

AMBITIOUS PLYMOUTH

Narrowing the Gap Free School Meals versus Non- Free School Meals (based on 2012 data)

12 August 2013



Eligibility

Entitlement for a free school meal occurs where the parent/ carer is in receipt of: income support, job seekers allowance, income related support allowance; child tax credit providing not exceed £16,190; guarantee element of Pension Credit or letter of support under Asylum Act.

Introduction

Test and teacher assessment results take up to seven months before they are published. The only nationally comparative data available for this summary paper relates to 2012. Using the Department for Education's Local Area Interactive Tool (LAIT) data has been presented which compares the gaps in attainment for students entitled to free school meals. Comparative data has been added which shows Plymouth's results in relation to the national averages, as well as our ranking against the ten most similar local authorities (selected by the DfE, namely Portsmouth, Torbay, Southampton, Telford and Wrekin, Peterborough, Southend-on-Sea, Bournemouth, Rotherham, Sheffield and Isle of Wight). The LAIT allocates a national quartile grade. (A is top 25%, B is top 50%, C is lower 50% and D is lowest 25%).

FSM eligibility in Plymouth's schools

	FSM Eligible (current)	Pupil Premium (Ever 6)									
Primary	3904	5284									
Secondary	495	867									
Special Schools	216	276									
ACE	16	92									
Academies	2097	2894									
NOTES: FSM Current eligibility includes all age pupils. Pupil Premium Ever 6 includes pupils in reception to year 11, entitled to a FSM in the last 6 years.											
Pupil Premium value 12/13 £623 per pupil											

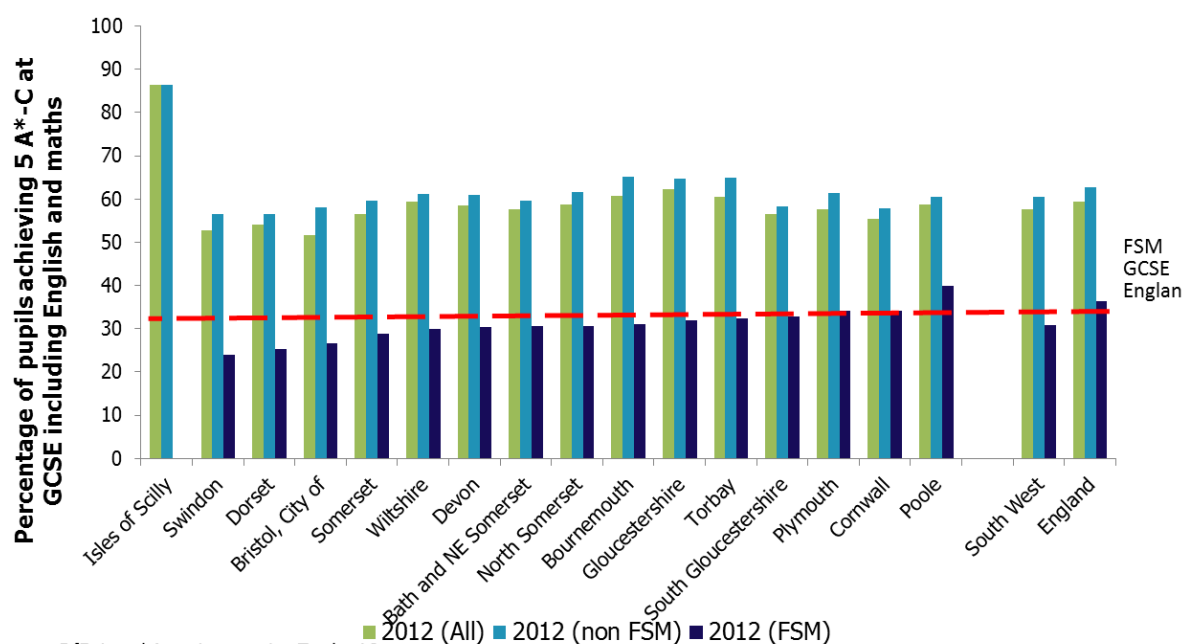
Analysis of performance

NARROWING THE GAPS FREE SCHOOL MEALS V's NON FREE SCHOOL MEALS (FSM) 2012 DATA						
	National Quartile	National data	National FSM Gap	Plymouth data	Plymouth's FSM GAP	Statistical Neighbour Ranking \$
Lowest achieving 20% in Foundation Stage Profile (FSP) v's rest	B	30.10%	30.10%	29.60%	29.60%	3
Good level of development' (78 points) in FSP for FSM		48%	19%	48%	17%	
Y1 phonic decoding test % of FSM reaching national expectation	B	44%	14%	45%	13%	2
KS1 L2+ in Reading for FSM		76%	14%	74%	14%	
KS1 L2+ in Writing for FSM		70%	16%	69%	16%	
KS1 L2+ in Maths for FSM		82%	11%	81%	11%	
KS2 L4+ in English/Maths for FSM	C	66%	17%	65%	17%	1
KS4 5+A*-C including English & Maths for FSM	B	36%	26%	34%	27%	2
KS5 Attainment of a level 3 qualification by age 19 FSM students	D	34%	24%	23%	27%	8
KS5 Inequality gap L3 qualification by 19 *	B	24%	34%	26%	24%	4
Key: * The percentage of FSM students at age 16 who achieved a L3 by age 19						
\$ Ranking based on Plymouth's data, where available, not necessarily the FSM gap						

Regional statistics

The new Ofsted Director of the SW Region has identified her overall priority is to improve the performance of pupils eligible for free school meals in the region. The reasons given include: the need to champion the case of disadvantaged young people; that improvement for this key group of pupils will lead to major impact on school improvement overall; that this group of pupils underachieve nationally and particularly underachieve in the South West and that pupil premium represents a considerable investment of public money. Plymouth has one of the smallest gaps in the SW however outcomes are only in-line with national averages for this group which is still unacceptable.

Performance of FSM eligible pupils compared to non FSM pupils at GCSE in 2012 in the South West by LA



Source: DfE Local Area Interactive Tool v10

Conclusion

High outcomes with small gaps between the attainment of pupils entitled to FSM and the rest is what we should aim to achieve. However, low outcomes often lead to low gaps. Looking at our statistical neighbour data the LA with the highest outcome often has the greatest gap in achievement for FSM pupils and the LA with the smallest gap often has the lowest outcomes too. Therefore it is important not to draw too many conclusions from the headline data. It may prove more useful to identify those schools that have reversed, or removed, attainment gaps for pupils entitled to FSM and study how they believe that they have achieved this. The latest national FSM take up data available, relates to 2011 (the national indicator was abolished) and it showed that take up in Plymouth was less than 80% at primary and 74% at secondary from those eligible. This lagged behind the national averages by about 6% but was higher, at the time, than regional LAs.

The main agent for change in recent times has been the distribution of Pupil Premium. Funding has risen from £623 per pupil to £900 and next year will rise again to about £1200. In 2012-13 Plymouth's schools received an extra £6,625,000 of pupil premium to target the underachievement of pupils entitled to FSM, Looked After Children and Service Family Children.

Looking at the data above the picture in Plymouth is reasonably positive with the KS5 data being of most concern. Potential lines on enquiry include: does the provision of hot school food make a difference to the attainment of FSM pupils; do schools with few FSM pupils have the greatest gaps in attainment; how effective are schools at deploying and evaluating pupil premium funding and how readily is this good practice shared?

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30/07/13