

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE - 2 NOVEMBER 2015**

**SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW OF OUTCOMES IN
KEY STAGE TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILY
SERVICES**

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee about the performance of schools, including inspection outcomes and those of the 11 – 16 schools, statutory tests and examinations and age-range changes.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. There is no longer a requirement for the Local Authority to agree targets annually with the Department for Education (DfE) to support improvements in key stage assessments and GCSE results. However, the Local Authority continues to have a duty to monitor these results for maintained schools and academies. Final results by school and by local authority are made public during the autumn term through the DfE website.

Background

3. Statistical neighbours are the group of authorities identified by the DfE as most comparable socio-economically with Leicestershire. Therefore it is helpful to compare performance to this group of local authorities as well as to national outcomes. The statistical neighbours are Central Bedfordshire, Essex, Hampshire, Dorset, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Sussex and Worcestershire. There are 152 local authorities nationally.
4. It should be noted that some of these results remain provisional until they are formally confirmed by the DfE. Whilst there is not usually any significant change in the results, there is a chance that the final percentages may change slightly.

Overall Performance and Evaluation

Foundation Stage (age 5)

5. The percentage of children in Leicestershire achieving a Good Level of Development has increased by 5.4% to 60.7%. However national levels also increased meaning that Leicestershire remains behind the national average. Girls are still outperforming boys with a similar gap to 2014 - approximately 17 percentage points.
6. The percentage of pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals achieving a Good Level of Development increased by 4.7 percentage points to 39.4%, this is an increase of 15% since 2013. The gap between Free School Meals pupils and 'all pupils' now stands at 24.4%. National data is not yet available for 2015, but for comparative purposes, the 2014 national gap between the two groups was 15%.

Key Stage One (age 7)

7. The percentage of children in Leicestershire achieving the Phonics benchmark at Year 1 was 75.9%. This was a 0.4% decrease on last year's performance and is 1% below the national figure.
8. Leicestershire has achieved improved scores in 9 of the 10 end of Key Stage One measures available, with one score remaining the same. The 10 areas cover:
 - a) Speaking and Listening (Level 2+ and Level 3+);
 - b) Reading (Level 2+ and Level 3+);
 - c) Writing (Level 2+ and Level 3+);
 - d) Science (Level 2+ and Level 3+).
9. Provisional data suggests that Leicestershire will be above national levels in 7 of the 10 measures currently available at Key Stage One.
10. Leicestershire is usually similar and occasionally below the statistical neighbour average at Key Stage One across the range of subjects and levels.

Key Stage Two (age 11)

11. Leicestershire headline performance for pupils achieving Level 4+ in Reading, Writing and Mathematics rose by 1.7% to 80.4%. This is similar to national levels and in the middle of the statistical neighbour group.
12. Overall, 7 of the 10 Key Stage Two attainment measures have seen improved scores in Leicestershire. Measures include pupils reaching Level 4 and 5 in key subject areas.

13. Progress between Key Stage One and Key Stage Two remains an issue in Leicestershire. Leicestershire was behind the national average for progress in all three key areas (Reading, Writing and Mathematics). Progress in Writing improved by 1.4% whilst Reading and Mathematics fell by 1% and 0.3% respectively.
14. The Government sets floor standards for Key Stage Two schools and currently expects schools to have above 65% of pupils attaining level 4 and above in Reading, Writing and Mathematics; 94%, 96% and 93% or more of pupils making 3 levels progress in reading, writing and mathematics respectively between Key Stages One and Two. In 2015, 5 academies and 5 maintained schools were below these floor standards.
15. The attainment of pupils eligible for Free School Meals rose from 57.6% to 60.2%. This increase was slightly higher than the 'all pupils group' meaning that the gap between FSM and 'all' reduced by 1% to 20%. National data is not yet available for 2015 but for comparative purposes, the 2014 gap between FSM and 'all pupils' was 15% at national level.

Key Stage Three (aged14)

16. There is no national collection of Key Stage Three attainment. However, approximately 90% of Leicestershire schools still submit data to the performance team on a voluntary basis for analysis and comparison. Based on the data available:
17. The percentage of children reaching Level 5+ in Maths and English at Key Stage Three rose to 91.6%. This is a 0.9% rise compared to the 2014 figure. Each individual subject area, English, Maths and Science, improved; by 1.3%, 0.6% and 0.6% respectively.

