

Children & young people

Bolton's young people



Young people **aged 0-25** are¹:

- **32%** of the **Bolton** population
- **29%** of the **England** population



302,400 young people aged 0- 25 live in Bolton¹

- Age 0-4: 18,900
- **Age 5-9:** 20,500
- **Age 10-14:** 21,900
- Age 15-19: 19,700
- Age 20-24: 16,400



Young people in Bolton come from a **diverse range of backgrounds**²

- White British 56%
- Asian 27%
- Black 6%
- Mixed/ Multiple 5%



By **2043**, as Bolton's population ages, under 25s will be a **lower proportion**

- down from 32% to 28%³

Achieve



63% of children were at the **expected level** across **all early learning goals**⁴

- 52% of children on free school meals



Bolton's **school attendance** is **consistently higher** than national rates and all our comparators⁵

- **95%** attendance at **primary**
- **92%** attendance at **secondary**
- **Illness** is the main reason for time off



Suspension rate per student⁶

- Primary: 0.6
- Secondary 12.2



Permanent exclusion rate per student⁶

- Primary: 0.0
- Secondary 0.2



4% of Bolton 16-17 year olds were **not in education, employment or training** (NEET)⁷

Safe



Bolton is **worse** than England for children U16 **killed and seriously injured** on the **roads**⁸

- 24.0/ 100,000 children in Bolton
- 16.5/ 100,000 children in England



Integrated Front Door– one point of contact for public or professionals who are worried about the **safety or wellbeing** of a child living in Bolton⁹

- **Links up agencies** such as social workers, police, health, and others



Social care offers a range of support¹⁰:

- **Children in Need** – extra support or services to make sure their health and development aren't significantly impaired e.g. due to disabilities, neglect or domestic abuse
- **Child protection plan** – to protect the safety and wellbeing of a child at risk of significant harm
- **Looked after children** – children in the care of the local authority

Healthy



There are **7,000 disabled young people** aged under 25 living in Bolton²

- **3,000** are disabled and their day to day activities are **limited a lot**²



Healthy weight in Bolton⁸:

Age 4/5

- **2%** underweight – worse than England
- **22%** overweight/ obese – similar to England
- **10%** obese – similar to England



Age 10/11

- **3%** underweight – worse than England
- **38%** overweight/ obese – worse than England
- **24%** obese – worse than England



Bolton is in the top 5 in England for 5 year olds with experience of **visually obvious dental decay**⁸

- Bolton 43%
- England 24%

Children & young people

Belong



In 2022/23 there were 9,000 under 25s with **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)** in Bolton¹¹

- **7000** with Special Educational Needs support
- **2000** with an Education, Health and Care Plan



Bolton **Youth Offending Team** works with young people aged 10-17 and their families who enter the **criminal justice system**¹²



In 2024, **38%** of Bolton children (**24,600** individuals) live in relative **low-income households**¹³

- This puts Bolton among the **top 20** highest in the country

At home²



36% of households in Bolton include **at least one child** aged under 16



18% of Bolton U16s live with **1 adult**
57% live with **2 adults**
25% live with **3+ adults**



17% of households with child(ren) aged under 16 **do not own a car** or van;
28% of households without children



5% of households with child(ren) aged under 16 **live in a flat**;
37% of households without children



44% of households with child(ren) aged under 16 **rent** their homes

- 24% private; 21% social

35% of households without children

- 16% private; 19% social rented)

References

Produced May 2025

- [1] ONS (2024). Mid 2023 estimates of the population for England and Wales. [Estimates of the population for England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#)
- [2] Census 2021. [Create a custom dataset - Office for National Statistics](#)
- [3] ONS (2020). Population projections for local authorities (2022 based). [Population projections for local authorities: Table 2 - Office for National Statistics](#)
- [4] Department for Education (nd). Early years foundation stage profile results [Step 6: Explore data - Create your own tables](#)
- [5] Department for Education (2023/24) Pupil absence in schools in England. [Pupil absence in schools in England, Academic year 2023/24 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)
- [6] Department for Education (nd). Suspensions and permanent exclusions in England. [Step 6: Explore data - Create your own tables](#) Average (mean) of latest 3 terms: in Bolton between 2022/23 Summer term and 2023/24 Spring term
- [7] GM Connexions Comparators August 2024
- [8] OHID (2024) Fingertips Child and maternal health profile [Child and Maternal Health - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#)
- [9] Bolton Council (nd). Integrated front door: five minute facts. [integrated-front-door-five-minute-facts](#)
- [10] Bolton Safeguarding Children (nd). [Home - Bolton Safeguarding Children](#)
- [11] Bolton JSNA (2023). Bolton Special Educational Needs and Disability Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2023. [bolton-s-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-joint-strategic-needs-assessment-2023](#)
- [12] Bolton Council (nd). Youth Offending. [Youth offending - Bolton Council](#)
- [13] Department for Work and Pensions (2025). Children in low income families: local area statistics, financial year ending 2024. [Children in low income families: local area statistics, financial year ending 2024 - GOV.UK](#)

Icons by:

Freepik; Freepik; inkubators; binayatripathy10
fjstudio; Irvan Kurnianto; Freepik; Freepik; Karyative
Freepik; SBTS2018; Freepik
Smashicons; Freepik; Freepik; Soodesign
Graviso; Freepik; Mihimihi
yut1655; Freepik; Kiranshastry; Freepik; nawicon