
EDUCATION ATTAINMENT 2021-22

Report by Director Education and Lifelong Learning

EDUCATION SUB COMMITTEE

10 November 2022

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Education Sub Committee of the progress schools are making in the Broad General Education for P1 to P7 and Senior Phase S4–6 Scottish Qualifications Examinations for session 2021-22**
- 1.2 Academic session 2021-22 saw a return to 'normal' schooling across Scotland since the COVID-19. Schools are responding and planning for the outcome of the pandemic and this may include the impact on attainment in the Broad General Education. SQA examinations were delivered as expected and the first time since 2019 that this has happened. Session 2020 and 2021 saw two different assessment models for accrediting awards to young people in the senior phase and thus attainment trends over time should be done with the utmost caution
- 1.3 In the Broad General Education (P1-S3) attainment data in Literacy and Numeracy is submitted to the Scottish Government annually, in June, reporting the percentage of pupils in P1, P4, P7 and S3 who have achieved the national standard. Due to the impact of COVID-19 there was no requirement to report this data in session 2019/20 and only for P1, P4 and P7 in session 2021-22.
- 1.4 We are committed to continuous improvement and the data from 2016-1019 demonstrates this however the data for 2021-22 does shows continued improvement and recovery after the pandemic when compared to 2020-21, although not to the same overall levels reported in 2019. This in line with the national picture

Stage	Achieved Level 2022			
	Listening	Reading	Writing	Numeracy
P1	84.9%	80%	75.3%	83.7%
P4	83.7%	75.1%	68.8%	72.6%
P7	85.4%	76.5%	70.2%	73.4%

- 1.5 Our continued ambition is that young people in the Senior Phase have the greatest opportunity to attain the highest level of qualification and, as a consequence, we encourage a positive presentation policy rather than a narrowing of opportunity. The number of senior phase exams sat across the Borders in May 2022 remains in line with the previous years for entries across the qualification framework
- 1.6 Schools continue to accredit a broad range of subjects and qualifications such as National Progressions awards, Skills for works awards and Foundation Apprenticeships.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Education Sub Committee note progress that schools have made in maintaining standards of attainment in the Broad General Education and Senior Phase in terms of attainment and the identified areas for improvement since the pandemic.**

3 ATTAINMENT

3.1 Attainment in the Broad General Education

- (a) The Broad General Education is from 3–15 years of age. There are National Benchmark levels that most pupils in this phase of their education have to meet in Literacy and Numeracy. The achievement of these levels is based on teacher judgements, which are quality assured through moderation activities around teacher planning and pupil work.
- (b) The National Benchmark Levels are set out below:

Level	Achieved by most pupils by the end of
Early Level	Primary 1
First Level	Primary 4
Second Level	Primary 7
Third Level	Secondary 3
Fourth Level	some pupils by end of S3

3.2 Primary

The tables below show the percentage of children who have achieved the national benchmark in Literacy and Numeracy for a particular level. The evidence is based on the judgement of the class teacher and the standard is moderated by other staff in the school and with other schools within the cluster. From 2016-19 there is a clear demonstration of improvement and a progression towards the Scottish Government's Stretch Aim of, by 2022, 85% of pupils attaining the appropriate levels. Allowing for variations in different cohorts it is clear that COVID-19 has had a negative impact on Attainment in the Broad General Education. This is a picture which is reflected nationally.

P1 Achieved Early Level				
Year	Listening	Reading	Writing	Numeracy
2016/17	83.4%	80.5%	80.5%	80.1%
2017/18	88.25%	82.14%	80.02%	82.72%
2018/19	88.43%	83.97%	80.87%	86.07%
2020/21	84.1%	76.8%	74.8%	81%
2021-22	85.19%	79.8%	76.28%	82.44%

P4 Achieved First Level

Year	Listening	Reading	Writing	Numeracy
2016/17	87.7%	83.8%	76.8%	77.3%
2017/18	88.00%	80.64%	76.39%	81.08%
2018/19	86.02%	80.72%	76.09%	77.09%
2020/21	78.2%	72.4%	65.5%	67.8%
2021-22	83.37%	76.91%	71.17%	73.71%

P7 Achieved Second Level				
Year	Listening	Reading	Writing	Numeracy
2016/17	84.8%	78.2%	72.6%	69.2%
2017/18	87.22%	81.29%	76.53%	75.17%
2018/19	89.9%	83.2%	80.4%	78.5%
2020/21	83.7%	75.1%	67.8%	70.7%
2021-22	85.16%	78.57%	73.29%	73.41%

Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence Levels (ACEL) data for 2020/21 reflects the disruption caused by the coronavirus crisis.

