

BENCHMARKING DATA

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

(GRAMMAR AND NON-GRAMMAR)

2024/25

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NORTHERN IRELAND AVERAGES 2024/25 ALL PUPILS

Year 12	Grammar	Non-grammar	Total
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-C	96.8	85.4	90.2
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-G	99.6	97.9	98.6
% of Year 12 pupils achieving no GCSEs or equivalents	[c]	[c]	0.1
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 7 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE mathematics	90.0	53.0	68.7
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE mathematics	94.0	60.1	74.5
Pupils in the final year of a level 3 (A-level or equivalent) course	Grammar	Non-grammar	Total
% of pupils entered for A-levels or equivalents and achieving 3 or more at grades A*-C	80.4	59.1	71.9
% of pupils entered for A-levels or equivalents and achieving 3 or more at grades A*-E	97.5	88.1	93.8
% of pupils entered for A-levels or equivalents and achieving 2 or more at grades A*-C	94.5	85.1	90.8
% of pupils entered for A-levels or equivalents and achieving 2 or more at grades A*-E	99.7	97.3	98.7

These are average performance figures for grammar and secondary (non-grammar) schools. It follows, therefore, that individual schools are likely to be above and below these averages. They provide a context within which a school can set its own aspirational targets, taking into account trends within the school itself. More detailed figures to assist in this process can be found in the pages that follow, along with guidance on how to interpret the analysis.

Note:

[c] means figure not disclosed under rules of statistical disclosure.

NORTHERN IRELAND AVERAGES 2024/25 FSME PUPILS

Year 12	Grammar	Non-grammar	Total
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-C	90.7	78.4	81.0
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-G	98.4	96.4	96.9
% of Year 12 pupils achieving no GCSEs or equivalents	[c]	[c]	0.4
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 7 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE mathematics	76.0	38.1	46.3
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE mathematics	83.2	45.1	53.3
Pupils in the final year of a level 3 (A-level or equivalent) course	Grammar	Non-grammar	Total
% of pupils entered for A-levels or equivalents and achieving 3 or more grades at A*-C	72.3	53.7	60.2
% of pupils entered for A-levels or equivalents and achieving 3 or more grades at A*-E	94.7	83.5	87.4
% of pupils entered for A-levels or equivalents and achieving 2 or more grades at A*-C	90.7	80.8	84.3
% of pupils entered for A-levels or equivalents and achieving 2 or more grades at A*-E	99.3	95.8	97.0

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Notes:

[c] means figure not disclosed under rules of statistical disclosure.

NORTHERN IRELAND AVERAGES 2024/25 NON FSME PUPILS

Year 12	Grammar	Non-grammar	Total
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-C	97.6	88.3	92.8
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-G	99.7	98.5	99.1
% of Year 12 pupils achieving no GCSEs or equivalents	[c]	[c]	0.1
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 7 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE mathematics	91.7	59.3	75.0
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE mathematics	95.3	66.5	80.4
Pupils in the final year of a level 3 (A-level or equivalent) course	Grammar	Non-grammar	Total
% of pupils entered for A-levels or equivalents and achieving 3 or more grades at A*-C	81.0	60.6	73.7
% of pupils entered for A-levels or equivalents and achieving 3 or more grades at A*-E	97.7	89.4	94.7
% of pupils entered for A-levels or equivalents and achieving 2 or more grades at A*-C	94.8	86.3	91.8
% of pupils entered for A-levels or equivalents and achieving 2 or more grades at A*-E	99.7	97.7	99.0

These are average performance figures for grammar and secondary (non-grammar) schools. It follows, therefore, that individual schools are likely to be above and below these averages. They provide a context within which a school can set its own aspirational targets, taking into account trends within the school itself. More detailed figures to assist in this process can be found in the pages that follow, along with guidance on how to interpret the analysis.

