

London Permanent exclusions and suspension July 2025

Maureen McKenna, education consultant, London VRU

This data has been extracted from gov.uk statistics website which was updated on 10 July 2025 with 2023/24 data.

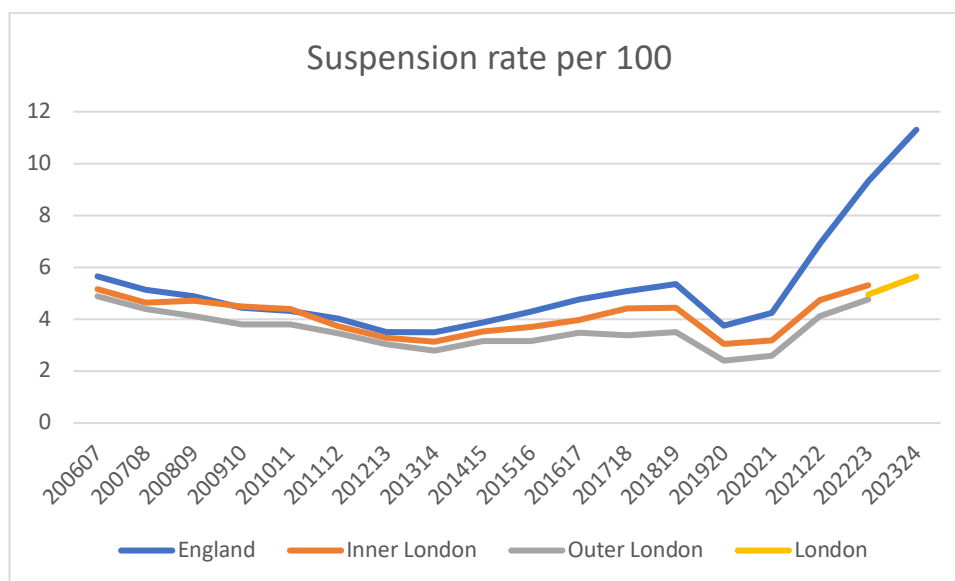
It should be noted that firm conclusions can rarely be drawn from this data. There are many complex reasons behind exclusions and suspensions. The data does raise questions which require schools/boroughs/MATs to explore.

On a school by school basis, boroughs/MATs need to continue to work with staff, parents and young people to explore the causes of exclusion/suspension and the ways in which we can avoid using exclusion or suspension. There are no right or wrong rules for exclusions or suspensions. There will always be times when for the safety of the child themselves or for the safety of others that an exclusion or suspension needs to happen. However, exclusion or suspension should only be used when there are no other options and, wherever possible, nurturing approaches should be used to allow children to understand why exclusion or suspension is being considered. Staff also need to be able to reflect on the causes of exclusion/suspension and consider if there was anything they could have done to avoid exclusion/suspension being considered.

This report considers permanent exclusions and suspensions. The government website organises the data for Inner London and Outer London up to 2021/22. They have decided to discontinue Inner London and Outer London and for 2022/23 and 2023/24 the data is organised for London as a whole. The report has, therefore, added on comparison to London figures for the two academic years 2022/23 and 2023/24.

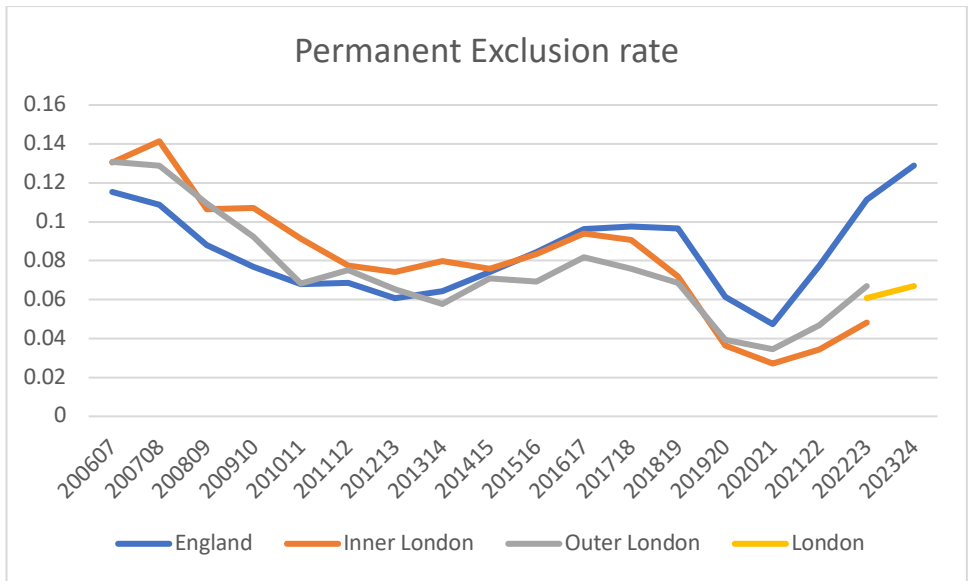
There is some analysis on comparing primary and secondary rates. There is also a section that considers rates by borough.

