

# SHEFFIELD PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS 2025

Learn  
**Sheffield**  
By Sheffield. For Sheffield. In collaboration



# Sheffield Performance Analysis 2025

This analysis of educational performance in Sheffield has been developed in partnership between Learn Sheffield and Sheffield City Council.

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# Sheffield Performance Analysis 2025

## Overview

- 1 Ofsted inspection judgements, benchmarking and trends
- 2 Pupil characteristics & SEND
- 3 Attendance
- 4 Exclusions
- 5 Attainment & progress

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**Last updated: January 2026**  
**Next update: January 2027**

# 1

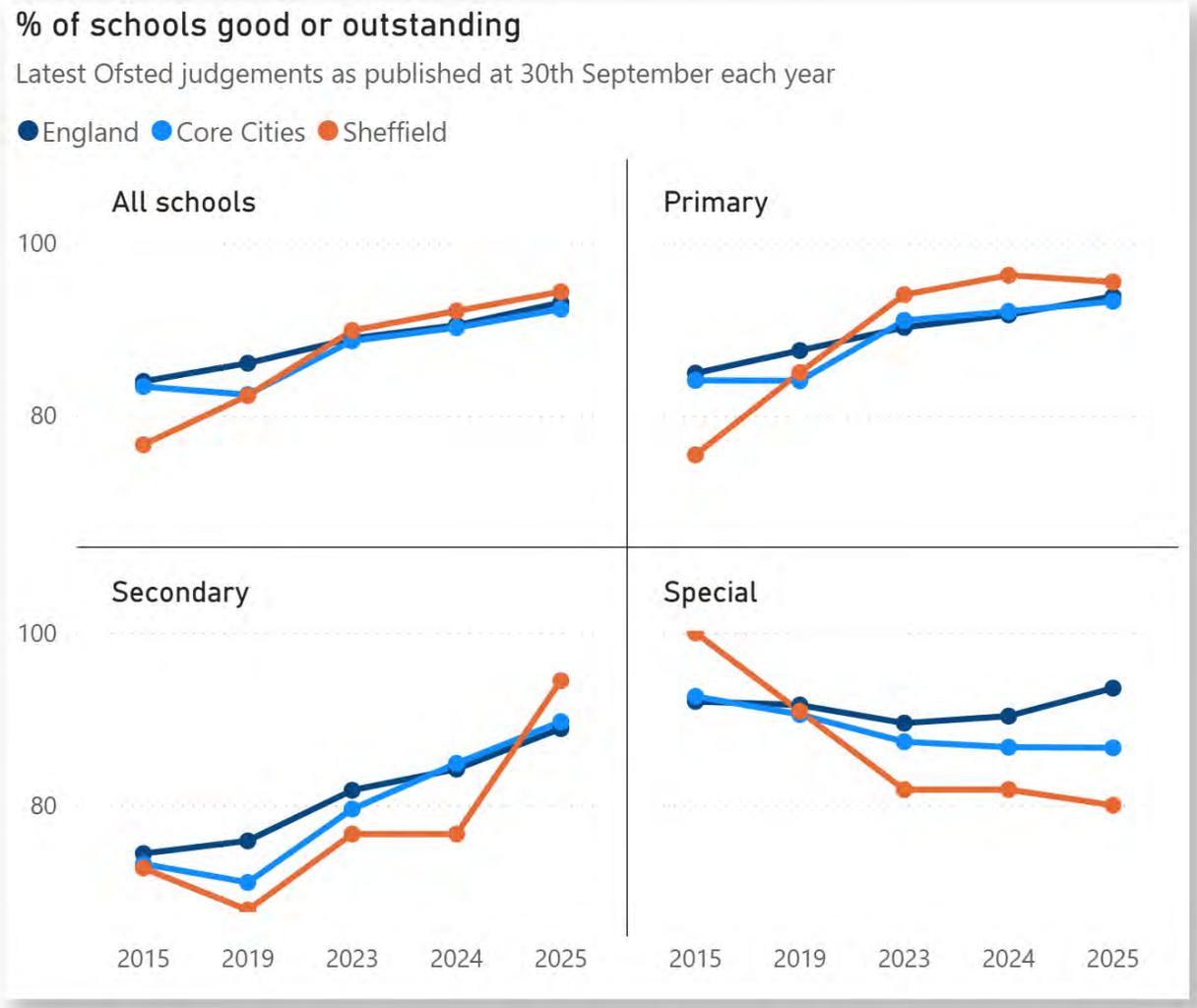
# School Data: Ofsted (All Schools)

Latest Ofsted position is difficult to monitor due to schools falling under different inspection frameworks and the removal of single judgements.

As at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025, the majority of primary schools in Sheffield still retained a single inspection judgement and Sheffield was above the national average (95.5% of schools good or outstanding compared to 93.8% nationally – based on the grades of 110 out of 132 schools).

12 out of 30 secondary schools were inspected in the 24/25 academic year and so no longer have a single judgement. This accounts for the increase in performance in the secondary phase in 2025.

10 out of 13 special schools retained an overall judgement in September 2025 (2 have been inspected since single judgements were removed and 1 has never been inspected).



Source: Ofsted monthly management information <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/monthly-management-information-ofsteds-school-inspections-outcomes>

# 1 Ofsted – performance against individual areas - primary

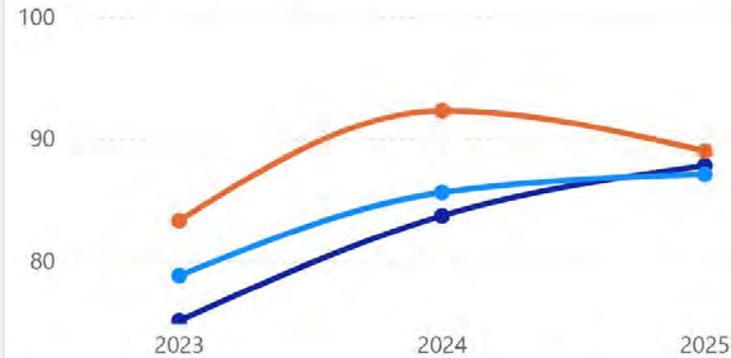
Again, this is a partial picture as around 50% of schools do not have Ofsted judgements for quality of education, personal development or behaviour and attitudes.

Leadership and management has the most consistent data (albeit under different frameworks) with 131/132 having an Ofsted judgement. Sheffield primary schools were above the national average as at 30 September 2025 with 95.4% of schools judged good or outstanding compared to 94% nationally.

Quality of education - % good or outstanding

Primary

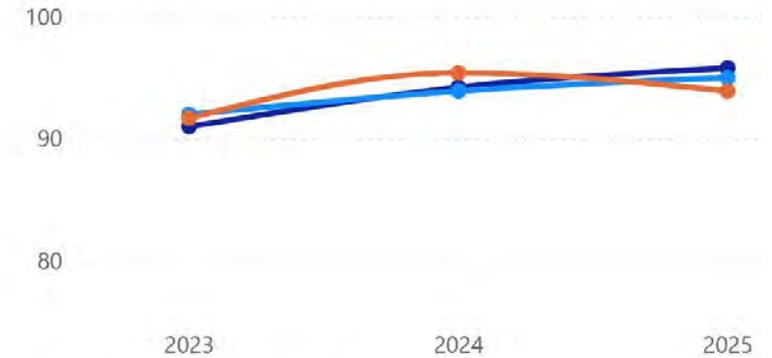
● England ● Core Cities ● Sheffield



Behaviour and attitudes - % good or outstanding

Primary

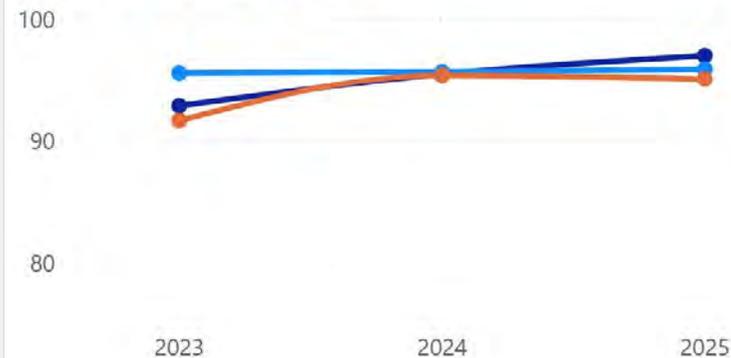
● England ● Core Cities ● Sheffield



Personal development - % good or outstanding

Primary

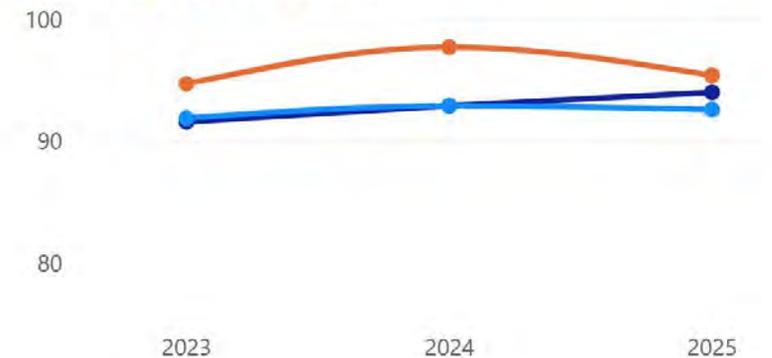
● England ● Core Cities ● Sheffield



Leadership and management

Primary

● England ● Core Cities ● Sheffield



Latest inspection judgements as at 30<sup>th</sup> September each year

# 1 Ofsted – performance against individual areas - secondary

23 out of 30 schools had Ofsted judgements for quality of education, personal development or behaviour and attitudes in Sep 2025. Sheffield is below the national and Core Cities average for these measures.

All schools had a judgement for leadership and management (albeit under different frameworks) in Sep 2025. Sheffield secondary schools were below the national average with 80.0% of schools judged good or outstanding compared to 90.1% nationally.



Latest inspection judgements as at 30<sup>th</sup> September each year

# 1 Ofsted – performance against individual areas - special

Although 10 out of 13 special schools retained judgement as at September 2025, only 6 have a judgement against the individual areas so this represents a very partial picture of Ofsted outcomes for the special phase.



Latest inspection judgements as at 30<sup>th</sup> September each year



## Outcomes for children and young people

- Monitoring trends in Ofsted outcomes is currently difficult due to the removal of single judgements from September 2024.
- The majority of primary and special schools retained a single inspection judgement in September 2025 but a number of secondary schools no longer have a single judgement.
- We know that there has been a significant improvement in the % of schools judged good or outstanding since 2015 and Sheffield was above the national average for this measure in September 2024. It won't be possible to make direct comparisons with the national average until a larger enough number of schools have been inspected under the new framework.



## Provisional trails for further investigation

- **1.1** Consider how to track inspection outcomes in the renewed Ofsted framework and explore the relationship between inspection judgements, pupil outcomes and effective approaches to raising attainment.

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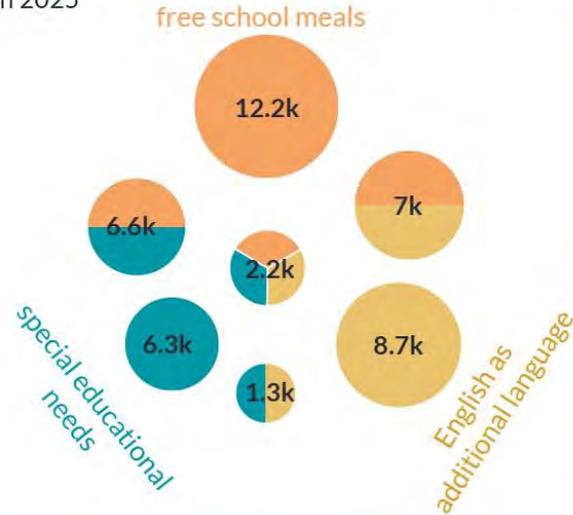
**Last updated: January 2026**  
**Next update: January 2027**

# Pupil characteristics – overview

There were **76,754** pupils in Sheffield mainstream and special schools from reception to Y11 in January 2025



**58%** of pupils had one these three characteristics in 2025

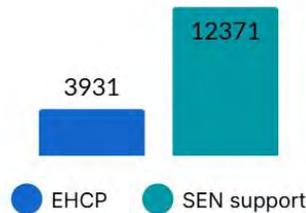


## Top 10 languages spoken in Sheffield in 2025 (other than English)



**21%** of pupils in Sheffield in 2025 had special educational needs

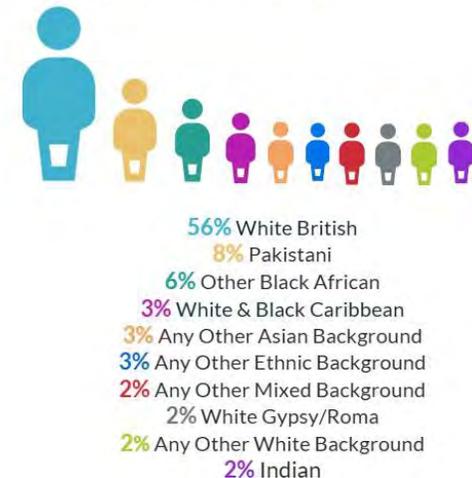
**3,931** pupils had an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and **12,371** had a support plan but not an EHCP



**90%** of children with special educational needs had **1 of 5 primary needs** in 2025



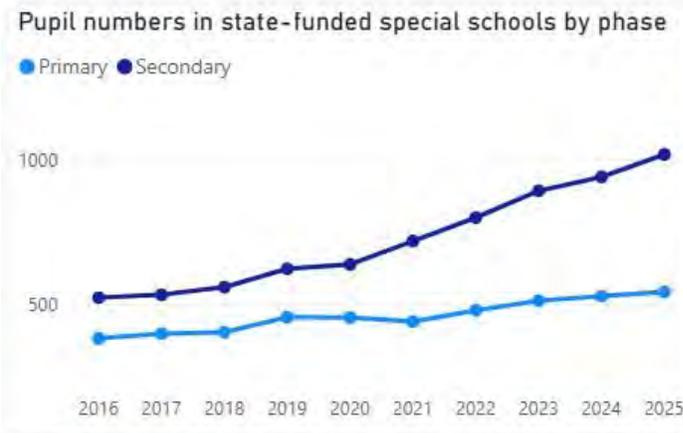
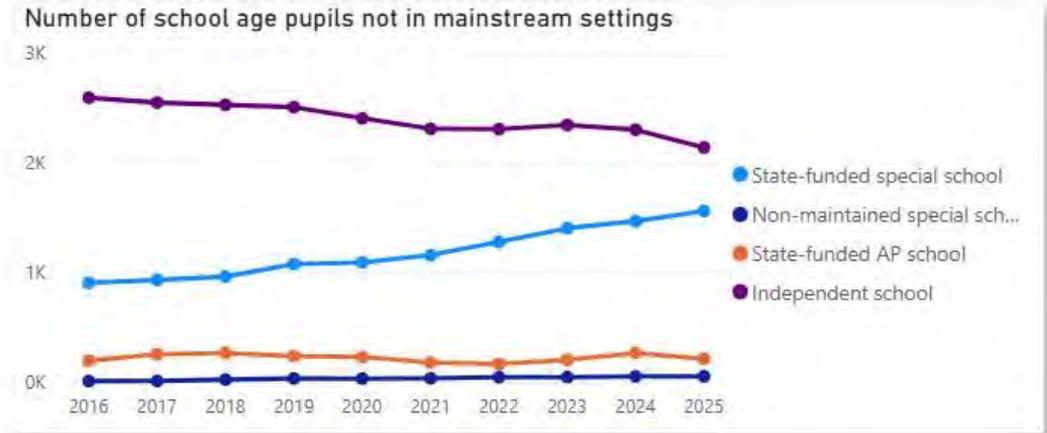
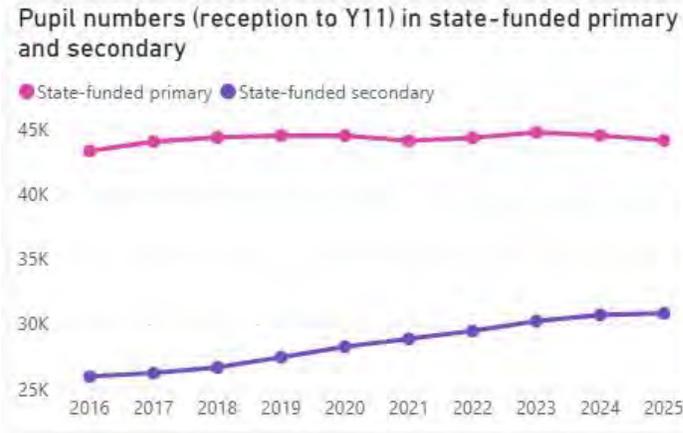
## Largest ethnic groups in Sheffield in 2025



# 2

## Pupil characteristics – pupil numbers by setting

- In January 2025, there were just under 79,000 young people from reception to Y11 in education settings in Sheffield. Overall, the number of young people has increased by about 9% since 2016. However, 2025 is the first year in which overall pupil numbers have reduced compared to the previous year.
- Since 2016, the largest increase in numbers has been in the secondary phase and the largest % increase has been in special schools, particularly in the secondary phase where there has been an 95% increase in pupil numbers since 2016.

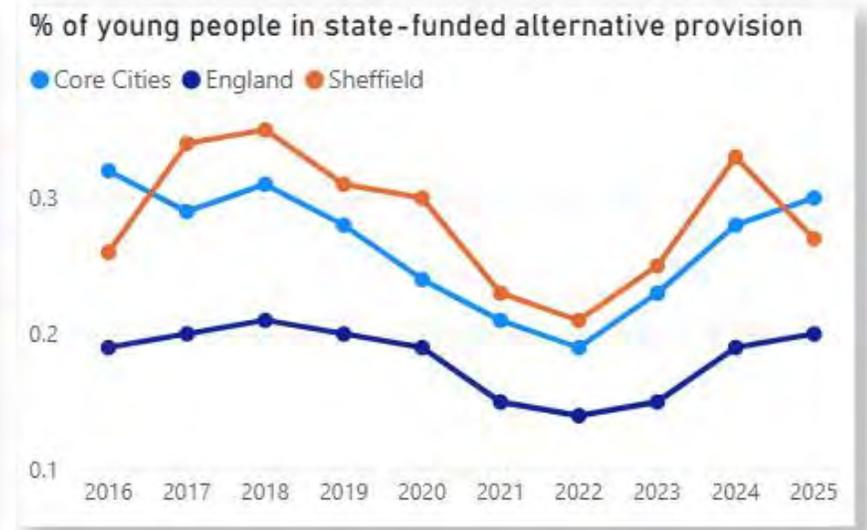
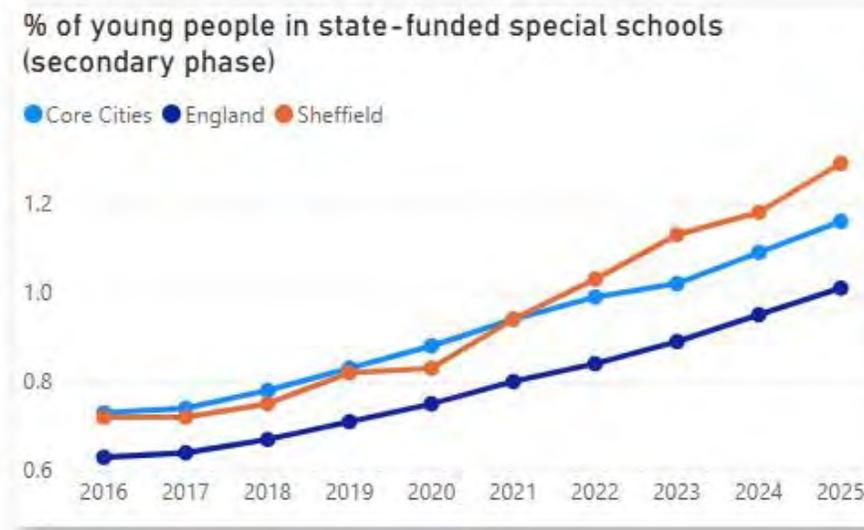
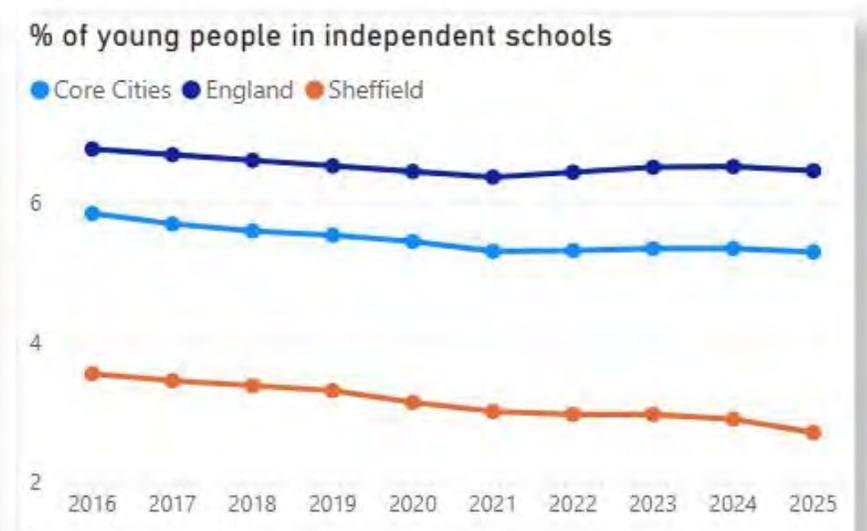
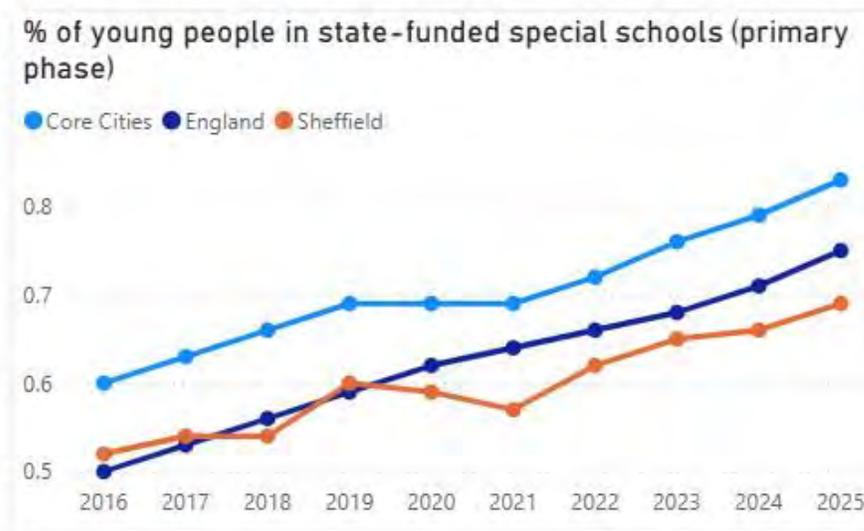


Type of setting	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
State-funded primary	43336	44057	44390	44522	44520	44128	44364	44764	44543	44155
State-funded secondary	25965	26233	26672	27462	28264	28871	29469	30237	30705	30832
State-funded special school	903	929	960	1076	1090	1157	1277	1403	1467	1560
Non-maintained special school	5	6	19	29	28	31	40	42	49	49
State-funded AP school	191	251	262	233	226	175	162	199	262	210
Independent school	2595	2551	2530	2509	2407	2311	2308	2346	2303	2140
<b>Total</b>	<b>72995</b>	<b>74027</b>	<b>74833</b>	<b>75831</b>	<b>76535</b>	<b>76673</b>	<b>77620</b>	<b>78991</b>	<b>79329</b>	<b>78946</b>

