



Education in The City of London Annual Report 2019

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1. Introduction

This annual report looks at how well the education service in the City of London is meeting our aspirations for children and young people's educational outcomes. The report is one of the ways in which we keep members, governors and our wider partners informed about education performance in the City of London.

The data in this report are drawn from a range of sources. Where available, comparisons have been made between performance of City of London resident children in Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School and Islington schools, all pupils at Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School, City of London residents attending Prior Weston (and for Early Years Foundation Stage, The City of London Primary Academy Islington) and the Inner London and national performance. The analyses cover the last full academic year, 2018/19 and include historical data from 2015/16, and, where appropriate from 2014/15. The small size of the City of London's school and residential population means its education statistics are liable to fluctuate from year to year by a larger amount than local authorities with bigger populations.

2. Summary of key findings

Quality of provision

- Our one local authority maintained school, Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School, has been judged outstanding for overall effectiveness in its last two Ofsted inspections (2013 and 2008).

Outcomes for children and young people

- **Early Years Foundation Stage** In 2018/19 the percentage of City of London children reaching the 'Good Level of Development' benchmark was the highest of any L.A. in England. The results for City residents attending the Islington schools Prior Weston and City of London Primary Academy Islington; City residents at Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School, a private or voluntary institution in the City of London or an Islington school as well as the results for Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School were between 11 and 24 percentage points above the national average for this benchmark.
- **Phonics screening check** Outcomes for the City of London (Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School) in 2018/19 was ranked first or second out of all 152 English local authorities¹.
- **Key Stage 1** Results for the percentage reaching the expected standard for 2018-19 for Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School are in the highest percentile out of all 152 LA's in England¹ for all three core subjects.

¹ Because of small numbers the 2019 results of the City of London for Phonics and KS1 assessments were suppressed by the DfE along with those for the Scilly Isles. The figures for Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School are, however, above the figures for every published local authority.

- **Key Stage 2** The percentage of pupils at Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School reaching the expected grade for reading, writing and mathematics combined, at 82%, put the corporation in first place out of every local authority in England (152). The percentage reaching the higher level for this measure (29%) means that the corporation was 1st place when ranked against local authorities in England for 2018/19.

Attendance and behaviour

- **Absence** in 2017/18, the rate of absence for all three terms for the City of London, was 3.2%, the second lowest rate for England. The rate was about average for the rates recorded by the LA over the previous 4 years².
- **Persistent absence** for the 2017/18 three term data was 3.3%. The City of London had the lowest rate of persistent absenteeism in England. The Inner London rate for 2017/18 was (8.9%).

3. Demographics

1.1 Population

According to the GLA, the population of London grew at double the rate of the country as a whole between 2011 and 2015; and is set to increase further. By 2021 the Capital is forecast to exceed nine million residents. The GLA estimates the population of the City of London will drop from 7,483 in 2018 to 7,277³ in 2026 (a fall of 2.5%).

GLA projections estimates there were 278 pupils of primary age (4 - 10) and 140 pupils of secondary age (11 - 15) children living in the City of London in 2018. The 2019 GLA estimate of the population of children aged 11 to 15 is substantially lower than their estimates in previous years. GLA projections have been volatile in recent years and they should be used alongside other data sources when planning places.

City of London is the 28th most deprived local authority in London out of 33 according to the 2015 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (up from 32nd IMD 2010).

1.2 Schools

The City of London Corporation has one maintained primary school, eight sponsored academies as part of the City of London Academies Trust, and two co-sponsored academies in neighbouring boroughs. It also supports three independent schools, two based in the City and one in Surrey. The maintained primary school is Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School with Cass Child & Family Centre. Primary aged children that live in the City of London local area attend Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School and a small number of schools in Islington, Tower Hamlets and Camden. Secondary age children attend a range of schools including Islington secondary schools and schools in other neighbouring local authorities, including Tower Hamlets and Hackney.

² DfE figures for the rate of absence for 6 half terms for 2018/19 were not available when this report was written.

³ The source data is from the Greater London Authority (GLA) central projection model.
<https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/projections/>

Table 1 below shows the proportion of children eligible for free school meals (FSM) at Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School from 2015/16 to 2018/19. The rate of eligibility for FSM was about a fifth of the cohort in January 2015 but fell in January 2017 and since then has been about one ninth of the roll and lower than the rates for England and Inner London. Some 15.8% of statutory aged pupils had funded 'pupil premium' status in October 2019.

Table 1: % FSM at Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School 2014/15 to 2018/19 with comparators

% FSM Eligibility	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School	20.8%	19.6%	11.3%	11.3%	11.2%
Inner London Primary Schools	26.4%	23.4%	21.3%	19.6%	22.2%
England Primary Schools	16.5%	15.2%	14.1%	13.7%	15.8%

Source: January School Census 2015 to 2019 & DfE SFR data,

Graph 1: Proportion of Statutory Aged Children Eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) at Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School from 2015/16 to 2019/20 with comparators over time

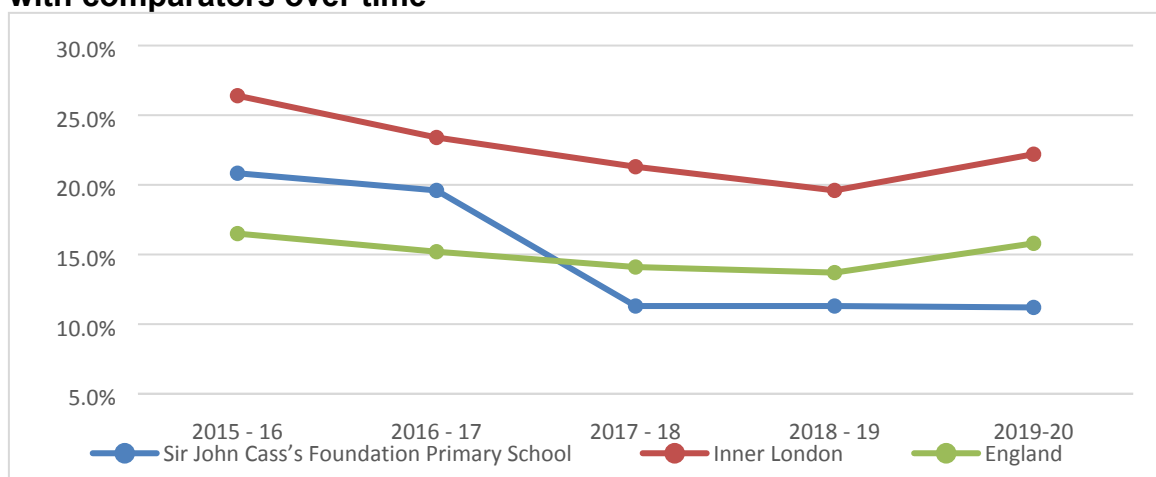


Table 2: % SEN at Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School 2014/15 to 2018/19 with comparators

SEN	Type	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School	SEN Support	10.3%	16.0%	14.9%	15.8%	17.5%
	EHCP	3.6%	2.8%	2.9%	2.8%	1.8%
Inner London Primary Schools	SEN Support	14.1%	13.4%	13.1%	13.0%	13.2%
	EHCP	2.9%	1.9%	1.9%	2.1%	2.4%
England Primary Schools	SEN Support	12.6%	12.1%	12.2%	12.4%	12.6%
	EHCP	2.8%	1.3%	1.3%	1.4%	1.6%

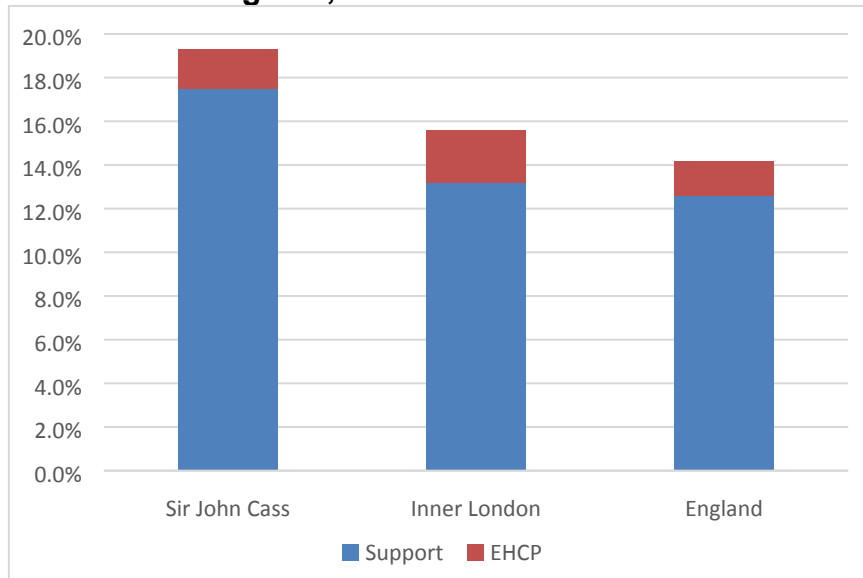
Source: January School Census 2015 to 2019 & DfE SFR data

Table 2 above shows the proportion of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) at Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School and the rates for primary schools in Inner London and England. The percentage of pupils with SEND Support varies from year to year due to the small size of the school. The proportion of pupils with SEN support has risen from 10.3% in 2014-15 to 17.5% in 2018-19. The proportion of pupils with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan or

Statement was 3.6% 2014/15 but half that rate (1.8%) in 2018/19, closer to the rate for England.

