

Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers

2019-20

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The purpose of this statistical bulletin is to provide an analysis of the latest annual data collection relating to qualifications and destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers from grant-aided schools in the 2019/20 academic year.

Reader Information

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Key Points

- Given the new method of awarding grades in 2019/20, caution should be taken when drawing any conclusions relating to changes in student performance. Year-on-year changes might have been impacted by the different process for awarding qualifications in 2019/20 rather than reflecting a change in underlying performance.
- The proportion of school leavers achieving **at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent** has increased by 4.9 percentage points from 2018/19 (86.4%) and by 10.2 percentage points from five years ago (81.1% in 2014/15) to 91.3% in 2019/20.
- At 76.2%, the proportion of school leavers achieving **at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths** has increased by 5.4 percentage points from 2018/19 (70.8%) and has increased by 10.2 percentage points since 2014/15 (66.0%).
- The proportion of free school meal entitled school leavers achieving **at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths** increased by 6.2 percentage points from 49.5% in 2018/19 to 55.7% in 2019/20.
- The proportion of school leavers achieving **three or more A-levels at grades A* - C or equivalent** was 52.2% in 2019/20, an increase of 14.0 percentage points from five years ago (38.2% in 2014/15).
- The proportion of school leavers continuing on to **Institutions of Higher Education** increased by 5.6 percentage points from 42.3% in 2014/15 to 47.9% in 2019/20. Overall, 95.3% of school leavers were recorded by their school as entering **Education, Employment or Training**.

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Introduction

Uses of Qualification and Destination data

The primary reason for this data collection exercise is to create a statistical base to inform a wide range of policy areas aimed at raising standards and tackling educational underachievement. Data collected throughout this process are used by policy teams within the Department of Education (DE) and by other users across the education service, most notably by the Education and Training Inspectorate and the Education Authority. The data are used to respond to Assembly questions and are included in the Department's accountability and performance management process. The data are also used in the development, implementation and monitoring of policies, in particular the Literacy and Numeracy strategy, school improvement programmes and relevant Departmental Milestones.

Background information

Awarding Arrangements for GCSE and A-Level Qualifications in Summer 2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in line with the other UK regions, public examinations in summer 2020 were cancelled¹ in Northern Ireland. Results awarded by the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) for GCSEs² were based solely on the Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) provided by schools and colleges. Results awarded for A-Levels³ were the higher of the CAG or the grade initially awarded by CCEA on 13 August 2020.

Given the new method of awarding grades in 2019/20, caution should be taken when drawing any conclusions relating to changes in student performance. Year-on-year changes might have been impacted by the different process for awarding qualifications in 2019/20 rather than reflecting a change in underlying performance.

Extension of Free School Meal eligibility criteria

In 2013/14, there were 4,054 school leavers that were entitled to free schools meals, 17.9% of all school leavers. By 2019/20, this figure has increased to 5,408, 26.1% of school leavers. This increase in the proportion of school leavers with Free School Meal Entitlement (FSME) coincides with an extension of the eligibility for free school meals under the Working Tax Credit free school meal criterion. This was introduced on a phased basis with Nursery, Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 pupils eligible from September 2010 and Key Stage 2 pupils eligible from September 2011. It was extended to post-primary pupils from September 2014.

Other information

Statistics relating to school numbers and enrolments can be found on the Statistics and research section of the Department of Education website⁴.

¹ [Minister announces arrangements for summer examinations](#)

² [Centre Assessed Grades to be awarded at GCSE in Northern Ireland](#)

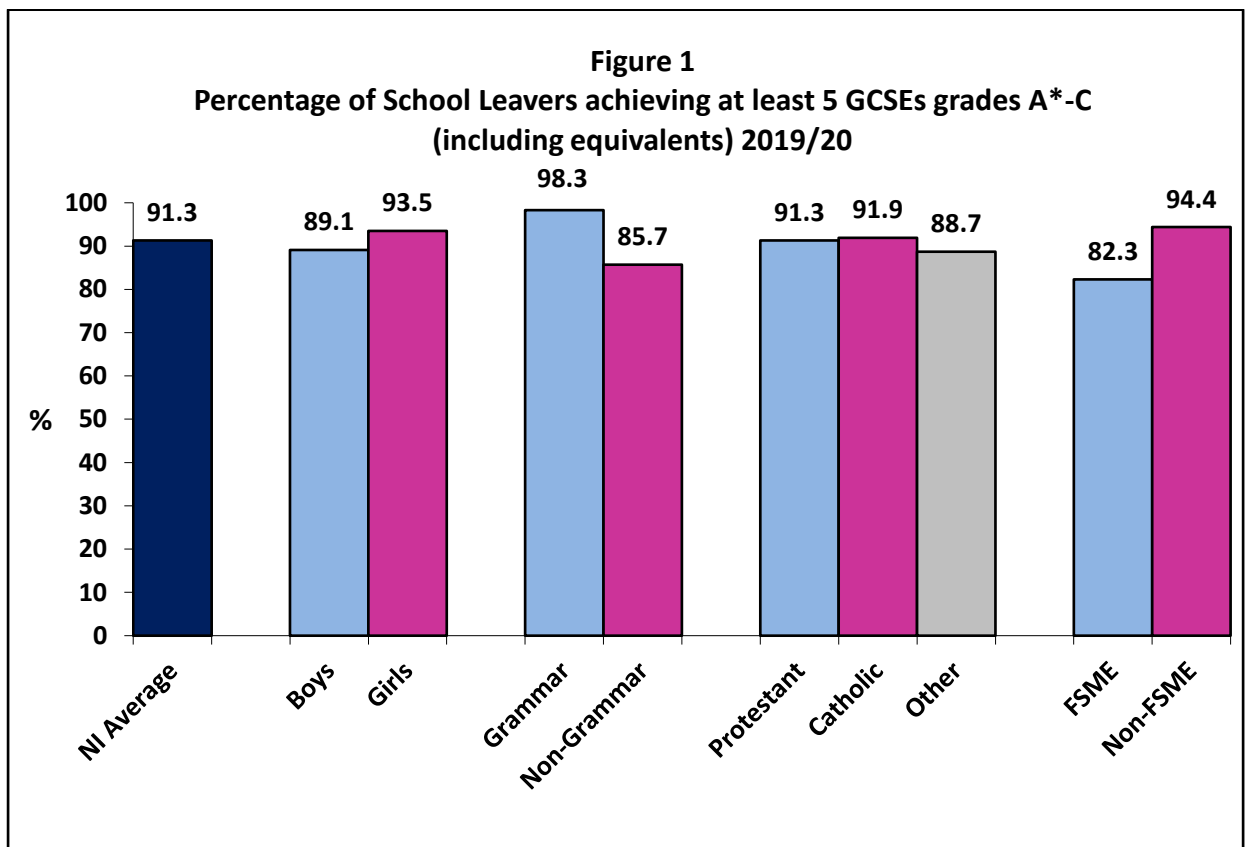
³ [Changes to AS and A-Level awards in Northern Ireland](#)

⁴ [Statistics and Research Section of Department of Education website](#)

Section 1: Qualifications

1.15+ GCSEs A* - C including equivalent qualifications

- The proportion of school leavers achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent has increased by 4.9 percentage points from 2018/19 (86.4%) and by 10.2 percentage points from five years ago (81.1% in 2014/15) to 91.3% in 2019/20 ([Table 11](#), [Figure 1](#)).
- As in previous years, the proportion of girls leaving school with at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent remains higher than the proportion of boys; 93.5% of girls leaving school in 2019/20 achieved this standard compared with 89.1% of boys ([Table 1](#), [Table 12](#), [Table 13](#) & [Figure 1](#)).



- The proportion of pupils leaving non-grammar schools who achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent has increased by 16.4 percentage points from 69.3% in 2014/15 to 85.7% in 2019/20. The corresponding proportion for grammar schools has increased slightly from 98.0% in 2014/15 to 98.3% in 2019/20 ([Table 1](#), [Appendix A](#) & [Figure 1](#)).
- The proportion of pupils leaving non-grammar schools who achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent has increased by 7.1 percentage points from 78.6% in 2018/19 to 85.7% in 2019/20. At 98.3% in 2019/20, the proportion of pupils leaving grammar schools who achieved this standard has increased by 2.0 percentage

points from 2018/19 when 96.3% of pupils leaving grammar schools achieved this measure ([Table 1](#)).

