

Somerset Council
Scrutiny Committee
Children’s & Families Scrutiny Committee – 10th February
2025



Somerset Schools' Assessment & Attainment data 2024
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Division / Local Member: N/A

1. Summary

- 1.1.** Data has been published for all Key Stages in education. A full report has been provided to the Education Standard Standing Committee. This briefing summarises the key messages from the report to the Standing Committee for public scrutiny.
- 1.2.** This item closely relates to the priority of ‘A Fairer, Ambitious Somerset’ from the Somerset Council Plan (2023-2027).

“We need our children to get an excellent education and to aspire to achieve their goals in life. Education outcomes in Somerset are not good enough, especially for children from lower income homes or those with additional needs. All children need access to good schools, colleges, further education and higher education.”

2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

- 2.1.** Children and Families Scrutiny is recommended to:
 - Take account of the headline outcomes for children within the county
 - Agree to prioritise pupils with SEND and disadvantage in the forward programme of the Committee
 - Challenge Officers in future meetings on the extent to which the Children’s Transformation programme is successful in tackling key barriers to the achievement of children with SEND and disadvantage

3. Background

- 3.1.** Key messages for Scrutiny:

- We have previously reported significant concern about underachievement compared to national measures and a trajectory of decline
- There is now positive evidence of turnaround, with key headlines showing either one or two successive years of improvement
- It is now becoming clearer that a key issue for the county is the severe issues around a comparative small cohort of pupils whose outcomes are extremely poor:
- Pupils with both SEND and disadvantage are most vulnerable
 - Very high levels of absence
 - Very poor outcomes, including nil returns on examinations
 - Very high levels of suspension and exclusion

4. Background papers

- 4.1.** Slide pack included with report, which includes data charts on assessment, attainment, absence, suspensions and exclusions, with year on year, southwest and national comparisons