



# **GOOD SHEPHERD TRUST**



## **Tracking Academic Performance at Good Shepherd School 2012-2016**



**Prepared by Trust Manager, Cathy Meiklejohn**

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# GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL - TRACKING ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

## Introduction

The impact of investing donor funding in employing excellent English and Maths teachers at Good Shepherd School must be demonstrated in improving academic outputs. There are many factors contributing towards academic progress and not all of these are not under the control of the School. Many of these factors mitigating against academic achievement originate in the impoverished home environments of the majority of Good Shepherd learners, for example, the existence of significant barriers to learning as a result of foetal alcohol syndrome, poor nutrition, lack of early childhood stimulation etc. However, the academic trends presented here (based on Annual National Assessment results, internal assessment outputs and academic performance in High School) are beginning to demonstrate the impact of the Trust investment in excellent Maths and English teachers at Good Shepherd School.

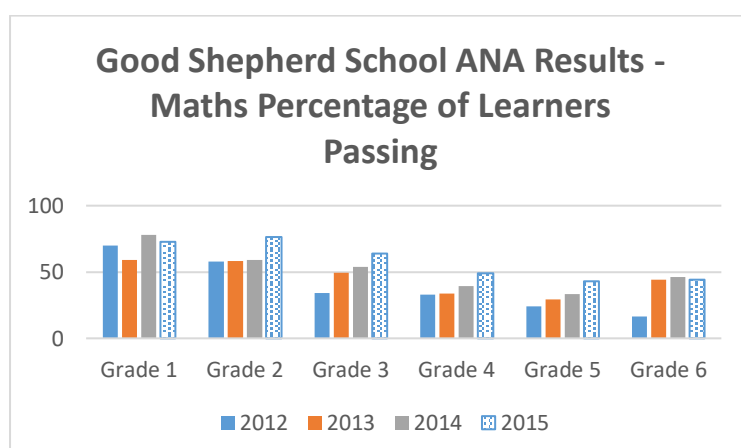
## Mechanisms for Tracking

The common mechanism for tracking academic performance comparisons at Primary School level in South Africa has, until recently been the Annual National Assessments (ANAs). This enables national and provincial comparisons and, having been conducted for a number of years consistently (up to 2014), offer useful trend data. It is recognised that questions have been raised around the validity of ANAs as an assessment tool but they are the only assessment tool that has been consistently used in all schools in all provinces across the country over a number of years and are therefore used here to reflect on comparative trends in Good Shepherd School academic performance from 2012.

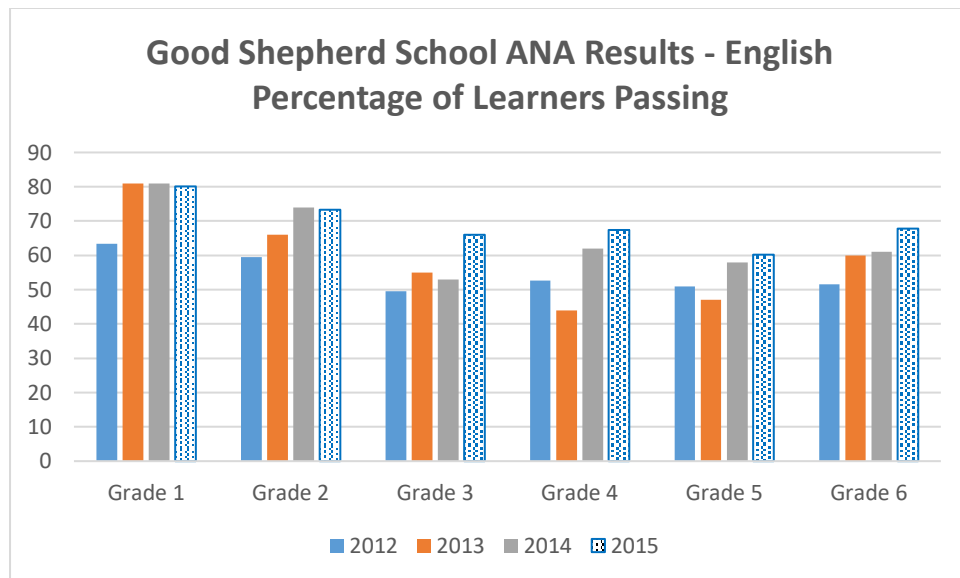
## ANA Results 2012-2015

**Note:** 2015 ANAs were fraught with problems and were not written under national and provincial supervision or with any of the normal moderation and verification processes. At Good Shepherd School the 2015 ANAs were written in Term 1 of 2016 and supervised and marked internally. No National or Provincial ANA results were released for 2015 so there is not a basis for comparison.

