

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4th November 2014

Achievement of Warwickshire Children and Young People in National Tests in 2014

Recommendation:

That the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

1) Note the performance of children and young people in Warwickshire schools in national tests.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 This paper sets out the provisional data for the performance of pupils at Warwickshire schools in national tests and nationally published teacher assessments.
- 1.2 In 2014, the Department for Education changed the reporting arrangements for GCSEs, including changing accountability measures so that only the first entry for each GCSE or equivalent for each student counted towards school and Local Authority performance. As a result of this change in methodology, the provisional 2014 outcomes have been extremely unreliable, with some reporting mechanisms reporting and then withdrawing results. A suitably robust set of provisional outcomes were, therefore, not available for this report which as a result focuses only on primary school performance.
- 1.2 The GCSE outcomes were due to be reported at Local Authority level on 23 October 2014 and would, therefore, be available as a verbal update to this meeting with more detailed information available in a report form in January 2015.

2.0 Summary

- 81% of Warwickshire Year 6 pupils reached the expected Level (Level 4) or above in the headline measure of reading, writing and mathematics. 27% reached Level 5 or above. These performances were above the national average.

- 79% of Warwickshire pupils reached Level 4 or above in the grammar, punctuation and spelling (GPS) test. This performance was above the national average.
- Warwickshire Key Stage 1 results are higher than last year, on most measures, with reading, writing and mathematics all improving in the key measure of Level 2b or above. Outcomes remain above the national average.
- 76% of Warwickshire's Year 1 children reached the expected standard on the phonics screening check. This percentage is higher than last year, and is above the national average.
- Following considerable volatility in the new Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) last year, when only 45% of Warwickshire children in this year group were assessed as having a good level of development, well below the national average, there has been a significant increase in 2014 (15%) taking the proportion to 60%, in line with the national average.

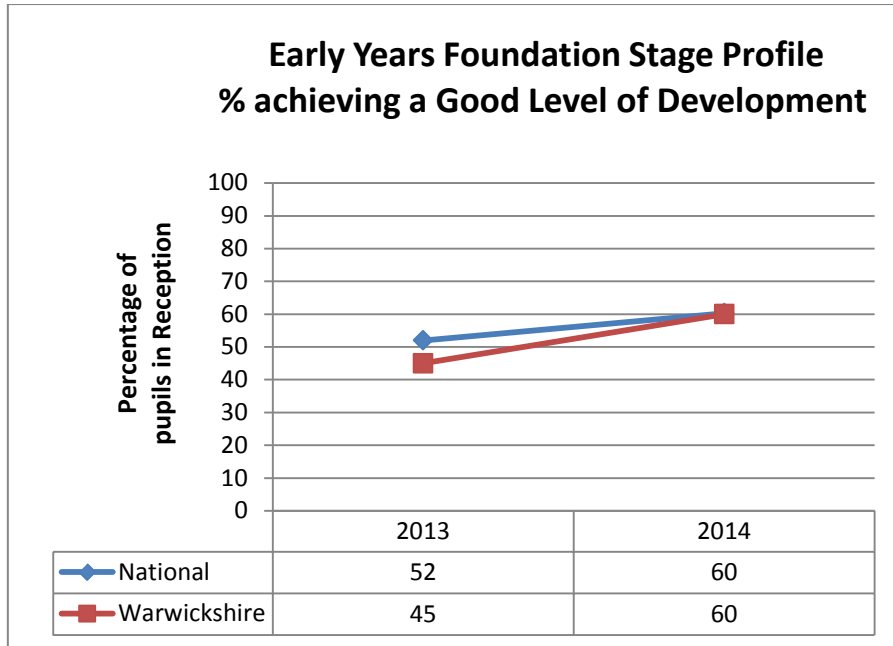
3.0 Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP)

3.1 The Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) measures pupil performance at the end of the Reception year. There were fundamental changes last year to the EYFSP, moving to three "prime areas of learning" (communication and language, physical development, and personal social and emotional development) and four "specific areas of learning" (literacy, mathematics, understanding the world and expressive arts and design). These are covered by 17 early learning goals. Children are now assessed on a three point scale as "emerging", "expected" or "exceeding" the criteria.

3.2 The key measure for the EYFSP is the proportion of pupils achieving a "good level of development". In order for a child to have a good level of development, s/he has to be assessed as "expected" or "exceeding" on all eight goals in the prime areas of learning and in the four goals of the specific areas of learning in literacy and mathematics. The other five goals in "understanding the world", and "expressive arts and design" are assessed separately.

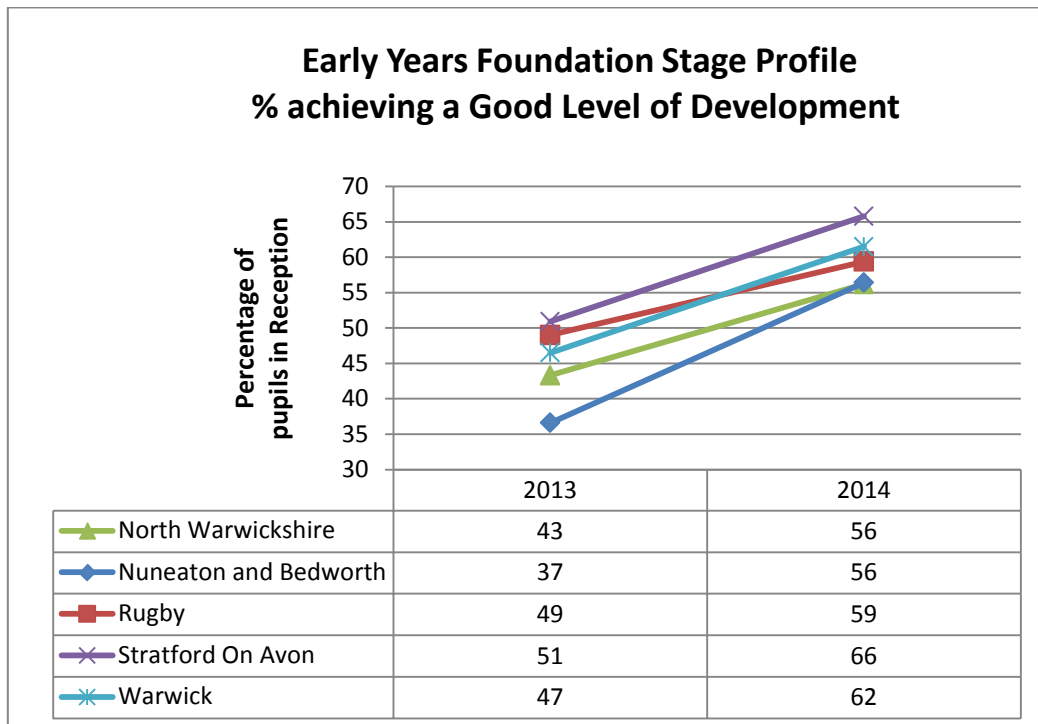
3.3 At the end of the Foundation Stage, 60% of Warwickshire children were assessed as having a good level of development. This represents an increase of 15% on the previous year when 45% of children were assessed as having a good level of development.

