



## Statistical Bulletin 07/2019

### Year 12 and Year 14 Examination Performance at Post-Primary Schools in Northern Ireland 2018-19

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This statistical bulletin contains an analysis of the examination performance of Year 12 and Year 14 pupils in Northern Ireland in the 2018/19 academic year.

**Key points:**

- **In 2018/19 72.8%** of Year 12 pupils achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE maths. This increased from 71.8% in 2017/18. **54.1%** of free school meal entitled pupils achieved this indicator (51.6% in 2017/18).
- **In 2018/19** the proportion of Year 12 pupils in non-grammar schools achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE maths increased to 54.8% from 52.4% in 2017/18. Grammar schools saw a slight increase from 94.0% in 2017/18 to 94.3% in 2018/19.
- **71.8%** of pupils in the final year of an A-level (or equivalent) course achieved 3 or more A-levels at grades A\*-C. This figure compares with 70.2% in 2017/18.



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## Introduction

The data in this statistical bulletin are sourced from the Summary of Annual Examination Results (SAER) database. The SAER process collates summary school level examinations data and validates them with schools. The 2018/19 figures in this statistical release are based on information as at 9 December, 2019.

Summary data on pupils with free school meal entitlement (FSME) have been collected and validated since 2012/13. This statistical bulletin provides an analysis of examination performance for all Year 12 and Year 14 pupils as well as those with FSME.

There was an increase in the proportion of post-primary pupils with FSME between 2013/14 (18.5%) and 2014/15 (26.1%). This increase coincided 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 being eligible from September 2010 and Key Stage 2 pupils being eligible from September 2011. It was extended to post-primary pupils in September 2014.

Schools+ on the DE website provides examination performance statistics for individual schools. Schools+ is accessible via the link on the home page (<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/>).

The requirement for the SAER exercise is underpinned by legislation, the **Education (School Information and Prospectuses) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003**. Under these regulations, post-primary schools are required to provide information about public examination performance for the year immediately preceding the publication of the prospectus.

The tables in this bulletin reflect key examination information required by the Department, Education and Training Inspectorate, the Education Authority, schools and the wider user group.

This bulletin examines Year 12 and Year 14 examination performance by gender, sector, and free school meal entitlement. Links to related publications for England, Scotland and Wales are provided in 'Notes for Readers' (p. 39).

The figures included in this release may be subject to minor revision. Any such revisions will be notified in accordance with the DE Analytical Services Unit revisions policy (see Note 7 of 'Notes for Readers' (p. 40) for further information).

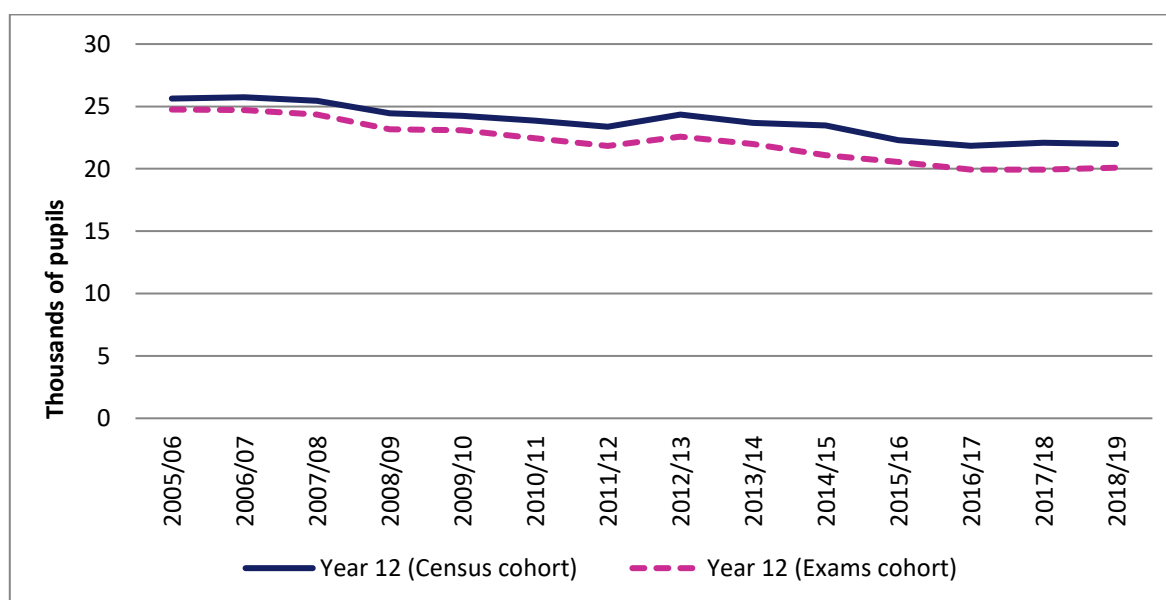
## SECTION 1: Year 12 Pupils

### 1.1 Year 12 cohort

There were **20,092 Year 12 pupils eligible for GCSE (including equivalent) examination returns in 2018/19**. Of these, 9,184 were in grammar schools and 10,908 were in non-grammar schools (see Table 1a). This overall figure was a slight increase on 2017/18 (19,940). Schools that closed at the end of the 2018/19 academic year were not included in the Summary of Annual Examination Results data collection. In 2018/19 this accounted for 157 Year 12 pupils. Overall, there has been a trend of decline in the Year 12 cohort and especially from 2006/07 to 2016/17 (see Figure 1).

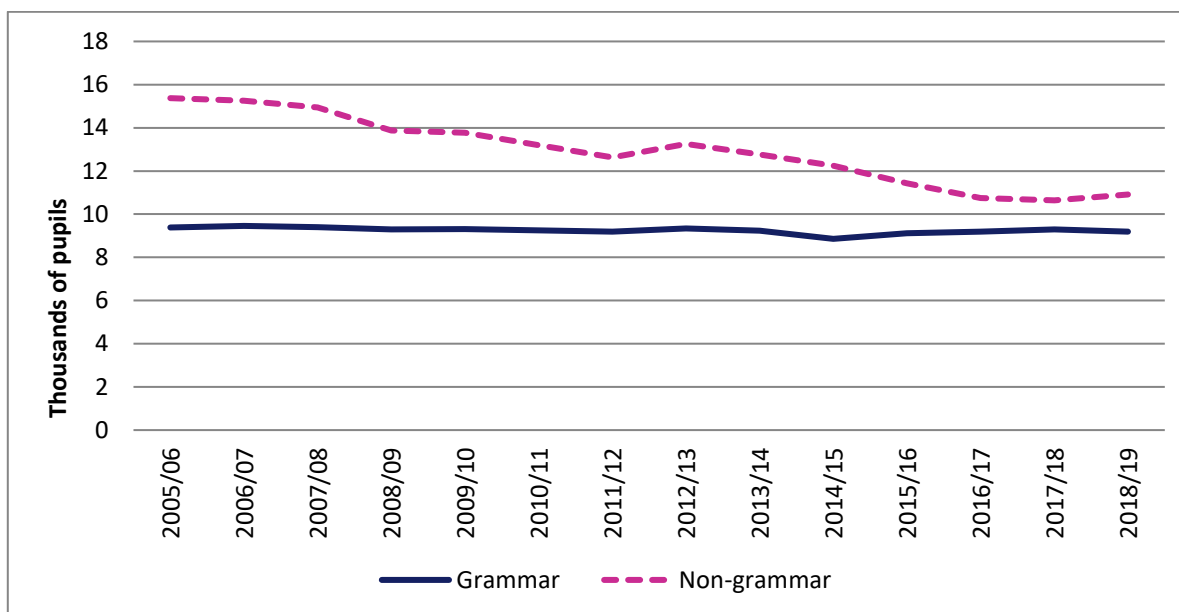
The gap between the two lines shown in Figure 1 depicts the number of pupils deemed to be ineligible for inclusion in the Year 12 examination returns from 2005/06 to 2018/19.

**Figure 1: Year 12 population (census cohort) and Year 12 cohort eligible for examinations, 2005/06 to 2018/19 (academic years)**



- Across **all post-primary schools**, the number of Year 12 pupils eligible for SAER returns has increased slightly since 2017/18.
- In 2018/19 there were 10,908 Year 12 pupils eligible for examinations in **non-grammar schools**, which was 54.3% of the overall cohort. In 2017/18 the figure was 10,640 (53.4%). This was an increase of 2.5% in the number of Year 12 non-grammar pupils eligible for SAER returns (see Figure 2).
- There were 9,184 Year 12 pupils eligible for SAER returns in **grammar schools**, which was 45.7% of the overall cohort. This was a decrease of 1.2% since 2017/18 when there were 9,300 i.e. 46.6% (see Figure 2).

**Figure 2: Year 12 pupils eligible for Key Stage 4 examinations by school type 2005/06 to 2018/19 (academic years)**



## 1.2 Year 12 pupil ineligibility

The Year 12 performance figures are based on the number of pupils at the end of a GCSE or equivalent course of study who are eligible for inclusion in the Summary of Annual Examination Results exercise. A school could consider a pupil to be ineligible for inclusion in the Year 12 performance statistics if:

1. A pupil had died;
2. A pupil, either through serious illness (including mental health issues) or pregnancy, was unable to sit any examinations. If a pupil had undertaken 1 or more examinations in the summer examination series they must be included;
3. A pupil had transferred to another school or had emigrated;
4. A pupil was in a special unit approved by the Department;
5. A pupil had a statement of special educational needs;
6. A pupil had been placed in the EOTAS<sup>1</sup> scheme;
7. A pupil had serious welfare issues that culminated in the inability to sit any examinations. If a pupil had undertaken 1 or more examinations in the summer examination series they must be included; or
8. A pupil had left the school system. If a pupil was recorded in the school census in October 2018 and was entered for any qualification in the school, either as an internal or external candidate, they must be included.

<sup>1</sup> EOTAS, Education other than at school

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/education-outside-school>

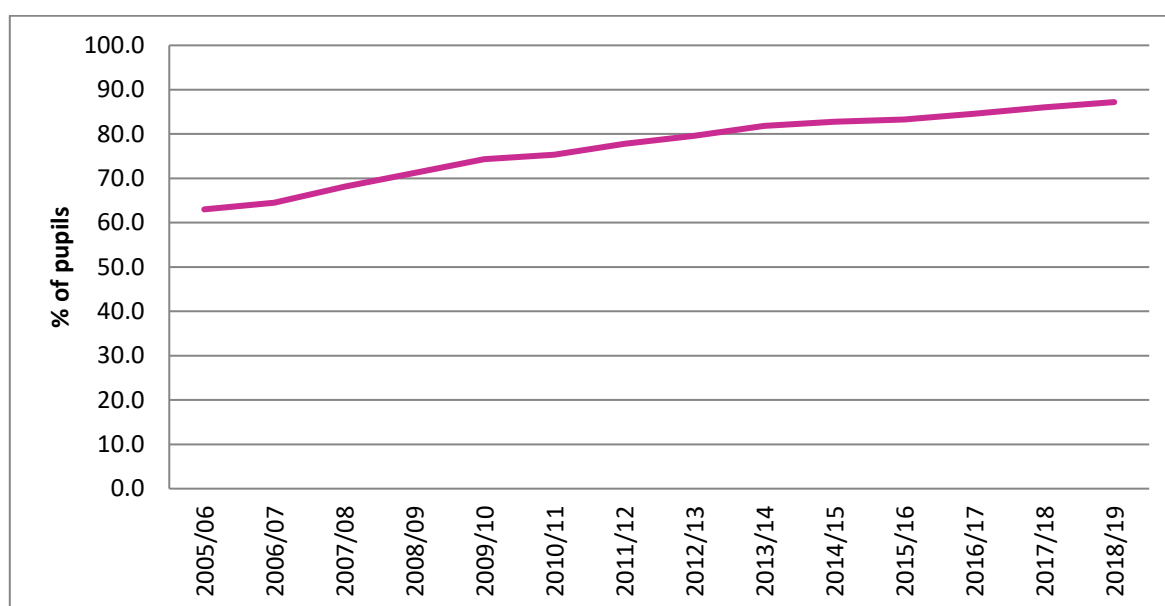
All other Year 12 pupils recorded on the annual school census in October 2018 were included in this SAER return.

