

## Statistical Bulletin 6/2017

### Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers 2015/16

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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 2015/16.

#### Key Points

- The proportion of school leavers achieving **at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C or equivalent** has increased by 8.5 percentage points from five years ago, from 73.2% in 2010/11 to 81.7% in 2015/16.
- At 67.7%, the proportion of school leavers achieving **at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths** has increased by 1.7 percentage points since 2014/15 (66.0%) and by 8.2 percentage points since 2010/11 (59.5%).
- 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 3.5 percentage points from 41.3% in 2014/15 to 44.8% in 2015/16.
- The proportion of school leavers achieving **three or more A-levels at grades A\* - C or equivalent** was 38.4% in 2015/16, an increase of 2.8 percentage points from five years ago (35.6% in 2010/11).
- The proportion of school leavers continuing on to **Institutions of Higher Education** has increased slightly to 42.9% in 2015/16. Overall, 95.8% 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 new Education Authority (formerly the Education and Library Boards). 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.

School leavers data informs two indicators in the Draft Programme for Government (PfG) 2016-2021<sup>1</sup>. These are:

#### Indicator 11: Improve Educational Outcomes

**Current position:** In 2015/16, the percentage of school leavers achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C or equivalent including GCSEs in English and maths was **67.7%**

#### Indicator 12: Reduce Educational Inequality

**Current position:** In 2015/16, 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 **75.8%**, while the percentage of those entitled to free school meals achieving the same measure was **44.8%** – a gap of **31.0** percentage points.

### 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 2015/16, this figure has increased to 5,973, 26.3% 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.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.northernireland.gov.uk/programme-government>

## 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 pupils<sup>2</sup>.

Statistics relating to school numbers and enrolments can be found on the Statistics and research section of the Department of Education [website](#)<sup>3</sup>.

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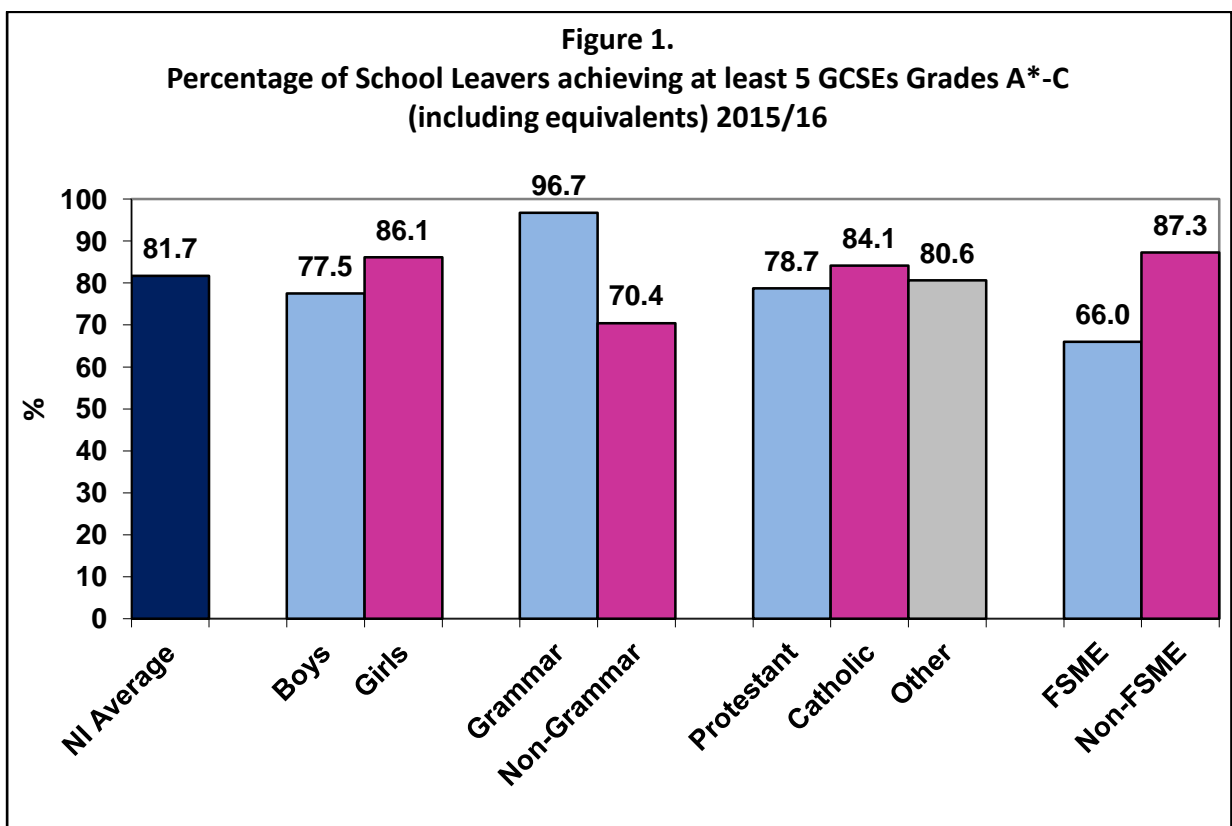
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.etini.gov.uk/publications/evaluation-implementation-delivering-social-change-improving-literacy-and-numeracy-0>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-research/statistics>

## 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 8.5 percentage points from five years ago, from 73.2% in 2010/11 to 81.7% in 2015/16 ([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; 86.1% of girls leaving school in 2015/16 achieved this standard compared with 77.5% 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 13.1 percentage points from 57.3% in 2010/11 to 70.4% in 2015/16. The corresponding proportions for grammar schools remained stable at 96.8% in 2010/11 and 96.7% in 2015/16 ([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 1.1 percentage points from 69.3% in 2014/15 to 70.4% in 2015/16. In contrast, the proportion of pupils leaving grammar schools who achieved this standard decreased by 1.3 percentage points from 98.0% in 2014/15 to 96.7% in 2015/16 ([Table 1](#)).

