

**PROVISIONAL SUNDERLAND NATIONAL CURRICULUM  
RESULTS FOR 2009**

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**1. Why has this report come to Committee?**

1. To provide Children's Services Review Committee with an early update on the performance of pupils in statutory Key Stage assessments and Foundation Stage Profile in 2009.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 The local authority collects and validates pupil assessments for Foundation Stage Profile and Key Stage 1 in July. Provisional Key Stage 2 results are supplied to local authorities by the Department for Children, Schools and Families during August. Key Stage 4 and 5 results are supplied by each school to the local authority on results day in August. Final results, which take into account individual pupil papers appealed by schools and remarked, will be available later this autumn term. Provisional national comparison results are currently only available for Key Stages 1 and 2. National Curriculum tests at Key Stage 3 (age 14) were discontinued in 2008.

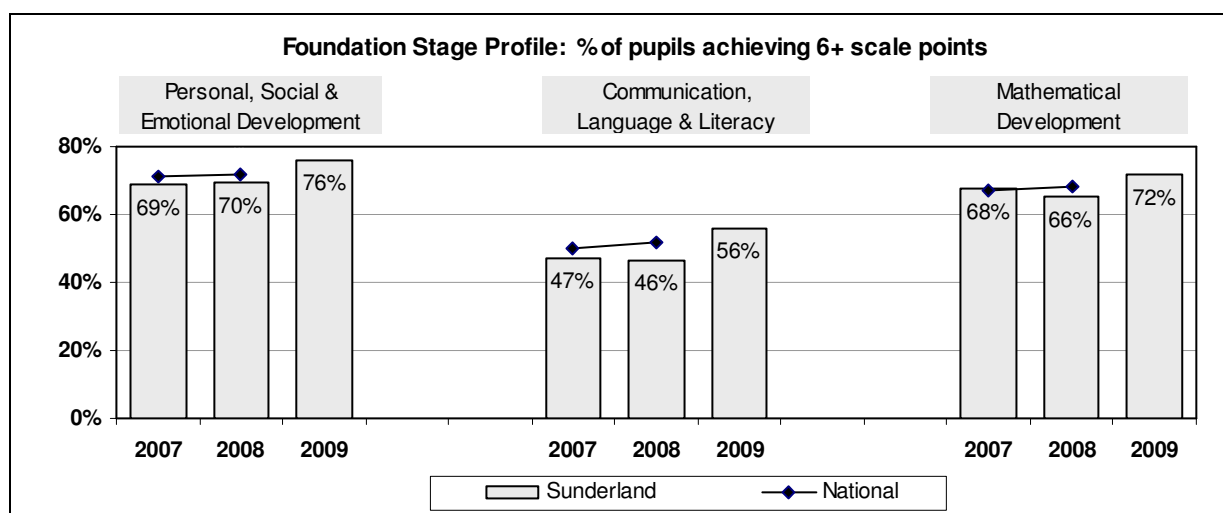
**All Key Stage results are therefore currently provisional and subject to change.**

**3. Key Points**

- Early Years Foundation Stage Profile results have improved substantially this year.
- Key Stage 1 results have remained stable over the last three years.
- Key Stage 2 results have declined in English this year and remained the same in maths
- Key Stage 4 (GCSE) performance continues to improve, and Sunderland is celebrating its best ever results in 2009
- Key Stage 5 (A Level and equivalent) results show strong improvement at the higher A – C grades.

