

56845 Bullying in Schools

How many incidents of bullying were there in schools across the local authority?

Please provide data for the years 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Please detail this information by primary school and secondary school incidents.

Please refer to the table provide below.

How are these incidents characterised by the school, or logged by the council?

This can include physical incidents, verbal, emotional bullying, cyber, racism etc.

Please see the table below, and accompanying notes, referring to the Column Headings. These represent the standard categories on the national SEEMiS Bullying and Equalities module.

	Abusive messages online/ phone/ gaming/ social media	Being ignored	Belongings taken or damaged	Gender Based Violence	Hit, tripped, pushed or kicked	Name calling, teased, put down or threatened	Other (Please Specify)	Racism or Racist Incident	Spreading rumours	Targeted because of who they are/perceived to be
2020	84	39	84		370	887	201		43	279
Primary	39	33	18		176	359	90		33	99
Secondary	45	6	66		194	528	111		10	180
2021	91	14	60	8	361	1082	239	109	61	320
Primary	19	13	38	6	236	465	64	68	38	118
Secondary	72	1	22	2	125	617	175	41	23	202
2022	114	86	74	93	587	1519	329	1053	45	529
Primary	43	48	20	6	335	462	161	448	16	113
Secondary	71	38	54	87	252	1057	168	605	29	416
2023	224	32	83	75	778	1548	296	1036	85	463
Primary	27	24	40	10	513	496	148	636	24	84

Secondary	197	8	43	65	265	1052	148	400	61	379
2024	92	24	87	59	670	1183	241	991	75	329
Primary	41	15	34	3	497	515	135	581	30	90
Secondary	51	9	53	56	173	668	106	410	45	239

NOTES

1. SEEMiS Bullying and Equalities data is available from session 2020-21.
2. The incident count shown is the highest possible count of incidents; it includes each instance of the nature of the incident, per pupil experiencing, perceived reason and location of incident. For example, if one pupil experienced bullying by 3 other pupils and this involved abusive online messages, this would show as 3 instances.
3. There are no recorded incidents with the **Incident Nature** being 'Gender Based Violence' or 'Racism or Racist Incident' for sessions 2020-21 as these categories were introduced in June 2021. Such incidents were - and continue to be - recorded also under **Perceived Reasons** of 'Sexism and Gender' and 'Race and racism including culture' respectively.
4. There is a marked increase in the total number of recorded incidents between 2020 and 2023, with a decrease in 2024. This may be explained by measures put in place from 2021 to address inconsistent approaches to dealing with and recording incidents which included: implementing a strengthened 'Preventing and Responding to Bullying and Prejudice' procedure; supplementary guidance on tackling racist incidents; and training for school Equality Co-ordinators.

Were weapons used in any of these incidents – how many cases of this are there?

Please list the specific schools that involved weapons.

We do not hold a central record of how many weapons have been confiscated.

The exact definition of what constitutes a weapon, or an improvised weapon, is not given and these terms are open to interpretation therefore the categories used, which have been stipulated by the Scottish Government, are deliberately broad as there would be too wide a variation in the responses received. Examples of a weapon could include a knife or catapult. Examples of an improvised weapon could be a pencil or eraser.

If these items were confiscated and a pupil excluded or temporarily excluded as a result, the exclusion would be centrally recorded. In order to determine if the exclusion was related to a weapon, a manual check of each Pupil Record would be required. The cost to the Council of locating, retrieving and providing the information exceeds the statutory maximum of £600.

Were police called to any of these bullying incidents?

If yes, how many?

As detailed above, the cost to the Council of locating, retrieving and providing the information far exceeds the statutory maximum of £600.