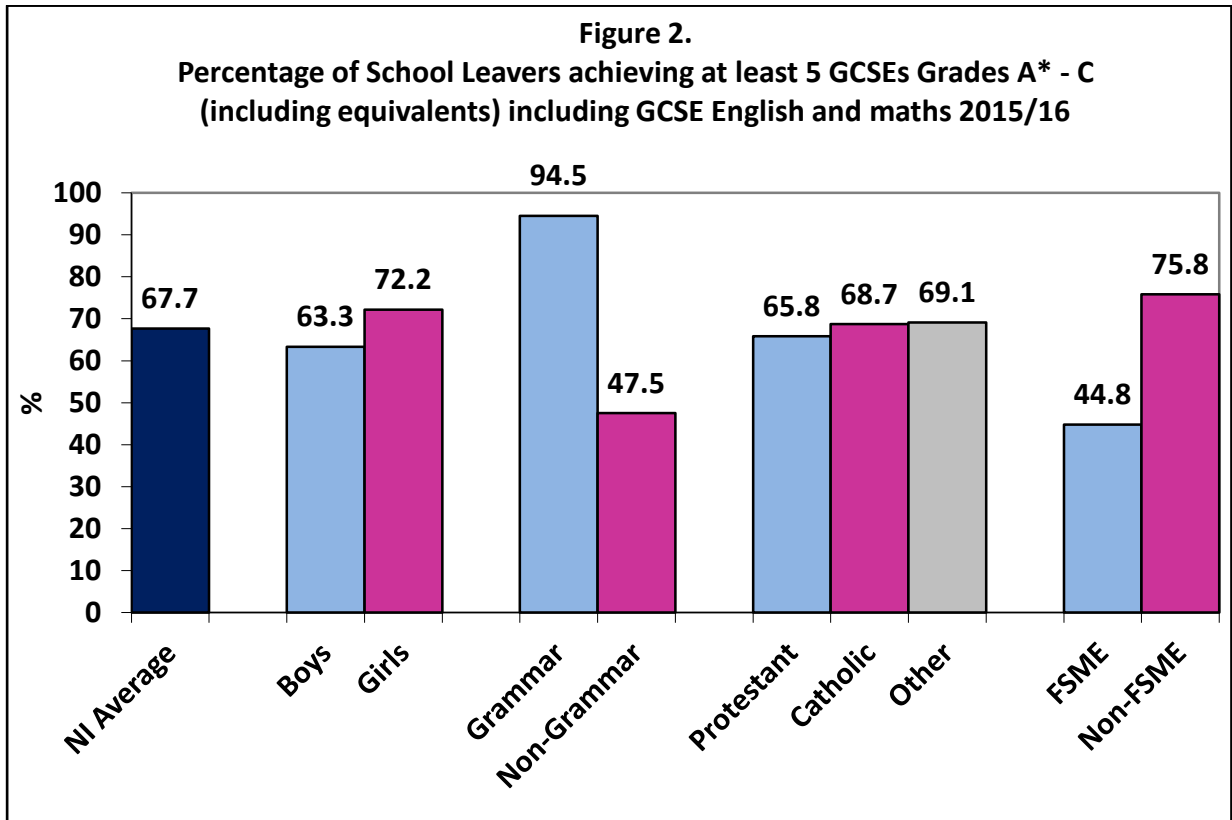
- The proportion of school leavers with a special educational need (SEN) stage 5 who achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C or equivalent was 37.3% in 2015/16, compared with 88.3% for those pupils without a SEN. 62.4% of pupils who were recorded as having a SEN stage 1-4 achieved this standard ([Table 10](#)).

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

- At 67.7%, the proportion of school leavers achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths has increased by 1.7 percentage points since 2014/15 (66.0%) and by 8.2 percentage points since 2010/11 (59.5%) ([Table 11](#), [Figure 2](#)).
- The proportion of free school meal entitled<sup>4</sup> school leavers achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths increased by 3.5 percentage points from 41.3% in 2014/15 to 44.8% in 2015/16 ([Table 5](#), [Figure 2](#)).
- There is a 14.0 percentage point gap between the proportion of pupils achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths (67.7%) and the proportion of pupils achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C or equivalent (81.7%) ([Table 1](#)).
- Almost three-quarters (72.2%) of girls achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths compared with 63.3% of boys, a difference of 8.9 percentage points ([Table 1](#), [Table 9](#) & [Figure 2](#)).
- In 2015/16, 94.5% of grammar school leavers left with at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths, while 96.7% left with at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C or equivalent, a difference of 2.2 percentage points. The corresponding proportions for non-grammar school leavers were 47.5% and 70.4% respectively, a difference of 22.9 percentage points ([Table 1](#) & [Figure 2](#)).
- Again, looking at the difference between these two indicators, 68.7% of Catholic school leavers left with at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths, while 84.1% left with at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C or equivalent, a difference of 15.4 percentage points. The corresponding proportions for Protestant school leavers were 65.8% and 78.7% respectively, a difference of 12.9 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 2.2 percentage points from 45.3% in 2014/15 to 47.5% in 2015/16. In contrast, the proportion of pupils leaving grammar schools who achieved this standard decreased by 1.1 percentage points from 95.6% in 2014/15 to 94.5% in 2015/16 ([Table 1](#)).

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<sup>4</sup> The increase in the number of FSME pupils coincides with an extension of the eligibility for free school meals under the Working Tax Credit free school meal criterion which was extended to post-primary pupils from September 2014.



- In 2015/16, 34.0% (329) of Protestant boys entitled to free school meals<sup>5</sup> achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths compared with 43.6% (794) 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 achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths in 2015/16 when compared with 2014/15, representing an increase of 7.3 and 3.7 percentage points respectively.
- Similarly, 42.5% (351) of Protestant girls entitled to free school meals achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths compared with 53.1% (979) of Catholic girls entitled to free school meals ([Table 8](#)). A greater proportion of both Protestant girls and Catholic girls with entitlement to free school meals achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths in 2015/16 when compared with 2014/15, representing an increase of 2.2 and 3.5 percentage points respectively.
- 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 16.4 percentage point difference between the lowest achieving DC which was Belfast (61.5%) and the highest achieving DC which was Lisburn and Castlereagh (77.9%) when comparing those leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs A\* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths.

<sup>5</sup> The increase in the number of FSME pupils coincides with an extension of the eligibility for free school meals under the Working Tax Credit free school meal criterion which was extended to post-primary pupils from September 2014.

