

Part of **Education and childcare during coronavirus**



Guidance

Coronavirus (COVID-19): school and college accountability 2020 to 2021

Updated 3 December 2020

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The [national lockdown](#) changes what you can do from 5 January 2021. This guidance will be updated shortly to provide further details on those changes.

In March 2020, the government announced that it [would not publish any school or college level educational performance tables](#) for the 2019 to 2020 academic year and that this data would not be used by others, such as Ofsted and local authorities, to hold schools and colleges to account. You can read [information on school and college accountability for the 2019 to 2020 academic year](#).

The government has now also announced that for the [2020 to 2021 academic year, schools and colleges will be held accountable for their exam, test and assessment results](#), but given the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on test, examination and assessment data, this data will not be published in the 2020 to 2021 academic year performance tables.

This update is to clarify what this means for the way school and college accountability will operate for the 2020 to 2021 academic year.

Changes to accountability arrangements

Schools and colleges will be accountable for their 2021 results as it is essential to identify which schools need the most support. Reintroducing data into the system will help schools to identify areas for self-improvement and will inform Ofsted inspections so schools who need more support following the disruption caused by coronavirus (COVID-19) can be best identified.

School and college performance metrics

We intend to produce the normal range of school and college performance metrics (for example, Progress 8) and will share these securely with schools and colleges. Ofsted, and DfE teams, including regional teams, from autumn 2021. This data will provide professionals with a useful starting point for discussions about school and college performance in 2020 to 2021.

Primary and secondary schools will be able to access their own performance data via [analyse school performance](#). For 16 to 18 providers performance data will be available via the 16 to 18 checking exercise website. We will share aggregated performance data with multi-academy trusts and will talk to them about the best way to do this.

We will need to adjust the way that we calculate some performance measures, such as Progress 8, for 2020 to 2021 to take account of the fact that results of qualifications achieved in 2020 will not be included. These changes to methodology will be designed to minimise the impact of any gaps in data for schools and colleges. Details of these adjustments will be available in technical guidance in due course.

Use of 2021 data

Given the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) and the challenges faced by schools and colleges in both the last and current academic years, the data from tests, examinations and assessments in 2021 will come with very significant caveats. We will work with schools and colleges and their representatives on these caveats and how best to set them out.

Unlike qualifications achieved in 2020, our intention is that qualifications achieved in 2021 will count towards performance measures in future years (where students who are not due to be reported this year, for example, those entering GCSEs early in year 10 in 2021, would be included in school data in 2022).

School and college performance tables

We need to make sure our accountability arrangements are appropriate in the current public health context and that they take account of the challenges faced by schools and colleges in both the last and current academic years.

While school and college level test, assessment and exams data will be made available to Ofsted, and to schools and colleges themselves to support improvement, we will not be publishing this data on school and college performance tables.

Information for parents

We are still committed to making sure that we are providing information and reassurance on what matters most to parents about the education their child is receiving and to prospective parents who are choosing a school or college.

We will temporarily change the performance tables next year to provide a transparent set of information.

For 2020 to 2021, we will use [compare school and college performance](#) to publish data on:

- the subjects and qualifications pupils or students took at key stage 4 and 16 to 18
- how well schools and colleges support their key stage 4 and 16 to 18 pupils or students to their next destination
- attendance for key stage 1 to key stage 4, with relevant context to take account of the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) - in line with our priority to keep schools open and for education to continue, we will make our existing metrics on school absence more prominent and add new breakdowns to ensure fair comparisons

2018 to 2019 academic year educational performance data will continue to be publicly available.

Schools and colleges will continue to inform parents of their own child's test, assessment and examination results.

National statistics

For the 2020 to 2021 academic year, we intend to publish national, regional, and local authority level educational performance data for key stage 2, 4 and 16 to 18.

We intend to also publish this information by pupil characteristic and school or college type.

This will help schools to benchmark their performance against the national and local picture.

Qualification achievement rates

Qualification achievement rates (QARs), usually published for certain post-16 providers, were suspended for 2019 to 2020 due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

For 2020 to 2021, the approach for QARs will align with that for school and college performance tables. For 2020 to 2021, QARs will not be published but will be produced and shared securely with providers, Ofsted and DfE.

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