- The proportion of school leavers with a statement of Special Educational Need (stage 5 of the statementing process - SEN) who achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent was 71.4% in 2019/20, compared with 94.3% for those pupils without a statement of SEN. 79.5% of pupils recorded as having SEN stage 1-4 achieved this standard ([Table 10](#)).
- Following a review of SEN categories in 2017/18, a new list of SEN categories and associated descriptors was introduced from January 2019. As a consequence, SEN leavers data for 2019/20 is not comparable with SEN data for previous years. For more information please see Notes to Readers point 14.

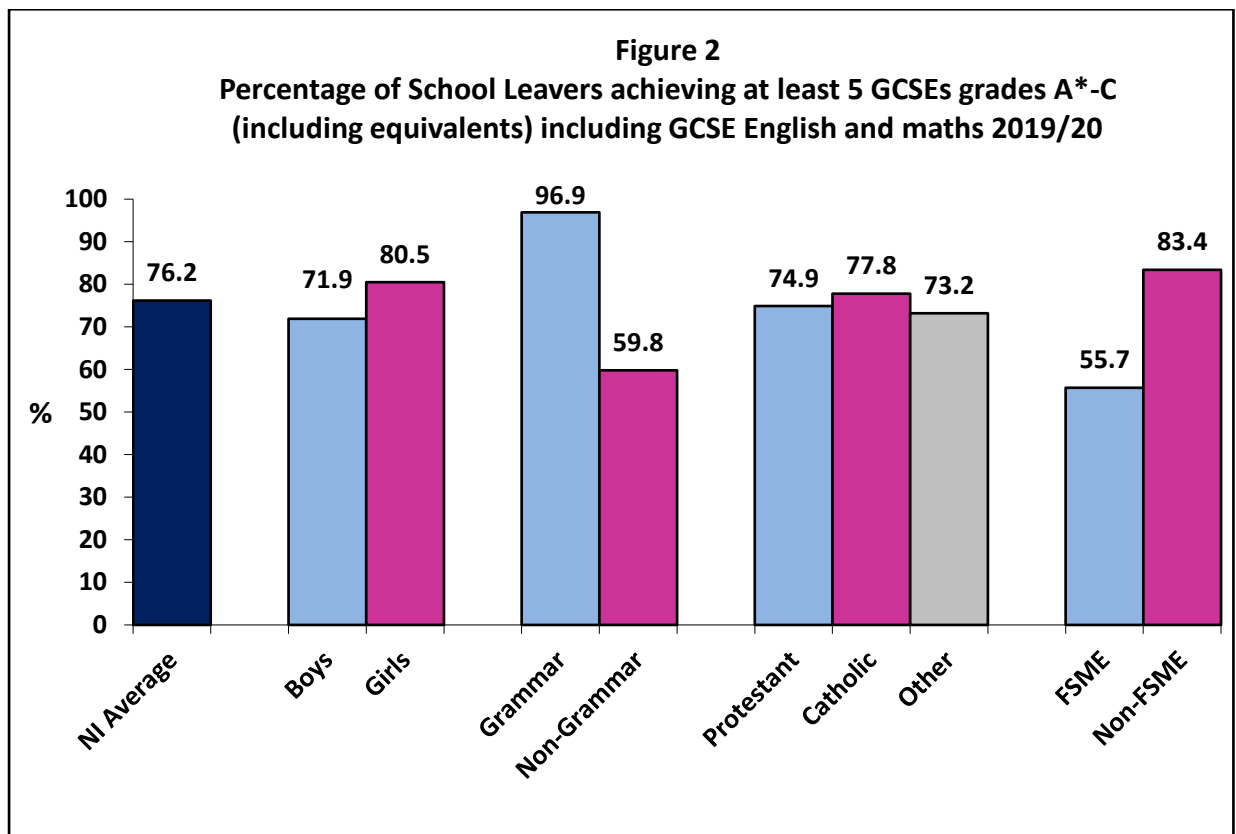
1.2 5+ GCSEs A* - C and equivalent qualifications including GCSE English and GCSE maths

- At 76.2%, the proportion of school leavers achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent (i.e. achieving at level 2 or above) including GCSE English and maths has increased by 5.4 percentage points from 2018/19 (70.8%) and has increased by 10.2 percentage points since 2014/15 (66.0%) ([Table 11](#), [Figure 2](#)).
- The proportion of free school meal entitled school leavers achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths has increased by 6.2 percentage points from 49.5% in 2018/19 to 55.7% in 2019/20 ([Table 5](#), [Figure 2](#)).
- In 2019/20, 83.4% of school leavers not entitled to free school meals achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent (i.e. achieving at level 2 or above) including GCSEs in English and maths, while 55.7% of those entitled to free school meals achieved the same measure. This represents a gap of 27.8 percentage points⁵ between these two groups compared with a gap of 32.4 percentage points between these groups in 2014/15. ([Table 5](#), [Figure 2](#)).
- There is a 15.1 percentage point gap between the proportion of pupils achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths (76.2%) and the proportion of pupils achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent (91.3%) ([Table 1](#)).
- 80.5% of girls have achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths compared with 71.9% of boys, a difference of 8.6 percentage points ([Table 1](#), [Table 9](#) & [Figure 2](#)).
- In 2019/20, 96.9% of grammar school leavers left with at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths, while 98.3% left with at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent, a difference of 1.4 percentage points. The

⁵ Figures are rounded to one decimal place for presentational purposes; figures may therefore not sum due to this rounding method.

corresponding proportions for non-grammar school leavers were 59.8% and 85.7% respectively, a difference of 25.9 percentage points (Table 1, Figure 2).

- Again, looking at the difference between these two indicators, 77.8% of Catholic pupils left school with at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths, while 91.9% left with at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent, a difference of 14.1 percentage points. The corresponding proportions for Protestant school leavers were 74.9% and 91.3% respectively, a difference of 16.4 percentage points (Table 3, Table 9 & Figure 2).
- The proportion of pupils leaving non-grammar schools who achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths has increased by 7.7 percentage points from 52.1% in 2018/19 to 59.8% in 2019/20. The proportion of pupils leaving grammar schools who achieved this standard has increased by 2.4 percentage points from 94.5% in 2018/19 to 96.9% in 2019/20 (Table 1).



- In 2019/20, 46.7% (411) of Protestant boys entitled to free school meals have achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths compared with 53.0% (818) of Catholic boys entitled to free school meals (Table 8). A greater proportion of Protestant boys with entitlement to free school meals have achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths in 2019/20 when compared with 2018/19, representing an increase of 8.8 percentage points. The corresponding measure for Catholic boys with entitlement to free school meals has increased by 6.3 percentage points from 2018/19 to 2019/20.

- Similarly, 53.6% (457) of Protestant girls entitled to free school meals have achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths compared with 65.3% (1010) of Catholic girls entitled to free school meals (Table 8). When compared with 2018/19, a greater proportion of Protestant girls entitled to free school meals achieved this measure (49.0% in 2018/19), an increase of 4.6 percentage points. There was an increase of 5.9 percentage points for Catholic girls (59.4% in 2018/19) achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths.
- Geographically the data can be analysed in terms of the school leaver's place of residence (Table 6). Analysis conducted using the 2014 District Council (DC) boundaries showed a 13.6 percentage point difference between the lowest achieving DC, which was Belfast (69.7%), and the highest achieving DC, which was Fermanagh and Omagh (83.3%), when comparing those leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths.

