

Islington Annual Education Report 2025



ISLINGTON
= For a more equal future

Contents

03	Key Findings
06	Educational Attainment - Context and Trends, Priorities
09	Islington Context
10	Early Years Foundation Stage
12	Phonics
14	Key Stage 2
16	Primary School Absence
17	Primary School Exclusions and Suspensions
18	Key Stage 4
22	Secondary School Absence
23	Secondary School Exclusions and Suspensions
24	Elective Home Education
25	Key Stage 5
26	Post 16 Destinations and NEET
27	Quality of Provision

Introduction

The Islington Annual Education Report 2025 gives an overview of education in the borough, from early years up to post-16.

This year, we have had many pupils performing above national averages, with particular successes in Key Stage 2 and post-16 results.



Islington is a diverse borough with 73.5% of pupils from global majority backgrounds. We have the second highest proportion of free school meal and special educational needs support eligibility in the country.

Our schools are working hard to support disadvantaged students; and Islington's pupils eligible for free school meals and those with SEN achieve better outcomes than their peers nationally. Challenges around post pandemic attendance and persistent absence however remain areas of concern.

As you read this report, you'll find analysis of our children's educational outcomes, and information on our priorities going forward. We invite you to explore the report and find out more about education in Islington.

2025 Primary

Key Findings

Educational attainment in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) **increased compared to 2024 but remains below National and Inner London figures.**

The proportion of Islington pupils who meet the expected standard in Phonics in Year 1 is **slightly below the national average.** However, **higher** proportions of FSM and SEN pupils in Islington achieve the expected standard compared to their peers nationally.

Children in Islington **outperformed** their national peers across all subjects at Key Stage 2 in 2025, although their performance was below that of Inner London in all subjects.

The proportion of children reaching the expected standard at Key Stage 2 was **equal to 2024.** Islington remains **above National but below Inner London figures** for Reading, Writing, Maths and combined.

Primary school rates of absence and persistent absence have **increased** in Islington between autumn-spring 2023/4 and 2024/25 and remain **above** the rates of our comparators.

Primary school suspensions rates **increased** from 2023, while permanent exclusions **decreased.** Both rates remain below the England average, which has increased since the pandemic.

2025 Secondary

Key Findings

The Islington Key Stage 4 Attainment 8 and Progress 8 scores improved in 2025 and were **above** National but below Inner London.

The proportions of Islington pupils achieving a *standard* pass (Grade 4 – 9) and the proportion achieving a *strong* pass (Grade 5 – 9) in English and Maths were both **above** the national figures, but below Inner London.

Secondary school absence and persistent absence **increased** in Islington between autumn-spring 2023/4 and 2024/25 and **remain above** the rates of our comparators.

The Islington rate of permanent exclusions from secondary school **continued to rise** in 2023/24 but was **in line with** the Inner London and Statistical Neighbour averages and **below** the national average

The secondary school suspension rate in Islington **increased** compared to the previous year. The rate was above the Inner London and Statistical Neighbour averages but was **below** the national average for the second time since 2015.

2025 Post 16, EHE and CME

Key Findings

On the range of KS5 Average Points Score (APS) measures, students in Islington performed **better** than London and national in all measures. The % of students achieving 3 A*-A grades at A-level was below Inner London and National.

The percentage of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) or in a 'not known' activity **fell** to 3.9% from 4.2% in 2024 and 4.5% in 2023. This was **lower** than the National figure but higher than Inner London.

The number of Electively Home Educated (EHE) pupils has **increased** in recent years, with Islington maintaining a rate **consistent with the national average but above the Inner London average.**

The rate of Children Missing Education (CME) pupils has **remained consistent** in recent years, with Islington's rate remaining **below national and Inner London averages**

Ofsted no longer issue single word judgements for their inspection outcomes. Of the eight inspections since Sep 2024, all maintained provisions' standards or improved significantly

Educational Attainment - Context and Trends

The COVID-19 pandemic caused notable disruptions in education. All primary phase assessments were cancelled in both **2020 and 2021**. GCSEs and A levels were awarded via teacher and lecturer assessments, which were significantly higher, on average, than in 2019.

In **2022**, a full series of exams took place. Exam boards set the grading for Key Stages 4 and 5 to reflect the mid-point between 2019 and 2021, so results in 2022 were higher than in 2021.

In **2023**, grading largely returned to 'normal', resulting in lower overall results compared with 2022 across the country. In **2024 and 2025**, exams continued to stabilise, with grading standards returning to pre-pandemic norms. This meant that the results were more consistent with those seen pre-pandemic. No Progress 8 scores are available in 2025 or 2026 as the relevant GCSE cohorts did not sit KS2 SATs due to the pandemic, leaving no prior-attainment baseline.

- The Early Years Foundation Stage was reformed in September 2021. As such, we can compare results starting from 2022.
- Results across the country in the Phonics screening check decreased in 2022 compared to pre-pandemic levels. It is understood that this reflects the impact of the disruption to children's learning as a result of the pandemic. The same is true for Key Stage 2. The 2024 and 2025 results were closer to pre-pandemic levels.
- Throughout this release, comparisons are made with 2022, 2023 and 2024. The more meaningful comparison for GCSEs and A-levels is with 2024 and 2019, the last year that summer exams were taken before the pandemic, as 2023 saw a return to pre-pandemic grading, with some protections. In 2024, there were still some protections in place for GCSE exams, specifically in maths and sciences. However, A-level exams returned to the pre-pandemic structure and conditions, with no specific protections.

	2022	2023	2024	2025
EYFSP				
Good Level of Development	64.7	66.6	65.1	67.8
Phonics				
Year 1	77	79	78	78
By the end of Year 2	89	89	89	89
Key Stage 2				
RWM	63	65	67	67
Reading	77	75	79	79
Writing	72	76	76	75
Maths	72	77	77	77
Key Stage 4				
Attainment 8	49.9	46.7	48	47
Progress 8	0.07	-0.03	0.15	n/a
Basics (English & Maths) 5+	52.7	46.8	51.3	51.1
Key Stage 5				
Average A level result	B-	C+	B-	B-
APS per entry (A level)	37.15	34.35	36.46	37.2

Educational Attainment –Priorities

Strategic Priorities

Key Achievement Performance Targets 2025/26

- Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) – increase GLD % above Regional by 2026, working towards meeting the GLD measures set by the DfE.
- Phonics (Year 1) – increase Expected Standard % above Regional by 2026
- All Key Stage 2 KPIs for Expected Standard to be above Regional by 2026
- Key Stage 4 Attainment 8 and English and Maths 4+ to be above Inner London by 2026

Cross Phase Strategic Priorities

- To continue to reduce the variation of achievement outcomes across our primary and secondary schools with a focus on EYFS, Phonics, KS2 Writing at Greater Depth and KS4 Attainment 8 through the Islington School Support Programme
- Accelerating rates of progress for disadvantaged and targeted vulnerable groups to ensure educational equity including Black Caribbean and Black and White Mixed Caribbean pupils.
- Securing improved attendance rates and significantly reduce persistent absence across all educational phases remains a non-negotiable strategic priority
- Reversing the increase in suspensions and exclusions borough-wide, by supporting high-impact, school-specific interventions (review approach) especially within the secondary sector with a targeted focus on several schools.

Phase Specific Priorities

Early Years and Primary (Under 4 - 11)

- Early Years attainment continues on a 3 year upward trajectory. Prioritise developing 'Strong Foundations' within the early years of with a focus on the development of foundational Literacy and numeracy skills especially for vulnerable groups
- Phonics outcomes remain static: prioritise communication and language development in the Early Years to ensure children have the foundational oral skills needed to meet the expected standards in reading and writing at later stages.
- In Key Stage 2 prioritise high-impact literacy interventions with a focus on Writing to move pupils from "expected standard" to "greater depth" and a focus on number fluency to improve Mathematics outcomes

Secondary and Post 16

- Targeted support and challenge to schools to narrow the gap in key areas such as White British disadvantaged, Caribbean and Mixed White and Black Caribbean ethnic groups.
- Working to close the gap between Islington and Inner London in academic outcomes, attendance and exclusion measures.
- Review and introduce bold and new methodology for suspensions and exclusions.

Islington Professional Partners (IPP)

We continue to build strong relationships with all our schools based on broad and deep knowledge through Strategic Schools Oversight Group (SSOG) and Islington Professional Partner (IPP) support and promote school-to-school support through senior leader networks.

The ISSP has been updated to align with the revised DfE 'Support and Intervention in Schools' guidance (November 2024). The programme utilises a tiered support model based on Ofsted ratings and key performance metrics:

Universal Support (Tier 1): All schools receive regular challenge and facilitation from an Islington Professional Partner (IPP) to drive school-led improvement.

Targeted Support (Tier 2): Schools receive three additional IPP visits per year (half-termly) to provide enhanced oversight and guidance.

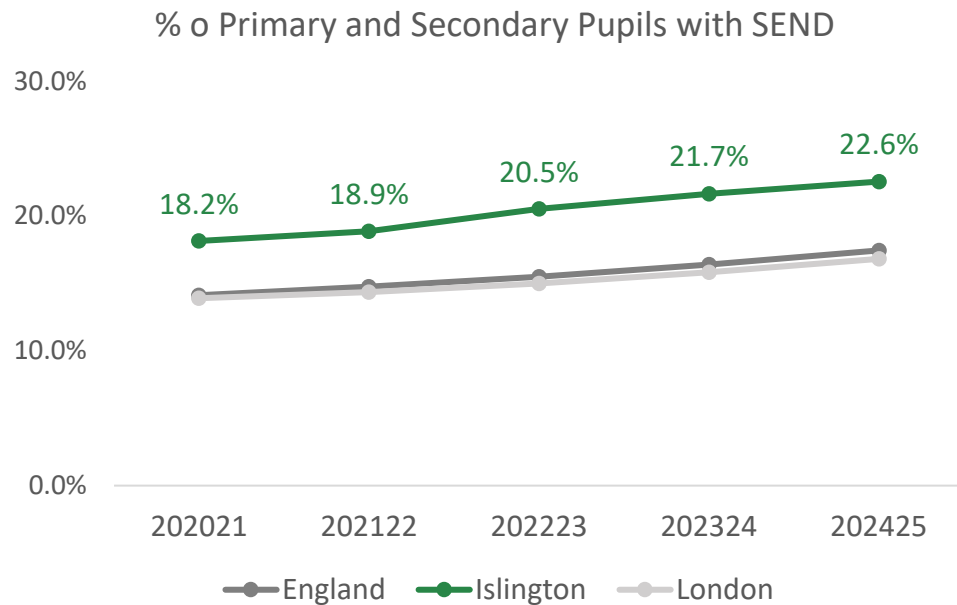
Intensive Intervention (Tier 3): Schools are assigned to School Improvement Groups (SIGs) to execute focused Rapid Improvement Plans under direct IPP leadership support.