Graph 2 below shows the rate of SEN at Sir John Cass’s Foundation Primary School for 2018/19. It shows that SEN at the school is higher than both the rate for England and Inner London.

Graph 2: Rates of SEN: Sir John Cass’s Foundation Primary School, Inner London and England, 2018/19



Quality of provision - Ofsted Inspections

Table 3: The last two Ofsted Inspection Judgements for Sir John Cass’s Foundation Primary School

Judgement	Latest inspection 18/04/13	Previous inspection 26/09/08 ⁴
Overall effectiveness	Outstanding	Outstanding
Achievement of pupils	Outstanding	NA
Quality of teaching	Outstanding	Good
Behaviour and safety of pupils	Outstanding	NA
Leadership and management	Outstanding	NA

Source: Ofsted Inspection Reports

Sir John Cass’s Foundation Primary School was last inspected by Ofsted in April 2013, over six years ago, when it was judged to be outstanding for overall effectiveness and in all areas where judgements are made. In the previous inspection it was also judged to be outstanding for overall effectiveness. The Ofsted judgements from the last two inspections are shown in Table 3 shown above.

Two Islington primary schools, Prior Weston and The City of London Primary Academy Islington, have a significant proportion of children resident in the City of London on their rolls. The Ofsted judgements from the last inspections are shown in Table 4 below.

⁴ The inspection of Sir John Cass’s Foundation Primary School in 2008 was a reduced tariff inspection and judgements were not made against all of the inspection criteria.

Table 4: The last Ofsted Inspection Judgements for Prior Weston Primary School & City of London Primary Academy Islington

Prior Weston School	Latest inspection 08/03/18
Overall effectiveness	Requires Improvement
Effectiveness of Leadership & Management	Requires Improvement
Quality of teaching, Learning and Assessment	Requires Improvement
Personal Development, Behaviour & Welfare	Good
Outcomes for Pupils	Requires Improvement
Early Years Provision	Requires Improvement
City of London Primary Academy Islington	Latest inspection 05/11/19
Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
Quality of Education	Outstanding
Behaviour and Attitudes	Outstanding
Personal Development	Outstanding
Leadership and Management	Outstanding
Early Years Provision	Outstanding

Source: Ofsted Inspection Reports

4. Attainment outcomes

This section analyses the educational performance of the City of London, comparing the outcomes at Sir John Cass’s Foundation Primary School with City of London resident children attending Prior Western School in Islington and all City of London resident children attending Sir John Cass’s Foundation Primary School or an Islington school, alongside the Inner London and England averages for benchmarking purposes. The 2018/19 performance figure are the final results.

1.3 Health warning about small numbers

Please be aware that the numbers of children in some of the analyses are often very small, particularly when the yearly cohorts are split into sub-groups. In a small cohort one pupil’s performance can make a large change in the percentage of the total. One should exercise caution when making comparisons of figures based on small numbers of children. Three year averages have been provided where appropriate and these are likely to be a more reliable measure of performance than the annual figures.

1.4 Early Years Foundation Stage

At the end of Reception pupils are assessed across a range of areas against the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. Pupils are defined as having reached a ‘good level of development’ (GLD) if they are at least the expected level for the early learning goals in the prime areas of learning (personal, social & emotional

development; physical development and communication & language) as well as in the specific areas of mathematics and literacy.

Table 5: Percentage of pupils who have reached a Good Level of Development between 2014/15 and 2018/19 for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

EYFS: % gaining a 'Good Level of Development'	2014/15		2015/16		2016/17		2017/18		2018/19	
	No.s	%	No.s	%	No.s	%	No.s	%	No.s	%
Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School	23	76.7	21	70.0	61	77.0	31	77.4	25	83.3
CofL Residents at Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School & LBI	23	82.1	17	70.8	33	60.6	19	78.9	22	95.7
CofL Residents at PW or COL-P*	10	100	11	91.7	11	72.7	11	90.9	7	100
Inner London	n/a	67.7	n/a	70.7	n/a	72.8	n/a	73.7	n/a	73.3
England	n/a	66.3	n/a	69.3	n/a	70.7	n/a	71.5	n/a	71.8

*PW = Prior Weston School, COL-P = City of London Primary Academy Islington.

Source: The City of London Education department, Islington's Children's Services and the DfE

The EYFS results of Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School, City of London residents and City of London residents attending Prior Weston or the City of London Primary Islington were higher than the rates for Inner London and England for all five years.

1.5 Phonics in Year 1

Since 2012 schools have been required to administer a statutory phonics screening check⁵ of Year 1 pupils. Each pupil tested must read 40 sounds out loud to their teacher. Graph 3 shows the percentage of pupils who passed the test. Performance at Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School has improved over time and the school's results for 2018-19 were above those for both Inner London and England.

Table 6: Proportion of pupils passing the Phonics Screening 2014/15 to 2018/19

% passed (32+ marks or 80%+)	% Year 1 Passed				
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Sir John Cass (CofL LA)	82.8%	90.0%	86.7%	91.5%	93.3%
CofL Residents at Prior Weston	90.9%	81.8%	88.9%	80.0%	80.0%
CofL Residents at SJC or LBI	87.0%	88.0%	85.7%	75.0%	88.2%
Inner London	80.0%	84.0%	85.0%	85.0%	84.0%
England	77.0%	81.0%	81.0%	82.0%	82.0%

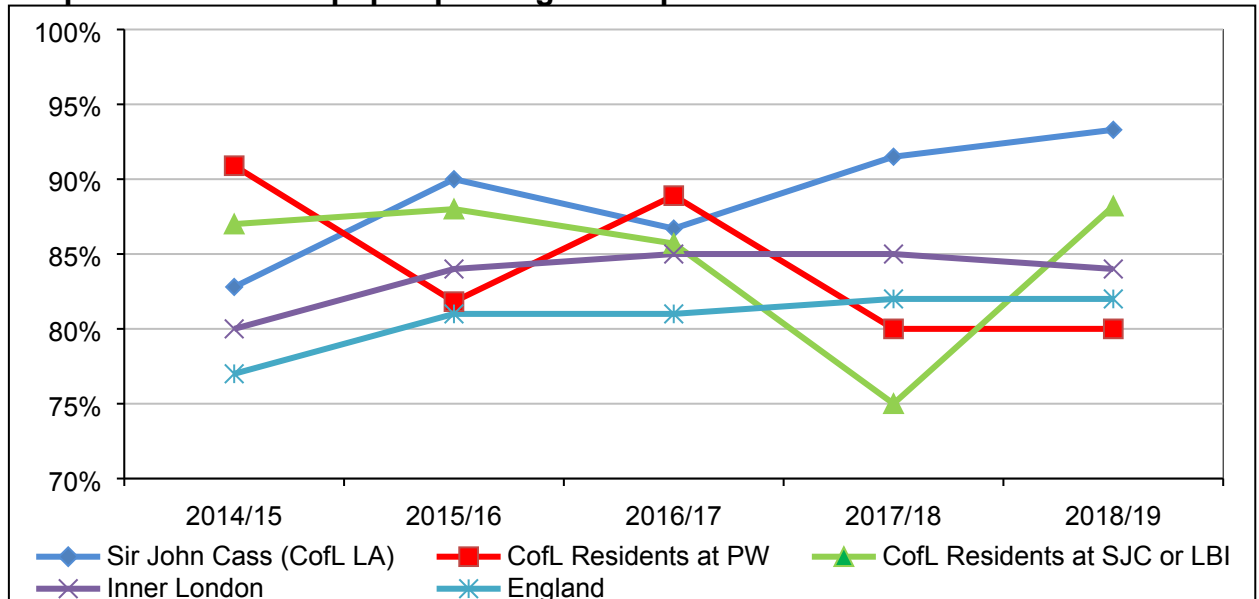
Source: DfE Statistical First Releases LB Islington and the City of London

Table 6 above and Graph 3 below show the figures for City of London residents attending Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School and Islington schools as well as those for City of London residents attending Prior Weston School alongside the data for Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School. The average pass rate for the last three years (2016/17 to 2018/19) for Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School was 90.5%, the equivalent figure for both City of London residents attending Sir John

⁵ Phonic marks range from 0 to 40. A mark of 32 or above (80%+) is means that the required standard has been reached.

