



Shropshire
Council

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) for 0-25 year olds

2025/26

Chapter: Education

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Key Findings

Education, Health and Care Plans

- **Active EHC Plans:** The total number of active EHC plans has continued to increase in Shropshire, up by 21% to 3,016 EHCPs in 2025. This is a faster rise compared to nationally (11%).
- **New EHCPs:** In Shropshire there were 754 new EHCPs starting in 24/25 – an increase of 31% since 2023, compared to 16% nationally.
- **Initial Requests for EHCPs:** In 2024 there were 833 initial requests for an EHCP assessment in Shropshire, which is a lower number 2023 (921) – nationally there had been a rise – however, local figures for 2025 suggest that figures will be exceeded.
- **Requests refused:** 19.6% of requests for an EHCP in Shropshire were initially refused in 2024, lower than regional, national or our statistical neighbours. However, the refusal rate has risen since 2020.

Educational outcomes

- The percentage of children with SEN meeting the expected level of development declines as they progress through the education system and for older ages has been on a downward trend:
 - **Good level of development -early years:** SEND pupils achieving expected level of development at the end of reception (2023-24) at 22% and rising, similar to regionally and nationally. Rate higher among SEN support at 31% (rising trend and above comparators) and lower at 4% among pupils on an EHCP (falling trend), but higher than region and England.
 - **Year 1 phonics** – 37% of the SEND school population achieved expected level in year 1, below England (44%) – SEN support was 42%, but this is below England (52%), while EHCPs were 21%, above England (20%).
 - **KS2-** 18% of SEND pupils achieved the expected level in reading, writing and mathematics at the end of KS2. 21% of pupils on SEN support and 7% of pupils with EHCPs achieved the expected level, all lower than national rates but similar to statistical neighbours and regionally.
 - **KS4 (9-5 English and Maths)-** 10% of the SEND school population achieved this in 2024, lower than rates for statistical neighbours, regionally and nationally. 10% of pupils on SEN support, lower than nationally (22%) and 7.5% of pupils on an EHCP, compared to 7% nationally.
 - **KS4 Attainment 8:** average attainment score among pupils with SEND was 25.6. lower than England's and West Midlands average. SEN support was 28.6, lower than national average, and pupils with EHCP was 17.8, higher than the national average.
- **Attainment at age 19:** in SEN population rates were 21.6% lower than in non-SEN population. Higher rates among SEN support young people (recent rise) compared to those with EHCPs (recent fall). APS per A level entry in 2023-24 among SEN population has increased from previous year

- **There has been an increase in the numbers of children electively home educated** – was 650 for 2023-24, but as of June 2025 this was identified as 788, with 40 (5.1%) having an EHCP.
- **Persistent Absences Higher as level of SEN support increases:** In primary school rates were, 32% for EHCPs, compared to SEN support (21%) and pupils without SEN (13%). In secondary school this is 52% for EHCPs, 44% for SEN support and 34% for pupils without SEN.
- **Absence & primary need:** Pupils with SEMH as their primary need accounted for 27% of all absences among SEN pupils despite them only accounting for 19.6% of SEN pupils that were enrolled. Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty' show the highest cohort absence rate at 21.7% in Shropshire, followed by SEMH at 14.1% and autistic spectrum disorder (13.8%). The rates for profound and multiple learning difficulty and autistic spectrum disorder in Shropshire are greater than rates in England, West Midlands and Statistical neighbours.
- **Exclusion rates** for SEND pupils at primary and secondary schools in Shropshire far higher than among non-SEND pupils and is higher than national, regional or statistical neighbours. Rate is much higher for secondary schools.
- **Suspension rate** for SEND pupils at primary and secondary schools in Shropshire is far higher than among non-SEND pupils and also higher than national and again the gap is much higher in secondary schools.
- Majority of 16 to 17-year-olds with SEN were in education and training in 2025 at 93.4% EHCPs and 91% SEN Support. Above regional and national rates.
- Young people aged 16-17 with SEN (EHCP or SEN Support) in Shropshire have a higher rate of NEET or activity not known than those young people with no SEN. Same regionally and nationally. However Shropshire's 2025 rate of NEETs/not known with SEN is half that of the national and regional rates.
- Rates of NEETs falling significantly in the last 2 years in Shropshire for young people (16-17 years) with SEN, and closer to the rate for all pupils or those without SEN.

Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)

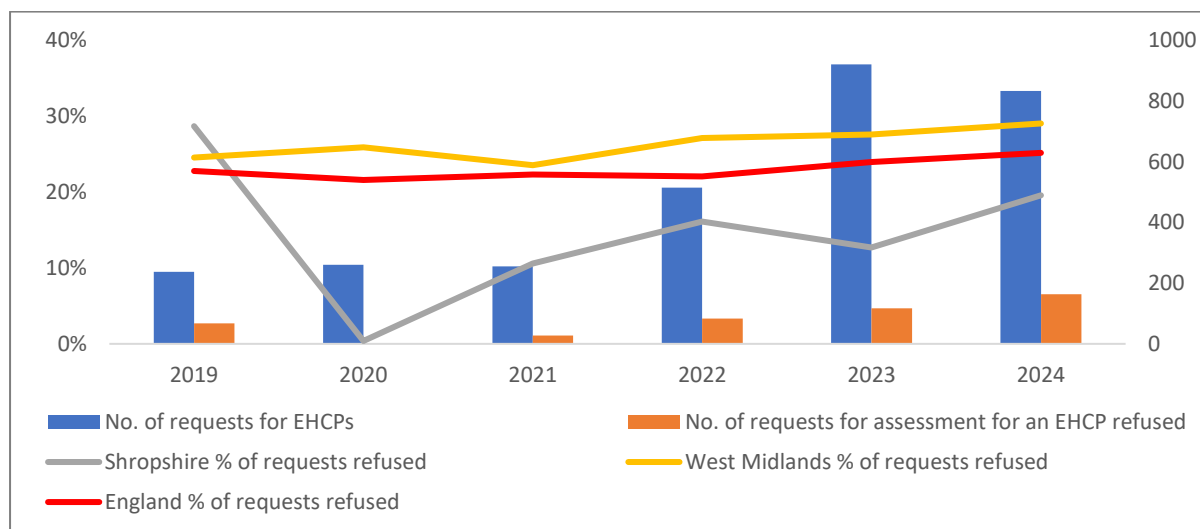
An Education, Health, and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA) is a process to determine the specific educational, health and care needs of a child or young person with SEND.

A request can be received from parents, schools, young people over 16, or professionals working with the child. The local authority then decides within six weeks whether to proceed with the assessment. If they do, the local authority gathers detailed evidence in order to understand the child's needs. The assessment is then used by the panel to decide whether an EHCP should be issued and if the decision has been made to issue a plan, a draft EHCP is created, detailing the required support and the outcomes it hopes to address, and the parents and the young person themselves can review and provide feedback. The final EHCP should be completed within 20 weeks of the initial request. The EHCP is reviewed annually, or earlier where required, to ensure it continues to meet the child's evolving needs.

Number of initial requests for assessment

There were 833 initial requests made for assessment for an EHC plan during 2024, down from 921 in 2023. This is a decrease of 10.6% compared to 12% rise nationally, however the number of requests rose dramatically coming out of the pandemic. Of the 833 requests for assessment, 163 (19.6%) were refused, an increase from 12.7% in 2023, however, Shropshire's percentage of initial requests that were refused is and continues to be lower than both the West Midlands (29%) and England (25%).

Chart showing number of initial requests for assessment for an EHC plan and number and percentage of initial requests refused, 2019 to 2024 calendar years. Source: [Education, health and care plans](#)



Number of assessments for an EHC plan

There were 812 assessments completed during 2024, up from 692 in 2023, which had been a massive increase from 276 in 2022. Of these, 799 (98.4%) resulted in a decision to issue a plan, and 13 assessments (1.6%) where it was decided not to issue an EHC plan, lower than in 2023 (3.1%), and also lower than the West Midlands (3.8%) and England (6.1%).

In the local data available from Synergy, in 2024, 56% of initial referrals were from schools and 39.9% were from the parent or carer, and the most prevalent need was for SEMH (43.6%), followed by SLCN (23.5%).

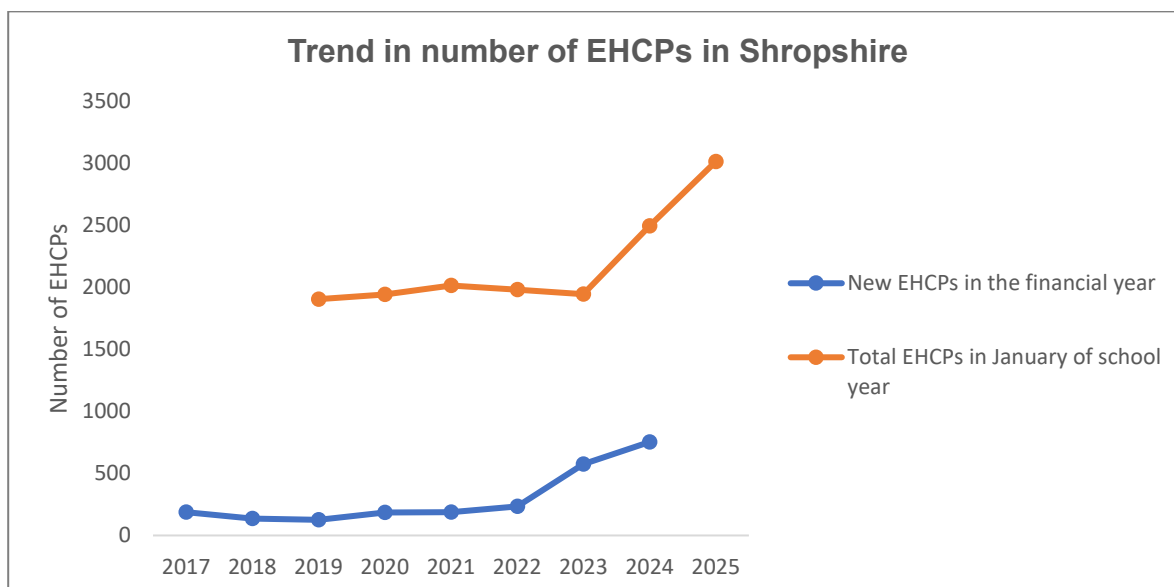
Number of EHCPs in place as at January of year

The total number of active Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans has continued to increase in Shropshire.

The number of children and young people with EHC plans increased to 3,016 as at census day in January 2025, up by 21% from 2024. This is a faster rise compared to nationally, which saw an 11% increase.

754 new EHC plans were reported to have started during the 2024 calendar year, a rise compared to 2023, an increase of 31% compared to 16% rise nationally.

