

Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel



Date of meeting:	18 February 2026
Title of Report:	School Assessments and Standards Report
Lead Member:	Councillor Sally Cresswell (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Apprenticeships)
Lead Strategic Director:	David Haley (Director for Childrens Services)
Author:	Graham Roser
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Your Reference:	2025 Attainment Report
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

This report provides an overview of educational outcomes in academic year 2024/25.

Recommendations and Reasons

It is recommended that the key challenges and current work programmes are noted and the priorities endorsed. This is just to ensure that Scrutiny are happy with the progress and plans for the next steps.

Alternative options considered and rejected

The report is for information only

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

It aligns with the Corporate Plan priorities of “A Caring Council” and “A Growing City” by supporting our work to ensure that every child receives a suitable education and appropriate support, regardless of setting. Additionally, it contributes to the Plymouth Plan’s strategic objectives with regards to educational attainment, reducing inequalities, and strengthening community resilience through collaborative approaches to education and welfare.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

Improving attainment has direct and indirect implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and future resource allocation. Higher attainment is typically associated with stronger school performance, improved attendance, and reduced demand for costly interventions such as alternative provision, statutory assessments, high-needs support, and social care involvement, helping to mitigate long-term budget pressures. Conversely, persistent low attainment can increase financial risks across the system, driving up expenditure on early help, SEND provision, and targeted education support, as well as creating pressures within the High Needs Block. Investment in early intervention, teaching quality, inclusion, and targeted programmes for disadvantaged pupils can therefore create cost avoidance over time by reducing the need for more intensive and expensive services. As a result, attainment trends must be considered a core component of medium-term financial planning, with resource decisions aligned to evidence-based strategies that both improve outcomes and strengthen financial sustainability.

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Sign off:

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<p>Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Amanda Davis (Service Director for Education, Participation and Skills)</p>											
<p>Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Date agreed: 10/02/2026</p>											
<p>Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Cresswell approved via email. Date approved: 09/02/2026</p>											