



Department  
for Education

# **[secondary school] - Monitor your secondary school attendance similar schools comparison report**

**Spring term 2024 to 2025**

**29 April 2025**

## Version History

This table gives details of changes made to your summary report for the current academic year.

Version	Changes	Date	Author
1.0	Initial release	29 April 2025	FT

## Your similar schools comparison report

This report is specific to your school. It is a summary of your attendance for pupils in years 7 to 11 compared to 20 similar schools from the start of the academic year 2024 to 2025 up to Tuesday 08 April 2025. Results are based on the [daily attendance data](#) your school shares with the Department for Education (DfE). It comes from your school's management information system (MIS).

Year-to-date attendance data for the whole school and individual pupils is available in the Monitor your school attendance tool via the [View your education data \(VYED\)](#) service.

## How to use this report

Attendance summary reports are designed to help you to meet expectations set out in the [working together to improve school attendance guidance](#). We publish a new report for your school each half and full term.

It can help you:

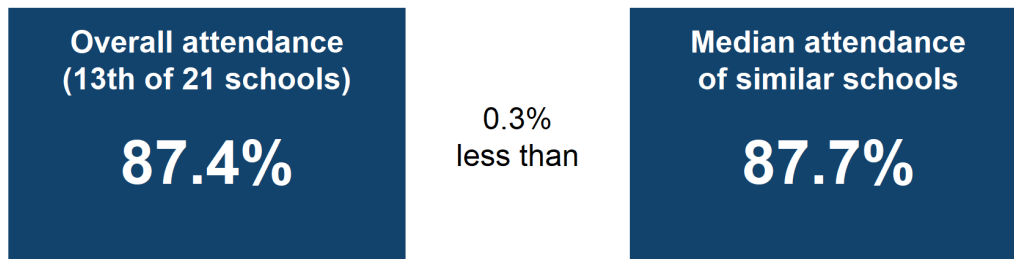
- identify pupils with and approaching persistent and severe absence rates
- consider the underlying causes of absence
- devise strategies to address absence challenges

Share it with your academy trust, governing body, or local authority to discuss current strategies for attendance, their effectiveness and whether alternative approaches are needed.

## Headline attendance and absence compared to similar schools

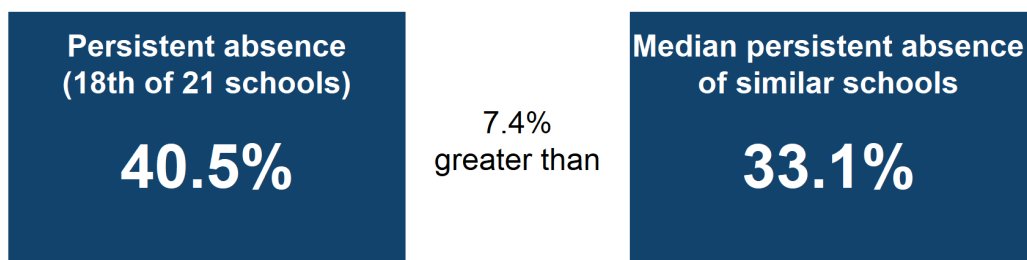
Overall attendance and persistent absence percentage for your school compared to 20 similar schools from the start of the academic year 2024 to 2025, up to Tuesday 08 April 2025.

### Overall school attendance



*Your overall attendance is 87.4% which is 0.3% less than the median attendance of similar schools. You are ranked 13th of 21 schools for attendance - meaning 8 similar schools have a lower overall attendance than your school.*

### Persistent Absence



*Your persistent absence is 40.5% which is 7.4% greater than the median attendance of similar schools. You are ranked 18th of 21 schools for persistent absence - meaning 3 similar schools have a higher rate of persistent absence than your school.*

Sources: [Monitor your school attendance results](#) for your school and similar schools, data from the DfE.

