

# Attendance Conference

18<sup>th</sup> January 2016

## Agenda for the Day

9.35 - 9.40:	Welcome – Ian Harrison
9.40 – 10.15	Context and Facts
10.15 – 10.45:	Dollis and Deansbrook Infant Schools
10.45 -11.00:	Coffee
11.00 – 11.20	Northside
11.20 – 11.40	St Catherine's
11.40 – 12.10	Akiva
12.10 – 12.20	Overview of some useful documents
12.20 – 12.45	Q and A – time to quiz Trevor!
12.45 – 1.15	Lunch
1.15 – 3.00	Action Plan Workshop

# In Your Pack.....

- Agenda
- Individualised school data
- Handy hints and tips
- Action planning tools
- Thoughts sheet
- What to do if your child is ill....

# Some Obvious Facts

‘...the higher the percentage of sessions missed across the key stage, the lower the likely level of attainment at the end of KS2. In particular, pupils with no absence are 1.6 times more likely to achieve level 4 or above, and 4.7 times more likely to achieve level 5 or above, than pupils that missed 15-20 per cent of all sessions.’

- (DfE document: **The link between absence and attainment at KS2 and KS4 , 2012/13 academic year : Research report February 2015**)
- The case will be even more compelling with raised expectations!!

# Some less obvious facts....

- 6 out of the 20 most improved schools for attendance, in Barnet, are infant schools
- Some schools were prevented from having 'no weaknesses' in the Ofsted Inspector Dashboard, by having below national absence figures

# Do you know?

- What is the national attendance figure?

**96%**

- What is the national 'PA' figure?

**90%**

**Note – this has changed from 85%**

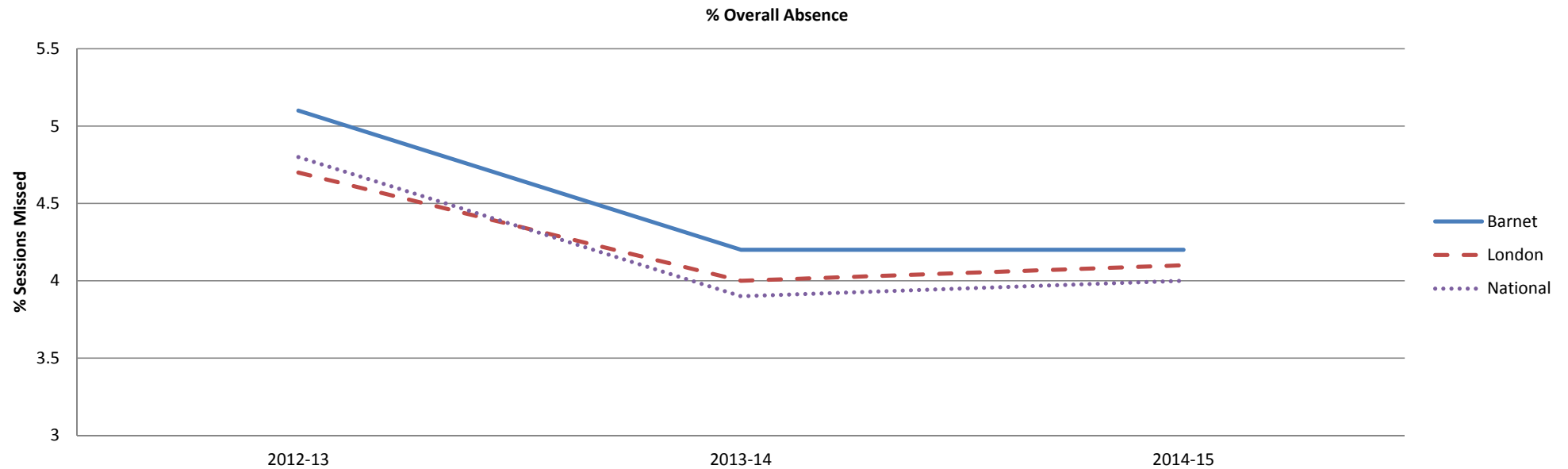
# More questions.....

- We were 114<sup>th</sup> out of 152 other local authorities in 2012 -2013.  
Where were we in 2014 – 2015?

**98<sup>th</sup>**

Our attendance is also lower than other outer London authorities!

