



**Nottinghamshire  
County Council**

Phonics screening check  
2024/25

**PHONICS**

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Nottinghamshire LA

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**Email:**[data.collections@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:data.collections@nottscc.gov.uk)**Introduction**

This statistical report provides provisional information on the achievements of eligible pupils (typically 6 year olds) in the 2025 Year 1 and Year 2 retake phonics screening check for Nottinghamshire. The report is based on data provided by schools to the Local Authority in 18th July 2025

**Description of the Nottinghamshire cohort**

There were 9,011 pupils in year 1 who took the phonics screening test. Of these, 1,700 (18.9%) have been eligible for free school meals at some point in the last 6 years; 2,044 (22.7%) were from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) backgrounds and 1,155 (12.8%) had a learning difficulty and/or disability. 194 pupils in year 1 had a statement of Special Educational Needs or a Educational Health Care Plan.

**Headlines**

The percentage of children working at the expected standard in the 2025 phonics check assessments is:

- All pupils: **79.7 percent**
- Boys: **76.1 percent**
- Girls: **83.4 percent**

Outcomes for all pupils in Nottinghamshire working at the expected standard were below the National (2025) average of 79.9%.

Comparisons to 2024 show that there was a decrease of 1.4 percentage points in the number of pupils working at the expected standard.

The average mark of pupils eligible for assessment was:

- All pupils: **33.0**
- Boys: **32.1**
- Girls: **33.9**

The average mark for all pupils in Nottinghamshire was below the National (2024) average mark of 33.4.

Comparisons to 2024 show that there was a decrease of 0.3 points in the average mark achieved by pupils.

## **Vulnerable Pupil Groups**

*(note that caution should be taken when comparing small cohort sizes)*

Of those pupils in the cohort who have been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years (FSM6), 64.4% (1,094 pupils) were working at the expected standard in the phonics screening check compared to 83.2% (6,084) of pupils who have never been eligible for FSM6. The FSM6 gap for Notts is 18.8%.

Of those pupils in the cohort with a Special Educational Need (SEN), 37.6% (434 pupils) were working at the expected standard in the phonics screening check compared to 86.1% (6,734) of pupils with no SEN. The SEN gap for Notts is 48.5%.

Of those pupils in the cohort from a Black or Minority Ethnic background (BME), 79.5% (1,624 pupils) were working at the expected standard in the phonics screening check compared to 80.1% (5,402) of White British pupils. The BME gap for Notts is 0.6%.

Of those pupils in the cohort whose first language is other than English (EAL), 78.7% (888 pupils) were working at the expected standard in the phonics screening check compared to 80% (6,238) of pupils whose first language is English. The EAL gap for Notts is 1.3%.

## **Phonics Recheck Headlines**

The percentage of children working at the expected standard (out of 1791 pupils) in the 2025 phonics recheck assessments is:

- All pupils: **49.6 percent**
- Boys: **47 percent**
- Girls: **53.6 percent**

Comparisons to 2024 show that there was a decrease of 5.1 percentage points in the number of pupils working at the expected standard.

The average mark of pupils eligible for the recheck assessment was:

- All pupils: **26**
- Boys: **25.3**
- Girls: **27.1**

Comparisons to 2024 show that there was a decrease of 1.7 in the average mark achieved by pupils.

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## Tables and Appendices

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## Technical Notes

1. The figures in this report are based on provisional Year 1 and Year 2 retake phonics screening check data collected from schools. The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard. The Year 1 phonics screening check statistics published in this report are produced from data provided to the DfE by Nottinghamshire LA.

### Assessment arrangements

2. The phonics screening check is a statutory assessment for all children in Year 1. It must be administered by a teacher known to the child because the role requires a teacher's professional judgement about which responses are correct, and it forms part of teacher assessment. The phonics screening check comprises a list of 40 words, made up of a combination of both real and pseudo-words, that children read one-to-one with a teacher.

### How to interpret the results

3. The National Curriculum standards have been designed so that pupils are expected to achieve a score of 32 out of 40 in the phonics screening check in order to meet the required standard. Children who have not reached the expected standard in the phonics screening check at the end of Year 1 must be considered for a retake of the phonics screening check in June of Year 2.

### Assessment codes

4. The following table sets out descriptions and codes for outcomes of the Year 1 phonics screening check:

Description	Phonics outcome code	Average mark
Child took the phonics screening check and met the required standard (score of 32-40)	Wa	
Child took the phonics screening check and did not meet the required standard (score of 0-31)	Wt	
Absent	A	Disregarded
Child did not take the phonics screening check	D	Disregarded
Child has left the school	L	Disregarded

### National figures

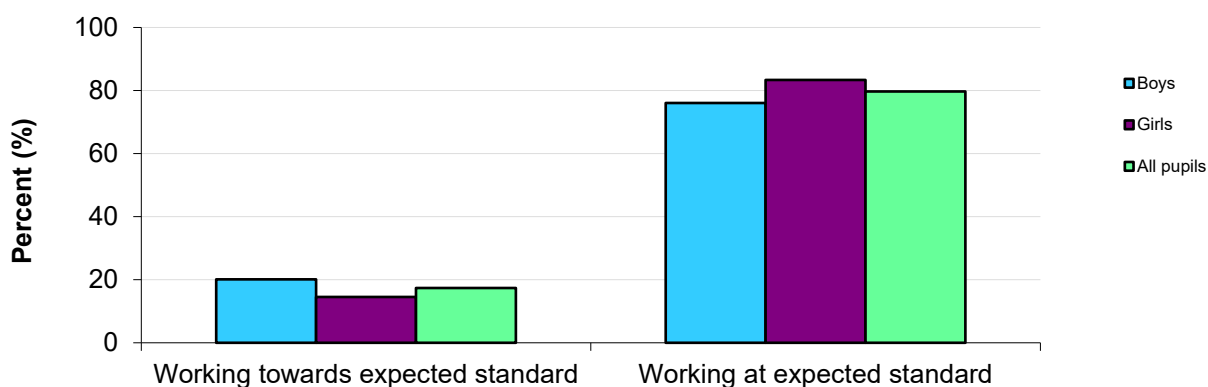
5. National figures for 2019/20 and 2020/21 have been taken from NCER. Not all LA's upload their results and therefore the figure is not fully complete. Caution should therefore be used when using them for comparison purposes. Historically we have used DfE national figures but due to Covid-19 these have not been published for the last 2 years.

