

# Compass results for the secondary schools and colleges in England with the Quality in Careers Standard 2024

This note describes the careers provision in the schools and colleges which achieved the Quality in Careers Standard during the 2023/24 academic year, 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.

20<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## Compass Data

The Compass data used for this analysis are the latest evaluation returns by Careers Leaders as of the end of July 2024 for the academic year 2023/24. It is the same data used in the Gatsby Benchmark Insight Briefing published in October 2024.<sup>1</sup>

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 44 in total across the eight benchmarks, depending on the age range of students in the education institution).

## Matching process

The Quality in Careers Consortium provided The Careers & Enterprise Company with a list of over 600 schools and colleges that had gained external accreditation under the national Quality in Careers Standard as of September 2024. To prepare the data for matching with Compass data, institutions in Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands were excluded, as were those in primary/middle schools.

Analysis was carried out on 538 schools and colleges that were matched with Compass academic year end data (89.6%, below the national proportion of schools and colleges completing a Compass evaluation).

## Results

The Quality in Careers Standard has two categories for achievement - 'Achieving the standard: making good progress towards fully meeting criteria' and 'Achieving the Standard: fully meeting the national criteria'. Fully achieving the Quality in Careers Standard depends on full achievement of all eight Gatsby Benchmarks. Of the award holders, 39.4% (N=212) fully achieved all eight benchmarks, equating to fully achieving the Quality in Careers Standard. The remaining 61.6% (N=326) were making good progress towards fully meeting the criteria of the Quality in Careers Standard.

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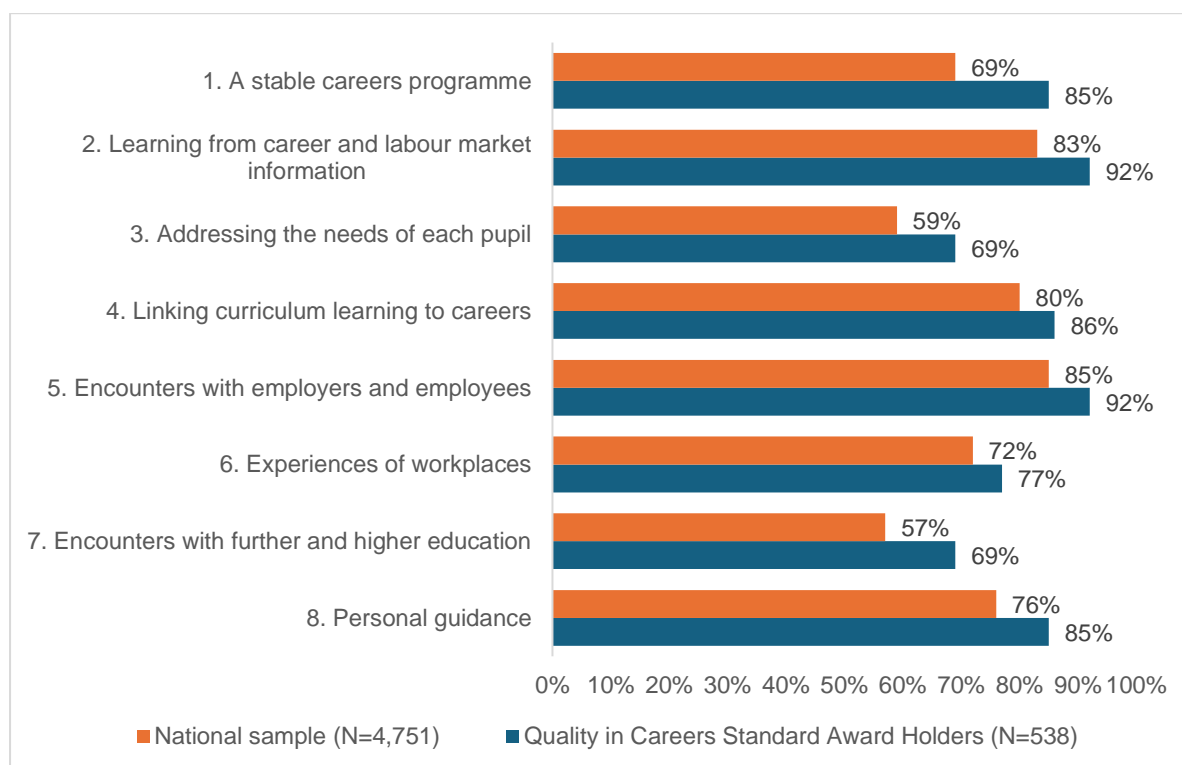
<sup>1</sup> The Careers & Enterprise Company (2024). [Insight briefing – Gatsby Benchmark results for 2023/24](#). London: The Careers & Enterprise Company.

Education institutions accredited under the Quality in Careers Standard achieved an average of 6.5 Gatsby Benchmarks in 2023/24. This is 0.4 benchmarks higher than the previous year (up from 6.1 Gatsby Benchmarks), similar to the proportional increase across all schools and colleges in England since 2022/23.<sup>2</sup>

*Table 1. Average number of Gatsby Benchmarks fully achieved in 2023/24*

	Average number of Gatsby Benchmarks fully achieved	Number of schools and colleges
Schools accredited through Quality in Careers Standard	6.5	538
All state-funded schools and colleges in England completing Compass	5.8	4,751

*Fig. 1 Percentage of schools and colleges achieving each Gatsby Benchmark in 2023/24*



<sup>2</sup> The Careers & Enterprise Company (2024). [Compass results for secondary schools and colleges in England with the Quality in Careers Standard 2023](#). London: The Careers & Enterprise Company.

Table 2. Average number of Gatsby Benchmarks achieved by institution type

	Schools accredited through Quality in Careers Standard		All state-funded schools and colleges in England completing Compass	
	<i>Average number of Gatsby Benchmarks</i>	<i>Number of institutions</i>	<i>Average number of Gatsby Benchmarks</i>	<i>Number of institutions</i>
Alternative provision	6.1	13	5.2	276
Mainstream	6.5	422	5.9	3,305
Post 16	6.5	51	5.9	266
SEND	6.7	52	5.9	901
<b>Total</b>	6.5	538	5.8	4,751