**School Leavers**

The number of school leavers in the borough has remained fairly constant between 2013/14 (2,546) and 2017/18 (2,534) although there was a small decline in school leaver numbers in 2014/15 (2,393).

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|  | **Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon** |
| **2013/14** | 2,546 |
| **2014/15** | 2,393 |
| **2015/16** | 2,609 |
| **2016/17** | 2,554 |
| **2017/18** | 2,534 |

*Table 1: Number of school leavers in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2013/14 to 2017/18. Source: Northern Ireland School Leavers Survey, Department of Education.*

*Figure 1: Number of school leavers in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2013/14 to 2017/18. Source: Northern Ireland School Leavers Survey, Department of Education.*

The school leavers survey provides information on the achievements of school leavers at both A-level and GCSE. The data refers to the home residence of pupils. In 2017/18 around half (49.0%) of school leavers in the borough achieved 2+ A-levels (or equivalent). This was below the Northern Ireland figures of 56.7%. The borough figure of 49.0% is the second lowest of the last five years and a 3.3 percentage point decrease on 2016/17.

In 2017/18 around four in five (79.9%) school leavers in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough achieved at least 5 GCSE’s grades A\* - C (or equivalent). This was lower than the Northern Ireland figure of 85.2% and a drop from the borough’s 81.4% in 2016/17, which was the highest level in the last five years.

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|  | **Achieved 2+ A-levels (or equivalent)** | **Achieved at least 5 GCSE’s grades A\* - C (or equivalent)** |
| **ABC** | **NI** | **ABC** | **NI** |
| **2013/14** | 48.7% | 55.7% | 76.3% | 78.6% |
| **2014/15** | 52.2% | 57.7% | 81.1% | 81.1% |
| **2015/16** | 49.1% | 57.3% | 78.2% | 81.7% |
| **2016/17** | 52.3% | 58.5% | 81.4% | 83.8% |
| **2017/18** | 49.0% | 56.7% | 79.9% | 85.2% |

*Table 2: School leaver achievements in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2013/14 to 2017/18. Source: Northern Ireland School Leavers Survey, Department of Education.*

 *Figure 2: School leavers achieving 2+ A-levels (or equivalent) in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2013/14 to 2017/18. Source: Northern Ireland School Leavers Survey, Department of Education.*

 *Figure 3: School leavers achieving at least 5 GCSE’s grades A\* - C (or equivalent) in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2013/14 to 2017/18. Source: Northern Ireland School Leavers Survey, Department of Education.*

GCSE achievement figures are also available for those that include GCSE English and GCSE Maths. These results can further be broken down by those school leavers who were entitled to free school meals (FSME) and those who were not entitled to free school meals (Non-FSME).

Non-FSME have higher percentages of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSE’s grades A\* - C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths over the last five years in both the borough and Northern Ireland overall. In 2017/18 in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough around three quarters (75.2%) of non-FSME school leavers achieved at least 5 GCSE’s grades A\* - C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths compared to 44.0% of FSME school leavers. These figures were both lower than Northern Ireland overall where achievement was 78.1% for non-FSME and 48.6% for FSME.

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|  | **Achieved at least 5 GCSE’s grades A\* - C (or equivalent)** **including GCSE English and GCSE Maths** |
| **Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon** | **Northern Ireland** |
| **Non-FSME** | **FSME** | **Overall** | **Non-FSME** | **FSME** | **Overall** |
| **2013/14** | 67.8% | 39.3% | 63.4% | 69.7% | 34.9% | 63.5% |
| **2014/15** | 74.9% | 43.4% | 68.1% | 73.7% | 41.3% | 66.0% |
| **2015/16** | 74.1% | 43.6% | 66.8% | 75.8% | 44.8% | 67.7% |
| **2016/17** | 76.8% | 47.2% | 70.1% | 77.4% | 47.5% | 69.6% |
| **2017/18** | 75.2% | 44.0% | 67.2% | 78.1% | 48.6% | 70.6% |

*Table 3: School leavers achieving at least 5 GCSE’s grades A\* - C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths by free school meal entitlement in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2013/14 to 2017/18. Source: Northern Ireland School Leavers Survey, Department of Education.*

*Figure 4: School leavers achieving at least 5 GCSE’s grades A\* - C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths by free school meal entitlement in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2013/14 to 2017/18. Source: Northern Ireland School Leavers Survey, Department of Education.*

In 2017/18, 40.9% of school leavers in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough continued on to Institutes of Further Education while 39.8% entered Higher Education Institutions. 10.3% of school leavers in the borough continued onto training in 2017/18 and 5.6% entered employment. The proportions have been broadly similar in the borough for the last five years.

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|  | **Higher Education** | **Further Education** | **Employment** | **Training** | **Unemployed / Unknown** |
| **2013/14** | 40.0% | 43.9% | 3.9% | 8.9% | 3.3% |
| **2014/15** | 37.6% | 45.6% | 5.9% | 7.5% | 3.3% |
| **2015/16** | 36.9% | 43.1% | 5.7% | 9.4% | 4.8% |
| **2016/17** | 39.2% | 41.0% | 6.5% | 9.2% | 4.1% |
| **2017/18** | 39.8% | 40.9% | 5.6% | 10.3% | 3.4% |

*Table 4: Destination of school leavers in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2013/14 to 2017/18. Source: Northern Ireland School Leavers Survey, Department of Education.*

 *Figure 5: Destination of school leavers in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2013/14 to 2017/18. Source: Northern Ireland School Leavers Survey, Department of Education.*

Unlike Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, in Northern Ireland overall the proportion of school leavers entering Higher Education Institutions is higher than those entering Institutes of Further Education (43.1% and 33.5% in 2017/18 respectively).

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|  | **Higher Education** | **Further Education** | **Employment** | **Training** | **Unemployed / Unknown** |
| **2013/14** | 41.8% | 35.4% | 6.9% | 10.4% | 5.5% |
| **2014/15** | 42.3% | 35.0% | 8.4% | 9.8% | 4.5% |
| **2015/16** | 42.9% | 34.4% | 8.9% | 9.7% | 4.2% |
| **2016/17** | 43.3% | 34.0% | 8.8% | 9.8% | 4.0% |
| **2017/18** | 43.1% | 33.5% | 9.7% | 9.9% | 3.8% |

*Table 5: Destination of school leavers in Northern Ireland 2013/14 to 2017/18. Source: Northern Ireland School Leavers Survey, Department of Education.*

Further information on school leavers can be found via the following link:

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/school-leavers>