
EDUCATION ATTAINMENT REPORT 2022-23

Report by Director Education and Lifelong Learning

EDUCATION SUB COMMITTEE

24 October 2023

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 2022-23.**

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Education Sub-Committee notes progress that schools have made in maintaining and improving standards of attainment in the Broad General Education and Senior Phase in 2023.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1. The Academic session 2022-23 was the second year of 'normal' schooling across Scotland since the COVID-19. SQA examinations were delivered as expected with continued modifications to course assessments by SQA. The performance of almost all young people in 2023 remained in line with or above 2022 level Attainment trends over time should again be done with the caution.
- 3.2. 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.
- 3.3. Education is committed to continuous improvement and to close the poverty related attainment gap. Performance in June 202 demonstrates continued improvement in these organisers:
- **Primary 1** - Increase in all organisers for the second year
 - **Primary 4** - Increase in all organisers for the second year
 - **Primary 7** - Increase in all organisers for the second year
- 3.4. 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 2023 remains in line with the previous years for entries across the Scottish Qualifications Framework at almost 14,000.
- 3.5. Schools continue to accredit a broad range of subjects and qualifications such as National Progressions awards, Skills for Works awards and Foundation Apprenticeships.

4 ATTAINMENT

- 4.1. Attainment in the Broad General Education (BGE)
- (a) The Broad General Education includes children and young people from the ages 3 – 15. 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 judgement, 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

4.2. 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, other schools within the cluster and a quality assurance process led by senior officers. In 2022-23 there is a clear demonstration of improvement and a progression towards the Scottish Government's Stretch Aim of 85% of pupils attaining the appropriate levels. Our schools continue to recover from the impact of COVID-19. This is a picture which is reflected nationally.

	P1 Achieved Early Level			
School	Listening	Reading	Writing	Numeracy
2017/18	88.3%	82.1%	80.0%	82.7%
2018/19	88.4%	84.0%	80.9%	86.1%
2020/21	84.2%	76.4%	74.6%	80.5%
2021/22	85.8%	81.0%	76.1%	84.4%
2022/23	87.5%	84.1%	80.5%	85.9%

	P4 Achieved First Level			
School	Listening	Reading	Writing	Numeracy
2017/18	88.0%	80.6%	76.4%	81.1%
2018/19	86.0%	80.7%	76.1%	77.1%
2020/21	80.5%	74.5%	66.8%	71.2%
2021/22	84.3%	75.8%	69.3%	73.2%
2022/23	88.5%	78.9%	70.9%	74.6%

	P7 Achieved Second Level			
School	Listening	Reading	Writing	Numeracy
2017/18	87.2%	81.3%	76.5%	75.2%
2018/19	89.9%	83.2%	80.4%	78.5%
2020/21	85.1%	77.6%	71.3%	74.0%
2021/22	86.7%	77.6%	71.3%	74.5%
2022/23	88.3%	80.8%	74.4%	74.7%
	S3 Achieved Third Level			
	Listening	Reading	Writing	Numeracy
2017/18	96.1%	95.5%	94.3%	94.7%
2018/19	96.7%	95.7%	95.1%	93.7%
2021/22	91.1%	89.7%	87.7%	86.0%
2022/23	89.4%	87.9%	87.5%	86.4%

In 2022-23 the majority of pupils in P1, P4 and P7 combined, achieved the appropriate Curriculum for Excellence level of attainment in the Broad General Education as measured by teacher professional judgement of progress in

reading, talking and listening, with most pupils attaining the expected level in numeracy and writing. The levels of attainment of our pupils in the Broad General Education is improving and there is evidence of recovery from the impact of the Covid-19 global pandemic.

In primaries 1, 4 and 7 there has been an increase for the second year running of pupils attaining the relevant benchmark.

