

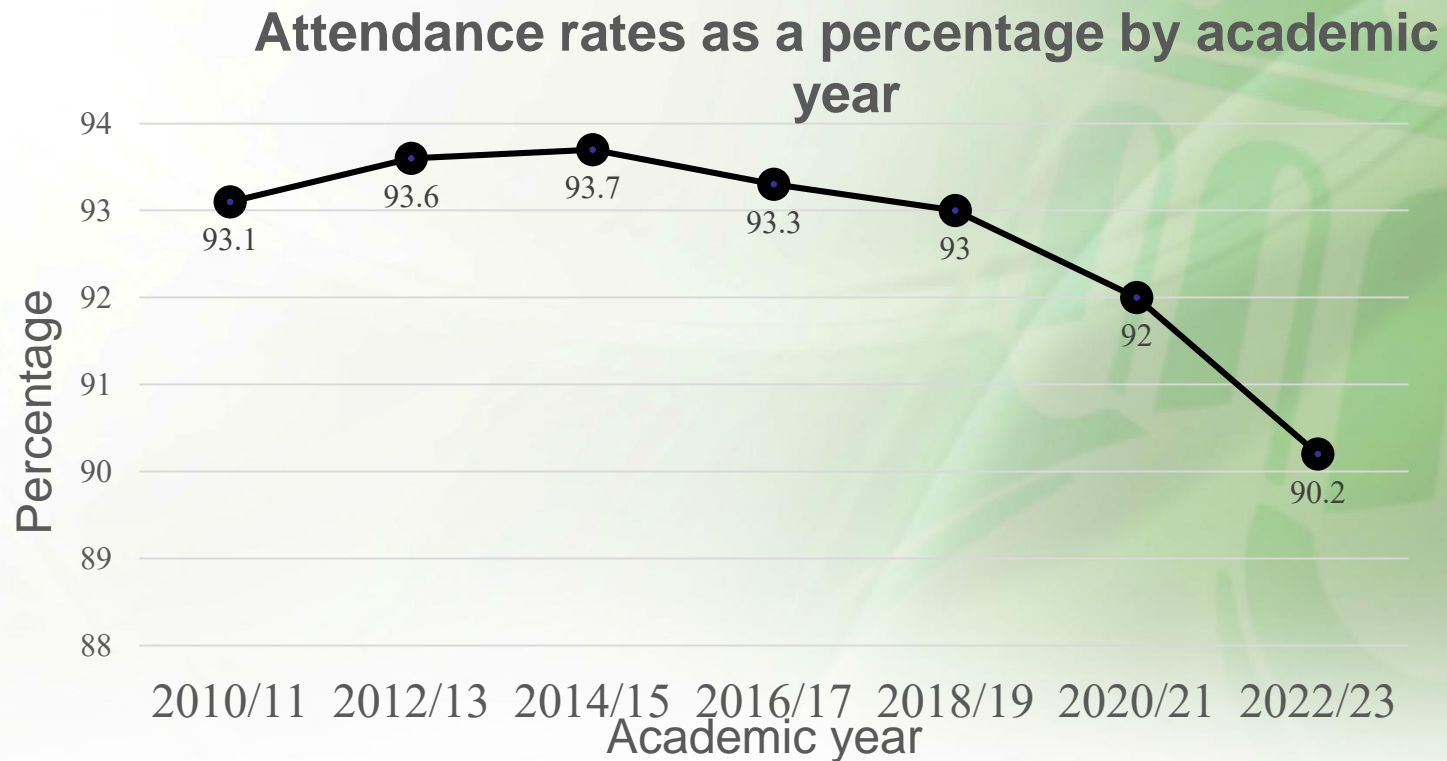


West Lothian Council Attendance Strategy 2024- 2027

EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

Inclusion in West Lothian

Attendance Trend



➤ **2023/24**
Nat 90.3% WL 89.7%

Overall Attendance Figures

Scotland



Pupils with no ASN

91.6

Pupils with ASN

87.5

Highest 20% of SIMD (Least deprived)

93.5

Lowest 20% of SIMD (Most deprived)

