

Questions from Councillor Waller Regarding Pupil performance in the Quarter 3 Performance Management Report 2017/18

1. In para. 6.2 we should be appalled that we have fewer than the national average of children achieving higher than national averages at KS1. Our children are not living in a deprived area. We are responsible for challenging schools on their data and these results, coupled with the lack of progress children appear to make between KS1 and KS2 (para 6.3) neither benefits our children nor helps our secondary schools who have a deficit to make up.

Answer: From 2011-2015 outcomes for Rutland at the end of KS1 at the higher level (at that time; Level 3) were well above national in all subjects.

In 2016, the first year of the new assessment system:

- Reading, at Greater Depth, remained above national average
- Writing just above national average
- Maths just below national average

In 2017, a further drop was noted:

- Reading, at Greater Depth, in line with national average
- Writing just below national average
- Maths below national average

Improved data gathering and evaluation allowed us to identify this underperformance and we have moved swiftly to report concerns to the Education Performance Board and headteachers through Headteacher Briefings. Where we have had concerns regarding performance of individual schools we have raised this with the schools themselves or, in the case of academies, with the RSC. Maintained schools with low outcomes have been subject to LA Strategy Meetings to hold them to account for pupil performance. The new School Prioritisation system has meant that there is a transparent system of alerting school leaders, including governors, of any concerns that we have.

With particular reference to writing and maths that dropped below national average at greater depth, in 2017, we have:

- Brokered a programme of support from Keystone Teaching School for SLAs to work in three of our maintained schools where maths outcomes needed improvement. This programme is ongoing and impact will be judged in terms of 2018 outcomes.
- A greater number of moderation training events, for writing, have been implemented by RTA led by an experienced external consultant. This has led to improved standardisation of writing and consistent messages as we suspect that some of the previous low outcomes for writing were due to teachers insecurity with the new assessment system.

Next step:

- Building collegiate challenge, based on local priorities, through the establishment of a sector led system.

2. The progress 8 score for Rutland is good (particularly due to Casterton achieving well above national average). How much better would the actual GCSE scores be if our children didn't start secondary at such a low point?

Answer: Outcomes at the end of KS2, in contrast to that at KS1, are showing a marked improvement from the low performance in Rutland in 2013 and further decline in 2014 where the authority was in the bottom 10% of authorities nationally. In 2017 Rutland was well above the national picture for RWM at the EXPs and in the top 10% of improving LAs. Rutland performance is above regional neighbours and compares well to statistical neighbours.

The current Progress 8 scores have been achieved from a very high baseline. These pupils, who were at the end of KS2 in 2012, attained significantly above the national average.

However Cllr Waller's concerns regarding current progress across KS2 is a concern we have also highlighted to schools. Whilst there is a mixed picture with KS1-KS2 progress in Rutland schools; two schools in particular have impacted negatively on our overall progress scores. The one school has been subject to significant challenge through LA strategy meetings and the LA brokered NLE support for this school which is impacting on school improvement. This school is due to enter into a MAT in March '18. The second school is also receiving NLE support involving significant challenge for leaders. There are early indications that this school is also improving – school is currently being re-brokered to enter a new MAT.