



7. Education

Tower Hamlets is a young borough, with good schools and improving educational attainment.

Key findings

- There are an estimated 74,400 children and young people aged 0 to 19 living in the borough.
- There are 137 languages spoken in our schools. The top 3 first languages spoken by pupils are Bengali (54 per cent), English (27 per cent), and Somali (4 per cent).
- There are 37,800 pupils recorded in primary and secondary schools in Tower Hamlets. Bangladeshi pupils account for the highest proportion of pupils in the borough (63 per cent).
- Tower Hamlets has 6 nursery schools, 70 primary schools, 17 secondary schools, 1 all through school, 7 special schools, 1 post-16 school, 1 further education provider, and 7 higher education providers located in the borough.
- Ofsted rates 37 schools in Tower Hamlets 'Outstanding', 60 schools 'Good', and 3 schools 'Requires Improvement'. No school in Tower Hamlets is rated 'Inadequate'. 100 per cent of our primary schools rated by Ofsted are rated outstanding and good, compared to 81 per cent of our secondary schools.
- The majority of children and young people hold positive views about the support and feedback they receive from their school (91 per cent of primary pupils and 73 per cent of secondary pupils).
- 74 per cent of primary pupils said that they think they will attend university compared with 63 per cent of secondary students.
- The proportion of early years pupils achieving a good level of development has increased from 46 per cent in 2013 to 68 per cent in 2017, a 22 percentage point increase compared with London (20 percentage points) and England (19 percentage points) during this period.
- In 2017, compared with the national average, Key Stage 1 pupils' attainment in Tower Hamlets was higher with the exception of reading, which was the same as the national average, and science, where the borough average (81 per cent) was two percentage points below the national average. But compared with London, attainment in the borough was lower with the exception of writing, where the borough average was the same as the London average (both 72 per cent).

- Key Stage 2 attainment in Tower Hamlets was higher than England in all subjects.
- Key Stage 4 pupils in Tower Hamlets have higher attainment outcomes than their national peers with similar prior attainment.
- Key Stage 4 attainment is higher than the national average for strong pass (grades 9_5) in English and Maths (44 per cent in Tower Hamlets vs. 42 per cent in England), standard pass (grades 9_4) in English and Maths (65 per cent in Tower Hamlets vs. 64 per cent in England), and Average Attainment 8 scores (47 points in Tower Hamlets vs. 46 points in England).
- On average, girls have higher attainment levels in schools in the borough than boys, White pupils have lower attainment levels than BME pupils, pupils whose first language is not English have higher attainment levels than those whose first language is English, and pupils eligible for free school meals have lower levels of attainment than pupils not eligible for free school meals.
- There are 12,800 students from the UK and abroad in higher education with a term-time address in Tower Hamlets, 78 per cent are undergraduates, 22 per cent are postgraduates.
- The proportion of first and upper second class degrees achieved by students resident in Tower Hamlets has steadily risen from 49 per cent in 2008 to 63 per cent in 2015.
- Six months after graduation in 2014, the majority of graduates resident in Tower Hamlets were in full-time employment (48 per cent), followed by part-time employment (19 per cent).
- At the end of 2016, 6 per cent of 16-17 year olds in Tower Hamlets were NEET (including those whose activity is unknown), which is line with the national average (6 per cent) and slightly higher than the London average (5 per cent). This is a 0.5 percentage point decrease from the previous year.

Introduction

Tower Hamlets is a young borough, with a quarter of the whole population aged 0 to 19 years old.¹ There are an estimated 74,400 children and young people aged 0 to 19 living in the borough. It is also a diverse borough, 137 languages spoken in our schools. The top 3 languages spoken by pupils are Bengali (54 per cent), English (27 per cent), and Somali (4 per cent).²

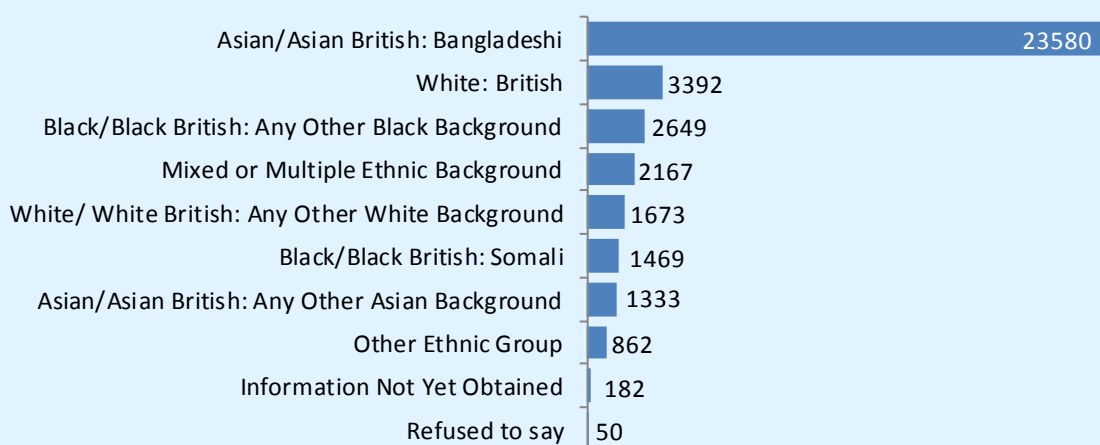
In this chapter, data on education and attainment levels of children and young people living in Tower Hamlets are addressed to offer insight into education in the borough.

School population in Tower Hamlets

Based on the data from the 2017 Spring School Census, there are 37,800 pupils attending primary and secondary schools in Tower Hamlets.

Figure 7.1 shows that Bangladeshi pupils make up the majority of the school population in Tower Hamlets (63 per cent), compared with the adult population of which White residents make up the majority of the adult population in Tower Hamlets (37 per cent). The second largest ethnic group is White British, making up 9 per cent of the school population, compared with the adult population of which Bangladeshi residents make up the second largest ethnic group in the adult population (26 per cent). Followed by Black pupils (excluding Somali pupils), who make up 7 per cent of the school population, compared with the adult population of which Other White are the third largest ethnic group in the borough's adult population (15 per cent).