Table 1: Summary of phonics outcomes 2025

## LA summary

	Number of pupils	Working towards the expected standard		Working at the expected standard	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Boys	4,586	923	20.1	3,488	76.1
Girls	4,425	643	14.5	3,690	83.4
<b>All pupils</b>	<b>9,011</b>	<b>1,566</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>7,178</b>	<b>79.7</b>
National 24/25	600420	99150	16.5	479500	79.9

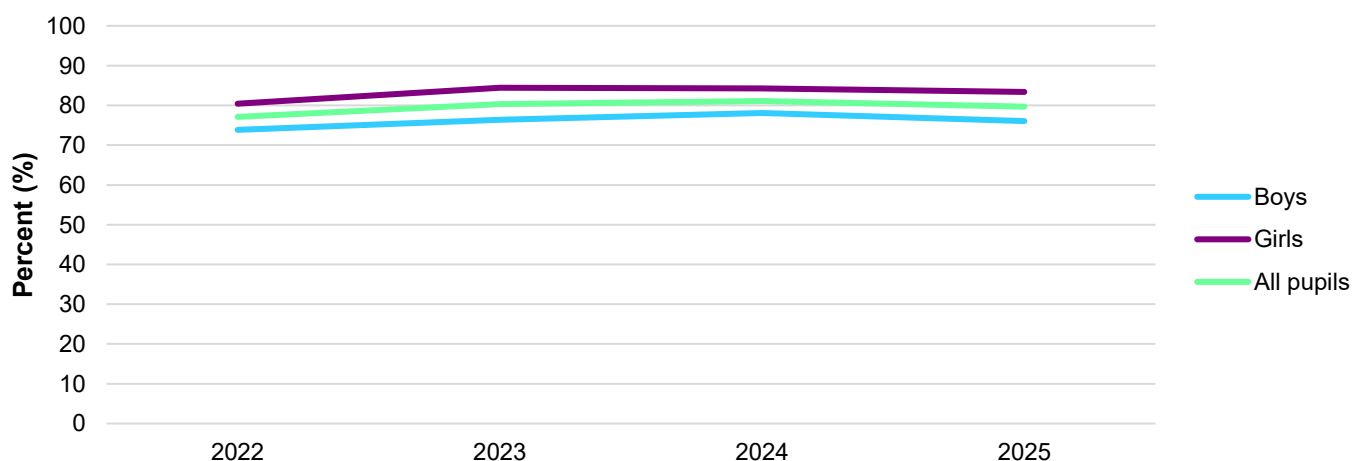
Percentage of pupils working at and towards the expected standard in phonics



## Yearly Trend

	Working towards the expected standard				Working at the expected standard			
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2025	2024	2023	2022
Boys	20.1	18.6	21.0	23.4	76.1	78.1	76.4	73.8
Girls	14.5	14.3	14.4	18.0	83.4	84.3	84.4	80.4
All pupils	17.4	16.5	17.7	20.7	79.7	81.1	80.4	77.1
National	16.5	16.6	18.3	21.7	79.9	80.2	78.9	75.5

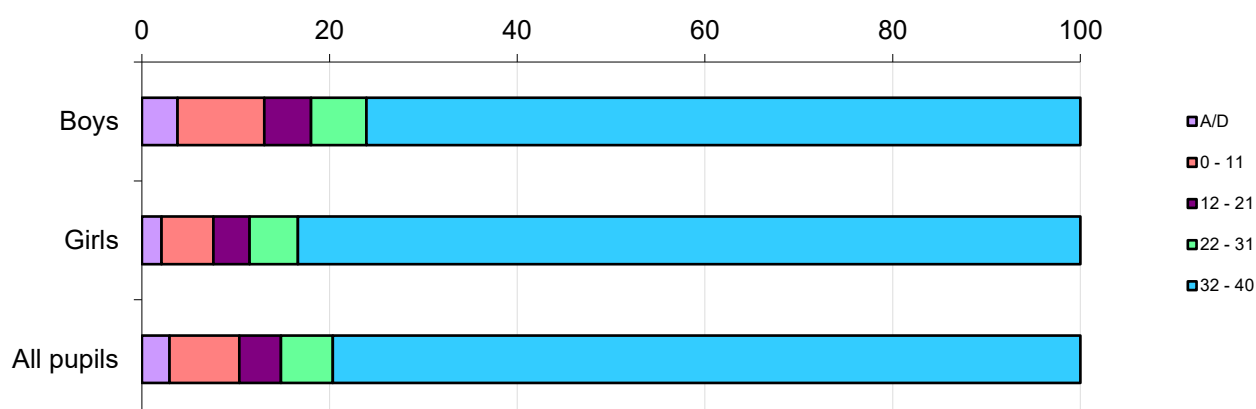
Percentage of pupils working at the expected standard in phonics per year



**Table 2: Summary of phonics scores 2025***LA summary*

	Number of pupils	A	D	0 - 11	12 - 21	22 - 31	32 - 40	Average mark
Boys	4,586	0.3	3.5	9.2	4.9	5.9	76.1	32.1
Girls	4,425	0.2	1.9	5.5	3.9	5.1	83.4	33.9
All pupils	9,011	0.3	2.7	7.4	4.4	5.5	79.7	33.0

*With the exception of pupil number and average mark all figures are percent (%)*

**Percentage of pupils scoring within each band***Comparison to 2024 results*

	0 - 11		12 - 21		22 - 31		32 - 40	
	+/-	Trend	+/-	Trend	+/-	Trend	+/-	Trend
Boys	1.5	↑	0.2	↑	-0.1	↓	-2.0	↓
Girls	0.5	↑	0.1	↑	-0.4	↓	-0.9	↓
All pupils	1.0	↑	0.1	↑	-0.3	↓	-1.4	↓

*National comparison*

	Number of pupils	A	D	0 - 11	12 - 21	22 - 31	32 - 40	Average mark
Nottinghamshire LA	9,011	0.3	2.7	7.4	4.4	5.5	79.7	33.0
National 24/25	600,420							0.0

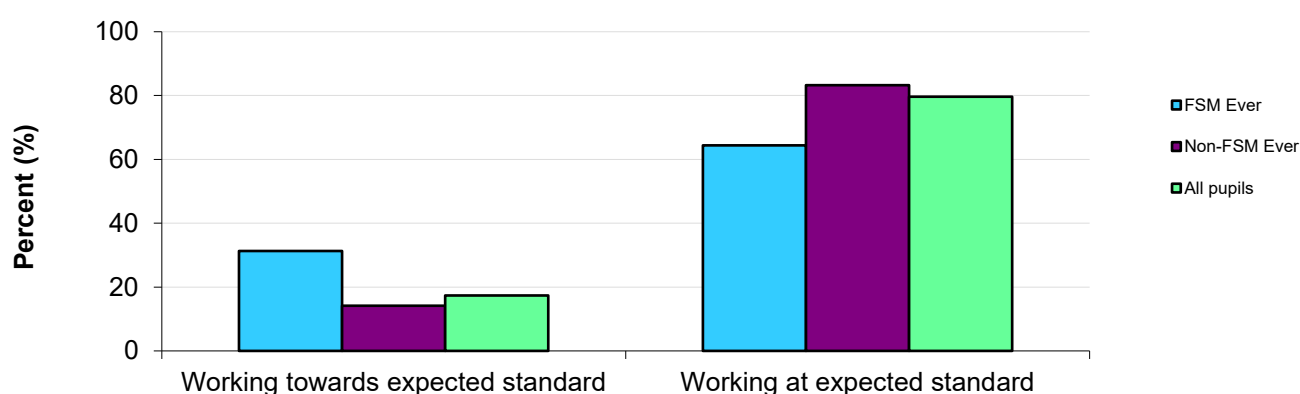
*With the exception of pupil number and average mark all figures are percent (%)*

