

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Education, Skills and Culture Cabinet Board

23rd January, 2020

Report of the Head of Transformation – Andrew Thomas

Matter for information

Wards Affected: All

PUPIL ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members with information and data in relation to Neath Port Talbot pupil attendance and persistent absenteeism.

Background

2. This report provides Members with details of the latest available attendance data to end of December, 2019. It also provides Members with information regarding the primary sector attendance data for the academic year 2018/19.

Attendance Data to end of December 2019

3. In the current academic year to the end of December the primary sector attendance rate was 93.45%. This is a -0.97% decrease compared to the same period the previous year. The Secondary sector attendance during this period was 92.35%. This is a -0.82% decrease compared to the same period the previous year.

4. During the year to date 9 primary schools increased their attendance compared with the same period last year, with 48 schools reporting a decrease. In the secondary sector all schools have reported a decrease. [Note: for the purpose of statistical reporting, the data for Ysgol Bae Baglan, Ysgol Cwm Brombil and Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera - Bro Dur as all-through schools have been disaggregated into both the primary and secondary sectors.] A list of the individual school data comparing the two academic years to date is provided in Appendix A to this report.
5. During the latter part of the autumn term a number of schools reported issues relating to illness amongst both pupils and staff. Whilst illness at this time of year for issues such as flu, coughs and colds are not particularly unusual, a significant number of absences were being reported as sickness bugs (norovirus). Where there were reports of such outbreaks absence was being affected by a number of pupils and staff at that school. This sickness bug was the main cause of the increase in absence rates across the authority during this period.
6. Credit needs to be made to the education catering and cleaning team whose swift response in initiating their alternative deep cleaning procedures during the evenings and over the weekends allowed schools to remain open safely whilst containing the risk of further spread. 15 schools required the deep cleaning procedures to be initiated as a result of this sickness bug.
7. With such high numbers of absenteeism the catering service has suffered an adverse loss of income from a reduction in the sale of school meals. Members will appreciate that despite the reduction in the number of school meals being sold, staff salaries and the costs of making the meals remains a constant.

Attendance data for the academic year 2018/19

8. Members will recall that as part of the attendance report to them of 12th September, 2019 they were informed that the all Wales attendance data for the secondary sector for 2018/19 showed an improvement in Neath Port Talbot's ranked position across Wales to 18th place. In the past few weeks Welsh Government have released the all Wales attendance data for the primary sector for 2018/19. This shows Neath Port Talbot's ranked position across Wales to remain at 20th place.
9. Although the average attendance rate across Wales marginally increased by 0.1% (94.5%) from 2017/18 to 2018/19 (94.6%) the

average attendance rate of the primary sector within Neath Port Talbot decreased by this same amount. Attendance of the primary sector currently stands at 94.0%. The greatest impact on attendance within the county borough is in relation to holiday's being taken during term-time.

Financial Impact

10. There is no financial impact associated with this proposal.

Equality Impact Assessment

11. Having considered the Council's screening assessment guidance produced to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010 it has been determined that this report does not require an equalities impact assessment.

Workforce Impacts

12. There are no workforce or staffing issues directly associated with this report.

Legal Impacts

13. There is no legal impact associated with this report.

Risk Management

14. Members have previously determined that they wish to include the monitoring of pupil attendance as a regular activity within their on-going work programme. Such scrutiny maintains a high-level focus on attendance amongst schools within the County Borough whilst comparing internal pupil attendance with that of other authorities across Wales.

Consultation

15. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations

16. That Members note the contents of this report.

Appendices

17. Appendix A: List of schools with individual attendance rates.

List of Background Papers

18. None.

Officer Contact

19. John Burge, Manager of the School & Family Support Team

Tel: 763599 Email: j.burge@npt.gov.uk

APPENDIX A

Abbey Primary	93.94%	-0.36%
Alderman Davies CIW	94.74%	-0.71%
Alltwen Primary	94.68%	-0.78%
Awel y Môr	93.12%	-1.43%
Baglan Primary	93.45%	-0.46%
Blaenbaglan Primary	93.93%	-0.74%
Blaendulais Primary	91.65%	-2.23%
Blaengwrach Primary	95.01%	-0.47%
Blaenhonddan Primary	96.20%	0.03%
Bryncoch CIW Primary	94.83%	-1.03%
Catwg Primary	94.25%	-0.77%
Central Primary	94.34%	-0.09%
Cilfriw Primary	94.42%	-0.24%
Coed Hirwaun Primary	93.16%	-1.86%
Coedffranc Primary	93.49%	-0.14%
Creunant Primary	94.65%	0.07%
Croeserw Primary	89.39%	-3.99%
Crymlyn Primary	94.95%	0.47%
Crynallt Primary	93.95%	-0.19%
Cwmafan Primary	93.46%	-1.22%
Cwmnedd Primary	91.41%	-2.17%
Cymer Afan Primary	94.40%	-1.17%
Eastern Primary	92.32%	-2.06%
Glyncorrwg Primary	94.97%	-1.26%
Gnoll Primary	91.81%	-2.31%
Godregraig Primary	94.64%	-0.71%
Llangiwig Primary	92.55%	-2.42%
Maesmarchog Primary	92.02%	-3.04%
Melin Primary	93.31%	-1.35%
Penafan Primary	92.44%	2.67%
Rhos Primary	95.83%	0.57%
Rhydyfro Primary	94.69%	-0.82%
Sandfields Primary	89.74%	-3.07%
St Joseph's Infant	93.80%	-1.36%
St Joseph's Junior	93.49%	-1.46%
St Joseph's Primary	93.46%	-0.95%
St Therese's Primary	93.07%	-0.08%
Tairgwaith Primary	94.17%	-0.68%
Tonnau Primary	94.38%	-0.42%
Tywyn Primary	93.83%	-0.94%
Waunceirch Primary	92.34%	-1.55%
YGG Blaendulais	94.32%	-1.06%
YGG Castell-nedd	93.73%	-1.34%
YGG Cwmllynfell	94.64%	0.51%
YGG Cwmnedd	93.39%	-1.03%
YGG GCG	95.52%	-0.24%
YGG Pontardawe	93.07%	-2.52%
YGG Rhosafan	93.69%	-0.75%
YGG Trebannws	95.17%	-0.49%
YGG Tyle'r Ynn	94.02%	-1.64%
YG Ystalyfera - Bro Dur	92.89%	-0.53%
Ynysfach Primary	94.91%	-0.07%
Ysgol Bae Baglan	90.22%	-1.98%
Ysgol Carreg Hir	91.58%	0.43%
Ysgol Cwm Brombil	93.85%	-0.95%

Cefn Saeson	90.61%	-0.91%
Cwmtawe	93.93%	-0.60%
Dwr y Felin	92.42%	-1.07%
Llangatwg	91.88%	-1.78%
St Joseph's RC	92.05%	-0.95%
Ysgol Bae Baglan	91.14%	-1.50%
Ysgol Cwm Brombil	92.70%	-1.22%
YG Ystalyfera - Bro Dur	93.27%	-0.57%