



**COMMISSION
ON SCHOOL
REFORM**

Absent Minds:

**Attendance and Absence in Scotland's
Schools**

October 2023

Membership of the Commission on School Reform is as follows:

- **Keir Bloomer (Chair):** Education Consultant and former Director of Education
- **Cllr Sarah Atkin:** Independent Councillor at The Highland Council and member of the Education Committee. Former Parent Council Chairwoman and School. Worked in ASN for 12 years.
- **John Barnett:** University Court Member, retired finance professional and former Parent Council Chairman.
- **John Edward:** Scottish Council on Global Affairs, Former Director SCIS; Trustee of Scottish European Educational Trust and Board Member of AGBIS.
- **Carole Ford:** Former head teacher of Kilmarnock Academy and former president of School Leaders Scotland
- **Jim Goodall:** Former Head of Education and Community Services at Clackmannanshire Council and former Lib Dem councillor at East Dunbartonshire Council
- **Anna Hazel-Dunn:** Headteacher, Royal High Primary, Edinburgh
- **Johann Lamont:** Former teacher (1979-99) and retired Member of Scottish Parliament (1999-2022)
- **Frank Lennon:** Former Head of Dunblane High School and St Modan's, Stirling
- **Ross Martin:** Economic agitator with experience in a variety of roles in education – including school teacher, voluntary tutor, chair of local education authority, member of college board and university court, Chair of a charity, and, most importantly, a parent and former student.
- **Lindsay Paterson:** Professor emeritus of education policy in the School of Social and Political Science at Edinburgh University.

Please note that all members of the commission participate in an individual capacity and that the views of the commission do not represent the views of any other organisation to which the individual members belong.

Over 200,000 pupils missing one day per fortnight. Nearly 80,000 missing one day per week.

“Attending and taking part in learning - wherever learning takes place - is fundamental to making sure that our young people become successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.”

Scottish Government¹

Attendance at school matters. School education is compulsory because we know it offers the best start in life for our young people. Missing a lot of school impacts on learning, relationships and well-being for the individual, and creates disruption to learning in class. It is, therefore, deeply worrying that 210,672 pupils from local authority schools in Scotland had attendance of less than 90% in 2022/23, equivalent to 32% of all pupils. 79,633 had attendance of less than 80%, equivalent to 12% of pupils.² In 2018/19, the last year unaffected by Covid, the figures were 141,502 and 46,381, 21% and 7% respectively.

An attendance level of less than 90% is the equivalent of missing at least one day out of every 10, or one day per fortnight. Attendance of less than 80% means missing one day in every 5, or one day per week.

Regulation 5 of the Schools General (Scotland) Regulations 1975, as amended, requires schools to be open for a minimum of 190 days in a school year.³ So in terms of days, those with attendance of less than 90% are missing at least 19 days of school and those with attendance of less than 80% are missing at least 38 days. In other words, the number of days lost is unlikely to be simply due to a term-time holiday.

Attendance appears to worsen between primary and secondary, with roughly 40% of high school pupils missing a day of school per fortnight – up from around 30% pre-Covid. Nearly a fifth of high school pupils are missing the equivalent of a day per week. These figures should be cause for alarm and prompting investigation and action.

Background

In 2020 the Commission on School Reform highlighted a growing number of pupils who were missing more than 50% of school and a worrying growth in school refusal.⁴

We were concerned that official Scottish Government data wasn't providing an accurate picture. Absence figures are only produced biennially⁵ with the latest official figures covering 2020/21.⁶ The data only gives the overall attendance figure, which was 92% attendance in 2020/21, down from 93% in 2018/19. The 20/21 figure was

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/guide-parents-school-attendance/pages/1/>

² Pupil numbers by local authority area - [Pupil census supplementary statistics - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/pupil-census-supplementary-statistics/pages/1/)

³ [Prescribing the minimum annual number of learning hours: consultation - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/prescribing-the-minimum-annual-number-of-learning-hours-consultation/pages/1/)

⁴ <https://reformscotland.com/2020/10/scotlands-lost-pupils-2/>

⁵ [School education statistics - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/school-education-statistics/pages/1/)

⁶ [Summary Statistics For Schools In Scotland 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/summary-statistics-for-schools-in-scotland-2021/pages/1/)

based on when schools were open. It offers no sense of the scale of the problem – is the absence level down to a small number of pupils who are absent often, or more pupils absent irregularly? There is no sense of how this is changing over time and no attempt to examine the issue in more detail.

As a result, in 2022 the Commission published Attendance and Absence in School⁷ which used Freedom of Information requests to detail the number of children with attendance at less than 90% (equivalent to missing at least one day per fortnight), the number with less than 80% (missing at least one day per week), the number with 50% and 0% attendance.

We focused on the school year 2018/19, the last full school year not affected by Covid, and highlighted a worrying level of regular absence in school, a problem that increased as children aged.

