

Statistical Bulletin 4/2019

Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers 2017/18

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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 2017/18.

Key Points

- The proportion of school leavers achieving **at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent** has increased by 6.7 percentage points from five years ago, from 78.5% in 2012/13 to 85.2% in 2017/18.
- At 70.6%, the proportion of school leavers achieving **at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths** has increased by 1.0 percentage point since 2016/17 (69.6%) and by 8.4 percentage points since 2012/13 (62.2%).
- 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 1.1 percentage points from 47.5% in 2016/17 to 48.6% in 2017/18.
- The proportion of school leavers achieving **three or more A-levels at grades A* - C or equivalent** was 40.7% in 2017/18, an increase of 4.7 percentage points from five years ago (36.0% in 2012/13).
- The proportion of school leavers continuing on to **Institutions of Higher Education**, at 43.1% in 2017/18, was similar to the proportion in 2016/17 (43.3%). Overall, 96.2% of school leavers were recorded by their school as entering **Education, Employment or Training**.

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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. 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 2017/18, this figure has increased to 5,493, 25.5% 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 2017/18, the percentage of school leavers achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSEs in English and maths was **70.6%**. This represents an increase of 4.6 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 2017/18, 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 78.1%, while the percentage of those entitled to free school meals achieving the same measure was 48.6%. This represents a gap of 29.5 percentage points between these two groups compared with a gap of 32.4 percentage points between these groups in the baseline year of 2014/15.

The change in attainment for each group was as follows:

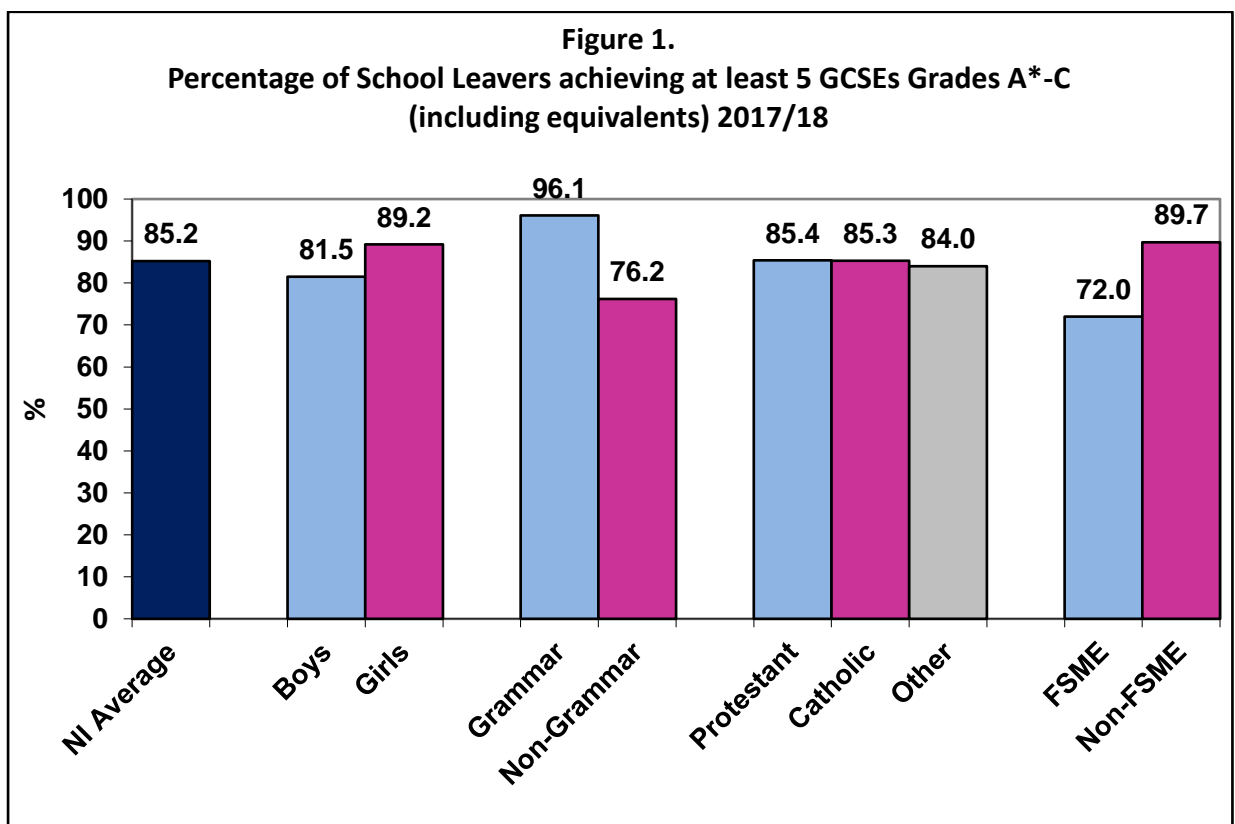
- In 2017/18, **48.6%** of those entitled to free school meals achieved this standard, an increase from 41.3% in the 2014/15 baseline year;
- In 2017/18, **78.1%** of those not entitled to free school meals achieved this standard, an increase from 73.7% in the 2014/15 baseline year.

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

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 6.7 percentage points from five years ago, from 78.5% in 2012/13 to 85.2% in 2017/18 ([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; 89.2% of girls leaving school in 2017/18 achieved this standard compared with 81.5% of boys ([Table 1](#), [Table 12](#), [Table 13](#) & [Figure 1](#)).

