

# The Social Mobility Index

Further Information

Sutton Trust

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**Improving  
social mobility  
through education**



## Overview

The Social Mobility Index ranks all 533 parliamentary constituencies in England according to five measures of social mobility through education. Looking at outcomes from the early years through to professional life, the data shows how well each constituency is doing in improving prospects for their most disadvantaged young people.

It is worth noting that the data behind each of the measures being used may have an uneven distribution, so that a difference of a few ranks may represent either a very small difference in performance or a big one. This means that small differences in average rank may not be significant.

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## 1. Performance of disadvantaged pupils in Early Years assessments

This indicator is measured by the average results for pupils eligible for Free School Meals in Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) assessments in the constituency.

This data was sourced by a Freedom of Information request from the Department for Education. More information on the EYFS framework can be found [here](#).

On this measure, the top and bottom five constituencies are:

TOP FIVE		%
<b>Highest</b>	Lewisham, Deptford	72
	Lewisham East	66
	Greenwich and Woolwich	65
	Bexleyheath and Crayford	64
	(Joint) Erith and Thamesmead, Lewisham West and Penge, South Holland and The Deepings	63

BOTTOM FIVE		%
	Leicester West	28
	Mid-Worcestershire	26
	Oxford West and Abingdon	24
	Salisbury	24
<b>Lowest</b>	Kenilworth and Southam	19

## 2. Performance of disadvantaged pupils in Key Stage 2 tests

This indicator is measured by the percentage of disadvantaged children achieving level 5 or above in reading, writing, and maths in Key Stage 2 tests at the age of eleven. On this measure, Chelsea and Fulham achieves 26% of its disadvantaged pupils achieving well at this level, whereas South West Norfolk achieves just 2%.

This data is published by the Department for Education in the [school performance tables](#).

The top and bottom five constituencies are:

TOP FIVE		%
<b>Highest</b>	Chelsea and Fulham	26
	Westminster North	23
	Greenwich and Woolwich	23
	Berwick-upon-Tweed	22
	(Joint) Kensington, West Ham, Wyre and Preston North	21

BOTTOM FIVE		%
	(Joint) Central Devon, Newbury, Corby, Blyth Valley, Redditch	3
	Spelthorne	3
	Southend West	3
	North East Cambridgeshire	2
<b>Lowest</b>	South West Norfolk	2

### 3. Performance of disadvantaged pupils at GCSE

This indicator is measured by a combination of:

- The percentage of disadvantaged children achieving 5A\*-C at GCSE (excluding equivalents)
- Average capped KS4 point score (GCSEs only) of disadvantaged children

We calculated the mean score on relevant measure for disadvantaged children, averaged across schools in the constituency, and we then took the average rank across these two indicators to find the overall GCSE ranking.

All the data is published by the Department for Education in the [school performance tables](#).

On these measures the highest performing constituency, Birmingham, Ladywood, had 55% of its disadvantaged young people achieving 5+ A\*-C grades, and they had an average capped points score of 278. At the other end of the scale, Derby South had just 20% of disadvantaged young people achieving 5+ A\*-C grades, and an average points score of 164.

The top and bottom five constituencies are:

TOP FIVE	
<b>Highest</b>	Birmingham, Ladywood
	Richmond Park
	Westminster North
	Barking
	Kenilworth and Southam

BOTTOM FIVE	
	Carlisle
	South West Bedfordshire
	North Thanet
	Blackpool North and Cleveleys
<b>Lowest</b>	Derby South

## 4. Progress of disadvantaged pupils to universities

As there is no reliable constituency level data for access to universities, local authority level data have been used for this indicator. We have looked at two measures:

- The proportion of young people on Free School Meals progressing to one to the 'top third' of universities
- The proportion of young people on Free School Meals progressing to any higher education destination

This data is published by the Department for Education in the Key Stage 5 [Destination Data](#).

Where there is no data for the relevant local authority we have not given constituencies a rank on this measure. To get an overall ranking on access to universities we have taken the average of the results for the individual indicators, where available.