# Overall Absence

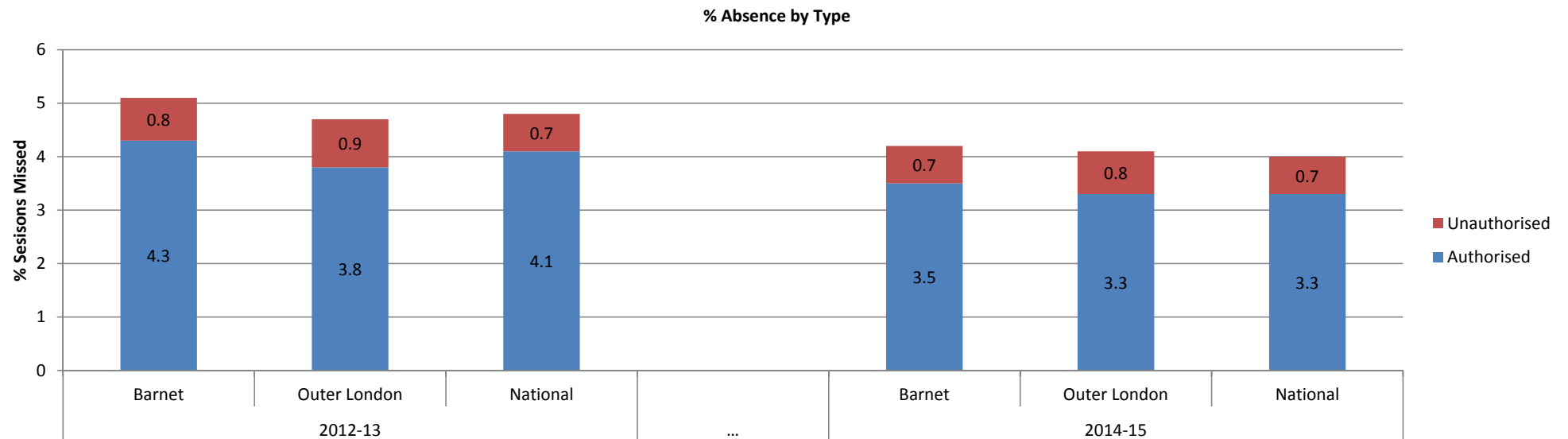


Barnet's absence improved from 5.1% to 4.2% between 2012-13 and 2014-15

Barnet's ranking improved from 114 in 2012-13 to 98 in 2014-15



# Authorised / Unauthorised Absence












In 2012/13 both authorised and unauthorised absences were above national

In 2014/15 authorised absences were above national, but unauthorised absences were below national

# Which category of school performs better than national in Barnet – primary, infant or junior?

For Overall and Authorised Absence, all types of schools perform worse than their national counterparts

For unauthorised absence, Junior and through-primary schools perform better than their national counterparts. Infant schools perform worse than national infant schools

	Overall		Diff from	Authorised		Diff from	Unauthorised		Diff from
	Barnet	National	Nat	Barnet	National	Nat	Barnet	National	Nat
Infant	4.69	4.18		3.86	3.53		0.82	0.65	
Junior	4.41	3.74		3.89	3.14		0.52	0.60	
Primary	4.16	4.04		3.48	3.28		0.68	0.76	

Compared to their national counterparts, Junior schools perform worst

Compared to their national counterparts, Junior schools perform worst for authorised absence

# Types of Absence

Reason for Absence	Barnet 2012-13	National 2012-13	Barnet 2013-14	National 2013-14	Barnet 2014-15	National 2014-15
Authorised - Illness	3.2	3.2	2.4	2.5	2.8	2.8
Authorised - Appointments	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2
Authorised - Religious	0.2	0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0
Authorised - Study	0	0	0	0	0	0
Authorised - Traveller	0	0	0	0	0	0
Authorised - Holiday	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Authorised - Extended Holiday	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a
Authorised - Excluded	0	0	0	0	0	0
Authorised - Other	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2
<b>Authorised - Total Reasons</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.3</b>
Authorised - Unclassified	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a
Unauthorised - Holiday	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
Unauthorised - Late	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Unauthorised - Other	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4
Unauthorised - No Reason	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1
<b>Unauthorised - Total Reasons</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Unauthorised - Unclassified	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a
<b>Overall Absence - Total Reasons</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4</b>

'Appointments, 'religious', 'other reason', have been above national for 3 years

Authorised absence code 'C':  
"This code should only be used in exceptional circumstances"

'Unauthorised - no reason' has been above national for 3 years

Would 'cleaning' the attendance data result in **even higher** authorised absence for Barnet?

# **So....Appointments.....**

- A shared issue!
- Support for schools:
  - Media campaign
  - Working with partners eg NHS
  - Headteacher working party – volunteers please!

## Another question.....

- If a child's attendance is 85%, how many days and lessons will they have lost?

**Answer: 29 days / 150 lessons**



## Getting your child to school really matters. Did you know ...

If your child's attendance during the school year is ...	your child would have lost approximately ...	or they would have missed approximately ...
95%	9 days	50 lessons
90%	19 days	100 lessons
85%	29 days	150 lessons
80%	38 days	200 lessons
75%	48 days	250 lessons
70%	57 days	290 lessons
65%	67 days	340 lessons

You should not take your child on holiday during term time.

**REMEMBER: ABSENCE = LOST OPPORTUNITY**

# Where does this statement come from?

‘Pupils value their education and rarely miss a day at school. No groups of pupils are disadvantaged by low attendance. The attendance of pupils who have previously had exceptionally high rates of absence is rising quickly towards the national average.’

- A) Hello magazine
- B) A poster in Trevor’s house
- C) Part of ‘outstanding’ judgement in the latest Ofsted framework (personal development, behaviour and welfare)

# Finally.....

- **Attendance is a whole school improvement issue:** correlation between regular attendance and good achievement at every key stage
- **Attendance is an equalities issue:** attendance of some disadvantaged groups
- **Attendance is a safeguarding issue:** poor attendance can be an indicator of wider problems within a family
- **Attendance is a leadership issue:** poor attendance can impact on leadership judgement in inspection.



# Website Links and Documents

- **Working with Children in Barnet:**
- <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/wwc-home/information-for-schools/support-for-improving-attendance/Tips-for-Managing-and-Improving-Arrival.html>
- hints and tips
- policies and guidelines from schools
- if you have a document that has had an impact – please send it to us and we can then put this here for others to use
- **DfE:**
- <https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-attendance>
- Various documents to support schools with attendance – including some hints and tips for parents
- **Ofsted:**
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-inspection-handbook-from-september-2015>
- Link to the latest framework handbook – with grade descriptors

# More support – some suggestions...

- Use the EWO service – really plan how you want them to support
- Use Trevor – BPSI advisor
- We will actively identify school staff to be advisors
- Use your partnerships – is there a champion for attendance?