

# Access to Education and School Exclusions

Kamena Dorling, Head of Policy & Public Affairs  
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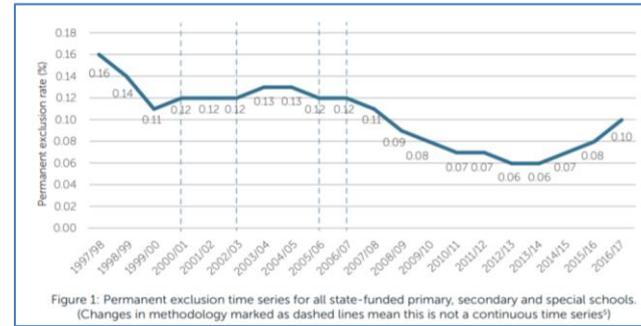
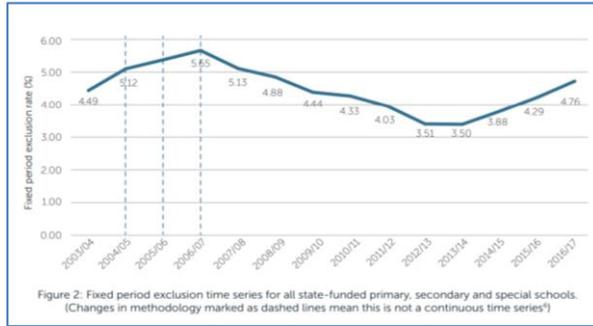
**coram** better chances  
for children  
since 1739

**Unfair results**  
Pupil and parent views on school exclusion



# Rates of exclusion

Rates of fixed period & permanent exclusions  since 2013/14

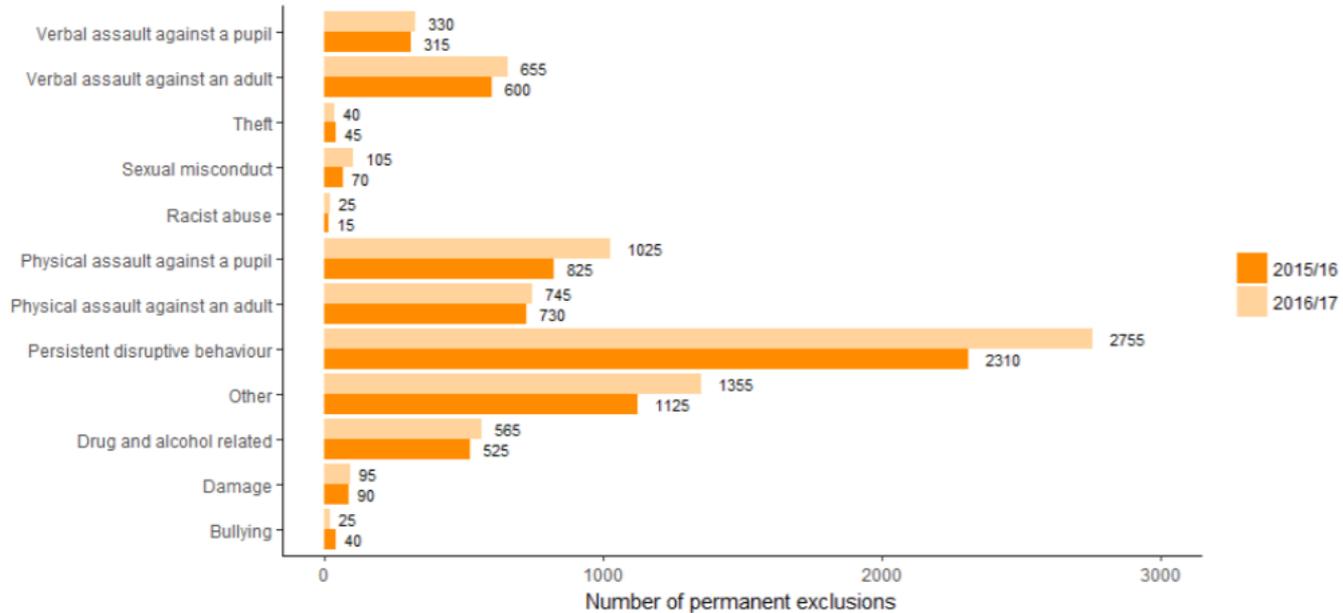


Source:  
Timpson Review,  
2019

- 0.1% of the 8 million children in schools in England were **permanently** excluded in 2016/17 – c. **40 every day**
- **2,000** pupils **excluded for fixed period** each day.

