



Get Norfolk Reading: Facts and Figures

Literacy in Norfolk

- **Primary school pupils in Norfolk are below the national average for reaching the expected standards of reading, grammar, punctuation and spelling.ⁱ**
 - 63pc of pupils reached the expected standard for reading last year (below the national figure of 66pc).
 - 66pc of pupils reached the expected standard for grammar, punctuation and spelling last year (below the national figure of 72pc).
- **A gap in our children's literacy exists from the very beginning of their schooling:** 2015/16 data shows that 77.9pc of Norfolk pupils in Year 1 achieved the expected level in phonics, compared to 80.5pc of Year 1 pupils nationally.ⁱⁱ
- **Children from disadvantaged backgrounds are even further behind in their literacy:** 2015/16 data shows that 63.3pc of Norfolk pupils with Free School Meal status achieved the expected level in phonics in Year 1, compared to 68.6pc of pupils with Free School Meal status nationally.ⁱⁱⁱ
- **Although GCSE results in Norfolk have improved in recent years, overall qualification levels of adults in Norfolk are below regional and national figures, and following a worsening trend.^{iv}**
- **Great Yarmouth and Norwich South are the two constituencies in Norfolk with the greatest literacy need,** as identified by rankings produced by the National Literacy Trust and published for the first time in February 2017.^v
 - All but two of the constituencies in Norfolk have one or more wards with significant literacy need (the two that don't are South Norfolk and Broadland).



Reading improves life chances^{vi}

- 70% of **pupils permanently excluded from school** have difficulties with basic literacy.^{vii}
- Low literacy is related to **lower employment rates** and spells of unemployment – a link that this is particularly significant for women.
- Literacy is positively related with **better earnings**: those with functional literacy skills earn on average 16% more than those with lower literacy skills.
- Low levels is also associated broadly with **poorer health** and (in conjunction with educational levels) is linked to negative health behaviours.
- Factors associated with **crime** – low attainment, negative experiences at school, exclusion, truancy and poor employment prospects – all hold a relationship with low literacy.
 - Poor literacy is prevalent amongst young offenders and the prison population: 48% of offenders in custody have a reading age at or below the expected level of an 11-year-old.

Sources:

ⁱ DfE, 2016, Attainment in key stage 2 tests by region, local authority (LA) and gender – 2016 (provisional). <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-curriculum-assessments-key-stage-2-2016-provisional>

ⁱⁱ **Public Health England**, Public Health Outcomes Framework – indicator 1.02ii. <http://www.phoutcomes.info/public-health-outcomes-framework#page/0/gid/1000041/pat/6/par/E12000006/ati/102/are/E06000055/iid/90631/age/34/sex/4>

ⁱⁱⁱ **Public Health England**, Public Health Outcomes Framework – indicator 1.02ii. <http://www.phoutcomes.info/public-health-outcomes-framework#page/0/gid/1000041/pat/6/par/E12000006/ati/102/are/E06000055/iid/90631/age/34/sex/4>

^{iv} **Norfolk County Council** (2016) Norfolk's Story. <http://www.norfolkinsight.org.uk/resource/view?resourceId=528>

^v **National Literacy Trust** (2017). Literacy score - mapping literacy need across England. <http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/campaigns-policy/literacy-score-mapping-literacy-need-in-england>

^{vi} **Joe Morrisroe, National Literacy Trust** (2014), Literacy Changes Lives 2014: A new perspective on health, employment and crime. http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/assets/0002/3684/Literacy_changes_lives_2014.pdf

^{vii} **Beanstalk**. <https://www.beanstalkcharity.org.uk/why-we-are-needed>