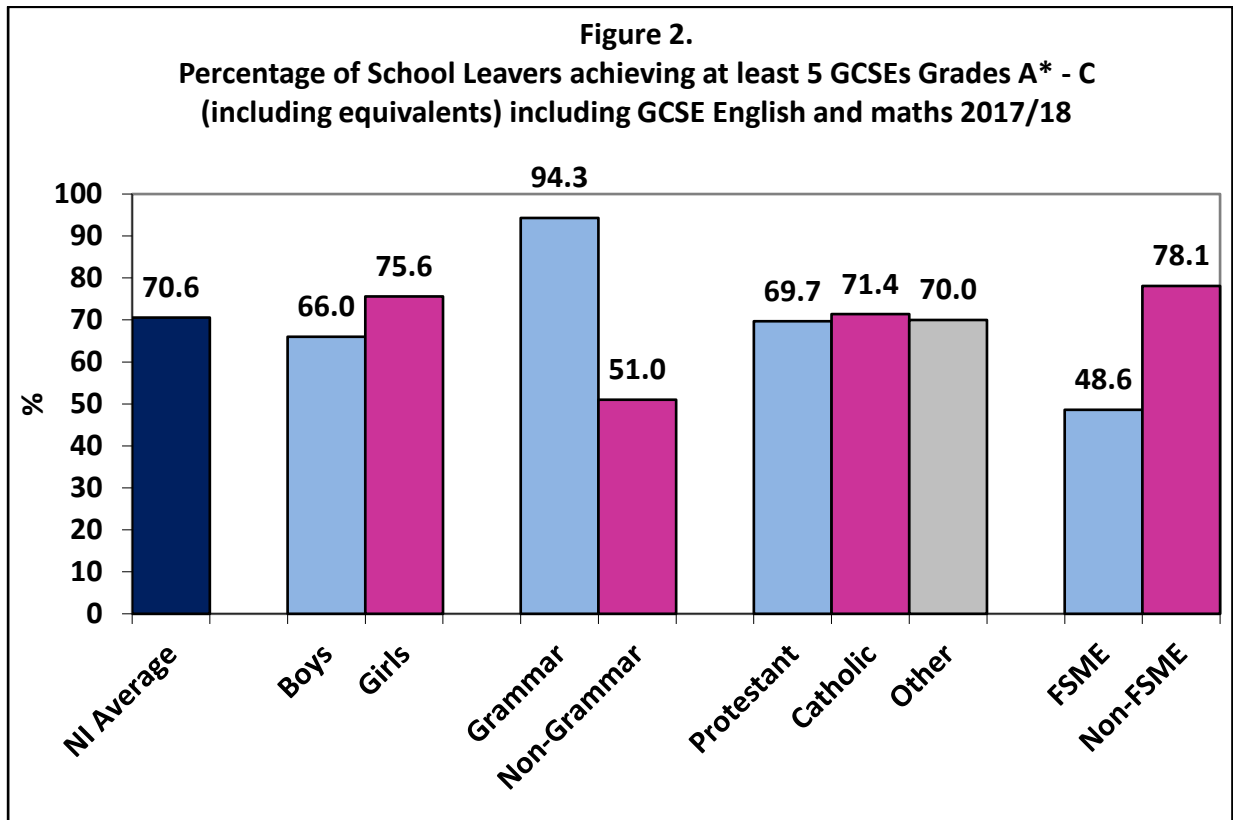


- The proportion of pupils leaving non-grammar schools who achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent has increased by 11.0 percentage points from 65.2% in 2012/13 to 76.2% in 2017/18. The corresponding proportion for grammar schools has decreased from 97.4% in 2012/13 to 96.1% in 2017/18 ([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 2.5 percentage points from 73.7% in 2016/17 to 76.2% in 2017/18. In contrast, the proportion of pupils leaving grammar schools who achieved this standard has decreased slightly from 96.6% in 2016/17 to 96.1% in 2017/18 ([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 60.3% in 2017/18, compared with 90.2% for those pupils without a statement of SEN. 70.1% of pupils recorded as having SEN stage 1-4 achieved this standard ([Table 10](#)). At 60.3%, the proportion of pupils at stage 5 of the statementing process achieving this standard has increased by 6.1 percentage points since 2016/17 (54.2%).

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

- At 70.6%, the proportion of school leavers achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths has increased by 1.0 percentage point since 2016/17 (69.6%) and by 8.4 percentage points since 2012/13 (62.2%) ([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 has increased by 1.1 percentage points from 47.5% in 2016/17 to 48.6% in 2017/18 ([Table 5](#), [Figure 2](#)).
- There is a 14.6 percentage point gap between the proportion of pupils achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths (70.6%) and the proportion of pupils achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent (85.2%) ([Table 1](#)).
- Three-quarters (75.6%) of girls have achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths compared with 66.0% of boys, a difference of 9.6 percentage points ([Table 1](#), [Table 9](#) & [Figure 2](#)).
- In 2017/18, 94.3% of grammar school leavers left with at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths, while 96.1% left with at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent, a difference of 1.8 percentage points. The corresponding proportions for non-grammar school leavers were 51.0% and 76.2% respectively, a difference of 25.2 percentage points ([Table 1](#), [Figure 2](#)).
- Again, looking at the difference between these two indicators, 71.4% of Catholic pupils left school with at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths, while 85.3% left with at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent, a difference of 13.9 percentage points. The corresponding proportions for Protestant school leavers were 69.7% and 85.4% respectively, a difference of 15.7 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 1.4 percentage points from 49.6% in 2016/17 to 51.0% in 2017/18. The proportion of pupils leaving grammar schools who achieved this standard decreased slightly from 94.7% in 2016/17 to 94.3% in 2017/18 ([Table 1](#)).