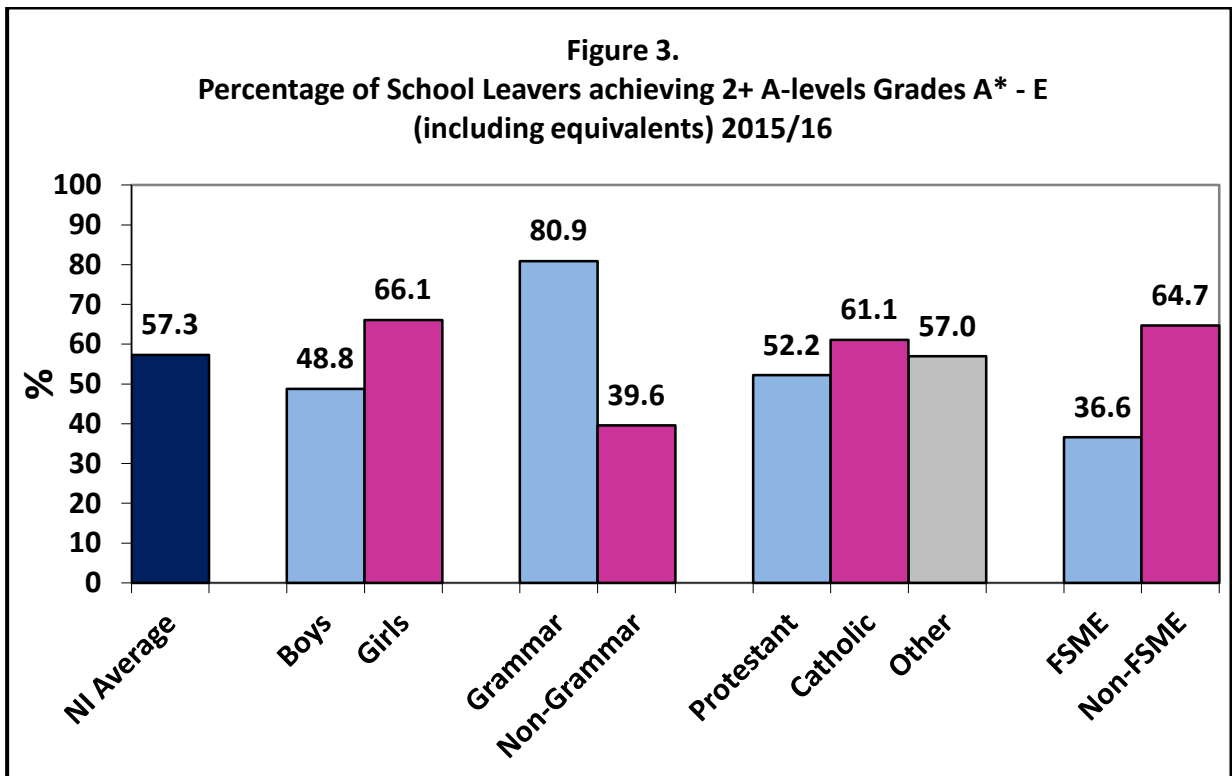


### 1.3 No GCSEs or equivalent qualifications

- More boys (58) left school in 2015/16 with no GCSEs than girls (29), equating to 0.5% of all male school leavers and 0.3% of all female school leavers in 2015/16 ([Table 1](#), [Table 12](#) & [Table 13](#)).
- When free school meal entitlement is considered, 0.9% (51) of those entitled to free school meals<sup>5</sup> left without any GCSEs compared with 0.2% (36) of school leavers who were not entitled to free school meals ([Table 5](#)).

### 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 38.4% in 2015/16, an increase of 2.8 percentage points from five years ago (35.6% in 2010/11) ([Table 1](#), [Table 11](#)).
- The proportion of school leavers achieving two or more A-levels at grades A\* - E or equivalent was 57.3% in 2015/16, an increase of 4.0 percentage points from 53.3% in 2010/11 ([Table 1](#), [Table 11](#) & [Figure 3](#)).
- Girls continue to outperform boys in terms of qualifications achieved. In 2015/16, 45.9% of girls achieved at least three A-levels at grades A\* - C or equivalent on leaving school compared with 31.2% of boys, and 66.1% of girls achieved two or more A-levels at grades A\* - E or equivalent in 2015/16 compared with 48.8% of boys ([Table 1](#), [Table 12](#) & [Table 13](#), [Figure 3](#)).



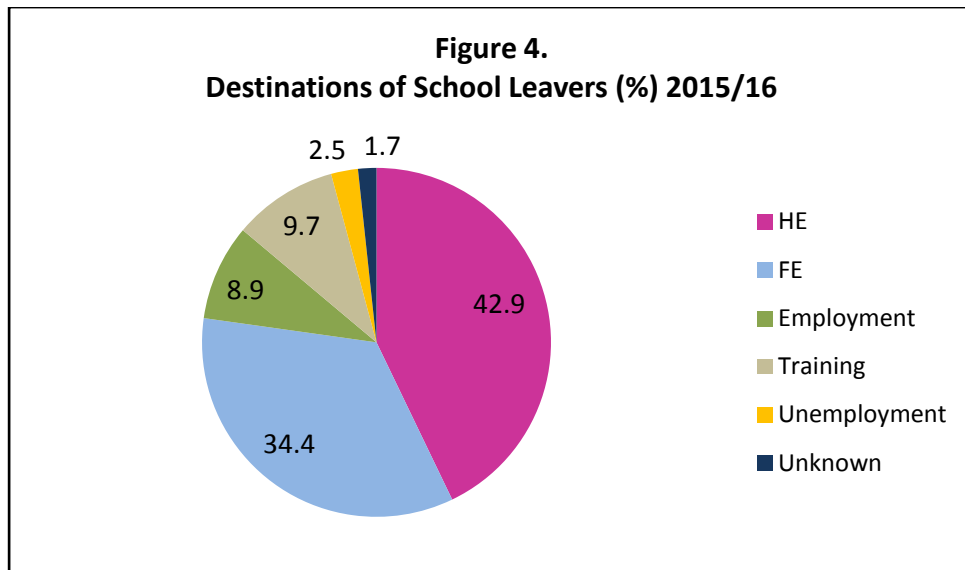
- The proportion of non-grammar school leavers achieving at least two A-levels at grades A\* - E or equivalent has increased by 7.9 percentage points from 31.7% in 2010/11 to 39.6% in 2015/16, with 49.5% of non-grammar school girls achieving this standard compared with 30.3% of non-grammar school boys ([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 from 85.3% in 2010/11 to 80.9% in 2015/16, with 87.5% of grammar school girls now leaving school with two or more A-levels or equivalent compared with 74.3% 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 remained stable at 39.6% in both 2014/15 and 2015/16. In contrast, the proportion of pupils leaving grammar schools who achieved this standard decreased by 2.7 percentage points from 83.6% in 2014/15 to 80.9% in 2015/16 ([Table 1](#)).
- When religion of pupil is considered, 61.1% of Catholic school leavers achieved two or more A-levels at grades A\* - E or equivalent in 2015/16 compared with 52.2% 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), 64.7% compared with 36.6% of school leavers entitled to free school meals<sup>6</sup> (FSME) ([Table 5](#), [Figure 3](#)).

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<sup>6</sup> The increase in the number of FSME pupils coincides with an extension of the eligibility for free school meals under the Working Tax Credit free school meal criterion which was extended to post-primary pupils from September 2014.

## Section 2: Destinations

The main destination of the school leaver is reported by the pupil and recorded by the school.



