

# JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2025/26

## Education

### Summary points

- 68.7% of children (under 5) in Bristol were assessed as having a good level of development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage, in line with the England average (2025).
- 59% of Key Stage 2 pupils (age 10/11 yrs) reached the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths combined for 2025, below the England average of 63%.
- The average Attainment 8 score for Bristol was 46.3, higher than the England average of 45.9.
- Across all educational phases, outcomes for pupils living in the 10% most deprived areas of Bristol are achieving below other pupils, with a wide gap between the highest and lowest performing wards.
- Performance gaps exist at all phases for key groups: boys, disadvantaged pupils, pupils with SEN and some Black and Minority Ethnic groups.

### Early Years

The Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) is a teacher assessment of children’s development (4/5year olds) at the end of the academic year in which the child turns 5, and measures development against the early learning goals.

In 2025, 68.7% of children (under 5) in Bristol were assessed as having a good level of development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage, just above the England average (68.3%), and higher than 2024 (68.4%).

Across Bristol, in 2025 (Fig 1) this ranged from 55.5% in Filwood to 93.0% in Cotham.

**Gender:** 76.0% of girls achieved a good level of development, compared to 61.7% of boys.

**Ethnicity:** Attainment was highest amongst pupils of White and Asian ethnicity, where 78.2% of pupils were assessed as having a good level of development, followed by 75.0% of pupils of Irish ethnicity, 73.9% of pupils of any other mixed / multiple ethnic background and 73.5% of pupils of White British ethnicity. Attainment was lower than 60% for pupils of: White and Black Caribbean ethnicity (56.1%), any other Asian background ethnicity (53.8%), Pakistani ethnicity (54.1%), Caribbean ethnicity (50.0%), and lowest for pupils of Bangladeshi ethnicity (44.0%).

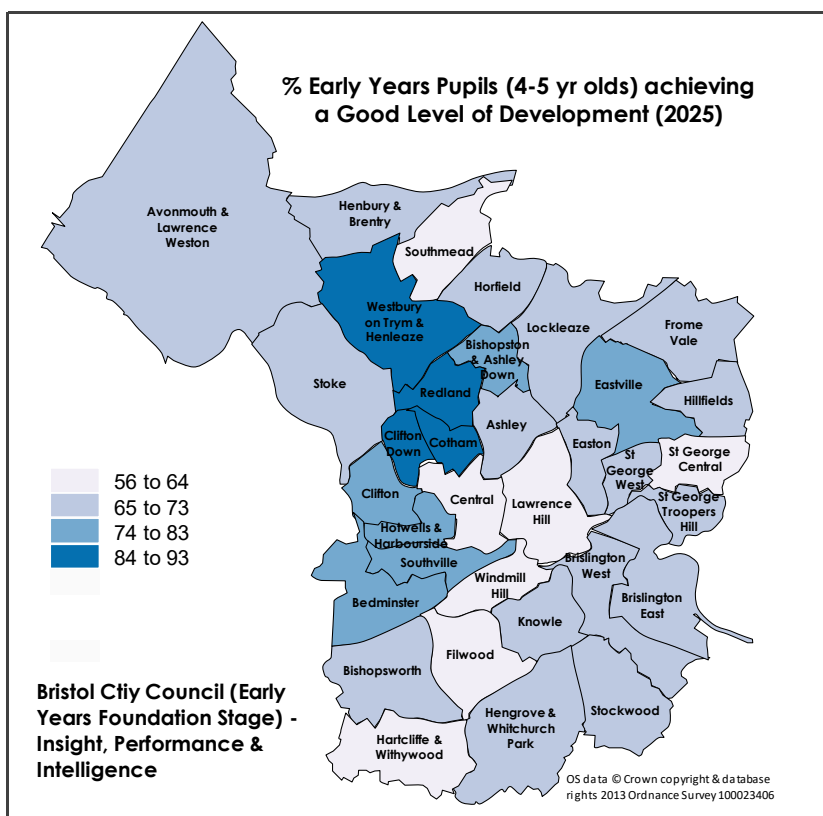
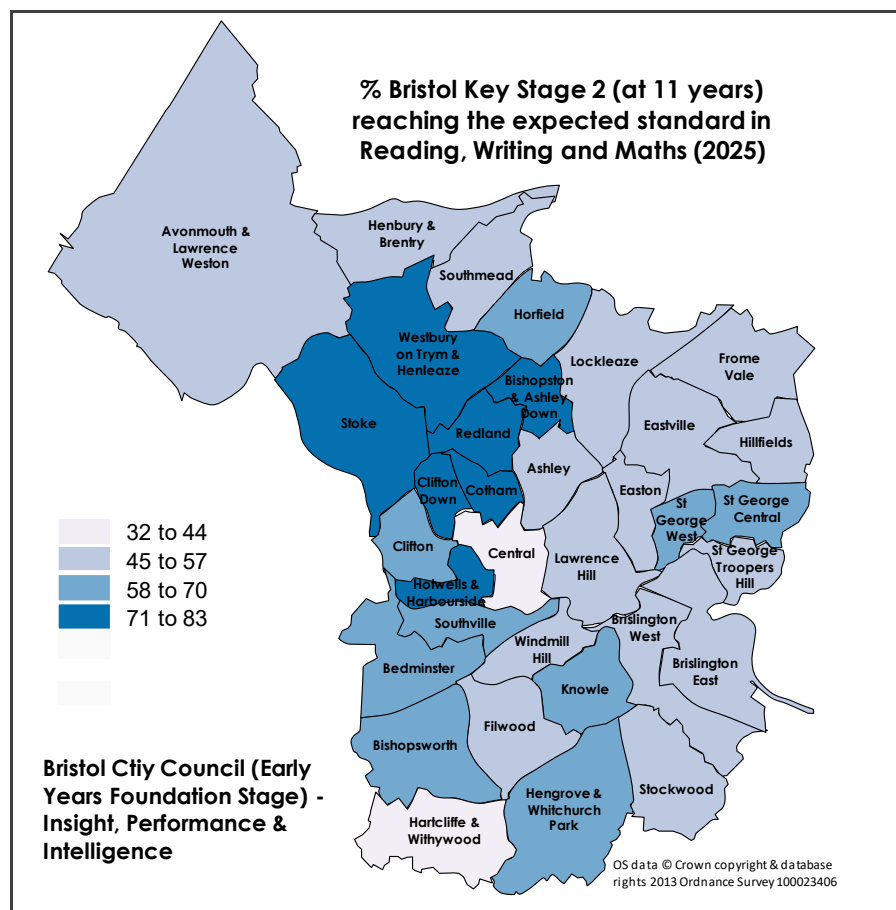


