

# JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2024/25

## Special Educational Needs<sup>i</sup> and Disability<sup>ii</sup> (SEND)

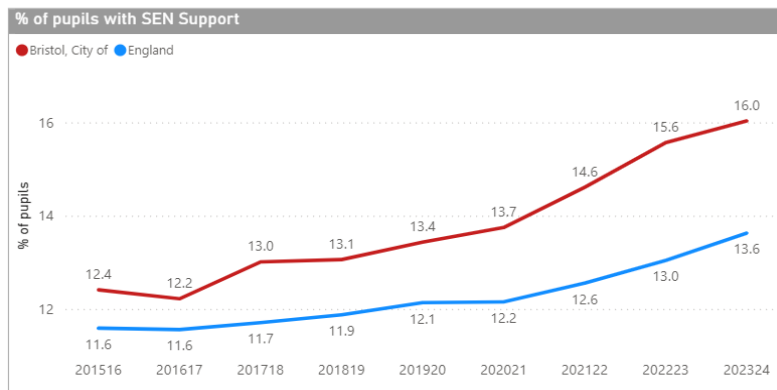
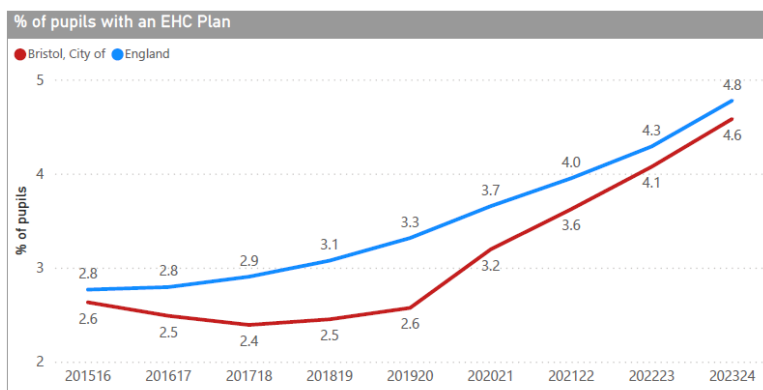
### Summary points

- The number of pupils with SEN continues to rise, both locally and nationally. There are just over 14,500 pupils in Bristol schools with Special Educational Needs (SEN), which is 20.6% of all pupils.
- Rates of SEN vary significantly across the city. 27% of pupils living in Hartcliffe and Withywood have SEN compared to 12% in Redland.
- Speech, language and communication needs is the most common primary need type for SEN pupils in Bristol.
- Bristol has a high rate of pupils with SEN support.
- Educational outcomes are significantly lower for pupils with SEN, especially for children with an EHC plan.

### Numbers of children and young people with SEN in Bristol schools

As at January 2024, there were 70,774 children on roll in Bristol schools<sup>1</sup>.

- 14,588 pupils with special educational needs (SEN)
  - 11,345 (16.0%) are receiving SEN support
  - 3,243 (4.6%) have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan



Source: school census 2024

The proportion of pupils with SEN in Bristol schools has been increasing year on year and has increased by 5.2% between 2023 and 2024. The proportion of pupils with an EHC plan continues to increase both locally and nationally. Bristol remains below the national average but the gap is narrowing. Bristol has a much higher than average proportion of pupils with SEN Support.

SEN is more prevalent in boys than girls, both locally and nationally.

