Guidance

Target Setting for Secondary Schools

V3.0

November 2022

Overview

FFT's new Target Setting module represents the next generation Aspire – with multiple estimate options, on-demand estimate generation and new reports that make it easier than ever to set targets for your pupils. It provides you with a thorough analysis of your school, subject and pupil estimates & targets. For the first time, you can now also analyse estimate information by subject teaching groups! This guidance document will take you through all the key features and reports within your new Aspire Target Setting dashboards.

Important – before you get started

Please read through the guidance document before starting to use the system and in particular, the following points:

1. To access and make full use of Target Setting, your school will need an active Aspire Data Exchange connection and you will need to have accepted the latest data sharing agreement. For more information about connecting your MIS to FFT Aspire, visit page 4.
2. If anyone who requires access does not have an account, your FFT Administrator can set them up in Aspire. Full pupil level access will be required to view the Target Setting reports.
3. If any of your pupils are missing FFT estimates, your FFT Administrator can upload their CAT4 assessments now. For information & guidance, visit our help centre: https://help.fft.org.uk/articles/cat4-upload-guidance/.
4. Enter pupil targets for all subjects and teaching groups, to maximise your analysis.

Further help, support and feedback

If you need any help, support or advice then please contact our Support Team. We can take you through processes or help with any individual issues.

We have developed new Target Setting in consultation with schools and based on customer feedback. We're already planning additional features and improvements, which we'll roll out more frequently. If you have any feedback or suggestions, then please get in touch with our Support Team.

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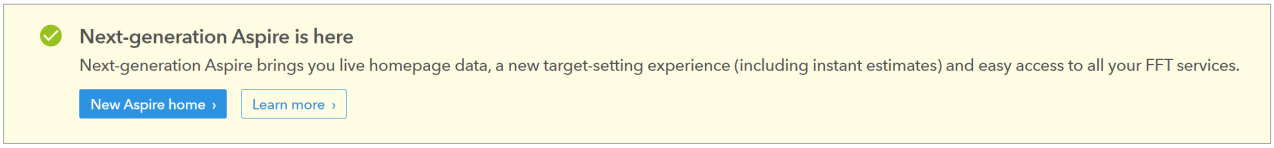
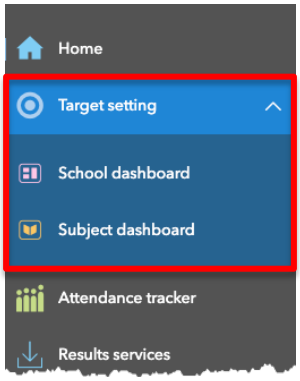
Accessing the reports

Log in to https://fftaspire.org using your regular Aspire account details. At the top of the homepage, you will see the following message. Click the **New Aspire home** to enter Next-generation Aspire:



New Navigation



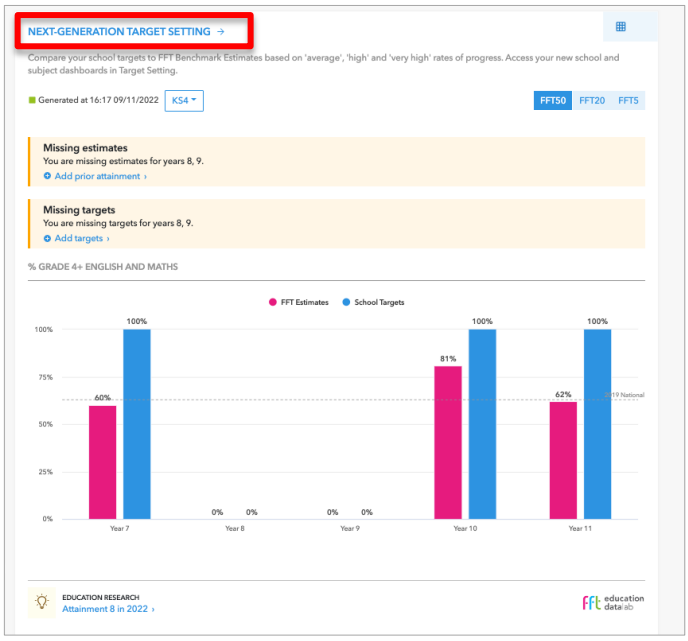
The Aspire navigation menu is now located on the left-hand side of the homepage. Hover over the menu or use the expand icon › to view it in full.