We argued that as a vital first step towards addressing these issues, the Scottish Government needed to conduct a proper investigation, to identify what are the potential triggers and explore how these can be tackled. Were there problems of engagement or implementation, are there local variations or is this a problem across the board? As well as conducting this investigation, the Commission called on the Scottish Government to commit to publishing the number of pupils with less than 90%, less than 80% and less than 50% attendance annually as part of its summary school statistics series.

The Scottish Government hasn't done any of this. Therefore, the Commission on School Reform decided to re-investigate.

The Data

In March 2022 we submitted the following Freedom of Information questions to all local authorities:

In each of the past six years, how many pupils have attendance figures of a) less than 90%, b) less than 80%, c) less than 50%, d) 0%, broken down by i) P1-4; ii) P5-7; iii) S1-3; iv) S4-6?

In each of the past six years, how many pupils have attendance figures of a) less than 90%, b) less than 80%, c) less than 50%, d) 0%, broken down by whether or not the pupils were in receipt of free school meal?.

In September 2023 we asked exactly the same questions again with regard to 2021/22 and 2022/23.

⁷ [CSR Briefing: Absence & Attendance in School - Reform Scotland](#)

Tables 1 and 2 below give the over-all figures and highlight the difference pre and post pandemic. The tables provide data on local authority schools only and do not include the independent or grant aided schools.

Renfrewshire was unable to provide any answers, Highland did not have data for 2017/18 in its previous FOI response and Argyll & Bute and Orkney did not have data for 2022/23. As a result, Table 1 details all answers given, with the proportion of pupils based on pupil numbers in only the relevant areas. Table 2 details only the 28 local authorities who could provide data for each year.

**Table 1 Number of pupils with <90% & <80 attendance pre and post pandemic:
All responses**

Year	Number of pupils with attendance of less than 90% (Missing at least one day per fortnight)	% of pupils*	Number of pupils with attendance of less than 80% (Missing at least one day per week)	% of pupils*
2017/18*	136,074	22%	43,076	6.8%
2018/19	141,502	21%	46,381	6.9%
2021/22	232,098	34%	81,712	12%
2022/23*	210,672	32%	79,633	12%

*Highland Council did not have absence figures for 2017/18; Argyll & Bute and Orkney Islands councils did not have absence figures for 2022/23; Renfrewshire was not able to give figures for any years. As a result, the overall number of pupils in local authority schools in Scotland was adjusted to ensure that the percentage of pupils affected refers to only local authorities which submitted answers.

**Table 2: Number of pupils with <90% & <80 attendance pre and post pandemic:
28/32 councils***

Year	Number of pupils with attendance of less than 90% (Missing at least one day per fortnight)	% of pupils	Number of pupils with attendance of less than 80% (Missing at least one day per week)	% of pupils
2017/18	134,062	22%	42,488	6.9%
2018/19	132,819	21%	43,511	7.0%
2021/22	218,787	34%	76,479	12%
2022/23	203,898	32%	76,511	12%

*Not including Argyll & Bute, Highland, Orkney & Renfrewshire

The problem increases as pupils age, with around 40% of high school pupils having less than 90% attendance, as illustrated in the tables below.

Renfrewshire was unable to provide any answers, Highland did not have data for 2017/18, Argyll & Bute and Orkney did not have data for 2022/23 and Dumfries & Galloway had not provided figures for 2017/18 and 2018/19 by stage. As a result, Table 3 details all answers given, with the proportion of pupils based on pupil numbers in only those areas who answered in each year, while Table 4 details only the 27 local authorities who could provide data for each year.

Table 3: Number of pupils with <90% & <80 attendance, all answers

Year	P1-P4				P5-P7				S1-S3				S4-S6			
	<90%	%*	<80%	%*	<90%	%*	<80%	%*	<90%	%*	<80%	%*	<90%	%*	<80%	%
2017/18*	31,936	16%	6,915	3.4%	24,443	16%	5,446	3.6%	40,994	30%	14,844	11%	35,513	32%	14,933	13%
2018/19*	32,397	15%	7,365	3.4%	25,507	16%	6,029	3.7%	43,679	29%	16,332	11%	36,729	31%	15,717	13%
2021/22*	59,837	29%	15,653	7.4%	50,050	30%	13,857	8.3%	68,141	41%	28,223	17%	54,070	41%	23,979	18%
2022/23*	51,883	25%	14,635	7.1%	41,894	26%	12,622	7.7%	65,553	40%	28,705	18%	51,342	40%	23,671	18%

*Highland Council did not have absence figures for 2017/18; Dumfries & Galloway did not provide figures for individuals stages in 2017/18 & 2018/19; Argyll & Bute and Orkney Islands councils did not have absence figures for 2022/23; Renfrewshire was not able to give figures for any years. As a result, the overall number of pupils in local authority schools in Scotland was adjusted to ensure that the percentage of pupils affected refers to only local authorities which submitted answers.