It shows the number of primary pupils achieving the expected levels in literacy and numeracy has reduced but despite the reduction pupils in SBC are achieving around the national average. It is encouraging that data from 2021/22 shows an increase of between 1.4 and 2.3 percentage points from the previous year has been achieved in all elements of P1, P4, P7 literacy and numeracy. Benchmarking against the national standard is not possible for 2021-22 at the time of writing as national data is yet to be published.

3.3 Achievement in Senior Phase S4–6 Qualifications

(a) Presentations

The number of exams sat across the Borders in May 2022 remains in line with the previous year at 13,000 in total:

- 6,305 at SCQF Level 5
- 3,616 at SCQF Level 6
- 689 at SCQF Level 7
- 2,400 young people gaining qualifications at SCQF Levels 2-4

There is an increasing wide range of qualifications available for young people in Scottish Borders, not just in the traditional National Qualifications In May 2021 pupils were achieving from the following:

(b) Overall National Qualification Attainment: S4-6

	2019		2022		Variance	
	A-C%	A-D%	A-C%	A-D%	A-C%	A-D%
Nat 5	77.4	92.4	78.8	90.2	1.4	-2.2
Higher	76.4	90.8	76.5	90.3	0.1	-0.5
Adv. Higher	84.5	92.1	76.9	91	-7.6	-1.1

The overall pass rate (A-C) for **S4** pupils at SCQF Level 5 remained in line with 2019 at 82.1 percent while 91.8% of S4 learners achieved an award at A-D.

- **S4-6** Learners in Quintile 1 from Hawick High School improved A-C awards by 8.5% from 2019 at SCQF Level 5.
- Performance on **S4** pupils from Quintile 1 in Hawick High School improved by 11% from 2019 at SCQF Level 5

The overall attainment at Higher (SCQF Level 6) remains broadly in line with previous years at 76.5 percent for A-C awards and 90.3% achieved and A-D awards. There was a 3% drop in achievement of learners in Quintile 1 gaining an award at Higher from 2019

(c) **Literacy and Numeracy**

Of the young people who were assessed in May 2022 in the core skills areas of Literacy and Numeracy, more young people than ever are attaining success:

S4: ALL CANDIDATES

- 97 percent of S4 achieved a literacy award
- 95 percent of S4 achieved a National 5 English award
- 92 percent of S4 achieved a numeracy award
- 87 percent of S4 achieved a National 5 award in Maths
- 92.6 % of learners in Quintile 1 achieved an award at Nat 5 Numeracy. Up 4%
- 96.6% of learners in Quintile 1 achieved a Literacy award at Nat 5. A 2% increase on 2019

S5/6: ALL CANDIDATES

- 80% achieved an A-C pass Higher English Award
- 94% achieved an A-D award at Higher English
- 69% achieved A-C pass at Higher Maths
- 81% achieved an A-D award at Higher Maths

S6: ALL CANDIDATES

- 77% achieved an A-C pass at Advanced Higher level
- 91% achieved an A-D pass at Adv. Higher

(d)

EXAMPLES OF SUBJECT SUCCESS

National 5:

- 99% A-C pass rate for Physical Education. This is 3% higher than the national rate
- 89% A-C pass rate for Art & Design
- 71% A-C pass rate for Applications of Maths which is a fairly new qualification. This is 8% higher than the national rate

Higher:

- 94.23% A-C pass rate in Drama. This is 12% above the national pass rate
- 85.04% A-C pass rate for Geography. 4% above the national pass rate
- 90.57% A-C pass rate for P.E which is 3% higher than the national pass Rate

Advanced Higher:

- 91.67% A-C pass rate in Business Management. This is 21% above the national pass rate
- 96.08% A-C pass rate for Music. 4% above the national pass rate
- 76% A-C pass rate for Chemistry.

