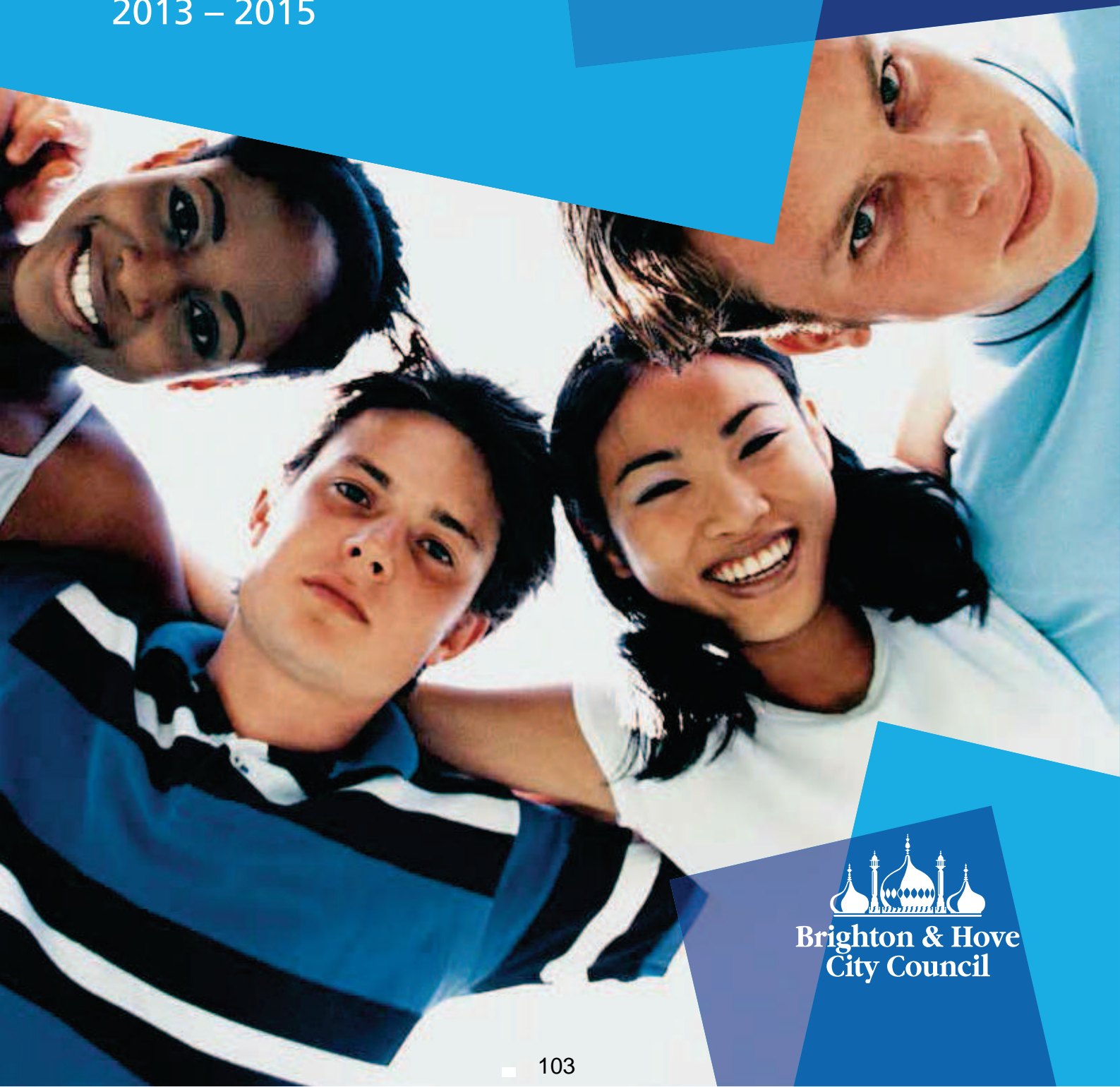


Education and Inclusion

# Closing the Gap

in Educational Achievement for  
Vulnerable Groups in the City

2013 – 2015



Brighton & Hove  
City Council

# Contents

1. Introduction	Page 3
2. Where does this strategy fit in? Links to the Corporate Plan	Page 3
3. Vision for Education	Page 3
4. Rationale for “Closing the Gap’	Page 4
5. Partnership working and the role of the LA	Page 4
6. The Provision of Pupil Premium and SEN funding	Page 5
7. Best Practice: What makes the difference?	Page 5
8. How our strategy will work	Page 7
9. What success will look like	Page 7
Appendix 1	Page 8
Appendix 2	Page 9