3.4 In the past, Warwickshire's results have been above, and in some years well above, the national average. Under the new system, in 2013, the LA results were well below the national average. In 2014, they have returned to the national average.



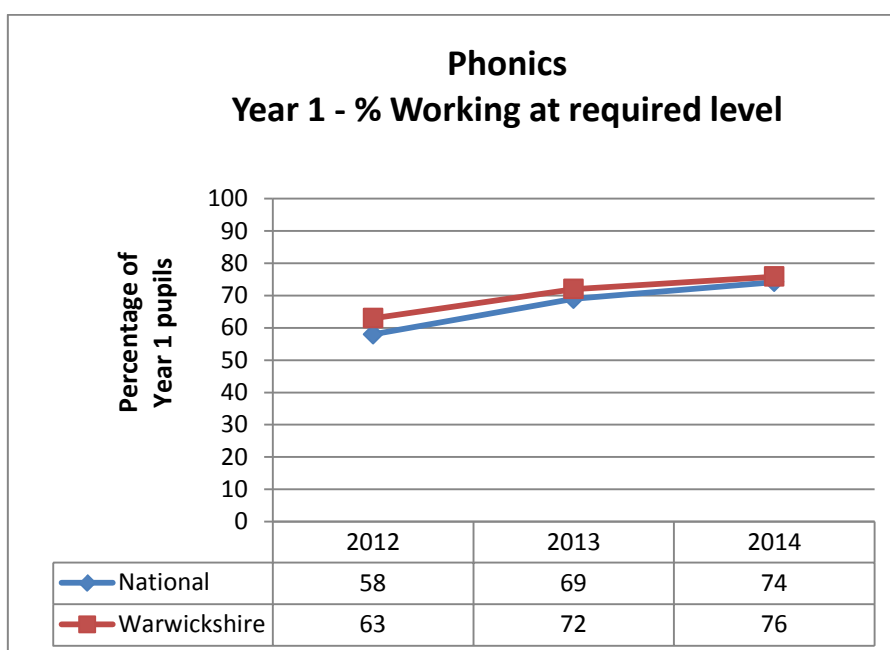
3.5 Performance on this measure has improved in each of the Districts of Warwickshire, with rises varying from 10 percentage points in Rugby to 19 percentage points in Nuneaton and Bedworth. However, only Stratford and Warwick are above the national average.

3.6 As a result of the improvements in 2014, the gap between the highest and lowest performing District has been reduced from 14 percentage points to 10.

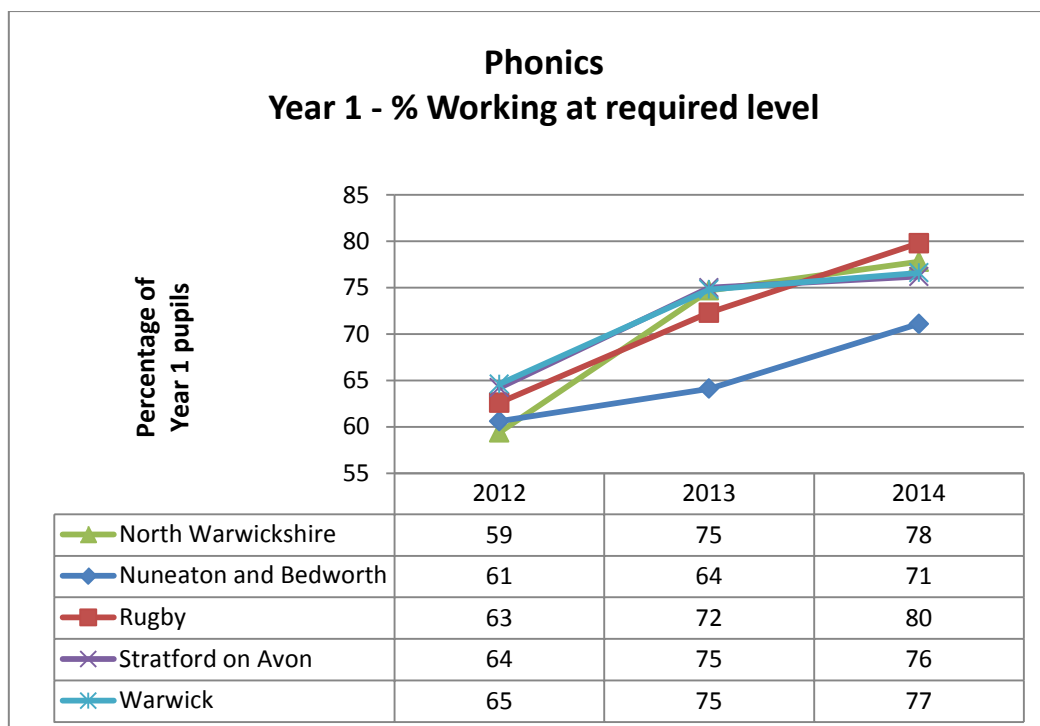


4.0 Year 1 Phonics

- 4.1 The Year 1 phonics screening check was introduced in 2012 to assess whether children could decode simple words. The expected level in 2013 and 2014 was a score of at least 32 out of 40. Performance has improved year on year both nationally and locally.
- 4.2 76% of Warwickshire's Year 1 children reached the expected level on the screening check compared to 72% in 2013 and 63% in 2012. Warwickshire's performance is around two percentage points higher than the national average.



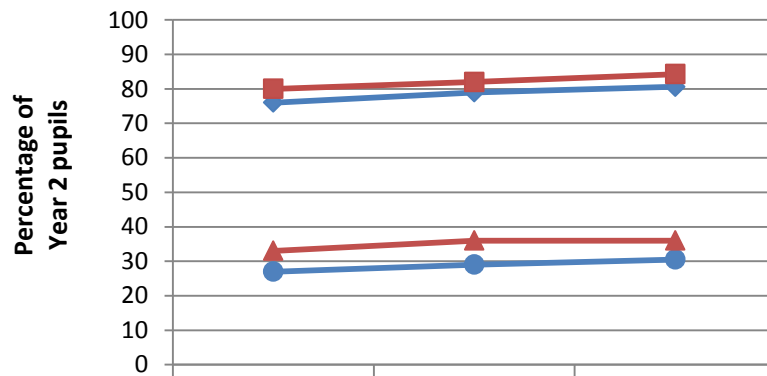
- 4.3 Performance on the phonics screening test improved in every District, with rises ranging from 1 percentage point in Stratford to 8 percentage points in Rugby. As a result, performance is higher than the national average in four of the five Districts. Although overall performance in Nuneaton and Bedworth remains below the national average, there was a 7 percentage point increase in 2014.
- 4.4 As a result of the improvements in 2014, the gap between the highest and lowest performing Districts decreased by 2 percentage points to 9.