- In 2018/19 7.4% of the overall Year 12 cohort were deemed to be ineligible for inclusion in the Summary of Annual Examination Results returns. This level has remained relatively stable since 2012/13. The ineligibility rate varied by school type with 11.5% of Year 12 pupils in non-grammar schools deemed to be ineligible for returns compared with 2.1% of Year 12 pupils in grammar schools.

### 1.3 Overall Year 12 performance

- In 2018/19 **87.2%** of Year 12 pupils **achieved 5 or more GCSEs** at grades A\*-C (including equivalents). This is an increase from 86.0% in 2017/18 (see Figure 3 and Table 4).

**Figure 3: Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (incl. equivalents) 2005/06 to 2018/19 (academic years)**



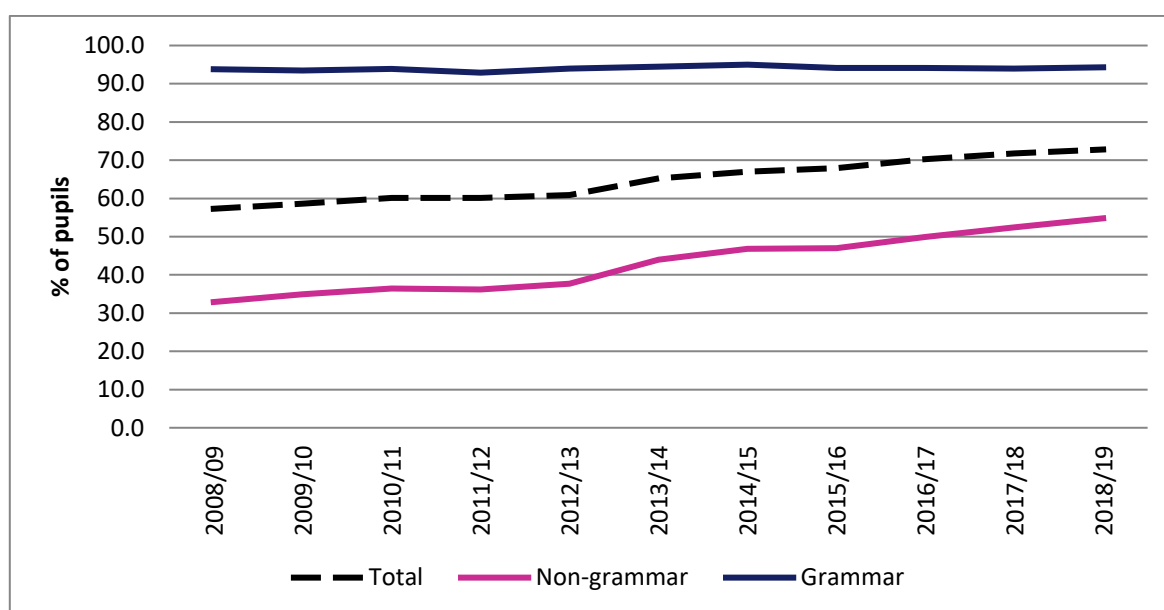
#### 1.3.1 Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSE at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) including GCSE English and GCSE maths.

It is widely accepted that **good literacy and numeracy are key** to employability and further study. The NI Executive has been committed to ensuring that more pupils master the basics by the time they leave school.

It should be noted that unlike the 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) figure, which has been collected since 1992/93, the indicator including the achievement of a grade A\*-C in GCSE English and GCSE maths was introduced in 2008/09.

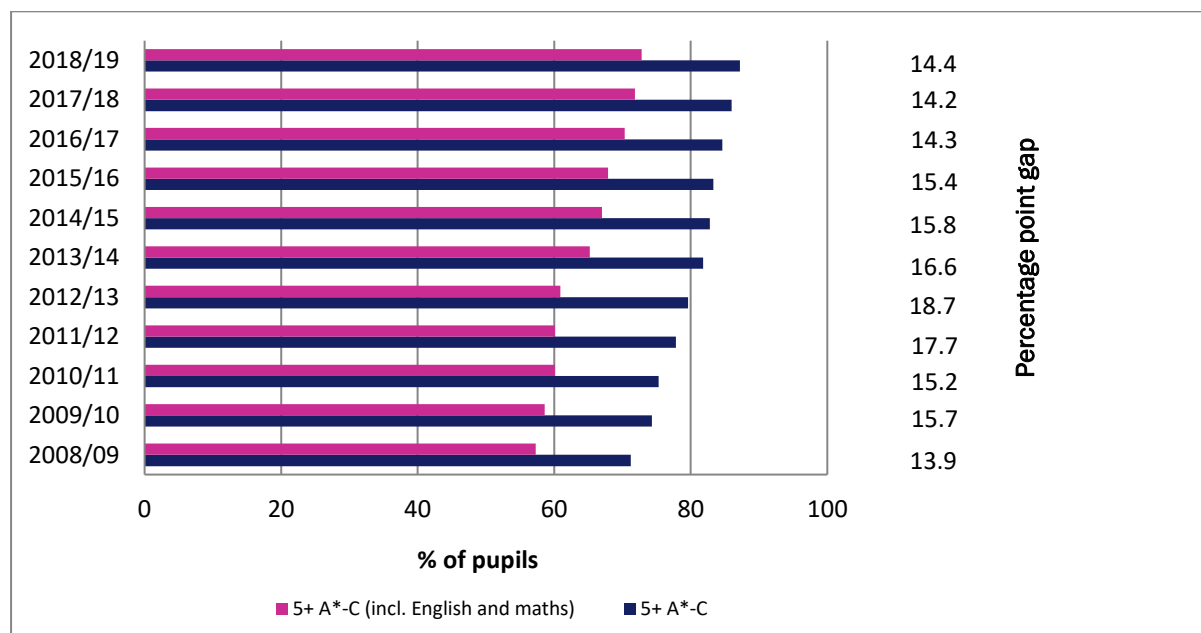
- In 2018/19 **72.8%** of Year 12 pupils achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) including GCSE English and GCSE maths. This was an increase from 71.8% in 2017/18 (see Figure 4 and Table 4).
- Since 2008/09 the rate of increase in the proportion of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) including GCSE English and GCSE maths has been greater in non-grammar schools than in grammar schools. In 2008/09 the proportion of Year 12 grammar school pupils achieving this indicator was 93.8%. By 2018/19 this figure had risen to 94.3%. The equivalent figures for non-grammar schools were 32.9% and 54.8%, respectively (see Figure 4 and Table 2).

**Figure 4: Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (incl. equivalents) including GCSE English and GCSE maths, 2008/09 to 2018/19 (academic years)**



- In 2018/19 the **achievement gap** between the percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) and those with the same level of achievement including grades A\*-C in GCSE English and GCSE maths was 14.4 percentage points. The gap was similar to 2017/18 when it was 14.2 percentage points (see Figure 5 and Table 4).

**Figure 5: Achievement gap between Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (incl. equivalents) and those achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (incl. equivalents) including GCSE English and GCSE maths, 2008/09 to 2018/19 (academic years)**



### 1.3.3 Year 12 pupils achieving 7 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (including equivalents)

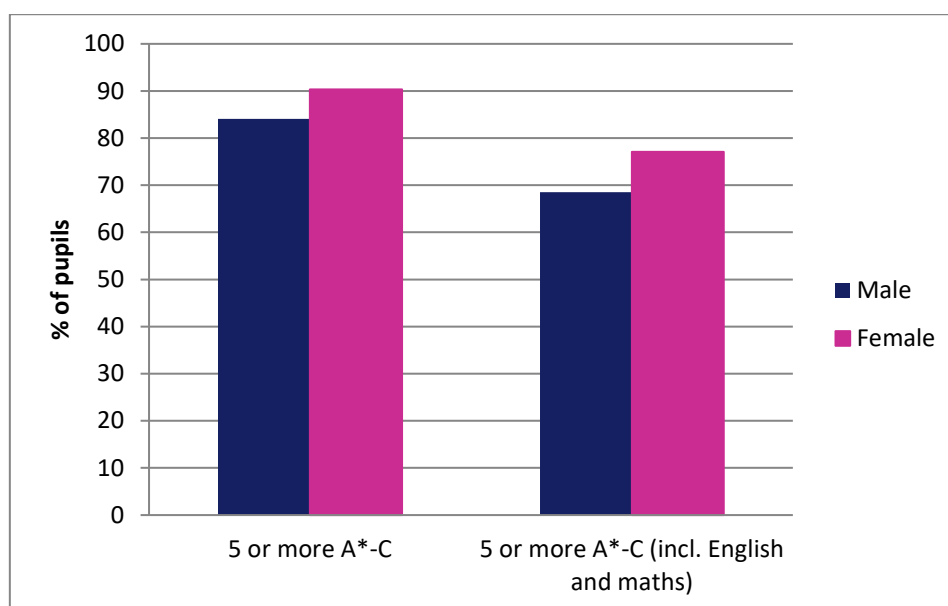
In 2018/19 **72.5%** of Year 12 pupils achieved 7 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (including equivalents). When the achievement of a grade A\*-C in both GCSE English and GCSE maths was included the figure fell to **67.3%**, a gap of **5.2 percentage points**. This was slightly less than the gap of **5.5 percentage points** in 2017/18 (see Table 4).

### 1.4 Year 12 performance by gender

- The **gender breakdown** of eligible pupils in Year 12 was **49.8% male** and **50.2% female**. This compared with **42.9% male** and **57.1% female** pupils in the final year of an A-level or equivalent course of study (see Table 1a).
- In 2018/19 **female pupils continued to perform better** than their male counterparts. **90.3%** of female pupils in Year 12 achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) compared with **84.1%** of males, a **gap of 6.2 percentage points** (see Figure 6 and Table 6).
- The **gender performance gap** was wider when GCSE English and GCSE maths are included in the 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C indicator. **77.1%** of female pupils in Year 12 achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) including GCSE English and GCSE maths compared with **68.5%** of males, a **gap of 8.6 percentage points** (see Figure 6 and Table 6a).



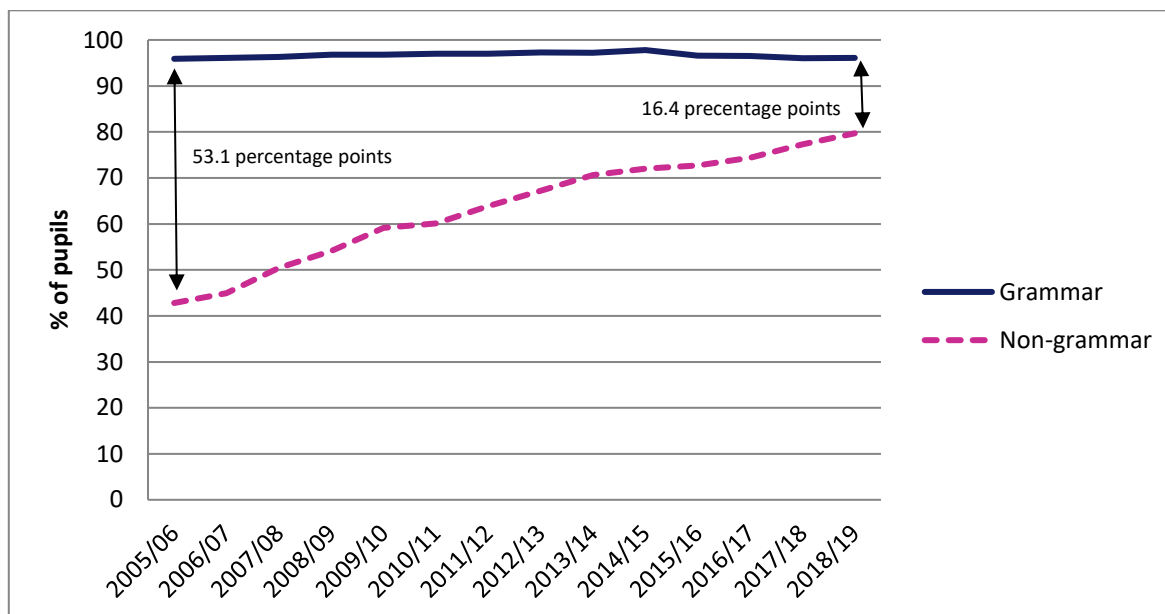
**Figure 6: Key Stage 4 key indicators by gender, 2018/19 (academic year)**



### 1.5 Year 12 performance by school type

- In terms of **achievement at the end of Key Stage 4**, grammar school pupils displayed higher attainment than non-grammar school pupils in all key performance indicators. In 2018/19 96.1% of grammar school pupils in Year 12 achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C compared with 79.7% of non-grammar school pupils (see Table 7a).
- This **performance gap** continues to narrow. In 2005/06 the gap between grammar and non-grammar achievement of 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) was 53.1 percentage points. By 2018/19 this gap had fallen to 16.4 percentage points (see Figure 7 and Table 9a).
- The narrowing of this performance gap is due to a **greater increase** in the percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) in **non-grammar schools than in grammar schools**. Since 2005/06, the percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) in grammar schools has increased by 0.2 percentage points in contrast to a 36.9 percentage point increase in non-grammar schools. It is worth noting that at 96.1% in grammar schools, there is less opportunity for significant increases in performance.

