

Report to Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Oldham Primary and Secondary School Outcomes 2025

Portfolio Holder:

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Executive Summary

The appended report on *Oldham Primary and Secondary Outcomes 2025* sets out the Quality of Education for Children and Young people who are residents in our borough.

The schools and academies have an inclusive offer for Oldham's children and young people with a wide range of educational options dependent on what they want and need.

Oldham Learning Partnership noted these successes, but recognise there is more to do, and set priorities to get the basics right for all children and young people.

Recommendations

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee commends schools and academies on the impressive inclusion outcomes, concur with the Learning Partnership priorities and approve the report.

Oldham Primary and Secondary School Outcomes 2025

1 Background

1.1 Key positives from the report include:

Ofsted in 2024 reported 91% of Oldham primary schools graded as good and outstanding when the National rate was 90%.

Inclusion outcomes in Oldham are amongst the strongest of our Statistical Neighbours, often above National Averages. This follows focus over years by the local system. Transparent data, partnership work and prioritisation have components of this success.

Attendance has improved in both primary and secondary phases since the pandemic. The secondary rate is in the top 50 nationally and at its best rank.

Persistent Absence is similarly improved in both phases. The primary rate has returned to the pandemic level, and the secondary rank is at its best rank.

Suspension rates in the primary phase are strong because of action by Kingsland School staff, Headteachers and Officers. There are also improvements in the secondary phase.

Exclusion rates in the primary phase are now the best in England for a second year.

Achievement outcomes are stabilising and some have returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Year 1 Phonics has been stable for a period. Attainment is slightly below national but the local disadvantage gap is less pronounced, due to stronger local disadvantaged outcomes.

Key Stage 2 shows some recovery without stability.

Key Stage 4 Attainment 8 outcomes are stable and in line with the pre-pandemic position.

1.2 Key areas for improvement from the report include:

Ofsted in 2024, 62% of Oldham secondary schools graded as good and outstanding when the National rate was 81%.

Inclusion in the secondary phase because exclusion rates have increased.

Achievement outcomes are not so strong and there are gaps to comparators. Key Stage outcomes are stabilising, and challenges remain in regaining ground for phases and groups.

Key Stage 2 reading, writing and mathematics are still below the pre-pandemic and national levels. Mathematics is stronger, Reading is stalling and Writing remains a challenge.

Key Stage 4 English and mathematics performance is not strong and these Basics vary year-on-year. Disadvantaged and SEND pupils achieve much less than their peers.

1.3 Oldham Primary and Secondary School Outcomes are built on a robust system partnership which demonstrates success through these achievements.

We have more schools than ever that are rated Good and Outstanding by Ofsted, with Primary rate increasing from 81% to 91% and Secondary from 46% to 62%.

We have inclusive schools, with some of the best secondary attendance rates in the region and amongst the lowest primary exclusion rates in the country.

Achievement is stable and positive inclusion will support better attainment over time.

1.4 Oldham Learning Partnership is prioritising getting the basics right for all children and young people by supporting them to:

1. Be school ready
2. Have good attendance
3. Be Literate & Numerate
4. Have their Special Educational Needs met

2 **Appendices**

2.1 Education Outcomes Report 2024-25