



LA Insight Commentary Report

Wandsworth

December 2025

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Introduction

This report sits alongside the LA Insight Dashboard, which draws together a range of performance indicators relating to pupil characteristics, attainment, and progress. This report pulls out key points that highlight areas of success as well as areas for improvement. Sections that have been updated since the previous report are outlined in blue boxes.

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Latest Updates

Updated: EYFSP – 2024/25, Phonics – 2024/25, KS2 – 2024/25, KS4 – 2024/25, KS5 – 2024/25, Destinations – 2023/24, Apprenticeships – 2025, Travel – 2025, Absence – Autumn and Spring terms 2024/25

Executive Summary

- 1. Pupil Characteristics** – Across both primary and secondary schools, Wandsworth has large proportions of pupils eligible for free school meals, with English as an additional language (EAL), and with an EHCP. Wandsworth also has some of the largest proportions in England of pupils from Black or Black British, and Mixed or Multiple, ethnic backgrounds
- 2. Primary Attainment** – Wandsworth pupils continue to far outperform England averages across EYFS, year 1 phonics, Key Stage 1 (KS1), and Key Stage 2 (KS2)
- 3. Key Stage 4 Attainment** – Average Key Stage 4 (KS4) attainment remains well above England averages, with SEN Support pupils showing some of the highest attainment scores in England. However, in 2025, the attainment gap between Black and White students widened further
- 4. Post-16 Attainment** – Key Stage 5 (KS5) performance remains far less strong than earlier phases, with Wandsworth ranking in the bottom two among statistical neighbours for average performance in academic qualifications. In 2025, there were slight improvements in applied general attainment but Tech level scores fell back below statistical neighbour averages
- 5. Pupil Destinations** – The proportion of pupils staying in education, employment or training after KS4 in Wandsworth remains above average, with a large majority going on to school sixth forms. After KS5, the proportion of students remaining in education, employment or training remains slightly below average, though a very large proportion went into higher education. The percentage of 16- and 17-year-olds who were NEET or with an unknown activity decreased slightly in 2025, but remains higher than the statistical neighbour average
- 6. Absence and Exclusions** – Wandsworth continues to have relatively low suspension, permanent exclusion and absence rates, particularly in mainstream secondary schools. Across all phases, suspension rates were among the lowest in England.

1. Pupil Characteristics

Pupil Characteristics (2025)

Across both primary and secondary schools, Wandsworth has large proportions of pupils eligible for free school meals, with English as an additional language (EAL), and with an EHCP. Wandsworth also has a distinct ethnic make-up compared to other local authorities, with a relatively large number of pupils with Black or Black British, and Mixed or Multiple, ethnic backgrounds.

- The overall **number** of state-funded school **pupils** in Wandsworth **continued to fall** for the fifth year in a row, down by over 700 pupils (2.3%) from January 2024 to January 2025. Unlike previous years, this year the **primary** and **secondary** school pupil rolls **decreased equally**, both by 2.3%
- The proportion of pupils eligible for **free school meals** once more **increased**, in line with the England trend, reaching 30.5% in 2025. Due to the **statistical neighbour** average falling to 26%, Wandsworth now has the **second highest** proportion out of its statistical neighbours
- Wandsworth continues to have a **large proportion of pupils with EHCPs**, the 15th largest in **England** across all schools, and the 7th largest in **England** in primary schools
- Nearly **four in ten** (39.2%) pupils have **English as an additional language**, one of the largest proportions in England
- Wandsworth has relatively **large proportions** of **Asian** and **Black** pupils, as well as the 7th highest proportion of pupils with a **Mixed or Multiple** ethnic background in England
- As is commonly seen in London boroughs, Wandsworth continues to have a **much larger than average** proportion of primary and secondary school pupils **leaving or entering the local authority to attend school**. In particular, the proportion of secondary school pupils who leave Wandsworth to attend school is very high (29%), ranking **7th** out of all local authorities in **England**.

2. Primary Attainment

Early Years and Phonics (2025)

- The proportion of pupils achieving **GLD in the EYFSP** in Wandsworth was 73% in 2025, with Wandsworth ranking **13th best in England**
- The proportion of **year 1** pupils achieving the **expected standard in phonics** remained at 84% in 2025, with Wandsworth ranking **6th highest in England** this year.

