

Statistical Bulletin 4/2018

Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers 2016/17

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This statistical bulletin presents an analysis of the GCSE and A-level qualifications and destinations of pupils leaving post-primary schools in 2016/17.

Key Points

- The proportion of school leavers achieving **at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent** has increased by 7.3 percentage points from five years ago, from 76.5% in 2011/12 to 83.8% in 2016/17.
- At 69.6%, the proportion of school leavers achieving **at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths** has increased by 1.9 percentage points since 2015/16 (67.7%) and by 7.6 percentage points since 2011/12 (62.0%).
- 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 2.7 percentage points from 44.8% in 2015/16 to 47.5% in 2016/17.
- The proportion of school leavers achieving **three or more A-levels at grades A* - C or equivalent** was 40.7% in 2016/17, an increase of 4.3 percentage points from five years ago (36.4% in 2011/12).
- The proportion of school leavers continuing on to **Institutions of Higher Education** has increased slightly to 43.3% in 2016/17. Overall, 96.0% of school leavers were recorded by their school as entering **Education, Employment or Training**.

Contents

Section	Title	Page
	<u>Introduction</u>	4
	<u>Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021</u>	5
1	<u>Qualifications</u>	6
1.1	<u>5+ GCSEs A* - C including equivalent qualifications</u>	6
1.2	<u>5+ GCSEs A* - C and equivalent qualifications including GCSE English and GCSE maths</u>	7
1.3	<u>No GCSEs or equivalent qualifications</u>	9
1.4	<u>A-levels and equivalent qualifications</u>	9
2	<u>Destinations</u>	11
3	<u>Notes to Readers</u>	12
4	<u>2016/17 Tables</u>	
Table 1	<u>Qualifications of school leavers by gender and school type</u>	15
Table 2	<u>Highest qualification of school leavers by destination</u>	16
Table 3	<u>Qualifications of school leavers by gender and religion of pupil</u>	17
Table 4	<u>Qualifications of school leavers by ethnic origin</u>	18
Table 5	<u>Qualifications of school leavers by gender and free school meal entitlement</u>	19
Table 6	<u>Qualifications of school leavers by 2014 district council of pupil residence</u>	20
Table 7	<u>School leavers not entitled to free school meals achieving at least 5 GCSEs A* - C inc. GCSE English and GCSE maths by gender and religion of pupil</u>	21
Table 8	<u>School leavers entitled to free school meals achieving at least 5 GCSEs A* - C inc. GCSE English and GCSE maths by gender and religion of pupil</u>	21
Table 9	<u>School leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs A* - C inc. GCSE English and GCSE maths by gender and religion of pupil</u>	21
Table 10	<u>Qualifications of school leavers by special educational need (SEN) status</u>	22
Table 11	<u>Qualifications of school leavers 2011/12 to 2016/17</u>	23
Table 12	<u>Qualifications of male school leavers 2011/12 to 2016/17</u>	23
Table 13	<u>Qualifications of female school leavers 2011/12 to 2016/17</u>	23
Table 14	<u>Destination of school leavers by school type and gender</u>	24
Table 15	<u>Destination of school leavers by gender and religion of pupil</u>	25
Table 16	<u>Destination of school leavers by ethnic origin</u>	26
Table 17	<u>Destination of school leavers by free school meal entitlement and gender</u>	27

Table 18	<u>Destination of school leavers by special educational need (SEN) status</u>	28
Table 19	<u>Destination of school leavers by 2014 district council of pupil residence</u>	29
Table 20	<u>Higher education destination by country of institution and gender of pupil</u>	30
Table 21	<u>Higher education destination by country of institution and religion of pupil</u>	30
Table 22	<u>Destination of school leavers 2011/12 to 2016/17</u>	31
Table 23	<u>Destination of male school leavers 2011/12 to 2016/17</u>	31
Table 24	<u>Destination of female school leavers 2011/12 to 2016/17</u>	31
5	<u>Appendices 2011/12</u>	
Appendix A	<u>Qualifications of school leavers by gender and school type</u>	32
Appendix B	<u>Destinations of school leavers by gender and school type</u>	33

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 (formerly the Education and Library Boards). 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

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 2016/17, this figure has increased to 5,752, 26.2% 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

Information reported in this bulletin may reflect outcomes associated with a range of programmes specifically targeting the literacy and numeracy of young people in those schools serving the most disadvantaged pupils¹.

Statistics relating to school numbers and enrolments can be found on the Statistics and research section of the Department of Education [website](#)².

¹ <https://www.etini.gov.uk/publications/evaluation-implementation-delivering-social-change-improving-literacy-and-numeracy-0>

² <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-research/statistics>

Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021

School leavers data informs two indicators in the Draft Programme for Government (PfG) 2016-2021³. Both indicators use the 2014/15 year as the baseline year for comparison purposes.

Indicator 11: Improve Educational Outcomes - Percentage of school leavers achieving at level 2 or above including English and maths

Current position: In 2016/17, the percentage of school leavers achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSEs in English and maths was **69.6%**. This represents an increase of 3.6 percentage points from the 2014/15 baseline year when 66.0% of school leavers achieved this standard.

Indicator 12: Reduce Educational Inequality – Gap between percentage of non-FSME school leavers and percentage of FSME school leavers achieving at level 2 or above including English and maths

Current position: In 2016/17, the percentage of school leavers not entitled to free school meals achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSEs in English and maths was 77.4%, while the percentage of those entitled to free school meals achieving the same measure was 47.5%. This represents a gap of **30.0** percentage points⁴ between these two groups compared with a gap of 32.4% between these groups in the baseline year of 2014/15.

The change in attainment for each group is as follows:

- In 2016/17, **47.5%** of those entitled to free school meals achieved this standard, an increase from 41.3% in the 2014/15 baseline year;
- In 2016/17, **77.4%** of those not entitled to free school meals achieved this standard, an increase from 73.7% in the 2014/15 baseline year.

