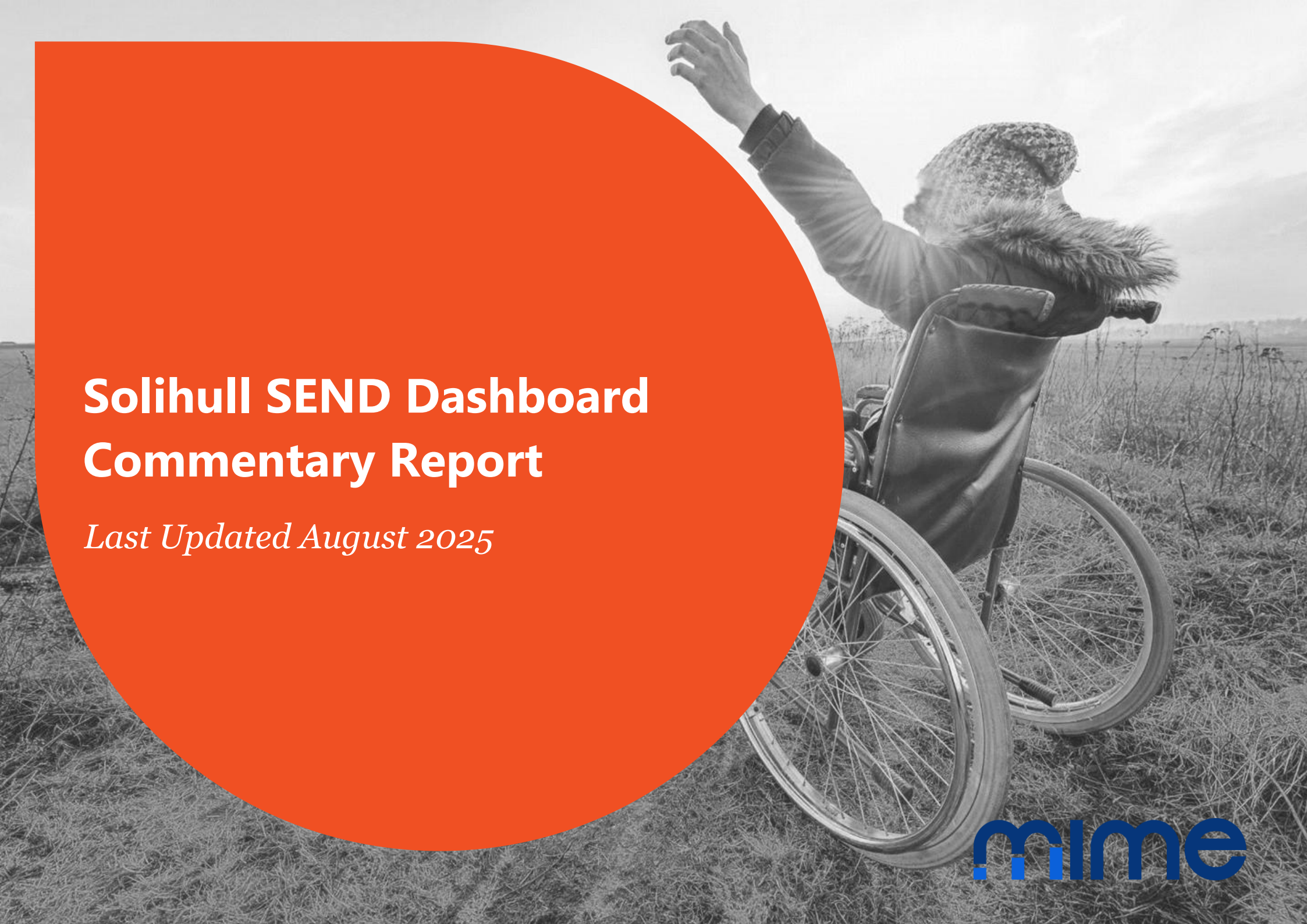


A black and white photograph of a person in a wheelchair, seen from the side and slightly from behind. They are wearing a dark jacket with a fur-lined hood and a knitted hat. Their right arm is raised high towards the sky. They are in a field of tall, dry grass under a cloudy sky. A large orange semi-circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the title and date.

Solihull SEND Dashboard Commentary Report

Last Updated August 2025

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Introduction

This commentary report sits alongside the full SEND Dashboard, which draws together a range of SEND indicators into a consistent visual summary. This report pulls out key points and data of interest that highlight areas of success as well as areas of improvement. To align with the SEND Dashboard, it is organised into the three questions in the evaluation schedule in Ofsted’s SEN Inspection Handbook. As a result, it may be particularly helpful in preparing for and during an Ofsted inspection. For details on the data sources, please refer to the Notes section of the accompanying SEND Dashboard.