**4. Attainment at age 5: Early Years Foundation Stage Profile results**

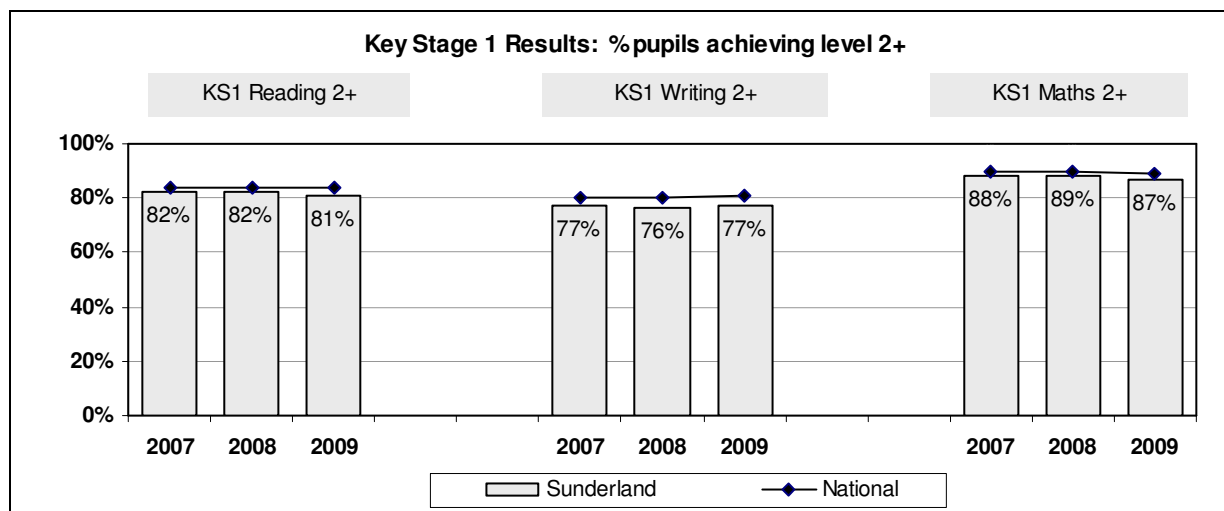
- 4.1 The Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) assesses five year olds across thirteen different elements which can be grouped into the three main strands below. Children are assessed on a scale of 0 to 9 for each element, and those children who achieve at least six scale points are working securely within the early learning goals.



- 4.2 The proportion of children working securely within early learning goals (level 6+) for Personal, Social and Emotional Development continues to improve year on year, increasing from 70% to 76% 2008 – 09.
- 4.3 Communication, Language and Literacy includes assessments for Language for Communication and Thinking, Linking Sounds and Letters, Reading and Writing. Results this year improved by ten percentage points, from 46% to 56%.
- 4.4 Results in Mathematical Development improved this year, from 66% to 72%, 2008 – 2009.
- 4.5 There are two main National Indicator measures at Early Years Foundation Stage:
- *NI72: Percentage of children who achieve at least 78 points and also 6 scale points in each assessment of Communication, Language & Literacy and Personal, Social & Emotional Development.* Sunderland has made good improvement this year. In 2007 and 2008 results were static at 44%, but in 2009 results have improved to 53% of children achieving this measure. Boys have improved from 36% to 44% and girls from 54% to 63%, 2008 – 2009.
  - *NI92: Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% of pupils and the rest.* This indicator measures the gap between the average score of the lowest 20% of children and the score of the median (middle) child. The smaller the gap the better. Sunderland has made good progress at narrowing the gap this year, from 42% to 37%.

## 5. Attainment at age 7: Key Stage 1 results

- 5.1 Children are teacher assessed at Key Stage 1 in reading, writing and maths at age seven. The nationally expected level of achievement at this age is level 2, and the highest assessment is level 3.



5.2 Key Stage 1 results have improved slightly in writing but declined slightly in reading and maths; results in all three subjects are just below national averages, and nationally results have followed a similar pattern with slight improvement in writing and decline in maths.

