shows that authorised absence in terms 1 and 2 of 2019/20 was a little higher than terms 1 and 2 of 2018/19.





There was an increase in authorised absence across all sectors in 2019/20 to 20/3/2020, the biggest increase being in the secondary school sector.

The following tables provide a breakdown of absence into authorised and unauthorised absence for each sector:

The main reason for the increase in absence in primary schools in 2019/20 was due to an increase of 0.4% in authorised absence from 3.3% in 2018/19 to 3.7% in 2019/20. Authorised absence in primary schools in terms 1 and 2 in 2019/20 was 3.3% compared to 3.1% in terms 1 and 2 of 2018/19. Absence due to 'Sickness with no education provision' increased by 0.3% from 2.9% in 2018/19 to 3.2% in 2019/20 (absence due to sickness increased particularly in the few weeks before schools closed on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021). Unauthorised absence in primary schools remains unchanged from 2018/19 to 2019/20 at 1.1%. The table below gives authorised, unauthorised and total absence for Aberdeenshire primary schools each year from 2017/18 to 2019/20.

PRIMARY:		2019/20*	2018/19	2017/18
Total Absence	Aberdeenshire	<b>4.8%</b>	4.3%**	4.3%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	5.4%*	<i>n/a</i>
Authorised Absence	Aberdeenshire	<b>3.7%</b>	3.3%	3.3%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	3.6%	<i>n/a</i>
Unauthorised Absence	Aberdeenshire	<b>1.1%</b>	1.1%	1.0%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	1.9%	<i>n/a</i>

\* to 20/3/2020 (week 34)

\*\*All percentages are rounded separately to 1 decimal place, so some breakdowns may not sum to the total shown.

The main reason for the increase in absence in secondary schools in 2019/20 was due to an increase of 0.6% in authorised absence from 5.3% in 2018/19 to 5.9% in 2019/20. Authorised absence in secondary schools in terms 1 and 2 in 2019/20 was 5.8% compared to 5.5% in terms 1 and 2 of 2018/19. Absence due to 'Sickness with no education provision' increased by 0.5% from 4.4% in

2018/19 to 4.9% in 2019/20 (absence due to sickness increased particularly in the few weeks before schools closed on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021). Unauthorised absence in secondary schools decreased slightly by 0.1% from 2.1% in 2018/19 to 2.0% in 2019/20. The table below gives authorised, unauthorised and total absence for Aberdeenshire secondary schools each year from 2017/18 to 2019/20.

SECONDARY:		2019/20*	2018/19	2017/18
Total Absence	Aberdeenshire	<b>7.9%</b>	7.4%	7.3%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	9.2%	<i>n/a</i>
Authorised Absence	Aberdeenshire	<b>5.9%</b>	5.3%	5.5%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	5.5%	<i>n/a</i>
Unauthorised Absence	Aberdeenshire	<b>2.0%</b>	2.1%	1.8%

\*to 20/3/2020 (week 34)

The main reason for the increase in absence in special schools in 2019/20 was due to an increase of 0.4% in authorised absence from 6.4% in 2018/19 to 6.8% in 2019/20. There was a small increase in unauthorised absence from special schools of 0.1% from 1.3% in 2018/19 to 1.4% in 2019/20. Authorised absence in special schools in terms 1 and 2 in 2019/20 was 6.2% compared to 6.6% in terms 1 and 2 of 2018/19 but authorised absence was higher in term 3 in 2019/20 (7.9%) compared to 2018/19 (7.2%). Absence due to 'Sickness with no education provision' increased by 0.6% from 5.6% in 2018/19 to 6.2% in 2019/20 (absence due to sickness increased particularly in the few weeks before schools closed on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021). Unauthorised absence in special schools increased slightly by 0.1% from 1.3% in 2018/19 to 1.4% in 2019/20. The table below gives authorised, unauthorised and total absence for Aberdeenshire special schools each year from 2017/18 to 2019/20.

SPECIAL:		2019/20*	2018/19	2017/18
Total Absence	Aberdeenshire	<b>8.2%</b>	7.7%**	7.6%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	9.8%**	<i>n/a</i>
Authorised Absence	Aberdeenshire	<b>6.8%</b>	6.4%	6.6%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	6.5%	<i>n/a</i>
Unauthorised Absence	Aberdeenshire	<b>1.4%</b>	1.3%	1.0%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	3.4%	<i>n/a</i>

\* to 20/3/2020 (week 34)

\*\*All percentages are rounded separately to 1 decimal place, so some breakdowns may not sum to the total shown.

