37740 Schools - Violence Incidents

As a local authority that seeks to include and support all learners, we regard all behaviour as communication and avoid using terminology which labels children and young people. We seek to support the wellbeing of all staff and track incidents where they have been present or subject to behaviours of concern. This can take the form of physical or verbal behaviours.

We have several processes to prevent, analyse and improve on all of these incidents, including full training on Additional Support Needs, de-escalation and prevention, and quality assurance of practices at school level. The City of Edinburgh, along with unions, actively encourages staff and young people to report these issues and to work restoratively to redress any hurt or impact caused.

The following is an extract from the Incident Reporting Guidelines in relation to school pupils on SHE:

5.6 All pupil or young person challenging behaviour (e.g. violence, aggression or threatening behaviour) towards employees must be recorded on the SHE Portal as work-related incidents. Where such behaviours occur regularly throughout a day, there is no need to record each incident separately. A daily report can be entered on to the portal summarising the behaviours presented during the day and any actions taken or required. However, should any of the behaviours result in injury to an employee, each incident must be reported separately for each employee who sustained an injury.

5.8 Pupil to pupil incidents (e.g. fighting, abusive behaviour, etc.) should not normally be reported as work-related incidents. These are behaviours of concern that would need to be followed up through other more appropriate channels.

Please note that the following figures are extracted from the SHE database reported to Health and Safety with the following categories:
violence - resulting in injury,
violence - no injury, threatening/aggressive behaviour.

How many forms recording incidences of violence against employees by pupils have been filled out in the past academic year?

'Violence against employees by pupils' - Academic year 01/08/2021 to 01/07/2022 – total number - 1189

How does this compare to the last full academic year before covid – 2018-2019?

'Violence against employees by pupils' - Academic year 01/08/2018 to 30/06/2019 – total number – 1584

How many forms regarding incidences of violence between pupils have been filled out in the past academic year?

'Violence between pupils' - Academic year 01/08/2021 to 01/07/2022 – total number – 752

How does this compare to the last full academic year before covid – 2018-2019?

'Violence between pupils' - Academic year 01/08/2018 to 30/06/2019 – total number – 146

In addition to the above, we also record Bullying and Prejudice-based incidents on SEEMIS which may meet questions 3 and 4 of your request.

The SEEMiS Bullying and Equalities module for recording all bullying and prejudice-based incidents was introduced in June 2019, following pilots in a small number of schools. Prior to June 2019, schools submitted an annual return of bullying and prejudice-based incidents. The SEEMiS Bullying and Equalities module records more detailed information than previously collated, including a wider range of categories for the perceived reason. It should be noted that the incident count shown is the highest possible count of incidents: it includes each instance of the perceived reason being displayed, per pupil and per nature of incident. For example, if one pupil experienced racism by 2 other pupils and this involved both name-calling and abusive messages, this would show as 4 instances of racism. In the previous system (up to June 2019) this would have counted as only one incident.

How many forms regarding incidences of violence between pupils have been filled out in the past academic year?

Bullying and Prejudice-based incidents - 2129

How does this compare to the last full academic year before covid – 2018-2019?

Bullying and Prejudice-based incidents - *725*

Please also refer to the committee report at the following link:
https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s43061/7.10%20Promoting%20Equality.pdf