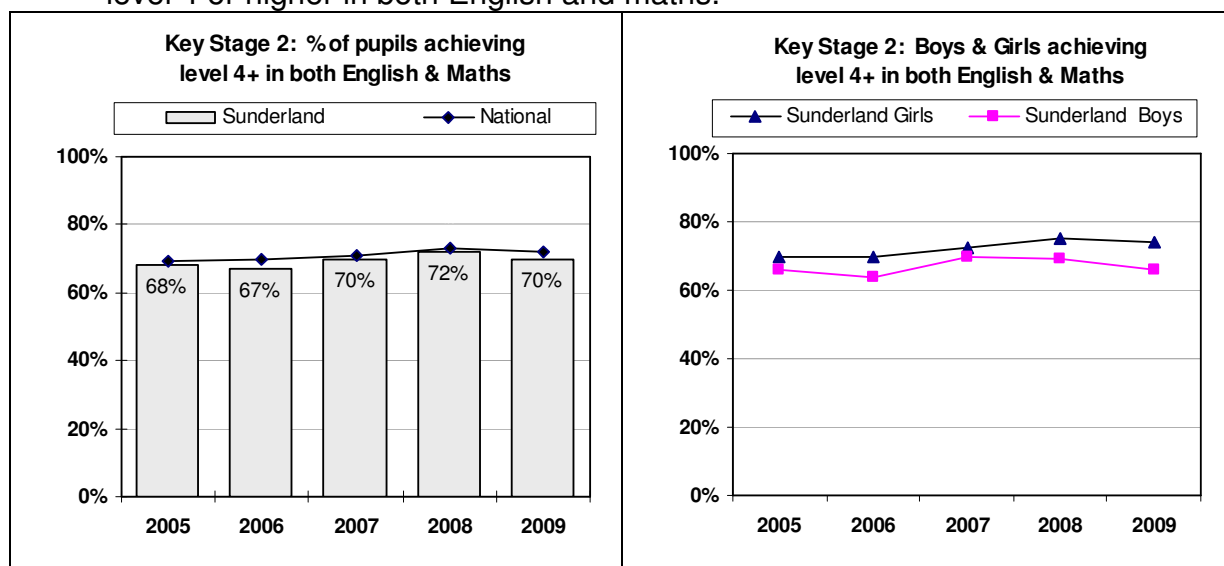
5.3 There has been an increase in the proportion of seven year olds achieving the highest level 3 in writing, from 9% to 10% whilst remaining static nationally at 12%. Similarly, maths results at level 3 have improved from 17% to 18% despite remaining static at 21% nationally. At reading, percentage of Sunderland pupils achieving level 3 has dropped slightly from 22% to 21% whilst showing slight improvement nationally from 25% to 26%.

5.4 Girls continue to perform better than boys at Key Stage 1, particularly at reading and writing.

## 6. Attainment at age 11: Key Stage 2 results

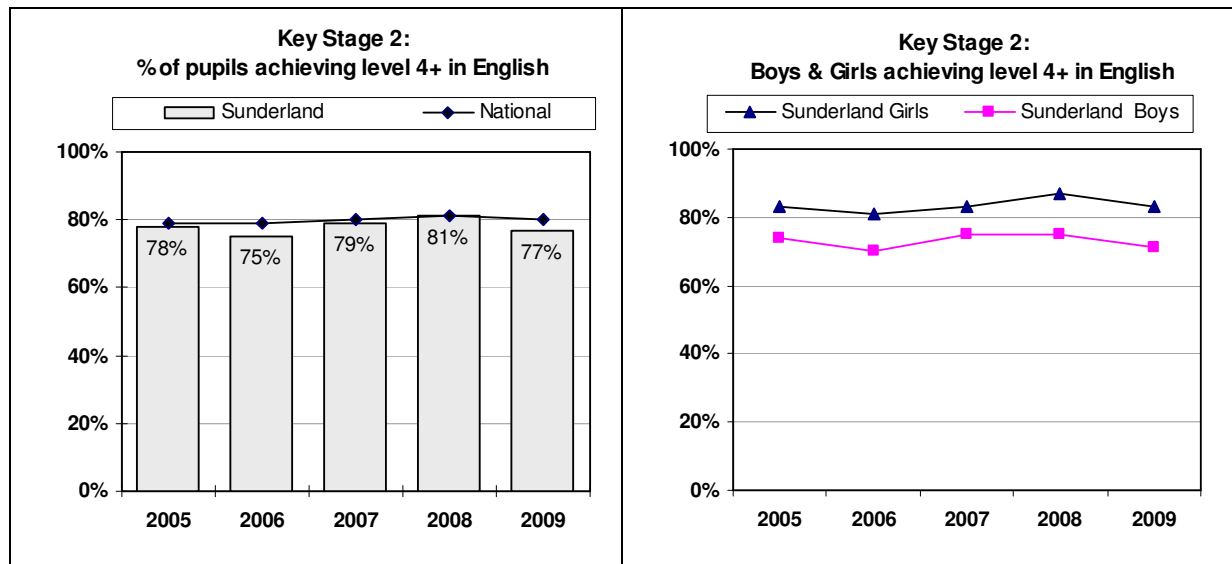
6.1 Children sit Key Stage 2 tests at the end of primary school in English, maths and science. The nationally expected level of achievement at this age is level 4, and the highest is level 5.