(e)

QUALIFICATIONS

Schools and partners such as Borders College, presented young people in 124 different qualification at a variety of SCQF framework levels.

- 77 subjects at SCQF Level 5
- 54 SCQF level 6 qualifications – an increase of 10 from 2021
- 26 qualifications at Advanced Higher
- 14 qualifications at SCQF 1 and 2

Twelve Foundation Apprenticeships are available nationally at SCQF Levels 5 and 6. The majority of these work based learning qualifications are over 2 years though some pupils in S6 fast track through them in one year.

- Civil Engineering
- Software Development
- Social Services and Healthcare
- Social Services Children and Young people
- Automotive Skills
- Construction
- Hospitality

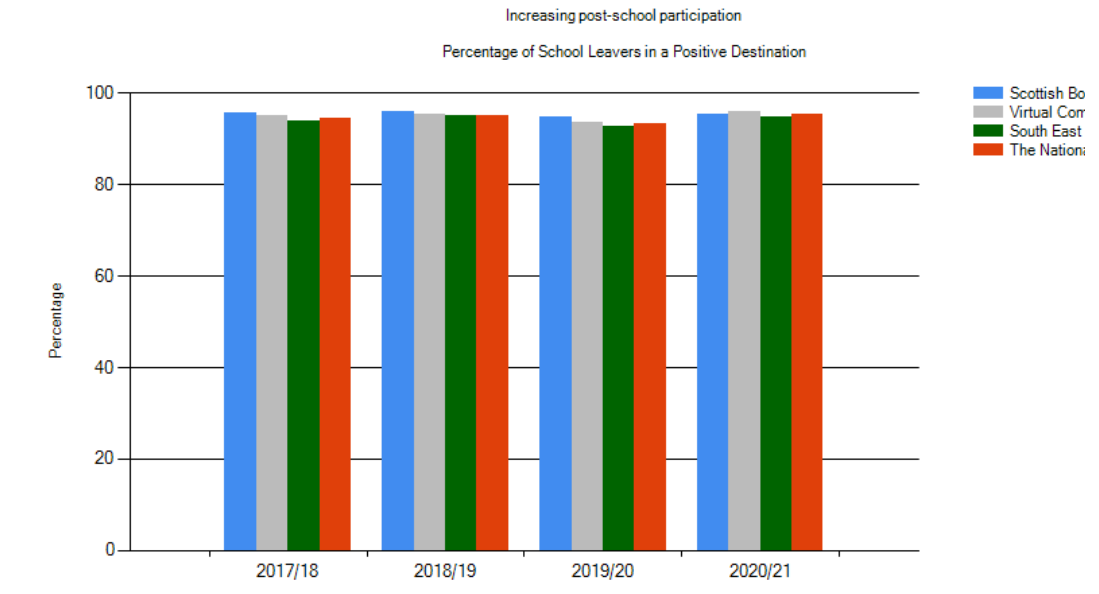
These give young people earlier exposure to the world of work, helping them develop the skills, experience and knowledge they'll need when they leave school.

It's the chance to get a head start on their careers by gaining an industry-recognised qualification, work on real projects and broaden their career options and for employers, it's the chance to attract highly motivated and committed young people who are willing to learn, identify young people who are right for your business and ensure their organisation has people with the skills they need.

(f)

