



06 NOV 2018



Dear 

Thank you for your email of 8 October 2018 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting the following information:

- *Could you please provide data on how many Otago and Southland pupils were stood down, suspended, excluded or expelled in 2016 and 2017.*
- *It would also be good to know what they were disciplined for (eg Alcohol, arson, continue disobedience, drugs etc). And could you also provide national statistics please?*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Please find attached **Appendix One** providing data on the numbers of Otago, Southland and National pupils who were stood-down, suspended, excluded or expelled (including reasons) for 2016 and 2017.

Values less than 5 in the cohort of data have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons and to avoid identifying individual students. These values are shown as 'x' in the Appendix.

Definitions of measures used

A **stand-down** is the removal of a student for a period of up to five days in a school term, where the decision is made by the Principal. A student may only be stood-down for a total of 10 school days in a year.

A **suspension** is the formal removal of a student from a state or state-integrated school on a temporary basis until the school board of trustees (the board) decides the final outcome at a meeting. The board can then either:

- lift the suspension (with or without conditions),
- extend the suspension, or
- exclude the student (if under 16) or expel the student (if aged 16 years or over).

Exclusions and expulsions are subsets of suspension where an enrolment is terminated. If the student is aged under 16, the board may decide to exclude the student from the school, with the requirement that the student enrolls elsewhere.

Considerations when interpreting the data

It's important to note that stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions and expulsions are measures of a school's reaction to the behaviour. While one school may opt to suspend a student over a particular incident, another school may not. The number of these incidents should not be used as a proxy measure for total student behaviour.

You can find further information about stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions and expulsions, including age standardised data, on the Ministry's Education Counts website at the following link:

www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/indicators/main/student-engagement-participation/stand-downs-suspensions-exclusions-expulsions

Support for schools

Schools develop comprehensive, local approaches to promoting pro-social behaviour and wellbeing within their setting. We support these efforts, and the development of whole school capability, with programmes such as Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L). You can read about this service in more detail at: <http://pb4l.tki.org.nz/PB4L-School-Wide/Support-material>.

We also provide bullying prevention guidance for schools, which you can find here: <https://www.education.govt.nz/assets/Documents/School/Bullying-prevention/MOEBullyingGuide2015Web.pdf>

The '*Teaching for Positive Behaviour*' resource supports teachers to understand and use effective practices that enhance students' behaviour, engagement, participation, and learning.

The school-based Resource Teacher: Learning and Behaviour (RTLB) service supports clusters of schools develop whole school behaviour management strategies to help manage the additional learning needs of students and help enhance students' learning participation and wellbeing.

The '*Guidelines for Registered Schools in New Zealand on the Use of Physical Restraint*' resource has been developed to help schools address the uncertainty staff experience when faced with a student exhibiting difficult behaviour that may escalate into a dangerous situation. The guide's aim is to strengthen the good practice already happening in schools, and avoid the need for physical restraint. This resource can be downloaded from our website at: <http://education.govt.nz/assets/Documents/School/Managing-and-supporting-students/Guidance-for-New-Zealand-Schools-on-Behaviour-Mgmt-to-Minimise-Physical-....pdf>

Our Learning Support professionals work specifically to support children and young people with higher levels of challenging behaviour, including those whose behaviour management plans include the possibility of physical restraint. A training workshop for behaviour management that focuses on preventative and de-escalation techniques, '*Understanding Behaviour – Responding Safely*', has been developed for New Zealand schools. It is delivered by Learning Support professionals and RTLB who can also provide ongoing support to schools.

Thank you again for your email. If you have further questions please feel free to contact our media team in the first instance at media@education.govt.nz.

If you are unsatisfied with my response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review it. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrina', written over a diagonal line.

Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

cc: Julie Anderson, Director of Education for Otago Southland.

Number of Stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions and expulsions for 2016 and 2017

	Otago		Southland		National	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Stand-downs	720	814	506	613	15371	17724
Suspensions	134	187	88	98	2701	3134
Exclusions	33	57	28	39	913	1044
Expulsions	X	7	X	X	114	140

Otago Stand-downs	2016	2017
Alcohol	24	24
Arson	X	0
Continual Disobedience	177	196
Drugs (Including Substance Abuse)	15	11
Other Harmful or Dangerous Behaviour	70	89
Physical Assault on Other Students	218	235
Physical Assault on Staff	64	85
Sexual Harassment	7	9
Sexual Misconduct	5	X
Smoking	X	6
Theft	13	23
Vandalism	8	21
Verbal Assault on Other Students	30	28
Verbal Assault on Staff	74	80
Weapons	8	X
Otago Suspensions	2016	2017
Alcohol	0	13
Arson	X	0
Continual Disobedience	45	49
Drugs (Including Substance Abuse)	23	33
Other Harmful or Dangerous Behaviour	14	24
Physical Assault on Other Students	14	28
Physical Assault on Staff	10	17
Sexual Harassment	X	0
Smoking	X	0
Theft	X	X
Vandalism	X	7
Verbal Assault on Other Students	X	X
Verbal Assault on Staff	12	7
Weapons	X	X