Table 3: Summary of phonics outcomes by FSM6 2025

## LA summary

	Number of pupils	Working towards the expected standard		Working at the expected standard	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
FSM6	1,700	533	31.4	1,094	64.4
Non-FSM6	7,311	1,033	14.1	6,084	83.2
All pupils	9,011	1,566	17.4	7,178	79.7

Percentage of pupils working at and towards the expected standard in phonics by FSM Ever



	Number of pupils	A	D	0 - 11	12 - 21	22 - 31	32 - 40	Average mark
FSM Ever	1,700	0.6	3.7	16.4	7.5	7.5	64.4	28.6
Non-FSM Ever	7,311	0.2	2.5	5.3	3.7	5.1	83.2	34.0
All pupils	9,011	0.3	2.7	7.4	4.4	5.5	79.7	33.0

With the exception of pupil number and average mark all figures are percent (%)

Percentage of pupils working at the expected standard in phonics by FSM6 per year (number of FSM6 pupils)

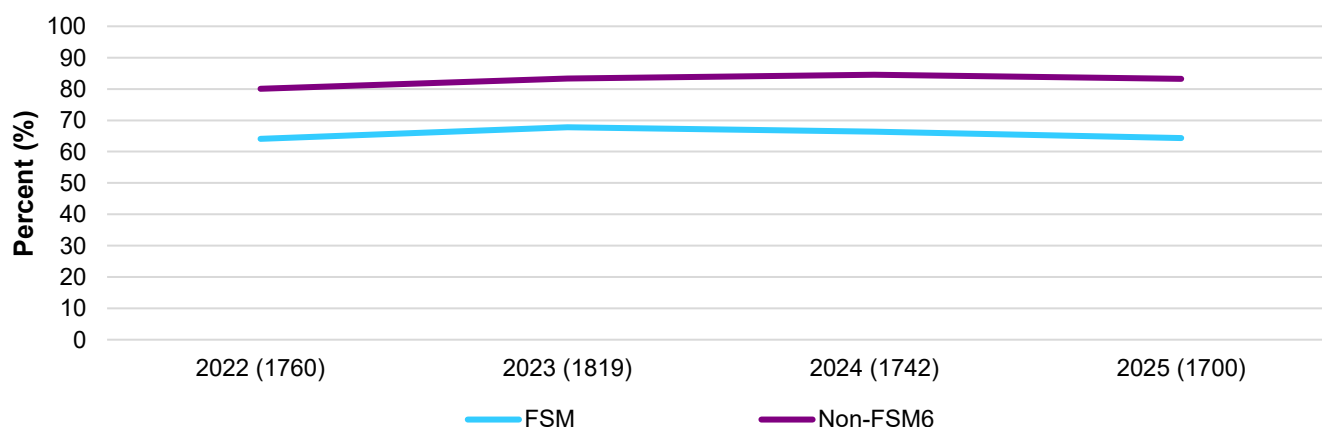
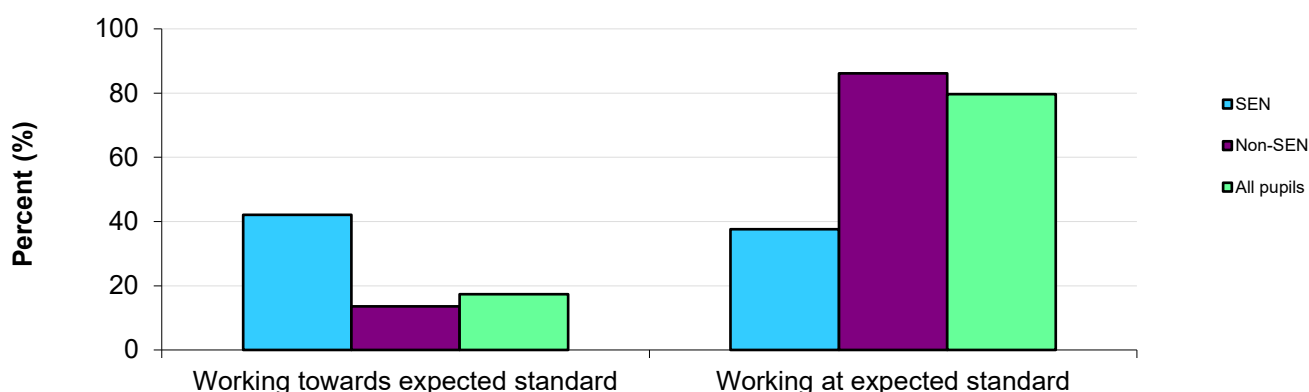


Table 4: Summary of phonics outcomes by SEN status 2025

LA summary

	Number of pupils	Working towards the expected standard		Working at the expected standard	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
SEN	1,155	486	42.1	434	37.6
Non-SEN	7,821	1,060	13.6	6,734	86.1
All pupils	9,011	1,566	17.4	7,178	79.7
National SEN 24/25	101,480	39,630	39.1	44,110	43.5
National Non SEN 24/25	470,210	53,920	11.5	414,390	88.1

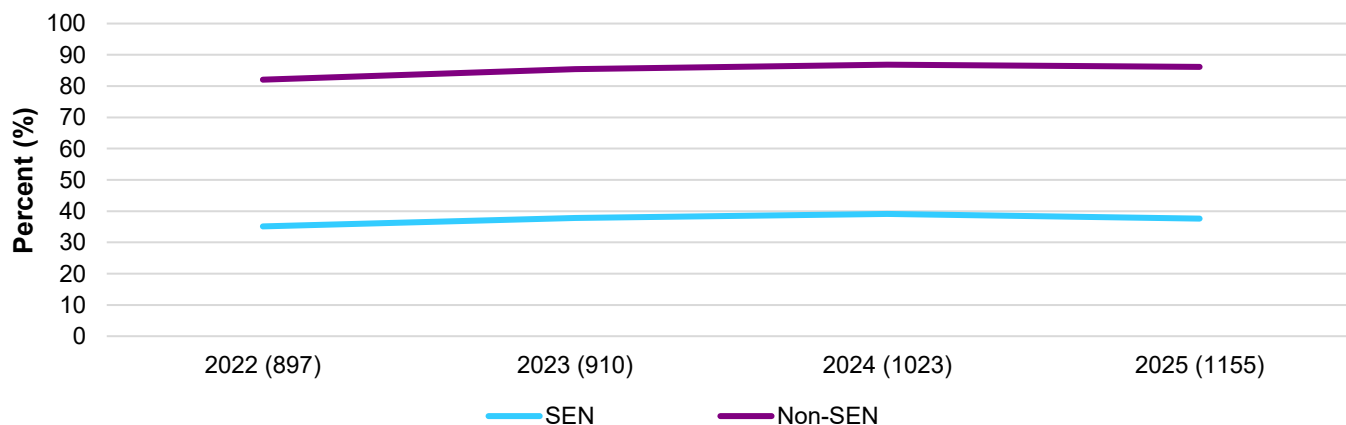
Percentage of pupils working at and towards the expected standard in phonics by SEN status