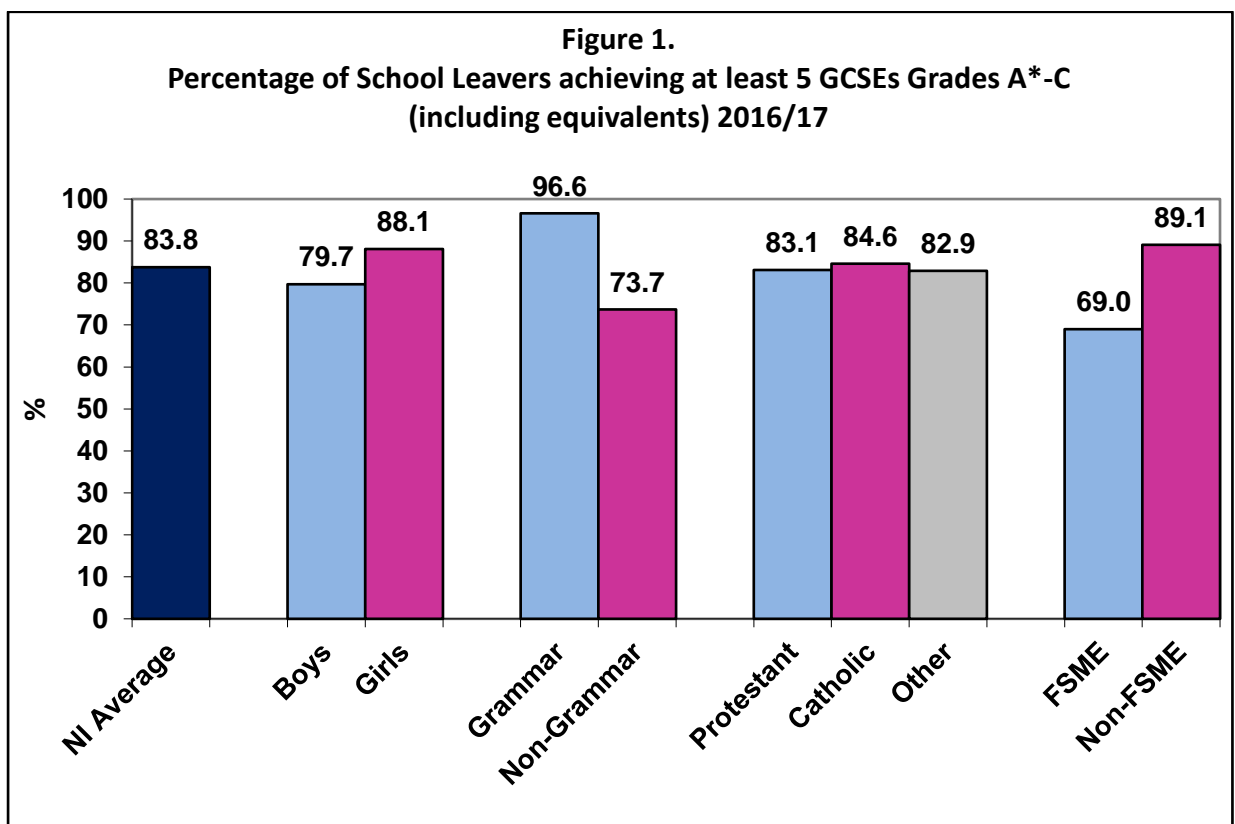
³ <https://www.northernireland.gov.uk/programme-government>

⁴ Percentages have been rounded to one decimal place; as a consequence, figures may not sum to the total due to this rounding method

Section 1: Qualifications

1.1 5+ 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 7.3 percentage points from five years ago, from 76.5% in 2011/12 to 83.8% in 2016/17 ([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; 88.1% of girls leaving school in 2016/17 achieved this standard compared with 79.7% of boys ([Table 1](#), [Table 12](#), [Table 13](#) & [Figure 1](#)).

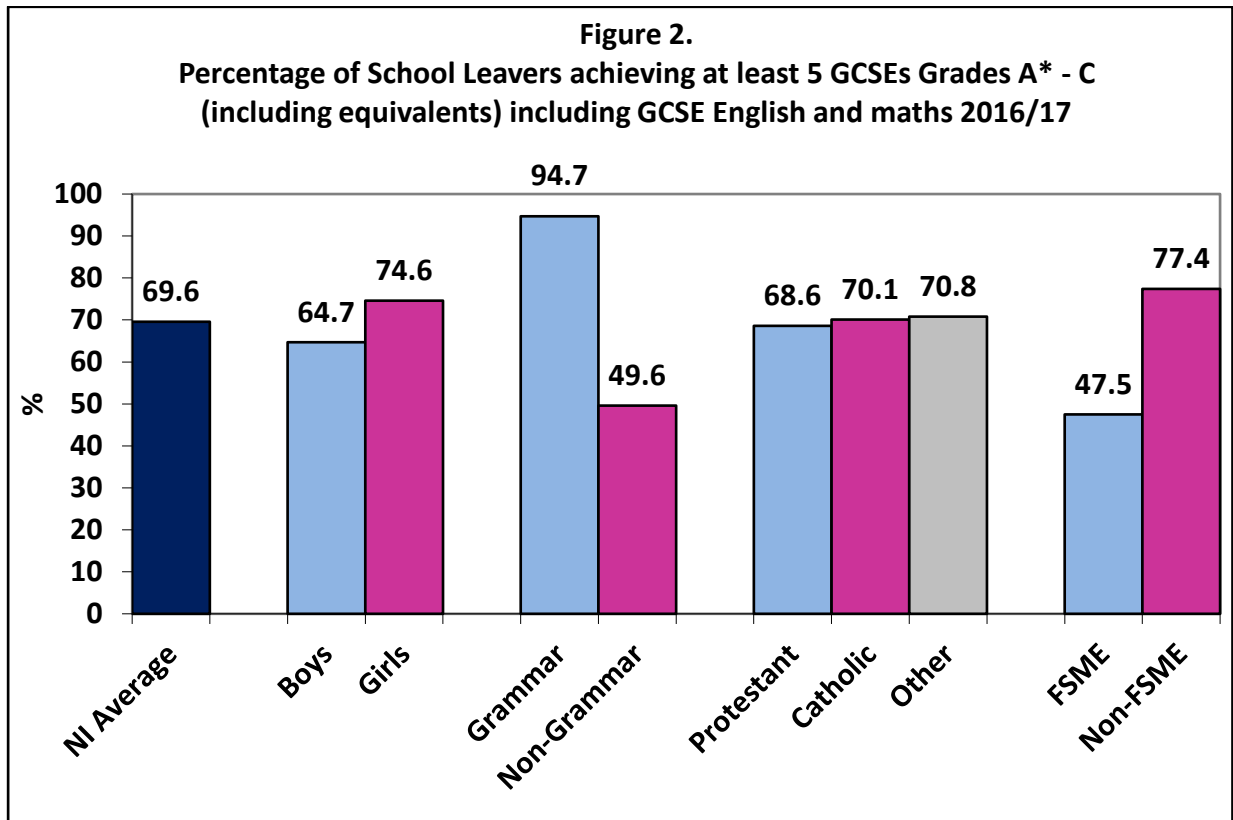


- The proportion of pupils leaving non-grammar schools who achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent has increased by 12.4 percentage points from 61.3% in 2011/12 to 73.7% in 2016/17. The corresponding proportions for grammar schools have decreased slightly from 97.2% in 2011/12 to 96.6% in 2016/17 ([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 3.3 percentage points from 70.4% in 2015/16 to 73.7% in 2016/17. In contrast, the proportion of pupils leaving grammar schools who achieved this standard remained stable at 96.7% in 2015/16 and 96.6% in 2016/17 ([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 54.2% in 2016/17, compared with 89.4% for those pupils without a statement of SEN. 66.2% of pupils recorded as having SEN stage 1-4 achieved this standard ([Table 10](#)). At 54.2%, the proportion of pupils at stage 5 of the statementing process achieving this standard has increased by 16.9 percentage points since 2015/16 (37.3%).

