

Guidance: CAT4-based Year 7 FFT Estimates

Overview - Year 7 Transition Service

As there were no KS2 tests taken this year, new year 7 cohorts have no performance information on entry into secondary school and therefore no KS4 estimates. To help inform the transition process between primary and secondary education, FFT has again teamed up with our assessment partner, GL Assessment, to offer our Year 7 Transition service. If schools use GL Assessment's CAT4 tests, and upload this baseline data to Aspire, they can now access pupil, subject, and school-based estimates for their year 7 cohort. Additionally, schools can enter CAT4 test outcomes for any current Year 8 students who took the test last year but whose results weren't submitted. This will generate GCSE estimates for these students.

How is CAT4 data used to generate year 7 estimates?

Year 7 FFT estimates are based on a large sample of 91,000 pupils who took Year 7 CAT tests in Autumn 2014/15 and GCSEs & other Key Stage 4 qualifications in 2018/19.

The CAT4 prior attainment inputs, used to generate our estimates, include:

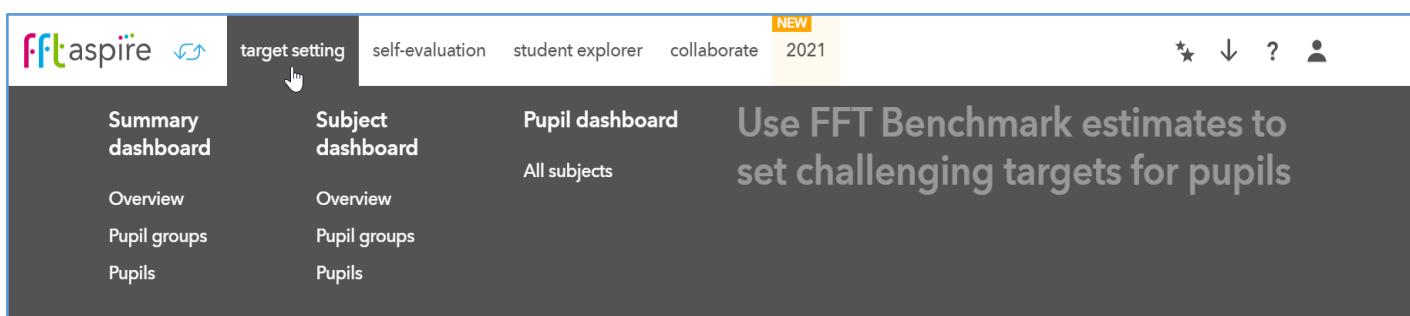
- CAT mean score (mean standard age score)
- CAT verbal score
- CAT non-verbal score
- CAT quantitative score
- CAT spatial score
- Gender
- Month of birth

Where can I find my year 7 estimates?

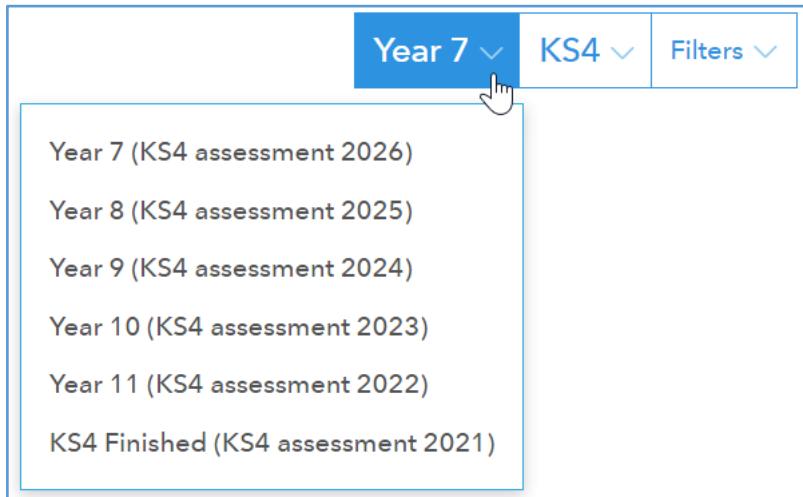
Log in to FFT Aspire. Use the menu at the top of the screen to access the interactive Target Setting dashboards. Each dashboard consists of a suite of reports:

- Summary dashboard: High-level school estimates
- Subject dashboard: Estimates for all subjects and each subject individually
- Pupil dashboard: Estimates for individual pupils

Simply click on the name of the report you wish to view.