1.3 No GCSEs/ No Formal Qualifications

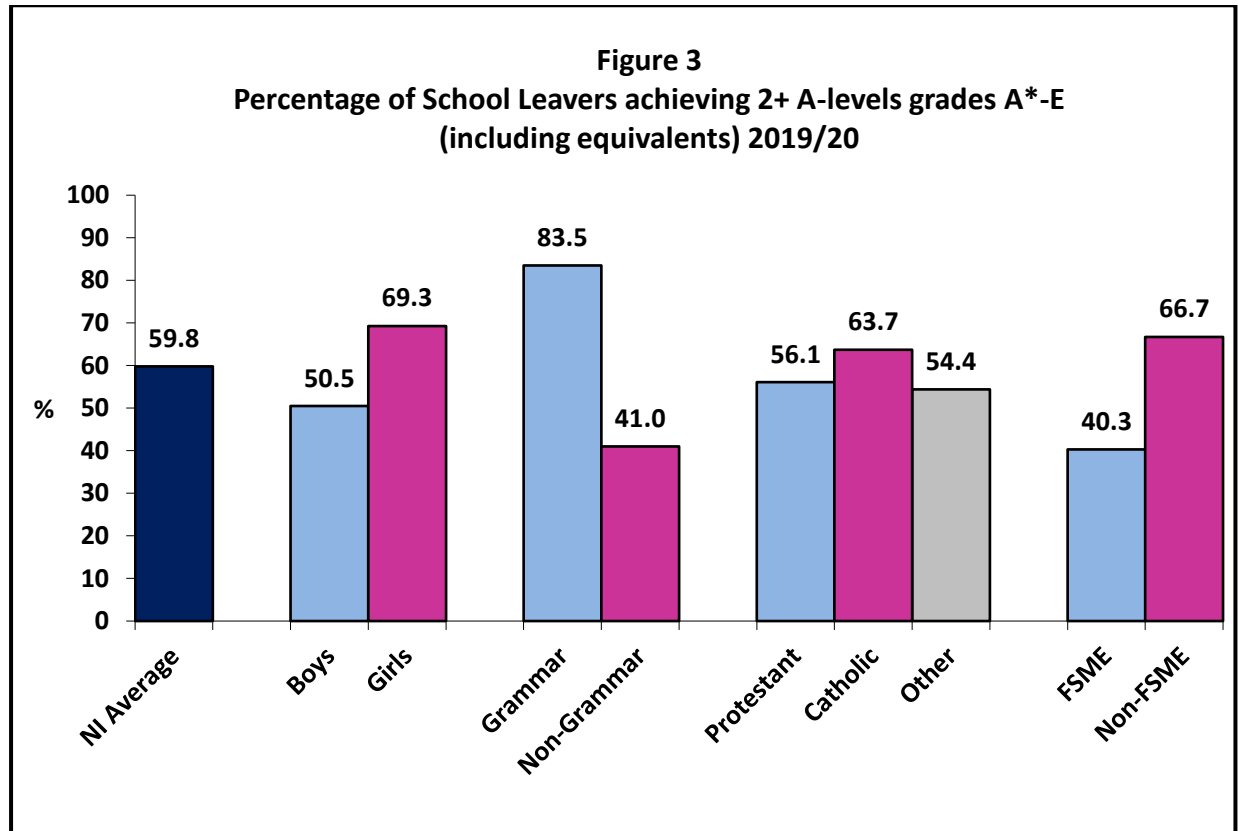
- More boys (98) left school in 2019/20 with no GCSEs or equivalent qualifications than girls (57), equating to 0.9% of all male school leavers and 0.6% of all female school leavers in 2019/20 (Table 1, Table 12 & Table 13).
- When free school meal entitlement is considered, 1.5% (80) of those entitled to free school meals left without any GCSEs compared with 0.5% (75) of school leavers who were not entitled to free school meals (Table 5).
- The proportion of pupils who left school without any formal qualifications has remained the same at 0.6% in 2018/19 and 2019/20. This applied to both male and female school leavers as the proportion of boys and girls remained at 0.7% and 0.5% respectively (Table 11, Table 12 & Table 13).

1.4 A-levels and equivalent qualifications

- The proportion of school leavers achieving three or more A-levels at grades A* - C or equivalent was 52.2% in 2019/20, an increase of 14.0 percentage points from five years ago (38.2% in 2014/15) (Table 1, Table 11).
- The proportion of school leavers achieving two or more A-levels at grades A* - E or equivalent was 59.8% in 2019/20, a 2.1 percentage point increase from the 57.7% of school leavers achieving this measure in 2014/15 (Table 1, Table 11 & Figure 3).
- Girls continued to outperform boys in terms of A-level qualifications achieved. In 2019/20, 61.6% of girls achieved at least three A-levels at grades A* - C or equivalent on leaving school compared with 43.0% of boys. Girls (69.3%) also outperformed boys (50.5%) in achieving two or more A-levels at grades A* - E or equivalent in 2019/20 (Table 1, Table 12, Table 13 & Figure 3).
- The proportion of non-grammar school leavers achieving at least two A-levels at grades A* - E or equivalent has increased by 1.4 percentage points from 39.6% in 2014/15 to

41.0% in 2019/20. Some 53.0% of non-grammar school girls have achieved this standard compared with 29.9% of non-grammar school boys ([Table 1](#), [Appendix A](#) & [Figure 3](#)).

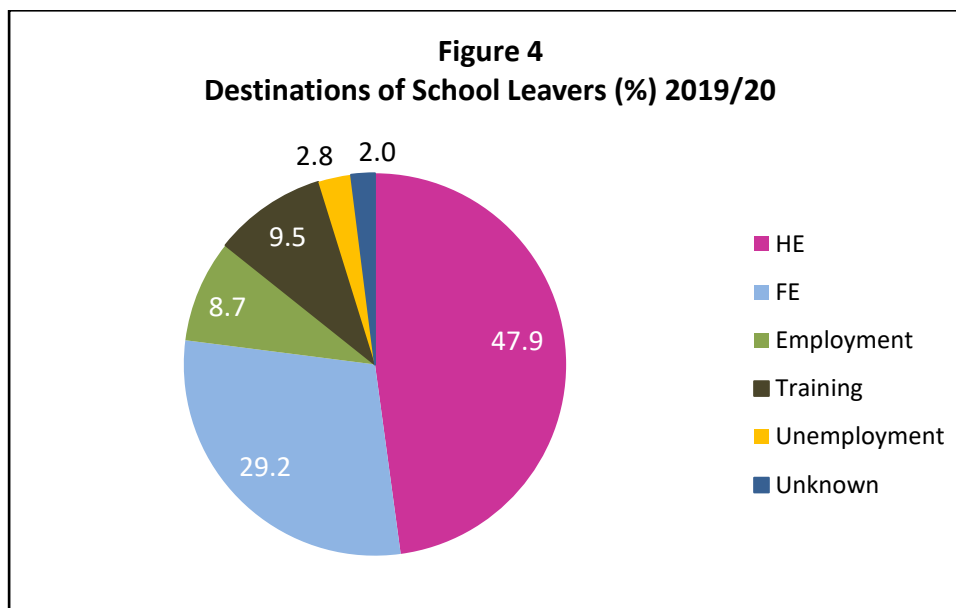
- The proportion of grammar school leavers achieving at least two A-levels at grades A* - E or equivalent has remained similar at 83.6% in 2014/15 and 83.5% in 2019/20. Some 89.0% of grammar school girls left school with two or more A-levels or equivalent compared with 77.9% of grammar school boys ([Table 1](#), [Appendix A](#) & [Figure 3](#)).



- The proportion of pupils leaving non-grammar schools who achieved at least two A-levels at grades A* - E or equivalent has increased by 3.7 percentage points from 37.3% in 2018/19 to 41.0% in 2019/20. The proportion of pupils leaving grammar schools who achieved this standard has increased by 4.5 percentage points from 79.0% in 2018/19 to 83.5% in 2019/20 ([Table 1](#)).
- When religion of pupil was considered, 63.7% of Catholic school leavers achieved two or more A-levels at grades A* - E or equivalent in 2019/20 compared with 56.1% of Protestant school leavers ([Table 3](#), [Figure 3](#)).
- The proportion of pupils achieving at least two A-levels at grades A* - E or equivalent was higher for those school leavers who were not entitled to free school meals (Non-FSME) 66.7%, compared with 40.3% of school leavers entitled to free school meals (FSME) ([Table 5](#), [Figure 3](#)).

Section 2: Destinations

The main destination of the school leaver is reported by the pupil and recorded by the school.



- In total, 47.9% of pupils leaving school in 2019/20 entered Institutions of Higher Education. At 55.8%, the proportion of girls continuing on to Institutions of Higher Education was higher than that for boys (40.2%) ([Table 14](#), [Figure 4](#)).
- When religion of pupil was considered, 44.0% of Protestant school leavers entered Institutions of Higher Education compared with 51.7% of Catholic school leavers ([Table 15](#)).
- The proportion of school leavers continuing on to Institutions of Higher Education has increased by 5.6 percentage points from 42.3% in 2014/15 to 47.9% in 2019/20. The proportion continuing on to Institutions of Further Education decreased from 35.0% in 2014/15 to 29.2% in 2019/20 ([Table 22](#)).
- In 2019/20, school leavers not entitled to free school meals were more likely to continue their education with 81.0% entering institutions of Higher or Further Education compared with 65.7% of leavers who were entitled to free school meals ([Table 17](#)).
- The proportion of school leavers entering employment has increased slightly from 8.4% in 2014/15 to 8.7% in 2019/20 ([Table 22](#)).
- At 14.5%, the proportion of boys entering Training was more than treble that of girls (4.3%) ([Table 14](#)).
- Overall, 95.3% of 2019/20 school leavers were recorded by their school as entering Education, Employment or Training. When school type was considered, 97.9% of grammar school leavers and 93.1% of non-grammar school leavers were recorded as having these destinations ([Table 14](#)).