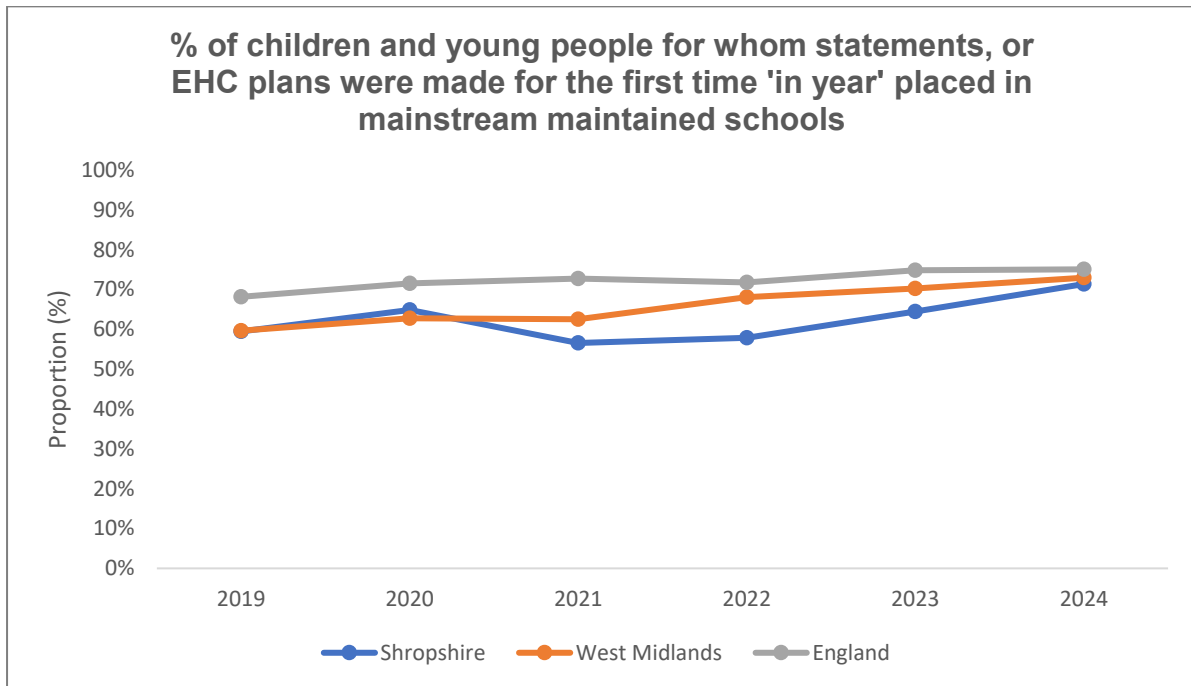
Chart showing the total number of EHCPs at January each year in Shropshire, 2019 to 2025 and the new EHCPs starting during each calendar year. Source: [Education, health and care plans](#)



The majority of children and young people with a new EHC plan which started during 2024 attended any type of mainstream schools.

Since 2021, Shropshire had fewer new EHCPs that were attending mainstream schools than the West Midlands or England, with a particularly large increase in Shropshire between 2021 (56.6%) and 2024 (71.4%). In total 87.3% of those with a new EHC plan starting during 2024 attended school or further education, compared to 83.9% in 2023. In 2024, 12.7% of children and young people with a new EHC plan were not attending school or further education:

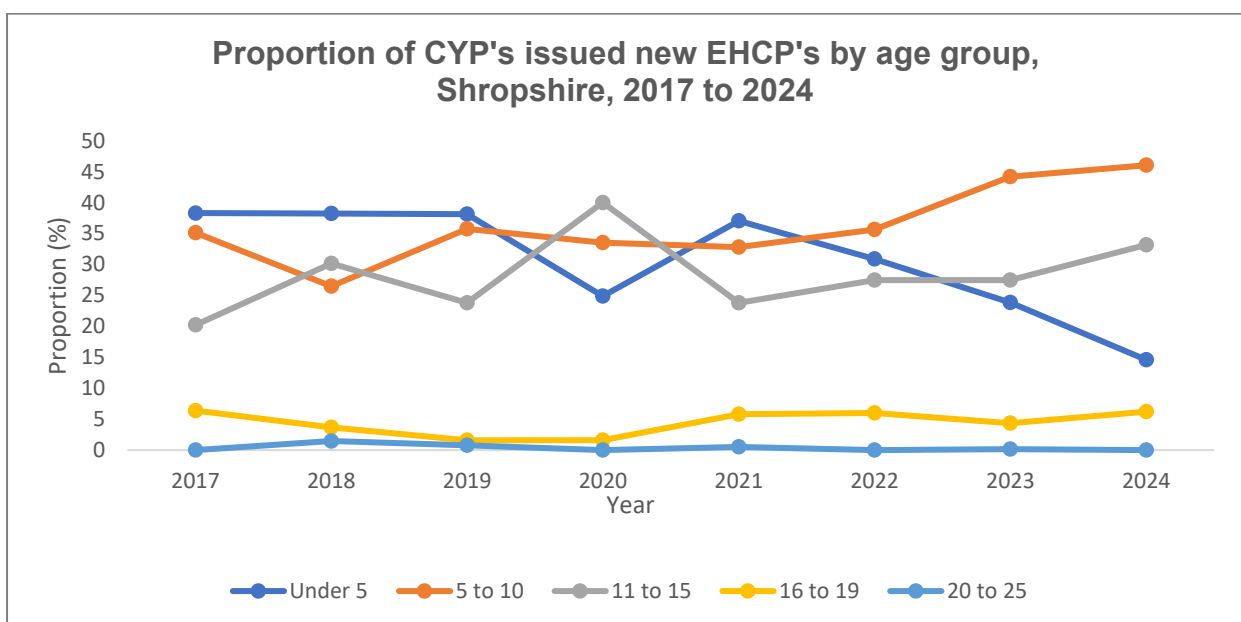
Chart showing the percentage of children and young people for whom statements, or EHC plans were made for the first time 'in year' placed in mainstream maintained schools. Source: [Local Authority Interactive Tool \(LAIT\)](#)



Almost half of new plans continue to be for ages 5 to 10

46% of new plans (347 children) were for those aged 5 to 10 in 2024. Those aged under 5 make up 15% of new plans, and those 11 to 15 account for one third at 33%.

Chart showing new EHC plans started by age group in Shropshire, 2017-2024, Shropshire. Source: [Education, health and care plans](#)



The majority of new EHC plans issued are to males

In 2024, 69% of children and young people issued new EHC plans were male compared to 31% who were female.

Of children and young people with a new EHC plan in 2024, 81.4% are white, 3.1% were of Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups.

Just over 12% of children and young people with a new EHC plan have an unclassified ethnicity. This includes where the ethnicity is not known to the local authority, is not recorded or data could not be provided.

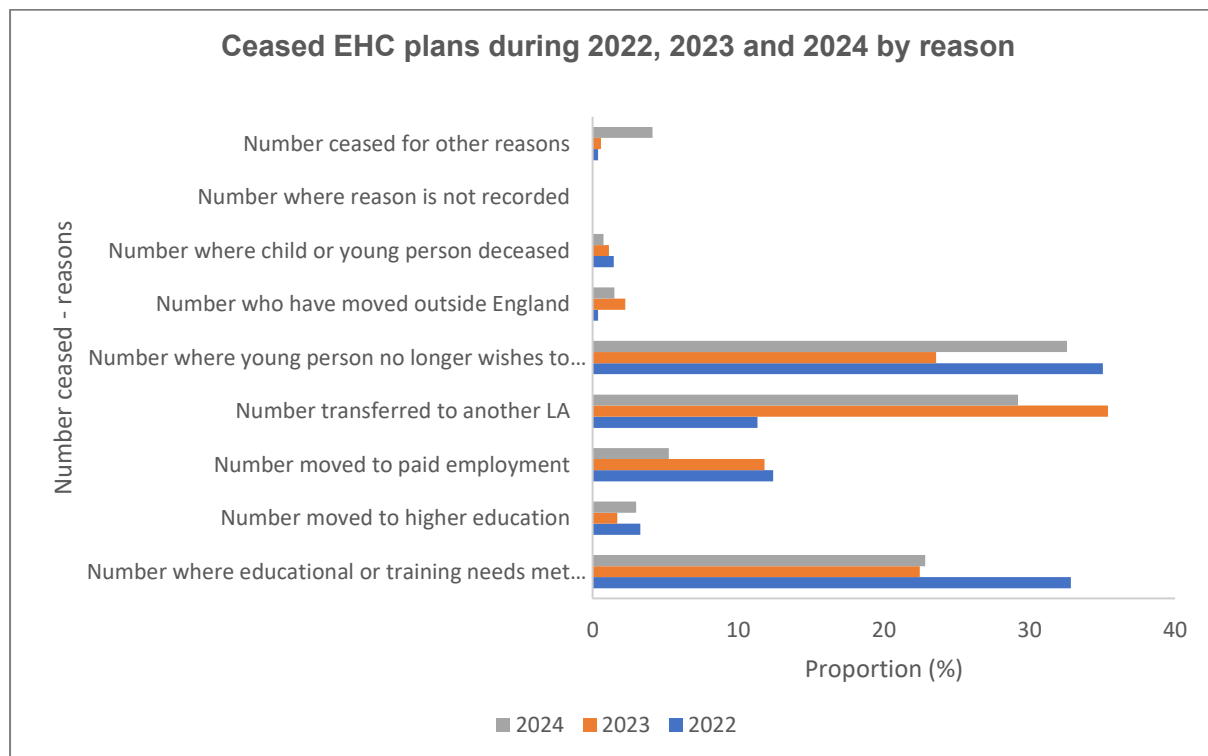
Ceased EHCP

In 2024, a total of 267 EHC plans were reported to have ceased, an increase of what was observed in 2023 (178 ceased plans). This includes where the local authority no longer maintains the EHC plan due to the plan transferring to another local authority.

The most common reason reported for a plan to cease was that the young person no longer wishes to engage in education or training, this accounted for 87 (32.6%) ceased plans, a higher percentage than in 2023 (23.6%). The next most common reason was a transfer to other local authorities, this accounted for 78 plans (29.2%).

There were 61 (22.8%) plans which ceased as the ongoing educational or training needs were being met without an EHC plan and 14 (5.2%) which ceased as the young person moved on to paid employment excluding apprenticeships.

Chart showing EHC plans which ceased during calendar years 2022, 2023 and 2024, by reason the plan ceased, Shropshire. Source: [Education, health and care plans](#)



Educational Outcomes

Attainment

School readiness is a key measure of early years development across a wide range of developmental areas. Children from poorer backgrounds are more at risk of poorer development and the evidence shows that differences by social background emerge early in life.