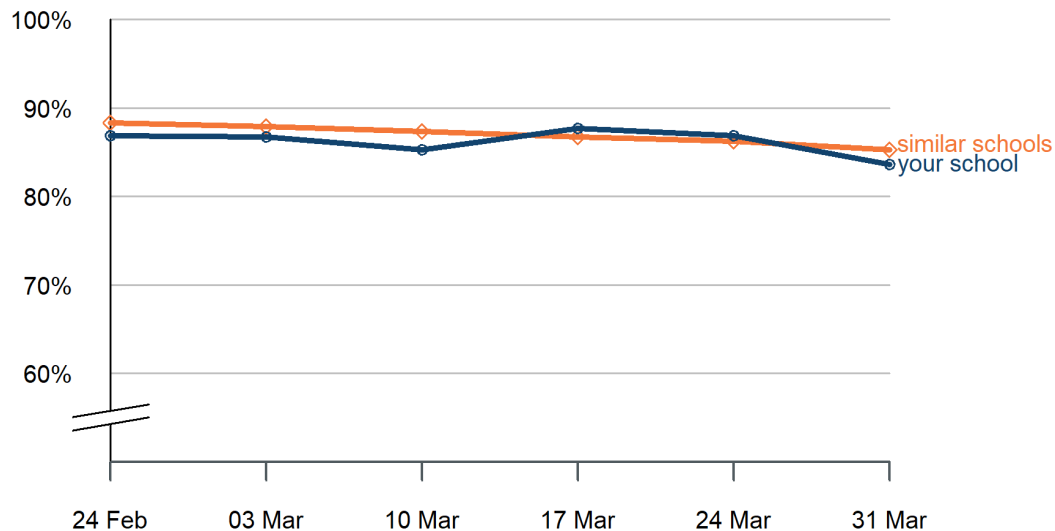
Notes:

Headline attendance data for your school is updated daily in the Monitor your school attendance tool.

## Overall school attendance

### Weekly attendance comparison for the second half of the spring term 2024 to 2025

**Figure 1: Overall attendance percentage for years 7 to 11 in your school compared to the median of your similar schools. Data is broken down by week, from Monday 24 February 2025 up to Tuesday 08 April 2025.**



### Graph alternative: table of weekly attendance for the second half of the spring term 2024 to 2025

Week start date	Attendance	Similar schools' median attendance
24/02/2025	86.9%	88.3%
03/03/2025	86.8%	87.9%
10/03/2025	85.3%	87.4%
17/03/2025	87.7%	86.7%
24/03/2025	86.9%	86.2%
31/03/2025	83.6%	85.3%

Sources: [Monitor your school attendance results](#) for your school and similar schools, data from the DfE.

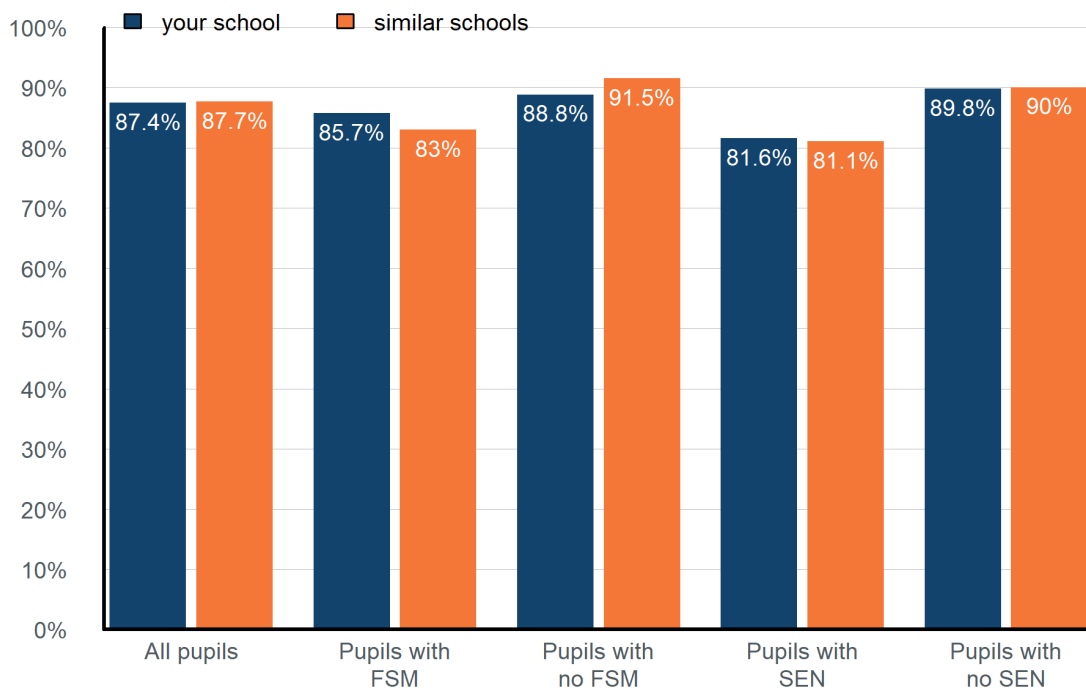
Notes:

The median refers to the “middle” value when similar schools are ranked based on their attendance and is calculated for each week. This means the comparison value may come from different schools in each week.

Attendance results for your school and individual pupils are updated daily on the Monitor your school attendance tool.

## Attendance by pupil group

**Figure 2: Bar chart showing attendance percentage for different pupil groups compared to 20 similar schools. Results are based on your pupils with free school meals (FSM) and special educational needs (SEN) support from the start of the academic year 2024 to 2025, up to Tuesday 08 April 2025.**



**Graph alternative: table of attendance by pupil groups from the start of the academic year 2024 to 2025, up to Tuesday 08 April 2025.**

Pupil group	Your Attendance	Similar schools' median attendance
All pupils	87.4%	87.7%
Pupils with FSM	85.7%	83%
Pupils with no FSM	88.8%	91.5%
Pupils with SEN	81.6%	81.1%
Pupils with no SEN	89.8%	90%

Sources: [Monitor your school attendance results](#) for your school and similar schools, data from the DfE.

Notes:

Special education needs (SEN) support data is taken from the latest record available in your management information system (MIS). SEN support pupil numbers include those with an education health and care plan (EHCP).

Year-to-date attendance figures for SEN and EHCP pupils are available via the Monitor your school attendance tool.



## Areas of relative strength

By comparing your attendance data with similar schools' from the start of the academic year 2024 to 2025 up to Tuesday 08 April 2025, we have identified 3 areas where your school is performing comparatively well.

1. Your attendance on Wednesday afternoons was **90.4%**, which is higher than 17 out of 20 similar schools.
2. The attendance of your pupils eligible for free school meals was **85.7%**, which is more than 16 out of 20 similar schools.
3. The attendance of your pupils whose primary special educational need is 'social, emotional and mental health' was **79.5%**, which is more than 16 out of 20 similar schools.

## Areas to focus on

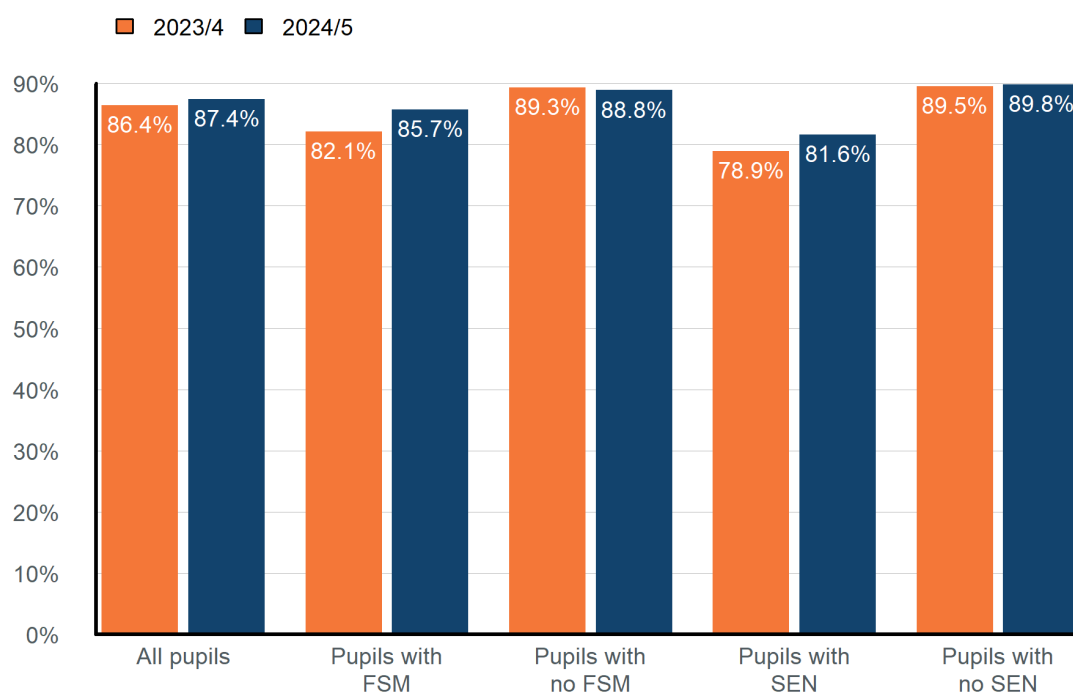
We have identified three areas where similar schools' have managed to achieve a higher attendance rate. If you can match their achievements in these three areas, then your overall attendance rate would increase from **87.4%** to **90.6%** and the proportion of your pupils who are persistently absent would drop from **40.5%** to **32%**.

