

Briefing paper: KS4 and post-16 accountability 2022

This paper sets out how GCSE, AS, A level and L2 and L3 VTQ qualifications will be used for accountability purposes. It is intended for ASCL members to inform discussions within their school, college or trust, and inform stakeholders.

What data will be calculated and published this year?

Almost the normal range of performance measures will be published for KS4 and post-16 providers for the year 2021-2022.

For KS4 this includes:

- Attainment 8
- Progress 8
- Ebacc entry
- Ebacc APS
- Grade 5+ in English and maths
- Destination data

For post-16 this includes:

- A level average grade and points
- VTQ including AGQs average result and points
- T level outcomes

These will be published as normal on the Find School and College Performance website, ASP and Ofsted's IDSR.

What's not included this year?

There will be no post-16 progress data – of any kind, including English and maths retakes, as the government committed to not using 2020 or 2021 data for any accountability purposes. 2020 GCSE data (CAGs) would be needed for progress baselines, which makes any post-16 progress measures impossible to calculate.

Do results from 2020 and 2021 count in 2022 performance measures?

No. The government committed to not publishing school or college level data in 2020 and 2021, and this also means that results from these years, taken early by students, will not count in 2022 performance measures.

This includes large early-entry subjects such as English literature GCSE and maths A level.

However, the entry itself will count in performance measures, although the result will not.

For example, if a student sat GCSE English literature in 2021 and received a TAG, and sat GCSE English language in 2022 and received an exam grade, then they would still get double weighting for the English element in Attainment and Progress 8 but only their 2022 grade would be used for attainment scores. So, even if their 2021 literature TAG was higher than their 2022 language grade, then only the language grade will be used (but doubled

because the literature entry itself counts). The literature grade would not be used in the open bucket either.

The same is true at post-16, so when calculating A level entries in a subject, then entries from 2021 will be included. However, the results will not count towards the average grade in that subject.

Will results from 2022 count towards future performance measures?

Yes. The DfE has confirmed that results from 2022 will count in the normal way in future performance measures, even though the grade profile is higher.

Changes to published data

The DfE has confirmed that it is changing the name of the public website that hosts this information from 'Compare school and college performance' to 'Find school and college performance'. This reflects the fact that the DfE doesn't think it's helpful to compare data between schools this year due to the differential impact of the pandemic, nor to compare data to previous years.

There will also be heavy caveats included in the publication of the data, explaining why comparisons cannot be easily made.

When will the data be published?

The data will be published as normal, with provisional data published in October and confirmed data in January. This will be available to schools and colleges on the checking exercise website.

There is a change this year to the checking exercise:

- For KS4, the June checking exercise was the only period to add or remove pupils. The October checking exercise will only be to change results, and pupils cannot be removed and added.
- For post-16, the first two weeks of October will be the pupil checking exercise; the second two weeks of October will be the results checking exercise – in a change to previous years when both happened simultaneously.

How should school leaders and governors make sense of data this year?

We have been clear that we don't think comparisons to pre-pandemic outcomes are useful or particularly meaningful this year.

As ever, data and performance should always be the start of the conversation about your curriculum and impact of the curriculum.

Along with NAHT, we have cautioned against using performance data this year for any form of performance management or appraisal.

What is happening with primary data?

Unlike at secondary and post-16, primary data is being calculated but not shared with the public. It will be shared securely with primary schools, and with the DfE and Ofsted – but will not appear on the Find School and College Performance website as it usually would.

Secondaries will have access to the Question Level Analysis Tool from September, a delay from its normal publication.

What is ASCL's view on this?

ASCL is clear that while data could be calculated for internal use to inform school and college improvement, we do not think it should be published.

At primary, secondary and post-16, we do not think it should be used for accountability purposes, including by Ofsted through the IDSR. We are pushing for further transparency on what information Ofsted inspectors are being given about how to interpret the IDSR for 2022.

However, we recognise that the DfE has made some important changes to the presentation of the data, including the significant change in the name of the website, and the caveats that will accompany it.

Key document

- [School and college accountability 2021-2022, DfE](#)

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