Cass's Foundation Primary School and LBI schools and City of London residents attending Prior Weston was 83.0%.

Graph 3: % of Year 1 pupils passing the of phonics test 2014/15 to 2018/19



Source: DfE Statistical First Release

1.6 Key Stage 1

All Year 2 pupils (rising 7 year olds) are assessed at the end of Key Stage 1 (KS1). Table 7 shows the number of children in each of the groups for Key Stage 1 results. The largest of these cohorts is Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School. The figures below cover the four years that the new curriculum has been assessed in schools. Figures prior to that date are not comparable and so are not included.

Table 7: Number of pupils per group in the Year 2 cohort 2015/16 - 2018/19

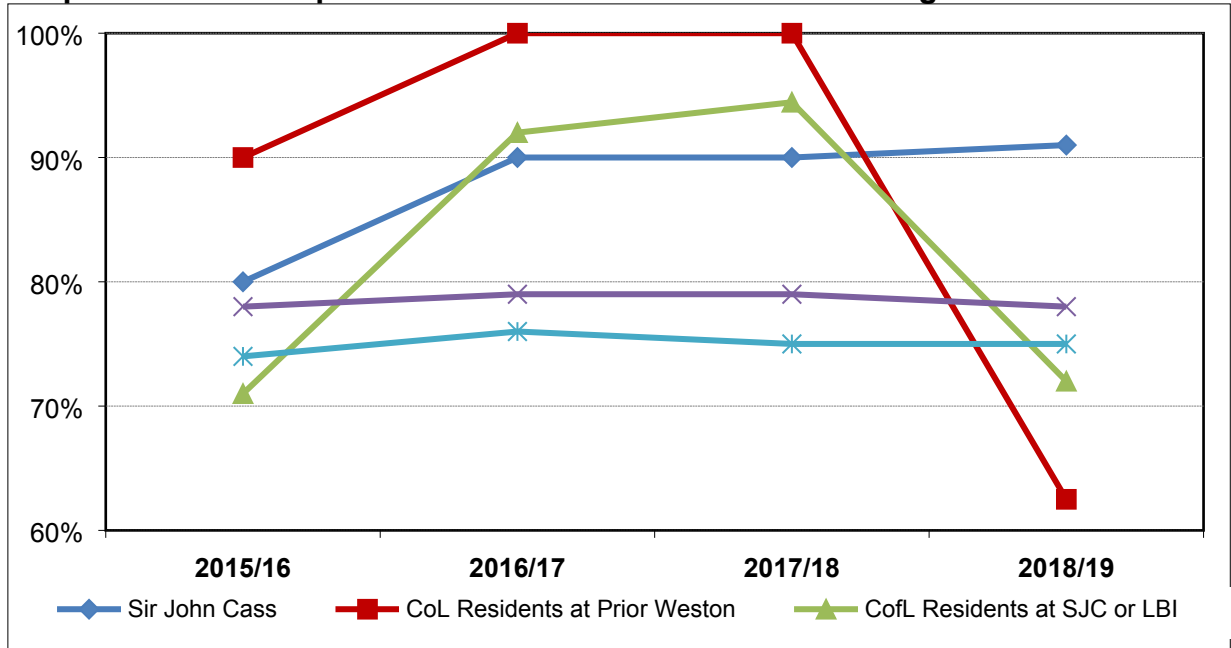
Key Stage 1: Numbers	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Sir John Cass Cohort	30	30	30	57
City of London at Prior Weston	10	10	7	8
City of London Residents at SJC or LBI	24	24	18	24

Source: Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School and Islington's People's Services. The numbers in these groups are not mutually exclusive.

Table 7 above shows the small sizes of the cohorts being reported on. Small figures need to be interpreted with extreme caution.

Graph 4 below shows the percentage at or above the expected standard for reading. Since the first KS1 assessment of the more challenging new curriculum in the academic year 2015/16 the performance of Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School has been above that of the Inner London and England averages. The performance City of London residents attending either Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School or an Islington primary school were below the rates for Inner London and England in 2019 but were above for the previous 2 years (see Graph 4 below).

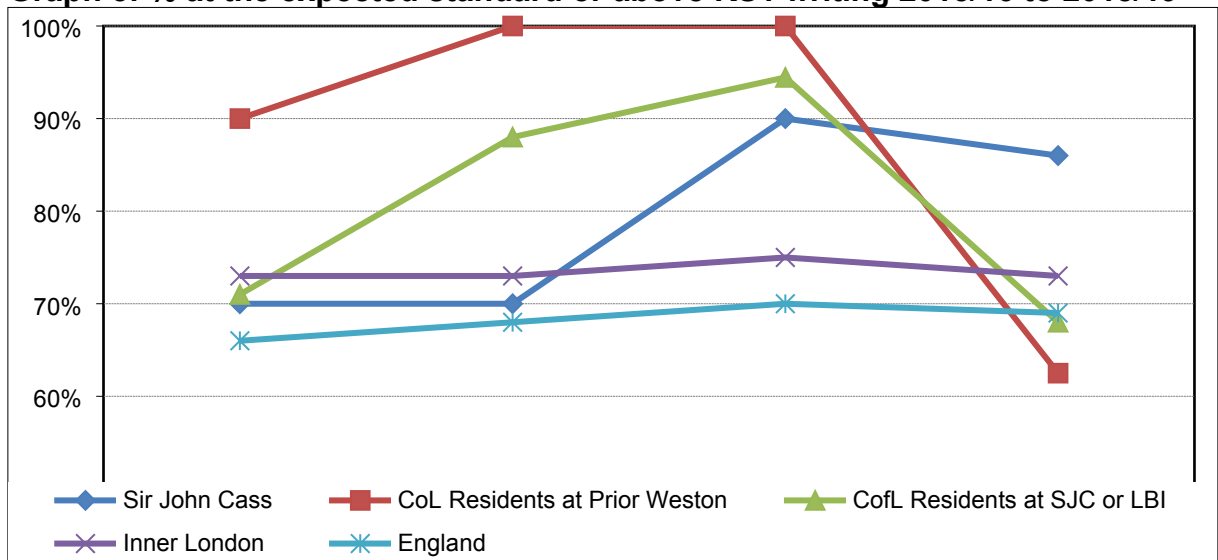
Graph 4: % at the expected standard or above in KS1 reading 2015/16 - 2018/19



Source: DfE Statistical First Releases and City of London.

Graph 5 below shows that Sir John Cass’s Foundation Primary School’s Key Stage 1 results for writing were above national and Inner London averages for the last three years of assessment of the new Key Stage 1 curriculum. In 2017/18 all City of London groups, residential and pupils at Sir John Cass’s Foundation Primary School, were above both comparators. In 2018/19 the small number of City of London children resident in the City of London attending Prior Weston school were below both the national and Inner London averages.

Graph 5: % at the expected standard or above KS1 writing 2015/16 to 2018/19

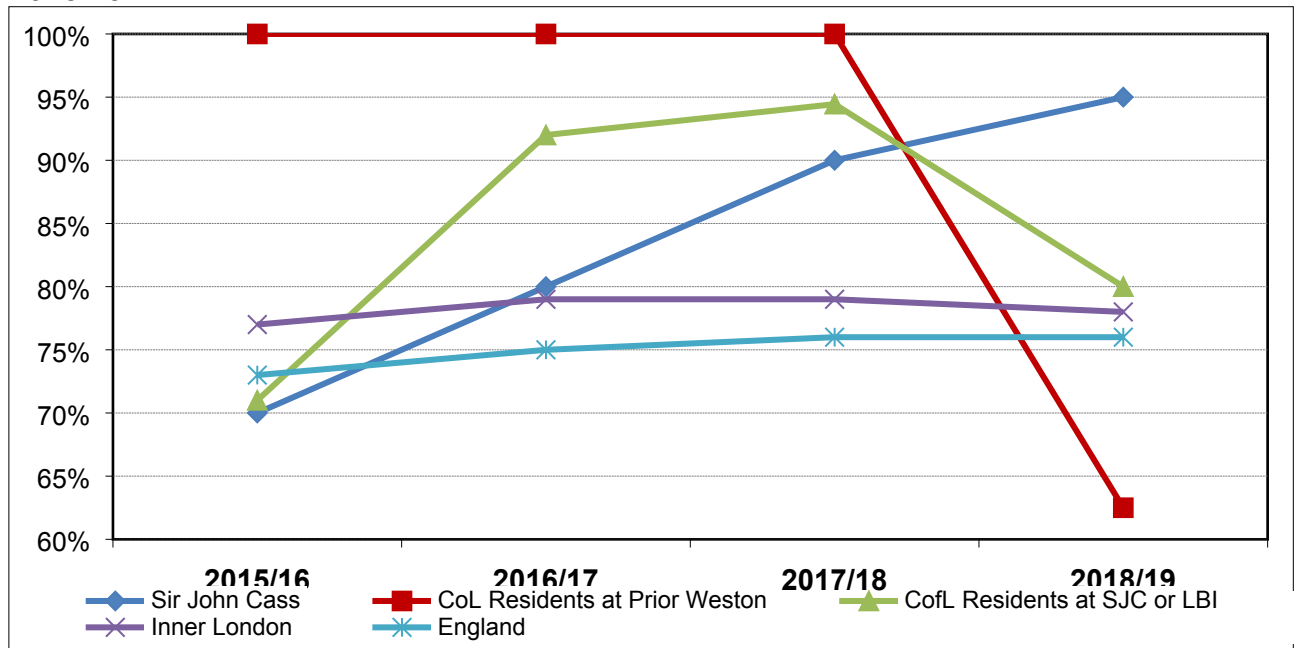


Source: DfE Statistical First Releases, Islington and City of London data.

