

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



EDUCATION EXECUTIVE

ACHIEVEMENT OF CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE LEVELS 2023/24 (PRIMARY STAGES)

REPORT BY HEAD OF EDUCATION (PRIMARY, EARLY YEARS AND RESOURCES)

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Education Executive of the national publication of achievement of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) Levels 2023/24 and the performance of West Lothian pupils.

B. RECOMMENDATION

To note the publication of achievement of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) levels 2023/24 and the performance of West Lothian pupils.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Caring and compassionate; open, honest and accountable; and collaborate, inclusive and adaptive.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Education (Scotland) Act 1980 Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2014
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	The achievement of CfE Levels data is used to improve attainment, in line with the Council's Raising Educational Attainment Strategy.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Achievement of CfE Levels provides performance information which will be used by schools and the authority to drive improvement as reflected in Single Outcome Agreement Performance Indicators.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	School Devolved Budgets/Pupil Equity Funding
VII Consideration at PDSP	Not applicable
VIII Other consultations	None

D. TERMS OF REPORT

The Scottish Government has published data relating to the Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) Levels. The data relates to all pupils in Primary 1, Primary 4 and Primary 7.

It measures national performance in aspects of literacy (reading, writing, and listening and talking) and numeracy, and reports on the proportion of pupils who have achieved the expected CfE level, based on teacher professional judgements, relevant to their stage.

The information is based on teacher professional judgements as at June 2024.

Key National findings are as follows:-

- The percentages of primary school pupils achieving the expected CfE levels in 2023/24 have increased across all stages and organisers compared to 2022/23.
- For primary pupils combined, the proportion achieving expected levels in literacy (74 per cent) and numeracy (80 per cent) are the highest on record.
- As in previous years, the proportion of pupils achieving the expected CfE level across each primary school stage was highest in listening and talking, and lowest in writing. For listening and talking, 87 per cent of pupils in primary stages combined achieved the expected CfE level compared to 76 per cent for writing.
- The attainment gap among primary pupils combined was at its lowest ever level for literacy. As attainment among the most deprived has improved more than the least deprived in the past year, the attainment gap has narrowed slightly from 20.5 percentage points in 2022/23 to 20.3 percentage points in 2023/24.
- The attainment gap in numeracy increased from 17.0 percentage points in 2022/23 to 17.4 percentage points in 2023/24. This is slightly wider than it was in 2017/18 and 2018/19.

It is appropriate, however, to note the performance of West Lothian Schools in the national context. Key features of the achievement of West Lothian pupils are as follows:-

- In 2023/24, primary pupils are achieving above national performance in all 15 of the 15 national measures (see table below).
- Compared with 2018/19 (pre-pandemic), the attainment of P4 and P7 pupils was higher in 2023/24 across all organisers. However, compared with 2018/19, the attainment of P1 pupils was lower in 2023/24 across all organisers, typically by between 1 and 2 percentage points.
- The West Lothian attainment gap for primary pupils (P1, P4 and P7 combined) narrowed between 2022/23 and 2023/24 in both literacy and numeracy, from 21.5 percentage points to 17.8 percentage points in literacy, and from 17.4 percentage points to 17.1 percentage points in numeracy. The West Lothian attainment gaps were wider than the national attainment gaps in both literacy and numeracy in 2022/23, however both gaps were narrower in 2023/24. It should be noted that the West Lothian attainment gap in numeracy narrowed between 2022/23 and 2023/24, whereas the national gap widened.
- The West Lothian attainment gaps in 2023/24 were significantly narrower compared to 2018/19, when the West Lothian literacy gap was 23.6 percentage points and the West Lothian numeracy gap was 19.4 percentage points.
- West Lothian schools are addressing the 'gap' as part of the local authority's focussed improvement agenda.

The percentage of pupils achieving the expected CfE levels compared to the Scottish attainment is presented below. All figures are rounded to nearest whole number.

**Percentage of Pupils Achieving Expected Levels By Stage
(National Attainment in Brackets)**

	P1 Early Level	P4 First Level	P7 Second Level
Literacy	80% (77%)	79% (71%)	80% (74%)
Reading	84% (81%)	84% (79%)	86% (81%)
Writing	82% (79%)	80% (74%)	82% (76%)
Listening & Talking	90% (87%)	92% (87%)	92% (88%)
Numeracy	87% (85%)	84% (78%)	84% (78%)

E. CONCLUSION

The Education Executive is asked to note the publication of achievement of primary CfE Levels 2023/24 and that the performance of West Lothian primary pupils is above the national performance in 15 of the 15 measures of attainment and achievement.

The detailed information on pupils' achievement of the expected CfE level, based on teacher professional judgements, provides an additional source of information which will be used by Headteachers, teachers in the classroom, and by the Quality Improvement Team and the Performance Team in their work with individual schools to continue to raise attainment in line with the authority's Raising Educational Attainment Strategy.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

National Improvement Framework –
<https://www.gov.scot/policies/schools/national-improvement-framework/>

School Level CfE Attainment Information -
<https://public.tableau.com/profile/sq.eas.learninganalysis#!/vizhome/AchievementofCurriculumforExcellenceCfELevels-Dashboard/Dashboard1>

Appendices/attachments:

Presentation: Curriculum for Excellence – Achievement of Levels 23-24 – Primary Attainment

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Date of meeting: 14 January 2025