

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 5 December 2023	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		School Standards Report 2022-2023	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
Cabinet Member:		Councillor Jasmine Ali, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Refugees	

FOREWORD - COUNCILLOR JASMINE ALI, DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND REFUGEES

This annual school standards report marks an important part of the council's calendar. Each year the report has shown an improvement in school standards as we move at pace towards our goal of 100% outstanding schools in Southwark.

At the time of writing, we are at 97% Ofsted rated good and outstanding. I could not be more proud of this council's education team, our parents and carers, the fantastic teachers and school staff in this borough, and our exceptional children and young people for making this happen.

Results are impressive right across the board and even more so in the context of schools working hard to address gaps arising from Covid-19, falling school rolls, squeezed budgets and an increase in pupils with a special education need and/ or disability.

The overall contents of this report show that we are in a good position to narrow attainment gaps in educational outcomes between disadvantaged pupils and their better off counterparts.

Even with a national decline in results compared to last year – across headline measures (published results) Southwark has once again bucked the national trend and results are in line with and in many cases above those in the rest of London.

This can be seen in the highlights of this school standards and achievement report which includes:

- The whole suite of GCSE measures are up from 2019 (the year before the pandemic).
- In both GCSE English and Maths, 77.3 per cent of Southwark students achieved a standard pass (up a full 11 points from 63.3 per cent in 2019).

- Attainment 8, the measure of achievement across eight qualifications including English and Maths, has gone up by 1.2 points for all schools from 53.6 points in 2022 to 54.8 points this year.
- 61.0 per cent of pupils achieved a strong pass in English and Maths (up 2.0 percentage points from 59 per cent in 2022).
- Results in English Baccalaureate have improved: 34.8 per cent of pupils achieved a strong pass in the English Baccalaureate (up 0.4 percentage points from 34.4 per cent in 2022).
- Nationally this year witnessed the biggest fall in A- level results. But in Southwark A- Level students were above the national average. Southwark's schools show that the borough's students have achieved a set of fantastic A-level results, exceeding national figures by between 0.9 to 7.7 percentage points across the various grade ranges.
- Children in our care did themselves, and us as corporate parents, proud by achieving passes at GCSE and A-Levels, including straight A's, B's, ABC's, Distinctions and Merits, with one student achieving AAA* to meet (and then accept) their offer from St Hugh's College, Oxford University. At least eight students received offers from their first choice universities.

Changing trends show that there is a rise in pupil numbers with SEND and our pupils with special needs continue to perform in line with and above national outcomes.

Our secondary special needs pupils performed above national and London in all outcomes.

We continue with good support for our pupils' wellbeing and mental health across all phases with a comprehensive programme of activity: Improving Mental Health and Resilience in Schools.

Going forward we will continue to close the attainment gap that had widened for disadvantaged groups over the pandemic.

We will do right by our pupils with SEND by managing the increase within our mainstream SEND strategy and work towards Southwark becoming a national exemplar in this area.

We will increase the numbers of schools signing up to our Inclusion Charter to keep all children in Southwark in Education.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the cabinet note the Southwark School Standards Report, 2022-2023.
2. That the cabinet agree that the 2024-2025 Southwark School Standards Report will include an increased focus on closing the gaps in pupil

attainment.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The Southwark Standards Report is an annual report on the attainment of pupils in Southwark from the previous year.
4. It reports performance in examinations or formal assessment, where they have taken place and/ or the information is publicly available.
5. It also provides information about the context schools were operating in in that year.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. Results are impressive across the board and even more so given the context of schools working hard to address gaps arising from COVID-19 pandemic, falling rolls, squeezed budgets and the increase in numbers of SEND pupils.
7. Across headline measures (those that are published), Southwark has once again performed consistently above national averages and results are in line with or above those in London.
8. We are very proud that over 96% of our schools are judged as Good or Outstanding by Ofsted.
9. There is, nationally, a rise in pupil numbers with SEND and this is reflected in Southwark. Our primary SEND cohort continues to perform in line with, or above, headline national outcomes.

Policy framework implications

10. This report has been produced in the context of Southwark's Council plan and borough plan (see background documents below) and supports the council's aspirations to give its children and young people a great start in life.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

11. Cabinet will note the references to the equalities impact statement below.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

12. We know that Southwark has cohorts of pupils who may be at a disadvantage because of socio-economic factors, ethnicity, gender, English as an additional language, Special Educational Needs or Disability.

