



## EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 8TH APRIL 2014

**SUBJECT: KEY STAGE 4 PUPIL PERFORMANCE 2013**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To inform members of Caerphilly schools' 2013 key stage 4 performance.

### **2. SUMMARY**

2.1 This report presents Members with the final published 2013 end of key stage 4 performance.

### **3. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

3.1 These plans link to the local authority's duty to monitor and improve standards of education. The strategies for achieving this are described in the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-14, the Education, Lifelong Learning and Leisure Directorate Plan 2013-14 and also the Learning, Education and Inclusion Service Improvement Plan.

### **4. THE REPORT**

4.1 All schools are subject to rigorous reporting and monitoring of standards each year. At Key Stage 4, the following key performance measures are used to evaluate and compare the full range of achievement within and across local authorities:

- Level 2 threshold including English or Welsh first language and mathematics
- Level 2 threshold
- Level 1 threshold
- CSI (Core Subject Indicator)
- Capped points score (replacing the previous Average Wider Point Score measure)
- Level 2 qualification (equivalent to GCSE A\*-C) in English or Welsh first language
- Level 2 qualification (equivalent to GCSE A\*-C) in mathematics
- Level 2 qualification (equivalent to GCSE A\*-C) in science
- Leavers without qualifications.

4.2 Of these, the Level 2 threshold including English/Welsh first language and mathematics and the capped point score are particularly important and WG publishes local authority benchmarks based on these each year.

4.3 Both national and global research shows that there is a significant link between socio-economic background and educational performance. The Welsh Government's statistical bulletin, "Achievement and Entitlement to Free School Meals in Wales", published every March, shows that the performance of pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM), which is a

measure of socio economic deprivation, is lower than for their non-eligible counterparts at all key stages. The Welsh Government therefore uses the percentage of pupils eligible for free schools meals as a proxy indicator of deprivation for both individual schools and local authorities.

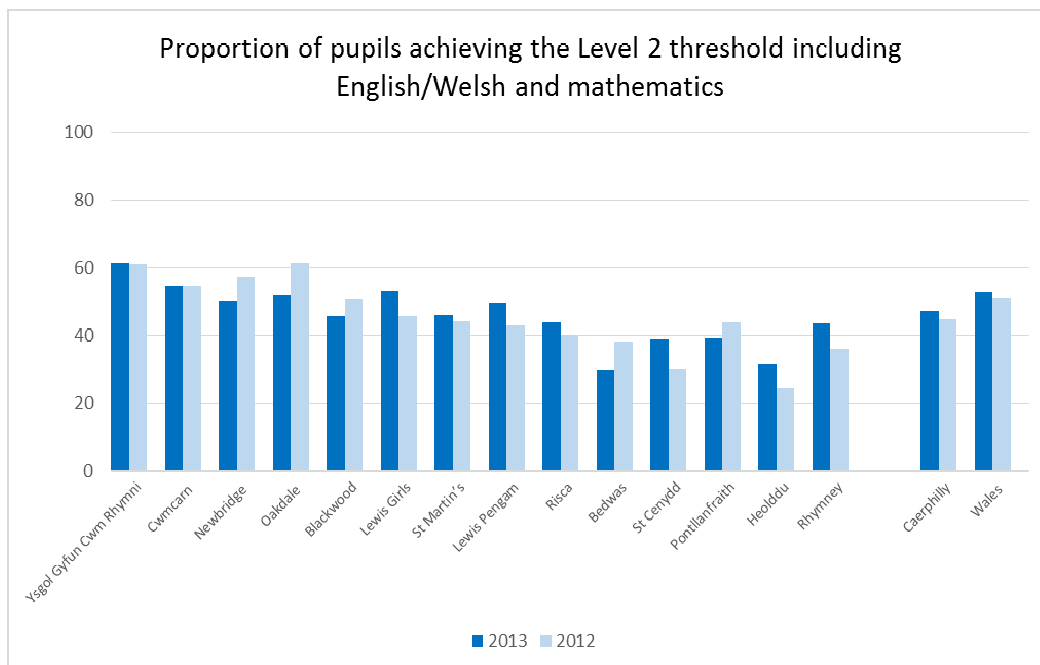
- 4.4 According to the latest available figures for the percentage of pupils eligible for FSM, Caerphilly is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most socioeconomically disadvantaged LA in Wales. This contextualisation is not used to reduce ambition, nor to set limiting targets, but to show that if Caerphilly performance is higher than 21<sup>st</sup>, then performance is better than expected. Our aspiration is still to overcome the link between deprivation and poor attainment.
- 4.5 Key stage 4 results indicate continued progress in 2013 with increases in all indicators with the exception of English and Welsh first language. The proportion of pupils achieving the Level 2 threshold inclusive of English/Welsh first language and mathematics has improved across Caerphilly from 45.1% in 2012 to 46.3% in 2013. This places Caerphilly 20<sup>th</sup> in Wales for this indicator.
- 4.6 This increase is supported by increases in the Level 1 and 2 thresholds overall, the Capped Points Score, mathematics and science. However, CSI performance declined from 43.9 to 42.6, English performance at Level 2 declined from 56.0% to 55.7% and Welsh first language declined from 80.3% to 66.8%.



