

Spotlight report: education, skills and training

School readiness (early years)

In 2022/23, 70.4% of children achieved a good level of development at the end of their foundation stage (age 5). This has been steady for the last few years and is better than regional (68%) and national averages (67.2%).

The inequality gap between all children and the lowest attaining 20% is better in North Somerset (24.9%) than regional (28.8%) and national averages (32.4%) but has not improved in recent years.

Attainment (key stage one)

In 2021/22, 72.3% of key stage one children were reading to the expected standard, 59% were writing to the expected standard and 70% were at the expected standard in maths. These are similar results to regional and national averages and have remained steady over the last few years. North Somerset children scored higher for achievement of the expected standard for science (82%) than regional and national averages.

Attainment (key stage two)

In 2019, 64.7% of key stage two children met the expected standard for reading, writing and maths. This is similar to regional and national averages all of which have shown a steady improvement over the past few years.

In terms of progress between KS1 and KS2, North Somerset children show a worse gap than regional averages, but this has fluctuated in recent years.

Attainment (key stage four)

As of 2022/23, the attainment 8 measure of average achievement was slightly higher in North Somerset (48.7) to regional averages (46.1) and the same as the national average (46.2). Due to the pandemic, this is not comparable with previous years.

In terms of progress between KS2 and KS4 (progress 8 score) North Somerset children show a worse gap than regional averages and this has been true since 2016.

Attainment by age 19 (level 2)

In 2022, 84.84% of young people in North Somerset achieved a level 2 qualification by the age of 19. This compares to 81.6% regionally and 82.9% nationally.

The inequality gap for this measure between all young people and those eligible for free school meals is higher in North Somerset (28.3%) than regional (26.1%) and national averages (21.9%) and has gotten worse in recent years (it was 15.5% as of 2016).

Skills and training

For those aged 16 to 64 and as of 2022, 89% of North Somerset residents had at least a level 2 qualification, 68.7% have a level 3 qualification and 42.7% have a level 4 qualification. These percentages have increased slightly compared to 2020 data and are slightly below regional averages and for level 3 and 4 qualifications below national averages also.