Table 4: Number of pupils with <90% & <80 attendance by stage, 27/32 local authorities^{8*}

Year	P1-P4				P5-P7				S1-S3				S4-S6			
	<90%	%	<80%	%	<90%	%	<80%	%	<90%	%	<80%	%	<90%	%	<80%	%
2017/18	31,505	16%	6,848	3.4%	24,040	16%	5,383	3.6%	40,400	30%	14,651	11%	34,929	32%	14,668	14%
2018/19	30,573	15%	6,972	3.5%	23,999	16%	5,697	3.8%	40,900	29%	15,341	11%	34,157	31%	14,563	13%
2021/22	54,715	29%	14,397	7.5%	45,679	30%	12,674	8.4%	62,579	42%	25,653	17%	49,604	42%	21,713	18%
2022/23	48,833	26%	13,847	7.3%	39,481	26%	11,927	7.9%	61,752	41%	26,799	18%	48,303	41%	21,971	19%

*Not Argyll & Bute, Dumfries & Galloway, Highland, Orkney and Renfrewshire

Tables 5 to 8 in the appendix detail the full breakdown of responses by local authority area, including responses for <50% and zero attendance. Total figures have not been included as some council areas with low figures would simply state <5 or <10 which meant collating a total figure for these categories was not possible. Tables 9 and 10 include the <90% and <80% data for 2021/22 and 2022/23 alongside the proportion of pupils.

We had asked about data with regard to Free School Meals to try and establish if lower attendance was more associated with disadvantaged students. However, there were some issues of consistency with the responses we received so have not included them in this briefing. It is, however, an issue that needs to be investigated.

Next Steps

Attendance at school matters. The Commission on School Reform has previously voiced concern at the growing number of pupils who are losing school education, but it is equally worrying that this alarming trend is being met by a lack of urgency or concern from policymakers.

⁸ [Pupil census supplementary statistics - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/pupils-census-supplementary-statistics)

These levels of absence are not caused by parents taking children on term-time holidays. We do not believe punitive solutions, such as the fines that are used in England, are the answer. Rather, there has to be an investigation into why an increasing number of children are regularly missing school, and why this has jumped up since the pandemic. Did school closures in 2020 and 2021 weaken parent's view about the necessity of compulsion in schooling? Do we no longer think attendance is as important?

Unfortunately, there will always be pupils where ill health, family disruption and trauma impact their ability to attend school. In those circumstances it is vital that those pupils are identified and supported as best they can be. For others who are struggling with, mental health issues, early intervention and support could help prevent school refusal. However, with these huge surges in the number of pupils who are regularly missing school, it will be all the harder to identify those who are in need of additional support and providing that crucial intervention.

Investigate & analyse: Sadly, as is too often the case with Scottish education, we lack comprehensive and authoritative data. As a result, the first step must be for the Scottish Government to conduct a proper investigation into the problem, to identify what are the potential triggers, and to explore how these can be addressed. Are there problems of engagement or implementation, are there local variations or similar problems across the board? We need to better understand the problem in order to develop solutions. As well as conducting this investigation, the Scottish Government needs to commit to publishing the number of pupils with less than 90%, less than 80% and less than 50% attendance annually as part of its summary school statistics series. And such data needs to be published annually, not every two years as at present.

It would also be helpful for the Scottish Government to report on attendance patterns in relation to whether a pupil is in receipt of free school meals as well as in relations to other characteristics such as sex, ethnicity and neurodiversity. Having such information would help indicate potential patterns and where additional support may be needed. How does the public sector compare to the independent sector? Is this a growing problem across the board, or are there lessons that can be learned from good practice elsewhere?

The Commission on School Reform has repeatedly highlighted concerns about the lack of education data in Scotland, and unfortunately, this is simply the latest. Improving the education system requires good information and data. This is why we would urge the Scottish Government to set up an independent body, similar to the Office for National Statistics, to oversee the collection and analysis of statistics and data on Scottish education.

Pilot approaches: The Scottish Government should work with local authorities and individual schools to try out different and innovative approaches aimed at reducing absence levels. For example, are there schemes around pastoral care, attendance officers and working with third sector organisations which could address some of the

trigger points? A school in Wales is offering pupils shorter days, where pupils struggling with anxiety can come in later to avoid crowds.⁹

Parental support: School education is supposed to be compulsory and that requires enforcement. This should not mean punitive measures, but if parents need support in ensuring their child attends school, that help must be accessible. Continued contact and tailored support measures are required. As the 'The Promise' states "*families must be given support together to nurture that love and overcome the difficulties which get in the way.*"¹⁰

Online resources: Although the number of children missing school was increasing prior to Covid, the pandemic led to vast amounts of lost education. It was disappointing that Education Scotland did not take the opportunity during the pandemic to develop more online resources for pupils who were isolating. That could have now been used to help pupils struggling with non-attendance now and in the future.

