



South Tyneside Council

Education Service Update

Education and Skills Committee

18th June 2026



Education Service Overview



South Tyneside Council

SEND Access and Review	Inclusion Service	Assisted Travel and Transport	Portage and pre-school	Alternative Provision	Elective Home Education	Medical Tuition
SEND school place planning	Hearing Impaired	Visually Impaired	Educational Psychologist	Emotional Resilience Team	School Improvement	School Achievement
Admissions	Governance	Attendance	ICT in Schools	Music in Schools	Early Years (2-5)	MFL in Schools
EAL support	Catering	Workforce Development	Curriculum, Assessment and Moderation	Virtual School		

The Virtual School



South Tyneside Council

The Virtual school track and promote the educational achievement of vulnerable children. Rather than a physical school building their aim is to act as corporate parents to drive academic success, improve attendance and provide targeted support.

The core remit is

- Statutory duty to monitor the education for cared for children and ensure all children have an up-to-date PEP
- A strategic and signposting role to offer advice and guidance to previously cared for children and those who have been adopted
- Extended remit to support educational outcomes through advice and guidance for all children with a social worker and those in Kinship care arrangements.

The Virtual School Base



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The team are based at the Marketplace along with the ILAC team, Participation team, Fostering, Leaving care team and Connected Carers.

We have a classroom and a counselling room and access to meetings rooms. The building is centrally located and next to our local library and ICT open zone. All services work in conjunction with each other. We have agreement for a new satellite provision at Ashtree. We are currently working on what this will look like alongside The Beacon Centre.



The Virtual School Offer

Case worker for every child
Training and CPD - extended
Intervention
Advice and guidance – across all vulnerable groups & Kinship
Conferences
Direct work with individuals
Therapeutic support
EP support and guidance
Admissions and school moves
Transition support
SEND support
Tuition and resources
Consultations
Careers advice- help with work experience
Promote external initiatives
PEPs
School attendance – across al vulnerable groups, Welfare Call
Bespoke Timetables
Support in schools
Tracking
PP top slice



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Local Schools Landscape



South Tyneside Council

62 schools in total

8 secondary schools (including 2 academies and 2 academies in MAT Trust)

3 infant schools with nursery units (incl. 2 academies)

1 infant school without a nursery unit

4 junior schools (including 2 academies)

26 primary schools with nursery units (2 academies)

11 primary schools (including 5 academies)

5 special schools

4 maintained nursery schools

Local vs National Picture



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Key Deprivation and Free School Meal Statistics

High FSM Rates: Across the borough, the proportion of children eligible for Free School Meals is notably higher than the England average.

- **National Primary Average:** 22% to 26%
- **North East England (Regional Average):** 32.3% (the highest in the country)
- **South Tyneside:** 31.8%
- **Newcastle:** 39.6%
- **Northumberland:** 22.2%

Multiple Deprived Neighbourhoods: Borough-wide, about 21% of neighbourhoods are classified as highly deprived—more than double the national average of 10%. The area ranks as the 35th most deprived out of 296 local authorities in England.

(Information taken from gov.uk - June 2026)





The Scale of SEND in Our Area

% of Pupils
with SEND



24.1%

8,102 pupils

South Tyneside remains
above regional and national
averages

Education, Health
& Care Plans



1776

5.3% pupils

Growth is slower than
National (63.7%) and
Regionally (56.3%)

SEN Support
(without EHCP)



18.8%

6,320 pupils

This is the highest nationally
Most identified at age
6-10 years

SEND Prevalence
2021-2025



Overall SEND prevalence
has increased, with growth
accelerating in recent years

Total SEND % Statutory School Age

Early Years
0-4



Primary
5-10



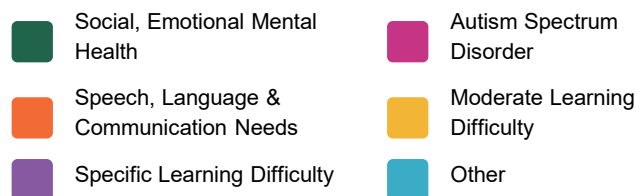
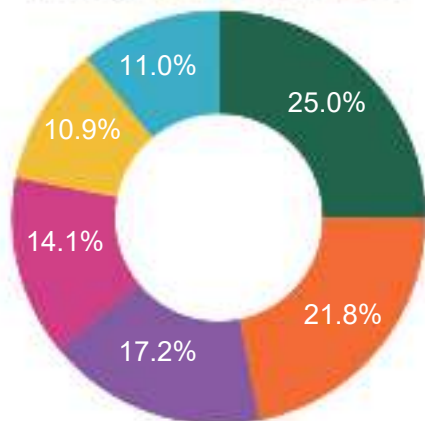
Secondary
11-16





