

YEAR 2003 RESULTS FOR HEREFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS**Report By: Head of Inspection, Advice and School Performance Service****Wards Affected**

Countywide

Purpose

1. To up-date the committee on the Summer 2003 results at Key Stage 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 for Herefordshire Schools.

Financial Implications

2. None

Report

3. This report supplements the information presented to Committee on 23 September 2003 (Agenda item 5). At the time of writing this report the national league tables, including value added data, have been published for Key Stage 2 (11 year olds) and Key Stage 3 (14 year olds). The GCSE tables (16 year olds) and Post 16 tables are due to be published on 15 January and any new or revised information will be tabled at the meeting.
4. The national performance tables are published by the DfES on their website. Councillors wishing to examine individual schools have performed can access this information by visiting the DfES web-site on www.dfes.gov.uk/performance/tables/.
5. Every school shares performance information with their Governing Body, reports their performance to parents and engages in a dialogue with the LEA about their performance targets results for 2004 and beyond.
6. However one of the difficulties now faced by parents, governors, elected members and, indeed, education professionals, is the quantity of performance data now available on individual schools, on LEAs and nationally. Performance can be measured in absolute terms, compared to similar schools or statistical neighbours or calculated on a value-added basis. Trends can be calculated over one, two, three or more years and the results can look very different depending on which year is used as the 'base' year. There are persistent difficulties over the quality of the marking, particularly in English at Key Stages 2 and 3. In addition, in the rush to publicise information as close to the summer testing schedule as possible, unvalidated data is used and only corrected several months later. Consequently, a negative or positive result can be misleading for schools and LEAs, and difficult to correct once it is in the public domain.

7. Nevertheless, despite the reservations about the use of data listed in paragraph 6, the results available for Herefordshire schools and pupils indicate another positive overall performance in 2003.

8. **Key Stage 1: (7 year olds)**

Level 2+ %	Reading	Writing	Maths
Herefordshire	87 (86)	84 (88)	91 (89)
National	84 (84)	81 (86)	90 (90)

These results are similar to 2002. In general, the County performs above the national average with girls continuing to out perform the boys. Last year's 2002 figures are in brackets.

9. **Key Stage 2: (11 year olds)**

Level 4 + %	English	Maths	Science
Herefordshire	76 (76)	74 (74)	89 (88)
National	75 (75)	73 (73)	87 (86)

Level 5+ %	English	Maths	Science
Herefordshire	27 (30)	30 (28)	45 (41)
National	27 *28)	29 (27)	41 (37)

10. These audited results for Key Stage 2 have made only minor changes to the figures in the previous report to committee. In general, the County performs close to, or just above the national average but results locally appear to have reached a plateau which reflects the situation nationally. Last year's 2002 figures are in brackets.
11. However, Herefordshire's Key Stage 2 performance appears significantly better when the new "value added" league tables are used. Using the Government's own value added measures Herefordshire is in the top 25% of all Local Education Authorities, the highest achieving in the West Midlands (14 LEAs) and better than all our statistical neighbours. The LEA positive 'score' was 100.2 where 100.00 represents neither positive or negative value added.

12. **Key Stage 3: (14 Year olds)**

Level 5+	English	Maths	Science
Herefordshire	72 (74)	76 (74)	74 (74)
National	69 (66)	71 (67)	68 (66)

Level 6+	English	Maths	Science
Herefordshire	35 (39)	55 (53)	46 (41)
National	34 (32)	49 (45)	40 (33)

13. The level 5+ results at Key Stage 3 are the confirmed results and are published on the DfES site, but the level 6+ results are based upon the LEA's data (the level 6 figures are not nationally published). Last years 2002 results are in brackets.

14. In general, the County performs better than the national average at Key Stage 3. Herefordshire also performs well using the Government's own value added measures having a positive 'score' of 100.3 which places Herefordshire in the top 25% of all Local Education Authorities.
15. **Key Stage 4: (16 year olds)** The audited results for GCSE are due to be published on January 15 2004. The provisional figures for GCSE are listed in the table below with last year's 2002 results in brackets.

GCSE	5+A*-C	5+A*-G
Herefordshire	58 (56)	92 (92)
National	53 (51)	89 (87)

16. It is anticipated that these figures will be confirmed but any alterations will be tabled at the meeting. At the 5 A* - C benchmark only Shropshire and Solihull (on 59%) score higher than Herefordshire in the West Midlands and the County is about 8% higher than the West Midlands average.
17. **Key Stage 5: Post 16.** The audited results for 'A' levels are due to be published on January 15, 2004. Only a small proportion (approximately 10%) of pupils remain in the four school-based sixth forms, the vast majority taking 'A' levels attending the Sixth Form College in Hereford.
18. The 8 October 2003 early release of statistical information contained a provisional score of performance at 'A' level that was very encouraging for the County. Using the average point scores for 16-18 year olds per candidate for the score for Herefordshire (including the results from the FE colleges and the Sixth Form College as well as schools) was 289.4. The West Midlands average was 235.9. The Herefordshire score was the highest in the West Midlands and the third highest of all the LEAs in England. This appears to be an exceptionally good performance by Herefordshire pupils at 'A' level.
19. In relation to these results it is worth noting that wage rates in Herefordshire are the lowest in the West Midlands and are one of the lowest in the whole of the United Kingdom. Whilst recognising that improvement is always possible and that the whole education service including pupils, teachers, governors and elected members will be seeking further improvement in 2004, it is important to note that the 2003 results reflect very well on the quality of education offered to Herefordshire children and young people.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee comment on the results achieved in 2003, and identify any matters requiring particular attention.