

# QI 2023/24 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and  
Scrutiny Committee



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## I. CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILY SERVICES

### I.1. REFERRALS & RE-REFERRALS

Ref	Indicator Name	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
				2022/23 Provisional	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q1 2023/24
1	Number of referrals received within the last 12 months	3,616	3,285	2,351	537.7 (2021/22)	713.4 (2021/22)	<b>2,630</b>
	Referrals received within the last 12 months - Rate per 10,000 children	678.5	616.4	441.2			<b>509.3</b>
2	Number of re-referrals within 12 months (last 12 months)	861	743	457	21.5% (2021/22)	23.1% (2021/22)	<b>489</b>
	% of re-referrals within 12 months (last 12 months)	23.8%	22.6%	19.4%			<b>18.6%</b>

In the 12 months to the end of quarter one, Plymouth progressed 2,630 referrals, this is 176 less than the 12 months to June 2022 and 1,023 less than the 12 months to June 2021. At a rate per 10,000 children (enabling comparisons against other authorities) Plymouth is reported at 509.3 at the end of quarter one. This is lower than Plymouth's published position for 2021/22 (616.4), lower than statistical neighbours and is currently lower than the England average of 537.7.

The proportion of re-referrals received (where a referral had been received for the same child in the 12 months prior) has seen further improvements. The end of quarter one position was reported at 18.6%, down 4.0 percentage points from Plymouth's published 2021/22 figure. Plymouth is currently at a level lower than the 2021/22 published level for its statistical neighbours and the England average.

The recent Ofsted report (published 30 January 2023) identified two priority actions for the 'Front Door' and these are being progressed through a detailed action plan for this part of the service. We continue our partnership work to support partner agencies to think about the different types of support available in our city whilst monitoring the reduction in referrals to ensure we're providing the right support, at the right time.

### I.2. CHILDREN IN NEED

Ref	Indicator Name	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
				2022/23 Provisional	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q1 2023/24
3	Number of children subject to a Child In Need Plan (snapshot)	1,121	965	944	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>1,077</b>
	Children subject to a Child In Need Plan - Rate per 10,000 children	210.4	181.1	177.1	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>208.6</b>

Quarter one has seen an increase in Plymouth's 'Child in Need' caseload (which does not include children subject to Children Protection Plans or Looked after Children) and is currently at a similar level as the end of 2020/21 position. There continues to be some pressures including timeliness of

assessments which is currently being addressed. The service continues to review all children in need to ensure the right support at the right time for families. The additional resource within the Initial Response Teams to provide early intervention for families has not yet proven to reduce the number of children transferring to the Children Social Work service.

Through its recent quality assurance work, the service has identified seven areas of practice improvement and is currently working on structured plans to support practice development and Team Manager oversight in the Initial Response Team and in Children Social Work to ensure robust, timely care planning for children. The seven areas of practice improvement are:

1. Assessment
2. Plans
3. Supervision
4. Management Oversight
5. Lived experience and voice of the child
6. Domestic Abuse
7. Neglect

### 1.3. CHILDREN SUBJECT TO A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN

1.3. CHILDREN SUBJECT TO A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN				Previous Year & Benchmarking		Current Period	
Ref	Indicator Name	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Provisional	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q1 2023/24
4	Number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan (Snapshot)	333	326	233	42.1 (2021/22)	53.1 (2021/22)	<b>205</b>
	Children subject to a Child Protection Plan - Rate per 10,000 children	62.5	61.2	43.7			<b>39.7</b>
5	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Neglect	50.2% (167)	51.5% (168)	45.9% (107)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>36.6% (75)</b>
	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Physical Abuse	7.8% (26)	7.7% (25)	6.4% (15)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>7.3% (15)</b>
	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Sexual Abuse	5.1% (17)	3.7% (12)	4.3% (10)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>1.0% (2)</b>
	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Emotional Abuse	36.9% (123)	37.1% (121)	43.3% (101)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>55.1% (113)</b>
6	% of children subject to multiple child protection plans - Within lifetime of the child (new plans starting in last 12 months)	27.4% (90)	27.5% (103)	25.7% (65)	23.3% (2021/22)	22.9% (2021/22)	<b>25.6% (62)</b>

At the end of quarter one (30 June 2023) there were 205 children who were subject to a Child Protection Plan. This is a rate of 39.7 children per 10,000 children, which is lower than both the published 2021/22 rate of 61.2 and our provisional position for 2022/23 (233 children / 43.7 per

10,000 children). The rate per 10,000 children is currently 2.4 below the England average and 13.4 lower than our Statistical Neighbour average.