## 2

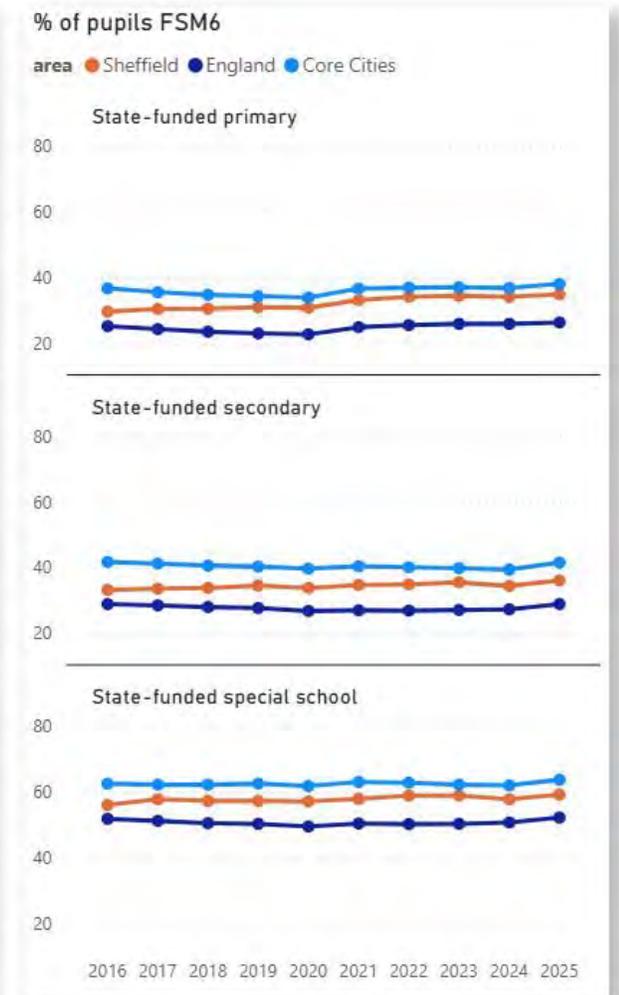
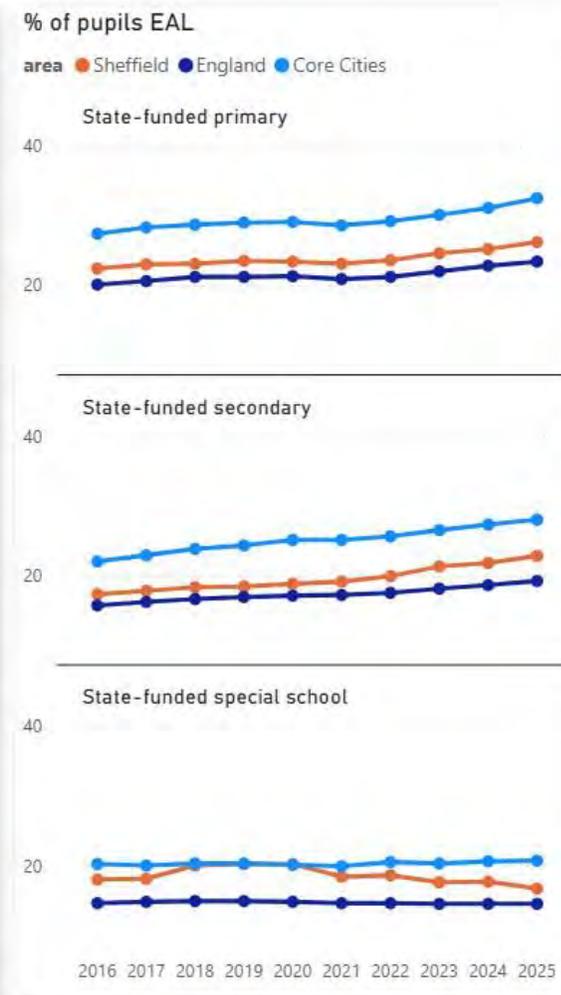
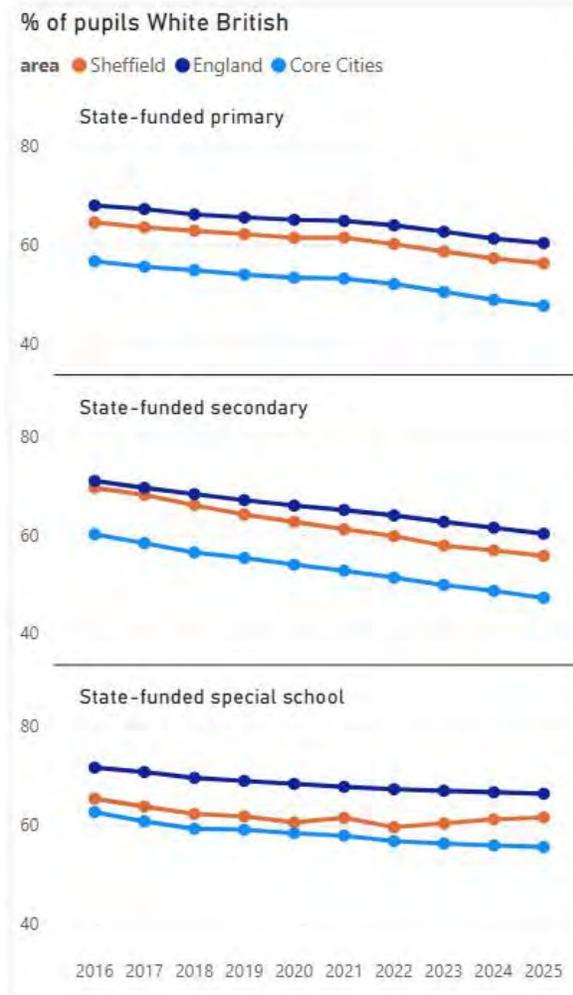
## Pupil characteristics – pupil numbers by setting

- Sheffield has a lower % of young people in special schools in the primary phase compared to the national and Core Cities average but a higher % of young people in special schools in the secondary phase.
- The independent sector in Sheffield is significantly smaller than the national and Core Cities average (2.7% of pupils in Sheffield compared to 6.5% nationally in 2025). The independent sector is also getting smaller over time.
- The % of pupils in state-funded alternative provision has historically been higher than the national and Core Cities average but fell below the Core Cities average in 2025 following a peak in 2024.



## 2 Pupil characteristics – trends by phase

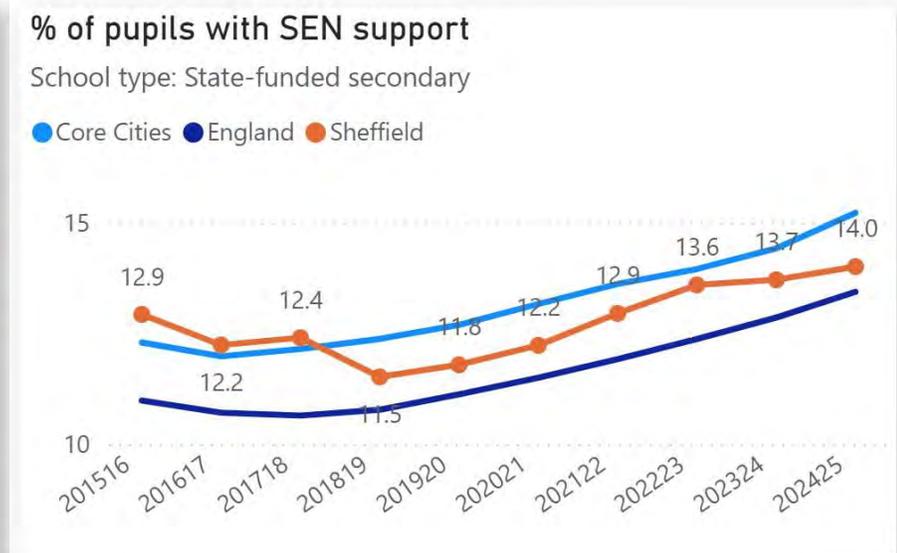
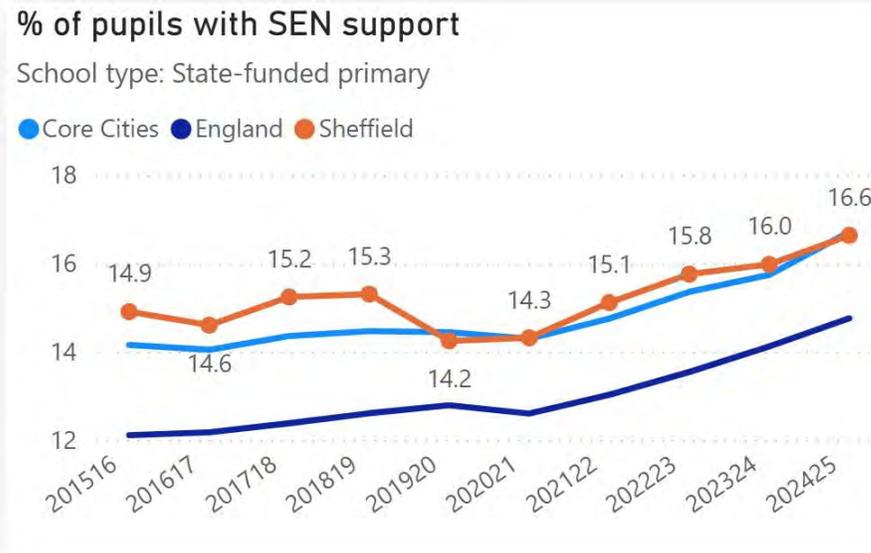
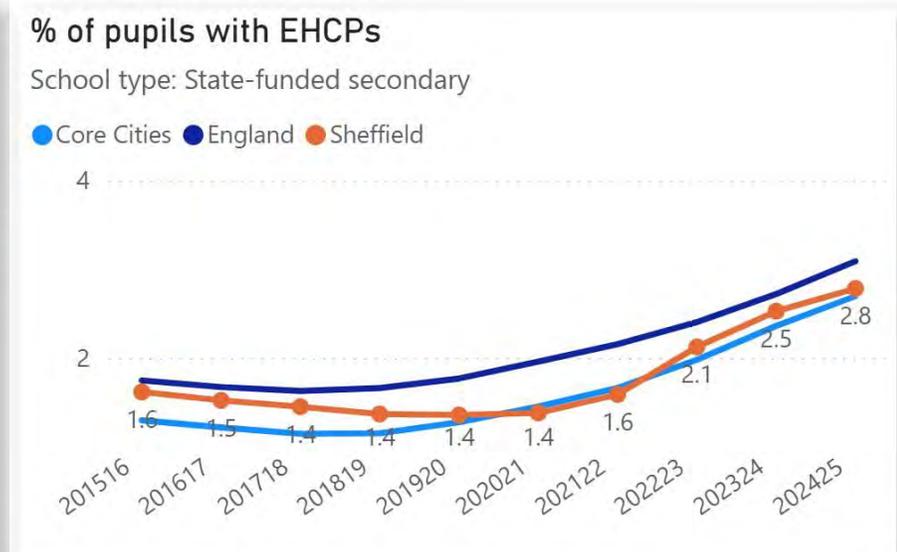
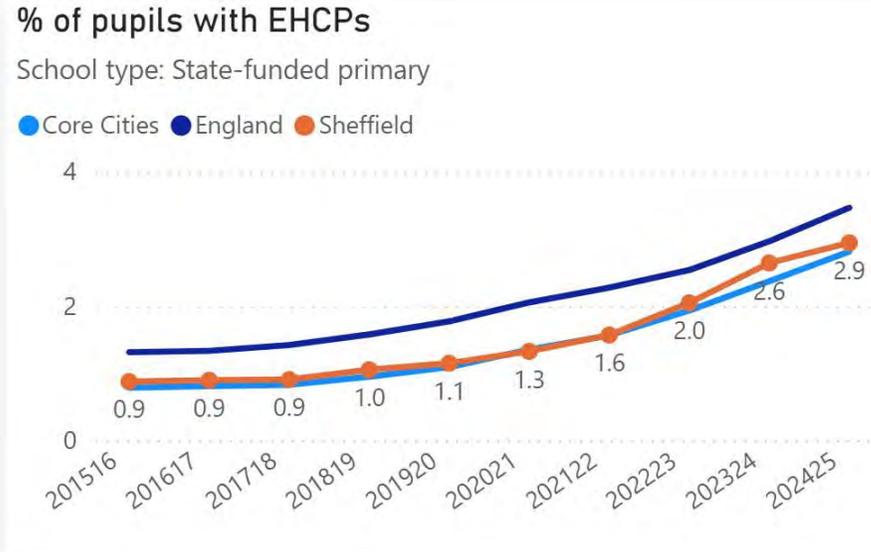
- The % of pupils with EAL and the % of pupils from BAME groups has been increasing every year since 2016 in mainstream but reducing in special since 2022.
- The % of pupils who are ever FSM6 (eligible for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years) had been stable since around 2022 but increased in all phases between 2024 and 2025.



# 2

## Pupil characteristics – % of pupils with SEND

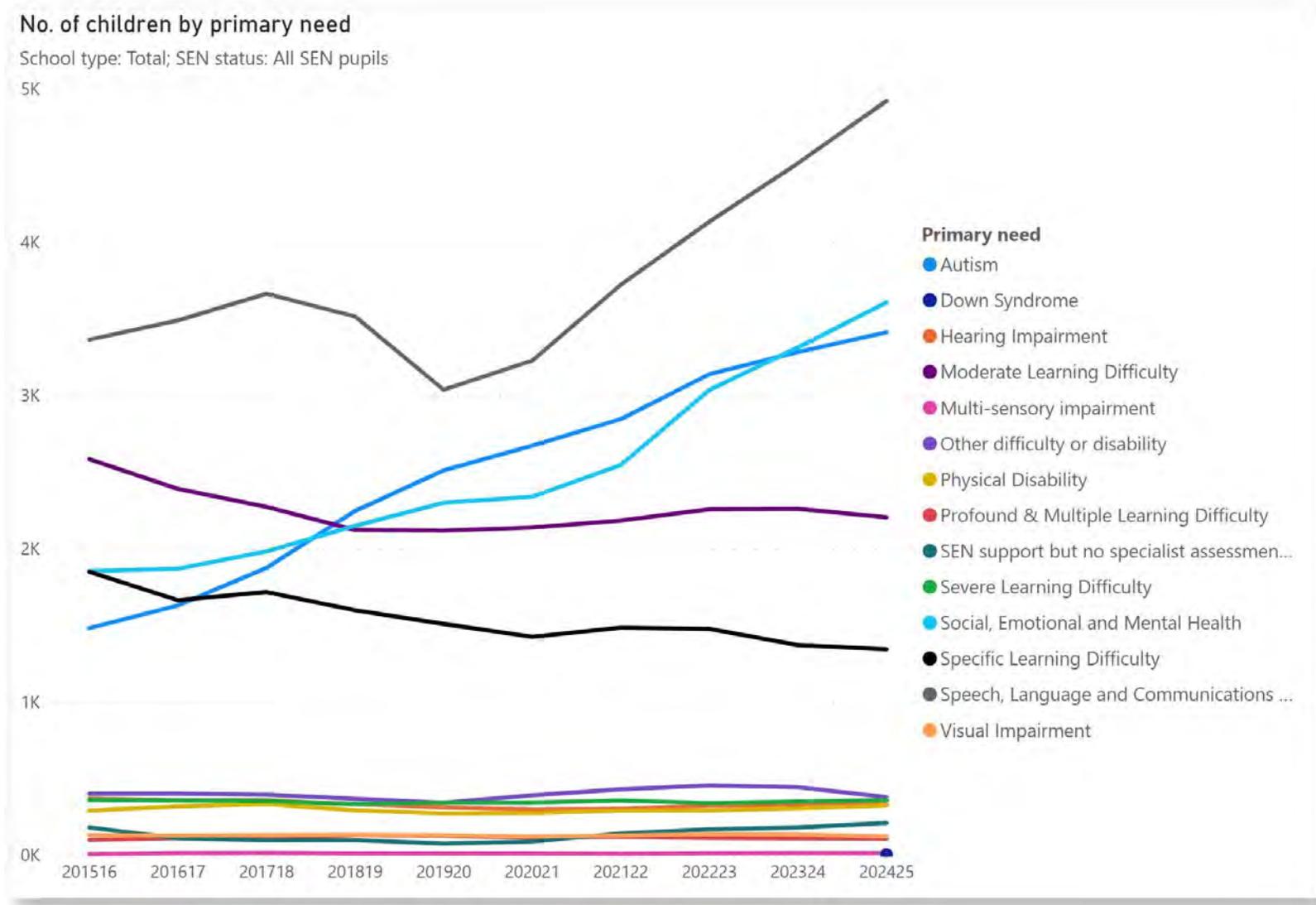
- In January 2025, 2.9% of pupils in primary schools and 2.8% of pupils in secondary schools had an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP).
- The % of pupils with EHCPs in Sheffield in January 2025 was below the national average and slightly above the Core Cities average.
- A further 16.6% of pupils in primary and 14.0% of pupils in secondary had SEN support without an EHCP. These figures are higher than the national average.



## 2

## Pupil characteristics – SEND primary needs

- The most prevalent need for pupils with SEND in Sheffield in 2024/25 was speech, language and communication followed by social, emotional and mental health and autism.
- 5.8% of pupils in all state-funded settings had a primary need of speech, language and communication in January 2025, this was higher than the national average (4.7%) and the Core Cities average (5.6%).
- The % of pupils with autism is also significantly higher than the national average (4.0% in Sheffield compared to 3.1% nationally in 2024/25).



## 2

# Pupil characteristics – primary - ethnicity & EAL (2025)

- In 2024/25 56% of the primary age population was of White British ethnicity. The next most prevalent ethnic group was Black African making up 8% of primary age pupils. This is a change from previous years when Pakistani was the second most prevalent ethnicity.
- Overall pupil numbers in primary have decreased slightly since 2019. The largest % increase has been for pupils of Indian origin (141%), there has also been a 61% increase in Black African pupils. The White British population has declined by 11% since 2019.
- There has been a 9% increase in the number of primary-age pupils with EAL compared to a 6% decrease in the number of pupils with English as a first language.

% by ethnicity			
State-funded primary			
Ethnic group	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
White - White British	56.2	-4.1	8.6
Black - Black African	7.9	2.8	-1.3
Asian - Pakistani	7.5	2.8	-1.8
Any other ethnic group	4.2	1.7	-0.9
White - Any other White background	3.8	-3.5	-1.7
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	2.8	1.2	0.2
Asian - Any other Asian background	2.7	0.4	-0.2
Mixed - White and Asian	2.4	0.6	0.5
Mixed - Any other Mixed background	2.3	-0.7	-1.1
Asian - Indian	2.1	-2.2	-1.2
White - Gypsy/Roma	2.0	1.6	1.2
Mixed - White and Black African	1.4	0.4	0.2
Black - Any other Black background	1.2	0.4	-0.5
Asian - Bangladeshi	1.1	-0.7	-0.9
Unclassified	1.1	-0.2	-0.1
Asian - Chinese	0.8	0.1	-0.2
Black - Black Caribbean	0.4	-0.4	-0.6
White - Irish	0.1	-0.1	-0.1
White - Traveller of Irish heritage	0.1	0.0	0.0

Pupil numbers & change since 2019		
State-funded primary		
Ethnic group	total pupils	change since 2019
Asian - Indian	994	141.3%
Black - Black African	3666	61.2%
Black - Any other Black background	562	31.6%
Unclassified	496	21.9%
Mixed - White and Black African	633	16.6%
Any other ethnic group	1940	15.3%
White - Traveller of Irish heritage	25	13.6%
Mixed - White and Asian	1129	8.0%
Mixed - Any other Mixed background	1056	2.8%
Asian - Any other Asian background	1249	2.4%
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	1327	1.0%
White - Any other White background	1775	0.7%
Asian - Chinese	357	-1.7%
All pupils	46586	-2.1%
Asian - Pakistani	3494	-4.5%
Asian - Bangladeshi	503	-6.5%
White - Gypsy/Roma	947	-10.2%
White - White British	26174	-11.4%
White - Irish	54	-12.9%
Black - Black Caribbean	205	-13.1%

% by ethnicity			
State-funded primary			
Ethnic group	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
Not EAL	73.6	-2.7	6.4
EAL	26.2	2.8	-6.3

## Pupil numbers & change since 2019

State-funded primary		
First language	total pupils	change since 2019
EAL	12190	9.1%
Not EAL	34288	-5.5%

## 2

# Pupil characteristics – primary – pupils eligible for free school meals in the last 6 years (2025)

## % pupils eligible for free school meals in the last 6 years by ethnicity

State-funded primary

Ethnic group	No. of pupils	Sheffield	diff. w. national	diff. w. Core Cities
White - Gypsy/Roma	820	92.3	30.4	22.1
White - Traveller of Irish heritage	17	70.8	-1.6	-4.0
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	762	62.0	14.3	6.6
Any other ethnic group	1055	60.2	18.3	6.1
Black - Black Caribbean	112	58.3	9.4	4.3
Mixed - Any other Mixed background	468	47.4	17.4	2.6
Any other Asian background	512	45.3	21.5	7.0
Mixed - White and Black African	254	43.4	6.9	-2.6
Any other Black background	216	42.3	1.6	-7.2
Unclassified	188	40.6	12.2	1.4
Mixed - White and Asian	404	38.6	15.5	1.5
Asian - Pakistani	1182	37.9	7.2	2.3
Asian - Bangladeshi	172	37.2	1.0	-1.9
Black - Black African	1169	35.5	5.9	-3.9
White - Any other White background	588	35.5	14.2	1.2
All pupils	15053	34.9	8.6	-3.1
White - White British	7072	28.9	3.5	-7.8
White - Irish	13	24.5	2.3	-1.9
Asian - Chinese	33	9.5	1.3	-4.8
Asian - Indian	16	1.7	-5.2	-5.2

## % pupils eligible for free school meals in the last 6 years by NCY

State-funded primary

NCY	No. of pupils	Sheffield	diff. w. national	diff. w. Core Cities
Reception	1632	28.3	10.7	0.7
Year 1	1946	33.1	11.2	0.0
Year 2	2031	33.2	8.6	-2.6
Year 3	2285	36.4	8.6	-3.5
Year 4	2395	37.3	8.0	-3.9
Year 5	2377	37.2	6.6	-6.2
Year 6	2387	38.1	6.9	-5.9

- The % of FSM6 pupils in Sheffield primary schools in 2024/25 was higher than the national average for the majority of ethnic groups. Eligibility rates are also higher within BAME groups compared to White British children.
- Gypsy / Roma pupils had the highest FSM6 eligibility in 2024/25 at 92%.
- Pupil premium eligibility in 2024/25 was higher in the younger age groups. This may mean increasing overall eligibility for pupil premium in the future with Sheffield moving more in line with the average for Core Cities.

# 2

## Pupil characteristics – secondary - ethnicity & EAL (2025)

- The secondary phase is similar to primary with 56% of pupils having an ethnicity of White British in 2024/25. The second most prevalent group is Pakistani (8%) followed by Black African (7%).
- Overall pupil numbers in secondary have increased 13% since 2019. The largest % increase is for Chinese and Indian pupils. Pupil numbers in these groups have more than doubled since 2019.
- There has been a 33% increase in the number of secondary-age pupils with EAL compared to an 8% increase in the number of pupils with English as a first language.