## Good Shepherd Maths ANA Results 2012-2015



## Good Shepherd English ANA Results 2012-2015



### Overall observations

Good Shepherd School has shown a consistent upward trend in its ANA results for both Maths and English. Pass Rates are still undeniably low, particularly in Maths. It is, however, encouraging, particularly in the 2015 results, that the Maths pass rate for Grade 4 to 6 is at least getting closer to the 50% level. English pass rates for these Grades are getting closer to 70% in 2015. Targets for the next 5 years, based on current trends, should be at least a 60% Maths pass rate and an 80% pass rate in English in Grade 4-6.

### Overview of Comparative Results (See Graphs below)

#### Maths

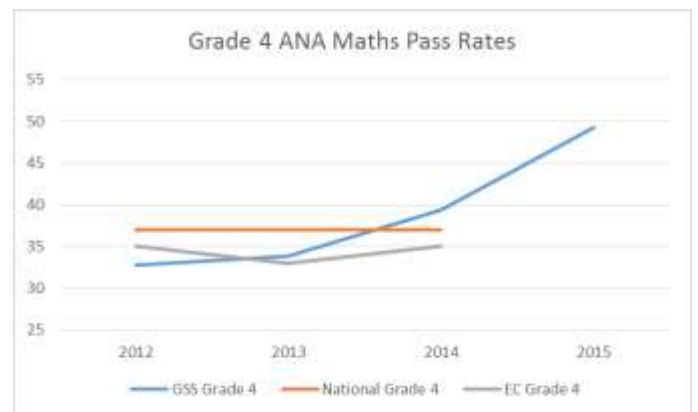
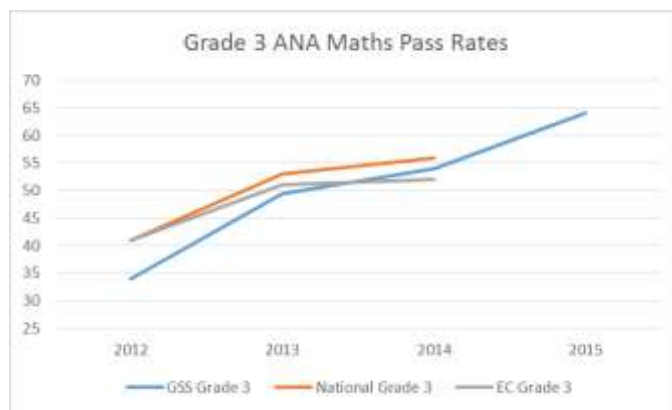
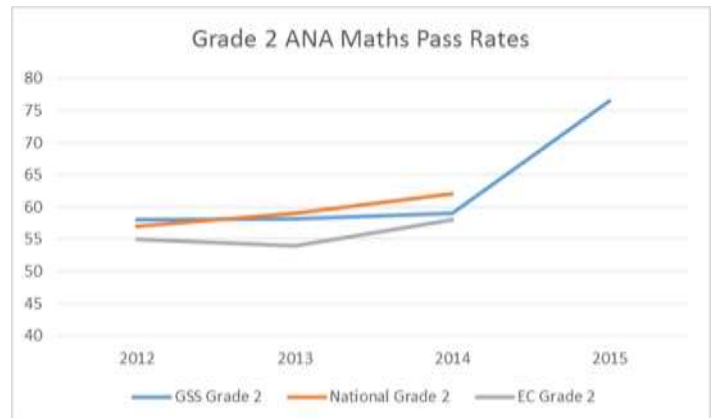
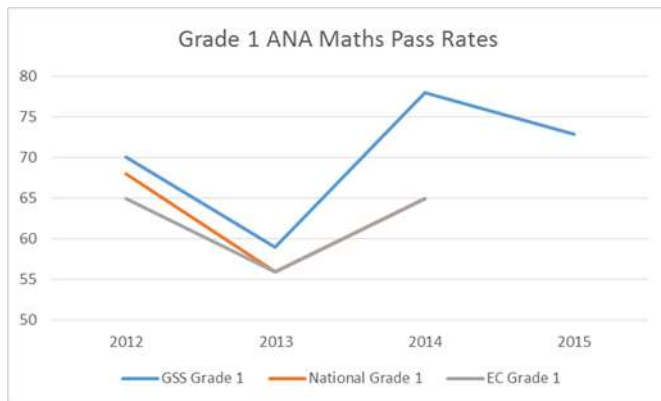
Good Shepherd School's 2014 Maths ANA results, the most recent ones for which there is comparable national and provincial data, are above both the national and provincial results for Grade 1, 4 and 6. They are above the Eastern Cape provincial results for all Grades.

