

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 27 February 2018

**Subject:** Update on school exclusions

**Report of:** Director of Education

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**Summary**

The report will provide an update on school exclusions for 2016/17.

**Recommendations**

Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

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**Wards Affected:** All

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**Alignment to the Our Manchester Strategy Outcomes (if applicable)**

<b>Manchester Strategy outcomes</b>	<b>Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS</b>
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Reducing exclusions across the city will contribute to improving educational outcomes and to Manchester's young people becoming happy, safe and highly skilled.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Improving educational outcomes and reducing the exclusion rate amongst the Manchester school population is essential for young people to gain qualifications and contribute to Manchester's economic success.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Vulnerable groups including FSM and SEND as well as certain ethnic groups are over represented in exclusions. Reducing exclusions is a key priority to ensure all young people have the best possible opportunity to succeed.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	

**Contact Officers:**

Name: Amanda Corcoran  
Position: Director of Education  
Telephone: 0161 234-7484  
Email: a.corcoran@manchester.gov.uk

Name: Isobel Booler  
Position: Interim Strategic Lead for Inclusion, Education  
Telephone: 07774005731  
E-mail: i.booler@manchester.gov.uk

Tracey Dunn  
Position: Strategic Lead for School Attendance and Education other than at School  
Telephone: 0161 234-1824  
Email: t.dunn@manchester.gov.uk

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**Background documents (available for public inspection)**

'Local authority provision for children and young people excluded from school, 2015/16.' Young People and Children Scrutiny Committee 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017.

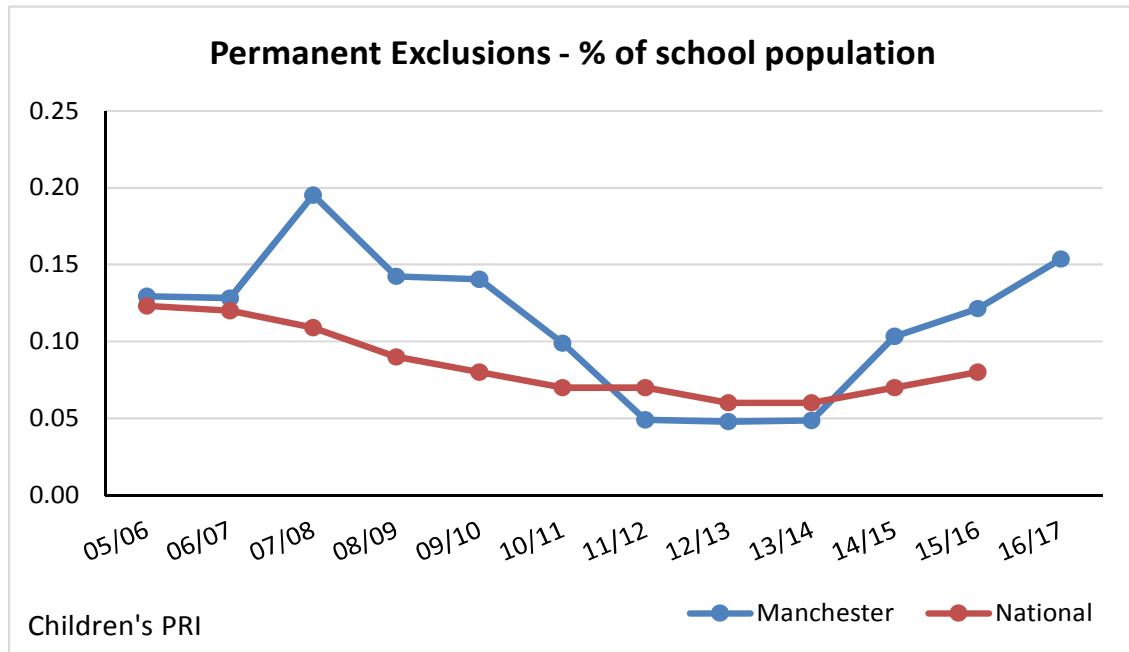
'Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England.' Statutory guidance for those with legal responsibilities in relation to exclusion. September 2017.

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 This report summarises the trends in permanent and fixed term exclusions from 2016/17 academic year. It also includes the latest available national and statistical neighbour data from the 2015/16 academic year. The DfE will publish 2016/17 exclusions data in July 2018.
- 1.2 Reducing both permanent and fixed term exclusions is a key priority for Manchester Children Services to ensure improved experiences and outcomes for all children and young people through 'Our Manchester, Our Children: Manchester's Children and Young People's Plan 2016-2020'

