


<b>LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN</b>	<b>WARDS: ALL</b>
<b>REPORT TITLE</b> School Achievement & Standards 2022-23 summary & update on the Education Strategy 'Building Back Stronger'	
<b>REPORT OF</b> Chief Executive Officer, Camden Learning	
<b>FOR SUBMISSION TO</b> Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee	<b>DATE</b> 26 February 2024
<b>SUMMARY OF REPORT</b>  <p>A presentation will be given to the committee providing the 2023 end of key stage statutory assessment results from Camden Primary (KS1 &amp; 2) and Secondary (KS4 &amp; 5) schools with analysis of the performance of different key groups including disadvantage, gender, SEND and ethnicity. This data also includes key contextual measures such as Ofsted inspection outcomes, destinations, attendance, exclusions, children missing in education and pupils who are electively home educated.</p> <p>These outcomes provide an overview of various performance measures related to overall school performance in Camden. Caution is advised when considered trends over time due to the legacy of the pandemic. For secondary schools, the Ofqual <a href="#">announcement</a> of a return to pre-pandemic grading at GCSE and A Level in 2023 meant that national results would be lower than the previous summer.</p> <p>The report appendix contains the near final draft report of actions related to Year 1 of the implementation of Building Back Stronger, Camden's Education Strategy. It describes actions and progress while also identifying areas for development in 2024.</p> <p>This report has been commissioned from Camden Learning by Camden Council</p> <p><b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - ACCESS TO INFORMATION:</b>  The following document has been used in the preparation of this report:  <a href="#">DfE validated data and statistical releases</a>.</p> <p><b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>  Stephen Hall, Chief Executive Officer, Camden Learning,  5 Pancras Square, N1C 4AG  <a href="mailto:stephen.hall@camden.gov.uk">stephen.hall@camden.gov.uk</a> / 020 7974 1122</p>	
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b> The Committee is asked to note the content of the report and actions outlined within it in the context of the ambition and aims of the Camden Education Strategy.	



Signed:

Chief Executive Officer, Camden Learning

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024

## **1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 This report outlines a range of school outcomes for key groups in Camden schools and highlights where the differences lie. The disruption of the Covid-19 pandemic continues to be felt – attendance rates, whilst slowly improving have not yet recovered, and parent perceptions of the school system have changed. In recent years 10 forms of entry have been removed from the Primary phase due to falling pupil numbers, and falling rolls continue to impact on a number of Camden schools. In addition, the number of pupils with special educational needs is increasing. This is all at a time when, the recruitment of staff in key areas is a concern locally as well as nationally, particularly in subjects like mathematics and computer science, but also classroom and support staff.
- 1.2 The education strategy to 2030, Building Back Stronger, sets out ambitious aims, and continues to provide a strategic direction of ensuring ambitious and inclusive schools and a good local school place available for every Camden child. As a locally aligned, place-based, school-led system, Camden Learning gives us a strong footing from which to tackle contextual challenges. The collaborative working relationship between schools, the Council, key partners, and the wider community, has continued to prove its value in providing high quality educational experiences to our children and young people. In 2022-23, 15 Camden schools were inspected by Ofsted and found to be good or better. 97% of Camden schools are currently graded good or better, well above the national average. Every single Camden school is signed up to the Camden Learning partnership, which is led by schools themselves, is evidence-based, and is aligned to the needs and priorities of the local area. The establishment of the new North London Research School Alliance in Camden is a recognition of the quality of our local schools and demonstrates our commitment to the use of research evidence to improve our practice.
- 1.3 Pupils undertook externally marked national examinations in 2023, for the second time since these were suspended in 2020. GCSEs, AS and A levels returned to pre-pandemic standards, with protection built into the grading process to recognise the disruption that students have faced, therefore comparisons with 2022, and the years following 2019 are discouraged. Outcomes indicate that Camden schools overall continued to perform well compared to national averages, particularly at Primary however performance at KS4 and 5 has not performed as well as other London boroughs. Concerns remain over the impact of lost learning and the continuing attainment gaps for disadvantaged learners. The intersectionality of disadvantage and relative cohort sizes adds a further consideration when reviewing this data.

