

This report is based on the Department for Education (DfE) School Comparison data for England for the academic year 2022-2023.¹ We have used 2022-2023 data to compare with 2021-2022 data, which was published in the previous report.

Girls' A-levels entries in STEM subjects

DfE release KS5 (A-levels) entries by school for Maths, Further Maths and Science subjects, split by gender and type of school, allowing us to analyse the subject choice of girls by the type of school they attend.

Percentage of Girls' A-levels Entries for each STEM Subject

Girls in girls' schools are more likely to take STEM subjects – compared with girls in co-ed schools

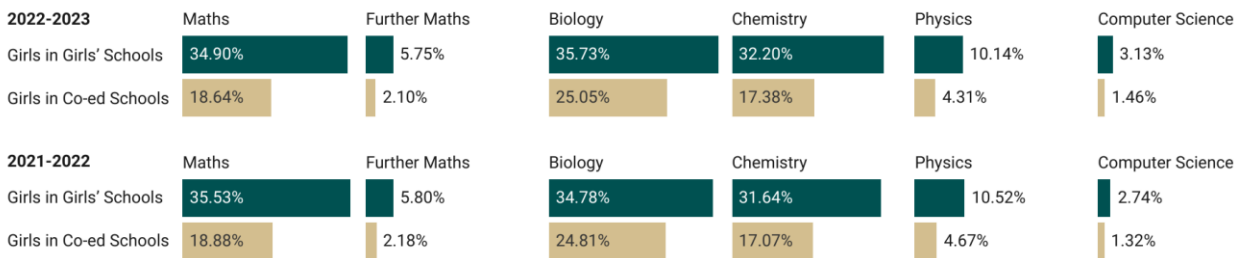


Chart: Girls' Schools Association • Source: Department of Education • Created with Datawrapper

- Biology, Maths and Chemistry continue to be the most popular STEM subjects for girls at A-levels.²
- Girls in girls' schools are 2.7 times as likely to take Further Maths and more than twice as likely to take Physics and Computer Science A-levels – compared with girls in co-ed schools.
- The uptake of other sciences is also higher with Biology 43% higher, Chemistry 85% higher and Maths 87% higher in girls' schools compared with girls in co-ed schools.
- Percentage of subject entries in Biology, Chemistry and Computer Sciences have increased for girls in both types of schools since 2021-2022, while we see decreases in Maths, Further Maths and Physics.
- Computer Science continues to have the largest growth in uptake for girls (although it remains low relatively). The percentage of girls taking Computer Science is 14% higher in girls' schools and 11% higher in co-ed schools, compared with the 2021-2022 academic year.
- The gap between girls in girls' school and girls in co-ed schools is widening for most subjects - Further Maths, Biology, Physics and Computer Science. The only subject where it is narrowing is Maths.

¹ DfE data is available here <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/download-data>

² Although DfE school information categorises 318 schools with post-16 provision as Girls' Schools, the analysis above uses results data from 195 girls' schools – 119 independent and 76 state-funded schools. The remaining 123 schools have either a co-educational sixth form or have very low numbers of entries for these subjects, and their data is therefore suppressed.

KS5 attainment data

The DfE 16-18 performance tables report achievements of students aged 16 to 18 who are at the end of advanced level study (the end of Key Stage 5 or KS5). The analysis below uses the average point score A-levels entry for students who were entered for at least one AS or A-levels qualification.

KS5 A-levels data

	2022-2023			2021-2022		
	Girls in girls' schools	Boys in boys' schools	All students in co-ed schools	Girls in girls' schools	Boys in boys' schools	All students in co-ed schools
ALL SCHOOLS						
Weighted average point score per A level entry	41.7	43.0	34.2	44.9	46.3	37.9
Average point score per A level entry expressed as a grade	B+	B+	C+	B+	A-	B-
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS						
Weighted average point score per A level entry	44.8	46.6	41.2	48.3	49.9	44.3
Average point score per A level entry expressed as a grade	B+	A-	B	A-	A	B+

Table: Girls' Schools Association • Source: Department of Education • Created with Datawrapper

- On average, students in single-sex schools continue to outperform those in co-ed schools.
- Girls in girls' schools continue to perform better than students in co-ed schools across all schools and also when looking at independent schools only.
- Overall, there is a decline in the weighted average point score for all students, with the average point score a sub-grade lower for most school types than in 2021-2022 (and a return to 2018-2019 level).
- Co-ed schools have seen the biggest decline since 2021-2022, decreasing by 10% compared with 7% for single sex schools.