- In total, 42.9% of pupils leaving school in 2015/16 entered Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). At 50.3%, the proportion of girls continuing on to HEIs is higher than that for boys (35.7%) ([Table 14](#), [Figure 4](#)).
- When religion of pupil is considered, 38.7% of Protestant school leavers entered Institutions of Higher Education compared with 45.9% of Catholic school leavers ([Table 15](#)).
- The proportion of school leavers continuing on to Institutions of Higher Education has increased by 1.2 percentage points from 41.7% in 2010/11 to 42.9% in 2015/16. The proportion continuing on to Institutions of Further Education increased by 1.8 percentage points from 32.6% in 2010/11 to 34.4% in 2014/15 ([Table 20](#)).
- In 2015/16, school leavers not entitled to free school meals were more likely to continue their education with 81.4% entering institutions of Higher or Further Education compared with 65.9% of leavers who were entitled to free school meals<sup>7</sup> ([Table 17](#)).
- At 13.8%, the proportion of boys entering Training is more than double that of girls (5.4%) ([Table 14](#)).
- Overall, 95.8% of 2015/16 school leavers were recorded by their school as entering Education, Employment or Training. When school type is considered, 97.6% of grammar school leavers and 94.5% of non-grammar school leavers were recorded as having these destinations ([Table 14](#)).

<sup>7</sup> The increase in the number of FSME pupils coincides with an extension of the eligibility for free school meals under the Working Tax Credit free school meal criterion which was extended to post-primary pupils from September 2014.

## Section 3: Notes to Readers

### National Statistics

1. National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is a producer's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

2. For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the National Statistics Public Enquiry Service on 0845 601 3034

minicom: 01633 812399

E-mail: [info@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:info@statistics.gov.uk)

Fax: 01633 652747

Letters: Customer Contact Centre, Office for National Statistics, Rm 1.101, Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, NP10 8XG

3. You can also find National Statistics on the [Internet](#)<sup>8</sup>

### School Leavers' Survey

4. For more detail about the collection of school leavers statistics click [here](#)<sup>9</sup>. 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 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>

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.statistics.gov.uk>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/school-leavers-data-collection-and-validation>

*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](#)<sup>10</sup> 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, 81.7% 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 2016/17 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 2015/16 academic year.

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/2015-northern-ireland-pisa-results>

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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: [amanda.lennon@education-ni.gov.uk](mailto:amanda.lennon@education-ni.gov.uk)

## Section 4: 2015/16 Tables

Table 1

Qualifications of school leavers by gender and school type 2015/2016<sup>(1)</sup>

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
<b>GRAMMAR</b>						
3+ A-levels A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	2633	54.2	3409	69.7	6042	62.0
3+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	3469	71.4	4157	85.0	7626	78.2
2+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	3611	74.3	4281	87.5	7892	80.9
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	4620	95.1	4813	98.4	9433	96.7
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup> inc English and maths	4475	92.1	4740	96.9	9215	94.5
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G <sup>(2)</sup>	4825	99.3	4875	99.6	9700	99.5
No GCSEs <sup>(3)</sup>	6	0.1	0	0.0	6	0.1
No Formal Qualifications <sup>(4)</sup>	5	0.1	0	0.0	5	0.1
<b>TOTAL GRAMMAR</b>	4857	100.0	4893	100.0	9750	100.0
<b>NON-GRAMMAR</b>						
3+ A-levels A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	971	14.5	1729	27.5	2700	20.8
3+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	1640	24.5	2658	42.3	4298	33.1
2+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	2033	30.3	3112	49.5	5145	39.6
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	4336	64.7	4813	76.5	9149	70.4
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup> inc English and maths	2843	42.4	3335	53.0	6178	47.5
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G <sup>(2)</sup>	6136	91.5	5936	94.4	12072	92.9
No GCSEs <sup>(3)</sup>	52	0.8	29	0.5	81	0.6
No Formal Qualifications <sup>(4)</sup>	24	0.4	20	0.3	44	0.3
<b>TOTAL NON-GRAMMAR</b>	6705	100.0	6291	100.0	12996	100.0
<b>TOTAL</b>						
3+ A-levels A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	3604	31.2	5138	45.9	8742	38.4
3+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	5109	44.2	6815	60.9	11924	52.4
2+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	5644	48.8	7393	66.1	13037	57.3
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	8956	77.5	9626	86.1	18582	81.7
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup> inc English and maths	7318	63.3	8075	72.2	15393	67.7
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G <sup>(2)</sup>	10961	94.8	10811	96.7	21772	95.7
No GCSEs <sup>(3)</sup>	58	0.5	29	0.3	87	0.4
No Formal Qualifications <sup>(4)</sup>	29	0.3	20	0.2	49	0.2
<b>TOTAL LEAVERS</b>	11562	100.0	11184	100.0	22746	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 2015/2016<sup>(1)</sup>

	Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(4)</sup>		Institutions of Further Education		Employment		Training <sup>(5)</sup>		Unemployment		Unknown		Total	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
<b>A-levels</b>														
3+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	9379	78.7	1454	12.2	778	6.5	113	0.9	127	1.1	73	0.6	11924	100.0
2+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	350	31.4	424	38.1	260	23.4	28	2.5	31	2.8	20	1.8	1113	100.0
1+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	25	10.3	98	40.3	78	32.1	18	7.4	19	7.8	5	2.1	243	100.0
<b>GCSEs</b>														
5+ A*-C (or equivalent) <sup>(2)</sup>	3	0.1	3668	69.2	489	9.2	836	15.8	156	2.9	150	2.8	5302	100.0
1-4 A*-C (or equivalent) <sup>(2)</sup>	0	0.0	1993	54.8	354	9.7	1038	28.5	163	4.5	91	2.5	3639	100.0
Other grades (1+ D-G) <sup>(2)</sup>	0	0.0	176	40.2	54	12.3	127	29.0	51	11.6	30	6.8	438	100.0
No GCSEs <sup>(3)</sup>	0	0.0	15	17.2	7	8.0	37	42.5	15	17.2	13	14.9	87	100.0
<b>TOTAL LEAVERS</b>	<b>9757</b>		<b>7828</b>		<b>2020</b>		<b>2197</b>		<b>562</b>		<b>382</b>		<b>22746</b>	

**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.

Where small numbers appear in this table, consideration was given to balancing the privacy of individual information against the utility of the data. As the risk of identification was considered to be low, small numbers have not been suppressed. This is consistent with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#)<sup>11</sup>.