86.8

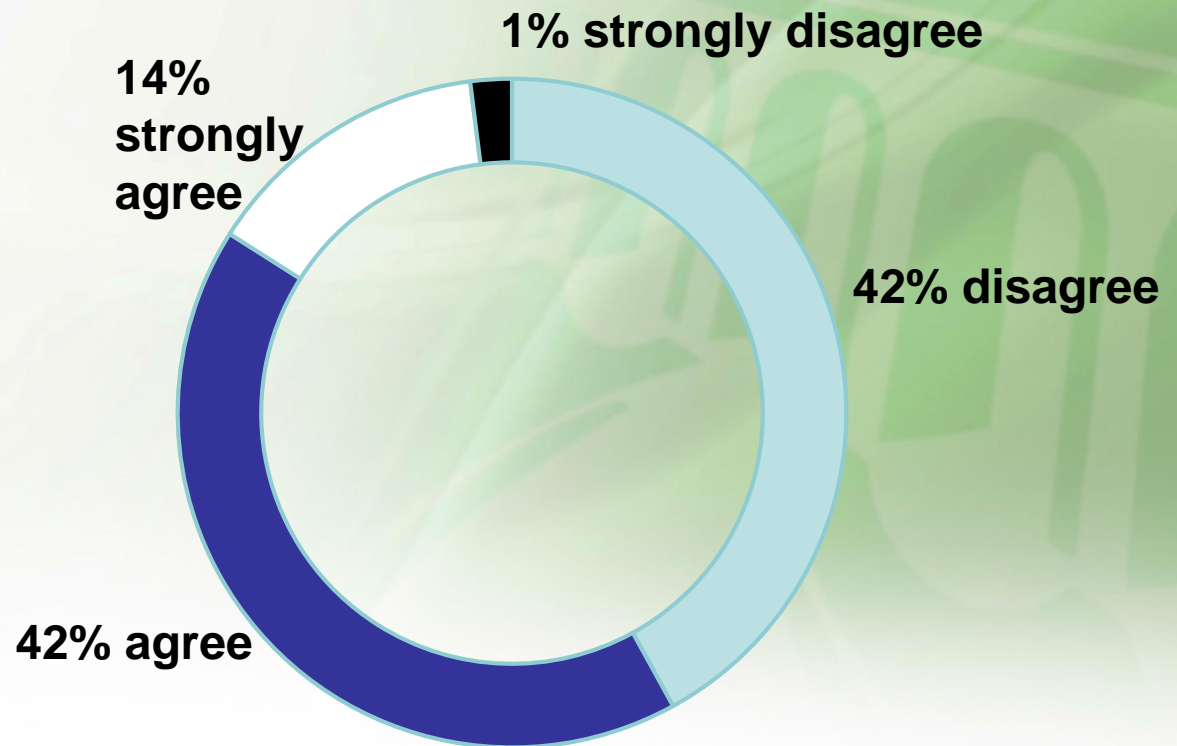
All Pupils

90.2

Impact of non attendance

100% Attendance	0 days missed
95% Attendance	9 days absence (1 week and 4 days missed learning)
90% Attendance	19 days of absence (3 weeks and 4 days of missed learning)
80% Attendance	36 days of absence (7 weeks and 3 days missed – half a term missed)
75% Attendance	45 days absence (9 weeks and 1 day of missed learning – almost a full term absent)
50% Attendance	90 days absence (20 weeks of missed learning – half of the school annual session absent)

I consider my child to have good attendance at school



The impact of non attendance at school

Research shows that low attendance can lead to:

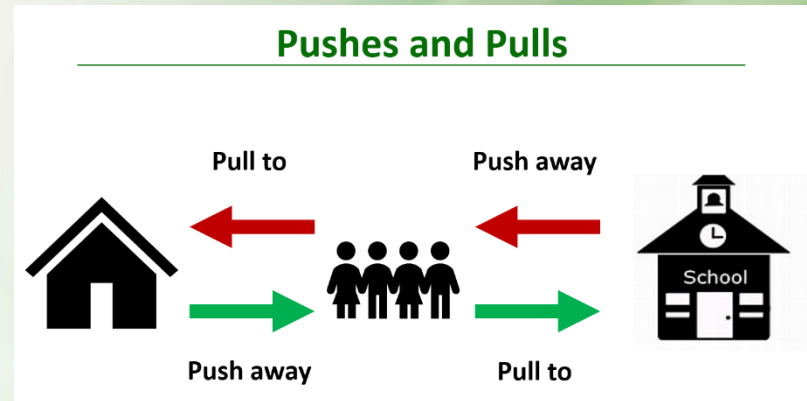
- Lower academic attainment and achievement.
- Difficulty maintaining friendships and relationships and becoming socially withdrawn.
- Increased risk of becoming involved in antisocial or offending behaviour.
- Higher likelihood of unemployment, poverty, and homelessness in adulthood.