6.2 The key national indicator at Key Stage 2 is percentage of children who achieve level 4 or higher in both English and maths.



- 6.2.1 Percentage of pupils achieving level 4 or higher in both Key Stage 2 English and maths has declined from 72% to 70% 2008 – 09, but with improvement over the last five years. Nationally, results have also declined slightly from 73% to 72%, so Sunderland pupils are within 2% points of national results. Sunderland girls performance has declined slightly from 75% to 74% this year while boys have declined from 69% to 66%, widening the gender gap to 8 percentage points.

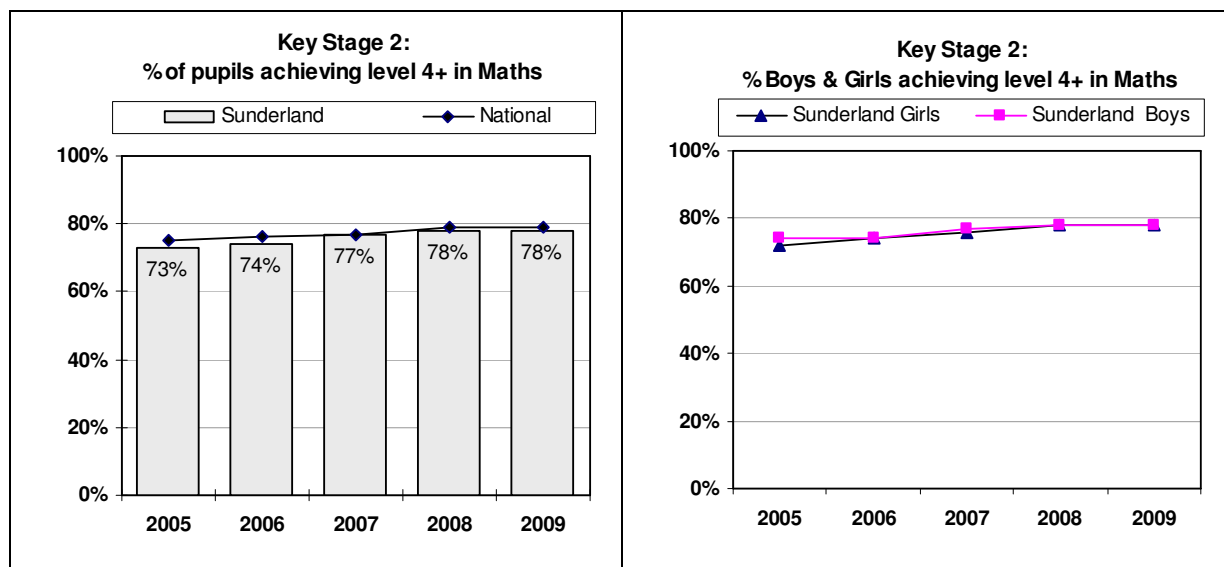
### 6.3 Key Stage 2 English results



- 6.3.1 Key Stage 2 English results at level 4+ have declined from 81% to 77%, 2008 – 09. Nationally, results have also declined from 81% to 80%. The percentage of children achieving the higher level 5 in English has declined slightly from 29% to 28%.
- 6.3.2 There has been a similar decrease in Key Stage 2 English for both boys and girls this year. Girls have declined from 87% to 83% at level 4+ between 2008 – 09; boys have declined from 75% to 71%.