	Number of pupils	A	D	0 - 11	12 - 21	22 - 31	32 - 40	Average mark
SEN	1,155	0.2	20.2	26.8	8.2	7.1	37.6	22.2
Non-SEN	7,821	0.3	0.1	4.4	3.8	5.3	86.1	34.3
All pupils	9,011	0.3	2.7	7.4	4.4	5.5	79.7	33.0

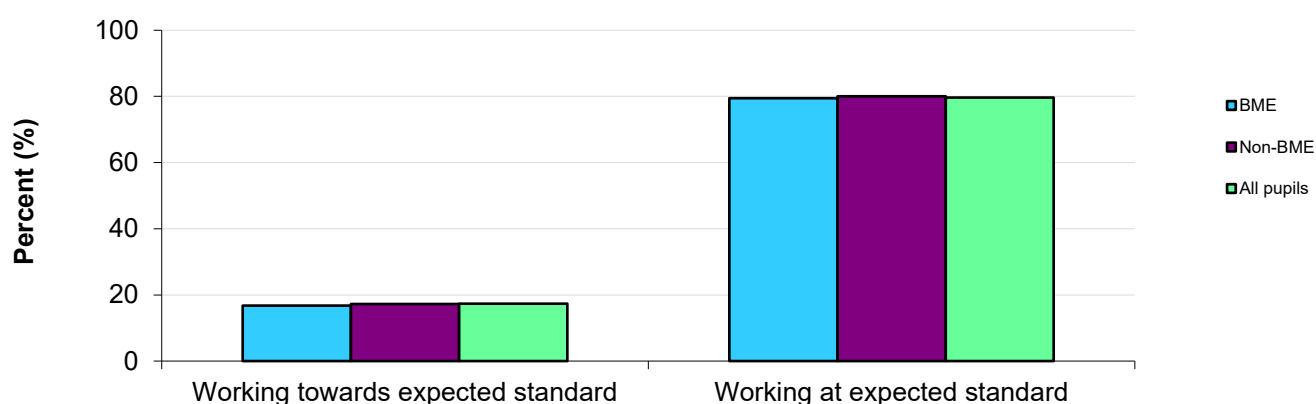
With the exception of pupil number and average mark all figures are percent (%)

Percentage of pupils working at the expected standard in phonics by SEN per year (number of SEN pupils)

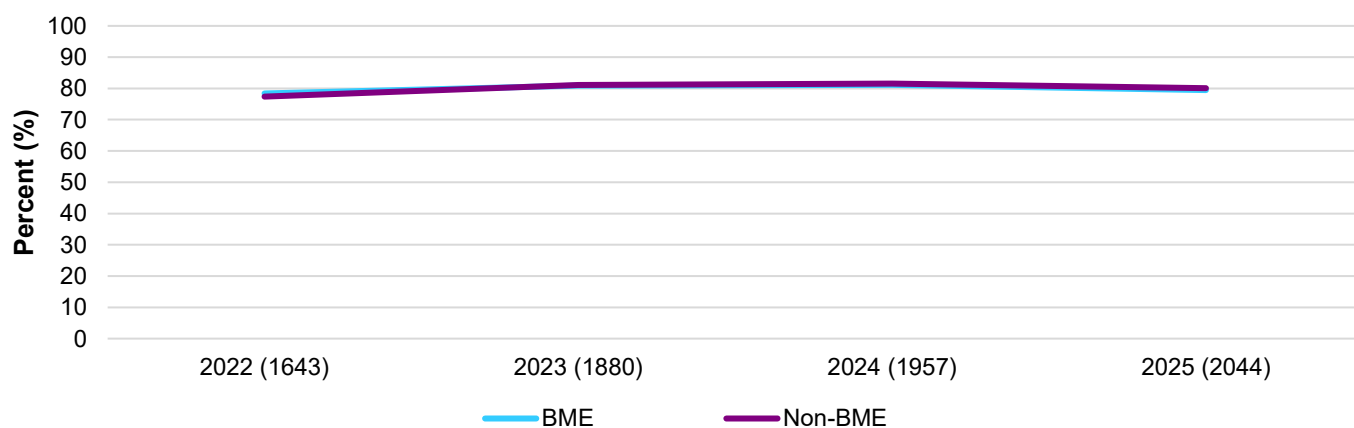


**Table 5: Summary of phonics outcomes by ethnicity 2025***LA summary*

	Number of pupils	Working towards the expected standard		Working at the expected standard	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
BME	2,044	343	16.8	1,624	79.5
Non-BME	6,748	1,167	17.3	5,402	80.1
All pupils	9,011	1,566	17.4	7,178	79.7
National BME 24/25	218,980	34,120	15.6	176,090	80.4
National Non BME 24/25	344,380	57,940	16.8	275,950	80.1

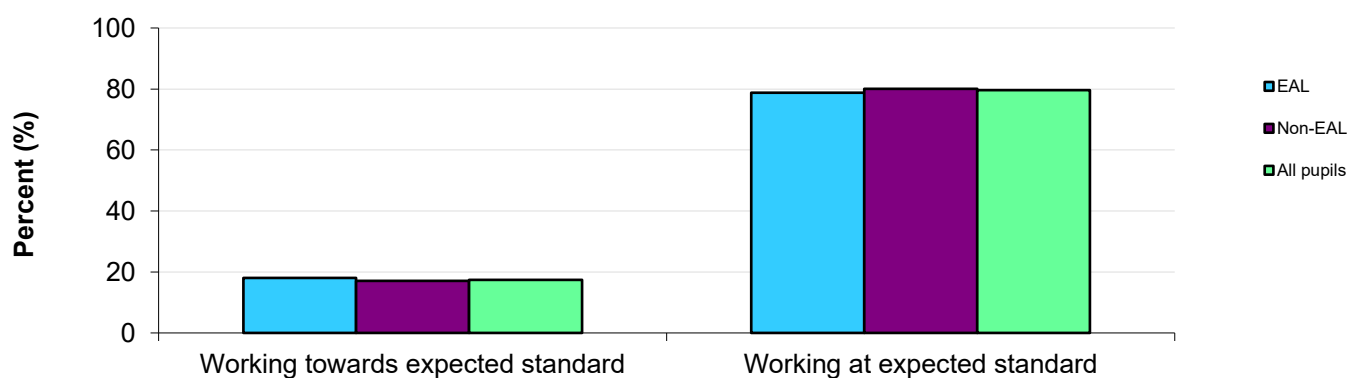
**Percentage of pupils working at and towards the expected standard in phonics by ethnicity**

	Number of pupils	A	D	0 - 11	12 - 21	22 - 31	32 - 40	Average mark
BME	2,044	0.6	3.2	7.4	4.1	5.2	79.5	33.1
Non-BME	6,748	0.1	2.5	7.3	4.4	5.6	80.1	33.0
All pupils	9,011	0.3	2.7	7.4	4.4	5.5	79.7	33.0

*With the exception of pupil number and average mark all figures are percent (%)***Percentage of pupils working at the expected standard in phonics by ethnicity per year (number of BME pupils)**