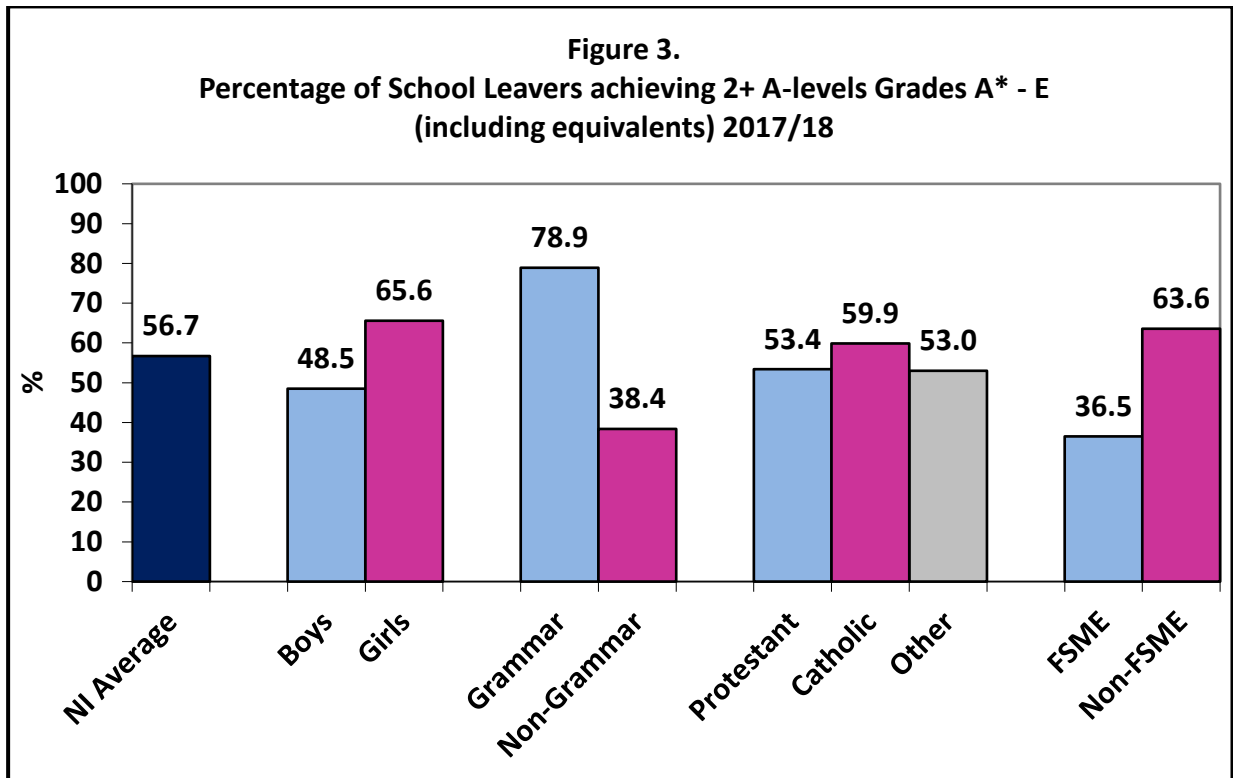
- In 2017/18, 37.2% (334) of Protestant boys entitled to free school meals have achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths compared with 46.7% (805) of Catholic boys entitled to free school meals ([Table 8](#)). A greater proportion of both Protestant boys and Catholic boys with entitlement to free school meals have achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths in 2017/18 when compared with 2016/17, representing an increase of 0.6 and 1.7 percentage points respectively.
- Similarly, 49.1% (397) of Protestant girls entitled to free school meals have achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths compared with 57.0% (884) of Catholic girls entitled to free school meals ([Table 8](#)). When compared with 2016/17, a similar proportion of Protestant girls entitled to free school meals achieved this measure (48.9% in 2016/17) but there was an increase of 1.4 percentage points for Catholic girls (55.6% in 2016/17).
- 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 12.5 percentage point difference between the lowest achieving DC which was Belfast (65.5%) and the highest achieving DC which was Lisburn and Castlereagh (78.0%) when comparing those leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths.

1.3 No GCSEs/ No Formal Qualifications

- More boys (101) left school in 2017/18 with no GCSEs than girls (63), equating to 0.9% of all male school leavers and 0.6% of all female school leavers in 2017/18 ([Table 1](#), [Table 12](#) & [Table 13](#)).
- When free school meal entitlement is considered, 1.6% (89) of those entitled to free school meals left without any GCSEs compared with 0.5% (75) of school leavers who were not entitled to free school meals ([Table 5](#)).
- The proportion of pupils who left school in 2017/18 without any formal qualifications has increased from 0.3% in 2016/17 to 0.6% in 2017/18. This increase applied to both male and female school leavers: an increase from 0.3% to 0.7% for boys and from 0.2% to 0.5% for girls ([Table 11](#), [Table 12](#) & [Table 13](#)).

