

Progress 8 Settings for Current Y11 Pupils

The DfE have released 'shadow' Attainment 8 estimates based on the 2017 point scores. They have been published here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-4-shadow-measures>
4Matrix update 3.7.4.0 (March 2017) includes these estimates and you can apply them to any series using the Edit Series tool. 4Matrix will use these estimates as the default for all newly created series for current Y11 onwards. There is more information about this on pages 4 and 5.

Prior to the 'shadow' Attainment 8 data being released, we had received many support calls asking why Progress 8 for the current Y11 appeared to be much lower than expected. It is very important to remember that Attainment 8 estimates will change from one year to the next, and this must be considered when working with any figures calculated using the previous year's Attainment 8 estimates.

Attainment 8 estimates that are set for pupils is based on national data from the same cohort i.e. 2017 A8 estimates will be based on 2017 data. This means that the estimates for each cohort will not be published - or exist - until sometime after exam results day. When using any of the available estimates in 4Matrix with current cohorts, such as the current Y11, they should be treated with caution because it is likely that they will fluctuate.

There is a specific issue, however, that means that when using the 2015/16 estimates with current Y11s, schools will find that their Progress 8 score is much lower than expected. This is because the letter-to-number grade conversion is different for this year group. Apart from an A* which is worth more in 2017 than in 2016, most other grades are worth less - which means, for example, that a pupil with 8 C grades in current Y11 will have a lower Attainment 8 score than a 2016 Y11 pupil with 8 C grades (40 vs 50, not taking into account the new 9-1 grades in English and Maths).

Because the 2016 estimates are based on the points for that cohort, the Progress 8 calculation, which compares Attainment 8 estimates to Attainment 8 actual scores, will generally result in a lower than expected Progress 8 score. For most grades, the 2017 points scale used for the Attainment 8 actual scores is lower than that used for the 2016 estimates.

The impact of this will depend on the ability of the cohort – the more grades you have between B-F, the higher the impact. For any schools with a large number of A-A* grades, the impact may actually be seen the other way around, with Progress 8 artificially high.

The general advice from the DfE is that schools should not try to predict their Progress 8 score in advance. We believe that Progress 8 is too important an indicator of school performance to not investigate it and take appropriate management decisions. While it is not possible to predict or accurately calculate your Progress 8 score in advance, our Progress 8 tool can be used to explore and fully understand the parameters governing Progress 8, and to model the effect of future changes, provided schools remain aware of the caveats.

Progress 8 by Subject

There is no official method to calculate Subject Progress 8 scores; subject-level national data does not exist for Progress 8 and there is no official method for doing so. Due to demand, 4Matrix have provided a solution (first implemented in the main Progress 8 tool in summer 2016), but it should be made clear that our method is just one of several possible ways to calculate Subject Progress 8 scores and that the outcomes should be used for guidance only and form one element of a school's subject performance tracking.

A worked example of how to calculate a subject's Progress 8 score is included in the KS4 Guide which can be accessed via the Help tab in 4Matrix or downloaded from <http://www.4matrix.com/documentation>

How can I use 4Matrix to measure Y11?

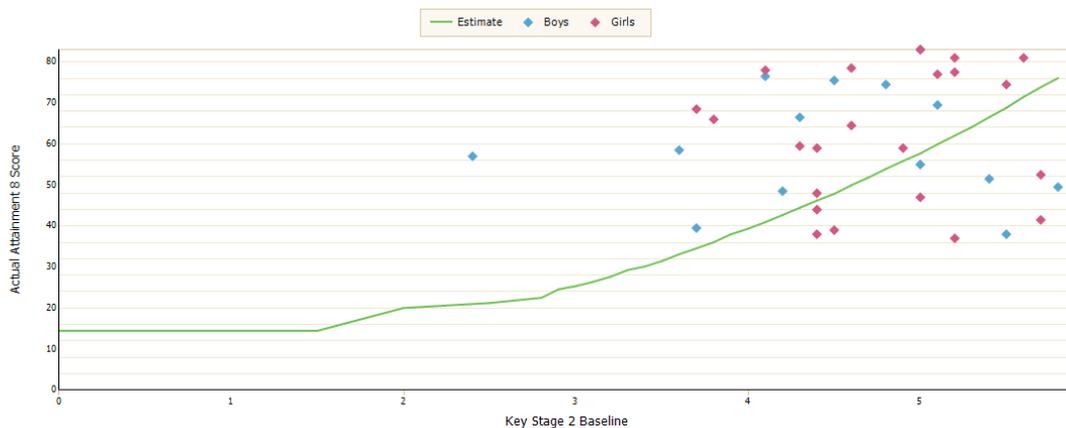
While it is not possible to predict or accurately calculate your Progress 8 score in advance, our Progress 8 and other tools can be used to explore and fully understand the parameters governing Progress 8 and the grades that go into making up your score, and to model the effect of future changes.