KS4 attainment data

The Key Stage 4 (KS4) data reports the achievements of students using the Attainment 8 measure which allocates points according to grades achieved by pupils in their best 8 subjects at GCSE level (including Maths and English).

Girls' Weighted Average Attainment 8 Scores

Calculated according to the best 8 subjects at GCSE level (including Maths and English)

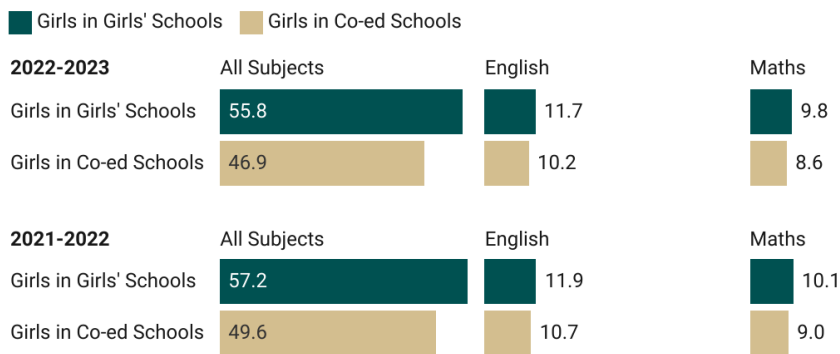


Chart: Girls' Schools Association • Source: Department of Education • Created with Datawrapper

- Girls perform better in girls' schools than in co-ed schools, looking at all subjects as a whole, and also for Maths and English separately.³
- Overall, there is a decline in the weighted average Attainment 8 scores for girls in both types of schools than in 2021-2022.

Weighted Average Attainment 8 Scores of All Schools

Calculated according to the best 8 subjects at GCSE level (including Maths and English)

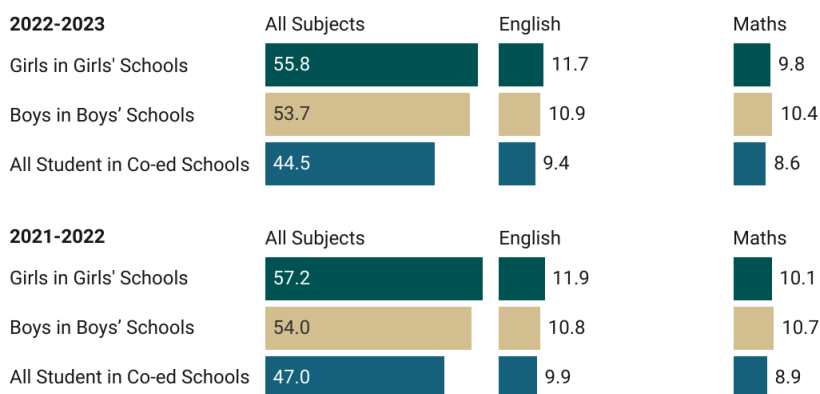


Chart: Girls' Schools Association • Source: Department of Education • Created with Datawrapper

³ KS4 data for independent schools is not complete and so the analysis is based on data from all school types combined.

- Higher attainment continues to be seen at single-sex schools, compared with co-ed schools when looking at all subjects, and when looking at Maths and English separately.
- Overall, there is a decline in weighted average Attainment 8 scores for all students in all school types (except for boys in boys' schools for English subject) compared to 2021-2022.
- Boys' schools have seen the smallest decline in score since 2021-2022, decreasing by less than 1% compared with 3% for girls' schools and 5% co-ed schools.