Professional Growth: Core support is supplemented by the Leadership Matters development programme, alongside bespoke services including professional coaching and commissioned expertise.

The Islington Context

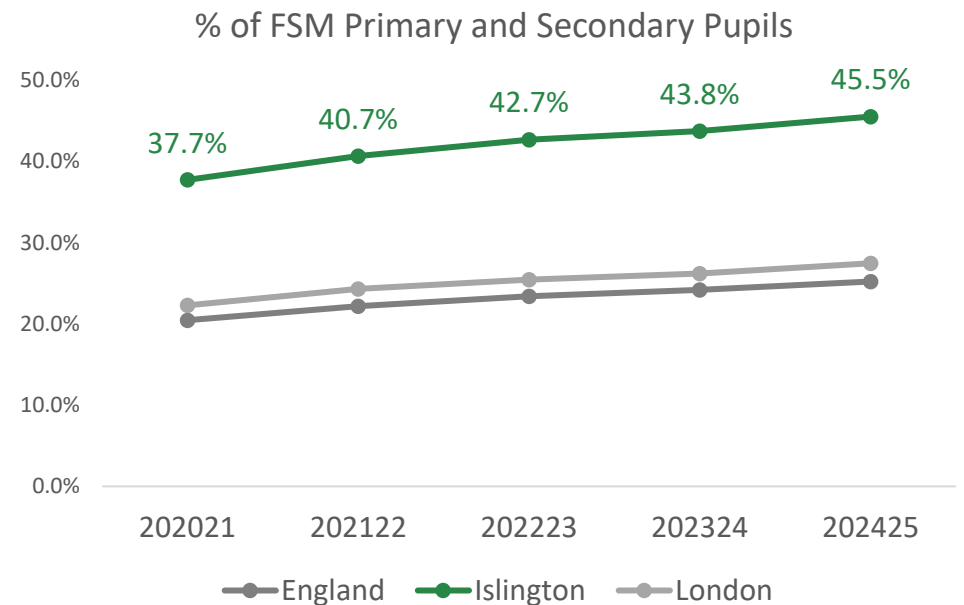
Islington is the **second smallest** London borough by area, but it has the **second highest** population density in England. Just under 25,000 attend schools in the borough (from nursery to 6th form), and approximately 23,500 of these attend state-funded schools. School rolls are falling for both the primary and secondary phases. Pupils are from a relatively diverse range of ethnic backgrounds, with 73.5% of pupils from global majority ethnic backgrounds.

Special Educational Needs



The proportion of pupils with SEN (i.e. with an Education, Health and Care Plan or at SEN Support) has been increasing in Islington and across England. In January 2025, Islington had the second highest proportion of pupils in mainstream schools with SEN in the country.

Free School Meal eligibility



The proportion of primary and secondary school pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) has been increasing in Islington and across England. In January 2025, Islington had the second highest proportion of FSM eligible pupils in mainstream schools in the country.

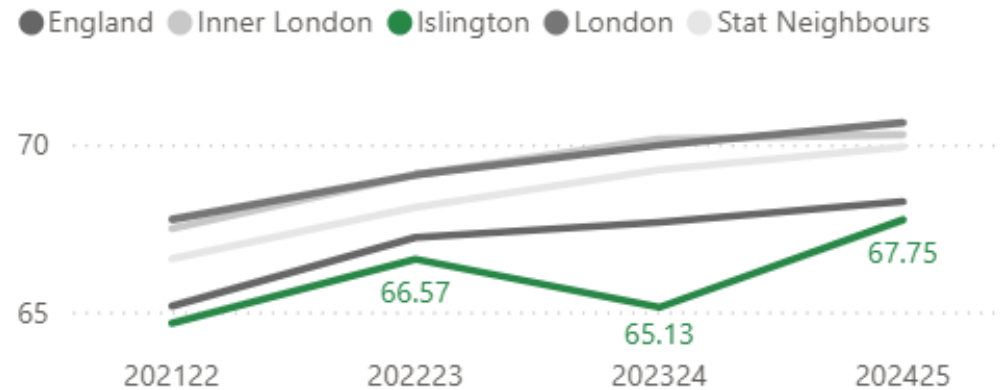
Early Years Foundation Stage

Children who achieve a Good Level of Development (GLD) at the EYFS are regarded by the DfE as being 'school ready'. In 2025 in Islington **67.75% were school ready**, which is **above** the 2024 average of 65.13%.

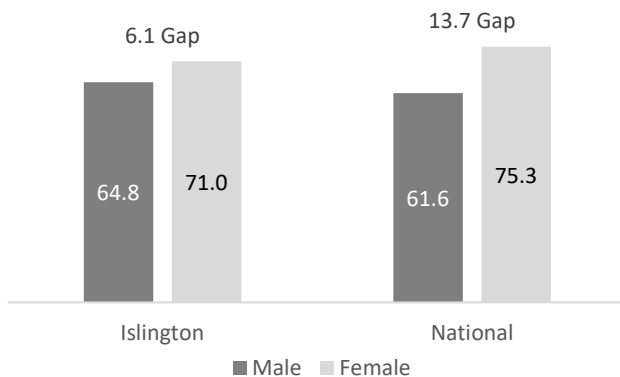
Islington remains **below** the national (68.30%), statistical neighbour (69.93%) and Inner London (70.30%) averages.

The DfE has set Islington a GLD target of 74.1% by 2027/28, and a target of 66.1% for FSM-eligible pupils.

Percentage of children with a good level of development by Year



Gender

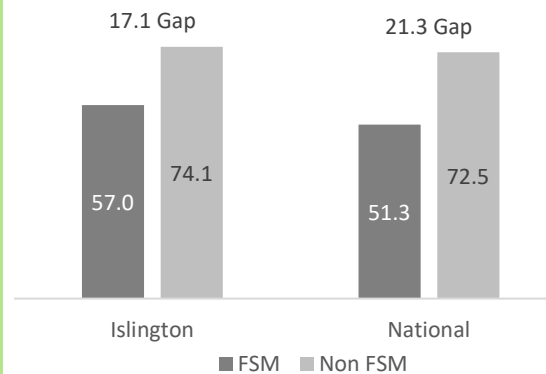


In Islington and nationally there is a gender gap at the EYFS with more girls achieving GLD than boys.

In Islington, the gap is 6.1 percentage points.

Our gender gap **has more than halved** compared to 2024 (15.2), while nationally there was a 0.6 percentage points decrease.

Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility



Islington has a higher proportion of FSM eligible children than national. Islington pupils who are FSM eligible achieve better outcomes at EYFS than their peers nationally.

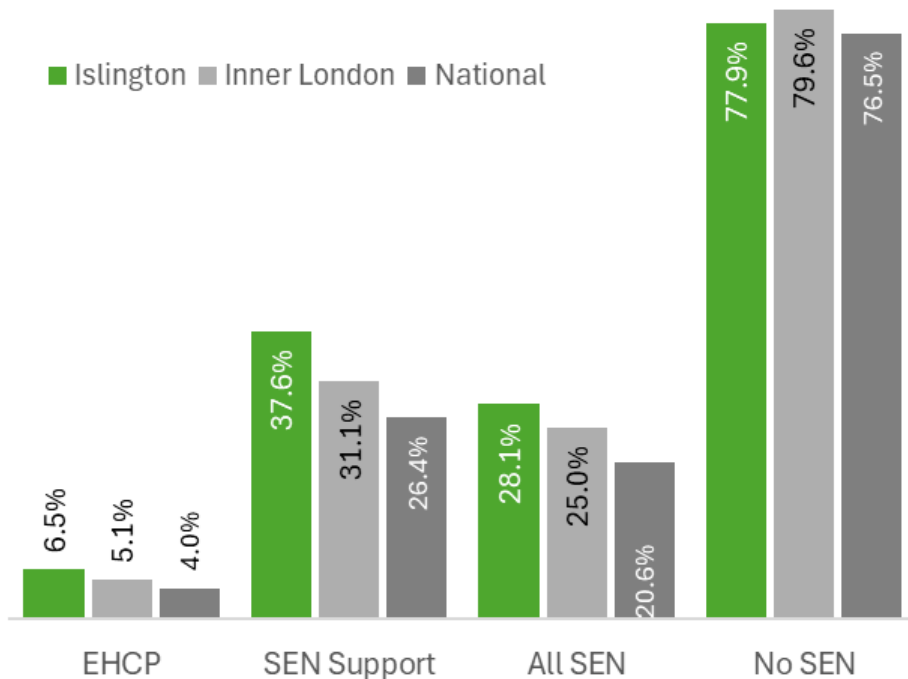
In Islington, and nationally, there is a FSM gap at the EYFS.

Locally the gap is 17.1 percentage points, less than the gap nationally. Our FSM gap **has widened** since 2024, which has followed the national trend.