Additional National Indicators have been introduced which measure the progress children make between Key stage 1 and 2, to show the percentage of children who make two or more levels progress between the two key stages (for example, progressing from Key Stage 1 level 2 to Key Stage 2 level 4). 83% of children have made at least two levels of progress in English compared to 75% four years ago. National data for this measure has not yet been released.

### 6.4 Key Stage 2 Maths results



6.4.1 2009 Key Stage 2 maths results in Sunderland have remained at 78% over the last two years and are just below the national average of 79%. Percentage of pupils achieving the higher level 5 in maths has improved this year, from 31% to 33%, 2008 – 09.

6.4.2 Percentage of children making two levels of progress in maths continues to improve year on year, from 80% in 2008 to 82% this year.

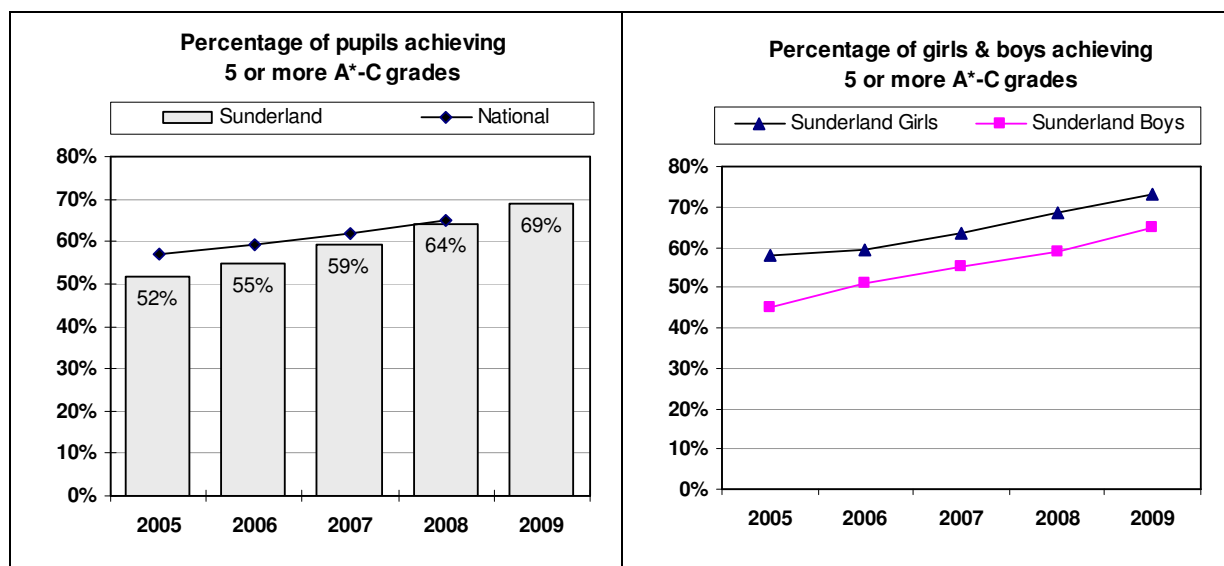
## 6.5 Key Stage 2 Science results

6.5.1 The percentage of pupils achieving Key Stage 2 level 4+ in science has declined slightly from 88% in 2008 to 87% in 2009. 40% of Sunderland children have achieved the higher level 5 in science this year.