Disproportionality is evident in outcomes, for example White British pupils continue to have the widest disparity between disadvantaged pupils and non-disadvantaged pupils at both KS2 and KS4, Bangladeshi and Caribbean pupils achievement at KS4 is below that of their peers and that of similar nationally, with both groups reporting lower school attendance than other groups at both Primary and Secondary respectively. The impact of poor school attendance on achievement is evident in outcomes both locally and nationally.

- 1.4 Despite many strengths, outcomes in 2023 show that we still have more to do if all our children and young people – including the most disadvantaged – are to have the very best educational experiences and achieve the outcomes that they deserve. The use of this data enables further challenge and support for Camden schools to ensure that educational standards exceed that of our London neighbours. We have many examples of exceptional practice in Camden to draw from. Annual standards conversations with the Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of each Camden school again took place in the Autumn term, this year with an increased focus on disadvantaged gaps and a more robust approach to termly visits and reporting from professional advisers. A number of Camden schools are receiving additional support under the schools requiring additional support programme to ensure a continued focus on raising standards. This follows the success of this programme in the previous year. Camden schools continue work and learn from each other enabling a highly coherent local school system to the benefit of all of its pupils.
- 1.5 This report focusses on academic outcomes, yet we are also proud of the considerable achievements of our local schools in the last year across the broader curriculum and of the positive impact they have on the lives of children and young people and their families for example through events such as the music festival at the Albert Hall, the successes of STEAM initiatives including work experience and apprenticeships, celebrations of art and creativity and the continued focus on well-being and mental health.
- 1.6 Camden's education strategy, **Building Back Stronger**, was published in 2022 in the aftermath of the Covid 19 pandemic and in it we challenged ourselves and our partners to ensure that all the young people in our borough have: a fair start, an excellent school experience and flourishing lives. These three ambitions are each based on the two pillars of equity and excellence. These pillars are well supported by the outstanding and determined work we see from Camden leaders, teachers and staff as they do their very best to serve the needs of all children. Our schools do not have to choose between achieving academic excellence or supporting children who start from a position of disadvantage. A system which is better for disadvantaged children is better for everyone.
- 1.7 We were clear in the strategy that we want all our young people to leave Camden schools as ambitious, knowledgeable, intellectually curious, good communicators and collaborators, healthy, creative and enterprising adults. The strategy also reflects Camden's history of social activism, emphasising the importance of our young people becoming socially and

morally responsible changemakers, able to contribute positively to their communities and society. These aspirations were captured in Camden's enrichment pledge which committed to providing a range of rich experiences for every child.

- 1.8 Building Back Stronger sets out a vision for a system-wide approach based on a sense of place, inclusion, collaboration, and innovation. School staff, parents, governors, local businesses, statutory partners, and community organisations all contributed to the development of the strategy, so it is vital that we are accountable for its delivery and always recognise that our strength is in our partnership approach.
- 1.9 Our first action plan to implement the strategy ran from 2022 to the end of 2023. Implementation has been monitored through an Education Strategy Board with termly reports of progress against planned activities and milestones relating to each goal. In addition, we are now producing an annual report, attached as an appendix, which outlines how far we have come since launching the strategy. It describes actions and progress while also identifying current areas for development. The context we work in changes constantly, with new opportunities emerging and new challenges arising, so this report shows that too. It reflects the fact that we are still in the early part of the delivery cycle, so the link with outcomes is not always direct at this point. It will become clearer in the course of 2024.

## **2. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services**

The Director of Finance notes that this is a report from a partner organisation and has no further comment to make.

## **3. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor**

The Borough Solicitor has been consulted on the report and has no comment to add to this report.

## **4. Environmental Implications**

None to report

## **5. Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Achievement and Standards 2022/23 Summary Presentation  
Appendix 2 - Building Back Stronger Annual Report (near final draft)

**REPORT ENDS**