

A summary picture of Children & Young People in Birmingham: School Years

This document provides a summary of the key facts and figures on children and young people during their school years. For detailed information and a wider range of data (including sources), please see the JSNA School Years Dashboard.

Click this [link](#) to access the JSNA School Years Dashboard.



There are 180,300 school-aged children (aged 5-15 years) living in Birmingham, representing 16% of the population.

Many children in the city live in poverty: twice as many children live in absolute low income families in Birmingham (32%) compared to nationally (15%) and nearly 80,000 children are eligible for free school meals.



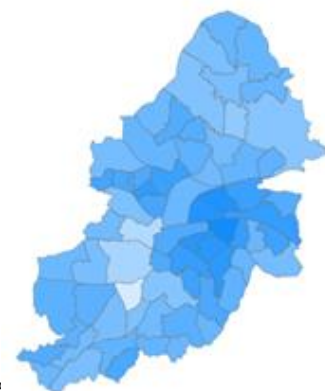
In Key Stage 1 just 56% of children meet the expected standard in writing, and 65% in maths and reading. Around 14% of school pupils in Birmingham are receiving support for Special Educational Needs (SEN) and almost 4% have an Education, Health, and Care plan in place.



Only 42% of Birmingham children meet the Chief Medical Officer's recommended 60 minutes of physical activity per day. Around 1 in 4 of children in Reception are overweight or obese, rising to more than 2 in 5 by the end of primary schooling. In both age groups, this is significantly worse than the England average and is higher in areas of higher deprivation.

How many school-aged children live in Birmingham?

There are around 180,300 school-aged children (5-15 years) living in Birmingham, representing around 16% of the population. The wards with the largest proportion of the populations of school-age are in the east (Heartlands, Ward End, Alum Rock, Bordesley Green and Small Heath) and west of the city (Aston, Lozells and Newtown). (Figure 1).



How does the ethnicity of children vary compared to the rest of the population?

Ethnic diversity is highest in younger age groups in Birmingham, with the greatest diversity seen in the under 16s. In this age group, around 66.9% are of non-white ethnicity, compared to 51.6% in the 16-64 age group, and just 23.7% in the over 65s.

How many children are living in poverty in Birmingham?

There are different measures of poverty affecting children, but each of these show that the proportion of children experiencing poverty in Birmingham is approximately twice as high as England average. Large numbers of children in Birmingham live in low-income families, with one third living in absolute low-income families (compared to fewer than 1 in 5 in England 2021/22), and around 2 in 5 living in relative low-income families (compared to 1 in 5 in England). Across the city, 28% of children (70,113 0-15 years) are living in poverty, based on the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI, 2019). This is significantly higher than the England average of 17%. There is considerable variation across the city, with the highest levels of poverty in children seen in King's Norton South, Newtown, Garretts Green, Nechells, and Soho & Jewellery Quarter (each with around 2 in 5 children living in poverty). Nearly 80,000 children in the City are eligible for free school meals.

Who achieves a good level of development at the end of Reception?

Around 63% of children achieved a good level of development at the end of Reception, (lower than England average of 65%). Fewer children eligible for free school meals achieve a good level of development at the end of Reception (55%) compared to all children in Birmingham but this is significantly higher than the England average (49%). greater proportion of girls achieve good levels of development compared to boys both locally and nationally.

How does deprivation affect expected levels of early development?

Educational development is negatively correlated with deprivation, with a lower percentage of children living in the most deprived areas achieving a good level of development than those living in the most affluent areas. This is a pattern that is seen in Birmingham and across England but in Birmingham a larger proportion of children live in the most deprived areas. The fact that the average for the city is below England levels, appears to be driven by the high levels of deprivation in Birmingham. However, when comparing children living in the most deprived areas (deciles) in Birmingham with children in areas with the same level of deprivation nationally, a slightly higher proportion of children achieve expected levels of development in Birmingham than the national average.

How many children meet Key Stage 1 standards?

In Key Stage 1 just 56% of children meet the expected standard in writing and 65% in maths and reading. Attainment is higher for science with 72%. However in all areas, this is lower than the England average.

How do Birmingham children perform in their GCSEs?

In 2021/22, the average Attainment 8 score of Birmingham pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 was 49.2 lower than the England average of 50.9. Attainment is lower than the Birmingham average for children in care (20.6%) and for children receiving free school meals (42.6%), however both are higher than the England average for these groups of children.

How many children have Special Educational Needs?

Around 14% of school pupils in Birmingham (29,670 pupils) are receiving support for Special Educational Needs (SEN) and 3.7% have an Education, Health, and Care plan in place. The largest primary care need for children with SEN is moderate learning difficulty, affecting 4.4% of SEN pupils, followed by speech, language, and communication needs affecting around 3.8%, and autistic spectrum disorder, affecting 1.5%. Approximately 2% of school pupils have social, emotional, and mental health needs, which is lower than the England average, but has increased significantly in recent years.

How many children are excluded from school?