Early Years Foundation Stage Continued

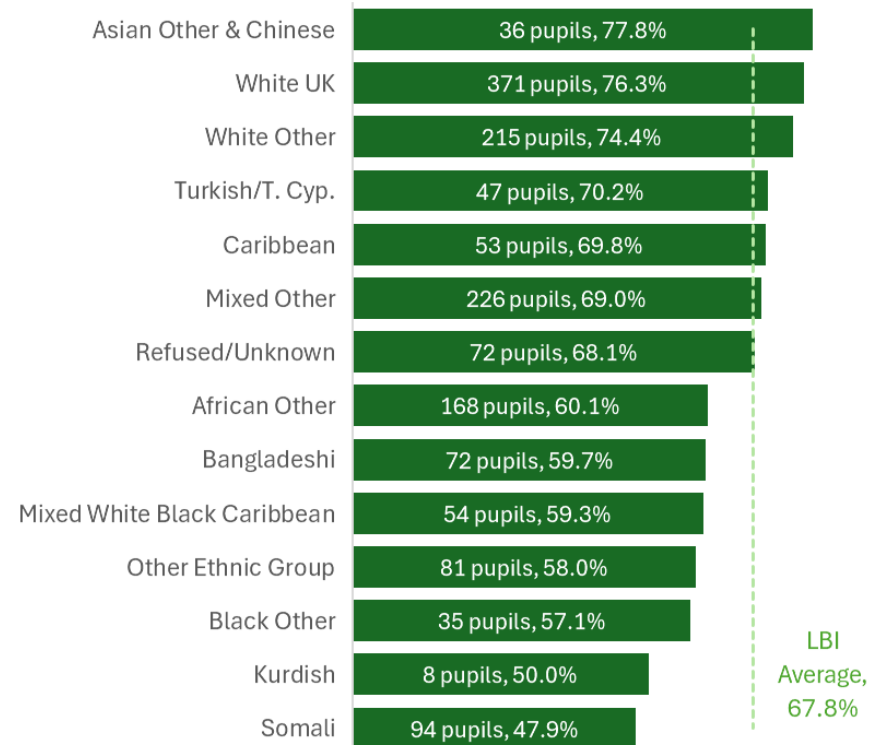
SEN Performance

A **higher** proportion of pupils with SEN, both with an EHCP and with SEN Support, achieved a Good Level of Development in Islington compared to similar pupils nationally and in Inner London.



Ethnic Groups Performance

The highest performing ethnic group at the Early Years Foundation Stage, in terms of achieving a Good Level of Development in 2025, was Asian Other and Chinese (77.8%) and White UK (76.3%). The two lowest performing ethnic groups were Somali (47.9%) and Kurdish (50%). Somali pupils were one of the three ethnic groups with the lowest % of pupils achieving the GLD for the third consecutive year.



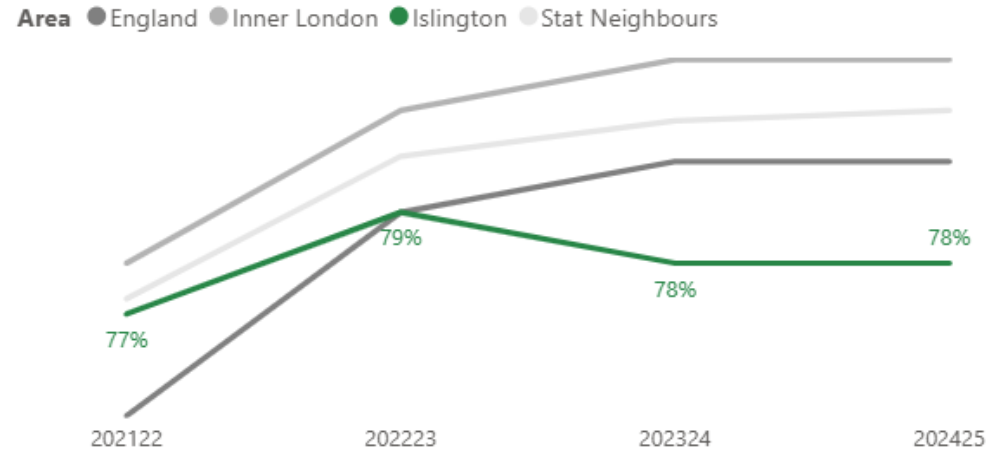
Phonics Screening Check (Year 1)

All pupils take the phonics screening check in year 1 and those who do not reach the threshold or join after the check is administered, are required to take it in year 2.

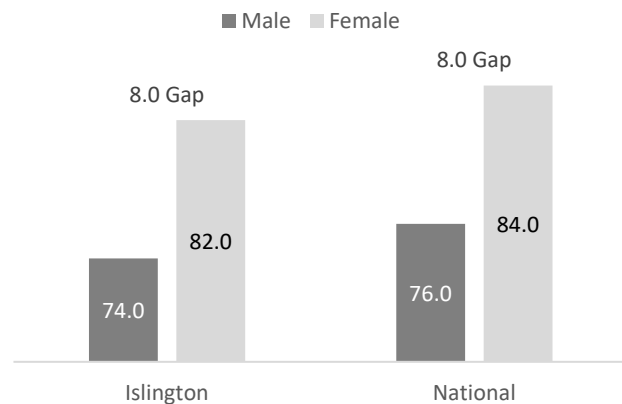
In 2025 **78% of Islington children in year 1 achieved the expected standard**, equal to 2024.

For the past two years, Islington has been below both the national (80%) and Inner London (82%) averages.

Percentage Meeting the Expected Standard in Year 1 by Area



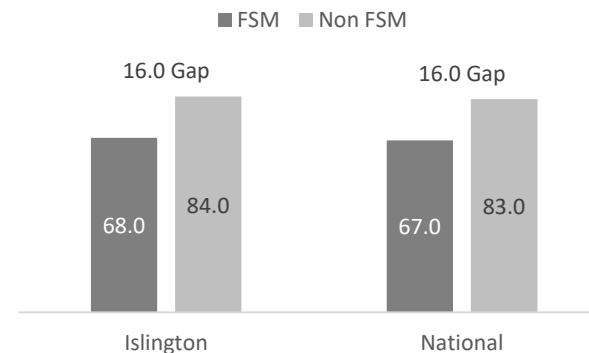
Gender



In Islington and nationally there is an 8-percentage point gender gap in phonics, with more girls achieving expected standard than boys. This gap has increased by 5 percentage points in Islington since last year.

The proportion of both genders achieving the expected standard in Islington is **lower** than national. There is a 2pp gap between boys and girls in Islington and their peers nationally.

Free School Meal eligibility



In both Islington and nationally, there is a 16-percentage point gap between children who are, or are not, eligible for FSM. In Islington this has increased by 5 percentage points since last year.

A **higher** proportion of FSM eligible pupils passed the phonics check in Islington (68%) than did so nationally (67%). However, the proportion of FSM eligible children passing the phonics check in Islington dropped by 4 percentage points since last year (72%) compared to a 1 percentage point drop nationally.

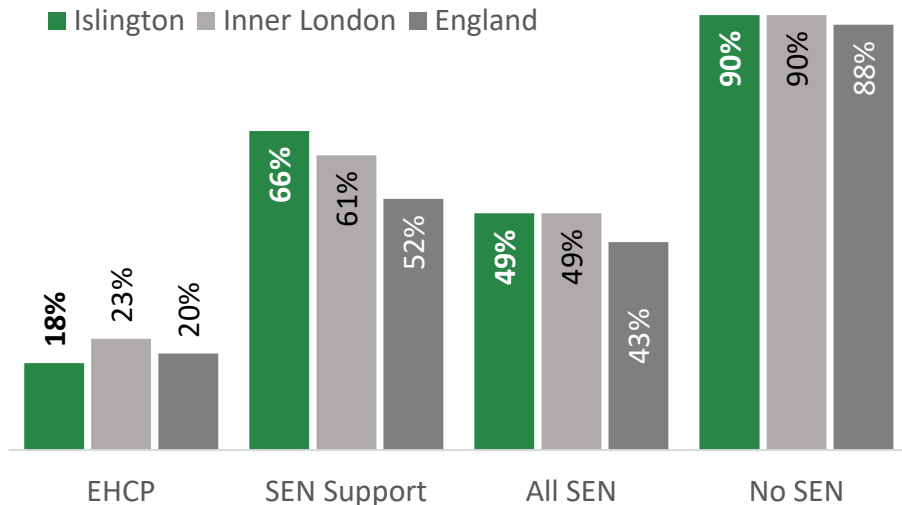
Phonics Screening Check (Year 1) Continued

SEN Performance

A higher proportion of Islington pupils with SEN met the expected standard in phonics in 2025 than national.

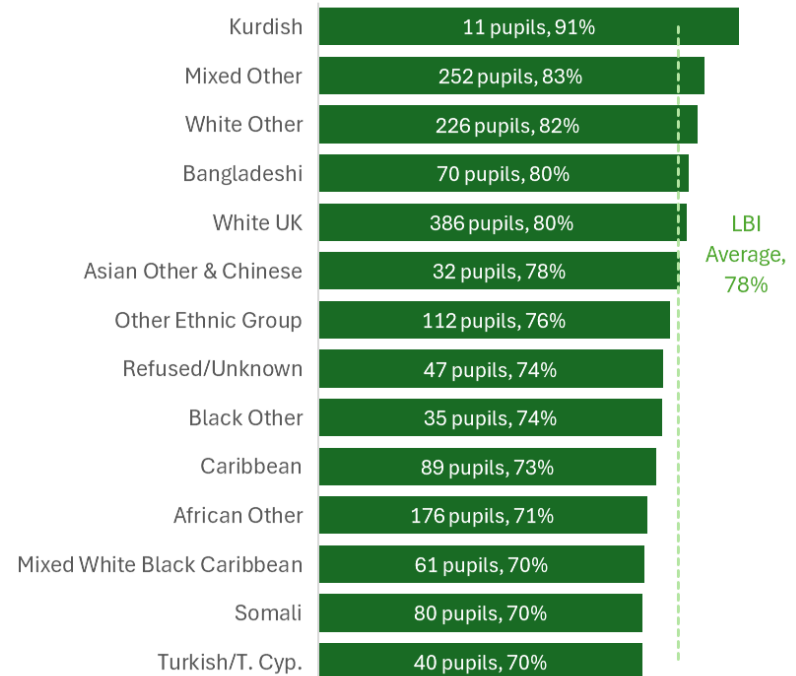
Islington SEN Support pupils achieved 14 percentage points above England and 5 percentage points above Inner London. Last year the gap with national was 7 percentage points.