Figure 7.1: School Population in Tower Hamlets by Ethnicity, 2017

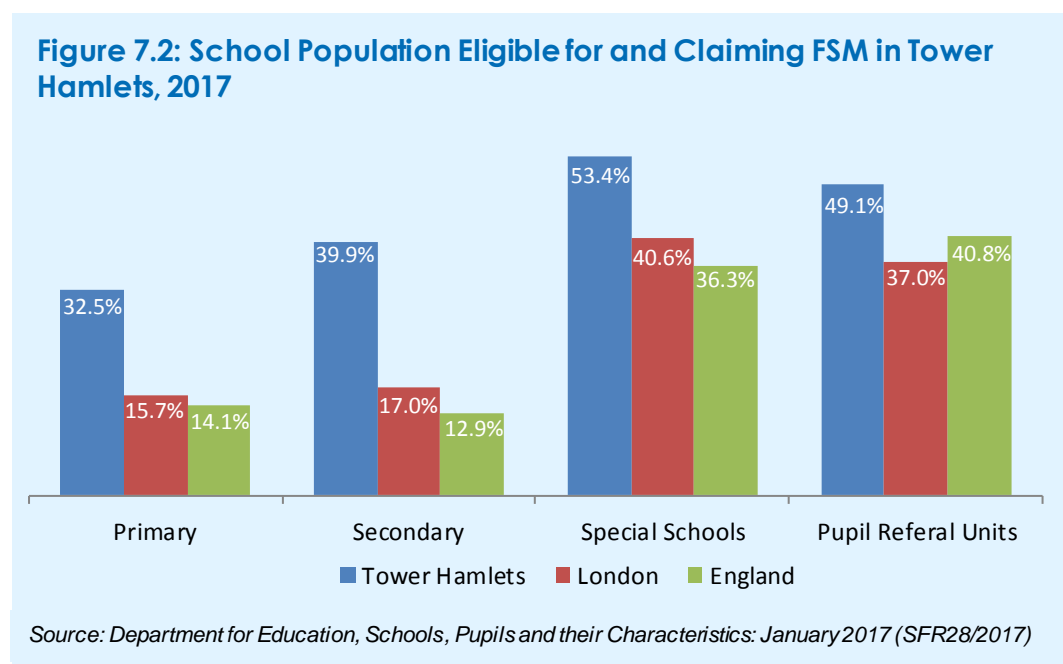


Source: Spring 2017 School Census.

*Compulsory aged and above pupils (excluding dual registered pupils).

According to the 2017 Spring School Census, there are 137 languages spoken in our schools. The top 3 first languages spoken by pupils are Bengali (54 per cent), English (27 per cent), and Somali (4 per cent).

Figure 7.2 shows the Free School Meal eligibility of our pupils. 33 per cent of our primary pupils are eligible for and claim free school meals, compared with 16 per cent London and the national average of 14 percent. Similarly, 40 per cent of our secondary pupils are eligible for and claim free school meals, compared with the London average of 17 per cent and the national average of 13 percent. This depicts the overall deprivation levels of our school population.

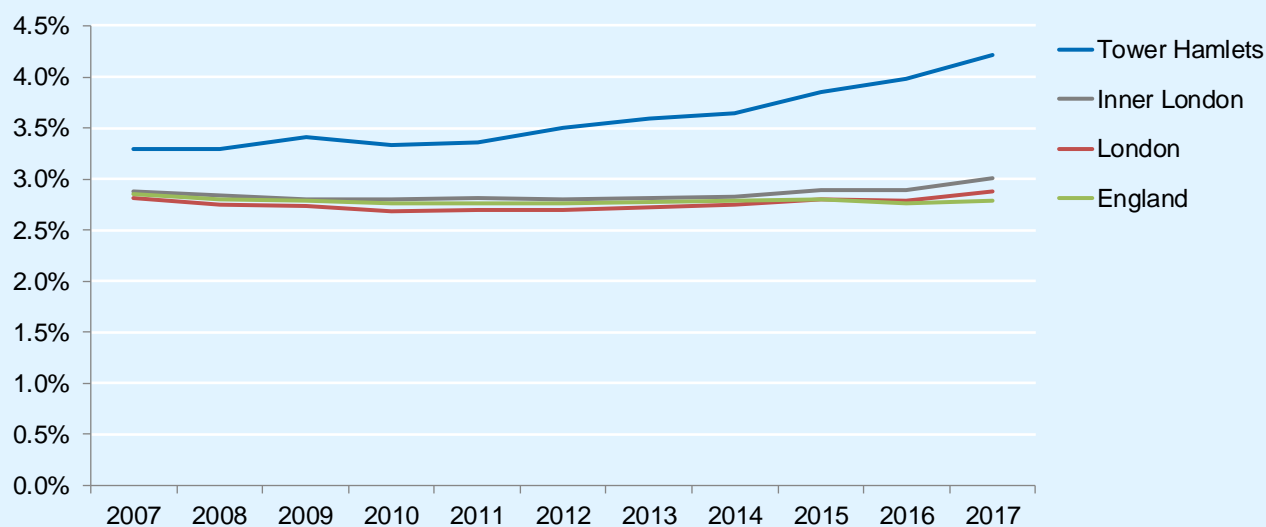


Tower Hamlets also has a relatively high proportion of pupils with special education needs and disabilities (SEND). Pupils who need extra help with their learning beyond what schools can provide are issued an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHC Plan), which were formerly known as statements. In 2017, 4.2 per cent of pupils in Tower Hamlets schools had a statement or EHC Plan – the third highest rate in England.

Figure 7.3 shows that the level of pupils with statements/EHC Plans has also risen substantially in the borough (up from 3.3 per cent in 2007) while it has remained relatively stable in London and England.

There are likely to be several different factors driving the high and rising levels of SEND need in Tower Hamlets, such as the borough's high levels of child poverty, our 'Outstanding' rated special schools, and the way in which different local authorities implement EHC Plans.

Figure 7.3: Proportion of pupils with statements/EHC Plans, 2007 to 2017



Source: Department for Education, Special educational needs in England: January 2017 (SFR37/2017)

What the provision is and how it is changing

Based on the 2017 Spring school census, there are a total of 102 schools in Tower Hamlets. [Map 7.1](#) shows where these schools are located in the borough.

