

Education and Learning Update Report

Report of the Director of Children's and Young People's Futures

Recommendation: That DEF note the report

1. Key Performance Indicators for attendance, exclusions, EHE and CME

Attendance

		2021/22 – Autumn/Spring Terms Combined*	2022/23 – Autumn/Spring (Data until 09/03/2023)**	2023-2024 – To date
Total	% Attendance	91.4	92.3	93.7
	% Authorised Absence	7.1	5.9	4.5
	% Unauthorised Absence	1.5	1.8	1.8
	% Persistent Absence	26.8	22.0	19.0
Primary	% Attendance	93.2	94.1	95.5
	% Authorised Absence	6.0	5.0	3.5
	% Unauthorised Absence	0.8	0.9	1.0
	% Persistent Absence	20.2	17.0	14.0
Secondary/ AllThrough	% Attendance	89.6	89.7	91.0
	% Authorised Absence	8.3	7.2	6.0
	% Unauthorised Absence	2.3	3.1	3.0
	% Persistent Absence	34.7	29.0	25.0
SEN (E+ K Combined)	% Attendance	87.1	88.2	89.5
	% Authorised Absence	10.4	8.4	6.9
	% Unauthorised Absence	2.5	3.5	3.6
	% Persistent Absence	40.8	34.0	29.0
SEN Support (K)	% Attendance	DfE Data Not Available	88.7	90.2
	% Authorised Absence		8.0	6.5
	% Unauthorised Absence		3.2	3.4
	% Persistent Absence		33.0	28.0
SEN (E)	% Attendance	DfE Data Not Available	85.6	86.3
	% Authorised Absence		10.5	9.0
	% Unauthorised Absence		3.9	4.7
	% Persistent Absence		37.0	34.0

FSM	% Attendance	87.5	87.3	88.8
	% Authorised Absence	9.1	8.5	6.9
	% Unauthorised Absence	3.4	4.2	4.3
	% Persistent Absence	43.8	41.0	34.0
CiN	% Attendance	DfE Data Not Available	79.4	79.1
	% Authorised Absence		11.7	10.6
	% Unauthorised Absence		9.0	10.3
	% Persistent Absence		52.9	50.0
CP	% Attendance	DfE Data Not Available	76.2	80.1
	% Authorised Absence		11.9	8.9
	% Unauthorised Absence		11.9	11.0
	% Persistent Absence		62.0	45.0
LAC	% Attendance	DfE Data Not Available	85.4	89.8
	% Authorised Absence		9.3	6.2
	% Unauthorised Absence		5.3	4.0
	% Persistent Absence		36.4	24.0
Male	% Attendance	91.3	92.4	93.8
	% Authorised Absence	6.9	5.8	4.4
	% Unauthorised Absence	1.4	1.7	1.7
	% Persistent Absence	26.0	21.0	18.0
Female	% Attendance	91.3	92.2	93.5
	% Authorised Absence	7.2	6.0	4.5
	% Unauthorised Absence	1.5	1.8	1.9
	% Persistent Absence	27.6	22.0	19.0

* Data Source - DfE (<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables>)

** Data Source (Devon County Council Local Data supplied from Devon Schools)

Overall attendance

- Overall absence rates have fallen slightly in the last year, both in Devon and nationally. Devon's absence rate for the combined autumn & spring 2022/23 terms was 7.8%, slightly higher than national and statistical neighbours averages (7.3% and 7.5%).
- Primary schools have the lowest overall absence rates, followed by secondary and then special schools. Devon primary and special schools have lower absence rates than nationally, whilst secondary schools have higher absence rates.
- The highest reason for absence was illness, accounting for over half of sessions missed. In Devon, illness rates fell from 6% to 4.7%, compared to a fall from 4.7% to 4.1% nationally. Absences with a reason of unauthorised other rose both in Devon and nationally.

Persistent Absenteeism (missed 10% or more sessions)

- Whilst persistent absentee rates fell in the last year, one in five pupils still miss 10% or more sessions. Devon has slightly higher rates than nationally, regionally and statistical neighbours. Rates are lowest in primary schools and highest in special schools. This is also reflected nationally.
- 40.8% of Devon Free School Meal pupils were persistently absent compared to 35.7% nationally.

Severely Absent (missed 50% or more sessions)

- Severely absentee rates rose in the last year. Devon has higher rates than nationally, regionally and statistical neighbours. Primary schools have the lowest rates in Devon with secondary schools having the highest rates. This differs nationally where special schools have the highest rates.

Exclusions

Permanent Exclusions*

	2021/22		2022/23		2023-2024 to date	
	Number	% of cohort	Number	% of cohort	Number	% of cohort
Total	95	0.10%	181	0.19%	33	0.04%
Primary Age	18	0.03%	21	0.04%	7	0.01%
Secondary Age	77	0.20%	160	0.42%	26	0.07%
SEN (E+ K)	72	0.38%	127	0.66%	22	0.11%
SEN Support (K)	64	0.45%	100	0.70%	15	0.11%
SEN (E)	8	0.16%	27	0.55%	7	0.14%
LAC**	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Male	63	0.13%	124	0.26%	22	0.05%
Female	32	0.07%	57	0.12%	11	0.02%

* Data Source (Devon County Council Local Data supplied from Devon Schools)

** Students who are in care to Devon County Council

Exclusions

- Permanent exclusions rose by 58% in the last year, with an additional 66 children excluded
- There was an increase of 73% on suspensions from the previous year. However, we do need to take into account that figures for 2020-2021 were affected by the pandemic lockdown measures.
- Pupils eligible for FSM and those with SEN Support have seen the greatest increases in permanent exclusions and suspensions. These pupils also have the highest rates of permanent exclusions.
- Pupils eligible for FSM are five times more likely to have a permanent exclusion than those not eligible (exclusion rate of 0.56% compared to 0.09% for non FSM).
- Pupils with SEN Support are nearly nine times more likely to have a permanent exclusion than those with no SEN (0.69% exclusion rate compared to 0.07% for pupils with no SEN). Pupils with an EHCP are nearly seven times more likely when compared to pupils with no SEN (0.53% compared to 0.07%).
- Pupils with SEN Support have the highest rate of suspensions, followed by pupils eligible for FSM, then those with an EHCP.