1.4 A-levels and equivalent qualifications

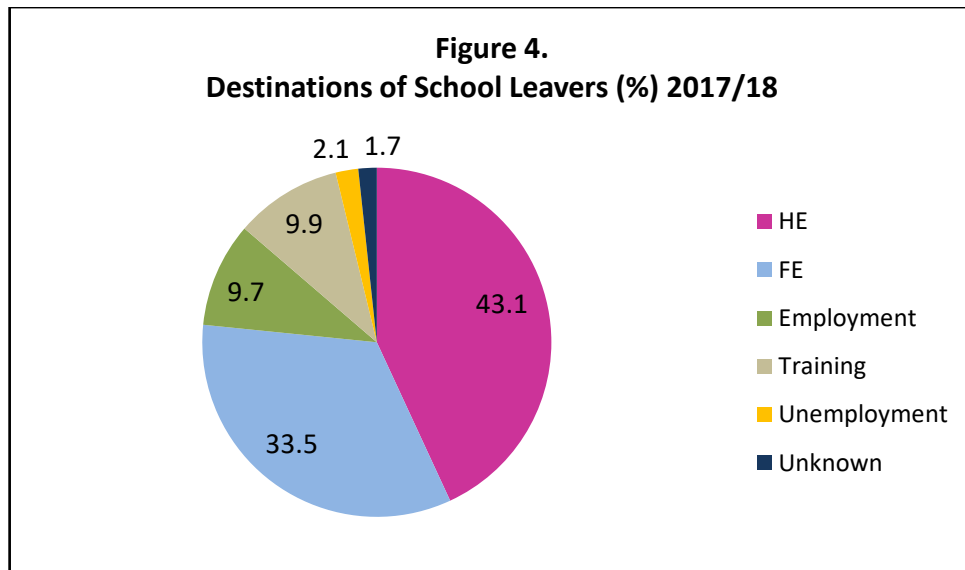
- The proportion of school leavers achieving three or more A-levels at grades A* - C or equivalent was 40.7% in 2017/18, an increase of 4.7 percentage points from five years ago (36.0% in 2012/13) ([Table 1](#), [Table 11](#)).
- The proportion of school leavers achieving two or more A-levels at grades A* - E or equivalent was 56.7% in 2017/18, an increase of 1.6 percentage points from 55.1% in 2012/13 ([Table 1](#), [Table 11](#) & [Figure 3](#)).
- Girls continued to outperform boys in terms of A-level qualifications achieved. In 2017/18, 48.6% of girls achieved at least three A-levels at grades A* - C or equivalent on leaving school compared with 33.3% of boys. Girls (65.6%) also outperformed boys (48.5%) in achieving two or more A-levels at grades A* - E or equivalent in 2017/18 ([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 3.9 percentage points from 34.5% in 2012/13 to 38.4% in 2017/18. Some 48.8% of non-grammar school girls have achieved this standard compared with 29.1% 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 by 5.5 percentage points from 84.4% in 2012/13 to 78.9% in 2017/18. Some 84.9% of grammar school girls left school with two or more A-levels or equivalent compared with 72.9% 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 decreased by 2.7 percentage points from 41.1% in 2016/17 to 38.4% in 2017/18. Similarly, the proportion of pupils leaving grammar schools who achieved this standard decreased from 80.4% in 2016/17 to 78.9% in 2017/18, a difference of 1.5 percentage points ([Table 1](#)).
- When religion of pupil was considered, 59.9% of Catholic school leavers achieved two or more A-levels at grades A* - E or equivalent in 2017/18 compared with 53.4% 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) 63.6%, compared with 36.5% 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, 43.1% of pupils leaving school in 2017/18 entered Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). At 50.7%, the proportion of girls continuing on to HEIs was higher than that for boys (36.0%) ([Table 14](#), [Figure 4](#)).
- When religion of pupil was considered, 40.0% 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 slightly by 0.5 percentage points from 42.6% in 2012/13 to 43.1% in 2017/18. The proportion continuing on to Institutions of Further Education decreased from 34.4% in 2012/13 to 33.5% in 2017/18 ([Table 22](#)).
- In 2017/18, school leavers not entitled to free school meals were more likely to continue their education with 80.2% entering institutions of Higher or Further Education compared with 65.8% of leavers who were entitled to free school meals ([Table 17](#)).
- The proportion of school leavers entering employment has increased by 3.3 percentage points from 6.4% in 2012/13 to 9.7% in 2017/18 ([Table 22](#)).
- At 14.5%, the proportion of boys entering Training was almost treble that of girls (5.0%) ([Table 14](#)).
- Overall, 96.2% of 2017/18 school leavers were recorded by their school as entering Education, Employment or Training. When school type was considered, 98.1% 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. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority (UKSA) 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 Official Statistics.

Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers were assessed by the Statistics Authority in July 2010. Following work to address recommendations that were identified from the assessment (https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/images-assessment-report-51-schools-for-northern-ireland_tcm97-33759.pdf) the UKSA confirmed the designation of these statistics as National Statistics in June 2011.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean 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 continue to be observed.

2. For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the Office for National Statistics Customer Contact Centre on 0845 601 3034

E-mail: info@ons.gov.uk

Fax: 01633 652747

Letters: Customer Contact Centre, Office for National Statistics, Rm D265, Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, South Wales, NP10 8XG

3. You can also find National Statistics on the [Internet](#)⁴

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](#)⁵.
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

⁴ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/>

⁵ <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/school-leavers-data-collection-and-validation>

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>

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](#)⁶ 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, 85.2% 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 2018/19 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 2017/18 academic year.
12. Percentages have been rounded to one decimal place and as a consequence, some percentages may not sum to 100.

⁶ <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/2015-northern-ireland-pisa-results>

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 Department's 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. This issue related to 2016/17 data only.
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: 2017/18 Tables

Table 1

Qualifications of school leavers by gender and school type 2017/2018⁽¹⁾

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
GRAMMAR						
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	2705	54.8	3341	69.2	6046	61.9
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	3465	70.2	4019	83.3	7484	76.7
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	3599	72.9	4099	84.9	7698	78.9
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	4634	93.9	4743	98.3	9377	96.1
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	4536	91.9	4672	96.8	9208	94.3
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	4888	99.1	4811	99.7	9699	99.4
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	15	0.3	7	0.1	22	0.2
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	14	0.3	5	0.1	19	0.2
TOTAL GRAMMAR	4934	100.0	4826	100.0	9760	100.0
NON-GRAMMAR						
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	1021	16.3	1708	30.7	2729	23.1
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	1572	25.2	2455	44.2	4027	34.1
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	1821	29.1	2711	48.8	4532	38.4
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	4475	71.6	4522	81.4	8997	76.2
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	2845	45.5	3174	57.1	6019	51.0
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	5833	93.4	5301	95.4	11134	94.3
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	86	1.4	56	1.0	142	1.2
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	61	1.0	50	0.9	111	0.9
TOTAL NON-GRAMMAR	6247	100.0	5555	100.0	11802	100.0
TOTAL						
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	3726	33.3	5049	48.6	8775	40.7
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	5037	45.0	6474	62.4	11511	53.4
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	5420	48.5	6810	65.6	12230	56.7
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	9109	81.5	9265	89.2	18374	85.2
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	7381	66.0	7846	75.6	15227	70.6
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	10721	95.9	10112	97.4	20833	96.6
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	101	0.9	63	0.6	164	0.8
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	75	0.7	55	0.5	130	0.6
TOTAL LEAVERS	11181	100.0	10381	100.0	21562	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 2

