



Education in the New Addington Area

New Addington is an area of high deprivation in Croydon where the majority of children would be deemed 'disadvantaged' or are part of families that are 'just about managing', a term used in the Government consultation "[Schools that work for everyone](#)". The area has historically been dominated by low-aspirational white British families but is now seeing an increasing number of immigrant (sub-Saharan African and Eastern European) families moving into the area, creating new challenges for the six primary schools¹ in New Addington.

These schools have very different characteristics: Ofsted ratings range from Outstanding to Inadequate; most are now academies (two of which are converter); the majority of schools are undersubscribed creating financial pressures; and the reputation of each school is not linked to its academic achievement.

Rowdown Primary School has traditionally had a poor reputation, yet has been regularly ranked second or third out of the six in the DfE Performance Tables². Aspirational parents have their children go to Fairchildes and Wolsey Infants, both of which are oversubscribed, whether they research performance or listen to public opinion. Others just send their child to the nearest school leaving Rowdown and Castle Hill (situated in the most deprived part of New Addington) as the poor relations. This means Rowdown has often been at the lower end of the rankings after Early Years (ranking in the bottom 5% of all Croydon primary schools in 2011-2014) and that Reception cohorts are generally around 45-50 pupils only.

Rowdown manages to achieve expected progress³ in line with national average⁴, one of only two schools in New Addington that can claim this in 2015, the other being its academy sponsor, Fairchildes. Despite this, only 65% reach the required attainment at the end of Key Stage 2⁵ - evidencing their low achievement at Key Stage 1 – and only 8% reached Level 5 in all subjects, equivalent to 4 out of 48 pupils in that cohort. For Fairchildes, just over one third of pupils reach this higher level.

Which secondary schools these higher achievers attend is dominated by culture in how it relates to aspiration. Educational aspiration appears to be quite low on New Addington and the vast majority of Year 6 leavers will go on to the local state comprehensives irrespective of the pupil's academic ability or the school's academic performance. The London Borough of Croydon does not have grammar schools. There are grammar schools within commuting distance in the boroughs of Sutton and Bromley. Croydon does have a number of high quality independent secondary schools but all of these schools – grammar or independent – are selective. These schools claim that pupils that achieve Level 5 at the end of Key Stage 2 would have a good chance of passing their entrance exams, suggesting that, on 2015 data, around 50 pupils from New Addington could reasonably aspire to a selective secondary education.

During visits to a number of selective schools, it became apparent that they receive very few applications, if any, from students living in New Addington. In reality, with most applicants receiving either a fee-paying education at a preparatory school and/or receiving additional tuition on the back of a better quality state primary education, it is far from being a level playing field. There are few parents in New Addington that could afford either of these options to give their child, even if they are a higher achiever.

¹ 'Six' schools combines Wolsey Infants and Wolsey Juniors even though they are separate schools

² www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk 2015 data

³ Between Key Stages 1 and 2

⁴ Reading 91% vs national average 91%, Writing 98% vs 94%, Maths 89% vs 90%

⁵ Level 4b in Reading and Maths, Level 4 in Writing



Table 1 State-funded comprehensive schools (within 4 miles) and grammar schools (within 7 miles)⁶ of Rowdown Primary School

