

Schools Forum

Tuesday 6 March 2018

2017 Validated Results for Walsall Schools

1. Early Years Foundation Stage (age 5)

- 1.1 The percentage of pupils achieving a 'Good Level of Development' (GLD) in Walsall improved by 1% from 65% in 2016 to 66% in 2017. This places Walsall 5% below the national average, but on an upward trajectory.
- 1.2 Walsall's performance is within 1% of its statistical neighbours.
- 1.3 Data shows that pupils with Special Educational Needs, summer-born children, those eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) and boys under-perform compared with their peers.

2. Year 1 Phonics (age 6)

- 2.1 Phonics has declined this year. The percentage of pupils passing the year 1 phonics screening test in Walsall fell by 2% to 80% in 2017. This outcome is 1% below the national but is 1% above our statistical neighbours.
- 2.2 Data shows that pupils with Special Educational Needs do less well on this measure than their peers (37% SEN pupils compared to 86% Non-SEN pupils). Similarly Children who are looked after in Walsall achieve less well than all pupils (72%).
- 2.3 The gap between disadvantaged pupils and other pupils in Walsall is 13% (national gap is higher at 14%), and for those eligible for Free School Meals against all other pupils is 13% (national gap is higher at 15%). Walsall's gap between pupils with Special Educational Needs and Non SEN pupils is 49%. This is wider than the national gap (44%). Closing the gap for pupils with Special Educational Needs is therefore a priority.

3. Key Stage 1 (5 to 7 year olds)

- 3.1 Performance in reading, writing and maths remains below the national averages for both the expected standard and for greater depth.
- 3.2 71% of Walsall pupils have met the expected standard in reading (national 76%), 63% in writing (national 68%) and 73% in mathematics (national 75%). The gap to national is widest in Reading and Writing; both have a gap to national of 5%.
- 3.3 Nationally, the number of pupils reaching the greater depth standard is lower. For reading, 17% of pupils in Walsall have achieved the greater depth standard, compared to a national figure of 25%. For writing, Walsall's figure is 8% compared to 16% nationally. In maths, 15% of pupils in Walsall achieved the greater depth standard, compared to 21% as the national average.

- 3.4 Data shows that pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), Children who are Looked After and those with Special Educational Needs perform less well than their peers. For Children who are Looked After in Walsall, the gap is widest for writing which is 31% below the Walsall average of 63%.
- 3.5 The gap between Walsall and national outcomes for disadvantaged pupils and those eligible for Free School Meals are within 2% of the national for Writing, reading and maths. The gaps are wider for pupils with Special Educational Needs, except in writing, where there is a 1% gap. For reading, Walsall's SEN/Non SEN gap is 59%, compared to a national of 53%, for maths the gap is 4% (Walsall 55% and national 51%).

4. Key Stage 2 (7 to 11 year olds)

- 4.1 Improvement is strongest in reading where Walsall have improved by 4% at the expected standard threshold, from 61% in 2016 to 65% in 2017 and improved by 6% at the higher standard. Walsall remain below national by 7% at the expected standard and 6% below at the higher standard.
- 4.2 Results for writing are less strong, having declined from 77% in 2016 to 74% in 2017 at the expected standard. This is slightly below the national average of 76%. Results have fallen at the higher standard by 4% from 15% in 2016 to 11% in 2017.
- 4.3 In mathematics, performance on both measures has improved from 2016 outcomes, with 68% (+1%) reaching the expected standard and 19% (+4%) reaching a higher standard. The gap to national has increased and Walsall are below national by 7% at the expected standard and 4% at the higher standard.
- 4.4 For reading, writing and maths combined, 53% of Walsall's pupils met the expected standard, an increase of 3% from 2016 outcome. Walsall are now 8% below the national average of 61%. Nationally 5% pupils achieved the higher standard, whilst in Walsall this figure was 1%.
- 4.5 Data shows that pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), Children who are Looked After and those with Special Educational Needs perform less well than their peers. The gaps between Walsall LAC pupils and Walsall overall is widest in maths (20%) and writing (16%), with an 18% gap on the combined reading writing and maths measure.
- 4.6 There is a 51% gap in Walsall between pupils with Special Educational needs and Non SEN pupils achieving the expected standard or above in the combined reading, writing and maths measure. This is slightly narrower than the national gap of 52%. Gaps for disadvantaged pupils and all other pupils are wider (25% gap in Walsall compared to a national gap of 19%).

5. Key Stage 4 (14 to 16 year olds)

- 5.1 In 2017 GCSEs in England were reformed in English and mathematics and are now graded with a new scale from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade. For most other subjects the new grades will be awarded in 2018. A new

grade 4 will be seen as a "standard pass" and a grade 5 as a "strong pass". The Grade 5 'strong pass' will be included in the new accountability measure for schools.

- 5.2 In Walsall 54% of pupils have achieved a Grade 4 or above in English and maths. This is 4% below the national average of 59%. 34% of pupils have achieved the Strong pass threshold compared to 40% nationally. 18% of pupils in Walsall achieved the English Baccalaureate based on a grade 5 or above.
- 5.3 Progress 8 measures a student's progress between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 across eight key subjects. It shows whether students have performed to expectation, based on a value-added measure using Key Stage 2 English and maths as a baseline. Progress 8 compares schools with similar intakes. This new measure is designed to encourage schools to offer a broad, well-balanced curriculum.
- 5.4 The percentage of pupils in Walsall achieving the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) based on a grade 5 or above in English and in maths is 18% which is 2% below the national average. Walsall achieved 2% better than our statistical neighbours at 16% and 2% below the West Midlands region at 22%.
- 5.5 Walsall's Progress 8 score is marginally below national at -0.25, where zero is national.
- 5.6 Data shows that on the Progress 8 measure, boys and pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), Children who are Looked After and those with Special Educational Needs perform less well than their peers. The performance of children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs is -1.13 and Children who are Looked After is -1.20.
- 5.7 The performance of children who are disadvantaged in Walsall is -0.62 compared to -0.40 nationally.

6. Key Stage 5 (16 to 18 year olds)

- 6.1 Average points per entry for all Level 3 qualifications in Walsall (32.29) is slightly below national (33.23)
- 6.2 Walsall's results for technical and applied qualifications at Level 3 are above national. Academic/A' Level qualifications are below national and statistical neighbours although there is an upward trajectory in outcomes.

7. Next Steps

- 7.1 Regular updates are provided in internal Director's School Performance Review (DSPR) meetings, where solutions for schools are investigated, support is brokered to schools in need and strategies for challenge to underperformance are agreed.
- 7.2 Involvement of schools in SSIF bids with a specific focus area for improvement. (EYFS/KS1 Writing – round 1 successful bids)

- 7.3 Further analysis takes place at the SENDI Board, where regular updates are provided on progress through scrutiny of score-cards.
- 7.4 As the Education Challenge Board (ECB) has now been replaced with the Walsall Strategic Partnership Education & Inclusion Board which is due to be implemented shortly, schools performance and those schools of concern will continue to be reported upon.

8. Recommendation

- 8.1 To note the report

Connie Beirne
Head of Educational Standards and Improvement