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

- At 69.6%, the proportion of school leavers achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths has increased by 1.9 percentage points since 2015/16 (67.7%) and by 7.6 percentage points since 2011/12 (62.0%) ([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 increased by 2.7 percentage points from 44.8% in 2015/16 to 47.5% in 2016/17 ([Table 5](#), [Figure 2](#)).
- There is a 14.2 percentage point gap between the proportion of pupils achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths (69.6%) and the proportion of pupils achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent (83.8%) ([Table 1](#)).
- Three-quarters (74.6%) of girls achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths compared with 64.7% of boys, a difference of 9.9 percentage points ([Table 1](#), [Table 9](#) & [Figure 2](#)).
- In 2016/17, 94.7% of grammar school leavers left with at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths, while 96.6% left with at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent, a difference of 1.9 percentage points. The corresponding proportions for non-grammar school leavers were 49.6% and 73.7% respectively, a difference of 24.1 percentage points ([Table 1](#) & [Figure 2](#)).
- Again, looking at the difference between these two indicators, 70.1% of Catholic school leavers left with at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths, while 84.6% left with at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent, a difference of 14.5 percentage points. The corresponding proportions for Protestant school leavers were 68.6% and 83.1% respectively, also a difference of 14.5 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 2.1 percentage points from 47.5% in 2015/16 to 49.6% in 2016/17. The proportion of pupils leaving grammar schools who achieved this standard remained similar at 94.5% in 2015/16 and 94.7% in 2016/17 ([Table 1](#)).



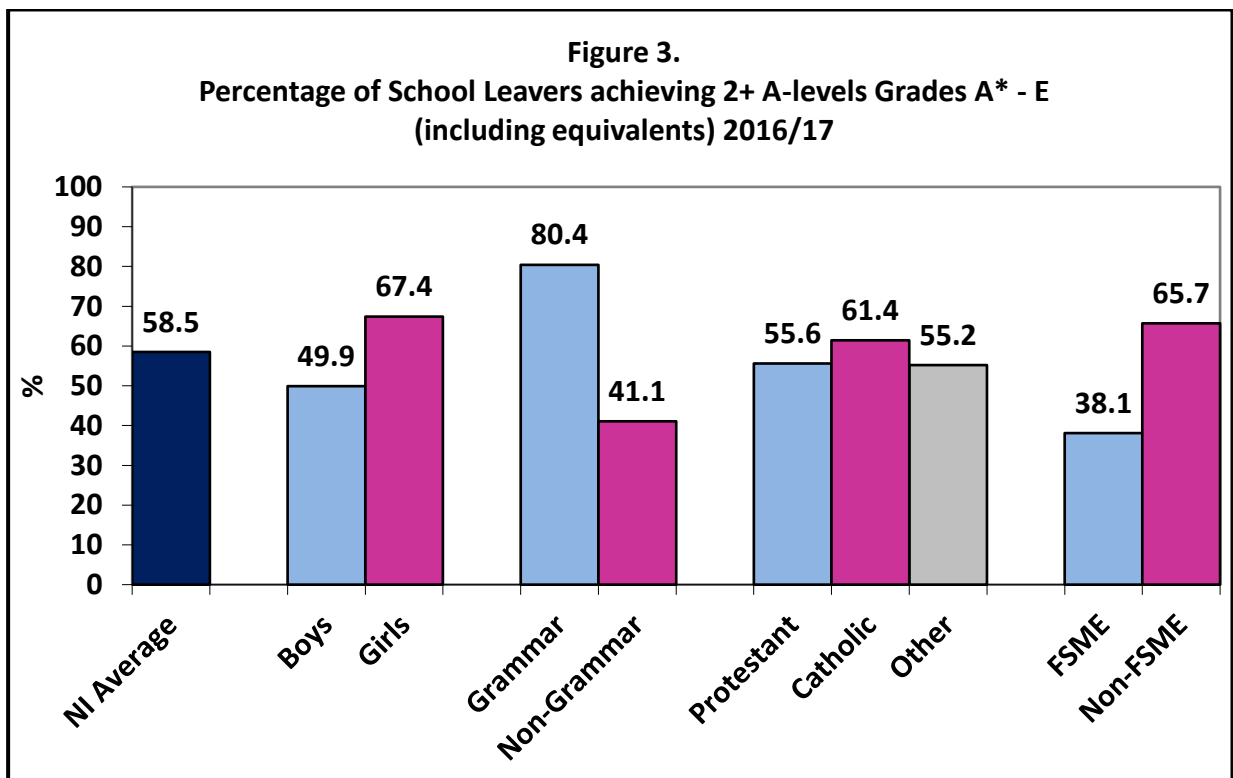
- In 2016/17, 36.6% (346) of Protestant boys entitled to free school meals achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths compared with 45.0% (773) of Catholic boys entitled to free school meals ([Table 8](#)). A greater proportion of both Protestant boys and Catholic boys with entitlement to free school meals achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths in 2016/17 when compared with 2015/16, representing an increase of 2.6 and 1.4 percentage points respectively.
- Similarly, 48.9% (450) of Protestant girls entitled to free school meals achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths compared with 55.6% (916) of Catholic girls entitled to free school meals ([Table 8](#)). A greater proportion of both Protestant girls and Catholic girls with entitlement to free school meals achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths in 2016/17 when compared with 2015/16, representing an increase of 6.4 and 2.5 percentage points respectively.
- 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 14.3 percentage point difference between the lowest achieving DC which was Belfast (63.3%) and the highest achieving DC which was Lisburn and Castlereagh (77.6%) when comparing those leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths.

1.3 No GCSEs or equivalent qualifications

- More boys (82) left school in 2016/17 with no GCSEs than girls (50), equating to 0.7% of all male school leavers and 0.5% of all female school leavers in 2016/17 ([Table 1](#), [Table 12](#) & [Table 13](#)).
- When free school meal entitlement is considered, 1.2% (69) of those entitled to free school meals left without any GCSEs compared with 0.4% (63) of school leavers who were not entitled to free school meals ([Table 5](#)).

