

### School exclusion in the UK

The number of **permanent exclusions and fixed-period exclusions are increasing**<sup>1,2</sup>. In 2016/17, among English schoolchildren the rate of exclusions was 0.10% for permanent and 4.76% for fixed-term exclusions<sup>1</sup>.

### Neurodiversity & exclusion

Concerningly, in England **exclusion rates are markedly higher among** disadvantaged children, including **neurodiverse children** (with Special Educational Needs)<sup>1,3</sup>. Children in 'alternative provision' for excluded children are particularly vulnerable: 79.6% have a recognised Special Educational Need<sup>4</sup>, one in two have a recognised mental health need<sup>5</sup> and many are neurodiverse (see table).

### Prospects after exclusion

Children who are excluded often end up in 'alternative provision' where they have

**dismal prospects**. In 2016/17, only 57% of English pupils in alternative provision achieved *any* passes at GCSE or equivalent, in contrast to 99.3% of those in state-funded mainstream schools<sup>6</sup>.

Even more concerningly, there are reports that some children are being 'informally' (i.e. illegally) excluded<sup>5,7</sup> and that parents of 'difficult' children are being encouraged to home-educate them<sup>5,8</sup>. These children may have no hope of even entering exams.

Often, exclusions and 'off-rolling' appear to occur in order to remove children from school statistics and thus improve the school's position in league tables<sup>2,9,10</sup>. However, **schools cannot bear all the blame** for this. Government policies which narrowly focus on exam results and harshly punish schools for failing to meet targets are driving anxieties about results among schools<sup>11</sup>.

Type of neurodiversity	Estimated prevalence in the general UK population (%)	Reported prevalence in UK excluded populations (%)
Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder	0.5-2.2 <sup>13-17</sup>	8.0-65.0 <sup>18-20</sup>
Autism Spectrum Disorder	0.6-3.5 <sup>13,21-25</sup>	35.0 <sup>18</sup>
Developmental Coordination Disorder	1.8 <sup>26</sup>	Unknown
Developmental Language Disorder	Possibly between 0.5 and 2.2 <sup>27-28</sup>	66.6-69.4 <sup>29-30</sup>
Dyscalculia	3.6 <sup>31</sup>	Unknown
Dyslexia	2.3-6.2 <sup>31-33</sup>	75.0-76.0 <sup>19</sup> ,
Intellectual Disability	2.7-10.6 (moderate) 0.03 (severe) <sup>32,35-37</sup>	Unknown
Tic Disorders	6.0 <sup>38-40</sup>	Unknown

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