



Department  
for Education

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**Accountability: publishing headline  
performance measures on school and  
college websites**

# Accountability: publishing headline performance measures on school and college websites

This consultation seeks views on our plans to develop a data application that will contain headline measures in a standard format which schools and colleges will be required to download.

**To** Primary schools, secondary schools, academies, free schools, UTCs, school 6th forms, general further education colleges, sixth form colleges, 16-19 academies and free schools, independent schools, local authorities, parents and students.

**Issued** 6 June 2014

**Enquiries To** If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact the Department on 0370 000 2288

email: [Widget.CONSULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Widget.CONSULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk)

## Contact Details

If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the Ministerial and Public Communications Division by email: [consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk) or by telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the GOV.UK '[Contact Us](#)' page.

# 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The government recently published reforms to the accountability system for primary and secondary schools and 16-19 providers<sup>1</sup>. The reforms for all three phases of education will require schools and colleges to make the headline performance measures available on their websites in a standard format so that they are easy to interpret and enable parents to compare schools and colleges. We are now setting out our proposals for how to present the measures clearly whilst minimising burdens.

## 2 Rationale

- 2.1 The headline performance measures announced as part of the primary, secondary and 16-19 accountability reforms will provide parents and students with a rounded picture of the educational performance of their local schools and colleges. The information will support their decisions when choosing the best school or college for themselves or their children and help them to challenge the performance of their local institutions. Schools are already required to publish performance information on their websites, but where and how this information is presented is inconsistent. There is no current requirement for colleges to publish this information. This means that some parents and students do not know where to find performance information, or when they do find it, do not find it very easy to understand or use. We want the information to be found on the front page of every school and college website and to be presented in a consistent way to help parents and students
- 2.2 Performance tables will continue to provide information about individual schools and colleges and be the central source of school and college performance information. Future changes to the website, through the school and college performance data portal, will improve accessibility to a wide range of information, including the headline performance measures. It will enable interested parents, students, schools, colleges and researchers to interrogate educational data held by the Department for Education to best meet their requirements. Nevertheless, the first place many parents and students look for information about a school or college is the institution's own website.

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<sup>1</sup> [New national curriculum: primary assessment and accountability - Consultations - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/249893/Consultation_response_Secondary_School_Accountability_Consultation_14-Oct-13_v3.pdf)  
[16 to 19 accountability consultation - Consultations - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/249893/Consultation_response_Secondary_School_Accountability_Consultation_14-Oct-13_v3.pdf)  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/249893/Consultation\\_response\\_Secondary\\_School\\_Accountability\\_Consultation\\_14-Oct-13\\_v3.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/249893/Consultation_response_Secondary_School_Accountability_Consultation_14-Oct-13_v3.pdf)

In many cases performance information about the school or college is easy to find on their website, but in others it is not. It is also the case that schools and colleges choose which measures of performance they will display prominently, most often choosing to draw attention to measures where they perform well. Some provide direct links to the performance tables but this varies from year to year and sometimes it can be more difficult to find the full range of measures that are available through performance tables on a school or college website.

### **2.3 Purpose of this consultation**

This consultation sets out our proposed improvements to the accessibility and readability of the data that underpins accountability. By doing this we will help parents and students understand the quality of local provision through a combination of:

- easy access to the data of individual schools and colleges through a requirement to publish headline measures on their websites;
- standard presentation of the headline data across all forms of publication<sup>2</sup> to give a rounded snapshot of a provider's overall performance which also allows parents and students to compare providers against the same measures;
- visual presentation of the data so that parents and students can easily understand how their local school or college compares to others nationally;
- testing our assumptions that parents and students do not know where to find school and college performance information.

### **2.4 The next sections of the consultation set out our proposals for:**

- the presentation of the headline measures;
- details of our intention for a digital application (widget) for schools and colleges to download to meet the requirements of publication;
- ensuring compliance by schools and colleges.

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<sup>2</sup> We aim to standardise the presentation of the headline measures in performance tables, RAISEonline, Ofsted data dashboards and school and college websites.