4.7 When compared with other LAs in Wales, Caerphilly's highest ranking is for the Level 1 threshold at 17<sup>th</sup> and lowest is the Level 2 threshold and Capped Wider Points Score at 21<sup>st</sup>. Rankings for the Level 2 inclusive, Level 1 and the CSI are above the LA's FSM ranking.

Level 2 inclusive	Level 2	Level 1	CSI	Capped Wider Points Score
Flintshire	Neath Port Talbot	Isle of Anglesey	Ceredigion	Isle of Anglesey
Ceredigion	Denbighshire	Gwynedd	Flintshire	Gwynedd
Powys	Conwy	Neath Port Talbot	Gwynedd	Ceredigion
Gwynedd	Ceredigion	Ceredigion	Monmouthshire	Neath Port Talbot
Monmouthshire	Isle of Anglesey	Conwy	Powys	Vale of Glamorgan
Conwy	Powys	Powys	Swansea	Powys
Neath Port Talbot	Vale of Glamorgan	Carmarthenshire	Neath Port Talbot	Denbighshire
Vale of Glamorgan	Gwynedd	Vale of Glamorgan	Conwy	Carmarthenshire
Swansea	Newport	Flintshire	Isle of Anglesey	Conwy
Isle of Anglesey	Flintshire	Swansea	Carmarthenshire	Swansea
Carmarthenshire	Swansea	Denbighshire	Bridgend	Flintshire
Denbighshire	Pembrokeshire	Pembrokeshire	Vale of Glamorgan	Pembrokeshire
Wales	Carmarthenshire	Torfaen	Pembrokeshire	Wales
Bridgend	Rhondda Cynon Taff	Bridgend	Wales	Newport
Pembrokeshire	Wales	Wales	Denbighshire	Monmouthshire
Newport	Torfaen	Rhondda Cynon Taff	Newport	Torfaen
Torfaen	Monmouthshire	Merthyr Tydfil	Torfaen	Rhondda Cynon Taff
Cardiff	Wrexham	Caerphilly (17)	Cardiff	Wrexham
Wrexham	Cardiff	Monmouthshire	Rhondda Cynon Taff	Cardiff
Rhondda Cynon Taff	Merthyr Tydfil	Newport	Wrexham	Merthyr Tydfil
Caerphilly (20)	Bridgend	Cardiff	Caerphilly (20)	Bridgend
Merthyr Tydfil	Caerphilly (21)	Wrexham	Merthyr Tydfil	Caerphilly (21)
Blaenau Gwent	Blaenau Gwent	Blaenau Gwent	Blaenau Gwent	Blaenau Gwent

4.8 Improvement across Caerphilly masks variation between schools. 9 secondary schools improved performance in the Level 2 threshold inclusive of English/Welsh first language and mathematics and performance declined in 5 schools. The chart and table below present the individual schools' data in order of Free School Meal eligibility (lowest to highest).