The proportion of children who became subject to a Child Protection Plan within the 12 months up to quarter one (July 2022 to June 2023), who have been on a previous Child Protection Plan in their lifetime was reported at 25.6%.

This is at a level lower than the last four year end positions but we wish to improve further. During the last 12 months, 62 children/young people have started repeated Child Protection Plans (within their lifetime), this is an improvement on the 103 reported for the reporting year of 2021/22 and three less than our provisional figure for 2022/23 (reported at 65). The current percentage is higher than statistical neighbours and the England average. All local authorities experience repeat child protection planning processes for children.

There is a strong focus on requests for repeat Child Protection Plans with greater oversight by both the Safeguarding Service Manager and the requesting social workers' Service Manager. This provides more consistency and further opportunity to have reflective discussions to ensure that the care plan is right for these children, or whether we can work differently with the family.

This area for improvement is included within the remit of our ongoing Sector Led Improvement Partnership (SLIP) work with Dorset and is the subject of a Practice Learning review by the new service manager.

The service is working with the Plymouth Safeguarding Partnership Board to roll out the 'NSPCC Neglect Graded Care Profile 2 Assessment Tool' to support all staff and volunteers working across the system to identify and improve support for children and young people who may experience neglect.

#### 1.4. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (ALSO REFERRED TO AS CHILDREN IN CARE)

1.4. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (ALSO REFERRED TO AS CHILDREN IN CARE)				Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Provisional	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q1 2023/24
7	Number of children subject to a Care Plan - Looked After Children (Snapshot)	485	490	501	70.0 (2021/22)	94.5 (2021/22)	<b>490</b>
	Children subject to a Care Plan - Looked After Children - Rate per 10,000 children	91.0	91.9	94.0			<b>94.4</b>
8	% of Looked After Children placed outside of the city of Plymouth (i.e., the placement is not within PL1 to PL7 or PL9)	39.0%	38.0%	39.9%	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>40.0%</b>
9	Placement Type: Family Placement (fostering or connected carers)	336	325	339	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>323</b>
	Placement Type: Children's Homes & Residential Care	53	56	57	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>56</b>

Placement Type: Hostels & other Supportive accommodation	31	33	48	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>53</b>
Placement Type: Lodgings or Independent living (16+)	12	16	x	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>x</b>
Placement Type: Other Placement	x	x	5	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>x</b>
Placement Type: Placed for Adoption	25	24	18	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>12</b>
Placement Type: Placed with Parents	25	28	32	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>39</b>
Placement Type: Other accommodation - NHS, Family Centres, Parent & Child	6	7	x	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>x</b>
Placement Type: Secure Units	x	x	x	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>x</b>

On 30 June 2023, there were 490 children/young people who are children in care. This is a net decrease of 11 children on the provisional figure for 2022/23 and at a similar level to the published figure of 491 for 2020/21. Unlike the levels of children subject to a Child in Need Plan that have seen an increase in recent months and levels of children subject to a Child Protection Plan that have seen reductions, the net number of children in care has plateaued at around 490 to 500 since December 2020.

294 (60.0%) of children in care are placed within the city, the remaining 196 children (40.0%) placed outside of the city. This measure is simply based on the postcode of the child's placement address. Those not within PL1 to PL7 or PL9 are considered outside of the city. For example, PL12 refers to Saltash in Cornwall (potentially be less than a mile from a child's home address), but it is outside of Plymouth. Using provisional information, approximately 74.7% of children in care are placed within 20 miles of their home address (366 of 490).

Placement sufficiency remains an issue both locally and nationally, which impacts our ability to place a greater number of our children into family homes close to the city. For those children and young people with additional or complex needs, this is even more significant. Growing our in house fostering provision is essential to addressing sufficiency issues and proposed developments to retain and recruit as well as support foster carers are being submitted for consideration.

We remain strongly focused on ensuring that children and young people at risk of care are provided with a supportive response so they can remain with their families if possible. We know that this is not working well enough and as such is under review for further development. This work sits alongside the progression of offering intensive support for children to be reunited with their immediate or extended family network where this is in their best interest.

*Please note: where the number of children is below five, the actual figure is suppressed and shows 'x'.*

### 1.5. CARE EXPERIENCED (ALSO REFERRED TO AS CARE LEAVERS)

Ref	Indicator Name	Previous Year & Benchmarking					Current Period
		2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Provisional	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q1 2023/24
10	% of Care Experienced young people in Unsuitable Accommodation (Statutory Service (aged 18 to 20))	9.6% (17/178)	6.1% (11/181)	4.1% (8/192)	12.0% (2021/22)	11.6% (2021/22)	<b>6.6%</b> <b>(13/196)</b>
11	% of Care Experienced young people in Education, Employment and Training (Statutory Service (EET aged 18 to 20))	52.8% (94/178)	56.4% (102/181)	50.0% (96/192)	55.0% (2021/22)	55.7% (2021/22)	<b>51.5%</b> <b>(101/196)</b>

Plymouth's quarter one figures show that the proportion of Care Experienced young people in unsuitable accommodation was at a lower level than the statistical neighbour and England averages (as published 2021/22).