 Highest qualification of school leavers by destination 2017/2018⁽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⁾	9058	78.7	1303	11.3	828	7.2	177	1.5	99	0.9	46	0.4	11511	100.0
2 A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	211	29.3	262	36.4	173	24.1	41	5.7	20	2.8	12	1.7	719	100.0
1 A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	9	3.9	106	46.5	78	34.2	13	5.7	17	7.5	5	2.2	228	100.0
GCSEs														
5+ A*-C (or equivalent) ⁽²⁾	5	0.1	3950	66.8	639	10.8	1015	17.2	137	2.3	170	2.9	5916	100.0
1-4 A*-C (or equivalent) ⁽²⁾	0	0.0	1444	52.8	309	11.3	761	27.8	130	4.7	93	3.4	2737	100.0
Other grades (1+ D-G) ⁽²⁾	0	0.0	115	40.1	36	12.5	87	30.3	30	10.5	19	6.6	287	100.0
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	0	0.0	45	27.4	29	17.7	49	29.9	17	10.4	24	14.6	164	100.0
TOTAL LEAVERS	9283		7225		2092		2143		450		369		21562	

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.

Table 3

Qualifications of school leavers by gender and religion of pupil 2017/2018⁽¹⁾

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
PROTESTANT						
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	1261	30.3	1862	46.4	3123	38.2
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	1739	41.8	2374	59.2	4113	50.3
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	1882	45.2	2483	61.9	4365	53.4
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	3415	82.0	3567	88.9	6982	85.4
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	2672	64.2	3028	75.5	5700	69.7
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	4034	96.9	3917	97.6	7951	97.2
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	34	0.8	24	0.6	58	0.7
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	25	0.6	21	0.5	46	0.6
TOTAL PROTESTANT	4165	100.0	4012	100.0	8177	100.0
CATHOLIC						
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	2081	35.9	2731	51.5	4812	43.4
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	2776	47.9	3469	65.4	6245	56.3
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	2984	51.5	3666	69.2	6650	59.9
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	4715	81.4	4753	89.7	9468	85.3
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	3914	67.6	4009	75.6	7923	71.4
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	5514	95.2	5158	97.3	10672	96.2
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	55	0.9	32	0.6	87	0.8
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	43	0.7	27	0.5	70	0.6
TOTAL CATHOLIC	5793	100.0	5301	100.0	11094	100.0
OTHER⁽⁵⁾						
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	384	31.4	456	42.7	840	36.7
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	522	42.7	631	59.1	1153	50.3
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	554	45.3	661	61.9	1215	53.0
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	979	80.0	945	88.5	1924	84.0
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	795	65.0	809	75.7	1604	70.0
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	1173	95.9	1037	97.1	2210	96.5
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	12	1.0	7	0.7	19	0.8
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	7	0.6	7	0.7	14	0.6
TOTAL OTHER⁽⁵⁾	1223	100.0	1068	100.0	2291	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.

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

Table 4

Qualifications of school leavers by ethnic origin 2017/2018⁽¹⁾

	TOTAL	
	Numbers	%
WHITE ⁽⁵⁾		
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	8531	40.8
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	11170	53.4
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	11862	56.7
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	17839	85.3
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	14801	70.8
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	20229	96.7
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	155	0.7
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	122	0.6
TOTAL WHITE ⁽⁵⁾	20911	100.0
MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS ⁽⁵⁾		
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	244	37.5
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	341	52.4
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	368	56.5
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	535	82.2
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	426	65.4
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	604	92.8
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	9	1.4
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	8	1.2
TOTAL MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS ⁽⁵⁾	651	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.

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 2017/2018⁽¹⁾

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
ENTITLED TO FSM						
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	475	16.4	736	28.3	1211	22.0
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	721	25.0	1060	40.7	1781	32.4
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	831	28.8	1173	45.0	2004	36.5
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	1937	67.0	2019	77.5	3956	72.0
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	1262	43.7	1408	54.1	2670	48.6
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	2631	91.1	2454	94.2	5085	92.6
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	58	2.0	31	1.2	89	1.6
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	42	1.5	27	1.0	69	1.3
TOTAL ENTITLED TO FSM	2889	100.0	2604	100.0	5493	100.0
NOT ENTITLED TO FSM						
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	3251	39.2	4313	55.5	7564	47.1
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	4316	52.1	5414	69.6	9730	60.6
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	4589	55.3	5637	72.5	10226	63.6
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	7172	86.5	7246	93.2	14418	89.7
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	6119	73.8	6438	82.8	12557	78.1
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	8090	97.6	7658	98.5	15748	98.0
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	43	0.5	32	0.4	75	0.5
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	33	0.4	28	0.4	61	0.4
TOTAL NOT ENTITLED TO FSM	8292	100.0	7777	100.0	16069	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 2017/2018^{(1) (3)}

	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
DISTRICT COUNCIL							
Antrim and Newtownabbey	881	56.3	1299	83.0	1091	69.7	1565
Ards and North Down	1033	60.9	1534	90.4	1286	75.8	1697
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	1241	49.0	2024	79.9	1702	67.2	2534
Belfast	1902	58.1	2752	84.1	2143	65.5	3273
Causeway Coast and Glens	862	49.1	1548	88.3	1238	70.6	1754
Derry City and Strabane	1073	57.0	1581	84.1	1317	70.0	1881
Fermanagh and Omagh	939	60.3	1360	87.3	1150	73.8	1558
Lisburn and Castlereagh	1010	65.0	1387	89.3	1212	78.0	1554
Mid and East Antrim	820	59.8	1187	86.5	1013	73.8	1372
Mid Ulster	1048	54.7	1647	85.9	1361	71.0	1917
Newry, Mourne and Down	1319	57.6	1917	83.7	1612	70.4	2290
Invalid/Missing/Unknown Postcodes	102	61.1	138	82.6	102	61.1	167
TOTAL LEAVERS	12230	56.7	18374	85.2	15227	70.6	21562

