

Selena Dias

Main Category: Service children

**What are the Characteristics of Service Children and how does their Performance at Key Stage 2 compare to their Peers?**

**Summary**

This RAN looks at the characteristics and attainment of service children in comparison to other children at Key Stage 2.

Key Findings:

- The number of pupils identified as service children who undertook Key Stage 2 in 2008 was approximately 1673 (0.3% of the cohort).
- 4% of the service children at Key Stage 2 live in the most deprived IDACI quartile and 54% live in the least deprived quartile.
- 48% of service children achieved at least a Level 4 in Maths compared to 46% of non service children. 54% of service children achieved at least a Level 4 in English compared to 54% of non service children.

**Introduction**

The service children field was included on the Annual School Census for the first time in 2008. The analysis uses data taken from the National Pupil Database for pupils in maintained mainstream schools in England. This note looks at pupil numbers, types of establishment attended, SEN status, English as an additional language status, FSM prevalence, IDACI quartile, the identification of gifted and talented, ethnicity and levels of attainment of service children at Key Stage 2. For all of these factors service children are compared to all other children.

## **Pupil Numbers**

The number of pupils identified as service children who undertook Key Stage 2 in 2008 was 1673 (0.3% of the cohort).

Information to identify a pupil as having parents who are service personnel was refused in only a very small number of cases, approximately 269 for the KS2 cohort.

## **Type of Establishment**

About two thirds (65.8%) of service children who undertook KS2 assessment attended community schools. This was similar for non service children (66.1%).

16.3% of service children attended voluntary controlled schools as opposed to 10.2% of non service children.

11.8% of service children attended voluntary aided schools as opposed to 19.1% of non-service children.

## **FSM Eligibility**

3.5% of service children were eligible for FSM at KS2. 14.8% of non service children were eligible for FSM at KS2.

## **English as an Additional Language**

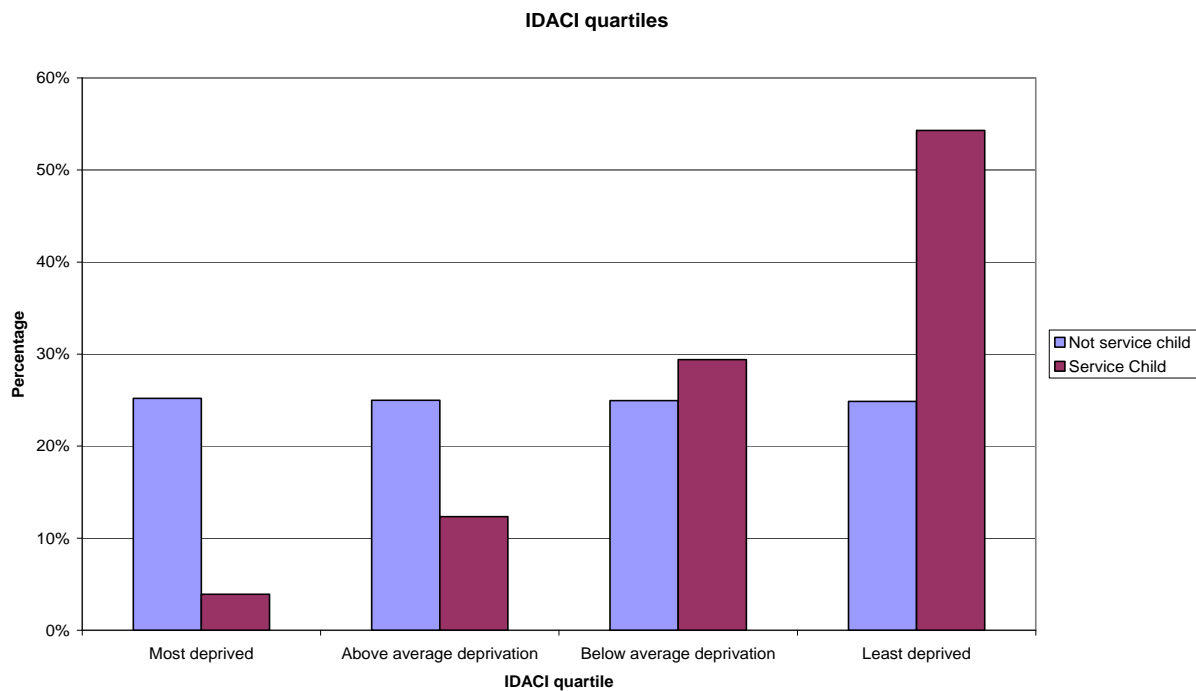
Service children are less likely to have English as an additional language than non-service children. Of the service children completing Key Stage 2, 2.8% had English as an additional language compared with 10.8% of non service children.

