



SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

Thurstonland Endowed (VC) First School

Marsh Hall Lane, Thurstonland, Huddersfield, HD4 6XD

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Headteacher

Mrs Christine Kirton

A brief description and history of the school

Thurstonland First School caters for children in the 4 -10 age range, mostly from the villages of Thurstonland and Stocksmoor. We are part of the Shelley Pyramid of schools and have a good working relationship with other schools in the area and the local community.

The school was founded in 1766 from money donated by Anne Ludlam in her last will and testament. In recent years there have been two significant changes to the fabric of the school. In 1998 an outside classroom was converted and in 2003 an upper floor was added to the existing building creating an additional classroom.

At Thurstonland School we aim to:-

- enable pupils to experience the wonder, excitement and joy of learning;
- provide the experiences and opportunities which will enable pupils to become competent and confident members of society;
- give pupils the knowledge and skills to gain fully from their present and future education;
- enable pupils to develop a caring, responsive attitude to other people and the environment;
- develop in pupils high standards of behaviour and self-discipline;
- give pupils the skills to ask relevant and pertinent questions and the ability reflect on their own learning and actions;
- provide opportunities for pupils to develop a wide cultural awareness.

We believe that education is a journey, not a race.

The staff (There may be changes to staff during the year)

Christine Kirton	Headteacher
Kate Norris	Reception and Year 1 teacher
Lisa Robinson	Year 2/3 teacher
Rachael Hughes	Part-time teacher Year 4/5
Claire McFarlane	Part-time teacher Year 4/5
Lynne Kershaw	Educational Teaching Assistant
Linda Oldham	Educational Teaching Assistant (SEN)
Anne Jackman-Smith	Educational Teaching Assistant
Amanda Semple	Educational Teaching Assistant
Wendy Smith	Educational Teaching Assistant
Debbie Griffin	Advanced Business Support Officer
Edwina Hirst	Bursar / Advanced Business Support Officer
Denis Erlank	Caretaker
Julie Parker	Senior Lunchtime Supervisor
Anna Pallister	Lunchtime Supervisor
Nina Kilner	Lunchtime Supervisor
Claire Bates	School Cook
Ruth Price	Kitchen Assistant

The Governing Body

	<u>Appointment</u>	<u>End of Term of Office</u>
Mrs K Smith (Chair)	Parent Governor	
Mrs C Kirton	Headteacher	EX OFFICIO
Mrs R Hughes	Teacher Governor	
Dr M O'Leary	Foundation Governor	November 2015
Mrs L Oldham	Staff Governor	
Mrs R Radcliffe	LEA Governor	November 2015
Mrs Y Selka	Parent Governor	October 2017
Mrs S Williams	Parent Governor	October 2016
Mrs L Bailey	Parent Governor	November 2015
Mrs J Lister	Parent Governor	November 2018
Mr S Dobson	Parent Governor	November 2018

The Governing Body meets regularly and works with the headteacher to ensure the smooth running of the school. Parents have four representatives on the Governing Body. All minutes relating to meetings are displayed on the Parents Notice Board in school.

Starting School

At what age can children attend school?

The current Kirklees Admission Policy allows for:-

Children whose birthdays fall between 1st September and 31st August to enter school full-time in September.

Children whose birthdays fall between 1st September and 31st December are able to defer full-time entry to school and can enter school full-time at the start of the Spring term.

Children whose birthdays fall between 1st January and 31st March are able to defer full-time entry to school and can enter school full-time at the start of the Summer term.

Children whose birthdays fall between 1st April and 31st August are able to defer full-time entry to school and can enter school full-time at the start of the Summer term.

We invite parents to a welcome session on an evening prior to their children starting school. At this visit there will be the opportunity for parents to meet with the staff to discuss general points about all aspects of school life and answer any questions. Details of this meeting will be given to you at the appropriate time.

Prior to starting school, children will be invited to attend the Foundation/Year 1 Class, both with and without parents. Our reception teacher also visits the children in their pre-school environment. A home visit from the teacher and classroom support assistant is also arranged just before your child starts school.

Parents considering sending their child to Thurstonland School are invited to arrange to visit school by appointment with the Headteacher

What is the school policy on admissions?

In line with Kirklees admissions policy, the governors have agreed to admit children to school in the following manner.

Places will be offered to children in the following order of priority. Kirklees Admissions Department deals with the allocation of places centrally.

Registration forms can be collected from the school and should be returned by 1st December in the year before your child's admission to school.