**Figure 7: Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (incl. equivalents) by school type, 2005/06 to 2018/19 (academic years)**



- As shown in Section 1.3.1, 72.8% of Year 12 pupils achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) including GCSE English and GCSE maths. When this figure was analysed by school type, 54.8% of non-grammar school and 94.3% of grammar school pupils achieved this standard. This gap of 39.5 percentage points was 21.4 percentage points less than the gap recorded in 2008/09 and 2.1 percentage points less than that in 2017/18 (see Tables 2, 7a and 9a).
- The narrowing of this performance gap in 2018/19 was due to the higher rate of increase in the percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE maths in non-grammar schools than in grammar schools. Since 2008/09, the percentage of pupils achieving this standard in non-grammar schools had increased by 21.9 percentage points, compared with 0.5 of a percentage point in grammar schools. At 94.3% there is little room for significant growth in grammar schools for this indicator. Much of the narrowing of this gap occurred between 2012/13 and 2014/15, as a consequence of programmes such as the Delivering Social Change Literacy and Numeracy Strategy<sup>2</sup> which has now ended (see Table 2).
- In **grammar schools** in 2018/19 the difference between the proportion of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) (96.1%), and those achieving the higher standard of 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) including GCSE English and GCSE maths (94.3%) was 1.8 percentage points. The equivalent gap in **non-grammar schools** was **24.9 percentage points** with 79.7% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) compared with 54.8% achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) including GCSE English and GCSE maths (see Tables 2 and 7a).

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/delivering-social-change-literacy-numeracy-signature-programme>

- The performance gap between grammar and non-grammar school pupils was greater when achievement of **7 or more GCSEs** at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) was considered. The gap of 16.4 percentage points for achievement of 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) widened to 33.2 percentage points for 7 or more GCSEs (including equivalents) (see Tables 7a and 9a).

## 1.6 Year 12 performance of free school meal entitled pupils

Free school meal entitlement (FSME) is one of the measures used as an indicator of the deprivation experienced by a school's population. It should be noted that whilst there is a link between FSME and performance, many other factors can affect school assessment and examination results. Some schools with a high proportion of pupils with FSME perform well whilst others with a proportionally lower number of pupils with FSME perform less well.

There are differing levels of free school meal entitlement between grammar and non-grammar schools. This means that different FSME bands have been used in the analysis of grammar and non-grammar school examination data (see Table 10a). In 2012/13 the Department began collecting summary data for pupils in Year 12 and Year 14 who were entitled to free school meals. Between 2013/14 and 2014/15 there was an increase in the proportion of Year 12 pupils entitled to free school meals. This increase was consistent with the extension of free school meal eligibility under the Working Tax Credit free school meal criterion to post-primary school pupils from September 2014. Further information on the legislation and policy governing free school meal entitlement can be found on the Department's website<sup>3</sup>.

### 1.6.1 Year 12 FSME pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (incl. equivalents)

- **78.3%** of Year 12 FSME pupils achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (including equivalents), which was an increase from 74.6% in 2017/18 (see Table 4).
- In 2018/19 **90.7%** of non-FSME pupils achieved this indicator, a gap of 12.4 percentage points, which was down from 15.8 percentage points in 2017/18 (see Table 14).
- As was the case with all pupils, females entitled to free school meals performed better than their male counterparts in all performance indicators. In 2018/19 82.1% of female FSME pupils achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) compared with 74.2% of males, a gap of 7.9 percentage points. This gap has decreased by 2.3 percentage points since 2017/18 (see Table 4).

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/school-milk-and-meals-background>

### 1.6.2 Year 12 FSME pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (incl. equivalents) including GCSE English and GCSE maths

- In 2018/19 54.1% of Year 12 FSME pupils achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) including GCSE English and GCSE maths. This was an increase since 2017/18 when it was 51.6%, and from 33.9% in 2012/13 when these data were first collected (see Table 4).
- The equivalent achievement for non-FSME pupils was 80.2% (see Table 14).

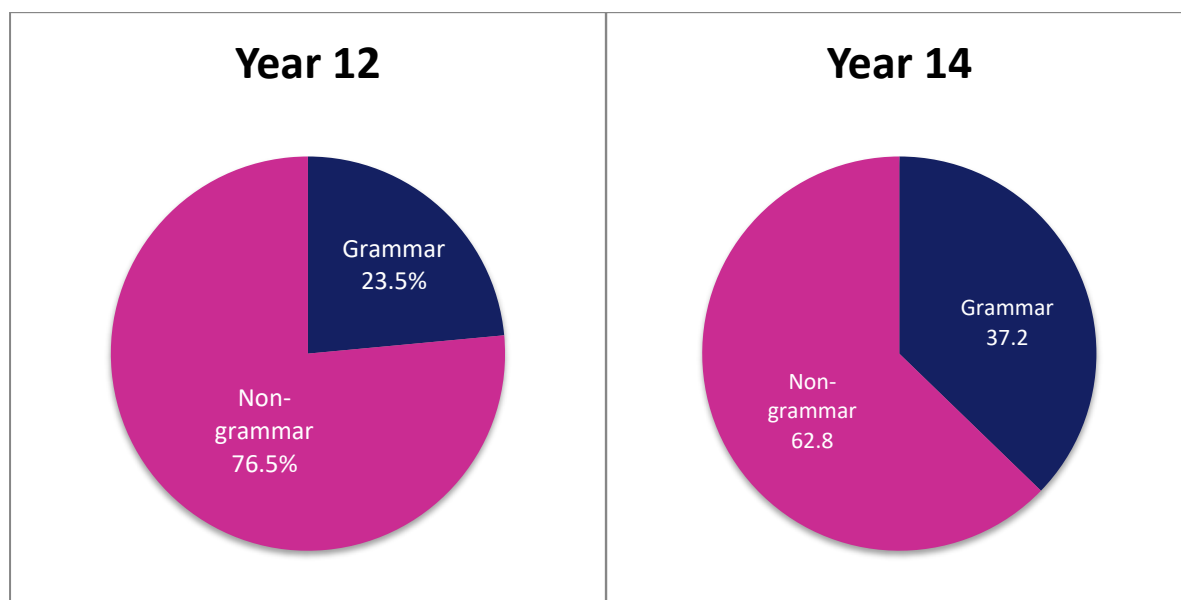
### 1.7 Year 12 performance by school type and free school meal entitlement

As was the case for all pupils, those with free school meal entitlement in grammar schools have higher attainment than those in non-grammar schools in all key performance indicators (see Table 7b).

In 2018/19 14.1% of grammar school pupils were entitled to free school meals, compared with 39.2% of non-grammar school pupils (source: Annual School Census).

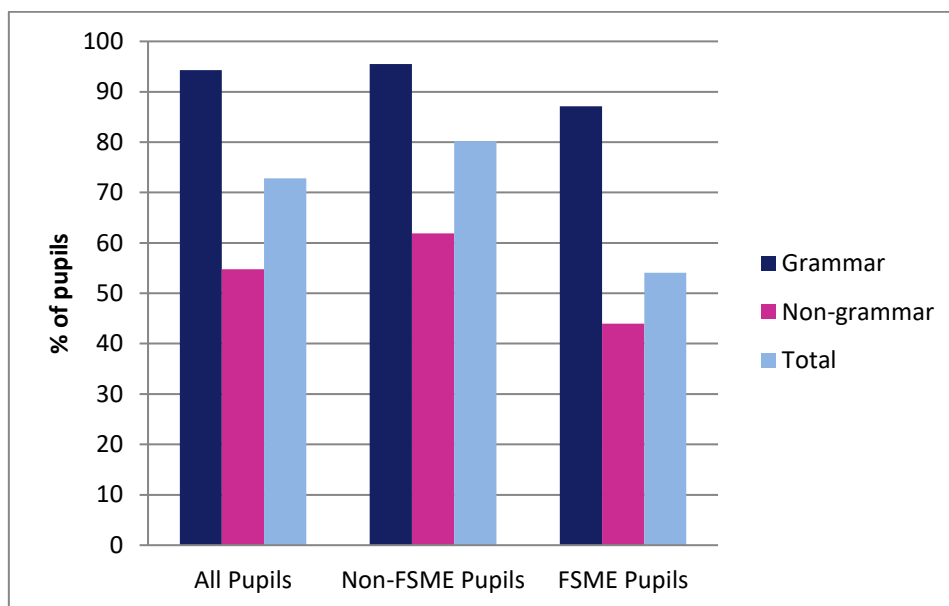
- Approximately three quarters of Year 12 FSME pupils eligible for inclusion in performance returns attended non-grammar schools (76.5%). At Year 14 this figure was approximately two thirds, at 62.8% (see Figure 8).

**Figure 8: FSME Year 12 and Year 14 pupils eligible for GCSE (or equivalent) and A-level (or equivalent) examinations by school type, 2018/19 (academic year)**



In 2018/19 87.1% of Year 12 FSME grammar school pupils achieved 5 or more GCSEs grades A\*-C (including equivalents) including GCSE English and GCSE maths. This compared with 44.0% of non-grammar school pupils with FSME, a gap of 43.1 percentage points (see Figure 9, and Tables 7b and 14). This gap has reduced by 0.7 percentage points since 2017/18.

**Figure 9: Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (incl. equivalents) including GCSE English and GCSE maths, 2018/19 (academic year)**



## SECTION 2: Year 14 Pupils

### 2.1 A-level (or equivalent) cohort

The Year 14 performance figures are based on the number of pupils in the final year of a level 3 (A-level or equivalent) course of study for the first time.

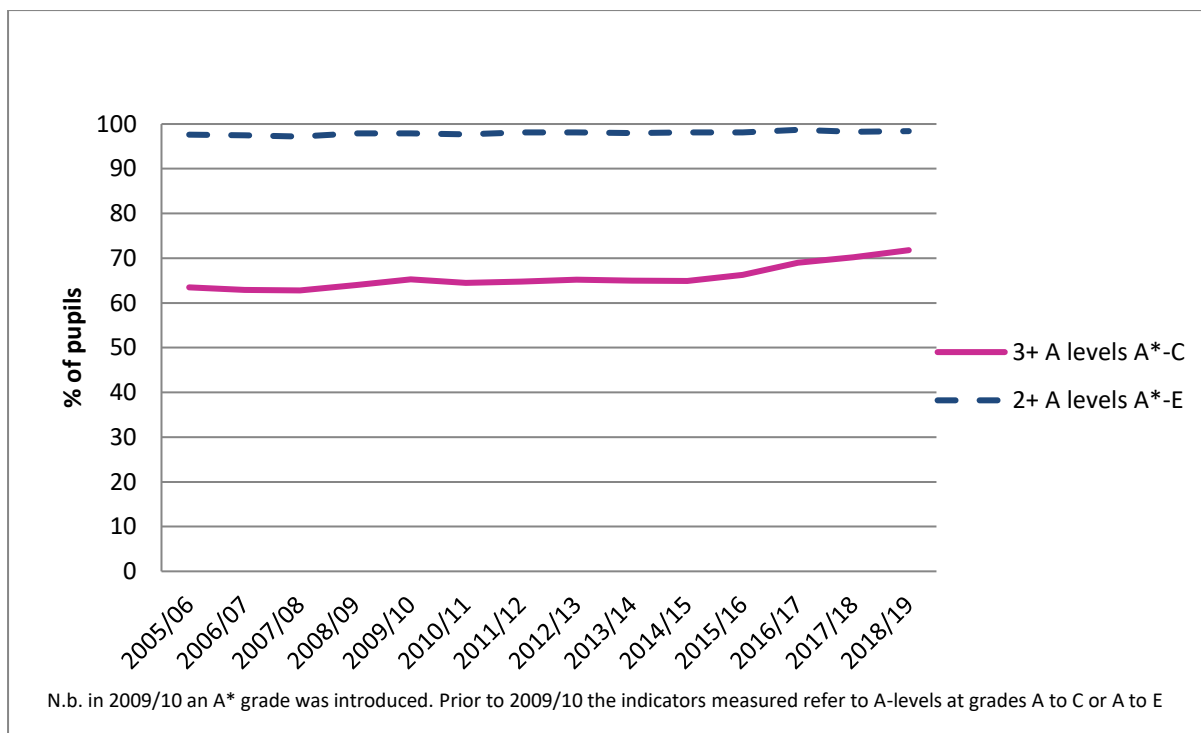
- In 2018/19 there were **12,075 pupils in Year 14 eligible for A-level (or equivalent) examinations** (see Table 1b). This represented a 2.4% decline from 12,371 in 2017/18. As with Year 12 pupils, schools that closed at the end of the 2018/19 academic year were not included in the Summary of Annual Examination Results (SAER) data collection. For 2018/19 this accounted for 119 Year 14 pupils.
- In 2018/19 4.2% of the overall A-level (or equivalent) cohort were deemed to be ineligible for inclusion in the SAER returns. This proportion equated to 7.0% of pupils in non-grammar schools and 2.3% of pupils in grammar schools.