Figure 1 Source: Bristol City Council. Insight, Performance and Intelligence Team.

**Deprivation:** Achievement amongst pupils living in the 10% most deprived areas (IMD) was 58.7%, increasing to 82.8% for pupils living in the least deprived areas.

**Key Stage 2 (SATs)**

SATs are a formal assessment for pupils leaving Primary school (aged 10/11 years). The main measure is the ‘% reaching the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths combined’.



In Bristol, 59% of Key Stage 2 pupils (assessed in Year 6) reached the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths combined for 2025, higher than the previous year (56%) but below the England average of 63%. Bristol is third lowest performing amongst the core cities which range from 57% in Liverpool to 66% in Newcastle.

Across Bristol this ranged from 32.1% in Central to 83.3% in Redland (Fig 2).

**Gender:** 62% of girls in Bristol, reached the expected standard in reading, writing and maths and 57% of boys in 2025, compared to the national average of 66% and 59% respectively.

Figure 2 - Source: Bristol City Council. Insight, Performance and Intelligence Team.

**Ethnicity:** In 2025, 60% of ‘White British’ pupils reached the expected standard in reading, writing and maths. Attainment was highest in pupils of Chinese ethnicity (81%) and lowest in pupils of Caribbean ethnicity (41%).

**Deprivation:** There are significant differences in achievement by deprivation, with 47.0% of pupils living in the ‘Most Deprived 10% (IMD)’ areas of Bristol, reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and maths compared to 77.3% of pupils living in the ‘Least Deprived 10%’.

**SEND:** In 2025, 10% of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in Bristol met the expected standard in reading, writing and maths, higher than the England average of 9%, and 28% of pupils with Special Educational Need (SEN) support met the expected standard in reading, writing and maths, lower than the England average of 29%.

**Children in Care:** Data for 2025 was not available at the time of writing but data from 2024 showed that 20% of children in care reached the expected standard in reading, writing and maths, and 28% of children in need achieved the standard.



(68.0%) in Bristol in 2025. Pupils of White British ethnicity performed similar to the City averages for Attainment 8 (45.8) and GCSEs in English and Maths (strong pass) (46.5%). Pupils of Caribbean ethnicity had the lowest attainment results in the city for Attainment 8 (36.9) and GCSE English and Maths (strong pass) (19.2%).