**Table 6: Summary of phonics outcomes by first language 2025***LA summary*

	Number of pupils	Working towards the expected standard		Working at the expected standard	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
EAL	1,128	203	18.0	888	78.7
Non-EAL	7,794	1,332	17.1	6,238	80.0
All pupils	9,011	1,566	17.4	7,178	79.7
National EAL 24/25	129,250	21,250	16.4	102,940	79.6
National Non EAL 24/25	439,710	71,870	16.3	353,370	80.4

**Percentage of pupils working at and towards the expected standard in phonics by first language**

	Number of pupils	A	D	0 - 11	12 - 21	22 - 31	32 - 40	Average mark
EAL	1,128	0.5	2.7	8.4	4.0	5.6	78.7	32.8
Non-EAL	7,794	0.2	2.7	7.2	4.4	5.5	80.0	33.0
All pupils	9,011	0.3	2.7	7.4	4.4	5.5	79.7	33.0

*With the exception of pupil number and average mark all figures are percent (%)*

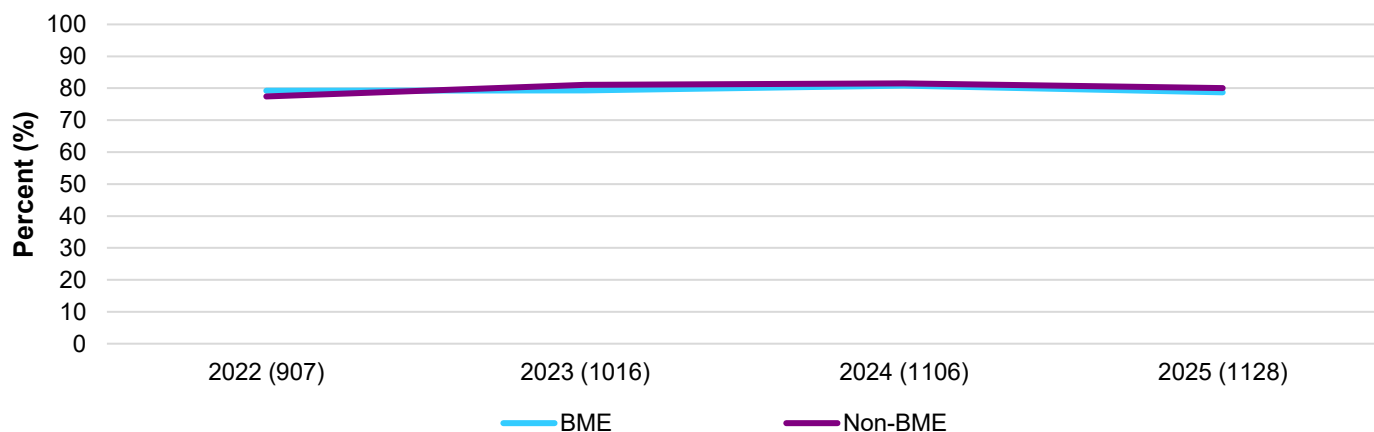
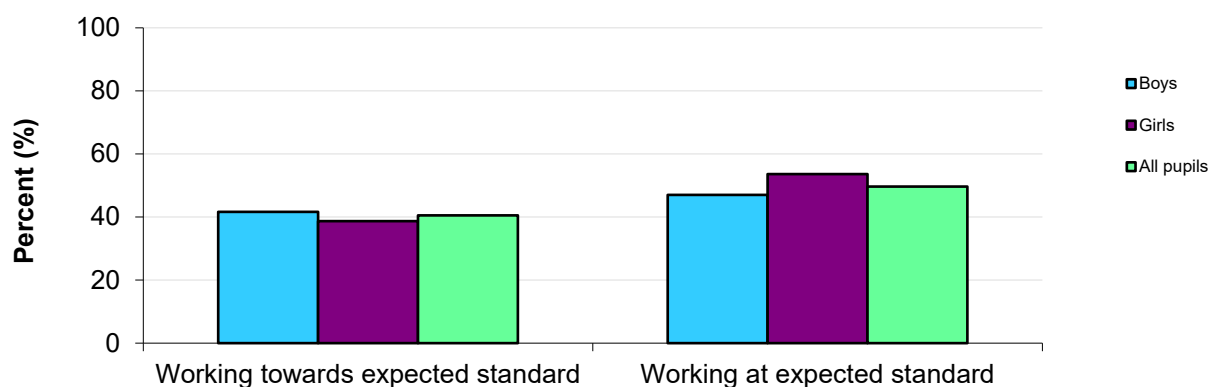
**Percentage of pupils working at the expected standard in phonics by first language per year (number of EAL pupils)**

Table 7: Summary of phonics recheck outcomes 2025

## LA summary

	Number of pupils	Working towards the expected standard		Working at the expected standard	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Boys	1,075	448	41.7	505	47.0
Girls	716	277	38.7	384	53.6
All pupils	1,791	725	40.5	889	49.6

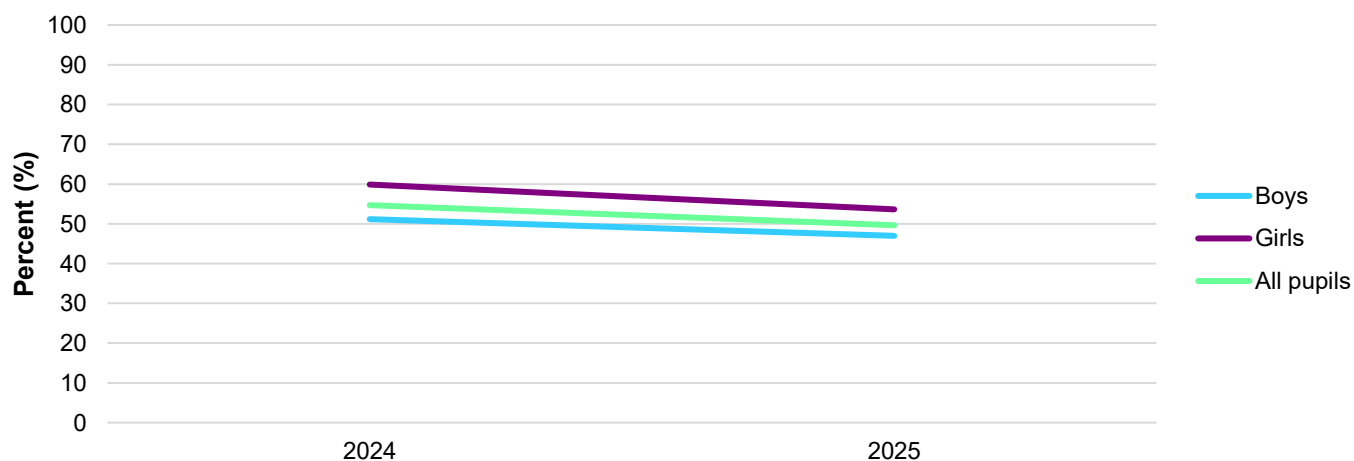
Percentage of pupils working at and towards the expected standard in phonics



