

**16 February 2017**

**Primary and Secondary School Educational Attainment 2016**

**Ward(s)** All

**Portfolios:** Cllr R Burley - Children's Services and Education

**Executive Summary:**

Primary and secondary results have now been validated and published, showing how Walsall's children and young people have performed compared to statistical neighbours and national averages. Due to major changes in assessment criteria, the 2016 results cannot be compared to those of previous years in most cases. Acknowledging that overall averages can mask under-performance of groups within a cohort, differences are identified as appropriate within the main report.

The 2016 results contain areas of strength compared to national averages. In particular, outcomes in Walsall for Year 1 Phonics, Key Stage 2 Writing and Key Stage 5 applied and technical qualifications are all above national averages. There are gaps in achievement, compared with all children, for Pupils with Special Educational Needs, those who are Looked After and those eligible for Free School Meals. The report highlights this by Key Stage.

In Early Years, Walsall's performance on the measure of 'Good Level of Development' which children aged 5 at the end of the reception year are expected to have achieved has improved by 4% from 61% in 2015 to 65% in 2016. This is 4% below the national average.

Outcomes in Year 1 Phonics for 6 year olds continue to be a strength, and at 82% is 1% above national average.

At the end of Key Stage 1 (7 year olds), Walsall pupils performed just below the national average. 72% of pupils reached the expected standard in the new Reading test, compared to 74% nationally. In Writing, 62% of pupils met the expected threshold, compared with the national average of 65%. In Mathematics, 71% of pupils met the expected threshold which was 2% below the national average of 73%.

At the end of Key Stage 2 (11 year olds at the end of primary school), following the introduction of a new national curriculum, writing is a strength, being 3% above the national average at 77%. In reading 61% of pupils reached the expected level, which is 5% below the national average of 66%. In Maths 50% of Walsall pupils reached the expected standard in the combined Reading, Writing and Maths measure. This compares well with the outcomes for our statistical neighbours. Nationally, results are 3% higher than this.

Secondary success at Key Stage 4 (16 year olds) is now measured specifically in terms of Progress 8. On this measure, Walsall is -0.24 below the national average of zero. For comparative purposes, 57% of pupils have achieved at least a grade C or better at GCSE level in both English and maths. The national average is 59%.

At Key Stage 5 (18 year olds), success measures changed to a new points system in 2016. Walsall compares favourably with the national average on this measure for technical and applied level qualifications was 1.4 points below the national for the combined Level 3 qualifications measure. This is due to performance at A Level being 3.65 points below the national average.

The School Improvement Strategy sets out ambitious, but realistic targets to 2020. Progress towards these targets will be reported regularly to the Challenge Board.

**Reason for scrutiny:**

To receive, scrutinise and challenge on the validated educational attainment results in the Borough, following the recent publication of the validated results.

**Recommendations:**

**That:**

Members challenge and scrutinise the attainment and progress of children at the end of each key stage across Walsall and assure themselves that sufficient progress is being made to achieve the Borough's targets for 2020 as set out in the School's Improvement Strategy.

**Background papers:**

Validated results published by the Department for Education.

**Resource and legal considerations:**

Not applicable to this report.

**Citizen impact:**

In order for the children and young people of Walsall to be able to fully participate in adult life, it is vital that they be supported to reach their full academic potential, and that the school curriculum is appropriately broad and balanced. Schools are encouraged to provide a range of extra-curricular opportunities to supplement the taught curriculum.

**Environmental impact:**

Not applicable to this report.

### **Performance management:**

As part of the Council's annual cycle of Employee Performance Reviews, all members of the school improvement team have non-negotiable objectives related to outcomes of Ofsted inspections and the achievement of pupils.

### **Equality Implications:**

If pupils are to reach their full potential, it is essential that schools plan to meet their learning needs and work to reduce barriers which could lead to under-achievement. For this reason, schools are challenged on the relative performance of different groups, such as the disadvantaged and those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

### **Contact Officers:**

Jane Bonner – Head of Service,  
Education Standards & Improvement  
☎. 01922 652587  
[Jane.bonner@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:Jane.bonner@walsall.gov.uk)

Lynda Poole – Assistant Director  
Access and Achievement  
☎ 01922 652895  
[Lynda.poole@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:Lynda.poole@walsall.gov.uk)

## Report

A presentation of the 2016 results across all Key Stages will accompany this report.