# 1. Introduction

This strategy outlines Brighton & Hove's vision, priorities and expectations in relation to closing the gap in educational achievement for vulnerable children and young people in the city. It builds upon the success of schools in raising attainment and progress and is ambitious for the future. We are beginning to see the gap closing as the strategy elements are put in place.

Closing the Gap in educational achievement is a moral imperative. We believe that through educational success, vulnerable children and young people will maximise their life chances and secure their future economic well being. We are committed to partnership working and believe that everyone has a part to play in addressing this most serious issue.

## 2. Where does this strategy fit in?

### Links to the Corporate Plan

This strategy links to the theme of Tackling Inequality in the City Corporate Plan 2011-2015.

'We want to make sure that all of our children and young people have the best possible start in life, so that everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential, whatever that might be, and to be happy, healthy and safe'. This means making sure that all children and young people in the city have access to high quality education that will provide them with the knowledge and skills to secure employment and be active and responsible

citizens. We will focus on raising overall attainment and narrowing the gap between the lowest and highest performing pupils.' (Brighton and Hove Corporate Plan 2011-2015.) Closing the achievement gap between vulnerable groups of children and young people in the City and their peers is a priority in a range of strategies and policies including: the Special Educational Needs Partnership Strategy, School Improvement Strategy and Early Help Strategy. This strategy outlines a consistent, city wide approach that we will take to 'closing the gap'.

## 3. Vision for Education

Our vision was devised by the Learning Partnership with contributions from learning organisations across the city. It is shared by all and interpreted by each phase and school to meet the needs of the learners. It underpins everything we do.

### A 21st Century Vision for Learning in Brighton & Hove

Our provision will ensure a coherent and inclusive experience that makes learning personalised,

irresistible, engaging and enjoyable. To maximise the potential of every learner, each must thrive from relevant, motivating and exciting experiences that draw upon the uniqueness of our vibrant city by the sea.

We will encourage all to become confident, flexible, resilient and capable life-long learners and critical and reflective thinkers, empowered with essential knowledge, life skills, dispositions and technological capability necessary to participate as responsible citizens in the 21st century.

## 4. Rationale for ‘Closing the Gap’

Each year the Standards and Achievement Team carries out an extensive data analysis and examines the performance of the different groups of pupils in the City. The data analysis shows that the most significant gaps in performance are those between the performance of children and young people eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) and their more advantaged peers, between those children and young people identified as having special educational needs or disability (SEND) and their peers and for children in care (LAC/ CiC). These gaps widen as the young people move through our school system. The impact of large numbers of pupils, particularly pupils with FSM not achieving 5 GCSE's A\* to C with English

and Maths at the end of Key Stage 4, not only has implications for the economy of the city, but also has an impact on the quality of opportunity for young people in the city. However, there are overlaps in these groups.

In 2012:

- 11% of children in the city were both in receipt of FSM and identified as having special educational needs.
- 31% of pupils with SEN were also in receipt of FSM.
- 47% of pupils registered for FSM were also identified as having SEN.

## 5. Partnership working and the role of the LA

Brighton and Hove is committed to working in partnership to ‘Close the Gap’ in educational achievement for vulnerable groups.

Although schools are being given increased levels of autonomy, it is still the responsibility of the LA to ensure that there is robust self evaluation by the management of the school, particularly in relation to pupil progress. A key task for this LA is to further develop our work to ensure schools are effectively addressing the needs of their vulnerable groups of pupils, and that good progress is made towards ‘Closing the Gap’ in educational achievement in all schools. We would want to support schools to find their own solutions that will work effectively in the different contexts of the schools.