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/monitoring-and-assessment/code-of-practice/>



Table 3

Qualifications of school leavers by gender and religion of pupil 2015/2016<sup>(1)</sup>

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
<b>PROTESTANT</b>						
3+ A-levels A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	1194	26.8	1806	42.8	3000	34.6
3+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	1739	39.1	2438	57.8	4177	48.2
2+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	1914	43.0	2614	62.0	4528	52.2
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	3304	74.2	3520	83.5	6824	78.7
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup> inc English and maths	2689	60.4	3018	71.6	5707	65.8
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G <sup>(2)</sup>	4209	94.6	4062	96.3	8271	95.4
No GCSEs <sup>(3)</sup>	21	0.5	7	0.2	28	0.3
No Formal Qualifications <sup>(4)</sup>	9	0.2	3	0.1	12	0.1
<b>TOTAL PROTESTANT</b>	<b>4451</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4218</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8669</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>CATHOLIC</b>						
3+ A-levels A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	2028	34.4	2822	48.2	4850	41.3
3+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	2812	47.7	3715	63.5	6527	55.6
2+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	3109	52.7	4072	69.6	7181	61.1
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	4711	79.9	5170	88.3	9881	84.1
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup> inc English and maths	3837	65.1	4239	72.4	8076	68.7
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G <sup>(2)</sup>	5603	95.1	5671	96.9	11274	96.0
No GCSEs <sup>(3)</sup>	30	0.5	18	0.3	48	0.4
No Formal Qualifications <sup>(4)</sup>	16	0.3	14	0.2	30	0.3
<b>TOTAL CATHOLIC</b>	<b>5894</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5854</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11748</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>OTHER<sup>(5)</sup></b>						
3+ A-levels A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	382	31.4	510	45.9	892	38.3
3+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	558	45.9	662	59.5	1220	52.4
2+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	621	51.0	707	63.6	1328	57.0
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	941	77.3	936	84.2	1877	80.6
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup> inc English and maths	792	65.1	818	73.6	1610	69.1
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G <sup>(2)</sup>	1149	94.4	1078	96.9	2227	95.6
No GCSEs <sup>(3)</sup>	7	0.6	4	0.4	11	0.5
No Formal Qualifications <sup>(4)</sup>	4	0.3	3	0.3	7	0.3
<b>TOTAL OTHER<sup>(5)</sup></b>	<b>1217</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1112</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2329</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**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.

Where small numbers appear in this table, consideration was given to balancing the privacy of individual information against the utility of the data. As the risk of identification was considered to be low, small numbers have not been suppressed. This is consistent with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#)<sup>12</sup>.

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

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/monitoring-and-assessment/code-of-practice/>

Table 4

Qualifications of school leavers by ethnic origin 2015/2016<sup>(1)</sup>

	TOTAL	
	Numbers	%
<b>WHITE</b>		
3+ A-levels A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	8509	38.3
3+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	11620	52.4
2+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	12701	57.2
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	18134	81.7
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup> inc English and maths	15030	67.7
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G <sup>(2)</sup>	21259	95.8
No GCSEs <sup>(3)</sup>	78	0.4
No Formal Qualifications <sup>(4)</sup>	42	0.2
<b>TOTAL WHITE</b>	22195	100.0
<b>MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS<sup>(5)</sup></b>		
3+ A-levels A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	233	42.3
3+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	304	55.2
2+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	336	61.0
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	448	81.3
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup> inc English and maths	363	65.9
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G <sup>(2)</sup>	513	93.1
No GCSEs <sup>(3)</sup>	9	1.6
No Formal Qualifications <sup>(4)</sup>	7	1.3
<b>TOTAL MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS<sup>(5)</sup></b>	551	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 2015/2016<sup>(1)</sup>

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
<b>ENTITLED TO FSM</b>						
3+ A-levels A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	443	14.4	750	25.8	1193	20.0
3+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	718	23.4	1133	39.0	1851	31.0
2+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	855	27.9	1329	45.7	2184	36.6
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	1833	59.8	2107	72.5	3940	66.0
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup> inc English and maths	1231	40.2	1446	49.7	2677	44.8
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G <sup>(2)</sup>	2720	88.7	2703	93.0	5423	90.8
No GCSEs <sup>(3)</sup>	33	1.1	18	0.6	51	0.9
No Formal Qualifications <sup>(4)</sup>	12	0.4	11	0.4	23	0.4
<b>TOTAL ENTITLED TO FSM</b>	<b>3066</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2907</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5973</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>NOT ENTITLED TO FSM</b>						
3+ A-levels A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	3161	37.2	4388	53.0	7549	45.0
3+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	4391	51.7	5682	68.6	10073	60.1
2+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	4789	56.4	6064	73.3	10853	64.7
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	7123	83.8	7519	90.8	14642	87.3
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup> inc English and maths	6087	71.6	6629	80.1	12716	75.8
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G <sup>(2)</sup>	8241	97.0	8108	98.0	16349	97.5
No GCSEs <sup>(3)</sup>	25	0.3	11	0.1	36	0.2
No Formal Qualifications <sup>(4)</sup>	17	0.2	9	0.1	26	0.2
<b>TOTAL NOT ENTITLED TO FSM</b>	<b>8496</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8277</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>16773</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**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 2015/2016<sup>(1) (3)</sup>

DISTRICT COUNCIL	2 or more A-levels Grades A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>		At least 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>		At least 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C <sup>(2)</sup> inc. GCSE English and maths		Total Leavers
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Antrim and Newtownabbey	928	54.8	1343	79.4	1121	66.3	1692
Ards and North Down	1026	58.7	1443	82.5	1249	71.4	1749
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	1281	49.1	2039	78.2	1743	66.8	2609
Belfast	2160	58.5	2918	79.0	2274	61.5	3695
Causeway Coast and Glens	1014	53.4	1604	84.5	1292	68.0	1899
Derry City and Strabane	1288	60.0	1751	81.5	1464	68.2	2148
Fermanagh and Omagh	822	61.5	1086	81.3	930	69.6	1336
Lisburn and Castlereagh	1050	64.2	1426	87.2	1274	77.9	1635
Mid and East Antrim	869	55.8	1268	81.5	1064	68.4	1556
Mid Ulster	1099	58.4	1608	85.4	1242	66.0	1882
Newry, Mourne and Down	1450	59.4	2017	82.7	1690	69.3	2440
Invalid/Missing/Unknown Postcodes	50	47.6	79	75.2	50	47.6	105
<b>TOTAL LEAVERS</b>	<b>13037</b>	<b>57.3</b>	<b>18582</b>	<b>81.7</b>	<b>15393</b>	<b>67.7</b>	<b>22746</b>

**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<sup>(2)</sup> A\*-C inc. GCSE English and GCSE maths by gender and religion of pupil 2015/2016<sup>(1)</sup>

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
<b>PROTESTANT</b>	2360	67.8	2667	78.6	5027	73.1
<b>Total</b>	3482		3393		6875	
<b>CATHOLIC</b>	3043	74.7	3260	81.3	6303	78.0
<b>Total</b>	4072		4009		8081	
<b>OTHER<sup>(3)</sup></b>	684	72.6	702	80.2	1386	76.3
<b>Total</b>	942		875		1817	
<b>ALL RELIGIONS</b>	6087	71.6	6629	80.1	12716	75.8
<b>Total</b>	8496		8277		16773	