Otago Exclusions	2016	2017
Arson	X	0
Continual Disobedience	9	14
Drugs (Including Substance Abuse)	8	16
Other Harmful or Dangerous Behaviour	X	7
Physical Assault on Other Students	X	11
Physical Assault on Staff	X	5
Smoking	X	0
Theft	X	0
Vandalism	X	X
Verbal Assault on Staff	X	X
Weapons	X	X
Otago Expulsions	2016	2017
Arson	X	0
Continual Disobedience	X	X
Drugs (Including Substance Abuse)	0	X
Other Harmful or Dangerous Behaviour	0	X
Physical Assault on Other Students	0	X
Physical Assault on Staff	X	0
Verbal Assault on Staff	0	X

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Southland Stand-downs	2016	2017
Alcohol	32	29
Continual Disobedience	111	150
Drugs (Including Substance Abuse)	29	19
Other Harmful or Dangerous Behaviour	34	57
Physical Assault on Other Students	142	188
Physical Assault on Staff	29	27
Sexual Harassment	X	X
Sexual Misconduct	7	7
Smoking	7	18
Theft	9	14
Vandalism	7	16
Verbal Assault on Other Students	20	20
Verbal Assault on Staff	70	61
Weapons	7	5
Southland Suspensions	2016	2017
Alcohol	X	X
Continual Disobedience	13	26
Drugs (Including Substance Abuse)	26	9
Other Harmful or Dangerous Behaviour	7	12
Physical Assault on Other Students	22	17
Physical Assault on Staff	X	11
Sexual Misconduct	X	0
Smoking	X	X
Theft	X	X
Vandalism	X	X
Verbal Assault on Other Students	0	X
Verbal Assault on Staff	8	11
Weapons	X	X

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Southland sum of exclusions	2016	2017
Continual Disobedience	5	14
Drugs (Including Substance Abuse)	X	X
Other Harmful or Dangerous Behaviour	X	7
Physical Assault on Other Students	5	5
Physical Assault on Staff	0	6
Sexual Misconduct	X	0
Smoking	X	0
Theft	X	0
Vandalism	0	X
Verbal Assault on Other Students	0	0
Verbal Assault on Staff	6	X
Southland sum of expulsions	2016	2017
Continual Disobedience	0	X
Drugs (Including Substance abuse)	X	0
Theft	0	X
Verbal Assault on Other Students	0	X

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National Stand-downs	2016	2017
Alcohol	454	619
Arson	59	50
Continual Disobedience	3276	3635
Drugs (Including Substance Abuse)	1001	1012
Other Harmful or Dangerous Behaviour	1818	2037
Physical Assault on Other Students	4327	5397
Physical Assault on Staff	788	910
Sexual Harassment	88	95
Sexual Misconduct	151	143
Smoking	210	388
Theft	605	747
Vandalism	342	420
Verbal Assault on Other Students	395	481
Verbal Assault on Staff	1627	1564
Weapons	230	226
National Suspensions	2016	2017
Alcohol	51	84
Arson	18	12
Continual Disobedience	637	736
Drugs (Including Substance Abuse)	512	570
Other Harmful or Dangerous Behaviour	342	370
Physical Assault on Other Students	527	691
Physical Assault on Staff	147	200
Sexual Harassment	25	19
Sexual Misconduct	28	43
Smoking	9	14
Theft	92	112
Vandalism	47	42
Verbal Assault on Other Students	32	43
Verbal Assault on Staff	145	129
Weapons	89	69

National Exclusions	2016	2017
Alcohol	8	6
Arson	6	X
Continual Disobedience	269	341
Drugs (Including Substance Abuse)	103	119
Other Harmful or Dangerous Behaviour	109	137
Physical Assault on Other Students	172	208
Physical Assault on Staff	63	83
Sexual Harassment	9	X
Sexual Misconduct	9	17
Smoking	X	X
Theft	29	34
Vandalism	14	10
Verbal Assault on Other Students	18	11
Verbal Assault on Staff	63	41
Weapons	37	28
National Expulsions	2016	2017
Alcohol	X	6
Arson	X	0
Continual Disobedience	22	36
Drugs (Including Substance Abuse)	16	28
Other Harmful or Dangerous Behaviour	24	21
Physical Assault on Other Students	26	30
Physical Assault on Staff	6	X
Sexual Harassment	0	X
Sexual Misconduct	X	X
Theft	6	6
Vandalism	0	X
Verbal Assault on Other Students	0	X
Verbal Assault on Staff	5	5
Weapons	X	0

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