

STOKE ON TRENT COUNCIL RECORD SCHOOL RESULTS

Primary school pupils in Stoke-on-Trent have achieved their best ever results following big improvements in English and maths, according to attainment figures published today.

Key Stage 2 SATs results and provisional assessment data for both Early Years and Key Stage 1 all show marked increases in the number of pupils achieving and surpassing national performance expectations.

The results point to a continuing trend of improving attainment levels across all Early Years and primary school age ranges in both literacy and numeracy over recent years.

Provisional data for the percentage of children attaining national expectation standards for Early Years stands at 54.1 per cent – a rise of two per cent compared to last year.

In Key Stage 1 there has been continued improvement in speaking, listening, reading, writing and maths, with performance levels increasing by two to three percentage points across all subject areas.

Reading, which has recently been the focus of a city-wide initiative in partnership with school inspection body Ofsted, has also seen the biggest improvements at Key Stage 2, where the number of children reaching the target level four has jumped by 4.5 per cent since last year, while the number of high-achieving readers attaining level five has risen by 8.6 per cent.

The city's schools have achieved similar improvements in the number of children reaching the required levels in reading, writing and numeracy combined, with four per cent more pupils achieving level four across all subjects and 3.9 per cent more attaining level five.

Councillor Shaun Pender, the city council's cabinet member for education, welcomed today's performance data as evidence that

the authority's sustained focus on academic improvement is continuing to pay off.

He said: "These are the best Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 attainment figures we've ever seen for the city. Our schools are performing significantly better than they were just 12 months ago and the upward trend we've seen in recent years is gathering pace.

"This is testament to the commitment and hard work of our teachers and the effectiveness of the working partnership between the local authority and its schools.

"This close relationship has been instrumental in driving up teaching and learning standards through shared best practice across the city, and enabling us to monitor schools' performance and hold them to account where necessary."

He added: "We still have a great deal of work to do to ensure that educational performance in the city is as good as, or better than, the average nationally, but today's results demonstrate that we're closing that gap more rapidly than ever and give me great confidence that we will catch and overtake the rest of the country before very long."

