

## 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 teamed up with our assessment partner, GL Assessment, to offer a new 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.

### How is CAT4 data used to generate year 7 estimates?

Year 7 FFT estimates are based on a large sample of 81,000 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:

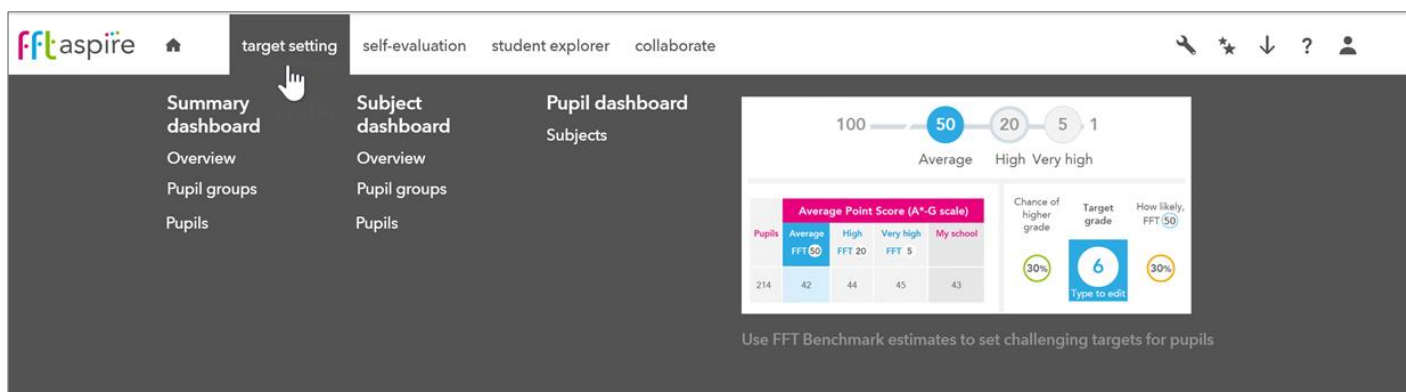
- CAT mean score (mean standard age score)
- CAT verbal score
- CAT non-verbal score
- CAT quantitative score
- Gender
- Month of birth

### Where can I find my year 7 estimates?

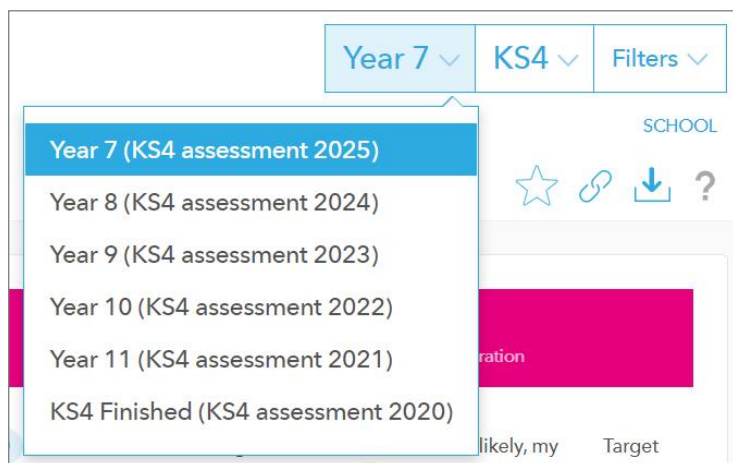
Log in to FFT Aspire. Use the menu at the top of the screen to access the interactive Target Setting dashboards. Each dashboard consists of a suite of reports:

- 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 2025)					
	Pupils	FFT Benchmark Estimates			
		Average FFT 50	High FFT 20	Very high FFT 5	My School
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 Key Stage 2 Results	Attainment 8 grade (9-1 scale) Based on Average challenge setting	Attainment 8 entries Estimated entries	% chance Estimated chances
	HML Verbal Non-verbal	Quant Overall English Maths Ebacc Open	Ebacc Open	Grade 5+ English & Maths Grade 4+ English & Maths 5+ GCSEs Grade 7-9
<b>Julia Aluotto</b> 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%
<b>Royeta Aper</b> 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%
<b>Styles Baltich</b> 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.

		% Grade 4 (or higher)						
Pupils		Benchmark estimates			Own past progress	School targets		
		Average FFT 50	High FFT 20	Very high FFT 5		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.

