



Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee

Educational Attainment of Children and Young People in Nottingham 2016/17

Background

This report is presented following the release of the revised results for pupils in schools in England.

In 2016, the new national KS2 curriculum (which was introduced in 2014), was assessed by new tests and interim frameworks for teacher assessment. Because of the changes, figures from 2016 onwards are not comparable to those for earlier years. Due to changes made to the exam marking scheme for GCSE which is being implemented (and which began with changes to the English and Maths grading for this year) caution should be used in making direct comparisons with previous years attainment levels.

The Council's role is to act as the champion for children, young people and their parent or carers. It plays a key strategic and City-wide leadership role which includes monitoring the progress of each school, challenging where outcomes for our children are not good enough and ensuring that the right support is put in place to see swift improvements are made in our maintained schools.

1.1 Early Years Attainment (Age 4/5)

Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) data covering the 2016/17 academic year was released by the Department for Education on the 19th October 2017. The Good Level of Development measure is reported by providers of state-funded early years education, including: maintained schools and academies; and private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers. Children achieving a good level of development are those achieving at least the expected level within the following areas of learning: communication and language; physical development; personal, social and emotional development; literacy; and mathematics. This includes: listening and attention; understanding; speaking; moving and handling; health and self-awareness; managing feelings and behaviour; making relationships; reading; writing; numbers and shape, space and measures.

The proportion of pupils achieving a good level of development in Nottingham continues to rise, as does the national position.

- 66.2% pupils in Nottingham were assessed as having reached a Good Level of Development, from 63.5% in 2015/16.
- Numerically this equates to 2,572 children out of 3,885 reported.

In comparative terms:

- 70.7% England (all) average, from 69.3% in 2015/16.
- 66.6% Statistical Neighbours average, 64.9% in 2015/16.
- Nottingham Ranking Joint 130 - out of 151 Local Authorities, 138 in 2015/16.

Nottingham has therefore closed the gap this year on both the national figure and that of our statistical neighbour group.

Gender Differences

In terms of GLD, girls continue to outperform boys in Nottingham but the gap has narrowed.

- The gap between girls and boys is now 12.5% (2015/16 was 15.2%). Nationally this gap is 13.7% (2015/16: 14.7%)
- 60.1% of boys in Nottingham were assessed as having reached a Good Level of Development, from 56.3% in 2015/16
- 72.6% of girls in Nottingham were assessed as having reached a Good Level of Development, from 71.3% in 2015/16.

1.2 Phonics and Key Stage 1 (age 6/7)

Phonics

- In 2014/15 Nottingham was the lowest performing local authority. In 2016/17, Nottingham improved to be 118th out of 150 local authorities reported. It is also in the Top Ten most improved authorities nationally. Within that, Black children improved the most with Black girls ranked 29th and Black boys 66th out of 152. Asian children similarly improved well and were ranked 72nd. However, White children were 2% lower than the Nottingham average and were ranked 135th out of 150. Non-disadvantaged children improved by 5% on 2015/16 but disadvantaged children by only 1%, so the gap in phonics outcomes is widening.

Key Stage 1

- Key Stage 1 attainment: is below the expected standard although improving at broadly the same rate as is seen nationally and therefore remaining around 135 out of 150 in the local authority rankings. A lower proportion of higher attainers in 2016/17 achieved the higher standard than in 2015/16.

1.3 Key Stage 2 (Age 10/11) – Provisional Data

Attainment for KS2 is recorded as the proportion of pupils achieving the expected or higher standard in each subject. The expected standard is a scaled score of 100 or more in reading and maths and a teacher assessment of working at the expected standard while the higher standard is a scaled score of 110 or more in reading and maths and greater depth in writing.

- 57% (+7ppts from 2015/16) of Nottingham's pupils achieved the expected standard and 6% (+2 ppts from 2015/16) achieved a high standard in reading, writing and mathematics. Nationally, these proportions were 61% (+8 ppts from 2015/16) at the expected standard and 9% (+4 ppts) at the higher standard.
- Despite year-on-year improvements made in Nottingham, the gap has increased between Nottingham and England by 1 percentage point for pupils achieving the

expected standard. The gap has also increased between Nottingham and England by 2 percentage points for pupils achieving the higher standard.