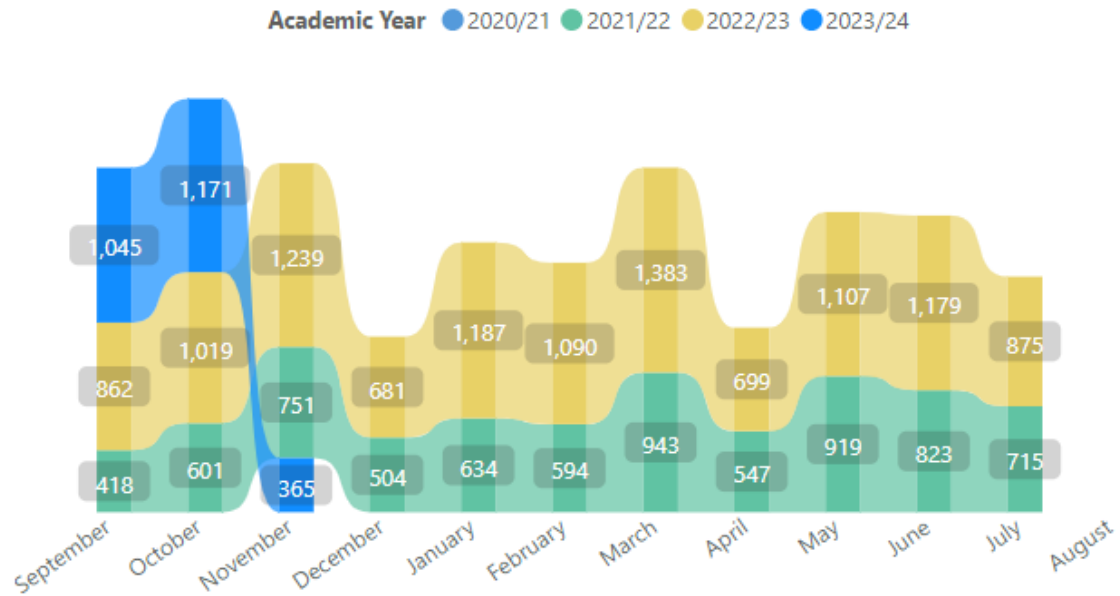
Suspensions (Number of Students)

	2021/22		2022/23		2023-2024 to date	
	Number	% of cohort	Number	% of cohort	Number	% of cohort
Total	3263	3.48%	4411	4.70%	1825	1.95%
Primary Age	420	0.75%	555	0.99%	186	0.33%
Secondary Age	2843	7.49%	3856	10.16%	1639	4.32%

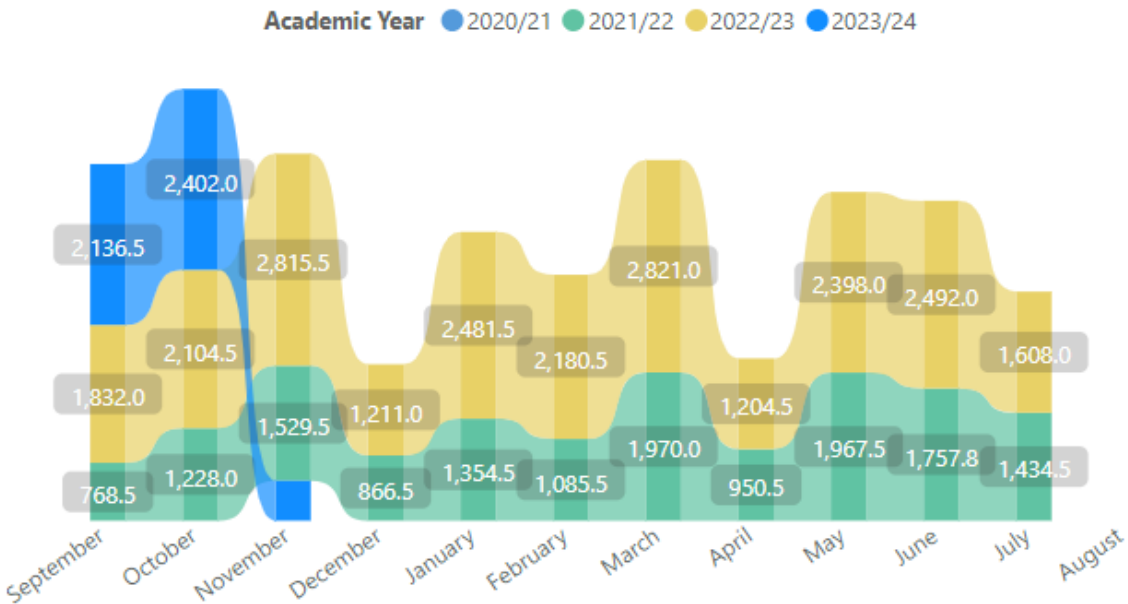
SEN (E+ K)	1666	8.70%	2291	11.96%	1049	5.48%
SEN Support (K)	1186	8.32%	1728	12.13%	828	5.81%
SEN (E)	480	9.78%	563	11.47%	221	4.50%
LAC**	111	12.28%	113	12.50%	42	4.65%
Male	2139	4.45%	2820	5.87%	1144	2.38%
Female	1124	2.46%	1591	3.48%	681	1.49%