1. Your year 11 attendance was **80.4%**, which is lower than at least a quarter of similar schools. If you increased it to **89.8%**, then your overall attendance would go up by **1.75** percentage points and your overall persistent absence percentage would drop by **5.02** percentage points.
2. Your year 8 attendance was **88.5%**, which is lower than at least a quarter of similar schools. If you increased it to **91.5%**, then your overall attendance would go up by **0.83** percentage points and your overall persistent absence percentage would drop by **1.16** percentage points.
3. Your attendance on Mondays was **86.7%**, which is lower than at least a quarter of similar schools. If you increased it to **89.5%**, then your overall attendance would increase by **0.58** percentage points and your overall persistent absence percentage would drop by **2.32** percentage points.

Review the technical notes at the end of this document to understand how we calculate how much your school can improve attendance.

## Previous academic year comparison

**Figure 3: Bar chart showing attendance for your school and different pupil groups from the start of the academic year 2024 to 2025, up to Tuesday 08 April 2025 compared to the same time period in the previous academic year. The pupil groups shown are pupils eligible and not eligible for free school meals, and pupils with and without special educational needs.**



**Graph alternative: table of attendance by pupil groups from the start of the academic year 2024 to 2025, up to Tuesday 08 April 2025 , compared to the same period in the previous academic year.**

Pupil group	Attendance 2023/4	Attendance 2024/5
All pupils	86.4%	87.4%
Pupils with FSM	82.1%	85.7%
Pupils with no FSM	89.3%	88.8%
Pupils with SEN	78.9%	81.6%
Pupils with no SEN	89.5%	89.8%

Sources: [Monitor your school attendance results](#) for your school, data from the DfE.

Notes:

You can compare the current and previous academic year for the whole school, an individual pupil or pupil characteristic groups via the Monitor your school attendance tool:

- Year-to-date report
- Previous academic year report

## Absence by year group

Figure 4: Table showing the percentage of pupils in each year group in each 5% absence band up to 50% and above, from the start of the academic year 2024 to 2025, up to Tuesday 08 April 2025. Results are based on pupils with 20 or more possible sessions.

Overall Absence Band	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<b>less than 5%</b>	45%	44%	46%	28%	29%
<b>5% to less than 10%</b>	19%	23%	16%	28%	13%
<b>10% to less than 15%</b>	17%	9%	11%	28%	23%
<b>15% to less than 20%</b>	10%	6%	15%	3%	4%
<b>20% to less than 25%</b>	10%	6%	2%	3%	6%
<b>25% to less than 30%</b>	0%	1%	0%	0%	2%
<b>30% to less than 35%</b>	0%	1%	0%	6%	6%
<b>35% to less than 40%</b>	0%	1%	2%	0%	0%
<b>40% to less than 45%</b>	0%	1%	2%	3%	2%
<b>45% to less than 50%</b>	0%	1%	2%	0%	0%
<b>50% and above (severely absent)</b>	0%	6%	5%	3%	15%
<b>10% and above (persistently absent)</b>	36%	33%	38%	44%	58%

Sources: [Monitor your school attendance results](#) for your school, data from the DfE.