Comparison with national picture – all sectors



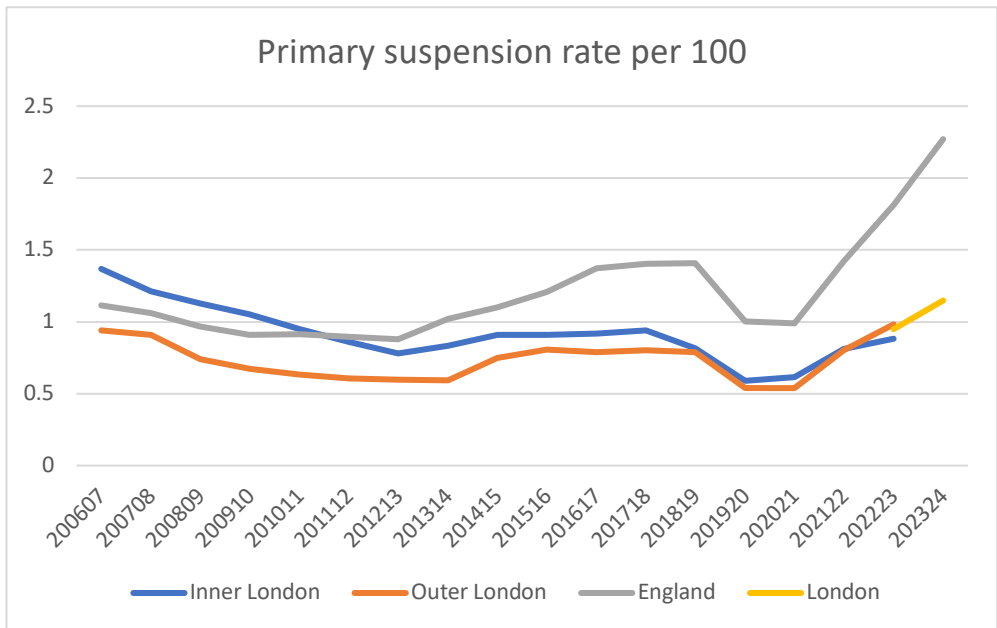
It can be seen that suspensions increased although suspensions in London did not increase at the same rate as nationally,

