

ECYE39. SQA Attainment in Falkirk Secondary Schools (2020)

The Education, Children and Young People Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided information on the overall attainment of young people leaving Falkirk Council's secondary schools in 2019/20.

Curriculum for Excellence (CFE) comprised a broad general education up to the end of S3 followed by a senior phase of learning from S4 to S6. During the senior phase a young person built up a range of qualifications, following a curriculum pathway that best met their needs and interests.

For 2020 the absence of external assessment information, and the Ministerial direction to award estimated grades, had led to a different pattern of attainment than seen in previous years. The results for 2020 should not be directly compared to those in previous or future years. The 2020 Insight data therefore could not be used to directly demonstrate subject, school or authority statistical improvement compared with previous years. Care was also required when comparing attainment to the virtual comparator.

When ranked against other local authorities in Scotland, Falkirk ranked 23rd in Scotland for positive leaver destinations. There had been an improving trend over the past decade but in 2019/20 the percentage of school leavers entering a positive destination fell by 3%. At the same time the Scottish Average had fallen by 2%. The percentage of Falkirk leavers in a positive destination was in line with that of the VC, the RIC and the national average.

Compared to the previous year, 7% more school leavers from the 2019/20 cohort went into Further and Higher Education. However, there had been an 11% decrease in school leavers going straight into employment.

Decision

The Education, Children and Young People Executive:-

- (1) noted Falkirk Council secondary school leavers' results for 2019/20;**
- (2) noted the positive progress made by Falkirk Council pupils across a range of attainment measures, and**
- (3) requested that the Director of Children's Services continued to engage with schools on tracking and monitoring pupil's progress, and with partners in planning for positive school leaver destinations.**