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**FOUNDATION STAGE, KEY STAGE 1, 2, 3, GCSE AND A LEVEL RESULTS IN 2008**

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**SUMMARY REPORT****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Scrutiny Members as regards the cumulative performance of Darlington schools in national tests in 2008.
2. This report will cover all Key Stages from Foundation Stage through to A level with comparisons with previous years where possible.

**Summary**

3. This report concentrates on the headline figures for provisional test results in Darlington schools in 2008.
4. Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee have received, within the last year, a training session from Children's Services' Officers as regards the analysis of test data. Members are therefore aware that figures relating to school or Local Authority (LA) performance contained within this report are provisional and subject to change. Results may go up due to re-marks of test papers and where schools have re-submitted scripts for borderline checks to take place. This year, for the first time, borderline checks have not been carried out as a matter of course by exam markers. Many appeals will take place as a result. Members are aware that many schools and LAs have expressed concern at the standard of marking of this year's tests.
5. Members should note that some figures, for example those relating to contextual value added scores, are not available at present.
6. In some cases, for example at Key Stage 2, individual school results have not yet been published. We are therefore only able to give the score for the LA as a whole in this instance.

**Recommendation**

7. Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

**Murray Rose,  
Director of Children's Services**

**Background Papers**

No background papers were used in the writing of this report.

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|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| S17 Crime and Disorder           | Improved attainment can affect students' life chances so affecting crime and disorder.                                       |
| Health and Well Being            | A broad and balanced curriculum can lead to improved life chances and life choices for all students.                         |
| Sustainability                   | There are no issues with regard to sustainability.   |
| Diversity                        | All hard to reach groups are included in the data contained within this report.  |
| Wards Affected                   | All Wards in Darlington.   |
| Groups Affected                  | All children/young people of school/college age.   |
| Budget and Policy Framework      | The contents of this report do not affect the Budget or policy Framework.  |
| Key Decision                     | This is not a key decision.  |
| Urgent Decision                  | This is not an urgent decision.  |
| One Darlington: Perfectly Placed | Improved attainment is in line with the aims set out in the Aspiring Darlington theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy. |

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

8. Our provisional exam and assessment results, published throughout Summer 2008, mainly tell a story of consolidating good performance and of improving upon it. Where necessary we are reviewing performance in order to ensure further improvement.
9. At the **Foundation Stage** we are continuing to improve our moderation process and we are pleased that the scores of the children in the 20% most deprived areas are getting closer to the average scores. There has been an acknowledgement nationally that targets in this area of the FSP were too high. Our target has therefore been adjusted down from 74.8% of pupils achieving L6+ in PSED (Personal Social and Emotional Development) and CLL (Communication and Language for Learning) and 78 points overall in 2007 to 62.2% in 2008. Our schools and FS settings are getting better at moderation as they become more experienced and as LA training has improved. The gap between our target and our attainment in 2007 was 22.6%. The gap between our target and achievement in 2008 has fallen **by 7.7% to 14.9%** which is a great improvement. The gap has almost halved from the gap in 2007.
10. At **Key Stage 1** performance was up in 8 out of the 11 indicators and only Reading attainment at Level 3 and Writing at Level 2b+ were down. Many of the biggest improvements in performance came in the schools serving the most deprived communities.

L2+ Speaking and Listening 86.6% in 2008 **up 3.7%** on 2007.

L3 Speaking and Listening 22.6 % in 2008 **up 1.7%** on 2007.

L2+ Reading 81.9% in 2008 **up 0.1% on 2007.**

L2b+ Reading      2007 68.5%      2008 68.5% **no change**

L3 Reading            2007 24.2%      2008 22.9% **down 1.4%**

L2+ Writing 78.5% in 2008 **up 1.2%** on 2007.

L2b+ Writing      2007 55.4%      2008 55% **down 0.4%**

L3 Writing            2007 9.1%      2008 9.5% **up 0.4%**

|            |            |            |                |
|------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| L2+ Maths  | 88.8%      | in 2008    | <b>up 0.6%</b> |
| L2b+ Maths | 2007 70.2% | 2008 71.6% | <b>up 1.4%</b> |
| L3 Maths   | 2007 18.5% | 2008 19%   | <b>up 0.5%</b> |

11. At **Key Stage 2** we were just as concerned as everybody else at the way in which scripts were marked and results were published. However, overall our schools scored just above the national average score for points per pupil and scores are in line with national averages for pupils achieving the expected grades in both English and Maths. Results were as follows:

|                           |            |            |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|
| English L4+               | 2007 79.4% | 2008 79%   |
| L5                        | 2007 37.2% | 2008 28.7% |
| LA Average Points Score   | 27.2       |            |
| Nat. Average Points Score | 27.4       |            |

|                           |            |            |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|
| Maths L4+                 | 2007 79.8% | 2008 78.5% |
| L5                        | 2007 33.9% | 2008 33.7% |
| LA Average Points Score   | 27.4       |            |
| Nat. Average Points Score | 27.3       |            |

|                          |            |            |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| Science L4+              | 2007 90.2% | 2008 89.2% |
| L5                       | 2007 48.1% | 2008 46.6% |
| LA Average Points Score  | 29.0       |            |
| Nat Average Points Score | 28.8       |            |

12. The results came with the following ‘Health warning’ from DCSF.

*“Since National Curriculum tests were introduced over a decade ago, there have been a number of changes to the process by which the tests are run and marked. The profile of national tests can be affected by such changes.*

*Administrative changes to the 2008 National Curriculum tests, which include the removal of borderline checking, were announced recently by the NAA. This is likely to affect results.*

*Analysis of results data for previous years by NAA allows us to estimate the impact of those process changes. This analysis indicates that the removal of borderlining in 2008 is expected to cause a fall in the number of children achieving the expected level by up to two % points”.*

13. Three Primary schools in Darlington have agreed to engage in a bespoke programme of support delivered by LA Primary Strategy Consultants who will engage with staff whilst resident in the schools concerned. We will also pre-empt the DCSF by introducing ‘The Darlington Challenge’ to a further two primary schools in order that standards improve appropriately.
14. Using Fischer Family Trust data for prior attainment and similar schools nationally, our pupils in English have done better than would have been expected and are better than similar schools nationally. Maths results are also much better than prior attainment would have indicated and much better than in similar schools nationally. Science scores are also better than prior attainment suggested and better than in similar schools nationally.