**% by ethnicity**  
State-funded secondary

Ethnic group	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
White - White British	55.7	-4.5	8.5
Asian - Pakistani	8.2	3.6	-1.9
Black - Black African	7.2	1.9	-1.4
Any other ethnic group	4.6	2.1	-0.1
White - Any other White background	3.7	-3.3	-1.4
Asian - Any other Asian background	2.5	0.1	-0.2
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	2.5	1.0	0.1
Mixed - Any other Mixed background	2.4	-0.4	-1.0
Mixed - White and Asian	2.2	0.5	0.4
Unclassified	2.2	0.2	-0.5
White - Gypsy/Roma	1.9	1.7	1.2
Asian - Indian	1.5	-2.6	-1.5
Asian - Bangladeshi	1.4	-0.4	-0.7
Mixed - White and Black African	1.2	0.3	0.0
Asian - Chinese	1.1	0.2	-0.2
Black - Any other Black background	1.0	0.2	-0.6
Black - Black Caribbean	0.6	-0.4	-0.6
White - Irish	0.2	-0.1	0.0
White - Traveller of Irish heritage	0.0	0.0	0.0

**Pupil numbers & change since 2019**  
State-funded secondary

Ethnic group	total pupils	change since 2019
Asian - Chinese	394	152.6%
Asian - Indian	536	143.6%
Black - Black African	2645	87.3%
Mixed - Any other Mixed background	870	65.1%
Asian - Any other Asian background	926	59.7%
Black - Any other Black background	362	56.0%
Any other ethnic group	1675	52.0%
Unclassified	822	50.0%
Mixed - White and Black African	440	47.2%
White - Any other White background	1350	40.6%
Mixed - White and Asian	815	38.1%
Asian - Bangladeshi	495	13.3%
All pupils	36600	12.9%
Asian - Pakistani	2991	11.3%
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	917	4.8%
White - Gypsy/Roma	683	1.8%
White - White British	20401	-1.8%
White - Irish	64	-3.0%
Black - Black Caribbean	206	-20.2%
White - Traveller of Irish heritage	8	-65.2%

**% by ethnicity**  
State-funded secondary

Ethnic group	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
Not EAL	76.5	-3.7	5.3
EAL	22.8	3.6	-5.2

**Pupil numbers & change since 2019**  
State-funded secondary

First language	total pupils	change since 2019
EAL	8330	39.9%
Not EAL	27997	6.8%

## 2

# Pupil characteristics – secondary – pupils eligible for free school meals in the last 6 years (2025)

## % pupils eligible for free school meals in the last 6 years by ethnicity

State-funded secondary

Ethnic group	No. of pupils	Sheffield	diff. w. national	diff. w. Core Cities
White - Gypsy/Roma	660	96.8	27.3	24.2
White - Traveller of Irish heritage	5	71.4	6.6	-10.2
Any other ethnic group	963	64.5	15.3	3.1
Black - Black Caribbean	110	58.5	6.5	2.6
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	486	57.7	7.3	1.7
Any other Asian background	413	51.9	23.6	8.0
Any other Black background	154	48.7	3.1	-6.9
Mixed - Any other Mixed background	349	47.2	13.4	-0.8
Asian - Bangladeshi	179	45.0	1.4	-2.6
Mixed - White and Black African	175	44.2	3.9	-4.7
Black - Black African	978	42.2	5.3	-4.3
Unclassified	256	40.8	4.3	-9.5
Asian - Pakistani	1066	40.6	4.9	-0.7
Mixed - White and Asian	279	39.4	12.0	-1.6
White - Any other White background	422	36.9	12.8	0.5
All pupils	11518	36.1	7.2	-5.4
White - White British	4948	27.8	1.2	-10.4
White - Irish	8	17.4	-5.8	-9.5
Asian - Chinese	37	12.0	2.8	-2.1
Asian - Indian	30	6.7	-3.5	-4.8

## % pupils eligible for free school meals in the last 6 years by NCY

State-funded secondary

NCY	No. of pupils	Sheffield	diff. w. national	diff. w. Core Cities
Year 7	2315	37.6	6.4	-6.0
Year 8	2284	35.9	5.9	-6.5
Year 9	2251	36.5	7.7	-5.0
Year 10	2068	34.1	6.2	-6.9
Year 11	2098	34.5	7.8	-5.5

- The % of pupils eligible for the pupil premium in Sheffield secondary schools in 2024/25 was higher than the national average for the majority of ethnic groups (but lower than Core Cities). Eligibility rates were also higher within most BAME groups compared to White British children.
- White – Gypsy/Roma pupils had the highest rates of pupil premium eligibility at 97%, significantly higher than both the national and Core Cities average.
- Pupil premium eligibility for White British pupils in Sheffield was 10% points lower than the Core Cities average in 2024/25.

# 2

## Pupil characteristics – special - ethnicity & EAL (2025)

- Pupils from BAME groups were under-represented in special schools in Sheffield in 2024/25 - 38% of pupils in special schools were BAME (a reduction since 2023/24) compared to 44% in mainstream primary and secondary combined.
- Overall, the special school population has increased by 52% since 2019, which is significantly higher than the overall increase in pupil numbers in mainstream schools.
- In contrast to mainstream, the % increase in the number of pupils with English as a first language (58%) is twice as high as that for EAL pupils (26% increase).

### % by ethnicity

State-funded special school

Ethnic group	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
White - White British	61.5	-4.8	6.0
Asian - Pakistani	7.3	2.9	-1.2
Black - Black African	6.7	1.9	-1.1
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	3.5	1.5	0.0
Unclassified	3.4	1.7	1.2
Any other ethnic group	3.1	1.1	0.2
White - Any other White background	2.6	-1.7	-0.8
Mixed - White and Asian	2.2	0.8	0.8
Asian - Any other Asian background	2.1	0.1	-0.1
Mixed - Any other Mixed background	1.6	-1.2	-1.4
Mixed - White and Black African	1.4	0.4	0.1
Asian - Bangladeshi	1.0	-0.8	-1.3
Black - Any other Black background	0.9	-0.2	-1.0
Asian - Indian	0.8	-1.3	-0.7
Black - Black Caribbean	0.8	-0.3	-0.6
White - Gypsy/Roma	0.5	0.1	0.2
Asian - Chinese	0.4	0.0	-0.2
White - Irish	0.2	0.0	0.0
White - Traveller of Irish heritage	0.0	-0.1	-0.1

### Pupil numbers & change since 2019

State-funded special school

Ethnic group	total pupils	change since 2019
White - Irish	3	200.0%
Unclassified	63	173.9%
Mixed - White and Black African	26	136.4%
Asian - Chinese	7	133.3%
Mixed - White and Asian	40	100.0%
Asian - Any other Asian background	38	81.0%
Black - Black African	123	70.8%
White - Any other White background	48	60.0%
Asian - Bangladeshi	19	58.3%
All pupils	1828	52.0%
White - White British	1124	51.5%
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	64	48.8%
Black - Any other Black background	17	41.7%
Black - Black Caribbean	14	40.0%
Any other ethnic group	56	33.3%
Asian - Indian	14	27.3%
Mixed - Any other Mixed background	29	26.1%
Asian - Pakistani	133	25.5%
White - Traveller of Irish heritage	0	
White - Gypsy/Roma	10	-52.4%

### % by ethnicity

State-funded special school

Ethnic group	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
Not EAL	82.2	-3.0	3.4
EAL	16.7	2.2	-4.0

### Pupil numbers & change since 2019

State-funded special school

First language	total pupils	change since 2019
EAL	306	25.9%
Not EAL	1503	57.9%

2

# Pupil characteristics – special – pupils eligible for free school meals in the last 6 years (2025)

**% pupils eligible for pupil premium by ethnicity**  
State-funded special school

Ethnic group	Sheffield	diff. w. national	diff. w. Core Cities
White - Gypsy/Roma	88.9	20.2	9.6
Mixed - White and Black Carribean	83.9	14.0	3.7
Black - Black Caribbean	81.8	14.5	9.4
White - Any other White background	77.3	42.3	26.7
Black - Black African	69.0	13.5	5.1
Mixed - Any other Mixed background	63.6	11.3	-2.1
Unclassified	60.7	8.8	2.3
Any other ethnic group	59.5	8.3	-7.6
All pupils	58.9	8.6	-3.3
White - White British	58.8	6.6	-7.9
Black - Any other Black background	58.3	2.5	1.7
Mixed - White and Asian	55.6	13.4	-3.5
Asian - Bangaladeshi	50.0	5.5	-1.0
Mixed - White and Black African	45.5	-14.5	-22.5
Asian - Any other Asian background	43.3	10.3	-5.2
Asian - Pakistani	41.5	3.9	0.5
Asian - Chinese	40.0	11.4	10.1

**% pupils eligible for pupil premium by NCY**  
State-funded special school

NCY	Sheffield	diff. w. national	diff. w. Core Cities
Reception	44.4	15.0	-0.7
Year 1	53.2	16.7	3.4
Year 2	49.2	7.6	-3.5
Year 3	55.1	8.2	-2.3
Year 4	59.3	8.9	-7.1
Year 5	59.4	7.3	-3.6
Year 6	58.3	4.7	-6.8
Year 7	66.3	12.5	0.2
Year 8	64.1	10.5	-0.9
Year 9	61.4	7.2	-4.1
Year 10	58.7	4.8	-5.9
Year 11	52.1	0.1	-9.8

- The % of pupils eligible for the pupil premium was significantly higher in special schools in 2025/25 (58% compared to ~35% in mainstream). However, the difference between Sheffield and the national average was similar in mainstream and special.
- Pupil premium eligibility rates were not higher in the special sector across all ethnic groups. For example, eligibility rates are significantly higher for White British and Black African pupils (compared to mainstream) but were only slightly higher for Pakistani pupils.



## Outcomes for children and young people

- There are ~79k young people from reception to year 11 in Sheffield schools. This is an overall increase of over 6,000 since 2016. Having increased every year since 2016, pupil numbers declined slightly between 2023/24 and 2024/25. The number of pupils in special schools continues to increase and is now over 1,500, a 72% increase since 2016.
- The number of young people eligible for the pupil premium has increased by around 5,500 since 2016 and this increase has been seen in all phases.
- The number of young people with an EHCP has increased by over 2,000 (more than doubled) since 2016.
- The number of young people with special educational needs with a primary need speech, language and communication has increased by around 1,900 (62%) since 2019/20.



## Provisional trails for further investigation

- **2.1** What does analysis of cohort and quality in specialist provision tell us?
- **2.2** How can enquiry into speech, language and communication needs support the development of a balanced system which includes universal, targeted and specialist provision to meet the needs of children and young people at the earliest opportunity?

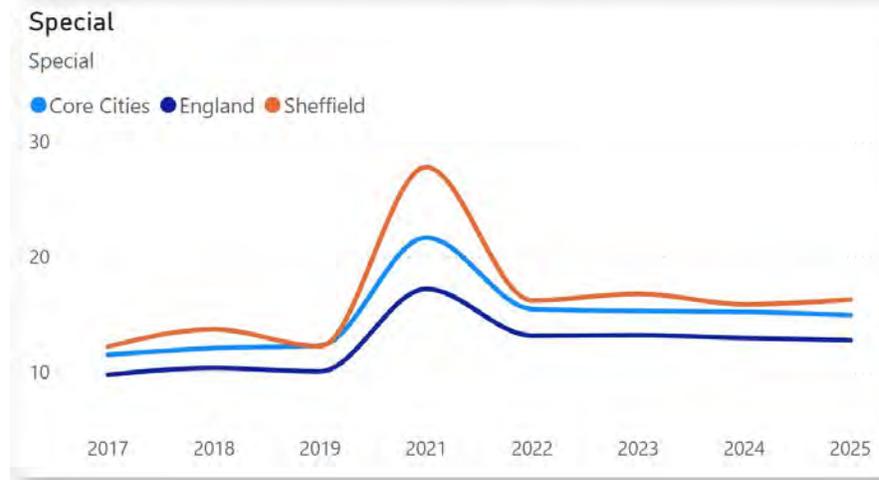
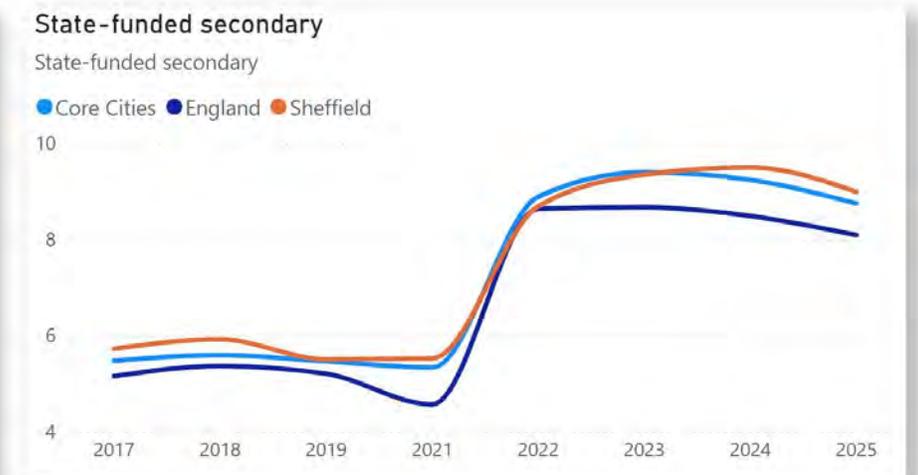
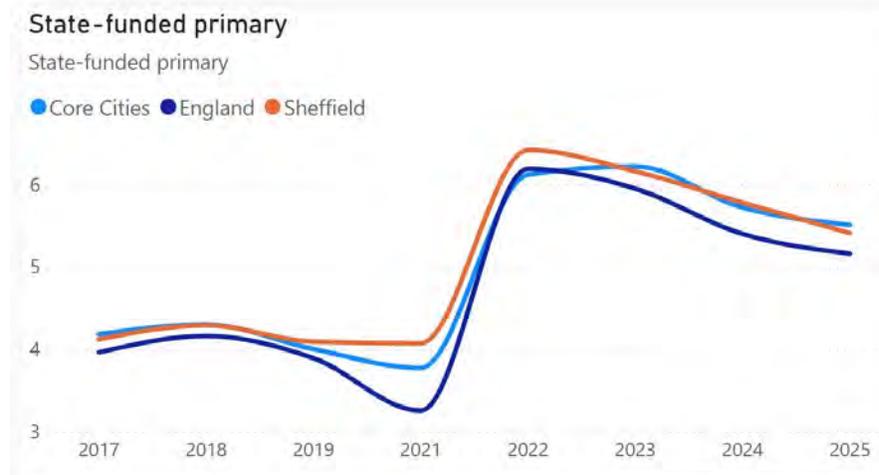
# Overview

- 1 Ofsted inspection judgements
- 2 Pupil characteristics & SEND
- 3 Attendance**
- 4 Exclusions
- 5 Attainment & progress

## 3

# Attendance – overall absence by phase – autumn & spring terms

- Levels of absence in the primary phase have been reducing since 2021/22 and were slightly below the Core Cities average in the autumn & spring term of 2024/25.
- In secondary absence continued to rise until 2023/24 but did improve in 2024/25.
- Sheffield remains above the national and Core Cities average in the secondary and special phases.



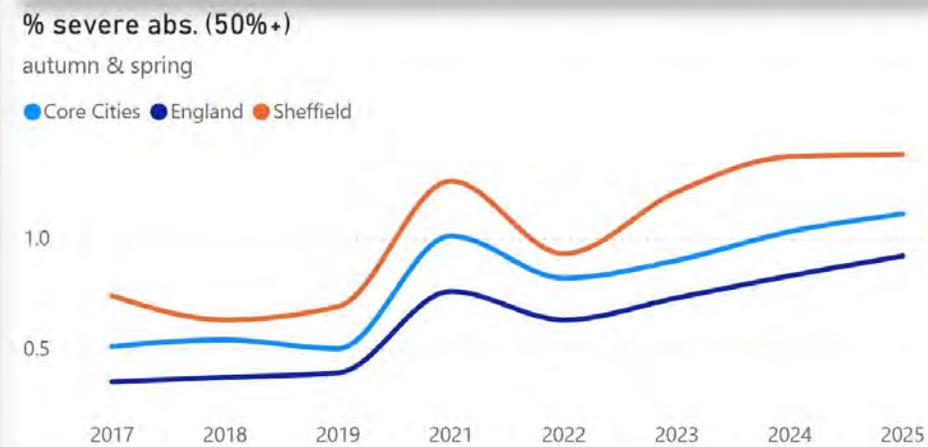
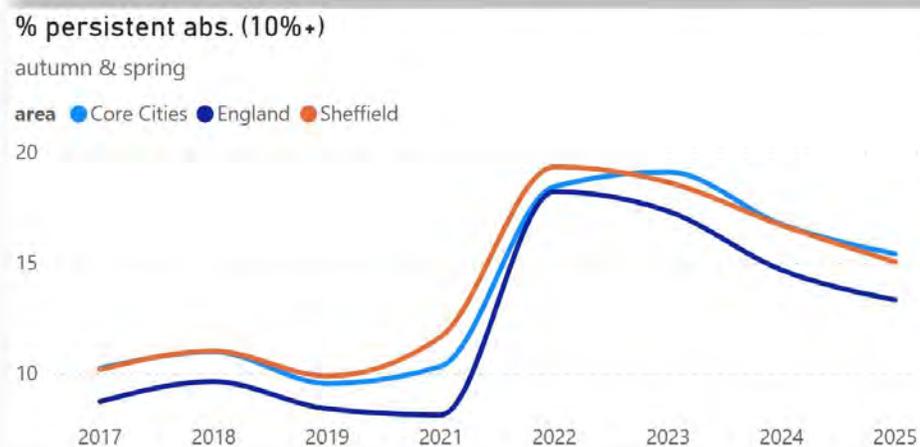
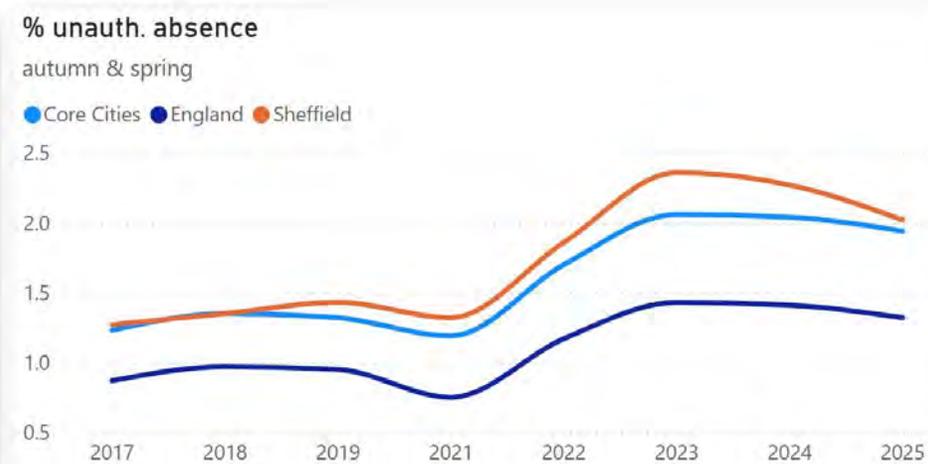
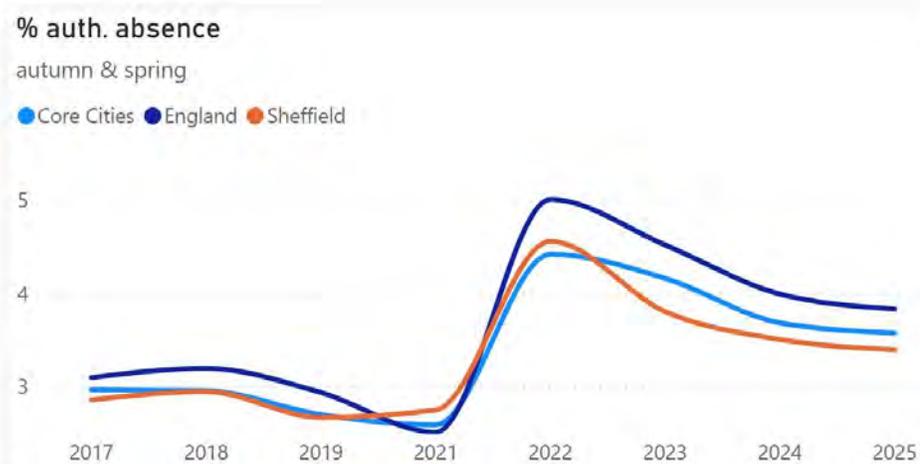
**Notes:**

- The secondary phase includes primary age pupils in through schools (around 2.5% of all primary age pupils in Sheffield).
- 2025 autumn term data is provisional.

## 3

## Absence and persistent absence (primary) – autumn &amp; spring terms

- Both authorised and unauthorised absence reduced in the primary phase between 2023/24 and 2024/25. Persistent absence also reduced to slightly below the Core Cities average.
- Severe absence is the only measure that has not improved in 2024/25. Severe absence in Sheffield primary schools was 50% higher than the national average in the first two terms of 2024/25.



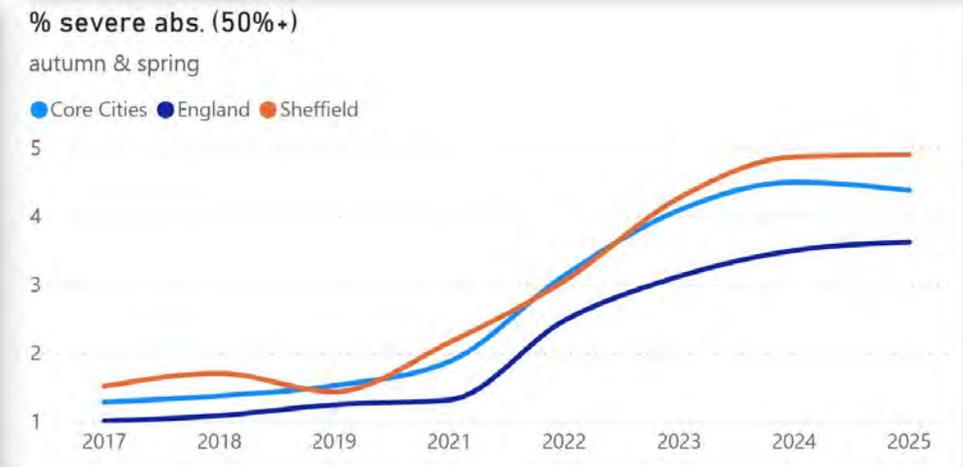
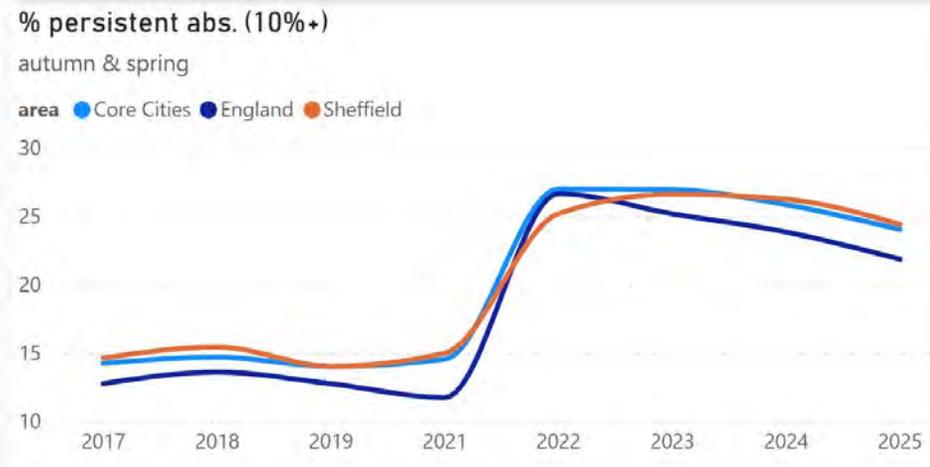
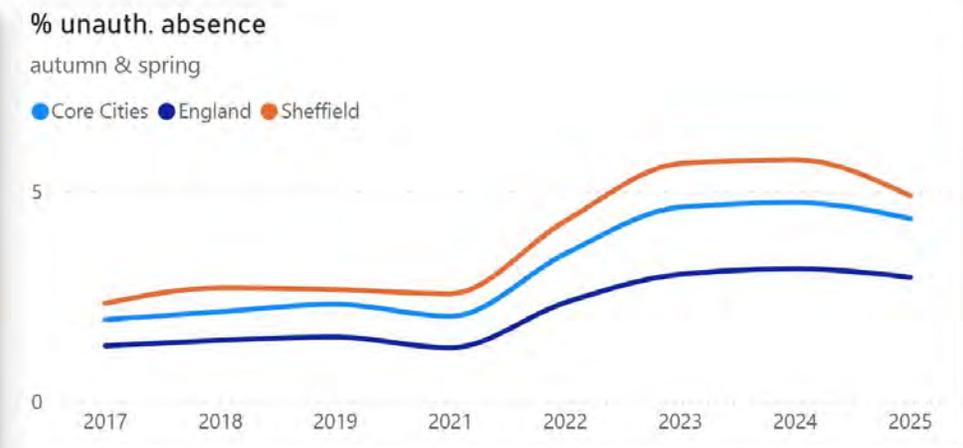
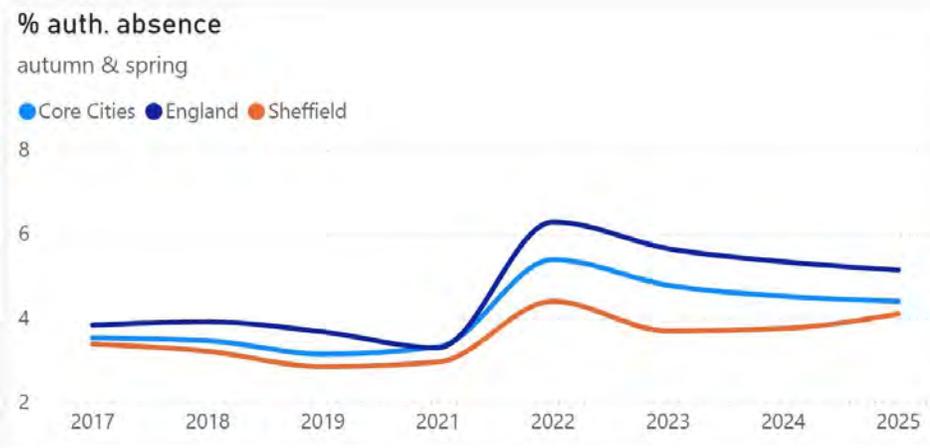
## Notes:

- The secondary phase includes primary age pupils in through schools (around 2.5% of all primary age pupils in Sheffield).
- 2025 autumn term data is provisional.