The Ofsted Chief Inspector, Sir Michael Wilshaw, has recently made it clear that Local Authorities still retain a direct responsibility for the standards achieved in all of the schools in their area, including academies; this responsibility is particularly in relation to the progress made by vulnerable groups. He also told Headteachers, that increasing attention will be given, during the course of school inspections, to the impact

schools are making through the use of the Pupil Premium on the issue of ‘Closing the Gap’ for the disadvantaged. It has also been indicated by Her Majesty’s Inspectors (HMI) that there will be an increasing focus on this issue, not just at a school level, but when considering the relative performance of local authorities in addressing the issue of the progress of disadvantaged pupils in their area.

In its role as champion of children and families, the LA can facilitate, broker and commission support. We have a small intervention team with a focus on closing the achievement gap and they offer support and challenge for schools in this area.



## 6. The Provision of Pupil Premium and SEN funding

Pupil Premium is intended to assist schools with addressing the gap in achievement between disadvantaged pupils and their peers; for the purposes of identification, disadvantage is identified with registration for Free School Meals (FSM). Although an imprecise indicator, FSM registration remains the most accessible way to identify disadvantage in schools.

From April 2014 the premium will stand at £1300 for each FSM pupil, registered during the last six school years, and this is likely to rise again by the final year of this parliament. Additionally, there is funding available of £500 for each FSM pupil to support Year 6/7 Summer School

Transition Programmes, and a further £500 'catch-up' payment, paid for Year 7 pupils who did not achieve Level 4 at the end of the Primary phase; this produces a potential £1900 for each underachieving FSM pupil at the key point of the Primary / Secondary school transition.

Through the formula the LA has delegated directly into school budgets a notional amount to support children with SEN. In 2013 / 14 this was £12.7m across mainstream schools and academies. In addition there is 'top up' funding for pupils with high needs and in 2013 / 14 this in the region of £2.04m (adjustable over the year), giving an overall total approaching £15m.

## 7. Best Practice: What makes the difference?

Where schools have been most effective in raising the progress of vulnerable pupils, and have closed the gap, there are factors which are frequently observed:

- the deliberate and systematic involvement of pupils, at all stages, with taking responsibility for their own progress and learning;
- appropriate management structures, quality assurance and data collection;

- Quality First Teaching in the classroom, setting intervention into a context in which the progress secured can be developed and sustained;
- effective leadership on the issue of intervention from the school's senior management team;
- the identification of strategies that are right for the particular setting and needs of the pupils - all of the selected interventions being subject to a rigorous process of cost/benefit analysis;
- the careful selection, training and support of intervention staff, recognising that intervention requires a different range of skills to that of class teaching;
- integration of intervention staff into the work of the whole school - particularly that of the class/subject teacher;
- suitable assessment processes that fully and adequately inform intervention, enabling progress to be monitored across a range of learning need.



We have also seen the gap narrow in a number of schools across the city. Discussion with leaders of those schools also identified the following key points:

## What do schools think makes the difference?

'We have high expectations from the top down and the bottom up'

'We make sure we do it well for every child – and there are no excuses'

'We make sure that teachers are aware of their responsibility and accountability for every pupil '

'There is a focus on tracking and assessment – making sure no one veers off track '

'We ensure high quality teaching and learning for all '

'ECAR and ECC are very valuable and have a positive impact '

Some special initiatives and projects local and national had lifted aspirations for all and accelerated progress e.g. (MfL) project

## Case Study: Rudyard Kipling Primary School

Rudyard Kipling Primary School was judged to be 'good' in May 2013. The school RAISEonline shows that educational achievement gaps are closing.

The inspector wrote:

**'Funding for the pupil premium is effectively used, primarily to provide non-class based teachers and additional adults to deliver tailored support in both English and mathematics. The impact of the funding has been clearly shown in improved achievement.'**

Some of the features of the school are:

- The headteacher, ably assisted by the deputy headteacher, is very clear about what she wants the school to achieve.
- The School's approach to improvement is incredibly detailed and consists of very accurate school self-evaluation, improvement plans and detailed termly plans. All staff are fully aware of these realistic and achievable plans.
- There is an effective programme to monitor and improve the quality of teaching. Leaders ensure that all teachers meet the 'Teachers' Standards'. All staff, including support staff, have targets to help them improve their performance to make them accountable for accelerating pupils' progress. The school has produced detailed documentation to ensure that teachers fully understand how progression through the pay scales can be achieved and is inextricably linked to pupils' progress.
- The quality of the school's assessment information, detailing pupil progress, is exemplary. Personalised plans are made for each pupil, after looking at their books, their work in lessons and their progress information. Decisions about how to maximise progress and use carefully targeted interventions include the teachers and senior leaders as well as governors.
- Middle leaders are involved in all aspects of monitoring, including lesson observations. They have a good understanding of school performance and often trial innovative practice, as demonstrated in Year 5.
- Governors know the school well and are therefore able to offer effective support and challenge.