### 1. Early Years Foundation Stage (age 5)

- 1.1 The percentage of pupils achieving a 'Good Level of Development' (GLD) in Walsall improved by 4% from 61% in 2015 to 65% in 2016. This places Walsall 4% 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 is a strength. The percentage of pupils passing the year 1 phonics screening test in Walsall rose by 3% to 82% in 2016. This outcome is 1% above national and 3% above our statistical neighbours. Walsall has been above national since the test began.
- 2.2 Data shows that Children who are Looked After perform less well than their peers (64% compared to 82%). Similarly, pupils with Special Educational Needs do less well on this measure (40%).
- 2.3 The gap to national for disadvantaged pupils is 10% (national is higher at 13%), and for those eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) is 11% (national is higher at 14%). For pupils with Special Educational Needs, Walsall's gap to national is -48%, which is wider than the national (-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 Due to curriculum and assessment changes, results cannot be compared to previous years. Assessments now focus on the 'expected standard' and 'greater depth'.
- 3.2 Performance in Reading, Writing and Maths is slightly below the national averages for both the expected standard and for greater depth.
- 3.3 72% of Walsall pupils have met the expected standard in Reading (national 74%), 62% in Writing (national 65%) and 71% in Mathematics (national 73%). The gap to national is widest for Writing, at 3%.
- 3.4 Nationally, the number of pupils reaching the greater depth standard is lower. For Reading, 20% of pupils in Walsall have achieved the greater depth standard, compared to a national figure of 24%. For Writing, Walsall's figure is 9% compared to 13% nationally. In Maths, 15% of pupils in Walsall achieved the greater depth standard, compared to 18% as the national average. Walsall is

therefore slightly below the national for Reading, Writing and Maths at the greater depth standard.

- 3.5 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. For Children who are Looked After in Walsall, the gap is widest for Reading (17%)
- 3.6 The gaps to national 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 2% gap. For Reading, Walsall's SEN gap is -57%, 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 As for Key Stage 1, results cannot be compared to previous years. Similarly, assessments now focus on the 'expected standard' and 'greater depth'.
- 4.2 Performance is strongest in Writing, where Walsall is 3% above national at 77% for the expected standard and equal to national for greater depth. Results for Reading are less strong, being 5% below the national at 61% for the expected standard and 6% below for the higher standard. In mathematics, performance on both measures is just below national, with 67% reaching the expected standard compared to a national average of 70%.
- 4.3 For Reading, Writing and Maths combined, 50% of Walsall's pupils met the expected standard, which is 3% below the national of 53%. Nationally only 5% pupils achieved the higher standard, whilst in Walsall this figure was 4%.
- 4.4 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 gaps are widest in Maths (29%) and Writing (27%), with a 32% gap on the combined Reading Writing and Maths measure.
- 4.5 At -48%, there is no gap to national for pupils with Special Educational needs on the combined Reading, Writing and Maths measure. Gaps for disadvantaged and those eligible for Free School Meals are small (-24% gap in Walsall compared to a national gap of -22%).

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

- 5.1 Performance tables now include the English Baccalaureate and Progress 8 measures, rather than the previous 5+ GCSEs including English and Maths. The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is a performance measure for schools, awarded when students secure a grade C or above at GCSE level across a core of five academic subjects – English, mathematics, history or geography, the sciences and a language. It is not a qualification in itself.

- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 The percentage of pupils in Walsall achieving the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is 21%, which is 2% below the national average. Walsall achieved 2% better than our statistical neighbours at 19% and 1% below the West Midlands region at 22%.
- 5.4 Walsall's Progress 8 score is marginally below national at -0.24, where zero is national.
- 5.5 For comparative purposes, the percentage of pupils in Walsall gaining at least A\*-C including English and maths has risen by 4 percentage points from 2015 and is now 57%, compared with a national of 59%. Sponsored academies under-achieve on this measure, with only 44% of their pupils reaching this standard.
- 5.6 Similarly, on the previous measure of 5+ GCSEs including English and maths, sponsored academies have a success rate of only 37%, compared to the Walsall figure of 51%. The national average is 54%.
- 5.7 Data shows that on the Progress 8 measure, boys, 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 or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is -1.11 and Children who are Looked After is -0.92.
- 5.8 The progress 8 percentage gap to national for pupils with Special Educational Needs is slightly smaller than the national (-0.60 in Walsall compared to -0.61 nationally). Percentage gaps for pupils eligible for Free School Meals are wider than the national at -0.63 in Walsall and -0.48 nationally.

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

- 6.1 Following changes to the points score system, comparison with previous years is not possible. Results include A 'Levels, technical and applied qualifications. Average points per entry for all Level 3 qualifications in Walsall is very slightly less than for statistical neighbours and below national by 1.4 points.
- 6.2 Walsall's results for technical and applied qualifications at Level 3 are above national and statistical neighbours. Academic/A' Level qualifications are below national and statistical neighbours.

## **7. Next steps**

- 7.1 Further analysis takes place at the Education Challenge Board, where regular updates are provided on progress through scrutiny of score-cards.

7.2 Fortnightly updates are provided in internal Director's School Performance Review (DSPR) meetings, where support is brokered to schools in need and strategies for challenge to underperformance are agreed.