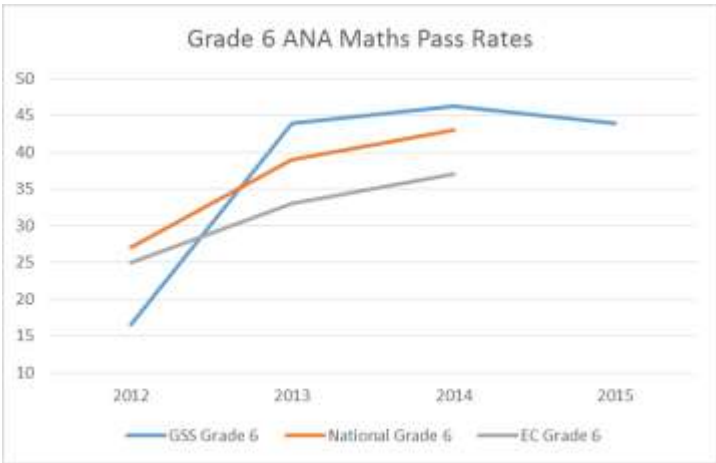
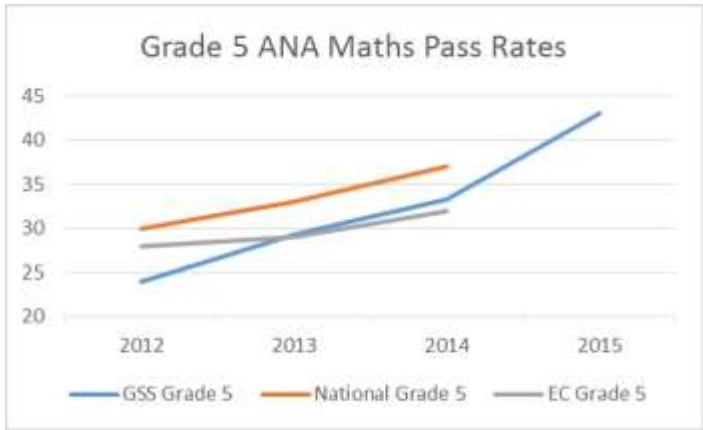
#### English

For English, Good Shepherd School's 2014 results are better than both the national and provincial results in Grade 1, 2, 4 and 5. They are better than the EC Provincial results for all Grades except Gr 3, where the GSS and Eastern Cape both had a 53 % pass rate.