Early Years Foundation Stage - % achieving GLD in early years

Of those pupils with SEN (SEN Support and EHCP), 22.2% achieved the expected level of development at the end of reception in 2024; this equates to 70 pupils. This proportion is in comparison to England's of 19.8% and West Midlands proportion of 22.0%. Shropshire's proportion has increased in recent periods.

When split by pupils SEN support and pupils on an Education, Health Care Plan (EHCP), 31% of pupils receiving SEN support achieved the expected level of development at the end of reception in 2024 while 4% of pupils on an EHCP achieved this.

Based on trends, proportion achieving good level of development (GLD) among pupils on EHCP has decreased in recent periods compared to those on SEN support where an increase has been observed.

Table showing Early Years Foundation Stage outcomes. Source: Shropshire Education Services, [Early years foundation stage profile](#)

Outcomes						Latest Benchmark 2024				National Ranking (1 being highest, 152 lowest)		
<u>EYFSP - % achieving GLD</u>	2019*	2022	2023	2024	Trend (2022-2024)	Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Mid	2022	2023	2024
All Pupils	72.6	64.3	67.2	68.0		68.0	67.7	68.8	66.2	62	54	74
National	71.8	63.4	65.6	67.7						91	119	127
Free School Meals (FSM)	54.0	46.0	46.1	47.1		47.1	51.5	48.6	53.9	88	56	85
Non Free School Meals (Non FSM)	75.0	67.0	71.1	71.7		71.7	72.0	72.6	70.6	60	34	34
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	27.0	18.5	21.1	22.2		22.2	19.8	18.9	22.0	29	28	63
EHCP	7.0	5.0	5.6	4.0		4.0	3.8	4.8	2.2	68	42	22
SEN Support	31.0	22.8	26.3	30.6		30.6	24.9	27.6	23.5	90	71	103
Non SEND	77.0	68.6	72.6	74.4		74.4	75.6	76.3	74.9	No published comparators		
Shropshire CLA (903 Data - no SFR published)	40.0	41.7	40.7	20.0		20.0				No published comparators		
Shropshire CLA (all children)						No published comparators				No published comparators		

* 2022 and 2023 data is non comparative to earlier years due to EYF5 reforms introduced in Sept 21

Percentage achieving expected level in communication, language and literacy

Of those pupils on SEND (SEN Support and EHCP), 25.1% achieved the expected level in communication, language and literacy in 2024. This proportion is in comparison to England's of 21.9% and West Midlands proportion of 20.5%. Shropshire's proportion has increased in recent periods.

When split by pupils SEN support and pupils on an Education, Health Care Plan (EHCP), 34.7% of pupils receiving SEN support achieved the expected level in communication,

language and literacy in 2024 while 4% of pupils on an EHCP achieved this, compared to 74% of those with no identified SEN.

Looking at trends, proportion achieving the expected level in communication, language and literacy among pupils on EHCP has decreased in recent periods compared to those on SEN support where an increase has been observed.

Year 1 phonics screening

37% of the SEND school population achieved the expected level in phonics screening check in Year 1 in the period 2024. This is in comparison with England's proportion of 44.4% and West Midlands proportion of 43%. Nationally, Shropshire's proportion was ranked 140

When split by pupils SEN support and pupils on an Education, Health Care Plan (EHCP), 42% of pupils receiving SEN support achieved the expected level in phonics screening check in Year 1 while 21% of pupils on an EHCP achieved this, compared to 86% of those with no identified SEN.

Table showing expected level in phonics screening check in Year 1. Source: [Phonics screening check attainment](#)

Outcomes						Latest Benchmark 2024				National Ranking (1 being highest, 152 lowest)		
KS1 - Year 1 Phonics	2019	2022	2023	2024	Trend	Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Mid	2022	2023	2024
All Pupils	81.0	75.0	77.0	78.0		78.0	80.0	81.0	80.0	78	108	117
National	82.0	75.0	79.0	80.0								
Free School Meals (FSM)	65.0	58.0	60.0	65.0		65.0	68.0	66.0	71.0	110	137	107
Non Free School Meals (Non FSM)	83.0	79.0	80.0	81.0		81.0	84.0	84.0	83.0	78	119	128
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	43.0	35.0	36.0	37.0		37.0	44.0	45.0	43.0	106	137	144
EHCP	22.0	15.0	14.0	21.0		21.0	20.0	19.0	15.0	99	114	57
SEN Support	49.0	39.0	41.0	42.0		42.0	52.0	51.0	51.0	115	143	144
Non SEND	86.0	81.0	84.0	86.0		86.0	88.0	89.0	88.0	92	112	119
Shropshire CLA (Nexus 903 Data - not published)	87.5	58.8	50.0	43.8		43.8				No published comparators		
Shropshire CLA (all children)						No published comparators				No published comparators		

KS2 outcomes

18% of all SEND pupils achieved the expected level in reading, writing and mathematics at the end of KS2 in 2024 below England (21%), this was 21% of pupils on SEN support and 7% of pupils with EHCPs, compared to 26% and 9% in England respectively. Pupils with SEN have lower progress scores compared to those with no identified SEN (68%).

Table showing KS2 Outcomes. Source: Shropshire's Education Services, [Key Stage 2 attainment](#)

Outcomes						Latest Benchmark 2024				National Ranking (1 being highest, 152 lowest)		
KS2 - RWM EXS+	2019	2022	2023	2024	Trend	Shropshire	2024 National	2024 Statistical Neighbour	2024 West Mid	2022	2023	2024
All Pupils	65.0	54.0	58.0	57.0		57.0	60.0	57.0	59.0	134	95	118
National	65.0	59.0	60.0	60.0								
Disadvantage	47.0	34.0	39.0	40.0		40.0	45.0	38.0	47.0	141	113	111
Non Disadvantage	71.0	61.0	63.0	63.0		63.0	67.0	63.0	66.0	135	120	124
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	22.0	13.0	18.0	18.0		18.0	21.0	19.0	19.0	138	102	119
EHCP	14.0	7.0	8.0	7.0		7.0	9.0	7.0	7.0	62	64	90
SEN Support	23.0	14.0	20.0	21.0		21.0	26.0	22.0	22.0	144	111	118
Non SEND	75.0	65.0	68.0	68.0		68.0	71.0	69.0	71.0	129	104	117
Shropshire CLA (Nexus 903 Data - not published)	25.0	42.0	39.1	13.0		13.0				9	tbc	tbc
Shropshire CLA (all children)						No published comparators				No published comparators		

KS4 Attainment

9.6% of the SEND school population achieved 9-5 in English and Mathematics in 2024. This is lower than England's proportion of 17.5% and West Midlands proportion of 15.2%.

When split by pupils SEN support and pupils on an Education, Health Care Plan (EHCP), 10.4% of pupils receiving SEN support achieved the expected level in while 7.5% of pupils on an EHCP achieved this, compared to 44% of those with no identified SEN.

Table showing proportion achieving 9-5 in English and Mathematics. Source: [Key Stage 4 performance](#)

KS4 (9 to 5) in English and Maths	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend	Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands	2022	2023	2024
All Pupils	50.3	44.8	38.2	38.8		38.8	46.2	43.4	42.4	118	128	127
National	51.9	50.0	45.5	46.2								
Disadvantage	31.0	22.4	18.2	18.4		18.4	26.0	21.1	25.7	134	136	142
Non Disadvantage	55.4	50.1	42.9	43.9		43.9	53.4	49.2	49.8	133	144	141
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	12.4	14.9	12.1	9.6		9.6	17.5	15.4	15.2	99	130	149
EHCP	14.4	9.9	5.7	7.5		7.5	7.0	5.8	5.2	27	81	63
SEN Support	11.3	17.0	14.3	10.4		10.4	21.6	18.9	18.5	119	130	149
Non SEND	55.7	49.3	42.4	43.5		43.5	52.3	49.9	48.3	128	136	134
CLA (based on published 903 - Nexus where published statistics are suppressed)	16.7	11.8	4.2			0.0				Unable to provide rank as suppressed figures in DfE publication		
Shropshire CLA (all children)						No published comparators				No published comparators		

Average attainment score

In Shropshire, the average attainment score among pupils with SEN in 2024 was 25.6. This is in comparison with England's average of 27.8 and West Midlands average of 27.1.

When split by pupils SEN support and pupils on an Education, Health Care Plan (EHCP), average attainment score in pupils receiving SEN support was 28.6 and average score in pupils with EHCP was 17.8.

Table showing average attainment Score in Shropshire. Source: [Key Stage 4 performance](#)

Outcomes						Latest Benchmark 2024				National Ranking (1 being highest, 152 lowest)		
KS4 - Attainment 8	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend	Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands	2022	2023	2024
All Pupils	49.9	47.2	44.0	43.5		43.5	46.1	44.8	44.5	97	114	112
National	50.9	48.9	46.4	46.1						108	97	112
Disadvantage	39.6	35.1	33.0	31.9		31.9	34.7	32.1	35.1	116	138	131
Non Disadvantage	52.6	50.1	46.6	46.4		46.4	50.2	48.2	48.6	85	80	107
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	29.5	28.6	27.4	25.6		25.6	27.8	27.0	27.1	17	18	27
EHCP	22.9	19.2	18.3	17.8		17.8	14.2	13.7	12.2	107	114	134
SEN Support	33.4	32.6	30.6	28.6		28.6	33.1	31.9	32.0	115	128	130
Non SEND	52.9	50.0	46.7	46.3		46.3	50.0	49.0	48.3	28	tbc	
Shropshire CLA (based on published 903 - Nexus where published statistics are suppressed)	28.9	24.1	18.9			0.0						
Shropshire CLA (all children)						No published comparators				No published comparators		

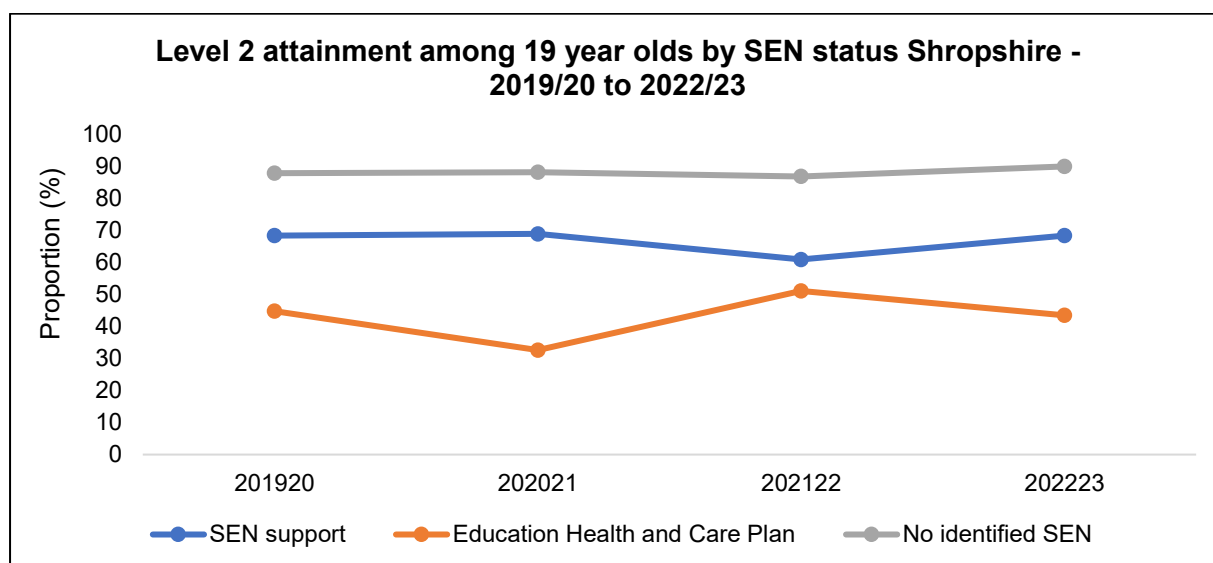
Attainment at age 19

Educational attainment is influenced by both the quality of education that children and young people receive and their family socio-economic circumstances. Educational qualifications are a determinant of an individual's labour market position, which in turn influences income, housing, and other material resources. These are related to health and health inequalities¹.