Here are few suggestions of ways you might choose to use 4Matrix to interrogate your Y11 data:

1. Look at Attainment 8

While we know that Attainment 8 estimates will change, 4Matrix allocates the correct Attainment 8 points to all 2017 included qualifications. This means that you can accurately track the changes in predicted attainment scores for your cohort.

Using the KS2 vs Attainment 8 chart will clearly show how students at different levels of KS2 prior attainment are doing compared to other students at the same level. This can be an excellent way of identifying students whose Attainment 8 score is predicted to be below that of other students in the school with similar prior attainment.



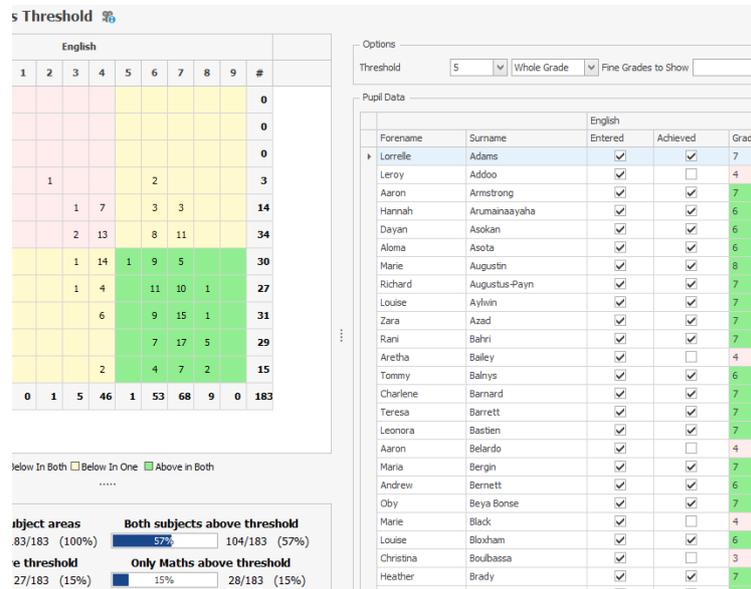
2. Look at Basket Slots Filled

The Progress 8 tool can show you where students are failing to fill their baskets for Progress 8, and which subjects are currently counting in each of the baskets. Number of slots filled in each basket was a major factor in the rise in Attainment 8 estimates between 2015-16 – identifying students with empty baskets is important to understanding how well aligned your school's curriculum is with the Progress 8 model.

ihs	eBac Subjects											KS2		Attainment8	
	Maths	Entries	Res Mat	French	Geog	German	History	Polish	SocAdd	SocCore	Spanish	EM Fine Points	Estimate	Actual	
7	3		B		A*				A*	A*		3.70	34.56	68.50	
6	2								C	C		4.50	47.85	39.00	
6	3			B					B	B		4.30	44.46	59.50	
4	3		A*			A*			B	B		4.60	49.96	64.50	
5	3		E						C	C		5.70	73.85	41.50	
4	3					C			C	C	B	5.70	73.85	52.50	
5	3		C						B	B		4.40	46.22	59.00	
6	3		C			A*			B	B		4.30	44.46	66.50	
8	3	B	C						A*	A*		4.10	40.95	76.50	
7	3			B	A*				A*	A*		5.20	62.03	77.50	
4	3		C						C	C		4.40	46.22	48.00	

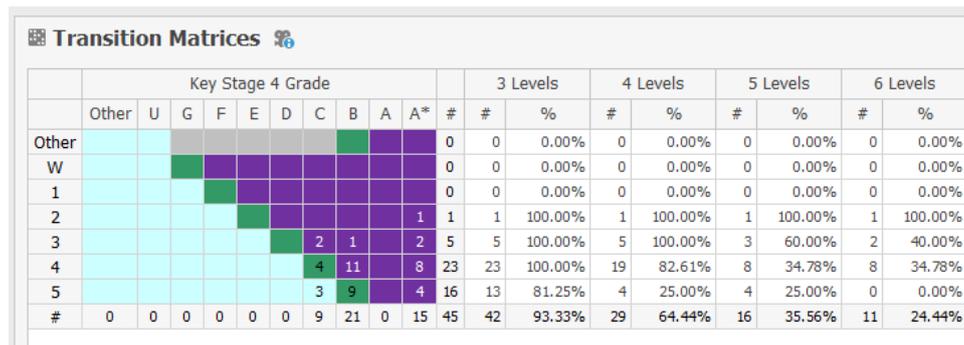
3. The En/Ma and Ebacc Tools

These tools allow you to analyse how your students are doing in each of these specific elements and to identify students who may benefit from intervention. Because these tools work on grades, and not on points, they will also allow you to compare performance from one series to the next and compare this year's Y11 against 2016.