It is important to note that absence figures within the special schools' sector have a negligible impact on the Aberdeenshire-wide figures due to the relatively small number of pupils in special schools compared with the numbers attending mainstream primary and secondary sector schools. As there are only four special schools in Aberdeenshire, notable changes within one special school can have an impact on the overall special schools' sector figures, with overall special schools' figures often experiencing annual variations in sub-category figures due to the scale (213 pupils in Aberdeenshire special schools,

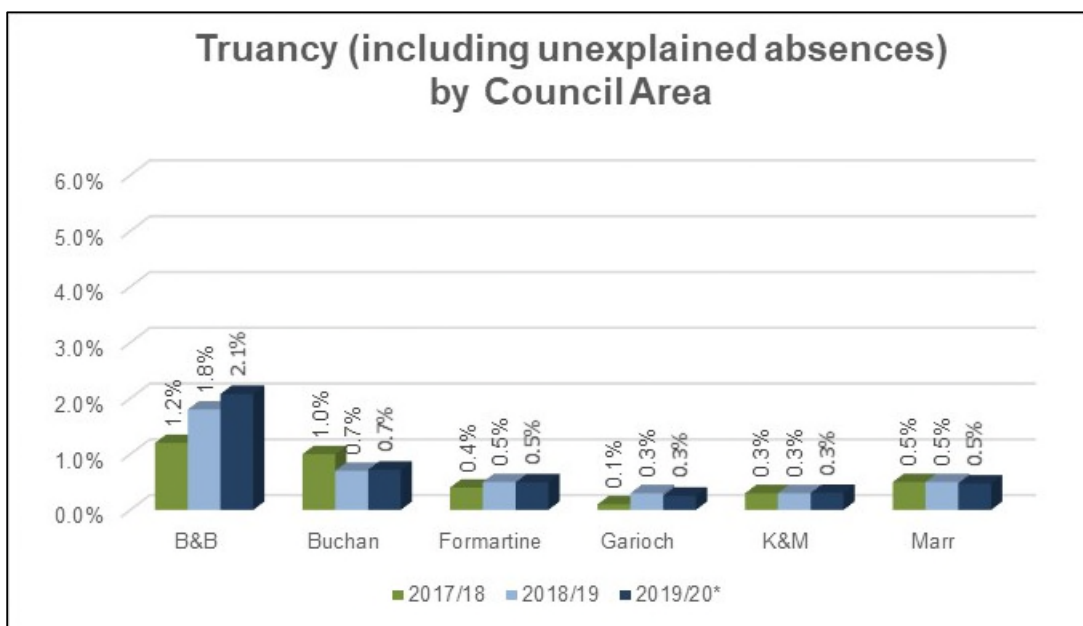


compared with 20,983 and 14,736 in the primary and secondary sectors respectively<sup>3</sup>).

In summary, absence in 2019/20 to schools closing on 20/3/2020 is 0.5% higher than 2018/19 with some, but not all, of the increase coming from an increase in absence immediately before schools closed on 20/3/2020. Most of this increase in absence was due to an increase in authorised absence, mostly sickness, 'self-isolation due to Coronavirus' and 'parent Isolating against advice Coronavirus'.

Absences recorded in the unauthorised absences sub-category 'Truancy, including unexplained absences' overall remained unchanged in 2019/20 at 0.6% for Aberdeenshire in 2019/20. However, there was a small increase of 0.1% from 0.1% to 0.2% in the primary schools and a slight decrease of 0.1% from 0.2% to 0.1% in special schools between 2018/19 and 2019/20.

The levels of these absences can vary between the administration areas. The chart below 'Truancy (including unexplained absences) by Council Area' shows that Banff & Buchan has the highest level of truancy with 1.8% of absence being due to truancy in 2018/19 and this increased to 2.1% in 2019/20. The lowest levels of truancy were in Garioch and Kincardine & Mearns where truancy represented only 0.3% of their respective area's absences in 2019/20.