5.0 Key Stage 1

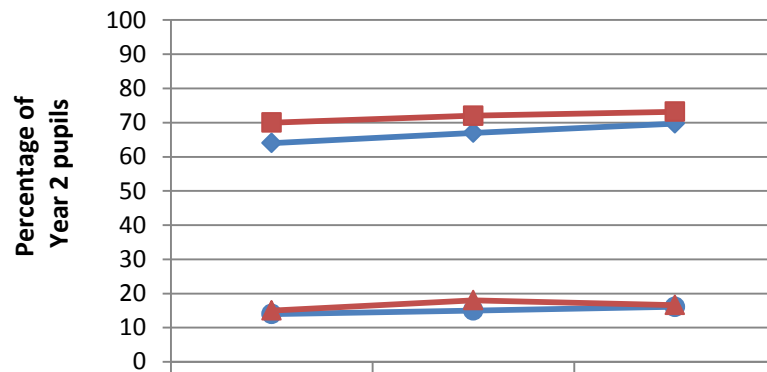
- 5.1 The performance of pupils in Key Stage 1 is measured by teacher assessment in reading, writing and mathematics at the end of Year 2. A sample of schools is externally moderated by the Local Authority to ensure consistency. The key measure in this Key Stage is the proportion of pupils achieving Level 2b.
- 5.2 84% of Warwickshire's Year 2 pupils reached Level 2b or above in reading, 73% reached Level 2b or above in writing, and 84% reached Level 2b or above in Mathematics. These figures were two, one and two percentage points higher than last year respectively.
- 5.3 Once again, more than one third of pupils (36%) reached Level 3 in reading, and more than one quarter (28%) reached Level 3 in mathematics. However under one fifth (17%) reached Level 3 in writing. These figures are similar to last year.
- 5.4 All Warwickshire's Key Stage 1 results are above the national averages.

Key Stage 1 - Reading % Level 2B and above & % Level 3 and above

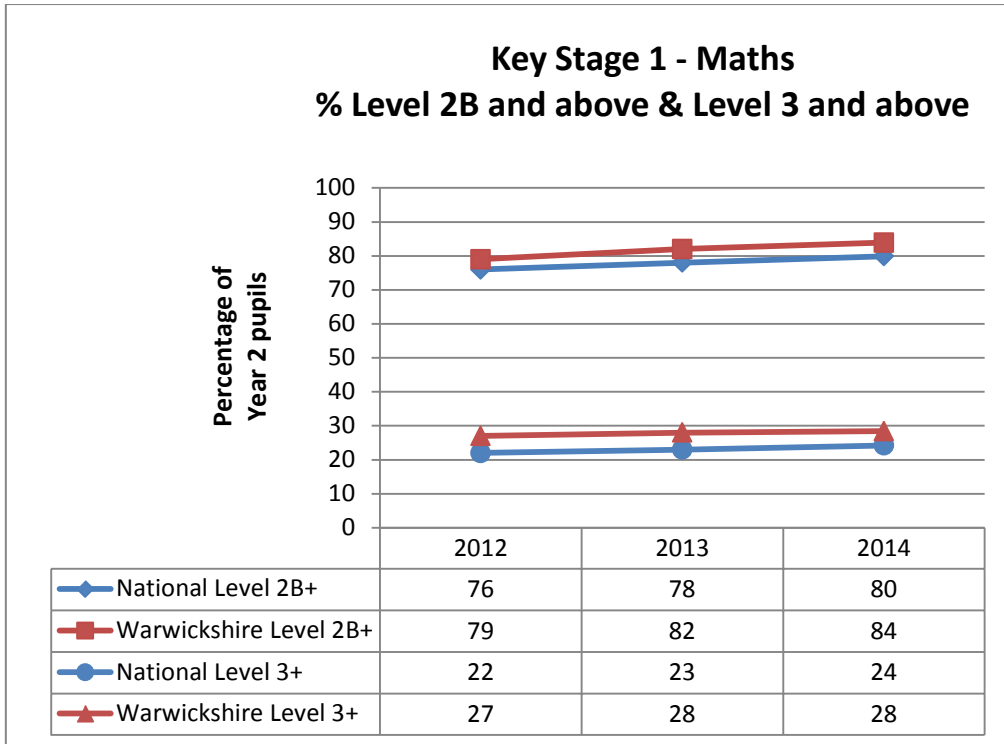


	2012	2013	2014
◆ National Level 2B+	76	79	81
■ Warwickshire Level 2B+	80	82	84
● National Level 3+	27	29	31
▲ Warwickshire Level 3+	33	36	36

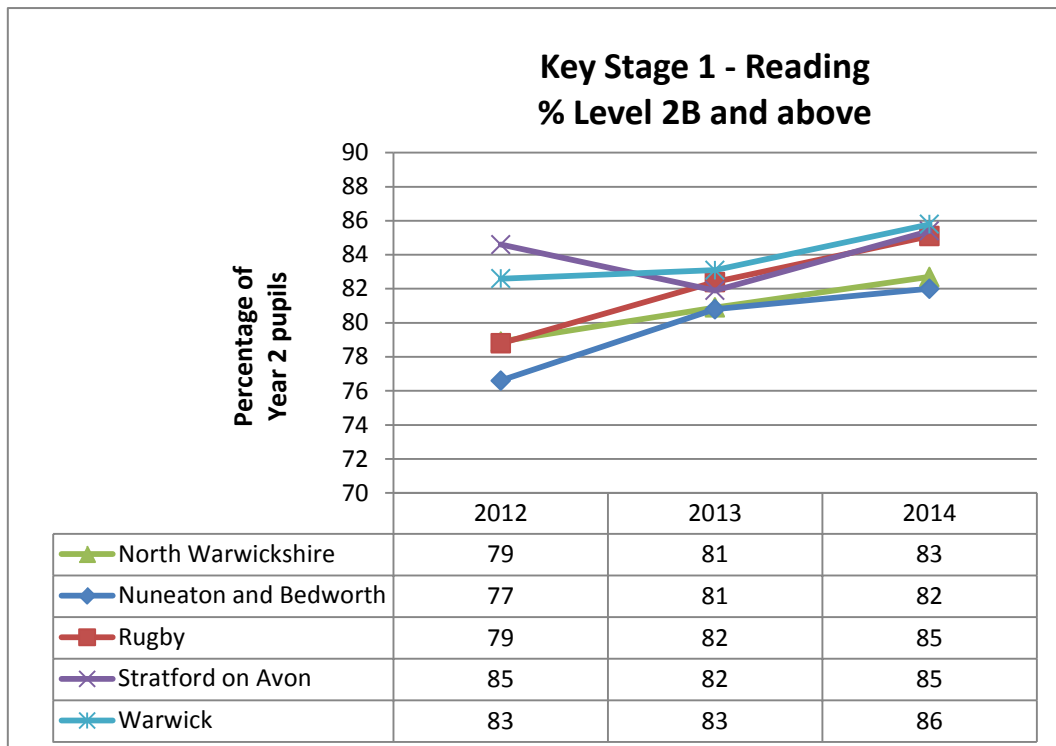
Key Stage 1 - Writing % Level 2B and above & Level 3 and above