4.3. Closing the Gap

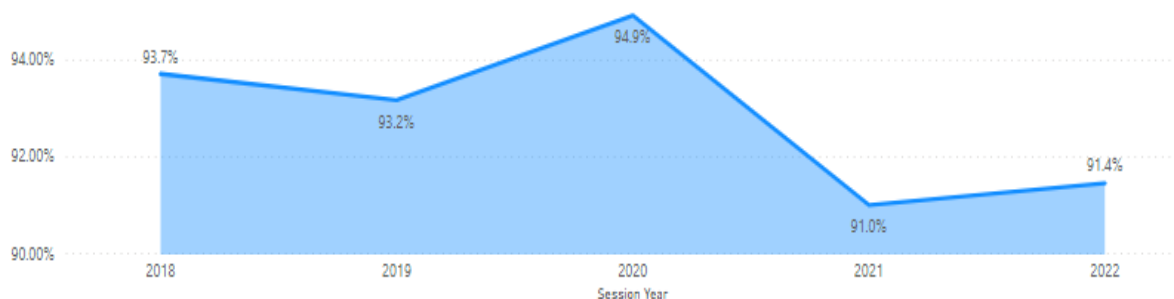
Baseline assessment data in 2021-22 highlighted a gap between the attainment of those living in SIMD 1-2 and those in SIMD 9-10. The poverty related attainment gap has narrowed by 1.1 percentage points for numeracy compared to the previous year and narrowed in literacy from 38.4 percentage points in 2021-22 to 31.3 percentage points in 2022-23.

4.4. Progress towards Stretch Aims

- Increased overall levels in literacy and numeracy in P1, P4, P7 (combined)
- Increased quintile 1 literacy levels in P1, P4, P7 (combined)
- Increased quintile 1 literacy and numeracy levels in S3
- Narrowed the poverty related attainment gap in literacy and numeracy in P1, P4, P7 (combined) and S3
- Increased overall attendance in primary and secondary.
- Increased attendance in quintile 1
- Narrowing of the poverty related attainment gap in secondary attendance

4.5. Attendance

% Annual Pupil Attendance Level over Time



4.6. Overall attendance for 2023-23 = 91.4%

- Increased overall attendance in primary and secondary.
- Increased attendance in quintile 1
- Narrowing of the poverty related attainment gap in secondary attendance

4.7. Achievement in Senior Phase S4-6 Qualifications

(a) Presentations

The number of qualifications sat in the Scottish Borders in May 2022 remains in line with the previous year at almost 14,000 in total:

- 6,955 at SCQF Level 5
- 3,935 at SCQF Level 6
- 691 at SCQF Level 7

- 2,739 young people gained qualifications at SCQF Levels 2-4

4.7.1. Overall National Qualification Attainment: S4-6

	2022		2023	
	A-C %	A-D %	A-C %	A-D %
National 5	78.8	90.2	77.4	89.1
Higher	76.5	90.3	75.7	90.2
Adv. Higher	76.9	91.0	77.4	92.0

The overall pass rate (A-C) for **S4** pupils at SCQF Level 5 remained in line with 2022 at 77,4% while 90.2% of S4 learners achieved an award at A-D. Examples of improvement in Quintile 1 attainment

- **S4-6** Learners in Quintile 1 from Hawick High School improved A-C awards by 3.3% from 2022 at National 5 (SCQF Level 5)
- Performance on **S4** pupils from Quintile 1 in Hawick High School improved by 3.6% from 2022 at National 5 (SCQF Level 5)

4.7.2 Literacy and Numeracy

Of the young people who were assessed in May 2023 in the core skills of Literacy and Numeracy, more young people than ever are attaining success:

All Candidates

- 97.3 percent of S4 achieved a literacy award
- 96 percent of S4 achieved a National 5 English award
- 91 percent of S4 achieved a numeracy award
- 83 percent of S4 achieved a National 5 award in Maths

S4; all candidates

- 82.57% of S4 achieved SCQF Level 5 Literacy. This is an increase of 2.5% on 2022, above our virtual comparator and the highest for 3 years.
- 70.2% of S4 achieved SCQF Level 5 Numeracy and this is an increase of 3% on 2022, above our virtual comparator and the highest for 3 years.

S4; Quintile 1

- 77% of learners achieved SCQF Level 5 Literacy. This is above the virtual comparator and an improvement of 19% for 2022.
- Performance in SCQF Level 5 Numeracy has dropped by 8% from 2022 to 35.7% for learners though is still the second highest percentage overall since 2019.