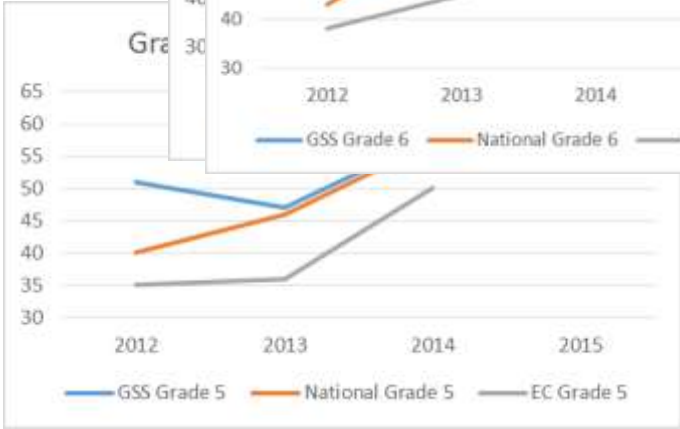
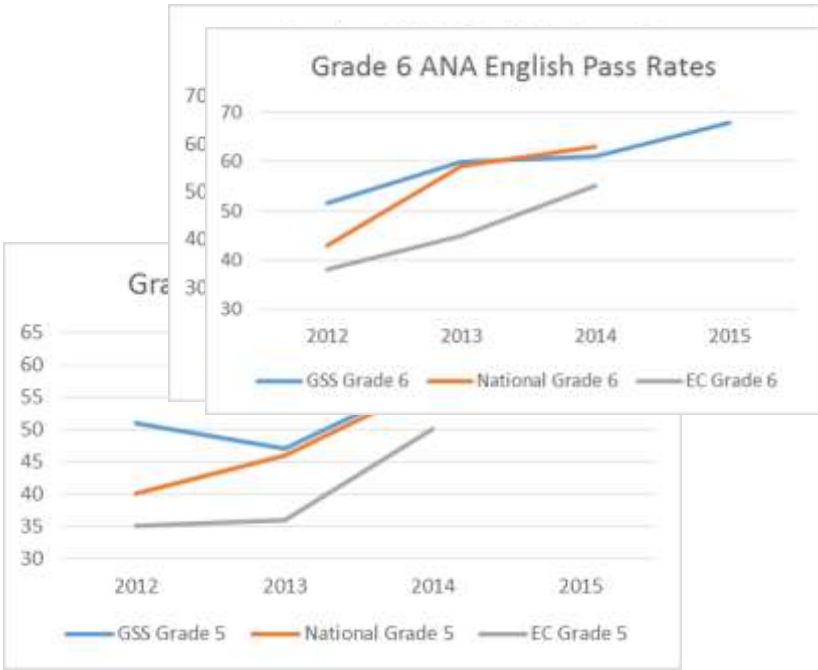
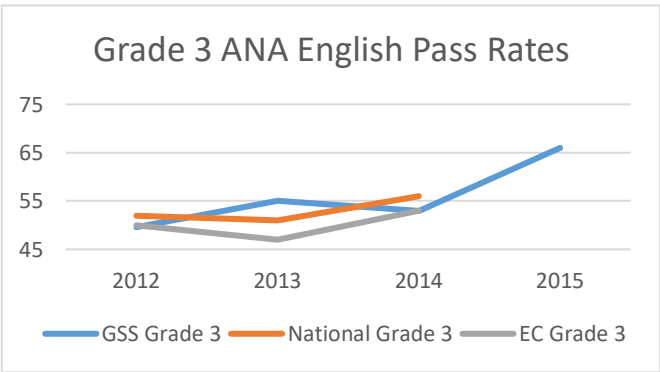
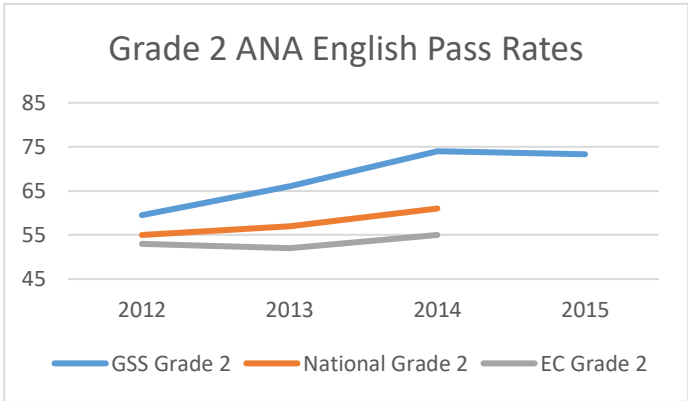
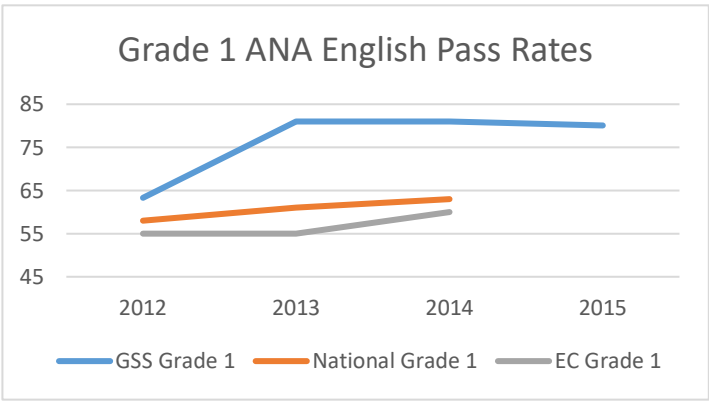
## Comparison with National and Provincial ANA Results

### Maths ANA Pass Rates by Grade





## English ANA Pass Rates by Grade



## Good Shepherd School Class Cycle Results

The internal assessment processes of the School are ongoing, reported here, as per learner Reports for the second quarter of 2016, are the learner results per grade.