1.4 A-levels and equivalent qualifications

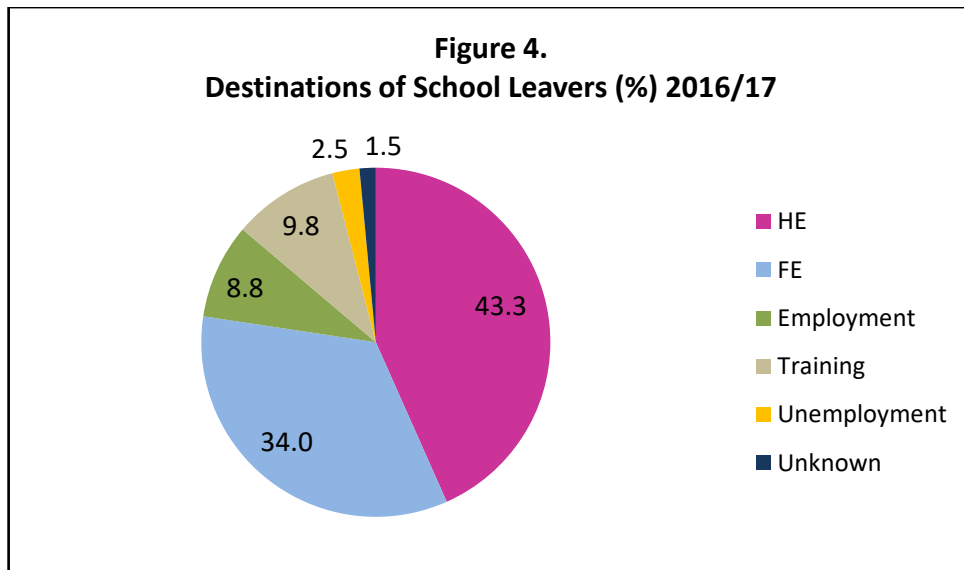
- The proportion of school leavers achieving three or more A-levels at grades A* - C or equivalent was 40.7% in 2016/17, an increase of 4.3 percentage points from five years ago (36.4% in 2011/12) ([Table 1](#), [Table 11](#)).
- The proportion of school leavers achieving two or more A-levels at grades A* - E or equivalent was 58.5% in 2016/17, an increase of 2.9 percentage points from 55.6% in 2011/12 ([Table 1](#), [Table 11](#) & [Figure 3](#)).
- Girls continue to outperform boys in terms of qualifications achieved. In 2016/17, 48.8% of girls achieved at least three A-levels at grades A* - C or equivalent on leaving school compared with 33.0% of boys, and 67.4% of girls achieved two or more A-levels at grades A* - E or equivalent in 2016/17 compared with 49.9% of boys ([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 6.6 percentage points from 34.5% in 2011/12 to 41.1% in 2016/17, with 51.7% of non-grammar school girls achieving this standard compared with 31.2% 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 decreased from 84.4% in 2011/12 to 80.4% in 2016/17, with 86.2% of grammar school girls leaving school with two or more A-levels or equivalent compared with 74.6% 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 1.5 percentage points from 39.6% in 2015/16 to 41.1% in 2016/17. In contrast, the proportion of pupils leaving grammar schools who achieved this standard decreased slightly from 80.9% in 2015/16 to 80.4% in 2016/17 ([Table 1](#)).
- When religion of pupil is considered, 61.4% of Catholic school leavers achieved two or more A-levels at grades A* - E or equivalent in 2016/17 compared with 55.6% 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), 65.7% compared with 38.1% 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, 43.3% of pupils leaving school in 2016/17 entered Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). At 51.1%, the proportion of girls continuing on to HEIs is higher than that for boys (35.8%) ([Table 14](#), [Figure 4](#)).
- When religion of pupil is considered, 40.2% of Protestant school leavers entered Institutions of Higher Education compared with 45.8% of Catholic school leavers ([Table 15](#)).
- The proportion of school leavers continuing on to Institutions of Higher Education has increased by 1.0 percentage point from 42.3% in 2011/12 to 43.3% in 2016/17. The proportion continuing on to Institutions of Further Education decreased slightly from 34.6% in 2011/12 to 34.0% in 2016/17 ([Table 22](#)).
- In 2016/17, school leavers not entitled to free school meals were more likely to continue their education with 81.5% entering institutions of Higher or Further Education compared with 65.5% of leavers who were entitled to free school meals ([Table 17](#)).
- At 14.5%, the proportion of boys entering Training is almost treble that of girls (5.0%) ([Table 14](#)).
- Overall, 96.0% of 2016/17 school leavers were recorded by their school as entering Education, Employment or Training. When school type is considered, 97.9% of grammar school leavers and 94.5% of non-grammar school leavers were recorded as having these destinations ([Table 14](#)).

Section 3: Notes to Readers

National Statistics

1. National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is a producer's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

2. For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the National Statistics Public Enquiry Service on 0845 601 3034

minicom: 01633 812399

E-mail: info@statistics.gov.uk

Fax: 01633 652747

Letters: Customer Contact Centre, Office for National Statistics, Rm 1.101, Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, NP10 8XG

3. You can also find National Statistics on the [Internet](#)⁵

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](#)⁶.

Special analysis of the school leavers' survey can be produced on request.

5. Information presenting qualifications and destinations of school leavers in Wales, England, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland is not reported as policy differences between the regions make direct comparisons difficult. Figures relating to these regions can be accessed at the links below:

Wales:

<http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/?topic=Education+and+skills&lang=en#/statistics-and-research/?topics=Education+and+skills&subtopics=Qualifications&view=Search+results&lang=en>

⁵ <http://www.statistics.gov.uk>

⁶ <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/school-leavers-data-collection-and-validation>

England:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-education-and-training>

Scotland:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/PubAttainment>

Republic of Ireland:

<http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/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. [2015 results](#)⁷ were published in December 2016.
7. Further information on examination equivalencies can be obtained from: <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk/Qualification>
8. The numbers relating to qualifications are cumulative totals of the level detailed and those above. For example, 83.8% 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 took place in the 2017/18 academic year, it was not possible to collect or validate information for a small number of pupils who left schools that had closed at the end of the 2016/17 academic year.
12. Percentages have been rounded to one decimal place and as a consequence, some percentages may not sum to 100 and figures may not sum to the total due to this rounding method.
13. School leavers FSM entitlement is usually taken at the point pupils leave school. However, a quality issue was identified with the FSM entitlement information received as part of the school leavers data collection in 2016/17. A decision was made to make use of the Departments FSM entitlement data taken from the 2016/17 annual School Census. The FSM data were collected in October 2016 and validated by the Education Authority. Therefore any impact on FSM entitlement data will be minimal.

