

2021 Provisional Headline KS4 GCSE Results for Southampton Local Authority

Key Stage 4 GCSE results were released to schools on 12th August 2021. Southampton schools agreed to inform the Local Authority of their results so that citywide performance can be calculated. The short briefing note below, based on early provisional data, provides an overview of Southampton's performance.

Three Principles have informed the Local Authority that they will not be sharing information about headline outcomes externally. As a result, this summary does not include data from Oasis Academy Mayfield, Oasis Lordshill and Oasis Academy Sholing.

The Department for Education (DfE) [announced on 25th February 2021](#) that an alternative approach to Key Stage 4 exams would be followed for the second successive year in 2021 due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The DfE confirmed that school, college or multi-academy trust (MAT) level performance data based on summer 2021 exams would not be published. This includes the performance tables that were due to be released in December 2021, and March 2022. Schools and colleges should not be held to account on the basis of exams and assessment data from summer 2021 and that data will not be used by others, such as Ofsted and local authorities, to hold schools and colleges to account.

2021 is the second year that Key Stage 4 exams have not been completed in the normal way. It is important however to acknowledge that the 2020 and 2021 Key Stage 4 collections have used different methodologies. In 2020, schools were asked to provide centre assessed grades for their students. Schools were instructed these should be fair, objective and carefully considered judgements of the grade's schools believed their students would have been most likely to achieve if they had sat their exams and should take into account the full range of available evidence. In 2021, teachers were asked to assess the standard at which pupils were performing based only on what has been taught. Teachers' judgements were based on a range of evidence relating to the subject content that had been delivered, either in the classroom or via remote learning.

The current indication is that National and Local Authority data will not be published by the DfE in October 2021, as is usually the case. It will therefore not be possible to issue a further briefing note outlining Southampton's performance compared to Statistical Neighbours, Core Cities and National in 2021.

The focus of this 2021 briefing note will follow the 2019 accountability measures outlined by the DfE in the Performance Tables Statement of Intent:

- Progress 8 (not available from the DfE in 2021, a provisional figure will be published by Nexus based on Local Authority responses nationally but will not be available until mid-September)
- Attainment 8
- The percentage of pupils achieving a 5 or above (strong pass) in English and Maths
- EBacc Average Points Score
- The percentage of pupils entering the English Baccalaureate
- The percentage of students staying in education or employment after Key Stage 4 (destinations)

In addition to the headline indicators above, the DfE also focus on the following measures:

- The proportion of pupils achieving a standard pass in English and Maths – grade 4 or above
- The proportion of pupils achieving a grade 5 or above in all Ebacc subject areas (C and above in unreformed qualifications)
- The proportion of pupils achieving a grade 4 or above in all Ebacc subject areas (C and above in unreformed qualifications)

The Progress 8 indicator relies on National calculations completed by the DfE and is currently unavailable at either School or Local Authority level. The current indication is that 2021 Progress 8 figures will not be published by the DfE.

Headlines – Based on 9 Schools for 2021, 2020 figures are based on all Southampton schools as reported by the DfE Statistical Release (additional indicators will be released as schools resolve outstanding management information systems issues).

- **In 2021, Southampton pupils achieved an Attainment 8 score of 47.3 whereas in 2020, the Southampton Attainment 8 score was 46.4, an increase of 0.9. The 2020 National average for Attainment 8 was 50.2.**
- In 2021, 66% of Southampton pupils achieved a 9-4 in English and Maths GCSE, which was 3% higher than the 63% of Southampton pupils who achieved a 9-4 in English and Maths GCSE in 2020 and 8% above the 2019 performance of 58%. The latest available National average for percentage achieving 9-4 in English and Maths was 71% in 2020.
- In 2021, 45% of Southampton pupils achieved a 9-5 in English and Maths GCSE, which was 4% above the 41% of Southampton pupils who achieved a 9-5 in English and Maths GCSE in 2020 and 9% above the 2019 performance of 36%. The latest available National average for percentage achieving 9-5 in English and Maths was 50% in 2020.
- In 2021, 61% of Southampton pupils achieved a 9-5 and 78% of Southampton pupils achieved a 9-4 in GCSE English.
- In 2021, 51% of Southampton pupils achieved a 9-5 and 71% of Southampton pupils achieved a 9-4 in GCSE Maths.
- Southampton's 2021 Attainment 8 score in English, Maths, EBacc elements and Open elements were 9.9, 9.0, 13.4 and 15.0 respectively.