[Figure 7.4](#) shows that Tower Hamlets has 1 post-16 school, 17 secondary schools, 70 primary schools, 1 all through school, 7 special schools, and 6 nursery schools. Out of which we have 17 academies, 8 are primary schools (Bygrove, Canary Wharf College, Canary Wharf College 2, Culloden Primary A Paradigm Academy, Old Ford Primary Academy, Sir William Burroughs

Map 7.1: Schools in Tower Hamlets



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Primary School, Solebay Primary Academy, Stebon Primary Academy), 8 are secondary schools (Canary Wharf College 3, City Gateway 14-19 Provision, Green Spring Academy, London Enterprise Academy, Mulberry Academy, Mulberry UTC 14-19 provision, St Paul's Way, Wapping High School), and 1 is a post-16 school (East London Arts and Music).

Three more, not counted above, are in the process of converting: Stepney Green Secondary, The Clara Grant Primary School and Ian Mikardo Special School.

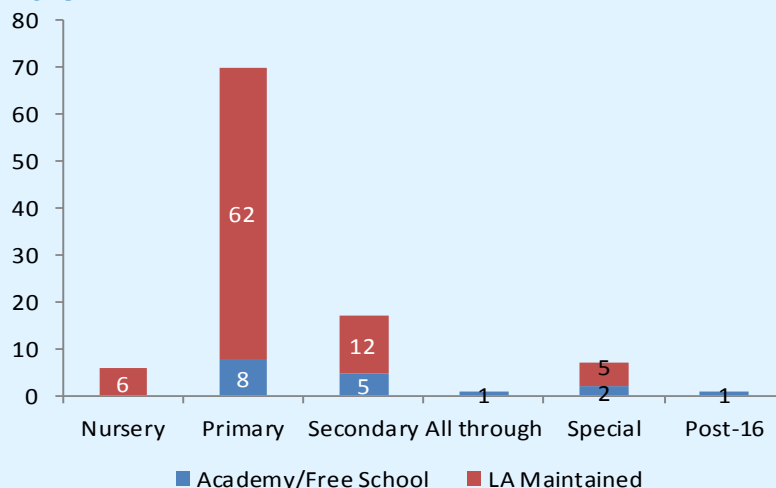
All children in Tower Hamlets between the ages of 5 and 16 are entitled to a free place at a state school in the borough. Most state schools have to follow the national curriculum. The most common ones in Tower Hamlets are community schools, which are maintained by the Council. In 2000, academies were established to drive up standards by replacing failing schools in struggling local authorities. Academies are publicly funded independent schools that get money directly from the government, not the Council. They do not have to follow the national curriculum and can set their own term times. All schools in the country are urged to apply for academy status, those rated outstanding by the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) will automatically be eligible to become academies.

We are a growing population with the total school roll of 4-16 year olds projected to increase by 5,500 pupils (15 per cent) by 2026.³

How our schools are performing

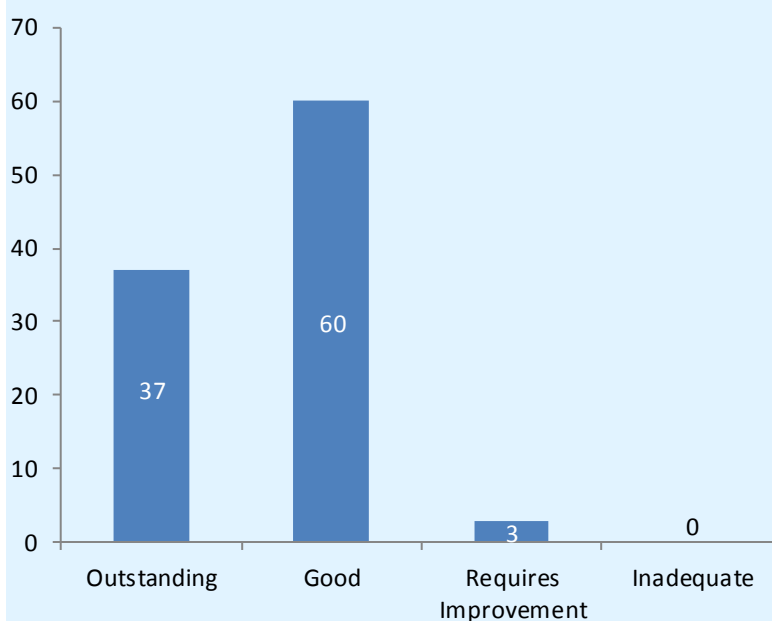
Figure 7.5 shows that based on Ofsted inspections, 37 schools in Tower Hamlets are rated 'Outstanding', 60 schools are rated 'Good', and 3 schools

Figure 7.4: Schools in Tower Hamlets by School Type, 2018



Source: Department for Education, Establishments in Tower Hamlets.

Figure 7.5: Ofsted Rating of Schools in Tower Hamlets, 2018



Source: Department for Education, Establishments in Tower Hamlets.

are rated 'Requires Improvement'. No school in Tower Hamlets is rated 'Inadequate'.⁴ Table 7.1 offers a breakdown of Ofsted ratings by type of school, which indicates that our primary schools are performing better than our secondary schools. 100 per cent of our primary schools rated by Ofsted are rated outstanding and good, compared to 81 per cent of our secondary schools.

Children and young people's perceptions of their education

Findings from the 2015 Pupil Attitude Survey⁵ indicate that the majority of children and young people held positive views about the support and feedback they received from their school. 91 per cent of

