

Box CE VC Primary School Equality Information

Introduction

*"Education plays a key role in determining how you spend your adult life - a higher level of education means higher earnings, better health, and a longer life. By the same token, the long-term social and financial costs of educational failure are high. Those without the skills to participate socially and economically generate higher costs for health, income support, child welfare and social security systems."*ⁱ

Box Primary School recognises the importance of education in creating life opportunities and recognises that the influence of school on a child's life is made more significant if they currently have, or have had in the past, a disadvantaged home life.

This particular document concentrates on the most recent equalities-related attainment data and highlights those groups that are vulnerable to underachievement in Wiltshire schools. Box Primary School is using this data to support its work to maximise the attainment of every pupil, and in particular, pupils from groups who may be vulnerable to educational underachievement.

This document also details new national equality priorities and provides details about how Box Primary School is responding to these.

Attainment: National and Wiltshire data

For most of the groups attainment is broadly in line with national results. In this document results are being highlighted where there is a county attainment gap compared with national results or where there is national and local concern about poor attainment for particular groups.ⁱⁱ

Race/Ethnicity

Lower achieving ethnic groups

Nationally, the aggregated Black ethnic category remains the broad group with the lowest attainment both at Key Stage 2 and at Key Stage 4 (GCSE).^{ii iii} This aggregated group includes the ethnic categories of Black African, Black Caribbean and Any Other Black Background.

Both nationally and in Wiltshire, Black Caribbean pupils continue to be one of the lower performing groups.^{ii iii} Nationally 43% of Black Caribbean pupils achieved the expected standard, while in Wiltshire, 36% of Black Caribbean pupils achieved the same standard.^{ii iii}

A small black population in Wiltshire means that this school only infrequently has black pupils on its school roll. However, this school is aware that across the county, the attainment of Black Caribbean pupils persistently falls behind the average achievement of their peers. This school understands the complex reasons for this and the steps we take to raise the attainment of these pupils will include: working closely with their

parents; ensuring expectations of their attainment remain high; understanding the impact of negative stereotyping (both in-school and out of school); helping the pupils to confidently navigate the stress that comes from being a visible minority in a mainly white school; closely monitoring pupil progress - as well as working with the pupil and their family to accelerate progress where appropriate.

In Wiltshire, White Eastern European pupils are a lower achieving group; 33% achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths.ⁱⁱⁱ These results are because a significant number of pupils are more recent migrants, and the majority have therefore not been in school in the UK from the reception school year.

Nationally and in Wiltshire the lowest performing ethnic group are Gypsy, Roma, Traveller pupils. In Wiltshire, Gypsy, Roma, Traveller pupils significantly underperformed compared with the national statistics. Nationally only 13% of pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths.^{ii iii} The barriers that prevent Gypsy, Roma, Traveller pupils participating and achieving at school are varied and complex, but this school is committed to working with individual pupils and their families to ensure every child receives maximum benefit from their time at school. Box Primary School is aware of being able to access support and information from the Wiltshire Traveller Education Service, which provides specialist advice so that this school can make the adjustments necessary to support individual pupils and families from this community.

In the past Gypsy, Roma, Traveller communities were reluctant to allow their children to access mainstream primary education. This situation has been transformed in the last 10 to 15 years, and now the overwhelming majority of Gypsy, Roma, Traveller families in Wiltshire opt to send their children to primary school. This is a significant achievement. If we have Gypsy, Roma, Traveller children on roll we will work with our children, their families and local secondary schools to ease the transition process to ensure all Gypsy, Roma, Traveller pupils continue to secondary school.

Higher achieving ethnic groups

Nationally and in Wiltshire, Chinese pupils are the highest achieving group in 2016.^{ii iii} Nationally 71% achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths, while in Wiltshire, 75% of pupils achieved the expected standard.^{ii iii}

Ethnicity and eligibility for free school meals (FSM)

There were 423 Wiltshire pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) in year 6 in May 2016.ⁱⁱⁱ In Wiltshire, the largest group of pupils eligible for free school meals are White British pupils (379).ⁱⁱⁱ In 2016, overall, 32.9% of Wiltshire's disadvantaged pupils (FSM/Ever 6 & LAC) achieved the expected standard at KS2, compared to 38.5% for England.^{ii iii} The small number of pupils eligible for FSM in the other ethnic categories means the data is not statistically reliable.ⁱⁱⁱ

For more detailed information about what our school is doing to raise the attainment of these pupils, please refer to our Pupil Premium Information which is also published on this website.