Section 3: Notes to Readers

National Statistics

1. The Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) within the United Kingdom Statistics Authority (UKSA) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#). National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers were assessed in July 2010 and the UKSA confirmed the designation of these statistics as National Statistics in June 2011.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Since being designated as National Statistics, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics.

2. For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the Office for National Statistics Customer Contact Centre on 0845 601 3034

E-mail: info@ons.gov.uk

Fax: 01633 652747

Letters: Customer Contact Centre, Office for National Statistics, Rm D265, Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, South Wales, NP10 8XG

3. You can also find National Statistics on the [Internet](#)⁶

School Leavers Survey

4. For more detail about the procedures used in the collection of school leavers data and further information about the quality of the data used, such as relevance, accuracy, reliability and confidentiality, click [here](#)⁷.
Special analysis of the school leavers survey can be produced on request.
5. Related information for Wales, England, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland is not presented here as, given the different qualifications systems, methodologies and headline measures, it is not suitable to present a direct comparative picture of pupil performance. Figures for these regions can be accessed at the links below:

⁶ [Office for National Statistics](#)

⁷ [School leavers - Data collection and validation](#)

Wales:

[Wales Examination Results](#)

England:

[England Statistics on Education and Training](#)

Scotland:

[Scotland School leaver initial destinations and attainment](#)

Republic of Ireland:

[Republic of Ireland Education Statistics](#)

6. A comparison of Northern Ireland pupils is available in an international context through the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). PISA, organised by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) aims to compare standards of achievement for 15 year olds in reading, mathematics and science, between participating countries. It takes place every 3 years. [2018 results](#)⁸ were published in December 2019.
7. Further information on examination equivalencies can be obtained from: [Ofqual Register of Regulated Qualifications](#).
8. The numbers relating to qualifications are cumulative totals of the level detailed and those above. For example, 91.3% of school leavers achieved at least 5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including equivalents. This proportion is calculated by adding those with a highest qualification of 3+ A-levels, 2 A-levels, 1 A-level & 5 GCSEs A* - C and dividing by the total number of school leavers.
9. Destinations are reported by the school leaver and recorded by the school.
10. Since 2012/13, two AS qualifications have not been counted as one A-level as in previous years.
11. The school leaving cohort comprises of year 12, 13 and 14 pupils leaving mainstream grant-aided post-primary schools. As the school leavers data collection and validation process takes place at the start of the subsequent academic year, it is not possible to collect or validate information for pupils who left schools that closed at the end of the academic year being analysed. This would only relate to a small number of pupils, if any.
12. Percentages have been rounded to one decimal place, for presentational purposes only, and as a consequence some tables may not sum to 100. Additionally, differences between figures have been calculated based on their unrounded values; the differences reported may therefore not reflect the apparent differences between rounded figures.

⁸ [PISA 2018 Achievement of 15-year-olds - Main focus reading](#)

13. Following the introduction of General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) on 25th May 2018, Analytical Services Unit has updated its privacy notice. A link to the privacy notice and Analytical Service Units other statistical protocols can be found here [DE Statistical policies](#).
14. A full review of Special Educational Needs (SEN) categories was undertaken in 2017/18 and consequently a new list of SEN categories and associated descriptors was created. The changes to the categories were implemented from January 2019 and impacted on the 2018/19 data relating to school leavers with SEN as schools transitioned to the new system. Data relating to the qualifications and destinations of school leavers with SEN was therefore not available for 2018/19. Data relating to the attainment and destinations of school leavers within the new list of SEN categories is available from 2019/20 onwards; however, they are not comparable with SEN data for previous years. Further information on the review of SEN categories can be found here: [DE Recording children with Special Educational Needs](#).
15. School leavers data had informed two indicators (11 and 12) in the Draft Programme for Government (PfG) 2016-2021⁹. We have been advised by The Executive Office that further updates to these indicators are not required, until the new Programme for Government and associated indicators are agreed by the Executive.

Contact details for further information

Requests for further information should be addressed to:-

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DE Statistical Bulletins can be accessed at the DE Internet site – [Department of Education](#) under the Statistics and research section.

Press enquiries should be made to the Department's Press Office at the same address, telephone (028) 9127 9772 or press.office@education-ni.gov.uk

Please send any feedback on the content or presentation of this publication to the E-mail address: jessica.mccallion@education-ni.gov.uk

⁹ [The Executive Office - Programme for Government](#)

Section 4: 2019/20 Tables

Table 1

Qualifications of school leavers by gender and school type 2019/2020⁽¹⁾

GRAMMAR	Boys Numbers	Boys %	Girls Numbers	Girls %	Total Numbers	Total %
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	3166	70.3	3903	84.5	7069	77.5
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	3430	76.2	4054	87.8	7484	82.1
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	3510	77.9	4108	89.0	7618	83.5
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	4387	97.4	4582	99.2	8969	98.3
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ incl. English and maths	4293	95.3	4547	98.5	8840	96.9
At least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	4474	99.4	4603	99.7	9077	99.5
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	8	0.2	5	0.1	13	0.1
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	8	0.2	5	0.1	13	0.1
Total Grammar	4503	100.0	4618	100.0	9121	100.0
NON-GRAMMAR	Boys Numbers	Boys %	Girls Numbers	Girls %	Total Numbers	Total %
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	1349	22.5	2380	42.7	3729	32.2
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	1621	27.1	2700	48.4	4321	37.4
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	1793	29.9	2955	53.0	4748	41.0
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	4965	82.9	4950	88.8	9915	85.7
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ incl. English and maths	3254	54.3	3662	65.7	6916	59.8
At least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	5657	94.4	5387	96.6	11044	95.5
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	90	1.5	52	0.9	142	1.2
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	69	1.2	44	0.8	113	1.0
Total Non-Grammar	5991	100.0	5577	100.0	11568	100.0
TOTAL	Boys Numbers	Boys %	Girls Numbers	Girls %	Total Numbers	Total %
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	4515	43.0	6283	61.6	10798	52.2
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	5051	48.1	6754	66.2	11805	57.1
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	5303	50.5	7063	69.3	12366	59.8
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	9352	89.1	9532	93.5	18884	91.3
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ incl. English and maths	7547	71.9	8209	80.5	15756	76.2
At least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	10131	96.5	9990	98.0	20121	97.3
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	98	0.9	57	0.6	155	0.7
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	77	0.7	49	0.5	126	0.6
Total Leavers	10494	100.0	10195	100.0	20689	100.0

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Includes equivalent qualifications.
3. Includes those who undertook no GCSE examinations or obtained no graded results but who obtained other qualifications.
4. Includes only those with no qualifications of any kind.

Please see Notes to Readers point 8 for an explanation on how these figures are calculated.