#### 4.5 Attendance and Absences of Care Experienced Young People

Analysis of the attendance and absence figures for Care Experienced Young People (CEYP)<sup>4</sup> indicates an increase in overall attendance of 1.2% from 90.1% in 2018/19 to 91.3% in 2019/20. This variance year-on-year for CEYP can in part be attributed to the relatively small numbers of pupils that are looked after, with small changes in numbers of CEYP potentially having a substantial

<sup>3</sup> ScotXed School Pupil Census 2019 figures.

<sup>4</sup> Includes children and young people recorded as looked after at home or accommodated away from home during session 2018/19.

impact on overall attendance and absence figures. Indeed, the total number of CEYP recorded in Aberdeenshire schools has also further fallen from 375 in 2017/18, to 344 in 2018/19 and 322 (53 away from home, 269 at) in 2019/20<sup>5</sup>.

Authorised absence of CEYP decreased by 0.4% from 6.1% in 2018/19 to 5.7% in 2019/20 and unauthorised absence decreased by 0.7% from 3.5% in 2018/19 to 2.8% in 2019/20. See the table below for a summary of attendance, authorised, unauthorised and total absence for CEYP.

CEYP <sup>5</sup> :		2019/20*	2018/19	2017/18
Attendance**	Aberdeenshire	<b>91.3%</b>	90.1%	90.4%
Total Absence**	Aberdeenshire	<b>8.5%</b>	9.6%	9.2%
Authorised Absence	Aberdeenshire	<b>5.7%</b>	6.1%	5.7%
Unauthorised Absence	Aberdeenshire	<b>2.7%</b>	3.5%	3.5%

\* to 20/3/2020 (week 34)

## 5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 5.1 This report helps deliver on the renewed Strategic Priorities 'Education' and 'Health & Wellbeing' within the Pillar 'Our People'. This report also helps deliver on the former Council Priority<sup>6</sup> 3 - 'Providing the best life chances for all our children and young people' by maintaining high levels of school attendance.

More details on the changes to the Council's strategic priorities being adopted as part of the updated Council Plan 2020-2022 are available on the Aberdeenshire Council website ([Council and democracy](#)).

- 5.2 This report also helps deliver against the [Aberdeenshire Children's Services Plan](#) priorities.
- 5.3 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial		<b>x</b>	
Staffing		<b>x</b>	
Equalities		<b>x</b>	
Fairer Scotland Duty			<b>x</b>
Town Centre First			<b>x</b>
Sustainability			<b>x</b>
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing		<b>x</b>	

- 5.4 An equality impact assessment is not required because this report is to inform committee on performance and does not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.

<sup>5</sup> ScotXed School Pupil Census 2018 & 2109 CEYP figures.

<sup>6</sup> From the former Council Plan Priorities 2017-2022 framework.

5.5 Although there are no direct implications arising from this report, trends are used to inform improvement activity and future budget planning.

5.6 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:

- ACORP006 - Reputation Management (*including social media*)  
[Corporate Risk Register](#)

The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level:

- ECSR002 – Developing Excellence and Equality: *Failure to consistently apply best practice recommendations across all schools, and Inability to source appropriate data to measure and monitor the defined attainment gap.*  
[Directorate Risk Registers.](#)

Continued monitoring of the changes and trends in attendance and absence levels reduces and alleviates these risks as attendance is a known contributor in raising attainment, with levels of attendance, in part, influenced by the application of best practice recommendations and can improve the reputation of our schools.

## 6 Scheme of Governance

6.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and had no comments to make and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

6.2 The Committee is able to consider this item in terms of Section E.3.4 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as as the report refers to the functions of the Council under the Education (Scotland) Acts, the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004, and all other relevant legislation and regulations.

### Laurence Findlay Director of Education & Children's Services

Report prepared by Gillian Milne, Workforce Planning & Staffing Manager and  
Anne Horgan, Analysis & Research Officer  
Date 9<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## List of Appendices

### APPENDIX 1:

**Percentage absence by category, sub-category and sector for 2017/18 to 2019/20.**

**APPENDIX 1: Percentage absence by category, sub-category and sector for 2017/18 to 2019/20.**



**1.1 Authorised Absence (AA)<sup>7</sup>**

<b>ALL SECTORS: AA sub-category</b>		<b>2019/20*</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
Sickness, with no education provision	Aberdeenshire	<b>3.9%</b>	3.5%	3.5%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	3.6%	<i>n/a</i>
Authorised holidays	Aberdeenshire	<b>0.0%</b>	0.1%	0.1%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	0.1%	<i>n/a</i>
Exceptional domestic circumstances	Aberdeenshire	<b>0.4%</b>	0.4%	0.4%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	0.1%	<i>n/a</i>
Other authorised absence <sup>8</sup>	Aberdeenshire	<b>0.5%</b>	0.2%	0.2%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	0.6%	<i>n/a</i>
Total authorised absence	Aberdeenshire	<b>4.6%</b>	4.1%	4.2%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	4.4%	<i>n/a</i>