Pupils in the final year of an A-level could be deemed to be ineligible on the basis of the same criteria used for Year 12 pupils (p. 5). In addition, a number of other pupils do not meet the criteria for inclusion in the SAER exercise, for example, post-16 pupils studying a three year programme. These pupils would be included in the return for another academic year.

### 2.2 Performance of pupils in the final year of an A-level or equivalent course

- **71.8%** of Year 14 pupils **achieved 3 or more A-levels** at grades A\*-C (including equivalents). This compared with 70.2% in 2017/18 (see Figure 10 and Table 5).
- **90.5%** of Year 14 pupils **achieved 2 or more A-levels** at grades A\*-C (including equivalents). This was 90.2% in 2017/18, which was the first year these data were collected (see Table 5).
- **98.4%** of Year 14 pupils **achieved 2 or more A-levels** at grades A\*-E (including equivalents). This was similar to 2017/18, at 98.3% (see Figure 10 and Table 5).
- **99.8%** of Year 14 pupils **achieved 1 or more A-levels** at grades A\*-E (including equivalents) (see Table 5). There was a small difference in grammar and non-grammar performance in this indicator. 99.5% of non-grammar school pupils achieved this standard compared with 99.9% of grammar school pupils (see Table 8a).

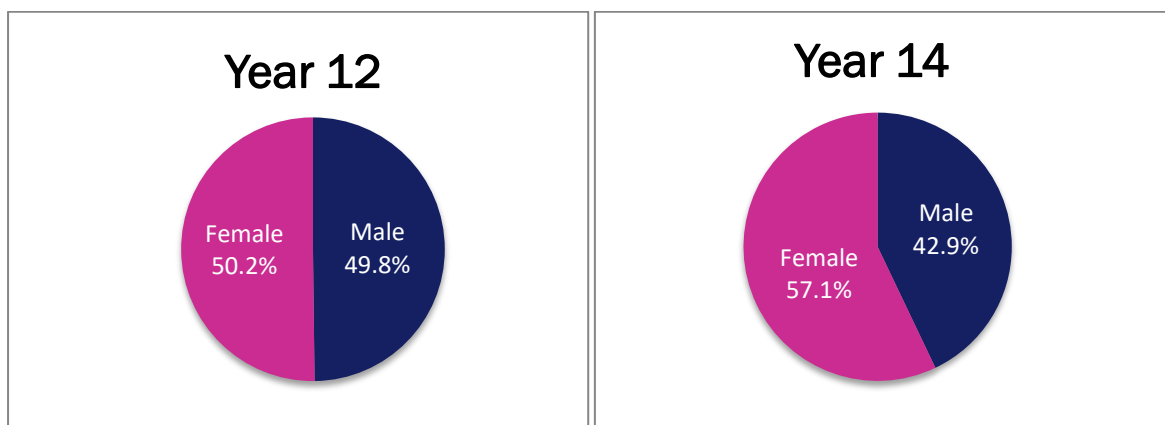
**Figure 10: Percentage of pupils eligible for A-levels achieving 3 or more at grades A\*-C (incl. equivalents), and 2 or more A-levels at grades A\*-E (incl. equivalents) 2005/06 to 2018/19 (academic years)**



### 2.3 A-level or equivalent performance by gender

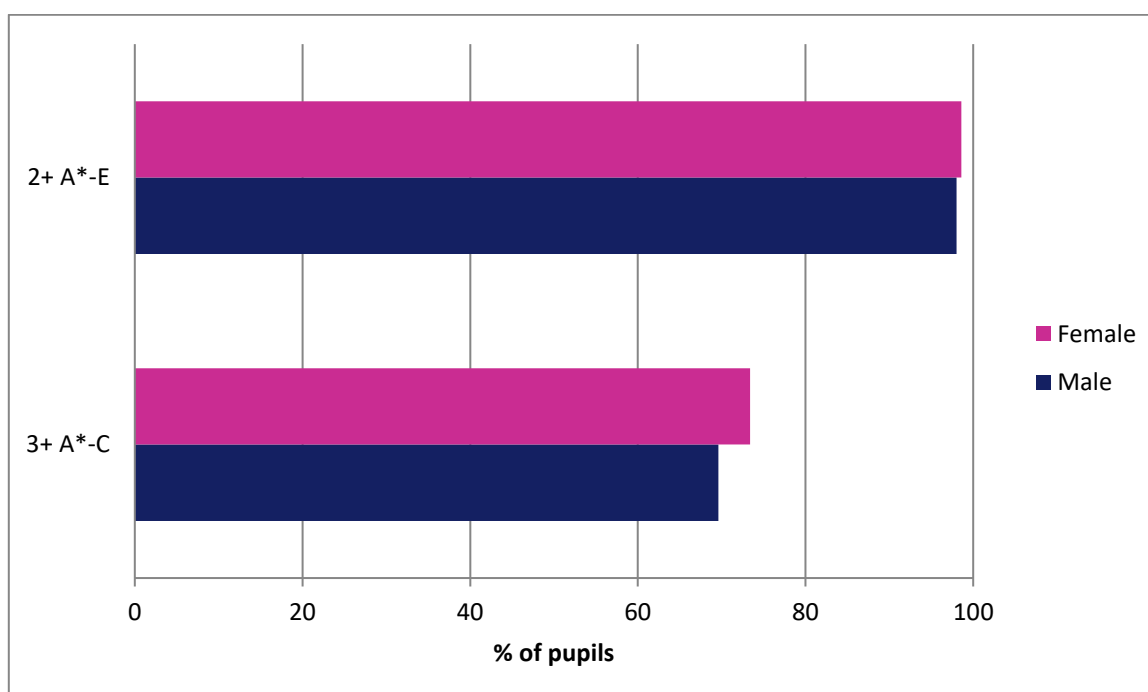
- The reported gender of Year 14 pupils eligible for A-levels (or equivalent) in 2018/19 was 42.9% male and 57.1% female. This compared with 49.8% male and 50.2% female in Year 12 (see Figure 11 and Table 1b).

**Figure 11: Year 12 and 14 pupils eligible for GCSE (or equivalent) and A-level (or equivalent) examinations by gender, 2018/19 (academic year)**



- **Female pupils** in the final year of an A-level, as in Year 12, performed better than their male counterparts. 73.4% of female pupils in Year 14 achieved 3 or more A-levels at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) compared with 69.6% of male pupils in 2018/19 (see Figure 12 and Table 6b).
- **The performance gap** narrowed when 2 or more A-level passes at grades A\*-C were considered. 91.5% of female pupils in Year 14 achieved 2 or more A-levels at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) compared with 89.2% of male pupils (see Table 6b).
- When 2 or more A-level passes at grades A\*-E were considered, the gap was smaller again. 98.6% of female pupils in Year 14 achieved 2 or more A-levels at grades A\*-E (including equivalents) compared with 98.0% of male pupils (see Figure 12 and Table 6b).

**Figure 12: Performance at A-Level (or equivalent) by gender, 2018/19 (academic year)**

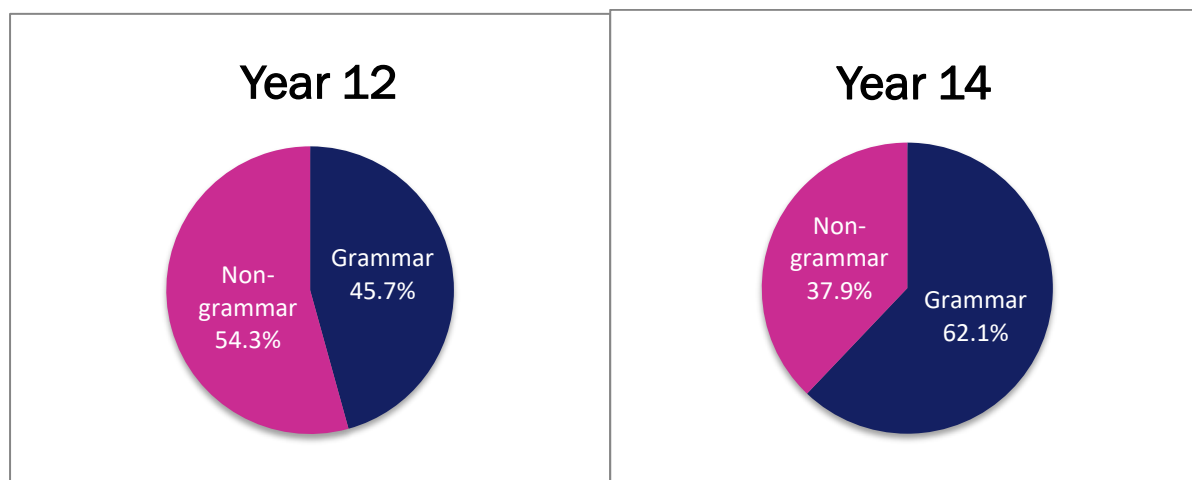


#### 2.4 A-level performance by school type

A greater proportion of Year 14 pupils attended grammar schools (62.1%) than non-grammar schools (37.9%). This contrasted with the Year 12 cohort where 45.7% attended grammar schools and 54.3% attended non-grammar schools (see Figure 13 and Table 1). It is worth noting that not all non-grammar schools have a sixth form provision which may explain some of the differences seen here.

