



**Open Report on behalf of Heather Sandy,  
Executive Director - Children's Services**

Report to:	<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>05 March 2021</b>
Subject:	<b>Lincolnshire Local Authority School Performance 2019-2020</b>

**Summary:**

This report provides the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee with an update regarding standards within the sector led system, changes to the reporting of performance data for schools for 2019/2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and an overview of school improvement activity to maintain standards in Lincolnshire.

**Actions Required:**

The Committee is invited to review and comment on the detail highlighted within the report.

## **1. Background**

This report presents an overview of Ofsted outcomes, National Curriculum Assessment and Examination cancellations, Department for Education requirements of schools nationally, and the response of the sector led system as we continue recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic.

## **2. Conclusion**

### **High level summary**

#### **Ofsted outcomes**

The proportion of Lincolnshire schools judged as good or better by Ofsted is 83.3%. This is in line with the East Midlands region at 83% although below the national average of 86.2%.

It is difficult to compare the proportion of schools judged as good or outstanding over time as Ofsted changed the methodology for reporting. Ofsted now includes the grades from the predecessor schools that have not yet been inspected in their

current form. These are mostly new sponsor-led academies that have not yet been inspected as academies, and as such, their predecessor schools are likely to hold a poor Ofsted rating which contributes to a lower percentage of good and outstanding schools in the aggregated figures.

Between 2017 and 2018, the percentage of Lincolnshire schools rated good or outstanding dropped by 6.0% from 90.2% to 84.2%. This compares with a 4.1% drop in the East Midlands from 87.3% to 83.2%, and nationally a 3.6% drop from 89.2% to 85.6%. Whilst in 2017 Lincolnshire was above all comparators, in 2018 the county was below national. This gap has narrowed over time although remains below national.

### **Disapplication of School Inspection**

Scheduled Ofsted inspections in schools were cancelled at the start of the pandemic and routine inspections did not take place whilst schools were closed. On 28 April 2020, the Secretary of State for Education issued a notice disapplying sections of the Education Act in relation to Ofsted's duty to inspect state-funded schools within prescribed intervals and to provide inspection reports.

This notice has been renewed on a monthly basis. At this time it is expected that routine school inspection will recommence from April 2021.

### **Autumn Term Ofsted Visits to Schools**

Ofsted carried out 'interim visits' to schools from 28 September to 21 December 2020. These visits were designed to support schools in welcoming all pupils back to full-time education and to form a national view of the response by schools to the pandemic.

The visits took place over one day with the main source of evidence being conversations with senior leaders. The focus of the visits was the return to full-time education for all pupils, how the curriculum is being resumed, how pupils are settling back into routines, including attendance, specific issues for vulnerable groups and safeguarding. These visits did not result in any changes to school inspection grades.

### **Statutory National Curriculum Assessment and Examinations**

The Government stated it was not mandatory for practitioners to complete the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (Aged 5) assessment in 2020.

The Key Stage 1 (KS1) (Aged 7) and Key Stage 2 (KS2) (Aged 11) National Curriculum Assessments due to be held in summer 2020, including tests, teacher assessments and the phonics screening check, were cancelled.

The summer 2020 GCSEs, AS and A level (Aged 16) exam series, were cancelled. Students were awarded a grade based on an assessment of the grade they would have been most likely to achieve had the exams gone ahead. Results issued were based on a range of evidence and data, including performance in mock exams and

non-exam assessment. Following the changes to the way qualifications were awarded in 2020 due to Coronavirus, the decision has been announced not to publish school level performance tables.

At this time, all Statutory National Curriculum Assessments for Early Years Foundation Stage, KS1 and KS2 2021 have been cancelled. Examinations for Key Stage 4 and 5 2021 have been cancelled and the sector is currently being consulted nationally, as to how outcomes for students will be allocated. We have submitted a response to the consultation as a Local Authority.