S4; Care Experienced

- Of the small number of learners who were care experienced, 61.1% achieved SCQF Level 5 Literacy. This is an improvement of 33% from 2022.
- 22.2% achieved SCQF Level 5 Numeracy. An increase of 6% from 2022.

S5; all candidates

- 56.14 % achieved SCQF Level 6 Literacy and this is in line with performance in 2022.
- 88% achieved SCQF Level 5 Literacy and this remains in line with 2022.

- 25.64% achieved SCQF Level 6 Numeracy and an improvement of 3% on 2022.
- 78.42% achieved SCQF Level 5 Numeracy. This is an improvement of 4.5% on 2022.

S5; Quintile 1

- 38.9 % achieved SCQF Level 6 Literacy and this is in line with virtual comparator and an increase of 7.4% from 2022.
- 11.1% achieved SCQF Level 6 Numeracy and this remains in line with the virtual comparator and is an increase of 2% from 2022.

4.7.3. Examples of Subject Success

National 5:

- 80.3% A-C pass rate for Chemistry. This is 4% higher than the national rate.
- 92.6% A-C pass rate for Art & Design and 45% achieved an A pass. This is 4% above the national rate.
- 96.4% A-C pass rate for P.E. 63% which were an A grade. Both were above the national rate.
- 42% of learners achieved an A grade in English which is 3% above the national level.

Higher:

- 83% A-C pass rate in Business Management. This is 7% above the national pass rate.
- 73% A-C pass rate for Maths with 38.3% achieving an A grade This 3% above the national pass rate.
- 83.3% A-C pass rate for Politics with 38% achieving an A grade, 3% higher than the national pass rate.

Advanced Higher:

- 85% A-C pass rate in History. This is 6% above the national pass rate.
- 95% A-C pass rate for Music.
- 22 different Advanced Highers were available to learners in schools in 2023.

4.7.4 Qualifications

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

- 52 subjects at SCQF Level 5
- 34 SCQF level 6 qualifications

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

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

These opportunities 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.

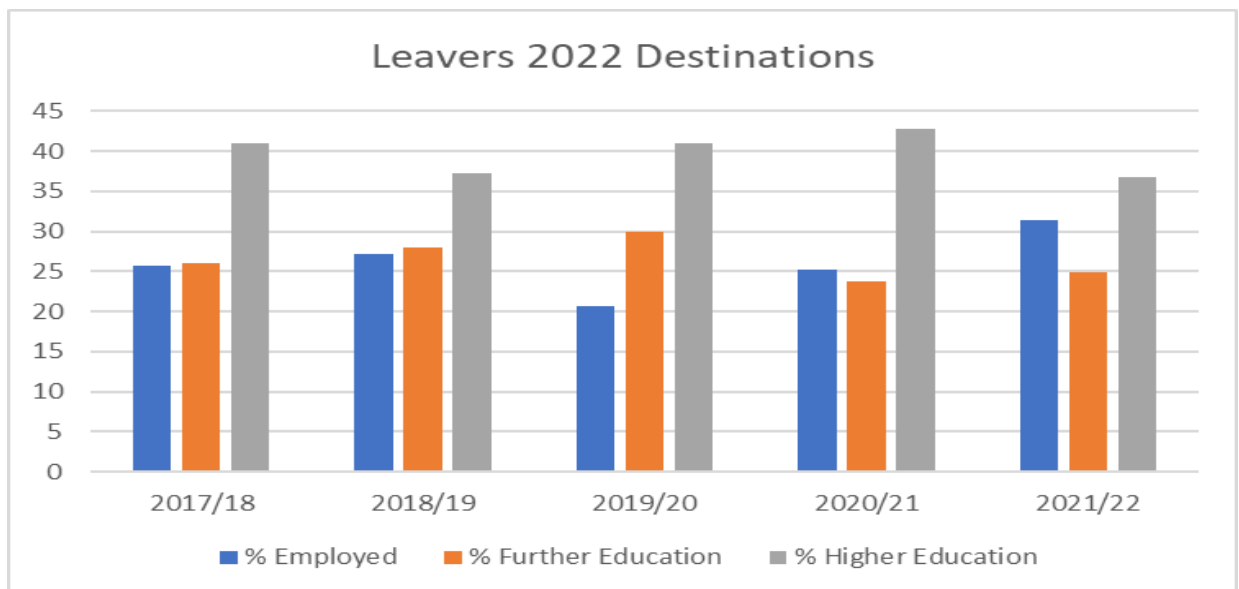
It's the chance to get a head start on their careers by gaining an industry-recognised qualification, work on real projects and broaden their career options and for employers, it's the chance to attract highly motivated and committed young people who are willing to learn, identify young people who are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