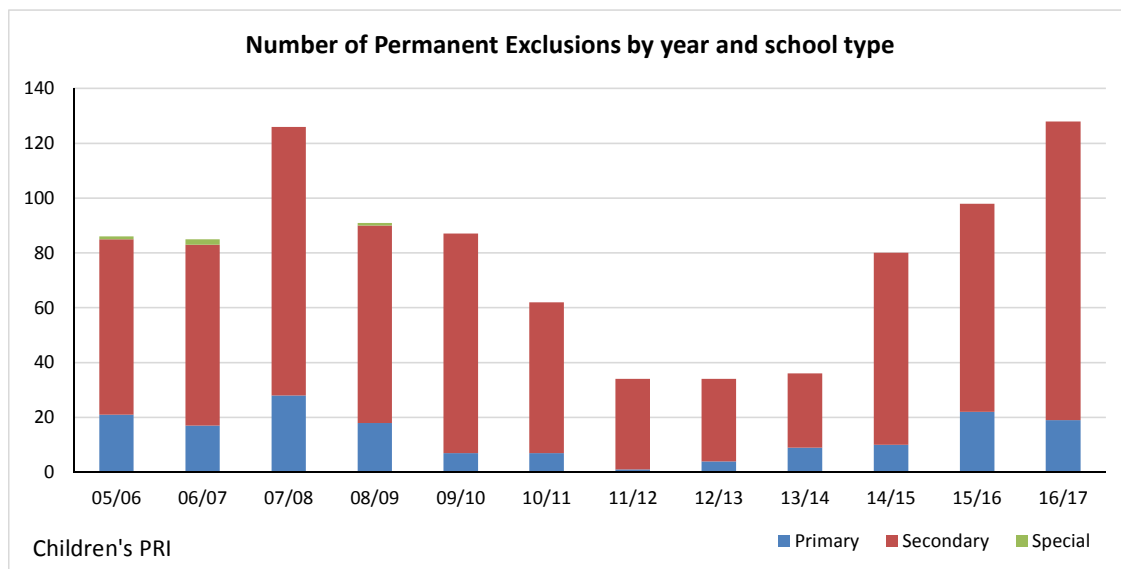
## **2.0 Permanent Exclusions**

- 2.1 The percentage of permanent exclusions in Manchester in 2016/17 was 0.15% which is higher than in 2015/16 when it was 0.12 % and higher than national in 2015/16 which was 0.08%. This increase in permanent exclusions has been observed year on year since 2013/14.
- 2.2 The actual number of permanent exclusions from Manchester schools in 2016/17 was 128, an increase of 30 compared with 2015/16. This has been as a result of a 43.4% increase in the number of permanent exclusions from secondary schools; from 76 permanent exclusions in 2015/16 to 109 permanent exclusions in 2016/17. The number of permanent exclusions from primary schools in 2016/17 reduced slightly in comparison to 2015/16 with 22 permanent exclusions in 2015/16 reducing to 19 permanent exclusions in 2016/17.
- 2.3 There continues to be higher proportions of pupils excluded from vulnerable groups, such as those eligible for free school meals (FSM) and pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The 2016/17 Manchester exclusion rates for vulnerable groups are higher than the national rates (2015/16) for both pupils eligible for FSM and those with SEND. This is explored in detail in paragraph 2.9 and 2.10.
- 2.4 There were 128 permanent exclusions from Manchester schools in 2016/17 an increase of 30 compared with the number of exclusions in 2015/16. The percentage of pupils permanently excluded in 2016/17 was 0.15%, 0.03 percentage points higher than in 2015/16. Nationally, 0.08% of pupils were permanently excluded in 2015/16, 0.01 percentage point more than in 2014/15. The rate of permanent exclusions in Manchester continues to be more than twice the national average. Graph 1 shows the eleven year trend for the rate of exclusions in Manchester and nationally. The graph shows a sharp decline in the percentage of permanently excluded pupils from 2007/08 to 2011/12, with the rate levelling out to 2013/14, followed by an increase in 2014/15. Nationally there was a steady decline from 2004/05 to 2010/11. The percentage rates then remained relatively static until 2013/14, but started to increase again slightly in 2014/15.



Graph 1

2.5 The increase in the overall number of permanent exclusions in 2016/17 is due to an increase of 33 exclusions from secondary schools, as there was a decrease of 3 exclusions from primary schools. Graph 2 shows the twelve year trend for the number of permanent exclusions by phase of school in Manchester.

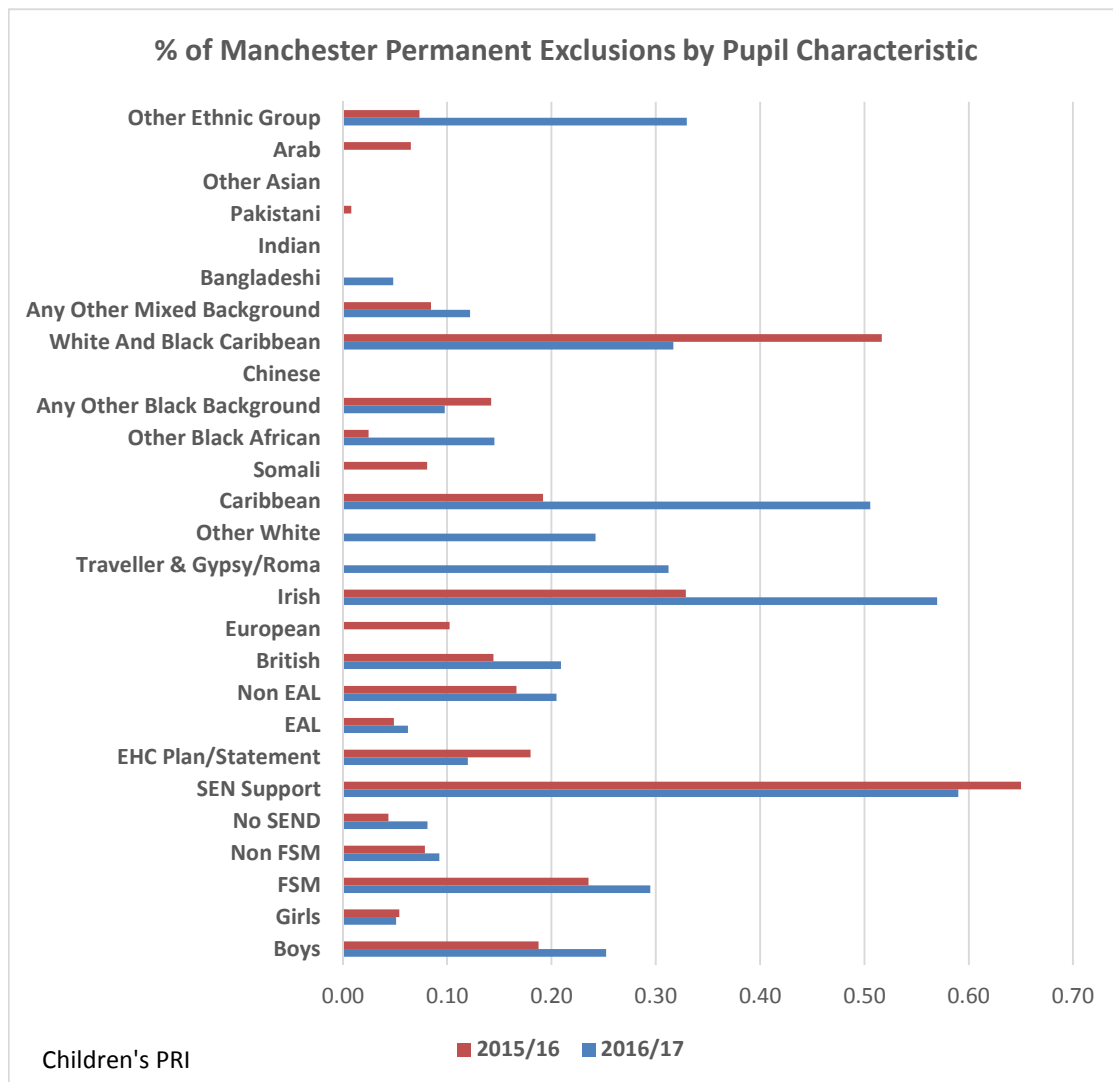


Graph 2

2.6 There continues to be some big differences in the groups of pupils that are

excluded. Graph 3 shows the proportion of pupils in the main pupil groups in Manchester that have been permanently excluded in 2016/17, compared with the 2015/16 Manchester rates.