## Yearly Trend

	Working towards the expected standard				Working at the expected standard			
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2025	2024	2023	2022
Boys	41.7	40.7	34.3	50.6	47.0	51.2	57.4	39.3
Girls	38.7	33.3	31.0	46.5	53.6	59.9	63.4	46.0
All pupils	40.5	37.7	32.9	49.0	49.6	54.7	60.0	42.0

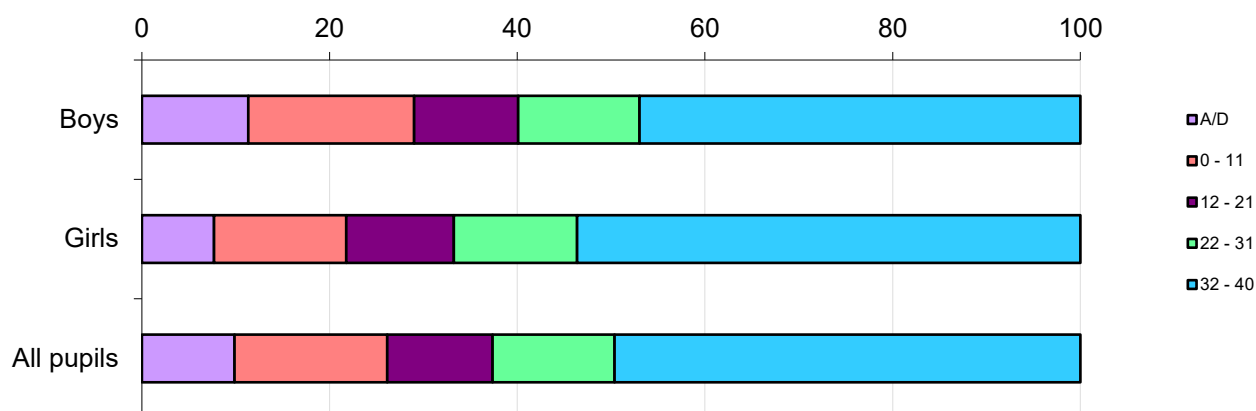
Percentage of pupils working at the expected standard in phonics per year



**Table 8: Summary of phonics recheck scores 2025***LA summary*

	Number of pupils	A	D	0 - 11	12 - 21	22 - 31	32 - 40	Average mark
Boys	1,075	0.7	10.7	17.7	11.1	12.9	47.0	25.3
Girls	716	0.8	6.8	14.1	11.5	13.1	53.6	27.1
All pupils	1,791	0.7	9.2	16.2	11.2	13.0	49.6	26.0

*With the exception of pupil number and average mark all figures are percent (%)*

**Percentage of pupils scoring within each band***Comparison to 2024 results*

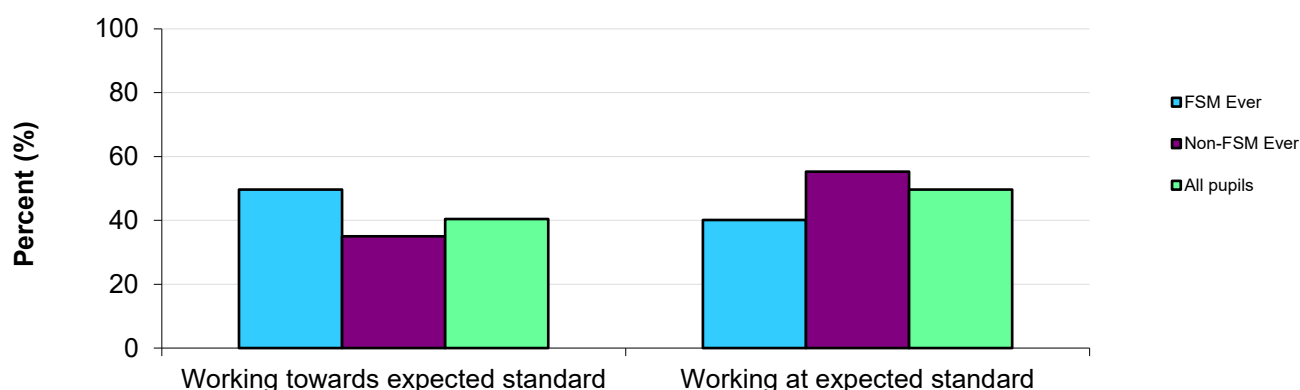
	0 - 11		12 - 21		22 - 31		32 - 40	
	+/-	Trend	+/-	Trend	+/-	Trend	+/-	Trend
Boys	1.8	↑	0.2	↑	-1.0	↓	-4.2	↓
Girls	5.6	↑	2.3	↑	-2.5	↓	-6.2	↓
All pupils	3.3	↑	1.0	↑	-1.6	↓	-5.1	↓

Table 9: Summary of phonics recheck outcomes by FSM6 2025

## LA summary

	Number of pupils	Working towards the expected standard		Working at the expected standard	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
FSM6	670	333	49.7	269	40.1
Non-FSM6	1,121	392	35.0	620	55.3
All pupils	1,791	725	40.5	889	49.6

Percentage of pupils working at and towards the expected standard in phonics by FSM Ever



	Number of pupils	A	D	0 - 11	12 - 21	22 - 31	32 - 40	Average mark
FSM Ever	670	0.6	9.6	23.0	13.3	13.4	40.1	23.1
Non-FSM Ever	1,121	0.8	8.9	12.2	10.0	12.8	55.3	27.8
All pupils	1,791	0.7	9.2	16.2	11.2	13.0	49.6	26.0

With the exception of pupil number and average mark all figures are percent (%)

Percentage of pupils working at the expected standard in phonics by FSM6 per year (number of FSM6 pupils)

