

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 23 OCTOBER 2009****ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT 2009****Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services****1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To advise Elected Members of the overall attainment and achievement in East Ayrshire schools in session 2008-2009.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Each year the Scottish Executive publishes the results obtained in the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) examinations to schools and education authorities. It is no longer the practice, nationally, to publish figures on performance on a school-by-school basis in the format that became known as 'League Tables'. There is, however, still a requirement for authorities to make available to parents the results for individual schools. This is done principally through school handbooks and the compilation of information for parents of P7 pupils moving to secondary school. National Assessment of 5-14 is also no longer collated nationally but remains an invaluable indicator of pupil performance in the primary sector and in secondary S1 and S2.
- 2.2 In recent years the nature of the provision of courses in our schools has shifted to recognise that formal academic studies are only part of the provision that schools should provide for young people. The changing emphasis is being driven by a Curriculum for Excellence focusing on skills for learning, skills for work and skills for life. As a result the curriculum has become more flexible by providing vocational based college courses, Princes Trust XL courses, ASDAN Awards and Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme, among others. Much work has been done in partnership with Ayr and Kilmarnock Colleges to provide courses to better meet the needs of many young people.
- 2.3 It is anticipated that this increased provision of vocational and other courses will have an impact on the more traditional aspects of reporting attainment as pupils are given the opportunity to vary the number of formal academic SQA qualification which they undertake. This flexibility, which is supported by national curricular guidelines and encouraged by HMIE, also means that the type of benchmarking against comparator authorities and national averages is less relevant than in previous years. (See Section 5.9 below)

3. ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT

- 3.1 Summary tables of attainment results are provided in Section 4. Wider achievement in vocational, and other, college courses are provided in Section 5.

3.2 The figures in Section 4 are presented as a percentage of the relevant S4 roll. This is to enable some level of comparison to be made. Use of the S4 roll means that the effects of differing staying on rates to S5 and S6 is removed.

3.3 In the past, figures were presented on a straightforward basis of performance in Standard Grades and Higher Grades. With the introduction the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) performance is reported against the following levels:

Level 7: Advanced Higher at A-C: CSYS at A-C

Level 6: Higher at A-C

Level 5: Intermediate 2 at A-C: Standard Grade at 1-2

Level 4: Intermediate 1 at A-C: Standard Grade at 3-4

Level 3: Access 3 Cluster: Standard Grade at 5-6

3.4 The data presented in this paper is pre-appeal. Success in appeals will further improve the results in due course.

3.5 National Assessments of 5-14 report on pupil progress in reading, writing and mathematics.

4. ATTAINMENT

4.1 Attainment in the primary sector shows improvements across all subject areas and reflects the trend in improvement over the past 5 years.

Primary 5-14 :% achieving expected level

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
Reading	78	78	79	80	82
Writing	70	71	71	73	75
Mathematics	84	83	83	84	85

Secondary 5-14 % achieving expected level

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
Reading	65	65	67	63	71
Writing	50	47	50	49	54
Mathematics	62	61	69	68	71

- 4.2 The percentage of pupils achieving English and Maths at Standard Grade level has moved from 89% in 2008 to 92% in 2009, and is the highest level in the last 5 years.

English and Mathematics %

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
East Ayrshire	90	89	90	89	92
Clackmannanshire	82	90	89	89	92
Falkirk	89	82	91	91	93
N.Ayrshire	91	90	91	90	92
N.Lanarkshire	89	91	92	93	92
W.Loathian	95	95	96	95	95
National	90	91	92	91	92

- 4.3 The percentage of pupils achieving 5 Standard Grades at SCQF Level 3 has improved by 1% point and is the highest level in the last 5 years.

5+ Awards at SCQF Level 3

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
East Ayrshire	89	89	89	89	90
Clackmannanshire	84	88	91	91	92
Falkirk	89	88	89	89	90
N.Ayrshire	91	88	90	88	90
N.Lanarkshire	90	91	91	92	91
W.Loathian	92	93	94	95	95
National	90	91	91	90	91

- 4.4 The percentage of pupils achieving 5 Standard Grades at SCQF Level 4 has increased from 71% in 2008 to 74% in 2009, reversing a downward trend.

5+ Awards at SCQF Level 4

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
East Ayrshire	76	75	72	71	74
Clackmannanshire	72	71	72	75	76
Falkirk	72	73	73	72	75
N.Ayrshire	72	69	69	68	73
N.Lanarkshire	73	74	72	76	76
W.Loathian	77	80	75	78	79
National	76	77	75	75	77

4.5 The percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more awards at SCQF Level 5 has increased by 2% and is the highest level for the last 3 years.

5+ Awards at SCQF Level 5

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
East Ayrshire	31	33	28	29	31
Clackmannanshire	31	28	28	27	28
Falkirk	29	31	30	33	35
N.Ayrshire	31	29	28	26	29
N.Lanarkshire	27	30	27	31	31
W.Loathian	33	36	33	34	36
National	34	35	33	34	35

4.6 The percentage of pupils in East Ayrshire achieving at least one Higher Grade has fallen by 1% but is still broadly in line with comparator family averages.

1+ Awards at SCQF Level 6

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
East Ayrshire	36	33	36	35	34
Clackmannanshire	29	37	33	33	32
Falkirk	33	34	34	37	37
N.Ayrshire	32	35	32	31	32
N.Lanarkshire	35	33	34	33	36
W.Loathian	37	34	39	37	40
National	39	38	38	38	40

4.7 The percentage of pupils in East Ayrshire achieving three Higher Grades or more has increased from 18% in 2008 to 19% in 2009, which is consistent with performance over the last 5 years and is slightly above comparator family averages.

3+ Awards at SCQF Level 6

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
East Ayrshire	19	18	19	18	19
Clackmannanshire	17	20	16	16	16
Falkirk	16	18	17	19	20
N.Ayrshire	18	18	17	19	18
N.Lanarkshire	19	15	18	17	19
W.Loathian	21	19	21	22	21
National	23	22	22	22	23

4.8 The percentage of pupils in East Ayrshire achieving five Higher Grades or more has remained constant at 8% over the last 5 years.

5+ Awards at SCQF Level 6

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
East Ayrshire	8	8	8	8	8
Clackmannanshire	7	9	7	4	7
Falkirk	6	8	6	7	8
N.Ayrshire	7	8	8	8	8
N.Lanarkshire	7	6	7	7	7
W.Loathian	9	8	9	10	9
National	10	10	9	10	10

4.9 Individual school performance data is available on the Members' Information Portal.

5. WIDER ACHIEVEMENT

During session 2008-09, 28 young people attended Ayr College, from Auchinleck and Doon Academies. The young people participated in the following courses:

- Construction Crafts
- Hospitality
- Introduction to Care

The young people achieved passes in 39 NQ units across each of the courses while across East Ayrshire young people achieved the following awards through schools and community groups:

ACTIVITY	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Duke of Edinburgh's Awards	12 (8 Bronze, 4 Silver)
Duke of Edinburgh's Enrolments	77
Fire Reach Courses	36
Young People supported in Prince's Trust xl	88
ASDAN Awards supported	106
Millennium Volunteer Awards Supported	59
East Ayrshire Youth Awards	70 (48 Bronze, 11 Silver, 11 Gold)
Young Quality Scot Awards	9
SFA Football Coaching Qualifications	97
Shine Play and Learn Awards – Nursery	102
Cycling Proficiency	65
Burns Federation Certificates	22
Kerbcraft	12
Heartstart	74
John Muir Awards	41
Junior Road Safety Officer	2
Columba 1400	14
NASA Space School	1
Re-His Certificates	218
Sports Leader Awards	TBC

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Performance in 5-14 in both primary and secondary sectors continues the positive trend demonstrated over a number of years, particularly in the primary sector. Secondary schools show significant improvement. Among other factors, it may be possible to attribute this to the reduction of class sizes in English and Mathematics in S1.2.
- 6.2 Performance in SCQF levels demonstrate an increase in five levels, static in one and a decline of 1% only in the seventh category. This data, matched to a detailed breakdown of figures by individual school, and other performance information will be used by the Quality Improvement Team to support head teachers and subject departments to further improve performance for next and subsequent years.
- 6.3 These figures will be of interest to young people and parents. They will therefore be discussed with the Student Councils and representative parents' groups including Parent Councils.
- 6.4 Notwithstanding the encouraging results set out in this report, it remains the aim of the Department and individual schools to ensure that the maximum number of young people achieve the highest grades possible within the SCQF framework.

7. POLICY, LEGAL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None.

8. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Pupil attainment and achievement underpins and contributes to Lifelong Learning.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Governance and Scrutiny Committee:-
- (i) note the positive performance of young people in East Ayrshire schools;
 - (ii) encourage the provision of appropriate vocational courses in partnership with Ayr and Kilmarnock Colleges; and
 - (iii) otherwise, note the contents of this report.

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6 October 2009

List of Background Papers
Nil

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