# Reasons for exclusion

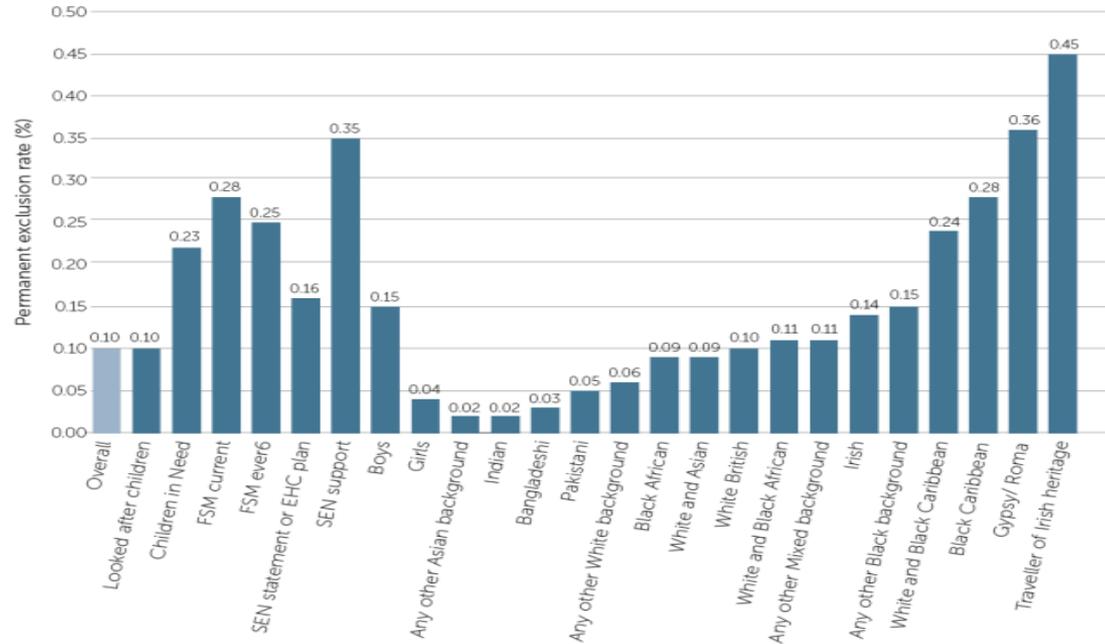
England, Academic years 2015/16, 2016/17



Source: Department for Education statistics, 2018

# Additional factors

- 78% of permanently excluded pupils have SEN, are 'in need' or are eligible for free school meals.



Source: Timpson review, 2019

# Exclusion and outcomes

- 7% of permanently excluded children/  
18% of children who received multiple  
fixed term exclusions achieved good  
passes in English and Maths GCSEs  
(2015/16)

The cost of  
exclusion is  
around **£370,000** per young person in lifetime  
education, benefits, healthcare  
and criminal justice costs.<sup>25</sup>

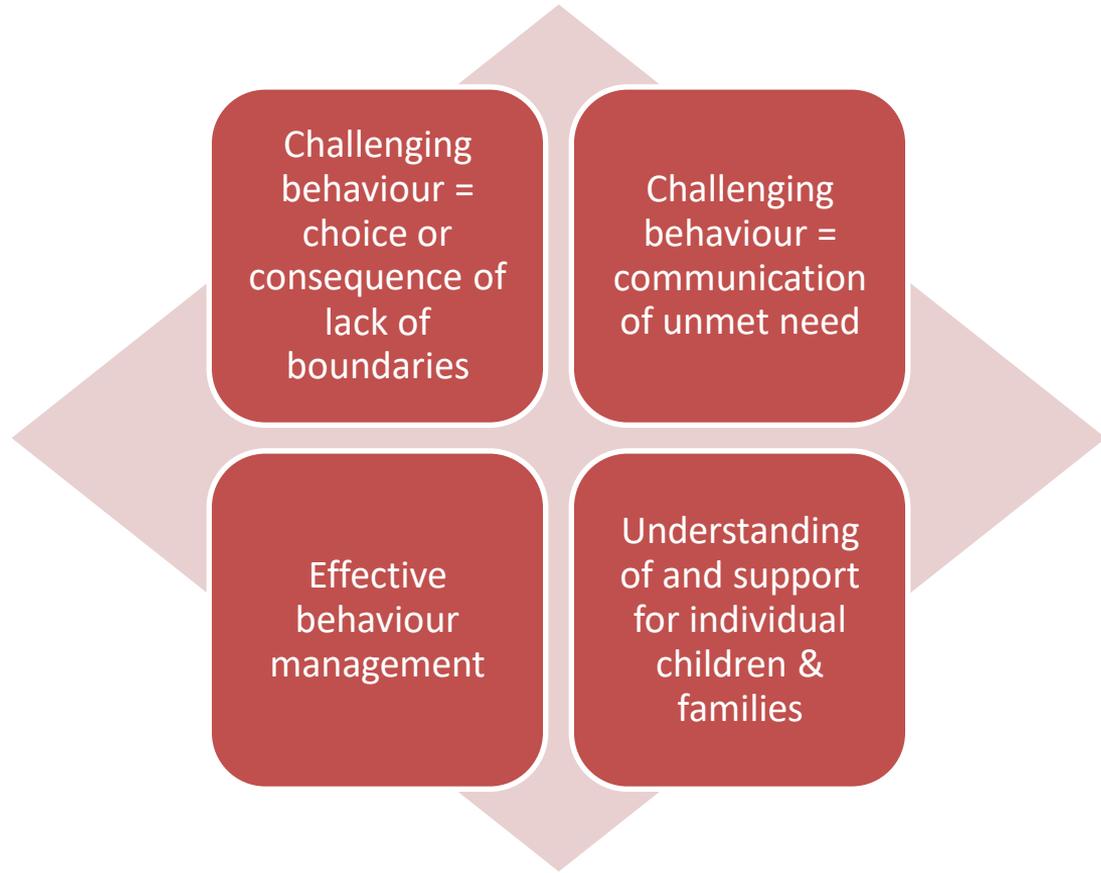
The screenshot shows the BBC News website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the BBC logo, a 'Sign in' button, and links for News, Sport, Weather, iPlayer, and Sounds. Below this is a red header with the word 'NEWS' in white. A secondary navigation bar lists various news categories: Home, UK, World, Business, Politics, Tech, Science, Health, and Family & Education. The 'UK' category is selected. Below the navigation, the article title 'Knife crime: Are school exclusions to blame?' is displayed in a large, bold font. The author's name, 'By Rachel Schraer', and the publication outlet, 'BBC Reality Check', are listed below the title. The date '8 March 2019' is shown on the left, and social media sharing icons for Facebook, Messenger, Twitter, Email, and a general 'Share' button are on the right. A small 'Knife crime' tag is visible below the article title.



