

Raising boys' achievement in schools

Since 2003, the Improvement Foundation has been offering an innovative one-year [National Education Breakthrough Programme](#) to help boys achieve their potential by working to change how schools deliver teaching and manage learning. Over the past decade, awareness has grown regarding the gender differences in male and female performance in education. The results for the Foundation Stage Profile show that from age four onwards girls perform better than boys in every area of learning.

Foundation Stage Profile 2006: Percentage of children achieving or exceeding each of the 13 early learning goals:

	Girls	Boys
1. Dispositions and attitudes	65	52
2. Social development	53	42
3. Emotional development	59	46
4. Language for communication and thinking	52	42
5. Linking sounds and letters	38	28
6. Reading	40	32
7. Writing	35	23
8. Numbers as labels for counting	54	50
9. Calculating	39	36
10. Shape, space and measures	45	41
11. Knowledge and understanding of the world	48	47
12. Physical development	66	54
13. Creative development	52	35

% of students reaching the level expected for their age –

2006: English

Reading

Writing

	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
7 year olds (Level 2+)	80%	89%	76%	87%	11 year olds (Level 4+)	74%
14 year olds (Level 5+)	85%	79%	87%	59%	75%	65%

Source: Literacy Trust (2006) 16 year olds – 2006: Boys Girls % achieving 5 A* - C grades 53.3% 63.2%

% achieving 5 A* - C grades 45.7% 58.7% There are many examples of schools that have raised boys' achievement successfully. By analysing the key features of these schools' systems, the Improvement Foundation has defined five key 'change principles' upon which the programme is based. These are:

Use strong leadership, incorporating parent and pupil voice, to create the environment for change
Focus on teaching and learning
Use of targeted intervention, including mentoring, drawing upon a variety of relevant sources
Create capacity and enhance opportunities for collaboration
Use data to drive improvement.

If you are interested in working with the Improvement Foundation please go to [How we can help](#) or [click here to contact us](#).