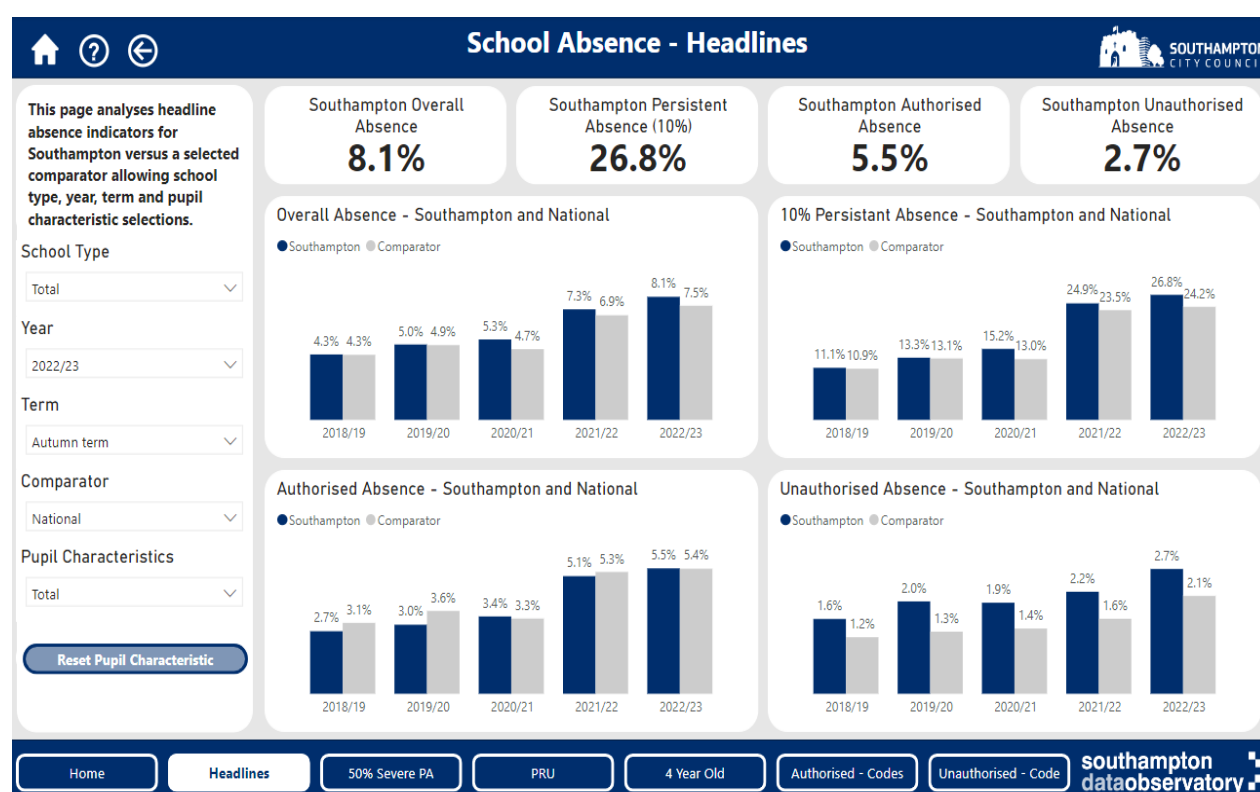


Working Together to Improve School attendance.

Author: Kerica Hunt – Service Manager for the Education Welfare Service

2022/23 Autumn Term – Pupil Absence Data – Total

- Southampton's 2022/23 Autumn Term Overall Absence for Primary, Secondary and Special Schools (Total) was 8.1%, 0.6% above the National comparator of 7.5%.
- The Autumn Term performance for 2022/23 (8.1%) is in line with the Southampton performance for the 2021/22 full academic year (8.1%).
- Internal data for the Autumn and Spring term 2022/23 indicates that Southampton's Overall Absence for Primary, Secondary and Special Schools (Total) was 7.9%, a 0.2% decrease from the Autumn Term 2022/23 performance (8.1%).



Strategic and Operational

- Southampton City Council has been working with the DfE Attendance Advisor support between February 2022 to March 2023.
- DfE LA self-assessment and action plan complete to ensure continued focus to reduce barriers to attendance across the city.
- Deep dive has taken place by DfE Key Strengths identified and '*Overall, there is a high level of knowledge, expertise and skill within the LA and a high commitment strategically and operationally to the delivery of high-quality attendance work to improve outcomes and safeguard children. Continuation of current strategy and development to be continued with any amendments to deliver against new guidance.*'

- DfE informal catch up/closure meeting to be arranged October 2023 at request of DfE.
- Southampton City Council are on track with implementation of the LA expectations within [Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance)
- Delivery of core offer targeting support meetings, to track severe (50%) and persistent absentees (90%), communication, and advice, multi-agency working and legal intervention.
- All schools have a single point of contact (Education Welfare Officer) including all academies and independent schools to provide support, advice and guidance on all matters relating to absence.
- Southampton Safeguarding Childrens Partnership - Education sub-group formed to discuss areas of safeguarding in education but now including pupil absence to further raise the need to work together to reduce pupil absence across the city with particular focus on those pupils that are deemed severely absent.
- Attendance and reducing pupil absence a key priority for Southampton Education Forum – membership all secondary schools, primary representative, post 16 colleges and universities.
- Service Manager Participation in DfE Action Learning Sets nationally - engagement and facilitation to support implementation of new guidance.
- Southampton Attendance Action Group – all schools/educational settings/partners/ children and learning services invited to termly meeting with dates already communicated for the academic year which:
 - Updates on current pupil absence position against national comparator.
 - Aims to develop a citywide shared purpose and vision, outline expectations to improve school attendance and raise attainment throughout our schools.
 - Purpose is to co-ordinate a consistent, collaborative approach to improve school attendance within the city.
 - A vehicle for sharing good practice with others, discussing, and exploring current issues that are affecting absence.