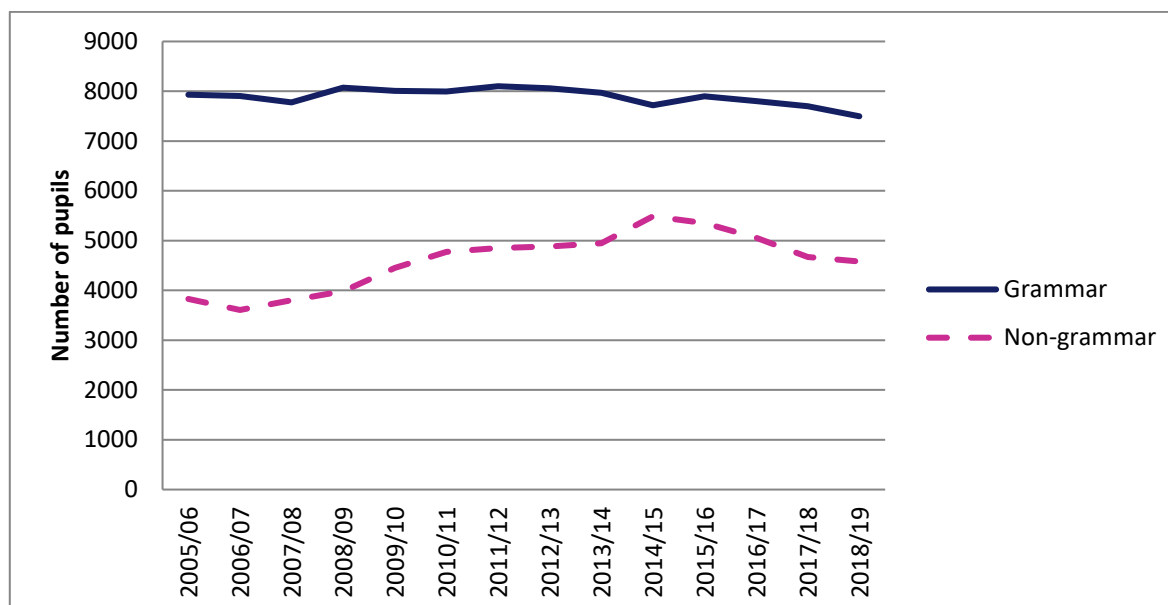


**Figure 13: Year 12 and 14 pupils entered for GCSE (or equivalent) and A-level (or equivalent) examinations, 2018/19 (academic year)**



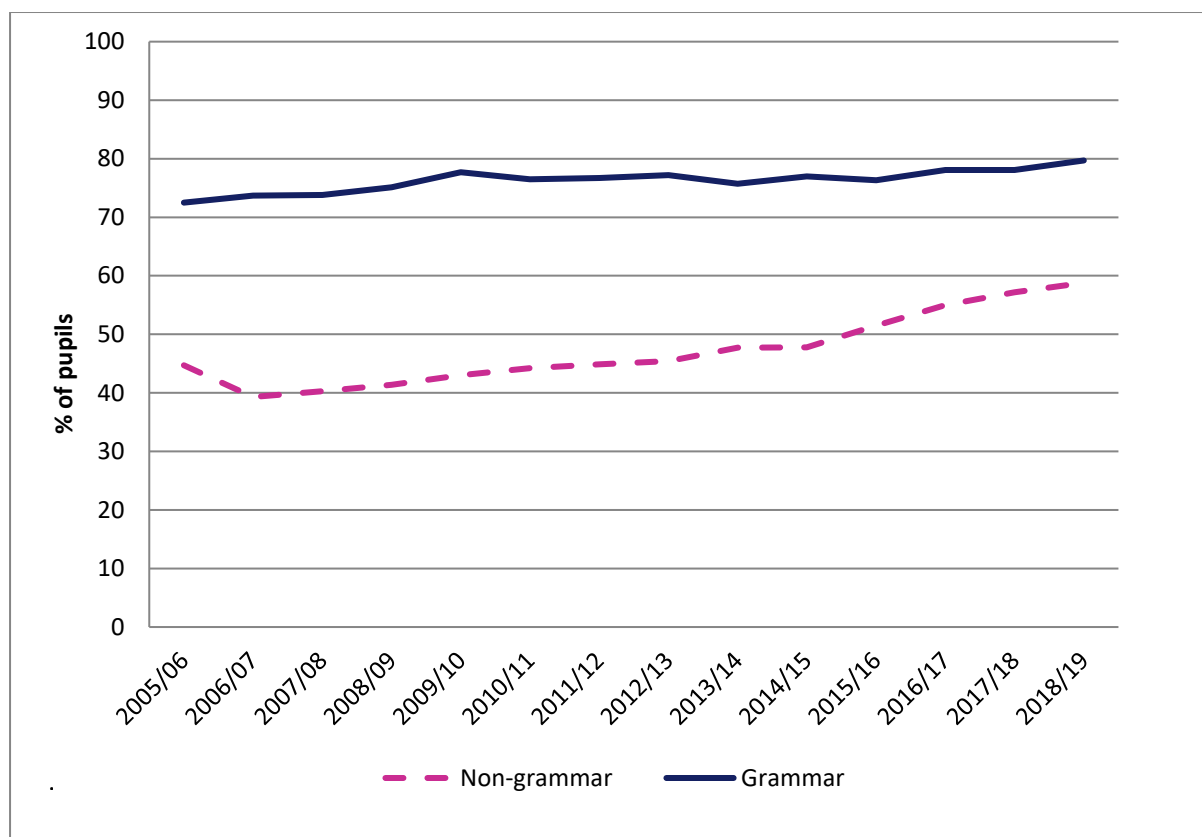
- There were 4,578 Year 14 pupils eligible for A-levels in **non-grammar schools**. This constituted 37.9% of the overall Year 14 cohort entered for examinations. In 2017/18 the figure was 4,670 (37.7%) representing a decrease of 2.0% over the period (see Figure 14 and Table 1b).
- There were 7,497 Year 14 pupils eligible for A-levels in **grammar schools**. This constituted 62.1% of the overall Year 14 cohort entered for examinations. In 2017/18 the figure was 7,701 (62.3%) representing a decrease of 2.6% over the period (see Figure 14 and Table 1b).

**Figure 14: Number of pupils entered for A-level (or equivalent) by school type 2005/06 to 2018/19 (academic years)**



- Grammar schools had a higher proportion of their pupils gaining 3 or more A-levels at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) than non-grammar schools. In 2018/19 79.7% of grammar school pupils in Year 14 achieved this standard, compared with 58.8% of non-grammar school pupils (see Figure 15 and Table 8a).
- This **performance gap** has shown signs of decreasing. In 2008/09 the gap between grammar and non-grammar achievement of 3 or more A-levels at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) was 33.7 percentage points. By 2018/19 the gap had decreased to 20.9 percentage points, although it was unchanged from 2017/18 (see Table 3).
- The narrowing of the performance gap in the percentage of pupils achieving 3 or more A-levels at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) was due to a larger increase in achievement at non-grammar schools, over time. Notwithstanding this, both non-grammar and grammar schools saw a 1.6 percentage point increase since 2017/18 (see Table 8a).

**Figure 15: Percentage of Year 14 pupils eligible for A-level (or equivalent) examinations achieving 3 or more A-levels at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) by school type 2005/06 to 2018/19 (academic years)**



- The **performance gap** between grammar and non-grammar achievement of 2 or more A-levels at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) was not as wide as the 3 or more A-levels at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) indicator. In 2018/19 94.4% of grammar school pupils achieved this standard, compared with 84.2% of non-grammar school pupils (see Table 9b).
- This gap was even smaller when achievement of 2 or more A-levels at grades A\*-E (including equivalents) was considered. In 2018/19 99.6% of grammar school pupils achieved this standard, compared with 96.4% of non-grammar school pupils (see Table 9b).

## 2.5 A-level performance of free school meal entitled pupils

Between 2013/14 and 2014/15 there was an increase in the proportion of Year 14 pupils entitled to free school meals. Eligibility under the Working Tax Credit free school meal criterion was extended to post-primary school pupils from September 2014.

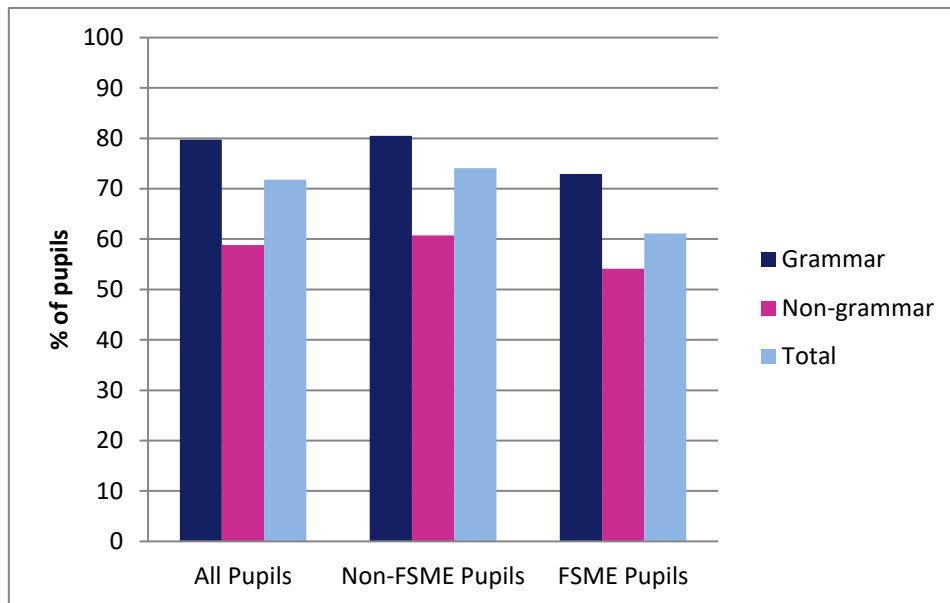
- **61.1%** of Year 14 FSME pupils achieved 3 or more A-levels at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) compared with **74.1%** of Year 14 non-FSME pupils, a 13.0 percentage point gap (see Figure 16 and Table 15). This gap was 13.7 percentage points in 2017/18.
- **85.5%** of Year 14 FSME pupils achieved 2 or more A-levels at grades A\*-C (including equivalents). For Year 14 non-FSME pupils the figure was **91.6%** (see Table 15).
- **96.6%** of Year 14 FSME pupils achieved 2 or more A-levels at grades A\*-E (including equivalents). For Year 14 non-FSME pupils the figure was **98.8%** (see Table 15).

### 2.5.1 A-level performance by school type and free school meal entitlement

Year 14 pupils with FSME had higher attainment in grammar schools than non-grammar schools in all key performance indicators, as was the case for all pupils.

- **54.1%** of Year 14 non-grammar school pupils with FSME achieved 3 or more A-levels at grades A\*-C, an increase from 51.5% in 2017/18. **72.9%** of Year 14 grammar school pupils with FSME achieved this indicator, an increase from 71.1% in 2017/18 (see Table 8b).
- The performance gap between grammar and non-grammar FSME pupils achieving 3 or more A-levels at grades A\*-C was 18.8 percentage points. This was a narrower gap than in 2017/18 when it was 19.6 percentage points (see Figure 16 and Table 8b).
- In **non-grammar schools** **54.1%** of Year 14 FSME pupils achieved 3 or more A-levels at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) compared with **60.7%** of non-FSME pupils. This was a performance gap of 6.6 percentage points (see Figure 16). The corresponding performance gap for 2 or more A-levels at grades A\*-E (including equivalents) was 1.8 percentage points (see Tables 8b and 8c).
- In **grammar schools** **72.9%** of Year 14 FSME pupils achieved 3 or more A-levels at grades A\*-C (including equivalents) compared with **80.5%** of non-FSME pupils. This was a performance gap of 7.6 percentage points (see Figure 16). The corresponding performance gap for 2 or more A-levels at grades A\*-E (including equivalents) was smaller, at 0.7 percentage points, with 99.0% of FSME and 99.7% of non-FSME Year 14 pupils achieving this indicator (see Tables 8b and 8c).