On this measure, the highest performing constituencies (Stretford & Urmston and Altrincham & Sale West) achieved 78% of its young people eligible for free school meals going to Higher Education, and 44% of them going to one of the 'top third' of institutions. Conversely, Wakefield, Hemsworth and Normanton, Pontefract & Castleford (ranked joint 375 – last in constituencies for which there is full data) achieved just 29% going to Higher Education, and none going to one in the 'top third'.

The top and bottom five constituencies are:

TOP FIVE	
<b>Highest</b>	Stretford and Urmston; Altrincham and Sale West
	East Ham
	West Ham
	Ilford North; Ilford South; Leyton and Wanstead

BOTTOM 5	
	Newcastle upon Tyne Central, Newcastle upon Tyne East; Newcastle upon Tyne North
	Isle of Wight
<b>Lowest</b>	Hemsworth; Wakefield; Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford

## 5. Progress of non-privileged graduates to professional occupations

The indicator for this measure is the proportion of first generation graduates from the constituency going on to professional jobs.

This data is from the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education survey data. More information on the survey can be found [here](#).

We have calculated the percentage of first generation graduates domiciled in the constituency who report being in a professional job (defined as a job falling in National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification analytic classes 1.1 or 1.2) or being in further study.

On this measure, 44% of first generation graduates in Harrogate and Knaresborough go on to work in professional jobs soon after graduation, compared to just 19% in Stoke-on-Trent North.

The top and bottom five constituencies are:

TOP FIVE		%
<b>Highest</b>	Harrogate and Knaresborough	44
	Bristol West	42
	Camborne and Redruth	41
	Truro and Falmouth	40
	Leeds North East	40

BOTTOM FIVE		%
	Spelthorne	21
	Sheffield, Brightside and Hillsborough	20
	Liverpool, Walton	20
	Blackpool South	19
<b>Lowest</b>	Stoke-on-Trent North	19

### **Overall Performance**

Averaged across all five measures, the best and worst performing constituencies are:

<b>TOP FIVE</b>		<b>Rank</b>
<b>Highest</b>	Westminster North	1
	Chipping Barnet	2
	Leyton and Wanstead	3
	Hexham	4
	Chelsea and Fulham	5

<b>BOTTOM FIVE</b>		<b>Rank</b>
	Ashfield	529
	Loughborough	530
	Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford	531
	Barnsley Central	532
<b>Lowest</b>	South Derbyshire	533



## Policy Recommendations

These results show that there are big differences across the country in the chances of young people getting ahead. To ensure that all young people get a good start in life, the Sutton Trust suggests the following policies from our [Mobility Manifesto](#) that we encourage politicians on all sides to embrace:

1. Ensure all disadvantaged children can access the best early years education and care. In particular, all disadvantaged two year-olds should have access to nursery places with well qualified staff.
2. Make improving the quality of classroom teaching the top priority in schools, with effective appraisals and a guaranteed entitlement to good quality training for all teachers.
3. Create fairer school admissions to both state grammar schools and comprehensives at age 11, including through the increased use of ballots and banding in admissions.
4. Improve the impact of the pupil premium through greater use of evidence provided by the Education Endowment Foundation and incentives for schools that narrow the attainment gap.
5. Develop an effective national programme for highly able state school pupils, with ring-fenced funding to support evidence-based activities and tracking of pupils' progress.
6. Strengthen academies' support for low and middle income pupils by regular inspection of chains, publication of more data across chains and speedier interventions where academies are not working.
7. Break down barriers between state and private schools, by promoting more partnership working and opening 100 leading independent day schools to all on the basis of ability rather than ability to pay.
8. Provide every young person with an entitlement to good quality personalised education and careers guidance, strengthening the national careers service to support schools and colleges effectively.
9. Introduce a new body, separate from individual universities, for the effective coordination of evidence-based outreach programmes, backed by more use of contextual admissions to improve access.
10. Greatly expand the number of good apprenticeships so that young people have real options at 18 and employers can develop the skilled workforce they need.