Graph 6 overleaf shows that Sir John Cass’s Foundation Primary School maths results have risen for the 3 years after poor results for the first year of the new curriculum. It also shows the proportion of Corporation residents passing this assessment in 2018-19 was higher than the Inner London and England rates and

that those City of London residents attending Prior Weston were below these comparators.

Graph 6: KS1 Maths % of pupils at the expected standard or above 2015/16 - 2018/19



Source: DfE Statistical First Releases, LB Islington & the City of London.

Key Stage 2

All Year 6 pupils (rising 11 year olds) are assessed at the end of Key Stage 2 (KS2). In 2016, the new more challenging national curriculum was assessed by new tests and interim frameworks for teacher assessment. Reading and writing results are no longer reported as levels: each pupil receives their test results as a scaled score or teacher assessments based on the interim framework.

Table 8 below shows the number of children in each group for at the end of KS2 from 2015/16 to 2018/19. The largest group is the roll at the Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School.

Table 8: Numbers of pupils per group in the Year 6 cohort 2015/16 to 2018/19

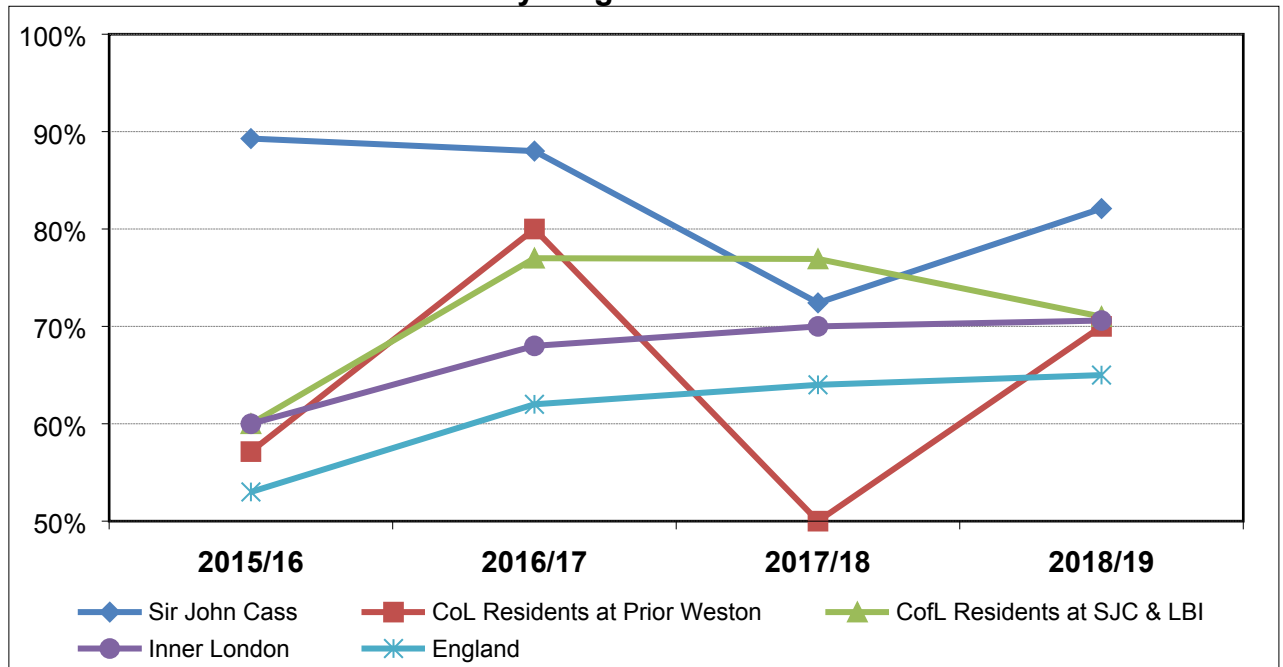
KS2	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School	28	26	29	28
CofL Residents at Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School	5	2	8	7
CofL Residents at Prior Weston	9	10	4	10
CofL Residents at another Islington school	1	1	1	2
CofL Residents Total	15	13	13	19

Source: Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School and Islington's People's Services
 Note: The categories are not mutually exclusive and some pupils will appear in more than one group.

Graph 7 below shows 82% of pupils at Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School were at the expected standard or above in reading, writing and mathematics combined in 2018-19, compared to 72% the previous year. The City of London's results (Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School) were the highest for any L.A. in England for 2015/16 to 2018/19 apart from 2017/18 when it was in the top decile.

The figures for City of London Residents at Prior Weston and those attending Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School or an Islington school were at the Inner London average and above the rate for England in 2018/19.

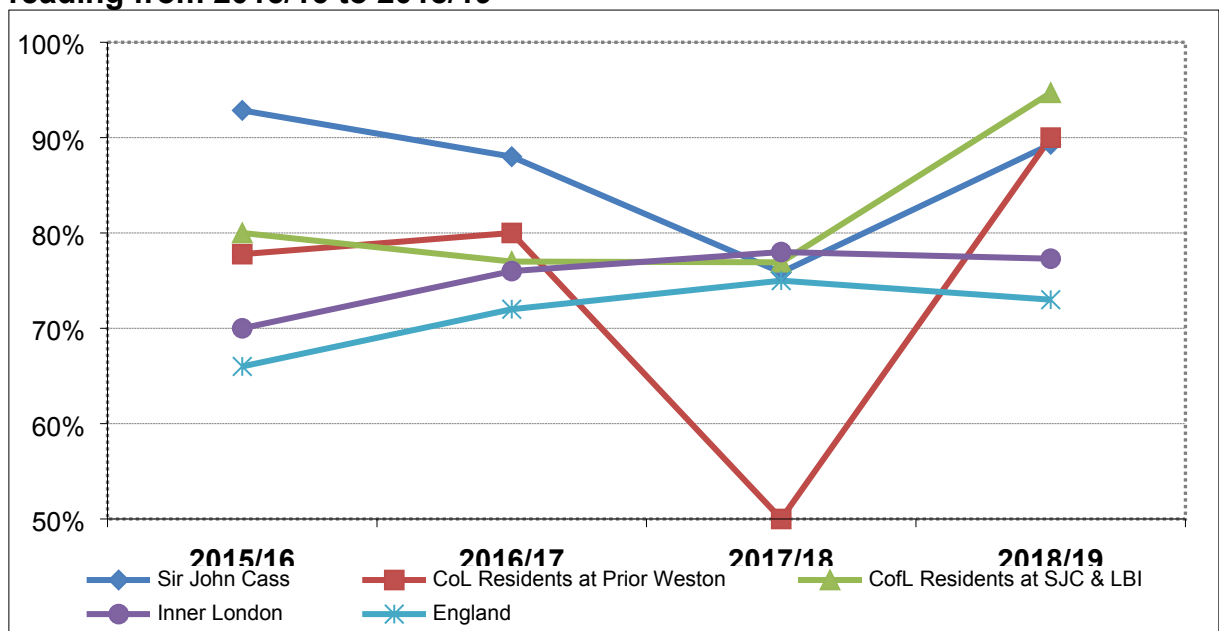
Graph 7: Percentage of pupils expected standard and above in reading, writing and mathematics combined at Key Stage 2 from 2015/16 to 2018/19



Source: DfE Statistical First Releases, LB Islington and City of London.