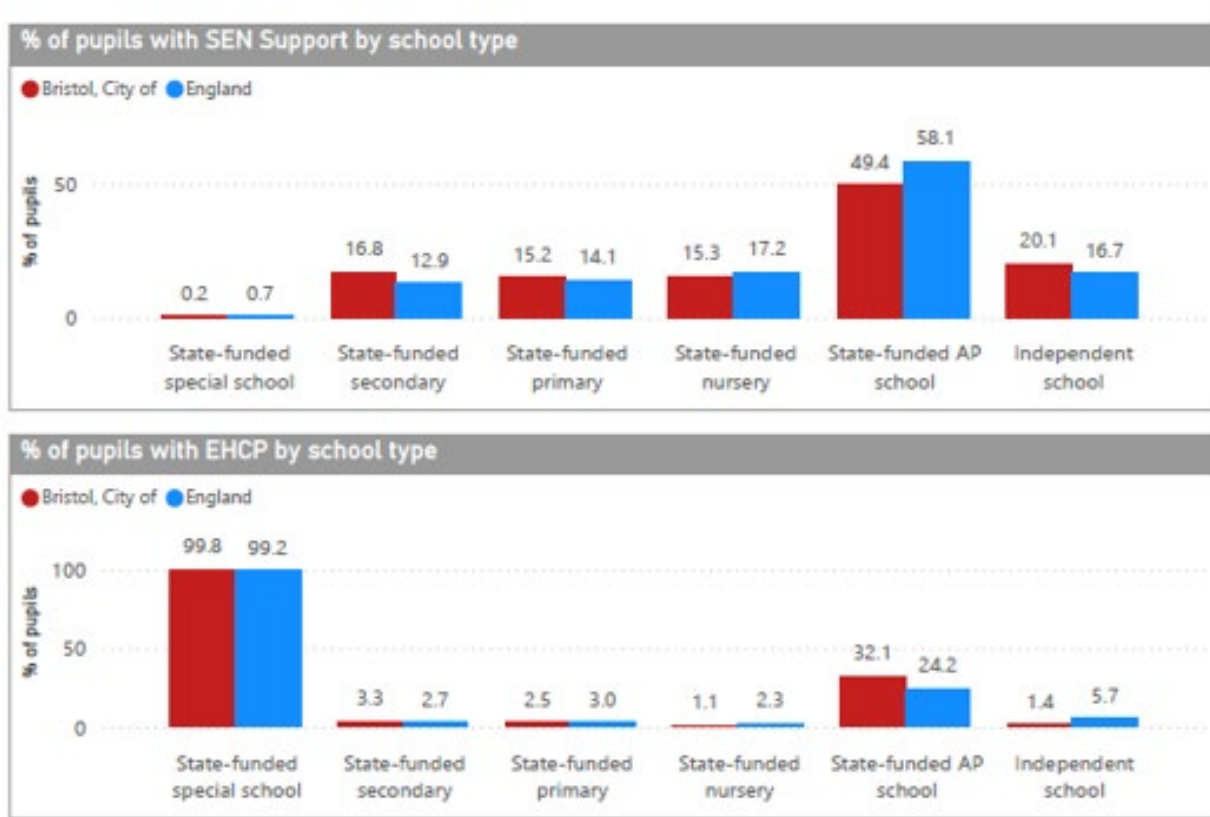
- 71% of pupils with an EHC plan are boys
- 62% of pupils with SEN Support are boys

In Bristol, rates of EHC plans and SEN support are higher in secondary schools than primary schools. Nationally rates are higher in primary schools. Bristol has an increasing proportion of pupils with an EHC plan or SEN support in nursery schools, but this remains lower than the

<sup>1</sup> All Bristol schools including academies and independent schools.

national average. Bristol has a higher-than-average rate of pupils with SEN support in both primary and secondary schools.

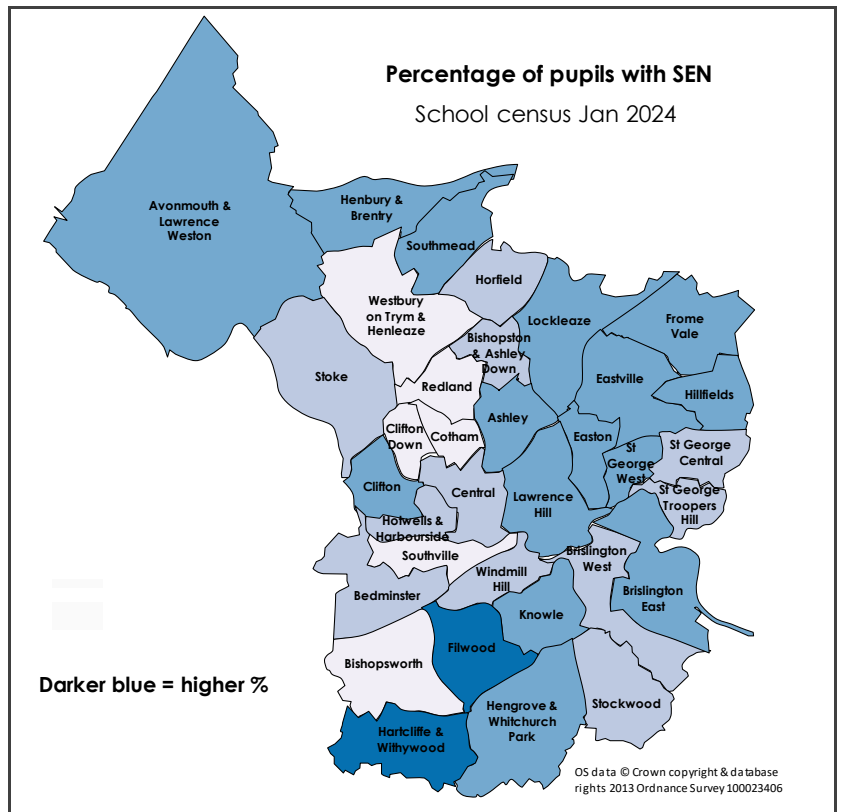
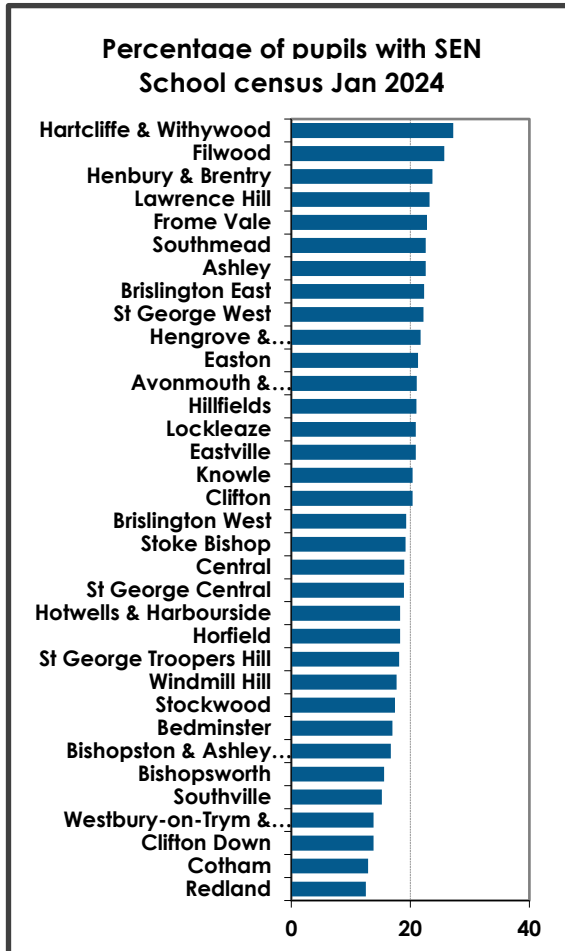
- In primary schools, 2.5% of pupils have an EHC plan and 15.2% have SEN support
- In secondary schools, 3.3% of pupils have an EHC plan and 16.8% have SEN support



