



Department  
for Education

# **Key stage 2 congratulatory letters**

**Information for local authorities,  
maintained schools, academies and free  
schools**

**January 2015**

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## Summary

### Schools receiving congratulatory letters

This guide details the criteria agreed by the Department for Education for congratulatory letters sent to primary schools based on 2015 key stage 2 results.

### Expiry or review date

This information will next be reviewed before January 2017.

### Who is this advice for?

This guidance is for:

- local authorities
- school leaders, school staff and governing bodies in all maintained schools, academies and free schools

## Criteria for congratulatory letters

Congratulatory letters were sent by the Minister of State for Schools, Nick Gibb MP to primary schools based on 2015 key stage 2 results, meeting the following criteria:

### 100% performers – level 4B or above attainment

Schools where 100% of pupils at age 11 (ie at the end of key stage 2) achieved level 4B or above in the reading and mathematics national curriculum tests and level 4 or above in writing teacher assessment. Nationally, 69% of pupils achieved this standard in 2015.

### Most year on year improvement between 2012 and 2015

Schools showing the most sustained improvement between 2012 and 2015 in level 4 or above reading, writing and mathematics attainment. To meet this criterion, schools must have shown an improvement in attainment in each year during this four year period.

### Overall progress

Where pupils made the most progress between age 7 (the end of key stage 1) and age 11 (end of key stage 2) as shown by the value added measure. This compares the progress of each child compared with all others nationally who joined key stage 2 at the same level of attainment. In schools with the highest value added scores, children are generally making more progress during key stage 2 than similar ability children nationally.

### Schools that met more than one of the above criteria

A number of schools met more than one of the criteria above:

- 7 met criteria (1) and (2)
- 18 met criteria (1) and (3)
- 7 met criteria (2) and (3)



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