Priorities for Admission

The criteria for all admission to all Key Stages are:-

1. Children in public care. (Looked after Children)
2. Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs, which names the school.
3. Children living in the school's priority admission area who have an older brother or sister attending from the same address at the date of admission.
4. Other children living in the school's priority admission area.
5. Children who live outside the priority area who have an older brother or sister attending from the same address at the time of admission.
6. Children who live outside the priority area.

We will admit pupils up to our Published Admission Number (PAN) of 12. However, there is no longer a guaranteed place for any child in any of the above priorities.

How is the school organised?

There are currently three classes. These are arranged as follows:-

Reception (Foundation) and Year 1

Year 2 and Year 3

Year 4 and Year 5

Children move from one class to another mainly by age but where this is not possible the Headteacher will have the final say.

The School Day

The school day begins at 9.10am. Children should be in the playground ready for the school bell to ring at 9.05am. The children line up in the playground under the supervision of their class teacher and walk into school ready for registration. Registers are closed at 9.20am. Children arriving after this time are marked late.

There is a 15 minute break for all children each morning, and a 15 minute break each afternoon for Foundation and Year 1 children. On games or PE days the Year 2, 3, 4, and 5 children may not have an afternoon break.

Lunchtime is from 12.00 noon for Foundation and Year 1 children until 1.10pm and from 12.15pm to 1.10pm for all other children.

School ends at 3.30pm for all children.

Please note that children will not be allowed through the school gate at the close of school until collected by an adult. Year 5 pupils are able to walk home alone if school is given prior notice.

22 hours are spent in teaching during the week for Key Stage 1 pupils. 23.5 hours are spent in teaching during the week for Key Stage 2 pupils.

Teaching and Learning

How are the children taught?

We aim to provide a broad and balanced primary curriculum with Literacy and Numeracy still at its heart.

The teachers vary their teaching approach depending on the subject and content being taught. Whole class, small groups and individual teaching takes place. Work is differentiated to cater for the needs of all children. Objectives and targets are shared with the children to help them understand what they are aiming to learn and what they need to do to progress.

Children are grouped in varying ways and groupings are flexible. They may be ability, age or friendship based.

We sometimes have special focus days or weeks, such as Health Week or Arts Week. We often invite outside agencies to help provide inspiration and specialist skills in many areas of the curriculum.

What are the children taught?

We teach all the subjects specified in the National Curriculum, following programmes of study for each key stage, plus a number of enrichment activities. English, Numeracy, Science, ICT are core subjects, RE, History, Geography, Art, Technology, PE and Music are the foundation subjects.

Much of the curriculum is delivered through cross-curricular topics in order to make the learning more meaningful. Literacy and Numeracy are taught as subjects to ensure the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening and numeracy are firmly embedded.

Computers are in daily use in order to equip children with the necessary skills to deal with the technological world in which we live. Interactive Whiteboards are used in all three teaching areas.

- English

English is taught using the Primary Framework in the three areas of:

Speaking and Listening

Children learn to express their ideas and feelings, listen and respond appropriately to others and use the vocabulary and grammar of spoken English.

Reading

We aim to teach children not only the skills to make sense of text but also develop a real joy and enthusiasm for reading.

Writing (including spelling and handwriting)

We develop the necessary skills to enable pupils to express themselves independently through the written word. They will write in many different forms, factual and creative. Attention is paid to grammar, spelling, punctuation and presentation.

- Numeracy

The seven strands of the Revised Framework for Mathematics form the basis of our Numeracy teaching. These are:

Using and applying mathematics

Counting and understanding number

Knowing and using number facts

Calculating

Understanding shape

Measuring

Handling Data

- Science

Science is taught mainly through investigation and first hand experience, thus helping children to make sense of the world around them.

- Religious Education

Religious education is taught in line with the new Kirklees Agreed Syllabus. This has been created and approved by the leaders of all the major faiths represented in Kirklees.

Collective Worship

In our regular assemblies we aim to make pupils aware of moral and spiritual issues in a way appropriate to their level of understanding. The activities, songs and readings in these assemblies reflect a variety of cultures but we never lose sight of the fact that we are closely connected to the local church and these assemblies are of a broadly Christian nature.

The pattern of assemblies are:-

Monday	3pm	Whole School Assembly
Tuesday	1:20pm	Class Assembly
Wednesday	10:15am	Singing practice Assembly Y1 upwards
Thursday	3pm	Whole School Assembly
Friday	3pm	Termly class assembly

Should any parent wish to exercise their right to withdraw their child from religious education or assemblies, the Headteacher should be consulted in order for alternative arrangements to be made for supervision.