* Data Source (Devon County Council Local Data supplied from Devon Schools), numbers as distinct students

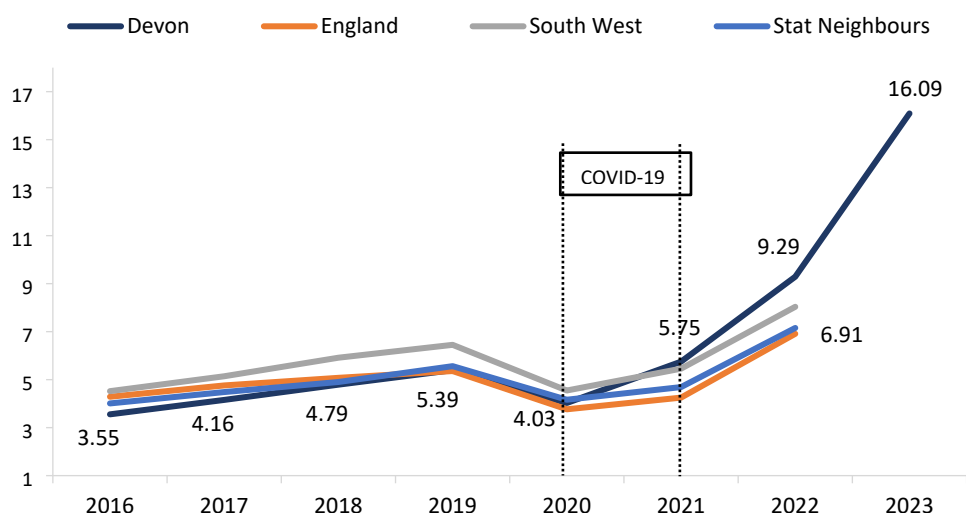
No of Students with Suspensions by by Month & Academic Year



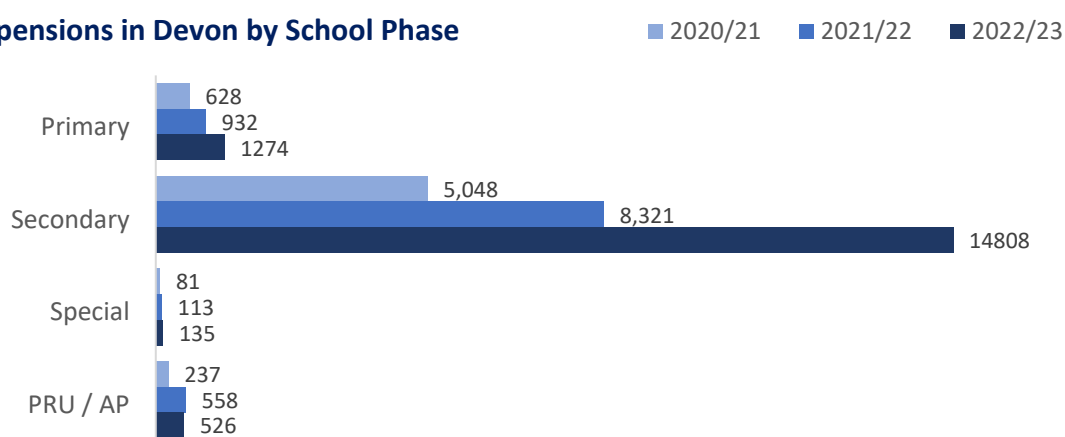
No of Days Lost due to Suspensions by Month & Academic Year



Number of Suspensions as a % of the school population



Suspensions in Devon by School Phase



Data: DfE SFR Permanent Exclusions & Suspensions 2021-22. Julv 2023. DfE LAIT Aug 23. ONE database 18/10/23

2022/23 academic year	Permanent exclusions		Suspensions	
	numbers	percentage	numbers	percentage
Abuse against sexual orientation and gender identity			38	0.2
Abuse relating to disability			2	0.01
Bullying	2	1.1	100	0.6
Damage	5	2.8	251	1.5
Drug and alcohol related	10	5.6	394	2.4
Inappropriate use of social media or online technology			112	0.7
Persistent disruptive behaviour	96	53.6	9829	60.6
Physical assault against a pupil	29	16.2	1655	10.2
Physical assault against an adult	17	9.5	612	3.8
Racist abuse			161	1.0
Sexual misconduct			61	0.4
Theft			57	0.4

Use or threaten of use of an offensive weapon or prohibited item	3	1.7	169	1.0
Verbal abuse / threatening behaviour against a pupil	5	2.8	428	2.6
Verbal abuse / threatening behaviour against an adult	9	5.0	2343	14.4
Wilful and repeated transgression of protective measures in place to protect public health	3	1.7	5	0.03
Grand Total		179	16217	

Elective Home Education (EHE)

- In 2022/23, 2,951 children were registered as home educated at some point during the year, equating to 3.1% of the population¹ (compared to 2.7% for 2021/22). This is an increase of 449 children (nearly 18%) and is the highest on record for Devon County Council.
- During the last 5 years the number of EHE children have risen each year, except during 2019-20 as schools were closed due to COVID 19.
- The number of primary age children being home educated rose by 1.4% last year whilst secondary age children increased by 29.5%.
- Historically the main reason cited for deciding to home educate was lifestyle and philosophical, however mental health issues are now the main reason reported for home education.
- Of the 1,223 children who started their EHE in 2022/23, nearly 43% were previously in LA maintained schools and 44% were previously in Academies and Free Schools². 3% were in independent schools before starting EHE and less than 1% were in special schools.

