

Barnet Children's Partnership Board Report

Title: Educational Standards in Barnet 2021/2022

Meeting Date: 27th April 2023

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1. Summary

Barnet is well known for the quality of its schools and the diversity of its educational offer.

The quality of Barnet's schools is a significant contributory factor to making the borough a popular and desirable place to live and supports our strategic drive to be the most family friendly borough in London. This report provides information on validated results for 2021/22 assessments and national examinations, set out in Appendix A.

- 1.1 Appendix A provides validated results for the 2021/22 academic year for Barnet's state-maintained schools (including Academies and Free Schools) and comparisons with statistical neighbours, the national average, and the London average (where available). It provides information on the attainment (i.e. the standards reached) and the progress of pupils across all key stages. The appendix will be made available to schools and will be published on the Barnet Council website.
- 1.2 For some years, Barnet has been among the top performing local authority areas in the country in relation to the achievement of children and young people and the quality of our schools. Barnet Council's aspiration is to be among the top 10% of local authorities in relation to the quality of provision in its schools.
- 1.3 In November 2022 this Partnership Board received a report on the School and Settings Improvement Strategy for Barnet for the period 2022 to 2024 and updates to the SEND and Inclusion Strategy and the Special Educational Places Plan. The Report was an update of the Strategies that were presented to this Partnership Board in 2021 and approved by the Children Education and Safeguarding (CES) Committee

in November 2020 as part of the Education Strategy for Barnet for the period 2021 to 2024.

- 1.4 Results for the national examinations and assessments that took place across the early years, primary and secondary phases in summer 2022 have now been published. Barnet's secondary schools continue to perform very well and there have been some improvements across primary schools; with Barnet performing in the top quartile of local authorities for most indicators and in the top ten per cent on most measures at KS4.
- 1.5 Appendix A provides an analysis of school performance issues in Barnet based on the validated assessment and examination results. This data refers to pupils being educated in Barnet schools and colleges; not all of these pupils will be Barnet residents. Headline results from this analysis include:

Attendance

- Primary attendance as at the end of the Spring term 2022 was 94.4% and is above the national average. Barnet's ranking increased to rank 12th (out of 152 LAs) and is in the top 20% of LAs. Secondary attendance is now 93.4%, ranked 10th nationally, and thus also in the top 10% of LAs.

Early years

- The percentage of children who achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD) in the Early Years Foundation Stage was in line with the national average but below the London and statistical neighbour average, with Barnet's national ranking dropping from 33rd in 2019 to 83rd in 2022.

Primary

- Year 1 Phonics – attainment dropped and is above the national average but below the London and statistical neighbour average and is below the top 25% of LAs (ranked 48th).
- In Key Stage 1 attainment at the expected standard is above the national average in all subjects but tends to be below the London average. Attainment tends to be within the top 20-30% of LAs, and there has generally been a drop in ranking across all subjects / thresholds between 2019 and 2022.
- At Key Stage 2, Barnet is 13th in the country for the number of pupils reaching the expected standards in Reading, Writing and Maths combined. Maths results were particularly strong (6th best LA in the country). Attainment of the expected standard across Reading, Maths and 'Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling' (GPS) was in the top 10% of LAs nationally. Attainment in Writing continues to improve with attainment of the expected standard at ranked 16th, having improved from 100th in 2016.

- The average scaled score at KS2 in Barnet is in the top 10% of LAs nationally in all subjects, and ranks Barnet 2nd best LA for Reading, 4th best in GPS and 6th best in Maths.
- Progress of pupils between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 in all subjects is significantly better than the national average. Barnet is in the top 10% of LAs in the country for Maths and Reading progress. It ranks 26th for progress in Writing, a consistent increase from 44th in 2019.
- Attainment in Reading, Writing and Mathematics combined by disadvantaged KS2 pupils is now in the top 10% of LAs, with Barnet ranked 10th in the country. In 2016 the percentage of disadvantaged pupils reaching the expected standard in Reading Writing and Mathematics was 46%. In 2022, this has increased to 55%. The gap between disadvantaged pupils in Barnet and Other Pupils nationally is smaller than national, London and statistical neighbours and the progress made by disadvantaged pupils in Barnet between KS1 and KS2 exceeds national and statistical neighbour averages.
- Barnet is performing better than the national and statistical neighbour averages in Reading Writing and Maths combined in nearly all the ethnic pupil categories for the proportion of pupils reaching the expected standard. Barnet's Black pupils attain in line with Black pupils nationally (ranked 60th).
- Attainment in Reading, Writing and Mathematics combined by KS2 pupils on SEN Support is in the top 20% of LAs nationally (16th), and for children and young people with an EHCP (21st).
- Progress at KS2 for EHCP and SEN Support pupils is in the top 10% of LAs for Reading and Maths, and in the top 20% for Writing.

Secondary

- Barnet's Progress 8 in 2022 ranked Barnet the 7th best Local Authority in the country (out of 152 LAs) in 2022. These results gauge the progress made by students during their time at secondary school.
- The average 'Attainment 8' score in Barnet in 2022 is 58.1 points, compared to the national average of 48.9 points, ranked 3rd in the country.
- Barnet was in the top 10% nationally in both Progress 8 (7th) and Attainment 8 (9th) for disadvantaged pupils.
- At KS4 Barnet ranked in the top 20% of LAs for both Attainment and Progress 8 for pupils at SEN Support, and in the top 10% for pupils with an EHCP.
- The Attainment 8 score was close to, or in the top 10% nationally for all groups except Black pupils, Other and Chinese pupils. (ranked 61st, 47th and 43rd).
- The Progress 8 scores were in or close to the top 10% for all groups except Black pupils, Other and Chinese pupils (ranked 92nd, 55th and 110th).