Key Stage 2 (2025)

Key Stage 2 pupils in Wandsworth continued to perform well in 2025, once again consistently ranking in the top quartile of local authorities in England.

- The proportion of pupils meeting **the expected or higher standard in reading, writing and maths (RWM)** remained at 68.3% in 2025. This was above the statistical neighbour average and now ranks in the **top 20 local authorities in England**
- **SEN Support pupil** performance continued to improve from last year, with 45.5% now meeting the expected or higher standard in RWM. Wandsworth now ranks **6th highest out of all local authorities in England**
- The proportion of **female** pupils meeting the expected standard in RWM increased for the **second year in a row** to 71.4% in 2025, now the **20th highest** out of all local authorities in **England**
- **Asian pupils** saw a substantial improvement compared to 2024, with the proportion meeting the expected or higher standard in RWM increasing from 68.5% to 74.2%, now **exceeding both statistical neighbour and England averages**
- However, after a large improvement last year, the proportion of **Black pupils** meeting the expected or higher standard in RWM fell nearly 8% points, putting Wandsworth **below both statistical neighbour and England averages in 2025.**

3. Key Stage 4 Attainment

Key Stage 4 (2025)

In 2025, Wandsworth's KS4 performance remained well above England averages and consistently ranked in the top 20 local authorities in England.

- The average **Attainment 8** score of Wandsworth pupils decreased very slightly from 52.1 to 51.7 but remained higher than **both statistical neighbour and England averages**
- Wandsworth's average **Progress 8** score was also **strong** in 2024 (the latest available progress data) and ranked **10th highest** in England. SEN Support pupils made particularly strong progress compared to their peers across England, ranking 3rd among all local authorities in England with a Progress 8 score of +0.24
- **SEN Support** pupils had an average Attainment 8 score of 43.5 in 2025, once again greater than the **statistical neighbour** average (39.5) and now the **6th highest in England**
- The average Attainment 8 score for **disadvantaged** pupils was 41.0, **much higher** than the **England** average of 34.9 and placing Wandsworth **17th highest** out of all local authorities
- The percentage of KS4 pupils achieving a **9-5 in English & Maths** decreased by 3% points for both **male** and **female** pupils, but both remain well above **England** averages
- **Black** KS4 pupils in Wandsworth remained **below the England average** for their average **Attainment 8** score in 2025. The gap between Black pupils and their White peers in Wandsworth grew **even wider**, with White pupils now outperforming Black pupils by **more than a full grade**
- White pupils had the highest average Attainment 8 of **any ethnic group**, in stark contrast to the pattern **across England** where Asian, Black and pupils from a Mixed ethnic background all outperformed White pupils on average.

4. Post-16 Attainment

Key Stage 5 (2025)

Wandsworth remained below the England averages across most KS5 attainment measures in 2025. The Academic APS continued to be particularly low among minority ethnic groups compared to other local authorities.

- The **APS per entry** for **academic** qualifications in Wandsworth increased by the same amount as the **England** average (+0.5). Now at 33.6, it remains the **second lowest** among **statistical neighbours**
- Despite increasing across England, the **Tech level APS per entry** in Wandsworth fell by nearly 3 points to 29.5 and fell **below the statistical neighbour average**. However, it remains slightly **above** the **England** average of 28.8
- Wandsworth remained **below** the **England** averages for the **academic APS per entry** among **Asian, Black** and pupils from a **Mixed** ethnic background, while ranking in the **top quartile** of local authorities for **White** pupils
- However, the percentage of **Black** pupils achieving **three A*-A grades or better at A level** more than **doubled** from 3% in 2024 to 7% in 2025, bringing Wandsworth closer to the **England** average of 9%
- 17% of all pupils sitting **A levels** in 2025 achieved **AAB**, including two facilitating subjects, in line with the **England** average but **second lowest** among **statistical neighbours**.

Qualification Rates by 19 (2024)

The proportions of Wandsworth students achieving a Level 2 and Level 3 by age 19 were above the England averages in 2024. The percentages for male students were again much lower than those for female students, with the gap growing wider for Level 3 qualifications.