Profile of Need

Primary Need SEN Support



Key Messages



Increasing complexity of need, growth is outpacing population increase

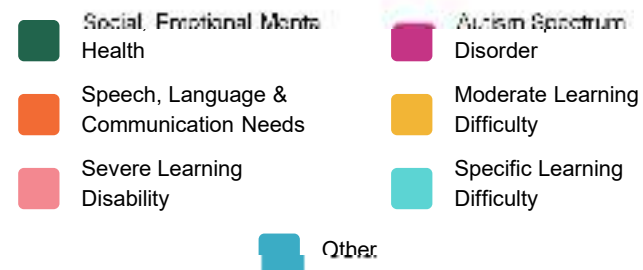
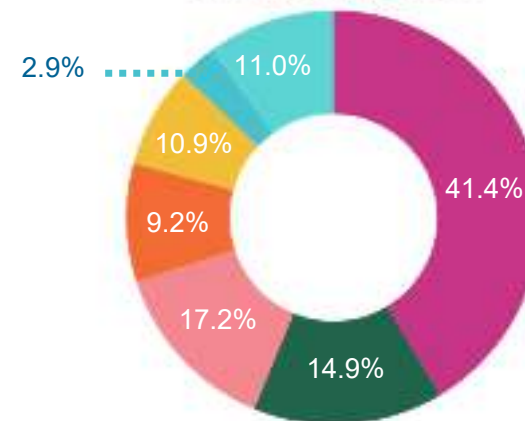


Rising demand for Autism and Social, Emotional Mental Health support



More pupils with multiple and complex needs

Primary Need EHCPs





Sufficiency & Capacity

Where children and young people with EHCPs are educated

	Mainstream Schools	364 20.4%
	Additional Resource Bases / SEN Units	196 11.0%
	Maintained Special School	717 40.1%
	Independent / Non-Maintained Special Schools	122 6.8%
	Post 16 Provision	299 16.7%

Capacity Pressures



Demand and complexity of need are increasing rapidly, placing sustained pressure on capacity across education, health and care services.



Rising EHCP volumes are driving escalating demand for specialist placements, stretching local provision and increasing reliance on high-cost and out-of-area provision.



Limited system capacity, including delays in early identification and access to specialist support, is contributing to escalation to statutory intervention.



Workforce constraints and variability in inclusive practice are limiting the system's ability to meet need early and consistently within mainstream and local provision.



Vulnerable Children with SEND

Children In Need (CIN)

EHCP
Pupils

42.1%

SEN Support
Pupils

19.1%

No SEN

7.7%



42.1% of all pupils with an EHCP are Children In Need, higher than the North East (29.9%) and England (29.8%). Lower rates for children with no SEN Locally suggests a more targeted approach to social care involvement.

Children Cared For (LAC)

EHCP
Pupils

35.8%

SEN Support
Pupils

19.7%

No SEN

10.2%



35.8% of all pupils with an EHCP are Children Cared For, higher than the North East (28.7%) and England (31.9%). SEN Support pupils are also above regional and national rates.

WHAT THIS TELLS US



Children with the highest level of SEND need are disproportionately vulnerable



SEND and social care needs are strongly interrelated



Local data suggests:

- Effective identification of complex need
- More targeted and focused intervention on the highest-risk groups

Primary Early Years and Infant Attainment Data



South Tyneside Council

Early Years

ST Attainment 2025	Regional Attainment 2025	National Attainment 2025
66.9%	66.5%	68.3%

KS1 Phonics

ST Attainment 2025	Regional Attainment 2025	National Attainment 2025
77.6%	78%	80%



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Primary Junior Attainment Data

KS2

	ST Attainment 2025	Regional Attainment 2025	National Attainment 2025
Reading	74%	73.2%	75%
Writing	73.5%	73.1%	72%
Maths	73.7%	73%	74%
RWM	61.7%	61%	62%

Secondary Attainment Data



South Tyneside Council

	Attainment 8			Progress 8		
	LA	National	Difference	LA	National	Difference
Overall	42.7	46.1	-3.4	-0.39	-0.03	-0.36
English	42.7	46.1	-3.4			
Maths	8.4	9.8	-1.4			
Ebacc	42.7	46	-3.3			

No KS4 progress data is available for the years 2024/25 and 2025/26 due to the impact of Covid-19 on KS2 prior attainment data.

