

Ralph Allen School Spotlight Report

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Key facts

Gender:	Mixed
Age range:	11-18
Number on roll (as at the Autumn 2012 school census):	1096
Planned admissions number 2013/14:	180
Type of school:	Academy Converter
Religious character:	Other
Specialist type:	Science

Profile

The text here is from the school’s website (February 2013):

Ralph Allen School became an academy on 1 August 2012. It is a non-denominational 11-18 mixed school on the skyline of the world heritage city Bath, in the local authority of Bath and North East Somerset. We have approximately 1000 pupils and take 180 pupils in each year in six forms of entry (Years 7-11); there are approximately 230 pupils in the sixth form. We serve the community of Bath and villages to the south of the city. The school is surrounded by green sites managed by English Nature and the National Trust. Its local village is Combe Down.

The school is named after Ralph Allen (1693-1764), the Bath mine owner, entrepreneur and philanthropist who contributed much to the building of Georgian Bath and the early development of the post office. The school was built in 1957 and has been further extended and developed since then.

In September 2004 the school was designated a Specialist Science College. Since then the school has developed as a centre of excellence for science teaching, running annual conferences at Bath University on sustainability for young people in the community of Bath and North East Somerset in partnership with Resource Futures and developing a wide range of partnerships to enhance the teaching of science.

We have also received the following awards: Artsmark Silver, Investors in People, Investors in Student Careers, Healthy Schools Plus, Partnership Promotion School and Sportsmark Gold.

The school is designated disabled access school for the Bath area and has undergone successive modifications to include young people with special needs and disabilities into the whole life of the school.

Following our '**Good with outstanding features**' OFSTED grade in 2007, we were visited twice again by Ofsted who judged the Teaching of English to be '**Outstanding**' and the quality of the school's Inclusion and Equalities provision to be '**Outstanding**'.

The school works closely with partners including the Dyson Foundation, the University of Bath, local schools, business and health service providers to improve outcomes for young people and the community.

The school campus undergoes a continuous programme of improvement. March 2011 saw the opening of the new Art & Photography space by nationally acclaimed artist David Cobley. This comprises new art and photography and textiles classrooms, meeting spaces and a Snack Shack. In September 2012 a new reception area was opened together with a second outdoor learning space and refurbished Science teaching spaces.

Building work has started on the Applied Learning Centre and all-weather sports pitch to expand the range of learning opportunities for both the school and across the local authority with an emphasis on the STEM agenda (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and further developing our excellent sport.

The ALC project is to complement the other planned applied learning centres at Writhlington and Wellsway. The building will also provide a community facility out of hours. The learning landscapes attached to the ALC are integral to the school's teaching and learning approach. The school is working closely with ex-student Fergus Feilden and his architectural practice Feilden Fowles on the project, and it is to be an exemplar environmental building, designed along passive solar principles and sensible design rather than environmental add-ons. Inclusivity is at the heart of Ralph Allen School's ethos and the Applied Learning Centre will be accessible to all, promoting equal access and opportunities throughout.

Relationships with our parents are good. The local community regards the school highly and gives us considerable support. In turn, the school provides venues and facilities for many community activities and events.

Inspection ratings

The school was inspected by Ofsted in June 2011. The report is available on Ofsted's website here:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/109305>