- The percentage of Wandsworth students achieving a **Level 2 by 19** **decreased slightly** to 85.8%, while the percentage with a **Level 3 by 19** **increased** to 67.4%, just under 10% points **higher** than the **England** average. Wandsworth now ranks in the **top quartile** of local authorities in England for the proportion of students achieving a **Level 2 including English & Maths** by age 19 (78%)
- The percentage of **male students** qualified to **Level 2 by 19** (81.5%) remains below the average among Wandsworth's statistical neighbours, while the percentage for **female** students (90.4%) now ranks Wandsworth in the **top quartile** of all local authorities in **England**. Both percentages are still **above their England averages**
- Similarly, the proportion of **female students** qualified to **Level 3 by 19** **increased** to 74.6%, now **well above** the average among **statistical neighbours** and placing Wandsworth in the **top 20** local authorities in England. The proportion of **male students** with a Level 3 by 19 is now **13.8% points lower** than their female peers, compared to 11.6% in 2023.

5. Pupil Destinations

Key Stage 4 Destinations (2024)

- The proportion of pupils remaining in **education, employment or training after KS4 fell 2.2% points** to 92.4%, with Wandsworth no longer ranking in the **top quartile** of England local authorities
- As is common among local authorities in **London**, around **two thirds (66.4%)** of Wandsworth KS4 pupils went on to **sixth form schools or colleges**, compared to less than half across England
- On the other hand, **relatively few pupils** went on to an **FE** college or other FE provider, or into an **apprenticeship** after KS4
- There was a 1% point increase in the percentage of pupils whose **destination was not sustained** and a 1.3% point increase in those whose **activity was not captured**.

Key Stage 5 Destinations (2024)

- The proportion of mainstream Level 3 **students remaining in education, employment or training after KS5** in Wandsworth remained almost unchanged compared to last year, now at 84.7%. This remains **below** both the statistical neighbour and England averages
- While the proportion of KS5 students across **England** going on to **higher education institutions** fell **below half** in 2024 (49.2%), the proportion in Wandsworth rose to 62.4%, now the 20th highest rate in England
- As in previous years, **relatively few** students went into **employment** or **apprenticeships** after KS5.

Participation and Travel (2025)

In 2025, Wandsworth had large proportions of 16- and 17-year-olds participating in education and training, particularly 17-year-olds, with Wandsworth well above the England average for that age group.

- In 2025, the percentage of Wandsworth **16-year-olds** in **education and training** saw a slight **decrease** to 96%, no longer ranking in the top quartile of local authorities in England but still **higher than the England average** of 95%
- As in 2024, 94% of **17-year-olds** were in education and training in 2025, **again** placing Wandsworth in the **top 30 local authorities in England**
- The percentage of 16- and 17-year-olds who were **NEET or not known** decreased slightly to 4.2%, remaining **below** the **England** average but **above** the **statistical neighbour** average of 3.9%

- The number of **apprenticeship starts** among under 19 year olds in Wandsworth was 69 in 2025, down from 95 in 2024. However, the number of under 19 year olds **achieving apprenticeships** continued to rise, up to 36 this year
- As is common in London boroughs, **1 in 10** (10.8%) Wandsworth **primary** pupils and **almost a third** (30%) of **secondary** pupils attend school in **other local authorities**.

6. Absence and Exclusions

Absence (2024/25) and Exclusions (2023/24)

Suspension rates remained particularly low across both primary and secondary schools in 2023/24 despite England averages increasing. Wandsworth's absence rates were also strong but ranked less well in primary schools.

- Following the trend across England, the percentage of Wandsworth school pupils **suspended at least once** in 2023/24 **increased to 2.5%**. However, this was still **well below** the **England** average of 4% and the **12th lowest rate** of any local authority in **England**
 - The **permanent exclusion rate** in Wandsworth was 0.07% in 2023/24, once again higher than the **statistical neighbour** average but still placing in the **best performing quartile** among all local authorities in **England**
- The **overall absence** rate across all Wandsworth schools remained at 6.1% in the Autumn and Spring terms of 2024/25. This was the **26th lowest rate** in England, 0.5% points below the average of 6.6%
 - Headline absence measures were **unchanged** from the previous year for mainstream **primary schools**, and remain in line with England and statistical neighbour averages
 - **Overall, unauthorised, and persistent** absentee rates were again particularly low in **secondary** schools, with Wandsworth having the **15th lowest secondary school overall absence rate** out of all local authorities in England.

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