## 8. How our strategy will work

### What we will do

- Form a group of school leaders and LA officers to drive the strategy
- Further evaluate and disseminate national research: (e.g. Sutton Trust)
- Evaluate and disseminate the national evidence into the most effective interventions
- Evaluate and disseminate the local evidence: e.g. Schools data and the Schools

### Supporting Schools projects – what is working well?

- Provide a universal offer of data analysis, advice and guidance (e.g. Intervention health check / governor support and training)
- Support partnership / cluster data analysis – so that every school knows its pupils
- Identify, through the data analysis of schools where practice is strong and schools where the gap is particularly wide.

- Link schools with similar profiles together to share practice
- Investigate different evidence based programmes such as: 'Achievement for All' or 'Success for All', 'Working with Others' 'Talkboost', and 'School Start', to see if they would be the right support for schools in the city
- Continue to promote and facilitate the Every Child a Reader and the Every Child Counts programmes with schools along with their associated initiatives
- Extend the 'Every Child a Reader' programme, in a number of target schools, to encompass a broader strategy for addressing achievement in literacy, particularly in writing.
- Promote virtual learning opportunities where these have been shown to make a successful contribution to learning

## 9. What success will look like

Year on year, pupil achievement for all groups in the city will improve and the gaps between pupils in vulnerable groups and their peers will close.

We will identify key milestones and targets to support and challenge schools to accelerate achievement of the most vulnerable. The milestones seek to raise aspiration and ensure that the gaps in educational achievement are in line with and then below the national average at all key assessment points.

In Brighton and Hove we are committed to the success of every pupil and the achievement of these vulnerable groups must be our priority.



# Appendices

## Appendix 1

### Brighton & Hove LA: Summary of the Comparative Achievement Data: Free School Meals/Non Free School Meals Pupils

#### Key Stage 1

Overall performance at the end of KS1 for 'all pupils' is greater than that of pupils nationally. However there is a gap between those pupils who are in receipt of FSM and their peers in all subjects. The gap is widest in writing.

#### KS1 writing L2+

Results	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
B&H FSM	62.0%	61.0%	62.0%	64.3%	59.9%
B&H Non FSM	85.0%	85.0%	84.0%	84.6%	86.2%
B&H Gap	23.0%	24.0%	22.0%	20.3%	26.3%

There were six schools where the FSM pupils did as well, or better than the non Free school meals pupils in all three areas of the curriculum and had, therefore, closed the gap;

There were many schools where the FSM pupils had done as well or better than non FSM pupils in one or more of these areas of the curriculum;

69.5% of FSM pupils reach the benchmark in reading. National 64%

59.9% of FSM pupils reach the benchmark in writing. National 56%

79.6% of FSM pupils reach the benchmark in mathematics. National 68%

#### Key Stage 2

There is an overall fall in the achievement of the city's disadvantaged pupils (FSM) from the end of Key Stage 1 to the end of Key Stage 2

60% of Brighton & Hove non FSM pupils reached the Level 4 benchmark at the end of KS2 compared to 58% nationally, but only 37% of all FSM pupils achieved Level 4 SATS at the end of Key Stage 2

17.4% of pupils in Brighton and Hove at the end of Key Stage 2 were eligible for Free School Meals nationally;

- There were twenty four schools where the FSM pupils reached or exceeded the national end of Key Stage floor standard (60% of pupils achieving Level 4 in English and Mathematics);
- There were eight schools where the FSM pupils equalled or exceeded the percentage of all pupils achieving Level 4;

#### KS2 pupils achieving L4+ in English and maths 2007 – 2012

Results	2007	2008	2009	2010*	2011	2012
B&H FSM	46%	55%	52%	63%	51%	60%
B&H Non FSM	76%	79%	76%	82%	78%	83%
B&H Gap	30%	24%	24%	19%	27%	23%

#### Key Stage 4

The gap at the end of Key Stage 4 (Secondary 2011/12, achieving 5 GCSEs A\* - C with English and mathematics) had widened to -34.5% from -23% at the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6).