Where Education Scotland failed, many schools and teachers did manage to test different ways to stay in touch with pupils and their families and support their education during difficult times. The system needs to learn from what worked and ensure that there are online resources available to maintain educational provision when pupils are not attending school. Rather than each school having to pull together what is required, this is the sort of task that a central education body should be providing.

CAMHS: The Australian Council for Education Research published a study in 2019 which highlighted that students with mental health problems had lower school attendance than those without. The study suggested that better prevention, early intervention, treatment and management of such disorders may lead to significant improvements in school attendance.

The Scottish Government has a target that 90% of children and young people should start treatment within 18 weeks of referral to CAMHS. While the pandemic may have made this target more difficult to achieve, many health boards were failing to meet it with increasing waiting times long before the impact of Covid was felt.

⁹ [Rhyl High School's shorter days to get some pupils back - BBC News](#)

¹⁰ <https://www.carereview.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/The-Promise.pdf>

Annex – Pupil attendance by local authority area

Table 5: Number of pupils with attendance of less than 90% by stage of schooling, 2017/18-2022/23

	P1-4				P5-7				S1-3				S4-6			
	17/18	18/19	21/22	22/23	17/18	18/19	21/22	22/23	17/18	18/19	21/22	22/23	17/18	18/19	21/22	22/23
Aberdeen City	1632	1509	2525	2474	965	932	1746	1633	1411	1467	1886	2195	1170	1109	1333	1595
Aberdeenshire	1036	1074	2436	2099	864	838	1983	1704	1772	1789	2649	2980	1372	1478	1931	1981
Angus	589	642	1190	1142	521	581	1073	969	1026	956	1508	1556	1000	1004	1288	1245
Argyll & Bute	350	297	895		300	283	801		463	473	1140		415	388	956	
Clackmannanshire	521	502	580	319	324	390	447	309	469	529	693	437	350	336	396	378
Dumfries & Galloway			1404	1143			1228	968			1914	1886			1664	1532
Dundee City	1163	1132	1804	1810	930	900	1593	1533	1601	1555	2252	2345	1337	1238	1687	1635
East Ayrshire	937	961	1628	1627	670	691	1302	1241	1288	1230	2001	2008	1051	1031	1490	1382
East Dunbartonshire	360	329	600	602	305	294	612	616	593	677	1233	1320	496	540	657	747
East Lothian	516	505	1129	967	437	425	999	833	904	965	1600	1599	866	879	1449	1412
East Renfrewshire	382	347	852	783	326	339	867	692	681	638	1149	1180	784	739	1313	1141
Edinburgh	2802	2711	4813	4267	1956	1914	3582	3090	2651	2605	4092	4200	2327	2186	3413	3373
Eilean Siar	78	85	317	140	97	89	275	146	148	194	427	329	172	220	386	325
Falkirk	990	984	1808	1456	850	873	1714	1323	1296	1297	2117	2287	1319	1270	1725	1817
Fife	2094	2161	5113	4497	1425	1653	4305	3759	2102	2173	5909	5791	1597	1783	4418	3998
Glasgow City	5663	5697	8205	8734	4253	4323	6610	6751	4975	5105	7712	7979	3909	3887	5419	5707
Highland		1435	2633	1907		1142	2127	1445		2150	2358	1915		2016	1711	1507
Inverclyde	572	511	954	785	445	434	853	619	772	759	1023	956	831	857	829	882
Midlothian	693	670	1209	1096	541	464	947	818	1010	1019	1354	1351	806	770	1188	1066
Moray	515	493	994	854	447	440	826	712	729	729	1153	1217	565	538	824	764
North Ayrshire	1047	1048	1710	1690	860	805	1484	1485	2206	2093	2248	2334	804	812	1886	1981
North Lanarkshire	3199	2958	5013	4606	2494	2410	4176	3795	4572	4789	6031	6353	4416	4006	5033	5124
Orkney Islands	81	92	190		103	83	215		131	156	150		169	168	135	
Perth & Kinross	791	780	1464	1420	573	653	1209	1105	1084	1188	1832	1924	1074	1127	1511	1588
Renfrewshire																
Scottish Borders	515	450	924	855	402	375	831	754	910	927	1414	1385	939	859	1138	978
Shetland Islands	106	124	192	252	88	81	173	191	154	165	213	285	157	130	203	201
South Ayrshire	600	611	1179	1118	487	522	1059	867	1098	1046	1739	1750	1150	1039	1496	1594
South Lanarkshire	2120	1955	3896	1281	1814	1690	3436	1350	3279	3277	5136	2719	2785	2744	4029	2788
Stirling	434	389	465	493	310	337	435	418	738	750	665	677	657	705	506	505
West Dunbartonshire	785	674	1119	1155	626	618	1046	952	1105	1173	1624	1606	1131	1027	1434	1573
West Lothian	1365	1271	2596	2311	1030	928	2096	1816	1826	1805	2919	2989	1864	1843	2622	2523