Sex Education

Thurstonland School has an extensive Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship programme, as part of which the governors of the school have approved a Sex Education policy which aims to help pupils cope with the physical and emotional understanding of human development in such a manner as to encourage the pupils to have regard to moral considerations and the value of family life.

In Year 5 the issues of body changes in puberty are dealt with. Parents have a statutory right to withdraw their child from this formal aspect of sex education.

Sporting aims and provision

We are proud to have achieved the Schools Active Mark, meaning that quality teaching and activities are available to all our pupils.

Our P.E. curriculum includes the following elements:

Football, Netball, Rugby, Rounders, Cricket, Athletics, Cross Country, Swimming and Dance. As members of the Sports Coordinator Scheme in the Shelley Pyramid a number of joint activities are available to us and we participate in many inter-school activities throughout the year.

Our outdoor games lessons take place throughout the year either in the school yard or on the adjacent recreation field. A variety of after school sports clubs are held over the year, including Football, Cricket and Rounders, Dance and Cheerleading. Swimming lessons take place at Almondbury High School. The P.E. curriculum is enhanced by an annual residential visit when Year 4 and 5 children can participate in a variety of adventurous activities.

We have additional coaching through the Sports Coordinator Programme and local clubs e.g. Huddersfield Giants, Thurstonland Cricket Club.

Music - Will my child have the opportunity to play a musical instrument?

If your child would like to play a musical instrument Kirklees Music School can provide this service. Teachers of most musical instruments including percussion, keyboard, guitar, strings and woodwind come into our school each week to give lessons. This service runs independently and all tuition fees are paid directly to the Music School.

What homework is set?

Foundation / Year 1

Regular reading - at least 5 short sessions per week.

Numeracy tasks - approximately 10 minutes per week.

Literacy and topic - research type homework as appropriate.

Year2 /Year3

Maths and Spelling - weekly.

Regular reading with an adult.

Topic research work.

Year 4/Year 5

Numeracy task - weekly.

Spellings weekly.

Regular reading including Guided Reading support.

Topic research work.

How is my child's progress monitored?

The school has a very clear assessment policy. Ongoing assessments take place regularly in the form of tests, unaided and supported tasks, observations, detailed monitoring of work and jottings of incidental observations. These sources inform teacher assessments and report writing and are discussed with parents at Parents' Evenings.

All Year 2 pupils take the national (SAT's) Standard Assessment Tasks/Tests. Pupils in Years 3, 4, and 5 undergo tests during the summer term in English, Mathematics, and Science. These non-statutory SAT's tests are used to help identify children's next steps in learning and to ensure progress is being made. The results of these tests are reported to you in the summer term.

Do we get a report about our child's progress at school?

Parents are invited to an informal parents' evening during the Autumn term to view work and discuss how children have settled into the new school year. The teacher of Reception pupils will explain the Foundation Stage Curriculum to parents.

During the Spring term each year a more formal Parents' Evening takes place. Parents are asked to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher, a progress report is given at this meeting usually lasting approximately 15 minutes and any concerns can be discussed.

Early in the summer term all children receive a written report.

Parents are also invited into school at the end of the year to see the work their child has produced over the school year.

It is important to note that we operate an open door policy at Thurstonland School and if parents have any concerns we encourage them to make an appointment to come into school to discuss these issues rather than wait until a formal parents' evening.

How do you cater for a child who has special educational needs?

A child has special educational needs if he or she has a learning difficulty or behavioural or emotional needs which call for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

A child has a learning difficulty if he or she:

- has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age; or
- has a disability which either prevents or hinders the child from making use of educational facilities of a kind provided for children of the same age in schools in the Local Authority.
- is gifted and requires greater stimulation to satisfy his or her needs.

If your child has special educational needs they are welcome at Thurstonland School. We take great care in the provision of a quality education for pupils with special needs. Where a pupil is identified as having special needs before they arrive at Thurstonland School, a member of staff will attend the review meeting to ensure that we are able to offer an appropriate level of support. Where pupils need special assistance, we will call upon professional expertise from the Local Authority.

The school's delegated budget includes an allocation for special educational needs. This is used to buy material resources and extra support. The school also uses its Standards Fund budget to provide significant special needs training for teachers and support assistants.