Level 2 and Level 3 attainment

Almost half (43.5%) of pupils who were in state-funded mainstream schools with EHCPs achieved Level 2 (equivalent to 5+ 9-4 at GCSE) by age 19 in 2022 to 2023, lower than those with SEN support at 68.4% and those with no identified SEN (90%).

Chart showing Level 2 attainment among 19 year olds by SEN status in Shropshire, 2019-20 to 2022-23. Source: [Level 2 and 3 attainment age 16 to 25](#)

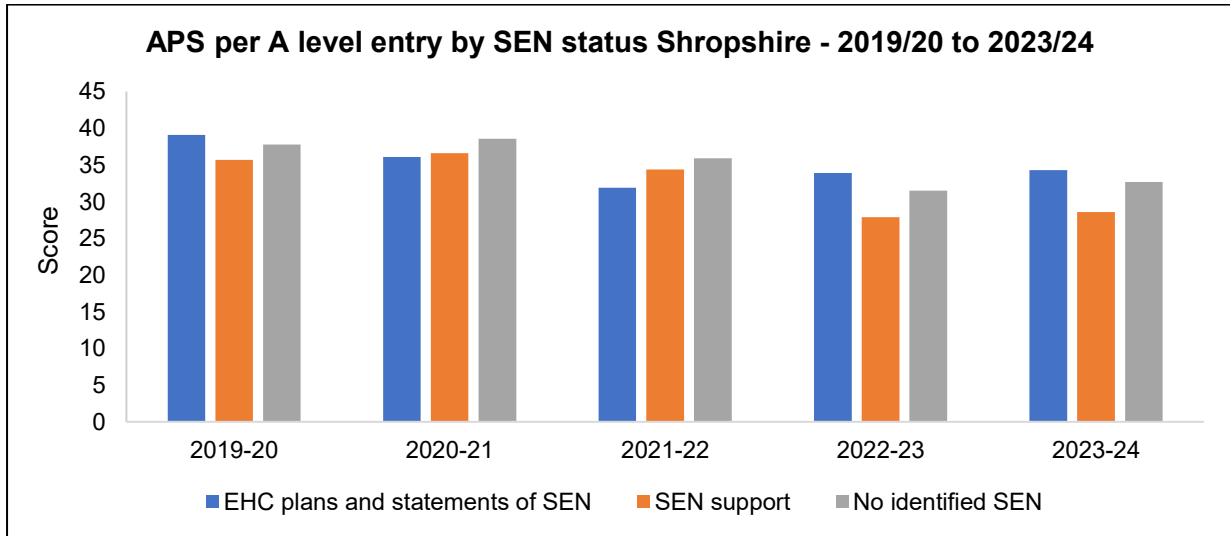


¹ [LG inform](#): Health and Wellbeing in Shropshire: A Focus on Children

A level and other 16 to 18 results

- Average point score per A level entry in 2023-24 among EHCP population was 34.3 while those on SEN support was 28.6. These were slightly higher than what was reported in 2022-23 (33.9 and 27.9 respectively).
- APS per A level entry among recipient of SEN and EHCP has increased slightly since 2022-23.

Chart showing APS (average point score) per A level entry by SEND support in Shropshire, 2019-20 to 2023-24. Source: [A level and other 16 to 18 results](#) Gov.uk



Electively Home Educated (EHE) children and young people

Shropshire identified 650 EHE children (including those with SEN), at any point during the 2023-24 academic year, decreasing from 760 in 2022-23 and a slight increase from 630 in 2021-22. As of June 2025, Shropshire has 788 children who are EHE, with 40 of these children having an EHCP. This equates to 5.1%.

Table showing the number of EHE children at any point during a full year in Shropshire, 2021-22 to 2023-24. Source: [Elective home education](#)

Number of EHE children at any point during a full year and latest term available	2021-22 (Full Year)	2022-23 (Full Year)	2023-24 (Full Year)	Latest Term 2024/5 (Aut24)	Trend	Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
All Pupils	630	760	650	650		650	111,700	12,220	12,570
National	116,300	126,100	153,300	111,700					

EHE Termly rate - mid year point (Spring Term)	Autumn 22	Spring 23	Spring 24	Autumn 24	Trend	Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
All Pupils	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6		1.6	1.4	1.9	1.2
National	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.4					

Source: [Elective home education, Autumn term 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)

Children missing education (CME)

Shropshire identified 230 CME in the 2023-24 academic year, decreasing from 270 in 2022-23 and an increase from 180 in 2021-22.

Table showing the number of CME children at any point during a full year in Shropshire, 2021-22 to 2023-24. Source: [Children missing education](#)

Number of CME children at any point during a full year and latest term available	2021-22 (Full Year)	2022-23 (Full Year)	2023-24 (Full Year)	Latest Term 2024 5 (Aut24)	Trend	Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
All Pupils	180	270	230	80		80	39,200	2,130	3,330
National	94,900	117,100	149,900	39,200					

CME Termly rate - mid year point (Spring Term)	Autumn 22	Spring 23	Spring 24	Autumn 24	Trend	Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
All Pupils	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2		0.2	0.5	0.3	0.3
National	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5					

Attendance, suspensions and exclusions

Absence

- In 2023-24, 32% of primary school pupils on EHCPs were classed as persistent absentees, compared to those on SEN support (21%) and pupils without SEN (13%).
- 52% of secondary school pupils on EHCPs were classed as persistent absentees, compared to 44% for pupils on SEN support and 34% for pupils without SEN.

Table showing the proportion of primary and secondary school enrolments classed as persistent absentees in Shropshire, 2023-24. Source: [DfE Statistical Release](#), December 2024

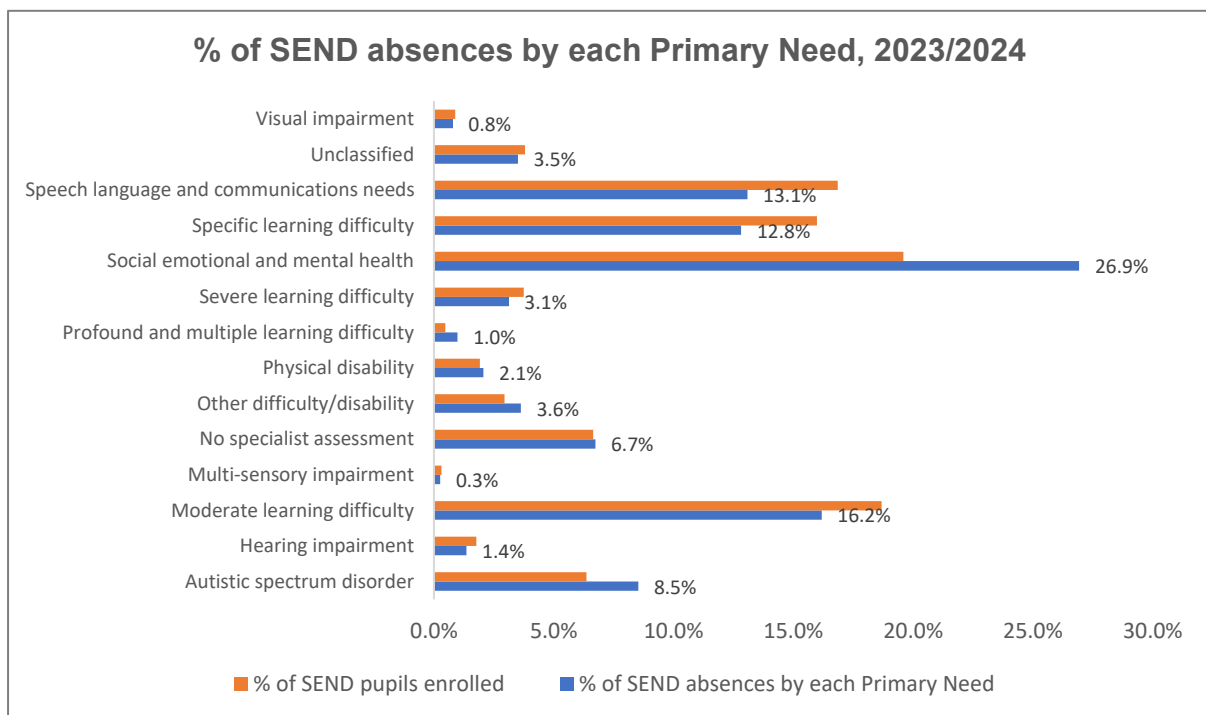
Attendance						Latest Benchmark 2023 published date (not portal)				National Ranking (1 being highest, 152 lowest)		
Primary School Persistently Absent (10% or more missed) (Full Academic Year)	2022	2023	* 2023-2024 (Full year on DfE Portal (via Wonde))	* 2024-2025 (Year to date on DfE Portal (via Wonde))	Trend	Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands	2021	2022	2023
All Pupils	17.1	13.9	14.2	14.6		14.2	15.1	15.1	17.7	11	69	28
National	17.7	16.2	15.1	awaiting DfE								
Free School Meals (eligible in the last 6 years (FSM6))	32.3	28.6	28.8	26.9		28.8	29.3	29.8	29.3	22	107	68
Non Free School Meals (not eligible in the last 6 years (FSM6))	13.0	9.9	10.7	12.0		10.7	10.9	10.7	11.7	26	92	47
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	26.6	22.7				0.0	25.7	24.9	26.8	13	80	24
EHCP	35.7	29.8	32.0	29.0		32.0	31.0	31.9	33.0	61	129	71
SEN Support	25.4	21.8	21.3	18.8		21.3	24.8	23.5	26.0	15	68	25
Non SEND	15.1	12.0	13.0	13.3		13.0	13.9	12.7	15.4	17	66	34
Shropshire CLA (based on published 903)	10.1					0.0				57	47	
Shropshire CLA (all children)						No published comparators				No published comparators		