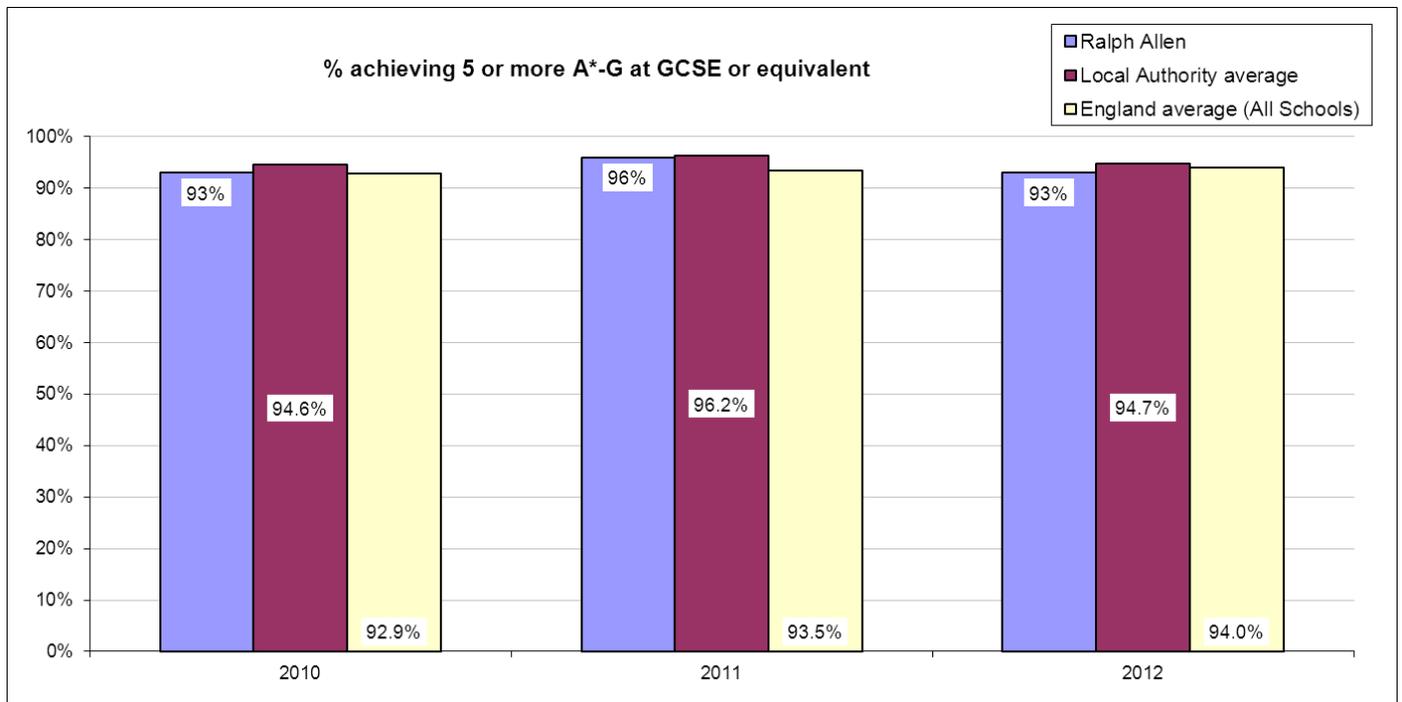
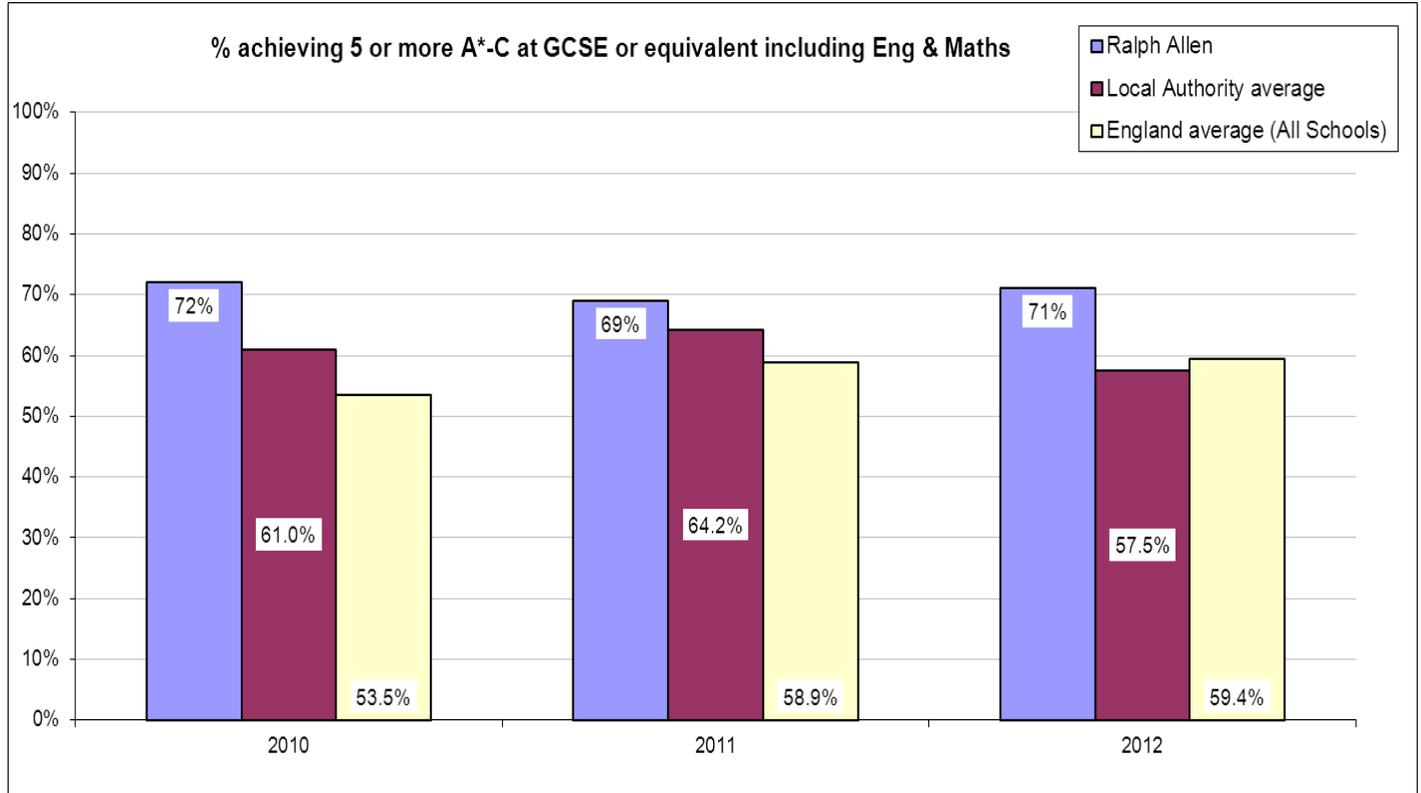
Scores relating to the following are as follows:

