

UK Statistics Authority
Via Email

5 December 2017

Subject: DfE press release

The Department for Education's latest press release (5 December 2017)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pupils-in-england-climb-global-rankings-in-reading-and-literacy> discussing PIRLS results says:

'this year's results are the country's best to date and a dramatic improvement on the 2006 results, when England was ranked 19th out of 45 countries.'

The press release then claims this dramatic rise is due to reforms since 2010.

But the DfE omitted the 2012 PIRLS results where the leap actually took place.

Leaving out the 2012 results is a statistical sleight of hand.

I should be grateful if you could investigate.

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