Those in Education, Employment and Training were reported at a level circa 3.5 to 4.2 percentage points lower than the published figures for our comparators.

There is activity across all departments of the council with engagement at a senior leadership level to progress the aspirations of the motion to treat care experience as a protected characteristic. This includes increased work experience, apprenticeships or employment opportunities for individuals with care experience.

The increase in Personal Advisors in the service is supporting this work and the agreement to increase management capacity for the Care Leavers Teams will increase oversight and scrutiny of pathway planning, support and outcomes.

To test this hypothesis, we have designed a 'Seeking Education, Employment and Training' (SEET) pilot incentive scheme for Care Leavers which will be piloted in the autumn of 2023 (pending recruitment).

The city wide 'NEET' strategy called 'Unlocking the Plymouth's potential', with the aim of moving young people from 'NEET' to 'SEET' through to EET' is now complete.

Working closely with Skills for Plymouth and SEND partners, four care experienced young people benefitted from the pilot of a newly designed SEND Employability Fast Track Residential scheme. To date 75% of the young people are exiting that scheme into education, employment or training.

Three care leavers have achieved the A-Level results they required to progress to their chosen Undergraduate Degree courses in September 2023.

## 2. EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND SKILLS

### 2.1. OFSTED OUTCOMES

Ref	Indicator Name	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
				2021/22 Actual	England	South West	Q1 2023/24
1	% of all schools judged by Ofsted as good or outstanding	Inspections paused due to COVID	Inspections paused due to COVID	76.0%	88.5% (June 2023)	85.3% (June 2023)	<b>79.6%</b>
2	% of pupils attending Plymouth schools judged by Ofsted as good or outstanding	Inspections paused due to COVID	Inspections paused due to COVID	77.1%	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>81.6%</b>

There are 98 state-funded schools in Plymouth and at the end of quarter one 79.6% of schools are judged as Good or Outstanding. When we break this figure down in to the number of primary, secondary and special schools judge as Good or better, we can see that 79.7% of primary schools are rated as good or better (compared to 89.7% nationally), 73.7% of secondary schools are rated as good or better (compared to 81.4% nationally), and 85.1% of special schools are rated as good or better (compared to 89.1% nationally).

Overall, 81.6% of pupils are attending a school judged as good or outstanding in our city.

The phase improvement partnerships, including Early Years, Primary/Special, and Plymouth Strategic (Secondary) Education Group, continue to provide momentum for the place based approach for school improvement, reporting directly to the Plymouth Education Board and the Regional Director.

### 2.2. ABSENCE MONITORING

Ref	Indicator Name	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
				2021/22 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	2021/22
3	% of overall absence in all schools	Not reported	4.9%	8.8%	7.6%	-	<b>8.8%</b>
4	% of persistent absence (less than 90% attendance) in all schools	Not reported	12.9%	28.1%	22.5%	-	<b>28.1%</b>
5	% of persistent absence (less than 90% attendance) of pupils with Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs)	Not reported	38.8%	45.0%	36.9%	-	<b>45.0%</b>

Previously, the information provided in this report was from the "Attendance in education settings during the COVID-19 pandemic" national survey. The survey was introduced at speed to obtain attendance data in response to the pandemic and replaced the school absence reporting pre-COVID. This survey is now requested fortnightly and is not mandatory. Schools are now re-focused back to school absence reporting.

The information provided above is provided from the Department for Education "Absence rates" collection. This is a statutory return completed on a termly basis. The latest available report is for the 2021/22 full academic year.

Local unvalidated data shows that the overall absence rate at the end of quarter one has slightly reduced to 8.7% and the persistent absence rate of all pupils is 26.8%.

The strengthened education improvement partnership between the local authority, trusts and schools continues to provide momentum for the place based school improvement approach reporting directly to the Plymouth Education Board and the Regional Director.

The new national Attendance expectations for local authorities, multi academy trusts and schools is reshaping the work done by each of these partners with regard to attendance. Plymouth City Council are working with schools to implement this for September 2023. The new duties focus the work of schools towards direct engagement with their families and focuses the work of the local authority towards strategic oversight, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups and children with SEND.