Overall effectiveness	2
Capacity to improve	Score no longer provided in inspection reports
Outcomes / achievement	2
Leadership and management	2

Inspection grades: 1 is outstanding, 2 is good, 3 is satisfactory, 4 is inadequate.

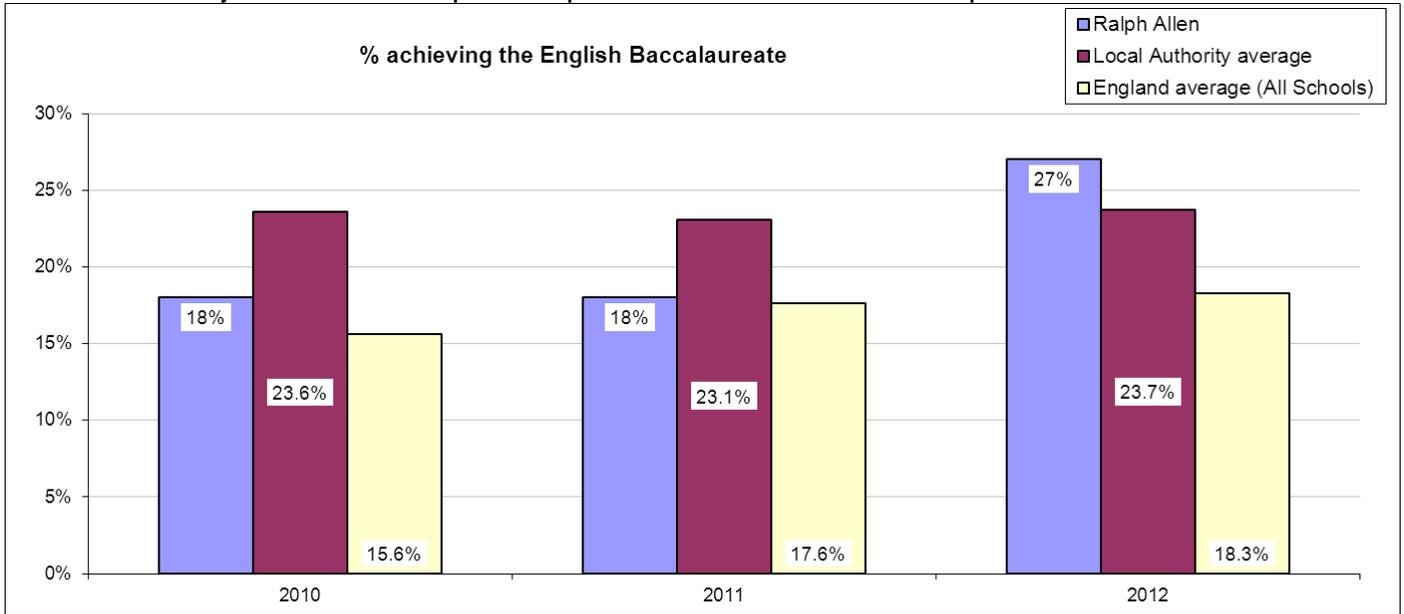
Attainment at Key Stage 4

Key Stage 4 covers two years of education, Year 10 and Year 11, when pupils are aged between 14 and 16.