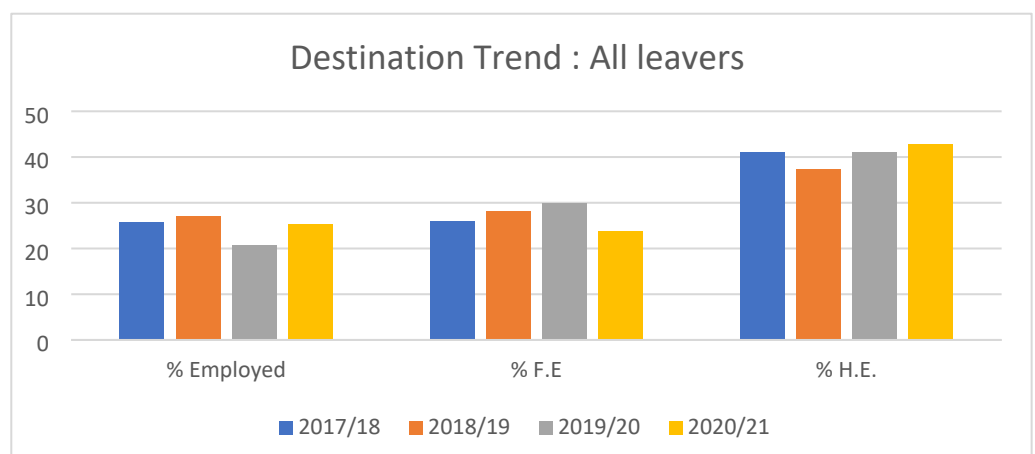
Entries onto Foundation Apprenticeship courses this year, are the highest ever for Borders young people.

POSITIVE DESTINATIONS



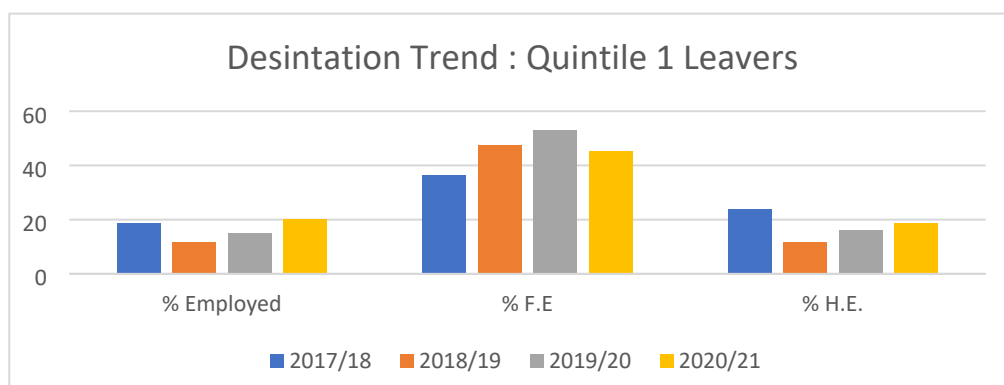
Scottish Borders remains in line with other comparators with 95.49 percent of young people achieving a positive and sustained destination for session 2020-21. Our follow up data for sustained destinations for these leavers

DESTINATIONS: ALL LEAVERS



DESTINATIONS: QUINTILE 1 LEAVERS

(g)



NEXT STEPS

Education Service

- Attainment Dashboards produced for every school
- Attainment visits with cluster head teachers and stretch aim targets agreed for each school
- Improvement work with identified schools, supported by the Attainment Advisor from Education Scotland
- National Stretch aims agreed to close the poverty related attainment gap (see Appendix 1)
- Attainment meeting calendar shared with all schools

Schools

- Data Dashboards produced for each year group
- Schools to update predicted attainment for stretch aims 3 times per year
- Attainment meetings with Class teachers and action plans agreed
- Secondary schools senior phase attainment meetings with every subject area and targets agreed where necessary

4 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

There are no costs attached to any of the recommendations contained in this report.

4.2 Risk and Mitigations

There are no risks associated with this Report.

4.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

An IIA has been completed for the Inspire Academy and will be published on the Council Website ahead of consideration of this report.

4.4 **Sustainable Development Goals**

There are no actions against the Sustainable Development goals.

4.5 **Climate Change**

A climate change assessment checklist has been completed for this report with no recommendations being made.

4.6 **Rural Proofing**

This report does not relate to new or amended policy or strategy and as a result rural proofing is not an applicable consideration.

4.7 **Data Protection Impact Statement**

There are no personal data implications for the Council arising from the proposals contained in this report.

4.8 **Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

There are no changes to be made to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the proposals contained in this report.

5 **CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 The Director (Finance & Corporate Governance), the Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director (People Performance & Change), the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications have been consulted and any comments received will be reported at the meeting.

Approved by

Lesley Munro

Director Education and Lifelong Learning

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Background Papers: Not applicable

Previous Minute Reference: Not applicable

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Catherine Thomson can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose TD6 0SA.