Contents

A. Identification..... 2

B. Assessment & Provision 5

C. Outcomes..... 7

Latest Updates

The data in the following sections of this commentary report has been most recently updated, denoted by coloured outlines:

- Prevalence – resident population - 2025
- Prevalence – looked after children and children in need - 2024
- Prevalence and primary need – school population - 2025
- Implementation - 2024
- Provision for EHCP pupils - 2025
- Post-16 Level 2 and 3 achievement by age 19 - 2023/24
- NEET and Participation - 2025
- Exclusions - 2023/24

A. Identification

How effectively does the local area identify children and young people with SEND?

Despite a smaller than average proportion of 0- to 24-year-old residents issued with a new EHCP in the year to January 2025, Solihull continues to have a larger than average EHCP cohort. However, the proportion of pupils in Solihull's schools with EHCPs in 2025 is the second lowest among statistical neighbours. However, the SEN Support cohort is larger than average and Solihull has a particularly large ASD cohort.

Prevalence – Resident population (2025)

- In 2025, the number of Solihull **residents with an EHCP continued to rise**, from 2301 in 2024 to 2,503 in 2025. This is equivalent to 3.83% of 0- to 24-year-old residents, **above** the **England** average of 3.64%
- After an **increase** in the number of **new EHCPs issued** from 268 in 2023 to 346 in 2024, equivalent to 0.53% of 0- to 24-year-olds, the **rate of issuing** new EHCPs is now **in line** with the **England** average
- With an **increase** of 1.4% points to 32.6% in 2025, the percentage of the **EHCP cohort aged between 5 and 10** was brought **closer to the England average** (33.3%).

Prevalence – Looked after children and children in need (2024)

- In 2024, just **22.8%** of **looked after children** in Solihull had an **EHCP**. At 9.1% points **below** the **England** average, this is in the lowest quartile in England, and the **lowest** among **statistical neighbours**
- Similarly, the proportion of **children in need** (excluding CPP) with an **EHCP** was just 18.9%, 10.9% points **below** the **England** average
- In contrast, the proportion of **children in need** with **SEN Support** remained far **higher** than the **statistical neighbour** average, and ranked **17th highest** in **England**
- After a **substantial increase**, the proportion of children on a **child protection plan** with **SEN Support** rose from 20.7% in 2023 to 29.2% in 2024 and is now **just below** the **England** average.

Prevalence and primary need – School population (2025)

- **Despite year-on-year increases** in the proportion of **pupils** in Solihull schools with an **EHCP**, reaching 4.5% in 2025, it remains the second lowest proportion among statistical neighbours and is in the **bottom quartile** of all local authorities in **England**
- In contrast, at **15.0%**, the proportion of Solihull's **school pupils** with **SEN Support** was the **second highest** among **statistical neighbours**
- The proportion of pupils in state-funded **AP/PRU** provision with an **EHCP** was 34.1%, which was 7.8% points **higher** than the **England** average, and in the top quartile of England's local authorities
- In 2025, the proportion of pupils with SEND with **autistic spectrum disorder** as their primary need remained high, at 21%. This is the **second largest** proportion among **statistical neighbours** and in the **top quartile** of all local authorities in **England**
- Likely relatedly, Solihull's schools have a relatively **low incidence** of pupils with **speech, language and communication needs** (SLCN) as their primary need. At only 17.8%, this proportion is in the lowest quartile in England
- Solihull also has a **higher than average** proportion of SEND pupils with **hearing impairment**, at 2%, which is the 13th highest in England.

B. Assessment & Provision

How effectively does the local area assess and meet the needs of children and young people with SEND?

A combination of Solihull's lower than average request rate for EHCP assessments, and relatively high request refusal and decision not to issue rates may be contributing to both the lower than average proportion of residents issued with a new EHCP as well as the high number of appeals to the SEND Tribunal. Of those issued with an EHCP, a large number continue to be placed in state-funded special schools, with relatively few in mainstream schools.