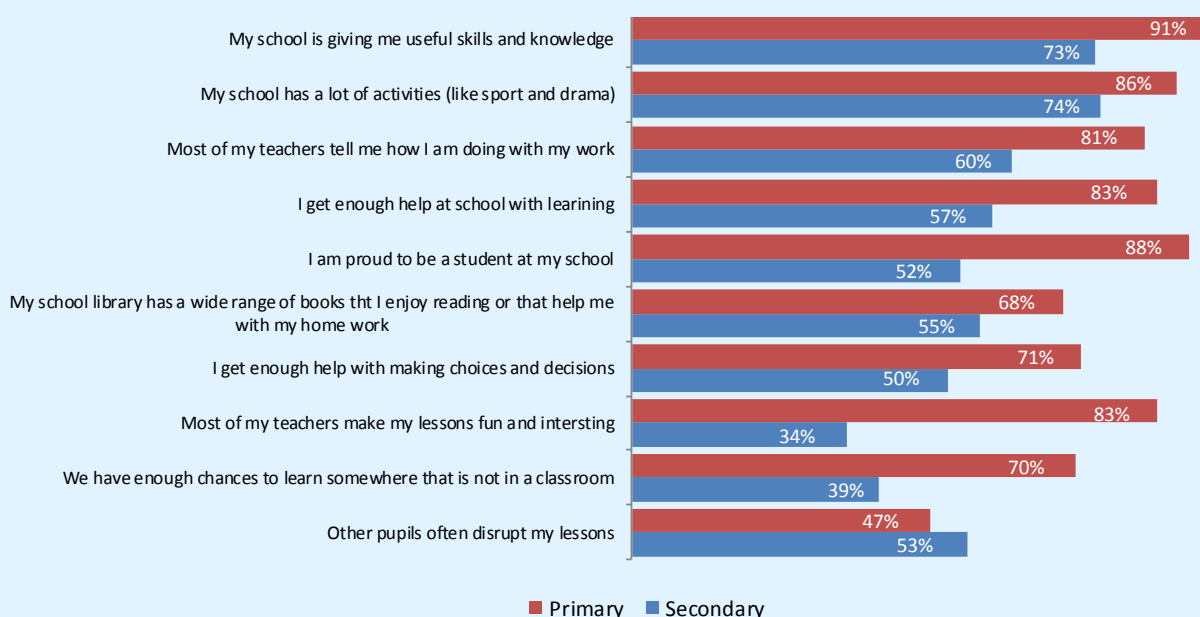
primary pupils and 73 per cent of secondary pupils agreed that their school is giving them useful skills and knowledge. Primary pupils generally had more positive views about their school compared to those at secondary school. The biggest difference was the proportion of pupils agreeing with the statement 'most of my teachers make my lessons fun and interesting'. While the large majority of primary pupils (83 per cent) agreed with the statement, only 34 per cent of secondary pupils agreed.

Table 7.1: Ofsted rating by school type, 2018

Type	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate	Data N/A
Primary	19	51	0	0	0
Secondary	6	7	3	0	1
All through	1	0	0	0	0
Nursery	6	0	0	0	0
Special	4	2	0	0	0
16 plus	1	0	0	0	0
Total	37	60	3	0	

Source: Department for Education, Establishments in Tower Hamlets.

Figure 7.6: Pupils' views about their school



Source: Tower Hamlets Pupil Attitude Survey 2015.

School absences

Based on data from the Department for Education⁶, at 4 per cent, our primary school absences are average, in line with the national average of 4 per cent. Our secondary school absences are below average at 4 per cent, compared to the national average of 5 per cent.

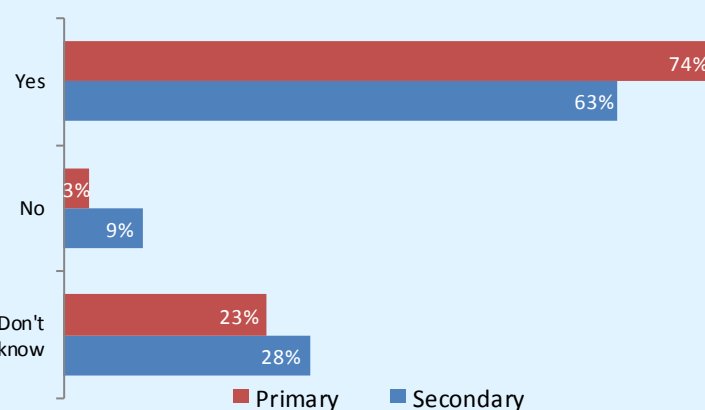
Children and young people's aspirations

Pupils' plans to attend university or higher education

Findings from the 2015 Pupil Attitude Survey indicate that when asked about their plans for the future, 68 per cent of all pupils said that they think they will go to university or higher education. Only 6 per cent said that they did not think they would go to university or higher education, while the remaining 26 per cent were unsure.

Primary pupils were significantly more likely than secondary pupils to say that they will attend university or higher education. 74 per cent of primary pupils said that they think they will attend compared with 63 per cent of secondary students. Young people at secondary school were almost three times as likely as primary pupils to say that they did not think they would go to university or higher education (9 vs. 3 per cent).

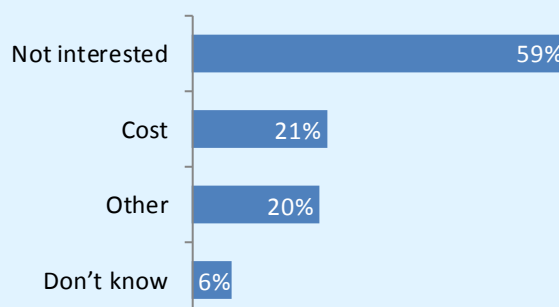
Figure 7.7: Pupils' plans to attend university



Source: Tower Hamlets Pupil Attitude Survey 2015.

Pupils who said they did not want to go to university or higher education in the future were asked about their reasons in a follow up question. The majority of pupils (59 per cent) said they did not want to attend because they are not interested. 21 per cent of pupils said that they did not want to go to university because of the cost. A further 20 per cent of pupils wrote in their own reasons for not wanting to attend university. Common responses were that university was a 'waste of time', that it would not help them get the job they

Figure 7.8: Reasons for not wanting to go to university or higher education



Source: Tower Hamlets Pupil Attitude Survey 2015.

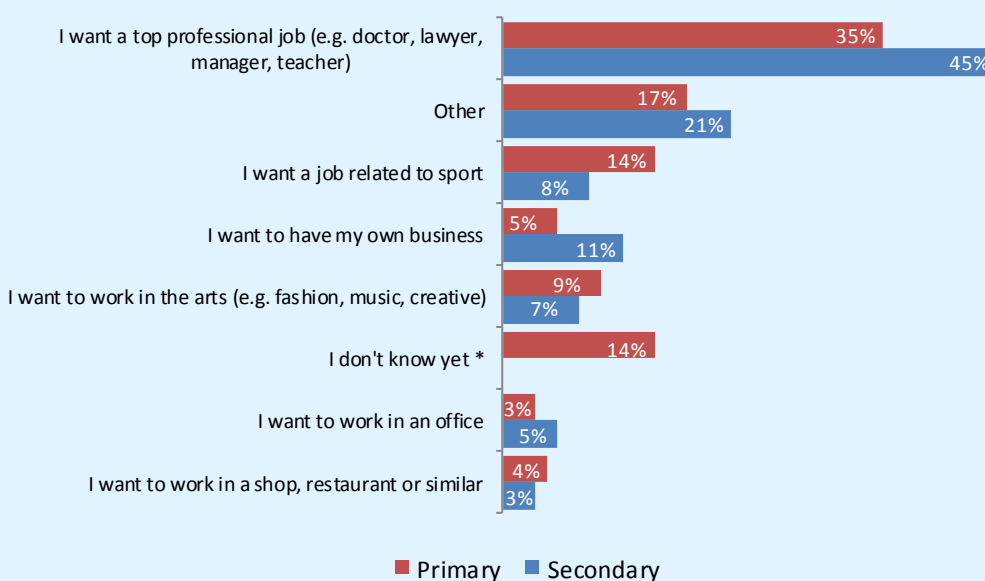
wanted, and that they did not feel they were 'clever enough'.