4. Use Transition Matrices

Transition matrices are another useful way of looking at how students with different levels of prior attainment are doing in A*-G subjects – on a subject-specific basis. Again, the transition matrices are based on grades and not on points, so comparisons can usefully be made between the 2017 cohort and other year groups.



Comparing your predictions for Y11 against national transition matrices for each subject (found in the RaiseOnline library) will give you a good idea of how your students are performing compared to national figures.

5. Model different Progress 8 scenarios

The Progress 8 tool allows you to change the coefficients for any given series. This can be used to model best and worst case scenarios using accurate Attainment 8 points but adjusting the estimates up or down in a variety of ways to see how this would affect your school's score.

Using the New 2016 Estimates with 2017 Points

Following the release by the DfE of validated 2016 Attainment 8 estimates using 2017 points, 4Matrix (version 3.7.4.0) will use these estimates as the default for all newly created series for current Y11 onwards.

Existing series are unaffected but Progress 8 settings can be changed in Edit Series where required. You can do this by adjusting the Progress 8 setting to **2016 Validated (2017 Points)** in Edit Series.

Selected Series
 Actions ▾

Basic Details

Name:

Short Name: Y11 - (Auto) ▾ **Year:** 2010/2011

Display: GCSE Grades ▾ - Target ▾

Visibility: All Staff ▾ **Date:** 16/05/2011 ▾

Termly Position: [-] Aut Spr Sum [+]

Performance Calculations

Performance calculations will use the inclusion status from the year listed below.

Qualification Calc Engine: 2017 ▾

Customise Rules
Reset

Discounting: Use First Entry (All Subjects) ▾

English: * Entered for Either ▾

Progress 8*: 2016 Validated [Adjusted] ▾

- 2014 Validated
- 2015 Validated
- 2016 Un-Validated
- 2016 Un-Validated [Adjusted]
- 2016 Validated
- 2016 Validated [Adjusted]
- 2016 Validated [2017 Points]

Included Non C

Save Changes

This is useful in enabling schools to compare their current predictions of students' Attainment 8 scores to the 2016 Attainment 8 estimates. Both the Estimate and the Actual now use the 2017 point scores, unlike with the Validated 2016 estimates released earlier in 2017.

However, we do strongly advise schools to remain aware of the following issues:

- Comparison of the new 9-1 point scores for English and Maths against 2016 English/Maths estimates does NOT compare like-for-like. The estimates are based on attainment in the old A*-G graded exams.
- Schools must remember that Progress 8 cannot be calculated in advance. The changes in entry patterns, introduction of new GCSEs and other technical issues, as well as any changes in actual attainment, will mean that 2017 estimates will be different to 2016 even when taking away the question of the point scores.

Using 2016 estimates can certainly be a useful element in analysing Y11 performance against Progress 8 during the year. However, we advise schools to remain aware of the issues listed above, and to use this as one element in their analysis, alongside the other reports and tools available.

Progress 8 Settings Explained

Setting	Default setting for cohort (when creating new series)	Estimated A8 from Y11 cohort	Estimated A8 based on points	Actual Attainment (A8) Points			
				Reformed GCSEs	Legacy GCSEs		
				All Cohorts	2015/16 Y11	2016/17 Y11	2017/18 Y11
2014 Validated	2013/14 Y11	2014	8 - 1	9 - 1	8 - 1	8.5 - 1	8.5 - 1
2015 Validated	2014/15 Y11	2015	8 - 1	9 - 1	8 - 1	8.5 - 1	8.5 - 1
2016 Un-Validated ¹	none	2016	8 - 1	9 - 1	8 - 1	8.5 - 1	8.5 - 1
2016 Un-Validated ¹ [Adjusted] ²	none	2016	8 - 1	9 - 1	8 - 1	8 - 1	8 - 1
2016 Validated	2015/16 Y11	2016	8 - 1	9 - 1	8 - 1	8.5 - 1	8.5 - 1
2016 Validated [Adjusted] ²	none	2016	8 - 1	9 - 1	8 - 1	8 - 1	8 - 1
2016 Validated [2017 Points]	2016/17 Y11 onwards	2016	8.5 - 1 ³	9 - 1	8 - 1	8.5 - 1	8.5 - 1

¹ Un-validated denotes the provisional data published shortly after results day which is generally replaced with the validated data the following January.

² The Adjusted option sets legacy GCSEs (A*-G) to use the 8-1 point scale for all cohorts. Reformed GCSEs (9-1) are treated at face-value.

³ The highest grade available for the 2016 Y11 cohort based on the 2017 9-1 scale is A* worth 8.5 points.