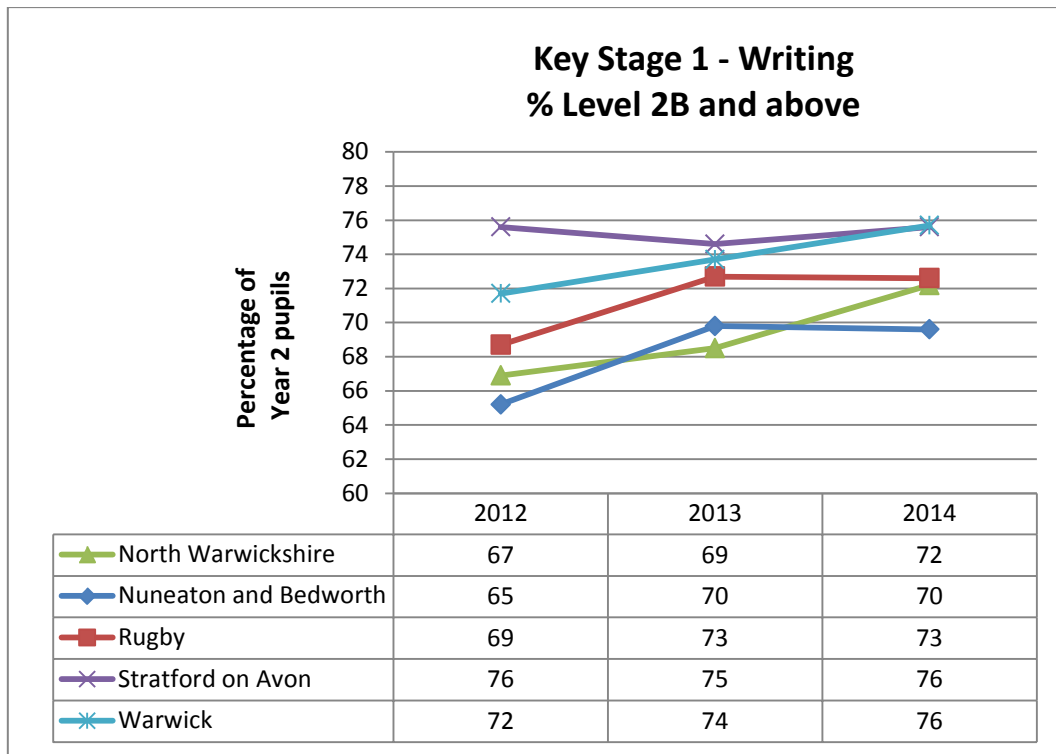
	2012	2013	2014
◆ National Level 2B+	64	67	70
■ Warwickshire Level 2B+	70	72	73
● National Level 3+	14	15	16
▲ Warwickshire Level 3+	15	18	17



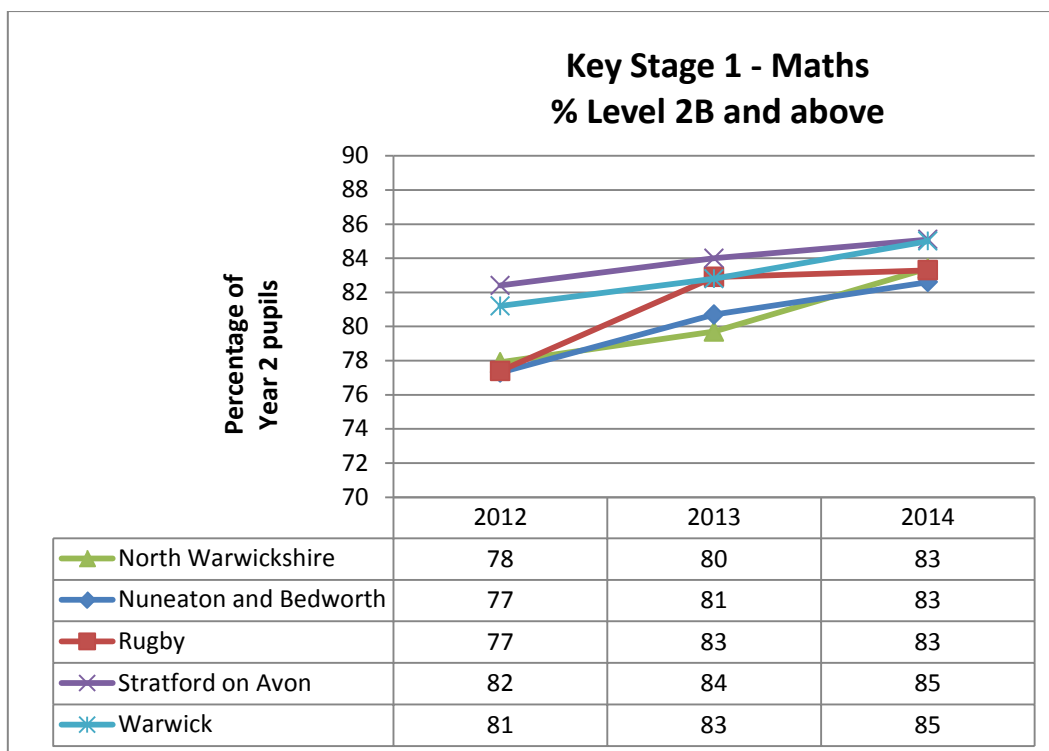
5.5 Performance in reading improved in every District with rises of 3 percentage points in Warwick, Stratford and Rugby. As a result, each District is above the national average. The gap between the highest and lowest has increased to 4 percentage points.