Suspensions	England	London
% increase 22/23	35.1%	n/a
% increase 23/24	21%	14.1%

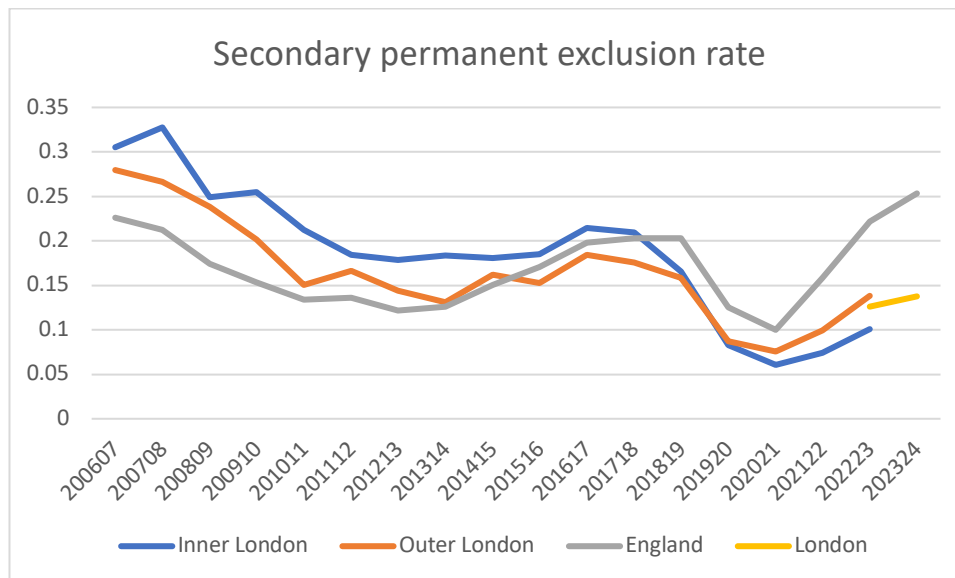


The rate for permanent exclusions also increased and although the rate for London is less than the national rate. There were 867 permanent exclusions in London in 2023/24 compared to 791 in 2022/23. In both years, 92% of permanent exclusions were in secondary schools in London.

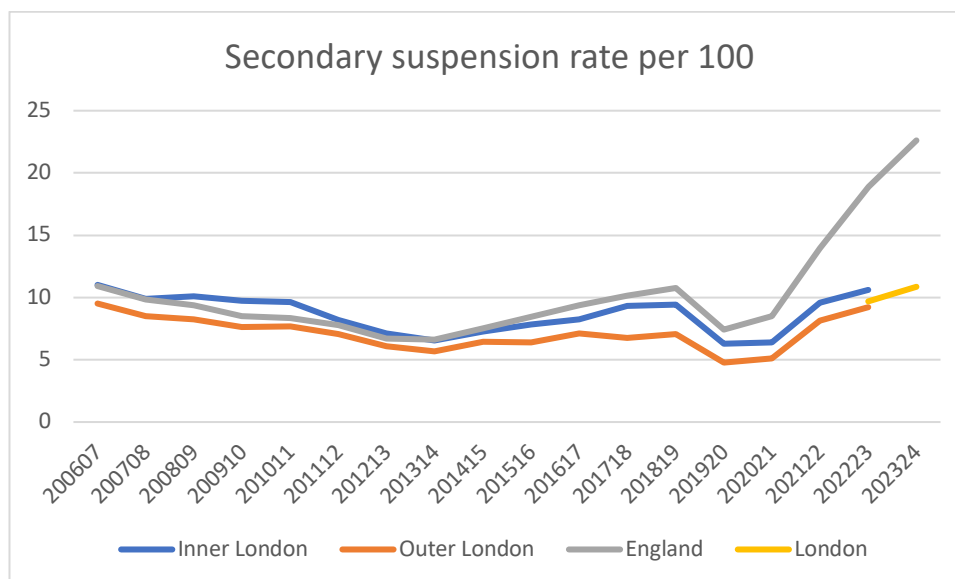
It is worthwhile looking at primary and secondary exclusions and suspensions separately. In 2022/23, in London there were 6,656 suspensions in primary schools compared to 56,034 suspensions in secondary schools. In 2023/24, in London there were 7,938 suspensions in primary schools compared to 63,148 suspensions in secondary schools.



Secondary schools



The pattern for permanent exclusion rates in secondary schools show an interesting pattern. Firstly, it is worth noting that the rate is notably higher in secondary schools than in primary schools. Around 2016/17 London secondary schools started to reduce permanent exclusions (note 2019/20 and 2020/21 figures were impacted by school closures) but in the last few years they have increased although the rate between 2022/23 and 2023/24 is lower than the national rate.



Suspension rates in London in 2023/24 are less than half that of the national figure although they have increased from 2022/23.

	London	England	Glasgow
2022/23	9.23	18.90	1.69
2023/24	10.86	22.6	1.54

The above table shows the suspension rate for secondary schools comparing London with England and Glasgow's figures.