## 3

## Absence and persistent absence (secondary) – autumn &amp; spring terms

- Authorised absence in the secondary phase continues to increase although unauthorised absence has reduced. This may be down to changes in recording rather than actual changes in attendance patterns.
- Persistent absence in the secondary phase reduced in the first two terms of 2024/25 and was close to the Core Cities average.
- Similar to primary, severe absence remains significantly above the national and Core Cities average.



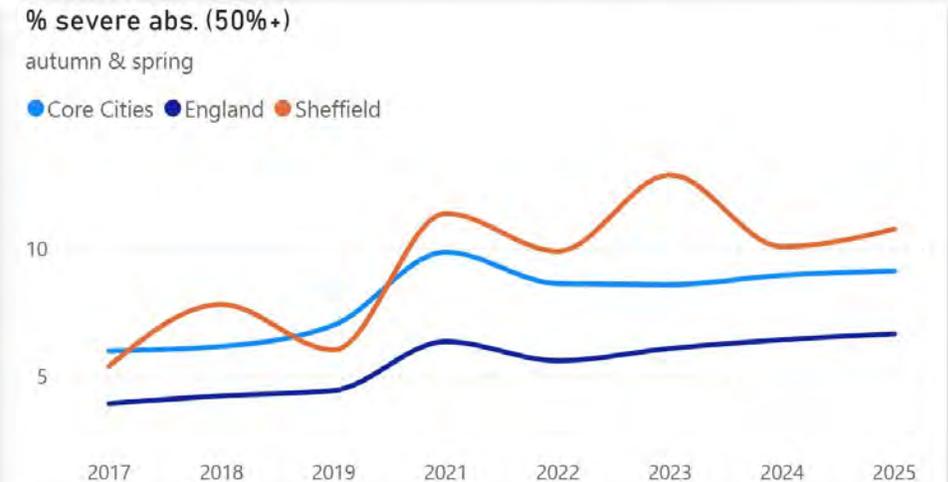
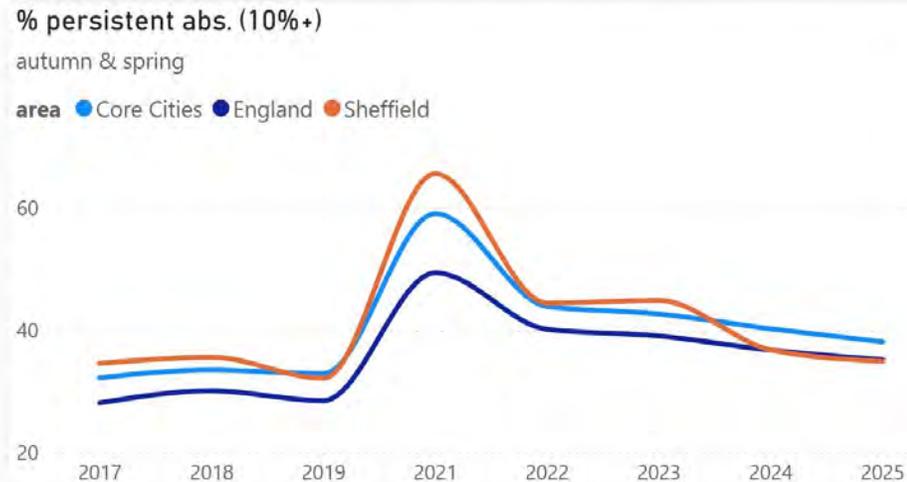
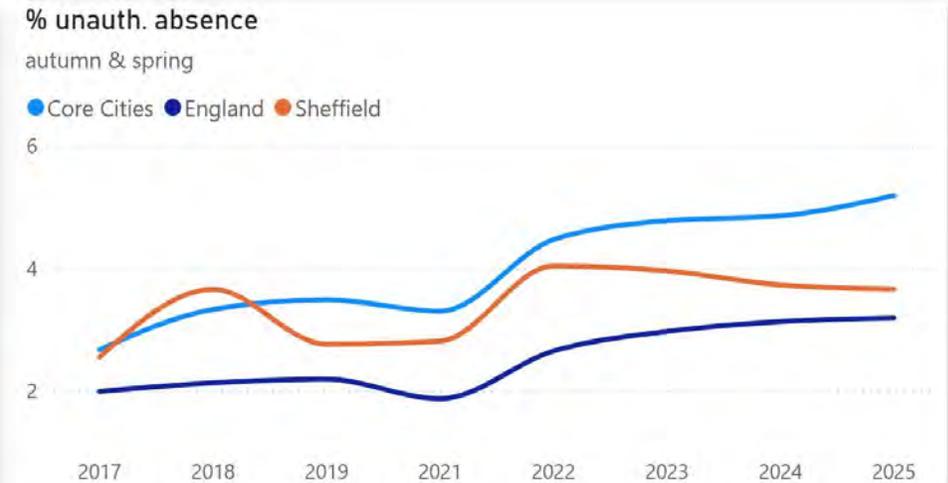
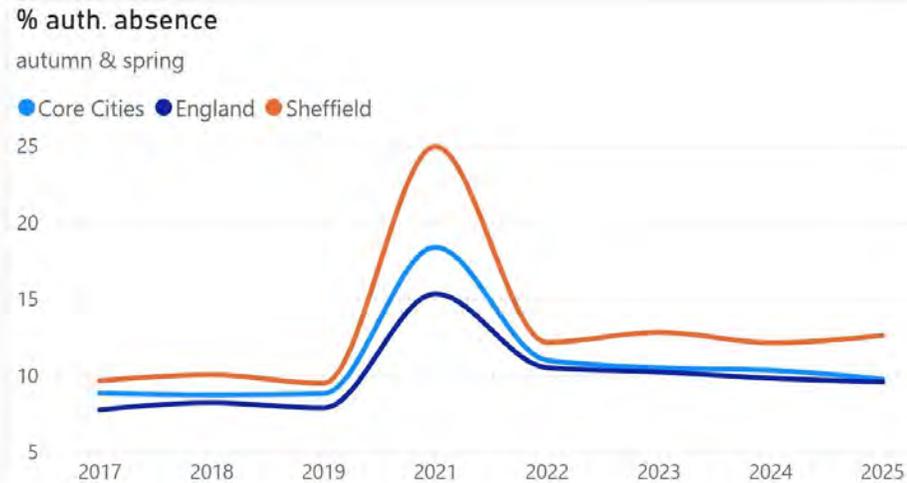
## Notes:

- The secondary phase includes primary age pupils in through schools (around 2.5% of all primary age pupils in Sheffield).
- 2025 autumn term data is provisional.

## 3

## Absence and persistent absence (special) – autumn &amp; spring terms

- Authorised absence in Sheffield special schools was amongst the 10 highest LAs nationally in the first two terms of 2024/25. We know that the make-up of the special phase in Sheffield differs from the national average, and this results in lower overall attendance levels.
- In contrast to mainstream schools, unauthorised absence is lower in special schools – above the national average but below Core Cities (lowest of all Core Cities) in autumn & spring 2024/25.



# Absence national ranks – autumn & spring terms

- In the primary phase Sheffield's national rank for overall absence has improved to pre-pandemic levels and is in line with Sheffield's latest rank on the IDACI\* (117).
- In the secondary phase national ranks for absence and persistent absence are worsening.
- In all phases, severe absence in Sheffield was amongst the highest nationally in the first two terms of 2024/25.

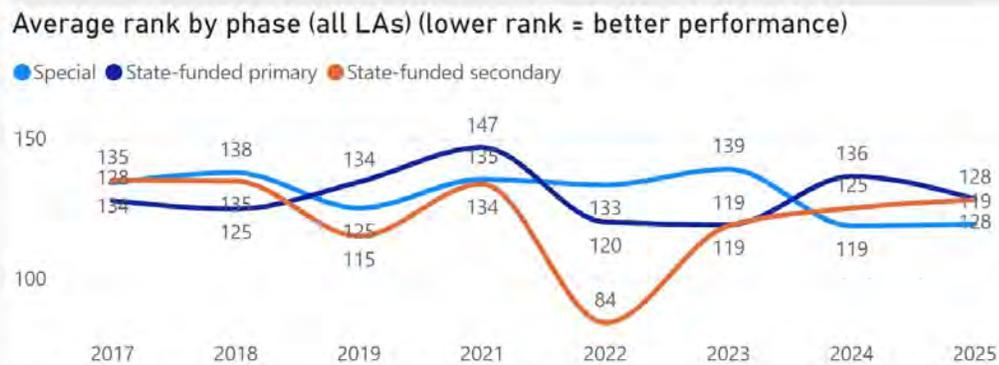
\* Income deprivation affecting children index

Attendance ranks and change from previous year (all LAs)  
autumn & spring

year	2019		2022		2023		2024		2025	
phase	rank	rank change								
<b>State-funded secondary</b>										
% overall absence	117	↑ 17	75	↑ 56	116	↓ -41	124	↓ -8	125	↓ -1
% persistent abs. (10%+)	116	↑ 11	55	↑ 75	104	↓ -49	115	↓ -11	122	↓ -7
% severe abs. (50%+)	112	↑ 31	122	↑ 18	136	↓ -14	136	→ 0	137	↓ -1
<b>State-funded primary</b>										
% overall absence	119	↓ -11	109	↑ 38	105	↑ 4	130	↓ -25	117	↑ 13
% persistent abs. (10%+)	137	↓ -9	108	↑ 40	106	↑ 2	128	↓ -22	120	↑ 8
% severe abs. (50%+)	147	↓ -9	143	↑ 2	146	↓ -3	151	↓ -5	148	↑ 3
<b>Special</b>										
% overall absence	133	↑ 10	140	↑ 2	141	↓ -1	136	↑ 5	143	↓ -7
% persistent abs. (10%+)	122	↑ 7	118	↑ 8	130	↓ -12	81	↑ 49	74	↑ 7
% severe abs. (50%+)	120	↑ 21	142	↓ -4	146	↓ -4	139	↑ 7	141	↓ -2

Attendance ranks and rank change (all LAs)  
autumn & spring

year	2025	
phase	rank	rank change from 2019
<b>State-funded secondary</b>		
% overall absence	125	↓ -8
% persistent abs. (10%+)	122	↓ -6
% severe abs. (50%+)	137	↓ -25
<b>State-funded primary</b>		
% overall absence	117	↑ 2
% persistent abs. (10%+)	120	↑ 17
% severe abs. (50%+)	148	↓ -1
<b>Special</b>		
% overall absence	143	↓ -10
% persistent abs. (10%+)	74	↑ 48
% severe abs. (50%+)	141	↓ -21



Notes:  
• The secondary phase includes primary age pupils in through schools (around 2.5% of all primary age pupils in Sheffield).

# Absence Core City ranks – autumn & spring terms

- Sheffield ranks 4th/5th for overall absence and persistent absence in mainstream.
- Severe absence is highest or second highest of all Core Cities across all phases and this position has worsened since 2019.
- Persistent absence in the special phase was ranked 2nd out of Core Cities in the autumn & spring terms of 2024/25.

### Attendance ranks and change from previous year (Core Cities)

autumn & spring

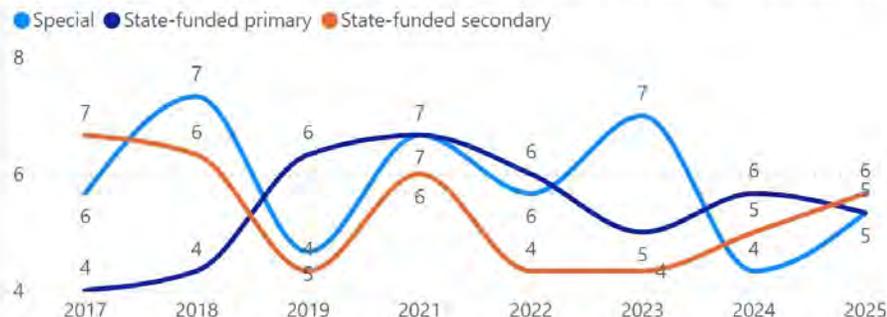
year phase	2019		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	rank	rank change								
<b>State-funded secondary</b>										
% overall absence	5	↑	5	↑	5	→	5	→	5	→
% persistent abs. (10%+)	5	↑	4	↑	4	→	5	↓	5	→
% severe abs. (50%+)	3	↑	4	↑	4	→	5	↓	7	↓
<b>State-funded primary</b>										
% overall absence	6	↓	6	↑	5	↑	5	→	4	↑
% persistent abs. (10%+)	6	↓	7	→	4	↑	4	→	4	→
% severe abs. (50%+)	7	↓	5	↑	6	↓	8	↓	8	→
<b>Special</b>										
% overall absence	6	↑	6	↑	7	↓	5	↑	7	↓
% persistent abs. (10%+)	6	→	5	↑	6	↓	3	↑	2	↑
% severe abs. (50%+)	2	↑	6	→	8	↓	5	↑	7	↓

### Attendance ranks and rank change (Core Cities)

autumn & spring

year phase	2025	
	rank	rank change from 2019
<b>State-funded secondary</b>		
% overall absence	5	→
% persistent abs. (10%+)	5	→
% severe abs. (50%+)	7	↓
<b>State-funded primary</b>		
% overall absence	4	↓
% persistent abs. (10%+)	4	↓
% severe abs. (50%+)	8	↓
<b>Special</b>		
% overall absence	7	↓
% persistent abs. (10%+)	2	↓
% severe abs. (50%+)	7	↓

### Average rank by phase (Core Cities) (lower rank = better performance)



#### Notes:

- The secondary phase includes primary age pupils in through schools (around 2.5% of all primary age pupils in Sheffield).

## 3

## Reasons for absence – autumn &amp; spring terms 2024/25

- The table shows the % of sessions by reason for absence (authorised and unauthorised) and the difference between Sheffield and the national average.
- In the primary and secondary phases Sheffield had a lower % of absences coded as illness compared to the national average in autumn & spring 2024/25.
- This may suggest that unexplained absence is being coded as unauthorised rather than illness in Sheffield.
- Holidays and exclusions also account for higher levels of absence in primary and secondary phases.

phase Reason for absence	Special			State-funded primary			State-funded secondary		
	Sheffield	diff w. national	diff w. Core Cities	Sheffield	diff w. national	diff w. Core Cities	Sheffield	diff w. national	diff w. Core Cities
% illness (auth)	6.33	0.92	0.99	2.65	-0.39	-0.16	2.59	-1.11	-0.42
% other (unauth)	2.91	0.39	-1.33	1.16	0.49	0.05	3.95	1.60	0.47
% other (auth)	1.79	0.16	0.27	0.24	-0.06	-0.01	0.29	-0.13	-0.03
% medical (auth)	1.13	0.15	0.19	0.27	0.02	0.03	0.33	-0.03	0.03
% holiday (unauth)	0.45	0.12	-0.03	0.60	0.13	0.03	0.46	0.18	0.07
% tot. holiday	0.45	0.12	-0.03	0.60	0.13	0.03	0.46	0.18	0.07
% late (unauth)	0.23	-0.05	-0.19	0.23	0.07	0.02	0.42	0.14	-0.03
% excluded (auth)	0.17	0.00	-0.02	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.50	0.22	0.10
% no reason yet (unauth)	0.07	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.02	0.02
% religious (auth)	0.00	-0.05	-0.09	0.01	-0.06	-0.11	0.01	-0.06	-0.10
% study (auth)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
% traveller (auth)	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

## Notes:

- The secondary phase includes primary age pupils in through schools (around 2.5% of all primary age pupils in Sheffield).

# Absence by pupil group – primary – autumn & spring 2024/25

- The absence rate for a number of pupils groups in the primary phase in Sheffield was significantly above the national and Core Cities average in the first two terms of 2024/25. The absence rate for pupils with EHCPs was 2% points higher than the national average and the absence rate for pupils with EAL was 0.8% points higher.
- Absence is lower than the national average for the 3 ethnic groups with the largest pupil numbers (White British, Black African and Pakistani) but significantly higher for a large number of other BAME groups.

## Absence by NCY

characteristic	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff w. Core Cities
Year 1 and below	6.16	0.40	-0.05
Year 2	5.49	0.37	-0.03
Year 3	5.14	0.25	-0.14
Year 4	5.04	0.16	-0.17
Year 5	5.12	0.12	-0.17
Year 6	5.32	0.08	-0.14

## Absence by FSM6

characteristic	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff w. Core Cities
FSM6	8.24	0.65	0.64
not FSM6	3.73	-0.44	-0.42

## Absence by gender

characteristic	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff w. Core Cities
Male	5.63	0.29	-0.09
Female	5.18	0.21	-0.12

## Absence by SEND

characteristic	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff w. Core Cities
SEN - EHCP	12.37	2.18	1.58
SEN - SEN support	7.48	0.41	0.00
SEN - No SEN	4.65	0.09	-0.22

## Absence by EAL

characteristic	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff w. Core Cities
EAL	6.05	0.83	0.63
not EAL	5.19	0.05	-0.41

## Absence by ethnic group

characteristic	No. of pupils	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff w. Core Cities
Traveller of Irish heritage	20	20.94	1.16	3.87
Gypsy Roma	849	15.20	1.21	2.18
Any other ethnic group	3320	11.10	0.40	0.56
White and Black Caribbean	1077	7.86	0.93	0.70
Black Caribbean	169	7.44	1.00	0.92
Unclassified	556	6.72	0.59	0.46
Any other White background	1510	6.50	1.21	0.49
Pakistani	2794	6.38	-0.03	-0.10
Any other Mixed background	907	6.15	0.58	0.13
Bangladeshi	417	5.70	-0.69	-1.11
White and Asian	927	5.69	0.70	0.29
Indian	899	5.65	0.70	0.47
All pupils	39021	5.41	0.25	-0.10
White and Black African	548	5.24	0.07	0.05
Irish	48	5.23	-0.99	-0.55
White British	21631	4.95	-0.07	-0.67
Any other Asian background	1073	4.93	0.00	-0.16
Any other Black background	492	4.90	0.22	0.64
Black African	3116	3.32	-0.01	0.13
Chinese	328	2.76	-0.26	-0.05

# Absence by pupil group – secondary – autumn & spring 2024/25

- In the secondary phase the gaps with national and Core Cities are larger. Absence rates in Sheffield were 2% points or more above national for Y11s, FSM6, pupils with SEN and pupils with EAL.
- White British pupils have better attendance than the national average in the primary phase but are below the national average in secondary. Pakistani and Black African pupils have attendance above the national and Core Cities average in both the primary and secondary phases.

## Absence by NCY

characteristic	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff w. Core Cities
Year 7	6.32	0.56	0.05
Year 8	8.00	0.43	-0.25
Year 9	9.51	0.94	0.29
Year 10	10.09	0.91	0.12
Year 11	11.47	1.85	0.86

## Absence by FSM6

characteristic	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff w. Core Cities
FSM6	14.50	1.84	1.62
not FSM6	5.68	-0.40	-0.12

## Absence by gender

characteristic	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff w. Core Cities
Female	9.21	0.78	0.25
Male	8.78	1.02	0.23

## Absence by SEND

characteristic	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff w. Core Cities
SEN - EHCP	21.30	5.04	2.68
SEN - SEN support	15.91	3.05	1.77
SEN - No SEN	7.25	0.33	-0.11

## Absence by EAL

characteristic	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff w. Core Cities
not EAL	9.22	0.70	-0.36
EAL	8.19	2.00	1.53

## Absence by ethnic group

characteristic	No. of pupils	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff w. Core Cities
Gypsy Roma	743	27.32	6.15	5.98
Traveller of Irish heritage	7	20.66	-0.36	-9.19
White and Black Caribbean	906	15.10	3.50	2.41
Any other ethnic group	3144	13.94	0.58	0.44
Unclassified	857	11.68	1.92	1.24
Any other Mixed background	766	10.54	2.97	1.90
Black Caribbean	200	10.40	2.08	1.84
White British	18326	9.35	0.44	-1.14
Any other White background	1192	9.29	2.24	1.28
All pupils	33162	8.99	0.90	0.24
White and Asian	727	8.94	1.58	0.88
Bangladeshi	392	8.13	1.44	0.80
White and Black African	416	7.76	-0.50	-0.35
Pakistani	2659	7.26	-0.33	-0.47
Any other Asian background	829	6.20	1.00	0.57
Any other Black background	337	5.65	-0.22	-0.21
Irish	45	5.06	-3.70	-4.72
Indian	467	3.97	-0.71	-0.55
Black African	2408	3.78	-0.14	-0.09
Chinese	313	3.05	0.44	0.67

Note: primary age pupils in through schools are included in secondary phase group attendance results

## 3

# Absence by pupil group – special – autumn & spring 2024/25

- In the first two terms of 2024/25, absence in special schools was lower in the primary phase than in secondary and was lower than the national average and Core Cities average for some year groups. Absence was particularly high for Y10 & Y11.
- In contrast to mainstream, the gap between Sheffield and national is larger for girls, pupils who are not FSM6 and pupils who are not EAL. Absence rates for White British pupils in the special phase are also significantly above the national and Core Cities average.

## Absence by NCY

characteristic	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff w. Core Cities
Year 11	27.87	10.06	5.80
Year 10	21.27	5.21	2.25
Year 8	17.28	4.52	2.20
Year 9	14.74	0.38	-3.23
Year 7	13.28	2.13	0.36
Year 1 and below	12.90	1.87	-2.03
Year 3	12.33	2.15	1.01
Year 6	11.48	0.80	-0.96
Year 4	10.00	-0.20	-0.16
Year 2	9.24	-1.02	-1.48
Year 5	9.11	-1.23	-2.20

## Absence by gender

characteristic	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff w. Core Cities
Female	20.49	7.32	5.02
Male	14.33	1.71	-0.35

## Absence by FSM6

characteristic	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff w. Core Cities
FSM6	16.69	1.97	0.05
not FSM6	15.58	5.23	3.95

## Absence by EAL

characteristic	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff w. Core Cities
not EAL	16.70	3.81	1.24
EAL	13.69	1.71	0.78

## Absence by ethnic group

characteristic	No. of pupils	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff w. Core Cities
Gypsy Roma	9	36.29	13.08	-4.64
Any other ethnic group	116	23.26	0.30	-0.52
White and Asian	36	21.14	8.67	7.17
White and Black Caribbean	67	18.41	2.39	2.48
Unclassified	115	18.31	2.00	0.70
White and Black African	27	17.61	5.16	2.25
White British	1265	17.34	4.38	1.15
Any other Mixed background	30	16.74	3.88	2.51
All pupils	2043	16.28	3.51	1.34
Any other White background	53	16.13	4.51	2.93
Any other Black background	20	15.96	6.12	5.26
Pakistani	141	15.58	1.05	-1.06
Any other Asian background	39	12.71	1.77	1.99
Indian	14	12.13	1.66	2.66
Bangladeshi	17	11.81	-1.47	-1.88
Black African	130	8.36	-0.64	-0.94
Chinese	6	6.91	-0.56	-0.47
Irish	4	3.93	-14.20	-17.25
Black Caribbean	10	3.88	-7.88	-9.43
Traveller of Irish heritage	2	0.00	-28.01	-48.43



## Outcomes for children and young people

- Overall absence rates did fall slightly in mainstream schools in the first two terms of 2024/25 but remains significantly above the national average.
- Attendance has improved more rapidly in the primary phase where Sheffield is now in line with Core Cities and the City's deprivation rank. Levels of severe absence (attendance below 50%) are high and rising across all phases.
- For vulnerable pupils, attendance rates are even lower. 10% of young people in special schools are attending less than half the time. A number of pupil groups have average attendance below 90% (which equates to missing one day of school every fortnight); these include pupils with SEN, pupils who have been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years and pupils in Y10 and Y11.



## Provisional trails for further investigation

- **3.1** What does case sampling and further analysis tell us about what works to improve the attendance of young people who are severely absent?
- **3.2** What does further intersectional analysis tell us about the attendance of vulnerable cohorts?