- The 2022 results for Looked After Children have not yet been published.
- End of Key Stage 5 'A Level' attainment is in the top 5-10% nationally on all key measures, except in the vocational qualification groups of technical qualifications or applied general qualifications. Results in respect of vocational qualifications (Applied General and Technical) are included in the Appendix in the section relating to Key Stage 5.

1.6 The report identifies a number of areas for development, which reflect the key priorities in the Education Strategy. The following areas have been identified as priorities for 2020-23 by the School Standards and Settings Partnership Board:

Early Years

As Barnet's attainment has dropped in 2022, and as the new Early Years profile is still in the process of being embedded into schools and settings, Early Years remains a priority.

Phonics

Our phonics ranking fell between 2021 and 2022 to 40th and therefore is back as a priority for this year.

Key Stage 1 Achievement

This is remaining a priority (even though 2023 is the final year for KS1 SATs) as we do need to be assured that practice at KS1 is of a good or better quality.

KS2 Writing

Although there are still inconsistencies nationally with teacher assessment of writing, we still need to maintain a focus on this subject in order to continue to raise relative attainment.

Progress and Progression Pathways of low attaining pupils across all key stages

It remains a priority for us to ensure that sufficient quality and learning opportunities (e.g. vocational qualifications) exist for children and young people to succeed across a range of skills and abilities, particularly those with SEND. This is particularly a concern with the recent changes to the vocational routes and the uncertainty about the continuation of BTECs and the recent commencement of T Levels. We will continue to support schools to try and ensure the options available for students are as wide ranging as possible.

Achievement of Disadvantaged Pupils, pupils with SEND and other Vulnerable Groups (including Children in Need)

Although Barnet's Disadvantaged pupils perform better than national Disadvantaged pupils, there are still significant gaps in achievement between those pupils who are Disadvantaged and those who are not.

Looked After Children (LAC)

There is not yet any national data available on the attainment of LAC pupils. Provisional results indicate that there has been a decrease

overall in the attainment of LAC children in Barnet. The overall achievement of LAC remains a priority. It needs to be recognised that when we report on Looked After Children we are including all children looked after by Barnet, wherever they may be receiving their education.

Pupils' Mental Health (note: this priority was added following discussion at a previous Children's Partnership Board and a suggestion by the Young Members of the Board)

Following the pandemic, which is backed up by a recent survey of secondary pupils, the mental health of all pupils still needs to be a priority, including support for pupils with managing test and exam stress.

Recruitment

Recruiting and retaining good quality teachers, school leaders and support staff is a challenge for schools across Barnet. Supporting recruitment of staff and giving the necessary support to staff at all levels remains a priority for us.

Safeguarding

We continue to support schools in ensuring that their safeguarding arrangements are effective.

Curriculum

To support all schools in the effective planning and delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum which is ambitious and designed to give all pupils, particularly disadvantaged pupils and including pupils with SEND, the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life. This is a priority to reflect the changes introduced in the 2019 Ofsted inspection framework.

- 1.7 Each of these priorities has an Action Plan associated with it, outlining the steps we are taking to address these areas for development. Progress against these priorities will be monitored by the Schools and Settings Partnership Board.

2. Updates since last BCPB

None

3. Impact

3.1 Equalities and Diversity

- 3.11 Barnet Council has a duty contained in section 149 of the Equality Act to have due regard to the need to:
 - eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

3.12 The protected characteristics are:

- age
- disability;
- gender reassignment;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sex;
- sexual orientation.

3.13 The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day-to-day business and to keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services. School improvement monitoring, supporting and challenging arrangements ensure that the quality of education in Barnet is maintained and improved. Outcomes for all groups of children and young people are monitored including children with special educational needs and disabilities and disadvantaged children (those in receipt of free school meals and children looked after). Barnet's Children and Young People Plan, the Education Strategy 2021-2024 and the School and Settings Improvement Strategy 2021 to 2024 all have a strong focus on improving outcomes for disadvantaged groups of children and young people.

3.2 Corporate Parenting

The School and Settings Improvement Strategy 2021-24 includes details of progress in respect of the achievement of looked after children and includes this as a priority for the future.

4. Consultation and Engagement

A summary of the key changes from the previous School and Settings Improvement Strategy was discussed and agreed at the Schools Review Group, consisting of BELS and wider Barnet council officers, in October 2022 and the School and Settings Standards Partnership Board (consisting of BELS and wider Barnet Council officers and headteachers) in November 2022. A report on Educational Standards in Barnet 2021/2022 was presented to the Children Education and Safeguarding Committee at its meeting on 20th March 2023.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

That the Children's Partnership Board note the validated results for school performance in Barnet for the academic year 2021/22 as set out in Appendix A: Summary of Educational Standards in Barnet, 2021/22

6. Background Papers

6.1 Key education strategies, including the Schools and Settings Education Strategy 2021 to 2024 were considered and approved by the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee and the Children's Partnership Board at the meetings in November 2020 These have been published on Barnet Council's website and can be seen here:

[Agenda for Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee on Monday 30th November, 2020, 6.00 pm \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

[Agenda for Barnet Children's Partnership Board on Monday 9th November, 2020, 4.30 pm \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

6.2 In November 2022 the update to the School and Settings Improvement Strategy for Barnet for the period 2022 to 2024 was reported to the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee and to this Board:

[Agenda for Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee on Thursday 17th November, 2022, 7.00 pm \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

[Agenda for Barnet Children's Partnership Board on Wednesday 9th November, 2022, 4.30 pm \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

6.3 Reports on education standards are reported annually to the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee. The last one was reported to the committee in March 2023 and can be found here:

[Agenda for Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee on Monday 20th March, 2023, 7.00 pm \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)