SOURCE:  
SCHOOL  
CENSUS

### Percentage of Pupils with SEN by Ward

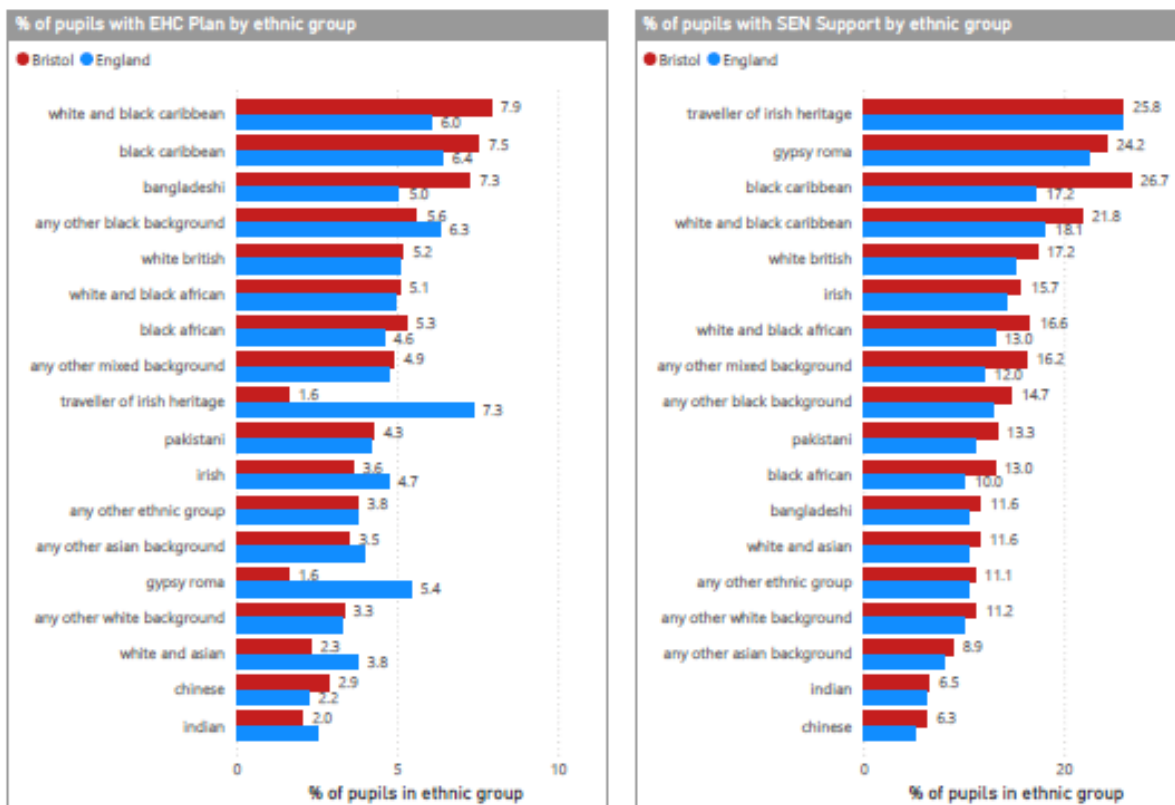
Local school census data for pupils with SEN (EHC plans and SEN support) shows a wide variation across Bristol, ranging from 12% in Redland and Cotham to 27% in Hartcliffe and Withywood.



### Ethnicity

SEN support is most prevalent in the Traveller of Irish heritage ethnic group in Bristol and EHC plans are most prevalent in the White and Black Caribbean ethnic group.