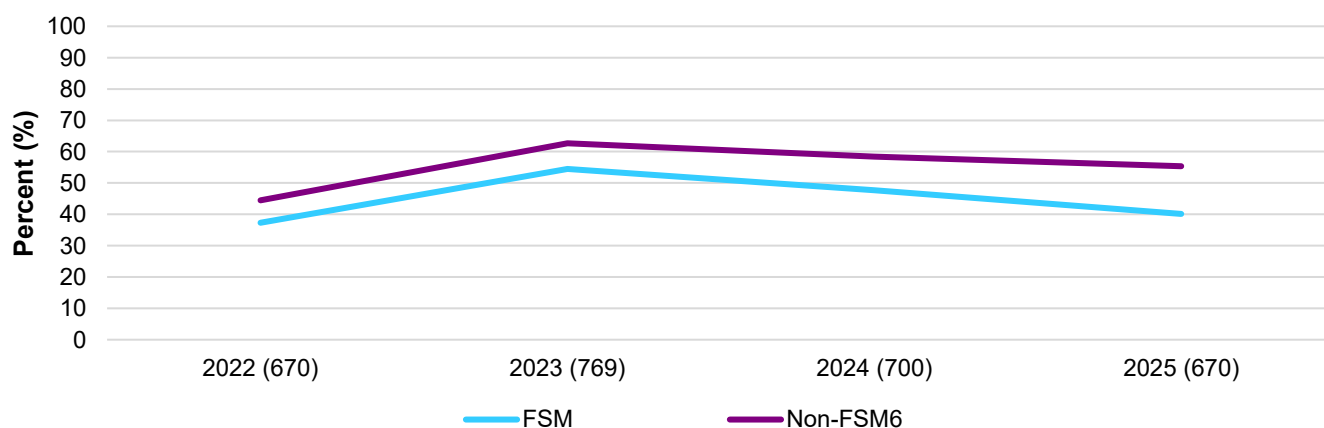
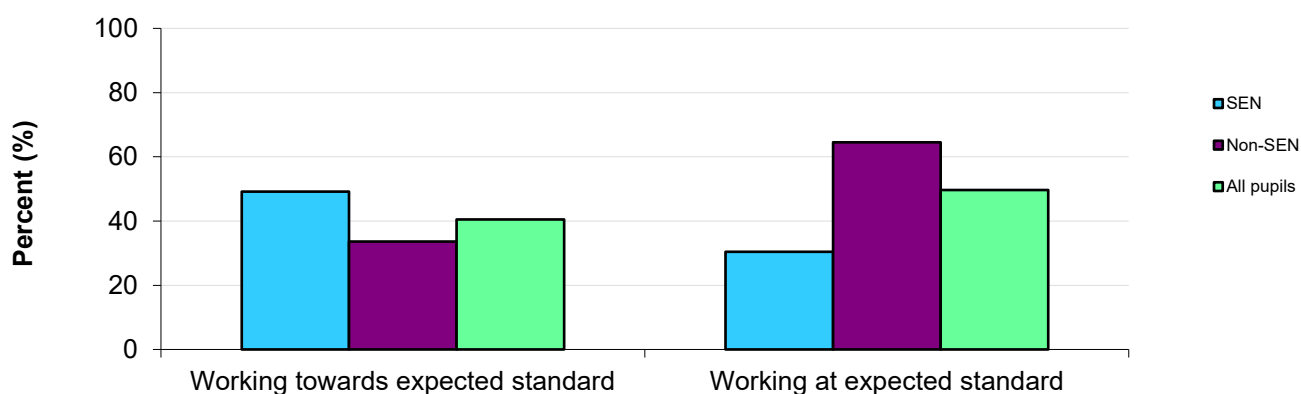


Table 10: Summary of phonics recheck outcomes by SEN status 2025

## LA summary

	Number of pupils	Working towards the expected standard		Working at the expected standard	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
SEN	750	369	49.2	228	30.4
Non-SEN	1,011	340	33.6	652	64.5
All pupils	1,791	725	40.5	889	49.6

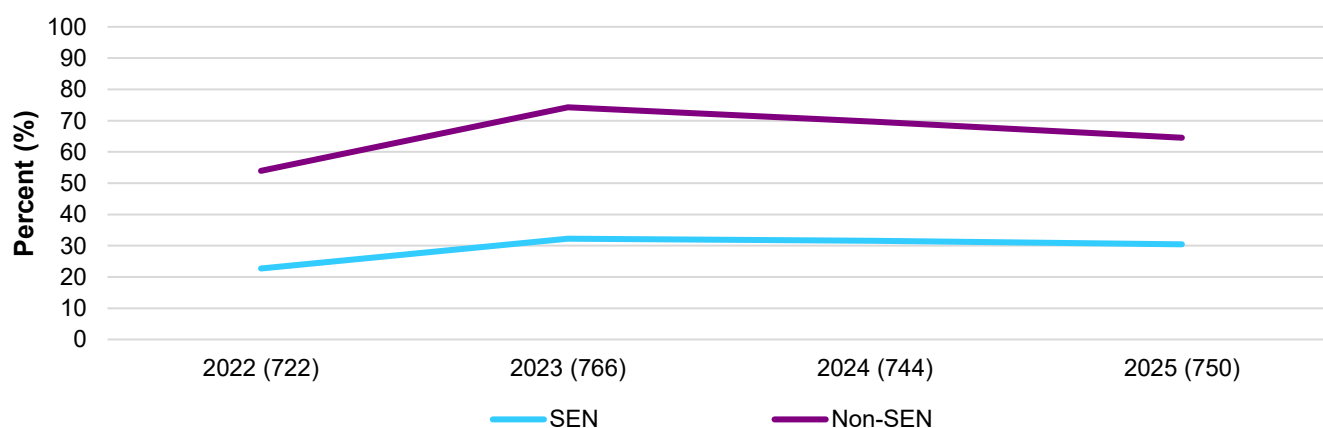
Percentage of pupils working at and towards the expected standard in phonics by SEN status



	Number of pupils	A	D	0 - 11	12 - 21	22 - 31	32 - 40	Average mark
SEN	750	0.5	19.9	25.5	13.3	10.4	30.4	20.4
Non-SEN	1,011	0.9	1.0	8.8	9.6	15.2	64.5	29.6
All pupils	1,791	0.7	9.2	16.2	11.2	13.0	49.6	26.0

With the exception of pupil number and average mark all figures are percent (%)

Percentage of pupils working at the expected standard in phonics by SEN per year (number of SEN pupils)

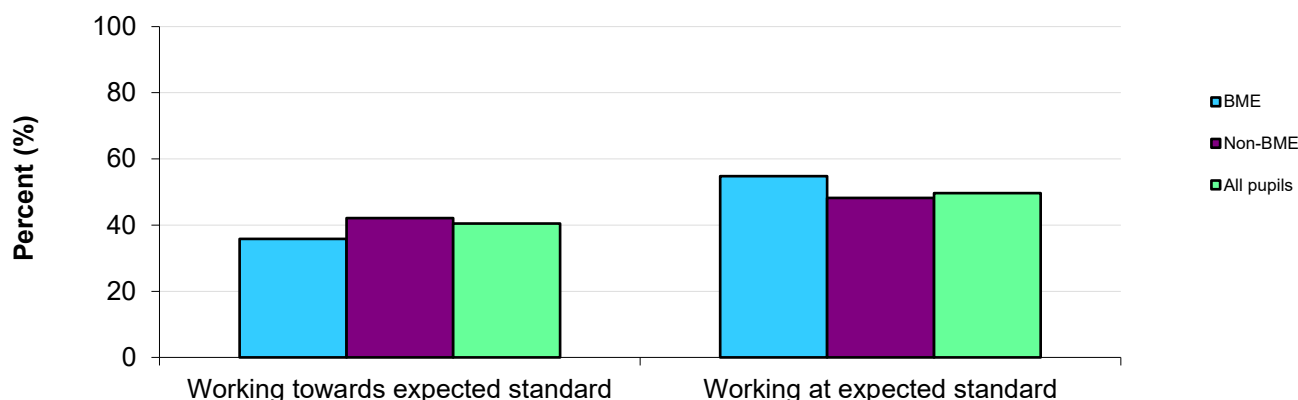


**Table 11: Summary of phonics recheck outcomes by ethnicity 2025**

LA summary

	Number of pupils	Working towards the expected standard		Working at the expected standard	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
BME	469	168	35.8	257	54.8
Non-BME	1,262	531	42.1	608	48.2
All pupils	1,791	725	40.5	889	49.6

