

RESEARCH AND STATISTICS UNIT

THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PORTUGUESE PUPILS IN LAMBETH

Research Brief - 2023

1. Introduction

This report presents the results of the 2023 Key Stage 1, 2, and GCSE tests and assessments for Portuguese pupils in Lambeth. The purpose of this report is to encourage the use of Key Stage data and to provide questions as a basis for improving Key Stage performance for Portuguese pupils in schools.

2. Overall Achievement and Main Findings

Table 1 shows the results in 2023 for tests at KS1, KS2 and GCSE. In the primary phase Portuguese pupils generally performed below the Lambeth and national outcomes in all subjects, although they were above the national in maths at KS2. At GCSE their outcomes were more favourable, being on a par with the Lambeth and national in the attainment indicators, together with a good positive score in Progress 8.

Table 1: Portuguese Pupils KS1, KS2, and GCSE Performance 2023

Key Stages		2023		
		All Portuguese pupils	Lambeth All Pupils	National All Pupils
KS1 - Level Expected	Reading	59%	70%	68%
	Writing	54%	63%	60%
	Maths	61%	72%	70%
	Average	58%	68%	66%
KS2 - Level Expected	Reading	73%	77%	73%
	Writing TA	69%	74%	72%
	Maths	76%	77%	73%
	All RWM	56%	64%	60%
GCSE	9 to 4 English and Maths	62%	63%	61%
	Attainment 8	45.4	44.8	44.6
	Progress 8	0.38	-0.01	0.00

3. Contextual Factors Influencing Achievement

A pupil's social and economic background can affect educational achievement. The following sections discuss factors affecting Key Stage results. All calculations for the “gap” between different factors are subject to rounding. Overall, Portuguese pupils are a highly disadvantaged group with 41% eligible for free school meals at KS2, and 39% of the GCSE cohort. 56% are not fluent in English at KS1, although this drops to 28% at KS2 and only 9% at GCSE.

Table 2: Social Characteristics of Portuguese Pupils in Lambeth Schools 2023

Key Stages	Total Cohort	Gender		FSM (%)	EAL			Mobility rate
		Boys (%)	Girls (%)		Stage A-C Not fluent in English	Stage D Competent	Stage E Fully fluent in English	
Key Stage 1	70	51%	49%	31%	56%	21%	9%	21%
Key Stage 2	90	48%	52%	41%	28%	43%	26%	14%
Key Stage 4	74	57%	43%	39%	9%	20%	30%	0%

EAL data was not available for 39% of the GCSE cohort this year.

3.1 Gender

This year Portuguese boys achieved much higher outcomes than girls at KS1, which is contrary to the trend seen both locally and nationally. At KS2 and GCSE Portuguese girls outperformed boys in most instances, a pattern reflected nationally and across Lambeth. The largest gaps were in reading and maths at KS2, with Portuguese girls performing strongly in these subjects.

Table 3: Portuguese Pupils KS1, KS2, and GCSE Performance by Gender 2023

Key Stages		Portuguese			Lambeth All Pupils			National All Pupils		
		Boys	Girls	Gap	Boys	Girls	Gap	Boys	Girls	Gap
KS1 - Level Expected	Reading	67%	50%	-17%	66%	74%	+8%	65%	72%	+7%
	Writing	64%	44%	-20%	57%	69%	+12%	54%	66%	+12%
	Maths	72%	50%	-22%	70%	73%	+3%	71%	70%	-1%
	Average	68%	48%	-20%	64%	72%	+8%	63%	69%	+6%
KS2 - Level Expected	Reading	58%	87%	+29%	74%	80%	+6%	70%	76%	+6%
	Writing TA	53%	83%	+30%	68%	79%	+11%	65%	78%	+13%
	Maths	77%	74%	-3%	77%	78%	+1%	74%	72%	-2%
	All RWM	44%	66%	+22%	60%	68%	+8%	56%	63%	+7%
GCSE	9 to 4 English and Maths	60%	66%	+6%	61%	65%	+4%	58%	64%	+6%
	Attainment 8	42.6	49.1	+6.5	42.4	47.2	+4.8	42.2	47.3	+5.1
	Progress 8	0.17	0.65	+0.48	-0.21	0.06	+0.27	-0.21	0.10	+0.31

3.2 Free School Meals

Portuguese pupils who were eligible for free school meals performed below their paid meal peers at KS1 and GCSE, although the gaps were much smaller at KS1 between the two cohorts when compared to the Lambeth and national gaps. The reverse was generally the case at KS2 this year, with Portuguese FSM pupils eleven percentage points above the paid meals cohort in the RWM indicator, with their result also above the corresponding Lambeth FSM cohort's outcome. Portuguese FSM pupils were on a par with their Lambeth FSM peers in the GCSE 9-4 E&M indicator and nine percentage points above the national FSM result.