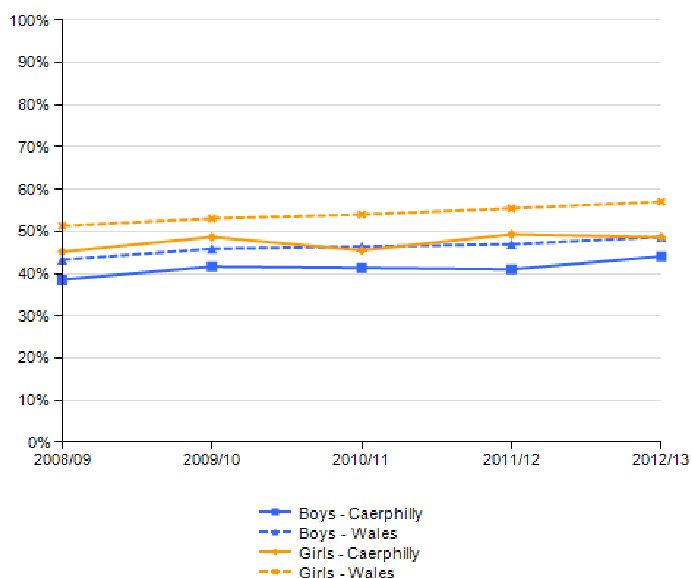
	Level 2 Threshold inc E.W & Maths (%)		CSI (%)		Level 2 (%)		Level 1 (%)		Capped Points Score	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni	61.3	61.5	61.3	61.0	89.4	93.0	96.3	98.1	369.0	374.8
Cwmcarn	54.6	54.6	52.3	47.2	61.4	72.4	97.0	95.7	320.7	324.1
Newbridge	57.1	50.3	57.9	50.3	68.6	78.4	87.9	95.3	330.0	337.7
Oakdale	61.5	51.9	59.6	51.9	79.8	86.8	89.9	93.8	331.3	338.2
Blackwood	50.8	45.7	50.3	45.2	67.8	57.9	96.0	91.9	330.6	310.2
Lewis Girls	45.7	53.2	44.4	51.5	64.8	71.7	92.0	93.1	317.4	340.4
St Martin's	44.2	46.1	42.5	41.7	58.6	58.9	89.0	93.3	296.5	309.8
Lewis Pengam	42.9	49.5	37.4	48.4	70.6	81.9	87.1	90.7	292.1	329.2
Risca	40.0	43.9	41.1	42.1	53.7	72.8	91.6	97.4	288.6	329.9
Bedwas	38.2	29.9	38.8	27.9	54.0	52.4	86.2	85.7	287.6	279.0
St Cenydd	30.2	39.0	29.7	33.9	58.8	60.5	92.0	91.8	302.8	309.1
Pontllanfraith	44.0	39.2	41.4	26.4	50.9	50.4	92.2	85.6	288.3	272.5
Heolddu	24.2	31.5	24.2	31.5	60.5	60.5	95.2	90.3	311.1	297.4
Rhymney	36.1	43.7	33.5	27.9	50.0	66.5	91.1	93.7	281.1	295.2
<b>Caerphilly</b>	45.1	47.2	43.9	42.6	64.1	69.1	91.5	92.4	311	319
<b>Wales</b>	51.1	52.7	48.9	49.2	72.6	77.8	91.8	93.2	324	333

	English (A*-C %)		Cymraeg (A*-C %)		Maths (A*-C %)		Science Level 2 (%)	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni	62.2	72.8	80.3	67.5	65.0	68.1	92.6	92.5
Cwmcarn	73.5	72.4			59.1	58.3	62.1	82.8
Newbridge	63.6	63.2			75.0	60.2	87.1	87.1
Oakdale	64.2	58.9			73.4	62.8	69.7	86.8
Blackwood	57.3	56.4			62.8	52.8	66.8	55.3
Lewis Girls	65.4	63.6			47.5	57.2	58.0	71.1
St Martin's	54.1	51.1			50.3	62.8	59.7	50.0
Lewis Pengam	49.7	55.0			53.4	54.4	77.3	86.3
Risca	60.0	59.7			45.3	48.3	63.2	86.8
Bedwas	48.7	37.4			46.7	41.5	53.3	53.1
St Cenydd	52.8	43.6			34.7	53.9	62.3	51.3
Pontllanfraith	50.0	46.4			57.8	54.4	46.6	27.2
Heolddu	42.7	36.3			29.8	45.2	91.9	91.9
Rhymney	43.7	56.3			47.5	54.4	72.2	62.0
<b>Caerphilly</b>	56.0	55.7	80.3	66.8	53.2	55.7	69.1	70.0
<b>Wales</b>	62.2	62.9	73.8	73.6	58.4	60.3	70.6	74.9