Key Stage Four (age 16)

18. The figures for GCSE results were recently released and are provisional. The percentage of pupils achieving the benchmark 5 GCSEs A*- C (including Maths and English) was 56.1%, a 0.4% decline from 2014. There is no national or statistical neighbour information available yet for this key stage. In 2014, the national average was 55.5%.
19. Expected Progress between Key Stage Two and Four was 68.7% for Maths and 66.7% for English. This represented a 1.4% decrease in English (from 68.1%) but a strong 3.4% increase in Mathematics progress from 65.3%.
20. The attainment of pupils eligible for Free School Meals was similar to 2014, with a marginal improvement of 0.3% to 28.6% (5 GCSEs A*-C inc. English and Maths). Along with a minor decline in non-FSM performance, the gap between FSM and non-FSM pupils is 29.7%, an improvement compared to the 2014 gap of 30.6% (the gap between FSM and 'all pupils' is 27.5% compared with 28.2% in 2014).

21. The percentage of pupils achieving the benchmark 5 GCSEs A*- C (including Maths and English) in Leicestershire's 11 – 16 schools was 57.6% compared to 56.8% overall (these figures exclude special schools. The Leicestershire average including special schools is 56.1%).
22. The Government sets floor standards at Key Stage Four and currently expects schools to have at least 40% of pupils achieving the benchmark 5 GCSEs A*- C (including Maths and English); in 2015, 1 academy and both studio schools were below floor standards. The one maintained secondary school remains above the Key Stage Four floor standards in 2015.

Age-Range Change Schools

23. The percentage of pupils achieving the benchmark 5 GCSEs A*- C (including Maths and English) in Leicestershire's eleven 11 – 16/19 schools was 57.6% compared to 56.8% overall (these figures exclude special schools.)The Leicestershire average including special schools is 56.1%.

Key Stage Five (age 18)

24. Key Stage Five data includes only state funded provision and currently excludes Further Education Colleges. Provisional data shows that the Average point score per A Level entry is slightly lower than 2014 (206.8 points compared to 209.2 points). However, the average grade remains in the same band at grade 'C'.

Free School Meals Eligibility

26. There is a gap between the attainment of pupils eligible for Free School Meals and 'all pupils' at every Key Stage at a national level. However, that gap is consistently wider in Leicestershire than the national average. See Appendix 1.

Children in Care

27. Provisional data suggests that Key Stage Two and Key Stage Four outcomes for children in care will be very similar to the 2014 results; 55.6% achieving Level 4+ in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at the end of Key Stage Two and 7.7% for 5 GCSEs A*-C (including English and Maths). In 2014, this placed the Leicestershire KS2 result in the top quartile and GCSE results in the bottom quartile.
28. Due to the small cohort of children in care, final results can vary significantly from provisional results as one child can represent several percentage points

Not in Employment Education and Training (NEET)

29. The NEET level in Leicestershire was 3.1% at the end of August 2015. This represents 638 Year 12-14 young people. Leicestershire has the lowest NEET amongst its statistical neighbours.
30. In all the vulnerable learner groups, the NEET figures are falling but they are all substantially higher than the overall Leicestershire NEET

figures; 7.7% of learners with learning difficulties and disabilities, 59.2% of teenage parents, 26.9% of young offenders, 15.2% of looked after children and 38.6% of care leavers were NEET in August 2015.

Ofsted outcomes (schools)

31. The percentage of Leicestershire schools rated as Good or Outstanding is 86.4% (June 2015). This is above the latest national figure available of 83.3% (June 2015) and has improved over the year. The average for statistical neighbours is 84.1%.
32. The percentage of Leicestershire pupils attending a Good or Outstanding school is currently 83.8%. This is a rise of 4.7% compared to 2014 and 2.7% above the latest national figure available. The average for statistical neighbours is 82.4%.
33. 85.5% of Leicestershire primary schools and academies are rated as Good or Outstanding compared to 78% of Secondary schools and academies.
34. The percentage of pupils attending good or outstanding maintained primary schools is 86% which is 1.3% above the percentage of pupils attending Good or Outstanding primary academies.
35. The percentage of pupils attending good or outstanding maintained secondary schools is 52.3% compared to 82.2% of pupils attending Good or Outstanding secondary academies. However, the maintained schools figure contains pupils from only two schools.
36. The number of Special Schools rated as Good or Outstanding is once again 100% with all six schools judged to be good or outstanding

Conclusion

37. The available performance information and most recent analysis indicates that good progress is being made by Leicestershire schools and more children are achieving positive outcomes which ensures that they are developing the skills and knowledge at each stage of their learning in readiness for the next stage of their education. When it becomes available, further analysis is needed to establish a more detailed picture of the performance of different groups, for example, those with special educational needs. The emerging priorities are:
 - a) Improving rates of progress between Key Stages One and Two in Reading, Writing and Mathematics;
 - b) Narrowing the gap between pupils eligible for pupil premium, including Children in care and their peers in all subjects and in all phases;
 - c) Improving attainment and progress at Key Stage Four;
 - d) Reducing the percentage of learners from vulnerable groups who are NEET.