When viewing any of the reports, ensure that you have selected the Year 7 cohort.



*Please note: Your school has to have taken part in the Year 7 Transition Service to view year 7 estimates.

What reports are available in FFT Aspire?

Summary dashboard: Overview [Click here to access the report](#)

This high-level aggregated view provides senior leaders with benchmarking information for headline indicators. It shows how similar pupils (similar prior attainment) have performed nationally in average, high and very high performing schools. Alongside these FFT benchmarks are 'My School' figures. These are estimates of the year 7 cohort's performance based on the performance of similar pupils in the school over the last 3 years (weighted to the most recent year).

This report is a good starting point for discussions regarding the most appropriate level of challenge for year 7s.

KS4 FFT Benchmark estimates Year 7 (KS4 assessment in 2026)					
Pupils	Average FFT 50	FFT Benchmark Estimates		Very high FFT 5	My School
		High FFT 20	Very high FFT 5		
Attainment 8 Overall Grade (9-1)	246	5.1	5.5	6.0	5.3
Attainment 8 English Grade (9-1)	246	5.2	5.7	5.9	5.4
Attainment 8 Maths Grade (9-1)	246	5.1	5.5	6.1	5.2
Attainment 8 Ebacc Grade (9-1)	246	5.2	5.7	6.1	5.5
Attainment 8 Open Grade (9-1)	246	5.3	5.5	6.0	5.3
Attainment 8 Ebacc Entries	246	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
Attainment 8 Open Entries	246	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
% 5+ GCSEs Grade (7-9)	246	20%	32%	44%	31%
% Grade 4+ GCSE English & Maths	246	71%	77%	82%	71%
% Grade 5+ GCSE English & Maths	246	49%	60%	69%	54%

Summary dashboard: Pupils [Click here to access the report](#)

This report provides pupil level estimates for Attainment 8 elements. This gives senior leaders and subject leaders insight into potential areas of strength and improvement. This, and the estimated Attainment 8 entries, support early conversations with subject leaders about curriculum planning for individual pupils. The report can also help to identify intervention cohorts so that support structures are put in place early on.

Pupil Details & context	Attainment CAT 4 Year 7 Results		Attainment 8 grade (9-1 scale) Based on Average challenge setting				Attainment 8 entries Estimated entries		% chance Estimated chances									
	HTML	Verbal	Non- verbal	Quant	Overall	English	Maths	Ebacc	Open	Ebacc	Open	Grade 5+ English & Maths	Grade 4+ English & Maths	5+ GCSEs Grade 7- 9				
Julia Aluotto 14/12/2008 Female	PP	EAL	SEN	ALERTS	H	131	119	122	7.4	7.3	7.8	7.8	7.1	2.9	3.0	97%	99%	74%
Royeta Aper 20/05/2009 Female	PP	EAL	SEN	ALERTS	M	108	105	91	4.8	5.1	4.6	5.0	4.9	2.9	2.9	32%	72%	5%
Styles Baltich 13/07/2009 Male	PP	EAL	SEN	ALERTS	M	101	106	98	4.8	5.0	4.8	4.9	4.9	2.9	2.9	44%	78%	5%

Subject dashboard: Overview [Click here to access the report](#)

The Overview report provides estimates of future subject performance, at the end of key stage 4. The benchmark estimates show how similar pupils have performed nationally, *in each subject*, in average, high and very high performing schools. Whilst 'own past progress' is an estimate of the year 7 cohort's performance, based on the performance of similar pupils in the school over the last 3 years (weighted to the most recent year).