	Autumn Census 2022/23	Spring Census 2022/23	Summer Census 2022/23	Autumn Census 2023/24
Total	1714	1911	2173	1988
Primary	616	664	736	610
Secondary	1098	1247	1437	1378
SEN (E+ K Combined)	571	656	778	680
SEN Support (K)	443	508	606	516
SEN (E)	128	148	172	164
CIN	12	7	17	14
CP	6	11	11	3
LAC	1	0	0	0
Male	58	997	1123	1037
Female	38	914	1050	951

Children Missing Education (CME)

	Autumn Census 2022/23	Spring Census 2022/23	Summer Census 2022/23	Autumn Census 2023/24
Total	96	120	101	146
Primary	26	41	29	40
Secondary	70	79	72	146
SEN (E+ K Combined)	52	58	52	66
SEN Support (K)	24	28	29	41
SEN (E)	28	30	23	25
CIN	3	3	8	8
CP	5	9	6	4
LAC	5	10	4	7
Male	58	73	54	86
Female	38	47	47	60

Children receiving EOTAS (Education Other Than At School) packages (Statutory School Age)

	Total	EHCP	VSR	Male	Female
Number of pupils	314	169	23	199	115

Number of pupils receiving EOTAS by year group			
Year 11	77	Year 6	13
Year 10	78	Year 5	9
Year 9	62	Year 4	8
Year 8	39	Year 3	5
Year 7	17	Year 2	5
		Year 1	2
		Year R	0

1. Staffing

- 1.1** Matthew Gould has taken on the role of service lead for inclusion for 12 months, Matt previously worked in the inclusion team so knows the service well. We have also added the attendance team to this service area.
- 1.2** The recent recruitment process for the Deputy Director of Education was unable to secure a suitable candidate for the post. We are now working on establishing transition and interim arrangements as the current interim Head of Education arrangements will not be possible for Rachel and Matthew to maintain into the New Year.

- 1.3 We have welcomed Becky Hopkins and Lise Bird into their new substantive roles as Deputy Director of Children's Social Care and Head of Service for Early Help and Partnerships respectively.
- 1.4 Kellie Knott has taken on the role of SEND Improvement Director on a one year secondment from the DFE. Kellie has previously worked for Devon Local Authority.
- 1.5 Stuart Collins started his substantive post as Director of Children and Young People's Futures in September.

2. Early Help

- 2.1 A proposal has been shared with Schools Finance Group to support the development of a stronger early help service that works closely with families and schools. The LA have put a request to schools through the funding consultation for this work to be supported by a 0.5% transfer from DSG to the high needs block. Becky and Lise attended the DSLS Autumn briefing to share their plans with school leaders. Further details of these can be found in the schools funding consultation document.
- 2.2 Colleagues from Essex County Council, Clare Kershaw (Deputy Director of Education) and Alison (Quadrant Lead) attended the Autumn DSLS briefing and presented their model of working. This involved strong partnership models across education settings and services that wrapped tightly around the schools to support inclusion. We are continuing to work with our Essex partners to design a model that will deliver strong education and SEND services to our Devon schools, children and families. This is a significant piece of design work which will aim to make the best use of the resources we have available across education, SEND and children's social care. We are still committed to a locality-based approach and this has been well supported in our consultation to date.

3. SEMH Partnership Project

- 3.1 Following the announcements to schools of the success or otherwise of their bids we worked collaboratively with DSLS to constitute a governance board: this comprises a primary, secondary and special headteacher (none of which are beneficiaries of the scheme), a representative from the finance team, administrative support and three DCC officers. The scheme has identified 553 pupils who will benefit from this money directly as well as 2,500 pupils who will benefit indirectly. The £1.18 million is also shared between 73 identified schools with the potential for a significant number of others to be involved when the schemes are up and running.
- 3.2 The governance board has already proved itself very effective, considering those bids where more information had been requested and those who had made later bids. They also agreed the payment schedule agreed by the finance team with the suggestion of performance indicators being integral to the granting of further payments. The committee then sent out the funding agreements along with the KPI baselines requested to enable them to judge the performance of the scheme on the children identified.
- 3.3 A future meeting schedule has been agreed where we will have a combination of face to face presentations and written declarations and reports so that we can showcase the positive impact of the programme and begin to share the positive practice with our schools and stakeholders. We have also had significant involvement of officers in the set up of one of our schemes to assist its future success.
- 3.4 We have also submitted the business case to the Safety Valve programme for its potential positive impact and are optimistic about its contribution to this area of LA development at a possible £2,149 per pupil to meet their SEMH needs.