Further Education Attainment Data



South Tyneside Council

School	Cohort sitting	Achieving 1+ A Level	Achieving 2+ A Levels	Achieving 3+ A Levels
Harton Academy	164	100.0%	98.7%	94.9%
St Joseph's RC Academy	82	100.0%	100.0%	92.7%
St Wilfrid's RC College	75	100.0%	100.0%	91.9%
Whitburn CE Academy	110	100.0%	96.4%	80.0%
South Tyneside	431	100.0%	98.6%	89.9%

	South Tyneside		Diff	England		Diff from National
	2024	2025		2024	2025	
Average Point Score (Best 3 A Levels)	32.68	31.96	-0.72	35.08	35.74	-3.78
Average Point Score Per Entry	31.8	30.91	-0.89	34.38	34.99	-4.08

Ofsted Gradings



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In November 2025 the Ofsted framework changed from singular gradings to a report card approach.

The gradings for the new inspection fall into the below categories:

Urgent improvement

Needs Attention

Expected

Strong

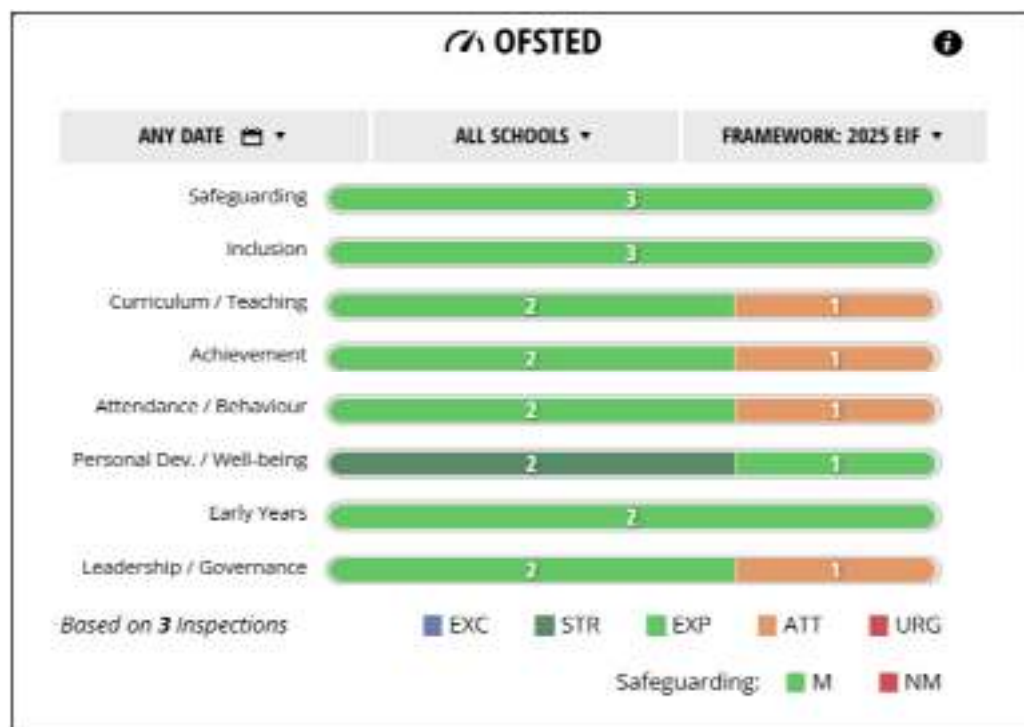
Exceptional

The expected standard is a high benchmark.

Recent Ofsted Outcomes



South Tyneside Council



A further two inspections have taken place in June 2026.

Provisional results indicate a further:

2 met in safeguarding

8 strong outcomes

6 expected outcomes

Key Priorities



South Tyneside Council

1. SEND reform in line with national priorities.
2. Improving attendance levels in line with national priorities.
3. Improving fixed term exclusion and permanent exclusion rates in line with national priorities.



