

---

**SCHOOL PERFORMANCE IN NATIONAL TESTS/EXAMINATIONS - 2007**

---

**Purpose of Report**

1. To provide Members with an early analysis of performance in the national tests and examinations in 2007. Members should note that the results are as yet unconfirmed and may change due to remarking of papers, appeals etc.

**Information and Analysis**

2. Each year pupils undertake a range of national tests/exams at age 7 (Key Stage 1), 11 (Key Stage 2), 14 (Key Stage 3), 16 (Key Stage 4) as part of the assessment requirements of the National Curriculum.

**Key Stage 1**

3. Results in Darlington in 2007 for L2+ in all assessed Key Stage 1 components are: Speaking and Listening 82.9%, Writing 77.3%, Reading 81.8%, Mathematics 88.2% and Science 88.2%. With the exception of Level 2+ Science which showed an increase of 0.8% results show a slight decline as schools now use teacher assessment to determine individual pupil levels at the end of Key Stage 1, as opposed to a one off test. This is considered to give a more accurate picture of a child's ability. This move toward greater accuracy has led to a decline in % achieving L2+ at Key Stage 1 in general, across the country.

**Key Stage 2**

4. At the end of Key Stage 2 primary schools in Darlington have in general consolidated and in some cases improved upon their good performance of 2006. At Level 4+ performance in English and Reading is within 0.9% of national averages whilst that in Science is 2% above, in Maths it is 3% above and in Writing 4% above national figures. At Level 5 our pupils have exceeded the national average in all five measured areas. The improvement in English at Level 5 which has increased by 15.9% to 37.2% since 2005 is worthy of particular note.

**Key Stage 3**

5. At the end of Key Stage 3 results in Darlington have improved significantly at Level 5+ in English (up 7.2%), Reading (up 10.3%) and Writing (up 5.9%). The Writing result is of particular note as the national average dropped by 3% in 2007. Small gains at Level 6+ in all areas of English were also recorded. In Maths the 3.5% gain made in 2006 at Level 5+ was consolidated against a worsening national picture whilst in Science Darlington's score at Level 5+ increased by 1.7% to 72%. In ICT we recorded a 0.2% rise at Level 5+ and a 5.6% rise at level 6+ so placing all the Borough's scores above or in line with national averages for KS3 with the exception of writing which despite rising by over 10% on our 2006 result is still 1% below the national average.

## **Key Stage 4**

6. Darlington's GCSE results in 2007 at 5 A\* - C are 59.5%, which is an increase of 1.6% on last year - see **Appendix 1**. This places Darlington 2nd in rank order amongst Tees Valley authorities, and eighth in the whole of the North East. However our position regionally improves to equal second when a score of 45.4% students obtaining 5A\* - C including English and Maths is considered.

There are strong results from a number of schools across the borough in all Key Stages. Further data analysis will be carried out by Darlington School Improvement Partners who will work with all schools to improve performance.

## **Legal Implications**

7. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

## **Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

8. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

## **Recommendation**

9. Members are asked to note the contents of this report

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

## **Background Papers**

No Background papers were used in the preparation of this report.  
Andrew Dunn. Ext 2824