5.6 Performance in writing stayed the same or improved in every District with the biggest rise being 3 percentage points in North Warwickshire. As a result, every District is in line with or above the national average. The gap between the highest and lowest has remained constant at 6 percentage points.



5.7 Performance in mathematics stayed the same or improved in every District with the biggest rise being 3 percentage points in North Warwickshire. As a result, each District is currently above the national average. The gap between the highest and lowest has fallen to 2 percentage points.



6.0 Key Stage 2

6.1 Performance in Key Stage 2 (and therefore at the end of primary education) is measured by a combination of external National Curriculum Tests (often referred to as SATs) which are taken at the end of Year 6. The national expectation for pupils at this point is to achieve Level 4 or above; with higher attaining pupils achieving Level 5 and a small proportion achieving Level 6.

6.2 In 2013 there were a number of changes. The tests in reading and mathematics continued as before, but the writing test was discontinued in favour of a grammar, punctuation and spelling (GPS) test and teacher assessment of writing. There have been no further changes this year.

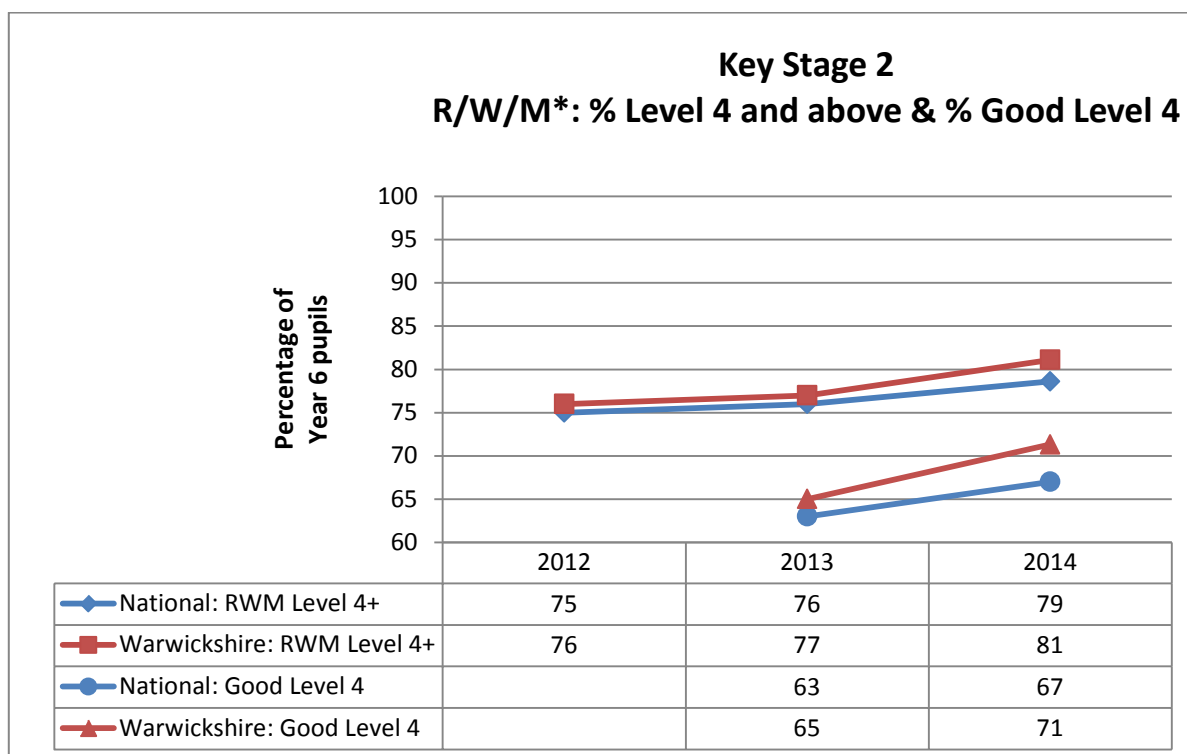
6.3 This is the second year of the new 'combined measure' which is the percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 or above in reading tests, writing teacher assessments and mathematics tests. As in the first year, detailed results for the GPS tests will be reported separately.

6.4 Teacher assessments have taken place as in previous years for all attainment targets in English, mathematics and science and again these assessment results had to be returned to the Department for Education (DfE) before test results were received.

6.5 The Department for Education sets a minimum standard of performance which is acceptable for any school. This is known as the 'floor standard'. Floor standards have remained constant this year. Primary schools will be below the floor standard if fewer than 60% of their pupils achieve Level 4 or above in

reading, writing and mathematics, and they are below the England medians for the proportion of pupils making two levels progress from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 in reading, in writing, and in maths.

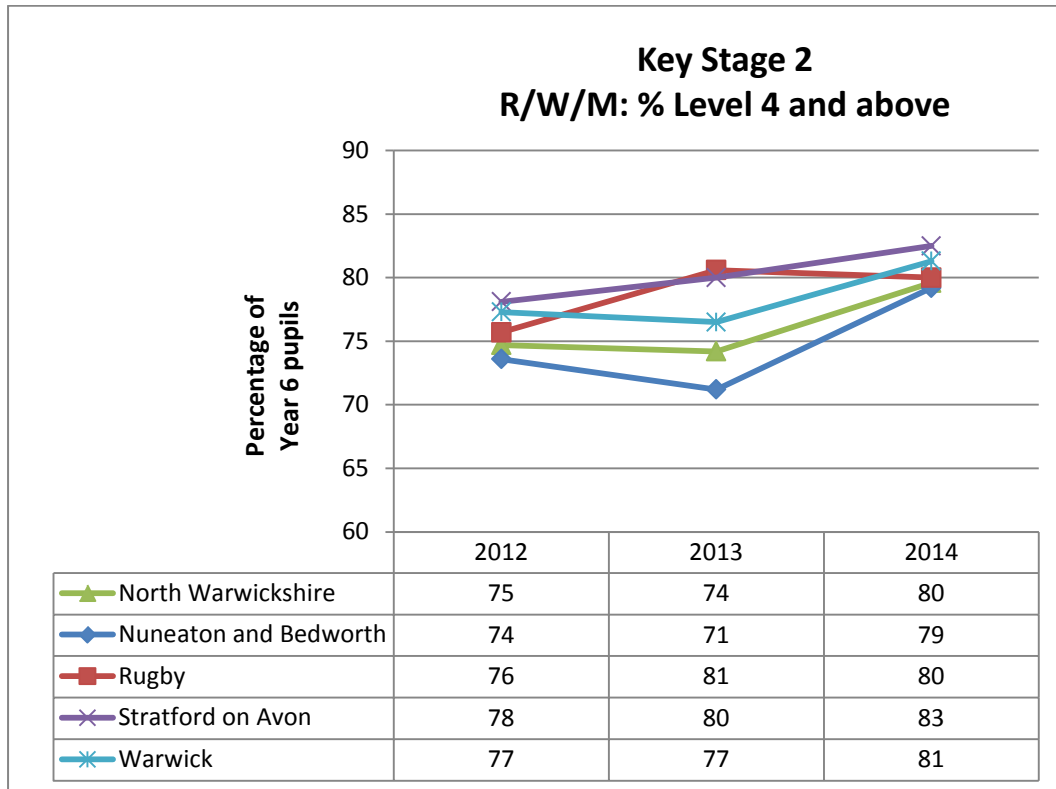
- 6.6 81% of Warwickshire Year 6 pupils reached Level 4 or above in reading, writing and mathematics. This is four percentage points higher than it was last year and is above the national average by two percentage points.
- 6.7 Performance against the new measure of ‘a good level 4’ (introduced in 2013) has increased by six percentage points from 65 to 71%. This is four percentage points above the national average.
- 6.8 There has also been a further two percentage point rise in the proportion of pupils achieving Level 5 in reading, writing and mathematics to 27%. This is three percentage points above the national average.
- 6.9 Over three quarters (79%) of Warwickshire pupils reached Level 4 or above in the grammar, punctuation and spelling test. This represents an increase of three percentage points on last year.
- 6.10 The Warwickshire performance in the GPS test is above the national average (by 3ppt at both levels). Performances in the other separate tests and assessments are also above national averages.