Nationally the gap at the end of Key Stage 4 was 36.4% giving a gap of - 8.1% between Brighton and Hove's FSM pupils and their FSM peers nationally.

27.1% of FSM pupils reach the GCSE benchmark at the end of Key Stage 4 36.4% nationally 61.6 % of all non FSM pupils achieved the benchmark in Brighton and Hove compared to 62.8 nationally

14.7% of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 were eligible for Free School Meals;



- there were two schools where the FSM pupils reached or exceeded the national end of Key Stage 4 benchmark (40% of pupils achieving 5 GCSEs A\* - C with English and mathematics);
- there were no schools where the FSM pupils equalled or exceeded the percentage of all pupils achieving 5 GCSEs A\* - C with English and mathematics;

### Pupils eligible for Free School Meals Gap % 5+ A\*-C GCSE including English & Maths 2007 – 2012

Results	2007	2008	2009	2010*	2011	2012
B&H FSM	20%	19%	22%	22%	26%	27%
B&H non FSM	47%	49%	48%	53%	57%	62%
B&H FSM cohort	306	330	334	337	337	332
B&H non FSM cohort	1998	2008	1955	2032	1987	1881

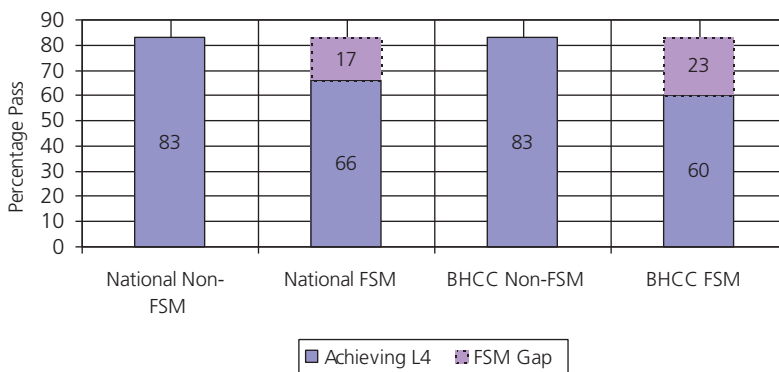
## Appendix 2

### Brighton & Hove LA comparisons with national

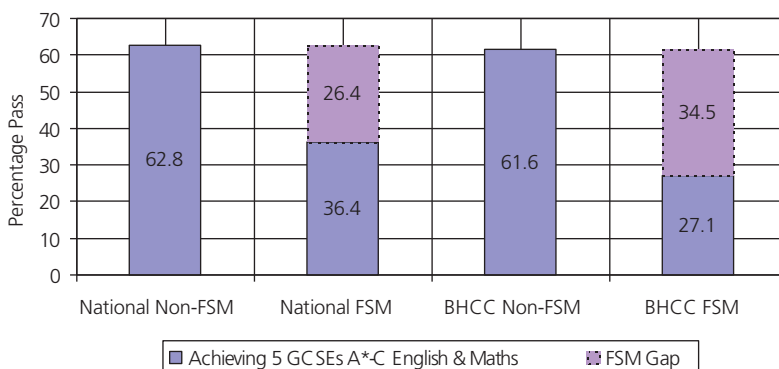
### Comparative Graphs of Achievement Data:

### Free School Meals/Non Free School Meals Pupils 2011 – 2012

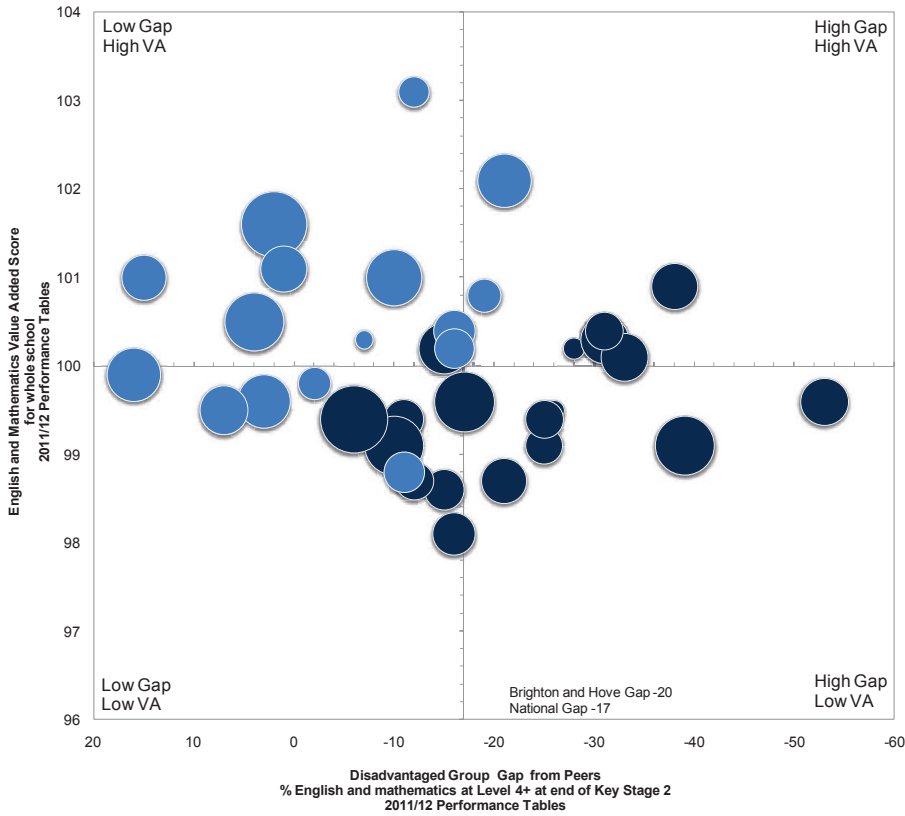
End of Key Stage 2 (Junior) National Benchmark: Level 4  
English & Maths



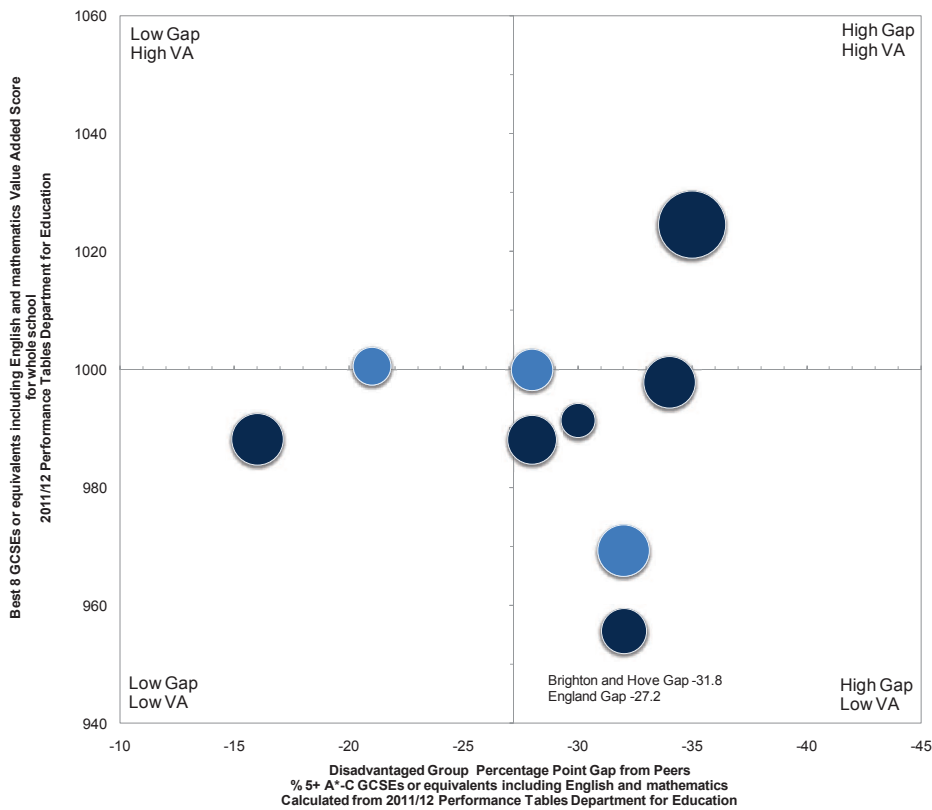
End of Key Stage 4 (Year 11) National Benchmark: 5 GCSEs  
A\*-C English & Maths