The proportion Islington pupils with Education Health and Care plans achieving the expected standard dropped by 4 percentage points in 2025, taking Islington 2 percentage points below national.



Ethnic Groups Performance

In 2025, the Kurdish ethnic group moved from being one of the lowest performing (57%) in 2024 to the highest performing group in 2025. African Other and Asian Other and Chinese were the highest achieving groups in terms of meeting the expected standard in phonics. The lowest performing ethnic groups were Bangladeshi (66%) and Mixed White and Black Caribbean (74%). The Mixed White and Black Caribbean ethnic group was in the bottom three for the third consecutive year.



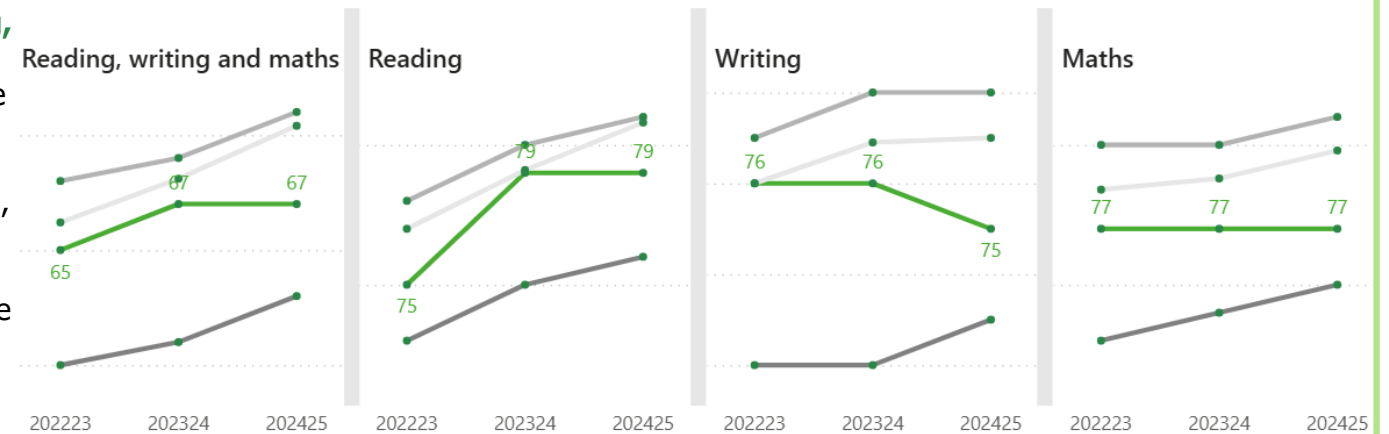
Key Stage 2

Expected Standard: Islington children outperformed their national peers across all subjects at Key Stage 2 in 2025 with **67% achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths**. Islington's performance remains below that of Inner London. Performance in Reading, Maths and the overall RWM measure was equal to the previous year, while Writing dropped by one percentage point. At Key Stage 2, outcomes varied significantly between schools.

At the higher standard, Islington's performance improved in all subjects in 2025 with **13% achieving the higher standard in Reading, Writing and Maths**. Islington remains above national, however is below Inner London.

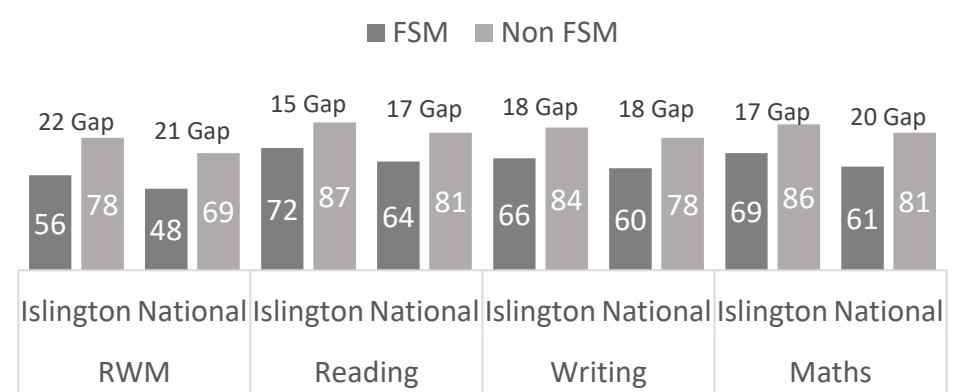
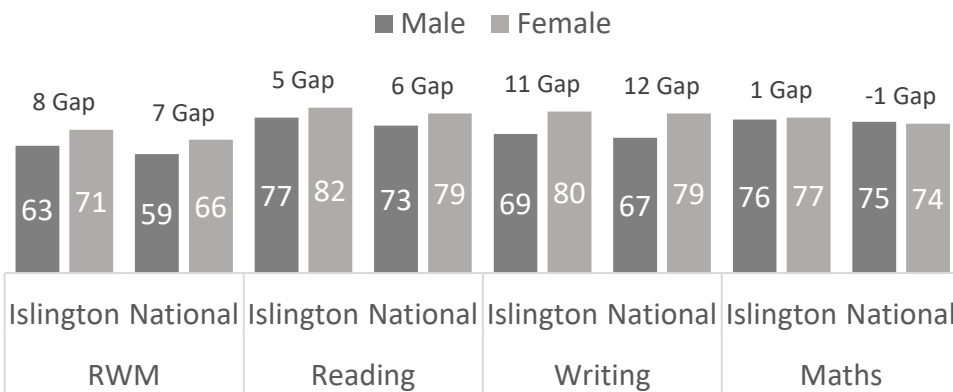
Expected Standard

● England ● Inner London ● Islington ● Stat Neighbours



Gender

Free School Meal eligibility



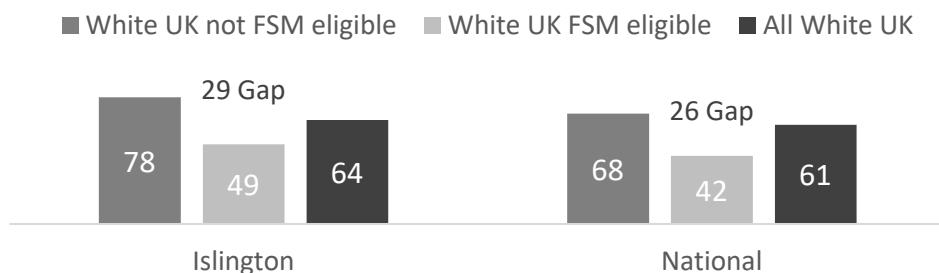
At KS2 in 2025 Islington had gender gaps in favour of **girls** in all subjects.

In 2025 Islington boys and girls **outperformed** their respective counterparts nationally in all subjects.

56% of FSM eligible pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths. Islington had FSM attainment gaps in all KS2 subjects, all of which increased since last year. FSM eligible pupils in Islington **outperformed** similar pupils nationally in all KS2 subjects in 2025.

Key Stage 2: Contextual Analysis in Combined Reading, Writing and Maths

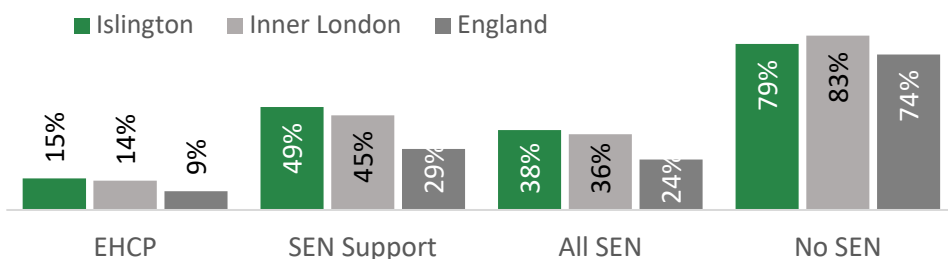
White UK FSM Eligible



At KS2 a **higher proportion** of Islington White UK pupils eligible for FSM achieved at least the expected standard in RWM compared with national.

The gap between Islington White UK pupils eligible and not eligible for FSM (29 percentage points) has **decreased** this year compared to last year (33.2 percentage points).

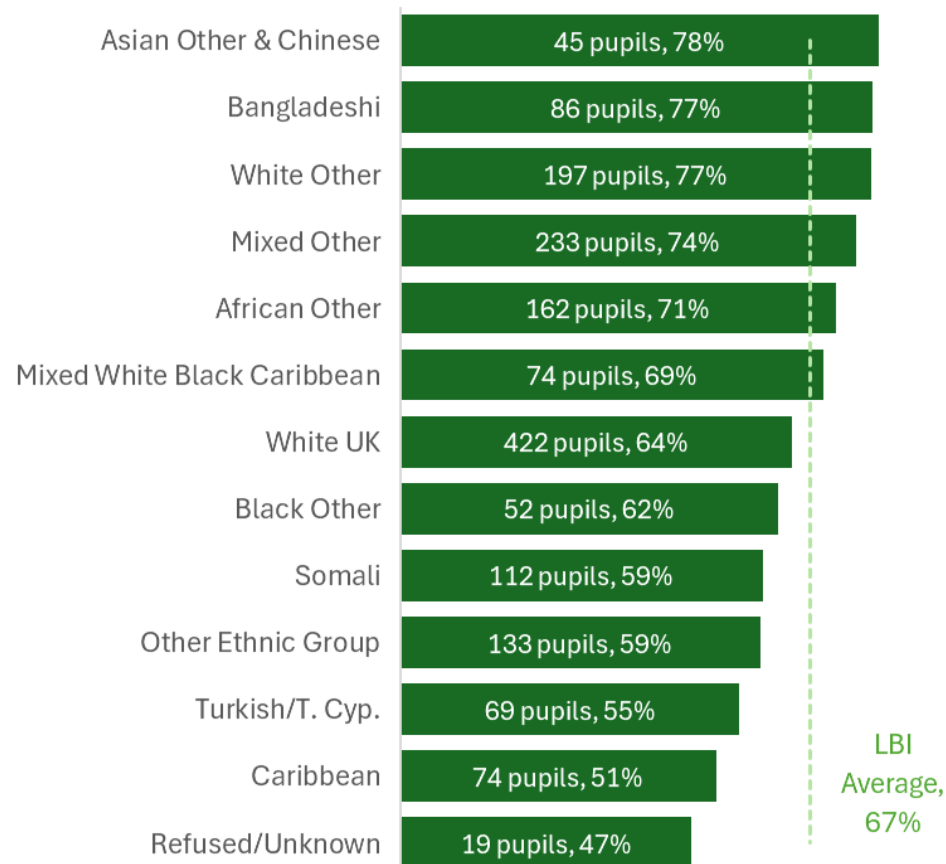
SEN Performance



In 2025, pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) in Islington **outperformed** their peers in RWM. EHCP pupils were 6 percentage points **above** national, while all SEN pupils were 14 points **above** and SEN Support pupils were 20 percentage points **above** national. The proportion of Islington pupils with SEN achieving the expected standard **increased** from 34% in 2024 to 38% in 2025.

