



MEETING - Corporate Parenting Board

Date – 30th July 2019

ITEM 10

Report sponsor: Andy Smith Strategic Director
Report author: Graeme Ferguson Virtual School
Head teacher

Report on changes to the key education performance data in secondary schools

Purpose

- 1.1 To outline the new grading system used for GCSE exam results
- 1.2 To explain how the system for comparing secondary school outcomes has changed; in particular, “Attainment 8” and “Progress 8”

Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To note how the new grading system compares to the previous A*-G GCSE grades
- 2.2 To note how secondary outcomes and performance data is calculated

Reason(s)

- 3.1 Understanding how secondary schools are measured in terms of their performance in exams will enable a greater understanding of the performance of the Virtual School.

Supporting information

4.1 Changes to GCSE grades

The way that GCSEs are graded has changed. The table below shows how the new and old grades compare.

New grading structure	Former grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	C
4	
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

4.2 Comparing secondary school outcomes

What was the old system?

The Government used to compare schools according to the proportion of pupils gaining five grade C or better GCSEs including both English and maths.

What is the new system?

There are two parts to it:

- The Attainment 8 score measures the achievement of a pupil across eight different subjects.
- The Progress 8 score shows how they have improved during secondary school, compared to other pupils who were at the same level when they finished primary school

4.3 Attainment 8 - what is it?

Pupils are given a score in eight different subjects taken for GCSEs and approved non-GCSEs. These are:

- English and maths (which have double weighting);
- Three out of sciences, geography, computer sciences and history, which count towards the English Baccalaureate;

- Three more out of the group above, or other approved academic, arts or vocational subjects.

For each subject, pupils are given a mark from 1 to 9

The total score for each pupil is added up, and then divided by 10 to get an average attainment score. (It's divided by 10 rather than by eight because of the double weighting for English and maths.)

So if Pupil X scores 5 in English (doubled to 10), 6 in maths (doubled to 12), and 4, 6, 8, 5, 7 and 3 in their other subjects, they would get a total score of $10 + 12 + 4 + 6 + 8 + 5 + 7 + 3 = 55$.

And they'd then divide that by 10 to get an average attainment score of 5.5.

4.4 Progress 8 - what is it?

Once you've got your Attainment 8 score, you can work out your Progress 8 score for each pupil.

This is the difference between the average Attainment 8 score for pupils who started secondary at a similar level (based on results at KS2 tests taken at the end of primary school) and the pupil's *actual* Attainment 8 score.

In other words, if Pupil X had an Attainment 8 score of 5.5, and the average Attainment 8 score of all pupils nationally who had a similar starting point was 5.2, then Pupil X's Progress 8 score would be +0.3.

Progress 8 is calculated for individual pupils solely in order to calculate a school's Progress 8 score; schools don't need to share individual Progress 8 scores with their pupils.

A school will generally receive a Progress 8 score of somewhere from minus one to plus one. If a school has a Progress 8 score of plus one it means that pupils get on average one more grade for each subject than other pupils who had the same starting point. If they get a score of minus 1 pupils get on average one grade less per subject than other pupils who had the same starting point.

It's important to recognise that a negative Progress 8 score doesn't mean those pupils made no academic progress. It indicates that students at the school made less progress than others across England who had similar results at the end of their Key Stage 2 education.

If a school records a zero Progress 8 rating it shows that pupils on average do as well at Key Stage 4 as other pupils who got similar results from their primary school years.

4.5 **Derby Virtual School – Attainment 8 and Progress 8 in 2018**

30 pupils who had been in care for 12 months or more

Attainment 8 score 18.8 (National 18.8)

Progress 8 score -1.36 (National -1.24)

Highest performing LAC pupil was in a Derby secondary school and got an Attainment 8 score of 67.5 with a Progress 8 score of +0.67

Public/stakeholder engagement

5.1 None

5.2

Other options

6.1 N/A

6.2

Financial and value for money issues

7.1 None

Legal implications

8.1 None

Other significant implications

9.1 None

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal		
Finance		
Service Director(s)	Pauline Anderson	
Report sponsor	Andy Smith	15.07.19
Other(s)		