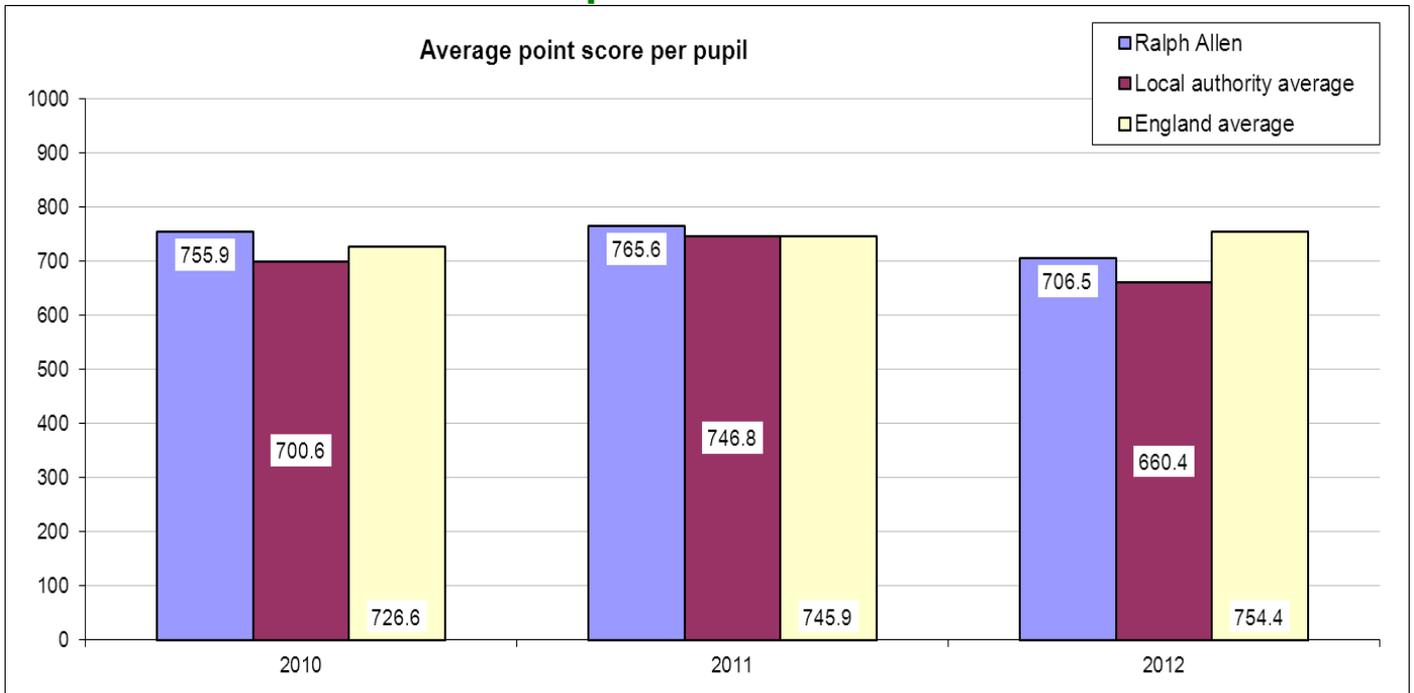
Percentage achieving the English Baccalaureate

