

Milton Keynes' teachers need more powers to tackle school bullying

Half of all children bullied, but fewer than five expulsions across Milton Keynes

Official Government figures have revealed that just ninety pupils across the country were expelled last year for school bullying, despite a new survey finding half of all 14-year-old children have been bullied.

Across Milton Keynes, fewer than five pupils were expelled last year from state secondary schools and the same amount from all state schools. In over two-thirds of local authorities across England, not a single child was expelled for bullying. In Milton Keynes, 10 pupils were suspended from state schools – meaning the disruptive students returned to the school where they caused misery for their classmates.

Since 1997, Labour Government rules have deliberately made it more difficult for schools to expel pupils, undermining the authority of head teachers and meaning bullies end up back at the same school as their victims.

Mark Lancaster said: "Bullying makes far too many children's lives a misery. But the Government's own figures show that in the vast majority of cases bullies are returned to the same school as their victims after a short punishment, rather than being expelled.

"The key to tackling bullying is giving (area)'s teachers the powers they need to crack down on bad behaviour. But under Labour, the balance of power in the classroom has shifted too far in favour of disruptive pupils.

"Conservatives would give Milton Keynes's schools the power to take a zero tolerance approach towards serious offences such as bullying. We will give our teachers the tools they need to maintain discipline in the classroom before it spirals out of control."