In 2020/21, there were 1,322 fixed period exclusions in Birmingham primary schools which is 118 children in every 10,000 which is a higher rate than England. In secondary schools there were 5,570 fixed period exclusions, which is 655 per 10,000 children, lower than England. There were 24 permanent exclusions in Birmingham primary schools (2.1 per 10,000 pupils) and 98 permanent exclusions In secondary schools (11.5 per 10,000 children), both higher than the England.

How many pupils are persistently absent from school?

During 2021/22 21,881 pupils were persistently absent in Birmingham secondary schools (27.7%), which is the same as England and 21,215 pupils were persistently absent in Birmingham Primary schools (21.8%), which is significantly higher than England (19.3%). Nationally there has been a significant increase in persistent absence following the pandemic.

How many children are physically active?

The Chief Medical Officers recommend children maintain an average of at least 60 minutes of physical activity per day. In Birmingham, 42% of children meet recommended levels, significantly lower than the England average (47%).

What are some key health issues for school-aged children?

Some key health issues affecting school aged children in Birmingham are:

- **Mental wellbeing:** In 2021/22, children's wellbeing as measured through reported happiness, life satisfaction and life worthiness was marginally lower than the average for England. More 11-16 year old children in Birmingham reported themselves as never lonely (17%) compared to England averages (11%).
- **Oral Health:** Around a quarter of 5 years olds in Birmingham have visually obvious dental decay, similar to the proportion in England. Although this is based on a small sample of children and may not be representative of the whole population.
- **Overweight & Obesity:** Around 25% of children in Reception are overweight or obese, rising to more than 40% by the end of primary schooling. In both age groups, this is significantly worse than the England average. There is variation across the City with prevalence of overweight and obesity, at Reception and Year 6, was higher in areas with higher deprivation.(figures 2 and 3)

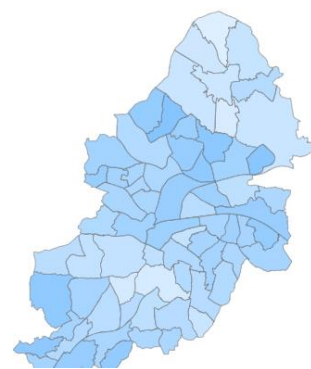


Figure 2. Overweight and Obesity- Reception

What are children admitted to hospital for in Birmingham and how do these compare?

- **Rates of emergency admission for asthma are high in Birmingham,** whilst those for diabetes and epilepsy are generally similar to England rates. : Emergency hospital admissions for asthma in children are significantly higher than for England at 231 per 100,000 compared with 132 per 100,000). Emergency admissions for diabetes in under 19 year olds was similar to England rates (63 per 100,000 in Birmingham compared with 58 per 100,000) as were emergency admissions for Epilepsy at 78 per 100,000 compared with 74 per 100,000)
- **Fewer children in Birmingham are admitted for alcohol and substance use than across England.** The rate of alcohol-specific hospital admissions in under 18s in Birmingham is 17 per 100,000 population, significantly lower than the England rate of 29 per 100,000. For substance misuse in 15-24 year olds, the rate of hospital admissions is 51 per 100,000 population, also significantly lower than the England rate of 81 per 100,000.
- **Accidents & Injuries:** In 2021/22 the rate per 1,000 of A&E attendances for under 18s in Birmingham was 457.5. This equates to 131,025 under 18 year olds. Birmingham's rate is significantly worse than the England rate (439.8). Of the 69 Birmingham wards, 47 have emergency admission rates higher than the national average for admissions for children under 15.

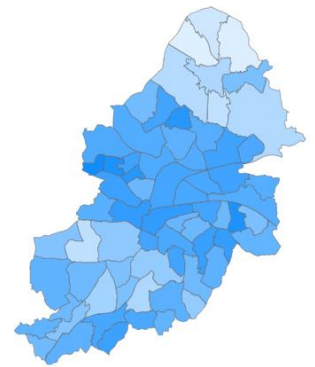


Figure 3. Overweight and Obesity- Year 6

How many children are killed or seriously injured on the roads in Birmingham?

In 2022, 448 people were killed or seriously injured on the roads in Birmingham, of which 12% (54) were children (0-17y).

What are immunisation uptake rates for school children in Birmingham?

Uptake of HPV vaccination is low in Birmingham. It was severely disrupted by COVID and is well below recommended coverage of 80-90%. In 2021/22, just 44% of girls aged 12-13y received one dose of HPV vaccination (compared to 70% in England). This was a decrease from the previous cohort (aged 13-14y in 21/22) who were eligible for two doses and of whom 65% received their second dose (compared with 67% in England).

In 2022, 40.4% of primary school children (aged 4-11) in Birmingham received their flu vaccination, equivalent to 46,264 vaccinations. This leaves 68,112 children unvaccinated in Birmingham. Coverage in Birmingham was significantly lower than England (56.3%), and lower than the coverage goal of 65%.