**Figure 16: Percentage of Year 14 pupils achieving 3 or more A-levels at grades A\*-C (including equivalentents) 2018/19 (academic year)**



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**Table 1: Year 12 and Year 14 pupils eligible for SAER returns by School Type, Gender and Free School Meal Entitlement status, 2018/19****1a) Year 12 pupils**

		<b>No. of pupils</b>		
		Non-grammar	Grammar	NI Total
All Pupils	Male	5,393	4,614	10,007
	Female	5,515	4,570	10,085
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10,908</b>	<b>9,184</b>	<b>20,092</b>
FSME Pupils <sup>1</sup>	Male	2,041	662	2,703
	Female	2,271	664	2,935
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,312</b>	<b>1,326</b>	<b>5,638</b>

**1b) Year 14 pupils**

		<b>No. of pupils</b>		
		Non-grammar	Grammar	NI Total
All Pupils	Male	1,743	3,439	5,182
	Female	2,835	4,058	6,893
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,578</b>	<b>7,497</b>	<b>12,075</b>
FSME Pupils <sup>1</sup>	Male	457	346	803
	Female	893	455	1,348
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>2,151</b>

<sup>1</sup> Free School Meal Entitled (FSME)

**Table 2: Year 12 pupil performance by School Type, 2008/09 - 2018/19**

Performance Indicator (including equivalents)	School Type	% of pupils										
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C	Non-grammar	54.1	59.1	60.1	63.9	67.2	70.6	72.0	72.7	74.4	77.3	79.7
	Grammar	96.8	96.8	97.0	97.0	97.3	97.2	97.8	96.6	96.5	96.0	96.1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>71.2</b>	<b>74.3</b>	<b>75.3</b>	<b>77.8</b>	<b>79.6</b>	<b>81.8</b>	<b>82.8</b>	<b>83.3</b>	<b>84.6</b>	<b>86.0</b>	<b>87.2</b>
5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C incl. GCSE English and GCSE mathematics	Non-grammar	32.9	34.9	36.4	36.2	37.7	44.0	46.8	47.0	49.9	52.4	54.8
	Grammar	93.8	93.5	93.9	92.9	94.0	94.5	95.0	94.1	94.1	94.0	94.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>57.3</b>	<b>58.6</b>	<b>60.1</b>	<b>60.1</b>	<b>60.9</b>	<b>65.2</b>	<b>67.0</b>	<b>67.9</b>	<b>70.3</b>	<b>71.8</b>	<b>72.8</b>
5+ GCSEs at grades A*-G	Non-grammar	87.6	92.8	94.6	95.8	96.2	97.1	97.4	97.6	97.5	98.0	97.7
	Grammar	99.3	99.7	99.8	99.9	99.9	99.8	99.9	99.8	99.8	99.7	99.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>92.3</b>	<b>95.6</b>	<b>96.7</b>	<b>97.5</b>	<b>97.7</b>	<b>98.2</b>	<b>98.4</b>	<b>98.6</b>	<b>98.6</b>	<b>98.8</b>	<b>98.6</b>
5+ GCSEs at grades A*-G incl. GCSE English and GCSE mathematics	Non-grammar	n/a	n/a	89.0	89.0	88.2	89.4	89.4	89.5	90.8	92.0	92.6
	Grammar	n/a	n/a	99.2	99.0	99.3	99.4	99.7	99.6	99.6	99.5	99.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>93.2</b>	<b>93.2</b>	<b>92.8</b>	<b>93.6</b>	<b>93.7</b>	<b>94.0</b>	<b>94.8</b>	<b>95.5</b>	<b>95.8</b>
No GCSEs	Non-grammar	1.8	1.2	0.7	#	#	#	#	0.1	0.2	#	#
	Grammar	0.1	0.1	0.1	*	*	*	*	0.1	0.1	*	#
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>

\* denotes a figure of less than 5 pupils

# figure not disclosed under rules of statistical suppression



**Table 3: Year 14 pupil performance by School Type, 2008/09 - 2018/19**

Performance Indicator (including equivalents)	School Type	% of pupils										
		2008/09 <sup>1</sup>	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
3+ A levels at grades A*-C	Non-grammar	41.4	43.0	44.2	44.9	45.4	47.7	47.8	51.5	55.0	57.2	58.8
	Grammar	75.1	77.7	76.5	76.7	77.2	75.7	77.0	76.3	78.1	78.1	79.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>64.0</b>	<b>65.3</b>	<b>64.5</b>	<b>64.8</b>	<b>65.2</b>	<b>65.0</b>	<b>64.9</b>	<b>66.3</b>	<b>69.0</b>	<b>70.2</b>	<b>71.8</b>
3+ A levels at grades A*-E	Non-grammar	n/a	n/a	76.9	78.5	79.1	78.1	78.9	82.3	84.1	84.9	85.1
	Grammar	n/a	n/a	95.9	96.5	97.0	96.5	96.9	96.5	97.4	96.9	97.4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>88.8</b>	<b>89.7</b>	<b>90.2</b>	<b>89.4</b>	<b>89.4</b>	<b>90.8</b>	<b>92.2</b>	<b>92.4</b>	<b>92.7</b>
2+ A levels at grades A*-C	Non-grammar	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	83.7	84.2
	Grammar	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	94.1	94.4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>90.2</b>	<b>90.5</b>
2+ A levels at grades A*-E	Non-grammar	94.4	94.7	95.1	95.9	95.7	95.4	95.8	96.1	97.0	96.4	96.4
	Grammar	99.5	99.7	99.3	99.5	99.6	99.6	99.7	99.5	99.7	99.5	99.6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>97.9</b>	<b>97.9</b>	<b>97.7</b>	<b>98.1</b>	<b>98.1</b>	<b>98.0</b>	<b>98.1</b>	<b>98.1</b>	<b>98.7</b>	<b>98.3</b>	<b>98.4</b>
1+ A levels at grades A*-E	Non-grammar	98.9	99.2	99.2	99.4	99.0	99.5	98.7	98.4	99.3	99.4	99.5
	Grammar	100.0	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	100.0	99.9	100.0	99.9	99.9	99.9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>99.6</b>	<b>99.6</b>	<b>99.6</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>99.6</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>99.4</b>	<b>99.3</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>99.8</b>

<sup>1</sup> A\* grades were introduced for A Level examinations in 2009/10. The figures for 2008/09 therefore refer to A-C and A-E performance indicators.

**Table 4: Year 12 pupil performance by Gender and Free School Meal Entitlement status, 2017/18 - 2018/19**

Performance Indicator (including equivalents)	% of pupils				
	FSME Pupils <sup>1</sup>		All Pupils		
	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	
7+ GCSEs	At grades A*-C (male)	45.5	49.3	65.5	67.2
	At grades A*-C (female)	60.6	61.7	78.1	77.7
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>53.3</b>	<b>55.8</b>	<b>71.9</b>	<b>72.5</b>
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (male)	37.8	41.0	60.3	62.0
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (female)	51.8	52.8	72.4	72.5
	<b>Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>45.0</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>66.4</b>	<b>67.3</b>
5+ GCSEs	At grades A*-C (male)	69.3	74.2	82.3	84.1
	At grades A*-C (female)	79.5	82.1	89.7	90.3
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>74.6</b>	<b>78.3</b>	<b>86.0</b>	<b>87.2</b>
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (male)	45.5	49.0	67.1	68.5
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (female)	57.3	58.9	76.5	77.1
	<b>Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>51.6</b>	<b>54.1</b>	<b>71.8</b>	<b>72.8</b>
No GCSEs	At grades A*-G (male)	96.2	96.7	98.3	98.3
	At grades A*-G (female)	98.1	97.6	99.3	98.9
	<b>At grades A*-G (total)</b>	<b>97.2</b>	<b>97.2</b>	<b>98.8</b>	<b>98.6</b>
	At grades A*-G (male)	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
	At grades A*-G (female)	0.2	#	0.1	0.1
	<b>At grades A*-G (total)</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>

<sup>1</sup> Free School Meal Entitled (FSME)

# figure not disclosed under rules of statistical suppression

**Table 5: Year 14 pupil performance by Gender and Free School Meal Entitlement status, 2017/18 - 2018/19**

Performance Indicator (including equivalents)	% of pupils				
	FSME Pupils <sup>1</sup>		All Pupils		
	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	
3+ A levels	At grades A*-C (male)	54.4	57.9	67.0	69.6
	At grades A*-C (female)	61.9	63.1	72.8	73.4
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>58.9</b>	<b>61.1</b>	<b>70.2</b>	<b>71.8</b>
2+ A levels	At grades A*-C (male)	81.4	84.4	87.9	89.2
	At grades A*-C (female)	86.1	86.2	91.9	91.5
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>84.2</b>	<b>85.5</b>	<b>90.2</b>	<b>90.5</b>
	At grades A*-E (male)	95.2	96.1	97.9	98.0
	At grades A*-E (female)	97.5	96.8	98.7	98.6
	<b>At grades A*-E (total)</b>	<b>96.6</b>	<b>96.6</b>	<b>98.3</b>	<b>98.4</b>
1+ A levels	At grades A*-E (male)	99.2	99.1	99.7	99.7
	At grades A*-E (female)	99.6	99.4	99.8	99.8
	<b>At grades A*-E (total)</b>	<b>99.5</b>	<b>99.3</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>99.8</b>

<sup>1</sup> Free School Meal Entitled (FSME)

**Table 6 : Year 12 and Year 14 Gender attainment gaps by Free School Meal Entitlement status, 2017/18 - 2018/19**

6 a) Year 12 Gender attainment gaps		% of pupils			
		FSME Pupils <sup>1</sup>		All Pupils	
Performance Indicator (including equivalents)		2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19
7+ GCSEs	At grades A*-C (male)	45.5	49.3	65.5	67.2
	At grades A*-C (female)	60.6	61.7	78.1	77.7
	<b>Gender attainment gap (percentage points)</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>10.5</b>
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (male)	37.8	41.0	60.3	62.0
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (female)	51.8	52.8	72.4	72.5
	<b>Gender attainment gap (percentage points)</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>10.5</b>
	5+ GCSEs	At grades A*-C (male)	69.3	74.2	82.3
At grades A*-C (female)		79.5	82.1	89.7	90.3
<b>Gender attainment gap (percentage points)</b>		<b>10.2</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>6.2</b>
Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (male)		45.5	49.0	67.1	68.5
Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (female)		57.3	58.9	76.5	77.1
<b>Gender attainment gap (percentage points)</b>		<b>11.8</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>8.6</b>
No GCSEs		At grades A*-G (male)	96.2	96.7	98.3
	At grades A*-G (female)	98.1	97.6	99.3	98.9
	<b>Gender attainment gap (percentage points)</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.6</b>
	At grades A*-G (male)	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
	At grades A*-G (female)	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
<b>Gender attainment gap (percentage points)</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	

6 b) Year 14 Gender attainment gaps		% of pupils			
		FSME Pupils <sup>1</sup>		All Pupils	
Performance Indicator (including equivalents)		2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19
3+ A levels	At grades A*-C (male)	54.4	57.9	67.0	69.6
	At grades A*-C (female)	61.9	63.1	72.8	73.4
	<b>Gender attainment gap (percentage points)</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>3.8</b>
2+ A levels	At grades A*-C (male)	81.4	84.4	87.9	89.2
	At grades A*-C (female)	86.1	86.2	91.9	91.5
	<b>Gender attainment gap (percentage points)</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>2.3</b>
	At grades A*-E (male)	95.2	96.1	97.9	98.0
	At grades A*-E (female)	97.5	96.8	98.7	98.6
<b>Gender attainment gap (percentage points)</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.6</b>	
1+ A levels	At grades A*-E (male)	99.2	99.1	99.7	99.7
	At grades A*-E (female)	99.6	99.4	99.8	99.8
	<b>Gender attainment gap (percentage points)</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>

<sup>1</sup> Free School Meal Entitled (FSME)

Table 7: Year 12 pupil performance by School Type, Gender and Free School Meal Entitlement status, 2017/18 - 2018/19

7 a) All Pupils		% of pupils			
		2017/18		2018/19	
Performance Indicator (including equivalents)		Non-grammar	Grammar	Non-grammar	Grammar
7+ GCSEs	At grades A*-C (male)	46.9	86.6	50.3	87.0
	At grades A*-C (female)	63.7	94.8	64.2	94.0
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>55.4</b>	<b>90.7</b>	<b>57.3</b>	<b>90.5</b>
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (male)	37.8	85.6	41.3	86.3
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (female)	53.8	94.0	55.0	93.5
	<b>Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>89.8</b>	<b>48.2</b>	<b>89.9</b>
5+ GCSEs	At grades A*-C (male)	72.0	93.8	75.5	94.2
	At grades A*-C (female)	82.4	98.2	83.9	97.9
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>96.0</b>	<b>79.7</b>	<b>96.1</b>
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (male)	45.5	91.4	48.5	92.0
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (female)	59.1	96.6	61.1	96.6
	<b>Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>52.4</b>	<b>94.0</b>	<b>54.8</b>	<b>94.3</b>
No GCSEs	At grades A*-G (male)	97.1	99.7	97.2	99.7
	At grades A*-G (female)	98.8	99.8	98.2	99.8
	<b>At grades A*-G (total)</b>	<b>98.0</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>97.7</b>	<b>99.7</b>
	At grades A*-G (male)	#	*	0.1	0.0
	At grades A*-G (female)	#	#	#	#
	<b>At grades A*-G (total)</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>#</b>