- 2.7 Boys are more likely to be excluded than girls. Of the 128 permanent exclusions, 107 (83.6%) were boys compared with 21 (16.4%) girls. Out of the 19 primary school exclusions, 4 were girls. Nationally, boys are over three times more likely to be excluded than girls, while the 2016/17 Manchester results shows that boys are five times more likely to be excluded than girls.
- 2.8 There were no permanent exclusions of looked after children in 2016/17 compared to 1 in 2015/16.
- 2.9 The 2016/17 data for Manchester shows a reduction in the rate of permanent exclusions amongst pupils with SEND, but an increase in the rate of permanent exclusions amongst pupils eligible for FSM.
- 2.10 Pupils with SEND are more likely to be excluded than their peers, with 66 (53.7%) of the pupils permanently excluded having SEND in 2016/17. However this difference has reduced in comparison to 2015/16, when 68 (69.4%) of the pupils permanently excluded had SEND, due to the fact that the increase in permanent exclusions has been amongst pupils with no SEND. Pupils with a statement or EHC plan are one and a half times more likely to be excluded than pupils with no SEN (in comparison to four and a half times more likely in 2015/16), while nationally they were just under three and a half times more likely. Pupils with SEN support are around seven times more likely to be excluded than pupils with no SEN (in comparison to around sixteen times more likely in 2015/16), while nationally they were just under six and a half times more likely.
- 2.11 Pupils eligible for FSM in January 2017 are now over three times more likely to be excluded than those not eligible (in comparison to three times more likely the previous year). Nationally pupils eligible for FSM are around four times more likely to be excluded than non FSM pupils.
- 2.12 Within the ethnic groups, the highest proportion of permanent exclusions is for pupils from a White Irish background (the actual number of permanent exclusions amongst this group was 2). The next highest proportion was for pupils from a Black/Black British Caribbean background (the actual number of permanent exclusions amongst this group was 8). Nationally pupils of Traveller of Irish heritage had the highest proportion of permanent exclusions, followed by Gypsy Roma.

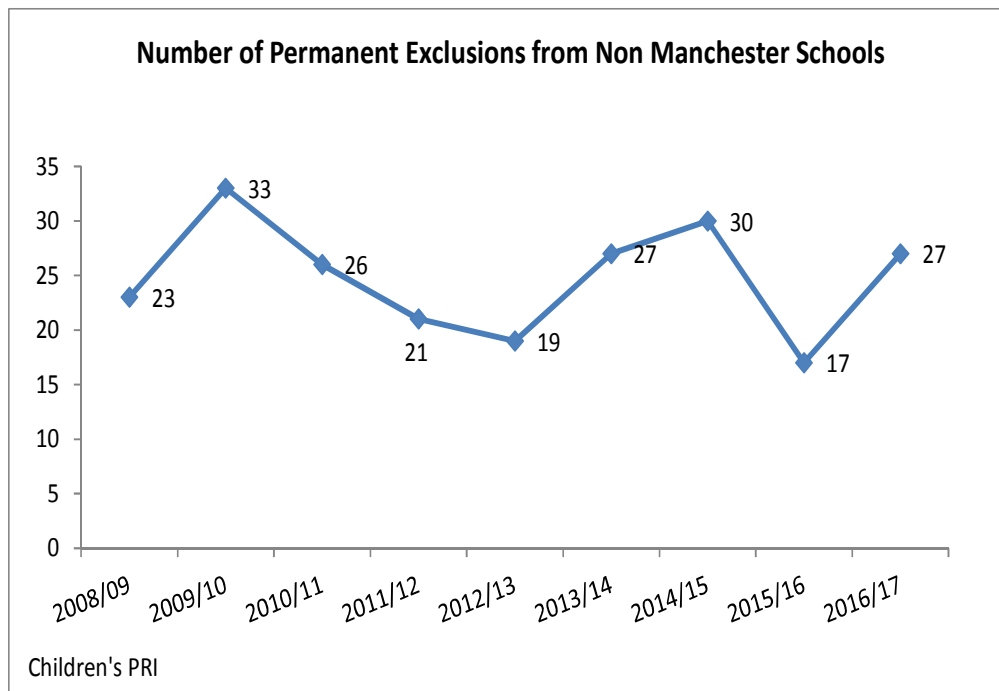


Graph 3

2.13 The most common reason nationally and in Manchester for permanent exclusion was persistent disruptive behaviour. In Manchester this was 43.8% of all permanent exclusions compared with 34.6% nationally. The second most common reason in Manchester was physical assault against an adult, accounting for 13.3% of permanent exclusions, while the third most common reason was verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult, at 11.7%. Nationally the second most common reason was recorded as other, at 16.8%, while the third most common reason was physical assault against a pupil, at 12.3%.

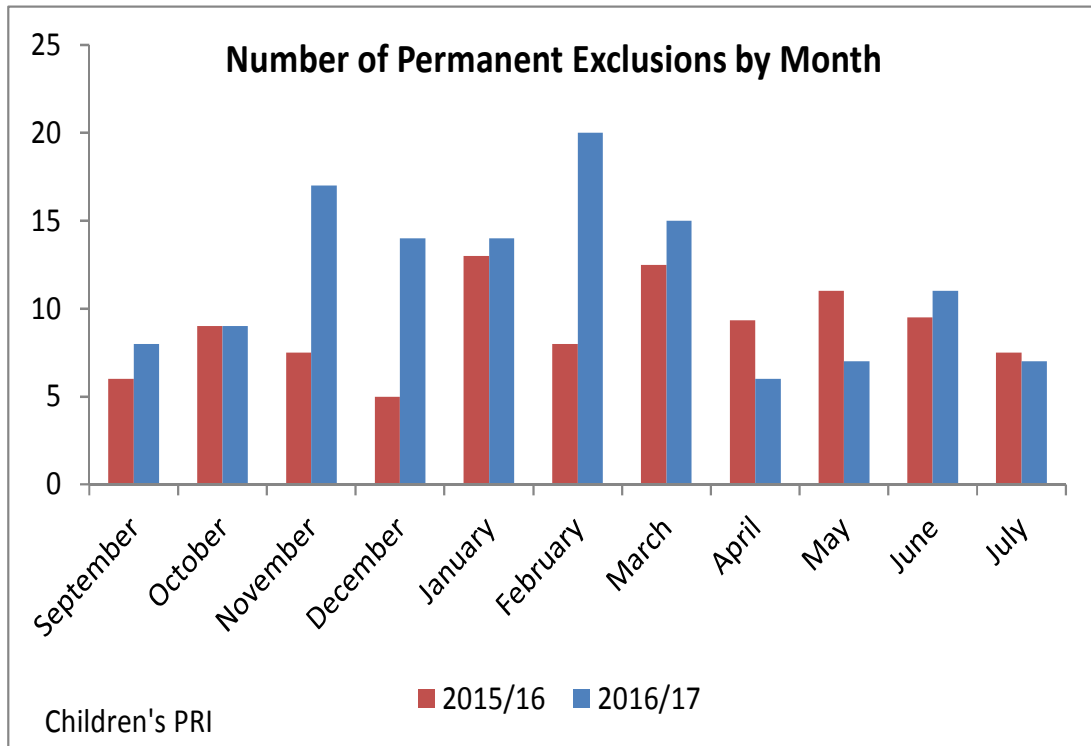
2.14 In addition to pupils permanently excluded from Manchester schools, the numbers of Manchester residents who are permanently excluded from schools in other Local Authorities are monitored. Graph 4 shows the trend in the number of these pupils permanently excluded over the last nine years. Following a reduction in 2015/16 the graph shows there has been a

significant increase in 2016/17, at a percentage rate which is greater than any observed over the past nine years.



