



Report to Select Committee

Date:	23 rd March 2023
Title:	Education Standards Report
Relevant councillor(s):	Anita Cranmer
Author and/or contact officer:	Gareth Drawmer
Ward(s) affected:	All
Recommendations:	For the committee to note the report and the action plans it contains.
Reason for decision:	This will continue to support school improvement across all aspects of mainstream education provision across Buckinghamshire

1. Executive summary

The Education Standards Report delivers the key information relating to educational outcomes for Children & Young People in Buckinghamshire for the academic year 2021-2022. This is the first time that attainment data at Early Years and Primary School level has been published since the Covid pandemic.

The report demonstrates that overall standards for pupils in Buckinghamshire schools are broadly in line with or above national comparators, included in these figures is a section showing outcomes for children who were looked after by the LA during this period. The report identifies that the attainment gap between disadvantaged children in Buckinghamshire and non-disadvantaged children nationally has increased post covid.

The report shows that exclusions, both fixed term and permanent were below national figures for Buckinghamshire schools. The report identifies that Buckinghamshire has a higher percentage of schools rated good or better by Ofsted than schools nationally. More children in Buckinghamshire attend a good or better school now than this time last year.

The report shows that grammar schools in Buckinghamshire are admitting more children who are eligible for free school meals than in the past. It also shows that fewer pupils from outside of the LA attend Buckinghamshire grammar schools. It also shows that the percentage of children who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) in Buckinghamshire is lower than that nationally.

2. Content of report

2.1 The full standards report is attached as a PowerPoint presentation below.

2.2 The structure of the report is as follows:

- Introduction
- Attainment in Early Years
- Attainment and progress in schools
- Outcomes for children in need, including children looked after
- Exclusions
- Ofsted Inspections
- Buckinghamshire Secondary Transfer Test (“11 plus”)
- Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

3. Financial implications

3.1 All activity in the report identified in action plans is budgeted within the current service financial envelope.

4. Corporate implications

4.1 Outcomes from this report feed into a number of key corporate areas of activity:

- a) The Education and Skills Strategy priorities 2 and 3 directly relate to the work identified in this report
 - Priority 2: Preparing our young learners to reach their potential as adults
 - Priority 3: Collaborative school improvement to raise standards
- b) The Education Strategy Board seeks to develop closer collaborative engagement between all stakeholders in the Local Authority including CEOs

of local Multi Academy Trusts, ensuring stronger outcomes for all children and young people.

- c) The work of the Buckinghamshire Challenge Board (referenced in primary and secondary action plans), to identify best practice in raising attainment for disadvantaged pupils is designed to work across the whole county. Where that activity ties with the levelling up wards identified via the Opportunity Bucks Board, closer partnership working is being developed to ensure that plans and activity are aligned to best effect.

5. Communication, engagement & further consultation

- 5.1 Information in the report will be shared with school leaders and governors in a variety of forums to enable them to evaluate their own school's performance against the picture across the LA and adapt their school improvement plans accordingly.

6. Next steps and review

- 6.1 Action plans will be carried forward through service teams to ensure areas for development are addressed. The report for the academic year 2022-2023 will be brought to the committee in the next calendar year.