\* denotes a figure of less than 5 pupils

# figure not disclosed under rules of statistical suppression

7 b) Pupils entitled to Free School Meals		% of pupils			
		2017/18		2018/19	
Performance Indicator (including equivalents)		Non-grammar	Grammar	Non-grammar	Grammar
7+ GCSEs	At grades A*-C (male)	37.2	70.3	41.5	73.3
	At grades A*-C (female)	52.6	87.5	54.5	86.4
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>78.8</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>79.9</b>
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (male)	27.1	69.6	30.9	72.1
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (female)	41.4	86.3	43.5	84.9
	<b>Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>77.8</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>78.5</b>
5+ GCSEs	At grades A*-C (male)	64.7	83.0	69.8	87.6
	At grades A*-C (female)	75.2	93.9	78.5	94.6
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>70.2</b>	<b>88.4</b>	<b>74.4</b>	<b>91.1</b>
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (male)	34.3	78.7	37.9	83.1
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (female)	47.1	91.1	49.4	91.1
	<b>Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>84.8</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>87.1</b>
No GCSEs	At grades A*-G (male)	95.2	99.4	95.8	99.4
	At grades A*-G (female)	97.7	99.4	97.1	99.4
	<b>At grades A*-G (total)</b>	<b>96.5</b>	<b>99.4</b>	<b>96.5</b>	<b>99.4</b>
	At grades A*-G (male)	*	*	0.3	0.0
	At grades A*-G (female)	#	#	#	#
	<b>At grades A*-G (total)</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>#</b>

\* denotes a figure of less than 5 pupils

# figure not disclosed under rules of statistical suppression

7 c) Pupils not entitled to Free School Meals

		% of pupils			
		2017/18		2018/19	
Performance Indicator (including equivalents)		Non-grammar	Grammar	Non-grammar	Grammar
7+ GCSEs	At grades A*-C (male)	52.9	89.4	55.6	89.2
	At grades A*-C (female)	71.2	95.9	71.1	95.3
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>62.1</b>	<b>92.7</b>	<b>63.2</b>	<b>92.2</b>
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (male)	44.5	88.4	47.6	88.7
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (female)	62.2	95.2	63.1	95.0
	<b>Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>91.8</b>	<b>55.2</b>	<b>91.9</b>
5+ GCSEs	At grades A*-C (male)	76.6	95.6	78.9	95.3
	At grades A*-C (female)	87.3	98.9	87.7	98.5
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>82.0</b>	<b>97.3</b>	<b>83.2</b>	<b>96.9</b>
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (male)	52.5	93.6	54.9	93.4
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (female)	67.2	97.5	69.2	97.5
	<b>Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>59.9</b>	<b>95.6</b>	<b>61.9</b>	<b>95.5</b>
No GCSEs	At grades A*-G (male)	98.4	99.7	98.0	99.7
	At grades A*-G (female)	99.6	99.9	99.0	99.9
	<b>At grades A*-G (total)</b>	<b>99.0</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>98.5</b>	<b>99.8</b>
	At grades A*-G (male)	*	#	0.0	0.0
	At grades A*-G (female)	*	#	*	#
	<b>At grades A*-G (total)</b>	*	#	*	#

\* denotes a figure of less than 5 pupils

# figure not disclosed under rules of statistical suppression

**Table 8 : Year 14 pupil performance by School Type, Gender and Free School Meal Entitlement status, 2017/18 - 2018/19**

<b>8 a) All Pupils</b>		<b>% of pupils</b>			
		<b>2017/18</b>		<b>2018/19</b>	
<b>Performance Indicator (including equivalents)</b>		<b>Non-grammar</b>	<b>Grammar</b>	<b>Non-grammar (%)</b>	<b>Grammar (%)</b>
3+ A levels	At grades A*-C (male)	52.7	74.4	55.5	76.8
	At grades A*-C (female)	60.2	81.4	60.8	82.2
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>57.2</b>	<b>78.1</b>	<b>58.8</b>	<b>79.7</b>
2+ A levels	At grades A*-C (male)	80.1	92.0	82.3	92.6
	At grades A*-C (female)	86.0	95.9	85.3	95.8
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>83.7</b>	<b>94.1</b>	<b>84.2</b>	<b>94.4</b>
	At grades A*-E (male)	95.2	99.3	95.2	99.4
	At grades A*-E (female)	97.3	99.7	97.1	99.7
	<b>At grades A*-E (total)</b>	<b>96.4</b>	<b>99.5</b>	<b>96.4</b>	<b>99.6</b>
1+ A levels	At grades A*-E (male)	99.3	99.8	99.3	99.9
	At grades A*-E (female)	99.5	100.0	99.7	99.9
	<b>At grades A*-E (total)</b>	<b>99.4</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>99.5</b>	<b>99.9</b>

<b>8 b) Pupils entitled to Free School Meals</b>		<b>% of pupils</b>			
		<b>2017/18</b>		<b>2018/19</b>	
<b>Performance Indicator (including equivalents)</b>		<b>Non-grammar</b>	<b>Grammar</b>	<b>Non-grammar</b>	<b>Grammar</b>
3+ A levels	At grades A*-C (male)	46.6	64.8	47.9	71.1
	At grades A*-C (female)	54.3	76.3	57.3	74.3
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>51.5</b>	<b>71.1</b>	<b>54.1</b>	<b>72.9</b>
2+ A levels	At grades A*-C (male)	75.3	89.6	79.9	90.5
	At grades A*-C (female)	81.7	94.5	83.7	91.2
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>79.3</b>	<b>92.3</b>	<b>82.4</b>	<b>90.9</b>
	At grades A*-E (male)	93.1	98.1	94.1	98.8
	At grades A*-E (female)	96.3	99.8	95.6	99.1
	<b>At grades A*-E (total)</b>	<b>95.1</b>	<b>99.0</b>	<b>95.1</b>	<b>99.0</b>
1+ A levels	At grades A*-E (male)	99.0	99.5	98.9	99.4
	At grades A*-E (female)	99.4	100.0	99.3	99.6
	<b>At grades A*-E (total)</b>	<b>99.3</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>99.2</b>	<b>99.5</b>

8 c) Pupils <u>not</u> entitled to Free School Meals		% of pupils			
		2017/18		2018/19	
Performance Indicator (including equivalentents)		Non-grammar	Grammar	Non-grammar	Grammar
3+ A levels	At grades A*-C (male)	55.0	75.5	58.2	77.4
	At grades A*-C (female)	62.8	82.0	62.4	83.2
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>59.6</b>	<b>78.9</b>	<b>60.7</b>	<b>80.5</b>
2+ A levels	At grades A*-C (male)	81.9	92.3	83.2	92.9
	At grades A*-C (female)	88.0	96.1	86.1	96.4
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>85.5</b>	<b>94.3</b>	<b>84.9</b>	<b>94.8</b>
	At grades A*-E (male)	96.0	99.4	95.6	99.5
	At grades A*-E (female)	97.7	99.7	97.7	99.8
	<b>At grades A*-E (total)</b>	<b>97.0</b>	<b>99.5</b>	<b>96.9</b>	<b>99.7</b>
1+ A levels	At grades A*-E (male)	99.4	99.9	99.5	99.9
	At grades A*-E (female)	99.6	99.9	99.8	100.0
	<b>At grades A*-E (total)</b>	<b>99.5</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>99.9</b>



**Table 9: Year 12 and Year 14 School Type attainment gaps, 2018/19**

<b>9a) Year 12 School Type attainment gaps</b>		<b>% of pupils</b>		
		Non-grammar	Grammar	Attainment gap (pp <sup>1</sup> )
<b>Performance Indicator (including equivalents)</b>				
7+ GCSEs	At grades A*-C	57.3	90.5	<b>33.2</b>
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C	48.2	89.9	<b>41.7</b>
5+ GCSEs	At grades A*-C	79.7	96.1	<b>16.4</b>
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C	54.8	94.3	<b>39.5</b>
No GCSEs	At grades A*-G	97.7	99.7	<b>2.0</b>
	At grades A*-G	#	#	<b>#</b>

# figure not disclosed under rules of statistical suppression

<b>9b) Year 14 School Type attainment gaps</b>		<b>% of pupils</b>		
		Non-grammar	Grammar	Attainment gap (pp <sup>1</sup> )
<b>Performance Indicator (including equivalents)</b>				
3+ A-levels	At grades A*-C	58.8	79.7	<b>20.9</b>
2+ A-levels	At grades A*-C	84.2	94.4	<b>10.2</b>
	At grades A*-E	96.4	99.6	<b>3.2</b>
1+ A-levels	At grades A*-E	99.5	99.9	<b>0.4</b>

<sup>1</sup> (pp) = percentage points

Table 10: Year 12 pupil performance by Free School Meal Band, Gender and School Type, 2018/19

10 a) Non-grammar schools		Free School Meal band				% of pupils
Performance Indicator (including equivalents)		0-29.99%	30-39.99%	40-49.99%	50%+	NI Total
7+ GCSEs	At grades A*-C (male)	55.0	47.1	50.4	51.2	50.3
	At grades A*-C (female)	72.6	61.6	64.3	59.7	64.2
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>64.0</b>	<b>54.2</b>	<b>56.9</b>	<b>56.1</b>	<b>57.3</b>
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (male)	50.7	38.6	38.3	38.5	41.3
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (female)	68.0	52.7	54.2	45.7	55.0
	<b>Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>59.5</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>45.7</b>	<b>42.6</b>	<b>48.2</b>
5+ GCSEs	At grades A*-C (male)	75.7	72.1	78.6	79.0	75.5
	At grades A*-C (female)	86.7	81.2	84.8	84.8	83.9
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>81.3</b>	<b>76.5</b>	<b>81.5</b>	<b>82.3</b>	<b>79.7</b>
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (male)	59.8	45.3	45.9	43.8	48.5
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (female)	73.7	59.5	59.1	51.9	61.1
	<b>Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>66.9</b>	<b>52.2</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>54.8</b>

10 b) Grammar schools		Free School Meal band			% of pupils
Performance Indicator (including equivalents)		0-9.99%	10-19.99%	20%+	NI Total
7+ GCSEs	At grades A*-C (male)	91.2	88.8	75.2	87.0
	At grades A*-C (female)	96.6	93.3	90.6	94.0
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>93.9</b>	<b>91.1</b>	<b>82.2</b>	<b>90.5</b>
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (male)	90.8	88.2	74.1	86.3
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (female)	96.5	92.9	89.0	93.5
	<b>Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>93.6</b>	<b>90.7</b>	<b>80.9</b>	<b>89.9</b>
5+ GCSEs	At grades A*-C (male)	96.7	95.3	87.5	94.2
	At grades A*-C (female)	99.0	98.1	95.1	97.9
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>96.8</b>	<b>91.0</b>	<b>96.1</b>
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (male)	95.8	93.5	81.7	92.0
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (female)	98.5	96.8	91.7	96.6
	<b>Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>97.1</b>	<b>95.2</b>	<b>86.3</b>	<b>94.3</b>

Table 11: Year 14 pupil performance by Free School Meal Band, Gender and School Type, 2018/19

## 11 a) Non-grammar schools

Performance Indicator (including equivalents)		Free School Meal band				% of pupils
		0-29.99%	30-39.99%	40-49.99%	50%+	NI Total
3+ A levels	At grades A*-C (male)	60.8	51.4	55.8	55.1	55.5
	At grades A*-C (female)	73.3	51.6	54.1	64.3	60.8
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>68.6</b>	<b>51.5</b>	<b>54.9</b>	<b>61.1</b>	<b>58.8</b>
2+ A levels	At grades A*-C (male)	85.0	80.7	78.8	85.0	82.3
	At grades A*-C (female)	90.8	81.1	83.2	86.7	85.3
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>88.7</b>	<b>80.9</b>	<b>81.3</b>	<b>86.1</b>	<b>84.2</b>
	At grades A*-E (male)	97.7	93.7	95.2	94.7	95.2
	At grades A*-E (female)	99.2	96.2	96.4	96.4	97.1
	<b>At grades A*-E (total)</b>	<b>98.6</b>	<b>95.3</b>	<b>95.9</b>	<b>95.8</b>	<b>96.4</b>

