

TITLE	Schools Performance Annual Report on 2013 exam/test performance
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3 March 2014
WARD	None Specific
DIRECTOR	Judith Ramsden, Director of Children's Services

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Children's attainment whilst at school underpins their future life chances. Wokingham Borough Council's priority is to focus on every child reaching their maximum potential, and monitoring the educational performance of schools is an effective way of tracking children's attainment.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Report on 2013 exam/test performance be noted.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report updates the previous report from summer 2013, which detailed provisional performance, with final results as published by the Department for Education. The major or significant difference between the data attached and that presented in September 2013, is that we now have the national comparators. Further, the Key Stage 4 data is now confirmed.

Children from Wokingham Borough Council perform well, usually well above the national average at each Key Stage. However, Wokingham is aware that it has one of the largest performance gaps nationally between children who are eligible for free school meals and those who are not, and is targeting resources to support schools in reducing this gap.

Structure of the Report

The report highlights the final information published by the Department for Education in recent months, with data from the original report being published in Annex A for comparison purposes.

The main changes are:

	Part of Report	Changes made
1	Early Years Foundation Stage	National comparators are now available which show Wokingham's results to be below the national average.
2	Year 1 Phonics	National comparators are now available which show Wokingham's results to be below the national average.
3	Key Stage 1	National comparators are now available which show Wokingham's results to be above the national average
4	Key Stage 2	National comparators are now available which show Wokingham's results to be above the national average
5	Key Stage 3	No national data is published at KS3
6	Key Stage 4 / GCSE	National comparators are now available which show Wokingham's results to be above the national average, however it had the largest performance gap nationally for pupils eligible for free school meals.
7	Key Stage 5 / A levels	National comparators are now available which show Wokingham's results to be similar to the national average

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	Not applicable		
Next Financial Year (Year 2)			
Following Financial Year (Year 3)			

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

None

Cross-Council Implications (how does this decision impact on other Council services and priorities?)

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

n/a

List of Background Papers

Data provided in Appendix A.

Wokingham School Performance Report presented to Overview & Scrutiny Panel in September 2013.

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1. Early Years Foundation Stage

A new Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) was introduced for 2012/3. The new measure is aimed at reducing bureaucracy for professionals, providing earlier intervention for children facing difficulties and better preparation of young children for learning in school.

The revised EYFSP eradicates the previous 69 Early Learning Goals, replacing them with just 17 and focusing on 3 prime areas of learning; communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development. Within these areas a child can gain a score of 1, 2 or 3; with 1 being 'emerging', 2 being 'expected' and 3 being 'exceeding'. These areas are also classified into prime and specific areas of learning.

The definition of a "good level of development" is based on children achieving at least the expected level in:

- the Early Learning Goals in the prime areas of learning (personal, social and emotional development; physical development; and communication and language); and
- the Early Learning Goals in the specific areas of mathematics and literacy

Table 1 a Early Years Foundation Stage 2013 (First year of new assessment)

	Average Points Score	Inequality Gap	% achieving a good level of development
Wokingham	33.3	27.2	47.0
South East	33.6	31.1	54.0
Statistical neighbours	33.85	29.97	55.4
England	32.8	36.6	52.0

The above table provides a contrasting view of the performance of children in Wokingham. Their average points score is above the English average yet they are 5 percentage points below the national average when looking at the percentage achieving a good level of development. The following table shows their performance in the range of subject areas.

Table 1b Early Years Foundation Stage by subject area

	Communication & Language	Physical Development	Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Literacy	Maths	Understanding the world	Expressive Arts & Design
Wokingham	77.0	87.0	79.0	59.0	67.0	85.0	86.0
South East	76.0	86.0	80.0	63.0	71.0	84.0	83.0
Statistical neighbours	77.2	86.5	80.0	64.8	72.0	81.7	84.0
England	72.0	83.0	76.0	61.0	66.0	75.0	78.0

Comment

It can be seen that literacy is the weakest area, followed by maths. These subject areas were identified from provisional data in the autumn and the Early Years team is prioritising these areas in their work with schools, settings and childminders.

2. Yr 1 Phonics Screening Check

This is the second year for the new assessment of phonics for all children in Year 1. The phonics screening check confirms whether individual children have learned phonic decoding to an appropriate standard.

Children who did not achieve the required standard should receive support from their school to ensure they can improve their phonic decoding skills. These children will then be expected to retake the phonics screening check the following year.