## **Covid-19 Response**

### **Spring and Summer Term activity 2020**

The Local Authority, working in collaboration with Lincolnshire Learning Partnership Board and Lincolnshire Teaching Schools Together, under the guidance of the Strategic Education Group, communicated engagement opportunities with Lincolnshire schools. Activity included:

- Leadership Briefings for Nursery, Primary, Secondary and Special schools
- District drop in sessions for all schools and academies
- Multi Academy Trust (MAT) CEO networking
- Governor Partnership and clerk networking meetings
- Weekly newsletters – School News and Safeguarding Bulletin
- New to Lincolnshire Head Teacher briefings
- Recover Lincolnshire programme of support

In preparation for schools re-opening to all pupils and young people in September, the Local Authority offered guidance to schools in supporting children and young people who are at risk of [anxiety based school refusal](#), [transition resources and regulation toolkit](#), managing behaviour that challenges in response to Covid-19, [post pandemic pastoral care playlist](#) and [transition resources and regulation toolkit](#). The continuation of partnership work with school leaders in supporting the most vulnerable children and young people across the sector ensures swift early help for families and social care intervention where appropriate. Throughout the pandemic service provision has continued to meet needs. Ofsted reported that school leaders felt behaviour was generally better and calmer than before and that pupils had adapted well to routines. Some leaders noted that staggered social times, and starts and ends to the day were having a good impact on behaviour. Despite these positives, many primary school leaders also talked about seeing some pupils having lost some of their independence and resilience. Quite a few secondary school leaders reported that there was deterioration in behaviour for some pupils, especially those who had some behavioural difficulties before.

Lincolnshire has commissioned the [Recover Lincolnshire Programme](#) from our Teaching School partners which supports the resilience of senior leaders, and has helped teachers with pupils' well-being and curriculum development in English and mathematics, with specialised programmes for small schools and early years. Leaders are very appreciative of the support they have received from the local

authority including bespoke sessions, regular formal briefings and more informal locality meetings so they do not feel isolated through this crisis.

In July the government announced £1 billion of [catch up premium](#) funding to support children and young people to catch up. Funding is provided to all state-funded schools and allocated based on pupil numbers. It is for school leaders to decide how the funding is best used to get young people back on track as quickly as possible. Schools have also had the opportunity to register an interest in the [National Tutoring Programme](#), which offers additional targeted support for disadvantaged and vulnerable young people.

## **Remote Education**

Since March 2020, we have experienced lock downs at a national and local level. Until September, schools were closed and only open to vulnerable children and those of Key Workers. The expectation was that safe, child care provision was provided, and not education, as is the current government expectation.

During this time, the vast majority of Lincolnshire schools offered elements of remote curriculum delivery, either on-line or through the provision of paper based resources. Local Authority officers and members of the Lincolnshire Learning Partnership Board supported school leaders through the sign posting to national resources such as [Oak National Academy](#) and [BBC Bitesize](#) and provided examples of how this could be integrated into curriculum learning on site and at home. In addition Local Authority officers coordinated virtual sessions with Lincolnshire schools across all phases (Haven High Academy, St Faith and St Martin Junior School, and Boston West Academy) where all virtual platforms were showcased. In excess of 180 schools participated and as a result many more schools have adopted these approaches based on what was learnt from these schools in the summer term.

Following their interim visits, Ofsted reported on visits in Lincolnshire. Schools were generally in a better place than schools nationally regarding the establishment of remote learning. In the later visits, whilst many schools had secure systems in place for remote learning linked to the curriculum, in some of the more vulnerable schools this was less well developed.

Training for remote education has evolved with more focus on how to teach online effectively and refine lesson delivery. In addition to safeguarding and remote education, the focus of training and preparation for the new school year was also on curriculum in many schools, particularly curriculum planning and design, with a focus on addressing gaps in learning during the time of school closures. In Lincolnshire, the locality lead team designed an amended curriculum document entitled 'Supporting Quality School and Remote Education' (Appendix 1) to support school leaders in updating their curriculum and ensuring this met the needs of pupils returning to school. This has been used as a basis for locality lead 'visits' in the autumn term.

We will continue to adapt and evolve our ways of working so that as much routine activity will continue to support the recovery and continuity of education as we continue on our journey through this pandemic.

**3. Consultation**

**a) Risks and Impact Analysis**

Not applicable

**4. Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix 1	Supporting Quality School and Remote Education

**5. Background Papers**

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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