Provisional results of the primary school key stage 2 SATs tests broken down at local authority and regional level have been released by the Department for Education (DfE) this morning.

This is the first year that “levels” has been replaced with scaled scores. To meet government expectations, pupils must achieve 100 in their scaled scores, as opposed to the old expected standard of level 4.

We found out in July that just half (53 per cent) of year 6 pupils met the new expected standard. The DfE has today confirmed those results and again stressed that this figure is not comparable to last year – when 80 per cent of pupils achieved a level 4 - because of changes in the national curriculum and accountability framework.

Here are the key points from today’s local authority data.

1. A breakdown of local authority data shows big differences in performance across the country. The following two tables show the authorities with the highest (left) and lowest (right) percentage of pupils achieving 100 or above in reading, writing and maths this year.

2. Although the DfE has said the new data cannot be compared to last year, we can see how last year’s top and bottom performing authorities have fared under the new scaled scores system.

The table on the left shows last year’s top 10 LAs that achieved the highest percentage of pupils achieving level 4 or above. The table on the right shows this year’s top 10 authorities achieving 100 or above in their scaled scores.

Xx has dropped to xx while xx has risen to xx.

3. Some local authorities had big fluctuations on their 2014 results. Rutland has seen an 11 percentage point increase – just missing out making it into the table of top performing authorities. Traditionally good performers like Westminster and Cheshire East, for example, have seen their scores fall this year. MAYBE?

4. There are minimal differences in outcomes at academies compared to local authority maintained schools – although, overall, LA maintained schools performed slightly better – by xx per cent across almost all areas. Converter academies – those rated good or outstanding by Ofsted at the time of conversion to academy status – have more pupils achieving 100 and above than LA schools.

5. Sponsored academies, open for four or more years, have the highest results – but there are only 35 schools in that category. Academies open for one academic year show speedy growth in achievement (5 percentage points in one year) but that slows down the longer it is open (to just 2 percentage point increases for those open three or more years).

6. Girls still outperform boys at all levels – but the gap is narrowing for higher attainers.

7. Schools minister Nick Gibb believes this all means the DfE is “vindicated” for expanding the academies programme.

“A good grounding in reading, writing and maths sets a young child up for life– so I am delighted that 90,000 more children are starting secondary school with a firm grasp of the basics compared to just five years ago.

“These results vindicate our decision to expand the valuable academies programme into primary schools with thousands of children on course to receive a better education.

“Our reform programme is driven by social justice and we will continue to raise the bar so young people are prepared to succeed in modern Britain.”

It is not yet known how many schools will fall below the floor standard – a combination of today’s results and pupil progress – but the government has insisted that “no more than 1 percentage point” extra primary schools would be affected.

The DfE told Schools Week it would not be announcing how many schools are “below the floor” until final results are published in December.

<http://schoolsweek.co.uk/primary-school-ks2-sats-results-key-points/>

<http://schoolsweek.co.uk/league-tables-2016-how-your-school-will-be-judged/>

<http://schoolsweek.co.uk/key-stage-2-sats-results-nearly-half-of-pupils-fail-to-achieve-expected-standard-in-tougher-tests/>

<http://schoolsweek.co.uk/scaled-scores-for-key-stage-2-tests-announced/>