

School attendance and exclusions data 2023/24 noted etc.

4 There was submitted a report by the Executive Director of Education Services providing detailed statistics on school attendance and exclusions for the academic year 2023/24, advising

- (1) that the data for 2023/24 had been calculated using information collected in the summer of 2024 from all primary, secondary and Additional Support for Learning schools in Glasgow;
- (2) that schools had not closed during sessions 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, attendance of both pupils and staff continued to be affected;
- (3) of various information on school attendance data, as detailed in the report, and highlighting that the data for 2019/20 and 2020/21 could not be used for comparison purposes due to the impact of school closures throughout those 2 years as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (4) that over the last 5 years there had been an improvement in attendance in primary schools but a continued decline for secondary schools and that all schools across the city had been working hard to improve attendance, working with third sector partners and families to stress the importance of education and consistent attendance at school;
- (5) of information on the spread of the attendance data in relation to both primary and secondary attendance over the last 5 years and of a comparison with national data which was published by the Scottish Government every 2 years, as detailed in the report;
- (6) of various information with regards to exclusions, as detailed in the report, and highlighting that overall exclusion incidents broadly remained the same in 2023/24 with the number of incidents broadly equivalent to session 2019/20; and
- (7) that on a school by school basis, there was a need to work with staff, parents and young people to explore the causes of exclusion and the ways in which schools could avoid using this option.

After consideration, the committee noted

- (a) the report; and
- (b) that the data for 2019/20 and 2020/21 could not be directly compared due to the school closures which had taken place in both years as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.