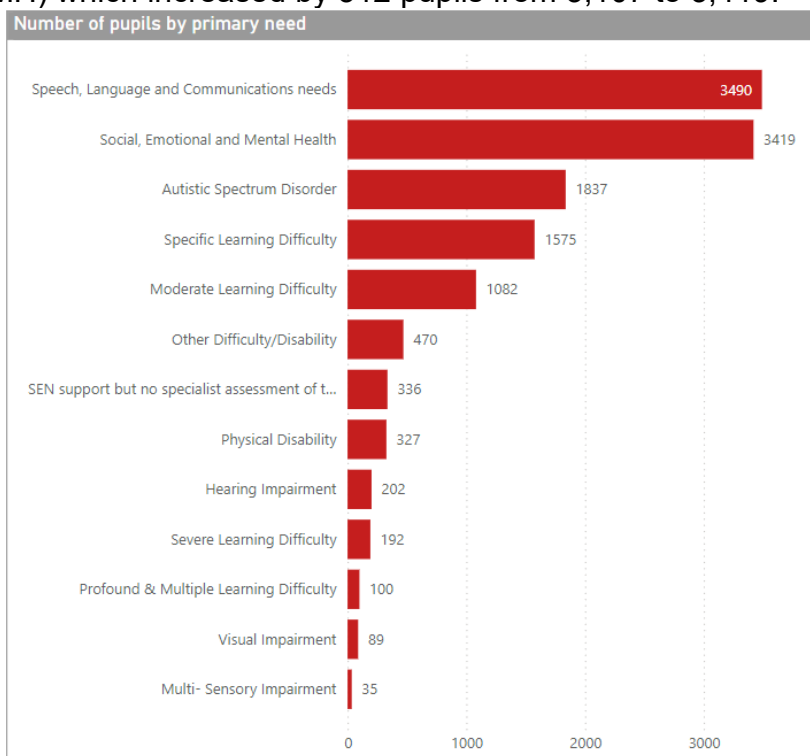
Bristol has a significantly higher rate of Black Caribbean pupils receiving SEN Support than the national average (26.7% compared to 17.2%). The lowest rates for SEN are for children and young people from Chinese and Indian communities.



SOURCE: SCHOOL CENSUS

### Primary Need of children with SEN

Speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) continues to be the most common primary need for pupils with SEN in Bristol schools. For pupils with an EHC plan the most common need type is Autistic Spectrum Disorder (1,052 pupils). This is the same nationally. The greatest increase in primary need between 2023 and 2024 was for social, emotional and mental health (SEMh) which increased by 312 pupils from 3,107 to 3,419.



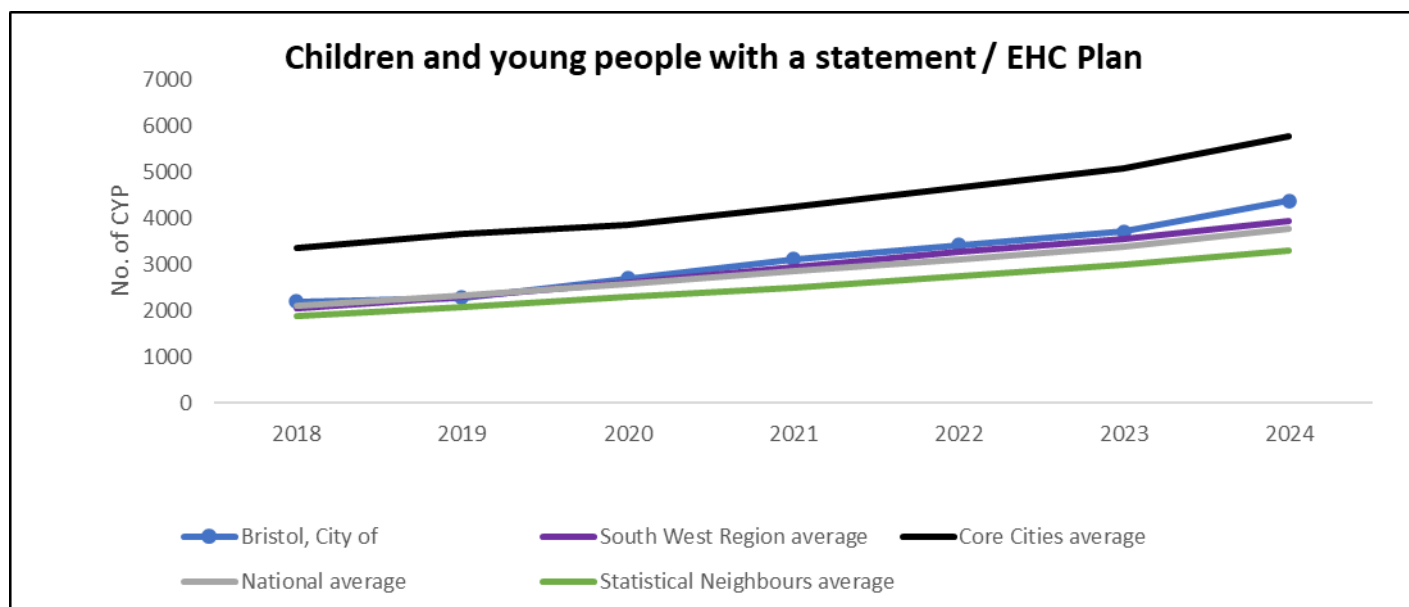
SOURCE: SCHOOL CENSUS JAN 24

The most common primary need for SEN pupils in primary schools is speech, language and communication needs (2,364 pupils) and in secondary schools the most common primary need type is social, emotional and mental health (1,514 pupils).

