Office for Standards in Education

## Attainment in deprived urban secondary schools

This document looks at GCSE attainment in deprived urban secondary schools. The analysis in this note is based on the sample of 68 secondary schools that meet the criteria outlined in the note: "Selecting the new sample of deprived urban schools". However, the actual number of schools used in each part of the analysis varies due to parts of the data being incomplete, or the extra conditions imposed.

GCSE average points and percentage gaining $5+A^{*}-C, 1+A^{*}-G$ grades
Comparing sample schools with those of similar levels of free school meal eligibility and schools nationally.



National (same FSM) $\quad \square$ National (all maintained)
The sample group are achieving less than the National average for all schools, receiving an average points score of 30 compared to 40 at the national level.

The difference is most noticeable when examining the percentage of $5+A^{*}-C$ grades awarded. The sample group achieve $30 \%$, which is slightly better than the same FSM group but considerably less than the national average of 50\%.

This margin narrows greatly when looking at $1+A^{*}-G$ grades although the figures show that the sample group are twice as likely not to pass any GCSEs than the national average ( $8 \%$ as opposed to $4 \%$ nationally).

Group
Sample
Same FSM
National (all maintained)

Number of schools
68
329
3113

Comparing girls' and boys' attainment in deprived urban secondary schools


The graphs above show that overall, girls attain higher on average than boys at GCSE level in deprived urban secondary schools. Girls average 32.1 points at GCSE level in our sample of schools, while boys average 26.3 points.

This gap between boys and girls' attainment is also apparent when looking at the percentage of pupils gaining 5 or more grade A* to C GCSE passes. 34\% of girls attain these grades, while only $25 \%$ of boys do. $7 \%$ of girls and $10 \%$ of boys in deprived urban secondary schools do not gain any GCSE passes.

Are secondary schools with high proportions of boys lower attaining?


This chart examines the achievement of the different gender make up of schools selected in the sample. The most obvious observation is that all girl schools clearly
outperform all boy schools with $41 \%$ of girls within these schools achieving $5+A^{*}-C$ grades compared to only $24 \%$ of boys.

Additionally pupils from all boy schools appear to be more than twice as likely to leave with no GCSEs than their female counterparts although it should be stressed that this information is based upon a small sample of schools.

The higher than expected figures for schools where $58 \%$ or more of the school's pupils are boys can be explained by the attainment of the largest school within the group which has an average points score of over 46 which is greater than the national average. Taking into account the small numbers factor ( 9 schools in group) this school appears to be over-inflating attainment levels for the group. If we exclude this school from our sample, this group would have an average points score of just under 30, 28\% achieving $5+A^{*}-C$ grades and $93 \%$ receiving at least one $A^{*}-C$ grade.

Sample Information:

## Group $\quad$ Number of schools in sample

Mixed - boys $>50 \% \quad 34$
Mixed - boys $>58 \% \quad 9$
All-boys schools 8
All-girls schools 8
All mixed schools 52

