

# Mission 44 | Nothing Happens In Isolation Q&A

## Executive Summary

---

### Overview

The *Nothing Happens In Isolation* campaign aims to address the disproportionate exclusion rates among disadvantaged and minority students and build a more inclusive education system. We are calling on the Government to prioritise preventative measures in the education system and ultimately create a more inclusive school experience for all students.

### Key Messages

- School exclusions don't tackle the underlying causes of poor behaviour in classrooms.
- This is a social justice issue: exclusions disproportionately impact vulnerable learners.
- Preventing school exclusions requires increased and collective action - by policymakers, educators and communities.
- A more inclusive education system benefits every child

### Objectives

- **Influence** policymakers to implement policies that prevent school exclusions (*NB this is the primary objective of the campaign*)
- Increase **awareness and understanding** of the exclusions challenge
- **Mobilise key audiences** to take action on preventing exclusions

## Contents

---

**Section 1:** About the campaign

**Section 2:** Campaign Launch

**Section 3:** How to support the campaign

**Section 4:** Safeguarding contributors and young people

**Appendix A:** School exclusions - the context

## Section 1: About the Campaign

### What is the Nothing Happens in Isolation campaign?

Nothing Happens In Isolation campaign aims to address the disproportionate exclusion rates among disadvantaged and minority students and build a more inclusive education system. We are calling on the Government to prioritise preventative measures in the education system and ultimately create a more inclusive school experience for all students.

### What else is Mission 44 doing to reduce school exclusions?

In 2022 Sky and Mission 44 announced a partnership - The Preventing Exclusions Fund (PEF) - to address the disproportionate rate of school exclusions amongst Black and Gypsy, Roma & Traveller (GRT) students.

The Preventing Exclusions Fund includes a number of initiatives aimed at tackling the issue. Including testing new initiatives with Multi Academy Trusts to reduce the disproportionate exclusion rates of Black and Gypsy, Roma, Traveller pupils across their school networks. Scaling the impact of high potential initiatives that help prevent exclusions or improve trajectories for excluded students.

### What strategies or interventions have proven successful in preventing school exclusions?

There is no silver bullet to tackling exclusions - their reasons are complex. However, many examples of interventions that can make a difference are early intervention, mentoring, and additional support.

You can read about Mission 44's partners working to reduce exclusions [here](#).

Ultimately, more collective action is needed from policymakers, educators and the community to make the difference needed to turn the tide on rising numbers of exclusions.

### How does the campaign highlight youth voice?

The campaign has been designed and delivered in collaboration with young people. One of the campaign's policy recommendations is specifically about the need to embed youth voice into education.

You can also hear from young people calling for change throughout the pages of this campaign website - many of these young people have experienced exclusion and have been positively impacted by the interventions of Mission 44 partners.

### How does Mission 44 define 'vulnerable young people'?

Mission 44 recognises that some children have vulnerabilities due to their increased likelihood of discrimination or disadvantage, such as those living in poverty, from certain ethnic groups or living with special educational needs or disabilities.

We do not intend to place labels on young people.

### **How does the campaign plan to measure its success and impact on reducing school exclusions?**

The campaign has three key objectives: to influence policymakers to implement policies that prevent school exclusions, increase awareness and understanding of the challenges of exclusion, and mobilise key audiences to take action to prevent exclusions. We will be measuring this activity to track the progress of the campaign.

### **How does the campaign collaborate with other organisations or initiatives working towards similar goals?**

Mission 44 is a collaborative organisation and is working to promote the work of others also calling for a more inclusive education system, this includes the partners we are working with as well as those that have contributed to reports on the topic.

Under each of our policy recommendations, we signpost to the partners we are working with that are already working to reduce school exclusions in these areas.

Mission 44 is also proud to be a member of the Who Is Losing Learning? Coalition, a group of charities dedicated to addressing the growing challenge of children missing education. Together, we are highlighting the pressing need for systemic change to ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive.

If you are interested in working with Mission 44 to progress this agenda, then we would love to hear from you, please get in touch at [email address].

### **How is Mission 44 working with the Who Is Losing Learning Coalition?**

Mission 44 is part of a group of charities dedicated to addressing the growing challenge of children missing education called the Who Is Losing Learning? Coalition.

Together, alongside Impetus, IPPR and The Difference, we are highlighting the pressing need for systemic change to ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive.

