

Local Context

Portsmouth is a densely populated city with a growing economy and high aspirations. The city has a proud history of industrial and technological innovation, linked particularly to its docks and its deep continuing ties to the Royal Navy. Regeneration over the last 10 years has brought significant physical development, enhanced tourism and a raft of new enterprises. Over the next ten years thousands of new jobs are expected to be created in the city, concentrated in a number of key sectors including advanced manufacturing and engineering, marine technology and tourism. The challenges for education in the city are clear. Nearly a quarter of the city's children live in poverty, with the figure even higher in some areas. There is long standing under-achievement, particularly by White British boys. One fifth of students are from black or minority ethnic groups with most of these speaking English as an additional language; over 100 languages are spoken by students attending Portsmouth's schools. Expectations of what many young people can achieve - their own, their parents' and those of their community - are often too low. More on education in Portsmouth and details of the Portsmouth Education Partnership plans and strategic objectives can be found at: <http://www.portsmoutheducationpartnership.co.uk/>

Over the last five years there has been a significant improvement in the Ofsted inspection grades for schools and academies in Portsmouth, improving at a faster rate than nationally. At the same time while school leaders, teachers and practitioners in the city work hard and many go the extra mile for children, as Ofsted inspections testify, the city has seen its position in rankings for local authority areas decline across a number of key indicators, to the point where many are significantly out of line with those of comparable areas. This undoubtedly affects the life chances of children in the city. Previous educational underachievement from a significant number of parents in Portsmouth often devalues the benefits of a good education but again this is improving over time and we work proactively with our parents to help them support their children at school.

Curriculum Success

At Admiral Lord Nelson School, we follow the National Curriculum and despite the lack of historical educational success of Portsmouth local authority compared to the national picture we follow a predominantly EBacc curriculum for most students. All students follow English, Mathematics, Science and a Humanities subject to GCSE and an increasing number will also be taking the languages element of this. In 2023 79% of students will be taking the full EBacc.

We believe that following the full EBacc curriculum keeps the curriculum broad and prepares students to be both successful and flexible in respect to the choices they make with future careers when they leave school. This belief is reflected in the fact that 95% of students sustain their place in Education of employment after leaving school. This is the best in Portsmouth and higher than the National Average.