

RESEARCH AND STATISTICS UNIT

THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SOMALI 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 Somali 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 Somali pupils in schools.

2. Overall Achievement and Main Findings

Table 1 shows the results in 2023 for tests at KS1, KS2 and GCSE. At KS1 Somali pupils performed below the Lambeth and national outcomes, although their reading result was only one percentage point below the national average. At KS2 they were in line with Lambeth and above the national result in the RWM combined indicator. Maths was their strongest subject, being seven percentage points above the national result. At GCSE they were above both the Lambeth and national outcomes in the threshold indicator of 9-4, but slightly below in Attainment 8.

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

Key Stages		2023		
		All Somali pupils	Lambeth All Pupils	National All Pupils
KS1 - Level Expected	Reading	67%	70%	68%
	Writing	57%	63%	60%
	Maths	65%	72%	70%
	Average	63%	68%	66%
KS2 - Level Expected	Reading	77%	77%	73%
	Writing TA	72%	74%	72%
	Maths	80%	77%	73%
	All RWM	63%	64%	60%
GCSE	9 to 4 English and Maths	67%	63%	61%
	Attainment 8	43.6	44.8	44.6
	Progress 8	-0.03	-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, Somali pupils are a highly disadvantaged group with half of the cohort eligible for free school meals at both KS1 and KS2, and 46% at GCSE. 69% are not fluent in English at KS1, 37% at KS2, with the figure being much lower at only 4% at GCSE. This is encouraging as it indicates English acquisition improves during their schooling.

Table 2: Social Characteristics of Somali 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	86	53%	47%	51%	69%	10%	7%	26%
Key Stage 2	119	46%	54%	57%	37%	39%	20%	17%
Key Stage 4	99	48%	52%	46%	4%	11%	51%	6%

Note: EAL data was not available for 32% of the Somali cohort at GCSE.

3.1 Gender

For the Somali cohort in 2023, boys either outperformed or were on a par with girls at all key stages, which is the reverse of the pattern seen both locally and nationally.

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

Key Stages		Somali			Lambeth All Pupils			National All Pupils		
		Boys	Girls	Gap	Boys	Girls	Gap	Boys	Girls	Gap
KS1 - Level Expected	Reading	73%	63%	-10%	66%	74%	+8%	65%	72%	+7%
	Writing	58%	57%	-1%	57%	69%	+12%	54%	66%	+12%
	Maths	63%	67%	+4%	70%	73%	+3%	71%	70%	-1%
	Average	64%	62%	-2%	64%	72%	+8%	63%	69%	+6%
KS2 - Level Expected	Reading	76%	77%	+1%	74%	80%	+6%	70%	76%	+6%
	Writing TA	71%	72%	+1%	68%	79%	+11%	65%	78%	+13%
	Maths	80%	78%	-2%	77%	78%	+1%	74%	72%	-2%
	All RWM	64%	61%	-3%	60%	68%	+8%	56%	63%	+7%
GCSE	9 to 4 English and Maths	69%	65%	-4%	61%	65%	+4%	58%	64%	+6%
	Attainment 8	44.7	42.6	-2.1	42.4	47.2	+4.8	42.2	47.3	+5.1
	Progress 8	0.06	-0.11	-0.16	-0.21	0.06	+0.27	-0.21	0.10	+0.31

3.2 Free School Meals

At KS1 Somali FSM pupils performed above their paid meal peers, which is contrary to the Lambeth and national outcomes. Their strongest subject was maths at eleven percentage points above the corresponding Lambeth FSM result. At KS2 and GCSE the Somali FSM cohort performed in line with the local and national expectation, being below their paid meal peers. However, in most instances the gaps were less significant.

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

Key Stages		Somali			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	70%	68%	+2%	63%	76%	-13%	54%	73%	-19%
	Writing	64%	53%	+11%	54%	69%	-15%	44%	65%	-21%
	Maths	73%	60%	+13%	64%	78%	-14%	56%	75%	-19%
	Average	69%	60%	+9%	60%	74%	-14%	51%	71%	-20%
KS2 – Expected Standard	Reading	72%	82%	-10%	69%	82%	-13%	60%	78%	-18%
	Writing TA	63%	82%	-19%	65%	81%	-16%	57%	77%	-20%
	Maths	75%	84%	-9%	69%	83%	-14%	58%	79%	-21%
	All RWM	59%	67%	-8%	54%	72%	-18%	43%	66%	-23%
GCSE	9 to 4 English and Maths	61%	72%	-11%	52%	70%	-18%	43%	72%	-29%
	Attainment 8	41.9	45.1	-3.2	39.1	48.4	-9.3	34.8	49.6	-14.8
	Progress 8	-0.09	0.03	+0.12	-0.30	0.21	-0.51	-0.58	0.13	-0.71

3.3 Ethnic background

Table 5 shows that Somali pupils were far from the lowest performing group in Lambeth. To the contrary, they had some of the highest outcomes, such as in maths at KS2 and the 9 to 4 E&M indicator at GCSE. This is a good improvement over their historically lower outcomes.

Table 5: Achievement of Somali 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	55%	57%	63%	59%	48%	76%	68%
	Maths	62%	65%	69%	68%	58%	86%	76%
	Average	59%	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%
	Progress 8	0.38	-0.03	0.14	-0.33	-0.58	-0.03	0.55
	Attainment 8	45.4	43.6	45.9	40.6	35.5	47.9	50.4

* Somali children included in the African results

There is no direct comparison available for Somali pupils at the national level. However, in several instances Somali pupils performed above the other major ethnicities nationally (see table 6 overleaf). For example, outcomes in reading and maths at KS2 were above those of the wider national African cohort.

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

Key Stages		Lambeth Somali	National				
			African	Black Other	Caribbean	White British	White Other
KS1 - Level Expected	Reading	67%	70%	67%	64%	69%	65%
	Writing	57%	63%	59%	55%	60%	58%
	Maths	65%	69%	66%	61%	71%	71%
	Average	63%	67%	64%	60%	67%	65%
KS2 - Level Expected	Reading	77%	74%	70%	67%	73%	70%
	Writing TA	72%	75%	70%	66%	71%	71%
	Maths	80%	76%	69%	63%	71%	76%
	RWM	63%	63%	56%	50%	59%	60%
GCSE	9 to 4 English and Maths	67%	69%	59%	52%	63%	66%
	Attainment 8	-0.03	0.37	0.09	-0.24	0.07	0.46
	Progress 8	43.6	48.6	44.2	39.9	44.8	48.3

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 Somali pupils who show the same increase in achievement alongside fluency levels in most instances (see table 7 below).

Please exercise caution in interpreting these outcomes as cohort numbers can be small, for example the stage D and E pupils at KS1.

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

Proficiency stage	KS1 - Average	KS2 - Average	GCSE – % 9 to 4 grades
Stages A-C Non-Fluent	57%	49%	0%
Stage D - Competent	85%	67%	45%
Stage E - Fluent	94%	65%	70%
English Only	n/a	n/a	n/a
All Somali Pupils	63%	63%	67%

n/a denotes there were no pupils for that relevant outcome.

4. Conclusions and Key Issues

- Somali pupils in Lambeth have made huge improvements at each key stage, so they no longer constitute the lowest performing group.
- Historically Somali girls generally performed better than boys, however the recent 2023 data shows boys either outperforming or being on a par with girls at all key stages.
- At KS2 and GCSE the Somali group showed similar patterns as the Lambeth and national cohorts in FSM, with the reverse being true at KS1 in 2023.

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