

STANDARDS AND QUALITY IN EDUCATION 2020-21

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor Susan O'Brien
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Families, Education & Wellbeing
Officer Contact(s)	Dan Kennedy – Central Services Directorate
Papers with report	Appendix - Standards & Quality of Education in Hillingdon 2020-21

HEADLINES

Summary	This report provides the Cabinet with an overview of the standards and quality of education across Hillingdon schools and settings for Hillingdon's children, young people and adults.
Putting our Residents First	This report supports the following Council objectives of: <i>Our People</i> .
Financial Cost	N/A
Relevant Select Committee	Families, Health & Wellbeing
Ward(s)	All

RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet note the key findings set out in the report.

Reasons for recommendation

The report usually focuses primarily on attainment, progress and achievement for the preceding academic year along with references to wider measures of educational success. However, due to the changes of statutory school tests and examinations during Covid-19, there is limited new data available in this report. Officers have therefore used the last published data from 2018-19 and provided updated contextual information.

Alternative options considered / risk management

None.

Select Committee comments

Following their meeting on 31 March 2022, The Families, Health & Wellbeing Select Committee have submitted the following comments to Cabinet on this report:

The Committee commends the comprehensive and well-presented report, and the work of the officer team during the course of this unprecedented and extraordinarily challenging period working to raise the standards and quality of education in Hillingdon. The Committee particularly welcomes the establishment of a partnership model with schools and the opportunity it brings to drive improvements across the sector in Hillingdon.

Improvements in attainment of looked after children, the reduction of schools at risk of underperformance, and the development of mental health support capacity in schools are welcome. The Committee notes the approach to ongoing challenges in areas such as exclusions, attendance, NEETs and welcomes efforts to continue to raise standards.

The Committee looks forward to future reporting with updates in these and other areas within the scope of this report, including actions that are being taken to further improve schools where this is needed.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Standards and Quality in Education 2020-21 report attached in the appendix provides an overview of the standards and quality of education across Hillingdon schools and settings for Hillingdon's children, young people and adults. As also set out in the report's executive summary, to support further improvement of standards in Hillingdon, it identifies specific areas for action with schools, settings and partners and is divided into three sections:

Part 1 – Education Improvement and Impact

Covid recovery for schools has been a large focus of 2020-21 and the Council and Schools have responded positively, with resilience. The Council continues to raise standards in education with monitoring, support and challenge, working with internal and external partners. Ofsted inspections have been suspended for the majority of this year and Hillingdon remains in line with national outcomes. 14 schools were listed on the Council's Schools At Risk Register; this comprised of 7 academy schools and 7 maintained schools (decreased by 5). The Regional Schools' Commissioner is responsible for academy school performance and the Council worked closely with our 7 maintained schools to improve performance and outcomes. Various education initiatives have taken place with a sharp focus on Wellbeing and Mental Health support and child exploitation. School Place Planning has seen a decline in primary places and an increase in secondary places. School Admissions had a slight increase in secondary applications, a decrease in primary applications and an increase in elected home education applications.

Part 2 – Vulnerable Children and Young People's Outcomes

Looked after children (LAC) have had a successful year despite the Covid challenges. LAC not in education, employment or training (NEET) is higher than the London average. SEND has seen a growth in EHCPs. Service wide transformation has taken place. Closing the gap between

disadvantaged pupils and their peers remains a key focus. Elective home education has increased, predominately as a result of the pandemic. Children missing education referrals has increased from the previous year. The Borough is broadly in line with national for absence and had a decrease in permanent exclusions compared with last year's data. Mainstream NEET figures are slightly above our West London neighbours.

Part 3 – Educational Performance

This section usually focuses primarily on attainment, progress and achievement for the preceding academic year along with references to wider measures of educational success. However, due to the changes of statutory school tests and examinations during Covid-19, there is limited new data available in this report. Officers have therefore used the last published data from 2018/19 and provided updated contextual information.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

The benefit or impact upon Hillingdon residents, service users and communities?

This report provides a public overview and account of the standards and quality of education services available to Hillingdon residents.

Consultation carried out or required

Not required.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and there are no financial implications arising from the recommendation

Legal

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. Whenever necessary legal advice is given in relation to specific issues as they arise to ensure that the Council always meets its legal obligations.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL