

# English proficiency of pupils with English as an additional language

Ad-hoc notice February 2020

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## 1. Summary

In Spring 2018, 36% of pupils with English as an additional language (EAL) were assessed as being fluent in English and a further 25% as competent. Pupils whose first language was English did not have their English proficiency assessed so there is no benchmark to compare these figures to. 77% of those who were assessed in both Spring 2017 and Spring 2018 were assessed at the same level in both censuses, while 18% were assessed at a higher level in Spring 2018.

There is some variation in English proficiency by characteristics. The largest differences are seen by age and length of time in an English school. Secondary school pupils are more likely to be assessed as competent or fluent in English (77%) than primary school pupils (51%). Similarly, pupils who have been in an English school for 5 or more years are more likely to be assessed as competent or fluent in English (80%) than pupils who have been in an English school for 1 to 4 years (40%).

Pupils with special educational needs (SEN) are more likely to be assessed at a lower English proficiency level. 39% of SEN pupils were assessed as competent or fluent in English compared to 64% of pupils with no SEN.

There is considerable variation in English proficiency by language. However, this can be partly explained by differences in the length of time that speakers of different languages have been in an English school. Differences by other characteristics are smaller.

Pupils living in the least deprived areas more likely to be assessed at a higher English proficiency level. 73% of pupils living in the least deprived decile were assessed as competent or fluent in English compared to only 59% of those in the most deprived decile.

English proficiency levels are highest in the South East (66%) and in London (65%) and lowest in the North East (54%) and North West (54%) though there is considerable variation within regions. These differences are likely to be due to the differing characteristics of pupils within each region.

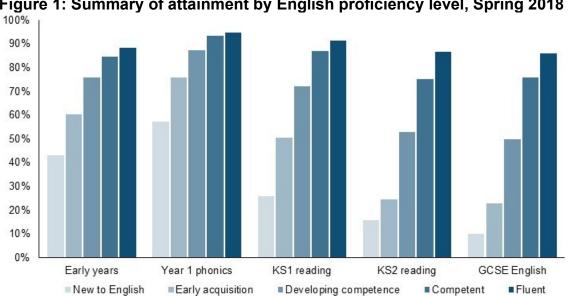


Figure 1: Summary of attainment by English proficiency level, Spring 2018

Attainment increases with greater English proficiency at all key stages. The difference between the attainment of those who are new to English and those who are fluent in English is greater in the later key stages.

At key stage 1 and 2 (age 7 and 11), the impact of low English proficiency levels is greater in reading and writing than in maths and science. Similarly, at key stage 4, the impact is greater in GCSE English than in GCSE maths.

At all key stages, the attainment of those EAL pupils assessed as competent or fluent in English was higher than the attainment of pupils whose first language was English. In early years and year 1 phonics, the attainment of those assessed as developing competence was also higher than the attainment of pupils whose first language was English.

#### 2. Introduction

Information on a pupil's first language is collected in the school census. A pupil is recorded as having English as an additional language if she/he is exposed to a language at home that is known or believed to be other than English. It is not a measure of English language proficiency or a good proxy for recent immigration. In spring 2018, there were 8.1 million pupils in state-funded schools in England. Of these, 1.6 million (19%)<sup>1</sup> were recorded as having English as an additional language.

EAL pupils are much less likely to be white than pupils with English as their first language - 30% of EAL pupils are white, 41% are Asian and 13% are black (85% of pupils with English first language are white, 4% are black and 4% are Asian). They are also more likely to be of primary school age - 64% of EAL pupils are in primary schools (compared to 57% of pupils with English first language). They are similar to pupils with English first language in terms of other characteristics - 51% are male, 25% are disadvantaged and 13% have a special educational need.

They are more likely to go to school in London and less likely to go to school in the South West - 38% of EAL pupils are at schools in London compared to 10% of pupils with English first language and 4% are at schools in the South West compared to 11% of pupils with English first language (see Annex B for more details).

In Autumn 2016, Spring 2017 and Spring 2018, an additional question was included in the school census to collect data on the English proficiency of pupils with EAL. Schools were required to assess the position of their EAL pupils against a five-point scale of reading, writing and spoken language proficiency and make a 'best fit' judgement as to the proficiency stage that a pupil corresponds most closely to. Schools had autonomy as to how they made the judgement, for example, they were free to decide who should make the judgement. This release presents an analysis of this data. The following categories were used.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See table 5a of Schools, pupils and their characteristics: January 2018

#### **English proficiency**

- **A: New to English**: May use first language for learning and other purposes. May remain completely silent in the classroom. May be copying/repeating some words or phrases. May understand some everyday expressions in English but may have minimal or no literacy in English. Needs a considerable amount of EAL support.
- **B: Early acquisition**: May follow day-to-day social communication in English and participate in learning activities with support. Beginning to use spoken English for social purposes. May understand simple instructions and can follow narrative/accounts with visual support. May have developed some skills in reading and writing. May have become familiar with some subject specific vocabulary. Still needs a significant amount of EAL support to access the curriculum.
- **C: Developing competence**: May participate in learning activities with increasing independence. Able to express self orally in English, but structural inaccuracies are still apparent. Literacy will require ongoing support, particularly for understanding text and writing. May be able to follow abstract concepts and more complex written English. Requires ongoing EAL support to access the curriculum fully.
- **D: Competent**: Oral English will be developing well, enabling successful engagement in activities across the curriculum. Can read and understand a wide variety of texts. Written English may lack complexity and contain occasional evidence of errors in structure. Needs some support to access subtle nuances of meaning, to refine English usage, and to develop abstract vocabulary. Needs some/occasional EAL support to access complex curriculum material and tasks.
- **E:** Fluent: Can operate across the curriculum to a level of competence equivalent to that of a pupil who uses English as his/her first language. Operates without EAL support across the curriculum.
- N: Not Yet Assessed is also available for use where the school has not yet had time to assess proficiency.

## 3. Proficiency in English

In Autumn 2016, 71% of EAL pupils had had their English language proficiency assessed. By Spring 2017 this had increased to 91% and by Spring 2018 to 93%.

Many of those (35%) who had not been assessed in Spring 2018 had joined their school in the 2017/18 academic year (either at the usual time in September or part-way through the year). In these cases, it is likely that their school may not have had sufficient time to assess their English proficiency.

The majority of schools (66%) had assessed the English language proficiency of all their EAL pupils in Spring 2018. A further 18% of schools had assessed the English language proficiency of most (over 90%) of their EAL pupils. A small minority of schools (1,097 or 6% of all schools) had assessed the English language proficiency of less than half of their EAL pupils - these schools together accounted for almost half (47%) of all EAL pupils who had not been assessed. Two fifths of these schools (41%) have fewer than 10 EAL pupils so may have less expertise in assessing the English proficiency of pupils.

Figure 2 shows the English proficiency of EAL pupils who were assessed in Spring 2018. This shows that 36% of EAL pupils were assessed as being fluent in English and a further 25% as competent. Figures for Autumn 2016 and Spring 2017 are similar (see Annex B).

New to English

Early acquisition

Developing competence

Competent

Fluent

Figure 2: English proficiency of EAL pupils, Spring 2018

#### Movement between proficiency levels

77% of those who were assessed in both Spring 2017 and Spring 2018 were assessed at the same level in both censuses, 18% were assessed at a higher level in Spring 2018 and 4% were assessed at a lower level in Spring 2018. Some of the changes (especially where pupils have moved to a lower English proficiency level) will be due to the subjective nature of the assessment rather than to genuine changes in English proficiency level.

Table 1 shows the movement between proficiency levels for each proficiency level in Spring 2017. Those assessed at lower levels in Spring 2017 were more likely to change levels between the two censuses.

Table 1: Comparison of English proficiency levels in Spring 2017 and Spring 2018

		Percentage with English proficiency level					
English proficiency in Spring 2017	Number of pupils	New to English	Early acquisition	Developing competence		Fluent	
New to English	67,935	51%	28%	15%	5%	2%	
Early acquisition	138,211	1%	59%	28%	9%	3%	
Developing competence	251,248	0%	2%	69%	20%	8%	
Competent	285,549	0%	1%	4%	77%	18%	
Fluent	398,002	0%	0%	2%	4%	94%	

Table 2 shows the movement between proficiency levels by year group. This shows that the proportion assessed at the same level in both Spring 2017 and Spring 2018 increases throughout primary school (from 66% in year 1 to 79% in year 6) but then drops

considerably in year 7 to 50%. For pupils in years 8 and above, the proportion assessed at the same level in both Spring 2017 and Spring 2018 is much higher.

It is also noticeable that the proportion who are assessed at a lower level in Spring 2018 than in Spring 2017 is much higher for those in year 7 (18%) than in other academic years (typically between 1% and 4%).

This is likely to reflect the fact that most children will change schools between year 6 and year 7 and their English proficiency will be assessed by a different member of school staff who may make a different judgement.

Table 2: Movement between English proficiency levels by year group

		Change in proficiency level between Spring 2017 and Spring 2018						
Year group in Spring 2018 <sup>2</sup>	Number of pupils	Lower in Spring 2018	Same	Higher in Spring 2018				
Year 1	116,341	4%	66%	30%				
Year 2	122,143	4%	70%	26%				
Year 3	120,893	5%	72%	23%				
Year 4	121,402	4%	77%	19%				
Year 5	120,544	4%	78%	18%				
Year 6	113,729	4%	79%	17%				
Year 7	69,946	18%	50%	32%				
Year 8	73,115	2%	89%	9%				
Year 9	75,192	2%	89%	9%				
Year 10	74,996	2%	89%	9%				
Year 11	73,656	1%	91%	8%				
Year 12	32,171	2%	89%	9%				
Year 13	25,986	0%	97%	3%				

# 4. English proficiency by characteristics

## Gender, year group and time in English school

Table 3 shows the English proficiency levels in Spring 2018 by gender. This suggests that girls are more likely to be assessed at a higher English proficiency level although the differences are not large.

Table 3: English proficiency level by gender

		Percentage with English proficiency level							
	Number of pupils			Developing competence		Fluent			
Female	730,185	6%	10%	20%	25%	39%			
Male	758,866	7%	7% 13% 22% 24%						

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Pupils in reception in Spring 2018 are not shown as very few had an English proficiency assessment in the previous year.

English proficiency levels increase with age (see table 4). 52% of those of secondary school age (years 7 to 11) were assessed as fluent in English compared to only 26% of those of primary school age (reception to year 6).

Table 4: English proficiency level by year group<sup>3</sup>

		Р	ercentage wi	th English pr	oficiency leve	ı
	Number of pupils	New to English	Early acquisition	Developing competence	Competent	Fluent
Reception	131,825	23%	28%	23%	14%	12%
Year 1	139,281	14%	26%	27%	18%	16%
Year 2	140,106	7%	18%	29%	24%	22%
Year 3	138,379	5%	12%	27%	28%	27%
Year 4	137,664	4%	10%	25%	30%	31%
Year 5	135,673	3%	7%	23%	31%	36%
Year 6	127,480	3%	6%	20%	31%	40%
Year 7	96,372	3%	6%	18%	28%	46%
Year 8	95,464	3%	6%	16%	25%	50%
Year 9	93,355	3%	5%	15%	25%	53%
Year 10	92,110	3%	5%	14%	24%	54%
Year 11	87,802	2%	4%	13%	24%	57%
Year 12	41,419	1%	2%	6%	22%	68%
Year 13	31,936	0%	1%	3%	17%	79%

We do not collect data on a pupil's arrival date in an English-speaking country. However, we have used the school census<sup>4</sup> to identify the academic year that each pupil first appeared in a state-funded school in England. This will be a good proxy for their arrival date in England though some pupils may have attended an independent school in England prior to attending a state-funded school. In addition, some pupils may have lived in a different English-speaking country prior to arriving in England.

Table 5 shows the English proficiency levels in Spring 2018 by year of first joining an English school. As expected, this clearly shows that English proficiency levels increase with the number of years in an English school.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> A small number of pupils were in year 14 or were not following the national curriculum. These are not shown.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Including the PRU and AP census.

Table 5: English proficiency level in Spring 2018 by year of joining an English school

		P	Percentage with English proficiency leve					
Year of first joining an English school	Number of pupils	New to English		Developing competence	Competent	Fluent		
2017/18	172,722	28%	26%	22%	13%	11%		
2016/17	185,297	16%	26%	27%	17%	14%		
2015/16	174,103	5%	18%	31%	25%	22%		
2014/15	158,244	2%	11%	28%	30%	29%		
2013/14	144,405	1%	7%	25%	32%	35%		
2012/13	132,699	1%	5%	21%	32%	40%		
2011/12	118,663	1%	3%	18%	33%	46%		
2010/12	82,815	1%	3%	14%	29%	53%		
2009/10	76,400	1%	3%	12%	26%	59%		
2008/09	70,919	0%	2%	11%	24%	63%		
2007/08	66,366	0%	1%	9%	23%	66%		
2006/07	59,580	0%	1%	8%	22%	69%		
2005/06	27,370	0%	1%	4%	19%	76%		
2004/05	20,208	1%	1%	3%	14%	81%		

It is also possible to look at this the other way round (see table 6). This shows that the vast majority (82%) of those assessed as new to English had first joined an English school in the current or previous academic year. On average, this group had been in an English school for 1.9 years. In contrast, over half of those assessed as fluent in English had been in an English school for 7 or more years. On average, this group had been in an English school for 7.3 years.

Table 6: English proficiency level by number of years in an English school

Number of years in an English school <sup>5</sup>	New to English	Early acquisition	Developing competence	Competent	Fluent
Number of pupils	87,164	159,500	292,670	346,305	503,097
1	50%	25%	11%	6%	3%
2	32%	28%	16%	9%	5%
3	9%	19%	17%	12%	7%
4	4%	10%	15%	13%	9%
5	2%	6%	12%	13%	10%
6	1%	4%	9%	12%	10%
7+	2%	7%	19%	36%	56%
Average (years)	1.9	2.9	4.4	5.8	7.3

Table 7 shows that 64% of pupils who started at an English school in reception were recorded as competent or fluent in English. This compares to 50% of those who first joined an English school after reception. Among both groups, there is a clear increase in English proficiency as

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Including the current academic year.

we move through the year groups. This may suggest that many EAL pupils, even among those who have lived in England for most or all of their lives, have been exposed to limited English prior to starting school, though it is difficult to draw firm conclusions due to the lack of comparator data about the English language proficiency of pupils with English first language.

Table 7: English proficiency by year group and time of joining English school

	Percentage of pupils recorded as competent or fluent in English					
Current year group	Joined in reception	Joined after reception				
All year groups	64%	50%				
Reception	26%	-				
Year 1	35%	8%				
Year 2	49%	13%				
Year 3	60%	21%				
Year 4	67%	29%				
Year 5	73%	36%				
Year 6	78%	43%				
Year 7	82%	52%				
Year 8	85%	53%				
Year 9	87%	57%				
Year 10	89%	60%				
Year 11	91%	66%				
Year 12	95%	84%				
Year 13	97%	93%				

## **Special educational needs**

Pupils with special educational needs (SEN) have lower English proficiency levels than those with no special educational needs and those with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or statement have lower levels than those with SEN support.

Table 8: English proficiency level by SEN

		% arrived	Percenta	ge with Engli	sh proficienc	y level in Spi	ring 2018
	Number of pupils	after	New to		Developing competence		Fluent
EHCP/Statement	36,068	12%	16%	28%	22%	14%	19%
SEN support	153,786	16%	10%	21%	30%	20%	20%
No SEN	1,299,197	20%	6%	10%	20%	26%	39%

### Free school meals, disadvantage and IDACI<sup>6</sup>

There is little difference in English proficiency levels between those who are eligible for free school meals and those who are not - those who are not eligible for free school meals are slightly more likely to have been assessed as fluent in English.

There is also little difference in English proficiency levels between those who have been eligible for free school meals at some point in the last six years and those who have not.

Table 9: English proficiency level by FSM and disadvantage

		% arrived	Percenta	ge with Engli	sh proficienc	iency level in Spring 2018			
	Number of pupils				Developing competence		Fluent		
FSM	203,444	16%	6%	12%	23%	25%	34%		
Not FSM	1,286,347	20%	6%	11%	21%	25%	37%		
FSM6	365,600	15%	4%	10%	22%	27%	36%		
Not FSM6	1,124,191	21%	7%	12%	21%	24%	36%		

Pupils living in the least deprived areas are more likely to be assessed at a higher English proficiency level than those living in the most deprived areas.

Table 10: English proficiency level by IDACI decile

		% arrived	Percenta	ge with Engli	ish proficienc	y level in Spr	ring 2018
	Number of pupils	after reception	New to English		Developing competence	Competent	Fluent
1 (most deprived)	289,420	18%	7%	12%	22%	25%	33%
2	296,480	18%	7%	12%	22%	25%	33%
3	253,954	19%	7%	12%	22%	25%	34%
4	186,763	19%	6%	12%	21%	25%	35%
5	147,397	19%	6%	11%	20%	26%	38%
6	97,269	21%	6%	10%	20%	25%	40%
7	72,029	21%	6%	10%	19%	24%	41%
8	54,970	21%	5%	9%	18%	24%	44%
9	45,375	22%	4%	8%	17%	24%	47%
10 (least deprived)	42,754	23%	4%	7%	16%	22%	51%

#### **Ethnicity**

Table 11 shows the English proficiency levels in Spring 2018 by major ethnic group. Pupils from white or other origins tend to have slightly lower English proficiency levels. There is considerable variation in English proficiency levels within the white group - EAL pupils whose ethnicity is recorded as White British or White Irish have the highest levels of English proficiency (72% and 77% are recorded as either competent or fluent), while those whose ethnicity is recorded as Gypsy/Roma or white other have the lowest levels (20% and 54%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The <u>Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index</u> (IDACI) measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 in a small area living in income deprived families.

are recorded as either competent or fluent). There is much less difference within the other major ethnic groups. See annex B for more details.

Table 11: English proficiency levels by major ethnic group

		% arrived	Percenta	ge with Engli	sh proficienc	y level in Spi	ring 2018
	Number of pupils	after reception	New to	Early acquisition	Developing competence		Fluent
White	441,458	29%	9%	14%	23%	24%	30%
Black	191,185	18%	4%	10%	19%	26%	41%
Asian	612,782	12%	4%	10%	21%	26%	39%
Chinese	25,941	15%	6%	10%	19%	24%	42%
Mixed	77,989	19%	5%	10%	19%	24%	42%
Other	116,513	25%	9%	13%	22%	24%	33%

### First language

Table 12 shows the English proficiency levels in Spring 2018 by first language. Only languages spoken by at least 10,000 pupils are shown. This suggests that there is considerable variation in English proficiency by language - for example, only 35% of those whose first language is Romanian are fluent or competent in English compared to 77% of those whose first language is Yoruba. The languages spoken by those with the lowest English proficiency levels tend to be European or Middle Eastern languages.

Table 12: English proficiency levels by first language

		% arrived	Percentage with English proficiency level in Spring 2018					
	Number of pupils	after reception	New to English		Developing competence		Fluent	
Romanian	52,124	52%	20%	20%	25%	19%	16%	
Slovak	13,234	38%	14%	22%	26%	20%	18%	
Bulgarian	13,785	47%	15%	16%	23%	23%	24%	
Kurdish	15,140	13%	10%	16%	26%	24%	24%	
Hungarian	11,309	41%	12%	15%	23%	22%	27%	
Lithuanian	26,181	27%	9%	15%	25%	26%	25%	
Italian	24,461	58%	11%	14%	23%	23%	30%	
Pashto/Pakhto	20,735	16%	7%	14%	26%	25%	28%	
Polish	138,796	19%	7%	14%	25%	26%	28%	
Arabic	69,108	25%	9%	13%	22%	24%	32%	
Russian	17,574	24%	9%	13%	22%	24%	32%	
Spanish	31,917	43%	9%	12%	22%	23%	34%	
Portuguese	40,086	31%	8%	13%	23%	25%	32%	
Turkish	28,306	10%	7%	12%	23%	26%	32%	
Persian/Farsi	21,592	15%	5%	11%	22%	25%	36%	
Urdu	147,460	11%	5%	11%	22%	26%	36%	
Bengali	109,060	8%	5%	11%	21%	26%	37%	
Panjabi	124,189	6%	4%	10%	22%	25%	38%	
Somali	50,032	11%	4%	10%	21%	28%	37%	

		% arrived	Percentage with English proficiency level in Spring 2018						
	Number of pupils	after reception	New to	Early acquisition	Developing competence		Fluent		
Albanian/Shqip	16,255	10%	5%	10%	20%	26%	38%		
Chinese	26,889	15%	5%	10%	19%	24%	42%		
Gujarati	44,285	10%	3%	10%	19%	26%	42%		
Hindi	15,420	22%	4%	9%	17%	25%	45%		
French	31,097	19%	4%	8%	17%	24%	47%		
Malayalam	15,918	13%	3%	8%	17%	24%	47%		
Tamil	36,459	11%	3%	8%	17%	27%	44%		
Akan/Twi-Fante	14,008	11%	2%	8%	18%	25%	47%		
Tagalog/Filipino	14,759	21%	2%	7%	16%	26%	49%		
Yoruba	18,367	11%	2%	7%	15%	25%	51%		

The factors most closely associated with a pupil's English proficiency level are their age and how long they have been in an English school. Only 9% of EAL pupils in years 1, 2 or 3 who first joined an English school in the current academic year were recorded as competent or fluent in English. In contrast, 87% of EAL pupils in years 7 to 11 who have been in an English school since reception were recorded as competent or fluent in English.

The differences in English proficiency levels by ethnicity can, at least partly, be explained by differences in how long the different groups have been in an English school. Pupils from white or other origins have lower English proficiency levels but this can be explained by the fact that these groups are more likely to have first entered an English school after reception (29% of white EAL pupils and 25% of other EAL pupils first entered an English school after reception, compared to 12% to 19% for other ethnic groups).

Similarly, the differences in English proficiency levels by first language can also be partly explained by differences in the length of time that speakers of different languages have been in an English school. For example, 52% of pupils whose first language is Romanian first arrived in an English school after reception compared to 11% of those whose first language is Yoruba.

This does not explain the differences by SEN or FSM status. Pupils with no SEN or FSM tend to have higher English proficiency levels but these groups are more likely to have entered an English school after reception. Similarly, it does not explain the difference by IDACI, where both English proficiency levels and the proportion who first entered an English school after reception increase as we move to less deprived areas.

## 5. Geographical breakdowns

#### Region

Table 13 shows English proficiency levels in Spring 2018 by region. English proficiency levels are highest in the South East region and in London and lowest in the North East, North West and Yorkshire and the Humber regions. These differences are likely to be due to the differing characteristics of pupils within each region. For example, the high English

proficiency levels in the South East, may be explained by the fact that relatively few EAL pupils in the South East live in a deprived area. Similarly, the high English proficiency levels in London may be explained by the fact that it has a lower proportion of its EAL pupils who arrived in an English school after reception.

Table 13: English proficiency levels by region

		Percentage with English proficiency level in Spring 2018						
	Number of pupils		Early acquisition	Developing competence	Competent	Fluent		
North East	25,017	8%	14%	23%	22%	32%		
North West	151,320	8%	14%	24%	24%	30%		
Yorkshire & the Humber	127,968	8%	13%	23%	25%	31%		
East Midlands	96,837	7%	12%	22%	26%	33%		
West Midlands	182,767	7%	12%	21%	25%	36%		
East	124,352	7%	13%	22%	24%	35%		
London	560,206	5%	10%	20%	26%	39%		
South East	165,431	5%	9%	19%	25%	41%		
South West	55,893	8%	12%	21%	23%	35%		

### **Local authority**

Table 14 shows the local authorities with the highest and lowest percentages of EAL pupils recorded as fluent or competent in English. In Rutland, 62% of EAL pupils are recorded as fluent in English and a further 18% as competent in English. However, in Portsmouth, only 18% of EAL pupils are recorded as fluent in English and 16% as competent in English.

Table 14: Local authorities with highest and lowest English proficiency<sup>7</sup>

Highest		Lowest				
Local authority	% competent or fluent		% competent or fluent			
Rutland	80%	Portsmouth	34%			
Wokingham	79%	Oldham	41%			
Bromley	77%	Peterborough	42%			
Camden	77%	Salford	43%			
Leicestershire	74%	Norfolk	44%			
Buckinghamshire	73%	Newcastle upon Tyne	46%			
Bexley	73%	Somerset	46%			
Windsor and Maidenhead	72%	Middlesbrough	47%			
Torbay	72%	Herefordshire	48%			
Sunderland	72%	Leeds	49%			

These differences are likely to be due to the differing characteristics of pupils within each local authority - the local authorities with the highest English proficiency levels tend to have low percentages of pupils who live in a deprived area and/or a lower proportion of their EAL

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Excluding Isles of Scilly which has very low numbers of EAL pupils.

pupils who arrived in an English school after reception. There does not appear to be a relationship between English proficiency levels and the proportion of EAL pupils within the local authority. See annex B for the full local authority data.

## 6. Relationship between English proficiency and attainment.

#### Early years

Figure 3 shows that there is a strong relationship between a pupil's English proficiency level as recorded in reception year and their attainment in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP). Only 43% of those pupils who were recorded as being new to English achieved a good level of development (GLD) at the end of reception compared to 88% of those who were recorded as fluent in English.

Pupils assessed as developing competence, competent or fluent were more likely to reach a good level of development than pupils whose first language was English (73%).

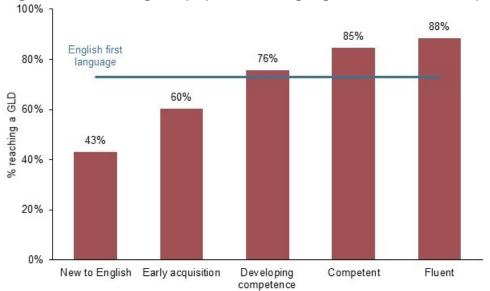


Figure 3: Percentage of pupils reaching a good level of development (GLD)

Base: EAL pupils in reception in 2017/18 who had both English proficiency and EYFSP assessments.

#### **Phonics**

There is also a strong relationship between a pupil's English proficiency level as recorded in year 1 and whether they reached the expected standard of phonic decoding at the end of year 1. Only 57% of those pupils who were recorded as being new to English achieved the expected standard at the end of year 1 compared to 95% of those who were recorded as fluent in English (see figure 4).

Pupils assessed as developing competence, competent or fluent were more likely to achieve the expected standard than pupils whose first language was English (83%).

100% English first 88% language 80% % reaching the expected standard 76% 57% 60% 40% 20% 0% New to English Early acquisition Fluent Developing Competent competence

Figure 4: Percentage meeting the expected standard of phonic decoding

Base: EAL pupils in year 1 in 2017/18 who had both English proficiency and phonics assessments.

#### Key stage 1

Figure 5 shows that there is a strong relationship between a pupil's English proficiency level as recorded in year 2 and their attainment in all subjects at the end of key stage 18. The impact is larger in reading and writing than in maths and science. In writing, pupils who are recorded as fluent in English are 4.0 times as likely as those recorded as new to English to reach the expected level. However in maths, pupils who are recorded as fluent in English are only 2.6 times as likely as those recorded as new to English to reach the expected level.

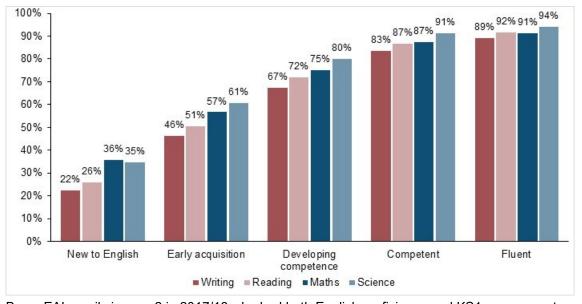


Figure 5: Percentage meeting the expected standard at key stage 1

Base: EAL pupils in year 2 in 2017/18 who had both English proficiency and KS1 assessments

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Key Stage 1 attainment is measured by teacher assessment. For many pupils, the assessment of English proficiency and the KS1 teacher assessments will have been carried out by the same teacher.

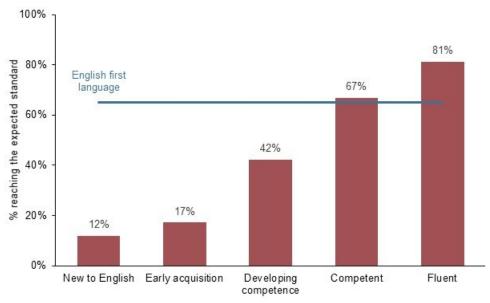
Pupils assessed as competent or fluent were more likely to achieve the expected standard than pupils whose first language was English (70% in writing, 76% in reading and maths and 84% in science).

#### Key stage 2

Figure 6 shows that there is a strong relationship between a pupil's English proficiency level as recorded in year 6 and their likelihood of reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and maths at the end of key stage 2.

Pupils assessed as competent or fluent were more likely to achieve the expected standard than pupils whose first language was English (65%).

Figure 6: Percentage meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths at key stage 2



Base: EAL pupils in year 6 in 2017/18 who had both English proficiency and KS2 assessments9.

Table 15 shows the variation in attainment rates at key stage 2 by subject. As for key stage 1, the impact is larger in reading and writing than in maths. In reading, pupils who are recorded as fluent in English are 5.5 times as likely as those recorded as new to English to reach the expected level. However in maths, pupils who are recorded as fluent in English are only 2.8 times as likely as those recorded as new to English to reach the expected level. Pupils who are new to English are twice as likely to reach the expected standard in maths as in reading.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Note that fewer than 4,000 year 6 pupils were assessed as 'New to English'

Table 15: Percentage meeting the expected standard at key stage 2 by English proficiency level

	New to English		Developing competence	Competent	Fluent
Number of pupils <sup>10</sup>	3,411	6,858	24,622	38,033	48,807
Reached the expected standard in:					
Reading	16%	24%	53%	75%	87%
Writing	17%	28%	60%	83%	92%
Maths	32%	39%	64%	82%	90%
Grammar, punctuation and spelling	21%	31%	64%	85%	93%
Science	24%	35%	66%	86%	93%

Base: EAL pupils in year 6 in 2017/18 who had both English proficiency and KS2 assessments.

#### Key stage 4

Figure 7 shows that there is a strong relationship between a pupil's English proficiency level as recorded in year 11 and their attainment 8 score at the end of key stage 4. The average attainment 8 score of those pupils who were recorded as being new to English was 14.2 compared to 53.5 for those who were recorded as fluent in English.

Pupils assessed as fluent in English have a higher average attainment 8 score than pupils whose first language was English (46.5).

53.5 English first 50 language 45.7 Attainment 8 score 05 07 34.7 22.7 14.2 10 Developing New to English Early acquisition Competent Fluent competence

Figure 7: Average attainment 8 score

Base: EAL pupils in year 11 in 2017/18 who had both English proficiency and attainment 8 score<sup>11</sup>.

Figure 8 shows the percentage achieving GCSE grades 9 to 4 in English and maths<sup>12</sup> by English proficiency level as recorded in year 11. The impact of low English proficiency levels

<sup>10</sup> Number of pupils with a result in all of reading, writing and maths. Numbers for individual subjects will vary slightly.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Note that fewer than 4,000 year 11 pupils were assessed as 'New to English' or 'Early Acquisition'.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> English includes either GCSE English language, GCSE English literature, AS English language, AS English language, AS English language, AS English language and literature. Maths includes GCSE maths or AS maths.

is greater in English than in maths. Pupils who are recorded as fluent in English are 8.6 times as likely as those recorded as new to English to achieve a GCSE at grades 9 to 4 in English. However, they were only 5.2 times more likely to achieve a GCSE at grades 9 to 4 in maths.

Pupils assessed as competent or fluent are more likely to achieve a GCSE at grades 9 to 4 in English than pupils whose first language was English (76%). However, only those assessed as fluent are more likely to achieve a GCSE at grades 9 to 4 in maths than pupils whose first language was English (70%).

100% 86% 90% 79% 76% 80% Decentage achieving 50% 40% 30% 66% 50% 44% 25% 23% 20% 15% 10% 10% 0% New to English Developing Fluent Early acquisition Competent competence ■ GCSE English 9-4 ■ GCSE maths 9-4

Figure 8: Percentage achieving GCSE grades 9 to 4 in English and maths

Base: EAL pupils in year 11 in 2017/18 who had their English proficiency assessed.

#### **Annex A: Notes on data**

We have included pupils whose language is 'other than English' whose national curriculum year group is recorded as reception or above (or the pupil is aged 4 and above as at 31 August each year where national curriculum does not apply).

We have excluded pupils in LA 702 and the subsidiary registration of any dual-registered pupils (those with enrolment status of 'S').

More information on how the data is collected can be found in <u>Pupil nationality</u>, <u>country of birth and proficiency in English: 2018</u>.

The data has been matched to the National Pupil Database (NPD) in order to analyse how English proficiency varies by characteristics, changes in English proficiency levels over time and the relationship between English proficiency and attainment.

# **Annex B: Additional tables**

## Characteristics of EAL pupils<sup>13</sup>

	Pupils with E additional		Pupils with E langu		EAL pupils as a % of all pupils
	Number of pupils	% with that characteristic	Number of pupils	% with that characteristic	
All pupils	1,476,414		6,317,921		19%
Male	752,197	51%	3,223,728	51%	19%
Female	724,217	49%	3,094,193	49%	19%
Primary (Reception to Y6)	945,561	64%	3,596,297	57%	21%
Secondary (Y7-11)	458,389	31%	2,373,948	38%	16%
Post-16 (Y12-14)	72,349	5%	346,655	5%	17%
White	439,086	30%	5,359,888	85%	8%
Black	189,338	13%	249,943	4%	43%
Asian	610,860	41%	233,763	4%	72%
Chinese	25,796	2%	8,187	0%	76%
Other	116,091	8%	28,352	0%	80%
Mixed	77,301	5%	371,646	6%	17%
UNCL	17,942	1%	66,142	1%	20%
Disadvantaged	362,339	25%	1,500,002	24%	19%
Not disadvantaged	1,114,075	75%	4,817,919	76%	19%
FSM	201,812	14%	881,508	14%	19%
Not FSM	1,274,602	86%	5,436,413	86%	19%
SEN	188,884	13%	971,468	15%	16%
No SEN	1,287,530	87%	5,346,453	85%	19%
North East	24,778	2%	337,201	5%	7%
North West	150,209	10%	895,463	14%	14%
Yorkshire and The Humber	126,957	9%	656,168	10%	16%
East Midlands	96,021	7%	576,779	9%	14%
East	122,962	8%	757,245	12%	14%
West Midlands	181,104	12%	690,519	11%	21%
London	555,567	38%	657,460	10%	46%
South East	163,836	11%	1,074,000	17%	13%
South West	54,980	4%	673,086	11%	8%

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Excludes 14,334 pupils with unclassified first language.

# English proficiency levels

	Autumn 2016		Spring 2017		Spring 2018	
	Number of pupils	Percentage	Number of pupils	Percentage	Number of pupils	Percentage
New to English	60,603	6%	77,087	6%	87,178	6%
Early acquisition	118,411	12%	152,300	11%	159,513	11%
Developing competence	213,432	21%	281,833	21%	292,688	21%
Competent	253,569	25%	331,516	25%	346,323	25%
Fluent	377,713	37%	485,704	37%	503,110	36%
Total assessed	1,023,728		1,328,440		1,388,812	
Not yet assessed	422,339	29%	126,451	9%	101,094	7%
Total	1,446,067		1,454,891		1,489,906	

# English proficiency levels by minor ethnic group

		Percentage with English proficiency level in S					
	Number of pupils	New to English	Early acquisition	Developing competence	Competent	Fluent	
White British	37,748	4%	8%	16%	21%	51%	
White Irish	404	4%	5%	13%	24%	53%	
White Irish traveller	117	5%	8%	18%	22%	47%	
Gypsy/Roma	13,661	25%	29%	25%	13%	8%	
White other	389,528	9%	14%	23%	25%	29%	
Black African	167,506	4%	10%	19%	26%	41%	
Black Caribbean	3,358	5%	8%	18%	24%	44%	
Black other	20,321	6%	11%	21%	25%	37%	
Bangladeshi	112,201	5%	11%	21%	26%	37%	
Indian	155,766	3%	9%	18%	25%	45%	
Pakistani	241,809	4%	11%	23%	26%	35%	
Asian other	103,006	5%	10%	19%	26%	40%	
Chinese	25,941	6%	10%	19%	24%	42%	
Mixed white & Asian	18,819	4%	9%	18%	24%	44%	
Mixed white & black African	13,536	5%	10%	20%	25%	41%	
Mixed white & black Caribbean	2,983	7%	10%	18%	22%	43%	
Mixed other	42,651	6%	10%	19%	24%	41%	
Other	116,513	9%	13%	22%	24%	33%	
Not obtained	12,859	9%	12%	18%	22%	39%	
Refused	10,324	6%	9%	17%	22%	45%	

## English proficiency levels by region, Spring 2018

	Number of EAL pupils		joined an English school	% who live in	the region who
North East	25,017	54%	24%	81%	8%
North West	151,320	54%	21%	85%	16%
Yorkshire and the Humber	127,968	56%	18%	87%	18%
East Midlands	96,837	59%	25%	74%	16%
West Midlands	182,767	60%	19%	86%	23%
East	124,352	59%	21%	68%	16%
London	560,206	65%	17%	84%	49%
South East	165,431	66%	21%	58%	15%
South West	55,893	59%	27%	63%	9%

# English proficiency levels by local authority<sup>14</sup>, Spring 2018

	Number of EAL pupils	% who were competent or fluent in English	% who first joined an English school after reception	% who live in IDACI deciles 1 to 5	% of pupils in the LA who are EAL
Barking and Dagenham	21,050	56%	17%	99%	56%
Barnet	25,092	66%	18%	66%	52%
Barnsley	1,727	59%	31%	91%	6%
Bath and North East Somerset	1,498	66%	28%	43%	7%
Bedford	7,150	58%	19%	80%	31%
Bexley	7,315	73%	17%	75%	20%
Birmingham	81,552	59%	16%	94%	44%
Blackburn with Darwen	9,872	49%	10%	82%	43%
Blackpool	1,294	59%	28%	93%	8%
Bolton	12,722	53%	21%	90%	30%
Bournemouth	4,145	67%	29%	70%	21%
Bracknell Forest	1,993	71%	23%	55%	13%
Bradford	35,618	59%	11%	96%	41%
Brent	30,037	63%	21%	83%	71%
Brighton and Hove	4,353	54%	27%	60%	14%
Bristol	11,793	53%	19%	83%	22%
Bromley	6,709	77%	19%	55%	15%
Buckinghamshire	14,287	73%	15%	53%	18%
Bury	4,925	52%	19%	77%	19%
Calderdale	5,165	64%	11%	90%	16%
Cambridgeshire	11,430	54%	25%	45%	15%
Camden	11,964	77%	11%	89%	60%
Central Bedfordshire	2,586	70%	21%	57%	8%
Cheshire East	3,145	59%	30%	66%	7%
Cheshire West and Chester	2,255	61%	31%	60%	5%
City of London	128	70%	2%	91%	52%
Cornwall	1,764	53%	36%	76%	3%
Coventry	17,733	65%	22%	86%	34%

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Isles of Scilly is not shown as it has a very small number of EAL pupils.

	Number of EAL pupils	% who were competent or fluent in English	% who first joined an English school after reception	% who live in IDACI deciles 1 to 5	% of pupils in the LA who are EAL
Croydon	18,000	66%	20%	85%	36%
Cumbria	2,097	60%	31%	53%	4%
Darlington	980	57%	31%	83%	7%
Derby	10,434	59%	23%	84%	29%
Derbyshire	2,491	65%	27%	66%	3%
Devon	3,708	61%	34%	49%	4%
Doncaster	4,331	51%	28%	82%	11%
Dorset	1,925	72%	35%	50%	4%
Dudley	5,330	60%	15%	89%	13%
Durham	1,671	62%	28%	69%	3%
Ealing	30,562	65%	19%	83%	65%
East Riding of Yorkshire	1,615	65%	29%	57%	4%
East Sussex	3,754	63%	27%	71%	6%
Enfield	27,015	60%	16%	92%	51%
Essex	14,709	62%	24%	63%	8%
Gateshead	1,935	55%	25%	89%	8%
Gloucestershire	6,359	65%	28%	63%	8%
Greenwich	15,611	69%	18%	94%	40%
Hackney	15,578	72%	10%	97%	49%
Halton	423	56%	35%	85%	3%
Hammersmith and Fulham	8,282	68%	17%	84%	48%
Hampshire	11,092	70%	21%	38%	7%
Haringey	18,469	60%	19%	90%	55%
Harrow	22,060	65%	19%	61%	65%
Hartlepool	592	63%	25%	87%	4%
Havering	6,803	54%	16%	79%	22%
Herefordshire	1,800	48%	25%	52%	10%
Hertfordshire	27,389	72%	18%	50%	17%
Hillingdon	22,785	71%	16%	84%	50%
Hounslow	24,620	69%	17%	81%	64%
Isle of Wight	561	70%	33%	79%	4%
Islington	9,696	62%	10%	97%	42%
Kensington and Chelsea	6,194	66%	16%	76%	53%
Kent	24,426	69%	23%	61%	12%
Kingston upon Hull	5,627	53%	32%	91%	16%
Kingston upon Thames	8,205	71%	20%	41%	35%
Kirklees	16,939	59%	10%	87%	30%
Knowsley	605	57%	24%	83%	4%
Lambeth	16,975	54%	15%	94%	50%
Lancashire	19,062	53%	18%	82%	13%
Leeds	22,935	49%	24%	84%	22%
Leicester	28,014	54%	23%	84%	54%
Leicestershire	7,339	74%	21%	42%	8%
Lewisham	12,738	60%	17%	94%	35%
Lincolnshire	10,067	60%	31%	64%	11%

