

EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 16 OCTOBER 2014

Educational Attainment of White Working Class Boys

1. For the purpose of this document the term ‘White Working Class’ refers to pupils from a White British background who are eligible for free school meals. Whilst it is recognised that this is not the perfect indicator it is the best that we have at present as no details of parental occupation are collected as part of the schools census.

Summary

- Nationally, boys at KS4 from a white background attain below that of FSM boys from many of the other ethnic backgrounds. This is mirrored in Oxfordshire’s figures.
- The gap at KS4 between FSM and non-FSM White British boys in Oxfordshire reduced slightly between 2009 and 2012. However, in 2013 the gap widened once more to 38%pts
- At KS4 FSM, White British boys attending schools in Abingdon, Oxford, Thame and Witney & Carterton localities have all performed below the Oxfordshire average over the past 2 years
- Bicester & Kidlington had the highest proportion of White British FSM boys attaining 5+A*-C inc E&M in 2013 at 47%
- At Key Stage 2, the national and County picture of attainment for White British boys with FSM is very similar to Key Stage 4. In Oxfordshire the proportion of White British FSM boys attaining L4+RWM is 51% which is slightly below the national figure of 53% for the same group of pupils.
- At KS2 the provisional figures for 2014 appear to show a slight narrowing of the gap between White British FSM boys and white British non-FSM boys to 25%pts, the narrowest in the past 5 years.
- Wantage and Faringdon locality have the widest gap at both KS2 and KS4
- The County gap for KS4 is notably wider than that seen at KS2

National and LA Comparison

Key Stage 4

2. The DfE publication “Youth Cohort Study & Longitudinal Study of Young People in England” provides an interesting breakdown of KS4 attainment based on parental occupation. The last update on this that can be found was completed in 2007, but it adds strength to the argument that those children with parents from certain occupational groups do not achieve as highly as others.

% Attaining 5+A*-Cinc E&M based on Parental Occupation

	1999	2001	2003	2006
Higher professional	75	77	76	81
Lower professional	62	64	65	73
Intermediate	49	51	53	59
Lower supervisory	34	34	41	46

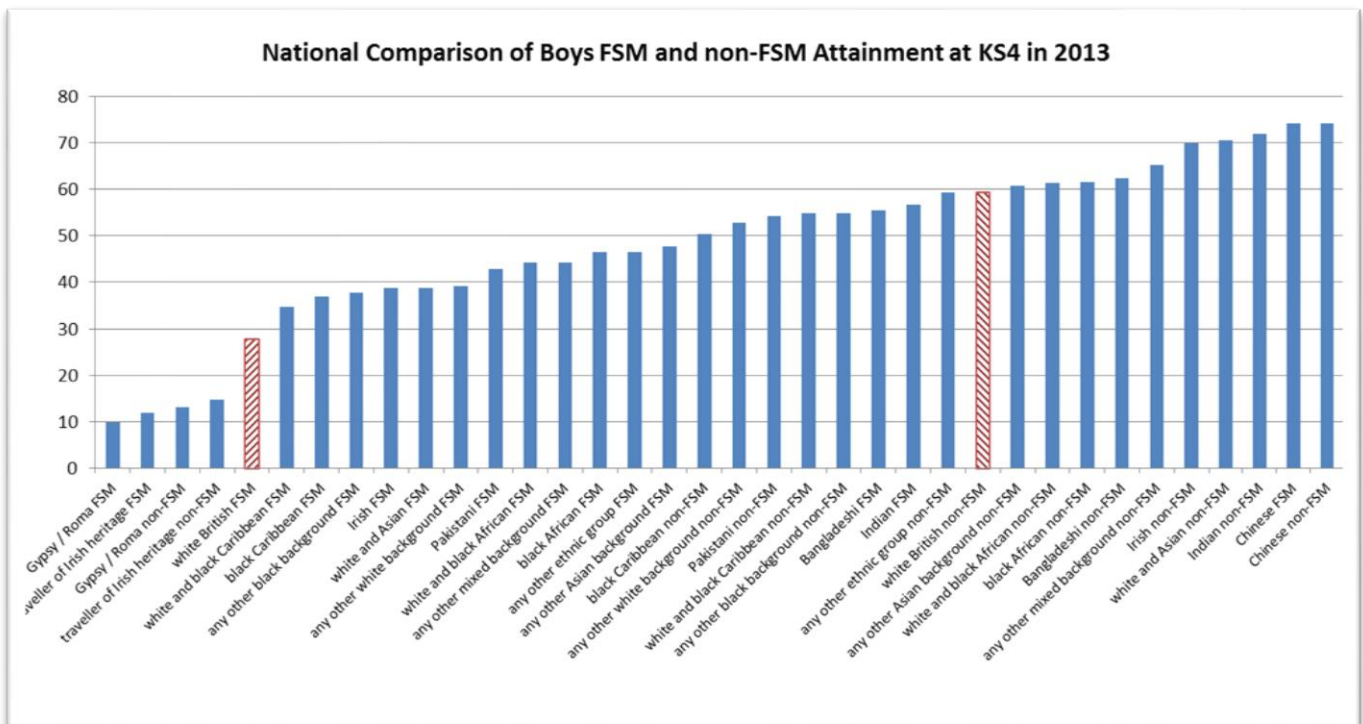
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Routine	26	31	33	42
Other*	24	26	34	34

