



Department
for Education

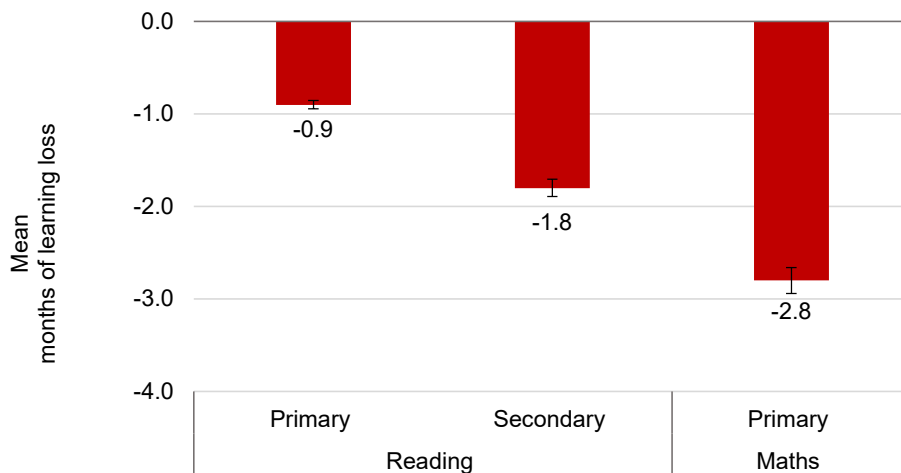
Education Recovery

Autumn 2021

Scale of the challenge: whilst pupils are catching-up, challenges remain particularly for disadvantaged secondary pupils

Whilst pupils are still behind, they made more progress over the Summer term 2021 than in a 'normal' year

Estimated mean learning loss by summer term 2021, in months, in reading (primary and secondary schools) and mathematics (primary schools only)¹



- On average, pupils made more progress than usual over the course of the Summer term and have **caught-up some of the lost learning** although they are still behind where we would expect them to be in a normal year.²
- By Summer 2021, **primary** pupils were around **1-2 months behind** in reading and maths. **Secondary** pupils appear to be more impacted and were around **3 months behind** in reading.²
- **Primary** pupils eligible for **free school meals (FSM)** were around an additional **0.5 months further behind** their more advantaged peers in Summer term 2021 which is an **improvement** from around 1 month in Spring term 2021.
- **Secondary** FSM pupils were around an additional **2 months further behind** in Summer term 2021 which is worse than in Spring term 2021 when they were around 1 month further behind.²
- Teacher and parents are also concerned about the progress of SEND pupils.³



Pupils in the north of England appear to have experienced more learning loss than pupils in the south in Summer term 2021.²

1. Chart reproduced from Figure 2.2 in Understanding Progress in the 2020/21 Academic Year: Findings from the summer term and summary of all previous findings (DfE, 2021)
2. Understanding Progress in the 2020/21 Academic Year: Findings from the summer term and summary of all previous findings (DfE, 2021)
3. Ofsted, (2020); Disabled Children's Partnership, (2021)

Scale of the challenge: children in the early years and 16-19 students have also been impacted by the pandemic

Children in the early years and 16-19 students are behind



46% of **reception pupils were not school ready** in 2020 according to teachers. This compares to 35% in 2019 based on a similar survey.¹

The **disadvantage gap in language development** for 0-3 year olds has also **widened** since April 2020.²



75% of colleges reported their **students were between one and four months behind** in early Spring 2021.

Subjects with high practical skills content are particularly affected.³

1. YouGov (2020)
2. University of Oxford (2020)
3. Association of Colleges (2021)
4. NHS (2020)

The wellbeing of all children and young people has also been affected



All children and young people, have missed out on **non-academic experiences** that make a childhood including opportunities to make new friends, play competitive sport, or participating in drama, music, and dance.



The number of children with probable **mental health** issues has also risen from 1 in 9 in 2017 to 1 in 6 in 2020.⁴