Source: IPPR, 'Making the Difference: Breaking the link between school exclusion and social exclusion', 2017

# Statutory Guidance

- Only head can exclude pupil - must be on disciplinary grounds
- A pupil may be excluded for one or more **fixed periods** (up to max of 45 school days per academic year) or **permanently**
- Permanent exclusion should **only be used as a last resort**, in response to a serious breach or persistent breaches of the schools behaviour policy; and where allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school.
- Decision to exclude must be **lawful, reasonable and fair**.



# Views of children and parents/carers

*“People don’t have to sacrifice their learning time because of someone else’s actions”* 13 year old

*“Many people do the same as that person but doesn’t get expelled. NOT FAIR!!!”* 12 year old

*“All this expulsions related directly to a complete lack of understanding and awareness of his condition”*  
Mother of boy with SEN

*“I had to fight for the bare minimum [...] I ran myself ragged”* Parent

## Children's Commissioner for England calls for a compulsory register of "off the grid" children

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## Schools told to stop using exclusions to boost their results

Review will call for heads to be accountable for the exam records of children 'off-rolled'



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*“Differences in exclusion rates are driven both by **issues of place** (the particular challenges in an area, such as levels of deprivation or gang activity) and **policy and practice** (the particular means of managing behaviour and thresholds for using exclusion)”*

(Timpson Review, 2019)

10% of schools with the highest number of permanent exclusions in 2016/17 accounted for 22% of school population but 88% of the total number of permanent exclusions

*Source: Office of the Children’s Commissioner, 2019*

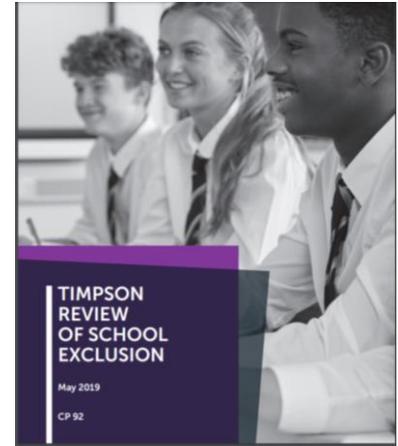
# What drives current practice?

- \* Differences in **leadership**  variation in culture & standards
- \* Differences in **capability and capacity** to manage behaviour
- \* Current system doesn't **incentivise** schools
- \* Lack of **safeguards** from informal exclusion, off-rolling and multiple fixed term exclusion

# Recommendations

## Leadership

- Updating statutory guidance
- Ensuring there is 'meaningful and accessible' training



## Capability & capacity

- Review the training and support available to SENCOs
- Practice Improvement Fund to support effective partnership working
- Measures to promote and improve Alternative Provision

# Recommendations

## Incentivising

- Schools made responsible for the children they exclude and accountable for their educational outcomes.
- More accessible advice and support for parents/carers
- DfE data on exclusion of children who've left LA care

## Safeguarding

- Guidance on best practice for managed moves
- Ofsted inspection framework
- £200 million Youth Endowment Fund to be open to schools



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