Graph 4

2.15 In 2016/17, 48 (37.5%) of the permanent exclusions were in the autumn term, 49 (38.3%) were in the spring term and 31 (24.2%) were in the summer term. This is a change from 2015/16 when 38% of permanent exclusions took place in the summer term. The monthly pattern has changed as a result of the large increases observed during months within the autumn and spring terms. The increases during these terms has caused the overall increase in 2016/17, as there was actually a decrease when comparing the summer term of 2016/17 with 2015/16.



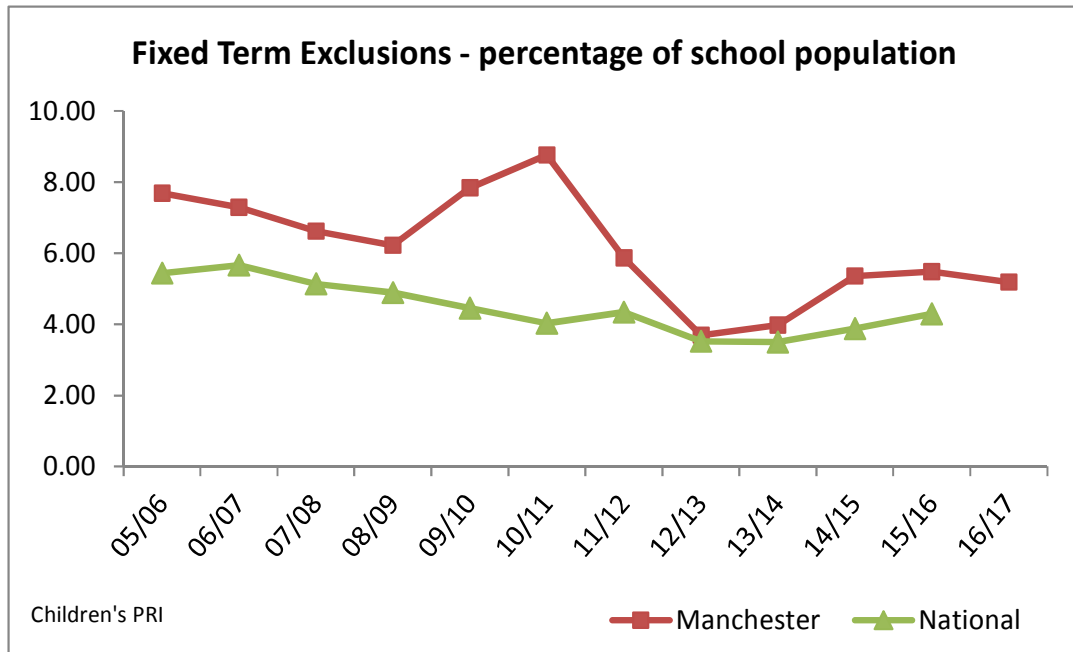
Graph 5

### 3.0 Fixed Term Exclusions

3.1 There were 4328 fixed term exclusions from Manchester schools during 2016/17.

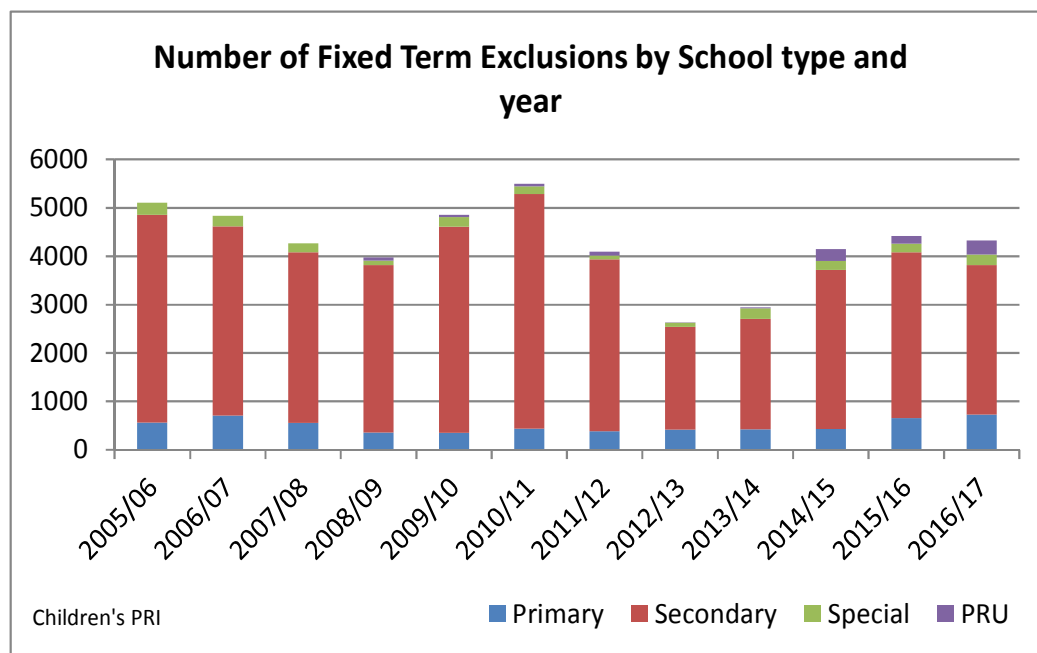
This is a 2.1% decrease on the number in 2015/16. Graph 6 shows the twelve year trend for the percentage of fixed term exclusions in Manchester and nationally. The trend shows a peak in 2010/11 in Manchester, followed by a sharp decline until 2013/14 when numbers began to increase. Recent years show that the percentage of fixed term exclusions has remained relatively static, with 2016/17 showing a slight decrease.