Table 6: Number of pupils with attendance of less than 80% by stage of schooling, 2017/18-2022/23

	P1-4				P5-7				S1-3				S4-6			
	17/18	18/19	21/22	22/23	17/18	18/19	21/22	22/23	17/18	18/19	21/22	22/23	17/18	18/19	21/22	22/23
Aberdeen City	390	364	688	697	216	209	488	507	526	551	724	943	492	474	564	686
Aberdeenshire	198	181	487	460	152	172	417	379	533	618	1010	1106	534	622	742	763
Angus	102	135	292	289	131	126	235	270	355	354	655	685	401	394	561	570
Argyll and Bute	56	82	156		41	63	183		154	161	414		199	221	406	
Clackmannanshire	80	125	150	145	76	88	144	150	195	221	310	231	147	146	191	214
Dumfries and Galloway			303	265			256	227			774	791			709	684
Dundee City	219	202	461	525	209	187	444	438	642	671	1080	1132	623	567	771	802
East Ayrshire	193	211	438	430	137	169	402	396	469	464	849	981	429	442	694	674
East Dunbartonshire	29	40	80	96	37	43	91	102	155	159	354	386	165	215	185	226
East Lothian	82	91	239	229	79	85	269	205	316	362	768	769	370	408	781	738
East Renfrewshire	49	52	160	154	47	73	167	125	151	146	306	363	228	198	417	358
Edinburgh City	605	639	1220	1060	399	425	866	777	888	888	1519	1626	920	879	1415	1380
Eilean Siar	11	7	43	26	13	12	46	21	38	59	164	125	55	83	159	132
Falkirk	207	181	414	361	199	203	432	400	474	508	938	1044	550	514	786	859
Fife	562	633	1522	1378	388	453	1400	1229	1141	1160	2643	2618	887	993	2000	1869
Glasgow City	1557	1641	2771	3103	1198	1207	2358	2451	1869	1949	3333	3633	1531	1584	2315	2396
Highland		295	772	523		254	696	468		778	1328	1115		869	1101	1016
Inverclyde	94	87	220	176	80	80	194	152	254	249	334	340	352	354	315	355
Midlothian	152	138	269	227	126	109	262	210	416	438	595	604	383	350	558	509
Moray	96	108	208	208	97	94	214	189	216	251	457	518	228	211	358	316
North Ayrshire	192	189	448	466	180	185	398	457	822	769	909	1041	363	356	843	987
North Lanarkshire	717	712	1456	1355	602	622	1167	1126	1657	1760	2371	2638	1922	1755	2286	2316
Orkney Islands	11	16	25		22	15	48		39	52	54		66	64	50	
Perth & Kinross	165	149	339	395	115	141	298	318	400	454	749	850	460	501	711	718
Renfrewshire																
Scottish Borders	91	81	198	205	80	64	204	221	329	375	531	575	435	366	489	424
Shetland Islands	15	20	31	39	14	17	33	33	53	52	62	81	47	58	81	83
South Ayrshire	108	118	289	254	89	134	282	231	380	345	726	791	478	411	644	780
South Lanarkshire	461	438	969	535	381	388	928	592	1129	1191	2013	1336	1080	1046	1618	1480
Stirling	75	74	103	117	<81	71	110	119	266	269	322	366	281	328	294	294
West Dunbartonshire	161	148	291	335	133	136	280	293	394	442	702	681	507	436	694	754
West Lothian	237	208	611	582	205	204	545	536	583	636	1229	1336	800	872	1241	1288

Table 7: Number of pupils with attendance of less than 50% by stage of schooling, 2017/18-2022/23