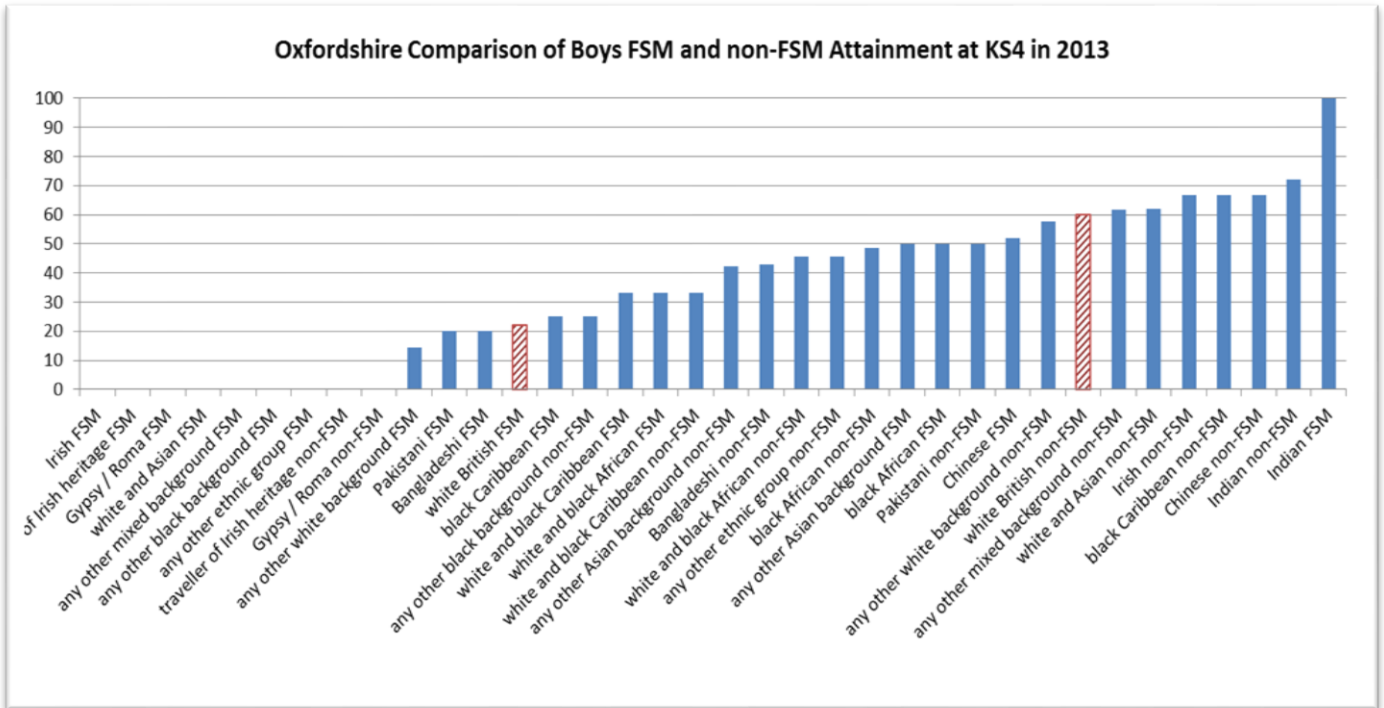
* Includes many respondents for whom neither parent had an occupation

