

School Performance Tables 2018 - Information for Parents

As many parents may be aware, the 2018 Primary School Performance Tables were published by the Department for Education yesterday. These tables help schools and parents compare certain aspects of a school's results using a range of different measures and calculations.

I wanted to reassure parents that, although our school's progress data for 2018 was lower than the previous year and compared to some other local schools; this does not indicate that we are not being a successful school! We set and achieve high standards and are constantly evaluating and improving our curriculum and approaches to teaching and learning in order to provide the very best for your children.

Attainment

Our attainment results in 2018 were very much in line with other local schools and significantly above the national average, both in terms of % and the average scaled scores achieved. In the most recent Primary Inspection Summary Report (which is only sent to schools, not published to parents) it stated that our **'Three year average reading attainment score (107.6) was in the top 10%.'**

Progress Measures Explained

The DfE measure a school's progress by taking an average of a child's Reading, Writing and Maths Teacher Assessment result from Infant School and then setting an expected outcome from that starting point for the actual score a child gets in their KS2 SATs. The results for 2018 make a comparison between the old 'Levels' and the new tests and because the children joined us with exceptionally high levels from Heatherside Infants School, they have to achieve incredibly high scores in the KS2 Tests in order to be seen to be making even 'expected' progress. Essentially, the higher the starting points at Year 3, the more challenging it is for the school to 'add value' that is reflected in progress scores. This has been recognised by Ofsted who this year have stated that **'Junior Schools on average have higher attainment but lower progress scores, which may be for a variety of reasons. Inspectors should be aware of this ..and carefully consider a range of data'** (HJS Primary Inspection Summary Report 2018.) As we do not know other schools' KS1 starting points, it is not possible to make fully informed comparisons about progress between schools.

Our evaluation

As a school we completely acknowledge that our progress measure for 2018 for Maths and Writing was lower than in previous years but each cohort is different and there is absolutely no need for parents to be concerned about standards at our school. My ambition for all the children remains high and this vision is shared by all the staff and governors. We never rest on our laurels and our school improvement work is robust, reflective and targeted to help each child to achieve their very best; not just in tests but in all aspects of school life.

We could spend more time on test practice and allocate more teaching time away from the wider subjects and curriculum opportunities, but we have made the decision not to do this as we believe that a rounded and broad education with a solid and secure basis in Maths and English is what will help the children most as they move onto secondary school and into the world beyond. Moving forward, this academic year is the last one where the old levels are being compared with the new curriculum and as of 2020 I think the progress measures will be slightly more reliable!

It is right and proper that parents can compare data between schools and that we are held to account. However I think it is vital that we don't lose sight of the fact that it is actually children that we are talking about and I firmly believe that Heatherside children leave us in Year 6 having achieved well, grown in confidence and have had the opportunity to enjoy a wide and varied curriculum which will stand them in good stead in the future.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries or concerns about the performance tables or your child's progress.

Mrs Dunn