Secondary School Persistently Absent (10% or more missed) (Full Academic Year)	2022	2023	* 2023-2024 (Full year on DfE Portal (via Wonde))	* 2024-2025 (Year to date on DfE Portal (via Wonde))	Trend	Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands	2021	2022	2023
All Pupils	31.4	26.9	36.8	20.7		36.8	26.1	27.7	27.4	83	126	87
National	27.7	26.5	26.1	awaiting DfE						114	145	104
Free School Meals (eligible in the last 6 years (FSM6))	53.5	47.6	55.5	37.8		55.5	43.8	48.4	42.7	111	143	121
Non Free School Meals (not eligible in the last 6 years (FSM6))	25.5	21.1	32.3	16.4		32.3	19.5	21.4	19.7	90	102	59
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	41.1	37.6				0.0	39.1	39.5	39.2	91	105	79
EHCP	41.4	38.6	51.7	38.5		51.7	39.1	41.0	39.8	63	102	58
SEN Support	41.1	37.5	43.9	29.5		43.9	39.0	39.4	39.1	91	131	91
Non SEND	29.6	24.6	34.0	17.9		34.0	23.8	24.7	24.7	83	109	
Shropshire CLA (based on published 903)	28.3					0.0						
Shropshire CLA (all children)						No published comparators				No published comparators		

Pupil absence in Shropshire for SEND pupils (EHCP and SEN Support) by primary need

Of all pupils with SEN who were absent, the primary needs that accounted for the highest percentage of absences were SEMH pupils (26.9%), although these pupils accounted for 19.6% of the pupils enrolled – this is the primary need with the biggest discrepancy, whereas for others it tended be lower proportion of absences than the proportion of enrolled.

Chart showing the proportion (%) of SEND absences by primary need, all pupils, Shropshire, 2023/24. [DFE pupil absence in schools in England 2023-24](#)

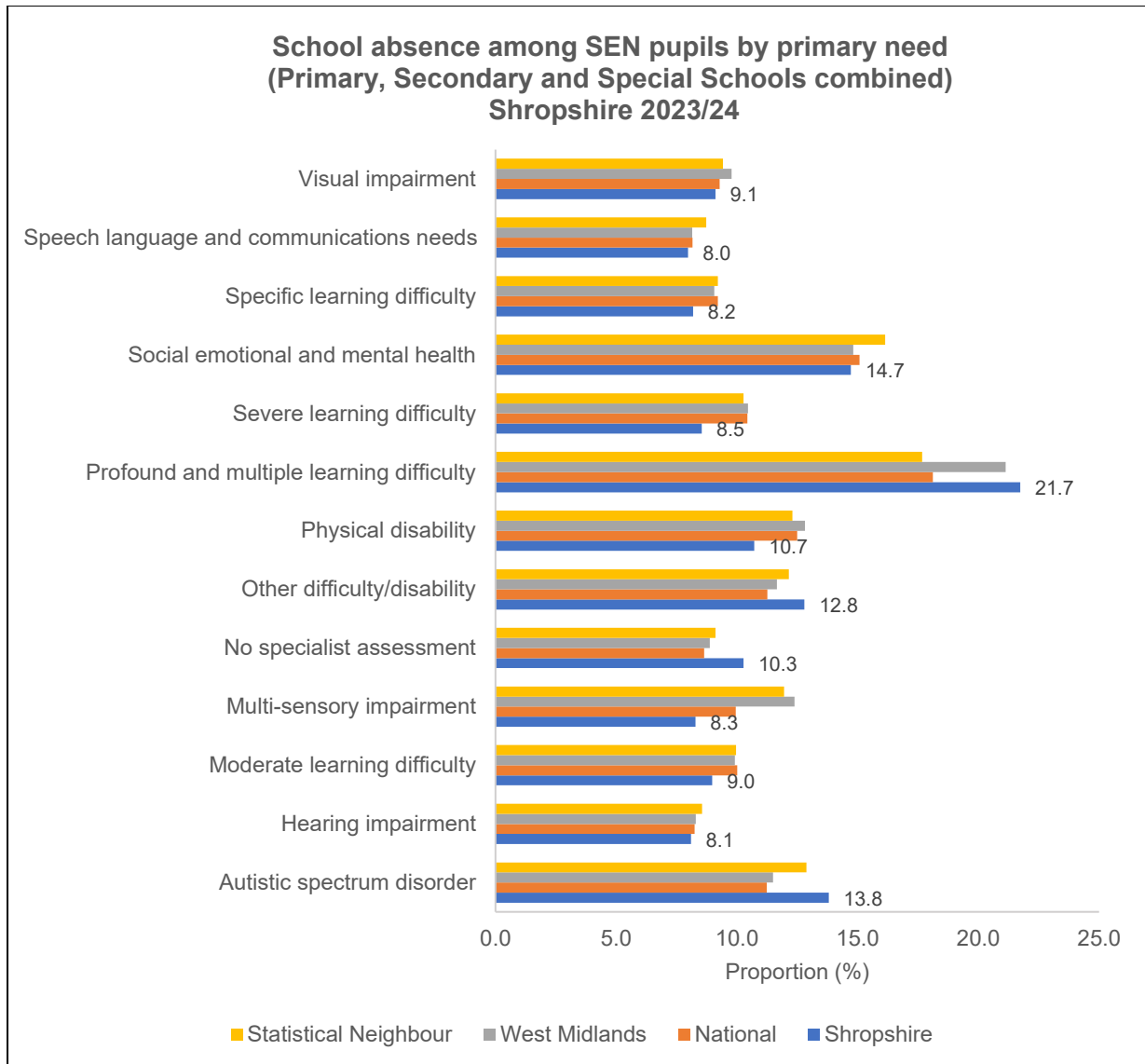


The below analysis shows how pupil absence rates for pupils with SEN provision varies by primary need.

- Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty show the highest cohort absence rate at 21.7% in Shropshire. This is similar to the rate in the West Midlands, which is 21.1%.

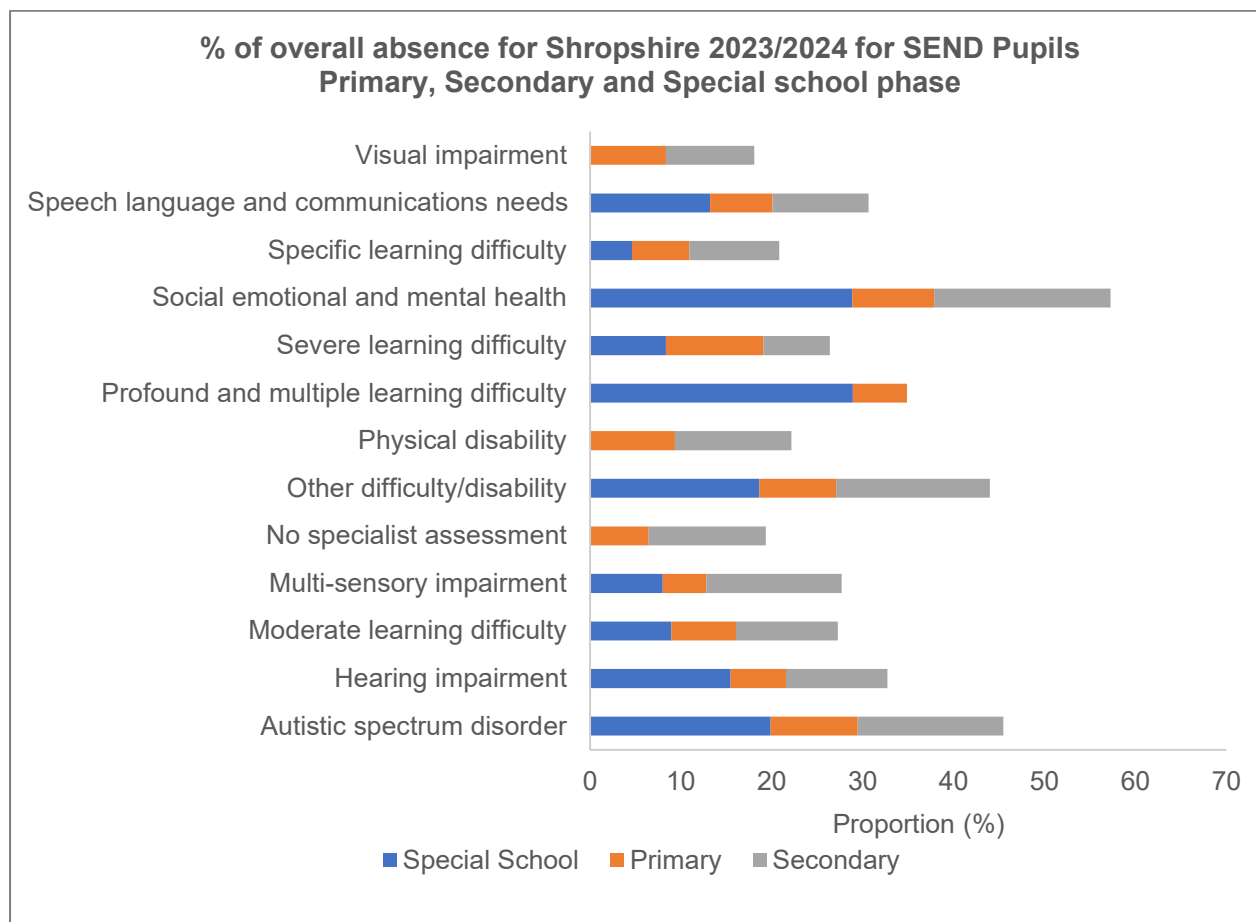
- The second highest level of absence was for children with SEMH at 14.7% in Shropshire, which is again similar to the 14.8% in the West Midlands.
- 13.8% absence rate for Autistic SD, higher than regionally, nationally and among our statistical neighbours.

Chart showing the proportion (%) of school absence for SEN pupils by primary need, Shropshire, statistical neighbours, West Midlands and national, 2023/24. Source: DfE published statistics



The chart below is comparing the absences of Primary, Secondary and Special schools in Shropshire, by primary need. When broken down into the 3 school phases of Special, SEMH is the most prevalent Primary Need for those children who are absent, with 28.9% of this primary need being in Special schools. Profound and multiple learning difficulty is also 28.9% for special schools.

Chart showing the proportion (%) of overall absence for SEND pupils by school type and primary need, Shropshire in 2023/24. Source: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/pupil-absence-in-schools-in-england/2023-24>



Permanent exclusion rate

The rate of permanent exclusions in 2023 among pupils in primary schools with SEND is 0.47, compared to 0.01 in non-SEND pupils. Among SEND pupils the rates in Shropshire are higher than national, regional or statistical neighbours.

