

Educational Achievement

Update 2024/25

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Overview

- **Educational Performance Overview**
 - The update reviews attainment, inclusion, and equity across Rotherham schools for 2024/25 academic year.
- **Key Successes and Challenges**
 - Strong early education participation and GLD improvements contrast with ongoing phonics and GCSE challenges.
- **Focus on Inclusion and Equity**
 - Efforts are focused on disadvantaged pupils, SEND support, and ethnic minority groups like Gypsy/Roma communities.
- **Strategic Priorities and Collaboration**
 - Targeted interventions, professional development, and attendance improvement drive aligned educational outcomes.

School Landscape and Governance

| TYPE OF SCHOOL/SETTING | TOTAL | LA-MAINTAINED | ACADEMY |
|------------------------------------|-------|---------------|---------|
| Nursery Schools | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Infant Schools | 10 | 4 | 6 |
| Junior Schools | 9 | 1 | 8 |
| Infant & Junior Schools | 77 | 11 | 66 |
| Secondary Schools | 16 | 1 | 15 |
| Special Schools | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| Pupil Referral Units | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 123 | 21 | 102 |

School and early years inspections (end of summer term 2025)

- 99% of Early Years providers are Good or Outstanding
- Ofsted inspection framework for schools changed and no longer provided an overall judgement - 16 of our 123 schools have been inspected under the then new framework in 2024/25 :

| Area inspected | Outstanding | Good | Requires improvement | Inadequate |
|-------------------------|-------------|------|----------------------|------------|
| Quality of education | 2 | 10 | 4 | 0 |
| Behaviour and attitudes | 4 | 10 | 2 | 0 |
| Personal development | 3 | 12 | 1 | 0 |
| Leadership | 2 | 12 | 2 | 0 |
| Early Years | 3 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| 6th Form | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Strengths

| MEASURE | ROTHERHAM | NATIONAL |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Early Education Take-up | 83.5% | 65.2% |
| GLD (SEND Support) | Above national | - |
| Phonics Year 1 (LA Marinated schools) | 77.0% | 79.9% |
| KS2 RWM Expected Standard | 60.0% | Narrowing the Gap |
| GCSE English Grade 4+ | 70.3% | 70.6% |
| A level A –A* grades improved | 2.2% | Aligned with national |

- Rotherham's school performance in the assessment of a Good Level of Development (for children aged 5 years) improved at the same rate as the national average.
- Rotherham's local authority schools' collective achievement was in line with the national average and above all Rotherham school's average.
- Key Stage 2 outcomes improved year-on-year in the combined reading, writing and mathematics (RWM) measure
- 66.8% of boys met the expected standard in Writing (which is teacher assessed), which is the same as the national level.
- SEND Support pupils at KS2 EXS+ outperform national by approximately one percentage point.
- Nine of our schools achieved above the national average pass rate at grade 4 or more in English.

Areas of Focus

Early Years Development Gaps

- Early years GLD is 64.9%, below national average, with significant gender and disadvantage disparities.

Phonics and Literacy Challenges

- Phonics achievement in Year 1 is 77%, below national average, with widening gaps for disadvantaged pupils.

Key Stage 2 Attainment Issues

- Reading and attainment scores at KS2 and KS4 lag behind national levels, with persistent SEND and ethnic group gaps.

GCSE Achievement Mathematics

- Rotherham's students achieving grades 4 or more in Maths stands at 66.3%. The gap is bigger for boys

Need for Targeted Interventions

- Addressing literacy, phonics, and inclusive practices is critical to closing gaps and improving educational equity.

The Next 12 months

1. Publish the Best Start plan by April 2026 to show how we can increase our performance by 9% by 2028
2. Phonic Intervention projects starting in February 2026 and then roll out during the academic year.
3. Lead on the regional Gypsy, Roma and Traveller intervention
4. Continue partnership with the DfE RISE
5. Build on the Rotherham Strategic Education Partnership
6. Continue to improves access to specialist education outreach services
7. Deliver the new attendance support
8. Support schools to address education disadvantage
9. Continue to support schools' CPD through ROSIS
10. Build on School improvement with our Local Authority maintained schools