

Education Outcomes in Rotherham Schools and Settings

The National Curriculum is divided into Key Stages that children are taken through during their school life.

Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFS)

The EYFS Profile is assessed when children reach the end of Foundation Stage (age 5) through ongoing and summative teacher assessment. Rotherham's Early Years performance in many areas relating to children's outcomes has been on an upward trajectory since 2009. The framework was revised in 2012 and due to the changes in the way children are assessed at the end of the Foundation Stage it is not possible to make comparisons between 2013 assessments and historical data.

The expected level to achieve at the end of EYFS is a 'good level of development'.

- In 2013 the LA average was 3.7% above the national average for a good level of development at 55.7%.
- Average Total Points (ATP) is at the national average at 33.0.
- The LA average is expected to meet or exceed the national average in 2014.

Key Stage 1

Key Stage 1 is taught during Years 1 and 2 of primary school when pupils are aged between 5 and 7. This includes the phonics screening check which is administered to all children in Year 1. It also includes tasks and tests which can be performed at any time during Year 2, so children may not know that they are being formally assessed. These tasks and tests are designed to be administered informally as part of normal classroom activity. The results inform teachers' overall assessments in English, mathematics and science, which are reported to parents and the DfE.

Phonics Screening Check

This is a short assessment that was introduced in 2012 and designed to confirm whether pupils have learned phonic decoding to an appropriate standard by the age of 6. All year 1 pupils in maintained schools, academies and free schools must complete the check.

The phonics check will help teachers identify any children who need extra help so they can receive the support they need to improve their reading skills. These children will then be able to retake the check in year 2.

The standard mark was 32 or more out of 40 in 2012 and 2013. The standard mark for 2014 will be released on the 30th June.

- In 2013 62.5% of pupils in year 1 achieved the standard mark in the national phonics screening check in 2013, this is an increase of 7.5%. This compares to the national figure of 69%, an increase of 11%. The gap to the national average is 6.5%.
- The LA average is expected to improve and reduce the gap to the national average in 2014.

End of Key Stage 1 Teacher Assessments

The statutory Key Stage 1 tasks and tests in reading, writing and mathematics are designed to test children's knowledge and understanding of the associated programmes of study. They provide a snapshot of a child's attainment and help inform the final teacher assessment judgement reported for each child at the end of Key Stage 1 (Year 2, aged 7).

Pupils are expected to achieve Level 2b+ or more in reading, writing and mathematics.

- In 2013 attainment in Rotherham remained static, whereas National averages increased in all subjects therefore widening the gap.
- Rotherham trends in attainment show that girls continue to outperform boys in reading, writing and maths at all levels.
- The Rotherham gap between girls and boys attainment has increased in 2013 as boys attainment has decreased in all subjects at each level and girls attainment has increased in all subjects at each level.
- The attainment of boys in Rotherham is well below the attainment of boys nationally and the gap is significant in 2013.
- In 2014, the performance of boys in Rotherham need to improve in a number of schools to narrow the gap to the national average.

Key Stage 2

Key Stage 2 is taught during Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 of primary school when pupils are aged between 7 and 11. Programmes of study set out what teachers should cover in every subject during the Key Stage. The Key Stage 2 national curriculum tests are designed to test children's knowledge and understanding of specific elements of the Key Stage 2 programmes of study. They provide a snapshot of a child's attainment at the end of the Key Stage.

Pupils are expected to achieve L4+ in reading, writing and mathematics and make two national curriculum levels of progress from the end of Key Stage 1 to the end of Key Stage 2.

The Department for Education floor standard measure in 2014 has increased to at least 65% of pupils achieving Level 4 and above in reading, writing and mathematics and above the national median progress measures between KS1 and KS2 in reading, writing and mathematics.

In 2013, the KS2 results show an increase in writing, mathematics and the new combined reading, writing and mathematics measure at L4+ and in mathematics at L5+. The increase is between 1.6% and 3%. The reading results decreased by 1% at L4+ and 3.7% at L5+. Progress measures have increased by 1% in writing, 4% in mathematics and decreased by 3% in reading. The gap to national averages remains too wide particularly at L5+ and the progress measure in reading.

In 2014 Rotherham averages need to improve to meet national averages and narrow the gaps at L5+. A number of larger schools with historically underperforming cohorts have new leadership arrangements and the improvements should impact on overall Rotherham LA averages.

Key Stage 4

Key Stage 4 is taught during Years 10 and 11 of secondary school when pupils are aged between 15 and 16. At the end of this stage, pupils in Year 11 (usually aged 16) are normally entered for a range of external examinations. Most frequently, these are GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) exams and a range of other qualifications, including National Vocational Qualifications.

The Secretary of State for Education announced that, with effect from 29 September 2013, only a student's first entry to a GCSE examination will count in their school's performance tables.

The first entry across the subject, regardless of qualification type, will be the one that counts. This means that wherever a learner achieves a BTEC and a GCSE in the same subject in the same year, the GCSE result will always take precedence over the BTEC result, and is the one that will be reported in performance tables, since the GCSE exam will always come before the BTEC Entry Date.

The impact of these changes may show a decline in results in some schools in Rotherham and Nationally. In summer 2013, nationally 23% of maths entries (170,537 entries) and 10% of English entries (70,134) were from pupils who were not yet at the end of their key stage 4 study.

The outcomes for Rotherham pupils continues to improve, GCSE results rose for the 11th successive year in 2013. Rotherham has exceeded national averages in all the attainment thresholds except English Baccalaureate.

- 5+A*-C including English and mathematics increased by 3.6% to 63.6% against an increase in the national average of 1.8% to 60.8% (state-funded schools) and a decrease of -0.2% to 59.2% in the national average (all schools). Rotherham LA average is 4.4% above the national average (all schools) and 2.8% above the national average (state-funded schools). This is the second year Rotherham averages have exceeded national averages for this threshold.
- The 5+A*-C indicator increased by 0.9% to 84.8%, national averages remained at 2012 results. Rotherham's average is 1.7% above the national average (state-funded) and 3% above the national average (all schools). This is the third year Rotherham averages have exceeded national averages for this threshold.
- % A*-C in English increased by 2.6% to 70.8% and continues our upward trend. Rotherham LA averages are above National averages by 2.9%, this is the third year Rotherham averages have exceeded national averages. (data source NCER EPAS)
- % A*-C in maths has risen by 4.5% to 70.9% and in line with the national average. This is a significant improvement and the first year that Rotherham has met the national average.

Key Stage 5

Key Stage 5 describes the two years of education for students aged 16-18.

Results are published as an average point score per A level entry and average point score per A level student.

Rotherham averages remain below national averages. There is a decline in both Rotherham and national averages APS per student 2011 -2013.