# Overview

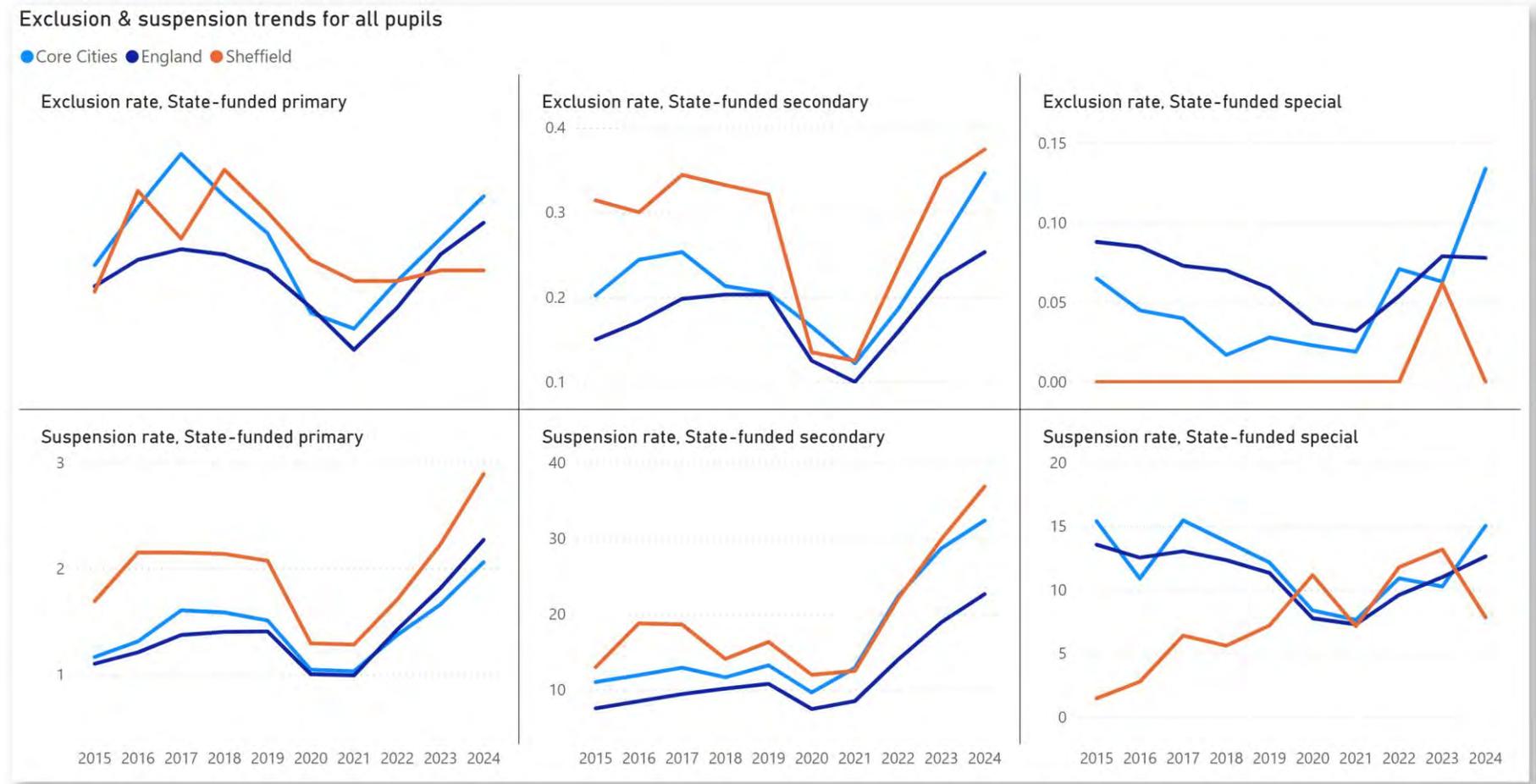
- 1 Ofsted inspection judgements
- 2 Pupil characteristics & SEND
- 3 Attendance
- 4 Exclusions**
- 5 Attainment & progress

**Last updated: January 2026**  
**Next updates: January 2027**

## 4

## Exclusions &amp; suspensions – overview by phase

- Latest year-end published data (23/24) shows that Sheffield was well above the national average for suspensions mainstream schools and the suspension rate is increasing year on year.
- The exclusion rate was higher than the national and Core Cities average in the secondary phase in 2023/24 but the primary exclusion rate has reduced and remained below the national average in 2023/24.
- No pupils were excluded from special schools in 2023/24.



# 4 Exclusions – national ranks

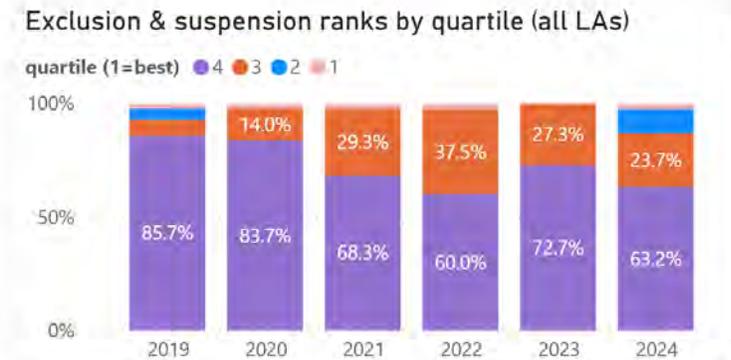
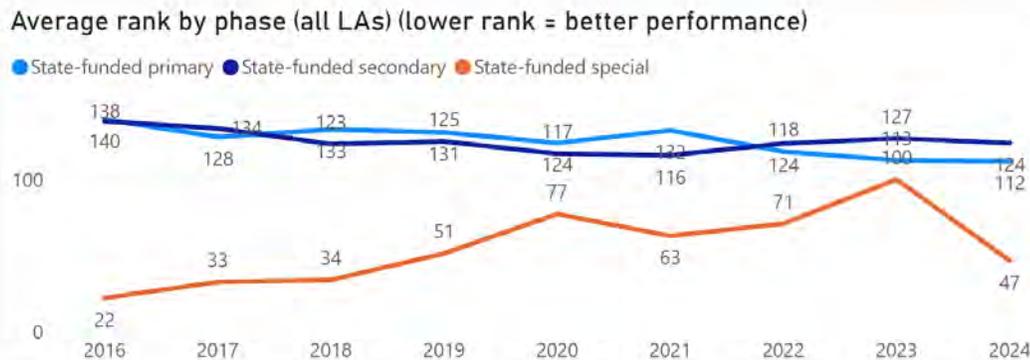
- Despite the increasing rate of suspension and exclusion Sheffield's national ranks have improved marginally over time.
- The exclusion rate was ranked in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quartile nationally in 2023/24, a significant improvement compared to 2019.

Exclusions & suspensions ranks and change from previous year (all LAs)

year	2019		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	rank	rank change								
<b>State-funded primary</b>										
% with 1+ susp.	141	↓ -1	136	↓ -8	127	↑ 9	127	→ 0	133	↓ -6
Exclusion rate	117	↑ 7	137	↓ -15	112	↑ 25	91	↑ 21	82	↑ 9
Suspension rate	135	→ 0	124	↓ -2	116	↑ 8	120	↓ -4	121	↓ -1
<b>State-funded secondary</b>										
% with 1+ susp.	131	↓ -7	125	↑ 10	130	↓ -5	133	↓ -3	127	↑ 6
Exclusion rate	116	↑ 6	94	↓ -11	109	↓ -15	117	↓ -8	112	↑ 5
Suspension rate	128	↓ -4	129	↑ 4	132	↓ -3	131	↑ 1	133	↓ -2
<b>State-funded special</b>										
% with 1+ susp.	78	↓ -26	97	↑ 20	104	↓ -7	96	↑ 8	72	↑ 24
Exclusion rate	1	→ 0	1	→ 0	1	→ 0	99	↓ -98	1	↑ 98
Suspension rate	75	↓ -26	91	↑ 23	108	↓ -17	105	↑ 3	67	↑ 38

Exclusions & suspensions ranks and rank change (all LAs)

year	2024			
	rank	rank change from 2016	rank change from 2019	rank change from 2019
<b>State-funded primary</b>				
% with 1+ susp.	133	↑ 14	↑ 8	
Exclusion rate	82	↑ 43	↑ 35	
Suspension rate	121	↑ 26	↑ 14	
<b>State-funded secondary</b>				
% with 1+ susp.	127	↑ 15	↑ 4	
Exclusion rate	112	↑ 17	↑ 4	
Suspension rate	133	↑ 11	↓ -5	
<b>State-funded special</b>				
% with 1+ susp.	72	↓ -41	↑ 6	
Exclusion rate	1	→ 0	→ 0	
Suspension rate	67	↓ -33	↑ 8	



## 4

## Exclusions – suspensions by pupil group - primary (2023/24)

- Suspension rates in the primary phase in 2023/24 were within 2% of the national average for most pupil groups.
- Suspension rates were much higher than the national average and Core Cities average for White and Black Caribbean and African pupils and also for pupils with an EHC plan.

## Suspension rate by ethnicity

State-funded primary

	no. of pupils	suspension rate	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
Traveller of Irish heritage	28	10.71	-0.18	-3.90
White and Black Caribbean	1321	9.99	5.09	5.20
Gypsy / Roma	951	6.10	-0.20	3.56
Irish	62	4.84	2.28	3.24
Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background	1073	3.91	1.85	1.19
English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	26885	3.02	0.24	0.22
All pupils	47021	2.89	0.62	0.83
Caribbean	191	2.62	-1.72	-1.43
White and Asian	1127	2.22	0.80	0.48
African	3416	2.02	0.46	0.55
Any other Asian background	1261	1.90	1.31	1.06
Any other White background	1806	1.88	0.70	0.95
Pakistani	3438	1.72	1.05	1.12
Any other Black / African / Caribbean background	520	1.15	-1.13	-0.91
White and Black African	634	0.95	-2.03	-1.16
Chinese	356	0.28	0.00	0.04
Bangladeshi	521	0.19	-0.19	-0.07
Indian	951	0.11	-0.15	-0.06

## Suspension rate by SEN status

State-funded primary

	no. of pupils	suspension rate	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
EHC plan	1241	25.06	6.16	9.58
SEN support	7512	10.30	1.18	2.06
No identified SEN	38268	0.72	0.21	0.21

## Suspension rate by NCY

State-funded primary

	no. of pupils	suspension rate	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
Year 6	6347	4.77	1.56	1.35
Year 5	6223	3.55	0.74	0.56
Year 4	6353	3.34	0.90	1.07
Year 3	6403	3.30	0.82	1.20
Year 2	6283	3.10	0.66	1.14
Year 1 and below	15412	1.40	0.02	0.33

## Suspension rate by FSM status

State-funded primary

	no. of pupils	suspension rate	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
FSM - Eligible	15537	6.19	0.33	1.67
FSM - Not eligible	31484	1.27	0.15	0.46

## 4

## Exclusions – suspensions by pupil group - secondary (2023/24)

- Suspension rates in the secondary phase in 2023/24 were significantly above the national average for nearly all pupil groups.
- Pupils of Gypsy/Roma, Irish Traveller or White and Black Caribbean heritage and more than twice as likely to be suspended compared to the City average.
- Pupils with SEN and pupils eligible for free school meals are 4 times more likely to be suspended than pupils without SEN/not eligible for free school meals.

## Suspension rate by ethnicity

State-funded secondary

	no. of pupils	suspension rate	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
Traveller of Irish heritage	10	290.00	213.13	169.67
Gypsy / Roma	704	137.50	27.05	26.68
White and Black Caribbean	888	92.34	50.69	35.00
English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	20676	39.35	12.04	-3.24
Caribbean	224	39.29	12.74	7.24
Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background	851	38.31	20.41	7.25
All pupils	36371	36.83	14.22	4.50
White and Asian	828	34.90	18.53	10.52
Any other White background	1356	26.77	13.05	3.12
White and Black African	433	26.56	3.18	-1.50
Any other Asian background	847	24.32	16.66	10.48
Irish	62	24.19	6.04	-10.32
African	2396	21.62	9.83	5.16
Any other Black / African / Caribbean background	348	21.26	3.64	-2.45
Pakistani	2988	19.38	5.42	3.75
Bangladeshi	506	8.10	1.81	-1.26
Chinese	371	3.50	1.73	1.30
Indian	469	2.99	0.03	-0.23

## Suspension rate by SEN status

State-funded secondary

	no. of pupils	suspension rate	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
SEN support	4985	108.99	51.48	32.33
EHC plan	919	78.89	23.18	9.77
No identified SEN	30467	23.76	7.53	0.04

## Suspension rate by NCY

State-funded secondary

	no. of pupils	suspension rate	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
Year 8	6118	55.53	26.09	10.81
Year 10	6112	51.52	21.47	8.00
Year 9	6095	49.89	17.58	5.18
Year 11	6008	30.96	13.39	6.48
Year 7	6372	28.99	9.09	-1.44
Year 12 and above	4478	0.69	-0.29	-0.38

## Suspension rate by FSM status

State-funded secondary

	no. of pupils	suspension rate	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
FSM - Eligible	11279	82.16	26.37	15.45
FSM - Not eligible	25092	16.46	4.39	2.22

Note: Secondary phase includes primary age pupils in through schools.

## 4

## Exclusions – exclusions by pupil group - primary (2023/24)

- In the primary phase in 2023/24 the exclusion rate for most pupil groups was close to or below the national average.
- Pupils of White and Black Caribbean ethnicity had a significantly higher exclusion rate. Five out of 10 excluded pupils in 2023/24 were in this group which makes up only 3% of the primary age pupil population.

**Exclusion rate by ethnicity**  
State-funded primary

	no. of pupils	Exclusion rate	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
White and Black Caribbean	1321	0.38	0.27	0.26
Gypsy / Roma	951	0.11	-0.02	0.09
All pupils	47021	0.02	-0.01	-0.01
English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	26885	0.02	-0.02	-0.04
African	3416	0.00	-0.02	-0.04
Any other Asian background	1261	0.00	-0.01	0.00
Any other Black / African / Caribbean background	520	0.00	-0.04	-0.02
Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background	1073	0.00	-0.03	-0.07
Any other White background	1806	0.00	-0.01	0.00
Bangladeshi	521	0.00	-0.01	0.00
Caribbean	191	0.00	-0.05	-0.22
Chinese	356	0.00	0.00	0.00
Indian	951	0.00	0.00	0.00
Irish	62	0.00	-0.05	0.00
Pakistani	3438	0.00	-0.01	0.00
Traveller of Irish heritage	28	0.00	-0.06	0.00
White and Asian	1127	0.00	-0.02	-0.05
White and Black African	634	0.00	-0.04	-0.09

**Exclusion rate by NCY**  
State-funded primary

	no. of pupils	Exclusion rate	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
Year 6	6347	0.06	0.02	0.00
Year 2	6283	0.03	-0.01	0.00
Year 5	6223	0.03	-0.01	-0.04
Year 3	6403	0.02	-0.02	-0.02
Year 4	6353	0.02	-0.02	-0.01
Year 1 and below	15412	0.01	-0.01	-0.01

**Exclusion rate by FSM status**  
State-funded primary

	no. of pupils	Exclusion rate	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
FSM - Eligible	15537	0.06	-0.03	-0.02
FSM - Not eligible	31484	0.00	-0.01	-0.01

Note: Secondary phase includes primary age pupils in through schools.

**Exclusion rate by SEN status**  
State-funded primary

	no. of pupils	Exclusion rate	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
EHC plan	1241	0.24	-0.05	-0.09
SEN support	7512	0.09	-0.04	-0.07
No identified SEN	38268	0.00	0.00	0.00

## 4

## Exclusions – exclusions by pupil group - secondary (2023/24)

- In the secondary phase in 2023/24 the exclusion rate for the majority of pupil groups was above the national and Core Cities average.
- The gap between Sheffield and national was highest for pupils from Gypsy Roma, White & Black Caribbean and White & Black African pupils.
- Nearly 80% of pupils excluded pupils in 2023/24 were eligible for free school meals and over half had SEN.

## Exclusion rate by ethnicity

State-funded secondary

	no. of pupils	Exclusion rate	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
Gypsy / Roma	704	2.84	1.66	1.89
White and Black Caribbean	888	1.69	1.06	0.91
Irish	62	1.61	1.31	0.30
Caribbean	224	0.89	0.51	0.43
White and Asian	828	0.48	0.26	0.09
All pupils	36371	0.37	0.12	0.03
Any other White background	1356	0.37	0.24	0.15
English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	20676	0.32	0.02	-0.11
Chinese	371	0.27	0.25	0.20
Any other Asian background	847	0.24	0.14	0.03
Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background	851	0.24	0.00	-0.06
Pakistani	2988	0.23	0.05	-0.05
African	2396	0.21	0.08	0.07
Any other Black / African / Caribbean background	348	0.00	-0.26	-0.41
Bangladeshi	506	0.00	-0.08	-0.06
Indian	469	0.00	-0.03	0.00
Traveller of Irish heritage	10	0.00	-1.35	0.00
White and Black African	433	0.00	-0.25	-0.25

## Exclusion rate by SEN status

State-funded secondary

	no. of pupils	Exclusion rate	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
EHC plan	919	1.52	1.00	0.54
SEN support	4985	1.28	0.49	0.27
No identified SEN	30467	0.19	0.03	-0.03

## Exclusion rate by NCY

State-funded secondary

	no. of pupils	Exclusion rate	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
Year 10	6112	0.83	0.42	0.26
Year 9	6095	0.56	0.16	0.04
Year 8	6118	0.46	0.15	0.01
Year 7	6372	0.24	0.06	0.01
Year 11	6008	0.13	-0.01	-0.09
Year 12 and above	4478	0.00	-0.01	-0.01

## Exclusion rate by FSM status

State-funded secondary

	no. of pupils	Exclusion rate	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
FSM - Eligible	11279	0.93	0.27	0.20
FSM - Not eligible	25092	0.12	0.00	-0.01

Note: Secondary phase includes primary age pupils in through schools.



## Outcomes for children and young people

- In 2023/24 around 5% of young people in Sheffield were suspended from school on one or more occasion.
- Young people who with special education needs were over 3 times more likely to be suspended compared to young people without special educational needs and young people eligible for free school meals were 4 times more likely to be suspended compared to those not eligible for free school meals.
- 147 young people were excluded from school in 2023/24. This represents 37 more young people than the national average. These excess exclusions were in the secondary phase as the primary rate of exclusion was below the national average in 2023/24.



## Provisional trails for further investigation

- **4.1** How can further analysis of the patterns of suspension and exclusion (including reasons for exclusion) for young people by pupil characteristics (including ethnicity and SEND) support the development of policy and practice?

# Overview

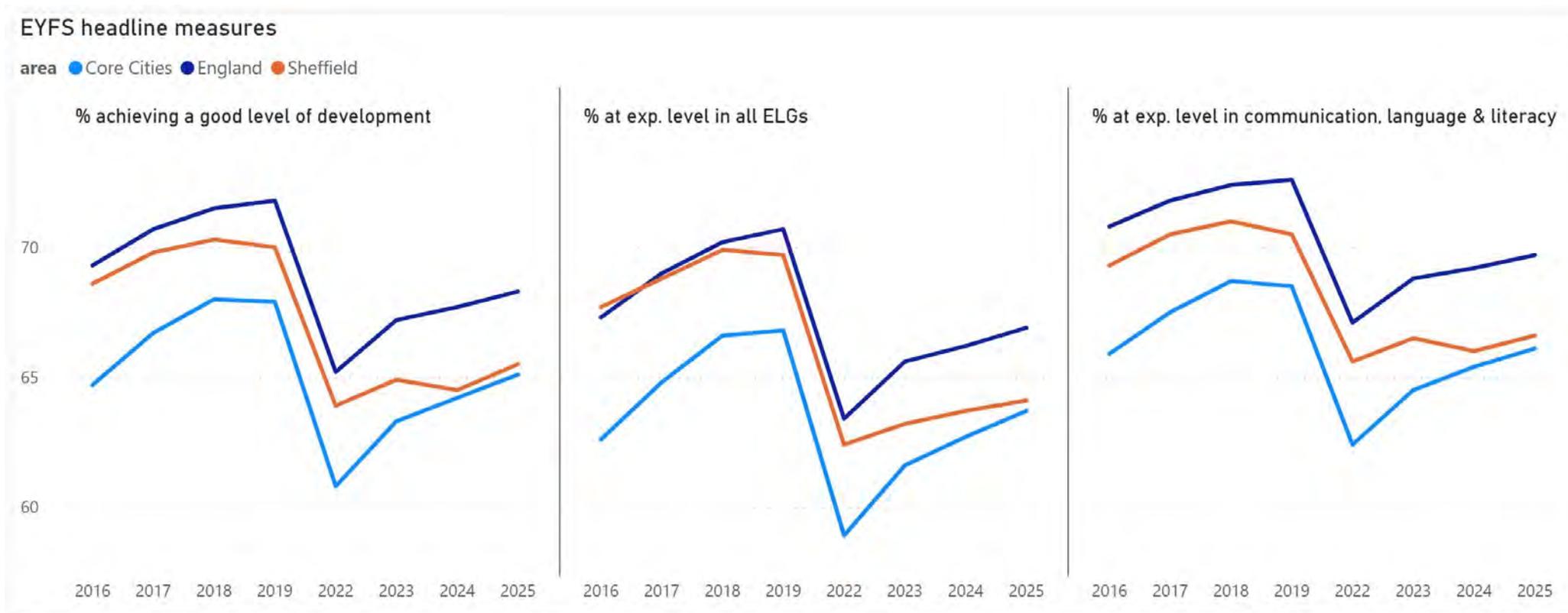
- 1 Ofsted inspection judgements
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**Last updated: January 2026**  
**Next updates: January 2027**

## 5

# Early Years Foundation Stage – attainment trends

- 65.5% of children in Sheffield in 2025 achieved a good level of development in Sheffield (an increase of 1% point since 2024) compared to 68.3% nationally.
- As performance in Sheffield declined slightly and national performance improved, the gap between Sheffield and national has reduced by 0.4% points to 2.8% points.
- Sheffield is still slightly above the Core Cities average.



Note: the EYFS framework was revised in 2022 so results prior to 2022 are not directly comparable to results from 2022 onwards.

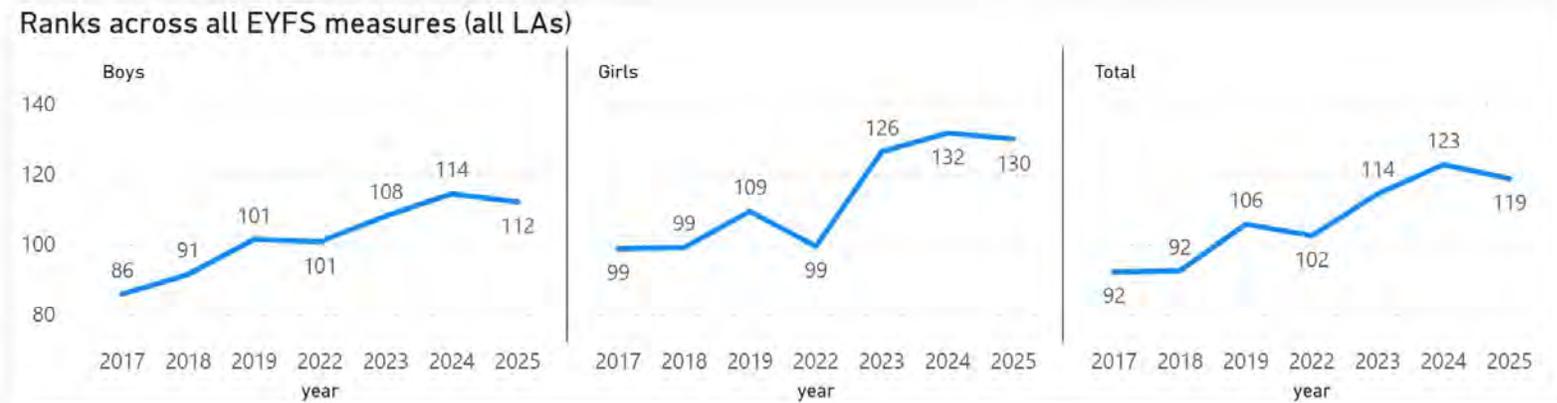
# 5

## Early Years Foundation Stage – national and Core Cities ranks

- Sheffield’s national rank for two of the headline measures has improved since 2024 although remains in the bottom quartile.
- The relative performance of girls in Sheffield was worse than boys in 2025 (girls had an overall rank of 130 compared to 112 for boys).
- Sheffield was in the top half of Core Cities for Foundation Stage attainment in 2025.

