

# PROJECT 2,999 BLANKET

Data from the Department of Education (2022) shows that, on average, 2,999 students were suspended or permanently excluded from school, each school day in the 2021/22 academic year. Exclusions have continued to rise with the equivalent of 4,191 per day in 2022/2023.



To illustrate the impact of that number, a researcher has co-created a huge, crocheted blanket of 2,999 donated squares. Made with parents, children, schools and communities, the 9m x 8m blanket serves as a visual representation of the sheer volume of children who experience exclusion daily. Each square is unique – representing a single child with a story, life experiences and challenges. The blanket makes visible the scale of the problem, showing it in a physically tangible way.

The Project 2,999 Blanket has recently had a year-long tour of organisations and schools across England, making visible the negative impact of school exclusion.

As the blanket travels and is handled, the cumulative damage will visually represent the impact of being permanently excluded and moved from one school to another on the child and parent's health and wellbeing.

The Blanket will be making a tour across South Tyneside, as part of School Exclusions Week, from May 12th-May16th 2025. Further information can be found via our website below.

Thank you to Sarah Martin-Denham for allowing us to host the Blanket in South Tyneside, and to the organisations and schools for displaying it as part of the week!



[www.southtynesidesendiass.co.uk](http://www.southtynesidesendiass.co.uk)