Notes:

Absence data is updated daily via the Monitor your school attendance tool. Use the absence bandings report to review the absence distribution for your school, following the approach set out in the [absence bandings user guide](#) on GOV.UK.

## How we calculate your results

The data:

- is from the start of the academic year up to Tuesday 08 April 2025.
- is for pupils in years 7 to 11
- includes attendance and absence codes, and pupil characteristics as recorded in your school's MIS.

The national averages in this report are for pupils in years 7 to 11 in mainstream secondary schools in England.

Refer to the [data definitions](#) to understand how we calculate attendance.

## Similar schools

We have chosen 20 schools like yours in the following ways.

They have a similar:

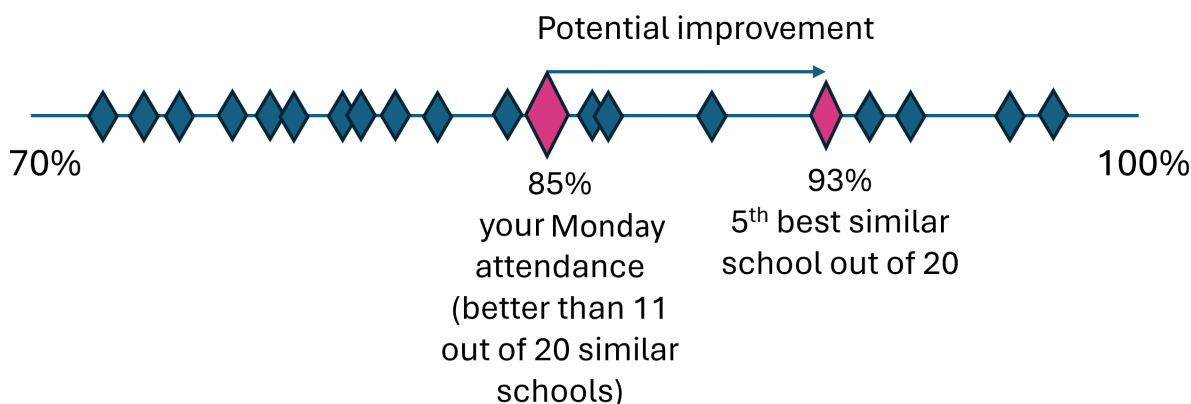
- proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM)
- proportion of pupils with special educational needs (SEN) support and proportion of pupils with 'social, emotional and mental health' needs as their primary SEN type
- amount of deprivation affecting their pupils, measured by the [Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index \(IDACI\)](#).
- geographical region as your school and a similar urban/rural classification
- proportion of pupils with English as an additional language (EAL)
- funding amount per pupil to your school

We use 20 comparison schools to ensure that we have enough to make a meaningful comparison without having so many that some of them are less like your school.

We cannot guarantee that all 20 of your similar schools will be in the same region as you. We may include schools from other regions if they match your school on other criteria.

## Calculating your school's potential attendance improvement

If you are shown one or more 'areas to focus on', this means we have identified one or more areas where at least a quarter of similar schools have higher attendance than you.



This image shows a worked example of how we calculate how much your school can improve, compared to similar schools'. It shows your attendance on Mondays is 85% compared to 20 similar schools. The fifth best performing similar school (the top quartile) has 93% attendance. We use 93% as an example of how much you could improve your Monday attendance. This is because similar schools' have achieved this level of attendance as more than an isolated exception.

## When we cannot compare attendance

There may be some cases where we cannot compare your attendance with some of your similar schools'. This is usually because either you or they have a small number of pupils in that group or a small number of sessions on a given day or week. For example, if one of your similar schools has less than 6 pupils that are eligible for FSM, then we do not compare your attendance of FSM pupils against theirs.

## Comparing your results with other attendance statistics

Comparisons with other data sets should be used with caution. They may be calculated differently or cover different time periods. This can cause large differences in results for each attendance measure.

## Data protection and data sharing

This report can contain sensitive information about your school. It is your responsibility to make sure you store and share the data securely. Review the [data protection impact assessment \(DPIA\)](#) for the daily attendance data collection.

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