- 6.11 Performance on the combined reading, writing and mathematics measure improved in four of the five Districts with a small fall in Rugby. The biggest increase (6 percentage points) was in Nuneaton and Bedworth which is now

in line with the national average. Performances in the other four Districts are all above the national average.

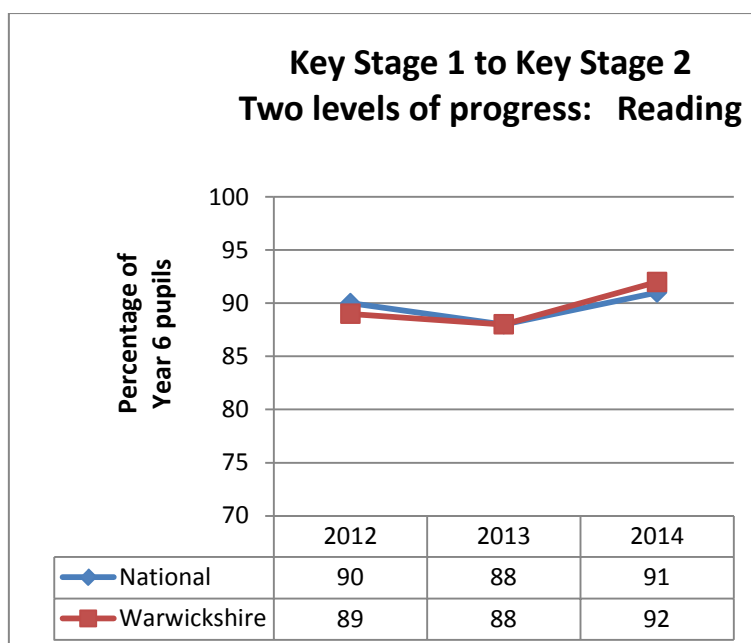
6.12 As a result of these improvements, the gap between the highest and lowest performing District has narrowed from 10 percentage points to 4 percentage points.



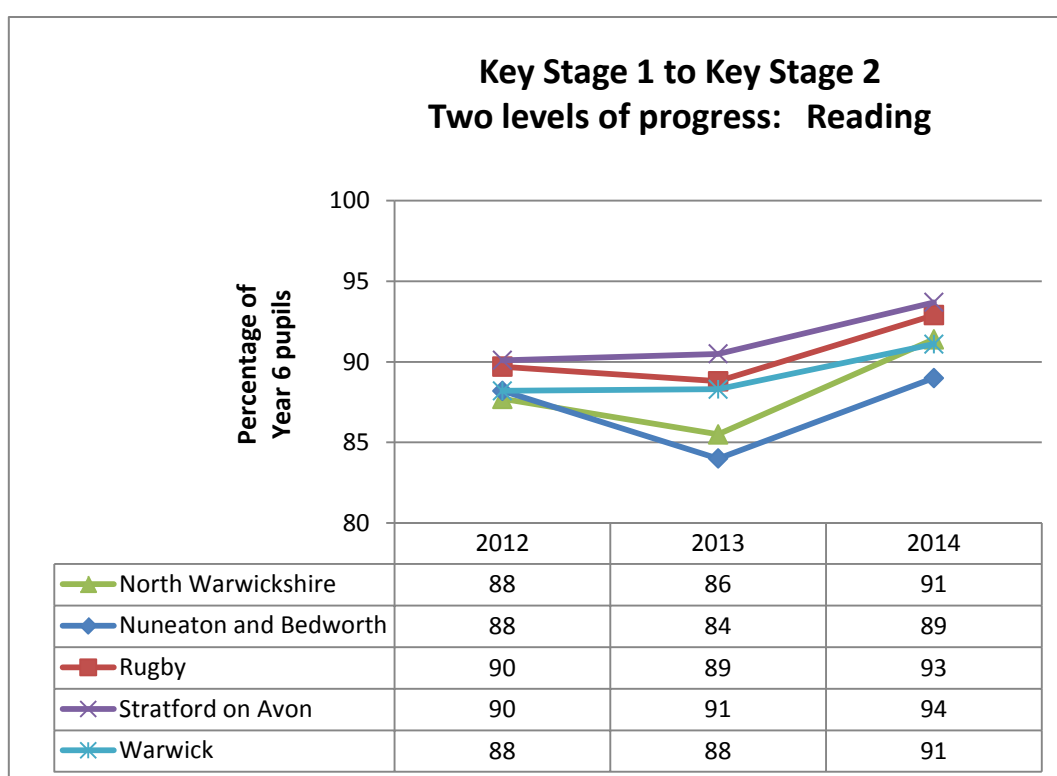
7.0 Progress between the Key Stages 1 and 2