A city wide campaign has been set up for the start of the Autumn term 2023 which will promote strong attendance. Attendance is a key focus for all schools. Multi agency work to support those pupils who are severely absent is a focus for the locality work.

### 2.3. EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

2.3. EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING				Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q1 2022/23
6	% of 16 and 17 year olds in Education, Employment and Training	92.1%	92.1%	91.1%	92.5% (Q4 2022/23)	Not benchmarked	<b>93.0%</b>
7	% of 16 and 17 year olds with SEND in Education, Employment and Training	87.7%	83.1%	83.2%	88.7% (Q4 2022/23)	Not benchmarked	<b>87.6%</b>

At the end of quarter one 2023/24, 93.0% of 16 and 17 year olds were participating in Education, Employment, and/or Training (EET) and 84.8% of young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities are in education, training and/or employment.

80 young people have moved from being not in education, employment and training (NEET) to seeking (SEET), many of these young people need extensive support to transition into employment, education or training. This is an area of focus for the Participation and Skills areas of EPS in Plymouth City Council. A number of initiatives are under way to extend the options available to 16-25 year olds with EHCPs which includes growing the number of Supported Internships, Supported Apprenticeships, paid and unpaid volunteering placements and the newly developed 'Your Future' 5 Work readiness programme which includes a one week residential delivered by On Course South West. The strategy is due to go to cabinet for approval in September 2023.



**2.4. KEY STAGE 4 OUTCOMES**

<b>2.4. KEY STAGE 4 OUTCOMES</b>				<b>Previous Year &amp; Benchmarking</b>			<b>Current Period</b>
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Indicator Name</b>	<b>2019 Actual</b>	<b>2020 Actual</b>	<b>2021 Actual</b>	<b>England</b>	<b>Statistical Neighbours</b>	<b>2022 Actual</b>
8	Key Stage 4 - % of pupils achieving 5+ in English and Maths	37.6%	47.1%	51.9%	46.6% (2022)	47.7% (2022)	<b>45.9%</b>
9	Key Stage 4 - Average Attainment 8 score	43.7 points	48.5 points	50.5 Points	47.1 points (2022)	47.7 points (2022)	<b>47.5 points</b>

*N.B. We await validated KS4 outcomes for 2022/23.*

The 2021/22 academic year saw the return of the summer exam series, after they had been cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the transition back to the summer exam series, adaptations were made to the exams (including advance information) and the approach to grading for 2022 exams broadly reflected a midpoint between results in 2019 and 2021. In 2021/22, 45.9% of pupils achieved the 'basics' (5+ in English and Maths). This sits below the national (46.6%), statistical neighbour (47.7%) and regional (49.2%) averages published by the Department for Education. The average Attainment 8 Score was 47.5 points this is above the national average of 47.1 points but below the statistical neighbour (47.7 points) and regional (48.7 points) averages. The strengthened education improvement partnerships continue to provide momentum for the place based approach for secondary school improvements, reporting directly to the Plymouth Education Board and the Regional Director.