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130401151655/http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/b/b01-2008v2.pdf>

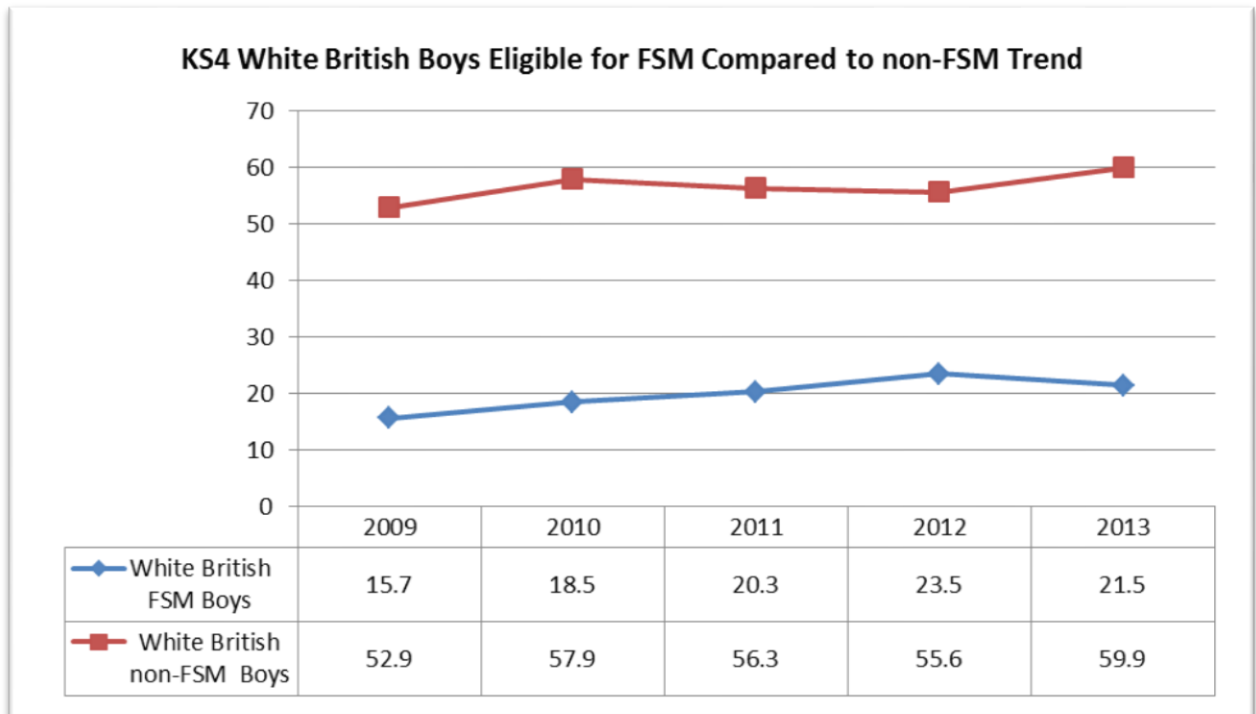
- When boy's attainment is compared nationally between those eligible for FSM and those who are not it can be seen from the chart below that boys from a white background attain below that of FSM boys from any of the other ethnic backgrounds.



- When this is repeated for Oxfordshire a similar picture can be seen. However, it is important to remember that the cohort numbers for many of these BAME groups are relatively small and so are susceptible to large fluctuations in percentages from year to year.