15. For pupils achieving the expected target grade - level 4+ - in both English and Maths, we again scored much better than prior attainment would have predicted and much better than similar schools nationally.
16. The new indicator - pupils making at least 2 levels progress between KS1 and KS2 - showed that we scored a little lower than expected and a little lower than similar schools elsewhere in English. However, in Maths we scored much better than expected and in comparison with other similar schools.
17. Fischer Family Trust also publish Estimate X, comparing results this year with the trend in the school (and the Authority) over the last 3 years. At Level 4 + this showed that our performance was 3% better in English, 2.1% better in Maths and 1.6% better in Science than the trend line would have predicted.
18. At **Key Stage 3**, English and Science results were down overall and Maths improved at level 5+. There were big improvements in Modern Foreign Languages and ICT.

#### English

|     |      |       |      |       |
|-----|------|-------|------|-------|
| L5+ | 2007 | 74.9% | 2008 | 70.4% |
| L6+ | 2007 | 33%   | 2008 | 28.7% |

#### Maths

|     |      |       |      |       |
|-----|------|-------|------|-------|
| L5+ | 2007 | 76.7% | 2008 | 77.5% |
| L6+ | 2007 | 56.1% | 2008 | 55.5% |

#### Science

|     |      |       |      |       |
|-----|------|-------|------|-------|
| L5+ | 2007 | 73.3% | 2008 | 72.8% |
| L6+ | 2007 | 41.6% | 2008 | 38.9% |

#### E+M combined

|     |      |       |      |       |
|-----|------|-------|------|-------|
| L5+ | 2007 | 68.9% | 2008 | 65.5% |
| L6+ | 2007 | 26.6% | 2008 | 26.6% |

#### MFL

|     |      |       |      |       |
|-----|------|-------|------|-------|
| L5+ | 2007 | 72.3% | 2008 | 78.6% |
| L6+ | 2007 | 33.7% | 2008 | 45.1% |

#### ICT

|     |      |       |      |       |
|-----|------|-------|------|-------|
| L5+ | 2007 | 75%   | 2008 | 81.7% |
| L6+ | 2007 | 25.6% | 2008 | 44.3% |

19. It is worthy of note that this set of results though lower than 2007 in some cases, are generally equal to or higher than the results obtained in 2006 across the LA. The 2006 cohort went on to achieve our best ever results at GCSE.
20. **GCSE** performance this year was the best the Authority has ever recorded, by a long way, the best in the Tees Valley and one of the best in the country. Overall, at least 68.8% of students achieved 5 GCSEs at A\*-C, an increase of 9% from 2007. The final published national league tables will not include the Eastbourne CofE Academy and so will actually read at the moment as at least 71.7%. Our scores for students gaining 5 GCSEs at A\*-C, including both Maths and English, increased from 45.9% to 47.5%.  
Provisional results as follows:

### Provisional GCSE results 2008:

|               | 5A* to C | 5A* to C Inc E+M |
|---------------|----------|------------------|
| Hurworth      | 93.0%    | 65.9%            |
| Haughton      | 60.0%    | 18.3%            |
| Branksome     | 59.0%    | 38.6%            |
| Longfield     | 73.0%    | 48.9%            |
| Hummersknott  | 67.0%    | 61.0%            |
| Carmel RC     | 95.0%    | 73.0%            |
| Beaumont Hill | 0%       | 0%               |

21. When comparing the LA's performance in 2008 with the performance of LAs nationally in 2007, our cumulative score of approximately 71.7% would have made us the 5th highest achieving authority in the country. Our result is the highest in the Tees Valley in 2008 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in the region.
22. In respect of National Challenge schools (Haughton and Longfield) we are pleased with progress in general, though we recognise that a rapid improvement is needed as regards Maths and to a lesser extent English at Haughton. However, it should be noted that we are awaiting the outcome of appeals against marks awarded and may yet see an increase in final scores. We have submitted National Challenge action plans for both schools, which have been accepted by DCSF. Predictions for both schools, based on 2007 KS3 SATs suggest the schools should do at least as well, and probably better, in 2009.
23. The DCSF intend to extend the National Challenge to those secondary schools which data suggests are 'coasting' or not making enough progress with the children in their care. Using the criteria at present suggested by DCSF, Darlington would not have any schools which fell into this category based on GCSE results to 2007. Carmel, Hurworth and Hummersknott would fall into the category where pupils are deemed to be making good progress whilst Longfield, Haughton and Branksome would fall into the improving category. We are analysing the 2008 results at present.
24. Along with the improved examination performance listed above, it is pleasing to note that attendance has improved across the LA in 2007/8 whilst permanent exclusions have fallen from a high of 47 in 2006/7 to 23 in 2007/8. Fixed term exclusions have halved in the same period.
25. Performance at A level is again high with students at Carmel RC College and Queen Elizabeth VIth Form College achieving pass rates of 98.1% in Carmel's case and 98.4% in Queen Elizabeth's. In both cases the Colleges' Average points score per exam entry was above the national average.

### **Outcome of consultation**

26. No consultation was required in the production of this report.