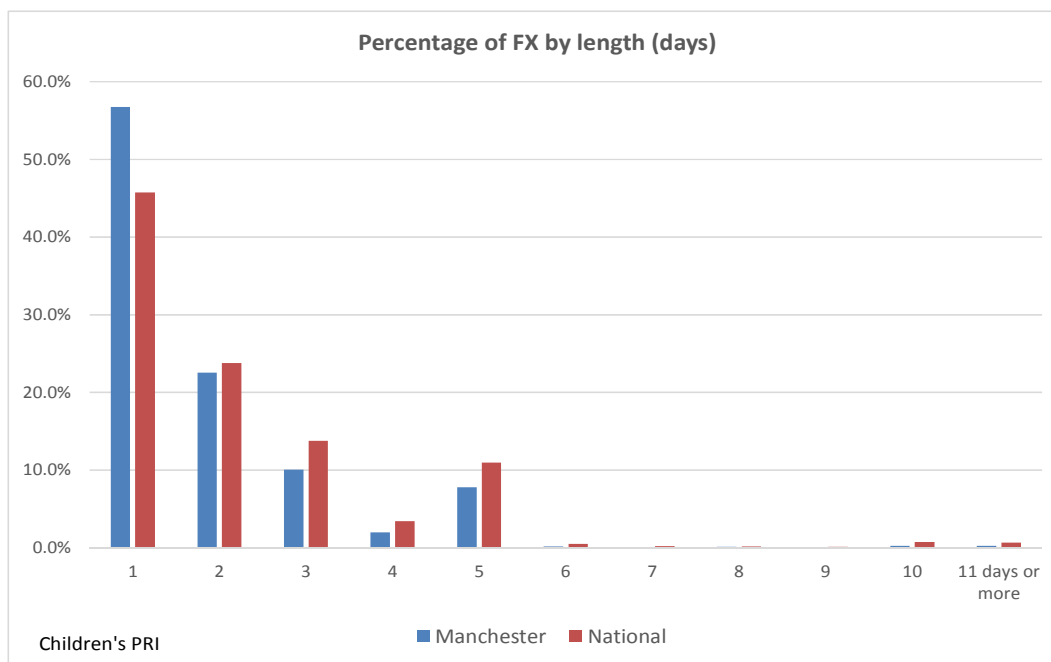
Graph 6

3.2 The majority of fixed term exclusions were from secondary schools, accounting for 71.3%, while nationally 79.6% of all fixed term exclusions were from secondary schools. The number of fixed term exclusions peaks in Year 10, which accounts for 19.8% of all exclusions. Graph 7 shows the breakdown in the number of exclusions in each of the last twelve years. The decrease of 91, in the overall number of fixed term exclusions, has been as a result of a reduction of 341 in the number of fixed term exclusions from secondary schools, as all other types of schools have shown an increase use of fixed term exclusions during 2016/17 in comparison to 2015/16 (primary schools have increased by 72, special schools by 47 and the PRU by 131).



Graph 7

- 3.3 The number of pupils with at least one fixed term exclusion has increased from 1915 in 2015/16 to 2071 in 2016/17. This equates to 2.48% of pupils in Manchester schools having at least one fixed term exclusion in 2016/17, compared with 2.37% in 2015/16 and the national average of 2.11%.
- 3.4 In total 7477 days were lost to fixed term exclusions in 2016/17, a decrease from 7833 days lost in 2015/16. The average length of each fixed term exclusion in Manchester has reduced slightly in 2016/17 to 1.73 days, in comparison to 1.77 days in 2015/16, and is less than the national figure of 2.2 days. Graph 8 shows that 56.8% of fixed term exclusion lasted for one day compared with 45.7% nationally. This is a change from last year when nationally a larger percentage of fixed term exclusions lasted for one day (44.6%) compared with Manchester (37.6). There were 38 (0.9%) fixed term exclusions lasting over five days in 2016/17, while nationally this figure was 2.3%. The longest fixed term exclusion was 23 days in 2016/17.