⁷ <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/2015-northern-ireland-pisa-results>

14. 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 <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/statistical-policies>

Contact details for further information

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DE Statistical Bulletins can be accessed at the DE Internet site – <http://www.education-ni.gov.uk> under the Statistics and research section.

Press enquiries should be made to the Department's Press Office at the same address, telephone (028) 9127 9207.

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

Section 4: 2016/17 Tables

Table 1

Qualifications of school leavers by gender and school type 2016/2017⁽¹⁾

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
GRAMMAR						
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	2661	55.2	3459	70.6	6120	62.9
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	3471	71.9	4146	84.6	7617	78.3
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	3600	74.6	4224	86.2	7824	80.4
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	4573	94.8	4821	98.3	9394	96.6
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	4454	92.3	4761	97.1	9215	94.7
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	4786	99.2	4891	99.8	9677	99.5
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	#	#	*	*	12	0.1
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	#	#	*	*	10	0.1
TOTAL GRAMMAR	4825	100.0	4902	100.0	9727	100.0
NON-GRAMMAR						
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	1028	16.2	1806	30.6	2834	23.1
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	1640	25.8	2678	45.4	4318	35.2
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	1983	31.2	3051	51.7	5034	41.1
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	4339	68.2	4692	79.6	9031	73.7
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	2786	43.8	3298	55.9	6084	49.6
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	5915	93.0	5636	95.6	11551	94.2
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	#	#	#	#	120	1.0
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	#	#	#	#	52	0.4
TOTAL NON-GRAMMAR	6360	100.0	5896	100.0	12256	100.0
TOTAL						
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	3689	33.0	5265	48.8	8954	40.7
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	5111	45.7	6824	63.2	11935	54.3
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	5583	49.9	7275	67.4	12858	58.5
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	8912	79.7	9513	88.1	18425	83.8
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	7240	64.7	8059	74.6	15299	69.6
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	10701	95.7	10527	97.5	21228	96.6
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	82	0.7	50	0.5	132	0.6
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	36	0.3	26	0.2	62	0.3
TOTAL LEAVERS	11185	100.0	10798	100.0	21983	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.

* Denotes fewer than 5 pupils

#Figure not provided under rules of statistical disclosure

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 2016/2017⁽¹⁾

	Institutions of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾		Institutions of Further Education		Employment		Training ⁽⁵⁾		Unemployment		Unknown		Total	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
A-levels														
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	9258	77.6	1541	12.9	737	6.2	169	1.4	164	1.4	66	0.6	11935	100.0
2 A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	257	27.8	357	38.7	212	23.0	43	4.7	38	4.1	16	1.7	923	100.0
1 A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	*	*	271	66.1	79	19.3	16	3.9	25	6.1	#	#	410	100.0
GCSEs														
5+ A*-C (or equivalent) ⁽²⁾	*	*	3487	67.6	545	10.6	860	16.7	149	2.9	#	#	5157	100.0
1-4 A*-C (or equivalent) ⁽²⁾	0	0.0	1680	54.7	295	9.6	899	29.3	116	3.8	80	2.6	3070	100.0
Other grades (1+ D-G) ⁽²⁾	0	0.0	122	34.3	47	13.2	125	35.1	39	11.0	23	6.5	356	100.0
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	0	0.0	21	15.9	27	20.5	49	37.1	21	15.9	14	10.6	132	100.0
TOTAL LEAVERS	9522		7479		1942		2161		552		327		21983	

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.

* Denotes fewer than 5 pupils

Figure not provided under rules of statistical disclosure

Table 3

Qualifications of school leavers by gender and religion of pupil 2016/2017⁽¹⁾

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
PROTESTANT						
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	1307	30.0	1951	45.3	3258	37.6
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	1895	43.5	2571	59.7	4466	51.5
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	2054	47.2	2763	64.1	4817	55.6
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	3452	79.3	3744	86.9	7196	83.1
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	2772	63.7	3174	73.7	5946	68.6
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	4194	96.3	4189	97.2	8383	96.8
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	31	0.7	22	0.5	53	0.6
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	17	0.4	10	0.2	27	0.3
TOTAL PROTESTANT	4355	100.0	4309	100.0	8664	100.0
CATHOLIC						
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	1991	35.2	2853	52.3	4844	43.6
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	2684	47.4	3649	66.9	6333	57.0
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	2944	52.0	3876	71.1	6820	61.4
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	4524	80.0	4872	89.4	9396	84.6
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	3674	64.9	4114	75.5	7788	70.1
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	5391	95.3	5332	97.8	10723	96.5
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	43	0.8	18	0.3	61	0.5
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	14	0.2	12	0.2	26	0.2
TOTAL CATHOLIC	5657	100.0	5451	100.0	11108	100.0
OTHER⁽⁵⁾						
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	391	33.3	461	44.4	852	38.5
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	532	45.4	604	58.2	1136	51.4
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	585	49.9	636	61.3	1221	55.2
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	936	79.8	897	86.4	1833	82.9
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	794	67.7	771	74.3	1565	70.8
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	1116	95.1	1006	96.9	2122	96.0
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	8	0.7	10	1.0	18	0.8
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	5	0.4	4 [†]	0.4	9	0.4
TOTAL OTHER⁽⁵⁾	1173	100.0	1038	100.0	2211	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.

[†] 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](#)⁸.

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

⁸ <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/monitoring-and-assessment/code-of-practice/>

Table 4

 Qualifications of school leavers by ethnic origin 2016/2017⁽¹⁾

	TOTAL	
	Numbers	%
WHITE		
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	8727	40.7
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	11620	54.2
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	12522	58.5
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	17954	83.8
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	14919	69.6
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	20699	96.6
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	122	0.6
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	#	#
TOTAL WHITE	21421	100.0
MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS⁽⁵⁾		
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	227	40.4
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	315	56.0
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	336	59.8
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	471	83.8
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	380	67.6
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	529	94.1
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	10	1.8
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	*	*
TOTAL MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS⁽⁵⁾	562	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.