### Percentage of Learners Meeting Requirements

Grades	% of learners meeting requirements	
	English HL	Maths
R	97	97
1	87	100
2	97	100
3	100	100
4	87	97
5	85	91
6	90	88
7	100	94

### Class Averages

Grades	% Class Averages - Term 2		
	English HL	Maths	Overall
R	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1	66	77	72
2	78	86	83
3	66	79	72
4	66	74	65
5	64	61	58
6	64	57	61
7	70	59	65

Trend data, following a cohort through the Grades year-on-year, as well as comparing performance per Grade from year to year, will be compiled. It must be borne in mind, however, that this is internally compiled and moderated data, so does not accurately indicate academic performance at Good Shepherd relative to other schools. A useful means for doing this is to compare the performance of Good Shepherd learners relative to other primary school learners when they progress to High School.

### Tracking former Good Shepherd Learners' Performance in High School

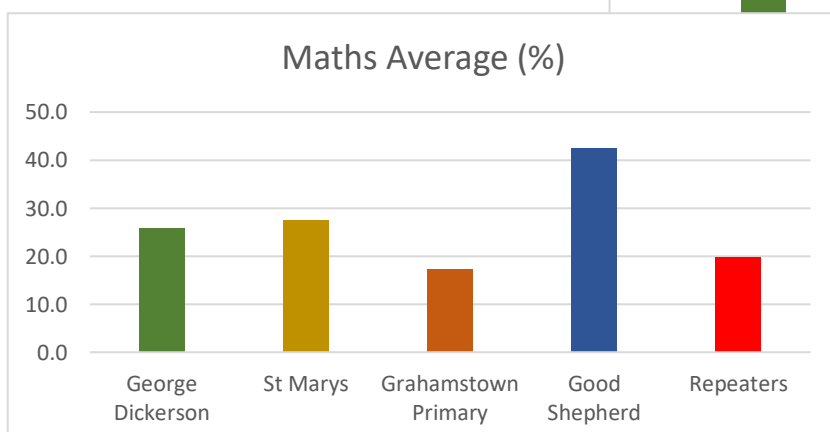
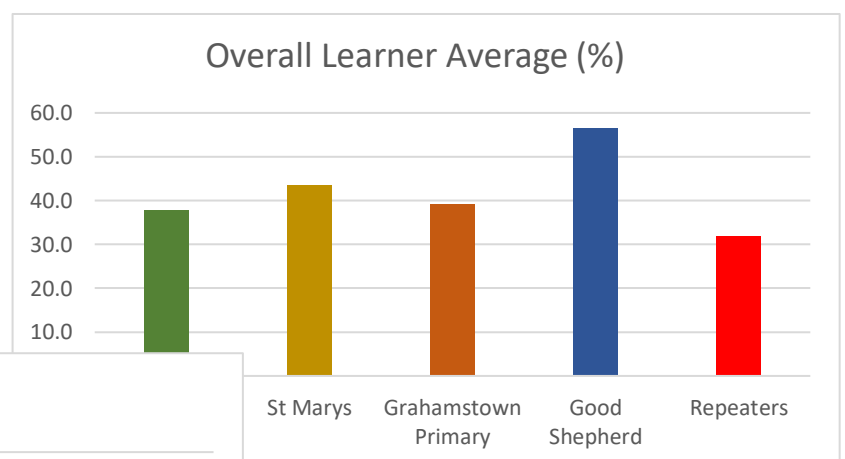
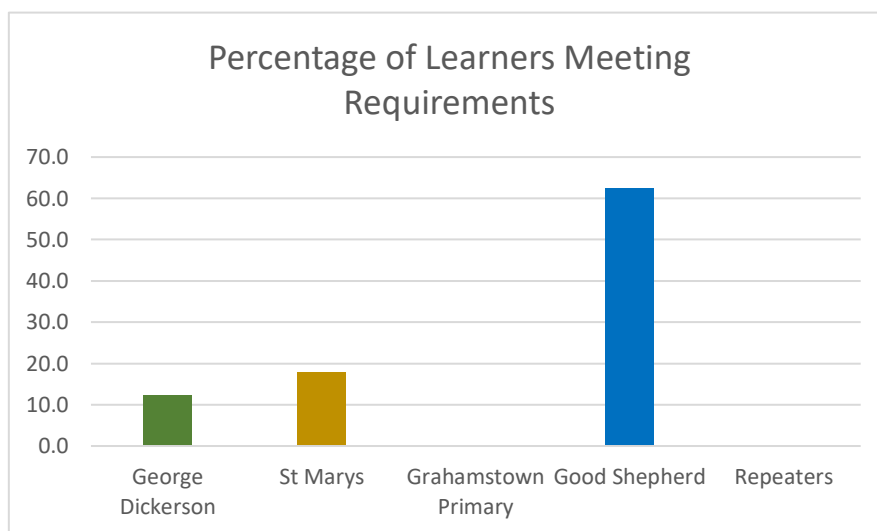
On leaving Grade 7 at Good Shepherd School, learners go to a vast array of different schools, many of them not in Grahamstown. As a start for this analysis, the currently available data is for three Grahamstown schools, Mary Waters, Ntsika High Schools (GADRA Education Core Schools) and Nombulelo High School. Data is still being sought from Victoria Girls High School and Graeme College. This tracking is very valuable as it gives an indication of the progress of Good Shepherd learners through High School and it will ultimately be possible to track final Grade 12 NSC results and progress to tertiary institutions.