Table 8

School leavers *entitled* to free school meals achieving at least 5 GCSEs<sup>(2)</sup> A\*-C inc. GCSE English and GCSE maths by gender and religion of pupil 2015/2016<sup>(1)</sup>

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
<b>PROTESTANT</b>	329	34.0	351	42.5	680	37.9
<b>Total</b>	969		825		1794	
<b>CATHOLIC</b>	794	43.6	979	53.1	1773	48.4
<b>Total</b>	1822		1845		3667	
<b>OTHER<sup>(3)</sup></b>	108	39.3	116	48.9	224	43.8
<b>Total</b>	275		237		512	
<b>ALL RELIGIONS</b>	1231	40.2	1446	49.7	2677	44.8
<b>Total</b>	3066		2907		5973	

Table 9

School leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs<sup>(2)</sup> A\*-C inc. GCSE English and GCSE maths by gender and religion of pupil 2015/2016<sup>(1)</sup>

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
<b>PROTESTANT</b>	2689	60.4	3018	71.6	5707	65.8
<b>Total</b>	4451		4218		8669	
<b>CATHOLIC</b>	3837	65.1	4239	72.4	8076	68.7
<b>Total</b>	5894		5854		11748	
<b>OTHER<sup>(3)</sup></b>	792	65.1	818	73.6	1610	69.1
<b>Total</b>	1217		1112		2329	
<b>ALL RELIGIONS</b>	7318	63.3	8075	72.2	15393	67.7
<b>Total</b>	11562		11184		22746	

**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 2015/2016<sup>(1)</sup>

	No SEN		SEN Stages 1-4		SEN Stage 5		Total	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
3+ A-levels A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	7967	44.3	690	18.5	85	8.1	8742	38.4
3+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	10745	59.8	1062	28.5	117	11.2	11924	52.4
2+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	11655	64.9	1216	32.6	166	15.9	13037	57.3
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	15866	88.3	2326	62.4	390	37.3	18582	81.7
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup> inc English and maths	13735	76.4	1435	38.5	223	21.3	15393	67.7
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G <sup>(2)</sup>	17659	98.3	3424	91.8	689	65.9	21772	95.7
No GCSEs <sup>(3)</sup>	25	0.1	32	0.9	30	2.9	87	0.4
No Formal Qualifications <sup>(4)</sup>	18	0.1	22	0.6	9	0.9	49	0.2
<b>TOTAL LEAVERS</b>	<b>17971</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3729</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1046</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>22746</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**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 2010/2011 to 2015/2016<sup>(1)</sup>

	2010/11 %	2011/12 %	2012/13 %	2013/14 %	2014/15 %	2015/16 %
3+ A-levels A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	35.6	36.4	36.0	37.0	38.2	38.4
3+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	48.4	50.2	50.2	50.8	52.4	52.4
2+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	53.3	55.6	55.1	55.7	57.7	57.3
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	73.2	76.5	78.5	78.6	81.1	81.7
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup> inc English and maths	59.5	62.0	62.2	63.5	66.0	67.7
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G <sup>(2)</sup>	93.5	94.7	94.8	95.2	95.9	95.7
No GCSEs <sup>(3)</sup>	2.2	1.8	1.6	1.0	0.5	0.4
No Formal Qualifications <sup>(4)</sup>	1.9	1.5	1.4	0.8	0.4	0.2
<b>TOTAL LEAVERS</b>	<b>23160</b>	<b>22568</b>	<b>23001</b>	<b>22636</b>	<b>22361</b>	<b>22746</b>

Table 12

Qualifications of male school leavers 2010/2011 to 2015/2016<sup>(1)</sup>

	2010/11 %	2011/12 %	2012/13 %	2013/14 %	2014/15 %	2015/16 %
3+ A-levels A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	29.6	29.6	29.1	30.2	31.1	31.2
3+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	40.9	42.0	42.6	43.4	44.5	44.2
2+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	45.7	47.4	47.3	48.1	49.5	48.8
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	67.7	71.0	74.5	74.1	76.9	77.5
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup> inc English and maths	55.0	56.3	57.5	58.6	61.6	63.3
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G <sup>(2)</sup>	91.9	93.5	93.7	94.0	95.1	94.8
No GCSEs <sup>(3)</sup>	2.8	2.0	2.0	1.2	0.6	0.5
No Formal Qualifications <sup>(4)</sup>	2.3	1.7	1.8	0.9	0.4	0.3
<b>TOTAL LEAVERS</b>	<b>11847</b>	<b>11415</b>	<b>11746</b>	<b>11632</b>	<b>11393</b>	<b>11562</b>

Table 13

Qualifications of female school leavers 2010/2011 to 2015/2016<sup>(1)</sup>

	2010/11 %	2011/12 %	2012/13 %	2013/14 %	2014/15 %	2015/16 %
3+ A-levels A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	41.9	43.4	43.2	44.2	45.7	45.9
3+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	56.2	58.6	58.2	58.6	60.5	60.9
2+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	61.3	64.0	63.3	63.6	66.2	66.1
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	78.9	82.1	82.8	83.4	85.4	86.1
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup> inc English and maths	64.3	67.8	67.0	68.6	70.5	72.2
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G <sup>(2)</sup>	95.2	95.8	96.0	96.5	96.7	96.7
No GCSEs <sup>(3)</sup>	1.7	1.5	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.3
No Formal Qualifications <sup>(4)</sup>	1.5	1.3	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.2
<b>TOTAL LEAVERS</b>	<b>11313</b>	<b>11153</b>	<b>11255</b>	<b>11004</b>	<b>10968</b>	<b>11184</b>

**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 2015/2016<sup>(1)(2)</sup>

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
<b>GRAMMAR</b>						
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(3)</sup>	2959	60.9	3747	76.6	6706	68.8
Institutions of Further Education	1273	26.2	810	16.6	2083	21.4
Employment	316	6.5	193	3.9	509	5.2
Training <sup>(4)</sup>	180	3.7	41	0.8	221	2.3
Unemployment	35	0.7	60	1.2	95	1.0
Destinations Unknown	94	1.9	42	0.9	136	1.4
<b>TOTAL GRAMMAR</b>	<b>4857</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4893</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9750</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>NON-GRAMMAR</b>						
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(3)</sup>	1173	17.5	1878	29.9	3051	23.5
Institutions of Further Education	2967	44.3	2778	44.2	5745	44.2
Employment	781	11.6	730	11.6	1511	11.6
Training <sup>(4)</sup>	1411	21.0	565	9.0	1976	15.2
Unemployment	233	3.5	234	3.7	467	3.6
Destinations Unknown	140	2.1	106	1.7	246	1.9
<b>TOTAL NON-GRAMMAR</b>	<b>6705</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6291</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12996</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>						
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(3)</sup>	4132	35.7	5625	50.3	9757	42.9
Institutions of Further Education	4240	36.7	3588	32.1	7828	34.4
Employment	1097	9.5	923	8.3	2020	8.9
Training <sup>(4)</sup>	1591	13.8	606	5.4	2197	9.7
Unemployment	268	2.3	294	2.6	562	2.5
Destinations Unknown	234	2.0	148	1.3	382	1.7
<b>TOTAL LEAVERS</b>	<b>11562</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11184</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>22746</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**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 2015/2016<sup>(1)(2)</sup>