Pupils' career aspirations

Both primary and secondary pupils taking part in the survey were asked about what job they want to do in the future, and were given a list of categories to choose from.

The most frequently cited career aspiration was a 'top professional job', such as being a doctor or lawyer. 41 per cent of all pupils chose this option, as well as 35 per cent of primary and 45 per cent of secondary pupils. The least popular choice was to work in a 'shop, restaurant or similar'. Only 3 per cent of all pupils said they want a career in a shop or restaurant.

Figure 7.9: Pupils' career aspirations



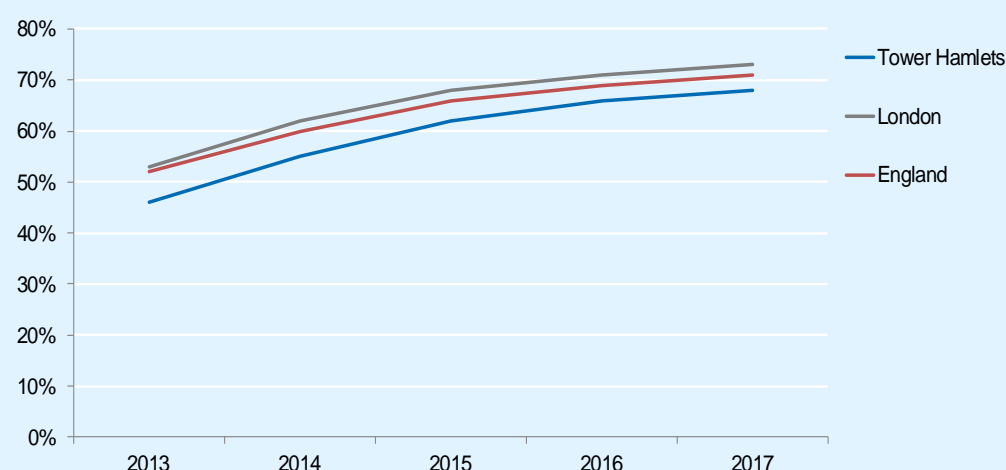
Source: Tower Hamlets Pupil Attitude Survey 2015.
*Only primary pupils were given this option.

How our children and young people are doing in school

Early Years

Over the past few years, early years attainment has increased in Tower Hamlets, London and England, as demonstrated in Figure 7.10. In Tower Hamlets, the proportion of pupils achieving a 'good level of development' rose from 46 per cent in 2013 to 68 per cent in 2017, a 22 percentage

Figure 7.10: Pupils achieving a good level of development, 2013-2017



* A pupil achieving at least the expected level in Early Learning Goals within the three prime areas of learning (communication & language, physical development, and personal, social & emotional development) and within literacy and numeracy is classified as having a 'good level of development'.

Source: Department for Education, Early years foundation stage profile (EYFSP) results: 2017 (SFR60/2017).

point increase. The borough saw greater improvement than London (20 percentage points) and England (19 percentage points) during this period.

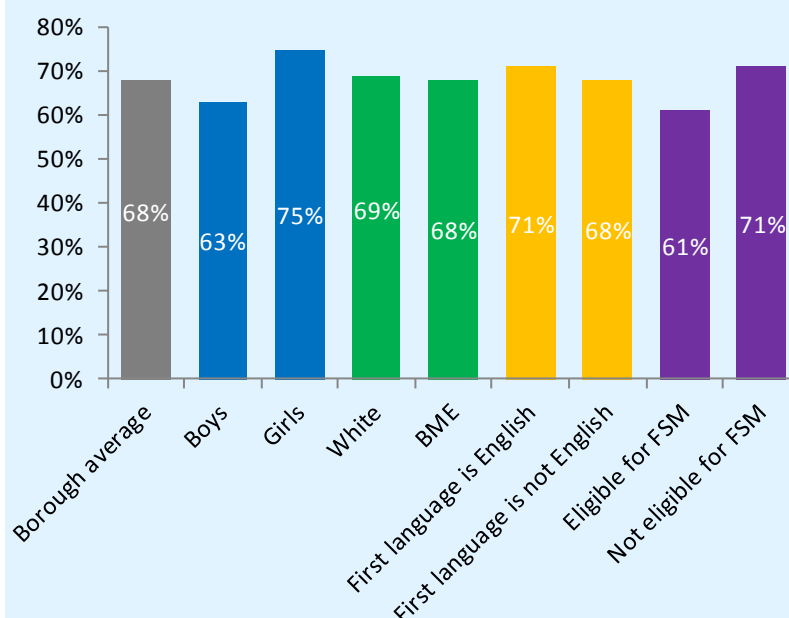
Figure 7.11 shows that in 2017, the proportion of girls in Tower Hamlets who achieved a good level of development (75 per cent) was 12 percentage points higher than boys (63 per cent). This is lower than the gender gap as in England (14 percentage points), and slightly lower than the gender gap in London (13 percentage points). Unlike 2016, White pupils have slightly higher levels of attainment (69 per cent achieving a good level of development) than BME pupils (68 per cent) in 2017. Early years pupils whose first language is not English have slightly lower levels of attainment (68 per cent) than pupils whose first language is English (71 per cent). Pupils eligible for free school meals have lower levels of attainment (61 per cent) than pupils not eligible for free school meals (71 per cent).

Key Stage 1

Changes to the national curriculum and assessments mean that most attainment results at Key Stage 1 for 2016 are not directly comparable to previous years. Looking at only the two years of data available for comparison would not give sufficient data to be able to robustly establish a reliable trend.