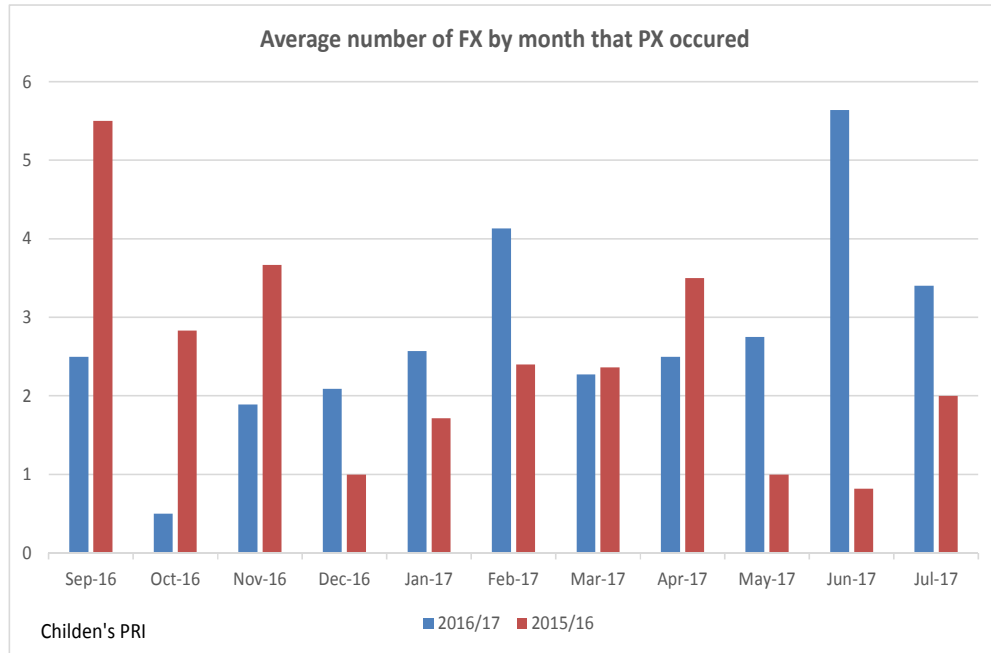


Graph 8

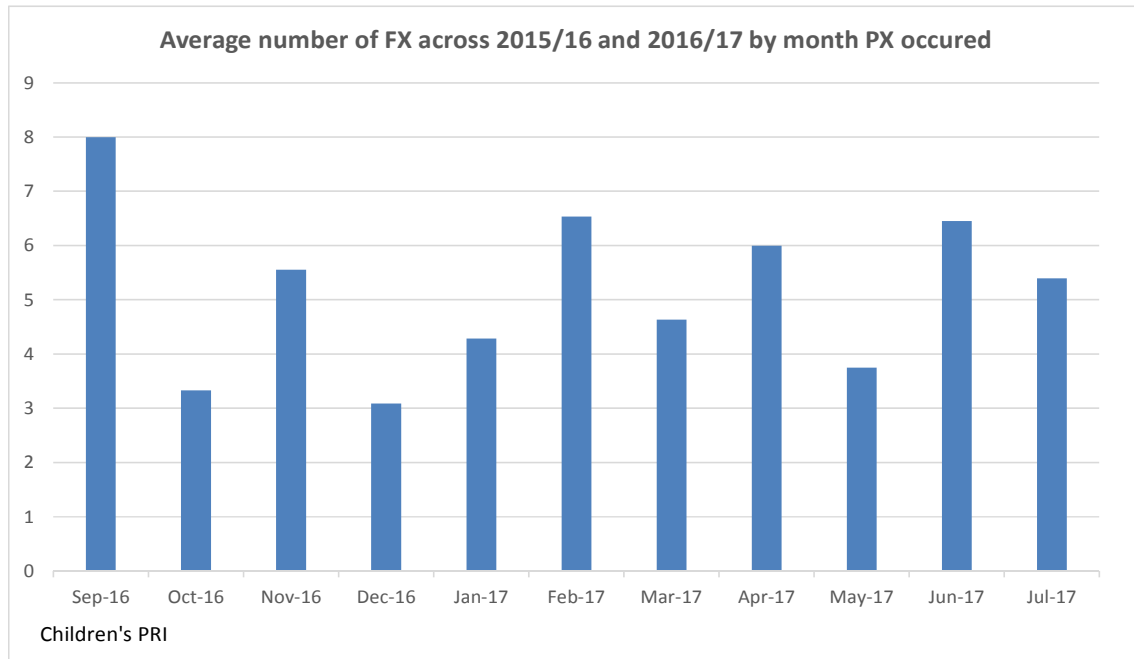
- 3.5 On average each pupil was excluded 2.09 times, which is lower than the 2015/16 figure of 2.31 and the national figure of 2.11. Of the 2071 pupils with a least one fixed term exclusion, 57.4% were excluded once during 2016/17, 19.2% had two fixed term exclusions and 9.6% had 3 fixed term exclusions, leaving 13.86% with four or more fixed term exclusions (a reduction from 2015/16, when 16.45% had four or more fixed term exclusions). There were slightly more pupils nationally with one fixed term exclusion at 59.6% but the pattern is similar to the national average, with 18.5% of pupils having two fixed term exclusions, 8.8% with three and 13.1% with four or more.
- 3.6 Of the 128 pupils who were permanently excluded during 2016/17, 96 (75%) had a fixed term exclusion during either 2015/16 or 2016/17. Of these 96 pupils, 16 had 1 fixed term exclusion across the time period, 14 had 2 fixed term exclusions, 11 had 3 fixed term exclusions and the remaining 55 had four or more. Graph 9 shows the month in which these 96 pupils were permanently excluded in 2016/17 and then average number of fixed term exclusions received during the 2016/17 and 2015/16 academic years across the group. The graph shows that the pupils who were excluded in June had the highest average number of fixed term exclusions in 2016/17, while pupils who were excluded in September had the highest average number of fixed term exclusions in 2015.
- 3.7 Please note that there are a few caveats to be aware of when viewing the information in graph 9; (1) it is possible that the figures may include a small number of instances where a pupil has received a permanent exclusion followed by a fixed term exclusion, as a result of moving to a new school, (2) the later in the academic year a permanent exclusion is received the more of the most recent year there is for the pupil to have received a fixed

term exclusion (i.e. if a pupil was permanently excluded in September 2016 there is only a very limited period of time prior to the permanent exclusion for which a 2016/17 fixed term exclusion could be received).

- 3.8 It is for this reason that graph 10 is included as well, showing the average number of fixed term exclusions across the whole of the 2015/16 and 2016/17 time period (for all those permanently excluded during 2016/17). This shows that the pupils excluded in September had the highest average number of fixed term exclusions across the whole time period, followed by those excluded in February and June.