**Percentage of pupils working at and towards the expected standard in phonics by ethnicity**



	Number of pupils	A	D	0 - 11	12 - 21	22 - 31	32 - 40	Average mark
BME	469	0.9	8.5	14.3	9.8	11.7	54.8	27.4
Non-BME	1,262	0.7	9.0	16.8	11.7	13.5	48.2	25.6
All pupils	1,791	0.7	9.2	16.2	11.2	13.0	49.6	26.0

*With the exception of pupil number and average mark all figures are percent (%)*

**Percentage of pupils working at the expected standard in phonics by ethnicity per year (number of BME pupils)**

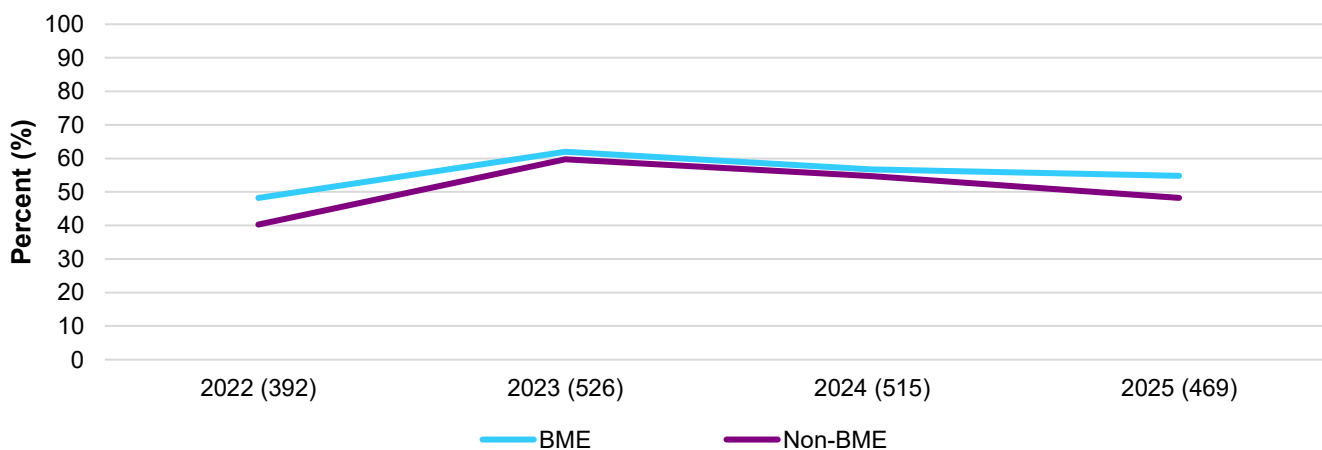
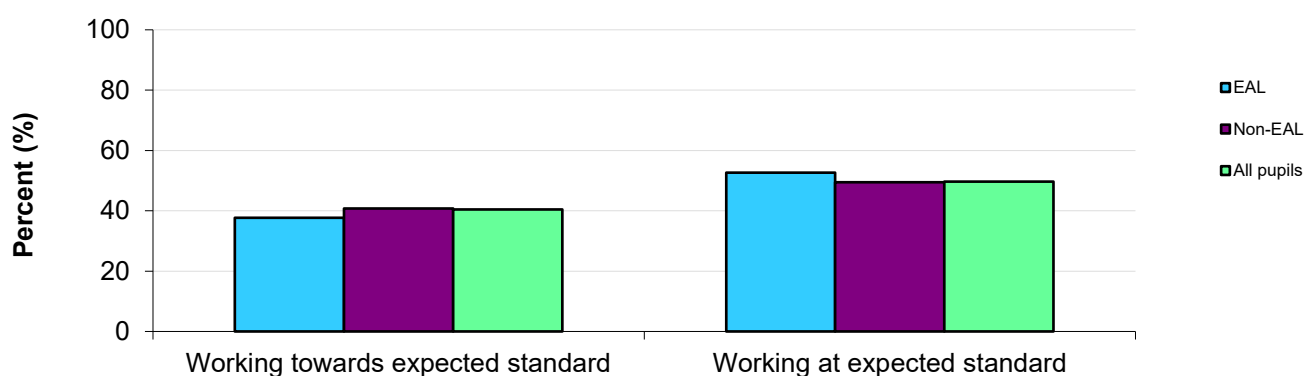


Table 12: Summary of phonics recheck outcomes by first language 2025

## LA summary

	Number of pupils	Working towards the expected standard		Working at the expected standard	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
EAL	279	105	37.6	147	52.7
Non-EAL	1,481	603	40.7	733	49.5
All pupils	1,791	725	40.5	889	49.6

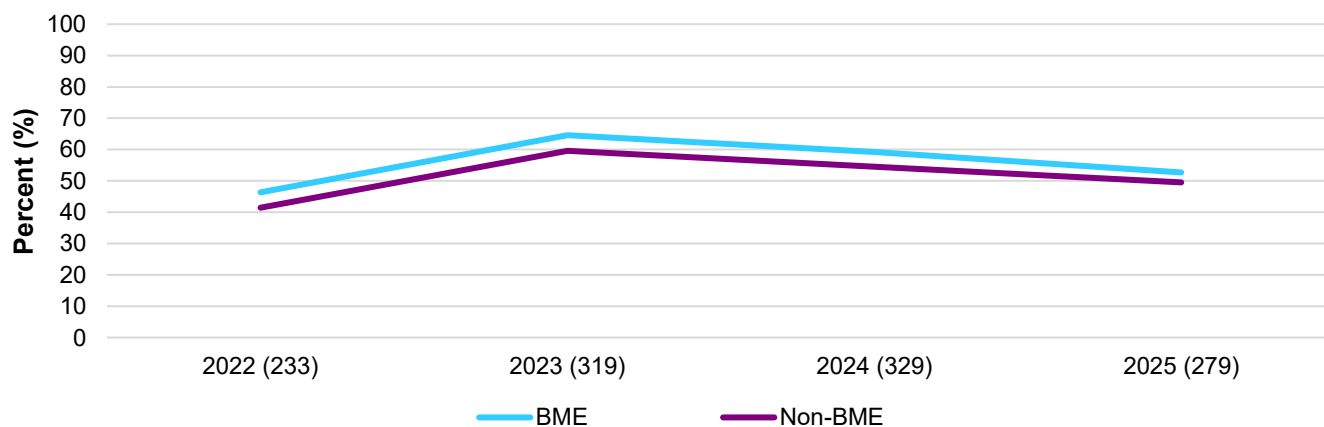
Percentage of pupils working at and towards the expected standard in phonics by first language



	Number of pupils	A	D	0 - 11	12 - 21	22 - 31	32 - 40	Average mark
EAL	279	0.7	9.0	13.3	10.8	13.6	52.7	27.6
Non-EAL	1,481	0.7	9.0	16.3	11.3	13.1	49.5	25.9
All pupils	1,791	0.7	9.2	16.2	11.2	13.0	49.6	26.0

With the exception of pupil number and average mark all figures are percent (%)

Percentage of pupils working at the expected standard in phonics by first language per year (number of EAL pupils)





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