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NI AVERAGES

Grammar Schools by FSM Band

Year 12 Pupils

FSM Band %	% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-C	% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-G	% of Year 12 pupils achieving 7 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE mathematics	% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE mathematics
0.00-9.99	98.4	99.8	95.2	97.9
10.00-19.99	97.3	99.4	87.9	92.7
20.00+	90.2	99.2	74.8	82.0

Pupils in final year of a level 3 (A-level or equivalent) course of study

FSM Band %	% of pupils entered for A-levels or equivalents and achieving 3 or more at grades A*-C	% of pupils entered for A-levels or equivalents and achieving 3 or more at grades A*-E	% of pupils entered for A-levels or equivalents and achieving 2 or more at grades A*-C	% of pupils entered for A-levels or equivalents and achieving 2 or more at grades A*-E
0.00-9.99	82.6	98.3	95.0	99.8
10.00-19.99	77.3	96.5	93.9	99.5
20.00+	76.9	95.7	93.4	99.6

Non-grammar Schools by FSM Band

Year 12 Pupils

FSM Band %	% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-C	% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-G	% of Year 12 pupils achieving 7 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE mathematics	% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE mathematics
00.00-29.99	86.3	98.3	57.9	65.7
30.00-39.99	85.0	98.0	50.2	57.4
40.00-49.99	81.9	96.3	45.3	51.2
50.00+	85.7	97.3	45.3	51.0

Pupils in final year of a level 3 (A-level or equivalent) course of study

FSM Band %	% of pupils entered for A-levels or equivalents and achieving 3 or more at grades A*-C	% of pupils entered for A-levels or equivalents and achieving 3 or more at grades A*-E	% of pupils entered for A-levels or equivalents and achieving 2 or more at grades A*-C	% of pupils entered for A-levels or equivalents and achieving 2 or more at grades A*-E
00.00-29.99	86.3	98.3	57.9	65.7
30.00-39.99	85.0	98.0	50.2	57.4
40.00-49.99	81.9	96.3	45.3	51.2
50.00+	85.7	97.3	45.3	51.0

BENCHMARKING: QUARTILES 2024/25

Guidance on interpreting the tables

Individual schools are not identified in the data. The tables have been constructed as follows:

- Schools have been grouped together according to the proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals.
- Within each group the school results have been ranked from the lowest performing school to the highest.
- The data within each table is presented in terms of:
 - lower quartile;
 - median;
 - upper quartile; and
 - 95th percentile.
- The lower quartile figures in each line of a table are the actual results of the school which was a quarter of the way up the scale i.e. the results achieved, or bettered, by 75% of schools in the group.
- The median figures are the actual results of the school in the middle of the scale i.e. the results achieved, or bettered, by 50% of schools in the group.
- The upper quartile figures are the actual results of the school three quarters of the way up the scale i.e. the results achieved, or bettered, by 25% of schools in the group.
- The 95th percentile figures are the actual results of the school 95% of the way up the scale i.e. the results achieved, or bettered, by the top 5% of schools in the group.

The (fictional) example on the following page may be useful in understanding how the benchmarking data have been calculated.

Example

A secondary (non-grammar) school has 15% of children entitled to free school meals. 41.2% of its Year 12 pupils achieved 5 or more GCSEs (or equivalent) at grades A*-C, including English and mathematics. To be able to compare its result in this indicator, the school would look at the table for non-grammar schools and find those schools with 0-29.99% Free School Meals. For the purposes of this example, such a table is partly reproduced below:

Schools with 0 – 29.99% of children entitled to free school meals (47 schools):

	Lower quartile	Median	Upper quartile	95 th Percentile
% of pupils doing A-levels or equivalents achieving 2 or more at grades A*-E	93.8	96.8	100	100
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs (or equivalent) at grades A*-C including English and mathematics	25.8	36.6	44.2	54.2
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs (or equivalent) at grades A*-C	40.3	50.9	62.9	71.4

The median is the middle value when all the results are ranked in ascending order. In this example, the 24th school has a result of 36.6% i.e. lower than the school's result of 41.2%.

The school has a result of 41.2%, which places it between the median and upper quartile of results for schools in the same FSM band.

The top 25% of schools in this FSM band achieve at least 44.2%. This could form the basis of a target for the school, as 41.2% currently achieve this indicator.