Pupils with special educational needs will be taught on most occasions by their normal class teacher, with appropriate help from a support assistant wherever possible. On a few occasions, particularly where a pupil has a statement indicating significant difficulties, that pupil will be withdrawn from the class for short periods, to follow an individual programme of study.

At Thurstonland we have a Special Educational Needs Policy, written in collaboration with other schools in the pyramid, which reflects the Education Act (1996) and the new Code of Practice (2001). A copy of this policy is available in school.

How do you expect children to behave in school?

We have a whole school Behaviour Policy developed by the staff and agreed by the governors. We aim to create a safe and secure environment for all children. We encourage honesty, fairness, and good manners. All members of the school community are expected to exercise self discipline, take responsibility for their actions and show care and concern for people, the school and its contents.

Underpinning our behaviour policy are the rights of all members of our school: -

1. Everybody has a right to be safe
2. Children have a right to learn and teachers to teach
3. Everybody should be treated with respect and dignity
4. Property should be respected

We operate a number of positive reward schemes to promote good behaviour, including a weekly Well Done Assembly, Golden Time and our 'Caught Being Good' scheme. Pupils are also aware that poor behaviour will lead to a clearly defined set of sanctions being imposed.

The school liases closely with parents on behaviour issues. The pastoral care of the pupil is exercised in the first instance by the class teacher and then by the headteacher. Our full Behaviour Policy is available if you need further details.

How is bullying dealt with by the school?

Every school has some incidences of minor bullying and it is important that these are dealt with firmly and consistently. We have a clear written policy for dealing with bullying which has been recently updated following consultations with pupils, parents, staff and governors. A copy of this is available on request.

How are parents involved in school life?

Parents are welcomed into school to help on a voluntary basis. Some parents help teachers throughout the school offering a wide range of skills e.g. baking, sewing, arts and craft activities, reading and maths activities and other general activities.

Some parents come on a regular basis and others come to help with specific activities

e.g. school trips. We are always very grateful for parental help. In line with government policy, all regular helpers are asked to fill in a Disclosure and Barring application form.

What should my child wear at school?

Children are encouraged to comply with the school dress code which is:-

Jade-green sweatshirt/cardigan.

Black or grey trousers.

Black or grey skirt or pinafore dress.

Jade-green or white polo shirt.

All uniform items can be purchased from Term Time Wear in Huddersfield at a reasonable cost.

Black school shoes should be worn. We are also happy for black trainers to be worn.

Children also need indoor and outdoor P.E. kits; white school t-shirt and dark green/navy shorts for indoor; warm top, jogging bottoms, trainers (or suitable footwear) for outdoor. A school P.E. kit of shorts and t-shirt is also available from Term Time. **It is also extremely important that all items of uniform are named.**

What about the wearing of jewellery?

Whilst at school, children should not wear jewellery, for safety reasons. Where ears have been pierced the stud type of earring is recommended rather than the sleeper type. For P.E., all earrings must be removed or covered for obvious safety reasons. This follows DCSF guidance.

What about school meals?

Children are encouraged to stay for school lunch, which is of good nutritional quality and excellent value. All food is cooked on the premises by a highly experienced chef using locally sourced ingredients. Alternatively children may bring a healthy packed lunch from home.

Lunch is treated as an important social part of the school day. The children are well supervised by two lunchtime supervisory assistants in the dining room and in the playground.

School meals should be paid for in advance either weekly or half termly. The cost of a school lunch from September 2014 is £1.95 per day.

What about school milk?

School milk is available to all children at a small cost per term. Details are forwarded to parents at the beginning of each term. The cost of milk is currently £10 per term.

We also provide fruit for children each morning and cereal in an afternoon. For KS1 children the fruit is provided free of charge; a charge of £2.50 per term is made for cereal. For KS2 children this service is provided at a cost of £5 per term.

If my child needs to be absent due to illness or some other reason, what should I do?

If your child is unwell and consequently unfit for school would you please inform us by phone before 9:45am on the first day of absence. When a child has had sickness or diarrhoea they must not return to school until 24 hours after the last bout of illness.

Prescribed medicines

We realise that sometimes children are ready to return to school before they have completed a prescribed course of medication. In this case, school is able to administer **prescribed** medicines. Any such medicine should be:

1. brought into the school office by an adult
2. clearly marked with the child's name, dosage and details of when to administer the medicine
3. A parental agreement form should be signed by the parent/carer.

School staff will record the date, name, dosage and time that the medicine is administered.

Inhalers or regular medication are kept in the school office.