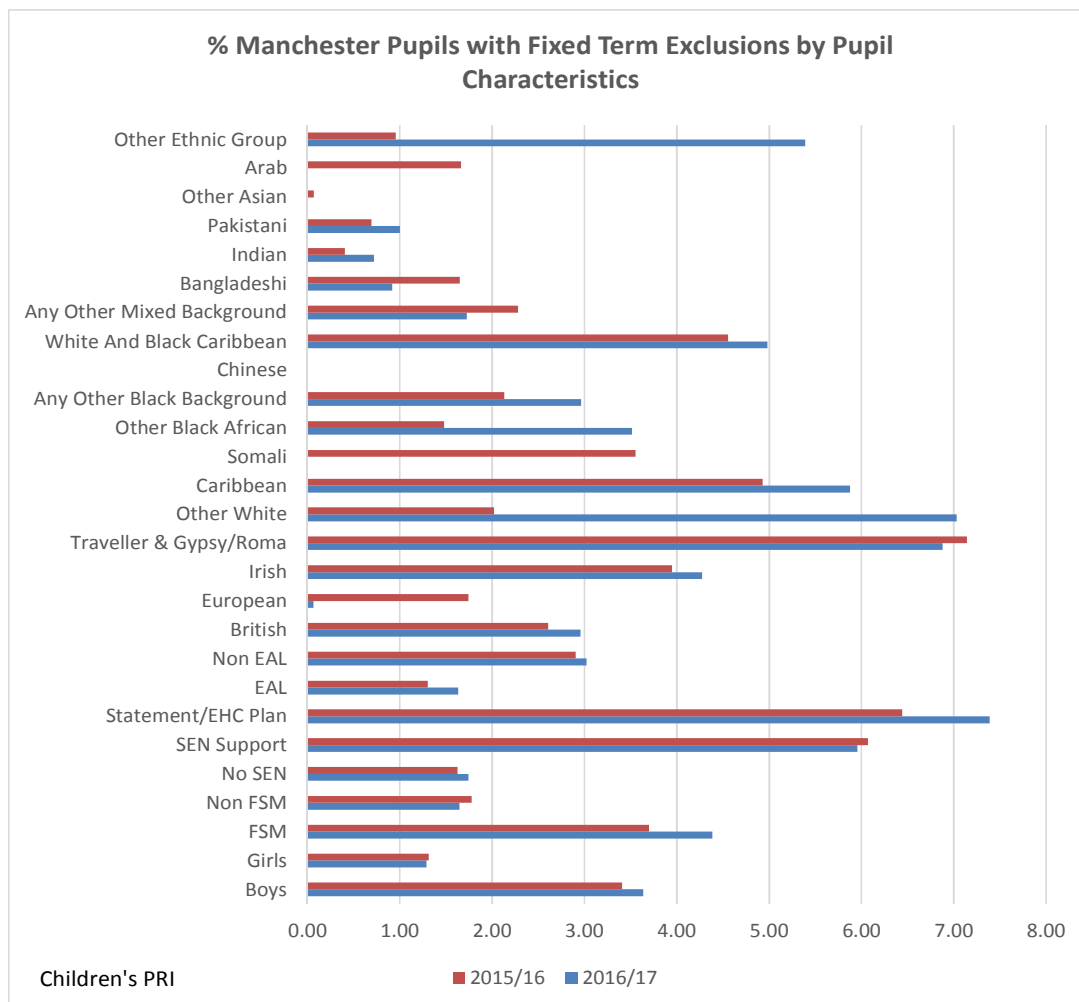
Graph 9



Graph 10

- 3.9 The rate of fixed term exclusions continues to be higher for boys than girls. The fixed term exclusion rate for boys is almost three times that for girls. Nationally the exclusion rate for boys remains just over 2.5 times higher than girls.
- 3.10 The fixed term exclusion rate of looked after children was just over two and a half times that of non-looked after children. In 2015/16 the rate was just under two and a half times higher for looked after children.
- 3.11 The fixed term exclusion rates for pupils with SEND remains around five times that of pupils with no SEND. Pupils with a statement or EHC plan now have the highest rate of exclusions, at almost 6 times higher than pupils with no SEND, while pupils receiving SEN support remain around 5 times higher than pupils with no SEND. This shows a change in comparison to 2015/16, when pupils receiving SEN support had the highest rate of exclusions. Nationally the trend is similar to Manchester, as pupils with a statement or EHC plan have an exclusion rate five and a half times higher than those without SEND, while pupils receiving SEN support have an exclusion rate which is just over five times higher.
- 3.12 The fixed term exclusion rate for pupils eligible for free school meals is now around 3 times higher than for pupils who are not eligible, which is an increase in comparison to 2015/16, when the difference in the rate was around two and a half. Nationally, pupils eligible for free school meals have an exclusion rate which remains over three and a half times higher than for those who are not eligible.
- 3.13 The fixed term exclusion rate varies by ethnic background. Pupils from the Other White ethnic background had the highest rate of fixed term exclusions. The group with the second highest rate of exclusion was

Traveller/Gypsy Roma heritage. In 2015/16 the group with the highest rate of fixed term exclusion was Traveller & Gypsy/Roma heritage followed by Black/Black British Caribbean pupils. Nationally the Gypsy/Roma ethnic group had the highest rates of fixed term exclusions, followed by the Traveller of Irish heritage group.



Graph 11

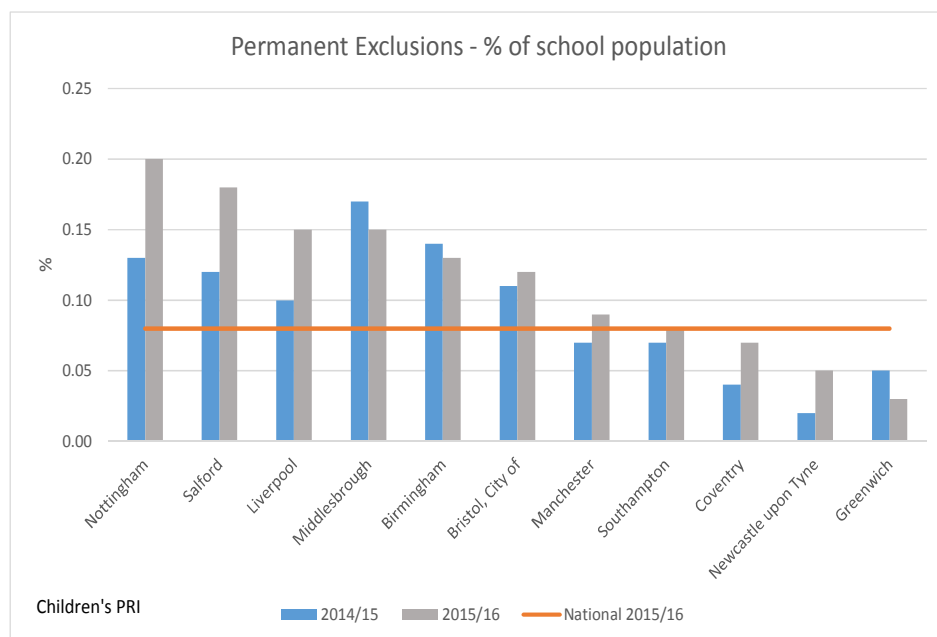
3.14 The most common reason for fixed term exclusions in 2016/17 was recorded as other, with 30% falling into this category. This is a change from previous years when the most common reason has been persistent disruptive behaviour. The second most common reason was persistent disruptive behaviour (17%), followed by physical assault against a pupil (15%). The national picture shows that 27.7% of fixed term exclusions were due to persistent disruptive behaviour, while the second most common reason was those recorded as other (18.4%), followed by physical assault against a pupil (17.6%).

3.15 During 2016/17, 35.7% of fixed term exclusions took place in the autumn term, 31.9% in the spring term and 32.4% in the summer term. The peaks during the year were 13.6% of exclusions taking place in March, 11.3% in November and 11.0% in May.

#### 4.0 Manchester Comparison to National and Statistical Neighbours (2015/16)

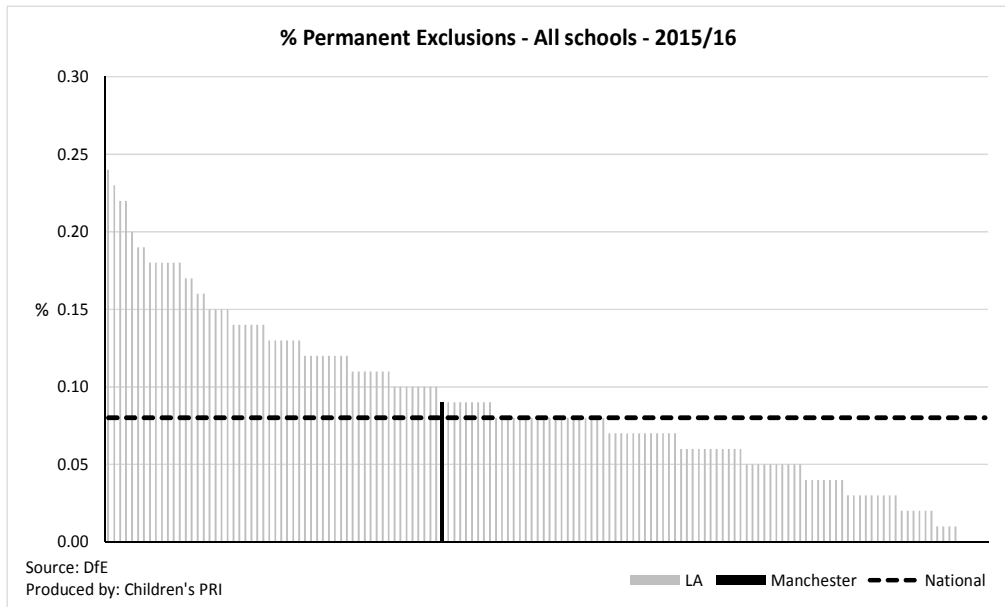
4.1 This section uses the latest available published national and Local Authority data from 2015/16. 2016/17 data will be published in July 2018.

4.2 Graph 12 shows the percentage of permanent exclusions in Manchester and each of its statistical neighbour authorities. The graph shows that the rate of permanent exclusions in Manchester in 2015/16 increased and is above the national average. Manchester has the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest rate of permanent exclusions within the group compared with 4<sup>nd</sup> lowest in 2014/15. The rate of permanent exclusion has increased in most of the statistical neighbour authorities in 2015/16. It has decreased within Birmingham, Greenwich and Middlesbrough.