## **SEN Status**

18.2% of service children were identified as SEN in comparison to 23.2% of non service children. Service children fell into each type of SEN (School Action, School Action Plus and Statement) in similar proportions to non service children.

## IDACI Quartile

Based on pupil postcodes, around 54.3% of the service children in the Key Stage 2 cohort live in the least deprived IDACI quartile. 3.9% of the Key Stage 2 service children live in the most deprived IDACI quartile. 29.4% of service children live in areas of below average deprivation compared to 25.0% of non service children.



## Gifted and Talented

Of the service children at Key Stage 2, 12.3% are identified as gifted and talented, and of the non service children 13.4% are considered gifted and talented.

## Ethnicity

89.2% of service children were White British in comparison to 77.7% of non service children. There were very small numbers of service children from ethnic minority groups. The largest ethnic minority group (3.3%) for service children was "Any Other Asian Background". 1.0% of non service children fell into this same category.

## Boarders

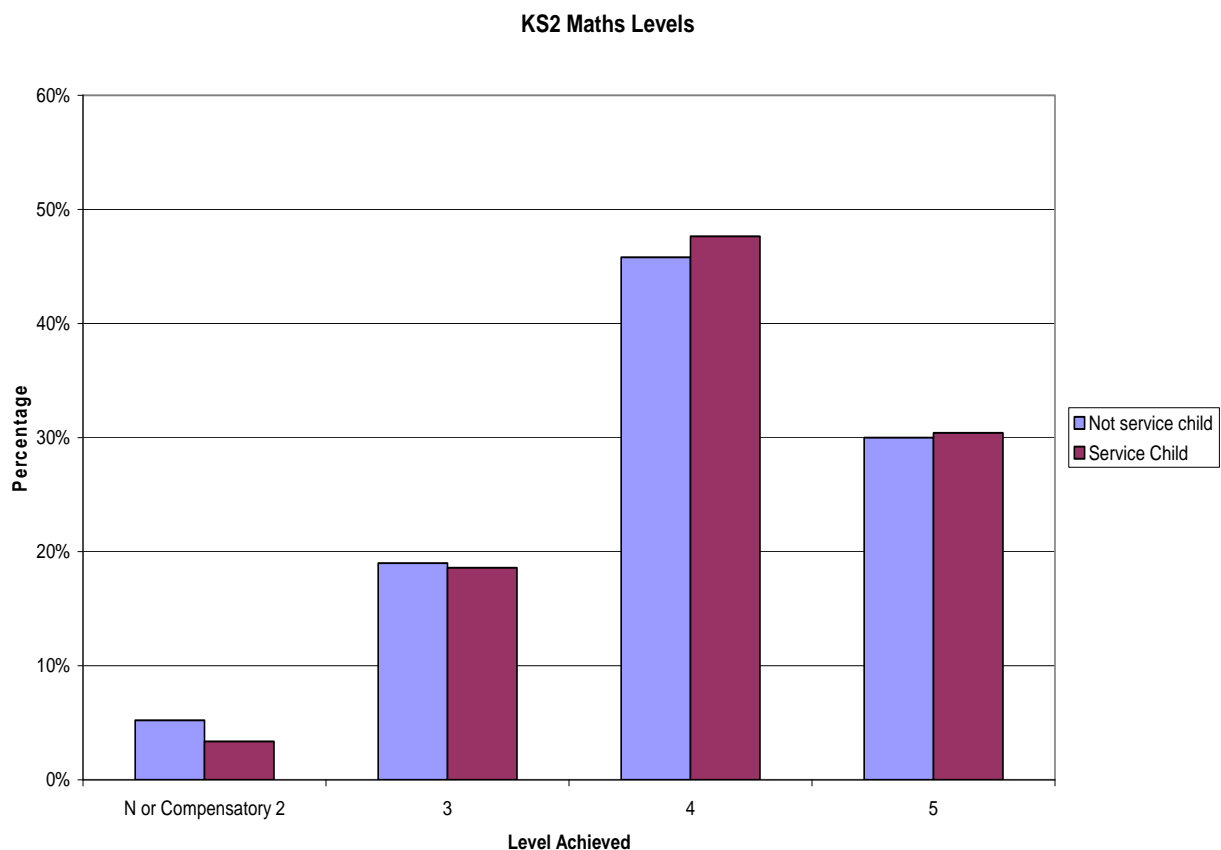
There were very few service children who are boarders (0.3%). These low values may be due to the fact that children at Key Stage 2 children are quite young (aged 11).