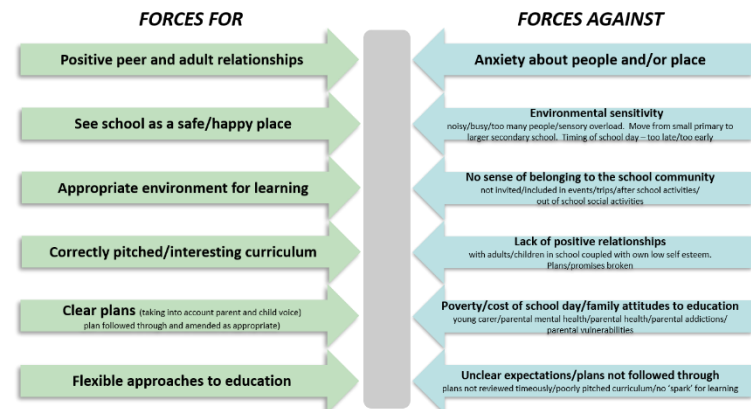
Klein and Sosu (2024)

Consultation

- Staff
- Parents
- Young people/children
- Attendance collaborative network
- Social policy and Interrupted Learner Service colleagues



Young people below 50% attendance Pupil view



Forces for....I want to go to school because:

to see my friends

I like subjects

Fun events practical subjects helps you get ready to leave school don't want to get into trouble

I enjoy doing work food

Good support from sporting activities

staff

I can go to the shops easily

education is important

Good results - feel like doing well

Social times

I want to learn

It helps you to meet your goals

clubs & extra

Our parents tell us to go

curricular activities

people care

the law says we have to

I like my teachers

Forces against....I don't want to go to school

can't get to school easily

merits/demerits system is unfair

Peer relationships

Drama & fall outs parents don't mind if I stay off

Lack of sleep - early morning starts

Don't like certain teachers Don't like leaving family member Seating plans

canteen too busy - queues too long

timetable - double periods and rubbish days

If your friend is off you don't want to go

worried about what other people think

The right clothes **Having dry and clean clothes**

Don't like certain subjects **Older siblings and friends** transport issues

don't attend Sudden changes to classes

Need more learning support **Trying to catch up on work missed**

"Bad" classes - feel uncomfortable

When things are unpredictable

Young people 70-80% attendance pupil view (primary)

FORCES FOR

Friendship

Will get fed

Checked in on by my adults

Playtimes

Fun activities like Christmas Parties

Learn about interesting things

FORCES AGAINST

Clean clothes

Dry clothes

Lack of sleep

Leaving mum

Older siblings not attending – why should I go

Certain subjects i.e. I hate writing so avoid

Young people below 70-80% attendance – parent

view

FORCES FOR

Legal requirement to send child to school

Good support, confidence building

Social, friends, fun

Learning, developing, understanding, skills

Routine, consistency, discipline

Good health

FORCES AGAINST

Environment
(Corridors/toilets/class behaviour)

Understanding learner needs
(ASN/lack of support/flexibility)