4. School Admissions

- 4.1 We had another successful school admissions round and currently we have the lowest rate of appeals (0.7%) in the South West and are performing better than national (2.6%).
- 4.2 96.7% of Devon pupils were offered a place at their preferred school compared to 92.5% nationally.
- 4.3 Devon is in the top performing quartile for all LAs for meeting secondary and primary school first preference.
- 4.4 The admissions team processed 7,474 in year applications in 2022-2023 (4,946 primary, 2,528 secondary).

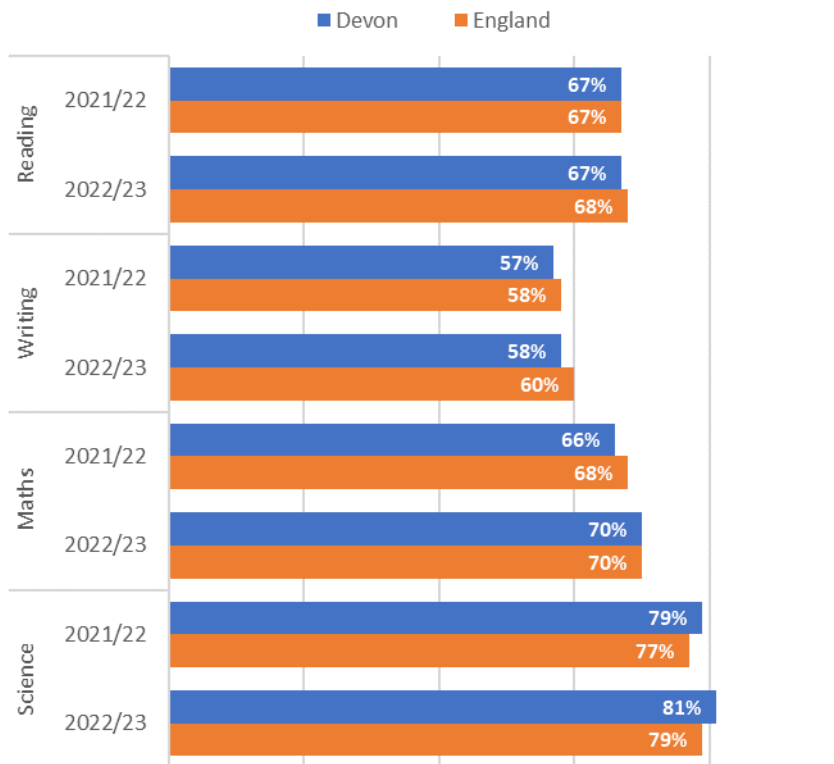
5. 2022-2023 Year 1 Phonics Outcomes

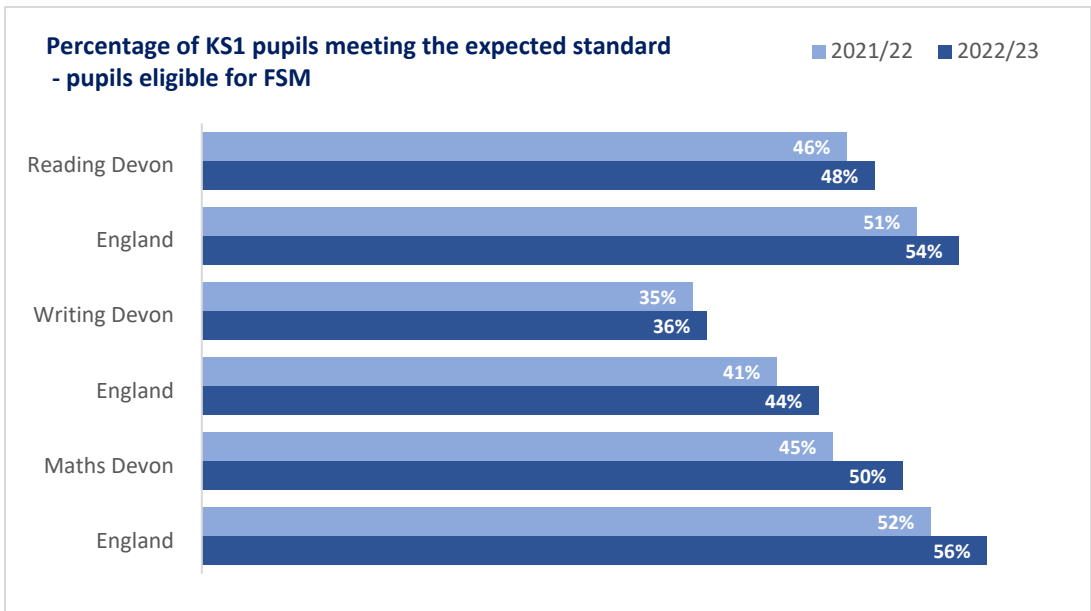
- 5.1 79% of Devon pupils met the phonics check in 2022-2023, this was in line with national.
- 5.2 64% of FSM pupils achieved the expected standard which was slightly lower than national (66%)
- 5.3 Our phonics attainment gap narrowed last year to 19% but this is still higher than national (16%).
- 5.4 24% of pupils with an EHCP met the standard (20% nationally)
- 5.5 49% of pupils with SEND support met the standard (48% nationally).

6. 2022-2023 KS1 Outcomes

- 6.1 Whilst we saw slight increases in KS1 attainment, this was also reflected nationally. We were in line with national standards for maths but slightly below in reading and writing. We are achieving better than national in science.
- 6.2 Devon's FSM pupils are not performing as well as nationally in each of the subjects and our attainment gap is generally wider than national by 2%.
- 6.3 Devon pupils with an EHCP perform significantly better than nationally in all subjects whilst those with SEN Support are not performing as well as nationally.