Unprescribed medicines

Kirklees guidelines state that no one in a school setting should administer non-prescription medicines with the exception of analgesics i.e. paracetamol for stated conditions only and only to children over the age of 11.

As our oldest pupils are 10, we therefore are unable to administer any non-prescription medicines including paracetamol or Calpol.

In cases where a child is well enough to stay at school but may benefit from a dose of Calpol or similar (for example if a child is suffering from toothache or earache) or cough medicine, we will contact the parent who may wish to come to school to administer the medicine him/herself.

Whilst every effort is made to accommodate the needs of all the children, when a child is obviously unwell the school may be unable to provide that child with the care and attention he/she needs. We are very aware of the pressures of being working parents but it is impossible to both teach a class of children and look after a sick child properly for any considerable length of time. Therefore would you please ensure that the emergency contact telephone numbers we have at school are current, so enabling us to provide appropriate care for your child.

Non-medical absences

Term time absence for family holidays is not encouraged due to the detrimental effects on both individual and class learning. The Headteacher is only allowed by law to authorise up to 10 full days absence per school year **in special circumstances**. Please bear in mind that the most disruptive time for this to occur is during September, when new routines and friendships are being established or when SATS are taking place in May for Year 2 pupils. Any requests must be put in writing to the Headteacher using the absence request form which is available from school or can be downloaded from the website. Please also take the time to read the Attendance Policy which can be found on the school website or viewed in school.

What if I have a complaint to make?

At school level, issues can be raised directly with the class teacher, the head teacher and the Governing Body, in that order.

If the matter cannot be resolved at school level, a formal complaint can be made at local authority level.

At government level, the Secretary of State for Education can be asked to intervene.

School operates an open door policy and therefore it is hoped that most complaints can be resolved very quickly at school level.

School Performance

This report provides analysis of pupils Key Stage 1 average point scores over the last five years in the national curriculum subjects. For more details please refer to our October 2013 Ofsted report in which we were judged to be outstanding in all areas.

Please refer to our Key Stage 1 data for 2015 on the following page.

Rates of authorised absence and unauthorised absence

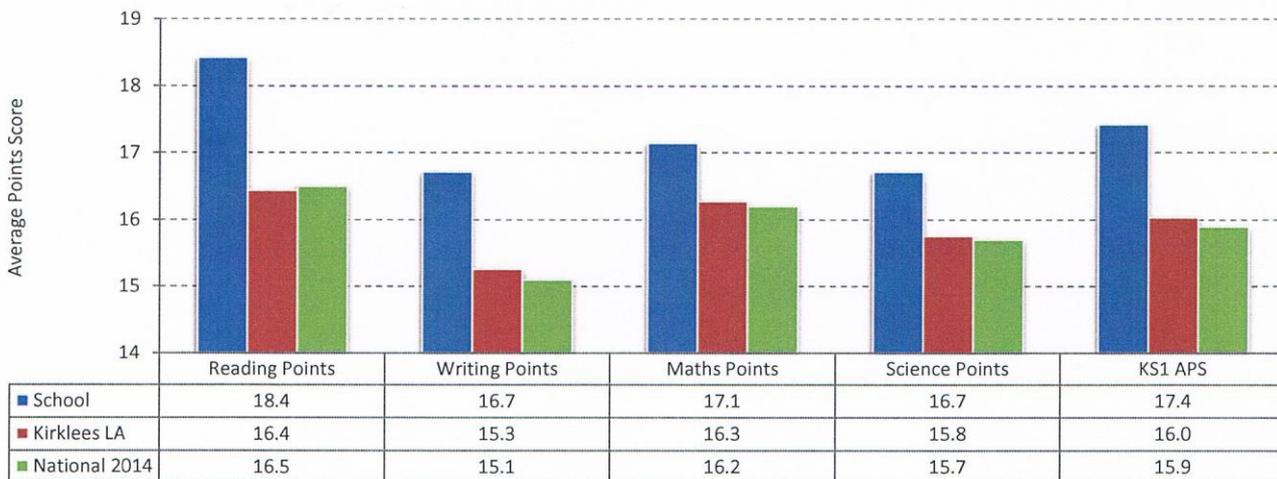
This information relates to the school year 2014/2015 and to the year groups where all pupils are of compulsory school age.