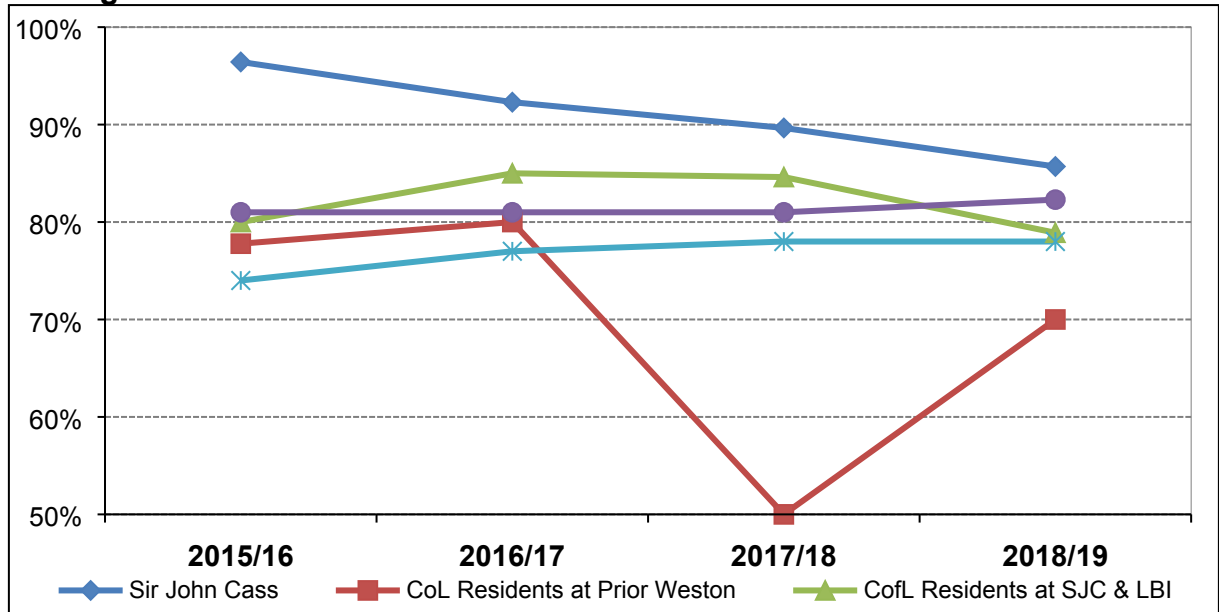
Graph 8 below shows that in 2018/19 89% of pupils at Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School, 95% of the authority's residents attending school in the City or Islington and 90% of the corporation's residents attending Prior Weston school were at the expected standard or above in reading. All groups were above the average for both Inner London and England.

Graph 8: Percentage of pupils at or above the expected standard in KS2 reading from 2015/16 to 2018/19



Source: DfE Statistical First Releases, LB Islington and City of London.

Graph 9: Percentage of pupils at or above the expected standard in KS2 Writing from 2015/16 to 2018/19

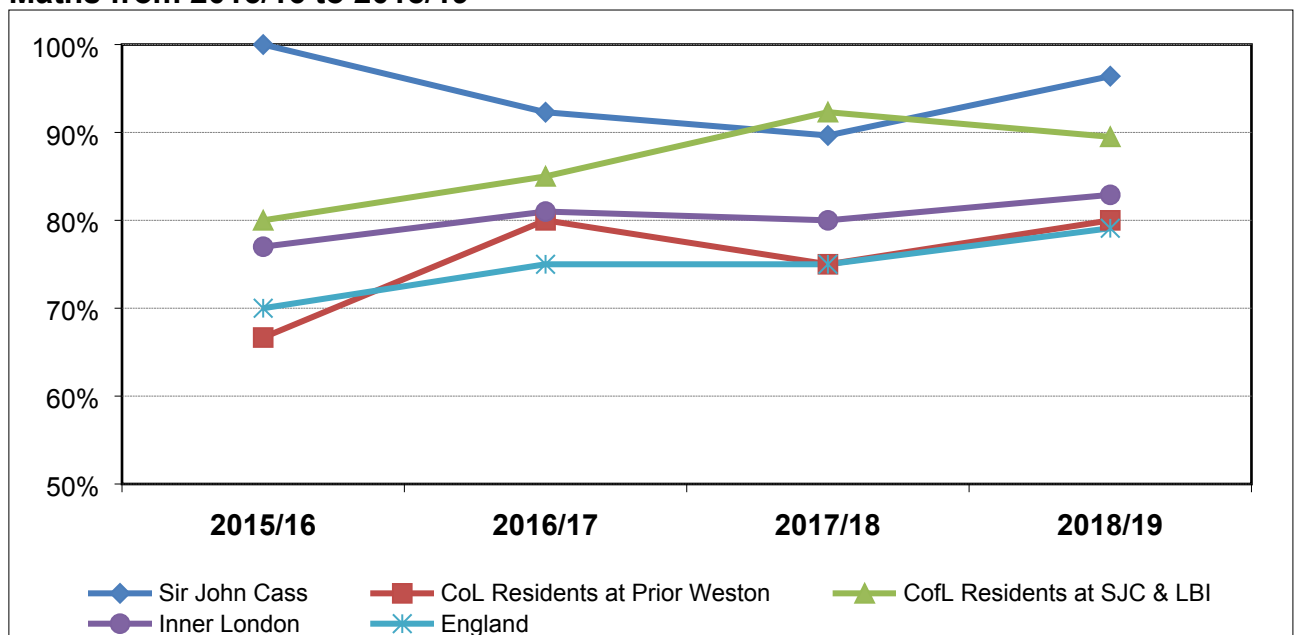


Source: DfE Statistical First Releases LB Islington and City of London.

Graph 9 above shows that in 2018/19 86% of pupils at Sir John Cass’s Foundation Primary School reached the expected level or above at Key Stage 2 in writing. This figure is lower than the previous year but is still above the results for Inner London and England.

Graph 10 below shows that 96% of pupils at Sir John Cass’s Foundation Primary School reached the expected level or above at Key Stage 2 in mathematics in 2018/19. The performance of City of London residents attending Sir John Cass’s Foundation Primary School or an Islington school was 90% for 2018/19, putting both these groups above the rate for Inner London.

Graph 10: Percentage of pupils at or above the expected standard in KS2 Maths from 2015/16 to 2018/19

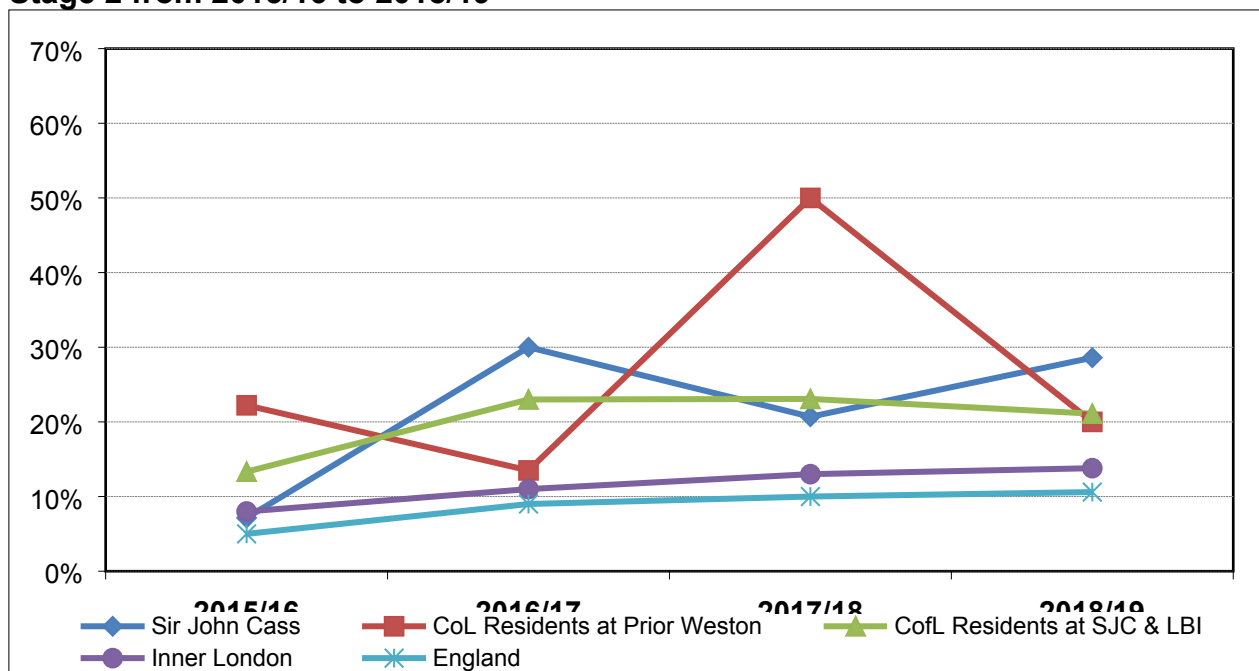


Source: DfE Statistical First Releases, LB Islington and City of London.

5.5.1 Pupils working at greater depth at Key Stage 2

The new curriculum threshold for ‘working at greater depth’ (GDS) for subjects that are tested (reading, maths and GPS) is 110 standardised points.

Graph 11: % of pupils at GDS for Reading, Writing & Maths combined at Key Stage 2 from 2015/16 to 2018/19



Source: DfE Statistical First Releases, LB Islington and City of London.

Graph 11 shows that 21% of pupils at Sir John Cass’s Foundation Primary School in 2018 were at greater depth compared to Inner London (14%) and England (11%).