Ranks across all EYFS measures (all LAs)

year label	2019		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	rank	rank change								
% achieving a good level of development	111	↓ -13	103	↑ 8	117	↓ -14	127	↓ -10	119	↑ 8
% at exp. level in communication, language & literacy	113	↓ -13	104	↑ 9	112	↓ -8	125	↓ -13	119	↑ 6
% at exp. level in all ELGs	93	↓ -14	100	↓ -7	114	↓ -14	116	↓ -2	118	↓ -2



Ranks across all EYFS measures (Core Cities)

year label	2019		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	rank	rank change								
% achieving a good level of development	3	↓ -1	2	↑ 1	3	↓ -1	5	↓ -2	4	↑ 1
% at exp. level in communication, language & literacy	3	↓ -1	2	↑ 1	2	→ 0	4	↓ -2	4	→ 0
% at exp. level in all ELGs	2	↓ -1	2	→ 0	3	↓ -1	4	↓ -1	4	→ 0

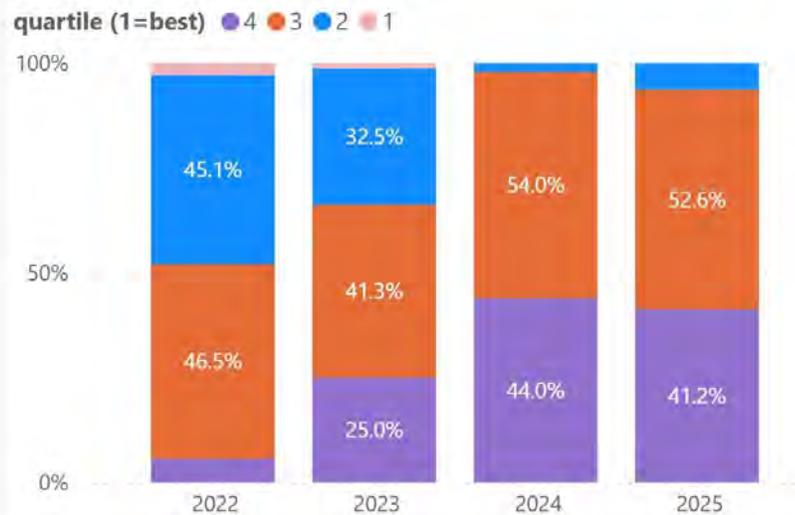
Note: the EYFS framework was revised in 2022 so results prior to 2022 are not directly comparable to results from 2022 onwards.

## 5

# Early Years Foundation Stage – ranks by area of learning

- Sheffield's rank improved in 2025 across nearly all individual Early Learning Goals.
- The largest improvement in ranks in 2025 was for the personal, social and emotional development early learning goals. There was a small decline in rank for the communication and language early learning goals and expressive arts and design.

EYFS ranks by quartile (all LAs)



Ranks across all EYFS measures (all LAs)

year	2024		2025	
	rank	rank change	rank	rank change
% achieving a good level of development	127	↓ -10	119	↑ 8
% at exp. level in communication, language & literacy	125	↓ -13	119	↑ 6
% at exp. level in all ELGs	116	↓ -2	118	↓ -2
Av. No. of ELGs at exp. level	112	↓ -31	107	↑ 5
All prime area ELGs	118	↓ -29	108	↑ 10
All communication and language ELGs	104	↓ -31	111	↓ -7
Listening, attention and understanding	99	↓ -36	103	↓ -4
Speaking	112	↓ -39	110	↑ 2
All personal, social and emotional development ELGs	110	↓ -40	80	↑ 30
Self-regulation	108	↓ -48	84	↑ 24
Managing self	107	↓ -52	62	↑ 45
Building relationships	93	↓ -28	66	↑ 27
All physical development ELGs	100	↓ -52	89	↑ 11
Gross motor skills	63	↓ -48	46	↑ 17
Fine motor skills	91	↓ -42	87	↑ 4
All specific area ELGs	118	↓ -6	120	↓ -2
All literacy ELGs	125	↓ -8	121	↑ 4
Comprehension	113	↓ -24	106	↑ 7
Word reading	117	↓ -5	120	↓ -3
Writing	123	↓ -11	118	↑ 5
All mathematics ELGs	127	↓ -12	123	↑ 4
Number	131	↓ -17	127	↑ 4
Numerical patterns	126	↓ -16	120	↑ 6
All understanding the world ELGs	110	↓ -24	102	↑ 8
Past and present	113	↓ -29	104	↑ 9
People, culture and communities	107	↓ -24	101	↑ 6
The natural world	106	↓ -34	103	↑ 3
All expressive arts and design ELGs	102	↓ -42	106	↓ -4
Creating with materials	104	↓ -46	103	↑ 1
Being imaginative and expressive	99	↓ -35	103	↓ -4

# Early Years Foundation Stage – pupil groups, % achieving a good level of development (2025)

- The tables show the % of pupils achieving a good level of development (GLD) by pupil group and the difference between Sheffield and the national average.
- Nearly all BAME groups in Sheffield had a lower % of pupils achieving a good level of development compared to the national and Core Cities average.
- Other pupil groups where there is a large gap between Sheffield and national / Core Cities average include girls, summer born, EAL and FSM pupils.

% of pupils achieving GLD by ethnic group

group	No. of pupils	Sheffield	diff. with nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
Irish Traveller	5	80.0	48.1	29.5
White and Black African	68	77.9	9.2	7.4
White and Asian	150	72.7	-2.4	1.7
English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	3188	72.0	2.0	3.1
Irish	7	71.4	0.2	5.7
Chinese	38	68.4	-10.4	-4.6
Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background	129	64.3	-5.6	-1.4
Indian	129	63.6	-9.3	-3.6
Any other White background	221	62.9	-6.0	-0.5
Bangladeshi	67	61.2	-4.1	1.9
African	487	58.7	-4.4	-3.5
White and Black Caribbean	174	58.0	-6.7	-7.8
Any other ethnic group	254	57.9	-2.1	2.3
Caribbean	26	57.7	-5.3	4.5
Any other Asian background	155	57.4	-8.7	-6.1
Pakistani	456	54.8	-8.5	-3.5
Any other Black / African / Caribbean background	64	54.7	-6.7	-4.6
Unknown	181	44.2	-10.2	-4.9
Gypsy / Roma	83	14.5	-24.6	-15.9

% of pupils achieving GLD by gender

gender	No. of pupils	Sheffield	diff. with nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
Boys	2941	59.2	-2.4	0.8
Girls	2941	71.7	-3.6	-0.3
Total	5882	65.5	-2.8	0.4

% of pupils achieving GLD by first language

group	No. of pupils	Sheffield	diff. with nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
Not EAL	4239	70.5	0.6	2.3
EAL	1512	54.1	-10.6	-5.2

% of pupils achieving GLD by FSM status

group	No. of pupils	Sheffield	diff. with nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
not FSM	4159	73.8	1.3	3.0
FSM	1612	46.5	-4.8	-4.8

% of pupils achieving GLD by term of birth

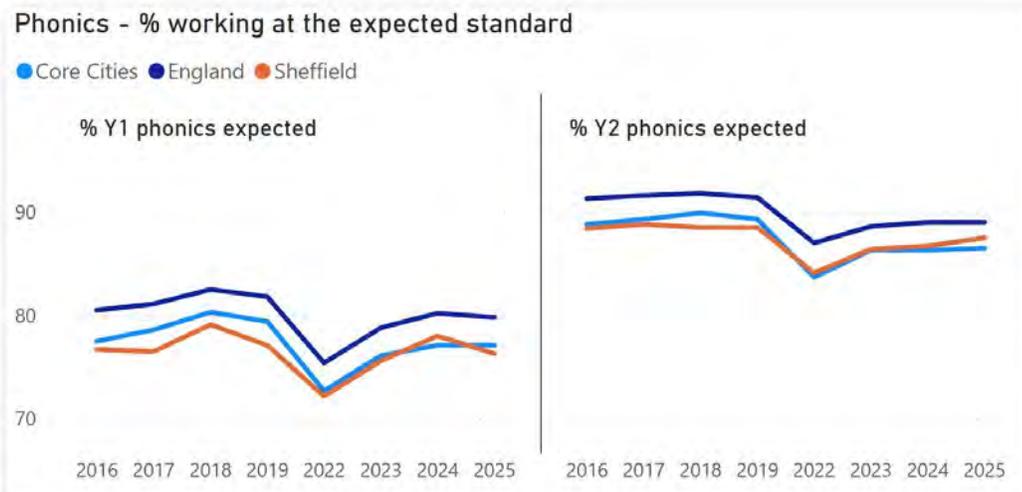
group	No. of pupils	Sheffield	diff. with nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
Autumn-born	2016	73.1	-2.5	-0.2
Spring-born	1454	67.8	-2.2	1.3
Summer-born	2412	57.7	-3.4	0.5

% of pupils achieving GLD by SEN status

group	No. of pupils	Sheffield	diff. with nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
No SEN provision	4916	74.1	-2.4	0.2
SEN support / SEN without an EHC plan	719	24.2	-2.2	-0.9
All SEN provision	869	20.6	0.0	-0.7
Education, health and care plan	150	3.3	-0.7	0.8

# 5 Phonics – national ranks & trends

- 76% of pupils in Y1 were working at the expected standard in phonics in 2025. This was a decline of 1.7% points compared to 2024. The gap with national also widened to 3.5% points.
- The national rank for Y1 phonics dropped 19 places to 142 between 2024 and 2025.
- The % of pupils working at the expected standard by the end of Y2 improved to 87.5% (1.5% points below the national average and 2<sup>nd</sup> out of Core Cities in 2025).



year measure	2019 Sheffield	Gap w. nat.	2024 Sheffield	Gap w. nat.	2025 Sheffield	Gap w. nat.
% Y1 phonics expected	77.1	-4.7	78.0	-2.2	76.3	-3.5
% Y2 phonics expected	88.5	-2.9	86.7	-2.3	87.5	-1.5

year measure	2019		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	rank	rank change								
% Y1 phonics expected	148	-7	134	14	135	-1	123	12	142	-19
% Y2 phonics expected	148	0	141	7	136	5	143	-7	121	22

year measure	2025 rank	rank change from 2016	rank change from 2019
% Y1 phonics expected	142	-1	6
% Y2 phonics expected	121	18	27

year measure	2019		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	rank	rank change								
% Y1 phonics expected	8	-2	5	3	5	0	3	2	4	-1
% Y2 phonics expected	7	1	4	3	4	0	5	-1	2	3

year measure	2025 rank	rank change from 2016	rank change from 2019
% Y1 phonics expected	4	2	4
% Y2 phonics expected	2	2	5

# 5 Y1 phonics – pupil groups (2025)

- Sheffield is below the national and Core Cities average for the majority of pupil groups.
- The gap with national is above 5% points for a number of BAME groups and pupils with EAL.
- The gap with national and Core Cities is also larger for disadvantaged pupils (around 2% points).

**% working at the expected standard in Y1 phonics by ethnic group**

group	pupils	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff w. Core Cities
White: Irish	11	90.9	10.8	6.2
Asian / Asian British: Chinese	43	83.7	-7.1	-5.5
Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black African	83	83.1	2.4	5.3
Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups: White and Asian	145	82.8	-2.9	0.6
Asian / Asian British: Indian	133	81.2	-4.6	-1.7
Asian / Asian British: Bangladeshi	67	80.6	0.3	3.3
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British: Caribbean	31	80.6	5.6	4.3
White: English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	3,345	79.1	-1.0	1.4
All pupils	6,053	76.3	-3.5	-0.8
White: Any other White background	223	74.9	-6.7	-1.9
Asian / Asian British: Any other Asian background	123	74.8	-6.3	-2.7
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British: African	478	74.5	-3.9	-2.7
Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean	186	74.2	-1.6	0.7
Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups: Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background	155	73.5	-8.4	-5.1
Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group	242	71.1	-5.2	-2.7
Asian / Asian British: Pakistani	459	70.6	-8.5	-5.2
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British: Any other Black / African / Caribbean background	73	65.8	-10.5	-7.3
Unknown: Unknown	131	65.6	1.1	8.5
White: Gypsy	124	40.3	-7.7	-9.7

**% working at the expected standard in Y1 phonics by gender**

gender	pupils	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff w. Core Cities
Girls	2,973	80.4	-3.5	-0.9
Boys	3,080	72.3	-3.6	-0.8

**% working at the expected standard in Y1 phonics by first language**

group	pupils	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff w. Core Cities
English	4,461	78.1	-2.2	-0.2
other than English	1,542	72.0	-7.5	-3.4

**% working at the expected standard in Y1 phonics by first language**

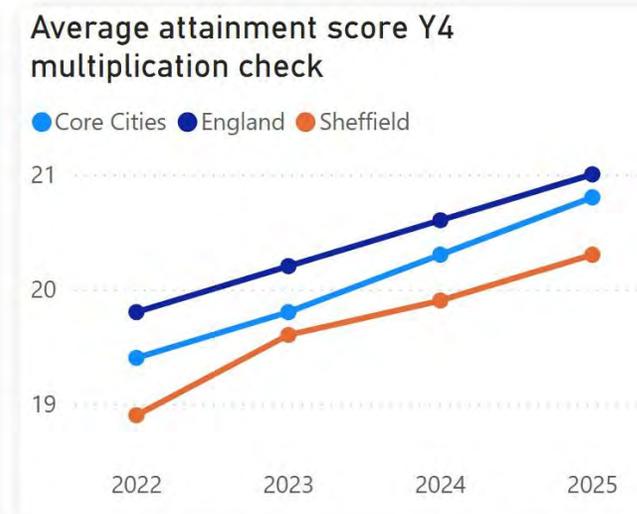
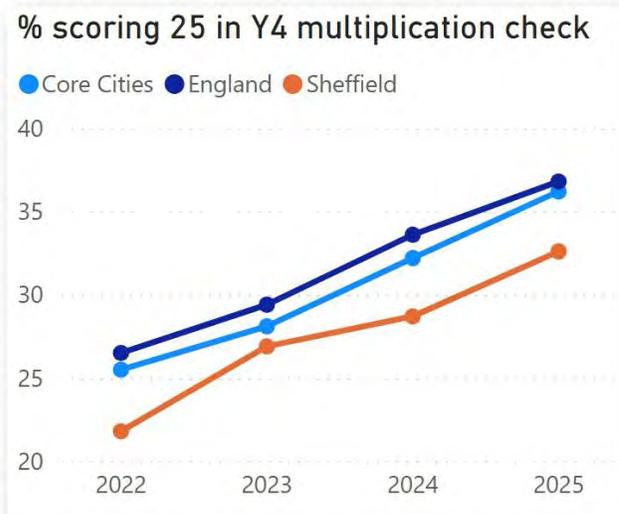
group	pupils	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff w. Core Cities
No SEN provision	4,850	85.4	-2.7	-0.7
SEN support / SEN without an EHC plan	865	48.1	-4.0	-1.7
All SEN provision	1,157	39.6	-3.8	-2.6
Education, health and care plan	292	14.4	-5.3	1.0

**% working at the expected standard in Y1 phonics by disadvantage**

group	pupils	Sheffield	diff w. nat.	diff w. Core Cities
Not disadvantaged	4,013	82.4	-1.2	0.2
Disadvantaged	2,040	64.3	-2.3	-2.0

# 5 Y4 multiplication check – trends and ranks

- In 2025, 32.6% of pupils scored 25 (full marks) in the Y4 multiplication tables check compared to 36.8% nationally and 36.2% in Core Cities.
- The gap between Sheffield and national reduced slightly to 4.2% points.
- Sheffield's national and Core City ranks are similar to 2024. Sheffield is now 7<sup>th</sup> out of 8 Core Cities.



## Y4 multiplication check Core Cities ranks

year label	2022		2023		2024		2025	
	rank	rank change						
% scoring 25 in Y4 multiplication check	7		6	↑ 1	6	→ 0	7	↓ -1
Average attainment score Y4 multiplication check	7		6	↑ 1	6	→ 0	7	↓ -1

## Y4 multiplication check ranks (all LAs)

year label	2022		2023		2024		2025	
	rank	rank change						
% scoring 25 in Y4 multiplication check	128		112	↑ 16	127	↓ -15	124	↑ 3
Average attainment score Y4 multiplication check	137		126	↑ 11	137	↓ -11	135	↑ 2

# 5 Y4 multiplication check – pupil groups (2025)

- Sheffield’s average mark was lower than Core Cities across most pupil groups in 2025. The gap was particularly large for pupils of Pakistani ethnicity.
- Gaps with national and Core Cities were larger for pupils with EAL, disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND.

Average score in Y4 multiplication check by ethnic group

group	pupils	Sheffield	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
Chinese	49	23.6	-0.3	-0.1
Irish	6	22.8	2.2	2.7
Indian	127	22.7	-0.4	-0.3
Bangladeshi	70	22.0	-0.6	0.1
African	488	21.8	-0.3	-0.1
Any other Black / African / Caribbean background	79	21.8	0.1	0.3
White and Asian	158	21.7	-0.2	0.3
Any other Asian background	169	21.3	-1.3	-0.8
White and Black African	103	20.9	-0.4	-0.3
Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background	140	20.6	-0.9	-0.2
Caribbean	30	20.6	0.2	0.3
Pakistani	462	20.6	-1.4	-0.8
Any other White background	230	20.4	-1.3	-0.6
All pupils	6351	20.3	-0.7	-0.5
English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	3627	20.2	-0.3	0.1
Any other ethnic group	249	20.1	-1.4	-1.1
White and Black Caribbean	153	18.4	-1.3	-0.9
Unknown	92	17.8	-2.1	-1.4
Gypsy	116	12.5	-3.6	-3.2

Average score in Y4 multiplication check by gender

gender	pupils	Sheffield	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
All pupils	6351	20.3	-0.7	-0.5
Boys	3196	20.5	-0.7	-0.6
Girls	3155	20.1	-0.6	-0.4

Average score in Y4 multiplication check by first language

group	pupils	Sheffield	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
English	4726	20.3	-0.4	-0.2
other than English	1597	20.5	-1.5	-1.0

Average score in Y4 multiplication check by disadvantage

group	pupils	Sheffield	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
Disadvantaged	2365	18.6	-0.7	-0.8
Not disadvantaged	3986	21.4	-0.3	-0.3

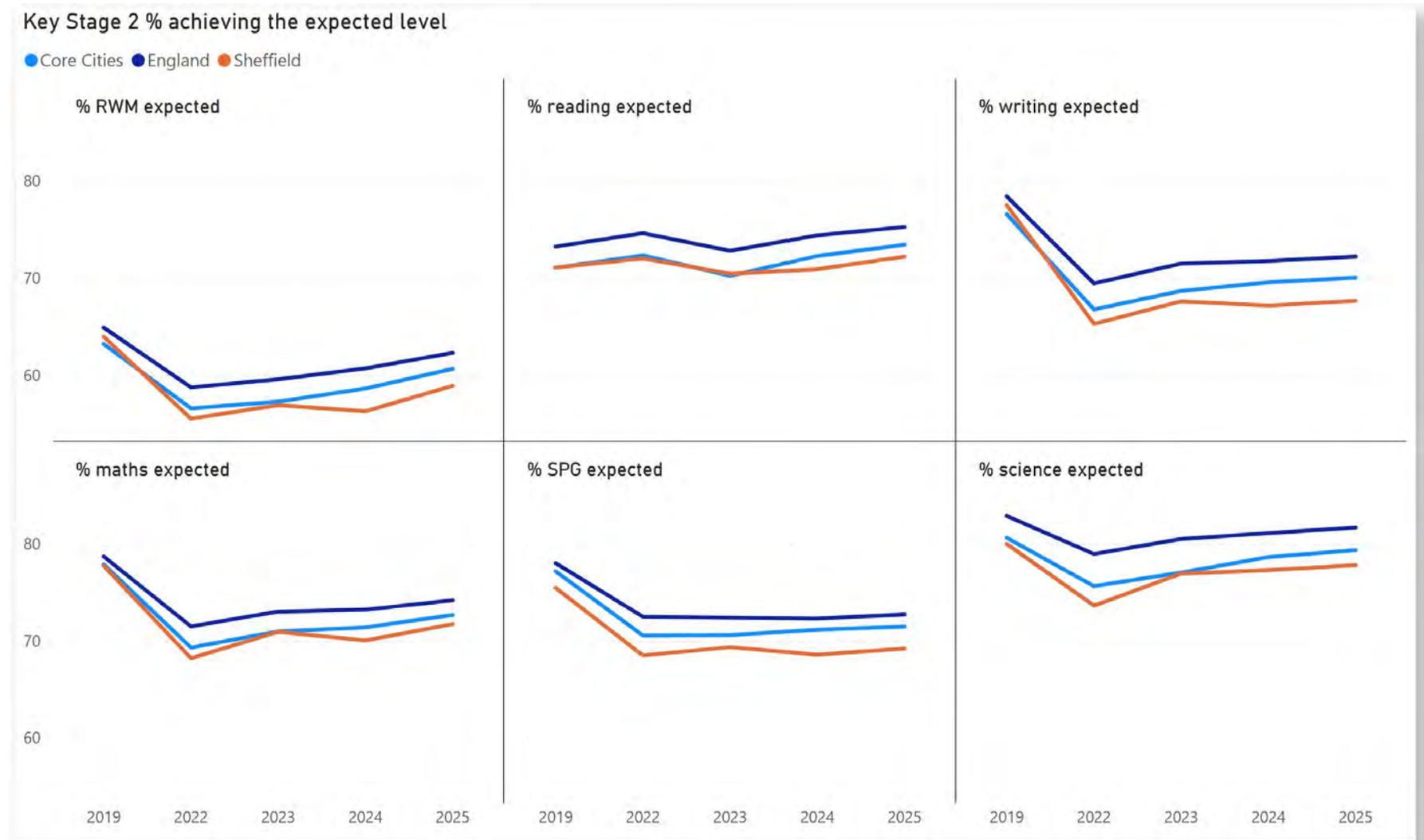
Average score in Y4 multiplication check by SEN status

group	pupils	Sheffield	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
All SEN provision	1275	16.4	-0.7	-0.7
Education, health and care plan	112	14.5	-1.1	0.1
No SEN provision	5042	21.4	-0.5	-0.3
SEN support / SEN without an EHC plan	1163	16.6	-0.8	-0.8

## 5

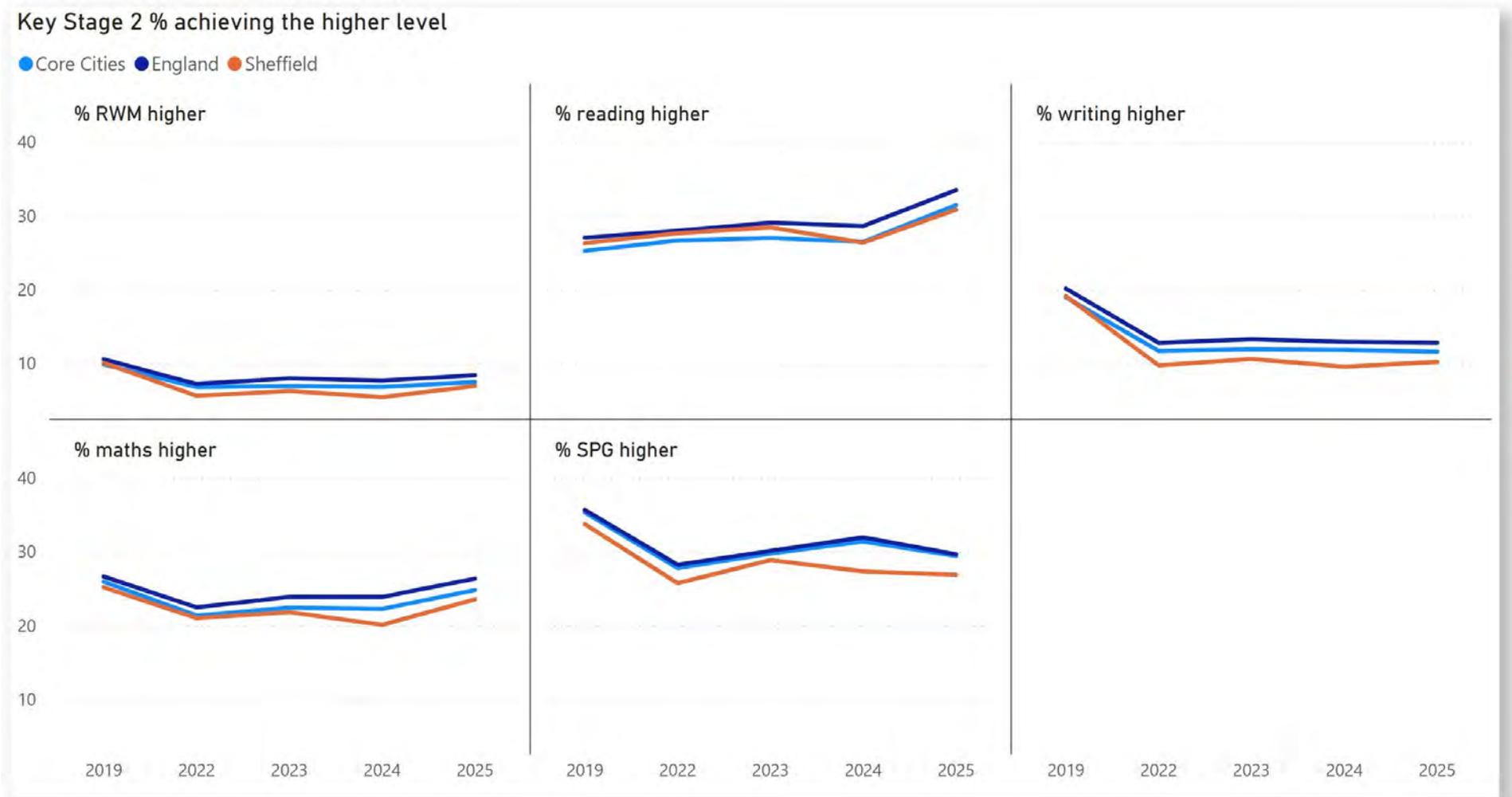
## Key Stage 2 – attainment trends – expected level

- In 2025, 58.9% of pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths, compared to 62.3% nationally.
- The gap with national reduced for nearly all measures and the average gap is now 3.5% points.
- The gap between Sheffield and national was smallest in maths (2.5% points) and largest in writing (4.6% points).