13. A detailed cohort analysis of attainment of these groups can be found in appendix 3.
14. We are working hard to close the attainment gap between cohorts of disadvantaged pupils and their peers through a number of projects and interventions, described throughout appendix 1, but specifically in pages 5 and 6, in the priorities for improvement sections of each education phase, and in the section on innovations and wider achievement. Further work is required and will be a focus for 2023-24.
15. We anticipate a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the children and young people in our education settings, as promoted by the Wellbeing First programme, detailed in pages 33-34 of appendix 1.

Climate change implications

16. There should be no additional adverse effects on climate change due to this report.

Resource implications

17. There are no additional resource implications attached to this report, as it is a retrospective report on performance in our schools.

Consultation

18. This report contains information provided by the different relevant officers leading on performance across the different phases of schooling and education in Southwark.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance REF: [RW 7.11.23]

19. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the cabinet on Southwark school standards in 2022/23.
20. The council is tasked with carrying out local authority functions in relation to education in Southwark.
21. The council accordingly has a number of general duties in relation to the provision of education, including a duty to contribute towards the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of the community by securing that efficient primary, secondary and further education is available to meet the needs of the population of the area. Cabinet will note that the council itself maintains a significant number of the schools discussed in the report; however, the council's ability to develop new school proposals is now significantly restricted, and legislation enables existing maintained schools

to convert to academy status which are outside of the council's ownership and control.

22. In respect of young people aged under 20 (or over 20 if the council maintains an Education, Health and Care Plan for them), the council must make available support that will encourage, enable or assist them to participate in education or training.
23. Furthermore, in respect of the well-being of children, the council is under a duty to make arrangements to promote cooperation between the council and relevant statutory partners to improve the well-being of children in the council's area. "Well-being" in this context includes their education and training.
24. Besides these more general duties, the council has a number of more specific functions in relation to education. Of particular relevance to the subject matter of the report are: the duty to exercise council functions with a view to promoting the effective participation by young people aged 16 and 17 year olds in education or training; a duty to maintain a tracking system to identify any 16 and 17 year olds who are not participating in education and training; and a duty to promote the educational achievement of children looked after by the council;.
25. As such, the preparation of a school standards report is something that is incidental to the council's functions in these areas in enabling the cabinet to see the extent to which aspects of these duties are being met. The various duties described relate to the council's executive functions and whilst provision of this report is not identified in the constitution as specifically delegated to the cabinet, it assists in the cabinet's overall general responsibility of oversight of the authority's services in accordance with Part 3B of the constitution.
26. When making its decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that the cabinet has due regard to the need of the council to eliminate discrimination and other prohibited conduct and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not. Information about the consideration given to equalities issues is set out in the Community Impact Statement.

Strategic Director of Finance REF: [CAS23/37]

27. The Strategic Director of Finance notes the recommendations of this report which sets out information on school standards.
28. As noted in the report the challenge for the future is to ensure high quality education by ensuring that schools are full, well funded and able to provide the specialist support that they need. In order to achieve this is, it is especially important that schools have sufficient pupil numbers on roll as it is the key driver for their funding. Therefore, the efficient management

and successful implementation of the current approach to future-proofing the quality and supply of school within Southwark's school system is crucial to achieve this goal.

Other officers

29. Not applicable.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
25 November, 2020, Council Assembly: Refresh of the Council Plan 2018-2022. Item 6.1 And Appendix 1, Agenda Item 9.	Children and Adult Services Children and Families Directorate, 4 th Floor, 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Nikki Tilson 07908 256 018
Link (please copy and paste into browser): https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s92005/Report Council Plan.pdf		
Link (please copy and paste into browser): https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/b50012014/Council Plan 2018-2022 Appendix updated Tuesday 08-Sep-2020 16.00 Cabinet.pdf?T=9		
The Borough Plan	Children and Adult Services Children and Families Directorate, 4 th Floor, 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Nikki Tilson 07908 256 018
Link (please copy and paste into browser): https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s92006/Appendix A Southwarks Borough Plan 2020.pdf		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	The Soutwark Standards Report
Appendix 2	Ofsted Ratings - 31 August 2023
Appendix 3	Detailed Cohort Characteristics in relation to attainment only
Appendix 4	SEND Report

AUDIT TRAIL

Cabinet Member	Councillor Jasmine Ali, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Refugees	
Lead Officer	David Quirke-Thornton, Strategic Director of Children's and Adults' Services	
Report Author	Nikki Tilson, Principal Advisor, Education	
Version	Final	
Dated	27 November 2023	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance	Yes	Yes
List other officers here	N/A	N/A
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	27 November 2023	