Parents not valuing education

Bullying/peer relationships

Transport and travel

Illness/social anxiety

West Lothian Attendance Strategy

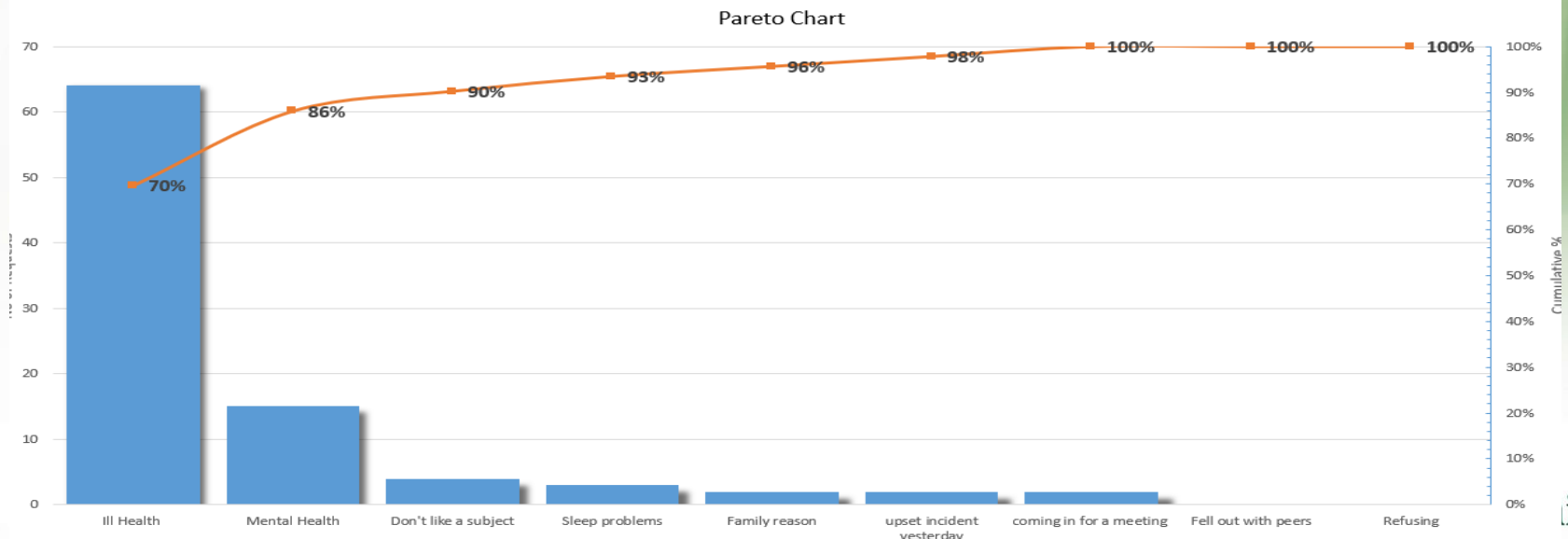
- Clear policy and guidance
- Effective data analysis
- People Centred Systems
- Partnerships



Targeted intervention


- Ill Health - Referral to for pupil or family to meet with school nurse.
- Mental Health - referral to either the school counsellor or take part in targeted wellbeing group

Pareto Chart			
Support Area	No of Requests	Cumulative %	Cumulative Count
Ill Health	64	70%	64
Mental Health	15	86%	79
Don't like a subject	4	90%	83
Sleep problems	3	93%	86
Family reason	2	96%	88
upset incident yesterday	2	98%	90
coming in for a meeting	2	100%	92
Fell out with peers	0	100%	92
Refusing	0	100%	92



Interrupted Learner Service

- Emotionally Based School Avoidance
- Relationship with the child and the family
- Individualised plan and support
- Environment specific to needs
- Partnership with other services
- Positive feedback and impact



EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES
Inclusion in West Lothian

Interrupted Learner Teaching Service

Do you have young people who struggle with attendance? Would they be able to access education more easily if they had a suitable device?

We have access to a number of new netbooks which can be loaned to young people either short or long term.

Criteria:

- Attendance below 50%
- Quintile 1 and/or entitled to free school meals
- Be out of school due to Chronic non-attendance or Long/Short term illness
- Have a need to access education on line

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact:
Iain McLean, Principal Teacher
Curriculum, Interrupted
Learner Teaching Service
iain.mclean@westlothian.org.uk

Interrupted Learner Service

**Improving Attendance and Engagement
Drop-in sessions**

All sessions are suitable for primary, ASN and secondary staff.
Sessions will include a short input from the ILT team followed by time to ask questions/ discuss with colleagues.

Session 1: Early Intervention
Tuesday 26th September 4 - 5pm

Session 2: Learner Voice
Thursday 28th October 4 - 5pm

Session 3: Targeted interventions
Friday 29th November 4 - 5pm

Session 4: Engaging activities and games
Monday 10th January 4 - 5pm

Session 5: Meaningful engagement
Wednesday 16th March 4 - 5pm

Session 6: Planning for session 2/2b
Friday 24th May 4 - 5pm

Team join code: xiv79bc

Questions?