Ethnic Groups Performance

While Asian Other and Chinese pupils remained the highest performing group (78%) in 2025, some ethnic groups had lower outcomes. For the **fourth consecutive year** Black Caribbean pupils were the lowest performing group (51%), with Turkish children also remaining one of the lowest performing groups (55%)



Primary School Absence

In Autumn and Spring 2024/25, Islington primary schools had an **absence rate of 6.2%**, higher than Inner London and National and an increase from 2024 (5.9%). This absence consisted of 4.3% authorised absence and 1.9% unauthorised.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, absence rates have increased nationally. 2024/25 saw an increase after a drop in 2023/24, though absence remains above pre-pandemic rates, and Islington remains above its comparators.

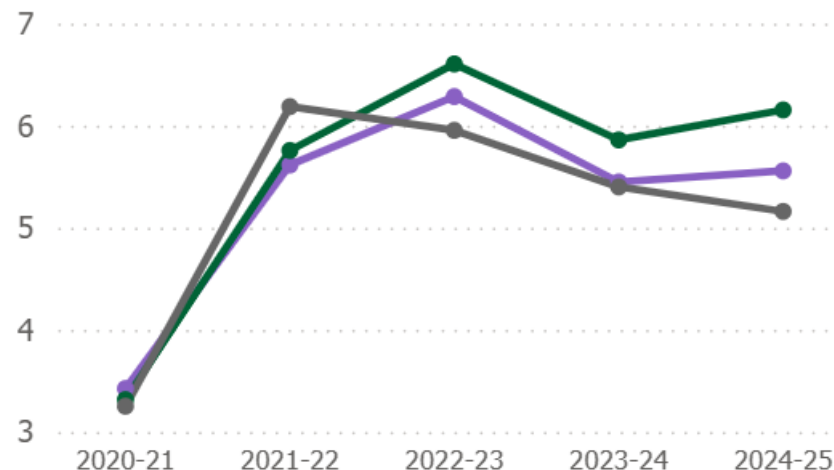
Persistent Absence

The proportion of primary pupils in Islington who were persistent absentees (pupils with 10% or more absence) had been improving between 2017/18 and 2020/21. However, rates of persistent absenteeism more than doubled in Islington and nationally in 2021/22 when Covid-related absence started to be included in the statistics.

In Autumn and Spring 2024/25, Islington primary schools had a **persistent absence rate of 18.2%**, higher than Inner London and National, and an **increase** on the previous year. 0.97% of Islington's primary school children were severe absentees (50% or more absence).

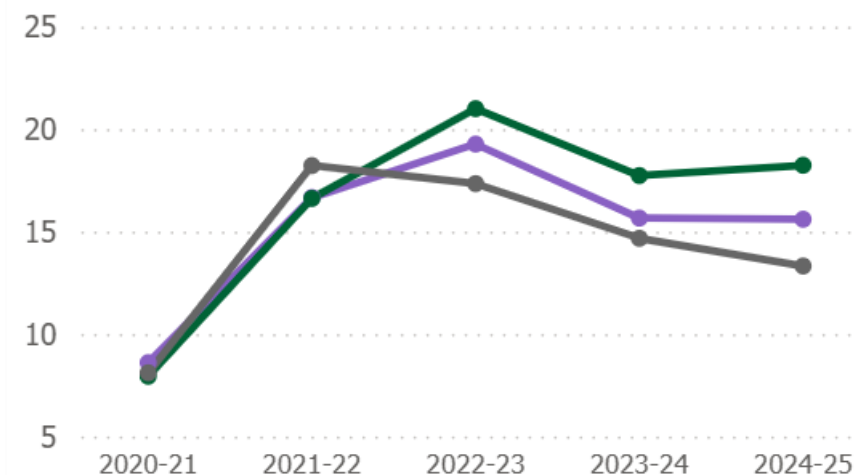
% Overall Absence by Year

Islington | Inner London | England



% Persistent Absence by Year

Islington | Inner London | England



Primary School Exclusions and Suspensions

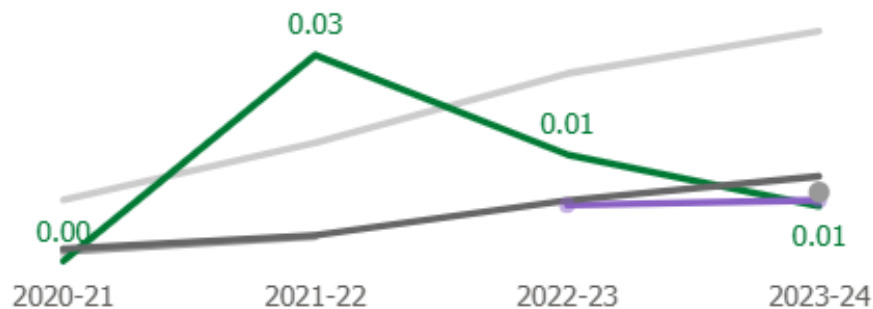
The Department for Education publishes permanent exclusions and suspensions data around one academic year in arrears, with releases such as the 2023/24 data published in July 2025. This information is collected from the school census.

Permanent exclusions

Permanent Exclusion Rate by Year

(Phase: State-funded primary, Term: Academic year)

Area ● England ● Inner London ● Islington ● London ● Stat Neighbours



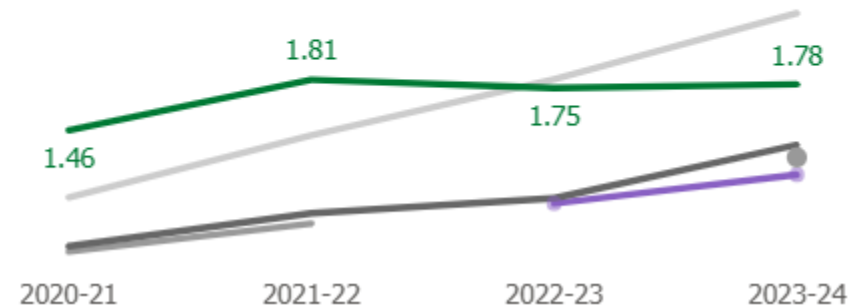
The permanent exclusion rate in Islington primary schools had been zero during the pandemic in 2021. The following year saw an increase in permanent exclusions, but the 2023 and 2024 figures show a **decline** in both the numbers and rate. Islington is now **below** the national average, and equal to the Inner London and Statistical Neighbour averages. The actual numbers of permanent exclusions are very small and in Islington a rate of **0.01** equates to one or two permanent exclusions a year.

Suspensions

Suspension Rate by Year

(Phase: State-funded primary, Term: Academic year)

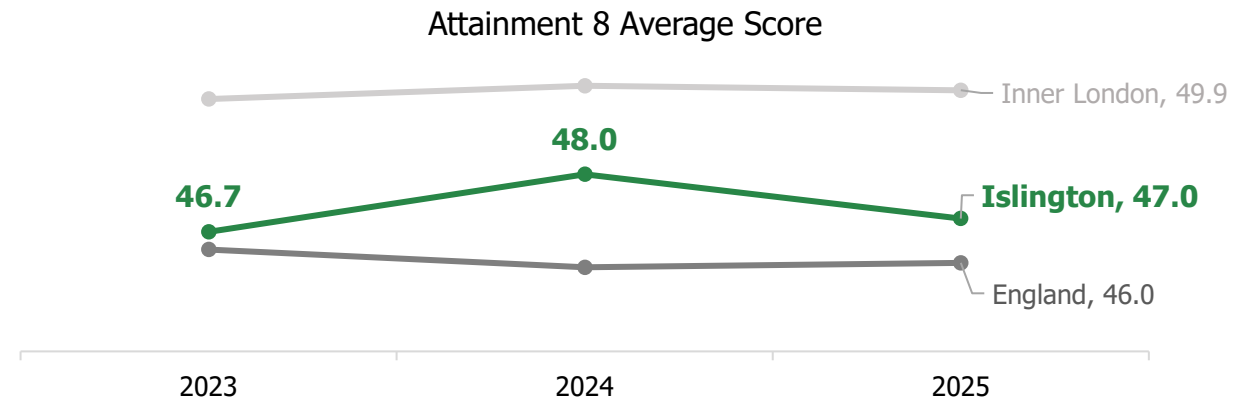
Area ● England ● Inner London ● Islington ● London ● Stat Neighbours



Primary school suspension rates had historically been higher in Islington compared to regional and national benchmarks. In 2022-23 the Islington rate fell slightly, and remained relatively **stable** in 2023-24, whilst the rates for each group of comparators increased. Islington is now **below** the national average but remains above the Inner London and Statistical Neighbour averages.