## Attainment

- **Key Stage 2 National Curriculum Level Awarded in Maths**

78.1% of service children achieved at least a Level 4 (the expected value at this stage) compared to 75.8% of non service children.

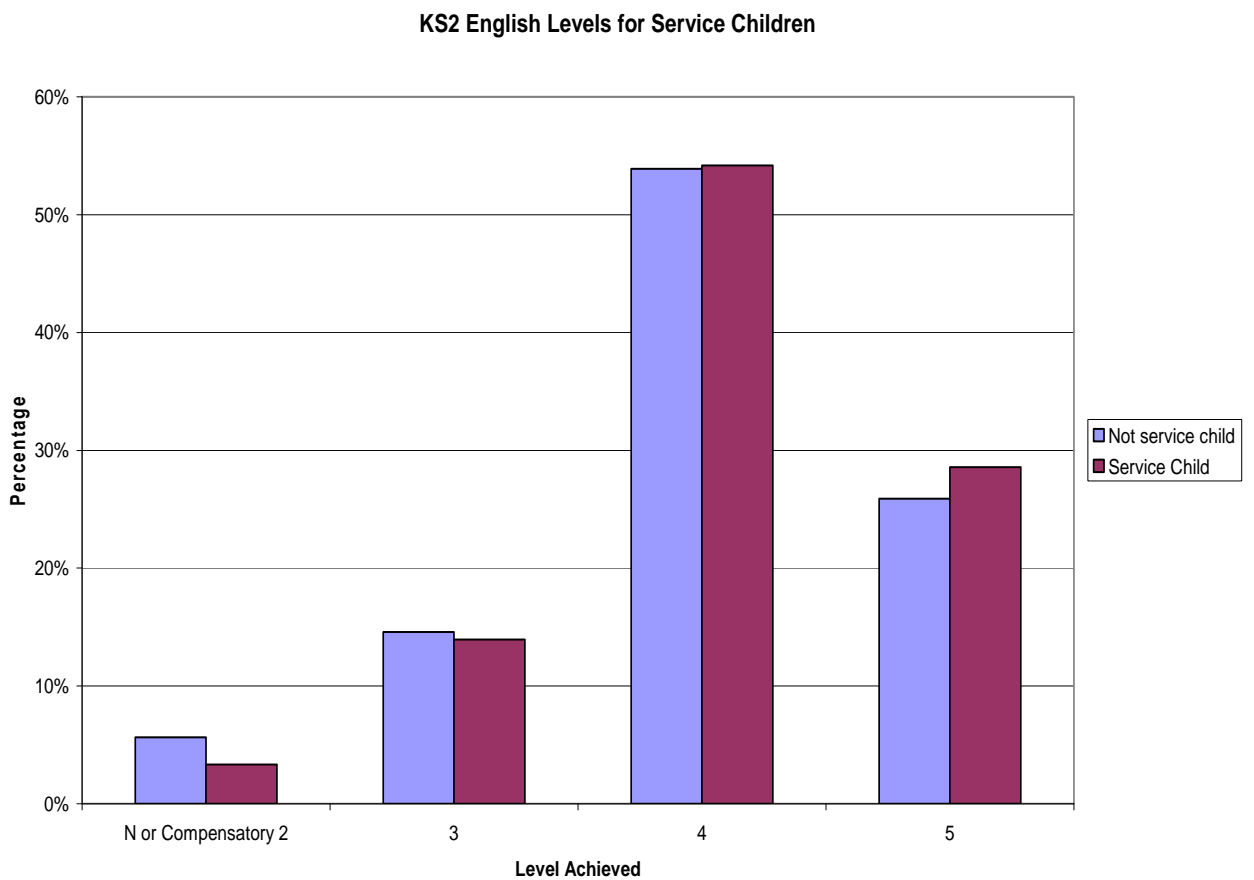
The distribution of levels among service children and non service children are very similar.