Total number of pupils on roll (Years 1-5)	58
The percentage of authorised absence	2.75%
The percentage of unauthorised absence	0.54%

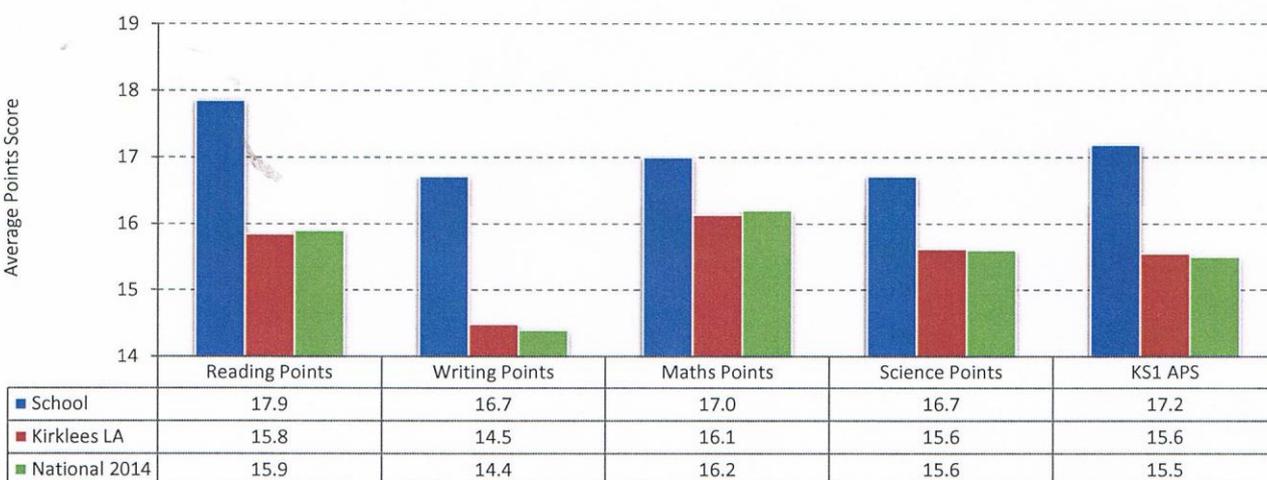
We hope you find our Prospectus interesting and informative.
We have tried to address the most frequently asked questions, but if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact school.

Thurstonland Endowed (VC) First School

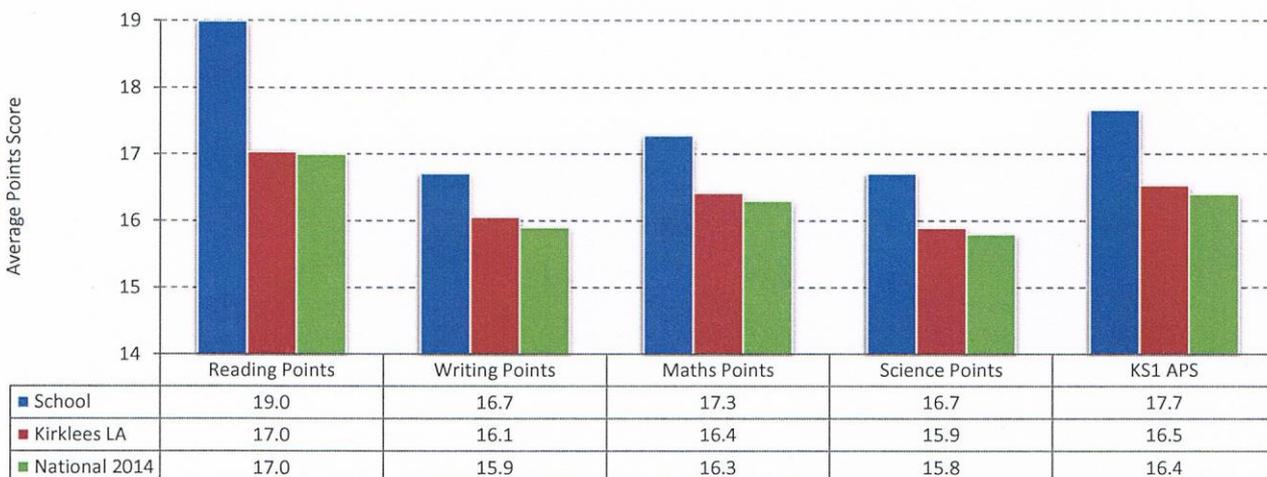
Key Stage 1 2015 Average Points Score Performance Summary - All Pupils



Key Stage 1 2015 Average Points Score Performance Summary - Boys



Key Stage 1 2015 Average Points Score Performance Summary - Girls



Note:
KS1 APS does not include Science points