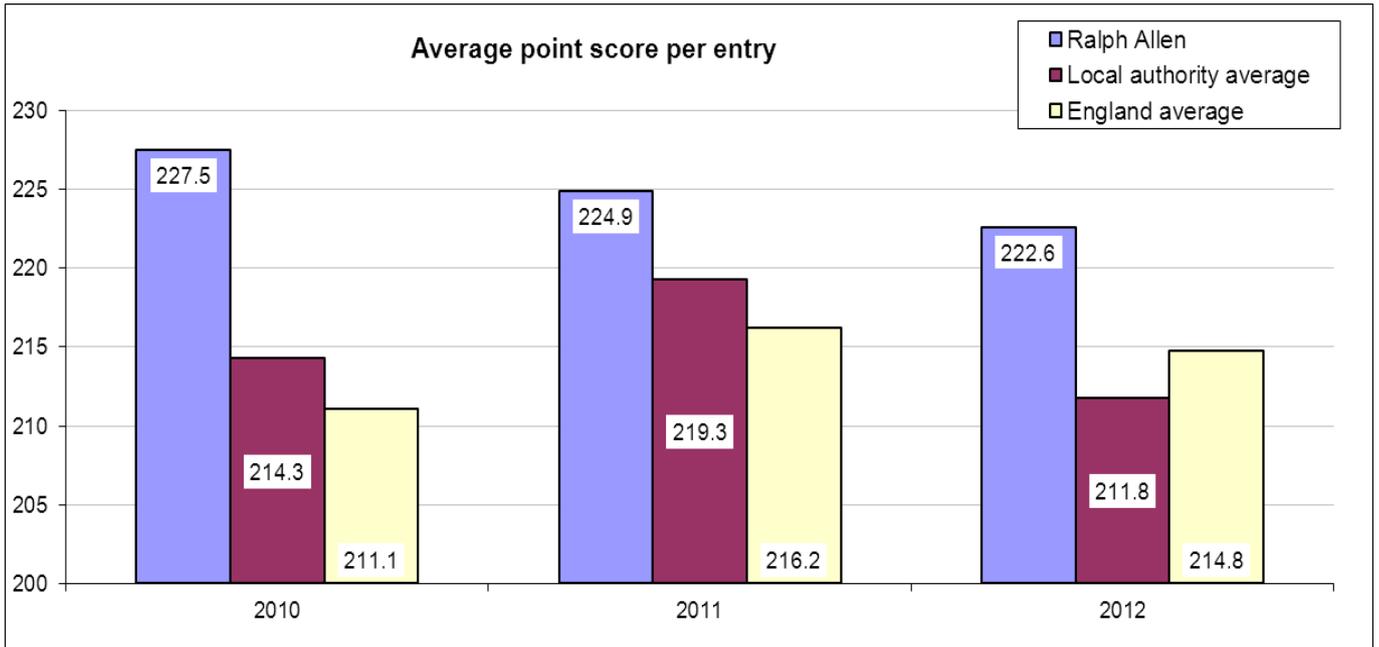
The English Baccalaureate indicator shows the percentage of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 achieving GCSEs/iGCSEs at grades A*-C in English, mathematics, sciences, a language and a humanities subject. Results for periods prior to 2010 have not been published.



Data sources and further notes can be found in the last section below.