### 3. ANNEX 1: INDICATOR DEFINITIONS

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILY SERVICES
<p><b>Referrals &amp; Re-Referrals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where concerns about a child have been raised to Children, Young People and Family Services, once the initial contact has been screened by our multi-agency hub, if appropriate, referrals will be accepted.</li> <li>The rate of referrals per 10,000 children is based on the number of referrals received in the 12 month period divided by the number of children aged 0 to 17 in the city (ONS estimate this at 53,291 for Mid-2021) multiplied by 10,000. This gives a rate that can be benchmarked against other authorities.</li> <li>A re-referral is where we receive a new referral for a child within 12 months of a previous referral. The indicator is based on a rolling 12 month period (e.g., 01 December to 30 November).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Children In Need - CIN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the purposes of this report, the number of children within the CIN cohort are those that have been assessed as being in need (but not CP or LAC) and the number of children who are in the process of being assessed to understand their level of need.</li> <li>The rate of CIN per 10,000 children is based on the number of CIN at the end of the period divided by the number of children aged 0 to 17 in the city (ONS estimate this at 53,291 for Mid-2021) multiplied by 10,000. This gives a rate that can be benchmarked against other authorities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Children subject to a Child Protection Plan - CP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Child Protection Plan should assess the likelihood of the child suffering harm and look at ways that the child can be protected. It should decide upon short and long term aims to reduce the likelihood of harm to the child and to protect the child's welfare, clarify people's responsibilities and actions to be taken; and outline ways of monitoring and evaluating progress.</li> <li>The rate of CP per 10,000 children is based on the number of CP at the end of the period divided by the number of children aged 0 to 17 in the city (ONS estimate this at 53,291 for Mid-2021) multiplied by 10,000. This gives a rate that can be benchmarked against other authorities.</li> <li>There are four categories for a Child Protection Plan; Neglect, Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Emotional Abuse. The table shows the number and proportion under each category.</li> <li>The % of children subject to multiple child protection plans is the proportion of new Child Protection Plan starting within the period, that are for a child who has had a previous Child Protection Plan at any time in the child's lifetime. The indicator is based on a rolling 12 month period (e.g., the proportion of new Child Protection Plans that started in 01 December to 30 November).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Looked After Children (also referred to as Children In Care) - LAC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The table shows the number of Looked After Children at the end of the reporting period.</li> <li>The rate of LAC per 10,000 children is based on the number of LAC at the end of the period divided by the number of children aged 0 to 17 in the city (ONS estimate this at 53,291 for Mid-2021) multiplied by 10,000. This gives a rate that can be benchmarked against other authorities.</li> <li>The proportion of placements outside of the city is simply based on the postcode of the child's placement address. Those not within PL1 to PL7 or PL9 are considered outside of the city. For example, PL12 refers to Saltash in Cornwall, which could potentially be less than a mile from a child's home address, but it is outside of Plymouth.</li> <li>The figures provided for the placement types follow the Department for Education and Ofsted definitions, grouping multiple types into nine groups (for example, Family Placements contains six different placement types).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Care Experienced (also referred to as Care Leavers)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is deemed as 'Unsuitable' accommodation has been defined by the Department for Education. The following are examples of unsuitable accommodation: Bed and Breakfast / Emergency Accommodation, Prison, Temporary/No fixed abode/Street Homeless, Unknown/Not in Touch.</li> <li>The proportion of Care Experienced young people in Education, Employment and Training is based on our statutory service and therefore covers those young people ages 18 to 20. Whilst we work with Care Experienced young people aged 21 to 24, support is optional for the young person.</li> <li>Please note: The figures are likely to be different to the published Department for Education figures as they look at the age of the young person during the year at the period around their birthday and not at a specific snapshot.</li> </ul>

## EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND SKILLS

### Ofsted Outcomes

Ofsted is responsible for inspecting schools and other social care services for children. There are four possible Ofsted ratings that a school can receive; Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement or Inadequate. These Ofsted grades are based on inspectors' judgements across four Ofsted categories – quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development of pupils, leadership and management as set out under the [Ofsted framework 2019](#).

### Absence Monitoring

It is the legal responsibility of every parent to make sure their child receives education either by attendance at a school or by education otherwise than at a school. Where parents decide to have their child registered at school, they have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends that school regularly. Some pupils find it harder than others to attend school and therefore at all stages of improving attendance, schools and partners should work with pupils and parents to remove any barriers to attendance as set out in [Working together to improve school attendance](#).

### Education, Employment or Training

The law requires all young people in England to continue in education or training until at least their 18th birthday, although in practice the vast majority of young people continue until the end of the academic year in which they turn 18. The responsibility and accountability for young people not in education, employment and training (NEET) lies with the local authority and is set out in [Participation Statutory Guidance](#). The Department for Education (DfE) monitors the performance of local authorities in delivering their duties, and specifically in their tracking and supporting of 16 and 17 year olds.

### Key Stage Four Outcomes

Key Stage 4 (KS4) is the legal term for the two years of school education which incorporate GCSEs (General Certificate of Secondary Education). During this time, pupils must follow relevant programmes of study from the National Curriculum. At the end of this stage, pupils are entered for a range of external examinations. Following a phased introduction since 2017, GCSEs taken in 2020 and 2021 are all reformed GCSEs graded on a 9-1 scale. Two particular measures are commonly reported on at key stage four:

- percentage pupils achieving 5-9s at English and Maths GCSE in the city, and
- average Attainment 8 scores achieved by schools across the city.

**Attainment 8** is calculated by adding together pupils' highest scores across eight government approved school subjects. While these numbers are not made publicly available on a pupil-by-pupil basis, scores taken from across a school year group are averaged to produce a school's overall score. The eight subjects are divided into three categories, called "buckets":

- Bucket 1 - English and maths, which are worth double marks, but English will only count for double marks if both English literature and English (i.e., English language) are taken. The higher grade of the two is used;
- Bucket 2 – The top three scores from the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) subjects taken, i.e. sciences, computer science, history, geography and languages;
- Bucket 3 – The top three scores from remaining EBacc subjects or other government approved qualifications (e.g., other GCSEs or Level 2 Certificates in some technical subjects).

The grades are converted into points, put through a formula and finally out comes the school's Attainment 8 score.