By comparing the FFT benchmark estimates with 'own past progress', senior leaders and subject leaders are able to consider the most appropriate level of challenge for individual subjects. The 'aggregated targets' and 'difference to estimate' support them in quality assuring the target setting process, as well as highlighting the work that needs to be done in the classroom, to realise the targets set by the school.

Pupils	% Grade 4 (or higher)							
	Benchmark estimates				School targets			
	Average FFT 50	High FFT 20	Very high FFT 5	Own past progress	Aggregated target	% pupils with target	Difference to estimate (20)	
Art and Design	251	75%	82%	87%	83%	92%	94%	10%
Computing	251	56%	68%	78%	49%	67%	94%	-1%
English Language	251	74%	80%	84%	77%	81%	94%	1%

Subject dashboard: Pupil groups [Click here to access the report](#)

The Pupil groups report shows estimated future gaps between pupil groups (Own past progress column). If these gaps are to close by the end of key stage 4, the aggregated school targets must be set accordingly. Subject leaders can use this report to facilitate discussion with teachers, about what support each pupil group might need, to achieve their targets. The pupil group filters in the Pupils report (subject dashboard) will identify the pupils in each group.

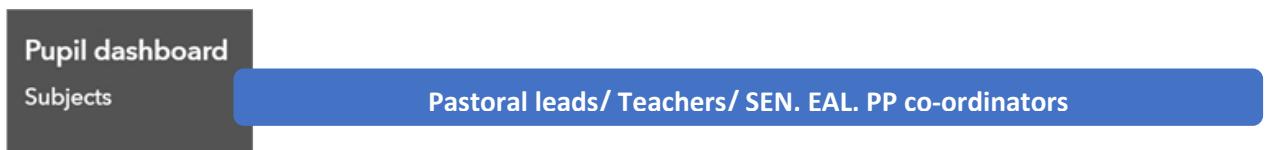
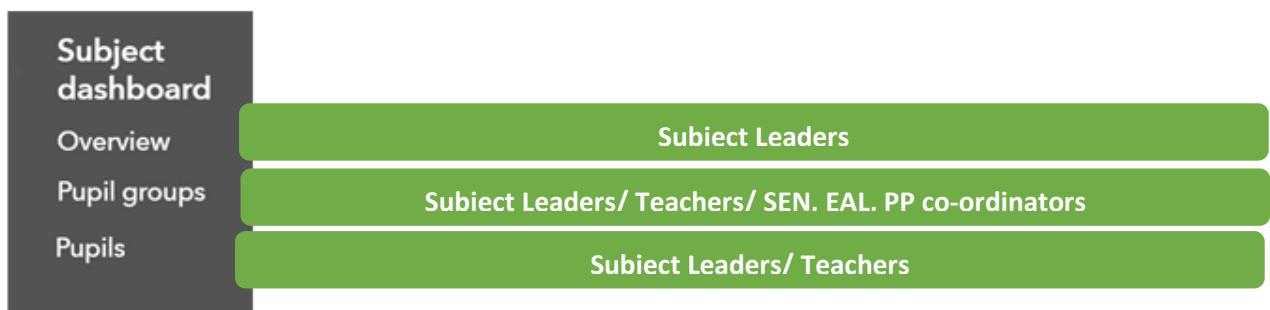
		% Grade 4 (or higher)							
		Benchmark estimates				School targets			
Pupils		Average FFT 50	High FFT 20	Very high FFT 5	Own past progress	Aggregated target	% pupils with target	Difference to estimate (20)	
Summary	All Pupils	251	77%	82%	88%	79%	83%	94%	1%
Gender	Male	144	76%	82%	87%	78%	82%	93%	0%
	Female	107	78%	83%	89%	80%	84%	95%	1%

Subject dashboard: Pupils [Click here to access the report](#)

Each subject will have a Pupils report, which teachers and subject leaders use, to generate their targets. It is important to use both the 'chances of each grade' and the FFT benchmark estimate to facilitate this process. The benchmark estimates, in the grey circles, are based on probabilities. They represent a 50% chance or higher of the pupil achieving that grade at the end of key stage 4. Challenge can be added by increasing the level of challenge from FFT50 to FFT20 or FFT5. All of the information on this report informs professional dialogue about pupils, between subject leaders and teachers. Subject leaders can use it to support them in moderating their teachers' judgements.