Table 2

Highest qualification of school leavers by destination 2019/2020⁽¹⁾

A-Levels	Institutions of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾ Number	Institutions of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾ %	Institutions of Further Education Number	Institutions of Further Education %	Employment Number	Employment %	Training ⁽⁵⁾ Number	Training ⁽⁵⁾ %	Unemployment Number	Unemployment %	Unknown Number	Unknown %	Total Number	Total %
3+ A-Levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	9650	81.7	926	7.8	778	6.6	146	1.2	190	1.6	115	1.0	11805	100.0
2 A-Levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	212	37.8	154	27.5	128	22.8	16	2.9	37	6.6	14	2.5	561	100.0
1 A-Levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	33	18.2	59	32.6	50	27.6	13	7.2	19	10.5	7	3.9	181	100.0
GCSEs	Institutions of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾ Number	Institutions of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾ %	Institutions of Further Education Number	Institutions of Further Education %	Employment Number	Employment %	Training ⁽⁵⁾ Number	Training ⁽⁵⁾ %	Unemployment Number	Unemployment %	Unknown Number	Unknown %	Total Number	Total %
5+ GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	12	0.2	4046	63.8	630	9.9	1294	20.4	187	3.0	168	2.7	6337	100.0
1 - 4 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	0	0.0	762	50.5	183	12.1	413	27.4	85	5.6	66	4.4	1509	100.0
Other Grades (1+ GCSEs D-G) ⁽²⁾	0	0.0	56	39.7	14	9.9	34	24.1	26	18.4	11	7.8	141	100.0
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	0	0.0	36	23.2	21	13.5	42	27.1	29	18.7	27	17.4	155	100.0
Total Leavers	9907		6039		1804		1958		573		408		20689	

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Includes equivalent qualifications.
3. Includes those who undertook no GCSE examinations or obtained no graded results but who obtained other qualifications.
4. Includes universities and teacher training colleges.
5. Numbers entering training include those entering the Training for Success programme, operated by the Department for the Economy. Training on Training for Success is delivered by a range of training providers, including Further Education Colleges. Training for Success trainees who receive training at Further Education Colleges are recorded as being in training and not in Further Education. This convention avoids double counting of Training for Success trainees.

Table 3

Qualifications of school leavers by gender and religion of pupil 2019/2020⁽¹⁾

PROTESTANT	Boys Numbers	Boys %	Girls Numbers	Girls %	Total Numbers	Total %
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	1472	38.9	2212	58.2	3684	48.6
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	1684	44.5	2409	63.3	4093	53.9
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	1753	46.3	2502	65.8	4255	56.1
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	3379	89.3	3548	93.3	6927	91.3
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ incl. English and maths	2685	71.0	2997	78.8	5682	74.9
At least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	3687	97.4	3736	98.2	7423	97.8
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	20	0.5	15	0.4	35	0.5
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	18	0.5	14	0.4	32	0.4
Total Protestant	3784	100.0	3803	100.0	7587	100.0
CATHOLIC	Boys Numbers	Boys %	Girls Numbers	Girls %	Total Numbers	Total %
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	2511	47.0	3459	65.6	5970	56.2
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	2729	51.1	3681	69.8	6410	60.4
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	2886	54.0	3872	73.5	6758	63.7
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	4783	89.5	4969	94.3	9752	91.9
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ incl. English and maths	3908	73.1	4346	82.5	8254	77.8
At least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	5147	96.3	5170	98.1	10317	97.2
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	53	1.0	32	0.6	85	0.8
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	38	0.7	25	0.5	63	0.6
Total Catholic	5345	100.0	5271	100.0	10616	100.0
OTHER⁽⁵⁾	Boys Numbers	Boys %	Girls Numbers	Girls %	Total Numbers	Total %
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	532	39.0	612	54.6	1144	46.0
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	638	46.7	664	59.2	1302	52.4
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	664	48.6	689	61.5	1353	54.4
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	1190	87.2	1015	90.5	2205	88.7
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ incl. English and maths	954	69.9	866	77.3	1820	73.2
At least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	1297	95.0	1084	96.7	2381	95.8
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	25	1.8	10	0.9	35	1.4
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	21	1.5	10	0.9	31	1.2
Total Other⁽⁵⁾	1365	100.0	1121	100.0	2486	100.0

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Includes equivalent qualifications.
3. Includes those who undertook no GCSE examinations or obtained no graded results but who obtained other qualifications.
4. Includes only those with no qualifications of any kind.
5. Other includes Other Christian, No religion and Non-Christian.

Please see Notes to Readers point 8 for an explanation on how these figures are calculated.

Table 4

Qualifications of school leavers by ethnic origin 2019/2020⁽¹⁾

WHITE⁽⁵⁾	Number	%
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	10428	52.3
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	11393	57.1
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	11931	59.8
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	18258	91.5
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ incl. English and maths	15256	76.5
At least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	19450	97.5
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	126	0.6
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	103	0.5
Total White⁽⁵⁾	19950	100.0
MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS⁽⁵⁾	Number	%
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	370	50.1
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	412	55.8
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	435	58.9
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	626	84.7
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ incl. English and maths	500	67.7
At least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	671	90.8
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	29	3.9
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	23	3.1
Total Minority Ethnic Groups⁽⁵⁾	739	100.0

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Includes equivalent qualifications.
3. Includes those who undertook no GCSE examinations or obtained no graded results but who obtained other qualifications.
4. Includes only those with no qualifications of any kind.
5. 'Minority Ethnic Groups' includes Irish Travellers. 'White' does not include Irish Travellers.

Please see Notes to Readers point 8 for an explanation on how these figures are calculated.

Table 5

Qualifications of school leavers by gender and free school meal entitlement 2019/2020⁽¹⁾

ENTITLED TO FSM	Boys Numbers	Boys %	Girls Numbers	Girls %	Total Numbers	Total %
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	648	23.6	1100	41.4	1748	32.3
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	764	27.8	1237	46.5	2001	37.0
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	844	30.7	1337	50.3	2181	40.3
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	2167	78.8	2285	86.0	4452	82.3
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ incl. English and maths	1390	50.5	1620	60.9	3010	55.7
At least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	2539	92.3	2542	95.6	5081	94.0
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	52	1.9	28	1.1	80	1.5
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	43	1.6	23	0.9	66	1.2
Total entitled to FSM	2750	100.0	2658	100.0	5408	100.0
NOT ENTITLED TO FSM	Boys Numbers	Boys %	Girls Numbers	Girls %	Total Numbers	Total %
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	3867	49.9	5183	68.8	9050	59.2
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	4287	55.4	5517	73.2	9804	64.2
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	4459	57.6	5726	76.0	10185	66.7
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	7185	92.8	7247	96.2	14432	94.4
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ incl. English and maths	6157	79.5	6589	87.4	12746	83.4
At least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	7592	98.0	7448	98.8	15040	98.4
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	46	0.6	29	0.4	75	0.5
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	34	0.4	26	0.3	60	0.4
Total not entitled to FSM	7744	100.0	7537	100.0	15281	100.0

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Includes equivalent qualifications.
3. Includes those who undertook no GCSE examinations or obtained no graded results but who obtained other qualifications.
4. Includes only those with no qualifications of any kind.

Please see Notes to Readers point 8 for an explanation on how these figures are calculated.

Table 6

Qualifications of school leavers by 2014 District Council of pupil residence 2019/2020⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾

DISTRICT COUNCIL	2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ Number	2+ A- levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ %	5+ GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ Number	5+ GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ %	5+ GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ incl. GCSE English and maths Number	5+ GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ incl. GCSE English and maths %	Total Leavers Number
Antrim and Newtownabbey	935	59.8	1440	92.1	1196	76.5	1563
Ards and North Down	1000	62.7	1492	93.6	1258	78.9	1594
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	1283	52.8	2159	88.9	1811	74.6	2428
Belfast	2040	63.5	2884	89.8	2240	69.7	3212
Causeway Coast and Glens	773	50.7	1402	91.9	1150	75.4	1525
Derry City and Strabane	1094	59.4	1697	92.1	1390	75.5	1842
Fermanagh and Omagh	888	64.8	1289	94.0	1142	83.3	1371
Lisburn and Castlereagh	983	67.6	1376	94.6	1170	80.4	1455
Mid and East Antrim	882	61.0	1278	88.4	1092	75.5	1446
Mid Ulster	1091	59.7	1708	93.5	1448	79.3	1827
Newry, Mourne and Down	1307	57.7	2011	88.7	1743	76.9	2266
Invalid/Missing/Unknown Postcodes	90	56.3	148	92.5	116	72.5	160
Total Leavers	12366	59.8	18884	91.3	15756	76.2	20689

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Includes equivalent qualifications.
3. District Council of pupil residence is based on the residential postcode of each individual pupil.

Please see Notes to Readers point 8 for an explanation on how these figures are calculated.