*Note: The overall Caerphilly figure for Welsh first language is different to Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni's performance for 2013 as one other school entered pupils for Welsh first language examination. This school's results are not reported as the number of pupils is fewer than 5 and therefore publication of the results could lead to the identification of individual pupils' results.*

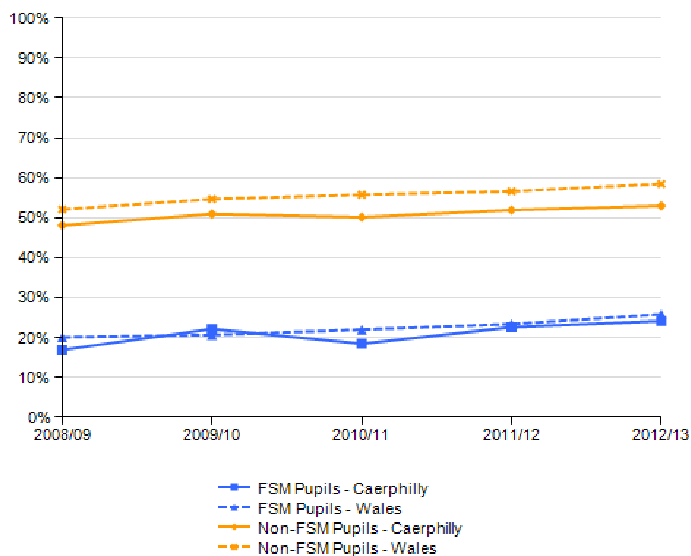
- 4.9 The gender gap reduced in 2013 for the Level 2 threshold inclusive of English/Welsh first language and mathematics from an 8.3 points gap in 2012 to a 4.6 points gap in 2013, below the Wales average of 8.3 points. This gap has decreased due to an improvement in boys' performance and a decrease in girls' performance. The gender gap also decreased for the Level 2 threshold, Level 1 threshold, capped points score, CSI, English and mathematics. Gender differences remain below the Wales average for the majority of indicators.

KS4 L2 inc E/W & M - % boys & girls achieving

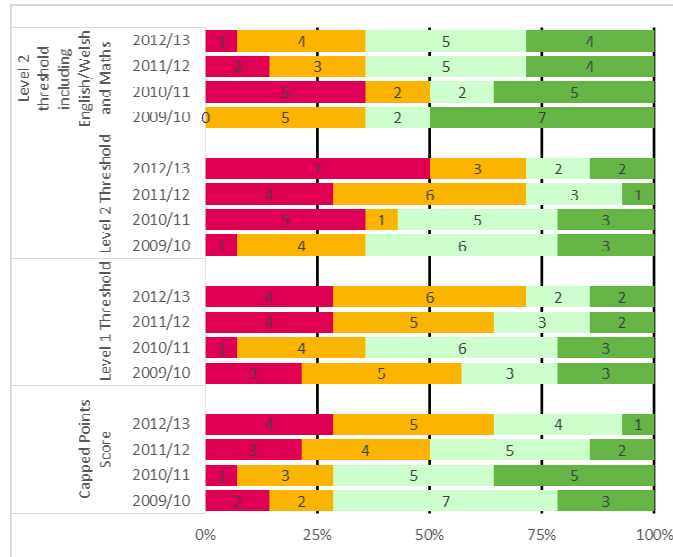


4.10 The performance gap between pupils entitled to free school meals and those not entitled to free school meals decreased from 29.3% in 2012 to 28.9% in 2013, remaining smaller than the national gap of 32.7%. This reduction was due to a greater rate of improvement by pupils entitled to FSM. The FSM gap also decreased for the Level 2 threshold, Level 1 threshold, English, and science but increased for the Level 2 threshold, capped points score, CSI, English, Welsh and science. Differences were also smaller than across Wales for the CSI, English, Welsh, and mathematics.