### 3 Presentation of headline measures

3.1 Schools and colleges will be expected to publish headline measures on the front page of their websites. However, we want to do this in a way which minimises the workload for schools and colleges so this will be facilitated through the provision of a data application that will present the measures in a standard format. Schools and colleges will be required to download this data application onto the homepage of their websites once. It will then update all performance information automatically each year. The headline measures are:

#### Primary headline measures<sup>3</sup>

- the average progress made by pupils in reading, writing and mathematics;
- the percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics at the end of key stage 2;
- the average score of pupils in their end of key stage 2 assessments;
- the percentage of pupils who achieve a high score in all areas at the end of key stage 2.

#### Secondary headline measures

- progress across a suite of 8 subjects;
- attainment across 8 subjects;
- the percentage of pupils achieving a C grade or better in English and maths;
- the percentage of pupils achieving the English Baccalaureate (EBacc).

#### 16-19 headline measures

- progress
- attainment
- English and maths GCSE progress (for students without at least a grade C at 16)
- retention
- destinations

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<sup>3</sup> These measures will apply to all-through primary, junior and middle schools. Variants of these measures will apply for infant and first schools.

To aid understanding of these measures we propose a standard presentation of the data which also gives a visual presentation of where a school or college sits in relation to other providers in England against that measure. Our initial thinking suggests that the data might be presented as shown [here](#).

### **3.2 Questions for response**

- Q1 Do you agree that the headline measures should be presented in a standard way?
- Q2 Do you agree that there should be a visual presentation of the data to aid understanding?
- Q3 Do you have any different suggestions for how the data might be presented visually?
- Q4 Will the examples given above improve understanding and meet the aims set out at the beginning of this document?
- Q5 Where should these measures be available? E.g. on your school and college websites, or the BBC website or the Gov.UK website or other?

## **4 Data Application (widget)**

- 4.1 We plan to develop a data application that schools and colleges must download onto their websites. The application will link directly to the performance table's website and therefore be pre-loaded with the headline measures in the required format relevant to the particular phase of education. All schools will be required to publish primary, secondary and 16-19 headline measures on their website. The application will automatically update each year, or as required, with the most up to date performance information for the school or college, relieving schools and colleges of the current burden of updating performance information manually.
- 4.2 The development and delivery of the data application presents a significant technical challenge. We are aware that school and college websites vary, with very different levels of sophistication and technical specifications. We plan to provide technical support to schools and colleges that have difficulties downloading the data application.

**4.3** [Annex A](#) sets out the technical requirements for the application that we have specified to date.

#### **4.4 Questions for response**

- Q6 Do parents experience problems finding school or college performance information and using it to compare one provider to another?
- Q7 Do you agree that a data application should be developed and installed locally to allow schools and colleges to comply with the requirement to publish headline measures in a standard format on their website?
- Q8 Do you agree that the requirements for the application set out at paragraph 4.3 are the right ones?
- Q9 Are there any technical issues for your website that you think we should be aware of?
- Q10 Does your school or college have the capability to install a data application (“widget”) on its website?
- Q11 If you are a school or college, would you be willing to pilot the data application before it is rolled out nationally?

## **5 Ensuring compliance**

**5.1** We want all schools and colleges to comply with the requirement to publish headline measures on their websites. We plan to amend the School Information Regulations that currently apply to maintained schools to:

- set out the new headline measures that must be published;
- extend the scope of part of the regulations to apply to academies and free schools.

**5.2** The Regulations do not apply to 16-19 academies and colleges so we intend to secure compliance through conditions of funding in their Education Funding Agency agreements so that colleges and 16-19 academies display the same headline measures as school and academy sixth forms.

**5.3** We will also be able to monitor how many schools and colleges download the data application which will provide an indication of the number of schools and colleges complying with the requirement. Ofsted already routinely check school and college websites before inspections.

#### **5.4 Questions for response**

Q12 Do you think the availability of a data application (widget), together with changes to the School Information Regulations and funding agreements, encourage compliance with the requirement to publish headline measures on school and college websites?

## **6 How To Respond**

**6.1** Consultation responses can be completed online at: <https://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/>

by email: [Widget.CONSULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Widget.CONSULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk)

or by downloading a response form which should be completed and sent to:

Andrew Taylor  
Inspections and Accountability Unit  
Level 2  
Department for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
London  
SW1P 3BT

## **7 Additional Copies**

**7.1** Additional copies are available electronically and can be downloaded from the [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK) website.

## **8 Plans for making results public**

**8.1** The results of the consultation and the Department's response will be published on the [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK) website in Autumn 2014.