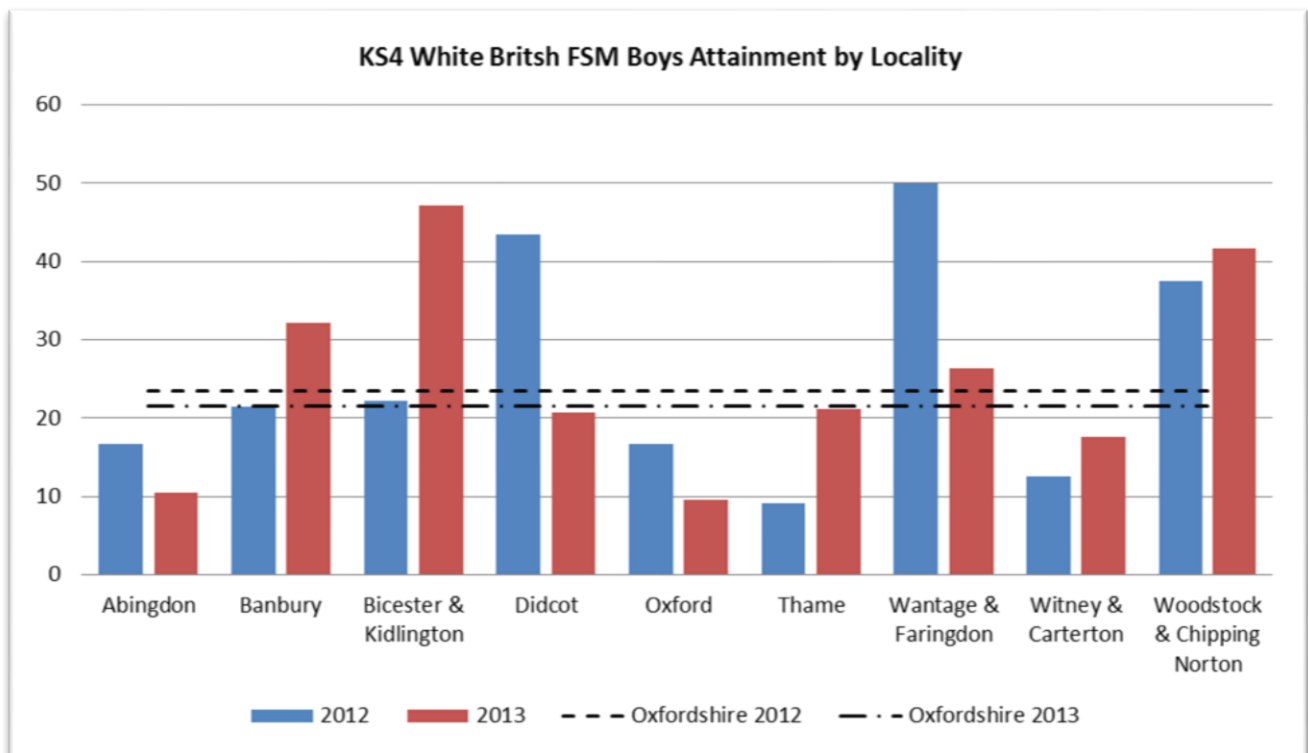
- The gap between FSM and non-FSM White British boys in Oxfordshire reduced slightly between 2009 and 2012. At its narrowest, the gap was 32%pts in 2012. However, in 2013 the gap appeared to widen once more to 38%pts – due to both an increase in the attainment of non-FSM white British boys and a decrease in attainment for FSM white British boys.



- The attainment at KS4 of White British FSM boys has been compared over 2 years across the localities. There are quite significant jumps in attainment percentages and this is due to many of the cohorts being made up of small numbers of pupils. However, some points of note include:

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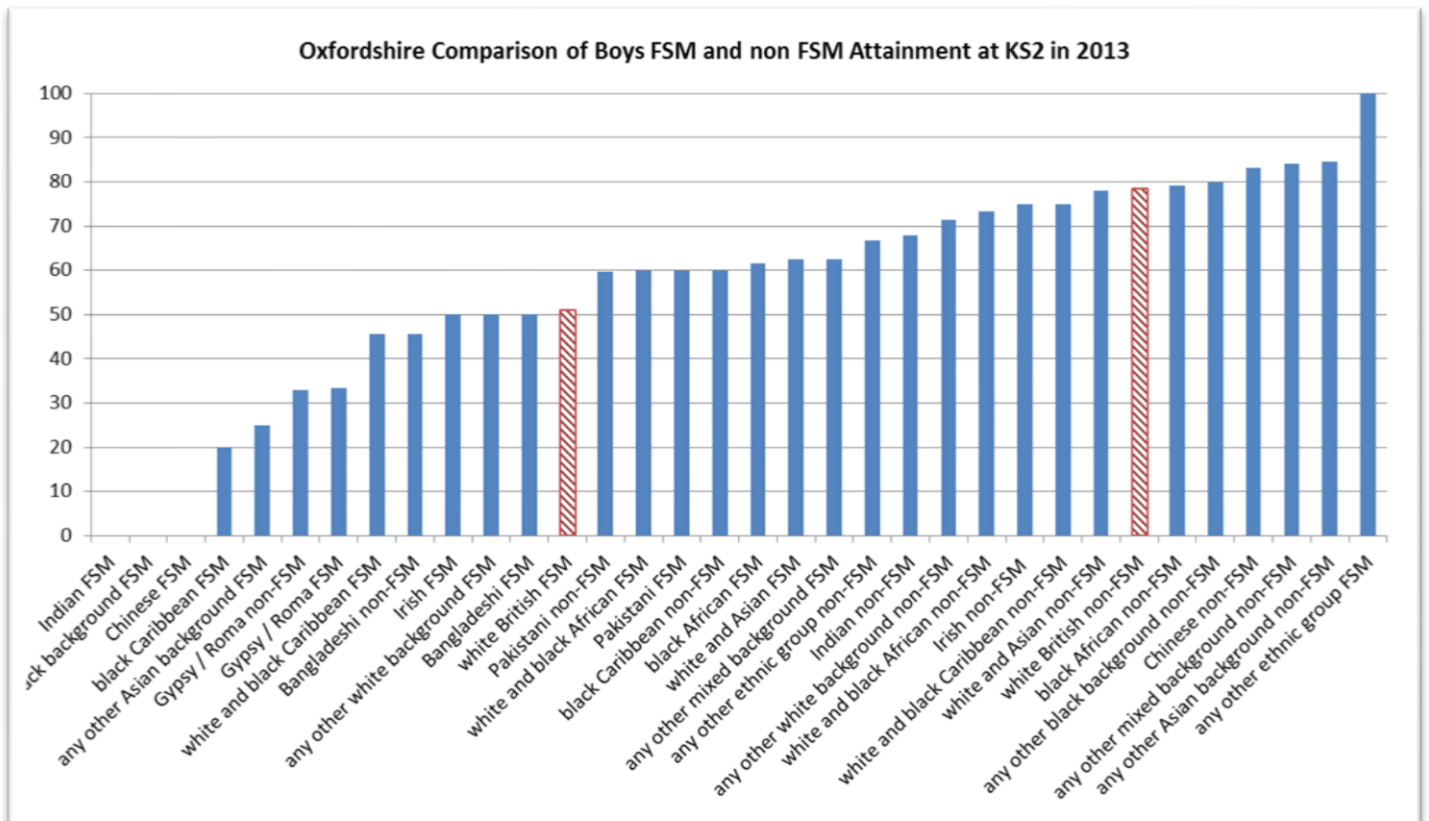
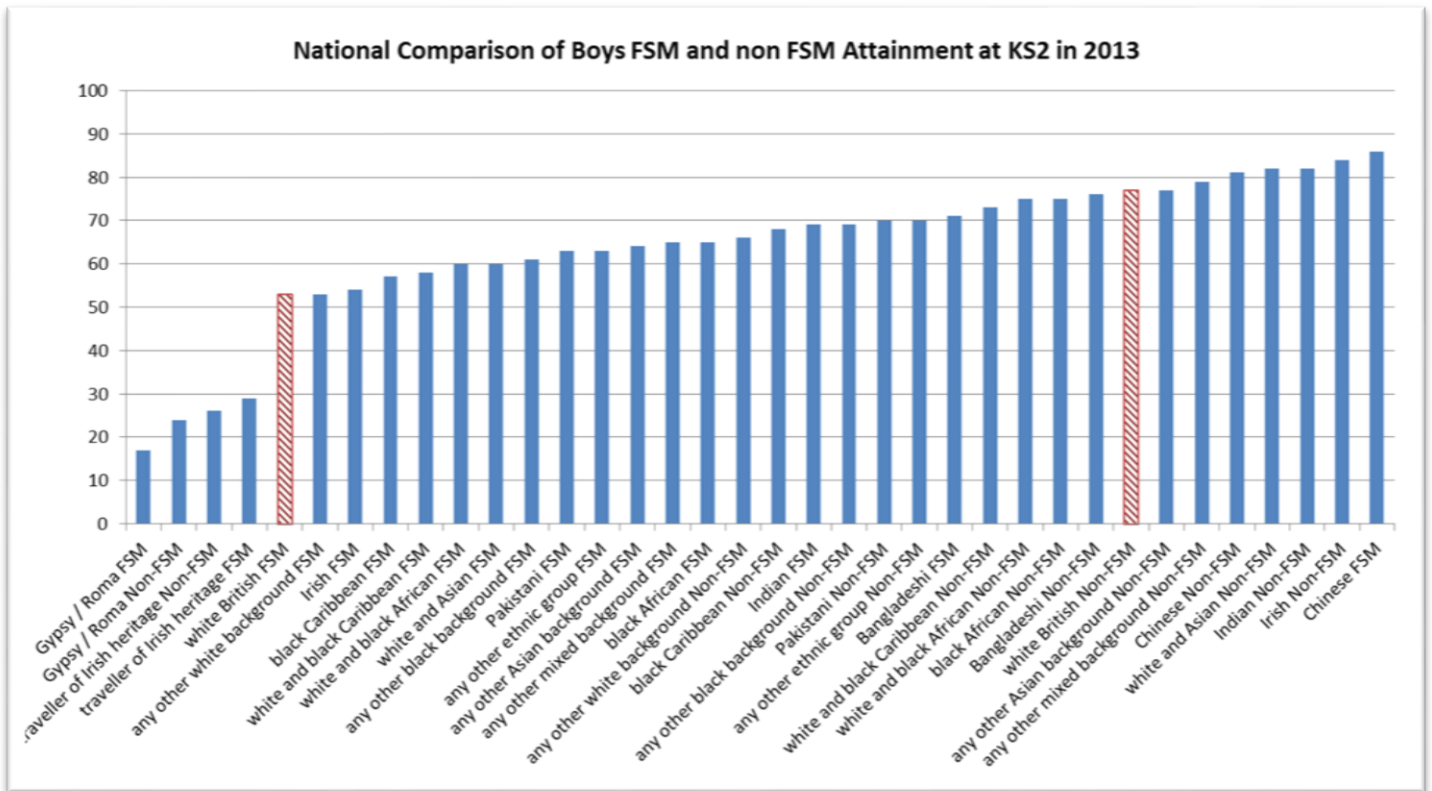
- FSM, White British boys attending schools in Abingdon, Oxford, Thame and Witney & Carterton localities have all performed below the Oxfordshire average over the past 2 years.
- The locality with the widest gap between FSM and non-FSM is Wantage and Faringdon at 48.5%pts in 2013.
 - 70.5% of all boys in this locality attained 5+A*-C inc E&M
 - 74.8% of non-FSM White British boys attained 5+A*-C inc E&M
 - Only 26% of FSM White British boys attained 5+A*-C inc E&M
- Bicester & Kidlington had the highest proportion of White British FSM boys attaining 5+A*-C inc E&M in 2013 at 47%
- FSM, White British boys attending schools in Wantage & Faringdon and Woodstock & Chipping Norton localities have attained a higher proportion of 5+A*-C inc E&M compared to Oxfordshire over the past 2 years.