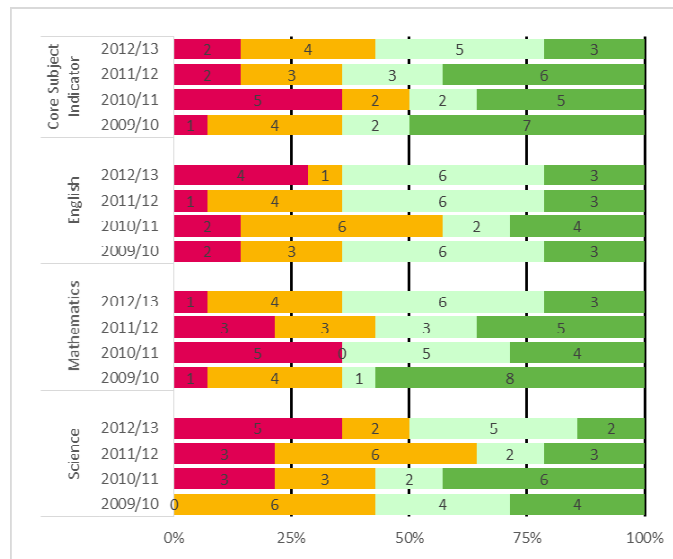
KS4 L2 inc E/W & M - % 15 year olds achieving  
FSM/non FSM trend



4.11 When FSM benchmark data is used to compare the performance of similar schools, the proportion of schools above the median remained above average for the Level 2 threshold including English/Welsh and mathematics and the number of schools in the bottom quarter reduced. However, the proportion of schools above the median for the Capped Points Score and Level 1 threshold reduced, whilst the proportion above the median for the Level 2 threshold remained below average with an increase in the number of schools in the bottom quarter.



4.12 The proportion of schools with core subject performance above the median is above average for mathematics, English and the core subject indicator. Whilst the number of schools in the bottom quarter reduced for Mathematics, there was an increase in the number in the bottom quarter for English and science.



- 4.13 The LA benchmarks for performance modelled on FSM entitlement has been met or exceeded for the Level 2 threshold including English/Welsh and mathematics for the past five years. Performance has been just below the LA benchmark for the Capped Average Wider Point Score for the last two years.

		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Level 2 threshold including English/Welsh and maths	Actual	42	45	44	45	46
	Target	41	43	43	44	46
<b>Average Wider Point Score 2009-10 / Capped Average Wider Point Score 2011-13</b>	Actual	353	383	304	313	320
	Target	364	377	304	316	329

- 4.14 After significant reductions from 2009 to 2011, the proportion of pupils leaving full-time education without a recognised qualification has remained at 0.4% for the last three years (Wales average 0.3%). This is fewer than 10 pupils.

	Number reported as not achieving a recognised qualification	Number leaving full time education without a recognised qualification	Percentage of cohort leaving full time education without a recognised qualification
<b>2013</b>	30	9	0.4%
<b>2012</b>	30	9	0.4%
<b>2011</b>	31	8	0.4%
<b>2010</b>	38	20	0.9%
<b>2009</b>	58	23	1.0%

## 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no specific financial implications.

## 6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no specific personnel implications

## 7. EQUALITIES

- 7.1 There is no specific equalities impact in relation to the content of this report. When performance information is discussed with schools as part of the monitoring, challenge, support and intervention programme, equalities issues, such as gender and ethnicity are taken into account. Similarly the Local Authority self-evaluation considers all equalities issues.

## 8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 All comments have been reflected in the report.

## 9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

## **10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 These plans link to the local authority's duty to monitor and improve standards of education.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) 2013

11.2 Schools Causing Concern Guidance 2013

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