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| meeting | EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING SELECT COMMITTEE | | |
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REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Key Messages from Nottinghamshire LEA's statistical profile

Purpose of Report

1. This report sets out the key messages and information from the LEA's most recent statistical profile. This is important information about the performance of Nottinghamshire schools in those aspects that are not measured by national tests and examinations. The report also identifies how the performance of Nottinghamshire schools compares with schools nationally and those in similar Local Education Authorities (LEAs).

Information and Advice

Background

2. The statistical profile is produced annually by Ofsted for every LEA in the country. The profile draws together the evidence collected from Ofsted inspections of all schools locally and nationally. The profile is therefore a very important source of data about how schools perform in all aspects of their work and is used by the Education Department to identify areas of strength and weakness across Nottinghamshire schools in order to better target its support and challenge. The key messages identified in this report have been shared with head teachers.
3. The 2004 statistical profile is based on evidence from school inspections that took place in 2003. The data is updated annually but because of this timeline it is always retrospective and must be treated as an indication of performance and trends rather than an accurate picture at all points in the year.
4. The statistical profile looks at performance in primary and secondary schools, against the criteria set out in the Ofsted inspection framework. The main areas that are covered by the data are:

- Standards achieved
This refers to judgements on standards in lessons
- The quality of education
This section covers judgements on teaching, learning and curriculum opportunities
- Schools' climate
This section covers judgements on pupils' attitudes, behaviour, provision for pupils' personal development and ensuring pupils' welfare.
- Management and efficiency
This section covers judgements on the leadership and management of the head teacher, the effectiveness of the governing body, monitoring and evaluation of the school's performance, strategic use of resources and value for money.

5. Each section within the statistical profile is graded into four categories:

- the percentage of schools judged to be very good
- the percentage judged to be good
- the percentage judged to be in need of some improvement
- the percentage where the inspection team judged substantial improvement is needed.

Overall judgements from the profile

6. Overall there are more Nottinghamshire primary schools judged to be good and very good than is the case nationally or in similar LEAs (known as statistical neighbours). At secondary school level, Nottinghamshire has fewer schools judged to be very good overall than is the case elsewhere but also fewer in need of substantial improvement. The table below sets out the figures in detail.

| | % schools judged very good | % schools judged good | % schools judged in need of some improvement | % schools judged in need of much improvement |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|---|
| Notts. | | | | |
| Primary | 15.07 | 59.5 | 23.53 | 1.84 |
| Secondary | 5.88 | 52.94 | 39.22 | 1.96 |
| Statistical neighbours | | | | |
| Primary | 12.42 | 59.54 | 26.27 | 1.77 |
| Secondary | 16.49 | 52.95 | 26.02 | 4.54 |
| National | | | | |
| Primary | 12.50 | 58.75 | 27.01 | 1.74 |
| Secondary | 14.95 | 49.85 | 30.54 | 4.66 |

Detailed inspection judgements

7. Judgements on lessons observed during school inspections show that in primary schools the standards of work seen (key stage 2) were better than those nationally, with 29.5% of schools having standards judged to be very good or good locally compared to 28.1% nationally. The quality and range of learning opportunities in Nottinghamshire primary schools was also better than elsewhere with more than half (50.7%) being very good or good compared to 44.3% nationally. In Nottinghamshire secondary schools, standards of work seen were not as high. However the proportion of schools with lessons at both key stage 3 and 4 where standards were in need of improvement was lower than nationally (at key stage 4, 53.4% of local schools needed improvement compared to 56.7% nationally).
8. Teaching in primary schools in Nottinghamshire is strong and shows steady improvement year on year. At key stage 2, 73.3% of schools were judged to be good or very good with regard to the quality of teaching compared to 65.3% nationally and 64.9% in similar LEAs. Similarly pupils' learning at key stage 2 is better than elsewhere with 70.2% being good or very good locally compared with 63% nationally. In secondary schools, 71.4% of Nottinghamshire schools had good or very good teaching at key stage 3 and 82.1% had very good or good teaching at key stage 4: both figures being just above the national figure.
9. The statistical profile data shows an overall average grade for teaching. The grade is based on lesson observation grades from all inspections with grade 1 being excellent and grade 5 being poor. The table below shows the improvement in teaching over four years and highlights the real strength in primary schools but shows there are still improvements to be made in teaching in Nottinghamshire secondary schools. However, LEA analysis of school inspection reports in 2004 (i.e. not covered within this statistical profile) show improvements in the quality of teaching at both key stage 3 and key stage 4 in Nottinghamshire schools.