## 7. Attainment at age 16: Key Stage 4 results

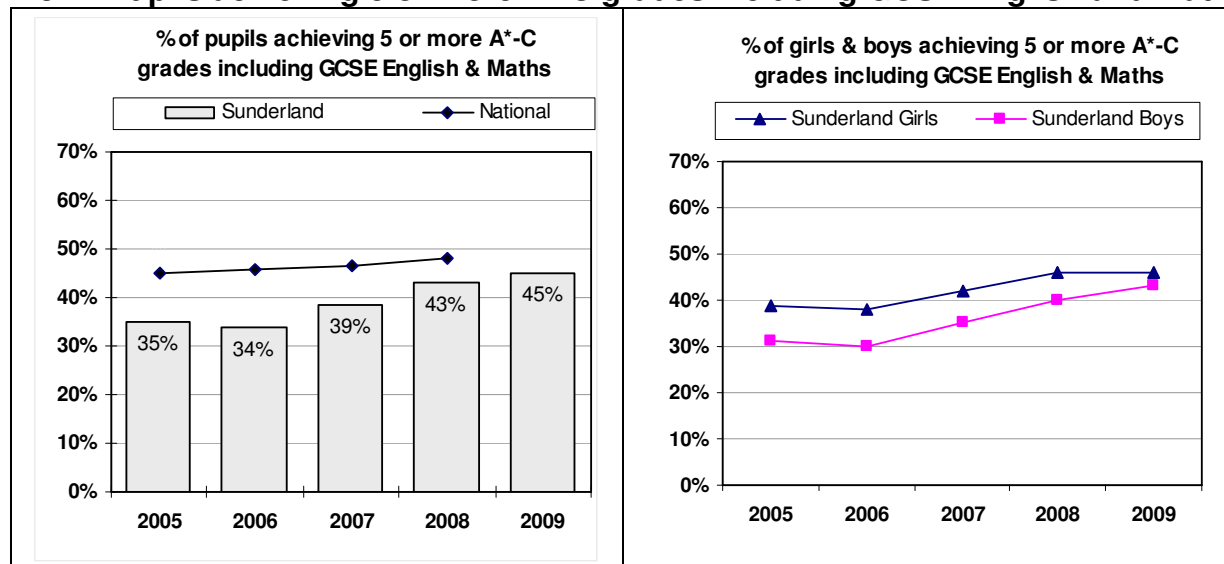
7.1 Provisional Key Stage 4 results (GCSE and equivalent) for pupils at the end of statutory school age are the highest achieved in Sunderland, continuing a strong upward trend over the last four years.

### 7.2 Percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSE A\*-C grades or equivalent



- 7.2.1 The percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A\*-C grades has increased from 64% to 69% 2008 – 09 and represents the highest results achieved in Sunderland. Results continue to improve year on year, representing a 17% point improvement over the last five years. Both boys and girls show strong improvement over the period. Please note that 5+ A\*-C national comparative results have not yet been published.

### 7.3 Pupils achieving 5 or more A\*-C grades including GCSE English and Maths



- 7.3.1 The government's gold standard measure requires sixteen year olds to achieve at least five GCSEs or equivalent at grade A\*-C and they must achieve at least a grade C in both GCSE English and maths. While Sunderland has not performed as well as national averages in previous years, there has been a strong and sustained improvement over the last four years. Boys continue to improve, although this year the gender gap has narrowed as girls' results have remained the same this summer. 2009 is again the best year's results for this measure in Sunderland.
- 7.3.2 The percentage of GCSE English entries achieving an A\*-C grade has improved from 54% to 57%, 2008 – 2009. Maths entries at A\*-C grade has also improved slightly, from 51% to 52%. More pupils are also gaining two or more A\*-C grades in science, improving from 45% to 48%, 2008 – 2009. Percentage of pupils gaining at least one Modern Foreign Language at grade A\*-C has improved from 18% to 21%.

## 8. Attainment at age 18: Key Stage 5 results

- 8.1 The local authority collects from schools and City of Sunderland College headline summary A level and equivalent qualification performance on results day to give a broad indication of pass rates.
- 8.2 Performance in 2009 shows that the overall pass rate (A – E grades) for A level and equivalent subjects improved from 94% to 96%, 2008 – 2009. Early indications are that the percentage of subjects achieving the higher A – C grade has improved from 52% to 63% 2008 – 09.

## **9. Further Information**

- 9.1 The local authority will receive pupil level Key Stage 4 and 5 results in October, which will enable a more detailed analysis of results at school and subject level, along with national comparative information in November. School performance tables at Key Stage 2 will be published in December 2009 and at Key Stage 4 and 5 in January 2010.

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