* Denotes fewer than 5 pupils

Figure not provided under rules of statistical disclosure

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 2016/2017⁽¹⁾

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
ENTITLED TO FSM						
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	470	16.0	838	29.7	1308	22.7
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	722	24.7	1204	42.6	1926	33.5
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	844	28.8	1346	47.7	2190	38.1
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	1837	62.7	2130	75.5	3967	69.0
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	1243	42.4	1488	52.7	2731	47.5
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	2642	90.2	2653	94.0	5295	92.1
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	41	1.4	28	1.0	69	1.2
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	10	0.3	13	0.5	23	0.4
TOTAL ENTITLED TO FSM	2929	100.0	2823	100.0	5752	100.0
NOT ENTITLED TO FSM						
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	3219	39.0	4427	55.5	7646	47.1
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	4389	53.2	5620	70.5	10009	61.7
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	4739	57.4	5929	74.3	10668	65.7
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	7075	85.7	7383	92.6	14458	89.1
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	5997	72.6	6571	82.4	12568	77.4
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	8059	97.6	7874	98.7	15933	98.2
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	41	0.5	22	0.3	63	0.4
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	26	0.3	13	0.2	39	0.2
TOTAL NOT ENTITLED TO FSM	8256	100.0	7975	100.0	16231	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 2016/2017^{(1) (3)}

DISTRICT COUNCIL	2 or more A-levels Grades A*-E ⁽²⁾		At least 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C ⁽²⁾		At least 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc. GCSE English and maths		Total Leavers
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Antrim and Newtownabbey	866	58.0	1231	82.5	1042	69.8	1492
Ards and North Down	1087	64.2	1472	86.9	1257	74.2	1693
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	1335	52.3	2078	81.4	1790	70.1	2554
Belfast	2043	59.7	2825	82.6	2166	63.3	3421
Causeway Coast and Glens	938	54.1	1485	85.6	1166	67.2	1734
Derry City and Strabane	1195	58.4	1683	82.3	1417	69.3	2045
Fermanagh and Omagh	915	63.0	1246	85.8	1038	71.4	1453
Lisburn and Castlereagh	1013	63.3	1429	89.3	1243	77.6	1601
Mid and East Antrim	959	57.7	1392	83.8	1176	70.8	1661
Mid Ulster	1071	58.4	1574	85.9	1306	71.2	1833
Newry, Mourne and Down	1375	57.8	1920	80.7	1629	68.5	2378
Invalid/Missing/Unknown Postcodes	61	51.7	90	76.3	69	58.5	118
TOTAL LEAVERS	12858	58.5	18425	83.8	15299	69.6	21983

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 inc. GCSE English and GCSE maths by gender and religion of pupil 2016/2017⁽¹⁾

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
PROTESTANT	2426	71.1	2724	80.4	5150	75.8
Total	3410		3388		6798	
CATHOLIC	2901	73.7	3198	84.1	6099	78.8
Total	3938		3803		7741	
OTHER⁽³⁾	670	73.8	649	82.8	1319	78.0
Total	908		784		1692	
ALL RELIGIONS	5997	72.6	6571	82.4	12568	77.4
Total	8256		7975		16231	

Table 8

School leavers *entitled* to free school meals achieving at least 5 GCSEs⁽²⁾ A*-C inc. GCSE English and GCSE maths by gender and religion of pupil 2016/2017⁽¹⁾

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
PROTESTANT	346	36.6	450	48.9	796	42.7
Total	945		921		1866	
CATHOLIC	773	45.0	916	55.6	1689	50.2
Total	1719		1648		3367	
OTHER⁽³⁾	124	46.8	122	48.0	246	47.4
Total	265		254		519	
ALL RELIGIONS	1243	42.4	1488	52.7	2731	47.5
Total	2929		2823		5752	

Table 9

School leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs⁽²⁾ A*-C inc. GCSE English and GCSE maths by gender and religion of pupil 2016/2017⁽¹⁾

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
PROTESTANT	2772	63.7	3174	73.7	5946	68.6
Total	4355		4309		8664	
CATHOLIC	3674	64.9	4114	75.5	7788	70.1
Total	5657		5451		11108	
OTHER⁽³⁾	794	67.7	771	74.3	1565	70.8
Total	1173		1038		2211	
ALL RELIGIONS	7240	64.7	8059	74.6	15299	69.6
Total	11185		10798		21983	

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 2016/2017⁽¹⁾

	No SEN		SEN Stages 1-4		SEN Stage 5		Total	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	8063	46.9	787	21.0	104	10.2	8954	40.7
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	10640	61.8	1130	30.1	165	16.1	11935	54.3
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	11368	66.1	1279	34.1	211	20.6	12858	58.5
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	15388	89.4	2483	66.2	554	54.2	18425	83.8
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	13495	78.4	1555	41.5	249	24.4	15299	69.6
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	16939	98.4	3462	92.3	827	80.9	21228	96.6
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	56	0.3	44	1.2	32	3.1	132	0.6
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	37	0.2	18	0.5	7	0.7	62	0.3
TOTAL LEAVERS	17210	100.0	3751	100.0	1022	100.0	21983	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 2011/2012 to 2016/2017⁽¹⁾

	2011/12 %	2012/13 %	2013/14 %	2014/15 %	2015/16 %	2016/17 %
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	36.4	36.0	37.0	38.2	38.4	40.7
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	50.2	50.2	50.8	52.4	52.4	54.3
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	55.6	55.1	55.7	57.7	57.3	58.5
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	76.5	78.5	78.6	81.1	81.7	83.8
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	62.0	62.2	63.5	66.0	67.7	69.6
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	94.7	94.8	95.2	95.9	95.7	96.6
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	1.8	1.6	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.6
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	1.5	1.4	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.3
TOTAL LEAVERS	22568	23001	22636	22361	22746	21983

Table 12

Qualifications of male school leavers 2011/2012 to 2016/2017⁽¹⁾

	2011/12 %	2012/13 %	2013/14 %	2014/15 %	2015/16 %	2016/17 %
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	29.6	29.1	30.2	31.1	31.2	33.0
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	42.0	42.6	43.4	44.5	44.2	45.7
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	47.4	47.3	48.1	49.5	48.8	49.9
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	71.0	74.5	74.1	76.9	77.5	79.7
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	56.3	57.5	58.6	61.6	63.3	64.7
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	93.5	93.7	94.0	95.1	94.8	95.7
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	2.0	2.0	1.2	0.6	0.5	0.7
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	1.7	1.8	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.3
TOTAL LEAVERS	11415	11746	11632	11393	11562	11185

Table 13

Qualifications of female school leavers 2011/2012 to 2016/2017⁽¹⁾

	2011/12 %	2012/13 %	2013/14 %	2014/15 %	2015/16 %	2016/17 %
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	43.4	43.2	44.2	45.7	45.9	48.8
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	58.6	58.2	58.6	60.5	60.9	63.2
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	64.0	63.3	63.6	66.2	66.1	67.4
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	82.1	82.8	83.4	85.4	86.1	88.1
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	67.8	67.0	68.6	70.5	72.2	74.6
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	95.8	96.0	96.5	96.7	96.7	97.5
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	1.5	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.5
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	1.3	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.2
TOTAL LEAVERS	11153	11255	11004	10968	11184	10798