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Notts. | | | | |
| Primary | 3.45 | 3.11 | 3.05 | 3.04 |
| Secondary | 3.31 | 3.40 | 3.18 | 3.12 |
| Statistical neighbours | | | | |
| Primary | 3.49 | 3.24 | 3.14 | 3.12 |
| Secondary | 3.31 | 3.28 | 3.09 | 3.05 |
| National | | | | |
| Primary | 3.50 | 3.20 | 3.14 | 3.12 |
| Secondary | 3.36 | 3.30 | 3.12 | 3.08 |

10. In Nottinghamshire primary schools pupils' attitudes are very positive with 91.7% of schools being judged good or very good in this aspect. This is similar to the national figure where 92% of schools are judged good or very good. Particular strengths are pupils' interest and involvement in activities, personal development and relationships within school. In secondary schools the picture is less positive with 75.8% of local schools judged good or very good compared with 80.2% nationally. In the area of personal development and relationships, 24.1% of Nottinghamshire secondary schools need to make some improvement and this figure is far higher than the national figure of 18.1% of schools needing some improvement. The quality of relationships is not as high in Nottinghamshire secondary schools as elsewhere with 78% of local schools judged good or very good compared with 85.6% nationally. The data shows that improvements are needed in reducing oppressive behaviour and increasing pupils' understanding of the impact of their actions on others.
11. The leadership and management of the head teacher and key staff is judged to be good or very good in 77% of Nottinghamshire primary schools with 45% being very good. Nationally 38% of schools are judged very good and 78% good or very good. In Nottinghamshire secondary schools, 68.9% of schools are judged to have good or very good leadership and management by the head teacher and key staff compared with 79.5% nationally.
12. Nottinghamshire primary schools perform better in relation to the effectiveness of the governing body than schools elsewhere with 71% being good or very good compared to 61.5% nationally. However this still means there is more to do, with nearly a third of schools locally in need of some improvement. A similar picture is seen in Nottinghamshire secondary schools where 58.6% of schools are judged to be good or very good in this aspect compared with 62% nationally.
13. Committee members will be aware of the considerable work undertaken in Nottinghamshire schools to improve their self-evaluation and monitoring. The statistical profile shows that this is now an effective aspect of the work of local schools with 69.3% of primary schools judged to be good or very good compared to 61% nationally and 58% in similar LEAs. In secondary schools there is evidence of some real progress from previous years but 31% are still in need of much improvement compared to 14.7% nationally.
14. Nottinghamshire primary schools generally provide better value for money than primary schools elsewhere. 65.8% of Nottinghamshire schools were judged to be good or very good compared with only 59% nationally and 54% in similar LEAs. There are however still 30% of Nottinghamshire primary schools where improvements are needed in the strategic use of resources. Locally 58.6% of secondary schools provided good or very good value for money compared to 60.6% nationally, with 37.5% of the county's schools in need of improvement in the use of strategic resources.

15. Assessment in both primary and secondary schools is an area in need of improvement. This is the case nationally and locally, particularly in relation to the use of assessment in lessons. In Nottinghamshire primary schools, 45.4% of schools need to improve their work in this area (nationally the figure is 49%), whilst in secondary schools, there is a similar need for improvement. 60.8% of secondary schools locally were judged good or very good in the use of assessment procedures, although this was better than the national figure of 50%.

What action has been taken in response to the statistical profile data?

16. The analysis of the annual statistical profile data is used to identify activities for the LEA's school improvement work for the coming year. These actions are set out in the Education Development Plan and there is evidence that targeting specific areas of weakness leads to improvement. For example, school self-evaluation has been the focus for considerable work between the Advisory and Inspection Service and schools and this year's profile shows that this is now an improving area. Teaching and the use of assessment are two key areas that the LEA is focussing on in its work with secondary schools, as part of the key stage 3 and key stage 4 strategy.

Statutory and Policy Implications

17. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, Crime and Disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the report. Members' attention is however drawn to the following:-

Equal Opportunities Implications

18. The statistical profile shows that equality of access and opportunity is judged to be good or very good in 56.6% of Nottinghamshire primary schools and in 58.3% of secondary schools. This is in line with the position nationally but highlights that some improvement is still needed across all of Nottinghamshire's schools.

Implications for Service Users

19. The information from the statistical profile has been shared with both primary and secondary head teachers and has been made available to them to help them with their school improvement planning.

Crime and Disorder Implications

20. The climate and ethos of schools has an impact on pupils' motivation and behaviour and this report highlights that whilst most schools have a positive climate overall, there are still improvements needed in secondary schools to promote pupils' initiative and personal responsibility.

RECOMMENDATION

21. That the report be noted and Committee identify any items for further scrutiny.

PAM TULLEY

Director of Education

Background Papers Available for Inspection

The Ofsted Statistical Profile for Nottinghamshire LEA 2004.

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