SEND Inclusion & Outcomes

Suspension Rate



SEND Pupils are

4.8x

More likely to be
suspended

Permanent Exclusion Rate

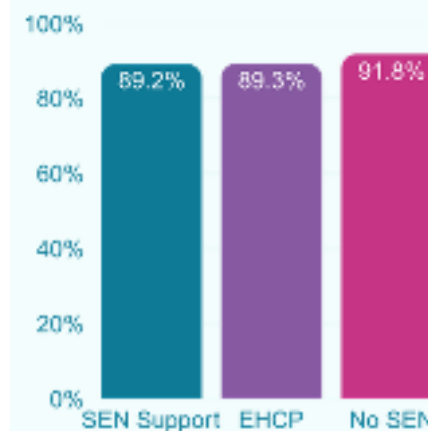


SEND Pupils are

4.4x

More likely to be
Peramently Excluded

Attendance



Attendance gap of

2.6%

for pupils with
SEND



SEND Attainment Outcomes



EARLY YEARS



KEY STAGE 1



KEY STAGE 2



KEY STAGE 4

EHCP Pupils

2.1%

Achieved a Good Level
Of Development (GLD)
Below North East (2.5%)
and England (3.9%)

SEN Support Pupils

35.2%

Achieved a Good Level
Of Development (GLD)
Above national (26.4%)

EHCP Pupils

14.0%

Reached expected
standard in reading,
writing and maths
Below national (20.0%)

SEN Support Pupils

53.0%

Reached expected
standard in reading,
writing and maths
Above national (20.0%)

EHCP Pupils

4.5%

Achieved expected
standard in reading,
writing and maths (RWM)
Below national (7.5%)

SEN Support Pupils

28.5%

Achieved expected
standard in reading,
writing and maths (RWM)
In line with national (28.6%)

EHCP Pupils

Attainment gap widens
significantly

Lower Attainment 8 and
Progress 8 scores
Below national averages

SEN Support Pupils

Attainment gap widens

Lower Attainment 8 and
Progress 8 scores
Below national averages

KEY MESSAGES

SEN SUPPORT

Outcomes for SEN Support pupils
are stronger than or inline with
national benchmarks across
primary.

ECHP COHORT

Outcomes for EHCP pupils are
significantly below regional and
national benchmarks at all stages.

GAPS ESCALATE OVER TIME

Early gaps in development and
attainment escalate into significant
secondary attainment gaps.

WHAT THIS MEANS

Reinforces need for early
intervention, strong inclusive
practice and coordinated multi-
agency support.

Key Priorities



South Tyneside Council

Improving attendance levels in line with national priorities.

Primary Schools: Weekly attendance

(1-Jun 26 - 05 Jun 26)

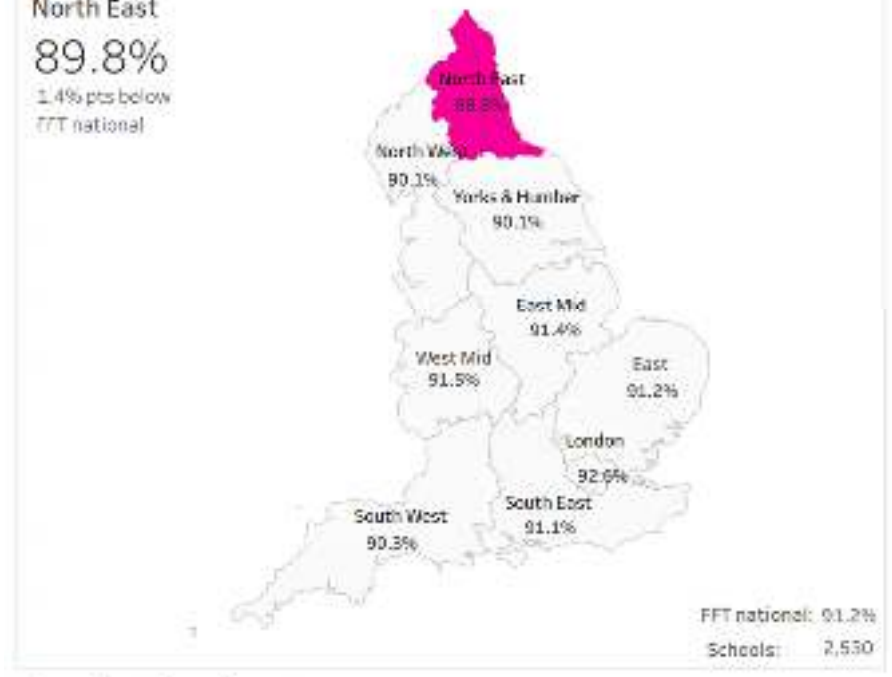
North East
94.0%
0.4% pts below
FFT national



Secondary Schools: Weekly attendance

(1-Jun 26 - 05 Jun 26)

North East
89.8%
1.4% pts below
FFT national



Key Priorities



South Tyneside Council

Improving fixed term exclusion and permanent exclusion rates in line with national priorities.