## 5 Key Stage 2 – attainment trends – higher standard

- In 2025, 7% of pupils achieved the higher standard in reading, writing and maths, compared to 8.4% nationally.
- The gap with national increased for all measures (except reading) and is now around 2.5% points.



# 5 Key Stage 2 – national ranks

- National ranks have improved on all measures between 2024 and 2025. Around half of the ranks are in 3<sup>rd</sup> quartile and half in 4<sup>th</sup> quartile.
- Sheffield's latest IDACI rank on the 2025 IMD is 117 so ranks are broadly comparable.

Key Stage 2 ranks and rank change (all pupils - all LAs)

year measure	2019		2022			2023			2024		2025			
	rank	rank change	rank	rank change		rank	rank change		rank	rank change	rank	rank change		
% RWM expected	101		124	↓	-23	114	↑	10	134	↓	-20	122	↑	12
% RWM higher	79		108	↓	-29	109	↓	-1	131	↓	-22	100	↑	31
% reading expected	120		127	↓	-7	122	↑	5	137	↓	-15	132	↑	5
% reading higher	86		76	↑	10	83	↓	-7	106	↓	-23	102	↑	4
% writing expected	105		138	↓	-33	138	→	0	141	↓	-3	140	↑	1
% writing higher	89		119	↓	-30	111	↑	8	123	↓	-12	112	↑	11
% maths expected	109		125	↓	-16	115	↑	10	128	↓	-13	124	↑	4
% maths higher	94		86	↑	8	91	↓	-5	126	↓	-35	104	↑	22
% SPG expected	124		132	↓	-8	126	↑	6	132	↓	-6	129	↑	3
% SPG higher	97		98	↓	-1	84	↑	14	123	↓	-39	101	↑	22
% science expected	134		144	↓	-10	143	↑	1	145	↓	-2	141	↑	4

# 5 Key Stage 2 – Core Cities ranks

- Sheffield was ranked 6<sup>th</sup> out of Core Cities on average for Key Stage 2 performance measures in 2025.
- This is an improvement compared to 2024 when Sheffield was ranked 7<sup>th</sup> but is below Sheffield’s 2019 average rank of 5<sup>th</sup> place.

Key Stage 2 ranks and rank change (all pupils - Core Cities)

year	2019		2022		2023		2024		2025	
label	rank	rank change								
% RWM expected	3		6	↓	5	↑	7	↓	6	↑
% RWM higher	3		7	↓	6	↑	7	↓	5	↑
% reading expected	5		5	→	3	↑	7	↓	6	↑
% reading higher	3		3	→	3	→	5	↓	5	→
% writing expected	3		7	↓	6	↑	7	↓	7	→
% writing higher	4		7	↓	5	↑	7	↓	6	↑
% maths expected	4		6	↓	5	↑	5	→	7	↓
% maths higher	7		5	↑	4	↑	8	↓	6	↑
% SPG expected	8		7	↑	6	↑	7	↓	7	→
% SPG higher	6		7	↓	6	↑	8	↓	6	↑
% science expected	4		7	↓	5	↑	7	↓	7	→

Key Stage 2 ranks and rank change (all pupils - Core Cities)

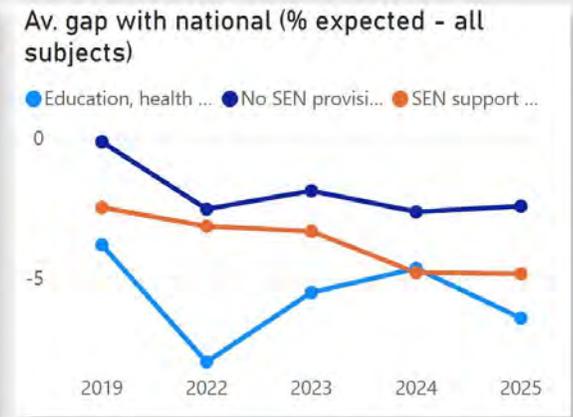
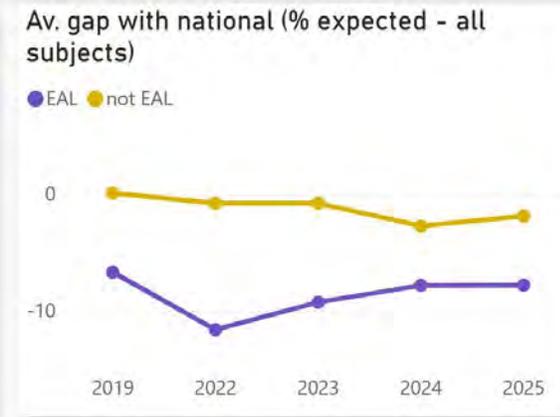
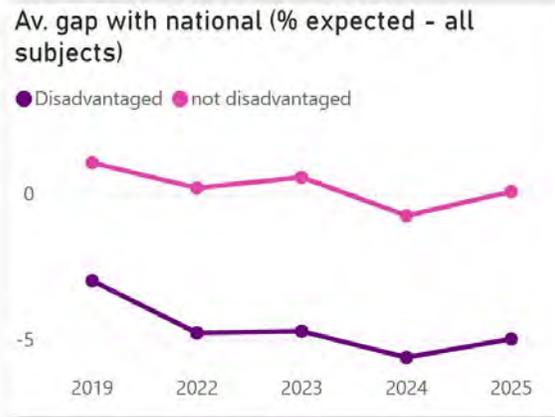
year	2025	
label	rank	rank change from 2019
% RWM expected	6	↓ -3
% RWM higher	5	↓ -2
% reading expected	6	↓ -1
% reading higher	5	↓ -2
% writing expected	7	↓ -4
% writing higher	6	↓ -2
% maths expected	7	↓ -3
% maths higher	6	↑ 1
% SPG expected	7	↑ 1
% SPG higher	6	→ 0
% science expected	7	↓ -3

# 5

## Key Stage 2 – attainment gaps 2025 (EAL, FSM, SEN)

- The table shows the gap with national for the same pupil group in 2025.
- The line charts show the average gap across all measures over time.
- Results for pupils who were not disadvantaged or eligible for free school meals were close to or above the national average in 2025.
- The largest gaps with national are for pupils with EAL (~7 to 8% points below the EAL national average).

subject	% RWM expected		% reading expected		% writing expected		% maths expected		% SPG expected		% science expected	
	Sheffield	gap w. nat.	Sheffield	gap w. nat.	Sheffield	gap w. nat.	Sheffield	gap w. nat.	Sheffield	gap w. nat.	Sheffield	gap w. nat.
<b>All pupils</b>												
All pupils	58.9	-3.4	72.2	-3.1	67.7	-4.6	71.7	-2.5	69.2	-3.5	77.8	-3.9
<b>Disadvantage status</b>												
Disadvantaged	43.6	-3.9	58.1	-5.2	53.0	-6.3	56.7	-3.9	54.2	-5.6	63.7	-6.3
not disadvantaged	68.8	-0.4	81.4	0.6	77.2	-1.1	81.5	1.0	79.0	0.2	86.9	-0.2
<b>First language</b>												
EAL	56.3	-8.1	67.3	-6.6	64.7	-8.3	70.2	-7.7	66.8	-8.6	74.5	-6.5
not EAL	59.9	-1.9	74.1	-1.8	68.8	-3.4	72.4	-0.8	70.2	-1.8	79.1	-3.0
<b>Free school meal status</b>												
FSM	43.6	-3.9	58.0	-5.4	53.1	-6.3	56.7	-4.0	54.1	-5.7	63.6	-6.5
not FSM	68.5	-0.2	81.2	0.7	76.8	-1.0	81.2	1.1	78.7	0.4	86.7	0.0
<b>SEN status</b>												
Education, health and care plan	4.7	-4.6	12.6	-7.1	5.7	-7.3	12.0	-6.1	10.1	-7.1	12.3	-9.5
No SEN provision	70.9	-2.8	83.0	-2.0	80.6	-3.5	83.0	-1.4	81.3	-2.5	89.0	-2.6
SEN support / SEN without an EHC plan	25.2	-3.5	45.1	-5.2	32.6	-6.1	42.8	-4.4	37.0	-5.1	50.2	-7.2



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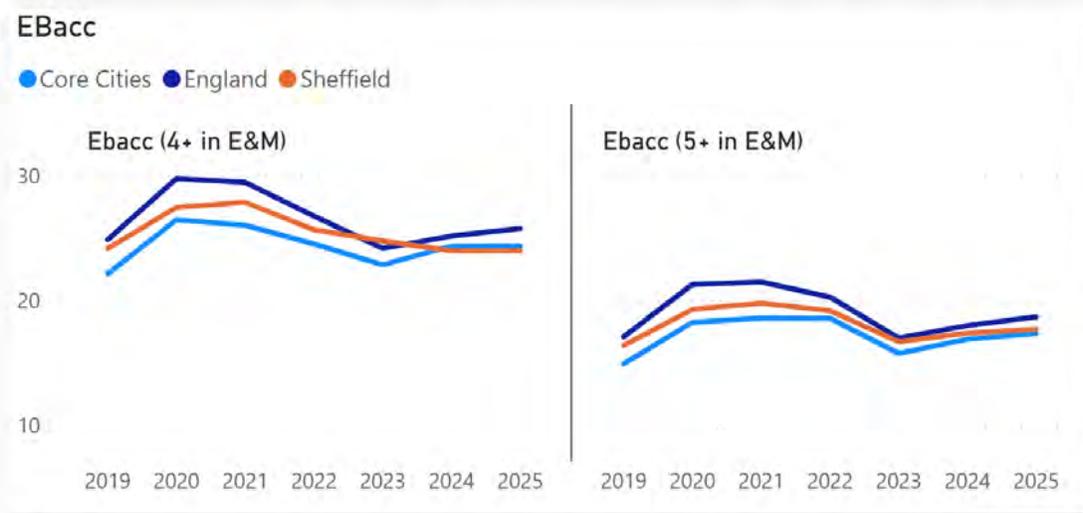
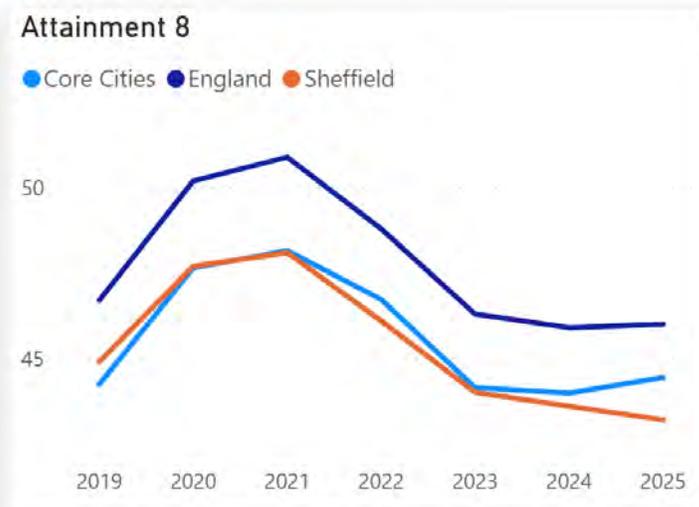
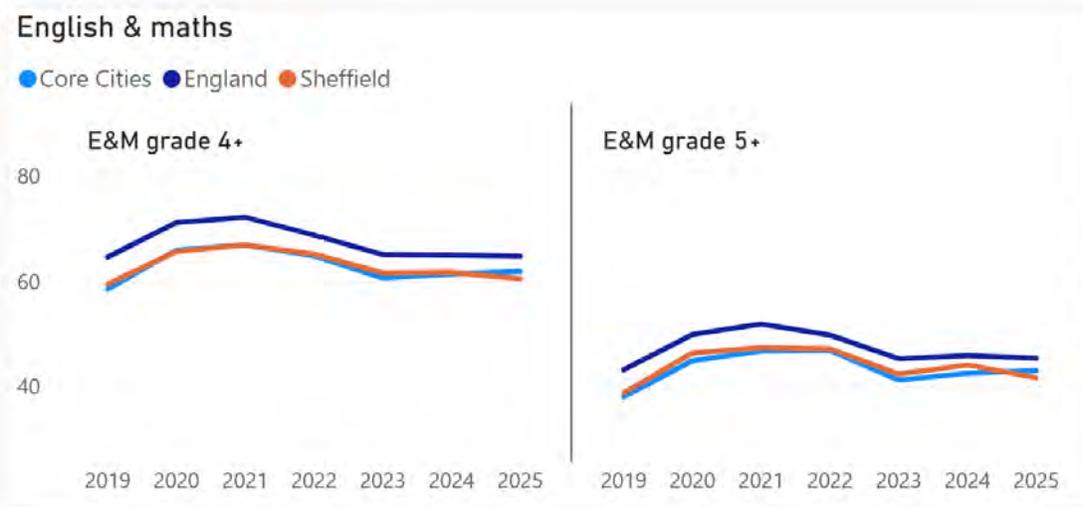
## Key Stage 2 – attainment gaps 2025 (ethnicity)

- The table shows the gap with national for the same pupil group in 2025 by ethnicity.
- Some pupil groups out-performed the national average in 2025, but they tended to be relatively small in terms of the overall cohort.
- The gap with national was more than 5% points for two sizeable pupil groups (Pakistani and Black African).

subject	% RWM expected		% reading expected		% writing expected		% maths expected		% SPG expected		% science expected	
	Sheffield	gap w. nat.	Sheffield	gap w. nat.	Sheffield	gap w. nat.	Sheffield	gap w. nat.	Sheffield	gap w. nat.	Sheffield	gap w. nat.
ethnic group (no. of pupils)												
Asian / Asian British: Chinese (63)	82.5	3.0	88.9	3.9	85.7	2.3	100.0	5.1	93.7	7.2	98.4	7.4
White: Irish (8)	75.0	8.5	87.5	8.1	87.5	12.3	87.5	11.1	87.5	10.7	100.0	15.6
Asian / Asian British: Indian (92)	74.7	0.3	85.9	4.5	78.0	-2.5	89.1	2.5	88.0	3.7	87.9	0.8
Asian / Asian British: Bangladeshi (68)	69.1	-3.5	73.5	-7.1	76.5	-3.7	79.4	-2.9	70.6	-12.5	85.3	0.3
Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups: White and Asian (152)	67.1	-5.0	77.0	-5.3	74.3	-5.3	77.6	-3.6	74.3	-6.6	81.6	-4.8
Asian / Asian British: Any other Asian background (159)	64.2	-4.3	76.1	-0.5	70.4	-4.9	79.3	-2.2	76.1	-2.8	80.5	-2.4
Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black African (100)	66.0	3.3	76.0	-1.4	73.0	0.2	74.0	1.1	72.0	-3.1	80.0	-0.8
Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups: Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background (146)	63.7	-3.1	79.5	0.9	68.5	-7.6	71.2	-5.6	71.9	-5.6	81.5	-2.3
White: English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British (3648)	59.6	-1.1	74.0	-1.2	68.4	-3.0	72.4	-0.1	69.6	-1.1	79.6	-2.2
Asian / Asian British: Pakistani (502)	58.1	-5.3	68.1	-6.1	71.5	-1.6	72.1	-4.3	69.5	-6.9	78.8	-1.3
Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group (274)	59.1	1.6	69.0	1.7	68.6	2.8	74.5	2.2	71.2	2.7	75.2	0.5
White: Any other White background (250)	60.8	-4.9	70.8	-5.1	68.0	-6.7	71.6	-7.2	68.8	-6.7	75.2	-8.2
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British: African (479)	57.2	-7.2	71.4	-4.9	66.0	-8.0	71.0	-4.5	71.6	-5.8	75.6	-6.2
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British: Any other Black / African / Caribbean background (83)	51.8	-8.6	69.9	-3.6	66.3	-4.8	69.9	-1.1	74.7	0.2	79.5	0.5
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British: Caribbean (27)	40.7	-13.9	74.1	1.5	55.6	-11.7	63.0	-1.9	70.4	1.2	74.1	-2.2
Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean (170)	49.4	-3.6	68.8	-2.6	59.4	-6.2	64.7	0.1	59.4	-7.3	65.9	-10.5
Unknown: Unknown (81)	52.5	2.1	60.5	-2.6	60.0	0.9	63.0	0.7	56.8	-4.3	70.0	0.6
White: Gypsy (134)	13.4	-6.3	25.4	-7.4	19.4	-11.5	19.4	-11.5	15.7	-11.8	26.9	-13.7

# Key Stage 4 – attainment & progress trends

- Average attainment 8 decreased in 2025 against no change nationally and an improvement for Core Cities. This has resulted in the gap widening between Sheffield and national / Core Cities.
- The % of pupils achieving a grade 4+ in English & maths dropped slightly to 60.5% (from 61.7%). Again, this has resulted in a widening of the gap between Sheffield and Core Cities.
- The % of pupils achieving a grade 5+ in English & maths has also declined 2.4% points to 41.7%.



## 5

## Key Stage 4 – additional indicators (2025)

- The gap between Sheffield and national was between 0.5 and 1 points (0.5. to 1 grade) for all attainment 8 performance measures.
- Within the EBacc performance measures the gaps between Sheffield and national were largest for English, maths and science.
- Both English and maths (4+) were around 4.5% points below the national average and science (4+) was 5.5% points below the national average in 2025.
- Sheffield was above the national average for %EBacc languages at 5+ but the % of pupils who were entered for a language subject was 3% points below the national average.

## Attainment 8 performance measures

	Sheffield	Diff. from national
Av. Attainment 8 score Ebacc	12.5	-0.9
Av. Attainment 8 score English	9.4	-0.5
Av. Attainment 8 score maths	8.6	-0.5
Av. Attainment 8 score open	12.7	-0.9

## EBacc performance measures

	Sheffield	Diff. from national
% Ebacc English pillar 4+	69.6	-4.6
% Ebacc English pillar 5+	56.1	-4.3
% Ebacc humanities pillar 4+	60.4	-3.1
% Ebacc humanities pillar 5+	48.7	-2.7
% Ebacc languages pillar 4+	72.9	0.2
% Ebacc languages pillar 5+	61.8	1.2
% Ebacc maths pillar 4+	65.3	-4.5
% Ebacc maths pillar 5+	47.3	-3.9
% Ebacc science pillar 4+	60.3	-5.5
% Ebacc science pillar 5+	44.0	-3.9
% entering Ebacc English pillar	92.4	-1.2
% entering Ebacc humanities pillar	76.8	-4.3
% entering Ebacc language pillar	42.6	-3.3
% entering Ebacc maths pillar	95.3	-1.0
% entering Ebacc science pillar	93.0	-1.1

# 5 Key Stage 4 – national ranks

- National ranks reduced for nearly all indicators compared to 2024. Attainment 8 and English & maths grade 4+ are now in the bottom quartile.

**Key Stage 4 ranks and rank change (all pupils - all LAs)**

year label	2019		2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	rank	rank change										
Attainment 8	101		119	↓ -3	121	↓ -2	114	↑ 7	110	↑ 4	118	↓ -8
Progress 8	71				106		86	↑ 20	104	↓ -18		
E&M grade 4+	117		126	↑ 1	112	↑ 14	111	↑ 1	110	↑ 1	125	↓ -15
E&M grade 5+	107		114	↓ -7	88	↑ 26	99	↓ -11	84	↑ 15	107	↓ -23
Ebacc (4+ in E&M)	65		80	↑ 1	75	↑ 5	59	↑ 16	81	↓ -22	82	↓ -1
Ebacc (5+ in E&M)	62		81	↑ 1	69	↑ 12	66	↑ 3	73	↓ -7	71	↑ 2
Av. Ebacc points score	98		114	↓ -4	108	↑ 6	102	↑ 6	104	↓ -2	105	↓ -1
% entering the Ebacc	74		69	↑ 9	79	↓ -10	65	↑ 14	91	↓ -26	83	↑ 8



**Key Stage 4 ranks and rank change (all pupils - all LAs)**

year label	2025 rank	rank change from 2019
Attainment 8	118	↓ -17
E&M grade 4+	125	↓ -8
E&M grade 5+	107	→ 0
Ebacc (4+ in E&M)	82	↓ -17
Ebacc (5+ in E&M)	71	↓ -9
Av. Ebacc points score	105	↓ -7
% entering the Ebacc	83	↓ -9

# 5 Key Stage 4 – Core Cities ranks

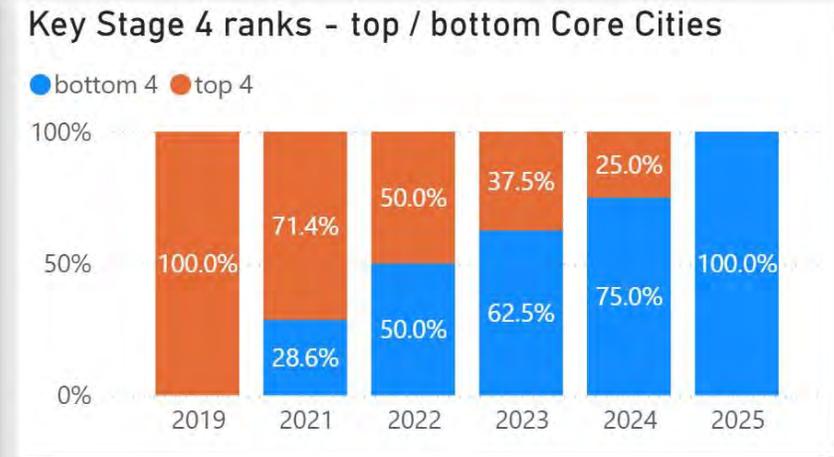
- Sheffield’s rank amongst Core Cities has been gradually worsening since 2019.
- In 2019 all indicators were in the top half of Core Cities but all have moved to the bottom half of the distribution in 2025.

