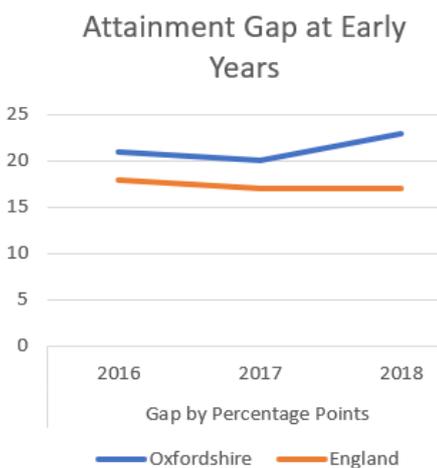


Early Years

The Origin of the Attainment Gap

A disadvantaged child in Oxfordshire is further behind at the start of primary school than an average English disadvantaged child. The current trend shows that the disadvantage gap is increasing here, in contrast to the national picture.

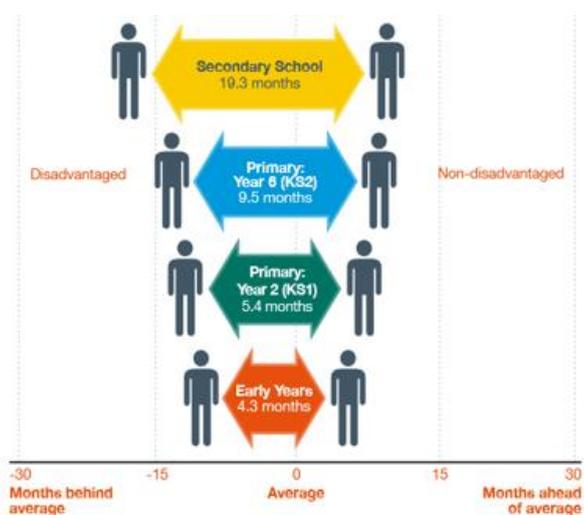
The most commonly used proxy measure of economic disadvantage is pupils eligible for Pupil Premium and Free School Meals (FSM). The disadvantage gap measures the difference between attainment levels of pupils on FSM vs all pupils entering primary school. It focuses on whether they achieve a good level of development on the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).



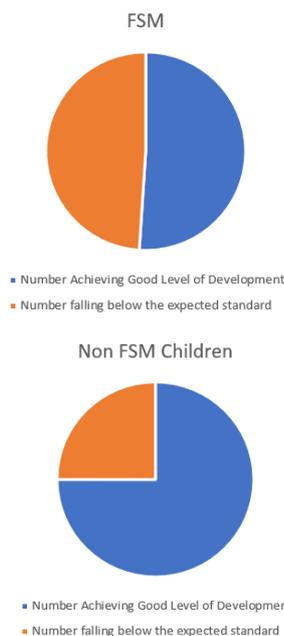
In Oxfordshire this gap increased this year from 20 percentage points to 23. Nationally the gap remained at 17. Our Year 1 FSM children do worse in Phonics than an average English child.

Nine percent of Oxfordshire's children at early years stage are eligible for FSM. There are 672 FSM-eligible children at the end of the EYFS (first year of primary school), of a total of 7,655 children (2018).

In 2018, only half of disadvantaged children in Oxfordshire achieved a good level of development at EYFS, in contrast to three-quarters of non-disadvantaged children.



'Closing the Gap? Trends in educational attainment and disadvantage', Education Policy Institute (July 2017)



We know from wider data that the development gap between disadvantaged children and the average child is clear from very early on – and crucially, that it gets bigger as they grow older.

GROWING UP IN OXFORDSHIRE IS HARD IF...

- You live in poverty...** 12% of children in Oxfordshire live in poverty. Children living in Blackbird Leys are 33% more likely than those living in North Oxford to live in income-deprived families.
- You can't go to school...** Almost two (1.6%) in every hundred Oxfordshire children are excluded from primary school, in comparison to 1.4% in England.
- You have complex needs...** 2.7% of our children have social, emotional or mental health needs. This is above the regional and national average.
- You have special educational needs...** We do less well than the rest of England for children with special educational needs, and less well for children who don't speak English as a first language.

Sources:

Educational Performance Key Outcomes 2017/18. Oxfordshire County Council.

Closing the Gap? Trends in Educational Attainment and Disadvantage. Education Policy Institute, 2017.

Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index, 2015.

Public Health Profiles 2017/18. Public Health England.