Rate of exclusions for pupils in secondary schools in 2023 was 1.29 for SEND pupils, compared to 0.19 in non-SEND pupils, which is again higher than comparators. Rate of exclusions is higher for those on SEN support, than those on an EHCP.

Table showing the exclusion rate in primary and secondary schools in Shropshire. Source: [Suspensions and permanent exclusions in England](#)

Exclusions						Latest Benchmark 'Full Year' 2022/23				National Ranking (1 being highest, 152 lowest)		
Primary School Permanent Exclusion Rate (Full Academic Year)						Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands	2021	2022	2023
All Pupils	2021*	2022	2023	Autumn Term 2023	Trend	0.07	0.03	0.04	0.04	119	86	119
National	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.01						108	101	114
Free School Meals (FSM)	0.03	0.05	0.32	0.05		0.32	0.07	0.13	0.10	135	82	68
Non Free School Meals (Non FSM)	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01		0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02	129	78	120
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	0.10	0.06	0.47	0.06		0.47	0.14	0.22	0.23	1	1	69
EHCP	0.00	0.00	0.67	-		0.67	0.20	0.37	0.30	134	87	113
SEN Support	0.11	0.07	0.44	0.07		0.44	0.13	0.19	0.22	1	115	25
Non SEND	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01		0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01			
Secondary School Permanent Exclusion Rate (Full Academic Year)						Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands	2021	2022	2023
All Pupils	2021*	2022	2023	Autumn Term 2023	Trend	0.35	0.22	0.26	0.28	128	131	121
National	0.10	0.16	0.22	0.10						134	114	129
Free School Meals (FSM)	0.58	0.64	0.98	0.46		0.98	0.60	0.80	0.65	133	150	130
Non Free School Meals (Non FSM)	0.12	0.24	0.22	0.08		0.22	0.11	0.14	0.14	51	137	133
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	0.20	0.91	1.29	0.39		1.29	0.66	0.77	0.76	1	122	77
EHCP	0.00	0.54	0.84	0.25		0.84	0.41	0.53	0.40	61	138	131
SEN Support	0.24	0.98	1.36	0.41		1.36	0.71	0.83	0.81	146	133	100
Non SEND	0.18	0.20	0.19	0.11		0.19	0.15	0.16	0.19			

2022-23 full year statistics latest publication 18 July 2024. Autumn 2023 term published 21 November 2024
 1. For 2019/20 and 2020/21, while suspensions and permanent exclusions were possible throughout the academic year, pandemic restrictions will have had an impact on the numbers presented and caution should be taken when comparing across years.

Suspension rate

In 2023, the suspension rate in primary school pupils in Shropshire with SEND was 10.03, which is far higher than for non-SEND pupils (0.29), this is higher than England and West Midlands but is below statistical neighbours. Rates for EHCP pupil's were nearly 3 times as high as those on SEN support.

In secondary school SEND pupils suspension in Shropshire was far higher than in primary school at 62.50 which was also far higher than non-SEND pupils (16.07), and Shropshire's rate was higher than all comparators – the difference between EHCPs (72.35) and SEN support (60.84) was much closer though.

Table showing the suspension rate in primary and secondary schools in Shropshire. Source: [Suspensions and permanent exclusions in England](#)

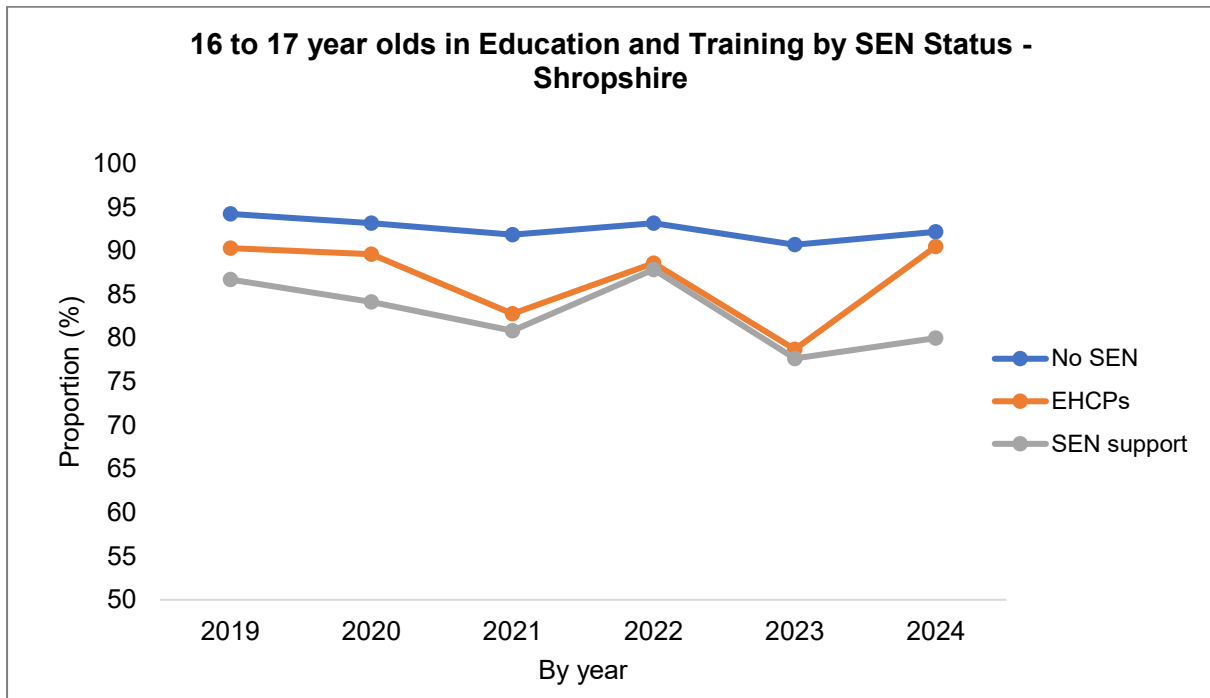
Exclusions						Latest Benchmark 'Full Year' 2022/23				National Ranking (1 being highest, 152 lowest)		
Primary School Suspension Rate (Full Academic Year)						Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands	2021	2022	2023
	2021*	2022	2023	Autumn Term 2023	Trend							
All Pupils	0.86	1.38	1.75	0.79		1.75	1.81	2.34	1.81	71	92	85
National	0.99	1.42	1.81	0.83								
Free School Meals (FSM)	2.23	4.42	5.21	2.46		5.21	4.43	6.36	3.91	77	111	106
Non Free School Meals (Non FSM)	0.60	0.75	0.98	0.43		0.98	0.99	1.39	0.98	96	86	93
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	5.03	6.82	10.03	4.43		10.03	9.10	12.20	8.76	86	85	103
EHCP	6.15	11.40	23.28	9.91		23.28	16.40	23.50	18.83	49	76	130
SEN Support	4.88	6.20	8.02	3.37		8.02	7.73	9.70	7.39	106	88	98
Non SEND	0.22	0.48	0.29	0.13		0.29	0.42	0.45	0.47	76	131	48
Secondary School Suspension Rate (Full Academic Year)						Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands	2021	2022	2023
	2021*	2022	2023	Autumn Term 2023	Trend							
All Pupils	9.94	16.99	22.83	10.04		22.83	18.90	19.42	17.20	105	112	104
National	8.48	13.96	18.90	8.19								
Free School Meals (FSM)	28.00	42.21	58.30	27.15		58.30	45.58	51.37	36.25	118	115	110
Non Free School Meals (Non FSM)	7.05	12.46	15.45	6.16		15.45	11.06	12.39	10.31	116	129	128
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	24.15	44.41	62.50	24.51		62.50	47.70	53.00	40.90	94	110	117
EHCP	26.07	46.24	72.35	27.09		72.35	47.17	52.96	41.15	83	112	134
SEN Support	23.69	44.04	60.84	24.04		60.84	47.82	49.51	40.90	91	110	113
Non SEND	7.90	12.72	16.07	7.38		16.07	13.90	13.38	12.96	117	115	100

Post 16 destinations and NEETs

Many young people will remain in some form of education or training to the age of 18 years, some may even start work when they finish school. The vast majority of young people with SEND are capable of sustainable paid employment with the right preparation and support. Continuing in further education will help young people build on their prior achievements and support their progression towards greater independence and aspirations for paid employment/higher education.

One of the most effective ways to prepare young people with SEND for employment is to arrange work-based learning, such as study programmes, supported internships, apprenticeships and traineeships, which enable them to have first-hand experience of work