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 2017/2018⁽¹⁾

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
PROTESTANT	2338	71.6	2631	82.1	4969	76.8
Total	3266		3204		6470	
CATHOLIC	3109	76.4	3125	83.3	6234	79.7
Total	4069		3750		7819	
OTHER⁽³⁾	672	70.2	682	82.9	1354	76.1
Total	957		823		1780	
ALL RELIGIONS	6119	73.8	6438	82.8	12557	78.1
Total	8292		7777		16069	

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 2017/2018⁽¹⁾

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
PROTESTANT	334	37.2	397	49.1	731	42.8
Total	899		808		1707	
CATHOLIC	805	46.7	884	57.0	1689	51.6
Total	1724		1551		3275	
OTHER⁽³⁾	123	46.2	127	51.8	250	48.9
Total	266		245		511	
ALL RELIGIONS	1262	43.7	1408	54.1	2670	48.6
Total	2889		2604		5493	

Table 9

School leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs⁽²⁾ A*-C inc. GCSE English and GCSE maths by gender and religion of pupil 2017/2018⁽¹⁾

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
PROTESTANT	2672	64.2	3028	75.5	5700	69.7
Total	4165		4012		8177	
CATHOLIC	3914	67.6	4009	75.6	7923	71.4
Total	5793		5301		11094	
OTHER⁽³⁾	795	65.0	809	75.7	1604	70.0
Total	1223		1068		2291	
ALL RELIGIONS	7381	66.0	7846	75.6	15227	70.6
Total	11181		10381		21562	

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 2017/2018⁽¹⁾

	No SEN		SEN Stages 1-4		SEN Stage 5		Total	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	7828	46.8	850	22.6	97	9.1	8775	40.7
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	10175	60.8	1178	31.3	158	14.8	11511	53.4
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	10739	64.2	1291	34.3	200	18.8	12230	56.7
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	15091	90.2	2641	70.1	642	60.3	18374	85.2
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	13264	79.3	1681	44.6	282	26.5	15227	70.6
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	16460	98.4	3482	92.5	891	83.7	20833	96.6
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	67	0.4	62	1.6	35	3.3	164	0.8
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	62	0.4	54	1.4	14	1.3	130	0.6
TOTAL LEAVERS	16732	100.0	3766	100.0	1064	100.0	21562	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 2012/2013 to 2017/2018⁽¹⁾

	2012/13 %	2013/14 %	2014/15 %	2015/16 %	2016/17 %	2017/18 %
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	36.0	37.0	38.2	38.4	40.7	40.7
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	50.2	50.8	52.4	52.4	54.3	53.4
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	55.1	55.7	57.7	57.3	58.5	56.7
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	78.5	78.6	81.1	81.7	83.8	85.2
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	62.2	63.5	66.0	67.7	69.6	70.6
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	94.8	95.2	95.9	95.7	96.6	96.6
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	1.6	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.8
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	1.4	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.6
TOTAL LEAVERS	23001	22636	22361	22746	21983	21562

Table 12

Qualifications of male school leavers 2012/2013 to 2017/2018⁽¹⁾

	2012/13 %	2013/14 %	2014/15 %	2015/16 %	2016/17 %	2017/18 %
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	29.1	30.2	31.1	31.2	33.0	33.3
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	42.6	43.4	44.5	44.2	45.7	45.0
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	47.3	48.1	49.5	48.8	49.9	48.5
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	74.5	74.1	76.9	77.5	79.7	81.5
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	57.5	58.6	61.6	63.3	64.7	66.0
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	93.7	94.0	95.1	94.8	95.7	95.9
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	2.0	1.2	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.9
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	1.8	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.7
TOTAL LEAVERS	11746	11632	11393	11562	11185	11181

Table 13

Qualifications of female school leavers 2012/2013 to 2017/2018⁽¹⁾

	2012/13 %	2013/14 %	2014/15 %	2015/16 %	2016/17 %	2017/18 %
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	43.2	44.2	45.7	45.9	48.8	48.6
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	58.2	58.6	60.5	60.9	63.2	62.4
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	63.3	63.6	66.2	66.1	67.4	65.6
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	82.8	83.4	85.4	86.1	88.1	89.2
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	67.0	68.6	70.5	72.2	74.6	75.6
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	96.0	96.5	96.7	96.7	97.5	97.4
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.6
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.5
TOTAL LEAVERS	11255	11004	10968	11184	10798	10381

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 2017/2018⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
GRAMMAR						
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	3032	61.5	3629	75.2	6661	68.2
Institutions of Further Education	1199	24.3	867	18.0	2066	21.2
Employment	316	6.4	214	4.4	530	5.4
Training ⁽⁴⁾	264	5.4	56	1.2	320	3.3
Unemployment	42	0.9	17	0.4	59	0.6
Destinations Unknown	81	1.6	43	0.9	124	1.3
TOTAL GRAMMAR	4934	100.0	4826	100.0	9760	100.0
NON-GRAMMAR						
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	989	15.8	1633	29.4	2622	22.2
Institutions of Further Education	2659	42.6	2500	45.0	5159	43.7
Employment	887	14.2	675	12.2	1562	13.2
Training ⁽⁴⁾	1358	21.7	465	8.4	1823	15.4
Unemployment	212	3.4	179	3.2	391	3.3
Destinations Unknown	142	2.3	103	1.9	245	2.1
TOTAL NON-GRAMMAR	6247	100.0	5555	100.0	11802	100.0
TOTAL						
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	4021	36.0	5262	50.7	9283	43.1
Institutions of Further Education	3858	34.5	3367	32.4	7225	33.5
Employment	1203	10.8	889	8.6	2092	9.7
Training ⁽⁴⁾	1622	14.5	521	5.0	2143	9.9
Unemployment	254	2.3	196	1.9	450	2.1
Destinations Unknown	223	2.0	146	1.4	369	1.7
TOTAL LEAVERS	11181	100.0	10381	100.0	21562	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 2017/2018⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
PROTESTANT						
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾	1383	33.2	1884	47.0	3267	40.0
Institutions of Further Education	1624	39.0	1474	36.7	3098	37.9
Employment	488	11.7	363	9.0	851	10.4
Training ⁽⁵⁾	494	11.9	178	4.4	672	8.2
Unemployment	93	2.2	58	1.4	151	1.8
Destinations Unknown	83	2.0	55	1.4	138	1.7
TOTAL PROTESTANT	4165	100.0	4012	100.0	8177	100.0
CATHOLIC						
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾	2220	38.3	2860	54.0	5080	45.8
Institutions of Further Education	1738	30.0	1525	28.8	3263	29.4
Employment	585	10.1	438	8.3	1023	9.2
Training ⁽⁵⁾	1010	17.4	295	5.6	1305	11.8
Unemployment	127	2.2	115	2.2	242	2.2
Destinations Unknown	113	2.0	68	1.3	181	1.6
TOTAL CATHOLIC	5793	100.0	5301	100.0	11094	100.0
OTHER⁽³⁾						
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾	418	34.2	518	48.5	936	40.9
Institutions of Further Education	496	40.6	368	34.5	864	37.7
Employment	130	10.6	88	8.2	218	9.5
Training ⁽⁵⁾	118	9.6	48	4.5	166	7.2
Unemployment	34	2.8	23	2.2	57	2.5
Destinations Unknown	27	2.2	23	2.2	50	2.2
TOTAL OTHER⁽³⁾	1223	100.0	1068	100.0	2291	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 2017/2018⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