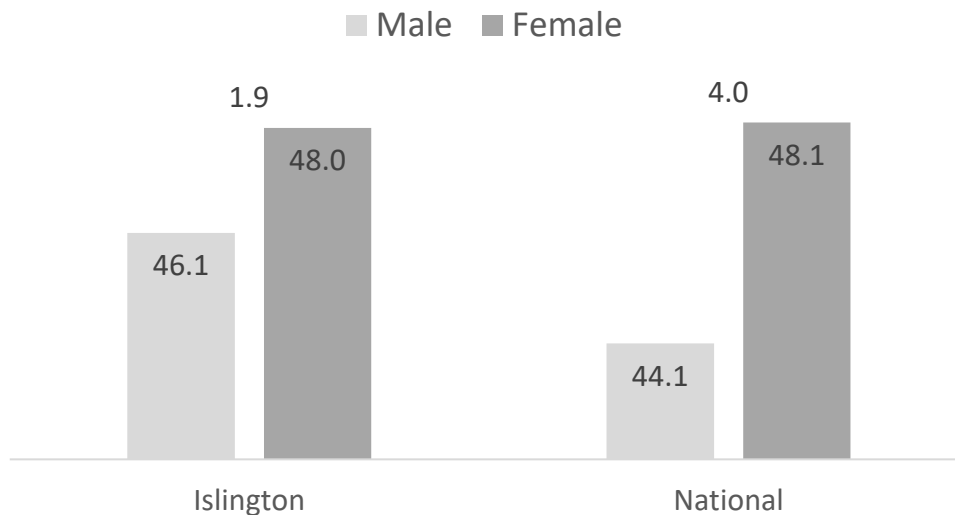
Key Stage 4 – Attainment 8 and Progress 8

Pupils in Islington achieved a **higher** average Attainment 8 Score than national, although their performance was below the Inner London average. Their **score of 47** was 1 point **lower** than 2024.



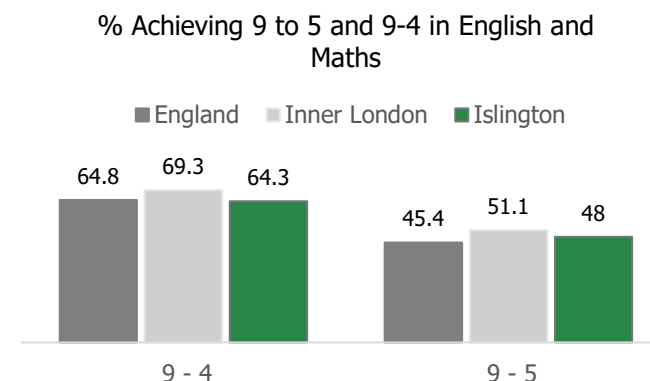
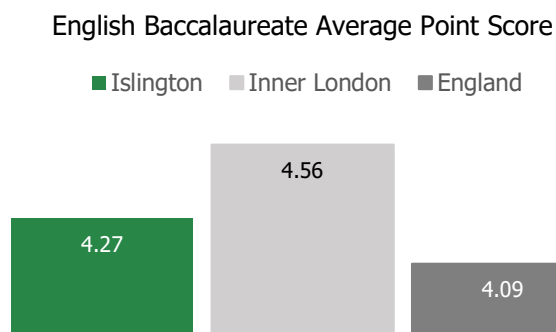
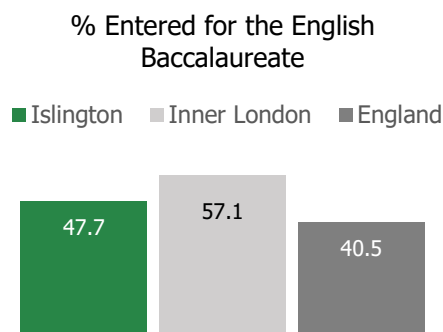
Progress 8 scores are unavailable in 2025 or 2026 as the relevant GCSE cohorts did not sit KS2 SATs due to the pandemic, leaving no prior-attainment baseline.

Key Stage 4 - Attainment 8 by Gender



In Islington, the gender gap is in favour of **girls**, standing at 1.9 points, an increase from 1.5 last year. The gap is **smaller** compared to the national average of 4.0 points. Boys in Islington attained an Attainment 8 score of 46.1, a drop from 47.3 points in 2024 but exceeding the national average for boys by 2 points. Meanwhile, Islington girls scored 48.0, which is 0.1 points lower than the national score for girls and 0.8 lower than the previous year. The minimal gap observed at GCSE level indicates that the gender disparities seen in earlier assessments, beginning as early as the Early Years Foundation Stage, have mostly been resolved by the time students reach Year 11.

Key Stage 4 – English Baccalaureate* and English and Maths Performance



English Baccalaureate

Islington's schools entered a **higher** proportion of pupils for the English Baccalaureate* (Ebacc) than the national average, **47.7%**, compared to 40.5%, although Islington's entry rate was lower than that for Inner London, at 57.1%. Islington's pupils achieved a **higher** average point score in the English Baccalaureate than the national average, but lower than the Inner London average. Performance in the EBacc was **better** than the pre-pandemic performance in 2019.

*The Ebacc is based on GCSE results in English language & literature, maths, the sciences, geography or history and a language.

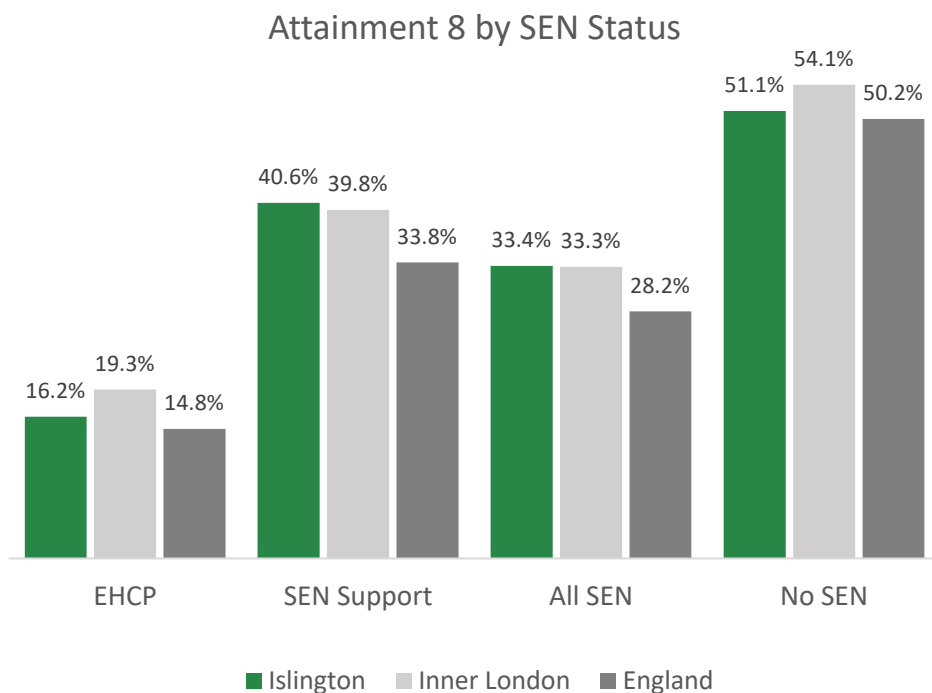
English and Maths

The percentage of students from Islington who achieved a standard pass in English and Maths, with grades ranging from 9 to 4, was **above** the national average. However, this pass rate was lower than that of Inner London.

A **higher** proportion of Islington students secured a strong pass, with grades between 9 to 5, in English and Maths compared to the national average. The Inner London strong pass rate was also above Islington's.

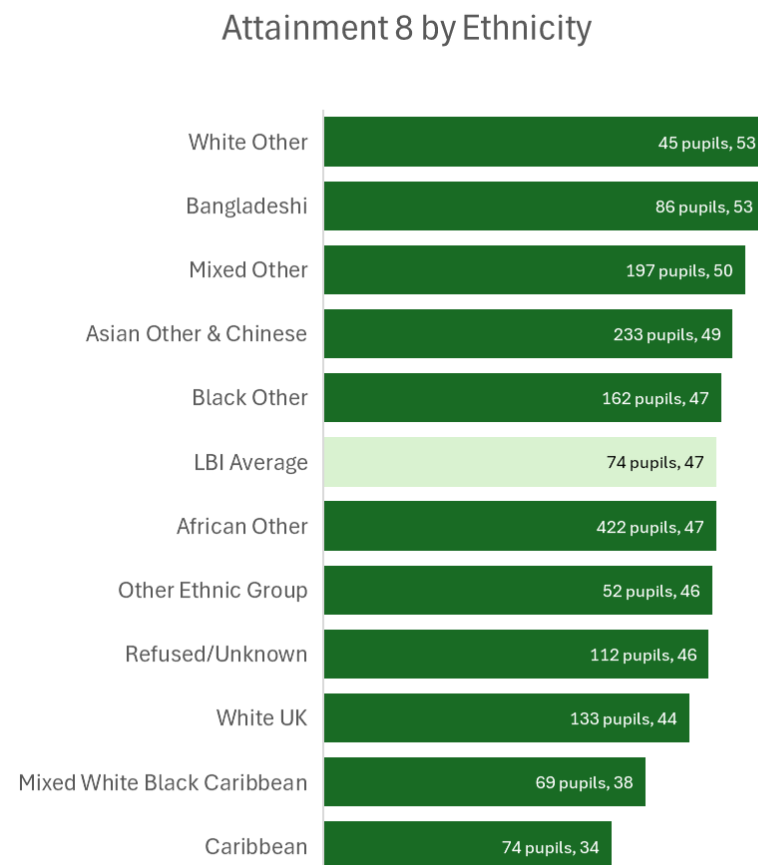
Key Stage 4 – SEN Provision and Ethnicity