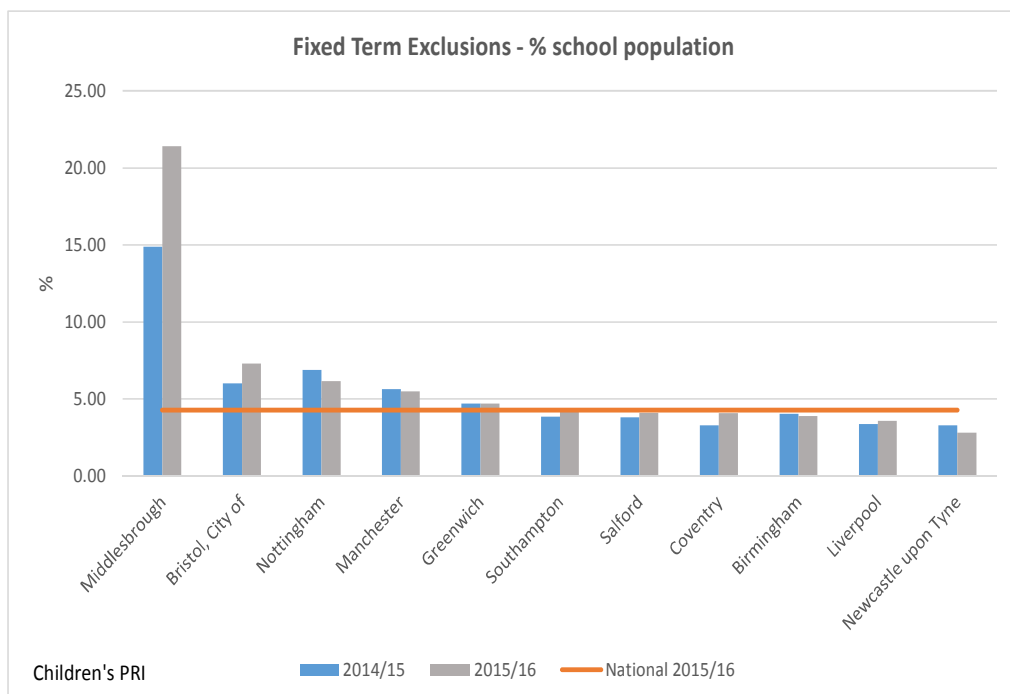
Graph 12

4.3 Graph 13 shows the performance of Manchester relative to all other Local Authorities in the country. Manchester now has the 57<sup>th</sup> highest rate of permanent exclusions in the country compared with 67<sup>th</sup> in 2014/15.



Graph 13

4.4 Graph 14 shows the rates of fixed term exclusions in Manchester and its statistical neighbour authorities. Out of this group, Manchester had the 4<sup>th</sup> highest rate of fixed term exclusion in 2015/16, as it did in 2014/15. The rate of fixed term exclusions in Manchester is still above the national average, although the difference has reduced.

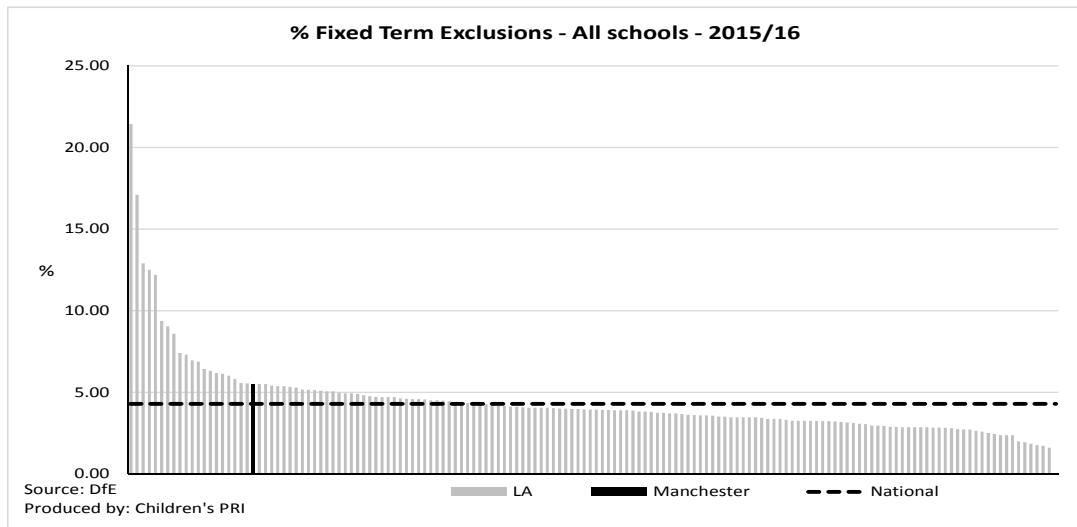


Graph 14

4.5 Graph 15 shows the performance of Manchester relative to all other Local



Authorities in the country. The graph shows that Manchester had the 21<sup>st</sup> highest rate of fixed term exclusions in the country, compared with 18<sup>th</sup> in 2014/15.



Graph 15

## 5.0 Next Steps

- 5.1 In 2016/17 permanent exclusions have increased for the second year and Manchester's exclusions are now higher than the national average. In 2016/17 the number of fixed term exclusions have decreased but remain above the national average. Reducing both permanent and fixed term exclusions is a key priority for Manchester Children Services to ensure improved experiences and outcomes for all children and young people through 'Our Manchester, Our Children: Manchester's Children and Young People's Plan 2016-2020'.
- 5.2 To ensure a reduction in permanent and fixed term exclusions senior officers have begun to work with secondary headteachers, special school headteachers and the head of the secondary PRU to develop a new approach in the City for preventing and reducing school exclusions and reviewing the continuum of provision (including alternative provision) available for young people who cannot access mainstream education because of their social emotional behavioural needs. It is also essential that young people and their parents/carers; other Council services and agencies such as CAMHS and Police are included in the development of a new approach. Some initial next steps include:
- Establishing a 'Support and Challenge' Board with the Director of Children's Services and the Director of Education and invite schools with high exclusion rates to explain their plan to both improve educational outcomes and reduce exclusions.
  - Manchester City Council has seconded a secondary school SENCO to work with mainstream schools to focus on reducing exclusions for both SEND support and those children with an EHCP plan. Education services are in the process of adopting the same strategy

and plan for preventing exclusions for children with an EHCP plan which has been successful in reducing exclusions for looked after children.

- Allocating some budget from the SEN capital grant to provide training for mainstream schools on meeting the needs of pupils with pupils with social emotional mental health needs.
- Working with school governors to ensure they understand their roles and responsibilities in relation to exclusions;
- Reviewing the offer and effective use of alternative provision within the city. Working with Multi Academy Trusts to support the development of their own high quality alternative provision places.