Background Papers

38. None. Figures are derived from the DfE Research and Statistics department which collates data on behalf of all local authorities.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

39. None.

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Equality and Human Rights Implications

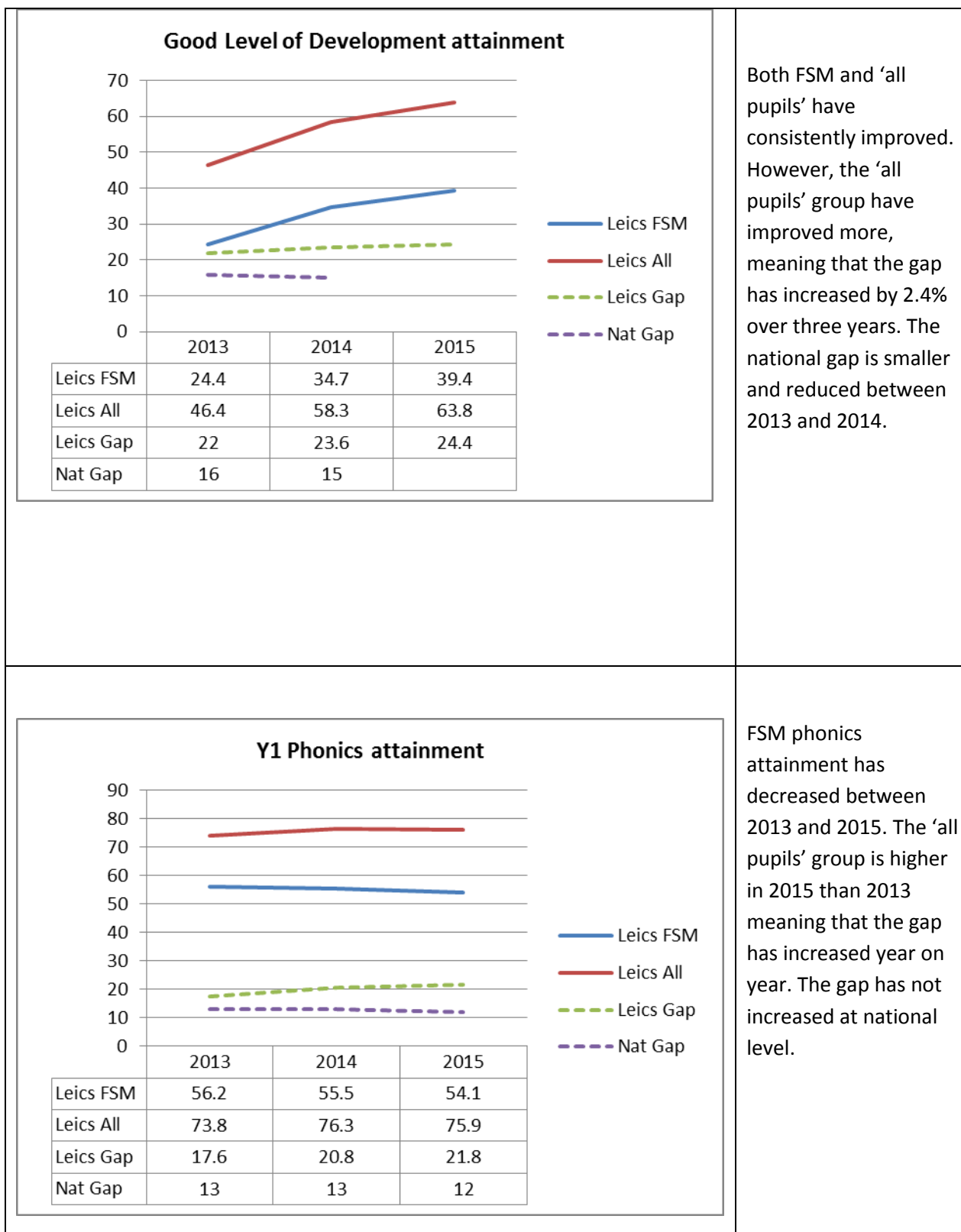
40. These are the results achieved by all Leicestershire children and young people in the summer of 2014. The analysis of groups will inform any further targeted intervention for maintained schools where underperformance is identified.

