



Progress scores for 16 to 18: school and college performance tables 2018

How we calculate progress 'bandings'

In the school and college performance tables, progress scores for A level, academic (including A levels) and applied general qualifications are grouped into five bandings:

- well below average
- below average
- average
- above average
- well above average

The majority¹ of providers in the 'well below average' banding are below the [16 to 18 minimum standards](#)².

The bandings look like this:

Well below average

Below average

Average

Above average

Well above average

The table below explains how we calculated the bandings for 2018 compared to 2017.

What the progress scores show

The progress scores in the performance tables show the progress each student makes between key stage 4 and level 3 qualifications (excluding tech levels), compared with the actual progress made by students nationally who had similar levels of attainment at key stage 4. Progress is shown separately for academic (including A levels) and applied general qualifications.

Read more in section 5 'Progress (and combined completion/attainment measure)' in the [16 to 18 Accountability headline measures: technical guide](#) about how to calculate and interpret progress scores for academic and applied general.

¹ The group of providers that are in-scope for minimum standards is smaller than those in-scope for progress banding as independent and special schools are not subjected to minimum standards.

² This is only applicable to academic and applied general qualifications.

See the [school and college performance tables](#) to check your school/college's performance.

How we calculated the bandings for 2018³ compared to 2017³

Progress description	A level progress bands	
	2018	2017
Well above average	About 5% of schools/colleges in England Score is 0.32 or higher, and lower confidence interval limit is higher than 0.	About 5% of schools/colleges in England Score is 0.30 or higher, and lower confidence interval limit is higher than 0.
Above average	About 17% of schools/colleges in England Score is higher than 0 but lower than 0.32, and lower confidence interval limit is higher than 0.	About 15% of schools/colleges in England Score is higher than 0 but lower than 0.30, and lower confidence interval limit is higher than 0.
Average	About 48% of schools/colleges in England Lower confidence interval is 0 or lower, and the upper confidence interval limit is 0 or higher.	About 48% of schools/colleges in England Lower confidence interval is 0 or lower, and the upper confidence interval limit is 0 or higher.
Below average	About 24% of schools/colleges in England Score is minus 0.56 or higher but less than 0, and upper confidence interval limit is lower than 0.	About 27% of schools/colleges in England Score is minus 0.50 or higher but less than 0, and upper confidence interval limit is lower than 0.
Well below average	About 5% of schools/colleges in England Score is lower than minus 0.56 and upper confidence interval limit is lower than 0.	About 5% of schools/colleges in England Score is lower than minus 0.50 and upper confidence interval limit is lower than 0.

³ The approximate percentage of institutions included in each banding for 2017 and 2018 progress description has been rounded to the nearest percentage point. We use normal rounding conventions as described in the following section in this guidance: [The rounding method we used in school and college performance tables](#). Therefore, for example, 48.1% will be rounded down to 48%.

Progress description	Academic progress bands	
	2018	2017
Well above average	<p>About 5% of schools/colleges in England</p> <p>Score is 0.32 or higher, and lower confidence interval limit is higher than 0.</p>	<p>About 5% of schools/colleges in England</p> <p>Score is 0.30 or higher, and lower confidence interval limit is higher than 0.</p>
Above average	<p>About 17% of schools/colleges in England</p> <p>Score is higher than 0 but lower than 0.32, and lower confidence interval limit is higher than 0.</p>	<p>About 15% of schools/colleges in England</p> <p>Score is higher than 0 but lower than 0.30, and lower confidence interval limit is higher than 0.</p>
Average	<p>About 49% of schools/colleges in England</p> <p>Lower confidence interval is 0 or lower, and the upper confidence interval limit is 0 or higher.</p>	<p>About 47% of schools/colleges in England</p> <p>Lower confidence interval is 0 or lower, and the upper confidence interval limit is 0 or higher.</p>
Below average	<p>About 24% of schools/colleges in England</p> <p>Score is minus 0.56 or higher but less than 0, and upper confidence interval limit is lower than 0.</p>	<p>About 28% of schools/colleges in England</p> <p>Score is minus 0.52 or higher but less than 0, and upper confidence interval limit is lower than 0.</p>
Well below average	<p>About 6% of schools/colleges in England</p> <p>Score is lower than minus 0.56 and upper confidence interval limit is lower than 0.</p>	<p>About 5% of schools/colleges in England</p> <p>Score is lower than minus 0.52 and upper confidence interval limit is lower than 0.</p>

Progress description	Applied General progress bands	
	2018	2017
Well above average	About 6% of schools/colleges in England Score is 0.58 or higher, and lower confidence interval limit is higher than 0.	About 5% of schools/colleges in England Score is 0.85 or higher, and lower confidence interval limit is higher than 0.
Above average	About 12% of schools/colleges in England Score is higher than 0 but lower than 0.58, and lower confidence interval limit is higher than 0.	About 27% of schools/colleges in England Score is higher than 0 but lower than 0.85, and lower confidence interval limit is higher than 0.
Average	About 66% of schools/colleges in England Lower confidence interval is 0 or lower, and the upper confidence interval limit is 0 or higher.	About 53% of schools/colleges in England Lower confidence interval is 0 or lower, and the upper confidence interval limit is 0 or higher.
Below average	About 10% of schools/colleges in England Score is minus 0.58 or higher but less than 0, and upper confidence interval limit is lower than 0.	About 11% of schools/colleges in England Score is minus 0.65 or higher but less than 0, and upper confidence interval limit is lower than 0.
Well below average	About 6% of schools/colleges in England Score is lower than minus 0.58 and upper confidence interval limit is lower than 0.	About 5% of schools/colleges in England Score is lower than minus 0.65 and upper confidence interval limit is lower than 0.

The rounding method we used in school and college performance tables

Progress scores and confidence intervals are published to two decimal places and use normal rounding conventions. For example, digits less than 5 are rounded down and those that are 5 or more are rounded up. Therefore a score of 0.21453 will be rounded down to 0.21 and a score of 0.09540 will be rounded up to 0.10. The progress bandings are calculated from rounded progress scores and this is an established convention within the performance tables.

We base our bandings, and whether we consider a school or college's score to be above or below average (significantly different from 0), on the published value of the confidence interval at two decimal places. For example, we do not treat a school with an upper confidence limit of -0.00234, which is shown as 0.00, as significantly below average.



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