62% of the children in Years 1 and 2 in Wokingham have met the required standard while 36% have not yet done so and 2% did not take the assessment.

Table 2a: Year 1 & 2 Phonics Result 2013

	2013	2012
Wokingham	62.0	52.0
South East	68.0	56.0
Statistical neighbours	69.5	58.0
England	69.0	58.0

Comment

There has been an improvement in performance for those pupils working at the required standard, from 52% in 2012 to 62% in 2013. However, this improvement has occurred nationwide, so in both year’s Wokingham’s results have been below the national average

Closing the gap – Free School Meals

Table 2b: Year 1 & 2 Phonics Result 2013 for pupils eligible for free school meals

	2013		2012	
	All pupils	FSM	All pupils	FSM
Wokingham	62.0	37.0	52.0	25.0
South East	68.0	50.0	56.0	39.0
Statistical neighbours	69.5	48.1	58.0	39.2
England	69.0	56.0	58.0	44.0

This performance gap continues across all stages of a child’s education in Wokingham. The school improvement team is working with schools to reduce this gap in achievement.

3. KS1 2013

At the end of Key Stage One, Level 2b is considered the expected level of performance in speaking and listening, reading, writing, mathematics and science. However national data is published at level 2 or above, and shows:

Wokingham’s results are above the national average and show improved attainment in Science and Speaking & Listening.

	2013				2012			
	Writing	Maths	Science	Speaking & Listening	Writing	Maths	Science	Speaking & Listening
Wokingham	89.0	95.0	96.0	95.0	89.0	95.0	95.0	93.0
South East	87.0	93.0	92.0	91.0	85.0	92.0	92.0	90.0
Statistical neighbours	88.1	93.6	93.1	91.8	86.9	92.8	92.6	90.9
England	85.0	91.0	90.0	89.0	83.0	91.0	89.0	88.0

4. Key Stage 2 2013

The expected national curriculum level at Key Stage 2 is level 4. The DfE have published data for the percentage of children attaining level 4 or above in Reading, Writing and Maths.

	2013	2012
Wokingham	81.0	79.0
South East	76.0	75.0
Statistical neighbours	78.0	77.5
England	75.0	75.0

These results show an improvement of 2 percentage points over 2012 and an increase to 6 percentage points above the national average.

KS2 – Closing the Gap: Free School Meals

Nationally there is a significant gap in achievement between children eligible for free school meals and those who are not. This difference is very marked in the more affluent areas of the South East, and Wokingham is no exception. Although our overarching education results are very good, the gap in achievement at GCSE level is one of the largest in the country. HMCI has indicated that any Authority not closing this gap in achievement must be deemed to be inadequate. The FSM gap in achievement locally, is in evidence at the end of every key stage from Reception to Year 11.

Different FSM measures are used in different DfE publications; with performance tables using children eligible for the pupil premium (mainly those children eligible for free school meals at some point over the previous 6 years) whilst statistical releases use only those children currently in receipt of free school meals. Whichever measure is used, Wokingham has one of the largest gaps nationally.

Nationally data on the performance gap for children currently in receipt of free school meals has been published, for children's combined reading, writing and maths at level 4 or above.

Table 19: KS2 % L4+ FSM - Closing the Gap

	2013			2012		
	Non - FSM	FSM	FSM gap	Non - FSM	FSM	FSM gap
Wokingham	83.0	44.0	39.0	80.0	47.0	33.0
South East	79.0	55.0	24.0	78.0	53.0	25.0
Statistical neighbours	80.1	56.9	23.2	80.2	53.5	26.7
England	79.0	60.0	19.0	78.0	59.0	19.0


While the overall performance in Wokingham has improved, the gap for pupils eligible for free school meals has widened. This continues to present a challenge, both in local terms and relative to the national picture. A priority focus of work in 2013/14 will relate to the LA monitoring the effective use of schools' pupil premium finances in order to reduce the gap between the performance of those pupils eligible for FSM and those not.

5. Key Stage 3 2013

No national data is currently published at Key Stage 3 in performance tables.

6 KS4: GCSEs

Wokingham GCSE results in 2013 have shown considerable improvement from 2012, particularly in the numbers of students achieving 5 A*-C grades in their exams. Wokingham's schools have improved their results with the percentage of young people achieving 5 A*-C grades, including maths and English, rising from 65.7% to 70.6%.