	Total	
	Numbers	%
WHITE⁽³⁾		
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾	8982	43.0
Institutions of Further Education	6981	33.4
Employment	2048	9.8
Training ⁽⁵⁾	2115	10.1
Unemployment	431	2.1
Destinations Unknown	354	1.7
TOTAL WHITE⁽³⁾	20911	100.0
MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS⁽³⁾		
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾	301	46.2
Institutions of Further Education	244	37.5
Employment	44	6.8
Training ⁽⁵⁾	28	4.3
Unemployment	19	2.9
Destinations Unknown	15	2.3
TOTAL MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS⁽³⁾	651	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 2017/2018⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
ENTITLED TO FSM						
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	516	17.9	773	29.7	1289	23.5
Institutions of Further Education	1184	41.0	1141	43.8	2325	42.3
Employment	366	12.7	276	10.6	642	11.7
Training ⁽⁴⁾	619	21.4	262	10.1	881	16.0
Unemployment	121	4.2	93	3.6	214	3.9
Destinations Unknown	83	2.9	59	2.3	142	2.6
TOTAL ENTITLED TO FSM	2889	100.0	2604	100.0	5493	100.0
NOT ENTITLED TO FSM						
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	3505	42.3	4489	57.7	7994	49.7
Institutions of Further Education	2674	32.2	2226	28.6	4900	30.5
Employment	837	10.1	613	7.9	1450	9.0
Training ⁽⁴⁾	1003	12.1	259	3.3	1262	7.9
Unemployment	133	1.6	103	1.3	236	1.5
Destinations Unknown	140	1.7	87	1.1	227	1.4
TOTAL NOT ENTITLED TO FSM	8292	100.0	7777	100.0	16069	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 2017/2018⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

	No SEN		SEN Stages 1-4		SEN Stage 5		Total	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	8265	49.4	900	23.9	118	11.1	9283	43.1
Institutions of Further Education	5154	30.8	1561	41.4	510	47.9	7225	33.5
Employment	1605	9.6	399	10.6	88	8.3	2092	9.7
Training ⁽⁴⁾	1163	7.0	694	18.4	286	26.9	2143	9.9
Unemployment	291	1.7	119	3.2	40	3.8	450	2.1
Destinations Unknown	254	1.5	93	2.5	22	2.1	369	1.7
TOTAL LEAVERS	16732	100.0	3766	100.0	1064	100.0	21562	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 2017/2018⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾

	Institutions of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾		Institutions of Further Education		Employment		Training ⁽⁵⁾		Unemployment and Unknown		Total	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
DISTRICT COUNCIL												
Antrim and Newtownabbey	661	42.2	465	29.7	188	12.0	180	11.5	71	4.5	1565	100.0
Ards and North Down	745	43.9	582	34.3	209	12.3	94	5.5	67	3.9	1697	100.0
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	1008	39.8	1036	40.9	141	5.6	262	10.3	87	3.4	2534	100.0
Belfast	1308	40.0	870	26.6	505	15.4	393	12.0	197	6.0	3273	100.0
Causeway Coast and Glens	668	38.1	753	42.9	133	7.6	137	7.8	63	3.6	1754	100.0
Derry City and Strabane	802	42.6	642	34.1	148	7.9	240	12.8	49	2.6	1881	100.0
Fermanagh and Omagh	754	48.4	545	35.0	125	8.0	105	6.7	29	1.9	1558	100.0
Lisburn and Castlereagh	789	50.8	460	29.6	130	8.4	119	7.7	56	3.6	1554	100.0
Mid and East Antrim	652	47.5	414	30.2	131	9.5	119	8.7	56	4.1	1372	100.0
Mid Ulster	803	41.9	641	33.4	169	8.8	226	11.8	78	4.1	1917	100.0
Newry, Mourne and Down	1012	44.2	767	33.5	201	8.8	250	10.9	60	2.6	2290	100.0
Invalid/Missing/Unknown Postcodes	81	48.5	50	29.9	12	7.2	18	10.8	6	3.6	167	100.0
TOTAL LEAVERS	9283	43.1	7225	33.5	2092	9.7	2143	9.9	819	3.8	21562	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 trainee

Table 20

Higher Education destination by country of institution and gender of pupil 2017/2018⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾

	Boys		Girls		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
NI Institution	2785	69.3	3473	66.0	6258	67.4
GB Institution	1135	28.2	1666	31.7	2801	30.2
Other Institution ⁽⁴⁾	101	2.5	123	2.3	224	2.4
Total	4021	100.0	5262	100.0	9283	100.0

