

SDR 213/2012

11<sup>th</sup> December 2012

## PUPILS LEAVING FULL-TIME EDUCATION WITH NO QUALIFICATIONS, 2011/12

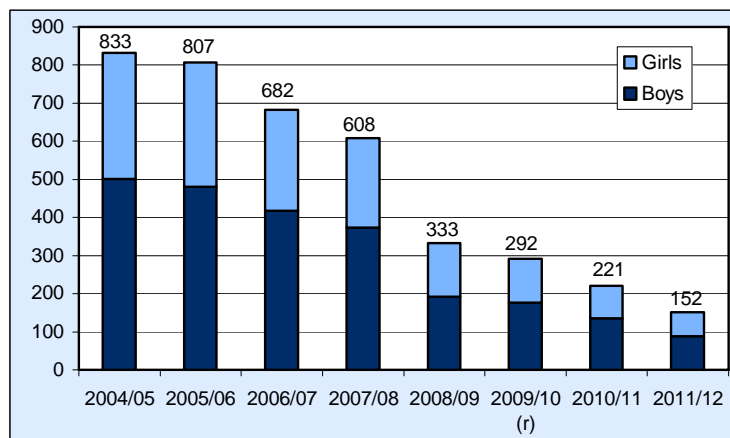
This Statistical First Release presents the results of an annual survey of schools in Wales which was established to monitor progress against Welsh Government performance indicator EDU/002. This survey reports on pupils in the final year of compulsory education (i.e. those aged 15 at the beginning of the academic year on 31/08/2011). For explanations of this indicator please see the Notes section. This includes information on the definitions of recognised qualifications and permitted pupil destinations.

### Key Results

The number of pupils leaving full time education without a recognised qualification continues to fall – 0.4 per cent of pupils aged 15 left full time education without a recognised qualification.

- In 2011/12, 152 15-year-olds left full time education without a recognised qualification. This is lower than the 2010/11 total of 221 (Table 1);
- Expressed as a percentage of the cohort 0.4 per cent of pupils left full time education without a recognised qualification in 2011/12, 0.2 percentage points lower than in 2010/11 (Table 1);
- A greater percentage of males than females left without a qualification: 0.5 per cent and 0.4 per cent respectively (Table 1).
- Gwynedd, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire reported no 15 year olds leaving full time education without a recognised qualification and Wrexham had the highest percentage with 1.1 per cent (Table 2).

**Chart 1: Number of pupils aged 15 leaving full time education without a recognised qualification**



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**Table 1: Number and percentage of pupils aged 15 leaving full time education without a recognised qualification, as defined by performance Indicator EDU/002 (a)**

	Number of pupils in cohort	Number reported as not achieving a recognised qualification	Number leaving full time education without a recognised qualification	Percentage of cohort leaving full time education without a recognised qualification
2004/05	38,495	1,415	833	2.2
2005/06	38,859	1,397	807	2.1
2006/07	39,576	1,194	682	1.7
2007/08	39,027	1,207	608	1.6
2008/09	37,607	870	333	0.9
2009/10	37,072	716	292	0.8
2010/11	36,088	628	221	0.6
2011/12	35,404	495	152	0.4
2011/12 (males)	18,181	299	88	0.5
2011/12 (females)	17,223	196	64	0.4

(a) Pupils aged 15 on 31 August, before the start of the academic year, in maintained, special and independent schools and Pupil Referral Units.

**Table 2: Pupils aged 15 leaving full-time education without a recognised qualification, as defined by performance indicator EDU/002, by LA, 2011/12 (a)(b)**

	Number of pupils in cohort	Number reported as not achieving a recognised qualification	Percentage of those not achieving a qualification whose destination was estimated	Number leaving full time education without a recognised qualification	Percentage of cohort leaving full time education without a recognised qualification
Isle of Anglesey	712	10	0	2	0.3
Gwynedd	1,273	11	0	0	0.0
Conwy	1,187	10	0	3	0.3
Denbighshire	1,219	20	0	10	0.8
Flintshire	1,730	8	0	3	0.2
Wrexham	1,286	15	0	14	1.1
Powys	1,472	17	0	3	0.2
Ceredigion	706	7	0	0	0.0
Pembrokeshire	1,334	19	0	2	0.1
Carmarthenshire	2,167	14	0	0	0.0
Swansea	2,548	29	0	10	0.4
Neath Port Talbot	1,706	10	0	3	0.2
Bridgend	1,528	9	0	4	0.3
The Vale of Glamorgan	1,600	29	0	2	0.1
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	2,880	48	0	26	0.9
Merthyr Tydfil	684	7	0	2	0.3
Caerphilly	2,155	30	0	9	0.4
Blaenau Gwent	784	24	0	5	0.6
Torfaen	1,317	15	0	3	0.2
Monmouthshire	879	4	0	1	0.1
Newport	1,652	9	0	3	0.2
Cardiff	3,506	54	0	32	0.9
Wales (c)	35,404	495	14	152	0.4

(a) Pupils registered on roll on census day in January 2012. Age as at 31 August 2011.

(b) Pupils from Non English or Welsh based educational systems have been removed from LA figures, but are included in the figures for Wales.

(c) Figures for local authorities include maintained secondary, special schools and Pupil Referral Units. Figures for Wales additionally include independent schools as well.