<b>PRIMARY: AA sub-category</b>		<b>2019/20*</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
Sickness, with no education provision	Aberdeenshire	<b>3.2%</b>	2.9%	2.9%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	3.0%	<i>n/a</i>
Authorised holidays	Aberdeenshire	<b>0.0%</b>	0.1%	0.1%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	0.1%	<i>n/a</i>
Exceptional domestic circumstances	Aberdeenshire	<b>0.2%</b>	0.2%	0.2%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	0.1%	<i>n/a</i>
Other authorised absence <sup>10</sup>	Aberdeenshire	<b>0.2%</b>	0.1%	0.2%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	0.4%	<i>n/a</i>
Total authorised absence	Aberdeenshire	<b>3.7%</b>	3.3%	3.3%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	3.6%	<i>n/a</i>

<b>SECONDARY: AA sub-category</b>		<b>2019/20*</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
Sickness, with no education provision	Aberdeenshire	<b>5.0%</b>	4.4%	4.5%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	4.4%	<i>n/a</i>
Authorised holidays	Aberdeenshire	<b>0.0%</b>	0.0%	0.0%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	0.1%	<i>n/a</i>
Exceptional domestic circumstances	Aberdeenshire	<b>0.6%</b>	0.6%	0.7%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	0.2%	<i>n/a</i>
Other authorised absence <sup>10</sup>	Aberdeenshire	<b>0.3%</b>	0.2%	0.3%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	0.9%	<i>n/a</i>
Total authorised absence	Aberdeenshire	<b>5.9%</b>	5.3%	5.5%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	5.5%	<i>n/a</i>

<sup>7</sup> All percentages are rounded separately to 1 decimal place, so some breakdowns may not sum to the total shown.

<sup>8</sup> Includes part-time timetable (exclusion related) and part-time timetable (health related).

<b>SPECIAL: AA sub-category</b>		<b>2019./20*</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
Sickness, with no education provision	Aberdeenshire	<b>6.2%</b>	5.6%	5.3%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	4.2%	<i>n/a</i>
Authorised holidays	Aberdeenshire	<b>0.2%</b>	0.4%	0.5%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	0.2%	<i>n/a</i>
Exceptional domestic circumstances	Aberdeenshire	<b>0.2%</b>	0.4%	0.6%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	0.1%	<i>n/a</i>
Other authorised absence <sup>10</sup>	Aberdeenshire	<b>0.1%</b>	0.0%	0.2%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	1.9%	<i>n/a</i>
Total authorised absence	Aberdeenshire	<b>6.8%</b>	6.4%	6.6%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	6.5%	<i>n/a</i>

## 1.2 Unauthorised Absence (UA)<sup>9</sup>

<b>ALL SECTORS: UA sub-category</b>		<b>2019/20*</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
Unauthorised holidays	Aberdeenshire	<b>0.5%</b>	0.6%	0.6%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	0.7%	<i>n/a</i>
Truancy, including unexplained absence	Aberdeenshire	<b>0.6%</b>	0.6%	0.5%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	1.7%	<i>n/a</i>
Exceptional domestic circumstances (UA)	Aberdeenshire	<b>0.1%</b>	0.0%	0.1%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	0.0%	<i>n/a</i>
Other unauthorised	Aberdeenshire	<b>0.3%</b>	0.2%	0.1%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	0.2%	<i>n/a</i>
Total unauthorised absence	Aberdeenshire	<b>1.5%</b>	1.5%	1.3%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	2.6%	<i>n/a</i>

<b>PRIMARY: UA sub-category</b>		<b>2019/20*</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
Unauthorised holidays	Aberdeenshire	<b>0.6%</b>	0.8%	0.7%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	0.9%	<i>n/a</i>
Truancy, including unexplained absence	Aberdeenshire	<b>0.2%</b>	0.1%	0.1%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	0.9%	<i>n/a</i>
Exceptional domestic circumstances (UA)	Aberdeenshire	<b>0.0%</b>	0.0%	0.0%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	0.0%	<i>n/a</i>
Other unauthorised	Aberdeenshire	<b>0.3%</b>	0.1%	0.1%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	0.1%	<i>n/a</i>
Total unauthorised absence	Aberdeenshire	<b>1.1%</b>	1.1%	1.0%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	1.9%	<i>n/a</i>

<sup>9</sup> All percentages are rounded separately to 1 decimal place, so some breakdowns may not sum to the total shown.