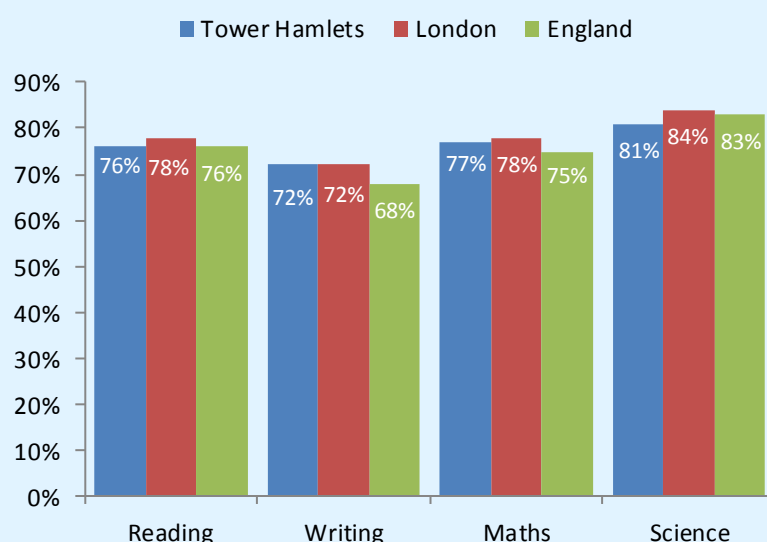
Figure 7.12 provides the Key Stage 1 attainment results for 2017 in Tower Hamlets, London and England, as measured by the proportion of pupils achieving the expected standard

Figure 7.11: Early years achieving a good level of development, 2017



Source: Department for Education, Early years foundation profile (EYFSP) results: 2016 (SFR60/2017).

Figure 7.12: Key Stage 1 Attainment, 2017



Source: Department for Education, National curriculum assessments at Key Stage 1, 2017 (SFR49/2017).

in reading, writing, mathematics and science. Compared with London, attainment in the borough was lower with the exception of writing, where the borough average was the same as the London average (both 72 per cent). Compared with England, attainment in Tower Hamlets was higher with the exception of reading, which was the same as the national average (at 76 per cent), and science, where the borough average (81 per cent) was two percentage points below the national average (83 per cent).

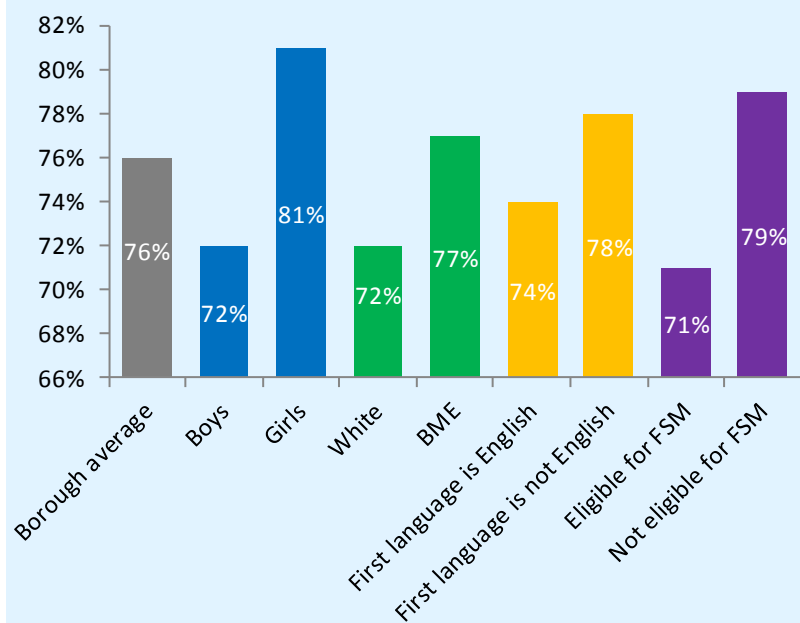
Figure 7.13 shows that in 2017, the proportion of girls in Tower Hamlets who achieved the expected standard in reading (81 per cent) was 9 percentage points higher than boys (72 per cent). This is slightly higher than the gender gap in London (8 percentage points), and is the same as the gender gap in England (9 percentage points). White pupils have lower levels of attainment (72 per cent for reading) than BME pupils (77 per cent). Unlike in 2016, the 2017 key stage 1 results, show pupils whose first language is not English have higher levels of attainment (78 per cent) than pupils whose first language is English (74 per cent) in reading. Pupils eligible for free school meals have lower levels of attainment (71 per cent for reading) than pupils not eligible for free school meals (79 per cent).

Key Stage 2

Table 7.2

summarises Key Stage 2 attainment in the National Curriculum exams, teacher assessments and

Figure 7.13: Key stage 1 achieving the expected standard in reading, 2017



Source: Department for Education, National curriculum assessments at Key Stage 1, 2016 (SFR49/2017).

Table 7.2: Key Stage 2 attainment, 2017

	Subject	Tower Hamlets	London	England**
National Curriculum exams	Reading	75	75	72
	Grammar, punctuation & spelling	84	83	77
	Mathematics	81	81	75
Teacher Assessments	Reading	83	82	80
	Writing	82	81	77
	Mathematics	83	82	78
	Science	84	85	82
	Reading, writing, maths*	68	67	62

Source: Department for education, national curriculum Assessments at key stage 2:2017 (revised) (SFR2017)

*Pupils achieving expected standard Reading & Maths (test) Writing (TA)

**national figures - state funded schools.

a combined measure for reading, writing and maths. It shows that attainment in Tower Hamlets was higher than England in all subjects, and also higher or equal to London in all subjects except in science.