APPENDIX 1

Free School Meals eligibility and attainment gaps in Leicestershire (Foundation, Phonics, Key Stage Two, Key Stage Four)

Summary

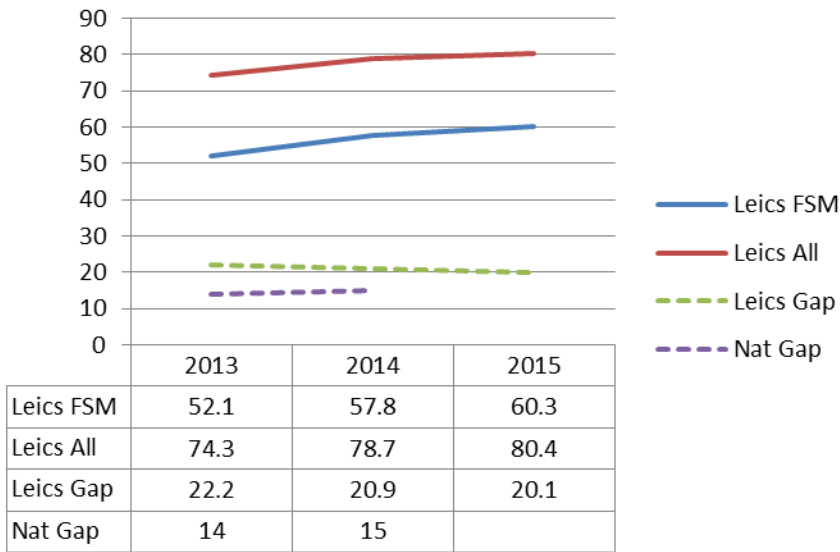
There is a gap between the attainment of pupils eligible for Free School Meals and 'all pupils' at every Key Stage at a national level. However, that gap is consistently wider in Leicestershire than the national average.



Both FSM and 'all pupils' have consistently improved. However, the 'all pupils' group have improved more, meaning that the gap has increased by 2.4% over three years. The national gap is smaller and reduced between 2013 and 2014.

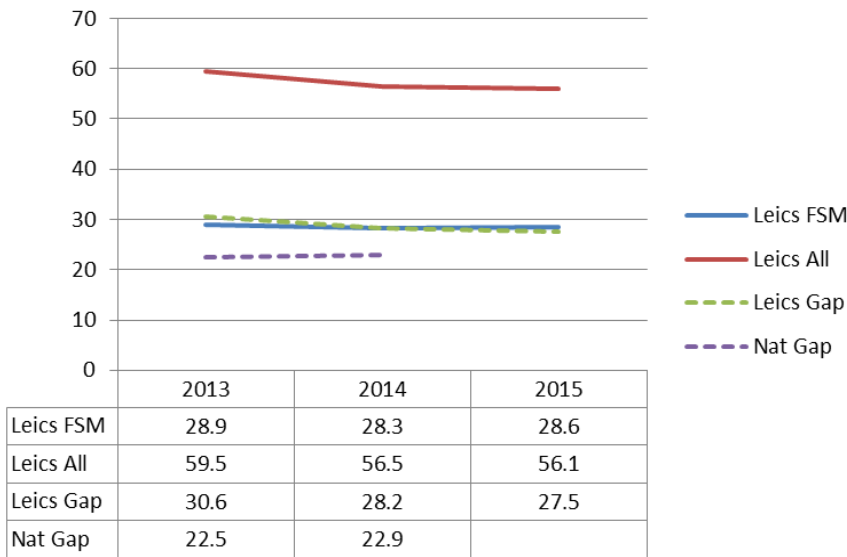
FSM phonics attainment has decreased between 2013 and 2015. The 'all pupils' group is higher in 2015 than 2013 meaning that the gap has increased year on year. The gap has not increased at national level.

KS2 RWM attainment



At Key Stage Two, the attainment of FSM pupils has improved at a faster rate than the 'all pupils' group and this has led to a reduction in the gap between FSM eligible pupils and 'all pupils'. The Leicestershire gap is wider than the national average but did narrow between 2013 and 2014.

5 GCSE A*-C (EM) attainment



At Key Stage Four, the gap between FSM and 'all pupils' in Leicestershire has narrowed since 2013. Although the national gap is still smaller, the national gap actually increased slightly between 2013 and 2014.

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