Table 9 below shows the three year averages for the percentage of pupil premium pupils and non-disadvantaged pupils from 2016 - 2018 to 2017 - 2019 reaching the expected standard for all three core subjects. The results of the corporation’s disadvantaged pupils are not only above the equivalent figures for pupil premium pupils nationally and in Inner London but also above those for non-disadvantaged pupils both in England and Inner London.

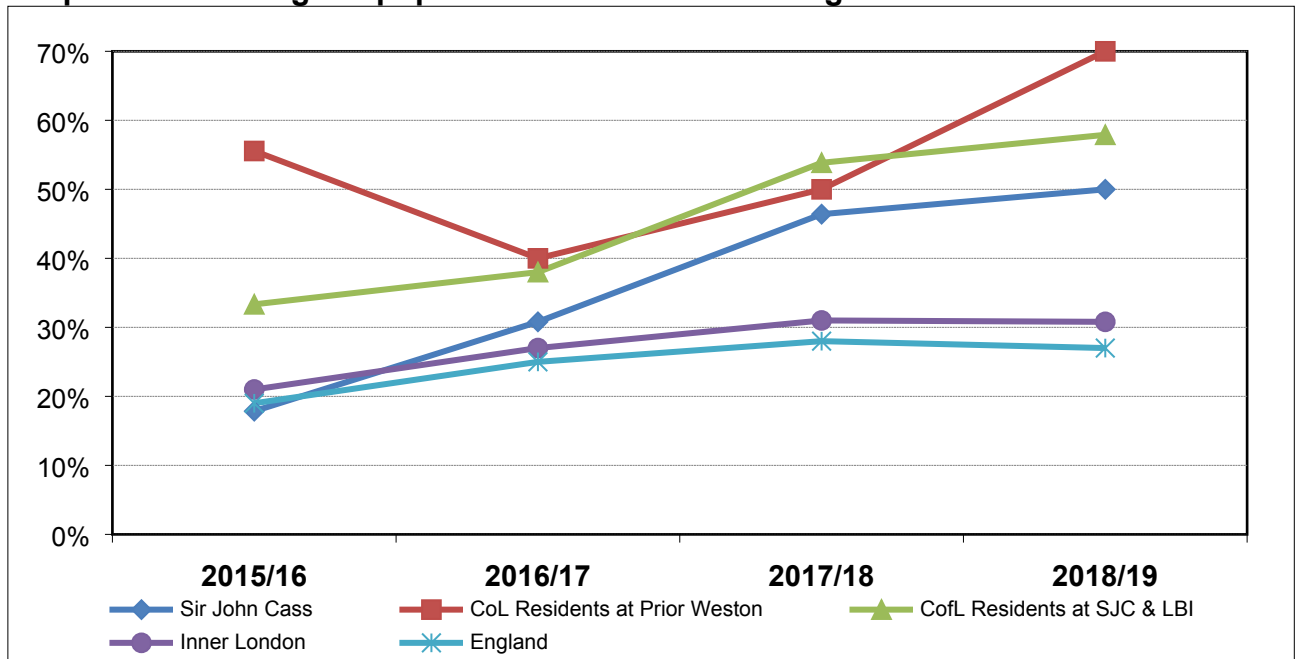
Table 9: % At or above the expected for reading, writing & mathematics combined, rolling 3 year averages broken by Pupil Premium status

3 Year Averages: % at Expected for Reading, Writing & Maths	All Pupils		Pupil Premium		Non-Pupil Prem.	
	2016-18	2017-19	2016-18	2017-19	2016-18	2017-19
Sir John Cass	91.2%	80.7%	89.5%	77.8%	93.3%	82.1%
Inner London	66.0%	69.7%	57.7%	62.7%	73.0%	76.7%
England	60.3%	63.7%	43.3%	50.0%	66.7%	70.3%

Source: City of London

Graph 12 overleaf shows that in 2018/19 50% of pupils at Sir John Cass’s Foundation Primary School were at the higher grade of ‘greater depth’ for KS2 reading in 2019. Some 70% of those City of London residents attending Prior Weston and 58% of City residents attending Sir John Cass’s Foundation Primary School or an Islington school reached this benchmark. The rates for Inner London and England were 31% and 27% respectively.

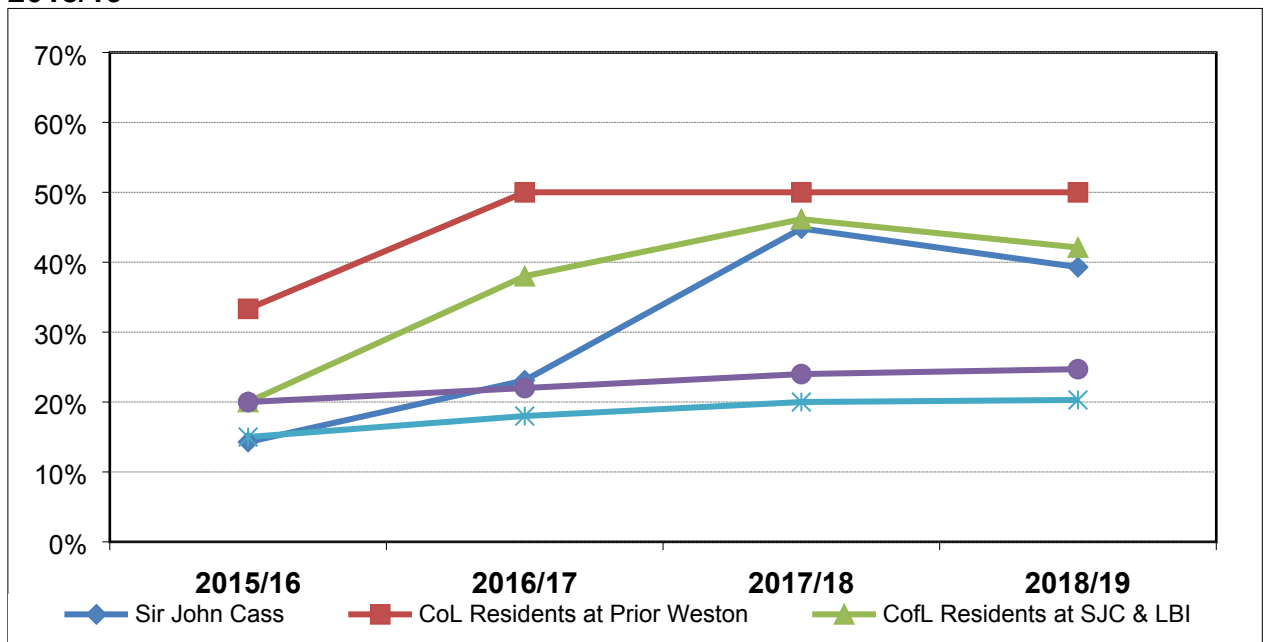
Graph 12 Percentage of pupils at GDS for KS2 Reading 2015/16 to 2018/19



Source: DfE Statistical First Releases, LB Islington and City of London.

Graph 13 below shows that the proportion of pupils at Sir John Cass’s Foundation Primary School working at greater depth in writing in 2018-19 was 39%, 14 percentage points above the rate for Inner London (24%). City of London residents attending Prior Weston and those attending schools in the City or Islington performed even higher, 50% and 42% respectively.

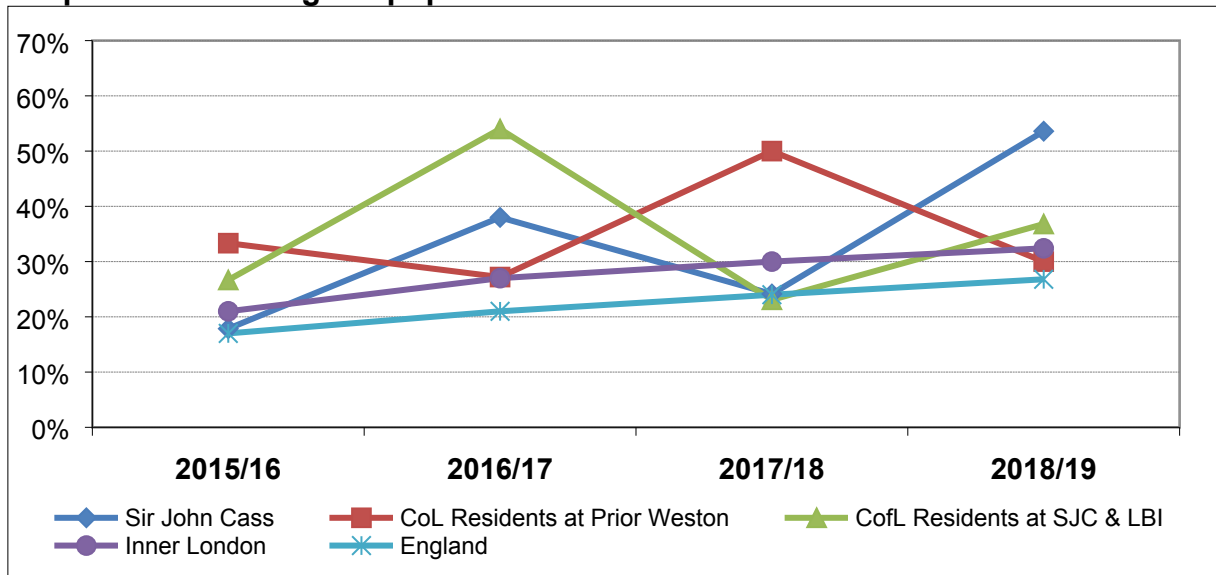
Graph 13: Percentage of of pupils at GDS in KS2 Writing from 2015/16 to 2018/19



Source: DfE Statistical First Releases, LB Islington and City of London.