Special Educational Needs



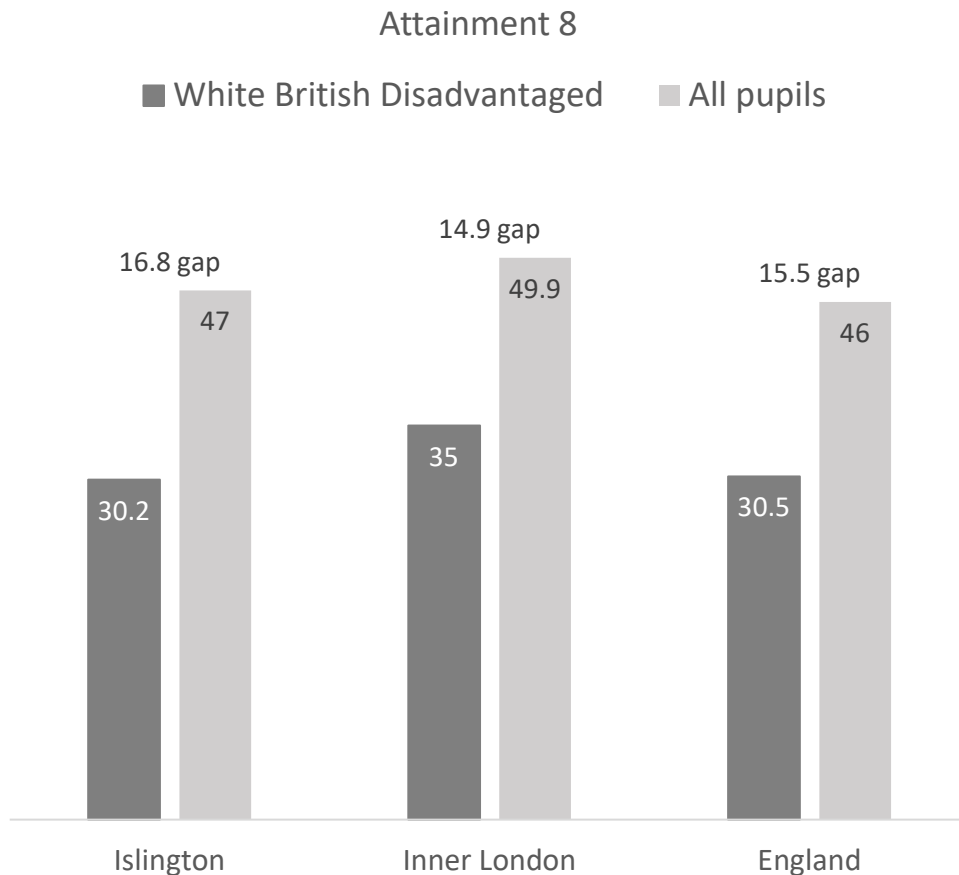
In Islington SEN Support pupils **outperformed** their national and Inner London peers in their Attainment 8 scores in 2025. Pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) **outperformed** their national peers but achieved a lower average Attainment 8 score than Inner London.

Ethnic Groups



In 2025, the two lowest performing groups were **Mixed White and Black Caribbean and Black Caribbean** pupils, the same as last year. The two top performing groups were White Other and Bangladeshi.

Key Stage 4 – White British, Disadvantaged



The Department for Education defines disadvantaged pupils primarily as those eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) at any point in the last six years (FSM6). It also includes children looked after by a local authority, those who left care through adoption, or via special guardianship/child arrangements orders.

There were 147 disadvantaged White British pupils in the 2024-25 KS4 cohort in Islington, or approximately 1 in every 10 pupils.

Islington's average **Attainment 8** score for this group of pupils was **in line** with the national average.

A score of 30.2 suggests that, on average, pupils in this cohort achieved grades that are approximately equivalent to a mix of **grades 3 and 4** (where 4 is a standard pass and 3 is just below a pass) across their eight best subjects.

The gap between White British disadvantaged pupils and all pupils was greater in Islington than England and Inner London.

Progress 8 scores are unavailable in in 2025 or 2026.

Secondary School Absence – Autumn and Spring Two Terms

In Autumn and Spring 2024/25, Islington secondary schools had an absence rate of **8.9%**, **higher** than Inner London and National and an **increase** from 2024 (8.5%). This absence consisted of 3.8% authorised absence and 5.1% unauthorised, with unauthorised absence increasing.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, absence rates have increased nationally. 2024/25 saw an increase after a drop in 2023/24. Absence remains well above pre-pandemic rates, and is a key focus in Islington, with rates above comparators.

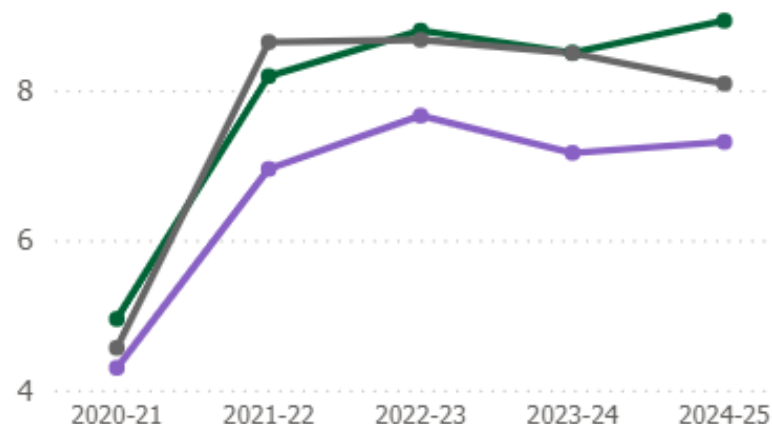
Persistent Absence

The secondary persistent absence rate was higher than benchmarks in the years before the Covid-19 pandemic, at around 13% to 14%. Persistent absence rates increased dramatically in Islington to 24.8% in 2021/22, although this was better than national at 26.7%.

Persistent absence in Islington's secondary schools has remained above national and Inner London since 2022-23. In Autumn and spring 2024-25 persistent absence rates **increased slightly** from the previous year, with **24.7%** of Islington secondary pupils persistently absent and 4.01% severe absentees. This was above both national and Inner London.

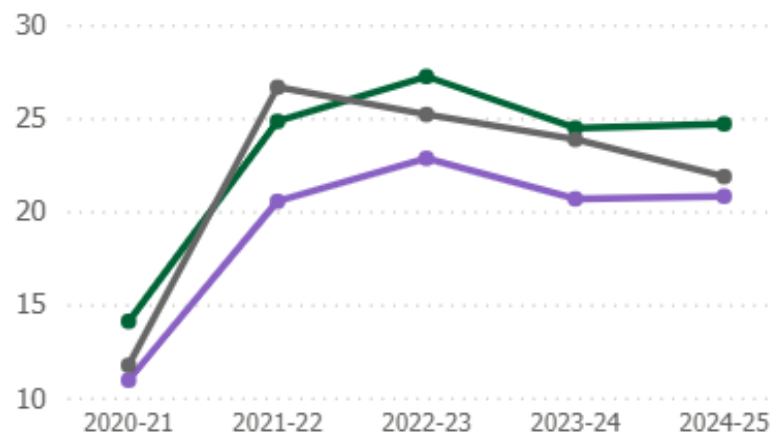
% Overall Absence by Year

Islington | Inner London | England



% Persistent Absence by Year

Islington | Inner London | England



Secondary School Exclusions and Suspensions

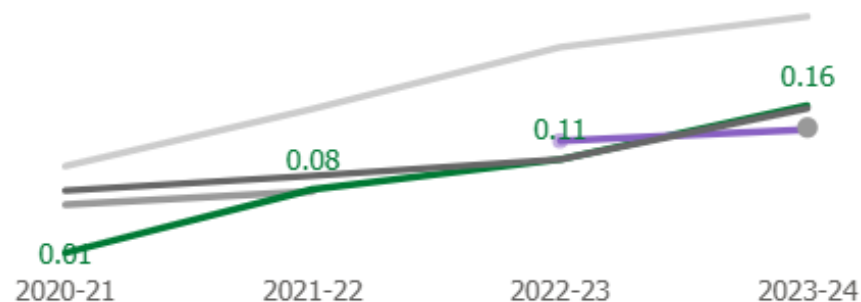
The Department for Education publishes permanent exclusions and suspensions data around one academic year in arrears, with releases such as the 2023/24 data published in July 2025. This information is collected from the school census.

Permanent exclusions

Permanent Exclusion Rate by Year

(Phase: State-funded secondary, Term: Academic year)

Area ● England ● Inner London ● Islington ● London ● Stat Neighbours



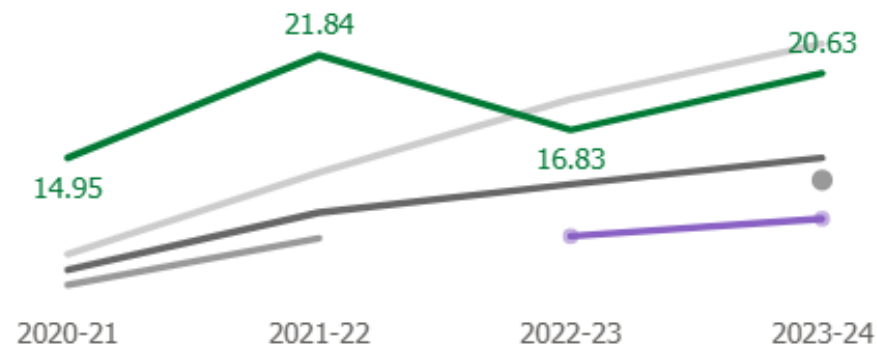
Historically, permanent exclusion rates have been variable in Islington secondary schools with rates higher locally than regional and national. Permanent exclusion rates fell during the pandemic. Since the pandemic, the Islington rate has increased but remained in line with the Inner London and Statistical Neighbour averages. Islington has been **below** the national average each year since 2020. Please note: the DfE changed from publishing Inner London to all London statistics

Suspensions

Suspension Rate by Year

(Phase: State-funded secondary, Term: Academic year)

Area ● England ● Inner London ● Islington ● London ● Stat Neighbours



Secondary school suspension rates have tended to be higher in Islington compared to regional and national benchmarks since 2016.

The 2023-24 secondary school suspension rate in Islington (20.63) was above the Inner London (13.46) and Statistical Neighbour averages but was below the national average (22.61) for the second time since 2015. Suspension rates differ noticeably between schools.

Elective Home Education (EHE)

Numbers in EHE

One of the early features of the Covid-19 pandemic was a rapid increase in the number of children being electively home educated. The numbers rose by 90 (+59%) from 152 in October 2019 to 242 in October 2020.