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
<b>PROTESTANT</b>						
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(4)</sup>	1375	30.9	1981	47.0	3356	38.7
Institutions of Further Education	1829	41.1	1506	35.7	3335	38.5
Employment	469	10.5	333	7.9	802	9.3
Training <sup>(5)</sup>	597	13.4	246	5.8	843	9.7
Unemployment	114	2.6	102	2.4	216	2.5
Destinations Unknown	67	1.5	50	1.2	117	1.3
<b>TOTAL PROTESTANT</b>	<b>4451</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4218</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8669</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>CATHOLIC</b>						
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(4)</sup>	2297	39.0	3090	52.8	5387	45.9
Institutions of Further Education	1938	32.9	1712	29.2	3650	31.1
Employment	518	8.8	503	8.6	1021	8.7
Training <sup>(5)</sup>	875	14.8	306	5.2	1181	10.1
Unemployment	128	2.2	161	2.8	289	2.5
Destinations Unknown	138	2.3	82	1.4	220	1.9
<b>TOTAL CATHOLIC</b>	<b>5894</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5854</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11748</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>OTHER<sup>(3)</sup></b>						
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(4)</sup>	460	37.8	554	49.8	1014	43.5
Institutions of Further Education	473	38.9	370	33.3	843	36.2
Employment	110	9.0	87	7.8	197	8.5
Training <sup>(5)</sup>	119	9.8	54	4.9	173	7.4
Unemployment	26	2.1	31	2.8	57	2.4
Destinations Unknown	29	2.4	16	1.4	45	1.9
<b>TOTAL OTHER<sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>1217</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1112</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2329</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**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 2015/2016<sup>(1)(2)</sup>

	Total	
	Numbers	%
<b>WHITE<sup>(3)</sup></b>		
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(4)</sup>	9487	42.7
Institutions of Further Education	7649	34.5
Employment	1992	9.0
Training <sup>(5)</sup>	2160	9.7
Unemployment	544	2.5
Destinations Unknown	363	1.6
<b>TOTAL WHITE</b>	22195	100.0
<b>MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS<sup>(3)</sup></b>		
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(4)</sup>	270	49.0
Institutions of Further Education	179	32.5
Employment	28	5.1
Training <sup>(5)</sup>	37	6.7
Unemployment	18	3.3
Destinations Unknown	19	3.4
<b>TOTAL MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS<sup>(3)</sup></b>	551	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 2015/2016<sup>(1)(2)</sup>

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
<b>ENTITLED TO FSM</b>						
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(3)</sup>	521	17.0	820	28.2	1341	22.5
Institutions of Further Education	1296	42.3	1299	44.7	2595	43.4
Employment	324	10.6	290	10.0	614	10.3
Training <sup>(4)</sup>	722	23.5	319	11.0	1041	17.4
Unemployment	116	3.8	128	4.4	244	4.1
Destinations Unknown	87	2.8	51	1.8	138	2.3
<b>TOTAL ENTITLED TO FSM</b>	<b>3066</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2907</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5973</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>NOT ENTITLED TO FSM</b>						
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(3)</sup>	3611	42.5	4805	58.1	8416	50.2
Institutions of Further Education	2944	34.7	2289	27.7	5233	31.2
Employment	773	9.1	633	7.6	1406	8.4
Training <sup>(4)</sup>	869	10.2	287	3.5	1156	6.9
Unemployment	152	1.8	166	2.0	318	1.9
Destinations Unknown	147	1.7	97	1.2	244	1.5
<b>TOTAL NOT ENTITLED TO FSM</b>	<b>8496</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8277</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>16773</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**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 2015/2016<sup>(1)(2)</sup>

	No SEN		SEN Stages 1-4		SEN Stage 5		Total	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(3)</sup>	8860	49.3	796	21.3	101	9.7	9757	42.9
Institutions of Further Education	5763	32.1	1576	42.3	489	46.7	7828	34.4
Employment	1549	8.6	402	10.8	69	6.6	2020	8.9
Training <sup>(4)</sup>	1143	6.4	729	19.5	325	31.1	2197	9.7
Unemployment	372	2.1	147	3.9	43	4.1	562	2.5
Destinations Unknown	284	1.6	79	2.1	19	1.8	382	1.7
<b>TOTAL LEAVERS</b>	<b>17971</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3729</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1046</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>22746</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**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 2015/2016<sup>(1)(2)(3)</sup>

DISTRICT COUNCIL	Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(4)</sup>		Institutions of Further Education		Employment		Training <sup>(6)</sup>		Unemployment and Unknown		Total	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
Antrim and Newtownabbey	700	41.4	585	34.6	179	10.6	151	8.9	77	4.6	1692	100.0
Ards and North Down	713	40.8	704	40.3	181	10.3	99	5.7	52	3.0	1749	100.0
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	963	36.9	1124	43.1	150	5.7	246	9.4	126	4.8	2609	100.0
Belfast	1540	41.7	971	26.3	517	14.0	462	12.5	205	5.5	3695	100.0
Causeway Coast and Glens	793	41.8	764	40.2	136	7.2	131	6.9	75	3.9	1899	100.0
Derry City and Strabane	985	45.9	745	34.7	88	4.1	248	11.5	82	3.8	2148	100.0
Fermanagh and Omagh	627	46.9	441	33.0	102	7.6	136	10.2	30	2.2	1336	100.0
Lisburn and Castlereagh	805	49.2	520	31.8	138	8.4	121	7.4	51	3.1	1635	100.0
Mid and East Antrim	651	41.8	480	30.8	161	10.3	174	11.2	90	5.8	1556	100.0
Mid Ulster	834	44.3	656	34.9	149	7.9	168	8.9	75	4.0	1882	100.0
Newry, Mourne and Down	1104	45.2	803	32.9	210	8.6	251	10.3	72	3.0	2440	100.0
Invalid/Missing/Unknown Postcodes	42	40.0	35	33.3	9	8.6	10	9.5	9	8.6	105	100.0
<b>TOTAL LEAVERS</b>	<b>9757</b>	<b>42.9</b>	<b>7828</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>2197</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>22746</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**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 trainees.