Attainment at 'A' level and equivalent



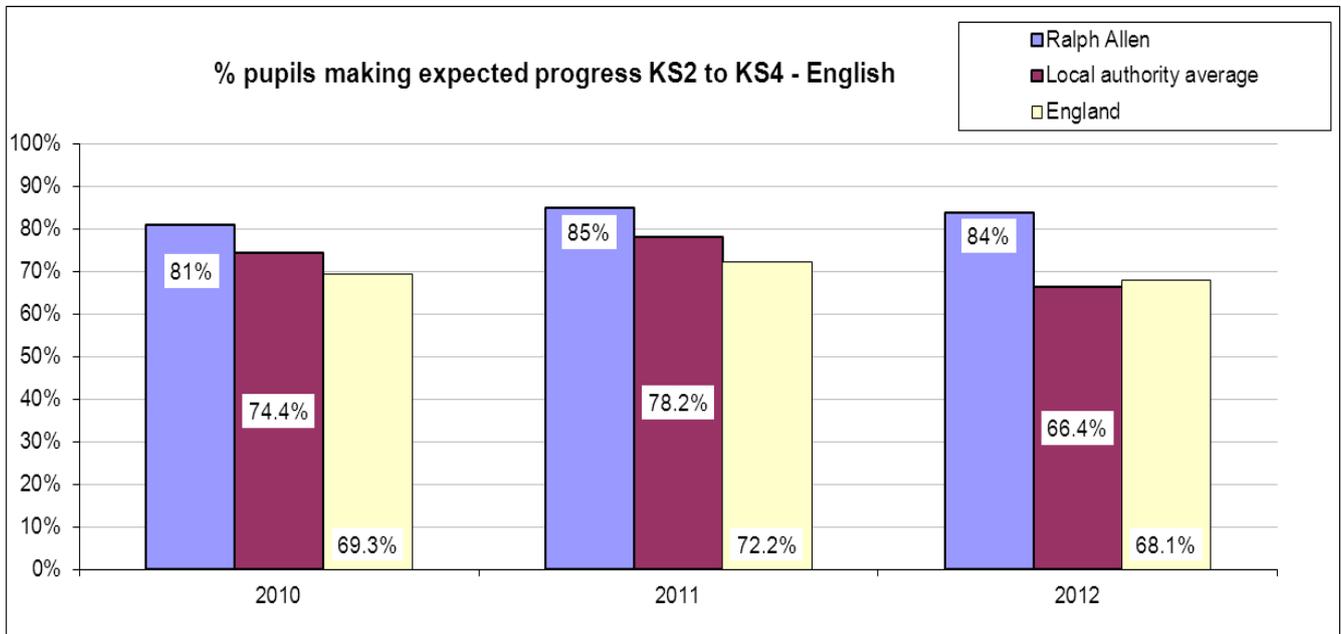


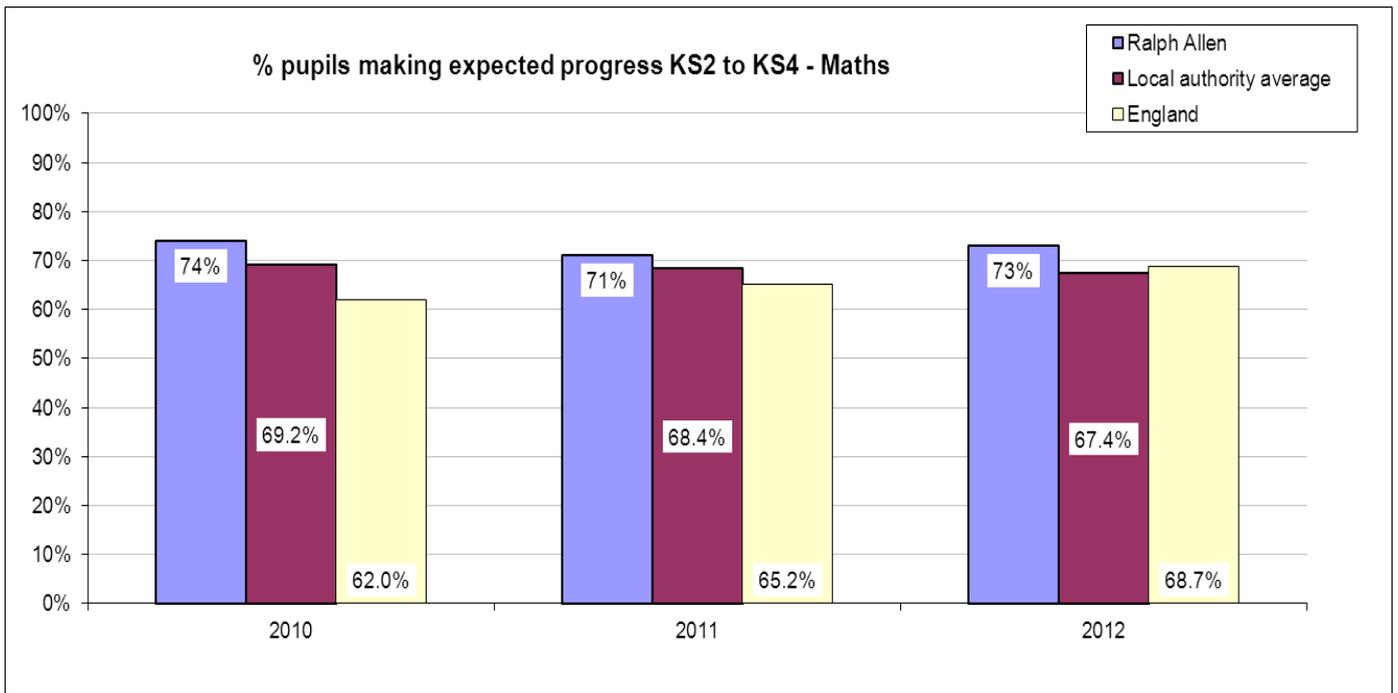
Data sources and further notes can be found in the last section below.

Progress made from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4 (“value added”)

This measures progress made between pupils’ attainment at the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6, when pupils are 11) and the end of Key Stage 4 (Year 11, when pupils are aged 16).