	P1-4				P5-7				S1-3				S4-6			
	17/18	18/19	21/22	22/23	17/18	18/19	21/22	22/23	17/18	18/19	21/22	22/23	17/18	18/19	21/22	22/23
Aberdeen City	38	48	77	81	21	39	73	89	113	114	143	205	156	127	121	174
Aberdeenshire	21	19	57	57	23	22	55	59	105	145	198	248	166	176	165	183
Angus	4 to 16	10 to 19	44	40	11 to 17	12 to 15	32	48	67	73	150	175	104	86	136	147
Argyll and Bute	6	7	9		3	9	8		33	40	79		49	64	95	
Clackmannanshire	0.3%	0.3%	17	20	0.5%	0.2%	15	16	1.8%	2.1%	58	43	3.2%	2.1%	26	61
Dumfries and Galloway			24	26			28	30			153	187			145	174
Dundee City	11	9	37	33	16	10	40	52	126	124	253	308	135	125	160	165
East Ayrshire	30	24	27	33	14	22	49	42	125	123	214	283	116	126	178	164
East Dunbartonshire	0	2	<5	5	1	4	7	7	24	29	36	54	35	31	34	40
East Lothian	5	11	27	21	5	8	36	35	57	88	215	240	81	96	206	197
East Renfrewshire	<5	<5	12	7	<5	9	16	12	<5	23	40	67	<5	<5	51	67
Edinburgh City	43	62	77	97	42	34	66	81	152	139	272	343	213	183	250	283
Eilean Siar	1	0	6	2	2	1	3	1	9	12	30	20	18	20	44	30
Falkirk	15	<5	36	21	12	28	48	48	99	94	196	208	101	126	183	132
Fife	50	56	214	185	54	57	225	209	234	263	559	540	265	242	490	433
Glasgow City	197	191	272	317	144	151	268	293	380	376	637	723	287	349	424	424
Highland		35	46	47		32	73	74		166	289	358		272	355	315
Inverclyde	<40	<40	<5	<5	<30	<30	9	10	<45	<54	53	72	66	70	50	52
Midlothian	<5	10	19	15	9	9	29	25	104	126	148	163	93	86	118	126
Moray	9	15	20	21	19	11	28	24	49	46	107	129	63	67	69	62
North Ayrshire	9	12	29	37	12	18	36	41	129	130	130	225	103	88	195	299
North Lanarkshire	61	79	118	112	58	79	116	148	370	447	544	670	575	546	750	711
Orkney Islands	1	1	0		0	1	8		6	13	24		10	14		
Perth & Kinross	25	19	39	42	13	26	36	51	82	92	177	227	100	125	175	177
Renfrewshire																
Scottish Borders	11	7	19	21	9	9	16	44	43	81	112	141	94	95	121	125
Shetland Islands	1	7	<5	0	3	2	<5	<5	9	9	10	<5	10	7	13	12
South Ayrshire	7	15	22	14	9	7	23	23	55	54	110	182	87	107	93	156
South Lanarkshire	34	29	68	70	22	40	91	88	184	208	422	316	193	192	285	378
Stirling	12	<20	15	10	<20	11	10	16	<46	<47	51	65	84	103	73	78
West Dunbartonshire	14	9	21	22	13	11	28	27	79	85	183	148	138	146	207	185
West Lothian	22	10	40	42	26	19	43	49	119	130	313	398	247	238	358	418

Clackmannanshire gave answers for earlier years as a percentage as the figures were so low

Table 8: Number of pupils with 0% attendance by stage of schooling, 2017/18-2022/23

	P1-4				P5-7				S1-3				S4-6			
	17/18	18/19	21/22	22/23	17/18	18/19	21/22	22/23	17/18	18/19	21/22	22/23	17/18	18/19	21/22	22/23
Aberdeen City	14	12	0	0	<5	13	0	0	21	18	10	<5	37	23	15	17
Aberdeenshire	6	3	13	8	4	1	7	14	9	14	17	24	48	48	25	41
Angus	3 to 12	2 to 8	<10	<10	2 to 8	2 to 8	<10	12	3 to 12	6 to 9	<10	<10	3 to 12	12 to 16	10^	24^
Argyll and Bute	2	5	1		1	2	1		3	3	2		6	8	7	
Clackmannanshire	0	0	<10	<10	0.2%	0.1%	<10	<10	0.4%	0.1%	<10	<10	0.8%	0.3%	<10	<10
Dumfries and Galloway			0	0			0	0			0	0			0	0
Dundee City	2	0	13	3	4	0	8	4	3	5	14	7	11	16	15	12
East Ayrshire	8	3	4	4	2	3	2	8	8	8	4	9	17	13	9	22
East Dunbartonshire	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	4	<5	<5	13	27	<5	<5
East Lothian	0	<5	<5	<5	<5	0	<5	<5	<5	<5	9	<5	<5	7	10	<5
East Renfrewshire	<5	0	<5	<5	0	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	9	<5	6	4
Edinburgh City	10	11	0	0	8	9	0	0	10	9	0	0	19	14	0	0
Eilean Siar	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	6	1	6	3	14	2
Falkirk	<5	0	<5	<5	0	<5	9	<5	<5	<5	6	<5	6	15	21	21
Fife	6	7	0	0	6	9	0	0	20	18	0	0	83	78	0	0
Glasgow City	81	44	61	69	54	31	62	78	<37	28	39	29	<35	38	26	27
Highland		6	5	8		6	9	9		12	35	34		55	145	88
Inverclyde	<20	<20	0	0	<15	<15	0	0	<15	<15	0	<5	<15	<17	<5	0
Midlothian	<5	<5	6	7	<5	<5	12	9	<5	7	9	6	19	10	20	9
Moray	0	<5	3	1	<5	<5	1	2	<5	<5	9	9	<5	0	3	1
North Ayrshire	<5	<5	7	<5	<5	0	6	8	9	7	17	11	17	10	17	76
North Lanarkshire	13	17	14	5	8	15	20	5	36	46	46	42	82	117	123	150
Orkney Islands	0	0			0	0			1	0			3	1		
Perth & Kinross	6	7	10	12	<3	8	8	5	5	3	11	21	15	18	17	15
Renfrewshire																
Scottish Borders	1	2	3	4	3	2	2	6	2	9	11	11	10	33	17	15
Shetland Islands	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	<5	3	1	<5	0	0	0	<5	0
South Ayrshire	<5	0	<5	0	0	0	<5	<5	0	0	<5	6	0	0	7	11
South Lanarkshire	3	5	12	16	0	11	10	19	5	12	8	37	31	40	32	43
Stirling	0	<10	<10	<10	<10	0	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	24	27	<10	10
West Dunbartonshire	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	9	10	7	15	27	36	58	36
West Lothian	5	4	1	0	6	4	2	0	5	5	8	7	52	32	13	17

