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# Tameside:

## working towards an evidence-based system

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# Overview

- ✓ An introduction to Tameside
- ✓ Why work with the EEF?
- ✓ Activity so far, now, in future
- ✓ Challenges, opportunities, lessons learned

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# An introduction to Tameside

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9 towns

Greater Manchester

No university

Category 5 area

Outcomes below national

19.4% FSM

# Primary

Reading EXS+			
	2016	2017	2018
National	66%	72%	75%
Tameside	68%	70%	73%

	2016		2017		2018	
	Cohort	Reading Progress	Cohort	Reading Progress	Cohort	Reading Progress
National	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0
Tameside	2602	0.0	2745	-0.2	2799	0.0

Boys reading prog -0.6 (-0.4 in 2017; -0.4 for boys nationally)

Disadvantaged boys -0.9

GLD 66%. 21st out of 23 in NW and 9th out of 10 in GM.

Y1 Phonics static at 79%. 19th out of 23 in NW and 9th out of 10 in GM.

KS2 reading remains 2% below national. Tameside is 15<sup>th</sup> in NW and 7<sup>th</sup> out of 10 in GM.

87% Ofsted Good or better.

# Secondary

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- The difference between **boys** in Tameside and boys nationally is bigger than the difference between girls in Tameside and girls nationally.
- Progress in **Ebacc** area and **Open** area is low for all pupils but especially for boys.
- The progress of higher ability pupils is below national with particular focus on **higher ability boys**.
- **Disadvantaged boys** in **English and open** areas in particular have do not make good progress.
- Girls are particularly strong in maths and strong in English.
- There is no school to school pattern in terms of **subjects entered**.
- Photography, Fine Art, Art, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Media & Film and Statistics appear to be strong subjects.

# New “Schools Strategy”

From Summer 2018 our new team developed a ‘Schools Strategy’ and set out priorities. We have:

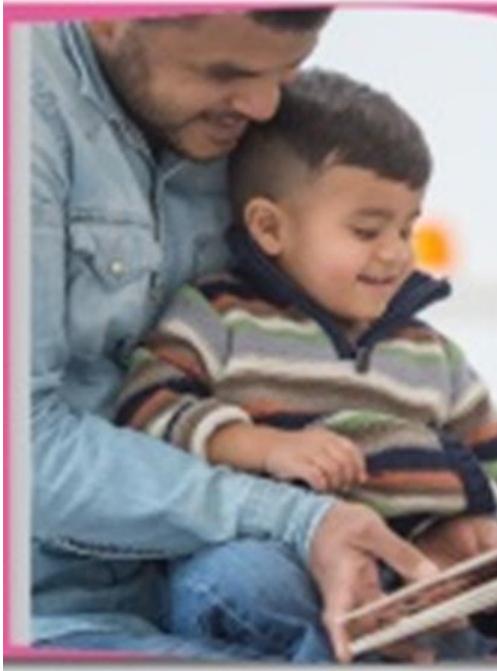
- more assertive and systematic leadership from the LA
- active engagement in partnership with schools and government
- a positive reception from the system and in Ofsted Annual Conversation, NW Education peer review and GM School Improvement peer Review



Our Service Priorities are:

- Relationships and partnerships
- Capacity and stability

# Our system priorities are:



SEN support  
Attendance  
Reading



Tameside  
  
**READING**



# Why work with the EEF?

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- Belief in a school-led school improvement system
  - Ideology
  - Circumstances
- LA role to facilitate evidence-based decision-making and practice at a school level
- System sustainability
  - Focus on partnership with schools and others
  - Building on existing school partnerships in Tameside
  - Developing leadership capacity
- Evidence of the impact of previously commissioned school improvement work limited
- School improvement strategy did not have impact required with insufficient focus on pedagogy and developing leadership capacity
- Link to Oldham Opportunity Area Research School

# Activity so far, now, in future

School leader  
EEF  
engagement  
events

EEF Projects  
involvement & RCTs

AHT /  
Influencers'  
training

Middle Leader CPD  
and system  
development

Tameside Loves  
Reading planning  
for second year –  
Embedding and  
sustaining

EYFS system  
leadership

# Challenges ...

Local system not mature

- Capacity limited:
  - 4 NLEs, 2 LLEs, 2 NLGs, few SLEs and poor strategic relationship
  - 1 Secondary Teaching School and 1 Special Teaching School
  - 10 Associate Headteachers (AHTs)
  - 2 LA officers
- Partnership relationships need developing

LA Schools' strategy not assertive or systematic

Priorities not defined and shared across the system

# Opportunities ...

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- System-led approach
- School leaders seeking out evidence and best practice
- Strengthening middle leadership capacity
- Strengthening implementation
- Priorities - EEF
- Communities of practice
- Pedagogy development
- Not being afraid of experts
- Tameside Research Hub/Collaborative

# Lessons Learned ...

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- **Don't assume** we have all the answers or that the answers aren't already there
- **Listen** to our stakeholders, give them a voice
- **We believe** in the evidence base and that schools improve schools
- **Create the space** for support and creativity
- **Evaluate** progress – GM Peer Review did this for us