

SATS RESULTS 2013 SHOW IMPROVEMENT

The 2013 Sats results show the percentage of primary school children in England achieving a level 4 pass in reading, writing and mathematics has risen slightly.

The number of primary school children in England achieving a level 4 pass in reading, writing and mathematics at key stage 2 (KS2), rose slightly on last year with 76% of pupils reaching the benchmark for their age group in 2013 compared with 75% in 2012.

Although the provisional result published by the Department for Education (DfE) show that further progress has been made, the one percentage point increase since the 2012 results suggest that a significant percentage of pupils are leaving primary school without a sufficient grasp of reading, writing and maths.

In fact the data shows that although the percentage of children getting a level 4 in writing and mathematics increased - up two percentage points and one percentage point respectively - the percentage of pupils reaching the same level for in reading has decreased by one percentage point to 86%.

63% of pupils achieved what the DfE call a 'good' level 4 or above (this means a test mark that is in the top two-thirds of the level 4 mark range) in both reading and writing whilst also getting a level 4 or above in writing.

Girls outperformed boys with 66% achieving this standard compared with 61% of boys. The figures of the percentage of pupils recording a 'good' level 4 have been published by the DfE for the first time in 2013.

We've put together some key charts below to illustrate the latest results:

Reading - Of all the subjects in the release, reading was the only one to see a decrease this year in the percentage of pupils scoring a level 4 or above in the key stage two test. Girls continued to outperform



boys with 88% reaching this level compared with 83% of boys. However, the gap is narrowing as the results for boys were up one percentage point whilst girls saw a decrease of 2 percentage points.

Mathematics - Attainment in mathematics at level 4 or above increased by one percentage point on the previous year. Girls and boys continued to perform at a similar level although the DfE release highlights the slight gender gap when you look at level 5 results (above the expected level) - boys have outperformed girls again with 43% achieving a level 5 in maths compared with 39% of girls.

Girls actually improved more than boys at level 5 between 2012 and 2013 - girl's results were up by 2% whereas boys only recorded a 1% increase.

Grammar, punctuation and spelling

For the first time, the 2013 tests included a grammar punctuation and spelling assessment. The results show that 74% of pupils achieved level 4 or above, with girls (79%) outperforming boys (69%).

Writing - According to the DfE release, the level of pupils reaching a level 4 or above in the writing teacher assessment has increased on the year - up two percentage points to 88%.

Just to confuse things, the DfE release also contains results of National Teacher Assessment. The chart above shows the percentage of pupils in all schools achieving a level 4 or above in the KS2 teacher assessments by subject.

Key stage 2 test levels of attainment by subject

Coverage: England, all schools

Reading	% at level 4 or above	% at level 5 or above	Total number of eligible pupils
1997	67	20	590200
1998	71	23	607700
1999	78	31	627000
2000	83	42	622600
2001	82	42	632900
2002	80	38	640200
2003	81	42	636500
2004	83	39	610500
2005	84	43	607900
2006	83	47	592200
2007	84	48	585900
2008	87	49	585800
2009	86	47	579600
2010	83	50	422200
2011	84	43	554500
2012	87	48	544100
2013	86	45	537800
Grammar, punctuation and spelling (2013)	74	48	537700

Mathematics	% at level 4 or above	% at level 5 or above	Total number of eligible pupils
1995	45	13	465300
1996	54	14	584400
1997	62	18	589400
1998	59	17	608300
1999	69	24	629000
2000	72	25	623700
2001	71	25	633500
2002	73	28	640800
2003	73	29	637200
2004	74	31	612700
2005	75	31	609900
2006	76	33	594200
2007	77	32	587200
2008	79	31	596500
2009	79	35	579600
2010	79	34	423800
2011	80	35	554300
2012	84	39	544100
2013	85	41	537800