After this initial spike, the total numbers settled down at a similar level over the next two years. However, the numbers increased again in summer 2024 to a new **peak of 330**, which was repeated in summer 2025. LA-level data is now published on EHE numbers. Islington has been in-line with the national rate of EHE pupils over the last few years.

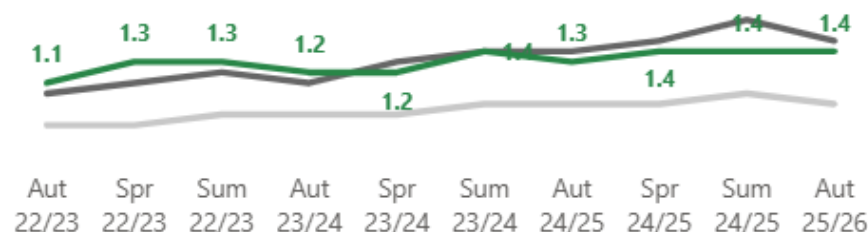
Formal Notifications made for EHE

The number of formal notifications for EHE had been broadly consistent from 2017/18 to 2019/20 but they rose significantly between 2019/20 and 2020/21.

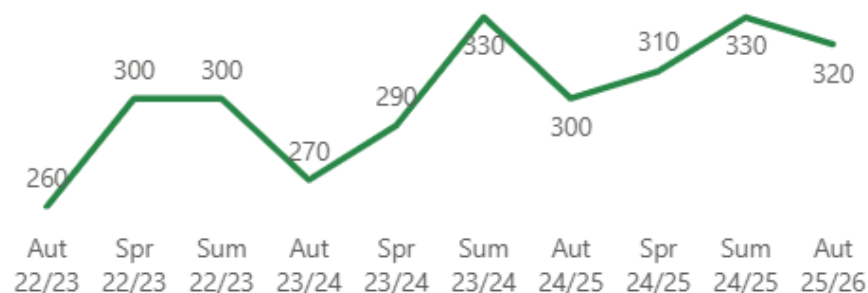
Since then, the number of children becoming EHE has **steadily increased each academic year**, with a high of 200 (to nearest 10) in 2024-25.

EHE Rate by Area

● England ● Inner London ● Islington

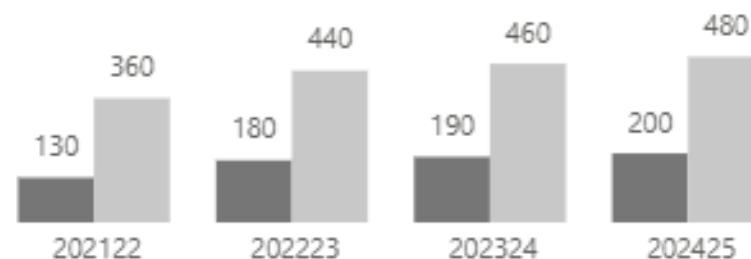


Number of Islington EHE Children by Term



EHE Starts and Any Time in Year by Academic Year

● EHE Starts ● EHE Any Time in Year

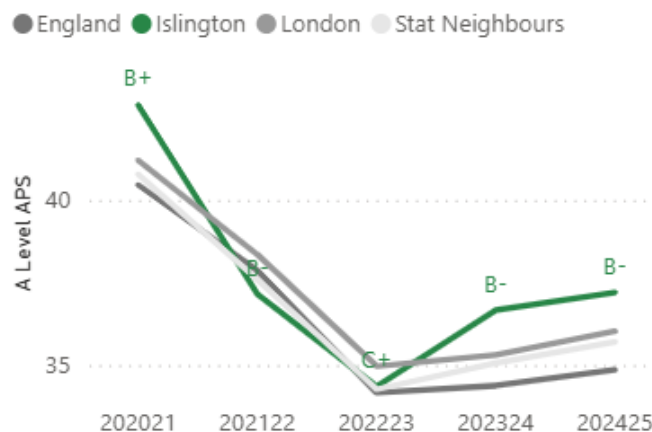


Key Stage 5

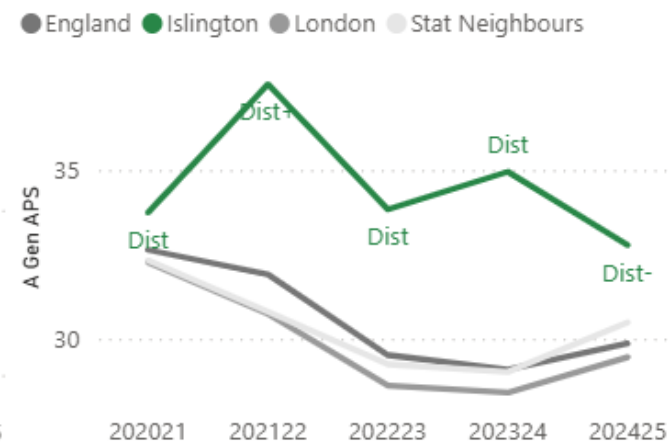
On the range of KS5 Average Points Score (APS) measures, students in Islington performed **better** than London and national in all measures.

In 2025, A Level results **improved**. Pupils achieved **an average A Level result of B-** in 2025, an APS **increase** from 36.66pts to **37.20 pts**. Applied General results dropped from a Distinction to a **Distinction-** (34.95pts to 32.78 pts)

Average A Level Result by Year

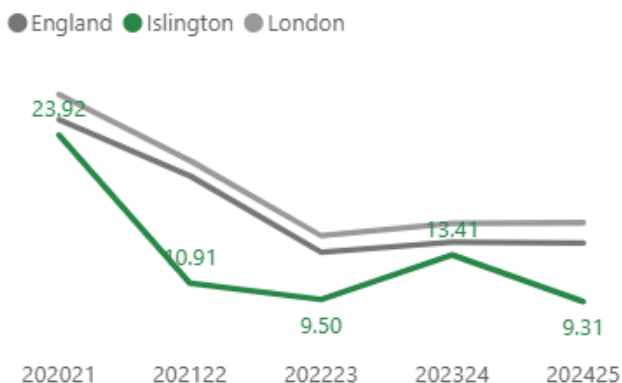


Average Applied General Result by Year

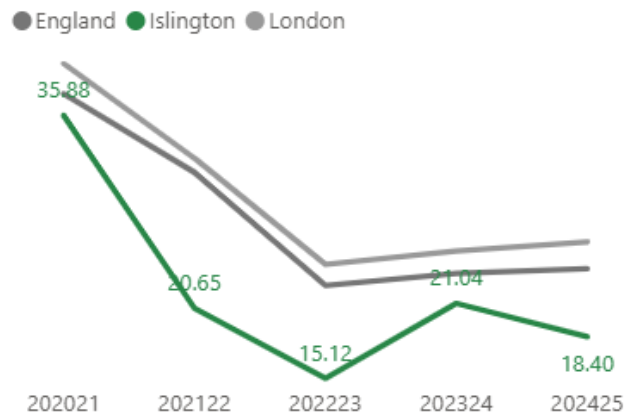


% Achieving Higher A Level Grades

% Achieving 3 A* to A Grades (A Level) by Year



% Achieving AAB or Better (A Level) by Year



On the more challenging A Level measure, the % achieving 3 A*-A Grades, **9%** of Islington students achieved this measure (a decrease from 13% in 2024), compared to over 16% in London and 14% nationally. On the % achieving \geq AAB Grades at A Level, **18%** of Islington students achieved this measure, a decrease from 21% in 2024 and below the London (26%) and national (24%) benchmarks.

Post-16 – Year 11 Destinations and NEET/Unknown Scorecard

Under Raising Participation Age (RPA) Islington has a responsibility to ensure its residents continue to participate in education or training from when they finish Key Stage 4 at Year 11 until at least their 18th birthday, and to reduce the proportion of young people aged 16 and 17 not in education, employment or training after they leave the compulsory education phase.

Destinations of Year 11 leavers are collected on 1 November in the year pupils left an Islington school. In 2024, **94.3%** of young people from Islington schools and settings remained or continued 'In Learning' after completing Year 11. 'In Learning' destination includes post-compulsory education, training, apprenticeships, employment with training or study and re-engagement activities.

The proportion of pupils leaving Islington schools progressing to an "In Learning" destination was lower than for those leaving mainstream secondary schools and other local education providers, including alternative provision and home education. 42 out of 1561 students (2.7% of the cohort), were found to be NEET and the activities of 42 students, 2.7% of the cohort, could not be determined (Unknown).

% 16 and 17 year olds NEET/not known Dec-Feb 3-month average 2023-2025



The percentage of 16- and 17-year-old residents who were NEET or in a 'not known' activity (Dec-Feb snapshot) was **3.9%** in 2025, compared to 4.2% in 2024 and 4.5% in 2023.

The 2025 performance, at 3.9%, was **better** than national, at 5.6%, but not as good as the London average of 3.3%.

Islington has seen **reductions** in the NEET / Not Known rate over this period, whilst nationally the rate has increased.

Quality of Provision

As of September 2024, Ofsted are no longer issuing single word judgements for their inspection outcomes such as Good or Outstanding.

Instead, reports now focus on detailed evaluations across areas such as quality of education, behaviour, and leadership. This aims to provide parents with richer insights and reduce high-stakes pressure on schools.

Ungraded Inspections

Islington provisions continue to perform well under the new framework.

Of the eight ungraded inspections since September 2024:

- 1 was a nursery, 5 primary schools, 1 secondary and 1 special school
- 6 maintained standards
- 2 improved significantly

Graded Inspections



Of the six graded inspections **all schools were graded good or outstanding in all areas**

Further Information

All of our profiles, as well as other data and outputs can be accessed on the Evidence Hub at: <https://www.islington.gov.uk/about-the-council/islington-evidence-and-statistics>

About this Data Pack

This data pack/profile was produced by Rachel Ivens, Performance Manager, Adam White, Head of Data & Performance, and Janine Killough, Interim Assistant Director School Improvement and Pupil Progression, and was reviewed and approved for publication by Jon Abbey, Director of Children's Services.

Contact: Adam White, adam.white@islington.gov.uk

We would also very much welcome your comments on these profiles and how they could better suit your individual or practice requirements, so please contact us with your ideas.