Table 7

School leavers *not entitled* to free school meals achieving at least 5 GCSEs⁽²⁾ A*-C incl. GCSE English and GCSE maths by gender and religion of pupil 2019/2020⁽¹⁾

	Boys Numbers	Boys %	Girls Numbers	Girls %	Total Numbers	Total %
PROTESTANT	2274	78.3	2540	86.1	4814	82.2
Total	2903		2951		5854	
CATHOLIC	3090	81.3	3336	89.6	6426	85.4
Total	3803		3724		7527	
OTHER⁽³⁾	793	76.4	713	82.7	1506	79.3
Total	1038		862		1900	
ALL RELIGIONS	6157	79.5	6589	87.4	12746	83.4
Total	7744		7537		15281	

Table 8

School leavers *entitled* to free school meals achieving at least 5 GCSEs⁽²⁾ A*-C incl. GCSE English and GCSE maths by gender and religion of pupil 2019/2020⁽¹⁾

	Boys Numbers	Boys %	Girls Numbers	Girls %	Total Numbers	Total %
PROTESTANT	411	46.7	457	53.6	868	50.1
Total	881		852		1733	
CATHOLIC	818	53.0	1010	65.3	1828	59.2
Total	1542		1547		3089	
OTHER⁽³⁾	161	49.2	153	59.1	314	53.6
Total	327		259		586	
ALL RELIGIONS	1390	50.5	1620	60.9	3010	55.7
Total	2750		2658		5408	

Table 9

School leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs⁽²⁾ A*-C incl. GCSE English and GCSE maths by gender and religion of pupil 2019/2020⁽¹⁾

	Boys Numbers	Boys %	Girls Numbers	Girls %	Total Numbers	Total %
PROTESTANT	2685	71.0	2997	78.8	5682	74.9
Total	3784		3803		7587	
CATHOLIC	3908	73.1	4346	82.5	8254	77.8
Total	5345		5271		10616	
OTHER⁽³⁾	954	69.9	866	77.3	1820	73.2
Total	1365		1121		2486	
ALL RELIGIONS	7547	71.9	8209	80.5	15756	76.2
Total	10494		10195		20689	

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Includes equivalent qualifications.
3. Other includes Other Christian, No religion and Non-Christian.

Please see Notes to Readers point 8 for an explanation on how these figures are calculated.

Table 10

Qualifications of school leavers by Special Educational Need (SEN) status 2019/2020⁽¹⁾

	No SEN Number	No SEN %	SEN Stages 1-4 Number	SEN Stages 1-4 %	SEN Stage 5 Number	SEN Stage 5 %	Total Number	Total %
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	9987	58.6	632	24.6	179	16.7	10798	52.2
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	10865	63.8	730	28.4	210	19.6	11805	57.1
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	11313	66.4	794	30.9	259	24.1	12366	59.8
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	16072	94.3	2045	79.5	767	71.4	18884	91.3
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ incl. English and maths	14219	83.4	1174	45.6	363	33.8	15756	76.2
At least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	16799	98.6	2404	93.4	918	85.5	20121	97.3
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	61	0.4	40	1.6	54	5.0	155	0.7
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	58	0.3	38	1.5	30	2.8	126	0.6
Total Leavers	17042	100.0	2573	100.0	1074	100.0	20689	100.0

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Includes equivalent qualifications.
3. Includes those who undertook no GCSE examinations or obtained no graded results but who obtained other qualifications.
4. Includes only those with no qualifications of any kind.

Please see Notes to Readers point 8 for an explanation on how these figures are calculated.

Table 11

 Qualifications of school leavers 2014/2015 to 2019/2020⁽¹⁾

	2014/15 %	2015/16 %	2016/17 %	2017/18 %	2018/19 %	2019/20 %
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	38.2	38.4	40.7	40.7	41.0	52.2
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	52.4	52.4	54.3	53.4	52.5	57.1
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	57.7	57.3	58.5	56.7	55.6	59.8
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	81.1	81.7	83.8	85.2	86.4	91.3
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ incl. English and maths	66.0	67.7	69.6	70.6	70.8	76.2
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	95.9	95.7	96.6	96.6	97.0	97.3
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.7
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.6
TOTAL LEAVERS	22361	22746	21983	21562	21601	20689

Table 12

 Qualifications of male school leavers 2014/2015 to 2019/2020⁽¹⁾

	2014/15 %	2015/16 %	2016/17 %	2017/18 %	2018/19 %	2019/20 %
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	31.1	31.2	33.0	33.3	33.5	43.0
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	44.5	44.2	45.7	45.0	44.0	48.1
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	49.5	48.8	49.9	48.5	47.3	50.5
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	76.9	77.5	79.7	81.5	83.1	89.1
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ incl. English and maths	61.6	63.3	64.7	66.0	65.9	71.9
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	95.1	94.8	95.7	95.9	96.3	96.5
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.7
TOTAL LEAVERS	11393	11562	11185	11181	10941	10494

Table 13

 Qualifications of female school leavers 2014/2015 to 2019/2020⁽¹⁾

	2014/15 %	2015/16 %	2016/17 %	2017/18 %	2018/19 %	2019/20 %
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	45.7	45.9	48.8	48.6	48.6	61.6
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	60.5	60.9	63.2	62.4	61.1	66.2
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	66.2	66.1	67.4	65.6	64.2	69.3
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	85.4	86.1	88.1	89.2	89.8	93.5
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ incl. English and maths	70.5	72.2	74.6	75.6	75.7	80.5
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	96.7	96.7	97.5	97.4	97.7	98.0
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5
TOTAL LEAVERS	10968	11184	10798	10381	10660	10195

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Includes equivalent qualifications.
3. Includes those who undertook no GCSE examinations or obtained no graded results but who obtained other qualifications.
4. Includes only those with no qualifications of any kind.

Please see Notes to Readers point 8 for an explanation on how these figures are calculated and point 10 in relation to A-level figures.

Table 14

Destination of school leavers by school type and gender 2019/2020⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

GRAMMAR	Boys Numbers	Boys %	Girls Numbers	Girls %	Total Numbers	Total %
Institution of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	3132	69.6	3781	81.9	6913	75.8
Institution of Further Education	828	18.4	581	12.6	1409	15.4
Employment	210	4.7	155	3.4	365	4.0
Training ⁽⁴⁾	214	4.8	35	0.8	249	2.7
Unemployment	52	1.2	22	0.5	74	0.8
Destinations Unknown	67	1.5	44	1.0	111	1.2
Total Grammar	4503	100.0	4618	100.0	9121	100.0
NON-GRAMMAR	Boys Numbers	Boys %	Girls Numbers	Girls %	Total Numbers	Total %
Institution of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	1090	18.2	1904	34.1	2994	25.9
Institution of Further Education	2411	40.2	2219	39.8	4630	40.0
Employment	812	13.6	627	11.2	1439	12.4
Training ⁽⁴⁾	1303	21.7	406	7.3	1709	14.8
Unemployment	230	3.8	269	4.8	499	4.3
Destinations Unknown	145	2.4	152	2.7	297	2.6
Total Non-Grammar	5991	100.0	5577	100.0	11568	100.0
TOTAL	Boys Numbers	Boys %	Girls Numbers	Girls %	Total Numbers	Total %
Institution of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	4222	40.2	5685	55.8	9907	47.9
Institution of Further Education	3239	30.9	2800	27.5	6039	29.2
Employment	1022	9.7	782	7.7	1804	8.7
Training ⁽⁴⁾	1517	14.5	441	4.3	1958	9.5
Unemployment	282	2.7	291	2.9	573	2.8
Destinations Unknown	212	2.0	196	1.9	408	2.0
Total	10494	100.0	10195	100.0	20689	100.0

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Destination is defined by Institution. Institutions may provide courses at both Further and Higher Education levels.
3. Includes universities and teacher training colleges.
4. Numbers entering training include those entering the Training for Success programme, operated by the Department for the Economy. Training on Training for Success is delivered by a range of training providers, including Further Education Colleges. Training for Success trainees who receive training at Further Education Colleges are recorded as being in training and not in Further Education. This convention avoids double counting of Training for Success trainees.

