

**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

**THE ATTAINMENT OF PUPILS IN HERTFORDSHIRE**

*Report of the Director of Education*

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**1. Purpose of the report**

To respond to a request by the Chairman of the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee and to provide information on the attainment of pupils in Hertfordshire to enable the select committee to consider areas for possible scrutiny.

**2. Results - Key Stage 1**

At the end of **Key Stage 1** (7 year olds) 86% of pupils attained level 2 or above in Reading and Writing (compared with 85% for Reading and 83% in Writing in 1999), 91% in Mathematics (89% in 1999) and 91% in Science (89% in 1999).

**Analysis**

- Results in the reading text improved by 1% which is a shortfall on the EDP target by 2%. All other targets have been met.
- As the percentage of children not attaining level 2 becomes smaller, progress towards targets becomes more difficult.
- Nationally, in reading 83% of children attained level 2 and above, 84% in Writing and 90% in Mathematics. No national figures are yet available for Science.

### 3. Results - Key Stage 2

The attainment of pupils at the end of **Key Stage 2** (11 year olds) rose again this year with 80% of pupils attaining the standard (level 4 or above) in English (77% in 1999), 76% in Mathematics (75% in 1999), and 89% in Science (85% in 1999). Nationally, in English 75% of pupils attained level 4 and above, 72% in Mathematics and 85% in Science.

#### Analysis

- There were significant differences in writing by gender, with girls achieving higher results than boys. (See Appendix 1).
- In Mathematics the attainment was 1% below the target set.
- Hertfordshire's Key Stage 2 results were higher than those of most of the statistical neighbours. (See Appendix II). There is a discrepancy between figures reported by DfEE and QCA because the QCA includes attainment of pupils in Special Schools.

### 4. Results - Key Stage 3

The provisional data for **Key Stage 3** (14 year olds) indicates that the attainment of pupils has risen in English and Science. 71% of pupils attained the standard (level 5) in English (70% in 1999) and 68% in Science (65% in 1999). 73% of pupils attained the standard in Mathematics (72% in 1999).

#### Analysis

- Significant differences in English results by gender was shown with girls achieving higher results than boys (see Appendix III).
- Though there has been improvement at Key Stage 3 significant weaknesses remain.

## **5. Results - GCSE**

At **GCSE** results are still provisional at this stage and indicate that 56.4% of pupils attained 5 A\*-C, 92.9% attained 5 A\*-G and 96.6% 1 A\*-G. No national data is yet available.

### **Analysis**

- Girls attain 10% higher than boys at 5+ A\*-C. (See Appendix IV)
- 2000 A\*-G results represent a 1.4% increase from 55% in 1999. The percentage of pupils attaining 5 A\*-G in 2000 rose by 1.3% and at 1 A\*-G by 0.8% over 1999.
- Data relating to individual subject performance is not yet available.
- The target for the percentage of pupils leaving schools with no qualifications has been met.

## **6. Results - Key Stage 5**

Key Stage 5 data is provisional and is based on 4,403 A level students who each achieved an average point score of 18. This shows a 0.6 increase from 17.4 in 1999.

### **Analysis**

- Analysis over time indicates no significant trend.
- Although the figures for Hertfordshire are lower than those nationally, national figures include results of students attending independent schools whilst the Hertfordshire figures include only state maintained schools.

## APPENDIX I

Gender breakdown by percentage of children achieving L4+ & L5+ at Key Stage 2

Percentage	GIRLS 4+			BOYS 4+			GIRLS 5+			BOYS 5+		
	2000	1999	1998	2000	1999	1998	2000	1999	1998	2000	1999	1998
Writing Tests	69	68	69	54	55	52	19	21	22	11	13	11

## APPENDIX II

Key Stage 2 test results for 1999/2000

Percentage of pupils achieving level 4 or above (ranked by ascending order in 1999)

LEA	English 1999	English 2000	Maths 1999	Maths 2000	Science 1999	Science 2000	Total 1999	Total 2000
Surrey	78	83	76	78	87	91	241	252
Hertfordshire	78	80	75	76	85	89	238	245
Cheshire	76	77	76	73	83	87	235	237
Warwickshire	73	77	70	73	81	87	224	237
Gloucestershire	73	77	70	73	80	87	223	237
Lancashire	72	76	72	74	78	85	222	235
West Sussex	71	76	69	72	82	88	222	236
Bedfordshire	72	76	66	69	81	85	219	230
Essex	71	76	69	73	79	84	219	233
Worcestershire	70	74	67	68	79	83	216	225
Kent	70	74	68	69	77	82	215	225
Nationally	70	75	69	72	78	85	216	232

### APPENDIX III

**NB** The results placed here for 2000 represent **provisional** results only!

		English		Mathematics		Science	
		Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
2000	% @ Level 5+	79	64	73	73	67	70
1999		79	62	73	71	66	65
1998							
2000	% @ Level 6+	43	28	50	51	37	38
1999		41	26	50	47	36	31
1998							

### APPENDIX IV

GCSE/GNVQ Results in the academic year 2000 : Pupils aged 15, LEA averages  
(National not yet available)

Percentage of 15 year old pupils:			
	Achieving 5+ A*-C	Achieving 5 + GCSEs	Achieving ½ + A*-G
BOYS Maintained Schools in Hertfordshire	51.3	92.0	96.2
GIRLS Maintained Schools in Hertfordshire	61.4	93.7	97.1