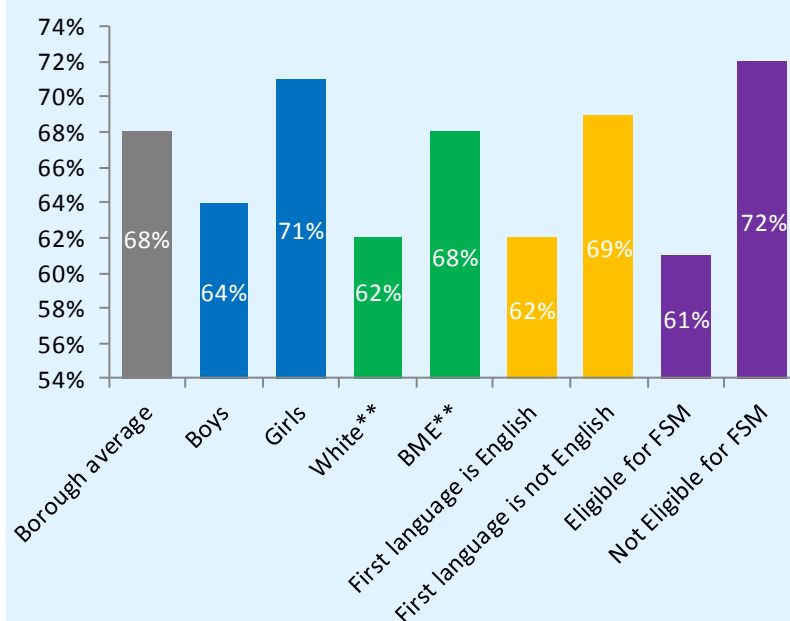
Figure 7.14 shows that in 2016, the proportion of girls in Tower Hamlets who achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths (71 per cent) was 7 percentage points higher than boys (64 per cent).

White pupils have lower levels of attainment (62 per cent) than BME pupils (68 per cent). At key stage 2, pupils whose first language is not English have higher levels of attainment (69 per cent) than pupils whose first language is English (62 per cent). Pupils eligible for free school meals have lower levels of attainment (61 per cent) than pupils not eligible for free school meals (72 per cent).

Key Stage 4

Table 7.3 summarises Key Stage 4 provisional attainment in 2017. It shows that attainment in Tower Hamlets was higher than the national average in terms of the proportion of pupils achieving grades 5 or above in English and Maths (44 per cent in Tower Hamlets vs. 42 per cent in England), grades 4 or above in English and Maths (65 per cent in Tower Hamlets vs. 64 per cent in England), and Average Attainment 8 scores (47 points in Tower Hamlets vs. 46 points in England). In terms of progress, the average Progress 8 score in the borough (0.26) was higher than the national score, demonstrating that pupils in Tower Hamlets have higher attainment outcomes than their national peers with similar prior attainment.

Figure 7.14: Key stage 2 achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths, 2017*



Source: Source: Department for education, national curriculum Assessments at key stage 2: 2017 (revised) (SFR2017)

*Pupils achieving expected standard Reading & Maths (test) Writing (TA)

**Locally calculated figures.

Table 7.3: Key Stage 4 attainment, 2017 (provisional)

	Tower Hamlets	London	England*
% of pupils achieving 9 - 5 pass in English & Maths	44	48	42
% of pupils achieving 9 - 4 pass in English & Maths	65	67	64
Average Attainment 8 score	47	49	46
Average Progress 8 score	0.26 (±0.05)	0.22 (±0.01)	-0.03

Source: Department for Education, GCSE and equivalent results in England 2017 (provisional) (SFR2017)

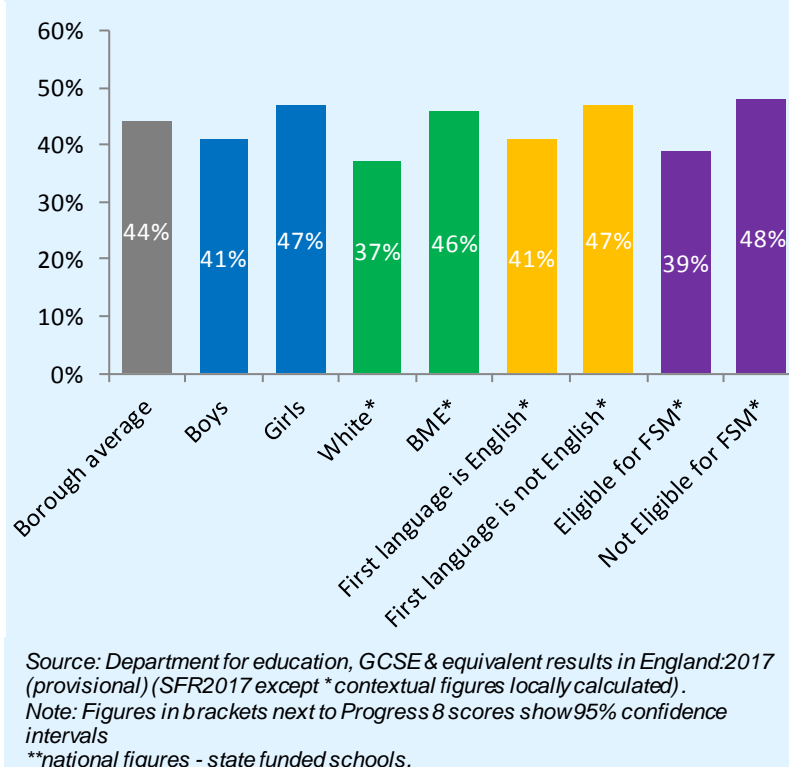
Note: Figures in brackets next to Progress 8 scores show 95% confidence intervals

*national figures - state funded schools.

Attainment in the borough was lower than the average in London for most measures. There was a 4 percentage point gap in the proportion of pupils achieving grades 5 or above in English and Maths (48 per cent in London vs. 44 per cent in Tower Hamlets), a 2 percentage point gap in the proportion of pupils achieving grades 4 or above in English and Maths (67 per cent in London vs. 65 per cent in Tower Hamlets) and a 2 point gap in the average Attainment 8 scores (49 points in London vs. 47 points in Tower Hamlets). However, the borough's Progress 8 score (0.26) was similar to the London score (0.22), with no statistically significant difference between the two scores.

There are two headline attainment measures for English and Maths, a strong pass (grades 9_5) and standard pass (grades 9_4). [Figure 7.15](#) shows the proportion of Key Stage 4 pupils achieving a strong pass 9_5 because it is the more challenging standard. In 2017, the proportion of girls in Tower Hamlets who achieved a strong pass 9_5 in English and Maths (47 per cent) was higher than boys (41 per cent). White pupils have lower levels of attainment (37 per cent) than BME pupils (46 per cent). At key stage 4, pupils whose first language is not English have higher levels of attainment (47 per cent) than pupils whose first language is English (41 per cent). Pupils eligible for free school meals have lower levels of attainment (39 per cent) than pupils not eligible for free school meals (48 per cent).