The greatest increase in primary need between 2023 and 224 was for social, emotional and mental health which increased by 312 pupils from 3,107 to 3,419.

**Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans<sup>iii</sup> maintained by Bristol Local Authority**

In January 2024, 4,382 0-25 year olds had an EHC plan maintained by Bristol City Council, up by 18% from 3,709 in 2023. This equates to a rate of 259 EHC plans per 10,000 or 2.6% of the 0-25 population. Nationally 3% of 0-25 year olds have an EHC plan. Bristol has seen a greater increase between 2023 and 2024 in the proportion of children and young people with an EHC plan than the national average (11%) and the southwest region (11%).



Children aged 11 to 15 years old account for the largest proportion of children and young people with EHC plans (39.4% locally and 36.4% nationally). The proportion of EHC plans for 11 to 15 year olds has increased by 1.3% between Jan 2023 and Jan 2024 whilst the proportion of 5-10 year olds and 16 – 19 year olds with an EHC plan in Bristol has decreased (-0.5% and -0.8% respectively).

**Social care (as of Jan 2024)<sup>2</sup>**

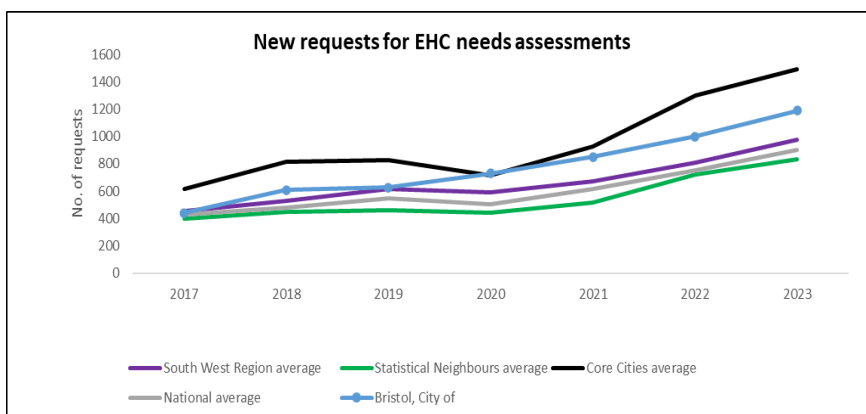
- 3.4% (152) of children in Bristol with an EHC plan are in care
- 1.1% (48) of children in Bristol with an EHC plan are subject to a child protection plan
- 4.3% (193) of children in in Bristol with an EHC plan are children in need

<sup>2</sup> Source: Bristol City Council Local data as at the end of January 2024.

### EHC Needs Assessments<sup>iv</sup>

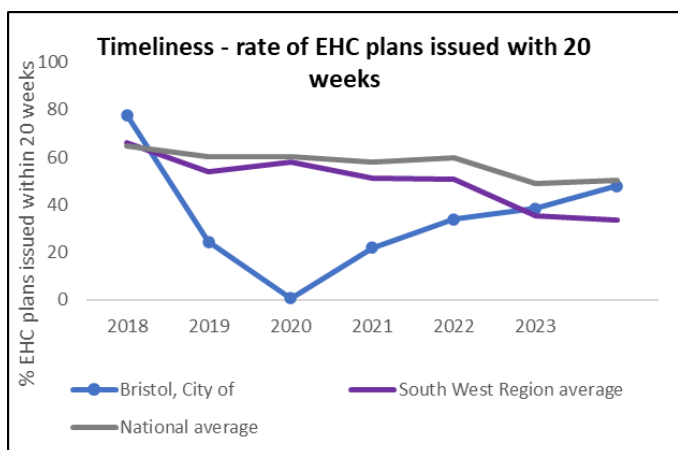
There were 1189 initial requests for an EHC plan in Bristol during 2023, up by 18.8% from 1001 in 2022. The national number of requests in 2023 equates to 0.8% of the 0-25 year population/rate of 80 per 10,000. This compares to 70 requests per 10,000 in Bristol. Requests received in 2023 were from the following school phases below:

- 52% primary
- 31% secondary
- 13% early years
- 3% post 16



SOURCE: BCC SEND TEAM

Current year data shows 1,158 requests between January 2024 and September 2024, an increase of 29% on the same period in 2023.