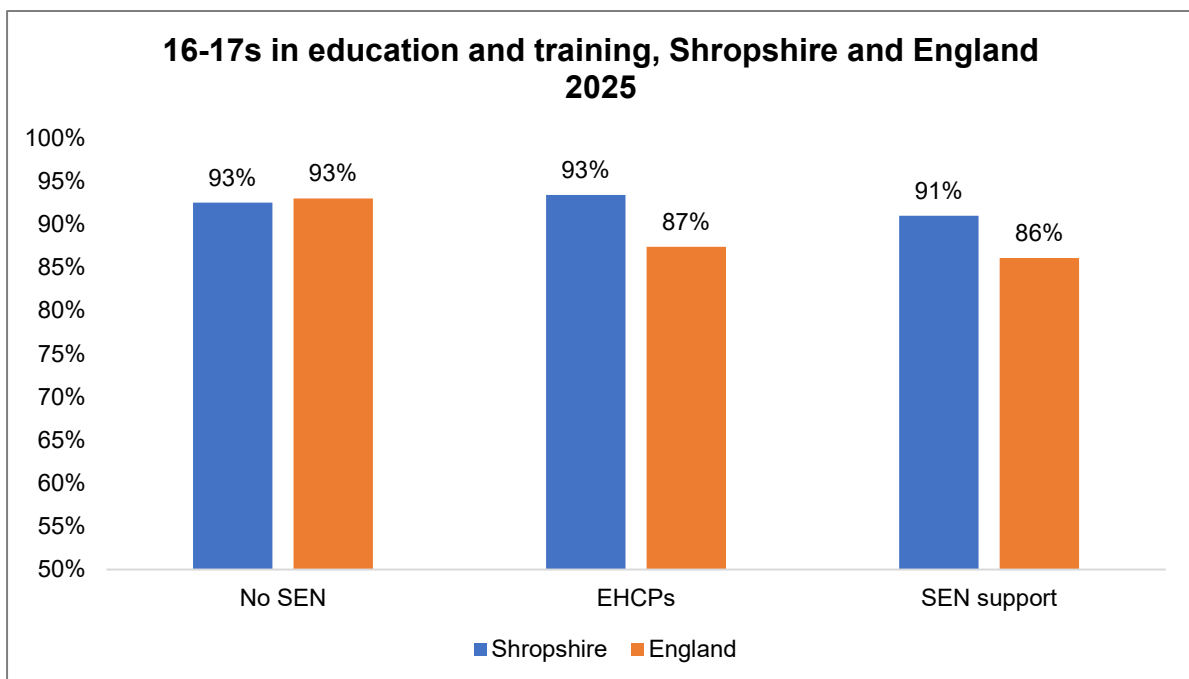
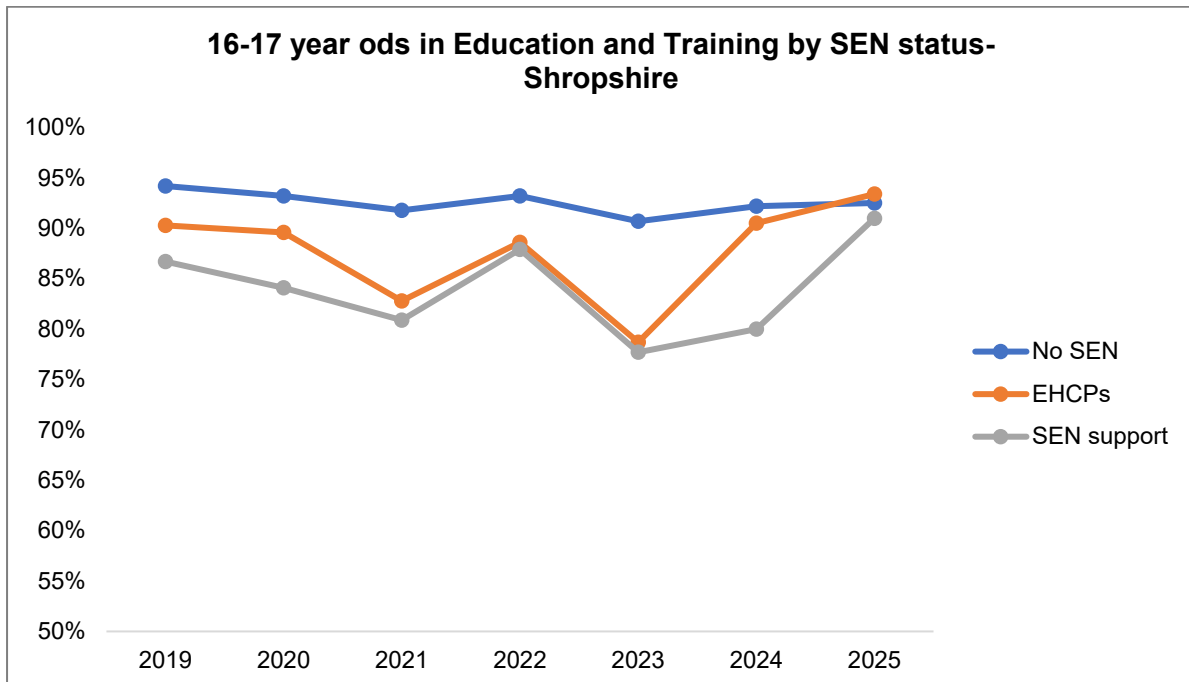
Chart showing the proportion of 16 to 17 year olds participating in education and training by SEN status, 2019 to 2024, Shropshire. Source: [Participation in education, training and NEET age 16 to 17](#)



16 -17s in education and training

In Shropshire in 2025, majority of 16-17 year olds with SEN were in education and training, with 93.4% of young people with EHCPs and 91% of those with SEN support. This is similar to the No SEN 16-17s population. The rates of participation for Shropshire's SEN young people aged 16-17 are higher than nationally.

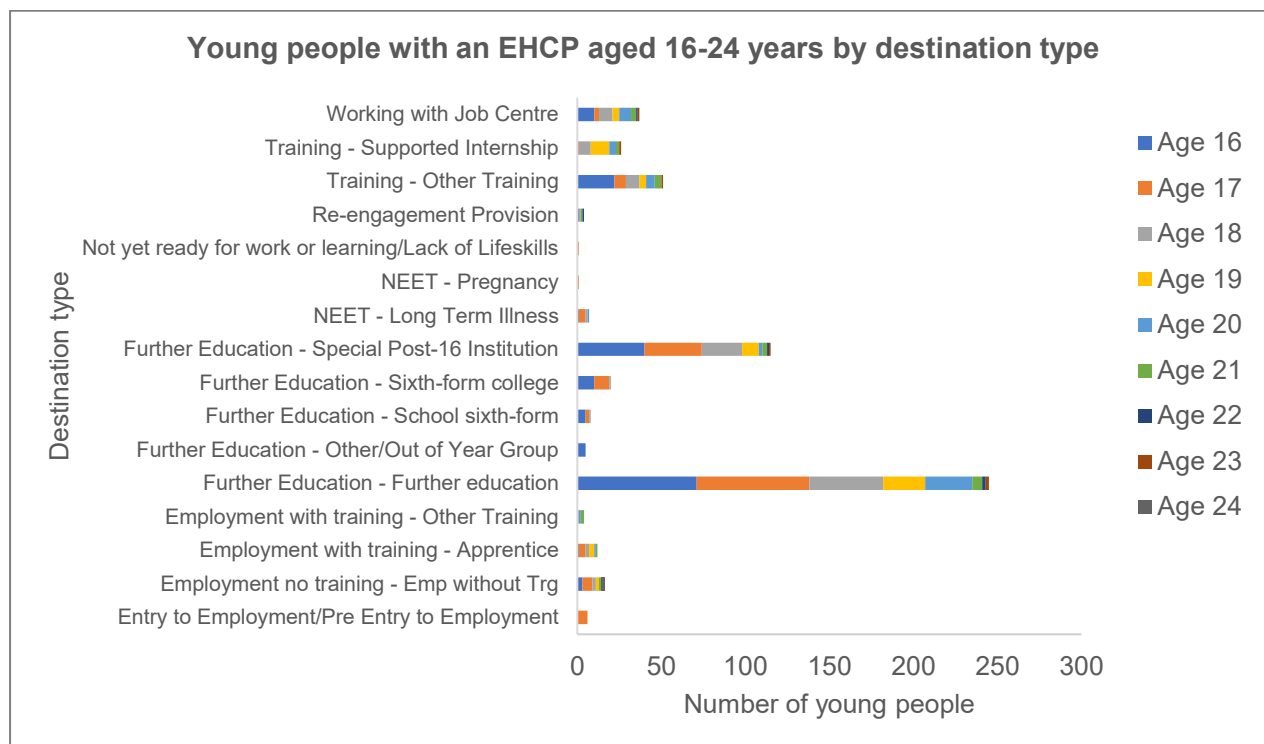
Chart showing the proportion of 16-17 year olds in Shropshire in education and training over time.
 Source: [Participation in education, training and NEET age 16 to 17 by local authority, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)



Post 16 in training/employment/internships

A Supported Internship is a structured, work-based study programme designed for young people aged 16–24 who have an EHCP. These internships aim to help young people with additional needs transition into paid employment by providing real-life work experience, alongside continued education in employability and life skills.

The chart below shows the number of young people with an EHCP aged between 16 and 24 years by destination type, Shropshire as at March 2025. Source: Learning & Skills - Education Improvement Service, Shropshire Council



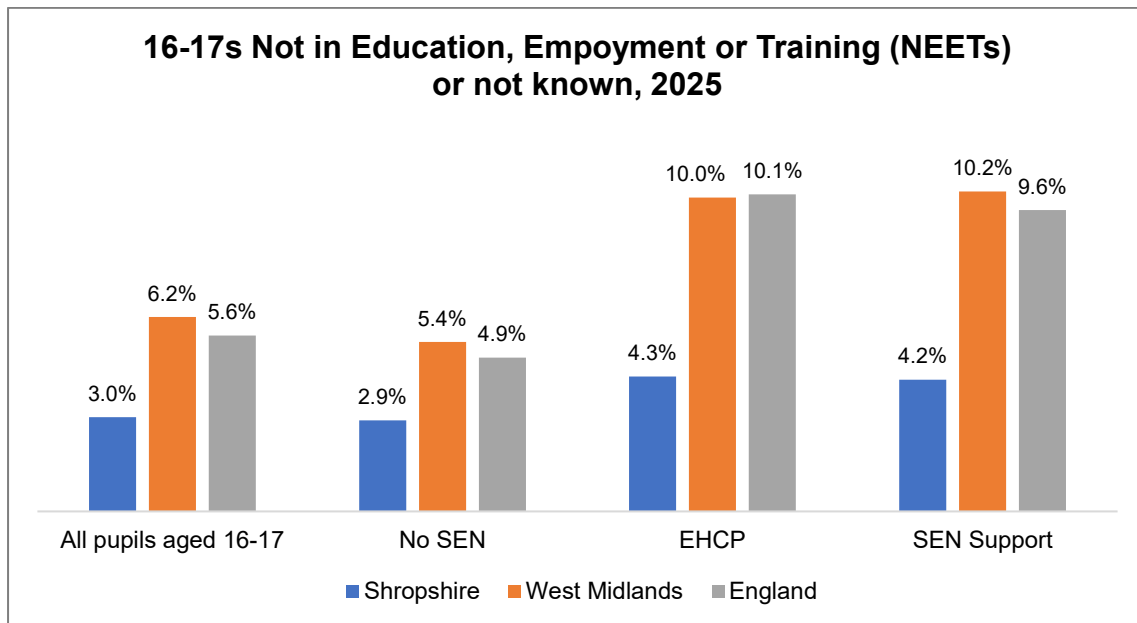
16 to 17 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) or whose activity is not known (NEETs)

In Shropshire in 2025, there were 6,525 16 to 17 year olds and 3.0% of these were NEETs (197 young people).

Young people aged 16-17 with SEN (EHCP or SEN Support) in Shropshire have a higher rate of NEET or activity not known than those young people without SEN, (4.3% and 4.2% for EHCPs and SEN Support respectively vs 2.9% No SEN). This is also the picture nationally and regionally.