SECONDARY: UA sub-category		2019/20*	2018/19	2017/18
Unauthorised holidays	Aberdeenshire	<b>0.4%</b>	0.5%	0.4%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	0.6%	<i>n/a</i>
Truancy, including unexplained absence	Aberdeenshire	<b>1.3%</b>	1.3%	1.2%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	2.9%	<i>n/a</i>
Exceptional domestic circumstances (UA)	Aberdeenshire	<b>0.1%</b>	0.1%	0.1%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	0.0%	<i>n/a</i>
Other unauthorised	Aberdeenshire	<b>0.3%</b>	0.2%	0.1%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	0.3%	<i>n/a</i>
Total unauthorised absence	Aberdeenshire	<b>2.0%</b>	2.1%	1.8%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	3.7%	<i>n/a</i>

SPECIAL: UA sub-category		2019/20*	2018/19	2017/18
Unauthorised holidays	Aberdeenshire	<b>0.3%</b>	0.3%	0.6%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	0.6%	<i>n/a</i>
Truancy, including unexplained absence	Aberdeenshire	<b>0.1%</b>	0.2%	0.1%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	2.3%	<i>n/a</i>
Exceptional domestic circumstances (UA)	Aberdeenshire	<b>0.0%</b>	0.1%	0.1%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	0.1%	<i>n/a</i>
Other unauthorised	Aberdeenshire	<b>1.0%</b>	0.7%	0.3%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	0.3%	<i>n/a</i>
Total unauthorised absence	Aberdeenshire	<b>1.4%</b>	1.3%	1.0%
	Scotland	<i>n/a</i>	3.4%	<i>n/a</i>

### 1.3 Attendance and Absence of Care Experienced Young People (CEYP)<sup>10</sup>

Aberdeenshire Attendance and Absence (CEYP) <sup>11</sup>	2019/20*			2018/19			2017/18		
	At Home	Away from Home	Total	At Home	Away from Home	Total	At Home	Away from Home	Total
Attendance	81.4%	93.7%	91.3%	75.8%	93.0%	90.1%	81.0%	92.7%	90.4%
Authorised Absence	9.4%	4.8%	5.7%	12.2%	4.8%	6.1%	10.4%	4.6%	5.7%
Unauthorised Absence	8.7%	1.4%	2.8%	11.2%	1.9%	3.5%	7.9%	2.4%	3.5%
Number on the roll at School Pupil Census*	63	269	322	61	282	343	72	303	375

\*Status 01 (Pupil on roll of this school (except for those attending full time Further Education courses outside this school)), Census 2017, 2018 and 2019.

<sup>10</sup> Figures do not sum to 100% in this table because absences due to temporary exclusions are not included.

<sup>11</sup> Includes children and young people recorded as looked after at home or accommodated away from home during session 2018/19.



## 1.4 Attendance and Absence categories and ScotXed codes

Category	ScotXed Code	Sub-categories
Attendance	10	Attendance in school
	11	Attending, but late into school
	12	Work experience
	13	Sick, with educational provision
Authorised Absence	20	Sick, with no educational provision
	21	Very late
	22	Authorised holidays
	23	Exceptional domestic circumstances (authorised)
	24	Other authorised absence
	25*	Part Time Timetable (exclusion related)*
Unauthorised Absence	26*	Part Time Timetable (health related)*
	30	Unauthorised holidays
	31	Truancy, including unexplained absence
	32	Exceptional domestic circumstances (unauthorised)
Temporary Exclusion	33	Other unauthorised absence
	40	This is recorded as a separate category (i.e. it is not counted as either an authorised or an unauthorised absence)

*\*New absence categories implemented from school session 2017/18, counted within 'Other authorised absence' in above tables.*