▲ School name	% of pupils making expected progress		% achieving 5+ A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths GCSEs				% achieving the English Baccalaureate	% achieving grades A*-C in English and maths GCSEs
	English	Maths	2010	2011	2012	2013		
England - all schools	NA	NA	53.5%	59.0%	59.4%	59.2%	23.0%	59.9%
England - state funded schools only	70.4%	70.7%	55.1%	58.2%	58.8%	60.6%	22.8%	61.3%
Local Authority	75.7%	80.8%	65.6%	67.6%	65.7%	70.6%	28.4%	72.0%
Schools (tick the box next to a school/college to select it for comparison - once you have selected all required schools/colleges click here, Compare)								
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>The Bulmershe School</u> Community School	76%	70%	49%	53%	66%	61%	11%	62%
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>The Emmbrook School</u> Community School	73%	79%	59%	66%	69%	66%	23%	68%
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Forest School</u>  Community School	79%	76%	62%	61%	69%	63%	19%	68%
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>The Holt School</u> Academy - Converter Mainstream	81%	90%	78%	81%	70%	82%	54%	83%
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Maiden Erlegh School</u> Academy - Converter Mainstream	87%	85%	75%	74%	69%	82%	33%	82%
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>The Piggott School</u> Academy - Converter Mainstream	70%	87%	73%	74%	62%	73%	34%	75%
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>St Crispin's School</u> Community School	76%	81%	68%	74%	64%	71%	31%	72%
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Waingels College</u> Community School	72%	88%	71%	67%	65%	73%	25%	74%

Extracted from DfE performance tables at <http://www.education.gov.uk/cgi-bin/schools/performance/group.pl?qttype=LA&no=872&superview=sec>

Narrowing the Gap: at GCSE level.

National data on narrowing the gap for pupils currently eligible for free school meals is published for pupils with 5 GCSEs at A* - C, including maths and English.

	2013			2012		
	Non - FSM	FSM	FSM gap	Non - FSM	FSM	FSM gap
Wokingham	73.5	31.0	42.5	67.8	26.2	41.6
South East	65.6	33.0	32.6	63.2	30.0	33.2
Statistical neighbours	65.5	32.8	32.7	64.1	29.4	34.7
England	64.8	38.1	26.7	62.8	36.5	26.3

Although Wokingham's free school meals pupils improved their performance by 4.8 percentage points from their 2012 results, the performance gap widened as other pupils' performance increased by a greater amount. In the DfE statistical release, Wokingham Borough Council had the largest attainment gap for this group of pupils.

7 KS5: A Levels

The DfE is moving towards different measures of post 16 education monitoring. For A Levels, they use the AAB measure of 3 A levels in "Facilitating subjects", as defined below:

This Statistical First Release (SFR) provides the earliest information on the overall achievements of young people in Advanced level (A level) examinations and other equivalent qualifications. The coverage of this release is 16 to 18 year old students at the end of their final year of Post-16 study in schools and colleges in England. The information is based on data collated for the 2013 School and College Performance Tables and covers achievements in all Level 3 qualifications approved under Section 96 of the Learning and Skills Act (2000).

In October 2011 this SFR introduced a new indicator to show the percentage of students who achieved AAB or better passes at GCE A level, Applied A level or Double Award A level in summer 2011. The numerator includes students entered for GCE A levels in facilitating subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Geography, History, English Literature, Modern and Classical Languages. The denominator covers students entered for GCE A level, Applied A level or Double Award A level in summer 2013

	2013	2012	2011
Wokingham	19.9	20.6	20.4
South East	18.4	18.8	18.9
Statistical neighbours	18.5	18.2	19.2
England	20.3	20.5	20.8

Wokingham's performance in this table may reflect the choice of subjects made by pupils, rather than the schools' teaching skills. It will also be affected by the decision of around 50% of Wokingham's young people to be educated outside of the borough for years 12 and 13.

Another measure, designed to monitor an authority's ability to narrow the gap, is level 3 skills (including maths and English) at aged 19.

	2013			2012		
	Non - FSM	FSM	FSM gap	Non - FSM	FSM	FSM gap
Wokingham				67.0	33.0	34.0
South East				59.0	28.0	31.0
Statistical				63.0	30.7	32.3

neighbours						
England				58.0	34.0	24.0

Data for 2013 has not yet been published, but the 2012 data shows a large gap, as in earlier stages of the curriculum.