State Comprehensive Schools	Distance from Rowdown	Ofsted Rating	Attainment 8 Score 2016 ⁷	Catchment ⁸	Rowdown Pupils' Destination 2012-15
Meridian High	0.9 miles	3	42.3	Undersubscribed In catchment	45.4%
Quest Academy	1.8 miles	2	43.1	Undersubscribed In catchment	20.2%
Hayes School	2.3 miles	1	57.1	Oversubscribed Outside catchment	-
Shirley High School	2.4 miles	2	50.1	Oversubscribed In catchment/part selective	0.8%
Ravens Wood	2.5 miles	2	55.6	Oversubscribed In catchment	-
Coloma Convent Girls	2.5 miles	1	62.1	Oversubscribed Faith	-
Edenham High	2.9 miles	2	45.6	Undersubscribed In catchment	5.0%
Langley Park Girls/Boys	3.0 miles	1/1	58.7/58.2	Oversubscribed Outside catchment	-
Charles Darwin	3.1 miles	2	49.9	Oversubscribed In catchment	19.3%
Warlingham	3.3 miles	2	49.7	Oversubscribed Outside catchment	-
Bishop Justus CofE	3.4 miles	2	53.5	Oversubscribed Faith	-
Oasis Shirley Park	3.5 miles	1	44.6	Oversubscribed Outside catchment	-
Darrick Wood	3.6 miles	1	57.2	Oversubscribed Outside catchment	-
Ravensbourne	3.6 miles	2	49.8	Oversubscribed Outside catchment	-
Archbishop Tenison's CofE	3.6 miles	2	53.8	Oversubscribed Faith	-
Riddlesdown Collegiate	3.7 miles	1	53.0	Oversubscribed Outside/part selective	-
Other schools / not known					8.4%
State Grammar Schools	Distance from Rowdown	Ofsted Rating	Attainment 8 Score 2016	Catchment	Rowdown Pupils' Destination 2012-15
Newstead Wood Girls	4.0 miles	1	74.6	Oversubscribed Selective	0.8%
Wilson's Boys	5.3 miles	1	76.3	Oversubscribed Selective	-
Wallington High Girls	6.1 miles	1	74.1	Oversubscribed Selective	-
Wallington County Boys	6.4 miles	2	73.3	Oversubscribed Selective	-

⁶ Not exhaustive

⁷ Schools get a score based on how well pupils have performed in up to 8 qualifications, which include English, maths, 3 qualifications including sciences, computer science, history, geography and languages, and 3 other additional approved qualifications

⁸ As per Rightmove.co.uk



The additional stimulus to be able to make the grade to reach the required level for entry to these schools especially where they would require a bursary to cover school fees needs long term input. And therefore they 'write off' any thoughts of putting their child forward for a selective secondary education.

The local schools are towards the bottom of the performance tables locally, regionally and nationally. For instance, the New Addington secondary school, Meridian High, is currently rated "Requires Improvement" by Ofsted and, according to the DfE performance tables for 2016⁹, has an "Attainment 8" score of 42.3. Table 1 shows this information for the many local schools within a reasonable distance from Rowdown together with data on where Rowdown Year 6 pupils start their secondary education.

The Attainment 8 score shows the gulf between the four comprehensive schools receiving 90% of Rowdown's pupils (range 42.3 – 49.9) and the four fully selective grammar schools within a reasonable commute of Rowdown (range 73.3 – 76.3). In between there are a number of comprehensive schools which are oversubscribed and New Addington falls outside their catchment area: hence they are not available to students leaving the New Addington primary schools. The only exception is Ravens Wood – the Sponsor Academy for Meridian High – but no Rowdown pupils have enrolled there in the last four years (2012-15) and with a score of 55.6, it is well below selective school standard.

Independent schools publish their own data. Trinity School states that in 2015, 94% of GCSEs gained by their pupils were graded A*-B. This is the same level as Wallington County Grammar School. Whether a selective school is free to parents or fee-paying, they offer the same high standard of education, facilities and extra-curricular activities not available at many of the local comprehensive schools.

Whilst we believe that the higher achieving pupils at Rowdown will probably reach a high Attainment 8 score wherever they undertake their secondary education, their chances of achieving the higher requirements going onto 'A' levels and beyond will be greatly enhanced by being at a better performing school. The Sutton Trust's research¹⁰ states that *"bright but disadvantaged pupils were significantly more likely to go on to get four or more AS-levels [or three or more A-levels] when...they had attended a secondary school identified...as outstanding for the quality of pupils' learning"*. As Table 1 shows, New Addington pupils do not have access to a comprehensive school rated outstanding by Ofsted.

Whilst there will be no pressure on the Foundation's students to go onto higher and further education, we should aim at all of these academically talented reaching top universities.

The Social Market Foundation, in their June 2014 report entitled *"Open Access: An Independent Evaluation"* believes that *"those who go to independent schools are more likely to get good A-levels, more likely to get degrees and to get them from the most selective universities. Not only are their educational outcomes better, but, on the best available evidence – value-added scores – independent schools (on average) progress their children more during the school years than state schools."*

⁹ www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk

¹⁰ Sutton Trust, *Subject to Background: What promotes better achievement for bright but disadvantaged students?* March 2015



There is a lot of information now available on what is required to gain a place at a top university, especially if we use the Russell Group as a proxy. In terms of 2016 UCAS points¹¹, Cambridge University topped the entry level requiring 601 points on average¹². With 140 points for an A* A-level, it shows that it is not just on academic achievement, but points from other interests such as music, drama and sports. Most of the top universities make offers based on A-level results only, but extra-curricular achievements will form an important part of the student's personal statement in their application. It is in their extra-curricular offering that grammar and independent schools often excel when compared to comprehensive secondary schools. Table 2 shows the average entry points required for the 24 Russell Group universities.