Percentage making the nationally expected 3 levels progress

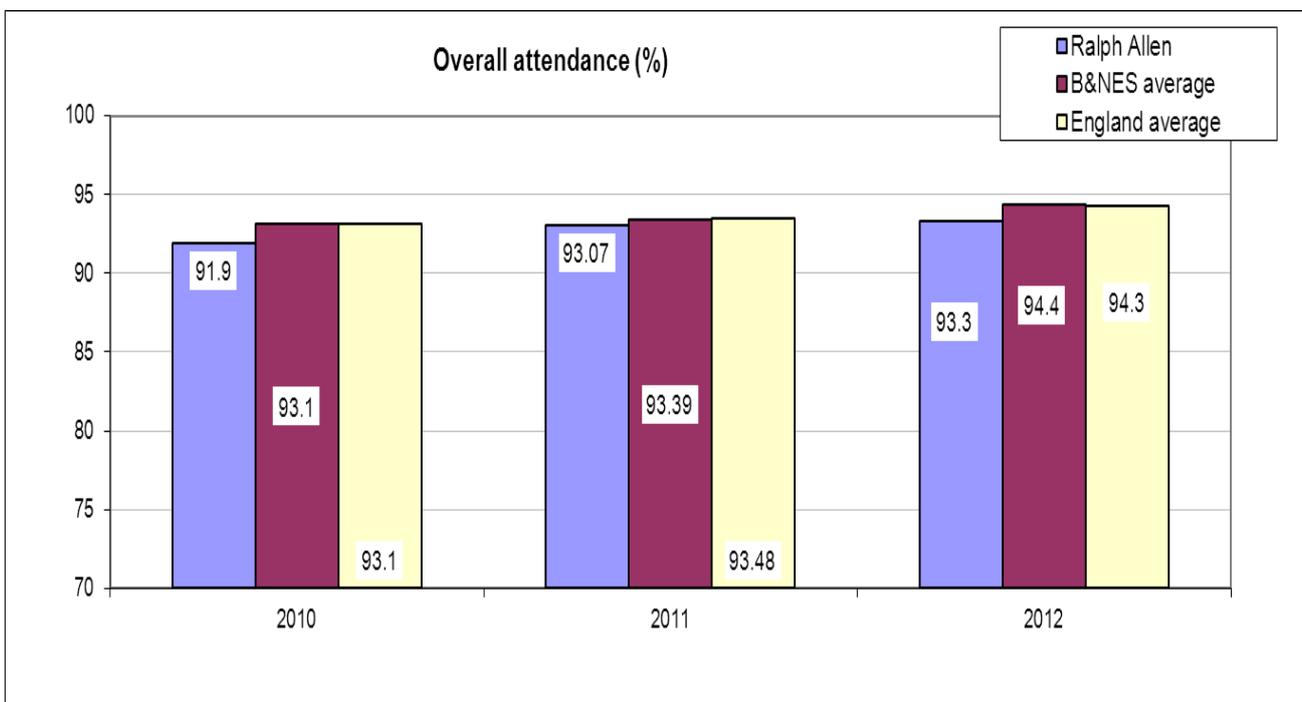




Data sources and further notes can be found in the last section below.