**Deprivation:** achievement of children living within the most deprived 10% of the population is amongst the lowest in Bristol; attainment 8 score of 37.1 compared to 60.6 for children living in the 10% least deprived areas (Bristol average 46.3).

**SEND:** In 2025, the average attainment 8 score for pupils with SEN support was 35.9 (33.7 nationally), and for pupils with an EHC plan was 11.5, below the England average of 14.8. 27.9% of pupils with SEN support achieved grade 5 or above in English and maths GCSEs and 5.8% of pupils with an EHC plan achieved grade 5 or above, compared to a national average of 22.3% and 7.5% respectively.

**Children in Care:** In 2024, the average attainment 8 score for children in care was 20.6. 25.5% of children in care achieved grade 4 or above in English and Maths GCSE’s and 20% achieved grade 5 or above.

Results by pupil characteristic (Table 4) show pupils receiving SEN support are performing similar or better than the England average. Pupils by the other characteristics (i.e. free school meals, first language not English, dis-advantaged) are performing worse than the England average. All perform lower than the Bristol average (all pupils) with the exception of pupils whose first language is other than English for Attainment 8.

Year 2024/25	Free School Meals (pupils known to be eligible)	SEN Support (pupils receiving)	Disadvantaged pupils	Pupils whose first language is other than English	ALL PUPILS in Bristol
Attainment 8 Score (average)	<b>33.8</b> (England 35.0)	<b>35.9</b> (England 33.7)	<b>33.8</b> (England 34.9)	<b>47.6</b> (England 48.4)	<b>46.3</b> (England 45.9)
% achieving 9-5 ('strong pass') in English & Mathematics	<b>22.7%</b> (England 25.6%)	<b>27.9%</b> (England 22.3%)	<b>23.0%</b> (England 25.6%)	<b>45.6%</b> (England 47.9%)	<b>45.8%</b> (England 45.2%)

Table 4: Bristol Key Stage 4 results by pupil characteristics, 2024/25. Source: Dept. for Education.

### Key Stage 5 (A levels)

Provisional results for the academic year 2024/25 show that the ‘Average Point Score (APS)’ per A level entry (17/18 year olds) in Bristol for all state-funded schools was 34.2 and the average A level result was C+. This was lower than the England average of an APS of 34.85 and the same as the average A level result of C+. Amongst the English Core Cities, Bristol had the fourth lowest APS, with all cities achieving an average A level result of C+, with the exception of Manchester which achieved B-. Manchester had the highest APS of 36.28 and Nottingham the lowest with an APS of 31.78.

### Higher Education

This measure of participation tracks state-funded mainstream school pupils in England, looking at 16 year olds that progress to higher education. This rate of participation expresses 18 and 19 year olds entering higher education, as a percentage of their original number as Key Stage 4 pupils at age 16 in the area.

It covers those aged 16 years in state-funded mainstream schools who sat their GCSEs in the summer of 2012 to 2016, that were in higher education at the age of 18 or 19.

Within Bristol, there are wide variances in the percentage of young people leaving school aged 16 and going onto higher education. Data is only available as Middle Super Output Areas (MSOAs), so results do not sit neatly within each ward (Fig 5). Participation in higher education ranges from 8.7% in Hartcliffe and 11.6% in Highridge to 72.4% in Redland and 77.6% in Westbury Park. Due to data protection reasons (i.e. fewer than 50 Key Stage 4 pupils) Clifton Village is not reported.