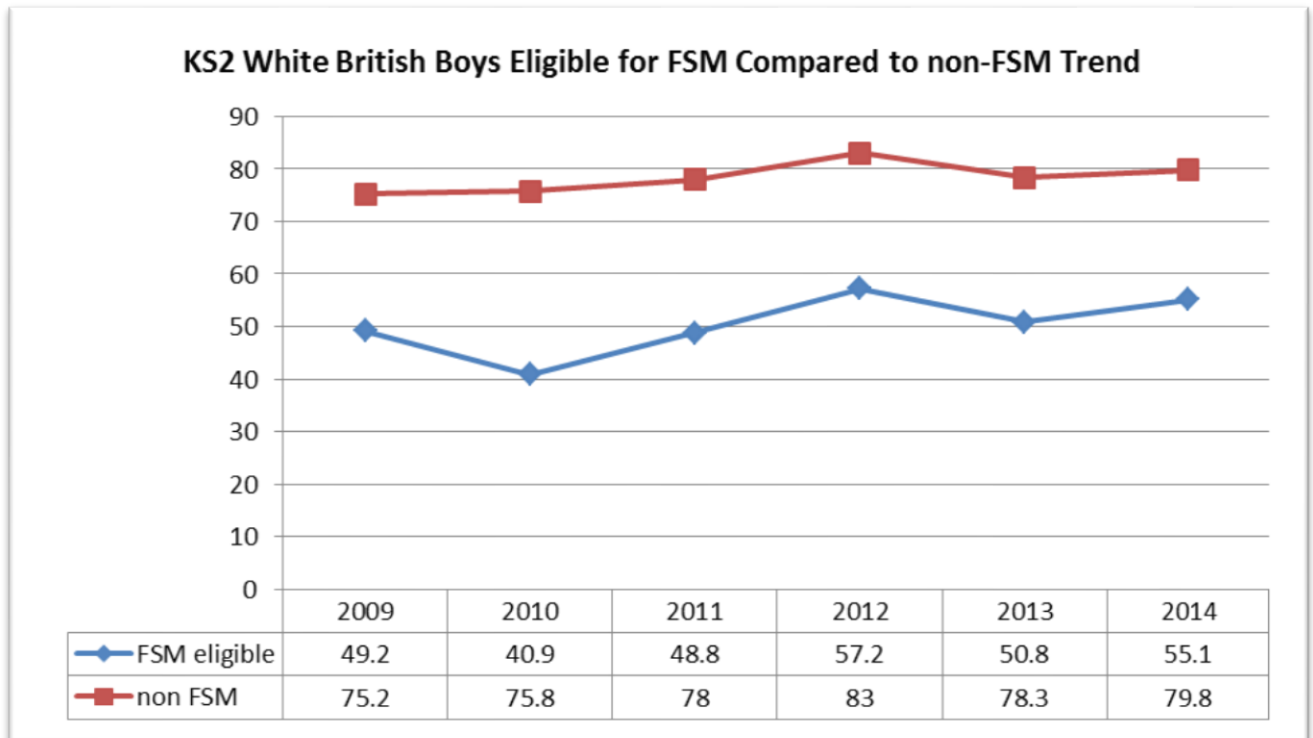
Key Stage 2

7. At Key Stage 2, the national picture of attainment for White British boys with FSM is very similar to Key Stage 4, with this group attaining amongst the lowest proportion of L4+RWM in 2013. When this is applied to Oxfordshire the proportion of White British FSM boys attaining L4+RWM is low (51%) which is slightly below the national figure of 53% for the same group of pupils.