#### Mary Waters High School

There are eight former Good Shepherd School learners out of a Grade 8 class of 249. In addition there are two former GSS learners repeating Grade 8. Generally Gr 8 results are very poor, over 90%

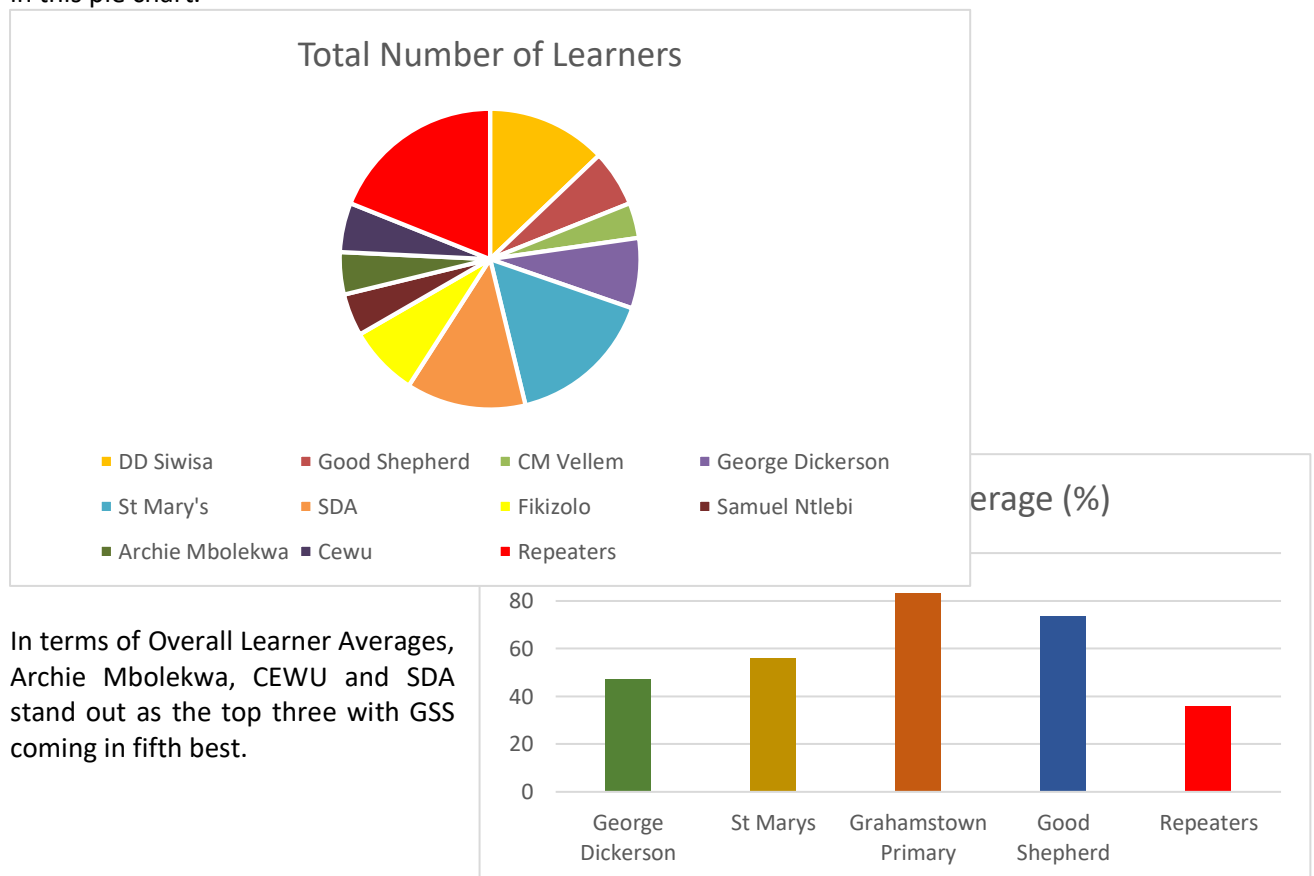
of the learners in Gr 8 did not perform well enough in the June exams to Pass (i.e. they got a NP symbol). At Mary Waters, 79 learners (32% of the full cohort) are repeating Grade 8 because they did not meet the requirements to pass Gr 8 in 2015. The performance of the 'Repeat' learners is abysmal. A stark illustration of this is that only 1% of Repeaters at Mary Waters are passing Maths and the average Maths mark of Repeaters at Mary Waters is 20%.