Table 21

Higher Education destination by country of institution and religion of pupil 2017/2018⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾

	Protestant		Catholic		Other ⁽⁵⁾		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
NI Institution	2077	63.6	3688	72.6	493	52.7	6258	67.4
GB Institution	1151	35.2	1247	24.5	403	43.1	2801	30.2
Other Institution ⁽⁴⁾	39	1.2	145	2.9	40	4.3	224	2.4
Total	3267	100.0	5080	100.0	936	100.0	9283	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 2012/2013 to 2017/2018 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

	2012/13 %	2013/14 %	2014/15 %	2015/16 %	2016/17 %	2017/18 %
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	42.6	41.8	42.3	42.9	43.3	43.1
Institutions of Further Education	34.4	35.4	35.0	34.4	34.0	33.5
Employment	6.4	6.9	8.4	8.9	8.8	9.7
Training ⁽⁴⁾	11.3	10.4	9.8	9.7	9.8	9.9
Unemployment	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.1
Destinations Unknown	2.4	2.9	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.7
TOTAL LEAVERS	23001	22636	22361	22746	21983	21562

Table 23

Destination of male school leavers 2012/2013 to 2017/2018 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

	2012/13 %	2013/14 %	2014/15 %	2015/16 %	2016/17 %	2017/18 %
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	36.9	35.8	34.7	35.7	35.8	36.0
Institutions of Further Education	35.7	36.5	37.3	36.7	36.0	34.5
Employment	6.7	7.4	9.3	9.5	9.9	10.8
Training ⁽⁴⁾	14.8	14.5	13.5	13.8	14.5	14.5
Unemployment	3.1	2.6	3.1	2.3	2.4	2.3
Destinations Unknown	2.9	3.2	2.2	2.0	1.4	2.0
TOTAL LEAVERS	11746	11632	11393	11562	11185	11181

Table 24

Destination of female school leavers 2012/2013 to 2017/2018 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

	2012/13 %	2013/14 %	2014/15 %	2015/16 %	2016/17 %	2017/18 %
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	48.7	48.1	50.2	50.3	51.1	50.7
Institutions of Further Education	33.2	34.2	32.7	32.1	32.0	32.4
Employment	6.1	6.3	7.4	8.3	7.8	8.6
Training ⁽⁴⁾	7.7	6.1	5.9	5.4	5.0	5.0
Unemployment	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.6	1.9
Destinations Unknown	1.9	2.7	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.4
TOTAL LEAVERS	11255	11004	10968	11184	10798	10381

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 2012/13

Appendix A

Qualifications of school leavers by gender and school type 2012/2013⁽¹⁾

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
GRAMMAR						
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	2708	57.2	3480	72.9	6188	65.1
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	3574	75.5	4196	87.9	7770	81.8
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	3734	78.9	4286	89.8	8020	84.4
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	4544	96.0	4713	98.8	9257	97.4
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	4395	92.9	4613	96.7	9008	94.8
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	4701	99.3	4756	99.7	9457	99.5
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	#	#	*	*	15	0.2
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	#	#	*	*	15	0.2
TOTAL GRAMMAR	4732	100.0	4771	100.0	9503	100.0
NON-GRAMMAR						
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	714	10.2	1378	21.3	2092	15.5
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	1430	20.4	2351	36.3	3781	28.0
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	1822	26.0	2835	43.7	4657	34.5
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	4206	60.0	4601	71.0	8807	65.2
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	2364	33.7	2931	45.2	5295	39.2
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	6307	89.9	6050	93.3	12357	91.5
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	#	#	#	#	357	2.6
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	#	#	#	#	312	2.3
TOTAL NON-GRAMMAR	7014	100.0	6484	100.0	13498	100.0
TOTAL						
3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾	3422	29.1	4858	43.2	8280	36.0
3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	5004	42.6	6547	58.2	11551	50.2
2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾	5556	47.3	7121	63.3	12677	55.1
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾	8750	74.5	9314	82.8	18064	78.5
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths	6759	57.5	7544	67.0	14303	62.2
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾	11008	93.7	10806	96.0	21814	94.8
No GCSEs ⁽³⁾	240	2.0	132	1.2	372	1.6
No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	213	1.8	114	1.0	327	1.4
TOTAL LEAVERS	11746	100.0	11255	100.0	23001	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.

* 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 and point 10 in relation to A-level figures.

Appendix B

 Destinations of school leavers by gender and school type 2012/2013⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
GRAMMAR						
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	3169	67.0	3670	76.9	6839	72.0
Institutions of Further Education	1171	24.7	845	17.7	2016	21.2
Employment	169	3.6	151	3.2	320	3.4
Training ⁽⁴⁾	85	1.8	27	0.6	112	1.2
Unemployment	77	1.6	39	0.8	116	1.2
Destinations Unknown	61	1.3	39	0.8	100	1.1
TOTAL GRAMMAR	4732	100.0	4771	100.0	9503	100.0
NON-GRAMMAR						
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	1163	16.6	1807	27.9	2970	22.0
Institutions of Further Education	3017	43.0	2887	44.5	5904	43.7
Employment	618	8.8	538	8.3	1156	8.6
Training ⁽⁴⁾	1652	23.6	836	12.9	2488	18.4
Unemployment	282	4.0	245	3.8	527	3.9
Destinations Unknown	282	4.0	171	2.6	453	3.4
TOTAL NON-GRAMMAR	7014	100.0	6484	100.0	13498	100.0
TOTAL						
Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾	4332	36.9	5477	48.7	9809	42.6
Institutions of Further Education	4188	35.7	3732	33.2	7920	34.4
Employment	787	6.7	689	6.1	1476	6.4
Training ⁽⁴⁾	1737	14.8	863	7.7	2600	11.3
Unemployment	359	3.1	284	2.5	643	2.8
Destinations Unknown	343	2.9	210	1.9	553	2.4
TOTAL LEAVERS	11746	100.0	11255	100.0	23001	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.