Clackmannanshire gave answers for earlier years as a percentage as the figures were so low

Table 9: Number & proportion of pupils with attendance of less than 90% by stage of schooling, 2021/22-2022/23

	P1-4				P5-7				S1-3				S4-6			
	21/22		22/23		21/22		22/23		21/22		22/23		21/22		22/23	
Aberdeen City	2525	31%	2474	30%	1746	29%	1633	26%	1886	33%	2195	37%	1333	31%	1595	36%
Aberdeenshire	2436	21%	2099	18%	1983	22%	1704	19%	2649	30%	2980	33%	1931	29%	1981	29%
Angus	1190	25%	1142	25%	1073	29%	969	26%	1508	40%	1556	41%	1288	45%	1245	44%
Argyll and Bute	895	30%			801	32%			1140	46%			956	47%		
Clackmannanshire	580	27%	319	15%	447	25%	309	18%	693	44%	437	28%	396	34%	378	32%
Dumfries & Galloway	1404	26%	1143	21%	1228	27%	968	22%	1914	40%	1886	40%	1664	43%	1532	40%
Dundee City	1804	33%	1810	32%	1593	35%	1533	34%	2252	49%	2345	50%	1687	51%	1635	49%
East Ayrshire	1628	32%	1627	33%	1302	33%	1241	32%	2001	52%	2008	51%	1490	50%	1382	47%
East Dunbartonshire	600	12%	602	12%	612	15%	616	15%	1233	29%	1320	30%	657	17%	747	20%
East Lothian	1129	23%	967	20%	999	26%	833	22%	1600	44%	1599	43%	1449	52%	1412	49%
East Renfrewshire	852	17%	783	15%	867	20%	692	16%	1149	27%	1180	27%	1313	34%	1141	30%
Edinburgh City	4813	28%	4267	25%	3582	28%	3090	23%	4092	33%	4200	34%	3413	36%	3373	34%
Eilean Siar	317	32%	140	15%	275	34%	146	18%	427	51%	329	40%	386	57%	325	47%
Falkirk	1808	28%	1456	23%	1714	32%	1323	25%	2117	39%	2287	42%	1725	41%	1817	43%
Fife	5113	33%	4497	30%	4305	34%	3759	31%	5909	47%	5791	45%	4418	47%	3998	43%
Glasgow City	8205	35%	8734	38%	6610	38%	6751	38%	7712	49%	7979	49%	5419	43%	5707	44%
Highland	2633	29%	1907	21%	2127	28%	1445	20%	2358	31%	1915	25%	1711	27%	1507	24%
Inverclyde	954	33%	785	28%	853	37%	619	27%	1023	44%	956	42%	829	39%	882	43%
Midlothian	1209	26%	1096	23%	947	28%	818	24%	1354	42%	1351	41%	1188	49%	1066	44%
Moray	994	26%	854	23%	826	27%	712	23%	1153	37%	1217	39%	824	38%	764	33%
North Ayrshire	1710	33%	1690	33%	1484	34%	1485	34%	2248	51%	2334	53%	1886	52%	1981	55%
North Lanarkshire	5013	34%	4606	32%	4176	36%	3795	33%	6031	50%	6353	53%	5033	52%	5124	53%
Orkney Islands	190	22%			215	32%			150	21%			135	24%		
Perth & Kinross	1464	25%	1420	25%	1209	27%	1105	25%	1832	42%	1924	43%	1511	44%	1588	47%
Scottish Borders	924	22%	855	20%	831	23%	754	21%	1414	38%	1385	38%	1138	39%	978	34%
Shetland Islands	192	19%	252	26%	173	21%	191	24%	213	26%	285	33%	203	32%	201	31%
South Ayrshire	1179	28%	1118	26%	1059	31%	867	26%	1739	48%	1750	49%	1496	51%	1594	55%
South Lanarkshire	3896	28%	1281	9%	3436	32%	1350	12%	5136	46%	2719	24%	4029	45%	2788	30%
Stirling	465	13%	493	14%	435	15%	418	14%	665	20%	677	20%	506	17%	505	17%
West Dunbartonshire	1119	31%	1155	32%	1046	35%	952	32%	1624	52%	1606	55%	1434	59%	1573	63%
West Lothian	2596	30%	2311	27%	2096	31%	1816	27%	2919	44%	2989	44%	2622	50%	2523	48%

