

Spotlight report: school age (primary)

Attainment

In 2022/23, 72.3% of children achieved a [good level of development](#) at the end of their foundation stage (age 5). This has been steady for the last few years and is better than regional (68%) and national averages (67.2%).

In 2021/22, 72.3% of key stage one children were [reading](#) to the expected standard. In 2020/21, 70.6% were writing to the expected standard and 70% were at the expected standard in maths. These are similar results to regional and national averages and have decreased slightly over the last few years. North Somerset children scored higher for achievement of the expected standard for science (82%) than regional and national averages.

In 2019/20, 64.7% of [key stage two children](#) met the expected standard for reading, writing and maths. This is similar to regional and national averages all of which have shown a steady improvement over the past few years. In terms of progress between KS1 and KS2, North Somerset children show a worse gap than regional averages.

Free school meals

In 2018, 8.3% of primary school children received free school meals. This is lower than regional (11.4%) and national averages (13.7%)

However, levels of attainment for children who have free school meals is significantly lower than for their peers. Just 55.2% of FSM children achieved a good level of development at the end of their foundation stage.

Absence and exclusions

In 2021/22, 16.8% of primary school children were persistent absentees, similar to regional and national averages.

The fixed term exclusion rate per 100 pupils for primary aged children in North Somerset was 1.16% in 2016/17 compared to 1.69% regionally and 1.37% nationally.

Healthy lifestyles

In 2022/23, 19.5% of North Somerset [Reception aged children](#) were overweight or obese compared with 20.5% regionally and 21.3% nationally. By [Year 6](#) 31.3% of children were overweight or obese compared with 32.9% regionally and 36.6% nationally.

Note, North Somerset data to be treated with caution due to changes in data collection due to Covid.

Comparison of overweight (including obese) children in Reception and Year 6 as of 2022/23



Oral health

22.1% of primary aged children have one or more decayed, missing or filled teeth in North Somerset based on the latest data (2021/22) compared to 19.1% regionally and 23.7% nationally. This is a significant reduction from 30% in 2011/12.

Hospital admissions

As of 2021/22, North Somerset has a rate of 67.2 per 10,000 for hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children (aged 0-14). This has remained fairly steady over the last few years but has dipped in the latest year and is now below the regional (90.8) and national (84.3) rates.

Children in care

As of 2023, North Somerset has a rate of 51 per 10,000 for children in care (all ages). This has remained fairly steady over the last few years and is lower than regional and national averages.