Mary Waters has 4 main feeder schools, namely, George Dickerson (65 learners), St Marys (56 learners), Grahamstown Primary (22 learners) and Good Shepherd School (8 learners). Of these, Good Shepherd School (admittedly with only 8 former learners) stands out head and shoulders above the other schools on the following measures: Percentage of Learners Meeting Requirements (62.5%); Overall Learner Average (56.5%); Maths Average (42.4%) and Maths Pass Rate (62.5%). On English Home Language, Grahamstown Primary former learners performed extremely well, attaining 100% Pass Rate and 83% Average. The Mary Waters Feeder School analysis is illustrated graphically here.

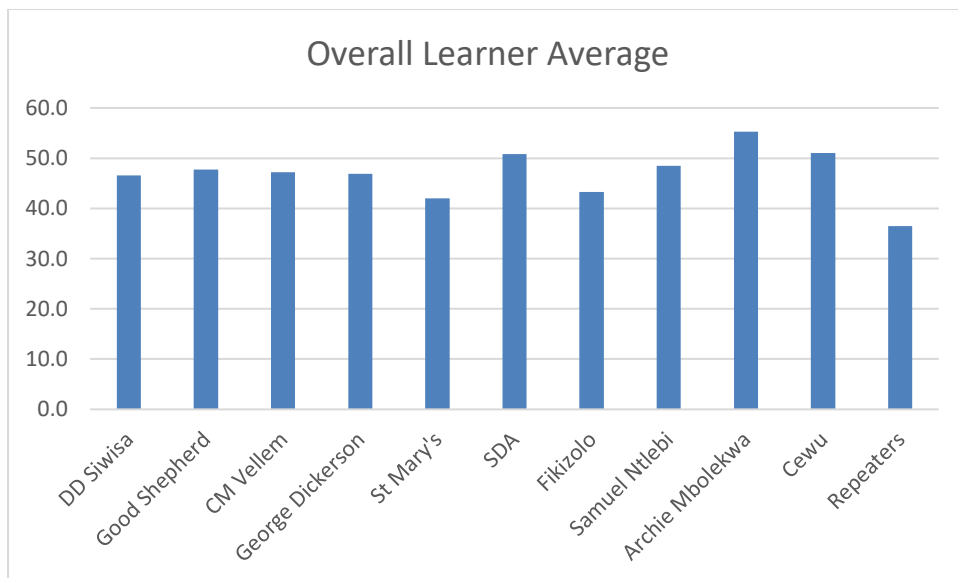


### Ntsika High School

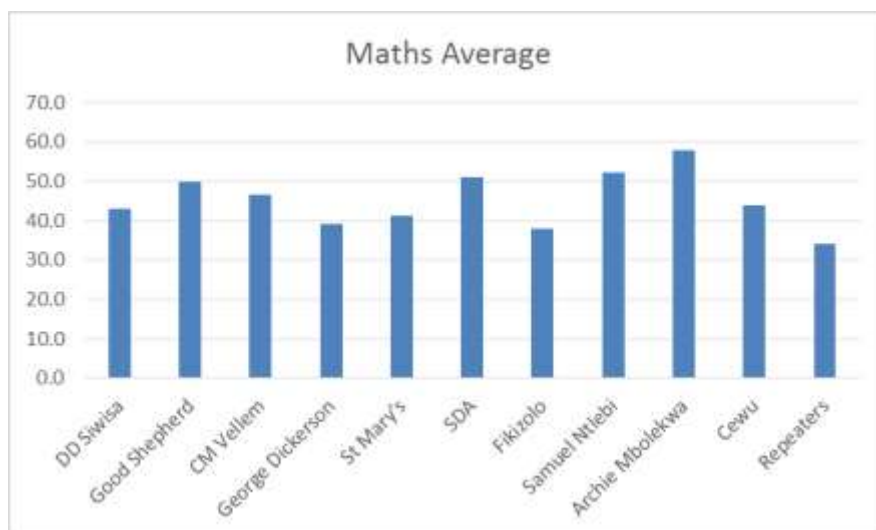
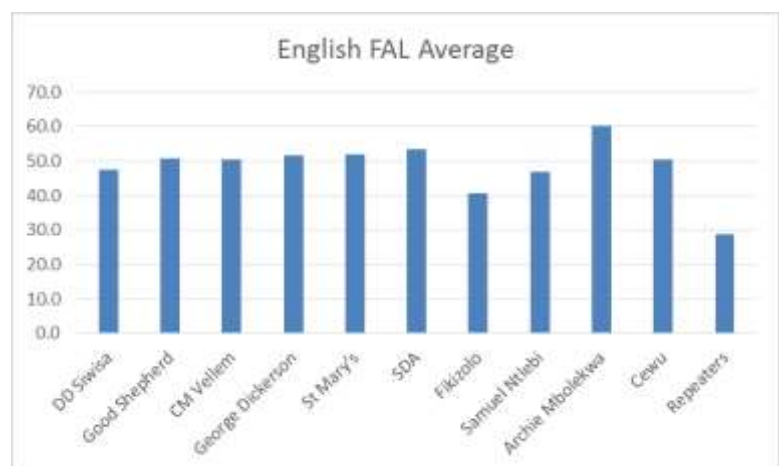
There are learners from a much broader range of Primary Schools feeding into Ntsika. The largest feeder school is St Mary's (21 learners) with DD Siwisa and the Seventh Day Adventist School being the joint second biggest feeder schools (each with 17 learners). George Dickerson 10 learners, Cewu has 7, Archie Mbolekwa 6 and CM Vellem, 5. Of the class of 130 there are 8 former Good Shepherd School learners. The full spread of the main feeder schools (all with 5 or more learners) is illustrated in this pie chart.







In English FAL, Archie Mbolekwa is the top performer (with an Average of 60% and a 100% Pass Rate, admittedly for only 6 learners), SDA next and GSS comes in third with a 50% average. The GSS learners' average is **5% higher in English** than that of the full cohort of Gr8 Ntsika learners in this subject (Full cohort Gr 8 average – 46%, GSS learners average – 51%).



Four Schools attained a Maths average of 50% or more, namely Archie Mbolekwa (the only school to attain a 100% pass rate in Maths), Samuel Ntlebi, SDA and Good Shepherd School. The average of GSS learners' is **8% higher in Maths** than the average of the full cohort (Full cohort Gr8 average – 42%, GSS Maths average – 50%).