At the other end of the university spectrum, London Metropolitan University has an average tariff point score of 220. Obviously, as the above table shows average entry scores, there will be successful applications below this point for certain subjects. For instance, Exeter University states that offers will be made ranging from A*AA to BBB, UCAS points score ranging from 380 to 300. Sheffield University offers range from AAA to BBB.

Table 2 Russell Group university average UCAS points entry score 2016

CUG Rank	University	Average UCAS Tariff Points 2016	CUG Rank	University	Average UCAS Tariff Points 2016
1	Cambridge	601	19	Leeds	430
2	Oxford	571	20	Edinburgh	482
3	London School of Economics	532	23	King's College London	453
4	Imperial College London	566	25	Nottingham	426
5	Durham	521	26	Newcastle	425
7	Warwick	480	27	Sheffield	427
10	Exeter	463	28	Manchester	433
13	University College London	500	30	Glasgow	465
14	Southampton	408	31	Cardiff	425
15	Bristol	486	33	Queen Mary College London	408
17	York	436	36	Queen's Belfast	380
18	Birmingham	425	39	Liverpool	403

The Russell Group recognises that students from disadvantaged backgrounds have greater hurdles to overcome to be able to reach these top universities. Fewer than 8,500 students eligible for Free School Meals in 2010/11 took three A-levels. Of these students, only 546 achieved three or more A* or A grades¹³. These numbers would increase for those students where their family are 'just about managing' but they are still at a disadvantage. The Russell Group claims that 18 year olds from disadvantaged backgrounds were 39% more likely to enter more selective universities in 2015 than 2011. They offer bursaries, scholarships, fee waivers and outreach activities (such as working with secondary schools in disadvantaged areas), but this is to no avail if the student does not achieve the necessary grades.

¹¹ Example: A-level, A* = 140, A = 120, B = 100 UCAS points; AS level, A = 60, B = 50, C = 40; music grade 8, D = 75, M = 70, P = 55. The UCAS tariff points system has changed for 2017 entry but on a similar basis.

¹² www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings?y=2016

¹³ <https://russellgroup.ac.uk/news/ucas-admissions-data/>



Table 3 State-funded comprehensive schools (within 4 miles) and grammar/independent schools (within 7 miles)¹⁴ of Rowdown Primary School

State Comprehensive Schools	Distance from Rowdown	Ofsted Rating	% Achieving 3 'A' Levels A*-E ¹⁵	% Achieving Grades AAB or higher in at least 2 facilitating subjects ¹⁶	Average 'A' Level Grade ¹⁷
Meridian High	0.9 miles	3	N/A	N/A	N/A
John Ruskin College	1.6 miles	1	31%	0%	D+
Quest Academy	1.8 miles	2	60%	5%	C-
Hayes School	2.3 miles	1	82%	8%	C+
Shirley High School	2.4 miles	2	61%	0%	C-
Ravens Wood	2.5 miles	2	76%	8%	C+
Coloma Convent Girls	2.5 miles	1	99%	16%	B-
Edenham High	2.9 miles	2	63%	0%	D
Langley Park Girls/Boys	3.0 miles	1/1	77%/94%	6%/13%	C-/C+
Charles Darwin	3.1 miles	2	63%	2%	C-
Warlingham	3.3 miles	2	71%	5%	C-
Bishop Justus CofE	3.4 miles	2	81%	10%	C-
Oasis Shirley Park	3.5 miles	1	64%	6%	D+
Darrick Wood	3.6 miles	1	71%	6%	C
Ravensbourne	3.6 miles	2	70%	4%	C-
Archbishop Tenison's CofE	3.6 miles	2	86%	4%	C-
Riddlesdown Collegiate	3.7 miles	1	93%	7%	C
State Grammar Schools	Distance from Rowdown	Ofsted Rating	% Achieving 3 'A' Levels A*-E	% Achieving Grades AAB or higher in at least 2 facilitating subjects	Average 'A' Level Grade
Newstead Wood	4.0 miles	1	98%	37%	B
Wilson's Boys	5.3 miles	1	100%	69%	A-
Wallington High Girls	6.1 miles	1	99%	54%	B
Wallington County	6.4 miles	2	100%	34%	A-
Independent Schools	Distance from Rowdown	Ofsted Rating	% Achieving 3 'A' Levels A*-E	% Achieving Grades AAB or higher in at least 2 facilitating subjects	Average 'A' Level Grade
Croydon High Girls	2.3 miles	N/A	96%	29%	B
Royal Russell	2.7 miles	N/A	98%	25%	B
Trinity	3.2 miles	N/A	99%	50%	A-
Whitgift	4.2 miles	N/A	97%	57%	A-
Old Palace Girls	4.7 miles	N/A	100%	34%	B+
Woldingham	4.9 miles	N/A	99%	39%	B+