Table 4: Portuguese Pupils KS1, KS2, and GCSE Performance by Free School Meals 2023

Key Stages		Portuguese			Lambeth All Pupils			National All Pupils		
		Free Meals	Paid Meals	Gap	Free Meals	Paid Meals	Gap	Free Meals	Paid Meals	Gap
KS1 – Expected Standard	Reading	59%	60%	-1%	63%	76%	-13%	54%	73%	-19%
	Writing	50%	57%	-7%	54%	69%	-15%	44%	65%	-21%
	Maths	59%	64%	-5%	64%	78%	-14%	56%	75%	-19%
	Average	56%	60%	-4%	60%	74%	-14%	51%	71%	-20%
KS2 – Expected Standard	Reading	81%	68%	+13%	69%	82%	-13%	60%	78%	-18%
	Writing TA	73%	66%	+7%	65%	81%	-16%	57%	77%	-20%
	Maths	73%	77%	-4%	69%	83%	-14%	58%	79%	-21%
	All RWM	62%	51%	+11%	54%	72%	-18%	43%	66%	-23%
GCSE	9 to 4 English and Maths	52%	69%	-17%	52%	70%	-18%	43%	72%	-29%
	Attainment 8	40.8	48.3	-7.5	39.1	48.4	-9.3	34.8	49.6	-14.8
	Progress 8	-0.15	0.72	-0.87	-0.30	0.21	-0.51	-0.58	0.13	-0.71

3.3 Ethnic background

Table 5 shows that Portuguese pupils remain, in general terms, a lower performing group when compared to the other main ethnic groups in Lambeth. Only Caribbean pupils were consistently below the Portuguese cohort. However, their GCSE results were encouraging and their positive Progress 8 measure was second only to the 'White Other' group.

Table 5: Achievement of Portuguese Pupils and Major Lambeth Ethnic Groups in Lambeth 2023

Key Stages		Portuguese	Somali	African	Black Other	Caribbean	White British	White Other
KS1 - Level Expected	Reading	59%	67%	70%	72%	57%	85%	72%
	Writing	54%	57%	63%	59%	48%	76%	68%
	Maths	61%	65%	69%	68%	58%	86%	76%
	Average	58%	63%	67%	66%	54%	82%	72%
KS2 - Level Expected	Reading	73%	77%	75%	68%	67%	88%	81%
	Writing TA	69%	72%	75%	62%	64%	85%	79%
	Maths	76%	80%	79%	72%	62%	88%	85%
	All RWM	56%	63%	63%	55%	49%	78%	73%
GCSE	9 to 4 English and Maths	62%	67%	69%	51%	48%	68%	70%
	Attainment 8	45.4	43.6	45.9	40.6	35.5	47.9	50.4
	Progress 8	0.38	-0.03	0.14	-0.33	-0.58	-0.03	0.55

* Somali children included in the African results

Compared to other ethnic groups nationally, at KS1 Lambeth Portuguese pupils performed below all the major national ethnic groups (see table 6), but had relatively favourable outcomes at both KS2 and GCSE.

Table 6: Achievement of Lambeth Portuguese Pupils and Major Ethnic Groups in England 2023

Key Stages		Lambeth Portuguese	National				
			African	Black Other	Caribbean	White British	White Other
KS1 - Level Expected	Reading	59%	70%	67%	64%	69%	65%
	Writing	54%	63%	59%	55%	60%	58%
	Maths	61%	69%	66%	61%	71%	71%
	Average	58%	67%	64%	60%	67%	65%
KS2 - Level Expected	Reading	73%	74%	70%	67%	73%	70%
	Writing TA	69%	75%	70%	66%	71%	71%
	Maths	76%	76%	69%	63%	71%	76%
	RWM	56%	63%	56%	50%	59%	60%
GCSE	9 to 4 English and Maths	62%	69%	59%	52%	63%	66%
	Attainment 8	45.4	48.6	44.2	39.9	44.8	48.3
	Progress 8	0.38	0.37	0.09	-0.24	0.07	0.46

3.4 Fluency in English

Generally in Lambeth, the higher a pupil's level of English the better they perform, with fully fluent pupils often outperforming pupils who are monolingual English speakers. This is no different for Portuguese pupils who show the same increase in achievement alongside fluency levels at all key stages (see table 7 below). Bear in mind cohort sizes can be small in some cases, such as the English Only groups and the A-C non-fluent cohort at GCSE.

Table 7: Achievement of Portuguese Pupils by Language Fluency in Lambeth 2023

Proficiency stage	KS1 - Average	KS2 - RWM	GCSE – % 9 to 4 grades
Stages A-C Non-Fluent	51%	32%	57%
Stage D - Competent	78%	62%	67%
Stage E - Fluent	78%	74%	73%
English Only	25%	0%	0%
All Portuguese Pupils	58%	56%	62%

4. Conclusions and Key Issues

- In general terms, Portuguese pupils remain one of the lowest performing groups relative to the other main ethnic groups in Lambeth.
- The results of Portuguese pupils in 2023 were below the Lambeth and national averages in the primary phase, whereas the reverse was true at GCSE which is encouraging.
- Portuguese boys performed much better than girls at KS1 this year, with girls outperforming boys at KS2 and GCSE in all instances bar maths at KS2.
- In terms of free school meal status, the gaps in attainment were smaller amongst the Portuguese cohorts at KS1 than the outcomes seen both locally and nationally. At KS2 Portuguese FSM pupils actually performed better than their paid meal peers in three of the four indicators shown.
- Portuguese pupils show higher attainment the more fluent in English they become, which matches the general expectation for all EAL pupils.

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