7.1 During Key Stage 2, the national expectation is that pupils will make two national curriculum levels of progress.

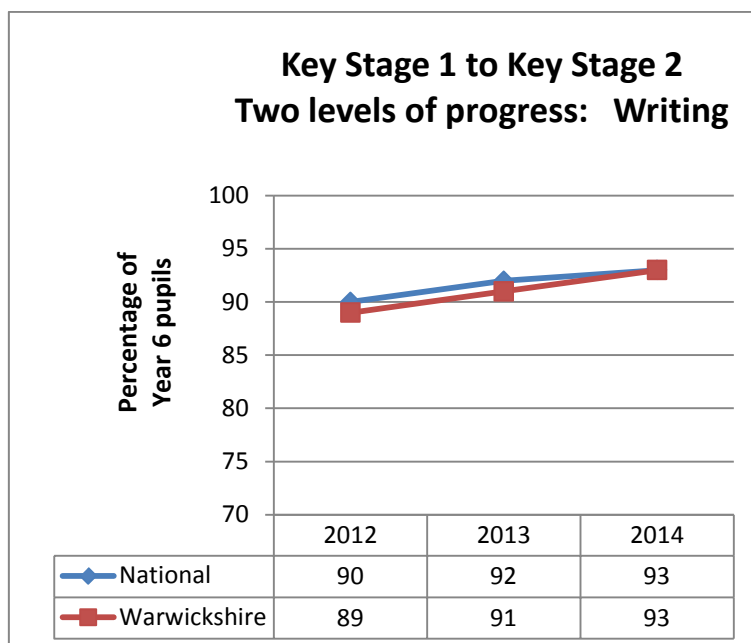
7.2 In 2014, 92% of Warwickshire pupils made the expected progress in reading. This is an improvement of four percentage points on 2013 and means that progress in reading is now above the national average.



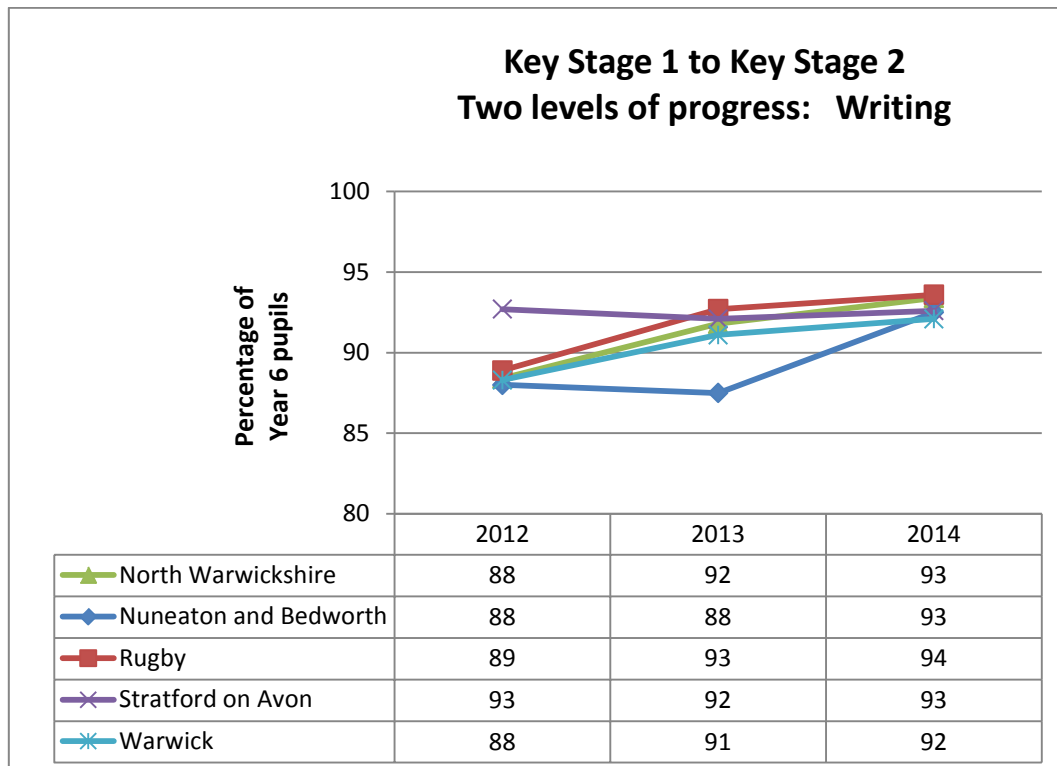
7.3 The proportion of pupils making two levels of progress in reading increased in every District and, as a result, is in line with the national average in all but Nuneaton and Bedworth. However, there was a 5 percentage point increase in this District, reducing the gap with Stratford, the highest performing District, to 5 percentage points.



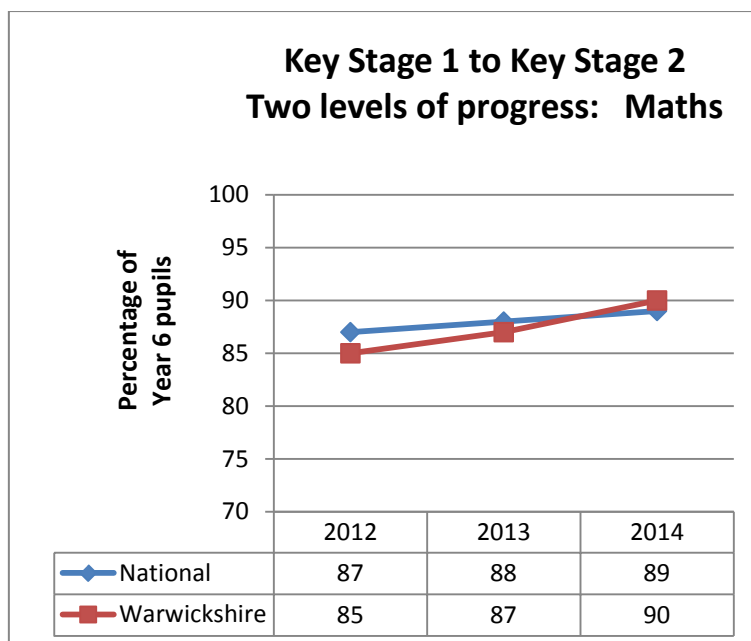
7.4 93% of Warwickshire pupils made the expected progress in writing, an increase of two percentage points. As a result, progress in writing is now in line with national average, having been below in previous years.