SOURCE: SEN2 2024

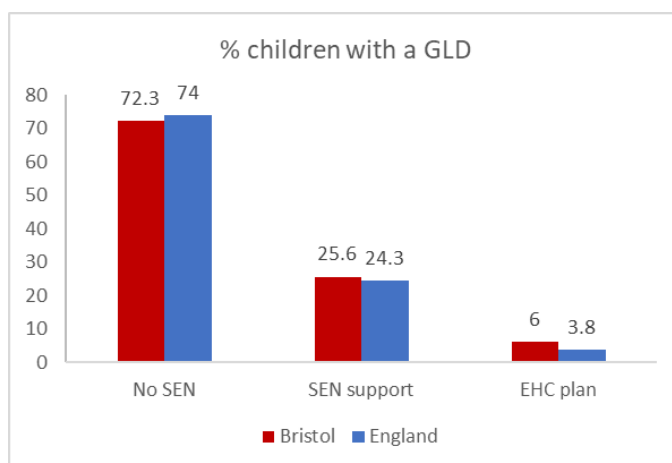
In 2024, 48%<sup>3</sup> of EHC plans were finalised within the statutory 20 week timescale.

EHC Plans issued by Bristol within the statutory 20-week period has shown a year-on-year improvement since 2020, closing the gap to the national average.

### Education

#### Early years

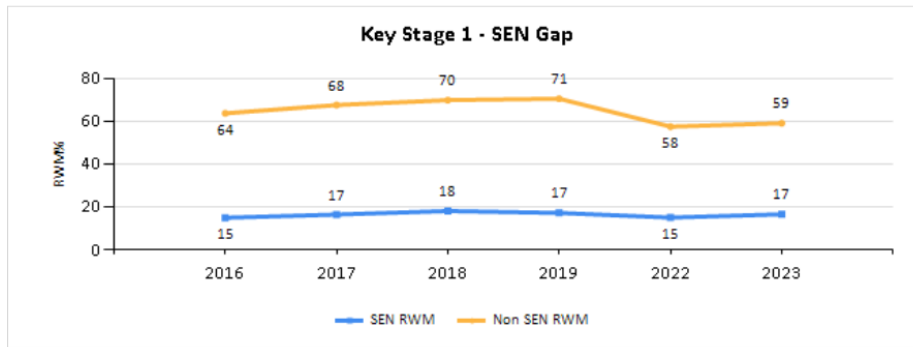
- In 2023, 25.6% of children receiving SEN support achieved a good level of development at Early Years Foundation Stage, compared to the England average of 24.3%. For Bristol this is an increase of 5.6 percentage points when compared to the previous year but still falls well below children with no identified SEN (72.3%).
- 6% of children with an EHCP plan achieved a good level of development at Early Years Foundation Stage, higher than the England average of 3.8%.



<sup>3</sup> DfE Key performance measure – excludes plans issued after a mediation and/or tribunal and any exception cases

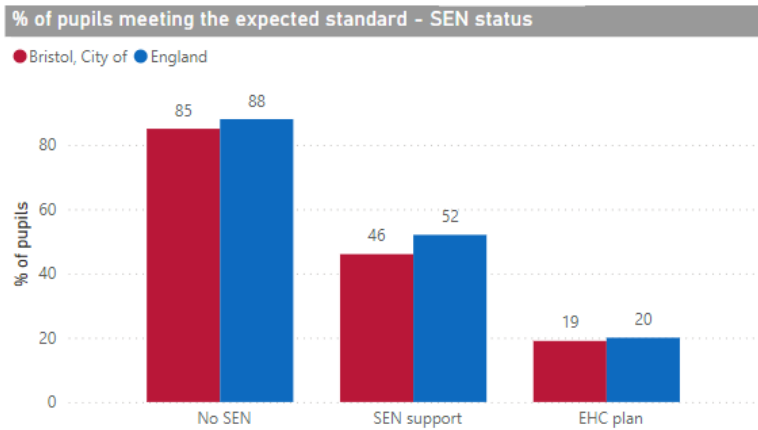
KS1

- In 2023, 17% of pupils with SEN achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths at KS2 compared to 59% of pupils with no SEN.



source: BCC data and analysis team

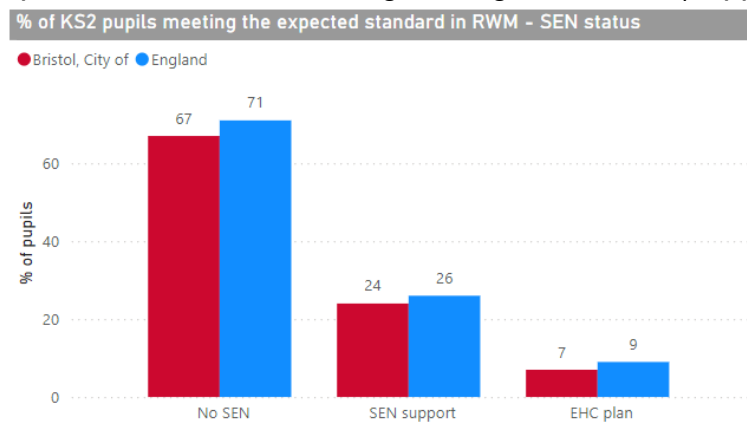
- In 2024, 19% of pupils with an EHC plan met the expected standard for phonics at the end of year 1 in Bristol (20% nationally) and 44% of pupils with SEN support (48% nationally).