Figure 7.15: Key stage 4 achieving strong pass 9_5 in english and maths, 2017 (provisional)



Further and Higher Education in the borough

Our providers

New City College is the only further education provider in the borough. There are 7 higher education providers located within the borough, these are: Queen Mary University London; London Metropolitan University offering a wide range of courses; Newcastle University London offering a wide range of courses; University of Cumbria London offering a wide range of courses; Glasgow Caledonia University London specialising in postgraduate degree courses; Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry (which has another branch located in the Queen Mary

University London campus) offering number of degrees in medicine, dentistry and global health; and British School of Fashion (which is located in the Glasgow Caledonia University London campus) specialising in postgraduate degree courses. [Map 7.2](#) shows where these universities are located in Tower Hamlets.

Coventry University London also has a campus located just outside the borough boundary (in Middlesex Street, E1), specialising in a range of business related degree courses.

Higher education student population in Tower Hamlets

According to data from the HESA Student Record for the year 2015/16, we have 12,800 students from the UK and abroad in higher education with a term-time address in Tower Hamlets. 78 per cent are undergraduates, 22 per cent are postgraduates.

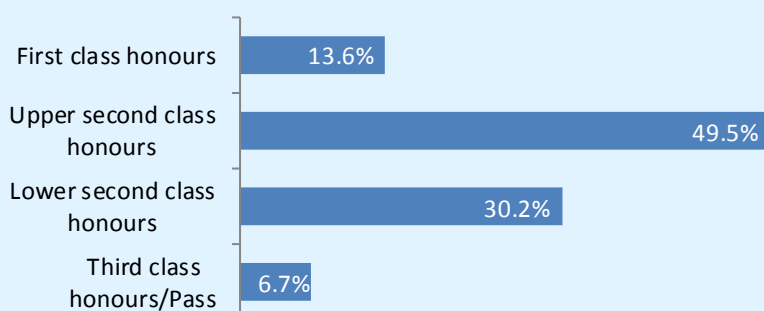
Graduate attainment

[Figure 7.16](#) shows the degree class achieved by young students resident in Tower Hamlets who completed a first degree qualification in the 2014/15 academic year.

Map 7.2: Universities in Tower Hamlets



Figure 7.16: Graduate Attainment in Tower Hamlets, 2015



Source: *The HE journey of young Tower Hamlets residents 2016*.

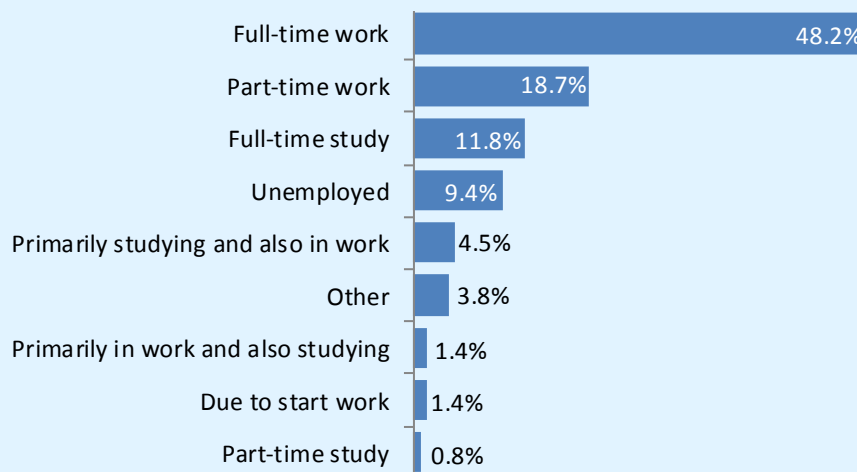
Majority of students resident in Tower Hamlets attained upper second class honours degrees (50 per cent), followed by lower second class honours degrees (30 per cent) in the 2014/15 academic year.

Since the 2007/08 academic year, the proportion of first and upper second class degrees achieved by young students resident in Tower Hamlets has steadily risen from 49 per cent in 2007/08 to 63 per cent in 2014/15.

Graduate destinations and employment

Figure 7.17 shows the percentage of students employed in full-time paid work, part-time work, self-employment, etc six months after graduation from the 2013/14 academic year. Majority of graduates resident in Tower Hamlets are in full-time employment (48 per cent), followed by part-time employment (19 per cent).

Figure 7.17: Graduate Destinations of young Tower Hamlets residents, 2014



Source: The Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey, 2014.

NEET in the borough

Table 7.4 shows the percentage of 16-17 year olds in Tower Hamlets recorded as not in education, employment or training (NEET) or whose activity is not known, at the end of 2016. At the end of 2016, 6 per cent of 16-17 year olds in Tower Hamlets were NEET (including those whose activity is unknown), which is line with the national average (6 per cent) and slightly higher than the London average (5 per cent). This is a 0.5 percentage point decrease from the previous year, which is similar to the NEET direction nationally (0.5 percentage point decrease) and slightly less than that in London (1 percentage point decrease).

Table 7.4: 16 and 17 year olds NEET in Tower Hamlets, 2016

	Tower Hamlets	London	England
% NEET (including not known)	5.7	5.3	6.0
% of which known to be NEET	3.1	1.8	2.8
% of which activity not known	2.6	3.5	3.2
Ppt change since 2015	-0.5	-1.0	-0.5

Source: Department for Education, Local authority NEET figures, 2016
Note: 2016 data are an average at the end of December 2016, January 2017 and February 2017.

Endnotes

¹ Tower Hamlets Council, *Children and Families 2016-19*. Available at:

<https://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/documents/s86222/5.9b%20App1%20AI%202016-19%20Children%20Families%20Plan.pdf>

² 2017 Spring School Census.

³ GLA, 2017 School roll projections.

⁴ Department for Education, *All schools and colleges in Tower Hamlets: Ofsted ratings*. Available at:

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=phase®ion=211&geographic=la&phase=all&for=ofsted&dataSetFilter=final>

⁵ Tower Hamlets Council, *Pupil Attitude Survey (PAS) 2015*. Available at:

https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/Documents/Borough_statistics/Pupil_Attitude_Survey_2015_Borough_Report.pdf

⁶ Department for Education, *All schools and colleges in Tower Hamlets: Absence and Pupil*

Population. Available at: <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=phase®ion=211&geographic=la&phase=all&for=abspop&datasetFilter=final>