Table 15

Destination of school leavers by gender and religion of pupil 2019/2020⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

PROTESTANT	Boys Numbers	Boys %	Girls Numbers	Girls %	Total Numbers	Total %
Institution of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾	1352	35.7	1985	52.2	3337	44.0
Institution of Further Education	1428	37.7	1175	30.9	2603	34.3
Employment	394	10.4	326	8.6	720	9.5
Training ⁽⁵⁾	459	12.1	154	4.0	613	8.1
Unemployment	97	2.6	108	2.8	205	2.7
Destinations Unknown	54	1.4	55	1.4	109	1.4
TOTAL PROTESTANT	3784	100.0	3803	100.0	7587	100.0
CATHOLIC	Boys Numbers	Boys %	Girls Numbers	Girls %	Total Numbers	Total %
Institution of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾	2340	43.8	3144	59.6	5484	51.7
Institution of Further Education	1325	24.8	1250	23.7	2575	24.3
Employment	505	9.4	382	7.2	887	8.4
Training ⁽⁵⁾	915	17.1	234	4.4	1149	10.8
Unemployment	139	2.6	145	2.8	284	2.7
Destinations Unknown	121	2.3	116	2.2	237	2.2
TOTAL CATHOLIC	5345	100.0	5271	100.0	10616	100.0
OTHER⁽³⁾	Boys Numbers	Boys %	Girls Numbers	Girls %	Total Numbers	Total %
Institution of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾	530	38.8	556	49.6	1086	43.7
Institution of Further Education	486	35.6	375	33.5	861	34.6
Employment	123	9.0	74	6.6	197	7.9
Training ⁽⁵⁾	143	10.5	53	4.7	196	7.9
Unemployment	46	3.4	38	3.4	84	3.4
Destinations Unknown	37	2.7	25	2.2	62	2.5
TOTAL OTHER⁽³⁾	1365	100.0	1121	100.0	2486	100.0

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Destination is defined by Institution. Institution may provide courses at both Further and Higher Education levels.
3. Other includes Other Christian, No religion and Non-Christian.
4. Includes universities and teacher training colleges.
5. Numbers entering training include those entering the Training for Success programme, operated by the Department for the Economy. Training on Training for Success is delivered by a range of training providers, including Further Education Colleges. Training for Success trainees who receive training at Further Education Colleges are recorded as being in training and not in Further Education. This convention avoids double counting of Training for Success trainees.

Table 16

Destination of school leavers by ethnic origin 2019/2020⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

WHITE⁽³⁾	Number	%
Institution of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾	9536	47.8
Institution of Further Education	5821	29.2
Employment	1754	8.8
Training ⁽⁵⁾	1916	9.6
Unemployment	546	2.7
Destinations Unknown	377	1.9
TOTAL WHITE⁽³⁾	19950	100.0
MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS⁽³⁾	Number	%
Institution of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾	371	50.2
Institution of Further Education	218	29.5
Employment	50	6.8
Training ⁽⁵⁾	42	5.7
Unemployment	27	3.7
Destinations Unknown	31	4.2
TOTAL MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS⁽³⁾	739	100.0

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Destination is defined by Institution. Institution may provide courses at both Further and Higher Education levels.
3. 'Minority Ethnic Groups' includes Irish Travellers. 'White' does not include Irish Travellers.
4. Includes universities and teacher training colleges.
5. Numbers entering training include those entering the Training for Success programme, operated by the Department for the Economy. Training on Training for Success is delivered by a range of training providers, including Further Education Colleges. Training for Success trainees who receive training at Further Education Colleges are recorded as being in training and not in Further Education. This convention avoids double counting of Training for Success trainees.

Table 17

Destination of school leavers by free school meal entitlement and gender 2019/2020⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

ENTITLED TO FSM	Boys Numbers	Boys %	Girls Numbers	Girls %	Total Numbers	Total %
Institution of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	549	20.0	902	33.9	1451	26.8
Institution of Further Education	1075	39.1	1030	38.8	2105	38.9
Employment	336	12.2	284	10.7	620	11.5
Training ⁽⁴⁾	589	21.4	237	8.9	826	15.3
Unemployment	121	4.4	126	4.7	247	4.6
Destinations Unknown	80	2.9	79	3.0	159	2.9
TOTAL ENTITLED TO FSM	2750	100.0	2658	100.0	5408	100.0
NOT ENTITLED TO FSM	Boys Numbers	Boys %	Girls Numbers	Girls %	Total Numbers	Total %
Institution of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	3673	47.4	4783	63.5	8456	55.3
Institution of Further Education	2164	27.9	1770	23.5	3934	25.7
Employment	686	8.9	498	6.6	1184	7.7
Training ⁽⁴⁾	928	12.0	204	2.7	1132	7.4
Unemployment	161	2.1	165	2.2	326	2.1
Destinations Unknown	132	1.7	117	1.6	249	1.6
TOTAL NOT ENTITLED TO FSM	7744	100.0	7537	100.0	15281	100.0

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Destination is defined by Institution. Institution may provide courses at both Further and Higher Education levels.
3. Includes universities and teacher training colleges.
4. Numbers entering training include those entering the Training for Success programme, operated by the Department for the Economy. Training on Training for Success is delivered by a range of training providers, including Further Education Colleges. Training for Success trainees who receive training at Further Education Colleges are recorded as being in training and not in Further Education. This convention avoids double counting of Training for Success trainees.

Table 18

Destination of school leavers by Special Educational Need (SEN) status 2019/2020⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

	No SEN Number	No SEN %	SEN Stages 1-4 Number	SEN Stages 1-4 %	SEN Stage 5 Number	SEN Stage 5 %	Total Number	Total %
Institution of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	9179	53.9	560	21.8	168	15.6	9907	47.9
Institution of Further Education	4455	26.1	1078	41.9	506	47.1	6039	29.2
Employment	1445	8.5	279	10.8	80	7.4	1804	8.7
Training ⁽⁴⁾	1250	7.3	470	18.3	238	22.2	1958	9.5
Unemployment	412	2.4	114	4.4	47	4.4	573	2.8
Destinations Unknown	301	1.8	72	2.8	35	3.3	408	2.0
Total Leavers	17042	100.0	2573	100.0	1074	100.0	20689	100.0

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Destination is defined by Institution. Institution may provide courses at both Further and Higher Education levels.
3. Includes universities and teacher training colleges.
4. Numbers entering training include those entering the Training for Success programme, operated by the Department for the Economy. Training on Training for Success is delivered by a range of training providers, including Further Education Colleges. Training for Success trainees who receive training at Further Education Colleges are recorded as being in training and not in Further Education. This convention avoids double counting of Training for Success trainees.

Table 19

Destination of school leavers by 2014 District Council of pupil residence 2019/2020⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾

DISTRICT COUNCIL	Institutions of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾ Number	Institutions of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾ %	Institutions of Further Education Number	Institutions of Further Education %	Employment Number	Employment %	Training ⁽⁵⁾ Number	Training ⁽⁵⁾ %	Unemployment and Unknown Number	Unemployment and Unknown %	Total Number	Total %
Antrim and Newtownabbey	767	49.1	406	26.0	171	10.9	141	9.0	78	5.0	1563	100.0
Ards and North Down	765	48.0	552	34.6	152	9.5	54	3.4	71	4.5	1594	100.0
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	964	39.7	1022	42.1	120	4.9	238	9.8	84	3.5	2428	100.0
Belfast	1509	47.0	667	20.8	432	13.4	377	11.7	227	7.1	3212	100.0
Causeway Coast and Glens	575	37.7	691	45.3	102	6.7	87	5.7	70	4.6	1525	100.0
Derry City and Strabane	879	47.7	521	28.3	155	8.4	188	10.2	99	5.4	1842	100.0
Fermanagh and Omagh	761	55.5	343	25.0	102	7.4	135	9.8	30	2.2	1371	100.0
Lisburn and Castlereagh	806	55.4	382	26.3	115	7.9	94	6.5	58	4.0	1455	100.0
Mid and East Antrim	728	50.3	361	25.0	144	10.0	133	9.2	80	5.5	1446	100.0
Mid Ulster	915	50.1	444	24.3	124	6.8	259	14.2	85	4.7	1827	100.0
Newry, Mourne and Down	1153	50.9	600	26.5	181	8.0	239	10.5	93	4.1	2266	100.0
Invalid/Missing/Unknown Postcodes	85	53.1	50	31.3	6	3.8	13	8.1	6	3.8	160	100.0
Total Leavers	9907	47.9	6039	29.2	1804	8.7	1958	9.5	981	4.7	20689	100.0

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Destination is defined by Institution. Institution may provide courses at both Further and Higher Education levels.
3. District Council of pupil residence is based on the residential postcode of each individual pupil.
4. Includes universities and teacher training colleges.
5. Numbers entering training include those entering the Training for Success programme, operated by the Department for the Economy. Training on Training for Success is delivered by a range of training providers, including Further Education Colleges. Training for Success trainees who receive training at Further Education Colleges are recorded as being in training and not in Further Education. This convention avoids double counting of Training for Success trainees.