In September 2024 the coalition published a problem report and have since formed a council, chaired by Pepe Di'lasio to develop a solutions report, due to be published in March 2025. This report will further develop ideas in the four priority areas Mission 44's Nothing Happens In Isolation campaign is highlighting. Our policy recommendations are Mission 44's contribution to this work and we look forward to working with our WLL partners and helping to keep a spotlight on the urgent need to tackle the growing rate of exclusions and other forms of lost learning.

**Why should parents of children whose learning is being disrupted by the behaviour of other students care about or support this campaign?**

We support teachers' and schools' right to maintain a disruption-free environment, and believe this should be done while addressing the underlying issues that lead to challenging behaviour. Being 'tough' on poor behaviour isn't enough - we must be tough on the causes of poor behaviour.

As such, we recognise the challenge of poor behaviour in the classroom but believe too often exclusions are used to tackle the symptoms and not the causes of poor behaviour. Overworked and under-resourced schools are often left with no alternative.

A more inclusive education system would benefit every child, regardless of background or ability.

**Will Lewis Hamilton be involved in the campaign?**

Yes. Lewis will play a key role in the campaign talking about his own lived experience of school exclusion and why he set up Mission 44 to create a fairer, more inclusive future for young people.

**Section 2: Campaign launch**

---

**When does the campaign launch?**

Tuesday 19 November

**What will I see on launch day and beyond?**

On campaign launch day expect to see media coverage of the campaign featuring our CEO Jason Arthur, Founder Sir Lewis Hamilton, and young campaigners we work with.

Mission 44 will launch a new campaign hub website hosting all content.

Mission 44 social media accounts will be posting content throughout the day and we would encourage you to share and engage with our posts to help amplify the important messages. A mailer will be sent to our newsletter distribution list, so please make sure you have signed up [here](#).

Following the launch, you will continue to see further media coverage and social media content driving the campaign story and encouraging everyone to take action.

**What will I find on the new campaign website?**

The new campaign website will set out Mission 44's priority areas to move towards making the education system more inclusive. The website also sets out Mission 44's policy recommendations and the rationale behind them.

Importantly, the website includes content from a variety of voices calling for change, including teachers and school leaders, parents and young people.

You can visit the website from 19 November at: [preventingexclusions.com](https://preventingexclusions.com)

## Section 3: How to support the campaign

### How can I support the campaign?

- **Individual/parent:** Visit the Mission 44 website and engage with and share online content, advocate for inclusion whenever you have the opportunity and contact your children's school and/or local MP.
- **Supportive organisation:** Visit the Mission 44 website and engage with and share online content, share content about the campaign across your social channels, on your websites and in your newsletters.
- **Teachers and school leaders:** Visit the Mission 44 website and engage with and share online content; advocate for inclusion whenever you have the opportunity; visit partner sites signposted through the site; write to your local MP.
- **Policymakers:** Visit the Mission 44 website and engage with and share online content; visit partner sites signposted through the site; meet with Mission 44 to discuss exclusions and their impact; act on policy recommendations.

We have provided template content for anyone who supports our mission to write to their local MP and/or local school. We have also provided a communications toolkit so individuals and organisations can support the campaign across their social channels. These resources will be available at [preventingexclusions.com](https://preventingexclusions.com).

You can also [sign up for our newsletter](#) to stay updated with the progress of the campaign and Mission 44's wider work.

### How can I follow the campaign?

You can follow the campaign by [signing up to our newsletter](#), visiting our [website](#) and following our socials:

- Instagram: @mission44
- X: @mission44
- Facebook and LinkedIn: @Mission 44

## Section 4: Safeguarding contributors and young people

**My organisation and the young people we work with have taken part in the campaign - what happens next?**

Thank you for taking part in the campaign. Safeguarding is our paramount consideration. Mission 44 will be holding a webinar ahead of the launch date to brief on the campaign and to ensure all contributors are fully informed about how their stories and content will be used. During the session you will also have a chance to ask the Mission 44 team questions. If contributors have any questions about the campaign after it has launched, they should contact their organisation lead in the first instance, who can then contact Mission 44 if necessary.

### **What are my organisation's responsibilities?**

Our approach regarding informed consent relating to the children and young people who have contributed to the campaign is to require a triple consent, involving written consent from: 1. the child or young person; 2. their parents/guardians (where they are under 18); and 3. their responsible partner organisation, represented at CEO or equivalent level. We have collected consent forms from contributors and parents/guardians during the process of preparing the content for the campaign.