Attendance and absence

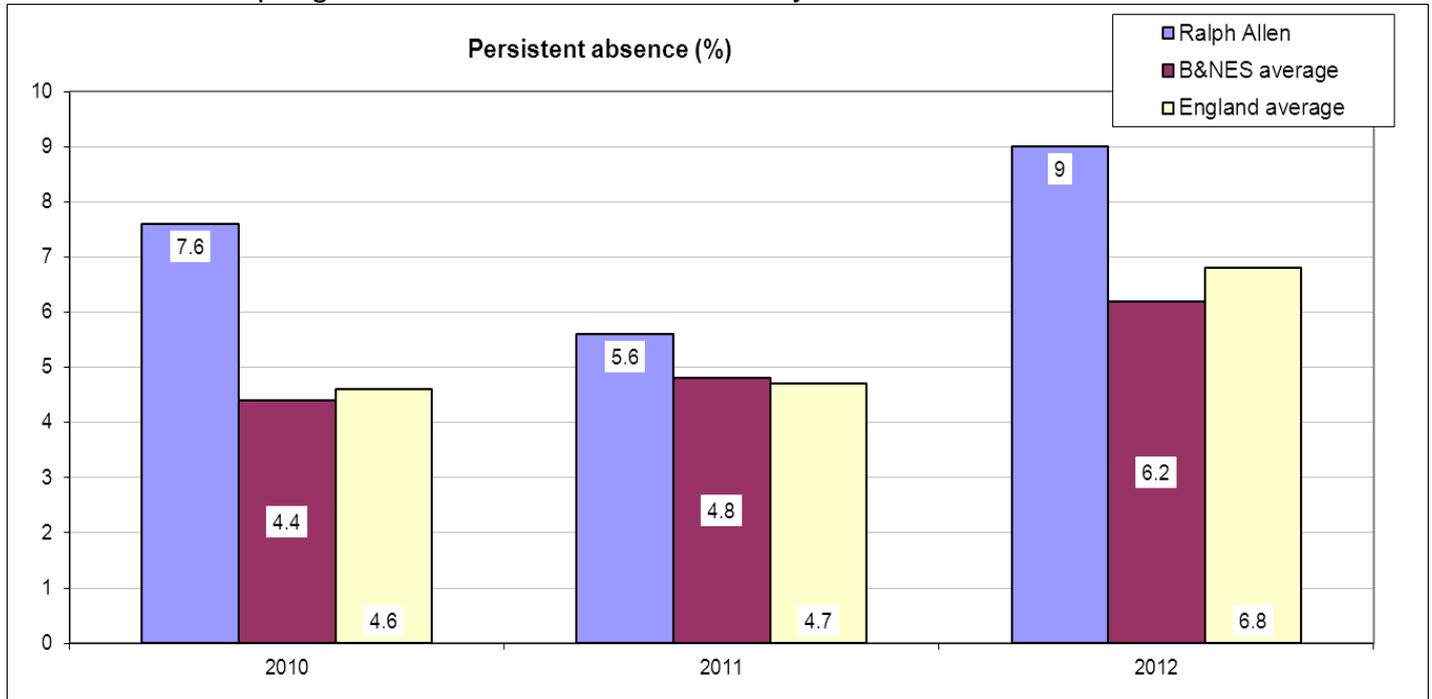
Overall attendance



**** The B&NES 2011 figure is not published, so this has been calculated by averaging the individual schools overall attendance figure**

Persistent absence

Persistent absence is the percentage of pupil enrolments equalling or exceeding the threshold number of half-day absences (set to equal 20% of the national average number of possible half-day sessions) over the Autumn and Spring terms combined. The persistent absence threshold for Autumn and Spring 2008/09 was 52 or more half-day sessions.



**** The B&NES 2011 figure is not published, so this has been calculated by averaging the individual schools overall attendance figure**

School contact details

Head teacher: Ms Libby Lee
Chair of Governors: Dr Julia Garratt

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Sources and notes

Because each year group is made up of different pupils, with different prior attainment and other characteristics, results may fluctuate from year to year for reasons to do with the pupils rather than the school. Small fluctuations from year to year are unlikely to be significant, particularly if the school's year group is small.

Notes on Key facts

The **planned admissions number 2013/14** comes from the school admissions booklet for 2013/14, which can be found at the following link:

http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/secondary_booklet_2013-2014_0.pdf

Other data in this section is sourced from the Ofsted website, Autumn 2012 school census and from Edubase2: <http://www.education.gov.uk/edubase/>

Notes on Attainment at Key Stage 4 for all pupils

Source: Department for Education – School and college performance tables

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/>

England averages are for local authority maintained schools only.

Notes on attainment at 'A' level and equivalent

Average points per entry and average points per pupil are taken from the Department for Education - School and college performance tables.

Local authority averages are the averages for local authority maintained schools. There are different figures published nationally, which can include other schools and colleges.

England average figures are taken from the School and college performance tables. These figures exclude independent schools except for in 2007 when the figure is just listed as "England Average".

Notes on percentage making the expected progress between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4

Source: Department for Education – School and college performance tables

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/>

Local authority average figures are not provided in the performance tables so are calculated as the average of the figures for the local authority's schools.

National figures are not provided.

Notes on attendance

The percentage attendance figures are based on the overall absence figures published in the Department for Education – School and college performance tables. Taking 100% as the starting point and subtracting the overall absence.

The overall absence is calculated as the percentage of possible half-days absent.

The England figures are those listed as follows:

2012 - secondary state-funded

2011 - secondary state-funded

2010 – state funded schools

2009 – maintained schools only

2008 – listed as “England average”

Notes on persistent absence

Source: Department for Education – School and college performance tables.

Maintained mainstream schools only.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/>