Graph 14 overleaf shows that the proportion of pupils at Sir John Cass’s Foundation Primary School working at greater depth in mathematics, at 54%, was substantially higher than the rates for Inner London and England. City residents at Prior Weston and Corporation residents attending a school in the City or in Islington were above the national and close to the Inner London average for this measure.

Graph 14: Percentage of pupils at GDS in KS2 Maths from 2015/16 to 2018/19

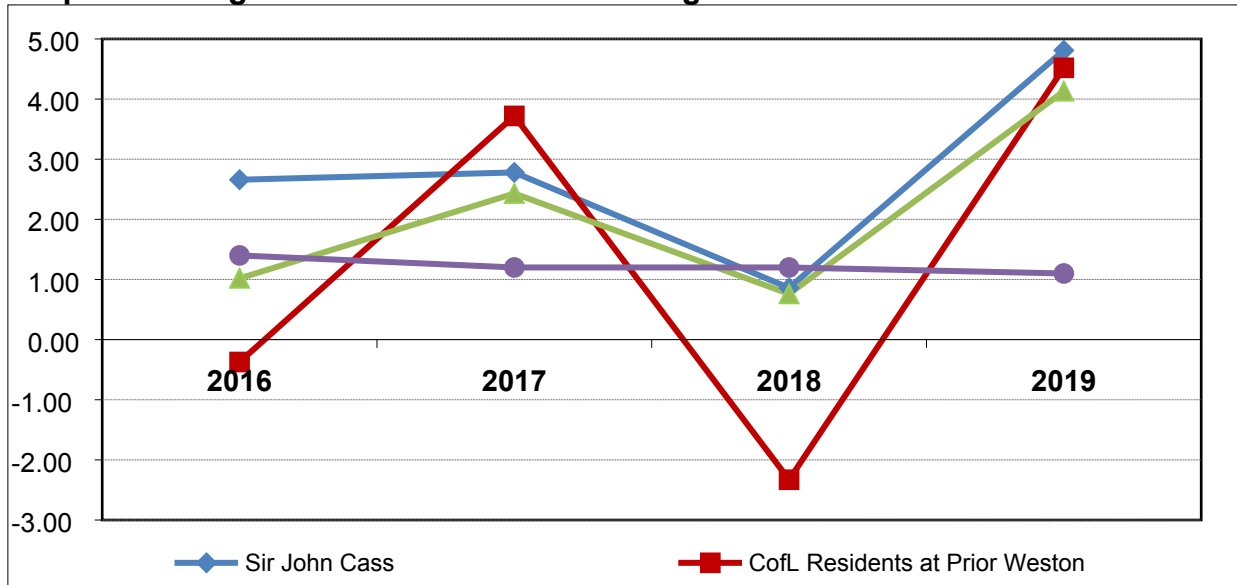


Source: DfE Statistical First Releases, LB Islington and City of London.

5.5.2 Progress from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2

The DfE measure for progress is a 'relative attainment' model that compares the standardised score (or the numeric value linked to a grade in the case of writing) for each pupil against the average performance of pupils with very similar end of KS1 results nationally. A score below zero means below average progress rather than negative progress. The figures for England are not shown as they are always zero.

Graph 15: Progress made in KS2 for Reading 2015/16 to 2018/19

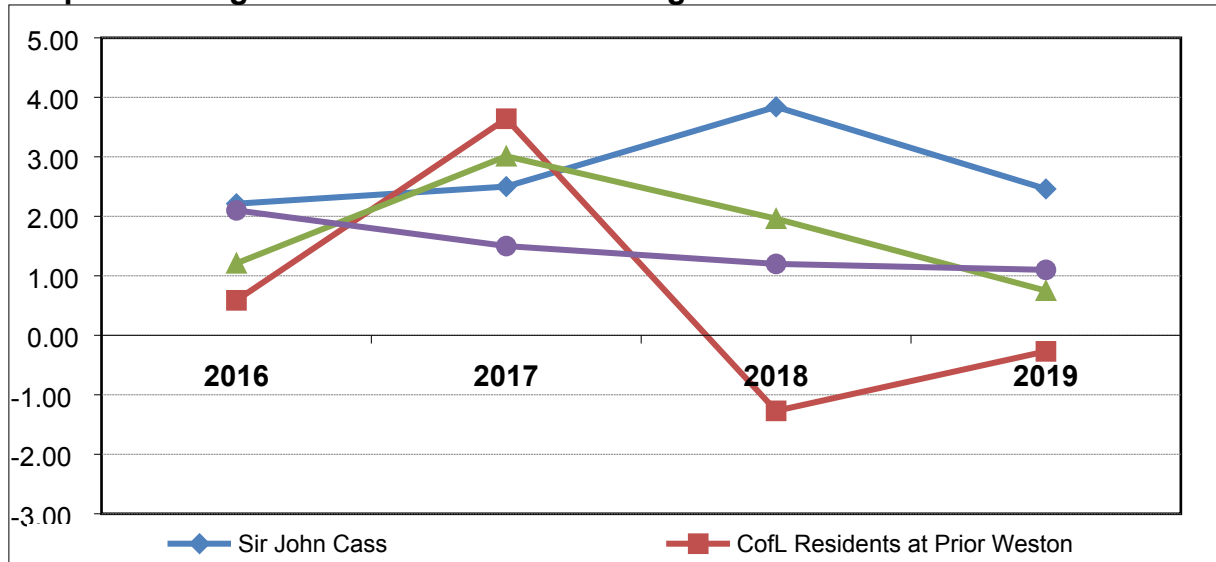


Source: DfE Statistical First Releases, LB Islington and City of London.

Graph 15 above shows the DfE progress measure for reading. The figures for Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School and City of London residents attending school in the City or in Islington were positive for all four years. Those residents on roll at Prior Weston school have sometimes had below average progress though this group is very small and so the results are likely to vary from year to year. The 2019 reading progress scores for all 3 groups were in the top 5% for all schools in England.

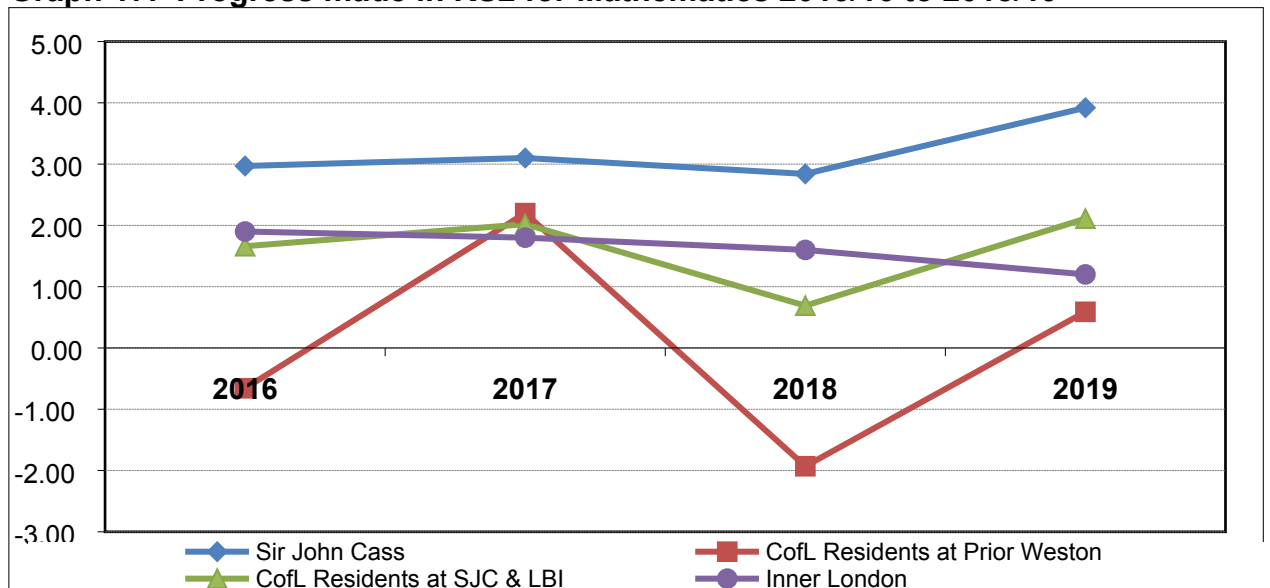
Graph 16 below shows progress in writing. Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School and residents of the corporation attending Islington schools above the national average for all four years and Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School's progress is in the top quintile for writing progress in England in 2019. The progress made in writing by Corporation residents attending Prior Weston has been below the national average for the last two years.