**Key Stage 4 ranks and rank change (all pupils - Core Cities)**

year label	2019		2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	rank	rank change										
Attainment 8	3		4	→ 0	6	↓ -2	5	↑ 1	5	→ 0	6	↓ -1
Progress 8	3				5		5	→ 0	5	→ 0		
E&M grade 4+	4		5	↑ 1	4	↑ 1	4	→ 0	4	→ 0	6	↓ -2
E&M grade 5+	3		5	↓ -2	4	↑ 1	4	→ 0	3	↑ 1	5	↓ -2
Ebacc (4+ in E&M)	2		4	→ 0	4	→ 0	4	→ 0	5	↓ -1	5	→ 0
Ebacc (5+ in E&M)	2		4	→ 0	4	→ 0	5	↓ -1	5	→ 0	5	→ 0
Av. Ebacc points score	4		4	↑ 1	6	↓ -2	5	↑ 1	6	↓ -1	6	→ 0
% entering the Ebacc	4		2	↑ 2	5	↓ -3	5	→ 0	5	→ 0	5	→ 0

**Key Stage 4 ranks and rank change (all pupils - Core Cities)**

year label	2025	
	rank	rank change from 2019
Attainment 8	6	↓ -3
E&M grade 4+	6	↓ -2
E&M grade 5+	5	↓ -2
Ebacc (4+ in E&M)	5	↓ -3
Ebacc (5+ in E&M)	5	↓ -3
Av. Ebacc points score	6	↓ -2
% entering the Ebacc	5	↓ -1



## 5 Key Stage 4 – gaps with national

- The gap with national increased for all performance measures in 2025. On average the gaps with national are larger than they were in 2019 having reduced significantly up to 2023.

year label	2019		2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Sheffield	Gap w. nat.										
Attainment 8	44.90	-1.80	↑ 48.10	-2.80	↓ 46.10	-2.70	↓ 44.00	-2.30	↓ 43.60	-2.30	↓ 43.20	-2.80
Progress 8	-0.03	0.00			↓ -0.16	-0.13	↑ -0.09	-0.06	↓ -0.16	-0.13		
E&M grade 4+	59.50	-5.10	↑ 66.90	-5.30	↓ 65.20	-3.60	↓ 61.60	-3.50	↑ 61.70	-3.30	↓ 60.50	-4.30
E&M grade 5+	38.80	-4.40	↑ 47.40	-4.50	↓ 47.20	-2.60	↓ 42.40	-2.90	↑ 44.10	-1.80	↓ 41.70	-3.70
Ebacc (4+ in E&M)	24.20	-0.70	↑ 27.90	-1.60	↓ 25.70	-1.10	↓ 24.80	0.60	↓ 24.00	-1.20	→ 24.00	-1.80
Ebacc (5+ in E&M)	16.40	-0.70	↑ 19.80	-1.70	↓ 19.20	-1.10	↓ 16.70	-0.30	↑ 17.40	-0.60	↑ 17.70	-1.00
Av. Ebacc points score	3.87	-0.20	↑ 4.16	-0.29	↓ 4.02	-0.25	↓ 3.85	-0.20	↑ 3.87	-0.20	↓ 3.84	-0.25
% entering the Ebacc	38.60	-1.40	↓ 38.30	-0.40	↓ 37.30	-1.40	↑ 40.40	1.10	↓ 38.10	-2.30	↑ 38.20	-2.30

## 5

## Key Stage 4 – pupil group results and gaps (2025)

- The tables below show results for each pupil group and the gap with the national and Core Cities average for the same group.
- Sheffield was below national and Core Cities for nearly all groups, the gaps were largest for EAL, SEN support and disadvantaged pupils and pupils eligible for free school meals.

## Attainment 8

group	Sheffield	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
<b>All pupils</b>			
All pupils	43.2	-2.8	-1.2
<b>Disadvantage</b>			
FSM6	30.9	-4.0	-3.9
Not known to be disadvantaged	50.2	-0.2	-0.8
<b>First language</b>			
Known or believed to be English	43.7	-1.9	0.1
Known or believed to be other than English	41.8	-6.7	-4.9
<b>Free school meals</b>			
FSM eligible	31.0	-4.0	-3.9
Not known to be FSM eligible	49.7	-0.3	-0.7
<b>SEN status</b>			
Education, health and care plan	9.2	-5.6	-1.5
No SEN provision	48.1	-2.1	-0.9
SEN support / SEN without an EHC plan	28.2	-5.6	-3.9

## E&amp;M grade 4+

group	Sheffield	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
<b>All pupils</b>			
All pupils	60.5	-4.3	-1.4
<b>Disadvantage</b>			
FSM6	38.4	-5.4	-6.0
Not known to be disadvantaged	73.0	-0.1	-0.8
<b>First language</b>			
Known or believed to be English	61.1	-3.5	0.1
Known or believed to be other than English	58.3	-8.2	-6.1
<b>Free school meals</b>			
FSM eligible	38.7	-5.3	-5.7
Not known to be FSM eligible	72.0	-0.2	-0.7
<b>SEN status</b>			
Education, health and care plan	8.6	-5.5	-0.3
No SEN provision	69.2	-3.4	-1.0
SEN support / SEN without an EHC plan	30.3	-8.6	-6.1

## 5

## Key Stage 4 – pupil group results and gaps by ethnicity (2025)

- The table shows the attainment 8 score for each ethnic group and the gap with the national and Core Cities average for the same group.
- Attainment 8 for a number of BAME groups was below the national and Core Cities average in Sheffield including the two largest groups (Black African and Pakistani).
- Attainment 8 for White British pupils was slightly below the national average but above the Core Cities average. However, we know that rates of disadvantaged are lower in Sheffield for White British pupils compared to other Core Cities.

Attainment 8 by pupil group

group	pupils	Sheffield	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
<b>☐ Ethnicity minor</b>				
Chinese	59	68.5	2.4	2.1
Irish	7	66.1	15.4	17.8
Indian	69	62.0	3.2	2.7
White and Asian	133	50.4	-1.9	-0.6
Bangladeshi	50	49.1	-2.6	1.0
Any other Asian background	142	48.9	-4.1	-3.0
Any other Black background	53	46.3	1.9	1.7
African	414	45.6	-2.3	-1.6
White and Black African	72	44.6	-1.8	-0.8
Any other mixed / multiple ethnic background	121	44.0	-5.3	-1.4
Pakistani	503	43.6	-2.9	-2.8
English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	3621	43.5	-0.9	1.4
Any other White	210	43.0	-6.7	-5.1
Unknown	168	37.8	-3.1	-2.3
Caribbean	40	37.3	-1.9	-3.5
White and Black Caribbean	155	34.8	-3.8	-2.5
Gypsy	128	9.2	-10.7	-11.8
<b>☐ All pupils</b>				
All pupils	6209	43.2	-2.8	-1.2

## 5

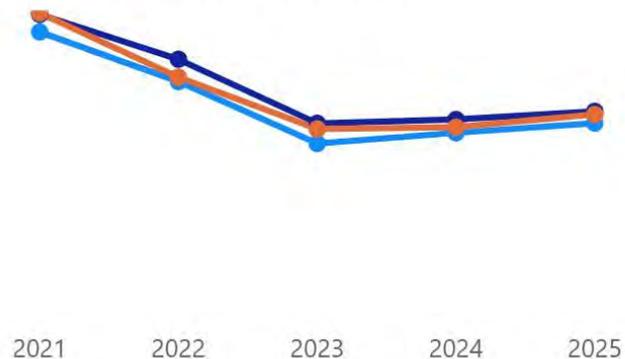
## Key Stage 5 – trends

- 2025 is the third year of a return to pre-pandemic grading. Results in Sheffield improved slightly compared to 2024.
- The average point score (APS) for A-levels in Sheffield in 2025 was 35.0 (C+) equal to the national average 34.3 in Core Cities.
- Sheffield's average point score for applied qualifications (30.9) was above the national and Core Cities average (29.7 in Core Cities and 29.9 nationally).
- Sheffield's APS for technical levels was higher than the national average and Core Cities and improved in 2025 following a dip in 2024. These qualifications were only taken by 215 students in 2025.

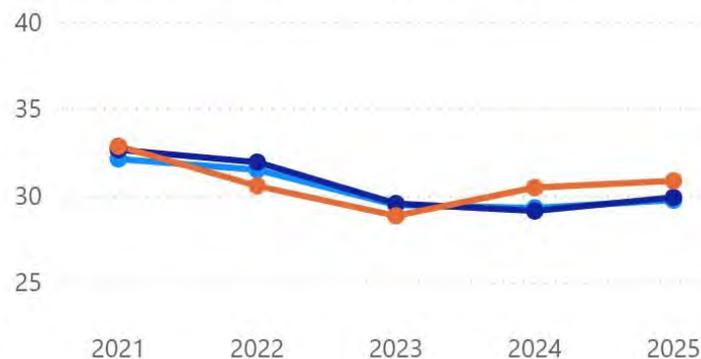
### Key Stage 5 trends

● Core Cities ● England ● Sheffield

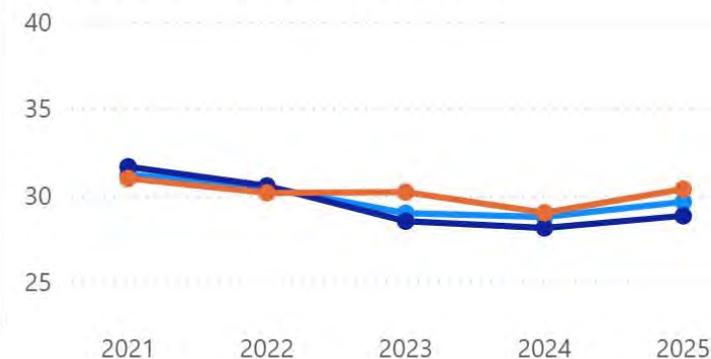
Average points per entry (A-levels)



Average points per entry (applied general quals)



Average points per entry (T-levels)



## 5

## Key Stage 5 – ranks

- Sheffield was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quartile nationally in 2025 (top half of LAs) for all three headline performance measures for the second time since 2019.
- Sheffield was also in the top half of Core Cities for all headline performance measures with an improvement in the rank for A-levels between 2024 and 2025.

## Ranks across headline Key Stage 5 measures (all LAs)

year label	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	rank	rank change								
Average points per entry (A-levels)	59		84	↓ -25	69	↑ 15	69	→ 0	58	↑ 11
Average points per entry (applied general quals)	73		114	↓ -41	99	↑ 15	43	↑ 56	48	↓ -5
Average points per entry (T-levels)	86		81	↑ 5	44	↑ 37	56	↓ -12	53	↑ 3

## Ranks across headline Key Stage 5 measures (Core Cities)

year label	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	rank	rank change								
Average points per entry (A-levels)	2		3	↓ -1	3	→ 0	4	↓ -1	3	↑ 1
Average points per entry (applied general quals)	2		6	↓ -4	6	→ 0	3	↑ 3	3	→ 0
Average points per entry (T-levels)	6		3	↑ 3	3	→ 0	4	↓ -1	4	→ 0

# 5 Key Stage 5 – student groups – A-levels

- Whilst Sheffield's APS for A-levels is above Core Cities for all students, there is significant variation within groups. Black students in Sheffield had an average points score 2.9 points below the national average and 1.3 points below the Core Cities average in 2025 (8 points is equivalent to one grade difference.)
- The gap between Sheffield and national is larger for disadvantaged pupils and those with lower prior attainment, EAL and SEN.

## Average points per entry (A-levels)

All Students

group	students	Sheffield	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
All state-funded students	2294	35.0	0.0	0.6
Any other ethnic group	70	32.8	-1.3	0.1
Asian or Asian British	331	33.8	-1.3	0.1
Black or Black British	183	29.0	-2.9	-1.3
Mixed Dual background	147	34.4	-0.8	0.2
Unknown ethnicity	159	35.8	-5.1	1.9
White	1404	36.0	0.7	0.5

## Average points per entry (A-levels)

First Language

group	students	Sheffield	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
English	1733	35.3	0.1	0.4
Other than English	437	32.9	-1.2	0.0

## Average points per entry (A-levels)

SEN Provision

group	students	Sheffield	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
EHCP	11	30.6	-2.9	-1.7
No SEN	2076	35.1	0.0	0.6
SEN support	109	31.7	-2.1	-1.0

## Average points per entry (A-levels)

Sex

group	students	Sheffield	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
Female	1295	35.5	-1.0	0.8
Male	999	34.2	-1.4	0.4

## Average points per entry (A-levels)

Disadvantage

group	students	Sheffield	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
Disadvantaged	378	30.5	-0.5	-0.1
Non-Disadvantaged	1888	35.8	0.2	0.5

## Average points per entry (A-levels)

Prior Attainment

group	students	Sheffield	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
Priors 0 to < 4	72	18.6	-1.1	-1.2
Priors 4 to < 7	1555	30.2	-0.6	0.4
Priors 7+	637	45.7	-0.5	0.7

Note: national results for pupil groups include all students not just state-funded students.

## 5

## Key Stage 5 – student groups – applied general qualifications

- The improvement in average points for applied qualifications is reflected across nearly all pupil groups. Sheffield was close to or above the national average in 2025 for all pupil groups except those with high prior attainment (which is a small group within this cohort).
- Students with lower (grades below 4 at KS4) and disadvantaged students did relatively better in Sheffield compared to the same groups nationally.

Average points per entry (applied general quals)

All Students

group	students	Sheffield	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
All state-funded students	1237	30.9	1.0	1.1
Any other ethnic group	61	30.2	0.8	1.6
Asian or Asian British	227	32.6	2.0	2.6
Black or Black British	151	30.6	2.1	2.0
Mixed Dual background	83	28.4	-0.3	-0.4
Unknown ethnicity	69	31.0	-0.1	1.4
White	646	30.6	0.6	0.3

Average points per entry (applied general quals)

First Language

group	students	Sheffield	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
English	861	30.4	0.5	0.5
Other than English	331	31.8	2.2	2.6

Average points per entry (applied general quals)

SEN Provision

group	students	Sheffield	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
EHCP	6	29.7	2.4	1.3
No SEN	1122	31.0	0.9	1.1
SEN support	76	29.3	1.5	1.0

Average points per entry (applied general quals)

Sex

group	students	Sheffield	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
All state-funded students	1237	30.9	1.0	1.1
Female	754	32.3	1.2	1.3
Male	483	28.6	-0.1	0.5

Average points per entry (applied general quals)

Disadvantage

group	students	Sheffield	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
Disadvantaged	373	29.8	1.5	1.4
Non-Disadvantaged	853	31.4	1.0	1.0

Average points per entry (applied general quals)

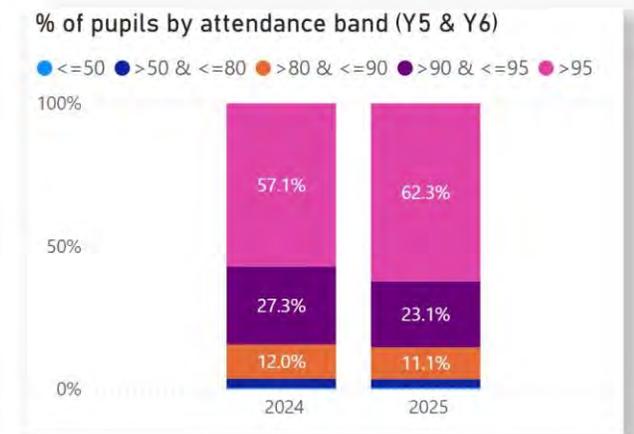
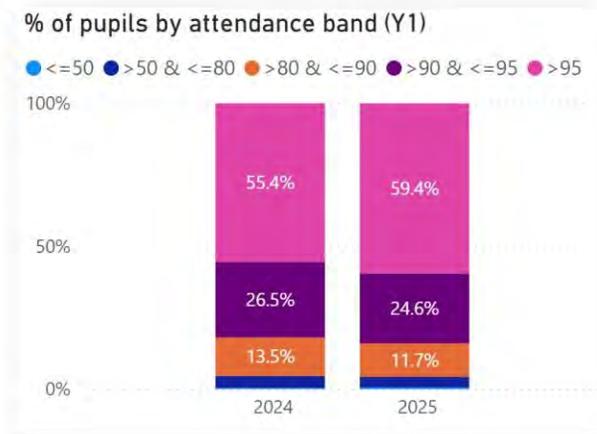
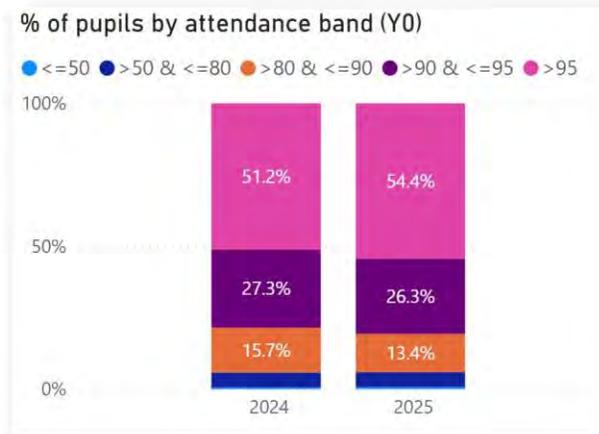
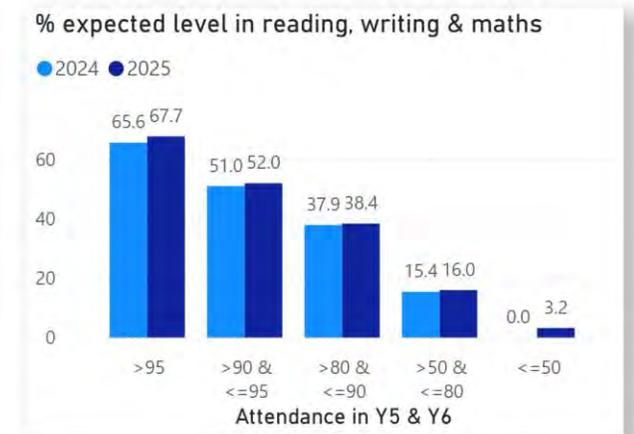
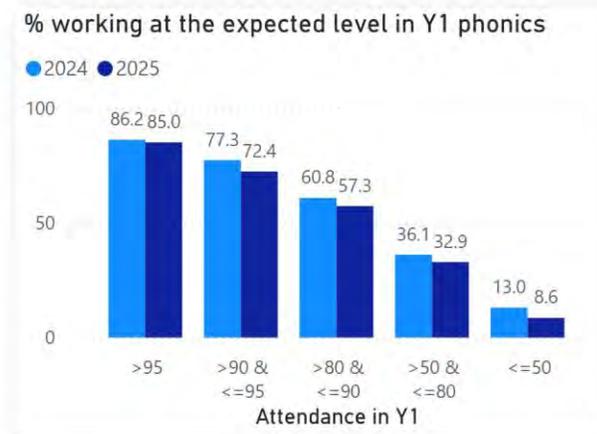
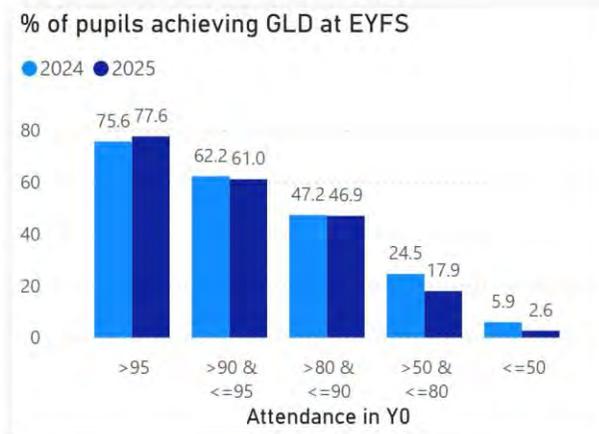
Prior Attainment

group	students	Sheffield	diff. w. nat.	diff. w. Core Cities
Priors 0 to < 4	305	26.8	2.8	2.5
Priors 4 to < 7	881	32.3	0.6	0.9
Priors 7+	38	40.2	-3.1	-2.0

Note: national results for pupil groups include all students not just state-funded students.

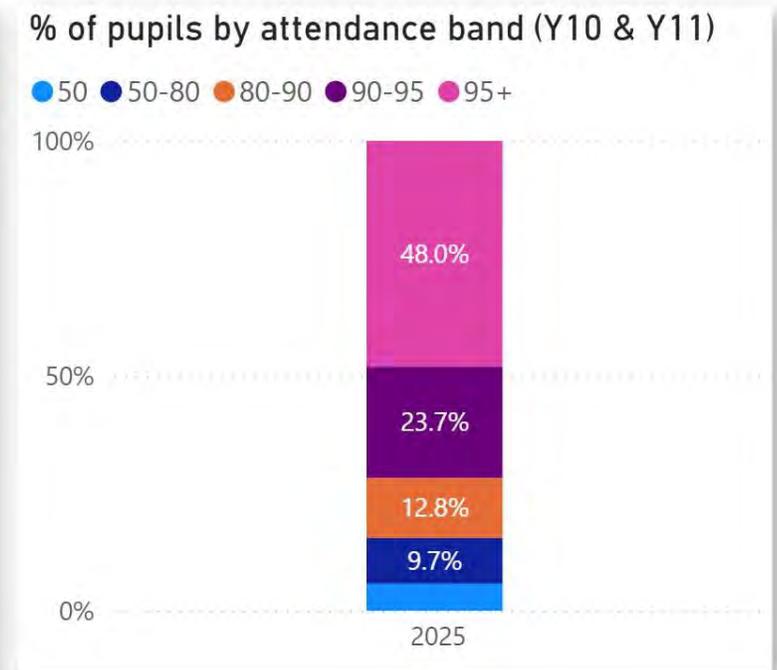
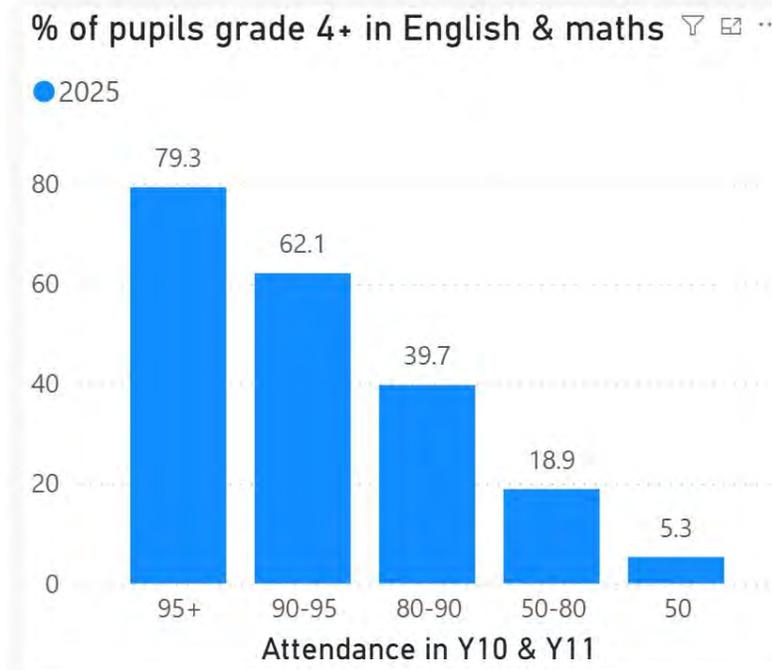
# 5 Analysis of outcomes by attendance band - primary

- To explore further the relationship between school attendance and attainment outcomes, 2025 attainment outcomes are presented by attendance band.
- The relationship between attendance and attainment is clear. Improving attendance is likely to result in better performance.
- Overall, attendance at each key stage in the primary phase improved between 2024 and 2025 continuing the trend from 2023.
- At KS2 attainment improved across all attendance bands whereas for Y1 phonics it declined for all attendance bands.



## 5 Analysis of outcomes by attendance band - secondary

- At KS4 once attendance drops below 90% the chance of achieving a grade 4+ in English and maths drops significantly.
- Around 28% of the KS4 cohort in 2025 had average attendance below 90%.





## Outcomes for children and young people

- At each key stage, the gap between attainment in Sheffield and the national average is around 2-5% points. For an average year group of around 6250 pupils this would require an additional 125-250 pupils at each key stage achieving the threshold measure for Sheffield to be at the national average.
- At individual pupil level, factors such as attendance, deprivation, SEND and ethnicity impact on outcomes meaning that some pupils are significantly less likely to achieve than others.
- At each key stage (except for phonics) less than half of pupils with attendance below 90% (persistently absent pupils) achieve the required standard at the end of the key stage. This represents around 1250 pupils in each year in primary and 1500 pupils in each year in secondary who have less than a 50% chance of achieving the expected level of attainment if current attendance levels don't improve.



## Provisional trails for further investigation

- **5.1** What does a review comparing national and core city rankings with deprivation tell us about city performance?
- **5.2** How do aggregated and intersectional pupil characteristics (including ethnicity and EAL) impact on attainment? How can this support raising attainment?
- **5.3** What does further analysis of attendance and attainment in Early Years (including take up of FEL) tell us about school readiness and what works in FS2?
- **5.4** What does further analysis of attendance and attainment in KS4 tell us about secondary readiness and raising attainment?



# Sheffield Performance Analysis Further Activity: 2025/2026

1

1.1 Partnership discussion

5

5.1 (including sector and LA groups)

3

3.1 Insight Report: attendance  
3.2 and vulnerable learners

5

5.3 Insight Report: Early Years  
5.4 Insight Report: KS2

2

1. SEND enquiry: specialist provision  
2. SEND enquiry: SLCN

4

4.1 Partnership discussion (including  
5.2 sector, AREAS and LA groups)

5