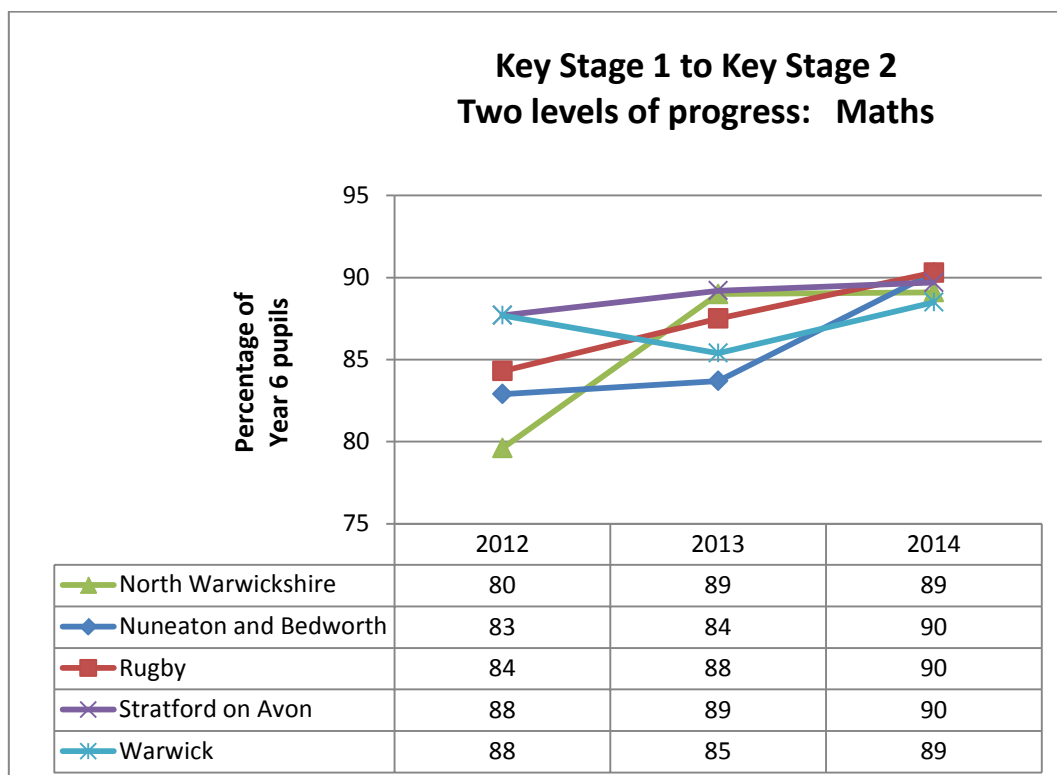
7.5 The proportion of pupils making two levels of progress in writing increased in every District and, as a result, is in line with the national average in all but Warwick. There was a 5 percentage point increase in Nuneaton and Bedworth. Overall the gap between the highest and lowest performing Districts reduced from 5 percentage points to 2.



7.6 90% of Warwickshire pupils made the expected progress in mathematics, an increase of three percentage points. Progress figures for mathematics are now above the national average, having been below in previous years.

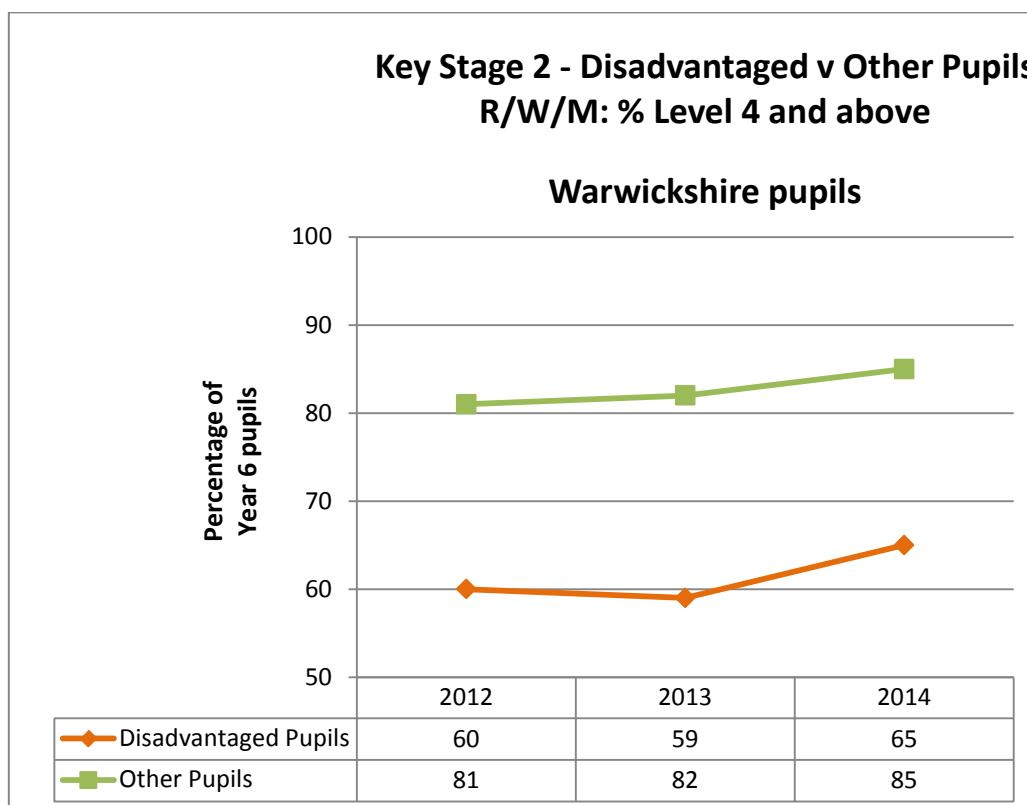


7.7 The proportion of pupils making two levels of progress in mathematics increased or remained constant in every District and, as a result, all Districts are in line with or above the national average. The biggest rise (6 percentage points) was in Nuneaton and Bedworth. Overall the gap between the highest and lowest performing Districts reduced from 5 percentage points to 1.



8.0 The Attainment of Disadvantaged Pupils

8.1 The performance of disadvantaged pupils (as defined by the DfE) has risen significantly. The proportion of disadvantaged pupils achieving Level 4 or above in reading, writing and mathematics was 65% in 2014, a rise of six percentage points. As the proportion of 'other' children rose by three percentage points, the gap has reduced from 23 percentage points to 20.



8.2 Although much improved, performance of this group remains too low and the gap remains too wide. Closing this gap is a key priority for the Council.

Recommendation

That the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the performance of children and young people in Warwickshire schools in national tests.

Background Papers:

None

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Nigel Minns	nigelminns@warwickshire.gov.uk 01926 742588
Head of Service	Nigel Minns	nigelminns@warwickshire.gov.uk 01926 742588
Strategic Director	Monica Fogarty	monicafogarty@warwickshire.gov.uk 01926 412514
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Colin Hayfield	cllrhayfield@warwickshire.gov.uk