Source: DfE

KS2

- In 2024, 7% of pupils with an EHC plan, an increase of 2 percentage points on the previous year and below the national average of 9%.
- 24% of pupils with SEN support met the expected standard in reading, writing and maths at KS2.
- At KS2 in Bristol, there remains a significant gap between the SEN and non-SEN pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths (47ppts).

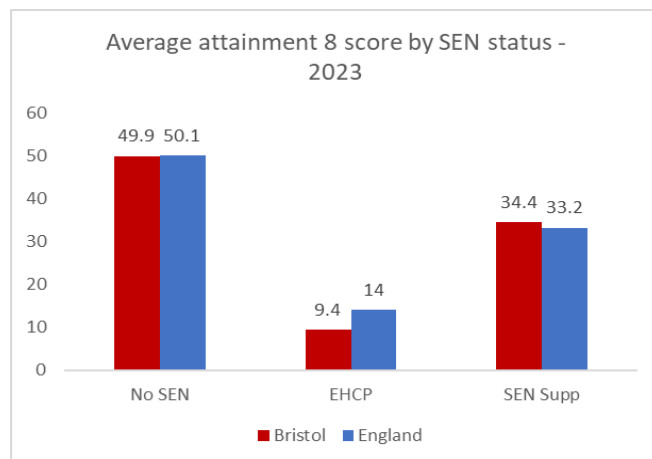


Source: DfE

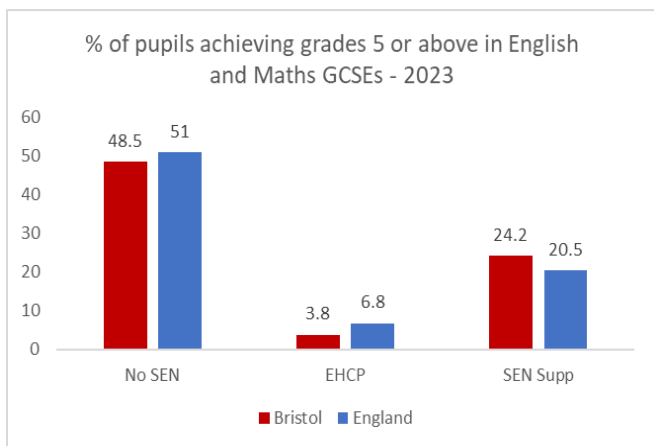


KS4

- In 2023, the average attainment 8 score for pupils with SEN support was 34.4 (33.2 nationally).
- The average score was 9.4 for pupils with an EHC plan, below the England average of 14.
- 24.2% of pupils with SEN support achieved grade 5 or above in English and maths GCSEs and 3.8% of pupils with an EHC plan. This compares to 48.5% of pupils with no SEN.