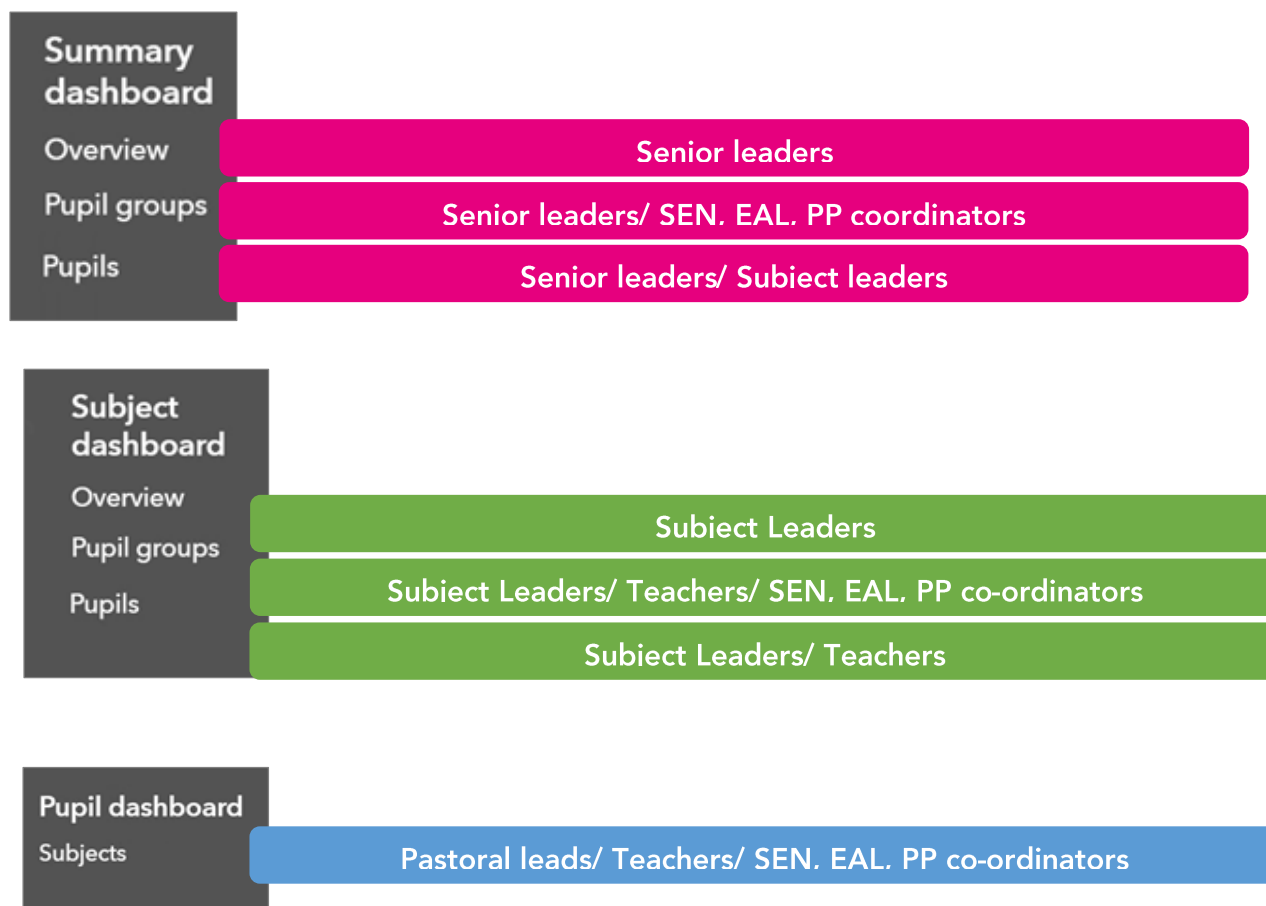
			% Grade 4 (or higher)						
			Benchmark estimates				School targets		
	Pupils		Average FFT 50	High FFT 20	Very high FFT 5	Own past progress	Aggregated target	% pupils with target	Difference to estimate (20)
Summary	All Pupils	251	77%	82%	88%	79%	83%	94%	1%
Gender	Male	144	76%	82%	87%	78%	82%	93%	0%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

Pupil Details & context	Attainment Key Stage 2 Results	FFT Benchmark Based on High challenge setting
	HML Verbal Non-verbal Quant	Chance of each grade Risk of lower grade FFT 20 grade Chance of higher grade
<b>Truxton Dolinger</b> 16/11/2008 Male PP EAL SEN ALERTS	M 93 90 104	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 3 7 18 23 22 15 7 4 1 Chance (%) 28% 4+ 49%
<b>Latisha Eberl</b> 25/08/2009 Female PP EAL SEN ALERTS	M 101 91 95	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 4 12 19 23 21 12 5 3 Chance (%) 36% 5 41%
<b>Treanna Eidle</b> 29/09/2008 Female PP EAL SEN ALERTS	M 96 85 99	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 2 8 17 22 23 18 6 3 1 Chance (%) 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 2021. 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.


**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

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

**Can I submit CAT4 data for other year groups?**

For this term, we have a final deadline of the 4<sup>th</sup> December. We will be launching Secondary Pupil Tracking in 2021. You will be able to submit CAT4 and other assessments (e.g. teacher assessments, standardised tests, mock exams) using that new module in Aspire (for year 7 and other year groups)



## 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/31MCVGY>. 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](mailto:training@fft.org.uk)
- If you would like to speak with a Support Team member about CAT-4 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](mailto:support@fft.org.uk)