

# RISE IN ESSEX PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS ACHIEVING SATS BENCHMARK



The percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in reading, writing and maths in state-funded primary schools in Essex has risen dramatically.

Data released by the Department for Education shows 79 per cent of 11-year-olds achieved level 4 or higher in their Sats tests in the three subjects in 2014 – a 4 percentage point rise from the 75 per cent achieving the benchmark in 2013.

The Essex figure also stands above the national average for state-funded schools, which climbed from 76 per cent in 2013 to 78 per cent in 2014.

Essex has improved on its ranking against all authorities, and is now in the second quartile for the proportion of 11-year-olds achieving level 4 or more in reading, writing and maths. A further 953 more pupils attained the expected level this year from last year, which is almost a 7 per cent increase on last year's figures.

Other headline figures in Essex include:

- Essex continues to match or exceed the performance of the Eastern region in all key KS2 measures.

- With regards to statistical neighbours (local authority areas with similar contexts), Essex now surpasses their average performance in terms of pupils achieving level 4+ in reading, maths and the combined RWM measure.
- A 3 per cent improvement in pupils making expected progress in maths sees Essex match the national performance of 89 per cent for the first time.
- Based on rankings out of 11 local authorities (when compared to statistical neighbours and Eastern region), Essex sees rankings of 5th or higher in all bar one of the key attainment and progress measures.

Cllr Ray Gooding, Essex County Council's cabinet member for Education and Lifelong Learning, said: "Today's statistics are excellent news for Essex and reflect the hard work going on at primary schools across the county.

"We will continue to work closely with teachers, governors, pupils and parents to ensure that children leave primary school equipped with the skills to succeed both in the rest of their education and in later life."