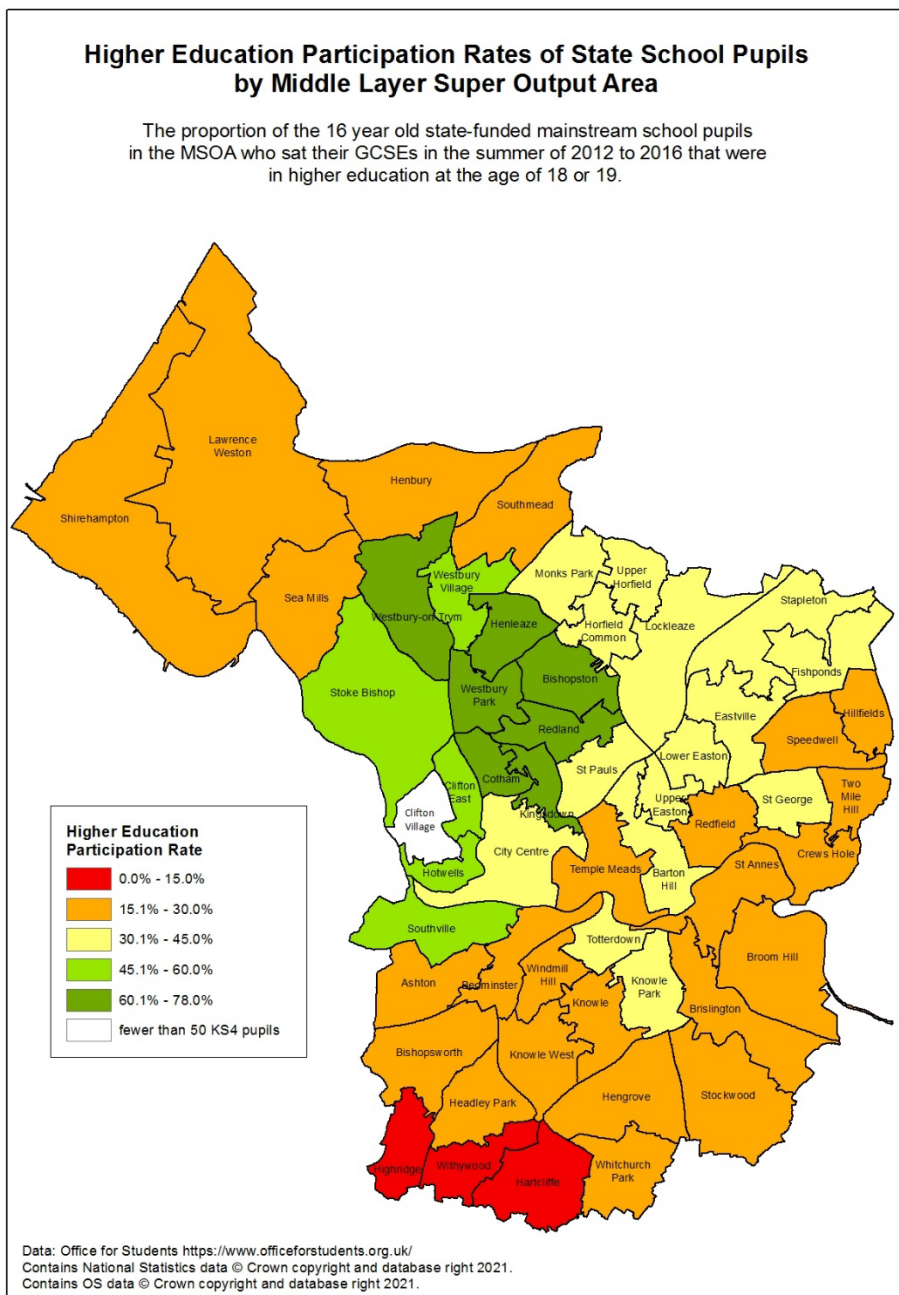


Figure 5 – Source: Office for Students, tracking underrepresentation by area (TUNDRA)

**Covid-19 impact:**

A report by the Education Endowment Foundation on '[The Impact of COVID-19 on Learning: A review of the evidence](#)', summarised their findings as follows:

- COVID-19-related disruption has negatively impacted the attainment of all pupils, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- There is evidence that the attainment gap between disadvantaged students and their classmates has grown.
- There is some evidence that in primary schools, younger year groups (Key Stage 1 pupils) have been the most significantly affected, with lower attainment than previous cohorts across all subjects. Other recent research shows particularly negative impacts for pupils in KS3 (DfE, 2021, 2022).
- Most evidence shows that despite some recovery by summer 2021, on average pupils were not performing as well in both maths and reading as pre-pandemic cohorts.
- Aside from the impact on attainment, teachers have frequently reported concerns around the effect on pupil wellbeing. There is also emerging evidence that suggests the pandemic has negatively impacted children's mental health.

#### Further data / links:

- Early years data: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-early-years-foundation-stage-profile](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-early-years-foundation-stage-profile).
- Key Stage 2 data: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-key-stage-2](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-key-stage-2).
- Key Stage 4 data: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-gcses-key-stage-4](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-gcses-key-stage-4).
- A Level results: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-attainment-at-19-years](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-attainment-at-19-years).
- Higher Education: [www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/young-participation-by-area/](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/young-participation-by-area/) . Data published March 2021.
- JSNA section: [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\)](#)
- JSNA section: [Pupil Absence](#)

**Date updated:** January 2026

**Date of next update** January 2027