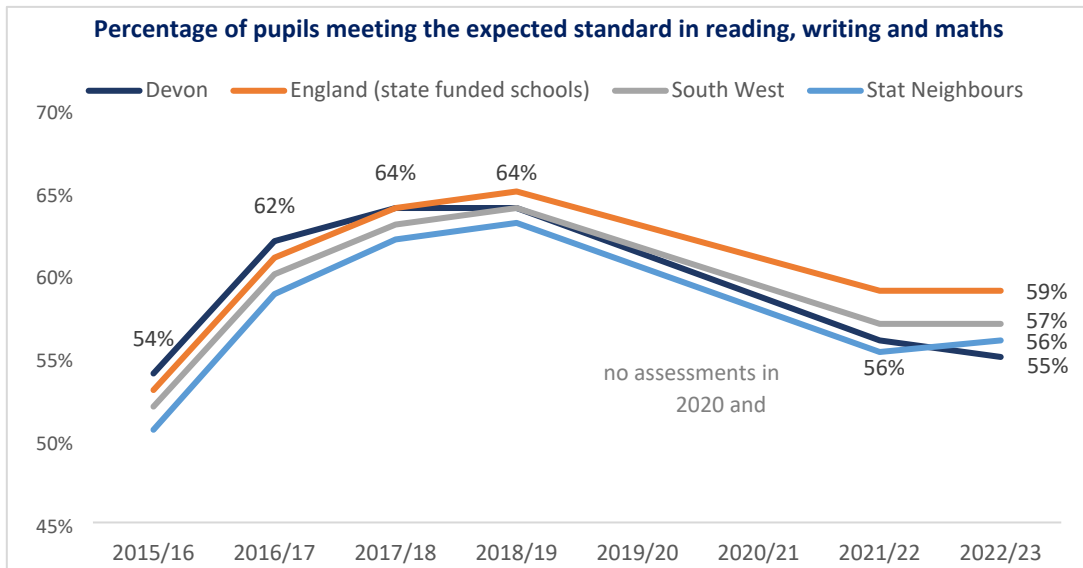
Percentage of KS1 pupils meeting expected standard by subject

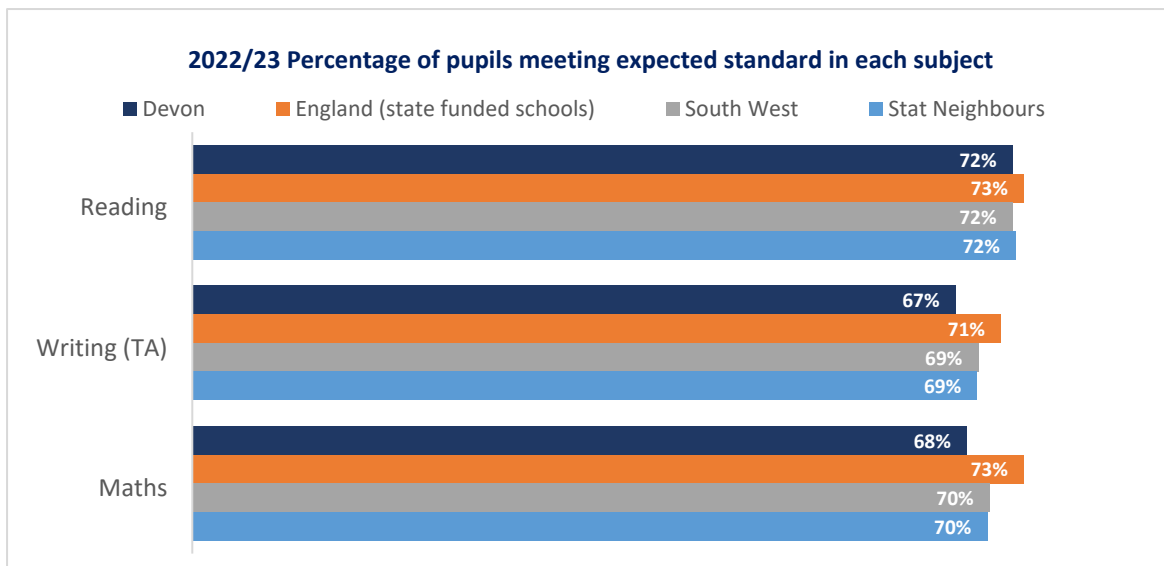




7. 2022-2023 KS2 Pupil Outcomes

7.1 Attainment in the combined reading, writing and maths measure has fallen slightly this year. 55% of Devon’s pupils met the expected standard, down from 56% in 2022. This puts us below our national, regional and statistical neighbours.