¹⁴ Not exhaustive

¹⁵ www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk

¹⁶ www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk Facilitating subjects are ones that are commonly needed for entry to leading universities. They are: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Geography, History, English Literature and Classical or Modern Languages.

¹⁷ www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk Based on a points score system and then converted to A+/A/A-/B+/B/B- etc.



Table 3 shows the local 'league table' for key performance indicators at A-level and this time includes independent schools, the results of which are included in the government's performance tables. Whilst it does not necessarily follow that students will remain at the same school to undertake their A-levels, the table clearly shows that those which New Addington students have comprehensive access to – Meridian High, Quest, John Ruskin, Shirley High, Ravens Wood, Edenham and Charles Darwin – are at the lower end of performance at A-level, with only Ravens Wood, where Rowdown pupils historically do not go, reaching 75% of students getting three A-levels.

The government uses the measure “% achieving grades AAB or higher in at least 2 facilitating subjects” (see footnote 16 for explanation) to show which colleges' students achieve the sort of grades that would be required by the top universities. Ravens Wood is again top of the available comprehensive schools where 1 in 12 pupils reach this standard (which would be around 12 pupils in 2016). This compares to around 1 in 3 for the likes of Newstead Woods, Wallington Girls and Croydon High, 1 in 2 for Wallington Boys, Trinity and Whitgift and 2 in 3 for Wilson's.

Therefore, whilst there is nothing to say the pupils being supported by the Rowdown Foundation's Tuition Programme could not achieve a place at a top university by going through the comprehensive system, the chance of such success is greatly enhanced by attendance at a selective school, whether state-funded grammar or fee-paying independent.