## 11 b) Grammar schools

Performance Indicator (including equivalents)		Free School Meal band			% of pupils
		0-9.99%	10-19.99%	20%+	NI Total
3+ A levels	At grades A*-C (male)	78.0	78.6	70.0	76.8
	At grades A*-C (female)	86.2	80.9	77.1	82.2
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>82.2</b>	<b>79.9</b>	<b>73.6</b>	<b>79.7</b>
2+ A levels	At grades A*-C (male)	92.0	93.6	91.8	92.6
	At grades A*-C (female)	96.6	95.6	94.9	95.8
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>94.3</b>	<b>94.8</b>	<b>93.3</b>	<b>94.4</b>
	At grades A*-E (male)	99.3	99.7	99.0	99.4
	At grades A*-E (female)	99.7	99.6	100.0	99.7
	<b>At grades A*-E (total)</b>	<b>99.5</b>	<b>99.6</b>	<b>99.5</b>	<b>99.6</b>

**Table 12: Year 12 pupil performance by School Management Type and Gender, 2018/19**

Performance Indicator (including equivalents)								% of pupils		
		Controlled			Catholic Maintained	Other Maintained	Controlled Integrated	Grant Maintained Integrated (GMI)	Voluntary: Other Managed	Voluntary: Catholic Managed
		Non-grammar	Grammar	Total	All Non-grammar	All Non-grammar	All Non-grammar	All Non-grammar	All Grammar	All Grammar
7+ GCSEs	At grades A*-C (male)	45.3	90.2	59.6	53.5	53.6	42.0	56.2	86.1	86.1
	At grades A*-C (female)	56.7	93.2	71.0	70.5	68.0	55.3	62.6	94.2	94.4
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>91.9</b>	<b>65.4</b>	<b>62.5</b>	<b>60.4</b>	<b>48.0</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>90.0</b>	<b>90.0</b>
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (male)	35.7	89.9	52.9	44.5	50.0	34.1	48.3	85.6	85.2
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (female)	47.4	92.7	65.1	61.5	56.0	41.2	53.8	94.0	93.8
	<b>Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>41.3</b>	<b>91.5</b>	<b>59.1</b>	<b>53.5</b>	<b>52.8</b>	<b>37.3</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>89.7</b>	<b>89.3</b>
5+ GCSEs	At grades A*-C (male)	70.6	96.9	78.9	78.6	85.7	73.2	79.2	94.1	93.1
	At grades A*-C (female)	78.0	97.9	85.8	88.0	84.0	78.8	85.5	98.4	97.5
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>74.2</b>	<b>97.4</b>	<b>82.4</b>	<b>83.6</b>	<b>84.9</b>	<b>75.7</b>	<b>82.4</b>	<b>96.2</b>	<b>95.2</b>
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (male)	42.3	95.3	59.2	52.0	57.1	39.5	56.7	92.5	90.0
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (female)	53.8	96.6	70.5	67.2	58.0	48.8	60.3	97.5	95.8
	<b>Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>47.9</b>	<b>96.0</b>	<b>65.0</b>	<b>60.1</b>	<b>57.5</b>	<b>43.7</b>	<b>58.5</b>	<b>94.9</b>	<b>92.8</b>

**Table 13: Year 14 pupil performance by School Management Type and Gender, 2018/19**

Performance Indicator (including equivalents)		% of pupils								
		Controlled			Catholic Maintained	Other Maintained	Controlled Integrated	Grant Maintained Integrated (GMI)	Voluntary: Other Managed	Voluntary: Catholic Managed
		Non-grammar	Grammar	Total	All Non-grammar	All Non-grammar	All Non-grammar	All Non-grammar	All Grammar	All Grammar
3+ A levels	At grades A*-C (male)	54.5	79.3	68.9	55.2	30.0	63.3	58.7	72.7	78.8
	At grades A*-C (female)	52.7	82.4	69.2	64.3	50.0	50.0	66.0	81.0	82.9
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>81.1</b>	<b>69.1</b>	<b>61.0</b>	<b>43.1</b>	<b>55.7</b>	<b>63.0</b>	<b>77.0</b>	<b>81.0</b>
2+ A levels	At grades A*-C (male)	79.2	94.0	87.8	83.6	65.0	85.7	84.4	89.1	94.7
	At grades A*-C (female)	80.9	95.4	89.0	87.8	73.7	78.8	86.4	94.7	96.9
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>80.3</b>	<b>94.8</b>	<b>88.5</b>	<b>86.3</b>	<b>70.7</b>	<b>81.7</b>	<b>85.5</b>	<b>92.0</b>	<b>95.8</b>
	At grades A*-E (male)	93.7	99.7	97.2	96.1	75.0	98.0	96.3	99.1	99.5
	At grades A*-E (female)	97.4	99.8	98.7	97.5	78.9	86.4	98.4	99.6	99.8
	<b>At grades A*-E (total)</b>	<b>96.0</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>98.1</b>	<b>97.0</b>	<b>77.6</b>	<b>91.3</b>	<b>97.5</b>	<b>99.3</b>	<b>99.7</b>

**Table 14: Year 12 pupil performance by Gender and Free School Meal Entitlement status, 2018/19**

Key indicator (including equivalents)	% of pupils			
	FSME Pupils <sup>1</sup>	Non-FSME Pupils <sup>1</sup>	All Pupils	
7+ GCSEs	At grades A*-C (male)	49.3	73.8	67.2
	At grades A*-C (female)	61.7	84.3	77.7
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>55.8</b>	<b>79.0</b>	<b>72.5</b>
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (male)	41.0	69.9	62.0
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (female)	52.8	80.5	72.5
	<b>Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>75.1</b>	<b>67.3</b>
5+ GCSEs	At grades A*-C (male)	74.2	87.8	84.1
	At grades A*-C (female)	82.1	93.6	90.3
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>78.3</b>	<b>90.7</b>	<b>87.2</b>
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (male)	49.0	75.8	68.5
	Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (female)	58.9	84.6	77.1
	<b>Incl. English and maths at grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>54.1</b>	<b>80.2</b>	<b>72.8</b>
No GCSEs	At grades A*-G (male)	96.7	98.9	98.3
	At grades A*-G (female)	97.6	99.5	98.9
	<b>At grades A*-G (total)</b>	<b>97.2</b>	<b>99.2</b>	<b>98.6</b>
No GCSEs	At grades A*-G (male)	0.2	0.0	0.1
	At grades A*-G (female)	#	*	0.1
	<b>At grades A*-G (total)</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>0.1</b>

<sup>1</sup> Free School Meal Entitled (FSME)

\* denotes a figure of less than 5 pupils

# figure not disclosed under rules of statistical suppression

**Table 15: Year 14 pupil performance by Gender and Free School Meal Entitlement status, 2018/19**

Key indicator (including equivalents)	% of pupils			
	FSME Pupils <sup>1</sup>	Non-FSME Pupils <sup>1</sup>	All Pupils	
3+ A levels	At grades A*-C (male)	57.9	71.8	69.6
	At grades A*-C (female)	63.1	75.9	73.4
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>61.1</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>71.8</b>
2+ A levels	At grades A*-C (male)	84.4	90.0	89.2
	At grades A*-C (female)	86.2	92.8	91.5
	<b>At grades A*-C (total)</b>	<b>85.5</b>	<b>91.6</b>	<b>90.5</b>
	At grades A*-E (male)	96.1	98.4	98.0
	At grades A*-E (female)	96.8	99.1	98.6
	<b>At grades A*-E (total)</b>	<b>96.6</b>	<b>98.8</b>	<b>98.4</b>
1+ A levels	At grades A*-E (male)	99.1	99.8	99.7
	At grades A*-E (female)	99.4	99.9	99.8
	<b>At grades A*-E (total)</b>	<b>99.3</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>99.8</b>

<sup>1</sup> Free School Meal Entitled (FSME)

## NOTES FOR READERS

### National Statistics

1. The UK Statistics Authority 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.

This designation means 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.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall be observed regarding them.

2. For general enquiries about National Statistics, the Office for National Statistics Customer Contact Centre may be contacted as follows:
  - tel: 0845 601 3034;
  - e-mail: [info@ons.gov.uk](mailto:info@ons.gov.uk);
  - fax: 01633 652747; or
  - post: Customer Contact Centre, Office for National Statistics, Rm D265, Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport NP10 8XG.
3. Further information on National Statistics can be accessed at: [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk); and from the Office for National Statistics at <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/index.html>.
4. The Year 12 and Year 14 examination statistics have been assessed by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) to ensure compliance with National Statistics standards and are considered by OSR to meet the standards required for designation as National Statistics. A copy of the compliance check letter can be found [here](#).

### School Performance

5. The data collected are used extensively by schools to monitor and evaluate their academic performance, to inform all aspects of their school improvement planning and to satisfy their data requirements in areas such as: their prospectus; and other public communications which contain performance information. The press, members of the public and various public bodies also regularly access the data to keep their records of school attainment current and to compare with previous years.

6. Data collected through the Summary of Annual Examination Results (SAER) are used by policy branches within the Department of Education (DE) to evaluate initiatives including: literacy and numeracy strategies; school improvement programmes; benchmarking; and to monitor performance against relevant Departmental milestone targets. Other users include the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) who use the information to facilitate the school inspection process, and the Education Authority (EA). The data are also the basis of responses to Northern Ireland Assembly questions and are used in the EA auditing process.
7. The 2018/19 figures in this statistical release are based on information as at 9 December, 2019. Any revisions will be undertaken in accordance with DE statistical policy, which can be accessed at: <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/education/Revisions%20policy.pdf>
8. The tables presented in the release reflect key information on performance, as determined by Departmental needs and also on requests for information from other sources.
9. The statistics in this bulletin have been derived from the SAER.
10. Data excludes special and independent schools.
11. The Year 12 cohort used to determine the performance statistics in this document is based on the number of pupils in the final year of a GCSE (or equivalent) course of study who are eligible to be entered in the SAER return for the relevant academic year. Pupils can be ineligible for inclusion for a number of reasons and, therefore, the SAER Year 12 cohort can differ from the Year 12 cohort collected in the annual school census. Further information can be found at: <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/summary-annual-examination-results-saer-documentation>
12. The Year 14 cohort used to determine the performance statistics in the document is based on the number of pupils in the final year of an A-level (or equivalent) course of study. This level of education, unlike Year 12, is non-compulsory. Pupils can be deemed to be ineligible for inclusion in this cohort for a number of reasons which are the same as those used for the Year 12 cohort. As mentioned above, further information can be found at: <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/summary-annual-examination-results-saer-documentation>
13. As mentioned in 11. and 12. above, guidance and other documentation regarding the collection of school performance statistics may be found at: <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/summary-annual-examination-results-saer-documentation>



14. Statistics relating to school performance can be found on the DE website: (<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/>) under the Schools+ section <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/services/schools-plus>

15. The variables collected during the SAER process are as follows:

For Year 12:

- number of pupils in Year 12 eligible for examinations;
- number of pupils achieving 7 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (incl. equivalents);
- number of pupils achieving 7 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (incl. equivalents) including GCSE English and GCSE maths;
- number of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (incl. equivalents);
- number of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C (incl. equivalents) including GCSE English and GCSE maths;
- number of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-E (incl. equivalents);
- number of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-G (incl. equivalents);
- number of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-G (incl. equivalents) including GCSE English and GCSE maths;
- number of pupils achieving 1 to 4 GCSEs at grades A\*-C (incl. equivalents);
- number of pupils achieving 1 to 4 GCSEs at grades A\*-G (incl. equivalents); and
- number of pupils achieving no GCSEs at grades A\*-G (incl. equivalents).

For Year 14:

- number of pupils entered for A-levels;
- number of pupils achieving 3 or more A-levels at grades A\*-C (incl. equivalents);
- number of pupils achieving 3 or more A-levels at grades A\*-E (incl. equivalents);
- number of pupils achieving 2 or more A-levels at grades A\*-C (incl. equivalents);
- number of pupils achieving 2 or more A-levels at grades A\*-E (incl. equivalents);
- number of pupils achieving 1 or more A-levels at grades A\*-E (incl. equivalents).

16. The following list details related publications in England, Scotland and Wales:

- *GCSE (key stage 4) and equivalent results in England, 2018 to 2019 (provisional)*  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-gcses-key-stage-4>
- *A level and other 16 to 18 results in England, 2018 to 2019 (provisional)*  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-attainment-at-19-years>
- *Examination results in Wales, September 2018 to August 2019*  
<https://gov.wales/examination-results-september-2018-august-2019>
- *Summary Statistics for Schools in Scotland*  
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/Summarystatsforschools>