Table 10: Number & proportion of pupils with attendance of less than 80% by stage of schooling, 2021/22-2022/23

	P1-4				P5-7				S1-3				S4-6			
	21/22		22/23		21/22		22/23		21/22		22/23		21/22		22/23	
Aberdeen City	688	9%	697	8%	488	8%	507	8%	724	13%	943	16%	564	13%	686	15%
Aberdeenshire	487	4%	460	4%	417	5%	379	4%	1010	11%	1106	12%	742	11%	763	11%
Angus	292	6%	289	6%	235	6%	270	7%	655	17%	685	18%	561	19%	570	20%
Argyll and Bute	156	5%			183	7%			414	17%			406	20%		
Clackmannanshire	150	7%	145	7%	144	8%	150	9%	310	20%	231	15%	191	16%	214	18%
Dumfries and Galloway	303	6%	265	5%	256	6%	227	5%	774	16%	791	17%	709	18%	684	18%
Dundee City	461	8%	525	9%	444	10%	438	10%	1080	23%	1132	24%	771	23%	802	24%
East Ayrshire	438	9%	430	9%	402	10%	396	10%	849	22%	981	25%	694	23%	674	23%
East Dunbartonshire	80	2%	96	2%	91	2%	102	3%	354	8%	386	9%	185	5%	226	6%
East Lothian	239	5%	229	5%	269	7%	205	5%	768	21%	769	21%	781	28%	738	25%
East Renfrewshire	160	3%	154	3%	167	4%	125	3%	306	7%	363	8%	417	11%	358	9%
Edinburgh City	1220	7%	1060	6%	866	7%	777	6%	1519	12%	1626	13%	1415	15%	1380	14%
Eilean Siar	43	4%	26	3%	46	6%	21	3%	164	20%	125	15%	159	23%	132	19%
Falkirk	414	6%	361	6%	432	8%	400	7%	938	17%	1044	19%	786	19%	859	20%
Fife	1522	10%	1378	9%	1400	11%	1229	10%	2643	21%	2618	21%	2000	21%	1869	20%
Glasgow City	2771	12%	3103	14%	2358	13%	2451	14%	3333	21%	3633	22%	2315	18%	2396	18%
Highland	772	8%	523	6%	696	9%	468	6%	1328	17%	1115	14%	1101	18%	1016	16%
Inverclyde	220	8%	176	6%	194	8%	152	7%	334	14%	340	15%	315	15%	355	17%
Midlothian	269	6%	227	5%	262	8%	210	6%	595	19%	604	18%	558	23%	509	21%
Moray	208	5%	208	6%	214	7%	189	6%	457	15%	518	17%	358	16%	316	14%
North Ayrshire	448	9%	466	9%	398	9%	457	11%	909	21%	1041	24%	843	23%	987	27%
North Lanarkshire	1456	10%	1355	9%	1167	10%	1126	10%	2371	20%	2638	22%	2286	24%	2316	24%
Orkney Islands	25	3%			48	7%			54	8%			50	9%		
Perth & Kinross	339	6%	395	7%	298	7%	318	7%	749	17%	850	19%	711	21%	718	21%
Scottish Borders	198	5%	205	5%	204	6%	221	6%	531	14%	575	16%	489	17%	424	15%
Shetland Islands	31	3%	39	4%	33	4%	33	4%	62	7%	81	9%	81	13%	83	13%
South Ayrshire	289	7%	254	6%	282	8%	231	7%	726	20%	791	22%	644	22%	780	27%
South Lanarkshire	969	7%	535	4%	928	9%	592	5%	2013	18%	1336	12%	1618	18%	1480	16%
Stirling	103	3%	117	3%	110	4%	119	4%	322	10%	366	11%	294	10%	294	10%
West Dunbartonshire	291	8%	335	9%	280	9%	293	10%	702	23%	681	23%	694	29%	754	30%
West Lothian	611	7%	582	7%	545	8%	536	8%	1229	18%	1336	20%	1241	24%	1288	24%