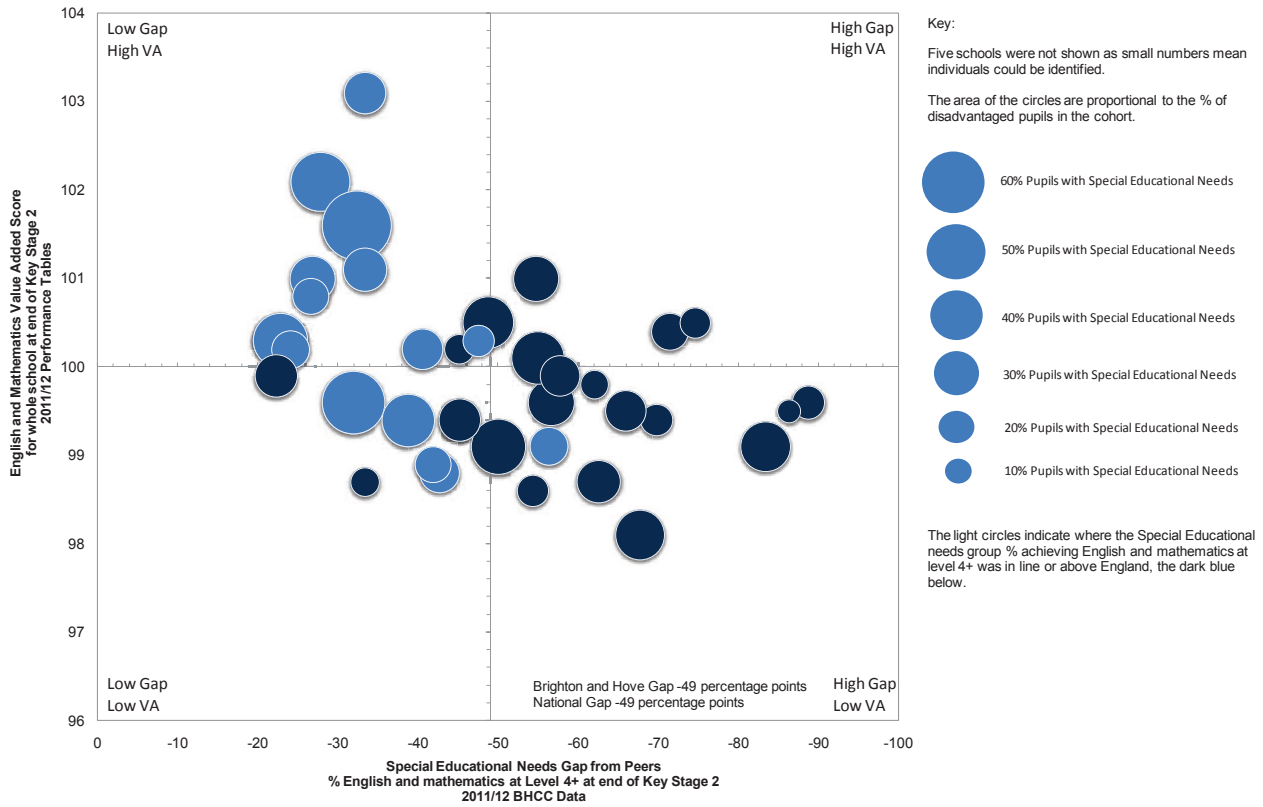
**Disadvantaged Pupil Group Gaps in % English and mathematics at Level 4+, and English and mathematics Value Added Score**



**Disadvantaged Pupil Group Gaps in % 5+ A\*-C GCSE or equivalents including English and mathematics , and 8 best GCSEs or equivalent including English and mathematics Value Added Score**



**Special Educational Needs Gap in % English and mathematics at Level 4+, and mathematics Value Added Score**



**Special Educational Need Pupil Group Gaps in % 5+ A\*-C GCSE or equivalents including English and mathematics, and 8 best GCSEs or equivalent including English and mathematics Value Added Score**