Borough performance

The overall suspension rate for each borough is shown below:

		22/23	23/24
Inner London	Camden	4.5	5.9
	City of London	0.37	0.41
	Hackney	8.2	9.7
	Hammersmith and Fulham	5.69	7.0
	Haringey	5.2	6.5
	Islington	7.7	9.4
	Kensington and Chelsea	10.47	11.2
	Lambeth	5.51	6.2
	Lewisham	5.59	5.87
	Newham	3.91	5.38
	Southwark	5.65	6.37
	Tower Hamlets	2.71	3.33
	Wandsworth	3.62	4.29
	Westminster	6.57	9.17

		22/23	23/24
Outer London	Barking and Dagenham	2.67	3.1
	Barnet	4.97	5.63
	Bexley	7.68	9.37
	Brent	4.75	7.13
	Bromley	4.77	6.32
	Croydon	6.31	6.77
	Ealing	4.25	4.09
	Enfield	5.9	5.65
	Greenwich	6	6.85
	Harrow	3.42	3.25
	Havering	4.36	4.97
	Hillingdon	4.87	4.92
	Hounslow	5.06	5.44
	Kingston upon Thames	1.73	2.15
	Merton	3.14	3.21
	Redbridge	3.96	4.18
	Richmond upon Thames	2.84	3.28
	Sutton	6.2	5.78
Waltham Forest	4.91	5.18	

However, we know from the previous analysis by sector that secondary schools are the major influence on the suspension rate.

The next table looks at the suspension rate in secondary schools for 2022/23 and 2023/24. Also included are the number of secondary schools.

Commendably some boroughs have reduced their suspensions.

There are less than 200 school days in an academic session which means that in RBKC on average at least one pupil was suspended every day of the school session in all six schools for both years.

In England overall, secondary school suspensions increased by 21%.

Local authority	No. of secondary schools		Nos. of suspension		Suspension rate per 100		% change
	22/23	23/24	22/23	23/24	22/23	23/24	
Barking and Dagenham	13	13	970	1146	4.77	5.51	13.5%
Barnet	28	27	2809	3081	9.19	10.16	9.5%
Bexley	17	17	2965	3446	14.52	17.13	15.3%
Brent	16	17	2038	3139	9.66	14.48	33.3%
Bromley	19	19	2151	2819	8.78	11.46	23.4%
Camden	10	10	840	1074	7.95	10.44	23.8%
Croydon	24	25	3073	3308	12.63	13.67	7.6%
Ealing	17	17	2032	1921	8.79	8.19	-7.4%
Enfield	21	21	2716	2639	10.91	10.57	-3.3%
Greenwich	16	16	2270	2592	12.30	13.72	10.4%
Hackney	16	16	2596	3061	17.62	20.91	15.8%
Hammersmith and Fulham	12	12	1028	1223	10.23	12.25	16.5%
Haringey	13	13	1782	2165	10.97	13.33	17.7%
Harrow	13	13	1147	1073	6.87	6.43	-6.9%
Havering	18	19	1538	1772	9.07	10.16	10.8%
Hillingdon	22	22	2177	2091	9.63	9.15	-5.2%
Hounslow	20	20	2030	2169	9.64	10.09	4.4%
Islington	11	11	1572	1908	16.83	20.63	18.4%
Kensington and Chelsea	6	6	1213	1295	19.50	21.15	7.8%
Kingston upon Thames	11	11	363	436	2.89	3.42	15.6%
Lambeth	22	20	1722	1737	10.94	11.12	1.6%
Lewisham	14	15	1848	1894	12.95	13.28	2.5%
Merton	9	9	586	649	5.55	6.02	7.9%
Newham	23	23	2341	3192	8.09	11.03	26.6%
Redbridge	19	18	2162	2141	7.51	7.74	3.1%
Richmond upon Thames	11	11	764	864	6.44	7.05	8.6%

Southwark	20	21	2064	2346	10.50	11.84	11.3%
Sutton	15	14	2165	1886	10.17	9.42	-8.0%
Tower Hamlets	19	18	1045	1241	5.31	6.24	15.0%
Waltham Forest	17	18	1745	1916	10.41	10.59	1.7%
Wandsworth	11	11	977	1127	7.35	8.57	14.2%
Westminster	12	12	1305	1786	10.25	14.12	27.4%