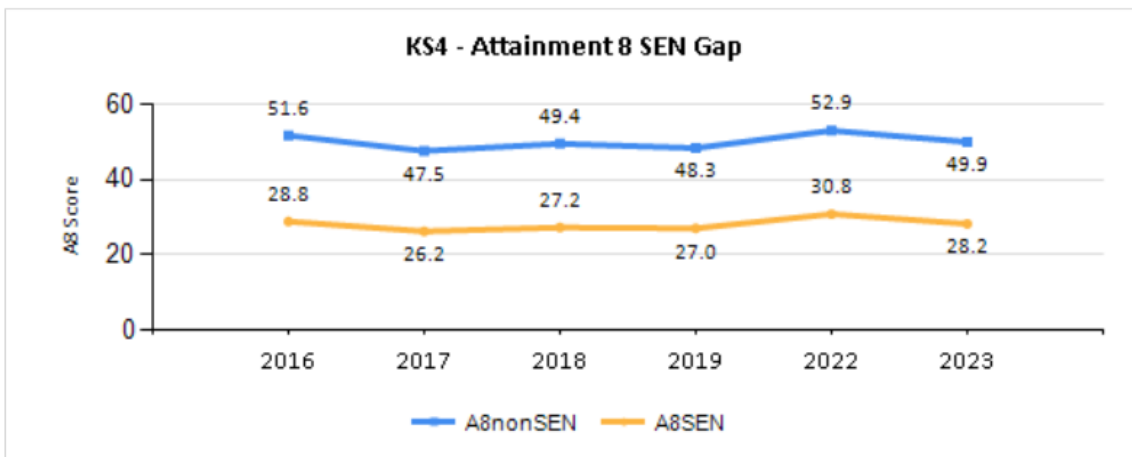


SOURCE: DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION



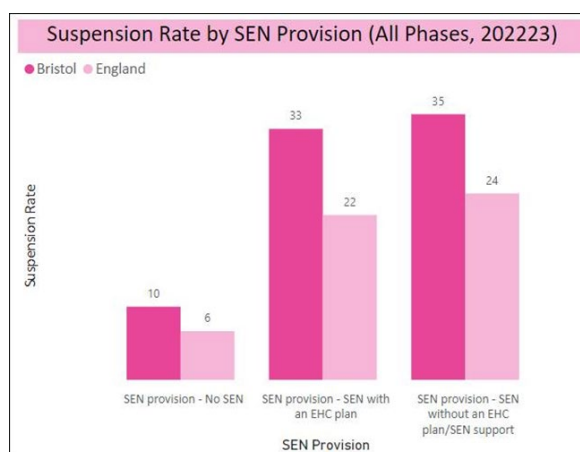
Whilst KS4

performance for pupils with SEN remains significantly lower than pupils without SEN, the gap has narrowed slightly in the last year. The gap for percentage achieving grades 5 and above in English and maths has narrowed from 34 percentage points in 2022 to 29.3 percentage points in 2023. The reduction in the gap for attainment 8 is smaller dropping from 22.1 points in 2022 to 21.7 points in 2023.



Absence/suspensions

- The rate of suspensions for pupils with an EHC plan is lower than for those with SEN support both locally and nationally. Both are significantly higher than pupils with no SEN.
- The suspension rate has seen a larger increase for pupils with SEN in Bristol than for those with no SEN between 2022 and 2023.
- Suspension rates for pupils with SEN in Bristol are significantly higher than the national average.





- Permanent exclusion rates are increasing both locally and nationally. In Bristol for 2022/23, the permanent exclusion rate for pupils with an EHC plan was 0.22 (0.20 nationally). For pupils with SEN support the rate was 0.23 (0.37 nationally).
- In 2022/23, the absence rate for children and young people with an EHC plan in Bristol was 16.2, compared to the England average of 12.3.
- Absence rates for children and young people at SEN Support level in Bristol was 11.8, compared to the England average of 10.2.
- Absence rates for pupils with SEN have increased between 2021/22 and 2022/23 both locally and nationally but rates in Bristol have increased at a quicker rate than seen nationally.

## Post 16

- At the end of 2022/23, 83.4% of KS4 pupils with an EHC plan who left KS4 in 2021/22 were in sustained education, employment and apprenticeships, below the national average of 88.2%
- 86.6% of KS4 pupils with SEN support were in sustained education, employment and apprenticeships, below the national average of 87.1%<sup>4</sup>.
- 8.1% of 16-17 year olds with an EHC plan are recorded as NEET or Not Known for 2023<sup>5</sup>. This is below the national average of 10.1%.
- In 2023, 23.7% of 19 year olds with an EHC plan and 56.7% with SEN support were qualified to Level 2 in English and maths. This compares to 80.7% of pupils with no identified SEN<sup>6</sup>.
- 13% of 19 year olds with an EHC plan were qualified to level 3 and 42.6% of pupils with SEN support.

## Further data / links

- Bristol's SEND Local Offer – [www.Bristol.gov.uk/web/bristol-local-offer](http://www.Bristol.gov.uk/web/bristol-local-offer)
- [Special educational needs in England: January 2024 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/special-educational-needs-in-england-january-2024)
- [Education, health and care plans: England 2024 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/education-health-and-care-plans-england-2024)
- [Education, Health and Care plans LIVE](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/education-health-and-care-plans-live)

**Date updated:** October 2024

## Endnotes: Definitions

### <sup>i</sup> Special educational needs (SEN)<sup>i</sup>

A child or young person has special educational needs (SEN) if he or she has a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. A child or young person is considered to have a learning difficulty if he or she has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age. A child or young person has a learning disability if they have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.

<sup>4</sup> Source: DfE: Key stage 4 destination measure 2021 to 2022. Data is for pupils in state funded mainstream and special schools.

<sup>5</sup> Data is an average of the rates for Dec 2022, Jan 2023 and Feb 2023.

<sup>6</sup> Source: DfE: Level 2 and 3 attainment age 16-25

**ii Disability**

A person has a disability if she or he has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial, long term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Statutory guidance and the SEND [Code of Practice](#) provide additional information to help with the interpretation and application of these definitions. The statutory definitions of special educational needs (SEN) and disability which are described above are found in Section 20 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and section 6 of the Equality Act 2010.

**iii Education health and care plan (EHCP)**

An EHC plan is a legal document that describes a child or young person's special educational, health and social care needs. It explains the extra help that will be given to meet those needs and how that help will support the child or young person to achieve what they want to in their life.

**iv Education, health and care needs assessment (EHCNA)**

The majority of children and young people with SEN or disabilities will have their needs met within local mainstream early years settings, schools or colleges. Some children and young people may require an EHC needs assessment in order for the local authority to decide whether it is necessary for it to make provision in accordance with an EHC plan. The assessment seeks to establish and record the views, interests and aspirations of the parents and child or young person to provide a full description of the child or young person's special educational needs, and any health and social care needs. It establishes outcomes across education, health and social care based on the child or young person's identified needs and aspirations. It specifies the provision required and how education, health and care services will work together to meet the child or young person's needs and support the achievement of the agreed outcomes.