Graph 16: Progress made in KS2 for Writing 2015/16 to 2018/19



Source: DfE Statistical First Releases, LB Islington and City of London.

Graph 17: Progress made in KS2 for Mathematics 2015/16 to 2018/19



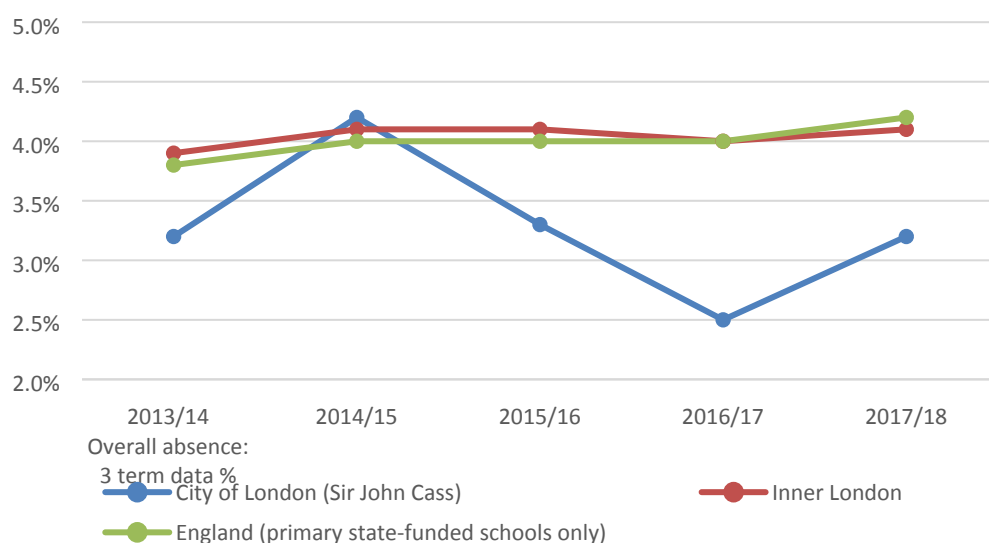
Source: DfE Statistical First Releases, LB Islington and City of London

Graph 17 above shows the progress made in maths by pupils at Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School means that, on average, pupils at this school scored about 4 standardised scale points more than pupils with similar Key Stage 1 results nationally in 2019 putting it in the top 5% of schools in England. The progress of City of London residents attending Islington schools were above the national average for all four years and in 2019 was in the top quintile nationally. The results of the small number of residents attending Prior Weston show a similar pattern to the progress made in reading and also writing.

5. Attendance

Graph 18 below compares the City of London's (e.g. Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School's) rates of absence against the rates for primary schools in Inner London and England. The City of London's rate increased in 2014/15 to a level that was higher than both Inner London and England before falling in 2015/16 and 2016/17. Overall absence for 2017/18 was 3.2% which is the second lowest rate of absence out of all 152 English local authorities. Please note that the figures for small groups will show more variance from one year to the next which is why Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School data fluctuates more than the comparators over time. The rate of absence for Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School in 2018/19 was 2.8%, lower than the 2017/18 figure shown on the graph.

Graph 18: Overall three term absence rates 2013/14 to 2017/18



Source: DfE Performance Tables and Statistical First Releases. Note: The DfE three term absence data for 2018/19 is not yet published.

Table 10 below shows the rates of persistent absenteeism from 2015/16 to 2017/18 figures prior to this time are not comparable⁶. The rate of persistent absence in Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School are less than half the rates for both Inner London and England. The 2017/18 rate of persistent absence for the City of London was the lowest recorded by any of the 152 local authorities in England.

Table 10: Persistent absence rates 2015/16 and 2017/18

% Persistent Absenteeism	10%+ Abs.		
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
City of London (Sir John Cass)	3.9%	2.8%	3.3%
Inner London	8.9%	8.6%	8.9%
England (primary state-funded schools only)	8.2%	8.3%	8.7%

Source: DfE Performance Tables and SFRs 2016 to 2018

⁶ In the past persistent absence was defined as a rate of absence greater than 15% of the whole year (as defined by the DfE). From 2015-16 it was redefined as any rate of absence greater than 10%.

6. Admissions

Islington Council processes school admission applications on behalf of the City of London. The tables below relate to offers to City of London residents.

1.7 Primary school admissions

Table 11 below shows the number and percentage of resident children who were offered a school place in The City of London, Islington or another borough. In 2016 over half of the corporation's residents were offered a place at Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School when the school opened a bulge class at Reception for that year. The average proportion of city residents in reception for 2017 to 2019 was about a quarter. With the exception of 2016, roughly 55% of Corporation residents were offered an Islington school from 2015 to 2019. The proportion of reception aged children in the City offered a place in another borough rose from about 12% for 2015 & 2016 to about 17.0% for 2018 & 2019. The four pupils offered places in schools in boroughs other than Islington in 2019 were all offered places in Tower Hamlets schools.

Table 11: Offers of reception school places to City of London resident children in 2015 to 2019

Reception Place Offers	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School	10	31.3	19	54.3	6	21.4	10	29.4	6	25.0
Islington Schools	18	56.3	12	34.3	16	57.1	18	52.9	14	58.3
Schools in other Boroughs	4	12.5	4	11.4	6	21.4	6	17.6	4	16.7
Total	32	100.0	35	100.0	28	100.0	34	100.0	24	100.0

Source: Islington Admissions Section, based on the position on offer day.

Note: These are offers to City of London residents only. Only offered pupils are included.

1.8 Secondary school admissions

Table 12 overleaf shows the breakdown of offers to City children by the schools' maintaining local authority from 2015 to 2019. From 2015 to 2017 between 43% and 65% of 11 year olds living in the corporation were offered places in Islington schools. Although this figure fell to about a quarter in 2018, in 2019 it rose to 48%. On average, over the five years, about 1 in 6 were offered places in a Tower Hamlets secondary school although the proportion does seem to be falling (29% in 2015, 9% in 2019), almost 1 in 7 were offered a place in a Hackney school and slightly more than 1 in 14 offered places in secondary schools in Southwark. Offers in 2019 included places in Essex local authority schools and, for the first time over the last 5 years, a Camden school.

Table 12: Offers of secondary school places to City of London resident children 2015 to 2019

Secondary Transfer Offers	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Islington Schools	9	42.9	13	59.1	11	64.7	5	26.3	11	47.8
Greenwich	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	10.5	0	0.0
Hackney	3	14.3	3	13.6	1	5.9	3	15.8	4	17.4
Hammersmith	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	5.3	0	0.0
Kensington & Chelsea	1	4.8	1	4.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Lewisham	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Southwark	1	4.8	0	0.0	3	17.6	3	15.8	0	0.0
Tower Hamlets	6	28.6	4	18.2	2	11.8	2	10.5	2	8.7
Westminster	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	5.3	3	13.0
Essex	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	10.5	2	8.7
Lambeth	1	4.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Barnet	0	0.0	1	4.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Camden	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	4.3
Total	21	100.0	22	100.0	17	100.0	19	100.0	23	100.0

Source: Islington Admissions Section, based on the position on offer day.

Note: These are offers to City residents only. Only pupils offered a place are included.

6.1.1 Suggested Questions for Governors

How well are children in our school doing compared to City of London children in other schools and in relation to Inner London and nationally?

What steps has the school taken to improve outcomes and what has the impact been?

How might the school raise performance in Key Stage 1 reading and mathematics? Are any particular groups of pupils underperforming in these subjects?

Are pupils making expected progress between Year 2 and Year 6 (during KS2)?

How do we know if every child is reaching their full potential? How can we ensure higher ability pupils are supported to work at greater depth?

Which pupil groups are performing less well? What action has been taken to address their underperformance?

How is the Pupil Premium being used to 'close the gap' between different groups (gender, ethnicity, SEN, FSM)?

What progress is being made on the key areas for development identified at the last inspection and what has the impact been?

How well has the school prepared for the changes to the Ofsted Inspection Framework that took place in September 2019?

What action is being taken to sustain our school's judgement of outstanding?

How does the absence data and persistent absence data compare with the national equivalents? How does the equivalent data for just pupil premium pupils compare against the national data for pupil premium and non-pupil premium data?