### **Nombulelo High School**

There are 4 former GSS learners at Nombulelo High School. We do not have access to all learners' results but only for the 4 former GSS learners and the class averages. For English FAL, the average of the four former GSS Learners is 55% and the Grade average is 44%. For Maths, the Term 3 Grade Average is 34% and the average of the four former GSS learners is 55%, over 20% higher than the Grade average! The overall average of the four former GSS learners is 50% which is 9% higher than the Overall Grade Average of 41%.

### **Other Grahamstown Schools**

Generally standing out as having done well in comparison with other learners in the former township High Schools is not sufficient as performance in these schools is sadly still very poor. It is hoped that data will be made available from the two former Model C schools in Grahamstown, Victoria Girls High School and Graeme College, which generally have very good academic performance. This will enable benchmarking of Good Shepherd former learners' academic performance against these standards to which Good Shepherd School aspires.

### **Academic Tracking for the future**

With the ANAs seemingly having been discontinued by the Department of Education in 2016, it is the intention of the Good Shepherd Trust to set up other baseline assessment processes in 2017 at Good Shepherd School. These will be used to track the academic progress of grade cohorts progressing through the school as well as for comparative data each year per Grade. In 2017, it is hoped to do English Spelling, Reading and Comprehension Baseline Assessments. These will be done for every individual learner and will therefore also be extremely useful in identifying individual barriers to learning and common weaknesses that can be addressed in remediation for individuals and teaching strategies to address common problems.

Maths Baseline Assessments (using GM Foundation Assessment Tests) will also be conducted, starting with Grade 4s in 2017. These will be conducted again in subsequent years following the Grade cohort through the School to assess progress in response to excellent and targeted Maths teaching.

There is still a need to explore further possibilities regarding nationally and provincially comparable assessments that are done on a wide enough scale to provide comparative data to enable an assessment of Good Shepherd School progress relative to other schools nationally and provincially.