English as an additional language (EAL)

The attainment of children with a first language other than English (EAL) in Wiltshire continues to compare unfavourably both to figures for similar children elsewhere and to children whose first language is English (FLE). Furthermore, the gap between FLE and EAL attainment in Wiltshire is unusually large. ⁱⁱⁱ

In 2016, 46% of Wiltshire's EAL learners achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths. The equivalent figure for FLE learners was 54%.ⁱⁱⁱ

Nationally, 52% of EAL learners achieved the expected standard, and the figure for the South-West region was 47%.^{ii iii} The gap between FLE learners and EAL learners in Wiltshire was 8%.^{ii iii} This compares to a gap of 6% points in the South-West, four percentage points overall for statistical neighbours, and two percentage points in national data.ⁱⁱⁱ

The relatively poor attainment of Wiltshire's EAL learners in overall KS2 data is very largely a product of poor attainment in reading.ⁱⁱⁱ This group has struggled in this area for several years, and evidence seems to suggest that the problem is increasing. In contrast, attainment in writing is comparable to similar groups elsewhere, and attainment in maths is good.

Wiltshire primary schools are working hard to address this issue in partnership with the local authority's Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAS) and its School Effectiveness team. These two teams have provided joint training to school Literacy leaders in this area in recent years, and the EMAS team have produced resources for teachers designed to highlight the issue and provide ideas and inspiration for teaching reading comprehension to EAL learners in the classroom. Both teams provide advisory support to schools, and EMAS also provide bilingual staff who can help facilitate access for children in the early stages of learning English. It is worth noting that the patterns reflected above in Wiltshire's EAL attainment at KS2 are not reflected in KS4 data, where performance in Wiltshire tends to be strong.

Gender

The attainment gap between girls and boys is 8 percentage points.ⁱⁱ Girls outperform boys on all the primary subjects except for maths.ⁱⁱ

Disability/SEN (Special Educational Needs)

Every school is required to identify and address the SEN needs of the pupils that they support. Information about the support provided by Box Primary School for pupils with special education needs and for disabled pupils is detailed in the SEN section of the school website.

Disabled Pupils and SEN Pupils – Attainment Data

14% of Wiltshire pupils who receive SEN support achieved the expected standard in reading, writing & maths. For Wiltshire pupils with a statement of SEN or an Education Health Care Plan; 7% of pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, writing & maths.ⁱⁱⁱ

There is an increasing understanding of the negative impact of social, emotional, and mental health difficulties (SEMH) on the educational attainment of pupils. The incorporation of mental health into the Equality Act 2010 has helped to highlight this important issue. Box Primary School has decided that one of our new equality objectives *will address pupil mental health and wellbeing as part of our commitment to preventing mental health difficulties that may start in childhood but have a greater impact in adult life.*

Religion and belief

Data is not collected for monitoring purposes on religion and belief, so there is no information available to compare the attainment of pupils who have/or do not have a religion or a belief. We recognise how important faith and belief can be as part of a young person's developing identity, whether this relates to a specific faith or belief, or whether this relates to wider belief systems, morals and ethics. We are committed to supporting all our pupils as they develop a personal relationship with their own values and beliefs, and to supporting, in the context of the Human Rights agenda, the role this plays in the moral and ethical choices they make in life.

We take incidents of prejudice-related bullying seriously and are committed to working closely with parents to create a school environment which is nurturing, friendly and supportive for all our children. Our school has established a procedure for recording all incidents of prejudice-based bullying, and this includes bullying relating to religion and belief.

Wiltshire LA anti-bullying guidance specifically states that religious bullying can be identified as 'a *negative or unfriendly focusing on religious difference or how somebody expresses their faith*'. We are vigilant in maintaining an awareness of, and appropriate responses to, this possibility. We are also aware that negative faith-based media attention can have an impact on all children, and recognises the importance of ensuring that pupils are provided with accurate and appropriate information. We ensure all pupils gain knowledge of and respect for the different faiths in Britain as part of our role to prepare pupils for modern life in a diverse Britain. As part of a whole school activity, pupils celebrate different religious festivals and learn from religious representatives from various communities. We recognise that discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief is a global concern, and our school actively promotes tolerance and respect. Box Primary School has a new Equality Objective: *To increase understanding of religious/faith diversity (including people who do not have a faith) and to develop an awareness of the history of religious intolerance in Britain and Europe and to learn to promote tolerance and understanding.*

Sexual orientation/gender identity

This school has benefited from the work undertaken by the Church of England and published in the document "*Valuing All God's Children*". This excellent document provides a framework that helps our school to address all issues of bullying behaviour and discriminatory language, and includes homophobia, biphobia and transphobia.

Equality objectives

Schools are required to update their published Equality Information each year, and in addition, must have **at least one Equality Objective** that the school can focus and work on for a period of up to four years. The objectives we have chosen is:

Pupil mental health and wellbeing

Academic attainment is important, but pupils also need to progress through their education feeling happy and self-confident. Box Primary School is committed to providing a nurturing environment to help develop the resilience of our pupils to cope with the ups and downs and stresses of everyday life. Box Primary School will address pupil mental health and wellbeing as part of our commitment to preventing mental health difficulties that may start in childhood but have a greater impact in adult life.

ⁱ "Ten Steps to Equity in Education" (PDF) Oecd.org.

ⁱⁱ SFR 62/2016, 12 January 2017

ⁱⁱⁱ SFR62/2016_LA_Table_L1-L10