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS by FSM Quartiles

Schools with **0.00 – 9.99%** of children entitled to free school meals (36 schools¹):

	Lower quartile	Median	Upper quartile	95 th Percentile
% of pupils doing A-levels or equivalents achieving 3 or more at grades A*-C	76.0	83.0	88.5	92.4
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 7 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-C	93.0	96.9	98.1	98.8
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 7 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE maths	93.0	96.9	97.9	98.8
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-C	97.0	99.0	99.4	100
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE maths	96.5	98.5	99.2	100

Schools with **10.00 – 19.99%** of children entitled to free school meals (21 schools¹):

	Lower quartile	Median	Upper quartile	95 th Percentile
% of pupils doing A-levels or equivalents achieving 3 or more at grades A*-C	69.1	76.4	83.0	90.0
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 7 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-C	88.1	91.7	94.5	97.3
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 7 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE maths	81.9	89.9	94.3	97.3
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-C	95.8	98.1	99.3	100
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE maths	91.3	95.9	98.9	100

Schools with **20 +%** of children entitled to free school meals (9 schools¹):

	Lower quartile	Median	Upper quartile	95 th Percentile
% of pupils doing A-levels or equivalents achieving 3 or more at grades A*-C	66.9	79.1	81.4	93.3
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 7 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-C	63.7	70.2	92.1	99.4
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 7 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE maths	55.9	69.1	92.1	99.4
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-C	81.4	91.7	97.8	100
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE maths	61.8	77.3	96.0	100

Note:

¹ This is the number of schools that entered candidates for GCSE or equivalent examinations.

NON-GRAMMAR SCHOOLS by FSM Quartiles

Schools with **0.00 – 29.99%** of children entitled to free school meals (58 GCSE and 43 A-level¹):

	Lower quartile	Median	Upper quartile	95 th Percentile
% of pupils doing A-levels or equivalents achieving 3 or more grades at A*-C	46.2	55.4	68.4	82.7
% of pupils doing A-levels or equivalents achieving 2 or more grades at A*-E	96.6	99.3	100	100
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalent at grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE maths	54.8	63.6	76.1	85.3
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalent at grades A*-C	79.8	89.5	93.3	98.2
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalent at grades A*-G	98.0	99.0	100	100
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 1 or more GCSEs or equivalents	100	100	100	100

Schools **30.00 – 39.99%** of children entitled to free school meals (32 GCSE and 23 A-level¹):

	Lower quartile	Median	Upper quartile	95 th Percentile
% of pupils doing A-levels or equivalents achieving 3 or more grades at A*-C	43.8	53.1	61.1	81.0
% of pupils doing A-levels or equivalents achieving 2 or more grades at A*-E	96.8	100	100	100
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalent at grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE maths	49.6	59.2	66.7	74.6
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalent at grades A*-C	76.7	88.7	95.3	100
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalent at grades A*-G	96.2	98.8	100	100
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 1 or more GCSEs or equivalents	100	100	100	100

Schools with **40.00 – 49.99%** of children entitled to free school meals (16 GCSE and 10 A-level¹):

	Lower quartile	Median	Upper quartile	95 th Percentile
% of pupils doing A-levels or equivalents achieving 3 or more grades at A*-C	37.0	46.5	52.9	73.2
% of pupils doing A-levels or equivalents achieving 2 or more grades at A*-E	93.3	95.7	97.6	100
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalent at grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE maths	36.0	50.7	62.2	69.9
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalent at grades A*-C	70.7	79.8	91.1	95.5
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalent at grades A*-G	93.0	96.9	98.0	100
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 1 or more GCSEs or equivalents	99.0	100	100	100

¹ Not all schools entering candidates for GCSE or equivalent examinations also offer A-level or equivalent examinations.

Schools with **50+**% of children entitled to free school meals (14 GCSE and 13 A-level¹):

	Lower quartile	Median	Upper quartile	95 th Percentile
% of pupils doing A-levels or equivalents achieving 3 or more grades at A*-C	48.0	64.3	70.8	80.4
% of pupils doing A-levels or equivalents achieving 2 or more grades at A*-E	93.2	98.1	98.6	100.0
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalent at grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE maths	40.0	43.9	59.9	66.7
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalent at grades A*-C	81.9	86.7	94.3	95.0
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalent at grades A*-G	95.1	97.4	99.3	100
% of Year 12 pupils achieving 1 or more GCSEs or equivalents	100	100	100	100

1. Not all schools entering candidates for GCSE or equivalent examinations also offer A-level or equivalent examinations