Pupil Details & context	Attainment CAT 4 Year 7 Results				FFT Benchmark Based on High challenge setting			
	HTML	Verbal	Non-verbal	Quant	Chance of each grade	Risk of lower grade	FFT 20 grade	Chance of higher grade
Truxton Dolinger 16/11/2008 Male	PP	EAL	SEN	M	93 90 104	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 3 7 18 23 22 15 7 4 1	28%	4+ 49%
Latisha Eberl 25/08/2009 Female	PP	EAL	SEN	M	101 91 95	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 4 12 19 23 21 12 5 3	36%	5 41%
Treanna Eidle 29/09/2008 Female	PP	EAL	SEN	M	96 85 99	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 2 8 17 22 23 18 6 3 1	49%	5- 28%

Who are the estimate reports useful for?



Frequently asked questions

What is the methodology for calculating HML (higher, middle, lower bands) using CAT4 scores?

We use the same bands as GL Assessment:

- High band: mean CAT score >111
- Middle band: mean CAT score >=89 to <=111
- Low band: mean CAT score <89

Spatial scores do not appear on the Pupils report in Target Setting. Is it used to calculate estimates?

The CAT spatial score is included in the CAT mean score.

Does the CAT4 standardised score correlate with the KS2 standardised score?

Yes, there is a good overall correlation between CATs and KS2. There will be differences for some pupils as the CAT tests are measuring different things to KS2 i.e. CAT4 is a cognitive abilities test rather than testing pupils on curriculum content.

Why are my CAT GCSE indicators from GL assessment different from FFT GCSE estimates (based on CAT4)?

GL's inputs are the mean score. FFT use all 4 elements (verbal, non-verbal, quantitative and spatial). You will tend to see differences more at subject level than overall because of the additional granularity of the inputs we are using. We also calculate probabilities for all 1-9 grades rather than providing a single grade. Three levels of challenge are provided for our estimates (average, high and very high).

Are there any plans to provide FFT estimates for non-GCSEs?

We are looking at this for future services. In the meantime, use a GCSE subject which most closely links to the non-GCSE equivalent

Will FFT estimates change this year as more CAT4 data is uploaded by schools?

The FFT estimates will stay the same as more schools upload this term. We have used a national dataset from 2019 (2019 results linked to previous CAT test data) for our estimates.

Will my year 7 estimates change, as the cohort move up through the school?

Each year progress can go up or down, and estimates will move in line with this, to reflect the changes nationally. We advise that schools revisit target setting each year. FFT estimates are currently based on 2019 KS4 outcomes.

Can individual students be uploaded at a later date if we have in year admissions?

A school can upload multiple times. Upload the file later in the term with any new pupils, making sure that you provide data for *all* pupils again

Can I add data for current Y8 students?

Yes, provided they completed the test when they were in Year 7. We are also developing 'dynamic estimates' which will allow schools to use different inputs (standardised tests / teacher assessments etc) to generate pupil estimates

Will we still be able to access the service after December for year 7's?

For this term, we have a final deadline of the 2nd December. If there is sufficient demand from schools we might review this.

Can I submit CAT4 data for other year groups?

We are developing 'dynamic estimates' which will allow schools to use different inputs (standardised tests / teacher assessments etc) to generate pupil estimates

Further guidance

- To sign up to one of our free '**Using CAT4 data in FFT Aspire**' webinars, visit the FFT Eventbrite page at <https://bit.ly/2OPpy6o>. Details of our full range of webinars can also be found on that page.
- To arrange a bespoke training session, looking at your own school's Target Setting reports, or any other module in FFT Aspire, contact training@fft.org.uk
- If you would like to speak with a Support Team member about CAT4 based year 7 estimates, or any other queries, then please contact us on 01446 776 262 (option 2), or you can send an email to support@fft.org.uk