Table 20

Destination of school leavers 2010/2011 to 2015/2016 <sup>(1)(2)</sup>

	2010/11 %	2011/12 %	2012/13 %	2013/14 %	2014/15 %	2015/16 %
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(3)</sup>	41.7	42.3	42.6	41.8	42.3	42.9
Institutions of Further Education	32.6	34.6	34.4	35.4	35.0	34.4
Employment	6.6	6.2	6.4	6.9	8.4	8.9
Training <sup>(4)</sup>	13.1	11.1	11.3	10.4	9.8	9.7
Unemployment	3.8	3.2	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.5
Destinations Unknown	2.2	2.5	2.4	2.9	1.8	1.7
<b>TOTAL LEAVERS</b>	<b>23160</b>	<b>22568</b>	<b>23001</b>	<b>22636</b>	<b>22361</b>	<b>22746</b>

Table 21

Destination of male school leavers 2010/2011 to 2015/2016 <sup>(1)(2)</sup>

	2010/11 %	2011/12 %	2012/13 %	2013/14 %	2014/15 %	2015/16 %
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(3)</sup>	35.5	35.4	36.9	35.8	34.7	35.7
Institutions of Further Education	33.6	35.8	35.7	36.5	37.3	36.7
Employment	7.5	7.1	6.7	7.4	9.3	9.5
Training <sup>(4)</sup>	17.2	15.5	14.8	14.5	13.5	13.8
Unemployment	3.9	3.4	3.1	2.6	3.1	2.3
Destinations Unknown	2.3	2.8	2.9	3.2	2.2	2.0
<b>TOTAL LEAVERS</b>	<b>11847</b>	<b>11415</b>	<b>11746</b>	<b>11632</b>	<b>11393</b>	<b>11562</b>

Table 22

Destination of female school leavers 2010/2011 to 2015/2016 <sup>(1)(2)</sup>

	2010/11 %	2011/12 %	2012/13 %	2013/14 %	2014/15 %	2015/16 %
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(3)</sup>	48.3	49.5	48.7	48.1	50.2	50.3
Institutions of Further Education	31.4	33.3	33.2	34.2	32.7	32.1
Employment	5.7	5.2	6.1	6.3	7.4	8.3
Training <sup>(4)</sup>	8.8	6.6	7.7	6.1	5.9	5.4
Unemployment	3.8	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.6
Destinations Unknown	2.0	2.3	1.9	2.7	1.3	1.3
<b>TOTAL LEAVERS</b>	<b>11313</b>	<b>11153</b>	<b>11255</b>	<b>11004</b>	<b>10968</b>	<b>11184</b>

**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 2010/11

## Appendix A

Qualifications of school leavers by gender and school type 2010/2011<sup>(1)</sup>

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
<b>GRAMMAR</b>						
3+ A-levels A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	2777	59.9	3346	71.4	6123	65.7
3+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	3574	77.0	4103	87.6	7677	82.3
2+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	3746	80.8	4209	89.8	7955	85.3
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	4419	95.3	4603	98.2	9022	96.8
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup> inc English and maths	4291	92.5	4480	95.6	8771	94.1
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G <sup>(2)</sup>	4602	99.2	4662	99.5	9264	99.3
No GCSEs <sup>(3)</sup>	9	0.2	12	0.3	21	0.2
No Formal Qualifications <sup>(4)</sup>	9	0.2	12	0.3	21	0.2
<b>TOTAL GRAMMAR</b>	4639	100.0	4686	100.0	9325	100.0
<b>NON-GRAMMAR</b>						
3+ A-levels A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	731	10.1	1397	21.1	2128	15.4
3+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	1277	17.7	2259	34.1	3536	25.6
2+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	1663	23.1	2724	41.1	4387	31.7
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	3607	50.0	4320	65.2	7927	57.3
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup> inc English and maths	2228	30.9	2792	42.1	5020	36.3
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G <sup>(2)</sup>	6282	87.2	6109	92.2	12391	89.6
No GCSEs <sup>(3)</sup>	317	4.4	183	2.8	500	3.6
No Formal Qualifications <sup>(4)</sup>	264	3.7	153	2.3	417	3.0
<b>TOTAL NON-GRAMMAR</b>	7208	100.0	6627	100.0	13835	100.0
<b>TOTAL</b>						
3+ A-levels A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	3508	29.6	4743	41.9	8251	35.6
3+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	4851	40.9	6362	56.2	11213	48.4
2+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	5409	45.7	6933	61.3	12342	53.3
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	8026	67.7	8923	78.9	16949	73.2
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup> inc English and maths	6519	55.0	7272	64.3	13791	59.5
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G <sup>(2)</sup>	10884	91.9	10771	95.2	21655	93.5
No GCSEs <sup>(3)</sup>	326	2.8	195	1.7	521	2.2
No Formal Qualifications <sup>(4)</sup>	273	2.3	165	1.5	438	1.9
<b>TOTAL LEAVERS</b>	11847	100.0	11313	100.0	23160	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.

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 2010/2011<sup>(1)(2)</sup>

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
<b>GRAMMAR</b>						
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(3)</sup>	3191	68.8	3817	81.5	7008	75.2
Institutions of Further Education	917	19.8	580	12.4	1497	16.1
Employment	220	4.7	124	2.6	344	3.7
Training <sup>(4)</sup>	134	2.9	38	0.8	172	1.8
Unemployment	89	1.9	42	0.9	131	1.4
Destinations Unknown	88	1.9	85	1.8	173	1.9
<b>TOTAL GRAMMAR</b>	<b>4639</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4686</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9325</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>NON-GRAMMAR</b>						
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(3)</sup>	1010	14.0	1645	24.8	2655	19.2
Institutions of Further Education	3067	42.5	2976	44.9	6043	43.7
Employment	667	9.3	517	7.8	1184	8.6
Training <sup>(4)</sup>	1906	26.4	961	14.5	2867	20.7
Unemployment	376	5.2	383	5.8	759	5.5
Destinations Unknown	182	2.5	145	2.2	327	2.4
<b>TOTAL NON-GRAMMAR</b>	<b>7208</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6627</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>13835</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>						
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(3)</sup>	4201	35.5	5462	48.3	9663	41.7
Institutions of Further Education	3984	33.6	3556	31.4	7540	32.6
Employment	887	7.5	641	5.7	1528	6.6
Training <sup>(4)</sup>	2040	17.2	999	8.8	3039	13.1
Unemployment	465	3.9	425	3.8	890	3.8
Destinations Unknown	270	2.3	230	2.0	500	2.2
<b>TOTAL LEAVERS</b>	<b>11847</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11313</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>23160</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**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.