

Educational Attainment and other Outcomes in 2023

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment



ISLINGTON



For a more equal future

Key Findings 2023

- Educational attainment in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) has **improved** on 2022 outcomes but remains just below National and Inner London figures.
- Key Stage 1 Expected Standard and Greater Depth outcomes were **better than national** for reading, writing, and maths. Greater Depth outcomes also **exceeded** Inner London. Expected Standard for maths was in-line with Inner London, whilst Reading and Writing were just below.
- Key Stage 2 outcomes **exceeded** National across most indicators with only Expected Standard for writing just below. When compared with Inner London, reading, writing, maths and combined outcomes were broadly in-line whilst Greater Depth across all measures were below Inner London.
- Rates of absence and persistent absence have increased across the Primary sector despite a decrease in both measures, nationally when compared with 2022.

Key Findings 2023 continued

- Pupils achieving a *standard* pass (Grade 4 – 9) was in-line with National figures and **above** National for those pupils attaining a *strong* pass (Grade 5 – 9) in English and Maths. Both indicators were lower when compared with Inner London figures.
- The number of Electively Home Educated (EHE) pupils has increased to over 300 for the first time in 2023.
- At KS5, students across Islington performed **better** across vocational qualifications when compared with National and Inner London figures. The % of students achieving 3 A*-A grades at A-level was below Inner London and National.
- The % of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) **fell** to 4.5% from 4.7% in 2022 and 4.8% in 2021. This was **lower** than the National figure but higher than Inner London.
- 96% of all school settings in Islington are rated as either Good or Outstanding. This compares with a National figure of 88% and is an improvement on pre-pandemic outcomes.

Key Findings 2023 concluded

- Primary school permanent exclusions and suspensions **decreased** slightly from 2022, although both indicators are **higher** than National and Inner London.
- Secondary school absence and persistent absence have **increased** on 2022 and are **above** Inner London and National.
- Permanent exclusions across Islington secondary schools have increased slightly on 2022 but remain **below** provisional National figures. The suspension rate has **reduced** from 2022 and for the first time since 2015, is **lower** than the provisional National figure for 2023.
- The Islington Key Stage 4 Attainment 8 score was **above** National but below Inner London. The Progress 8 score for all pupils was in-line with National but lower than Inner London.
- Black-Caribbean and Mixed-White & Black-Caribbean pupils have lower levels of attainment than the Islington average at Key Stages 2 & 4. We know these pupils also have relatively low levels of attendance, and low attendance has an impact on attainment.

Educational Attainment in 2023 – Headlines and Priorities

This report provides an overview of educational attainment and outcomes in Islington. We aim to ensure our schools are places where all young people can learn and thrive. We have set out an ambitious Education Plan for 2023 to 2030 and achieving our ambitions requires great teachers and leaders, outstanding schools, and a seamless, high-quality experience for young people from early years to adulthood. Results at Key Stage 4 represent a return to pre-pandemic times and with the grading of examinations returning to 2019 levels, the environment for schools remains challenging. The pandemic has exacerbated inequalities in pupil outcomes and its effects are still being felt, with the disadvantage gap at its widest in a decade nationally and pupil absences remaining stubbornly high. Narrowing disadvantage gaps will be a firm focus for the years ahead, with greater targeted support needed to counter persistent inequalities. There is still much to celebrate in this report as school leaders continue to champion young people across Islington, many coming from some of the most disadvantaged environments across London.

Early Years and Primary (Under 4–11)

- There are wide variations in outcomes between the ethnic groups at the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- At Key Stage 1 writing has been most adversely affected since 2019 levels. Performance both nationally and in Islington dropped by 9% points
- At KS2, Islington **outperformed** their national peers across all subjects in 2023
- Pupils with SEN achieved well at KS2.

Secondary and Post 16 (aged 12-16+)

- Attainment 8 (A8) was **above** National and 0.8% **higher** than 2019 outcomes.
- Variations between schools and disadvantaged A8 outcomes remain a focus in tackling inequality.
- The Progress 8 achievement gap between FSM and Non-FSM is below national but at 0.5 represents a half-grade lower than expected progress from KS2 and is an area of focus.
- The NEET figure at 4.5% shows a **third year falling** trend.

Strategic Priorities

- To improve attendance and reduce persistent absence.
- To reduce the number of suspensions across the secondary sector.
- To reduce the achievement gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils and targeted groups
- Increase take-up of Islington's Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) for two, three and four-year-olds.

Areas for further development

- To reduce the variation of achievement outcomes across our primary and secondary schools.
- Through the Islington Professional Partner model, better understand the targeted support our schools require.
- At KS5 increase the proportion of students achieving the higher grades at A* to B.

Educational Attainment in 2023 compared to previous years

The Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on schools in 2019/20 and 2020/21. In 2020 and 2021, the main summer series of exams for GCSEs, AS and A Levels (and their equivalents in Scotland) were cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic. Instead, students received grades based on teacher or lecturer assessment.

Phonics, Key Stage 1 and 2 assessments were not completed in either year.

In 2020 and 2021 grades awarded via teacher and lecturer assessment were significantly higher, overall, than they had been in 2019. Therefore, the results for these years are not included in this report.

In 2022, a full series of exams took place. Exam boards set the grading for Key Stages 4 and 5 to reflect the mid-point between 2019 and 2021, so results in 2022 were higher than in 2021.

In 2023, grading largely returned to 'normal', so results were lower in 2023 than 2022 across the country.

- The Early Years Foundation Stage was reformed in September 2021. As such, only 2022 and 2023 results are directly comparable.
- Results across the country in the Phonics screening check and at Key Stage 1 fell in 2022 compared to pre-pandemic levels. It is understood that this reflects the impact of the disruption to children's learning as a result of the pandemic. The same is true for Key Stage 2, although there was an increase in attainment in Reading both in Islington and Nationally.
- Throughout this release, comparisons are made with 2022 and with 2019. The more meaningful comparison for GCSEs and A-levels is with 2019, the last year that summer exams were taken before the pandemic, as 2023 saw a return to pre-pandemic grading, with some protections.

Summary by Key Stage

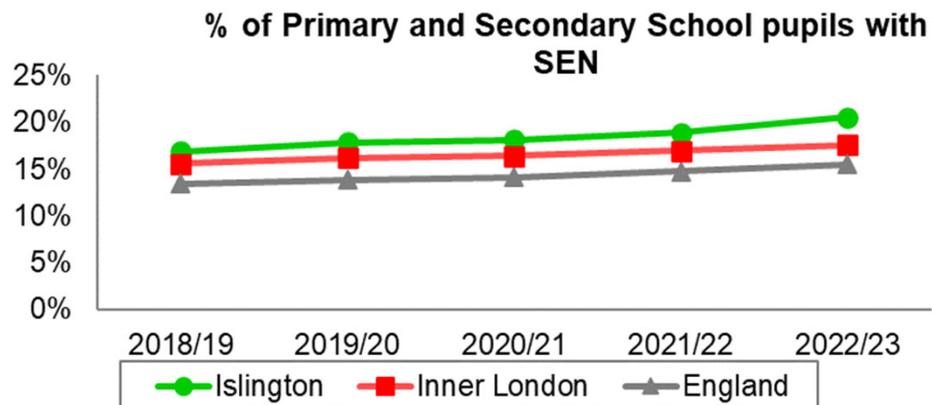
	2019	2022	2023
EYFSP			
Good Level of Development	71	64.7	66.6
Phonics			
Year 1	84	77	79
By the end of Year 2	92	89	89
Key Stage 1			
Reading	76	72	70
Writing	72	65	63
Maths	78	71	73
Key Stage 2			
RWM	70	63	65
Reading	76	77	75
Writing	82	72	76
Maths	80	72	77
Key Stage 4			
Attainment 8 (average score)	45.8	49.9	46.7
Progress 8 (average score)	0.03	0.07	-0.03
Basics (English & Maths) 5+	42.3	52.7	46.8
Key Stage 5			
Average A level result	C	B-	C+
APS per entry (A level)	31.15	37.15	34.35

The Islington Context

Islington is a relatively small Inner London borough with the second highest population density in the country. Just under 25,000 attend schools in the borough, and just under 24,000 of these are attending state-funded schools. School rolls are now falling for both the primary and secondary phases. Pupils are from a relatively diverse range of ethnic backgrounds, with 74% of pupils from minority ethnic backgrounds, although the largest single ethnic group is White-British.

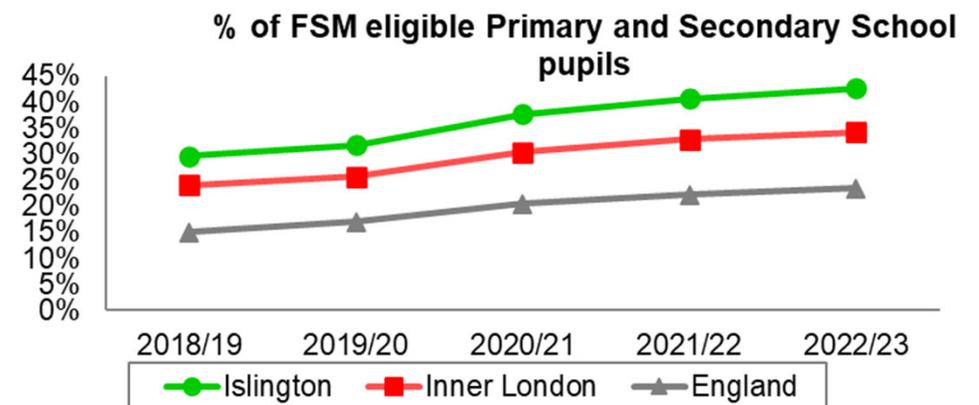
In 2022/23, Islington had the highest proportion of pupils with Special Educational Needs attending mainstream schools and Islington also had the highest proportion of pupils who were eligible for Free School Meals attending mainstream schools in the England. Nationally, these characteristics are associated with lower levels of attainment. Islington pupils from these groups have good levels of attainment compared to national averages. The aim, however, is for Islington pupils overall to achieve in line with or above the Inner London average.

Special Educational Needs



The proportion of pupils with SEN (i.e. with an Education, Health and Care Plan or at SEN Support) has been increasing in Islington and across England. In January 2023, Islington had the highest proportion of pupils in mainstream schools with SEN in the country, apart from City of London.

Free School Meal eligibility

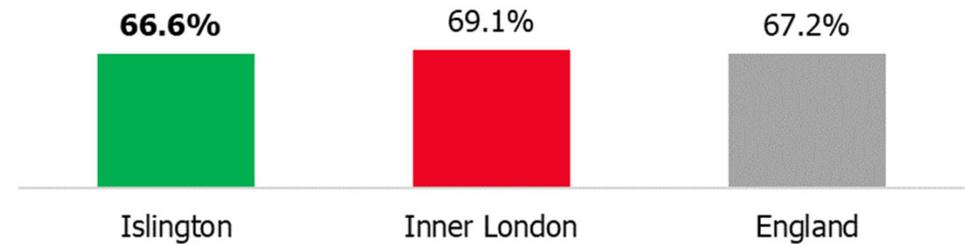


The proportion of primary and secondary school pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) has been increasing in Islington and across England. In January 2023, Islington had the highest proportion of FSM eligible pupils in mainstream schools in the country.

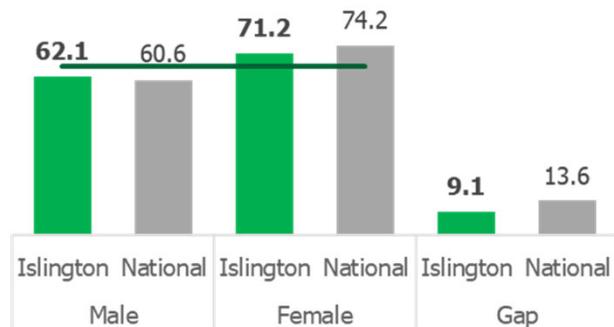
Early Years Foundation Stage

Children who achieve a Good Level of Development at the EYFS are regarded by the DfE as being 'school ready'. In 2023 in Islington 66.6% were school ready, which is slightly below the national figure and 2.5% points below Inner London. While the 2023 outturns are not directly comparable with the most recent 2019 outturns from before the Covid-19 pandemic, performance is lower than it was then across England. The pandemic has had an adverse impact on the education of many young people and overall outcomes have been lower in 2023 across all points of assessment in the primary phase.

% Achieving a Good Level of Development at the Early Years Foundation Stage in 2023



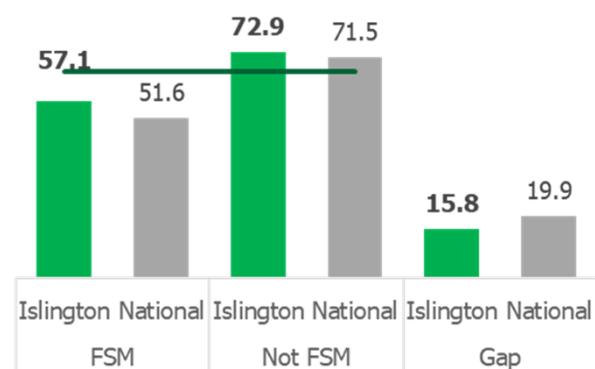
Gender



In Islington and nationally there is a gender gap at the EYFS. Locally it is 9.1% points, not as large as national (13.6%).

The gender gap is **smaller** in Islington in 2023 compared to 2022, while nationally there has been a 0.4% points increase. Closing the gender gap at the EYFS in future years will be a challenge as will closing the gap for these children as they reach the end of KS1.

Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility



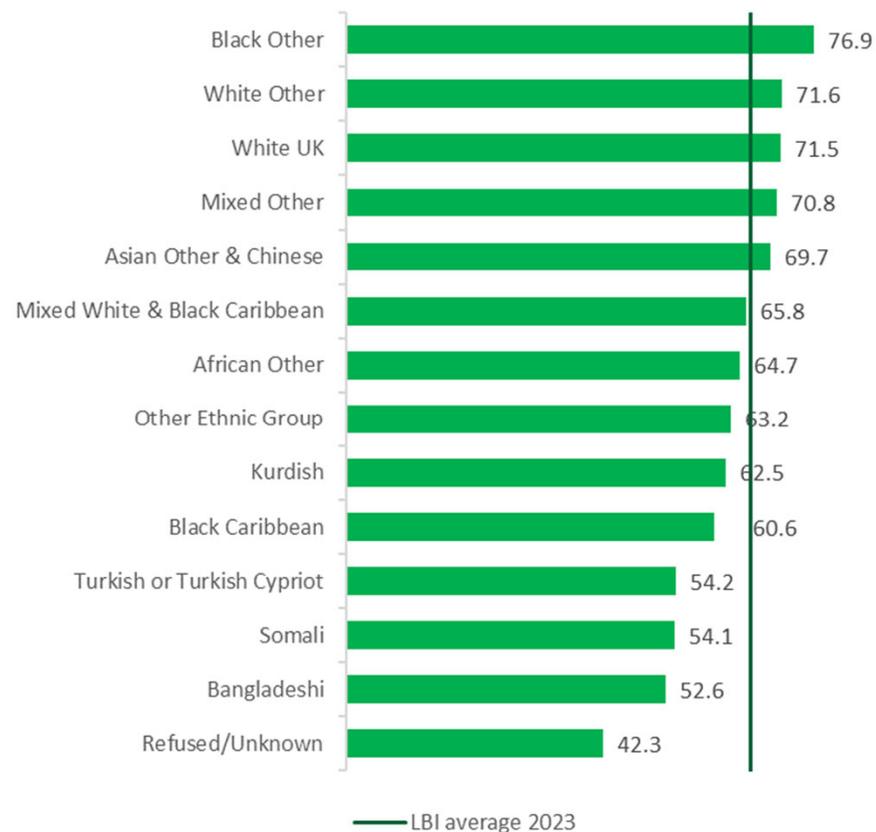
In Islington and nationally there is a FSM gap at the EYFS. Locally it is 15.8% points, not as large as national (19.9%) but bigger than the gender gap.

The FSM gap in 2023 is **smaller** than it was in 2022, which is a positive shift, however, there were still fewer children from poorer households who were school ready when starting KS1.

Early Years Foundation Stage

Islington wants to make sure that all young children get the best possible start to their education, yet there are wide variations in outcomes between the ethnic groups at the Early Years Foundation Stage. The highest performing ethnic groups at the Early Years Foundation Stage, in terms of achieving a Good Level of Development in 2023, were Black Other (76.9%), White Other (71.6%) and White UK (71.5%). Mixed Other (70.8%) and Asian Other & Chinese pupils (69.7%) also performed above the borough average of 66.6%. The lowest performing ethnic groups were Bangladeshi (52.6%), Somali (54.1%) and Turkish or Turkish Cypriot (54.2%).

Ethnic Groups Performance



SEN Performance

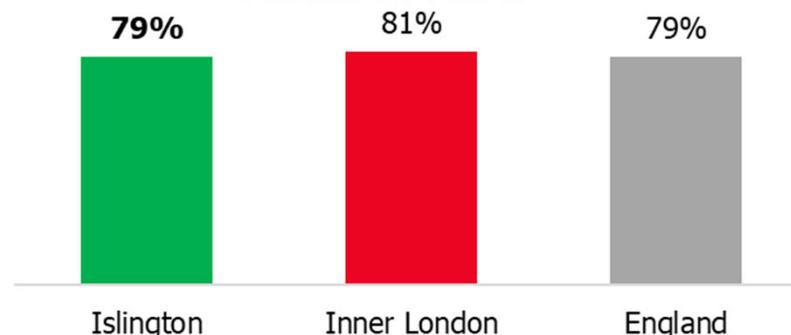
SEN Status	% achieving GLD		Gap in % Points
	Islington	National	
EHCP	5.2	3.8	1.4
SEN Support	32.9	24.3	8.6
All SEN	24.2	19.8	4.4
No SEN	76.1	74	2.1
All Pupils	66.6	67.2	-0.6

A **higher** proportion of pupils with SEN, both with an EHCP and with SEN Support, achieved a Good Level of Development in Islington compared to similar pupils nationally.

Phonics Screening Check (Year 1)

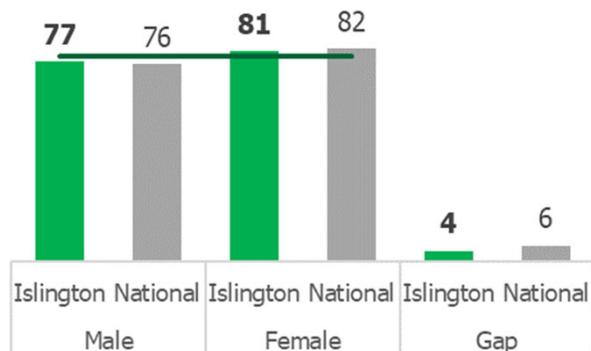
Children take the Phonics Screening Check in Year 1 and in 2023 in Islington 79% of children achieved the expected standard, the same as national and 2% points below Inner London. This cohort of children will have missed significant amounts of schooling due to the Covid-19 pandemic, when they were in nursery and Reception, and this is reflected in their overall performance which in Islington is 5% points lower compared to the outturns from 2019 but **higher** than last year by 2% points.

% Meeting the Expected Standard in Phonics in Year 1



Phonics (Working At Expected)	2019	2022	2023
Year 1	84	77	79
By the end of Year 2	92	89	89

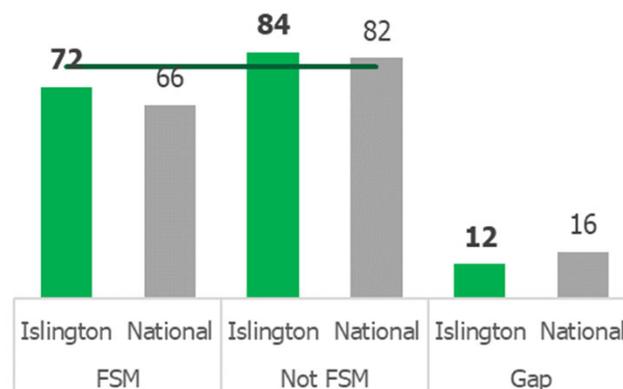
Gender



There is a gender gap in Phonics in Year 1 of 4% points in Islington and 6% points nationally with more girls achieving the standard.

A slightly **higher** proportion of boys passed Phonics in Year 1 in Islington, but a slightly lower proportion of girls did when compared to national.

Free School Meal eligibility



In Islington and nationally there is a FSM gap in Phonics. Locally it is 12% points, not as large as national (16%) but much bigger than the gender gap.

A **higher** proportion of FSM eligible pupils passed Phonics in Islington (72%) than did so nationally (66%).

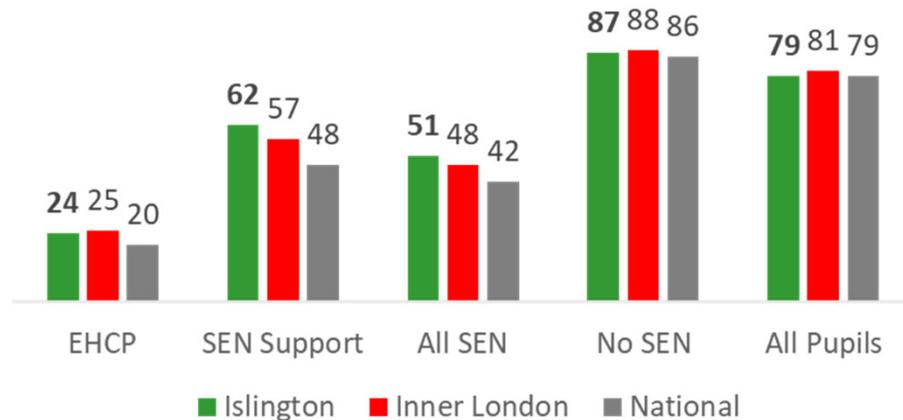
Phonics Screening Check (Year 1)

SEN Performance

A **higher proportion** of pupils with SEN, both with an EHCP and with SEN Support, met the expected standard in Islington compared to similar pupils nationally.

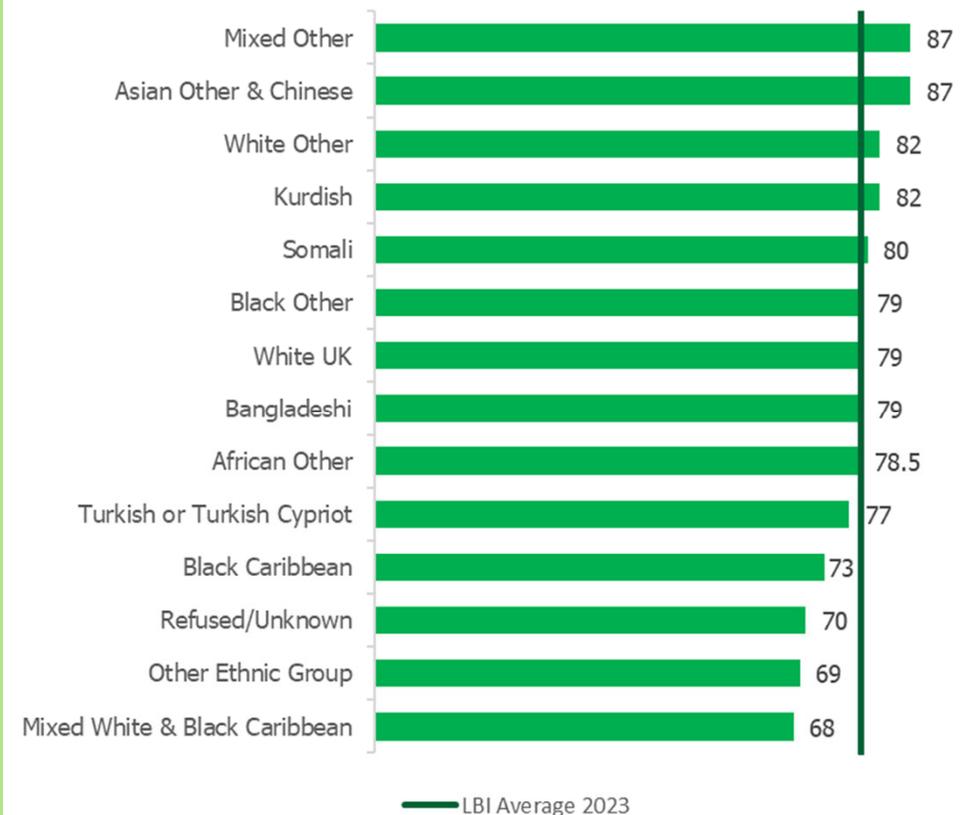
Islington SEN Support pupils in particular **outperformed** their peers, achieving 14 percentage points above England and 5 above Inner London.

Percentage Achieving Expected Standard in Phonics: Year 1



Ethnic Groups Performance

In 2023, Mixed Other and Asian Other and Chinese were the highest achieving groups in terms of meeting the expected standard in Phonics in Year 1 in Islington (both 87%). The lowest performing ethnic groups were Mixed White and Black Caribbean (68%), Other Ethnic Group (69%) and Black Caribbean (73%).

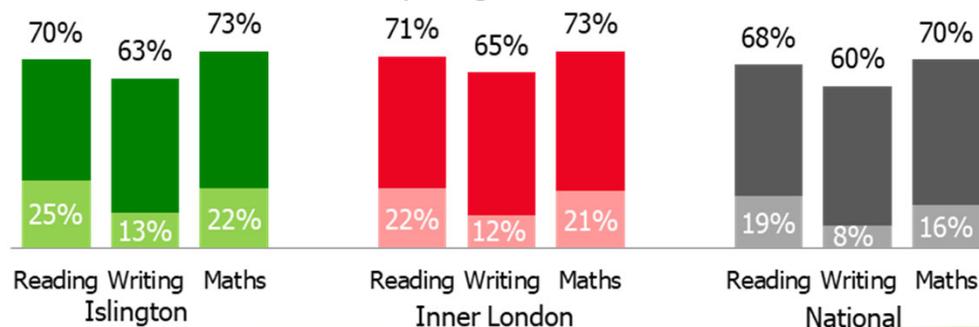


Key Stage 1

Children in Islington performed **better** than national at Key Stage 1 in 2023 and in line with Inner London in maths. This cohort of children will have experienced disruption to their education because of the Covid-19 pandemic during their first year in Key Stage 1.

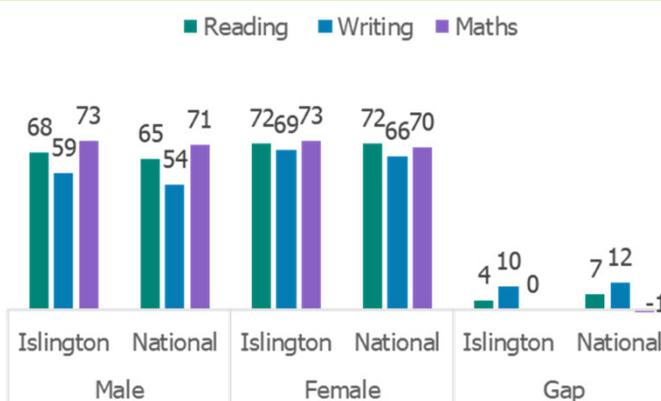
The subject most adversely affected by the pandemic was writing. Performance both nationally and in Islington dropped by 9% points compared with 2019. Islington pupils did **better** than last year in maths (+2% points) but fewer pupils achieved the expected standard in reading and writing (both -2% points).

% Achieving the Expected Standard and Greater Depth at Key Stage 1 in 2023



Key Stage 1 EXS	2019	2022	2023
Reading	76	72	70
Writing	72	65	63
Maths	78	71	73

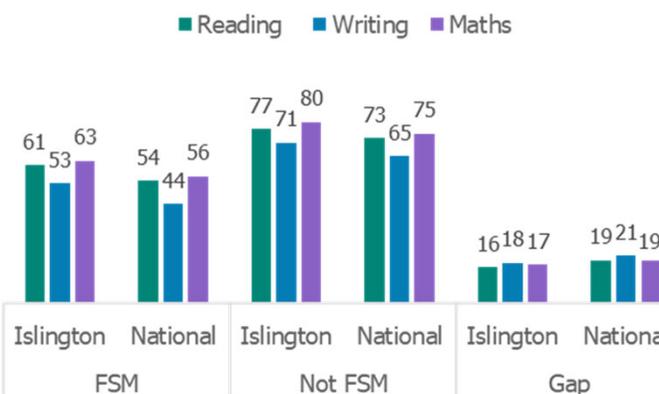
Gender



At KS1 there were gender gaps in favour of girls in reading and writing but no gap in maths in Islington. Nationally, boys did slightly better than girls in maths.

Boys and girls in Islington **outperformed** boys and girls nationally in all KS1 subjects except for in reading where the same proportion of girls achieved the expected standard. The gender performance gaps in Islington were **smaller** than national.

Free School Meal eligibility



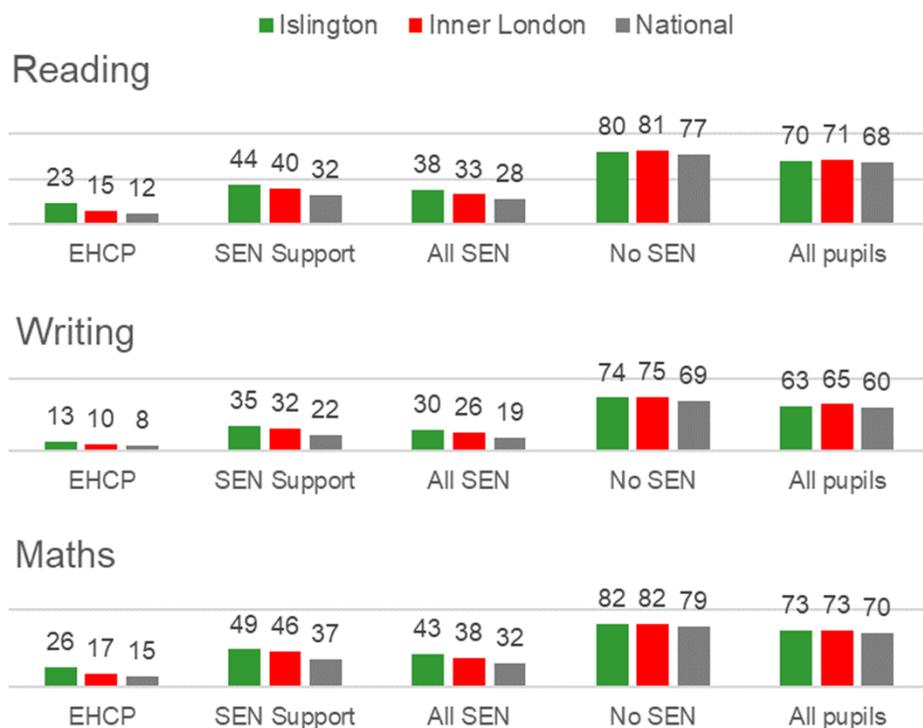
Islington had FSM attainment gaps in all three KS1 subjects, but the gaps were not as large as national.

FSM eligible and non-eligible pupils in Islington **outperformed** similar pupils nationally in all three KS1 subjects in 2023.

KS1 Contextual Analysis

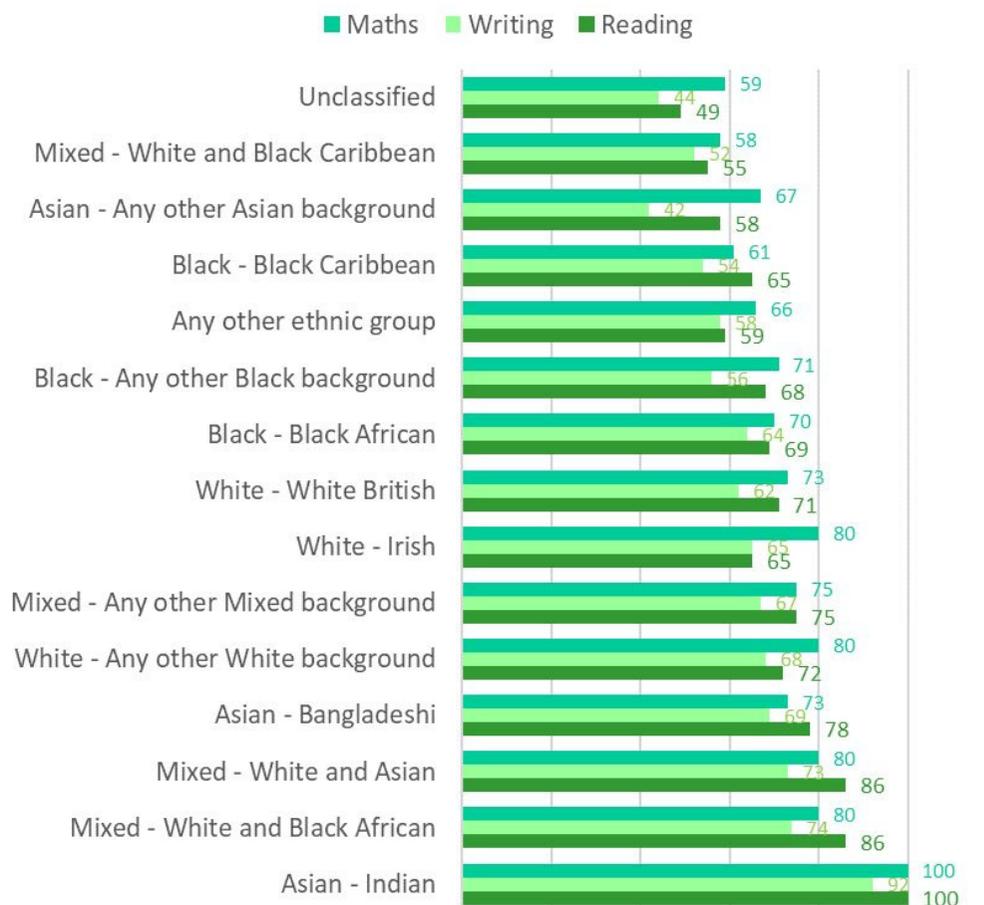
SEN Performance

Islington KS1 pupils with EHCPs and SEN Support **outperformed** their peers in Reading, Writing and Maths. Islington pupils with No SEN were **above** national for all subjects, on par with Inner London in Maths, and slightly below Inner London in Reading and Writing. Islington had the **highest proportion of SEN pupils** of any LA in the country at KS1 (23.5%).



KS1 Performance by Ethnicity

While pupils from some ethnic groups performed very well at KS1 in 2023, some groups achieved less well. The lowest performing groups were Mixed White & Black Caribbean, Asian Other and Black Caribbean. Ethnicity groups with fewer than 10 pupils have been removed from the chart below.

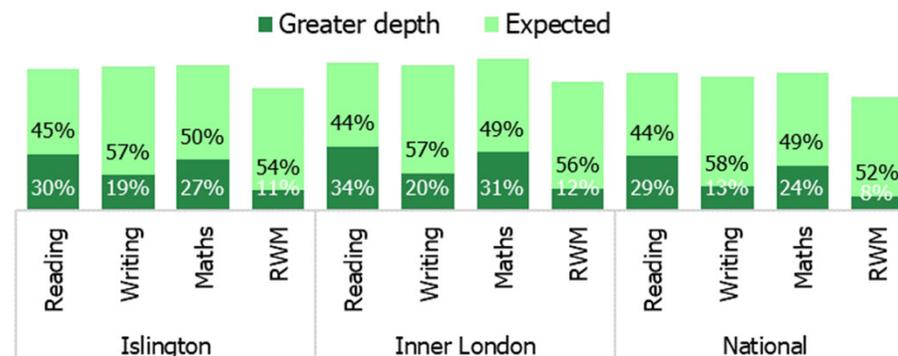


Key Stage 2

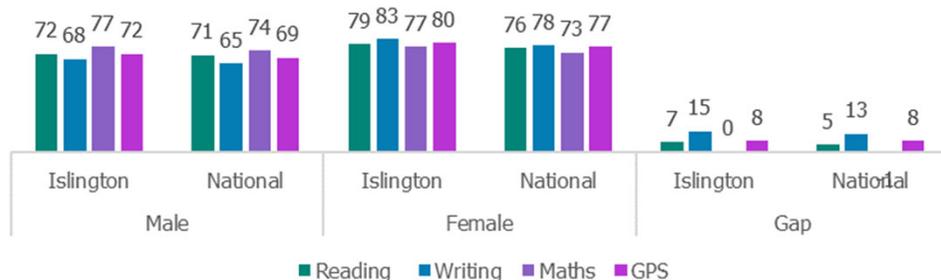
Children in Islington **outperformed** their national peers across all subjects at Key Stage 2 in 2023, although performance was below Inner London in all subjects.

Performance in reading dropped by 2% points both nationally and in Islington. All other subjects have seen an **improvement** compared with 2022 results including a 2% points **increase** in the combined measure for reading, writing and maths.

% Achieving the Expected Standard and Greater Depth



Gender

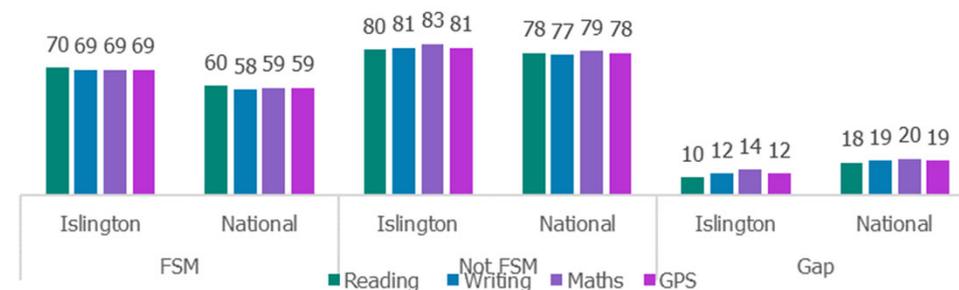


At KS2 in 2023 Islington had gender gaps in favour of girls in reading, writing and Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling (GPS). In maths an equal proportion of boys and girls achieved the expected standard. In 2023 Islington boys and girls **outperformed** their respective counterparts nationally in all subjects.

Key Stage 2

	2019	2022	2023
RWM	70	63	65
Reading	76	77	75
Writing	82	72	76
Maths	80	72	77

Free School Meal eligibility



Islington had FSM attainment gaps in all four KS2 subjects, but the gaps were not as large as national. FSM eligible and non-eligible pupils in Islington **outperformed** similar pupils nationally in all four KS2 subjects in 2023.

Key Stage 2 – Contextual Analysis

White UK FSM Eligible (RWM)

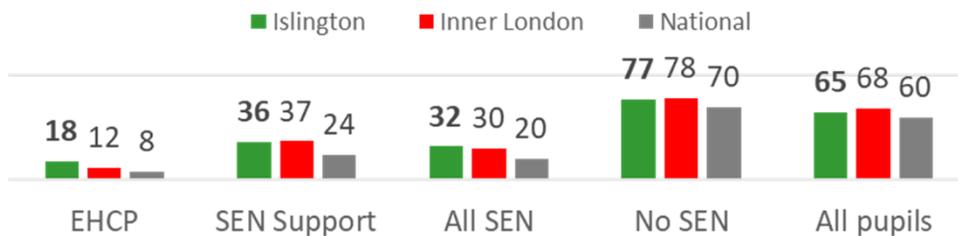
	Islington	National
White UK not eligible for FSM	75.2	65.5
White UK eligible for FSM	50.5	39.8
All Pupils	65	60
Gap (% points)	24.7	25.7

At KS2 a **higher proportion** of Islington White UK pupils eligible for FSM achieved at least the expected standard in RWM compared with national.

The gap between Islington White UK eligible and not eligible for FSM (24.7% points) has narrowed this year compared to last year (37.9% points).

SEN Performance

Percentage Achieving Expected Standard (EXS) in Reading, Writing and Maths at KS2



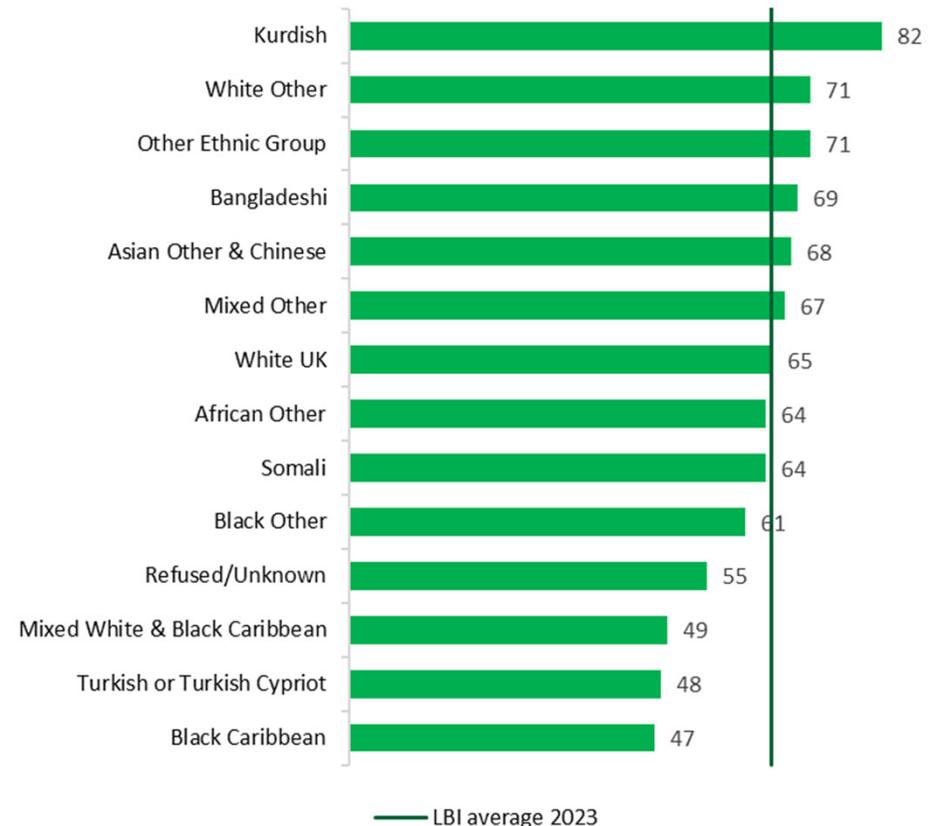
EHCP and All SEN Islington pupils **outperformed** their national and Inner London peers in Reading, Writing and Maths in 2023. EHCP pupils were 10 percentage points **above** national, while All SEN pupils were 12 points **above** national. SEN Support pupils were 12 percentage points **above** national and slightly below Inner London.

Islington had a higher proportion of All SEN pupils at KS2 (27%) than England (20%) and Inner London (22%).

Ethnic Groups Performance

While pupils from some ethnic groups performed very well at KS2 in 2023, some groups had lower outcomes. The lowest performing groups were, Black Caribbean (47%), Turkish or Turkish Cypriot (48%) and Mixed White & Black Caribbean (49%).

% Achieving Reading, Writing and Maths Combined



Primary School Absence

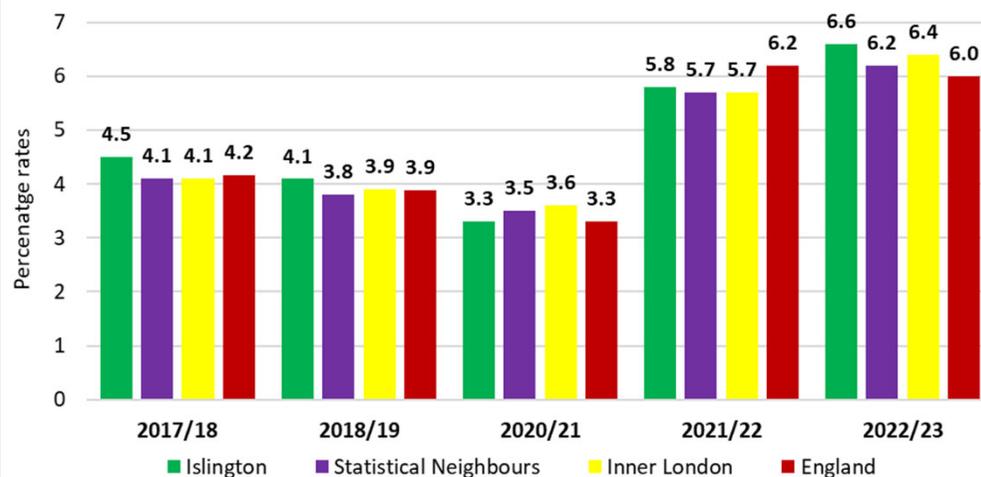
Absence related to Covid has been included as absence due to illness since April 2022. 2022/23 is the first full academic year when Covid-related absence was included in the absence statistics. Despite this, the England absence rate for primary schools fell, whilst Islington and our comparators increased. Islington primary schools had a higher absence rate than the comparator averages in 2022/23.

Persistent Absence

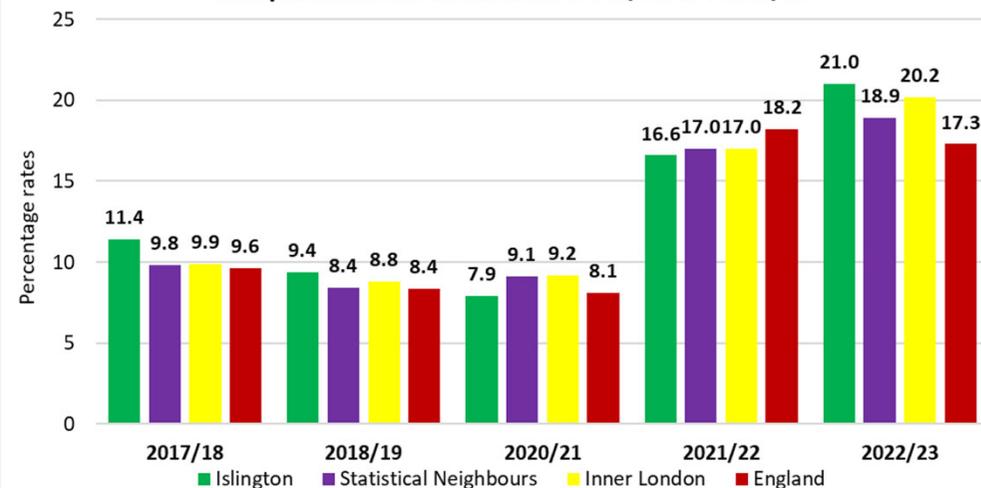
The proportion of primary pupils in Islington who were persistent absentees had been improving between 2017/18 and 2020/21. However, rates of persistent absenteeism more than doubled in Islington and nationally in 2021/22 when Covid-related absence started to be included in the statistics. Islington was in the **top quartile** in 2021/22.

In 2022/23, Islington primary schools had a higher rate of persistent absence than any of the comparator averages. Islington moved from the top quartile to bottom quartile on this measure.

Primary School Absence Rates (2 Terms) in Islington Compared with Benchmarks 2017/18 to 2022/23



Primary School Persistent Absence Rates (2 Terms) in Islington Compared with Benchmarks 2017/18 to 2022/23

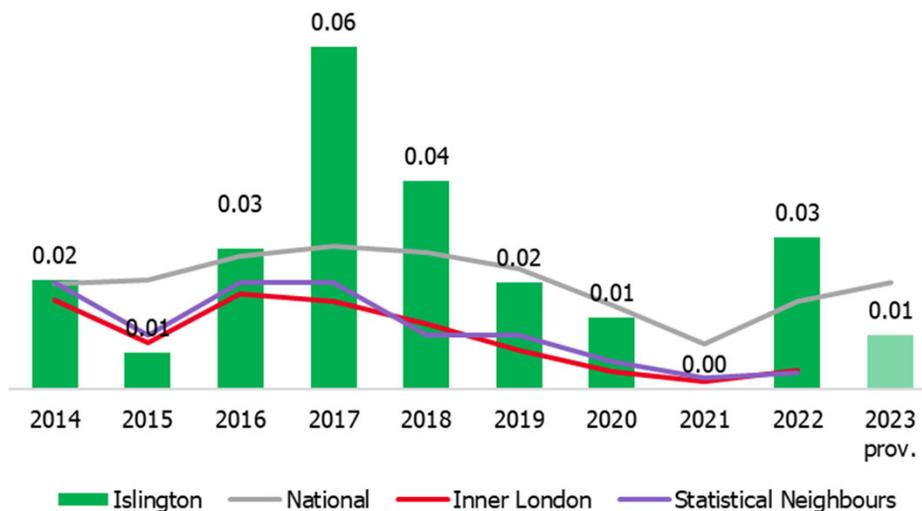


Primary School Exclusions and Suspensions

Permanent exclusions

The permanent exclusion rate in Islington primary schools had been higher than regional and national benchmarks in the two years preceding the pandemic. The rate then dropped to zero during the pandemic in 2021. The following year saw an increase in permanent exclusions, but the provisional 2023 figures show a **decline** in numbers again. The actual numbers of permanent exclusions are very small and in Islington a rate of 0.01 equates to one or two permanent exclusions.

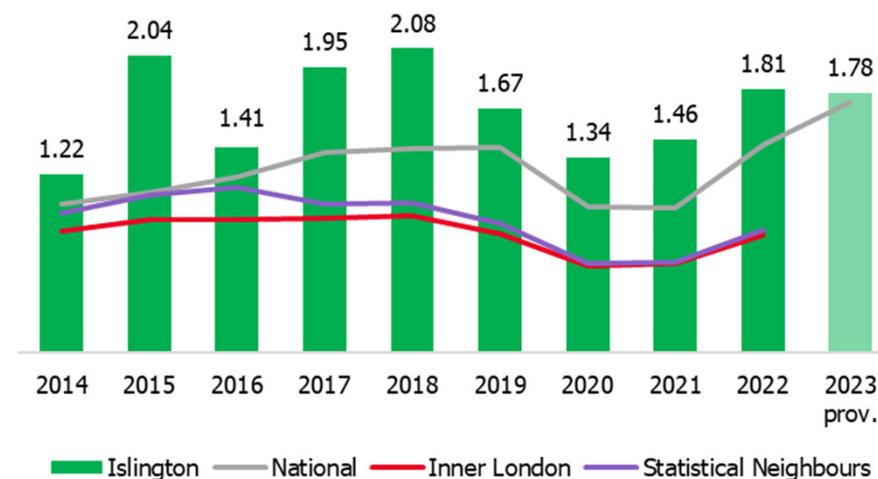
Primary **Permanent Exclusion** Rate from 2014 to 2023



Suspensions

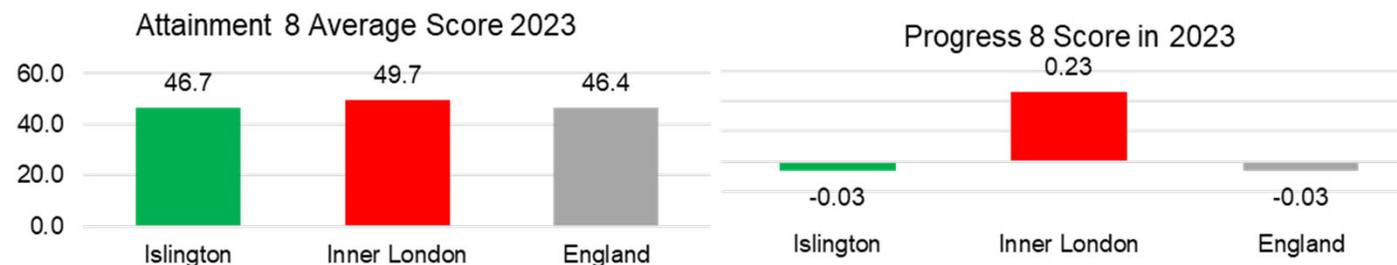
Primary school suspension rates have tended to be higher in Islington compared to regional and national benchmarks. In recent years, the rate was lowest in 2020 (1.34). Having gone up for the following two years, the provisional 2023 figures indicate a slight **reduction** on the previous year.

Primary **Suspension** Rate from 2014 to 2023



Key Stage 4 – Attainment 8 and Progress 8

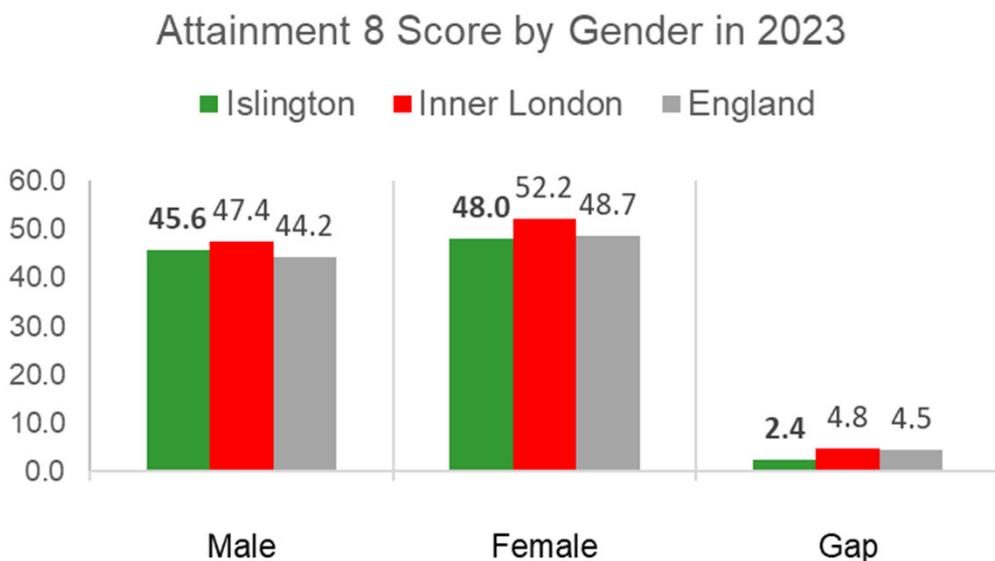
Pupils in Islington achieved a **higher** Attainment 8 Score than national, although their performance was below the Inner London score. Their score of 46.7 was 0.9 points **higher** than their pre-pandemic score in 2019.



Key Stage 4	2019	2022	2023
Attainment 8 (average score)	45.8	49.9	46.7
Progress 8 (average score)	0.03	0.07	-0.03
Basics (English & Maths) 5+	42.3	52.7	46.8

Pupils in Islington had a negative Progress 8 score which means they made less progress from Key Stage 2 than similar pupils nationally. Performance was not as high as the Inner London Progress 8 score.

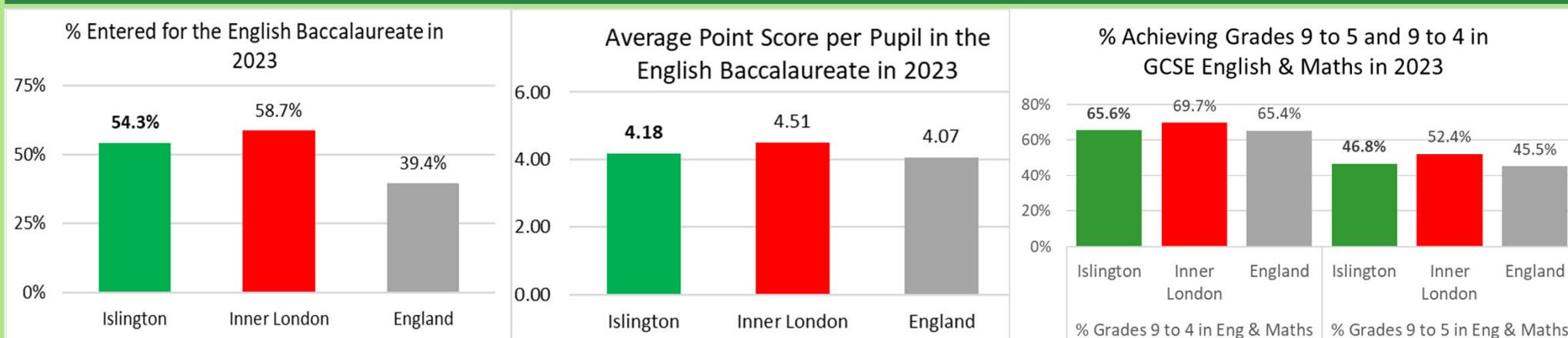
Gender and Attainment 8



Gender Gap

The gender gap in Islington is slightly in favour of girls, but the gap is only 2.4 points, **better** than the national gap of 4.5 points. Boys in Islington achieved an Attainment 8 score of 45.6 points, 1.4 points **above** the national score for boys. Islington girls had a score of 48.0, 0.7 points below all girls nationally. The small gap at GCSE suggests that the gender gaps that emerge at earlier points of assessment, from as far back as the Early Years Foundation Stage, have been addressed by the time pupils get to Year 11.

Key Stage 4 – English Baccalaureate and English & Maths Performance



English Baccalaureate

Islington's schools entered a **higher** proportion of pupils for the English Baccalaureate* (Ebacc) than national, 54.3%, compared to 39.4%, although Islington's entry rate was lower than that for Inner London, at 58.7%. Islington's pupils achieved a **higher** average point score in the English Baccalaureate than the national average but it was below Inner London. Performance in the EBacc was **better** than the pre-pandemic performance in 2019.

English & Maths

The percentage of students from Islington who achieved a *standard* pass in English and Maths, with grades ranging from 9 to 4, was slightly **above** the national average. However, this pass rate was lower than that of Inner London. A **higher** proportion of Islington students secured a *strong* pass, with grades between 9 to 5, in English and Maths compared to the national average. The Inner London *strong* pass rate was also above Islington's.

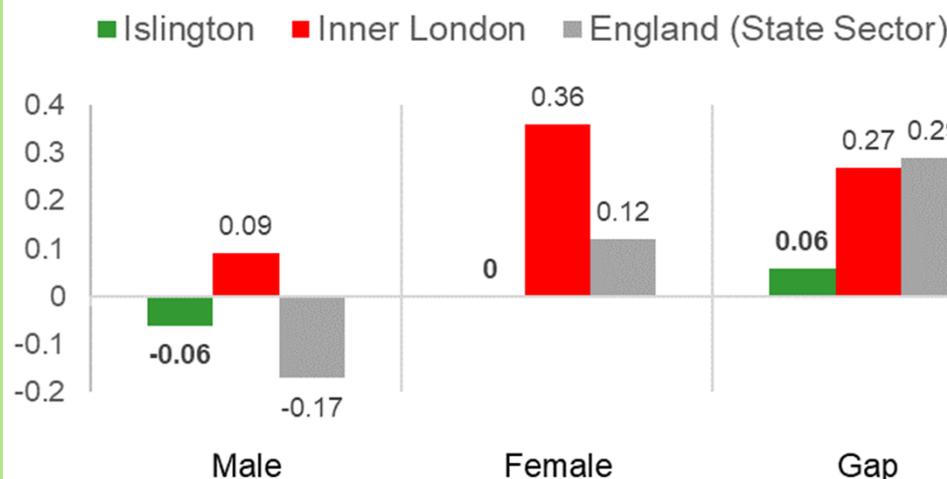
*The Ebacc is based on GCSE results in English language & literature, maths, the sciences, geography or history and a language.

Key Stage 4 – Contextual Analysis of Progress by Gender

Boys in Islington achieved a negative Progress 8 score of -0.06, which was **above** the negative score of -0.17 for boys nationally. Girls in Islington achieved a score of 0, which was below the national score for girls of 0.12.

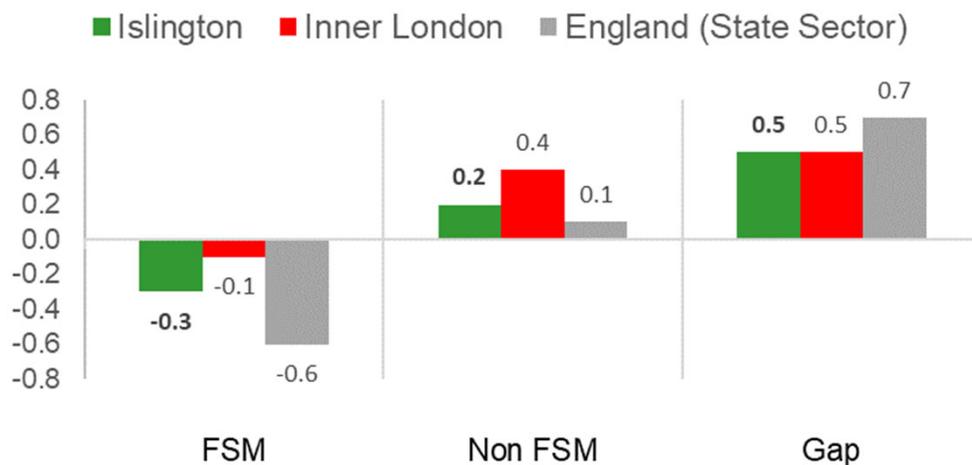
There is no significant gender progress gap in Islington, whereas the gender progress gap nationally is 0.29 in favour of girls. Boys and girls in Islington have, on average, made less progress between Key Stage 2 and 4 than pupils with similar starting points in Inner London.

Progress 8 Score by Gender in 2023



Progress and FSM

Progress 8 Score by FSM in 2023



Free School Meals Progress Gap

Pupils who are eligible for FSM have a negative Progress 8 score in Islington of -0.3 which is **better** than the negative national score of -0.6. Non-FSM eligible pupils in Islington achieved a positive score of 0.2, **better** than the national score of 0.1 for similar pupils. The Progress FSM attainment gap in Islington, at 0.5, is **smaller** than the national gap of 0.7, which indicates that FSM pupils in Islington perform **better** than their peers nationally, while there is still some scope to reduce the gap further in future years. Islington had the highest % of FSM eligible pupils in the 2023 Key Stage 4 cohort in the country.

Contextual Analysis

SEN Performance

SEN Status	Attainment 8 Score			Gap in Points	
	Islington	England	Inner London	England	Inner London
EHCP	11.8	14	16.8	-2.2	-5
SEN Support	36.2	33.3	39.4	2.9	-3.2
All SEN Pupils	29.9	28.1	32.8	1.8	-2.9
No SEN	51.6	50.2	53.9	1.4	-2.3
All Pupils	46.6	46.3	49.7	0.3	-3.1

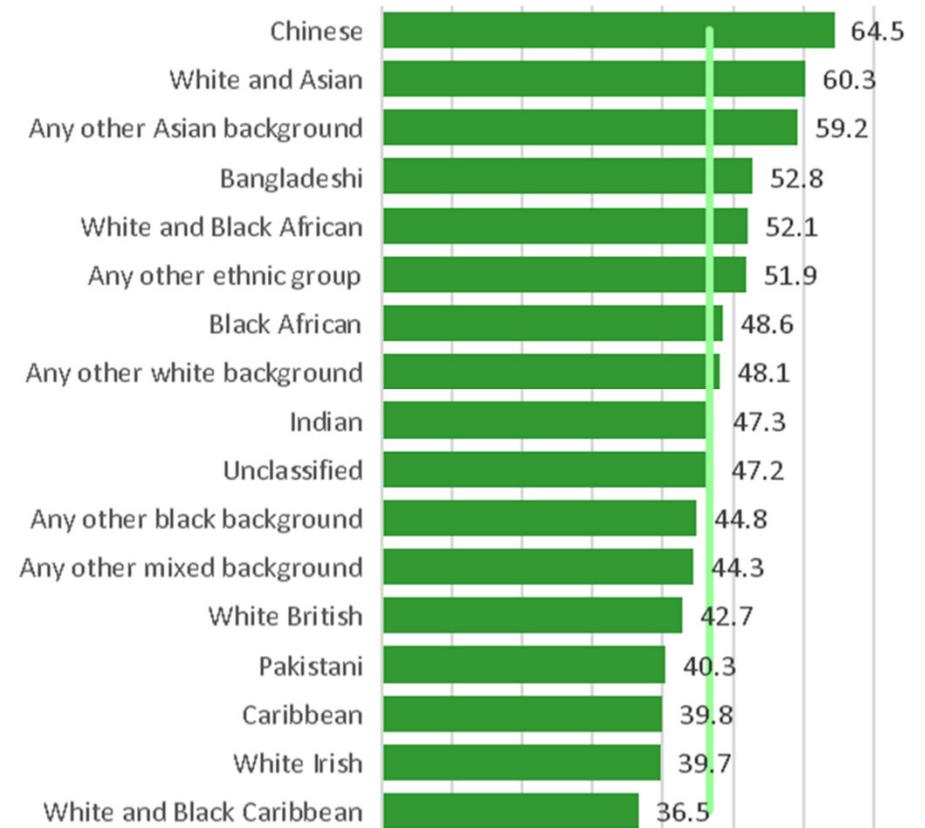
In Islington SEN Support pupils **outperformed** their national peers in their Attainment 8 scores in 2023, whereas pupils with an EHCP did not. However, all Islington’s groups of pupils by SEN **outperformed** the national average progress score for their group. Islington’s overall Progress 8 score is equal to the England score as Islington has higher proportions of SEN pupils. Despite the strong performance by Islington SEN pupils at Key Stage 4, Islington remains below the Inner London average scores for each SEN group.

SEN Status	Progress 8 Score			Gap in Points	
	Islington	England	Inner London	England	Inner London
EHCP	-1.07	-1.12	-0.83	0.05	-0.24
SEN Support	-0.42	-0.45	-0.17	0.03	-0.25
All SEN Pupils	-0.58	-0.62	-0.35	0.04	-0.23
No SEN	0.13	0.1	0.37	0.03	-0.24
All Pupils	-0.03	-0.03	0.23	0	-0.26

Ethnic Performance

While pupils from some ethnic groups performed very well at KS4 in 2023, some groups achieved less well. The lowest performing groups were Mixed White & Black Caribbean (36.5), White Irish (39.7), Black Caribbean (39.8), Pakistani (40.3) and White British (42.7)

Average Attainment 8 Score by Ethnicity - 2023



Secondary School Absence

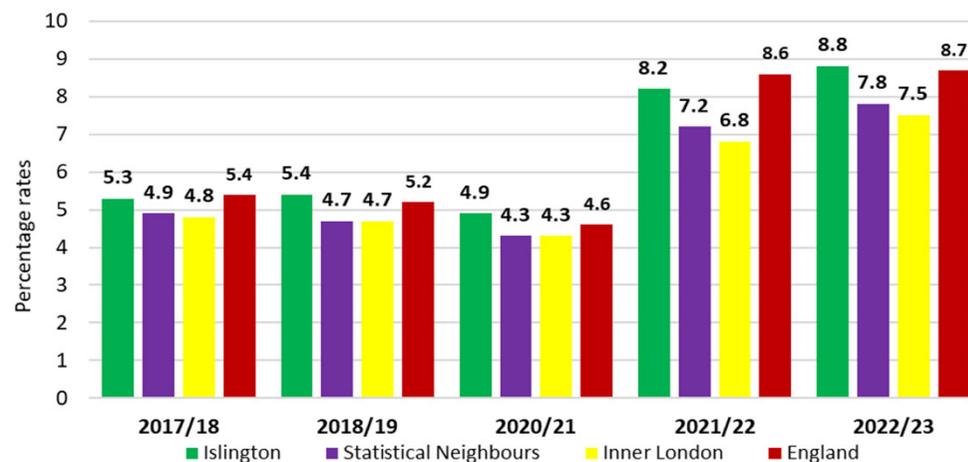
Absence rates increased quite dramatically in the Autumn and Spring terms of the 2021/22 school year. In 2022/23, Covid-related absence was included in the absence statistics for the first time, as absence due to illness. Despite this, absence in secondary schools only increased slightly. Islington was above each of the comparator averages in terms of secondary school absence levels.

Persistent Absence

The secondary persistent absence rate was higher than benchmarks in the years before the Covid-19 pandemic, at around 13% to 14%. Persistent absence rates increased dramatically in Islington to 24.8% in 2021/22, although this was **better** than national at 26.7%.

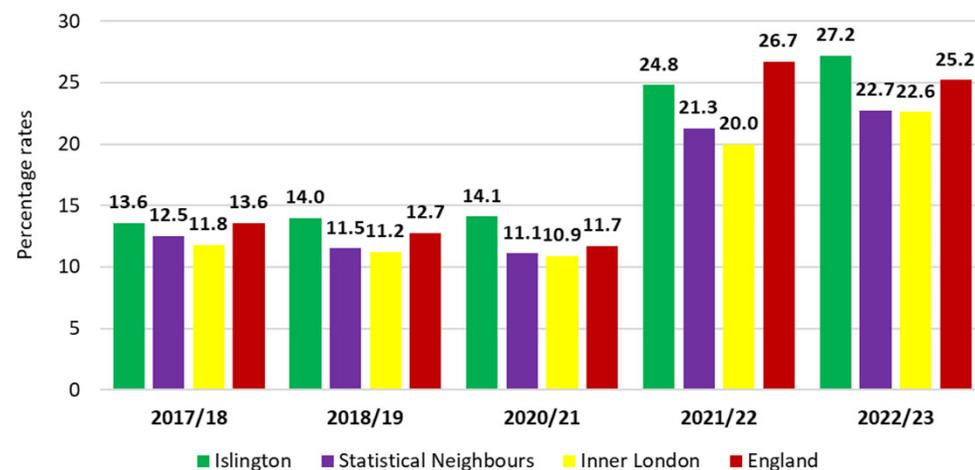
Persistent absence in Islington's secondary schools increased again in 2022/23, to 27.2%, whilst the national average fell to 25.2%. Islington's rate was the highest in Inner London and Islington fell to just inside the bottom quartile, nationally.

Secondary School Absence Rates (2 Terms) in Islington Compared with Benchmarks 2017/18 to 2022/23



Persistent Absence Data

Secondary School Persistent Absence Rates (2 Terms) in Islington Compared with Benchmarks 2017/18 to 2022/23

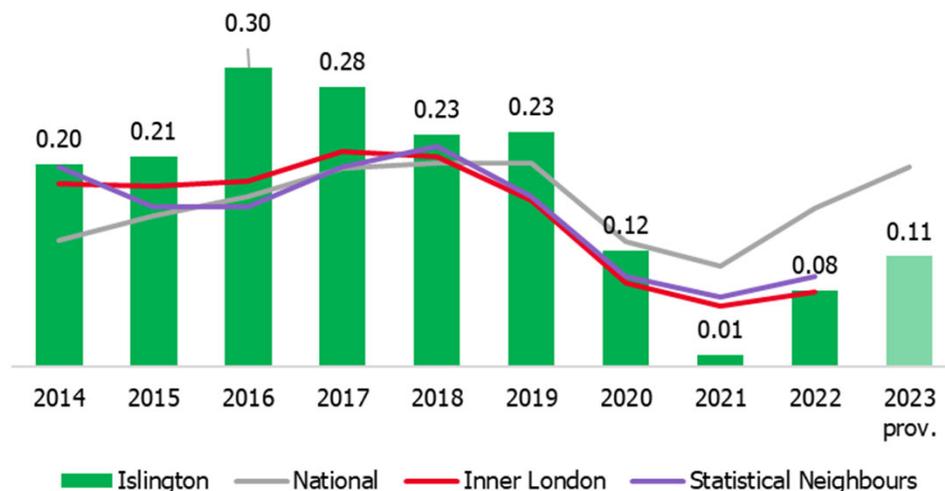


Secondary School Exclusions and Suspensions

Permanent exclusions

Historically, permanent exclusion rates have been variable in Islington secondary schools with rates higher locally than regional and national. Since 2020, the permanent exclusion rate in Islington secondary schools has been very low and better than regional and national benchmarks. While the provisional 2023 results show an upward trend, the rate is still **below** the provisional national average.

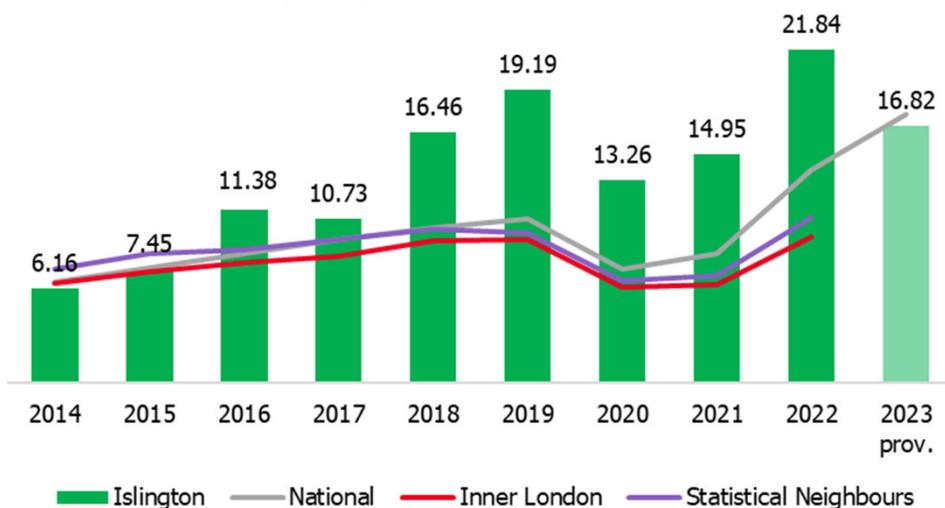
Secondary **Permanent Exclusion** Rate from 2014 to 2023



Suspensions

Secondary school suspension rates have tended to be higher in Islington compared to regional and national benchmarks since 2016. The rate was highest in 2022. The provisional 2023 figure shows a drop in the suspension rate to **below** the provisional national average.

Secondary **Suspension** Rate from 2014 to 2023



Elective Home Education (EHE)

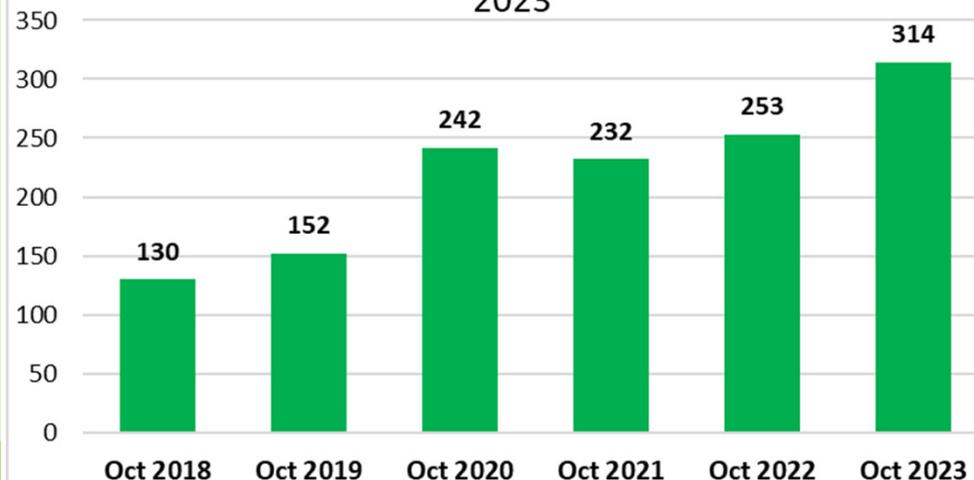
Numbers in EHE

One of the early features of the Covid-19 pandemic was a rapid increase in the number of children being electively home educated. The numbers rose by 90 (+59%) from 152 in October 2019 to 242 in October 2020. After this initial spike, the total numbers settled down at a similar level over the next two years. However, the numbers have increased again in 2023 to a new peak of over 300. LA level data is now published on EHE numbers. Compared to the resident population, Islington had 126 EHE pupils per 10,000 residents in Summer 2023, the 50th highest rate in the country.

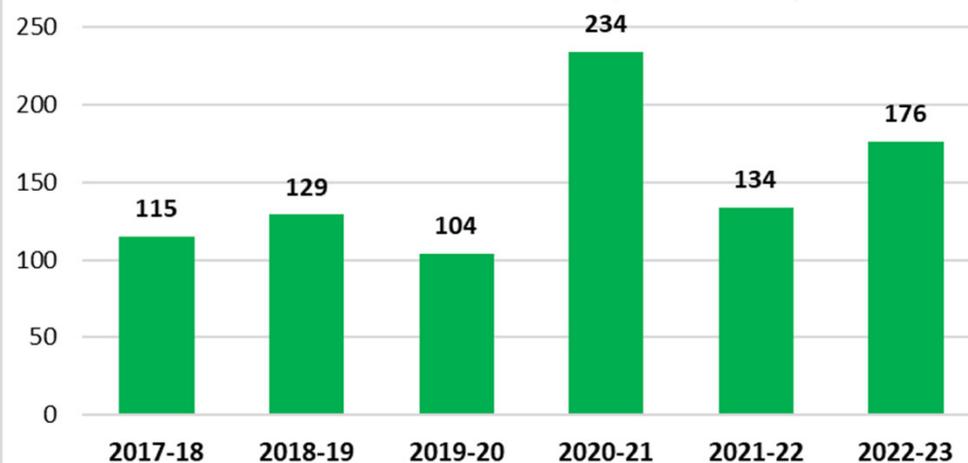
Formal Notifications made for EHE

The number of formal notifications for EHE had been broadly consistent from 2017/18 to 2019/20 but they rose significantly between 2019/20 and 2020/21. There was a drop in the number of notifications in 2021/22, but the number rose again in 2022/23 to the highest annual total outside of the main pandemic year of 2020/21.

Number of Children & Young People Being Electively Home Educated in Islington 2018 to 2023



Number of Formal Notifications made for Elective Home Education from 2017/18 to 2022/23

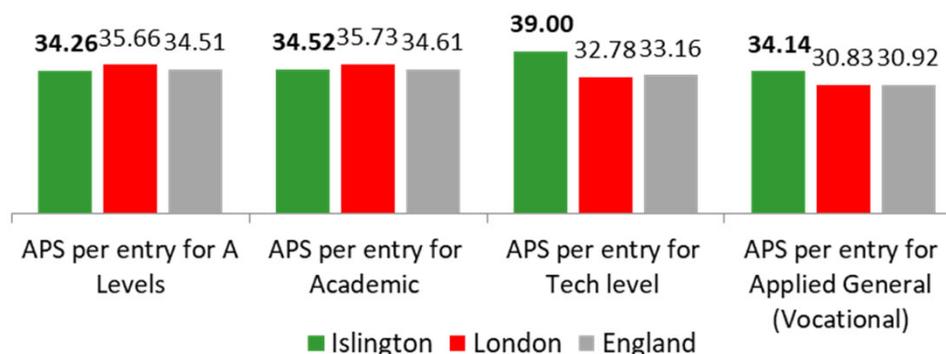


Key Stage 5

On the range of KS5 Average Points Score (APS) measures, students in Islington performed **better** than London and national on the more vocational qualification areas, including the Tech Level and Applied General measures.

Performance in Islington was lower than London and national on the overall A Level measure and the Academic A Level measure.

Key Stage 5 Performance in 2023



Key Stage 5	2019	2022	2023
Average A level result	C	B-	C+
APS per entry (A level)	31.15	37.15	34.35

% Achieving Higher A Level Grades

LA level Higher Grade Measures	% achieving 3 A* to A Grades at A Level	% achieving ≥ AAB Grades at A Level
Islington	9.2%	15.0%
London	15.8%	25.3%
England	14.3%	23.3%

NB Islington has 6 secondary schools with sixth forms and a 7th opened its sixth form in Sep 2022. There is also one 16-18 free school.

Higher Grade Performance

On the more challenging A Level measure, the % achieving 3 A* - A Grades, only 9.2% of Islington students achieved this measure, compared to over 15% in London and 14% nationally. On the % achieving ≥ AAB Grades at A Level, 15% of Islington students achieved this measure but again this level of performance was also noticeably below the London (25.3%) and national (23.3%) benchmarks. This will be likely to have impacted on the ability of many Islington students to access high tariff universities.

Post-16 – Year 11 Destinations and NEET/Unknown Scorecard

Under Raising Participation Age (RPA) Islington has a responsibility to ensure its residents continue to participate in education or training from when they finish Key Stage 4 at Year 11 until at least their 18th birthday, and to reduce the proportion of young people aged 16 and 17 not in education, employment or training after they leave the compulsory education phase.

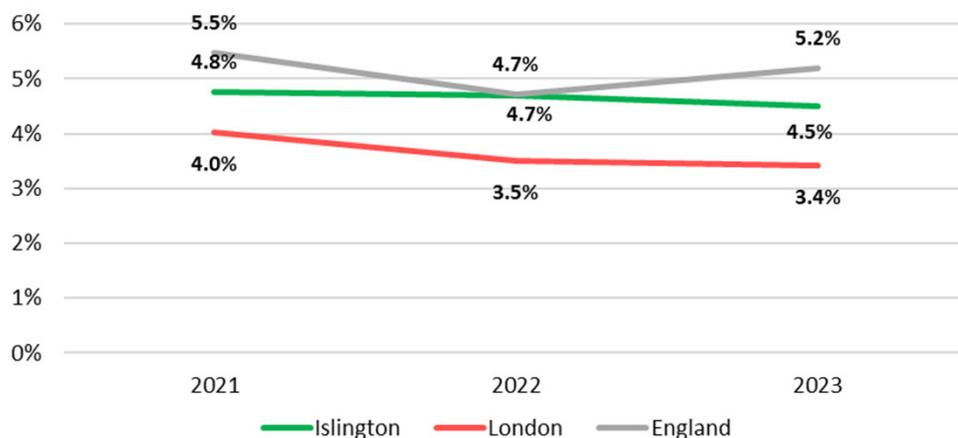
2022 Year 11 School LEA	Year 11 total	In Learning	Employment w/o training	Other	NEET	Unknown
Islington	1569	97.3%	0.4%	0.0%	1.3%	1.0%
Camden	1651	97.9%	0.2%	0.1%	1.2%	0.6%
Hackney	2500	98.6%	0.2%	0.0%	1.0%	0.3%
Kensington & Chelsea	928	97.6%	0.2%	0.0%	1.6%	0.5%
Lambeth	2412	96.0%	0.4%	0.0%	1.3%	2.3%
Southwark	3045	97.5%	0.1%	0.0%	0.8%	1.5%
Wandsworth	2039	96.4%	0.3%	0.0%	2.3%	1.0%
Westminster	1832	98.0%	0.2%	0.0%	1.4%	0.4%
Central London	15976	97.4%	0.3%	0.0%	1.3%	1.1%

Destinations of Year 11 leavers are collected on 1 November in the year pupils left an Islington school. In 2022, 97.3% of young people from Islington schools and settings remained or continued 'In Learning' after completing Year 11. This was just below the Central London figure of 97.4%. The NEET rate, at 1.3% was in line with the Central London average, but the Unknown rate, at 1.0%, was slightly **better** than the rate of 1.1% across Central London.

The percentage of 16 and 17 year old residents who were NEET or in a 'not known' activity (Dec-Feb snapshot) was 4.5% in 2023, compared to 4.7% in 2022 and 4.8% in 2021.

The 2023 performance, at 4.5%, was **better** than national, at 5.2%, but not as good as the London average of 3.4%.

% of 16 & 17 Year olds who are NEET and Not Known
Dec-Feb 3 Month Average 2021 to 2023



Quality of Provision

All young people in Islington should have access to a high quality school place whatever the phase or type of education. This section considers the schools and early years settings in Islington in terms of educational quality.

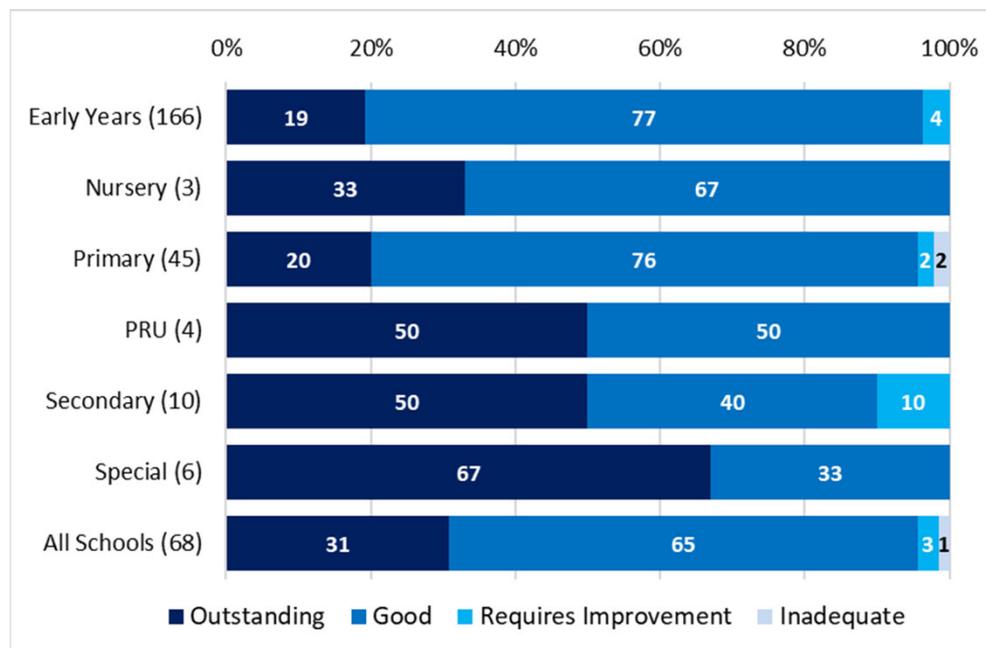
The vast majority of schools in Islington (96%) were rated as good or outstanding, as at the end of August 2023), an **improvement** of 5% points since 2019.

This includes:

- 100% of nursery schools were good or outstanding
- 96% of primary schools were good or outstanding
- 90% of secondary schools were good or outstanding
- 100% of special schools were good or outstanding
- 100% of pupil referral units (PRU) were good or outstanding

Further, 96% of early years settings were good or outstanding as at August 2023, which is in line with 96% across London but slightly below 97% nationally.

Nationally 89% of all schools were rated good or outstanding by Ofsted, as at August 2023. London region leads the way in terms of both pupil's educational outcomes and high quality school places, with 95% of schools rated as good or outstanding. Islington, at 96%, is ranked **19th** in England.



In Islington 90% of secondary schools are rated good or outstanding, compared to 92% in London and 82% nationally.

Since August 2019, Islington has **improved** its Ofsted profile, from 91% of all schools judged as good or outstanding then to 96% in August 2023.

Further Information

All of our profiles, as well as other data and outputs can be accessed on the Evidence Hub at: <https://www.islington.gov.uk/about-the-council/islington-evidence-and-statistics>

About this Data Pack

This data pack/profile was produced by Rachel Ivens, Performance Manager, Lina Castles, Data Analyst and Adam White, Head of Data & Performance, reviewed and approved for publication by Sarah Callaghan, Director of Learning & Achievement.

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We would also very much welcome your comments on these profiles and how they could better suit your individual or practice requirements, so please contact us with your ideas.

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