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 2016/2017⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
GRAMMAR						
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	3054	63.3	3816	77.8	6870	70.6
Institutions of Further Education	1177	24.4	790	16.1	1967	20.2
Employment	273	5.7	172	3.5	445	4.6
Training ⁽⁴⁾	191	4.0	46	0.9	237	2.4
Unemployment	72	1.5	32	0.7	104	1.1
Destinations Unknown	58	1.2	46	0.9	104	1.1
TOTAL GRAMMAR	4825	100.0	4902	100.0	9727	100.0
NON-GRAMMAR						
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	947	14.9	1705	28.9	2652	21.6
Institutions of Further Education	2847	44.8	2665	45.2	5512	45.0
Employment	829	13.0	668	11.3	1497	12.2
Training ⁽⁴⁾	1434	22.5	490	8.3	1924	15.7
Unemployment	202	3.2	246	4.2	448	3.7
Destinations Unknown	101	1.6	122	2.1	223	1.8
TOTAL NON-GRAMMAR	6360	100.0	5896	100.0	12256	100.0
TOTAL						
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	4001	35.8	5521	51.1	9522	43.3
Institutions of Further Education	4024	36.0	3455	32.0	7479	34.0
Employment	1102	9.9	840	7.8	1942	8.8
Training ⁽⁴⁾	1625	14.5	536	5.0	2161	9.8
Unemployment	274	2.4	278	2.6	552	2.5
Destinations Unknown	159	1.4	168	1.6	327	1.5
TOTAL LEAVERS	11185	100.0	10798	100.0	21983	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 2016/2017⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
PROTESTANT						
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾	1452	33.3	2034	47.2	3486	40.2
Institutions of Further Education	1781	40.9	1546	35.9	3327	38.4
Employment	447	10.3	346	8.0	793	9.2
Training ⁽⁵⁾	527	12.1	210	4.9	737	8.5
Unemployment	107	2.5	117	2.7	224	2.6
Destinations Unknown	41	0.9	56	1.3	97	1.1
TOTAL PROTESTANT	4355	100.0	4309	100.0	8664	100.0
CATHOLIC						
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾	2103	37.2	2985	54.8	5088	45.8
Institutions of Further Education	1800	31.8	1550	28.4	3350	30.2
Employment	556	9.8	421	7.7	977	8.8
Training ⁽⁵⁾	976	17.3	271	5.0	1247	11.2
Unemployment	131	2.3	138	2.5	269	2.4
Destinations Unknown	91	1.6	86	1.6	177	1.6
TOTAL CATHOLIC	5657	100.0	5451	100.0	11108	100.0
OTHER⁽³⁾						
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾	446	38.0	502	48.4	948	42.9
Institutions of Further Education	443	37.8	359	34.6	802	36.3
Employment	99	8.4	73	7.0	172	7.8
Training ⁽⁵⁾	122	10.4	55	5.3	177	8.0
Unemployment	36	3.1	23	2.2	59	2.7
Destinations Unknown	27	2.3	26	2.5	53	2.4
TOTAL OTHER⁽³⁾	1173	100.0	1038	100.0	2211	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 2016/2017⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

	Total	
	Numbers	%
WHITE⁽³⁾		
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾	9256	43.2
Institutions of Further Education	7288	34.0
Employment	1902	8.9
Training ⁽⁵⁾	2128	9.9
Unemployment	529	2.5
Destinations Unknown	318	1.5
TOTAL WHITE	21421	100.0
MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS⁽³⁾		
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾	266	47.3
Institutions of Further Education	191	34.0
Employment	40	7.1
Training ⁽⁵⁾	33	5.9
Unemployment	23	4.1
Destinations Unknown	9	1.6
TOTAL MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS⁽³⁾	562	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 2016/2017⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
ENTITLED TO FSM						
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	486	16.6	815	28.9	1301	22.6
Institutions of Further Education	1231	42.0	1237	43.8	2468	42.9
Employment	349	11.9	288	10.2	637	11.1
Training ⁽⁴⁾	701	23.9	277	9.8	978	17.0
Unemployment	106	3.6	137	4.9	243	4.2
Destinations Unknown	56	1.9	69	2.4	125	2.2
TOTAL ENTITLED TO FSM	2929	100.0	2823	100.0	5752	100.0
NOT ENTITLED TO FSM						
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	3515	42.6	4706	59.0	8221	50.6
Institutions of Further Education	2793	33.8	2218	27.8	5011	30.9
Employment	753	9.1	552	6.9	1305	8.0
Training ⁽⁴⁾	924	11.2	259	3.2	1183	7.3
Unemployment	168	2.0	141	1.8	309	1.9
Destinations Unknown	103	1.2	99	1.2	202	1.2
TOTAL NOT ENTITLED TO FSM	8256	100.0	7975	100.0	16231	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 2016/2017⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

	No SEN		SEN Stages 1-4		SEN Stage 5		Total	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	8498	49.4	913	24.3	111	10.9	9522	43.3
Institutions of Further Education	5452	31.7	1540	41.1	487	47.7	7479	34.0
Employment	1485	8.6	379	10.1	78	7.6	1942	8.8
Training ⁽⁴⁾	1139	6.6	731	19.5	291	28.5	2161	9.8
Unemployment	401	2.3	114	3.0	37	3.6	552	2.5
Destinations Unknown	235	1.4	74	2.0	18	1.8	327	1.5
TOTAL LEAVERS	17210	100.0	3751	100.0	1022	100.0	21983	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 2016/2017⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾

DISTRICT COUNCIL	Institutions of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾		Institutions of Further Education		Employment		Training ⁽⁵⁾		Unemployment and Unknown		Total	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
Antrim and Newtownabbey	595	39.9	549	36.8	143	9.6	142	9.5	63	4.2	1492	100.0
Ards and North Down	819	48.4	572	33.8	160	9.5	85	5.0	57	3.4	1693	100.0
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	1000	39.2	1048	41.0	167	6.5	235	9.2	104	4.1	2554	100.0
Belfast	1340	39.2	977	28.6	498	14.6	376	11.0	230	6.7	3421	100.0
Causeway Coast and Glens	756	43.6	722	41.6	87	5.0	116	6.7	53	3.1	1734	100.0
Derry City and Strabane	867	42.4	720	35.2	105	5.1	266	13.0	87	4.3	2045	100.0
Fermanagh and Omagh	747	51.4	465	32.0	95	6.5	125	8.6	21	1.4	1453	100.0
Lisburn and Castlereagh	790	49.3	505	31.5	138	8.6	124	7.7	44	2.7	1601	100.0
Mid and East Antrim	699	42.1	540	32.5	162	9.8	176	10.6	84	5.1	1661	100.0
Mid Ulster	783	42.7	593	32.4	162	8.8	237	12.9	58	3.2	1833	100.0
Newry, Mourne and Down	1078	45.3	758	31.9	208	8.7	261	11.0	73	3.1	2378	100.0
Invalid/Missing/Unknown Postcodes	48	40.7	30	25.4	17	14.4	18	15.3	5	4.2	118	100.0
TOTAL LEAVERS	9522	43.3	7479	34.0	1942	8.8	2161	9.8	879	4.0	21983	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 2016/2017⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾

	Boys		Girls		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
NI Institution	2788	69.7	3563	64.5	6351	66.7
GB Institution	1110	27.7	1818	32.9	2928	30.7
Other Institution ⁽⁴⁾	103	2.6	140	2.5	243	2.6
Total	4001	100.0	5521	100.0	9522	100.0

Table 21

Higher Education destination by country of institution and religion of pupil 2016/2017⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾

	Protestant		Catholic		Other ⁽⁵⁾		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
NI Institution	2115	60.7	3750	73.7	486	51.3	6351	66.7
GB Institution	1312	37.6	1185	23.3	431	45.5	2928	30.7
Other Institution ⁽⁴⁾	59	1.7	153	3.0	31	3.3	243	2.6
Total	3486	100.0	5088	100.0	948	100.0	9522	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 2011/2012 to 2016/2017 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

	2011/12 %	2012/13 %	2013/14 %	2014/15 %	2015/16 %	2016/17 %
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	42.3	42.6	41.8	42.3	42.9	43.3
Institutions of Further Education	34.6	34.4	35.4	35.0	34.4	34.0
Employment	6.2	6.4	6.9	8.4	8.9	8.8
Training ⁽⁴⁾	11.1	11.3	10.4	9.8	9.7	9.8
Unemployment	3.2	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.5	2.5
Destinations Unknown	2.5	2.4	2.9	1.8	1.7	1.5
TOTAL LEAVERS	22568	23001	22636	22361	22746	21983

Table 23

Destination of male school leavers 2011/2012 to 2016/2017 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

	2011/12 %	2012/13 %	2013/14 %	2014/15 %	2015/16 %	2016/17 %
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	35.4	36.9	35.8	34.7	35.7	35.8
Institutions of Further Education	35.8	35.7	36.5	37.3	36.7	36.0
Employment	7.1	6.7	7.4	9.3	9.5	9.9
Training ⁽⁴⁾	15.5	14.8	14.5	13.5	13.8	14.5
Unemployment	3.4	3.1	2.6	3.1	2.3	2.4
Destinations Unknown	2.8	2.9	3.2	2.2	2.0	1.4
TOTAL LEAVERS	11415	11746	11632	11393	11562	11185

Table 24

Destination of female school leavers 2011/2012 to 2016/2017 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

	2011/12 %	2012/13 %	2013/14 %	2014/15 %	2015/16 %	2016/17 %
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	49.5	48.7	48.1	50.2	50.3	51.1
Institutions of Further Education	33.3	33.2	34.2	32.7	32.1	32.0
Employment	5.2	6.1	6.3	7.4	8.3	7.8
Training ⁽⁴⁾	6.6	7.7	6.1	5.9	5.4	5.0
Unemployment	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.6
Destinations Unknown	2.3	1.9	2.7	1.3	1.3	1.6
TOTAL LEAVERS	11153	11255	11004	10968	11184	10798

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 2011/12

Appendix A

Qualifications of school leavers by gender and school type 2011/2012⁽¹⁾

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
GRAMMAR						
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	2692	57.6	3461	71.0	6153	64.5
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	3525	75.4	4229	86.8	7754	81.2
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	3712	79.5	4347	89.2	8059	84.4
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	4465	95.6	4811	98.7	9276	97.2
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	4266	91.3	4715	96.8	8981	94.1
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	4647	99.5	4856	99.7	9503	99.6
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	16	0.3	11	0.2	27	0.3
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	16	0.3	11	0.2	27	0.3
TOTAL GRAMMAR	4672	100.0	4872	100.0	9544	100.0
NON-GRAMMAR						
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	684	10.1	1380	22.0	2064	15.8
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	1266	18.8	2308	36.7	3574	27.4
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	1697	25.2	2792	44.5	4489	34.5
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	3638	54.0	4349	69.2	7987	61.3
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	2161	32.0	2848	45.3	5009	38.5
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	6030	89.4	5830	92.8	11860	91.1
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	211	3.1	159	2.5	370	2.8
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	175	2.6	137	2.2	312	2.4
TOTAL NON-GRAMMAR	6743	100.0	6281	100.0	13024	100.0
TOTAL						
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	3376	29.6	4841	43.4	8217	36.4
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	4791	42.0	6537	58.6	11328	50.2
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	5409	47.4	7139	64.0	12548	55.6
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	8103	71.0	9160	82.1	17263	76.5
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	6427	56.3	7563	67.8	13990	62.0
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	10677	93.5	10686	95.8	21363	94.7
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	227	2.0	170	1.5	397	1.8
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	191	1.7	148	1.3	339	1.5
TOTAL LEAVERS	11415	100.0	11153	100.0	22568	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.

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 2011/2012⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
GRAMMAR						
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	3086	66.1	3849	79.0	6935	72.7
Institutions of Further Education	1080	23.1	736	15.1	1816	19.0
Employment	225	4.8	139	2.9	364	3.8
Training ⁽⁴⁾	121	2.6	23	0.5	144	1.5
Unemployment	84	1.8	64	1.3	148	1.6
Destinations Unknown	76	1.6	61	1.3	137	1.4
TOTAL GRAMMAR	4672	100.0	4872	100.0	9544	100.0
NON-GRAMMAR						
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	950	14.1	1672	26.6	2622	20.1
Institutions of Further Education	3010	44.6	2982	47.5	5992	46.0
Employment	584	8.7	445	7.1	1029	7.9
Training ⁽⁴⁾	1651	24.5	715	11.4	2366	18.2
Unemployment	306	4.5	271	4.3	577	4.4
Destinations Unknown	242	3.6	196	3.1	438	3.4
TOTAL NON-GRAMMAR	6743	100.0	6281	100.0	13024	100.0
TOTAL						
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	4036	35.4	5521	49.5	9557	42.3
Institutions of Further Education	4090	35.8	3718	33.3	7808	34.6
Employment	809	7.1	584	5.2	1393	6.2
Training ⁽⁴⁾	1772	15.5	738	6.6	2510	11.1
Unemployment	390	3.4	335	3.0	725	3.2
Destinations Unknown	318	2.8	257	2.3	575	2.5
TOTAL LEAVERS	11415	100.0	11153	100.0	22568	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.