

Compass results for the secondary schools and colleges in England with the Quality in Careers Standard 2021

This note describes the careers provision in the schools and colleges which achieved the Quality in Careers Standard in academic year 2020/2021 as recorded in the Compass data held by The Careers & Enterprise Company. It has been produced by The Careers & Enterprise Company for the Quality in Careers Consortium.

Compass data

The Compass data used for this analysis are the latest evaluation returns by Careers Leaders as of the end of July 2021 for the academic year 2020/21. It is the same data as used for the Trends in Careers Education 2021 published in December 2021.¹ The results reported in this note are the average number of Gatsby Benchmarks fully achieved and the proportion of schools and colleges achieving each of the eight benchmarks. To fully achieve a benchmark, schools and colleges must meet all the sub-benchmarks (approximately 50 in total across the eight benchmarks depending on the age range of the education institution).

Matching process

The Quality in Careers Consortium provided The Careers & Enterprise Company with a list of over 700 schools and colleges that had gained external accreditation under the national Quality in Careers Standard as of September 2021. To prepare the data for matching with Compass data, institutions in Northern Ireland were excluded as were those in the primary/middle school sectors.

Analysis was carried out on 719 schools and colleges in England that were matched with the Compass data. Of this number, 365 (51%) were also in a Careers Hub.

Results

Education institutions accredited under the Quality in Careers Standard achieved an average of 4.6 Gatsby Benchmarks in 2020/21. This is higher than the national average for schools and colleges of 4.0 and similar to Careers Hubs.

Schools and colleges with accreditation that were also in Careers Hubs achieved, on average, the highest number of Gatsby Benchmarks – 5.1. Those with accreditation that were not in a Careers Hub achieved, on average, one fewer benchmark – 4.1.

¹ <https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/our-evidence/evidence-and-reports/trends-in-careers-education-2021/>

Mean average number of Gatsby Benchmarks fully achieved in 2020/21

	Mean average GBs fully achieved	Number schools and colleges
Schools accredited through Quality in Careers Standard	4.6	719
<i>Of which, those also in a Careers Hub</i>	5.1	365
<i>Those not in a Careers Hub</i>	4.1	354
All state-funded schools and colleges in England	4.0	3,893
Schools and colleges in Careers Hubs (since 2018-2020)	4.4	2,122
Schools and colleges in wave 1 Careers Hubs (since 2018)	4.8	666

Percentage of schools and colleges achieving each Benchmark in 2020/21