	Number of EAL pupils	% who were competent or fluent in English	% who first joined an English school after reception	% who live in IDACI deciles 1 to 5	% of pupils in the LA who are EAL
Liverpool	9,796	56%	31%	93%	18%
Luton	19,754	56%	16%	89%	55%
Manchester	32,572	56%	26%	95%	42%
Medway	5,338	67%	23%	82%	14%
Merton	11,176	63%	19%	61%	47%
Middlesbrough	3,804	47%	22%	87%	19%
Milton Keynes	11,510	66%	21%	68%	29%
Newcastle upon Tyne	8,800	46%	26%	81%	26%
Newham	40,125	60%	18%	99%	73%
Norfolk	10,919	44%	26%	72%	11%
North East Lincolnshire	1,197	55%	29%	80%	7%
North Lincolnshire	2,385	52%	22%	76%	12%
North Somerset	1,612	64%	28%	58%	6%
North Tyneside	1,258	67%	22%	66%	5%
North Yorkshire	3,552	63%	25%	49%	5%
Northamptonshire	17,505	62%	26%	70%	17%
Northumberland	737	67%	28%	61%	2%
Nottingham	12,992	52%	25%	88%	32%
Nottinghamshire	7,831	66%	26%	64%	8%
Oldham	14,084	41%	14%	96%	37%
Oxfordshire	12,575	67%	25%	51%	15%
Peterborough	13,226	42%	23%	87%	41%
Plymouth	2,685	60%	32%	82%	8%
Poole	1,747	69%	26%	61%	11%
Portsmouth	4,285	34%	21%	83%	19%
Reading	7,098	62%	23%	68%	36%
Redbridge	33,347	65%	18%	78%	67%
Redcar and Cleveland	289	58%	36%	84%	1%
Richmond upon Thames	6,291	72%	20%	36%	27%
Rochdale	9,228	58%	14%	93%	29%
Rotherham	4,292	58%	23%	88%	11%
Rutland	164	80%	16%	9%	4%
Salford	5,924	43%	28%	88%	19%
Sandwell	17,358	66%	18%	94%	33%
Sefton	1,692	55%	32%	81%	5%
Sheffield	16,127	50%	23%	86%	23%
Shropshire	1,354	59%	31%	49%	4%
Slough	15,367	67%	14%	83%	58%
Solihull	3,282	64%	18%	49%	11%
Somerset	4,512	46%	28%	60%	8%
South Gloucestershire	3,404	57%	26%	51%	9%
South Tyneside	1,101	57%	18%	90%	5%
Southampton	8,397	58%	19%	77%	31%
Southend-on-Sea	3,978	69%	21%	76%	14%
Southwark	16,415	70%	14%	95%	44%

	Number of EAL pupils	% who were competent or fluent in English	% who first joined an English school after reception	% who live in IDACI deciles 1 to 5	% of pupils in the LA who are EAL
St. Helens	711	67%	34%	83%	3%
Staffordshire	7,888	55%	23%	70%	8%
Stockport	3,438	63%	17%	48%	10%
Stockton-on-Tees	1,807	60%	17%	76%	7%
Stoke-on-Trent	7,725	53%	19%	92%	22%
Suffolk	8,410	58%	30%	62%	10%
Sunderland	2,043	72%	15%	87%	6%
Surrey	19,122	70%	21%	36%	14%
Sutton	10,000	64%	17%	52%	30%
Swindon	5,895	54%	26%	49%	21%
Tameside	4,695	59%	19%	92%	14%
Telford and Wrekin	2,992	62%	25%	80%	13%
Thurrock	4,801	63%	18%	76%	20%
Torbay	1,001	72%	36%	86%	5%
Tower Hamlets	29,918	63%	9%	98%	75%
Trafford	6,639	57%	15%	53%	20%
Wakefield	4,647	53%	22%	89%	11%
Walsall	10,559	61%	15%	85%	24%
Waltham Forest	19,578	62%	17%	96%	51%
Wandsworth	14,078	66%	18%	79%	45%
Warrington	2,219	64%	25%	73%	9%
Warwickshire	7,626	65%	24%	53%	11%
West Berkshire	1,997	70%	23%	38%	9%
West Sussex	11,672	60%	23%	61%	12%
Westminster	13,390	66%	14%	89%	66%
Wigan	2,120	60%	28%	78%	6%
Wiltshire	3,844	61%	26%	35%	6%
Windsor and Maidenhead	3,141	72%	22%	35%	18%
Wirral	1,802	62%	25%	71%	4%
Wokingham	4,463	79%	22%	20%	19%
Wolverhampton	11,535	57%	26%	87%	29%
Worcestershire	6,033	58%	20%	64%	9%
York	1,811	69%	29%	42%	9%



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#### About this publication:

Enquiries: Jayne Middlemas, Early years, Schools and SEND Analysis and Research

Division, Department for Education, St Paul's Place, Sheffield, S1 2FJ

Email: <u>jayne.middlemas@education.gov.uk</u>
Download: www.gov.uk/government/publications

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