Implementation (2024)

- In 2024, there were 485 **requests** for an **EHCP** assessment, equivalent to 0.74% of 0- to 24-year-olds. **Despite the increase** from 0.71% in 2023, Solihull **remains the lowest among statistical neighbours** and below the England average of 0.88%
- Over four in every ten (40.2%) initial **requests** for an EHCP assessment are **refused** in Solihull, which is the **14th largest** proportion among local authorities in **England**
- Despite this high refusal rate, Solihull continues to have a high rate of **decisions not to issue an EHCP** following an assessment. At 9.0% of assessments (33 assessments), it remains **above** both **statistical neighbour** and **England** averages
- In addition, 204 **EHCPs** were **discontinued** in Solihull in 2024, equivalent to 8.9% of the total EHCP population, a **decrease** from 12.5% the previous year
- Possibly as a result of Solihull's high refusal and decision not to issue rates, 5.9% of appealable decisions resulted in **appeals to the SEND Tribunal**. This was the **one of the largest** proportions among local authorities in **England** in 2024
- Following a substantial **decrease**, just 53.1% of all **EHCPs** (including exceptional cases) **were issued within 20 weeks** in 2024. While this remains above the England average of 45.9%, this is a notable decrease from the 89.9% in 2023.

Provision for EHCP pupils (2025)

- At 34.2%, Solihull continues to have the **largest proportion** of **EHCP** pupils educated in state-funded **special schools** among **statistical neighbours** and **the 13th largest** proportion among local authorities in **England**
- Despite continued increases, the proportion of **EHCP** pupils attending state-funded **mainstream schools (not resourced/units)** remains in the **lowest quartile** in **England**, at 31.2%
- There has been an **increase** in the number of **16- to 25-year-olds** with an **EHCP** undertaking **apprenticeships** in 2025, at 1.7%. However, only one resident was enrolled in a supported internship, and no residents undertook a traineeship.

Cross Border Movement for Special School Placements (2024)

- The proportion of special school pupils **living in Solihull** but attending **state-funded special schools in other local authorities** fell in 2024 but, at 19.9%, remains well **above** the **England** average. In Solihull special schools, 16.4% of pupils travel in from other local authorities, meaning that Solihull remains a net exporter of special school pupils.

Adult Social Care (2024)

- The percentage of **adults** receiving long term support for **learning disabilities living at home or with family increased** again in 2024, up to 80%. However, this is still **below** the statistical neighbour and England **averages**
- The number of **18 to 64 year olds** whose long term **support needs were met by care homes increased** to **15.4** per 100k residents in 2024, remaining broadly in line with the England average.

Finance (2024/25 financial year)

- **The top-up funding budget** per capita for **independent providers increased** for 2024/25, but remains well **below** the **England** average
- The **SEN administration, assessment and monitoring budget increased**, and is now **one of the largest** in **England** per capita
- The **SEN transport budget** for pre-16 year olds saw a slight **increase** for 2024/25, remaining well **below** the **statistical neighbour** average per capita, and ranks in the **bottom quartile** among local authorities in **England**.

C. Outcomes

How effectively does the local area improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND?

Across the primary phase, EHCP pupils in Solihull tended to perform worse than their peers across statistical neighbours, while the SEN Support cohort outperformed statistical neighbours. At secondary and post-16, both the EHCP and SEN Support cohorts tended to outperform England averages, with Solihull ranking in the top quartile of local authorities across several performance measures. Exclusion rates for SEND pupils were higher than average in mainstream primary schools, but well below average in secondary schools.

Primary attainment (2024 revised)

- In 2024, the proportion of **EYFS** pupils with an **EHCP** achieving a **good level of development (GLD)** fell to just **1%**. There was also a large decrease in the proportion of the **SEN Support** cohort achieving **GLD**, down to 20%. For both SEND groups, Solihull ranked in the **bottom quartile** of local authorities in England
- In 2024, 22% of EHCP pupils met the expected **year 1 phonics** standard, an **increase** of 9% points from 2023. There was also a large increase in the percentage of year 1 **SEN Support** pupils meeting the expected phonics standard, up to 63% in 2024
- **KS2 attainment** for **SEN Support** pupils in **reading, writing** and **maths improved** from 2023. The proportion of SEN Support pupils achieving the expected standard or higher in all three subjects ranks in the top quartile of all local authorities in England
- **KS2 EHCP** pupil **attainment** in **reading, writing** and **maths** also **improved**, but the proportion achieving the expected or higher standard in all three subjects remains **below average**
- The 2023 **KS2 progress scores** for both **SEN Support** and **EHCP** pupils mostly remained **above the England average**. Writing progress for **SEN Support** pupils was the one exception, falling below both the statistical neighbour and England average.

