

Key Facts and Figures

Bristol is a prosperous city, yet this prosperity is not shared by all citizens. Many areas experience multiple deprivation and persistent inequalities: it can be a city of contrasts. Outlined below are some key facts, taken from the State of Bristol 2015 report, to illustrate some of the challenges Bristol faces in connection with education and learning.

Bristol Population

- There are 82,800 children aged 0 - 15 in Bristol, 19% of the total population. The growth in the number of under 5s in the last decade (35%) is one of the highest in the country (nationally 19%). Births are now showing signs of levelling off.
- Over the last decade, more than a third (34%) of Bristol's total increase in population took place in the central wards of Cabot, Ashley and Lawrence Hill.
- Bristol's 58,000 older people make up 13% of the total population, i.e. 1 in every eight people living in Bristol is aged 65 or over.
- The population of Bristol has become increasingly diverse and some local communities have changed significantly. There are now at least 45 religions, at least 180 countries of birth represented and at least 91 main languages spoken by people living in Bristol.

Education and Skills

- In Early Years, 58% of children under 5 have a good level of development at Foundation Stage, against an England average of 60% (2014).
- 76% of Key Stage 2 pupils (at 11 years) achieved level 4 or above in reading, writing and Maths combined (2014). This remained static in 2015 and is now behind the national average.
- For GCSEs, 55% of pupils (Key Stage 4, in 2014) attained 5 GCSEs at grade C or above (including English and Maths). For the first time, Bristol exceeded the national average (53.4%), however gaps in attainment remain across the city with over 90% of children achieving this in Redland and Clifton East, but only 35% in Lawrence Hill.
- The number of children with Special Educational Needs has increased 18.5% in the last 5 years to 4,400 (2014).

Employment and Jobs

- In 2014, 6.7% of young people 16 -18 were considered to be Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET) in Bristol.
- Many employers have a minimum requirement of NVQ level 2; however 32% of people in Bristol are not qualified to this level and in South Bristol this can be up to 50%. Nevertheless, 46% of Bristol working age residents (aged 16 to 64) is qualified to degree level or above.
- 16,900 people are unemployed at rate of 7.2%, above national average (6.2%).
- Average earnings are £26,545 a year in Bristol, and £27,195 in the UK.