Appendix 1

SCQF Framework


The Scottish Qualifications Framework (SCQF) is the national qualifications framework for Scotland which helps everyone understand and compare the various Scottish qualifications such as National Qualifications at National 5 and Higher to National Progression Awards, Youth Achievement , Higher National Certificates etc.

All secondary schools are beginning to look at different courses and awards to accredit learning in the widest sense, not just for the traditional examinations. This gives young people a wide range of learning but which is benchmarked within a standardised level in the framework and should also have equal parity of esteem. Education in Scotland use the terminology of SQCF levels for all accredited awards so as to recognise the relevant level of learning no matter the award.

It should be noted that not all awards are benchmarked within this framework. A example would be Dike of Edinburgh Awards who, as an organisation, are not keen for their award to sit within this framework. This does not diminish the learning for our young people though.

THE SCOTTISH CREDIT AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

This Framework diagram has been produced to show the mainstream Scottish qualifications already credit rated by SQA and HEIs. However, there are a diverse number of learning programmes on the Framework, which, due to the limitations of this format, cannot be represented here. For more information, please visit the SCQF website at www.scf.org.uk to view the interactive version of the Framework or search the Database.



SCQF Levels	SQA Qualifications		Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions	Apprenticeships & SVQs
12			Doctoral Degree	Professional Apprenticeship
11			Masters Degree, Integrated Masters Degree, Post Graduate Diploma, Post Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Professional Apprenticeship SVQ
10			Honours Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Professional Apprenticeship
9		Professional Development Award	Bachelors / Ordinary Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Technical Apprenticeship SVQ
8		Higher National Diploma	Diploma Of Higher Education	Higher Apprenticeship Technical Apprenticeship SVQ
7	Advanced Higher, Awards, Scottish Baccalaureate	Higher National Certificate	Certificate Of Higher Education	Modern Apprenticeship SVQ
6	Higher, Awards, Skills for Work Higher			Modern Apprenticeship Foundation Apprenticeship SVQ
5	National 5, Awards, Skills for Work National 5			Modern Apprenticeship SVQ
4	National 4, Awards, Skills for Work National 4	National Certificate	National Progression Award	SVQ
3	National 3, Awards, Skills for Work National 3			
2	National 2, Awards			
1	National 1, Awards			

The framework aims to:

- Help learners plan their learner journey through school and beyond;
- Help learners understand qualifications they are not familiar with;
- Help employers understand different types of qualifications and also supports effective recruitment and workforce development;

- education and training providers of all kinds to identify the level that has been studied in a particular subject and make it easier to transfer credit points between different learning programmes; and
- Provides recognition of a very wide range of learning programmes including wider achievement or vocational awards

SCQF Levels

The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework has 12 levels. Secondary school generally work between Level 1 and Level 7 on the framework. Level 1 is National 1 level awards which can be accessed by young people with complex learning needs, to level 7 which is equivalent to Advanced Higher and HNC's.

The different levels indicate the level of difficulty of a particular qualification. The Level Descriptors outline the general outcomes of learning at SCQF levels under five broad headings:

- knowledge and understanding;
- practice (applied knowledge and understanding);
- generic cognitive skills (e.g. evaluation, critical analysis);
- communication, numeracy and IT skills; and
- autonomy, accountability and working with others.

The Descriptors allow broad comparisons to be made between qualifications and learning and allow learners, employers and the public in general to understand the range of skills and learning that should be achieved at each level.

Equality of qualifications

The SCQF promotes equality of qualifications. For instance, an Outward Bound Adventure and Challenge Award sits at level 5 on the SCQF which is the same level as a National 5. They might be very different types of learning but learners still have to use the same level of skills to achieve them. This is why it's really important to include all the learning young people achieve on a profile or CV with the SCQF level.

The SCQF School Ambassador Programme?

The SCQF School Ambassador programme offers schools the opportunity to learn more about the benefits of the SCQF and the wider ways in which it supports learners such as recognising wider achievement, developing Senior Phase learning pathways in line with the Developing the Young Workforce strategy and giving equality between vocational and academic qualifications.

A few of our schools are currently involved in the SCQF Ambassador programme.