ADDENDUM

2017 Measures of Progress 8 for High Prior Attainment Pupils

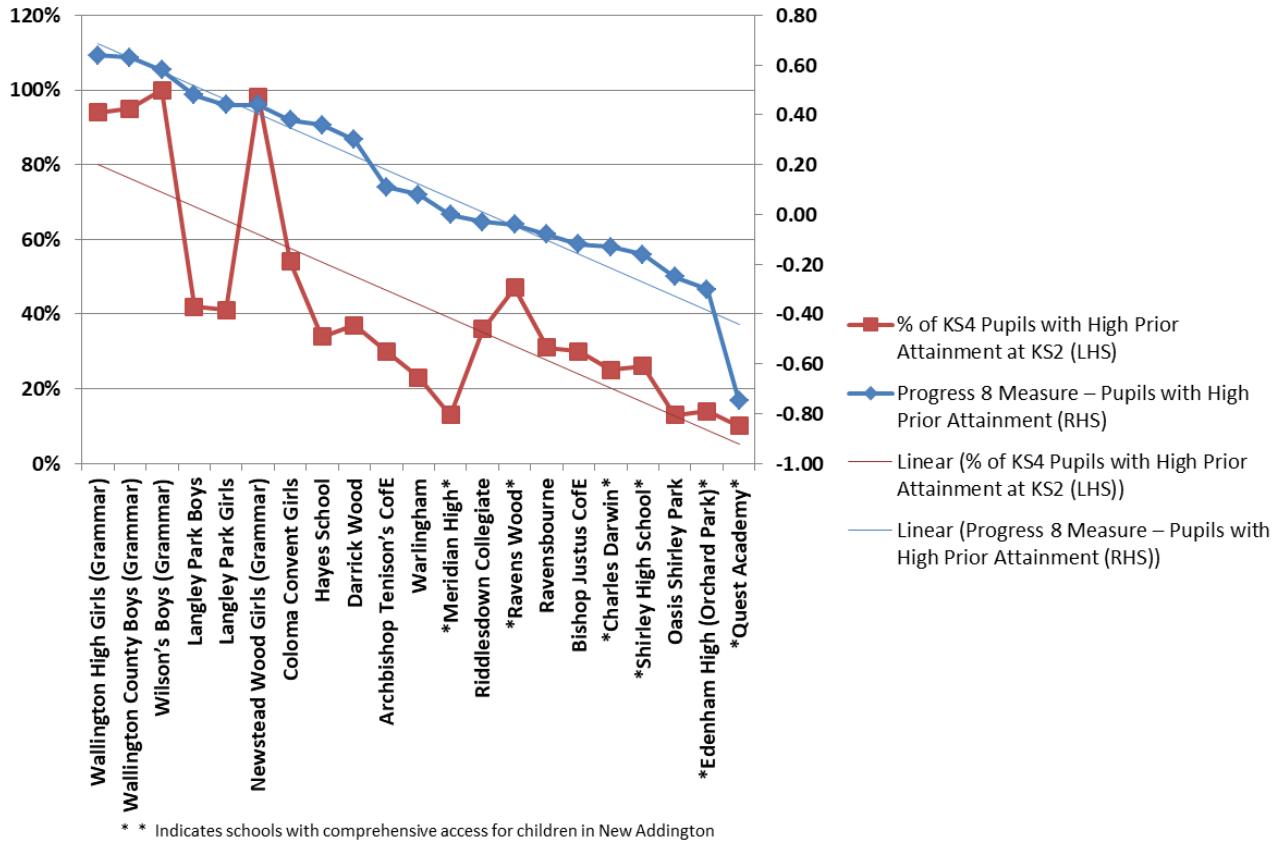
State Comprehensive Schools	% of Pupils Eligible for Free School Meals	% of KS4 Pupils with High Prior Attainment at KS2	Progress 8 Measure – Pupils with High Prior Attainment
Meridian High	35.1%	13%	-0.00
Quest Academy	25.0%	10%	-0.75
Hayes School	5.1%	34%	0.36
Shirley High School	22.1%	26%	-0.16
Ravens Wood	5.4%	47%	-0.04
Coloma Convent Girls	3.3%	54%	0.38
Edenham High (Orchard Park)	25.3%	14%	-0.30
Langley Park Girls/Boys	3.5% / 3.5%	41% / 42%	0.44 / 0.48
Charles Darwin	9.8%	25%	-0.13
Warlingham	6.6%	23%	0.08
Bishop Justus CofE	12.7%	30%	-0.12
Oasis Shirley Park	27.0%	13%	-0.25
Darrick Wood	3.9%	37%	0.30
Ravensbourne	14.0%	31%	-0.08
Archbishop Tenison's CofE	7.1%	30%	0.11
Riddlesdown Collegiate	11.0%	36%	-0.03
State Grammar Schools	% of Pupils Eligible for Free School Meals	% of KS4 Pupils with High Prior Attainment at KS2	Progress 8 Measure – Pupils with High Prior Attainment
Newstead Wood Girls	1.9%	98%	0.44
Wilson's Boys	1.7%	100%	0.58
Wallington High Girls	3.0%	94%	0.64
Wallington County Boys	2.1%	95%	0.63

The correlation between % of FSM and Progress 8 for High Attainers is 0.75 i.e. the higher the number of FSM pupils in the cohort the lower the progress the high prior attainers make. The schools which comprehensive access to children from New Addington are highlighted in the Progress 8 column. All of these schools have a negative Progress 8 measure for high attainers at KS2.

Also, the following chart shows that there is also a high correlation between progress of high attainers and the percentage of high attainers at the school.



The Correlation between % of High Prior Attainment Pupils (KS2) and Progress of High Prior Attainment Pupils (KS4)
2017 Data



Again, those schools where the children of New Addington are assured a secondary education have low percentages of high attainers. The fact that the two lines of best fit are parallel, means there is a high correlation between the number of high attainers in a cohort and their positive progress between KS2 and KS4.