- Nottingham recorded mixed changes in ranking year-on-year for pupils achieving the expected standard in each subject:
- RWM (Reading, Writing and Maths combined) improved by 5 places (114/150)
- Reading improved by 3 places (129/150)
- GPS worsened by 6 places (117/150)
- Maths worsened by 7 places (82/150)
- Writing worsened by 16 places (130/150)

Gender Differences

- 61% of girls in Nottingham achieved the expected standard in RWM compared to 54% of boys, a smaller gap than that recorded nationally (7 percentage points vs. 8). Girls outperformed boys in Reading, GPS and Writing.
- In Nottingham, there is no difference in attainment in Maths at the expected level (both recording 74%), whereas nationally girls still outperformed boys (75% vs. 74%). At the higher standard Nottingham boys outperformed girls (21% vs. 18%), the same as recorded nationally (24% vs 21%).

1.4 Key Stage 4 (age 15-16) - Provisional Data

The 2016/17 headline accountability measures for secondary schools are: Attainment 8, Progress 8, attainment in English and mathematics at grades 5 or above, English Baccalaureate (EBacc) entry and achievement (including a grade 5 or above in English and mathematics). Due to changes made to the exam marking scheme for GCSE which is being implemented (and which began with changes to the English and Maths grading for this year) caution should be used in making direct comparisons with previous years attainment levels.

Attainment 8

Attainment 8 measures the average achievement of pupils in up to 8 qualifications including English (double weighted if the combined English qualification, or both language and literature are taken), maths(double weighted), three further qualifications that count in the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) and three further qualifications that can be GCSE qualifications (including EBacc subjects) or any other non-GCSE qualifications on the DfE approved list.

- In Nottingham the average Attainment 8 score per pupil has decreased 5.1 points to 39.5 in 2016/17. For all schools nationally this decrease was minus 4.0 points to 44.2.
- The gap between Nottingham and the all school position has widened from 3.6 points last year to 4.7 points this year. Nottingham is now ranked 149th out of 151 LAs, in 2016 Nottingham was ranked 148th out of 151 LAs. For both years Nottingham is ranked last amongst its statistical neighbours (11th of 11).

Progress 8

Progress 8 aims to capture the progress a pupil makes from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. It compares pupils' achievement – their Attainment 8 score – with the average Attainment 8 score of all pupils nationally who had a similar starting point (or 'prior attainment'), calculated using assessment results from the

end of primary school. Progress 8 is a relative measure, therefore the national average Progress 8 score for mainstream schools is very close to zero.

- Nottingham's average Progress 8 score in 2017 was -0.33 with both its lower (-0.38) and upper (-0.28) confidence limits also being below zero. In this case, Nottingham's Progress 8 score can be classed as below average and statistically significant based upon the current secondary accountability measures guide released by the DfE.
- This Progress 8 score ranks Nottingham joint 145th out of 151 LAs
- Due to the changes made in 2017 to the Progress 8 methodology, the scores cannot be directly compared to previous years.

English and Maths GCSE Attainment

From 2017, this measure looks at the percentage of pupils achieving a grade 5 or above in both English and maths. Pupils can achieve the English component of this with a grade 5 or above in English language or literature. There is no requirement to sit both exams.

The English and Maths GCSE now have new reporting datasets. In both instances, Nottingham's results are below the national average. For the strong pass (5) Nottingham's ranking is 146 out of 151. For the standard pass (4) Nottingham's ranking is 148 out of 151.

Pupils achieving a strong pass (5) in English and Maths

- Nottingham 30.3
- England 39.1

Pupils achieving a standard pass (4) in English and Maths

- Nottingham 49.4
- England 58.5

EBacc Participation and Attainment

The EBacc was first introduced into the performance tables in 2009-10. It allows people to see how many pupils reach the attainment threshold in core academic subjects at key stage 4. The EBacc is made up of English, maths, science, a language, and history or geography. To count in the EBacc, qualifications must be on the English Baccalaureate list of qualifications. In 2016/17, the headline EBacc achievement measure includes pupils who take exams in both English language and English literature, and achieve a grade 5 or above in at least one of these qualifications. Pupils must also achieve a grade 5 or above in mathematics and a grade C or above in the remaining subject areas.

Participation

Nottingham recorded a 2.6 ppts increase on the 2015/16 provisional results, a better year-on-year change than that recorded by both national positions (All schools and all State-funded schools).

- Nottingham's 34.7% EBacc participation gives it a LA ranking of 93 out of 149.

Achievement

In both instances, Nottingham's results are below the national average.

- For the strong pass (5) Nottingham's ranking is 143 out of 149
- For the standard pass (4) Nottingham's ranking is again 143 out of 149.

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