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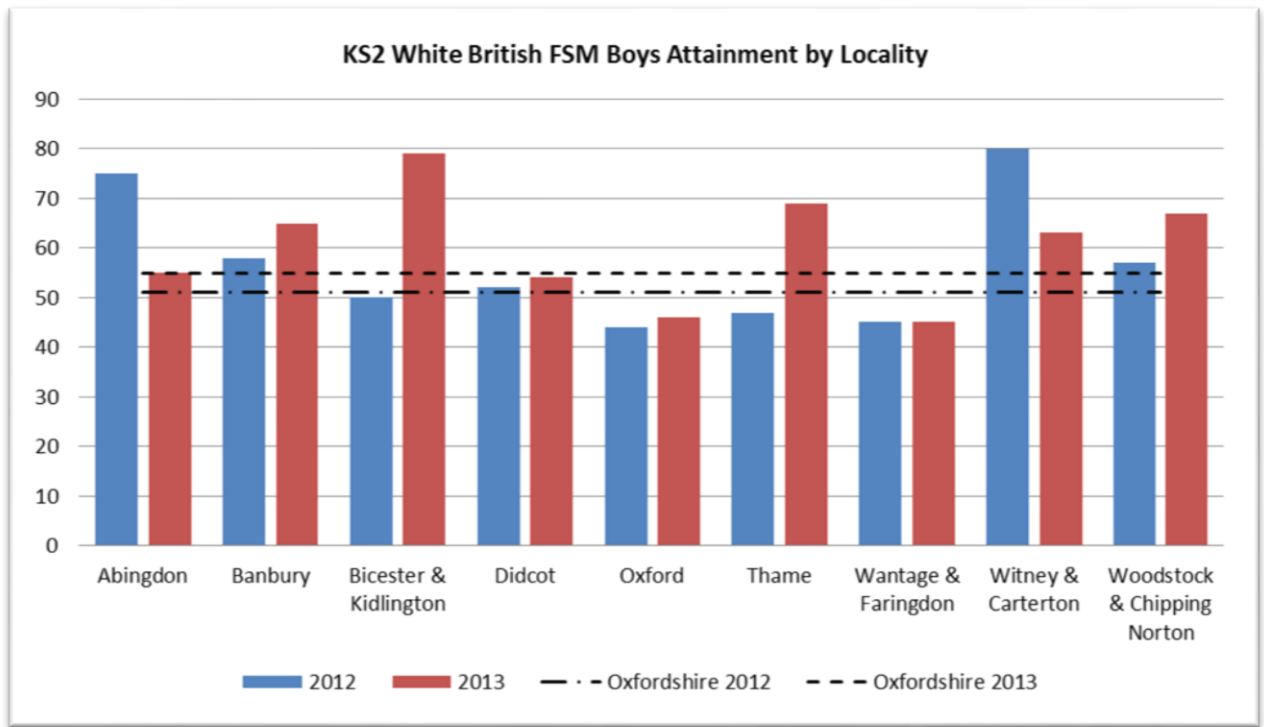


- The gap between FSM and non-FSM White British boys reduced slightly between 2010 and 2012. It then widened slightly in 2013 and provisional figures for 2014 appear to show a slight narrowing to 25%pts, the narrowest over the past 5 years. The measure used from 2009-2012 was L4+ English and maths, but in 2013 this changed to L4+ Reading, Writing and maths.



9. The attainment at KS2 of White British FSM boys has been compared over 2 years across the localities. There are quite significant jumps in attainment percentages and this is due to many of the cohorts being made up of small numbers of pupils. However, some points of note include:
- FSM, White British boys attending schools in Oxford and Wantage & Faringdon localities have performed below the Oxfordshire average over the 2 years.
 - The locality with the widest gap between FSM and non-FSM is Wantage and Faringdon at 32%pts in 2013.
 - 72% of all boys in this locality attained L4+RWM
 - 77% of non-FSM White British boys attained L4+RWM
 - 45% of FSM White British boys attained L4+RWM
 - Bicester & Kidlington had the highest proportion of White British FSM boys attaining L4+RWM in 2013 at 47%
 - FSM, White British boys attending schools in Abingdon, Banbury, Witney & Carterton and Woodstock & Chipping Norton localities have attained a higher proportion of 5 L4+RWM compared to Oxfordshire over the past 2 years.

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Sources:

KS2 – KEYPAS and SFRs

KS4 – EPAS

MARGARET DENNISON

Interim Deputy Director Education and Early Intervention

Contact: Sue Bainbridge, Schools and Learning Manager; Tel: (01865) 328508

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