Ahead of the launch we are asking all responsible partner organisations to confirm the following:

- Your consent for the children or young people under your responsibility to participate;
- Your understanding of the plans for the campaign and how the children or young people under your responsibility will feature;
- That, to the best of your knowledge, the consents provided by the children/young people and their parents/guardians remain valid and that you are not aware of any reason why they should no longer feature in the campaign;
- That you are in a position to exercise primary organisational safeguarding responsibility for the children or young people under your responsibility;
- That you have support and safeguarding concern reporting measures in place and that you will report any incidents or concerns to Mission 44 promptly should they arise;
- Children or young people under your responsibility have clarity about key contacts within your organisation and are aware of how to report any issues or concerns;
- Your organisation has support services in place, for example access to helplines and/or counselling, should they be required.

### **What should I do if I spot something negative about the campaign on social media?**

We understand contributors may want to engage with the content on social media. Mission 44 will only ever reference young people's first names (never surname),

therefore contributors who engage from personal social media accounts do so at their own/parent/guardian risk.

We understand the school exclusions debate can be divisive, and therefore could attract a level of scrutiny and negative reactions from commentators, policymakers, education practitioners and members of the public.

The Mission 44 team will be monitoring social media accounts but if a young person or organisation spots a negative and/or abusive engagement, they should report it to [info@mission44.org](mailto:info@mission44.org). Mission 44 would encourage all organisations engaging with the campaign on their own channels, to ensure they are monitoring their accounts too.

If a contributor, particularly a young person, feels affected by media coverage and/or comments in social media, or has any wider concerns, they should reach out to their contact at their responsible organisation who should provide support and signposting in the first instance. The organisation should then make Mission 44 aware so it can take appropriate action if necessary.



## Appendix A

### School exclusions - the context

#### What is exclusion?

Mission 44 defines exclusion as when schools remove students from their regular educational setting as a disciplinary measure. This can be permanent (expulsion) or temporary (suspension).

#### What is the scale of the exclusions issue?

The number of permanent exclusions is at a record high. Exclusions increased by 44% from 6,500 in 2021/22 to 9,400 in 2022/23, making the current year the highest recorded annual number of permanent exclusions. (DfE)

Latest national data also shows there were 32 million days of learning lost to suspension and unauthorised absence in 2022/23 – up from 19 million pre-pandemic.

#### Who is most impacted by school exclusions?

While designed to address serious behavioural issues, exclusions can often disproportionately affect vulnerable students and, when this happens, negatively impact their education and future opportunities.

Compared to the national average, excluded children are:

- 8x more likely to have had contact with social services
- 2.5x more likely to be eligible for Free School Meals
- 3x more likely to have special needs
- 17x more likely to have a mental health issue
- 4x more likely to be Romani (Gypsy) or Roma
- 3x more likely to be Irish traveller
- 1.5x more likely to be Black Caribbean
- 2x more likely to be mixed White and Black Caribbean

#### How do exclusions affect young people?

Exclusion can derail a young person's future, especially if they don't have sufficient support in alternative provision, or support to re-enter mainstream education.

Exclusion correlates with poorer outcomes - only 4% go on to achieve the necessary GCSEs for employment - and adults who have school exclusion in their personal history are disproportionately represented in terms of unemployment, mental health challenges, and entry to the criminal justice system.

One analysis suggests that each exclusion costs society £170,000 in long-term social and economic costs.

**Why is preventing exclusions a social justice issue?**

Young people are much more likely to be suspended or excluded from school if they are vulnerable, i.e. facing disadvantage or discrimination. That's why reducing the prevalence of school exclusions is a social justice issue.

**How can exclusions be reduced?**

We believe a more inclusive education system will benefit every child, and that it can be built in four priority areas:

1. Inclusion embedded into accountability and the curriculum
2. Increased personalised support for vulnerable learners
3. A more diverse, inclusive workforce
4. Tackling exclusions beyond the school gates

Find out more about Mission 44's recommendations here. [\[Link to policy detail\]](#)

**Why does Mission 44 want to reduce exclusions?**

Record levels of school exclusions are a growing concern. Too often they fail to address the symptoms of deeper issues, nor the root causes of poor behaviour.

This can include unmet special educational needs or mental health struggles, and other forms of disadvantage.

Policymakers, educationalists and the community should take urgent preventative action to build a more inclusive education system that benefits every child.

**Does Mission 44 think all exclusions are wrong?**

No. We accept that some suspensions and exclusions are necessary, but much more can and should be done at a system to reduce the number by addressing the underlying issues that may cause poor behaviour.