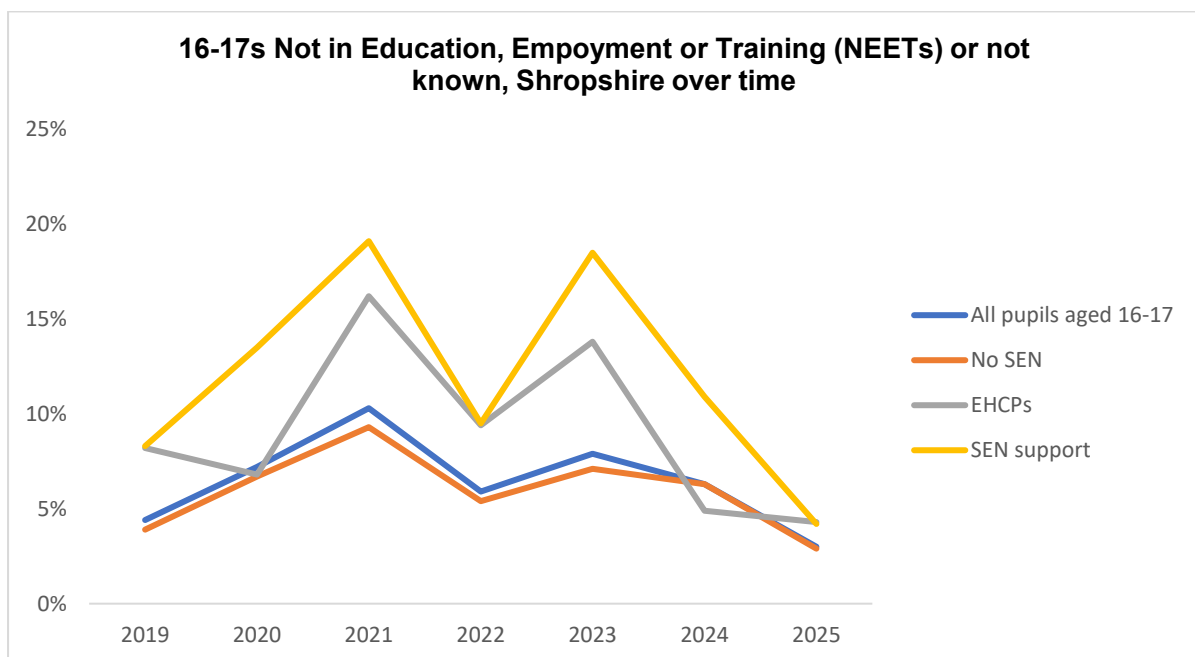
In 2025, Shropshire's rate of 16-17 year olds NEETs/not known with SEN is half that of the national and regional rates.

Chart showing the proportion of 16 to 17 year olds who are NEET or whose activity is not known in Shropshire, with West Midlands and England comparisons, 2025. Source: [Participation in education, training and NEET age 16 to 17 by local authority, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)



In the last 2 years in Shropshire, the rate of NEETS/not known for young people (16-17 years) with SEN has been falling, and is closer to the rate for all pupils or those without SEN.

Chart showing the proportion of 16 to 17 year olds who are NEET or whose activity is not known over time in Shropshire. Source: [Participation in education, training and NEET age 16 to 17 by local authority, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)



After Key Stage 4

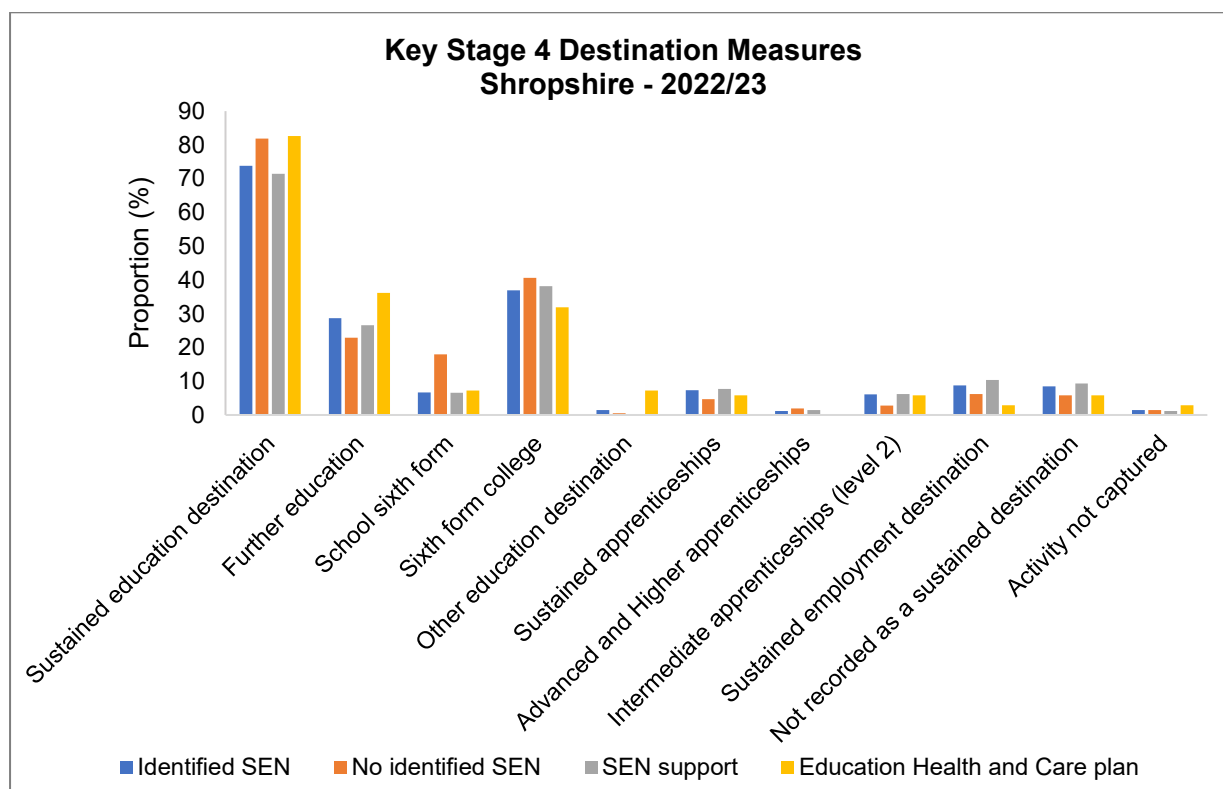
Pupils with no identified special educational need in Shropshire were more likely to have sustained an education destination in 2022-23. 81.9% of pupils with no identified SEN sustained an education destination, compared to 73.8% for those with identified SEN.

However, the opposite was observed for sustained apprenticeship and sustained employment destinations. 7.3% and 8.8% of pupils with identified SEN sustained apprenticeship and employment destinations compared to 4.7% and 6.2% of pupils with no identified SEN respectively.

Pupils with an EHCP were more likely to continue in education (82.6% EHCP vs 71.4% SEN support) whereas SEN support students were more likely to continue in an apprenticeship (7.7% SEN support vs 5.8% EHCP) or employment (10.4% SEN support vs 2.9% EHCP) after KS4.

Please note data covers students who left key stage 4 study in 2021/22 and follows their destinations in 2022/23.

Chart showing Key Stage (KS4) destination measures in mainstream schools by SEN status, Shropshire, 2022-23. Source: [Key stage 4 destination measures](#) Gov.uk



After Key Stage 5

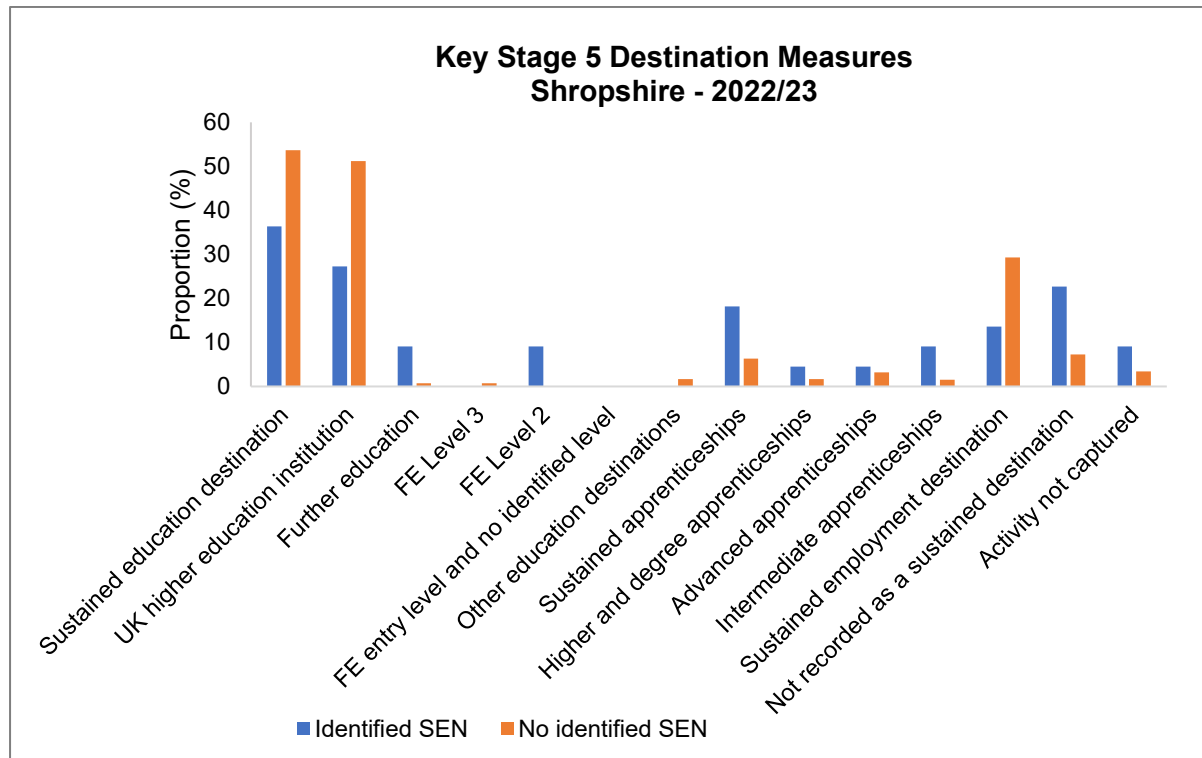
Pupils with no identified special educational need in Shropshire were most likely to have sustained an education and employment destination in 2022-23 after KS5. 53.7% of pupils with no identified SEN sustained an education destination, compared to 36.4% for those with

identified SEN. 29.3% of pupils with no identified SEN sustained an employment destination, compared to 13.6% for those with identified SEN.

Pupils with identified SEN were more likely to continue in an apprenticeship (18.2% vs 6.3%) compared to those with no identified SEN after KS5.

Please note data covers students who left 16 to 18 study by the end of the 2021/22 academic year and follows their destinations in the 2022/23 academic year.

Chart showing Key Stage 5 (KS5) destination measures in mainstream schools by SEN status, Shropshire, 2022-23. Source: [16-18 destination measures](#) Gov.uk



Progression to higher education (HE)

The progression rates for pupils with Special Education Needs lags well behind those for other pupils. Just 9.3% of pupils with an EHCP progressed to HE by age 19 by 2022/23 compared to 24.9% of pupils on SEN Support and 51.2% for pupils with no SEN provision. The progression rate for pupils with SEN increased in the latest year to the highest in the time series, whilst the rate remained unchanged for pupils with no SEN provision.

Chart showing the progression rate for pupils with and without any special educational need to higher education between 2018/19 and 2022/23. Source: Gov.UK data tables

