

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING
BY DEPUTY D.J. WARR OF ST. HELIER SOUTH
QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 2025
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER 2025**

Question

“With regard to the unauthorised absence of pupils from school for every year group, will the Minister state for each year from 2022 to 2024 inclusive –

- (a) the number of absent days and provide a comparison to 2019 data;
- (b) the gender breakdown; and
- (c) the total cost to CYPES (Children, Young People, Education and Skills) for non-attendance in each year?”

Answer

- (a) The table below presents the number of pupil absence days recorded as unauthorised across Government schools (Reception to Year 11). The data is reported by academic year, rather than calendar year. In each academic year the cohort size exceeded 10,000 pupils. Unauthorised absences include:
- Holidays not approved by the school
 - Late arrivals
 - Absences without a provided reason
 - Absences where the reason was deemed unsatisfactory by the school

It’s important to recognise that direct comparisons with pre-Covid attendance figures must be viewed in the context of substantial shifts in the national attendance landscape. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, improving attendance has been a priority for the department. We have a dedicated Central Educational Welfare Team who support all primary schools and the fee-paying Government of Jersey schools, while other schools employ school specific Educational Welfare Officers. We have also invested in data quality resource and as a result, we are now able to report with greater confidence in the accuracy and reliability of attendance data from 2021 onwards. There was no central oversight of data quality prior to 2021, and we can therefore not be confident in the earlier data. As such, comparisons between years should be treated with caution. Days have been independently rounded to the nearest whole number.

Academic Year	2018/2019	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Year 0	1345	1441	1634	1935
Year 1	1159	1683	1739.5	1699
Year 2	1365	1680	1713	2098
Year 3	1213	1655	1982	2132
Year 4	1030	1495	1623	2091
Year 5	1204	1670	1867	2211
Year 6	982	1724	1995	2032
Year 7	871	2290	2887	3408
Year 8	1163	3657	4132	5098
Year 9	1398	4723	5487	5286
Year 10	3433	4702	6403	6301
Year 11	4931	5091	5181.5	6440
Total days	20092	31809	36642	40728
Total days available	1,972,404	1,943,328	1,942,026	1,960,875

% of unauthorised absences	1.0%	1.6%	1.9%	2.1%
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- (b) The table below shows the same information provided above, by gender. Days have been independently rounded to the nearest whole number.

Academic Year	Females	Males	Total days
2018/2019	8804	11288	20092
2022/2023	16095	15714	31809
2023/2024	17684	18958	36642
2024/2025	19881	20847	40728

The cost of unauthorised absences described above are difficult to measure. All pupil absence is monitored by schools, and as part of their normal practice, teachers and teaching assistants will work with children and their families to identify and rectify gaps in pupil learning created as a result of missed lessons. Similarly, where a particular pattern of absence is identified, Educational Welfare colleagues will work with pupils and their families, to support children in attending school so that they can access their learning and thrive in their educational setting.