KS4 attainment (2024 revised)

- In 2024, the average **Attainment 8** score for pupils with an **EHCP increased by 2.4 points**, up to 16.7. The average Attainment 8 score across the **SEN Support cohort remained** at 35.4. For both SEND groups, Solihull's performance was **above the England average**
- KS4 **progress** for **SEND** pupils improved from 2023. Solihull ranked in the **top quartile** in England for the average Progress 8 score across the EHCP cohort
- As in 2023, 44% of the **SEN Support** cohort achieved a **4 or above in England and maths**, which ranks in the **top quartile** of local authorities in England
- Full **EBacc entry rates increased** in 2024 among the SEND cohort, up to **7%** for pupils with an **EHCP**, and **20%** for those with **SEN Support**. These are both broadly in line with the statistical neighbour and England averages.

Post-16 attainment (2024 revised)

- For the KS5 SEN Support cohort, the **average point score (APS)** per **Applied General entry increased** to 28.7, ranking in the **top quartile** of local authorities in England. The APS per **academic** entry was also slightly **above** the statistical neighbour and England **averages**
- The KS5 EHCP cohort was too small to draw meaningful conclusions on performance
- The proportion of students with **SEN Support** achieving a **full Level 2 qualification** by age 19 is the **2nd highest among statistical neighbours**, at 71.4%
- However, the proportion of students with an **EHCP** achieving a **full Level 2 qualification including English and maths decreased** from 26.9% to 21.3%, though this is **still** 3.1% points **above** the **England** average.

Pupil destinations (2022/23 revised)

- Following an **increase** in 2023, the percentage of **EHCP** pupils **remaining in education, employment or training after KS4** rose **above** the England **average**
- Despite a decrease from the previous year, down to 88%, the proportion of KS4 leavers with **SEN Support** who **stayed in education, employment or training** remains slightly **above** the England **average**
- A **larger** than average **proportion** of **EHCP** students went on to attend **FE colleges** or **other FE providers after KS4**, with very few **attending sixth forms**. FE colleges and other FE providers remain the single most common destination for SEND pupils after KS4, with 43.7% of EHCP pupils and 48.9% of SEN Support pupils attending
- There was a **decline** in the proportion of **SEN students remaining in education, employment or training** after **KS5** school, down to just 81%, below both the statistical neighbour and England averages. However, 85.5% of LLDD students **remained in education, employment or training** after **KS5** college, which was the **13th largest** proportion across all local authorities **in England**.

NEET and participation (2025)

- The proportion of **16- and 17-year-old** residents with an **EHCP** who remained in **education and training decreased slightly** to 90.1% in 2025, however, this **remains above** both **England** and **statistical neighbour** averages
- Similarly, the proportion of **16- and 17-year-olds** with **SEN Support** in education or training saw a **small increase** to 89.7% and remains **higher than** the average across **England**.

Absence (2023/24 full year)

- The overall **absence rates** across **all phases** for both **SEN Support** and **EHCP** pupils were **higher than** the England **averages**
- The **persistent absentee** rate for **EHCP** pupils across all phases was 37.2% and was 31.2% for **SEN Support** pupils, also both **above** the England and statistical neighbour **averages**
- However, **unauthorised absence** for those with an **EHCP** in mainstream **primary schools** fell to just 1.8% and now **ranks** among the **best performing quartile** of local authorities in England
- In Solihull's **special schools**, 39.3% of pupils were **persistently absent** (missing 10% of sessions or more), which is **above** the England **average**. However, just 4.8% were **severe absentees** (missing 50% of sessions or more), which is **below** the England **average** of 6.7%.

Exclusions (2024)

- The overall **suspension rates of EHCP** pupils **increased** by 0.7% points to 20.8%, while for the **SEN Support** cohort, the suspension rate **decreased** slightly to 20.1%. **Both** are substantially **lower** than the **England** averages
- In Solihull's **primary schools**, the **suspension rate** for **EHCP** pupils was 28.2%, 9.3% points **above** the **England** average, and was the second highest among statistical neighbours
- In contrast, the **suspension rate** of **EHCP** pupils in **secondary** schools was 32.7%, and places Solihull **2nd lowest among statistical neighbours**. Similarly, the **suspension rate** for **SEN Support** students in Solihull's **secondary schools** was the **lowest among statistical neighbours**, at 31.3%
- The **permanent exclusion rate** of **EHCP** pupils in **primary** schools increased from 0.24% in 2023 to **0.64%** in 2024, which was among the **highest rates in England**
- **Suspension rates** in Solihull's **special schools** were **below** the England **average**, however, for **permanent exclusions** in special schools, Solihull places **highest among statistical neighbours**, at 0.25%.

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