- **Key Stage 2 National Curriculum Level Awarded in English**

82.7% of service children achieved at least a Level 4 (the expected value at this stage) compared to 79.8% of non service children.

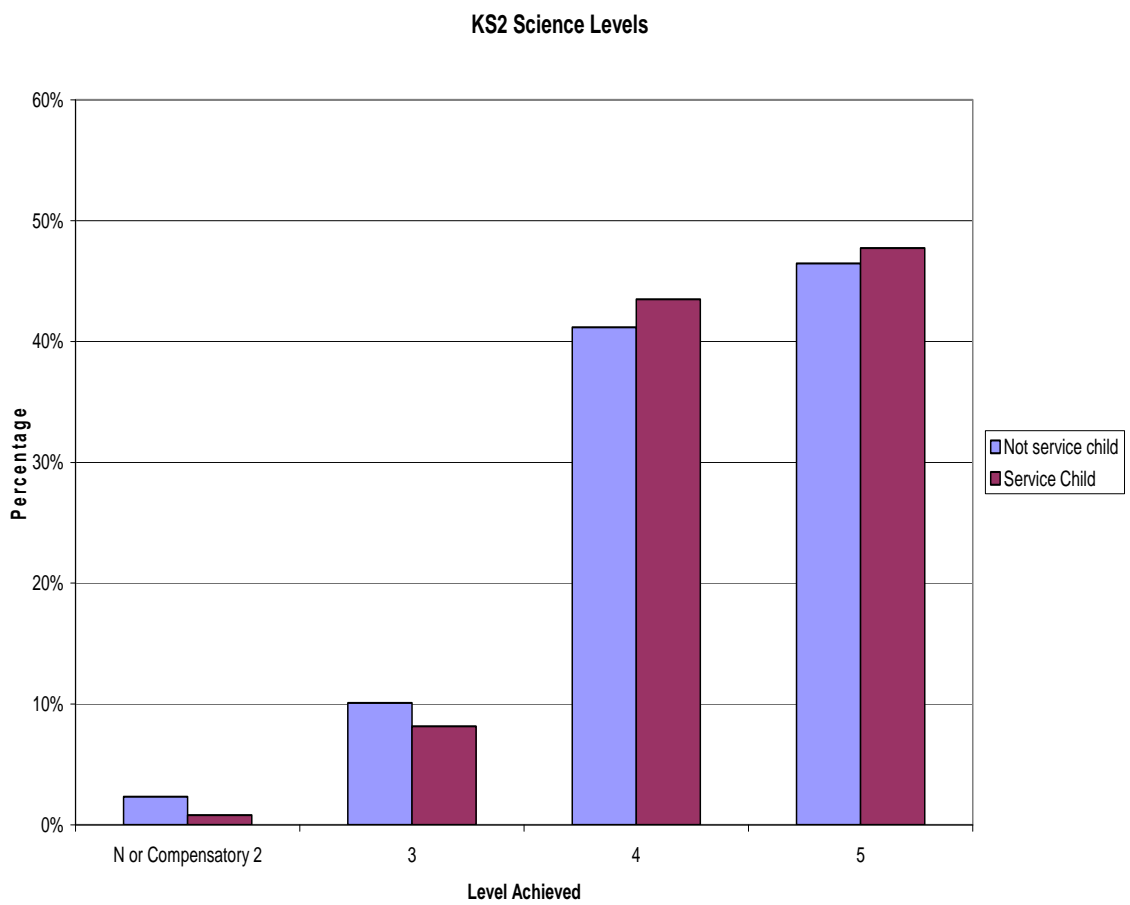
The distribution of levels among service children and non service children are very similar.



- **Key Stage 2 National Curriculum Level Awarded in Science**

91.2% of service children achieved at least a Level 4 (the expected value at this stage) compared to 87.6% of non service children.

The distribution of levels among service children and non service children are very similar.



The results for levels achieved at Key Stage 2 show that service children achieve similarly or slightly better than non service children.