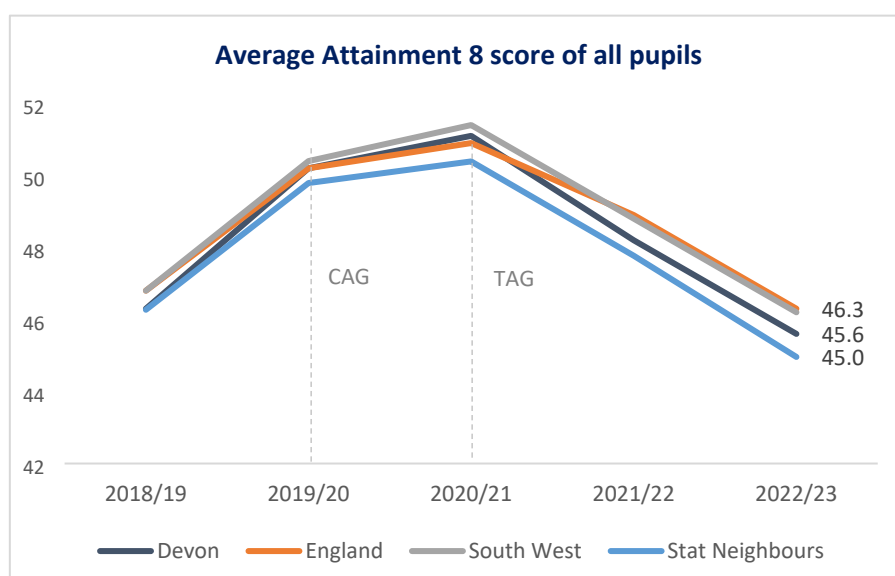


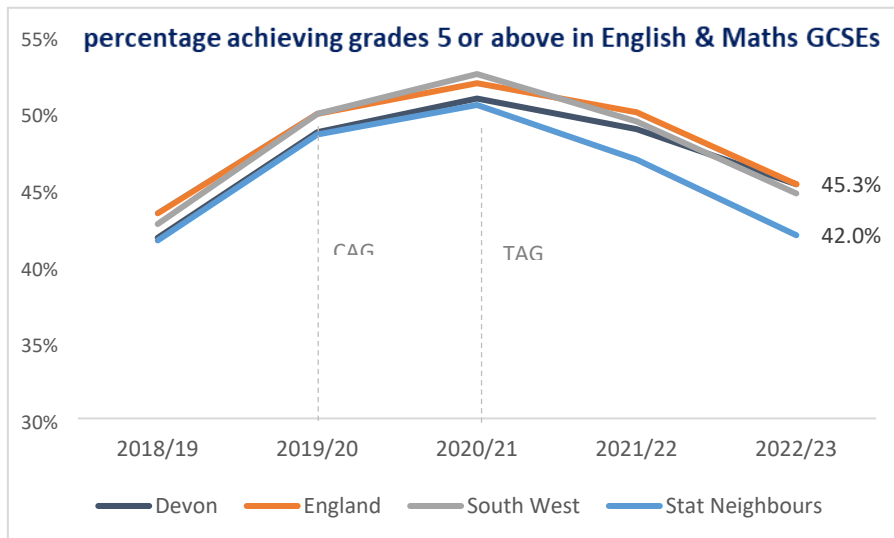


*Please note these are provisional results and will be updated in December

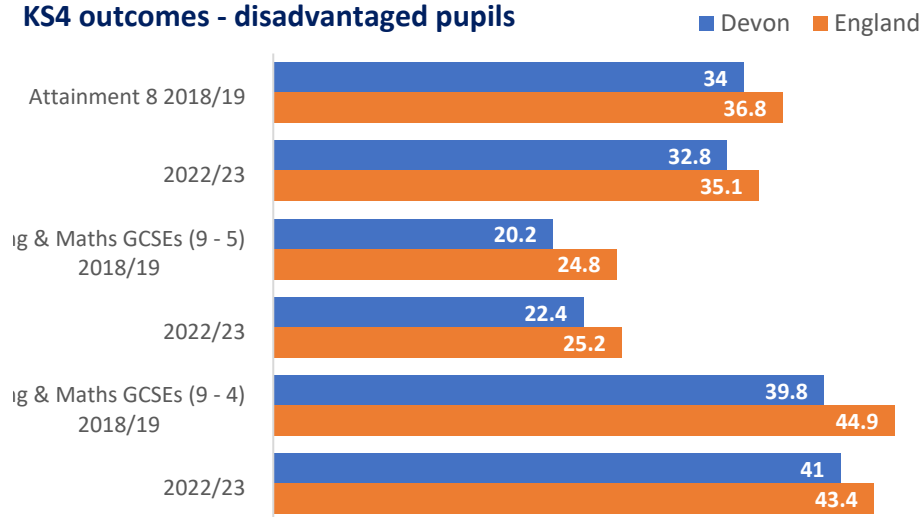
8. 2022-2023 KS4 Pupil Outcomes

- 8.1 We have seen a more positive set of outcomes for KS4 students
- 8.2 The average Attainment 8 score for Devon pupils is 45.6 which is better than the statistical neighbours average (45.0). Devon pupils are not performing as well as the national average for state funded schools¹ (46.3).
- 8.3 45.3% of Devon pupils achieved grades 5 or above in English and Maths GCSEs. This is in line with national¹ (45.3%) and is better than statistical neighbours (42.0%).
- 8.4 65.4% of Devon pupils achieved grades 4 or above in English and Maths GCSEs, better than nationally¹ (65.1%) and statistical neighbours (63.7%).
- 8.5 Devon pupils are not progressing as well as nationally, with an average progress 8 score of -0.09 compared to -0.03 nationally¹. They are progressing at a similar rate as statistical neighbours (-0.10).
- 8.6 Whilst we are seeing encouraging signs of better attainment at KS4, our disadvantaged students are not performing as well as nationally and our attainment gap remains an area for improvement.