Table 20

Higher Education destination by country of institution and gender of pupil 2019/2020⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾

	Boys Numbers	Boys %	Girls Numbers	Girls %	Total Numbers	Total %
NI Institution	3144	74.5	4142	72.9	7286	73.5
GB Institution	979	23.2	1429	25.1	2408	24.3
Other Institution ⁽⁴⁾	99	2.3	114	2.0	213	2.1
Total	4222	100.0	5685	100.0	9907	100.0

Table 21

Higher Education destination by country of institution and religion of pupil 2019/2020⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾

	Protestant Number	Protestant %	Catholic Number	Catholic %	Other⁽⁵⁾ Number	Other⁽⁵⁾ %	Total Number	Total %
NI Institution	2307	69.1	4341	79.2	638	58.7	7286	73.5
GB Institution	988	29.6	1001	18.3	419	38.6	2408	24.3
Other Institution ⁽⁴⁾	42	1.3	142	2.6	29	2.7	213	2.1
Total	3337	100.0	5484	100.0	1086	100.0	9907	100.0

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Destination is defined by Institution. Institution may provide courses at both Further and Higher Education levels.
3. Includes universities and teacher training colleges.
4. Includes Non-UK and unknown higher education institutions.
5. Other includes Other Christian, No religion and Non-Christian.

Table 22

Destination of school leavers 2014/2015 to 2019/2020⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

	2014/15 %	2015/16 %	2016/17 %	2017/18 %	2018/19 %	2019/20 %
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	42.3	42.9	43.3	43.1	42.0	47.9
Institutions of Further Education	35.0	34.4	34.0	33.5	32.9	29.2
Employment	8.4	8.9	8.8	9.7	10.3	8.7
Training ⁽⁴⁾	9.8	9.7	9.8	9.9	10.6	9.5
Unemployment	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.1	2.3	2.8
Destinations Unknown	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.9	2
TOTAL LEAVERS	22361	22746	21983	21562	21601	20689

Table 23

Destination of male school leavers 2014/2015 to 2019/2020⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

	2014/15 %	2015/16 %	2016/17 %	2017/18 %	2018/19 %	2019/20 %
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	34.7	35.7	35.8	36.0	35.0	40.2
Institutions of Further Education	37.3	36.7	36.0	34.5	34.2	30.9
Employment	9.3	9.5	9.9	10.8	11.1	9.7
Training ⁽⁴⁾	13.5	13.8	14.5	14.5	15.3	14.5
Unemployment	3.1	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.7
Destinations Unknown	2.2	2.0	1.4	2.0	2.1	2
TOTAL LEAVERS	11393	11562	11185	11181	10941	10494

Table 24

Destination of female school leavers 2014/2015 to 2019/2020⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

	2014/15 %	2015/16 %	2016/17 %	2017/18 %	2018/19 %	2019/20 %
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	50.2	50.3	51.1	50.7	49.2	55.8
Institutions of Further Education	32.7	32.1	32.0	32.4	31.5	27.5
Employment	7.4	8.3	7.8	8.6	9.5	7.7
Training ⁽⁴⁾	5.9	5.4	5.0	5.0	5.8	4.3
Unemployment	2.4	2.6	2.6	1.9	2.3	2.9
Destinations Unknown	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.4	1.7	1.9
TOTAL LEAVERS	10968	11184	10798	10381	10660	10195

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Destination is defined by Institution. Institution may provide courses at both Further and Higher Education levels.
3. Includes universities and teacher training colleges.
4. Numbers entering training include those entering the Training for Success programme, operated by the Department for the Economy. Training on Training for Success is delivered by a range of training providers, including Further Education Colleges. Training for Success trainees who receive training at Further Education Colleges are recorded as being in training and not in Further Education. This convention avoids double counting of Training for Success trainees.

Section 5: Appendices 2014/15

Appendix A

Qualifications of school leavers by gender and school type 2014/2015⁽¹⁾

GRAMMAR	Boys Numbers	Boys %	Girls Numbers	Girls %	Total Numbers	Total %
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	2629	57.8	3318	71.3	5947	64.6
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	3434	75.5	4023	86.4	7457	81.0
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	3560	78.3	4136	88.8	7696	83.6
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	4404	96.8	4613	99.1	9017	98.0
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ incl. English and maths	4261	93.7	4534	97.4	8795	95.6
At least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	4529	99.6	4643	99.7	9172	99.7
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	5	0.1	4	0.1	9	0.1
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	5	0.1	4	0.1	9	0.1
Total Grammar	4548	100.0	4656	100.0	9204	100.0
NON-GRAMMAR	Boys Numbers	Boys %	Girls Numbers	Girls %	Total Numbers	Total %
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	915	13.4	1691	26.8	2606	19.8
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	1639	23.9	2615	41.4	4254	32.3
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	2082	30.4	3127	49.5	5209	39.6
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	4358	63.7	4758	75.4	9116	69.3
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ incl. English and maths	2756	40.3	3202	50.7	5958	45.3
At least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	6309	92.2	5963	94.5	12272	93.3
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	61	0.9	51	0.8	112	0.9
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	45	0.7	38	0.6	83	0.6
Total Non-Grammar	6845	100.0	6312	100.0	13157	100.0
TOTAL	Boys Numbers	Boys %	Girls Numbers	Girls %	Total Numbers	Total %
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	3544	31.1	5009	45.7	8553	38.2
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	5073	44.5	6638	60.5	11711	52.4
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	5642	49.5	7263	66.2	12905	57.7
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	8762	76.9	9371	85.4	18133	81.1
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ incl. English and maths	7017	61.6	7736	70.5	14753	66.0
At least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	10838	95.1	10606	96.7	21444	95.9
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	66	0.6	55	0.5	121	0.5
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	50	0.4	42	0.4	92	0.4
Total Leavers	11393	100.0	10968	100.0	22361	100.0

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Includes equivalent qualifications.
3. Includes those who undertook no GCSE examinations or obtained no graded results but who obtained other qualifications.
4. Includes only those without qualifications of any kind.

Where small numbers appear in this table, consideration was given to balancing the privacy of individual information against the utility of the data. As the risk of identification was considered to be low, small numbers have not been suppressed. This is consistent with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Please see Notes to Readers point 8 for an explanation on how these figures are calculated and point 10 in relation to A-level figures.

Appendix B

Destinations of school leavers by gender and school type 2014/2015⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

GRAMMAR	Boys Numbers	Boys %	Girls Numbers	Girls %	Total Numbers	Total %
Institution of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	2851	62.7	3547	76.2	6398	69.5
Institution of Further Education	1176	25.9	802	17.2	1978	21.5
Employment	259	5.7	182	3.9	441	4.8
Training ⁽⁴⁾	134	2.9	31	0.7	165	1.8
Unemployment	50	1.1	52	1.1	102	1.1
Destinations Unknown	78	1.7	42	0.9	120	1.3
Total Grammar	4548	100.0	4656	100.0	9204	100.0
NON-GRAMMAR	Boys Numbers	Boys %	Girls Numbers	Girls %	Total Numbers	Total %
Institution of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	1098	16.0	1962	31.1	3060	23.3
Institution of Further Education	3070	44.9	2788	44.2	5858	44.5
Employment	801	11.7	627	9.9	1428	10.9
Training ⁽⁴⁾	1409	20.6	615	9.7	2024	15.4
Unemployment	299	4.4	215	3.4	514	3.9
Destinations Unknown	168	2.5	105	1.7	273	2.1
Total Non-Grammar	6845	100.0	6312	100.0	13157	100.0
TOTAL	Boys Numbers	Boys %	Girls Numbers	Girls %	Total Numbers	Total %
Institution of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	3949	34.7	5509	50.2	9458	42.3
Institution of Further Education	4246	37.3	3590	32.7	7836	35.0
Employment	1060	9.3	809	7.4	1869	8.4
Training ⁽⁴⁾	1543	13.5	646	5.9	2189	9.8
Unemployment	349	3.1	267	2.4	616	2.8
Destinations Unknown	246	2.2	147	1.3	393	1.8
Total	11393	100.0	10968	100.0	22361	100.0

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Destination is defined by Institution. Institutions may provide courses at both Further and Higher Education levels.
3. Includes universities and teacher training colleges.
4. Numbers entering training include those entering the Training for Success programme, operated by the Department for the Economy. Training on Training for Success is delivered by a range of training providers, including Further Education Colleges. Training for Success trainees who receive training at Further Education Colleges are recorded as being in training and not in Further Education. This convention avoids double counting of Training for Success trainees.