## Accessing the data electronically

The data behind the chart and tables in this release can be found on StatsWales (a free-to-use internet service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download tables). Please select “Schools and Teachers” at the navigation screen of the following site: <https://statswales.wales.gov.uk>



## Notes

### 1 Context

#### 1.1 Policy/Operational

Performance indicator EDU/002 is defined in the [National Performance Indicator Guidance for Wales 2010-11](#) published by the Local Government Data Unit. This indicator reports on pupils aged 15 on 31 August 2011 on roll on census day in January 2012 at maintained, special and independent schools and Pupil Referral Units.

#### 1.2 Related Publications

Related data for Northern Ireland and Scotland can be found at the links below. Note that the data produced by Northern Ireland are based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4, whereas we publish on the basis of pupils aged 15. Although the statistics are calculated on a slightly different basis the differences resulting from this are likely to be small. Comparisons cannot be made with Scotland because their examination system and qualifications are sufficiently different.

Developments are underway in Wales in moving towards producing indicators based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

For further information or advice on the constraints of international comparisons please e-mail [school.stats@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:school.stats@wales.gsi.gov.uk).

#### Northern Ireland

[Statistical Press Release: Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers 2010/11](#)

#### Scotland

[SQA Summary statistics for attainment, Leaver destinations and Free School Meals: 2010/11](#)

## 2 Data Source

The figures in this release are based on a survey sent to all secondary schools in October 2012.

The number of 15 year olds are based upon the pupil numbers derived from the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) for maintained schools and special schools, the STATS1 form for independent schools, and the Educated Other Than At School (EOTAS) data collection for pupil referral units.

## 3 Definitions

### 3.1 Coverage

321 schools had pupils on roll aged 15 on 31 August 2011 on roll on census day in January 2012, of which 179 were estimated to have pupils not achieving a recognised qualification. 294 schools returned forms, to either confirm or correct the estimations, which is a response rate of 92 per cent. For those schools that did not respond the number not achieving a recognised qualification was estimated using data from the Welsh Examinations Database, while their destinations were estimated by looking at past trends in the school and trends in similar institutions.

Response rates:

- For 2012, returns were estimated for:  
0 of the 220 maintained secondary schools in Wales (0%);  
0 of the 38 special schools in Wales (0%);  
0 of 20 pupil referral units in Wales (0%);  
27 of the 43 independent schools in Wales (63%).
- Response rates for all schools, 2005-2012:

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Number of schools with pupils aged 15 on roll	314	310	326	339 (r)	327 (r)	334	338	321
Number of schools who responded to the survey	286	297	312	324 (r)	322 (r)	328	277	294
Response rate (per cent)	91	96	96	96	98 (r)	98	82	92

The information in this release relates to all schools for Wales figures and to maintained secondary schools, special schools and pupil referral units for LA figures.

### 3.2 Definitions

'**Leaving education**' is defined as not remaining in school, not continuing elsewhere in full-time education and not continuing within work-based learning.

'**Work based learning**' is defined as a "...process of planned activities delivered in the work place which are specifically designed for developing the knowledge, skills and competencies relevant to particular occupations in the labour market, or generally relevant to effective participation in that market."

A '**recognised qualification**' is defined as any qualification achieved by the end of the 2011/12 academic year which is approved for pre-16 use. Qualifications approved by the Minister for Education and Skills can be found in the [Database of Approved Qualifications in Wales \(DAQW\)](#).

## 4 Symbols

(r) data revised from previous publications.

## 5 Key Quality Information

This section provides a summary of information on this output against five dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Timeliness and Punctuality, Accessibility and Clarity, and Comparability. It also covers specific issues relating to quality of 2012 data, and describes the quality management tool applied to this area of work. Between September and November 2010 we conducted a public consultation on our Education Statistics outputs, in which we asked for feedback on the quality of the outputs. A summary of responses has been published and is available here:

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/statistics/education/?lang=en>

## 5.1 Relevance

The statistics are used both within and outside the Welsh Government to monitor educational trends and as a baseline for further analysis of the underlying data. Some of the key users are:

- Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;
- The Department for Education in England;
- Other government departments;
- The Department for Education and Skills in the Welsh Government;
- Other areas of the Welsh Government;
- The research community;
- LAs and schools;
- Estyn, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education and Training in Wales;
- Wales Audit Office;
- Students, academics and universities;
- Individual citizens, private companies and the media.

These statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these are:

- General background and research;
- Inclusions in reports and briefings;
- Advice to Ministers;
- The all-Wales core data packs (the replacement for the National Pupil Database);
- LA and school comparisons and benchmarks;
- To inform the education policy decision-making process in Wales including school reorganisation;
- To inform ESTYN during school inspections;
- Contributes to the National Performance Indicators;
- To assist in research in educational attainment.

## 5.2 Accuracy

The data originates from schools but in the last few years local authorities have been involved in the collection of the data. Schools and local authorities have had an opportunity to assess the estimates for accuracy, and have supplied amended information where applicable.

## 5.3 Timeliness and Punctuality

Local authorities are given three weeks to ask their schools to sign off the data. They then validate and submit their returns to the Welsh Government.

## 5.4 Accessibility and Clarity

This Statistical First Release is pre-announced and then published on the Statistics section of the Welsh Government website. It is accompanied by more detailed tables on [StatsWales](#), a free to use service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download data.

## 5.5 Comparability

This release reports on the current National Performance Indicator EDU/002. NAWPI 2.7 was the indicator used before 2004. Historical data relating to NAWPI 2.7 is available on request.

Also see Section 1.2.