

ANNUAL EDUCATION STANDARDS REPORT 2021/22

Cabinet Member(s)	Cllr Susan O'Brien
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education
Officer Contact(s)	Michael Hawkins, Education Improvement & Partnerships
Papers with report	Annual Education Standards Report 2021/22

HEADLINES

Summary	This report provides the Cabinet with an overview of the standards of education across Hillingdon schools and settings for Hillingdon's children, young people and adults.
Putting our Residents First Delivering on the Council Strategy 2022-2026	This report supports our ambition for residents / the Council of: An efficient, well-run, digital-enabled council working with partners to deliver services to improve the lives of all our residents This report supports our commitments to residents of: Thriving, Healthy Households
Financial Cost	N/A
Relevant Select Committee	Children, Families and Education Select Committee
Relevant Ward(s)	N/A

RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet note the Annual Education Standards Report 2021-22 and the key findings set out.

Reasons for recommendation

This report provides an overview of the standards and quality of education across Hillingdon schools and settings for Hillingdon's children, young people and adults. The report focuses primarily on attainment, progress and achievement for the preceding academic year along with references to wider measures of educational success.

Alternative options considered / risk management

None.

Select Committee comments

The Committee has concerns around a drop in attainment levels, in particular at Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 5. However, the Committee also recognises the huge amount of pressure that Hillingdon schools faced during the 2021/2022 academic year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is of paramount importance that all children and young people in Hillingdon are provided with a good quality education in a safe learning environment. Therefore, there must also be a continued focus on closing the gaps in attainment and progress between disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils and their peers. Moreover, the Council must continue to challenge underperformance where this occurs, and to ensure that robust measures are in place to promote high standards.

The Committee further notes that collaborative partnerships are a crucial tool to overcoming the challenges that schools have faced and are pleased to see that mental health and wellbeing continues to be a priority, especially with the ongoing effects of the legacy of COVID-19.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Annual Education Standards Report for 2021-22 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. To support further improvement of standards in Hillingdon the report identifies specific areas for action with schools, settings and partners and is divided into three sections:

Part 1 – Education Improvement and Impact

Living with Covid for schools has been a large focus of 2021-22 and the Council and Schools have responded positively and with resilience. The Council continues to raise standards in education with monitoring, support and challenge, working with internal and external partners. Ofsted inspections resumed in full, and Hillingdon remains in line with national outcomes. 16 schools were listed on the Council's Schools At Risk Register; this comprised of 8 academy schools and 8 maintained schools (increased by 2). The Regional Schools' Commissioner is responsible for academy school performance and the Council worked closely with our 8 maintained schools to improve performance and outcomes. Various education initiatives have taken place with a continued focus on Wellbeing and Mental Health support and vulnerable children. School Place Planning has seen a decline in demand for primary places and an increase in demand for 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. Closing the gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers remains a key focus. Elective home education has increased, predominately because of the pandemic. Children missing education referrals have also increased from the previous year. The borough is broadly in line with national data 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 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 suspension of data during the pandemic, the data will be hard to compare with the previous year, this will improve in next year’s report of 2022/23.

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

N/A

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

- [Previous reports to Cabinet annual on educational standards](#)
- [Children, Families & Education Select Committee consideration 14 March 2023](#)