

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 12 SEPTEMBER 2006

SCOTTISH SURVEY OF ACHIEVEMENT (2005) 5-14

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Elected Members of the outcomes of the first Scottish Survey of Achievement in respect of 5-14 performance in East Ayrshire schools benchmarked against national average and comparator authorities.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Scottish Survey of Achievement (SSA) was carried out for the first time in June 2005 following a decision by the Scottish Executive Education Department to discontinue the collection nationally of 5-14 attainment data from local authorities.

- 2.2 The SSA sampled performance of just over 28,000 pupils nationally comprising around 7,000 in each of P3, P5 and P7 and just under 6,500 at S2. Testing took place in 1300 schools. In 16 local authorities samples were boosted to allow reporting at local authority level in reading and numeracy. East Ayrshire was in this sample of 16 authorities. Assessments are not reported for individual schools or for individual pupils.

- 2.3 The results of the survey for reading and numeracy are reported as:
- 'very good' skills at the level where 80% or more of the questions are answered correctly
 - 'well established' skills at the level where at least 65% of the are questions answered correctly
 - 'made a good start' skills at the level where at least 50% of the are questions answered correctly

- 2.4 Where the results are reported for 'expected' levels, these are as follows:
Level A attainable for almost all of P3
Level B attainable by most of P4
Level C attainable by most of P6
Level D attainable by most of P7
Level E attainable by most of S2

3. NATIONAL PERFORMANCE

- 3.1 The report 'The 2005 Scottish Survey of Achievement' provides a wealth of detailed analysis of results relating to:
- English language
 - numeracy

- Information and Communications Technology (ICT) skills
- teachers' judgements of pupils' performance
- pupils' perceptions of performance
- gender differences
- trends in performance
- lesson activities

3.2 In summary:

3.2.1 The overall national picture for reading is strong attainment at P3 and P5. There is a slight dip into P7, but attainment for more able readers is sustained from P7 to S2. In the survey at primary school, girls performed consistently better than boys in reading. This difference was statistically significant at P3 and P5. By P7, although girls still performed better than boys the difference was no longer significant and by S2 there was no consistent difference between boys and girls. This is interesting since this finding is different to previous views on gender differences in attainment.

3.2.2 Extended writing was not done under test conditions during the survey but submitted by schools and nationally moderated. A comparison between 2005 SSA and the Assessment of Achievement Programme (AAP) in 2001 shows no significant change, except at S2 level D where there was a slight improvement.

Gender differences were statistically significant for all four stages, with teachers rating girls' writing more highly than boys' writing and more girls than boys achieving higher levels.

3.2.3 The proportion of pupils showing well established or very good skills at the relevant levels in numeracy increased through the primary school to P7. More than 90% of S2 pupils had made a good start with level D in numeracy with over 20% well established at level E. Comparing the 2000 AAP with the 2005 SSA shows steady increases in achievement for P7 and S2 over the period at all levels, with particularly marked jumps at level F in 2005.

4. EAST AYRSHIRE PERFORMANCE

4.1.1 The overall picture for **reading** is of strong attainment at all stages for schools in East Ayrshire.

4.1.2 East Ayrshire outperforms the comparator authorities within the 16 authorities sampled at P5, P7 and S2 level.

	Reading			
	P3 (Level A)	P5 (Level C)	P7 (Level D)	S2 (Level E)
North Ayrshire	72	48	45	42
North Lanarkshire	65	52	41	41
West Lothian	75	53	46	42
East Ayrshire	74	56	48	47
National Average	75	53	49	49

4.1.3 Gender differences highlighted at the national level are evident in East Ayrshire as girls outperform boys at all stages.

	Reading			
	P3 (Level A)	P5 (Level C)	P6 (Level D)	S2 (Level E)
Boys	46	50	46	40
Girls	51	63	50	53

4.1.4 49% of P3 pupils in East Ayrshire are achieving above the required standard at level B.

22% of P5 pupils in East Ayrshire are achieving above the required standard at level D.

31% of P6 pupils in East Ayrshire are achieving above the required standard at level E.

17% of S2 pupils in East Ayrshire are achieving above the required standard at level F.

	Reading - High Achieving Pupils			
	P3 (Level B)	P5 (Level D)	P6 (Level E)	S2 (Level F)
East Ayrshire	49	22	31	17
Scotland	50	23	30	17

4.1.5 The overall picture for **Numeracy** is of strong attainment at all stages.

Schools in East Ayrshire are in line or above the national average at all stages.

4.1.6 East Ayrshire outperforms the comparator authorities at P5 and P7.

	Numeracy			
	P3 (Level A)	P5 (Level C)	P7 (Level D)	S2 (Level E)
North Ayrshire	92	49	64	52
North Lanarkshire	85	52	68	40
West Lothian	91	46	56	43
East Ayrshire	91	55	69	50
National Average	91	51	68	45

4.1.7 Gender differences highlighted at the national level are evident in East Ayrshire as girls outperform boys in all stages except P5.

	Numeracy			
	P3 (Level A)	P5 (Level C)	P6 (Level D)	S2 (Level E)
Boys	89	58	68	47
Girls	94	51	70	53

4.1.8 40% of P3 pupils in East Ayrshire are achieving above the required standard at level B. This is above the national average.

13% of P5 pupils in East Ayrshire are achieving above the required standard at level D.

29% of P6 pupils in East Ayrshire are achieving above the required standard at level E. This is above the national average.

15% of S2 pupils in East Ayrshire are achieving above the required standard at level F. This is above the national average.

	Numeracy - High Achieving Pupils			
	P3 (Level B)	P5 (Level D)	P6 (Level E)	S2 (Level F)
East Ayrshire	40	13	29	15
Scotland	37	22	28	13

5. LEGAL/POLICY/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

6. COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** These results highlight the extent to which children and young people are benefiting from improved opportunities in education and contributing to the promotion of community learning.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1** Members of the Education Committee are invited to:

- i) note the strong performances of pupils in reading and numeracy at all stages in 5-14 attainment
- ii) ask the Executive Director for further reports, annually, on 5-14 attainment
- iii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

Graham Short
Executive Director (Educational and Social Services)

KMcK/MM
24 August 2006

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Members wishing further information should contact Kenneth McKinlay, Principal Quality Improvement (Tel: 01563 555650)

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER : KENNETH MCKINLAY