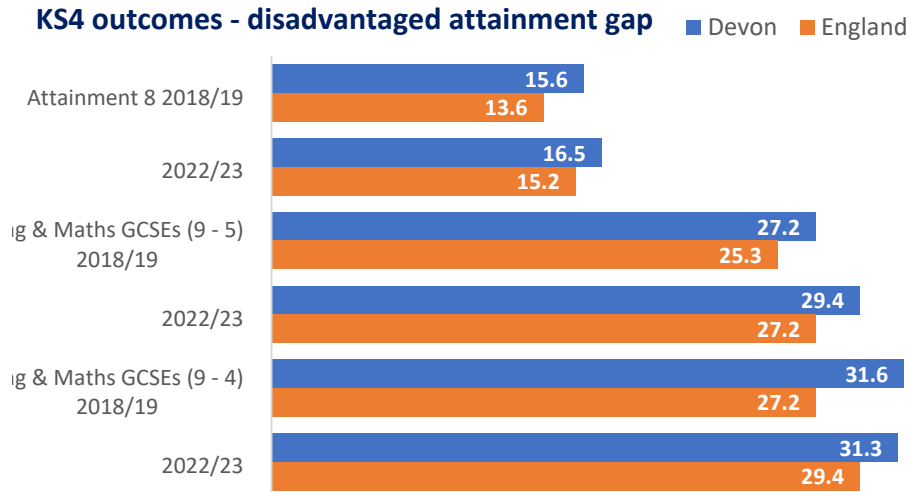




KS4 outcomes - disadvantaged pupils

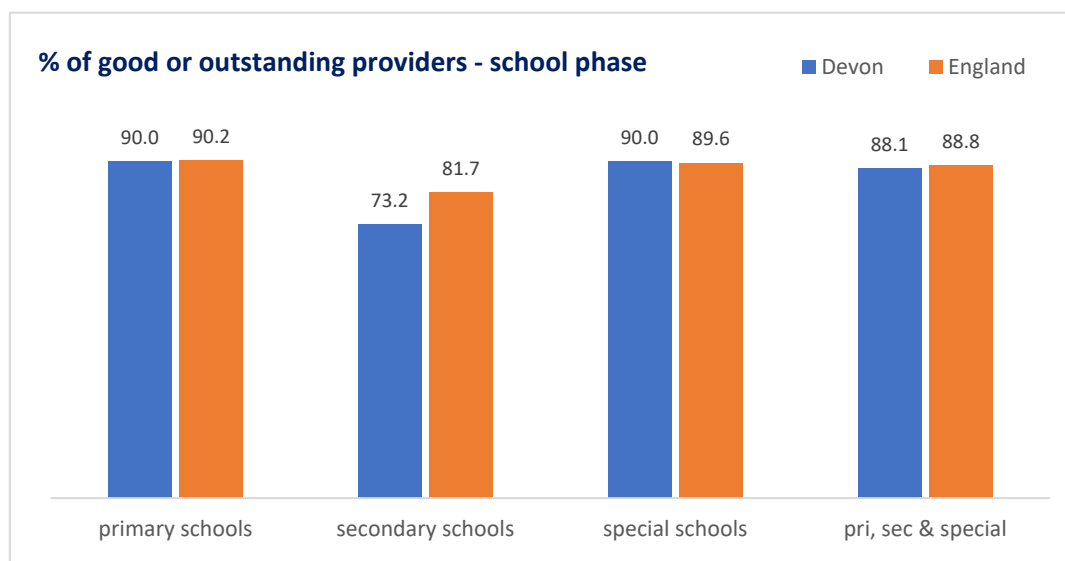


KS4 outcomes - disadvantaged attainment gap



9. Ofsted

- 9.1** 82.1% (81,639) of Devon pupils¹ are attending schools that have been judged as Good or Outstanding. This is an improvement from Sept 2022 (80.3%) but is not as good as nationally (88.4%) or regionally (86.4%). This reflects the fact that some large secondary schools are currently graded as requiring improvement.
- 9.2** 82.5% (4,053) of pupils in Devon with SEN education, health and care plans² are attending Good or Outstanding Schools. This is better than Sept 2022 (79.9%) but not as good as nationally or regionally (89.5% and 86.8% respectively).
- 9.3** 79.4% (17,834) of disadvantaged children³ in Devon are attending Good or Outstanding schools. This is better than Sept 2022 (76.2%). These are pupils who are Free School Meal children, children in care, adopted from care or service children. No national benchmarks are currently available for disadvantage children.
- 9.4** 84.5% of Devon children in care for any period of time attended schools judged as good or outstanding in 2022/23 ⁴ (81% in 2021/22). No national benchmarks are available for children in care.
- 9.5** The LA continue to see an increase in Ofsted complaints with 180 passed to us in 2022-2023. We are thorough in investigating these and assuring ourselves of the safety in our schools. Our schools are supportive in ensuring we have access to the necessary information.



Finally, we would like to end our report by paying tribute to a wonderful member of staff who we sadly lost earlier this month. Jo Dymond had worked as a Headteacher in Devon, as an English Advisor and most recently as one of our school effectiveness advisors. She dedicated her career to Devon children and schools and worked for many years in North Devon. She was passionate about wanting the best outcomes for all our children and had an amazing character that made her popular, well liked and well respected by her peers. She will be a great loss for Devon. Our condolences go to her family, friends and colleagues grieving her loss along with our gratitude for all she did to our support children and families. She will be greatly missed.

Stuart Collins

Director of Children and Young People's Futures

For information contact:

Rachel Shaw - Interim Head of Education (Delivery) Rachel.shaw@devon.gov.uk

Matthew Shanks - Interim Head of Education (Strategy) matthew.shanks@devon.gov.uk

November 2023