4.7.5. Positive Destinations

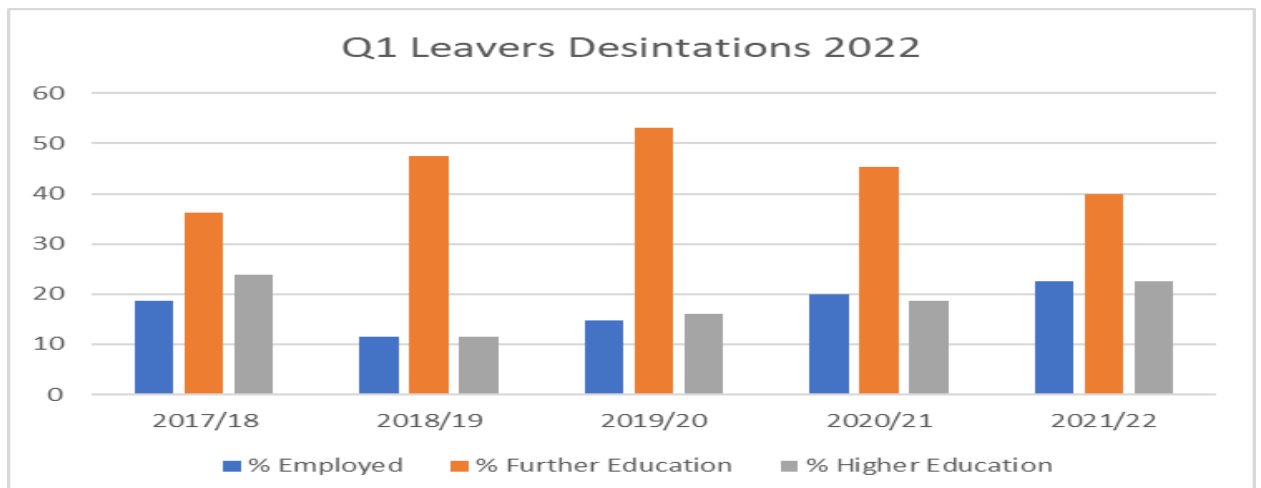
For young people who left in May 2022, Scottish Borders remains in the top quartile nationally, with an increase from last year to 96.65 percent of young people achieving a positive and sustained destination. This is the highest for the last five years.

93.75% of leavers from Quintile 1 went onto a positive destination.

Destinations: all leavers



Destinations: Quintile 1 leavers



4.8. Next Steps

4.8.1 Education Service

- Attainment Power BI Dashboard is now live for every school. This includes demographic and assessment information
- Attainment visits with cluster head teachers for core and core plus stretch aims for 2023-25 will be agreed for each school, cluster and overall
- 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

4.8.2 Schools

- Termly attainment tracking will now be in the Power BI dashboard for all schools
- 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 trio attainment meetings with every subject area and targets agreed where necessary.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

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

5.2 Risk and Mitigations

There are no risks or mitigations associated with this Report.

5.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

It is anticipated that there are no adverse impact due to race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation or religion/belief arising from the proposals in this report.

5.4 Sustainable Development Goals

There are no significant impacts on the economy, community or environment arising from the proposals contained in this report.

5.5 Climate Change

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

5.6 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.

5.7 Data Protection Impact Statement

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

5.8 **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.

6 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Director (Finance & Procurement), The Director (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 in the production of this report and their comments have been included in the final version.

Approved by

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Background Papers: N/A

Previous Minute Reference: N/A

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