Click on **Target Setting** to collapse the sub menu. You are then able to select from your School or Subject dashboard.

New Home screen

Towards the right-hand side of the new homepage, you will see your school's **Targets and Estimates** tile. This provides a quick Target Setting overview for each year group, within key stage 4.

For one-click access straight through to your **Multiple Subject report**, click NEXT GENERATION TARGET SETTING from within the tile.



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Aspire Data Exchange (ADX) connection.

In order to access and make full use of the Target Setting reports, your school needs to have an active Aspire Data Exchange connection. This will connect your school's MIS to FFT Aspire.

If you're not connected, this status will be displayed towards the top right of the new Aspire homepage or within next-generation Target Setting. Your school FFT administrator would then need to set up Data Exchange.

For more information on how to set up, visit this article: https://help.fft.org.uk/articles/data-exchange-setup/.

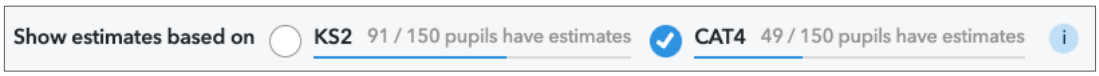
Target Setting Reporting

Prior Attainment models

With no national KS2 assessments in 2020 & 2021, your year 8 & 9 cohorts were left without prior attainment upon which to base estimates. Whilst some schools would have taken part in the CAT4 estimates service, we recognise that for others, there will be gaps. Where possible, we have given schools the opportunity to select from more than one prior attainment option:

Year group	Available prior attainment models
7	• **KS2 2022 SATs results (default)** • CAT4 data
8	• **CAT4 data (default)**
9	• **CAT4 data (default)**
10	• **KS2 data (default)** • CAT4 data
11	• **KS2 data (default)** • CAT4 data

The **default models** identified above for each year group are those that you will most likely have benchmarks estimates for. To switch between models, simply select from the **Show estimates based on** options, as seen below:



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For each estimate model, you can view the **number of pupils with estimates** out of the total number of pupils. This will support the decision about which model your school should use.

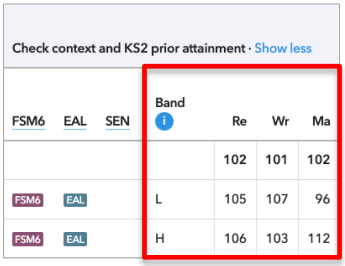
Missing prior attainment

If any pupils in years 7-11 are missing estimates, you can upload their CAT4 test results to Aspire and access estimates within 24 hours. For more information about how to upload CAT4 results, access the guidance here: https://help.fft.org.uk/articles/cat4-upload-guidance/.

Prior attainment bands

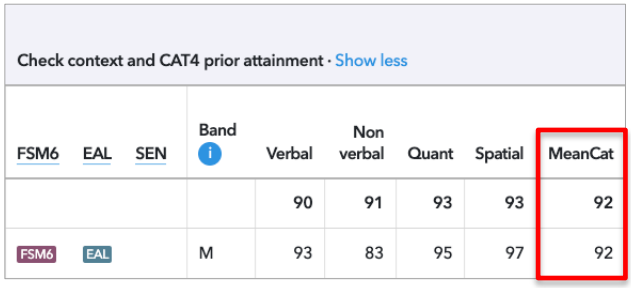
HML based on KS2 - Describes where a pupil's KS2 SATs results ranked nationally:

H	Highest third
M	Middle third
L	Lower third



HML based on CAT4 tests - FFT use the same HML bands as GL Assessment. These are based on a pupil's CAT mean score as follows:

Higher	>111
Middle	>=89 to <=111
Lower	<89.



Key data concepts

Aspire Target Setting is based around three pieces of data analysis: FFT Benchmarks, Targets and Difference.

FFT Benchmark estimates

These are aspirational end-of-key stage estimates based on the outcomes of schools ranked 50th, 20th or 5th for progress.

They are calculated from the results of similar pupils nationally at schools from the maintained sector ranked 50th, 20th or 5th and are calculated for any pupil with attainment in the previous key stage. The lower the rank, the higher the comparative level of challenge it would take for schools to achieve similar results.

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Our estimates are generated each day as you log in to FFT Aspire and click on your Target Setting reports. So, they are always up to date based on the students in school that day. When you first click on your target setting reports, you will see the system generating estimates for KS2 and CAT4, depending on what datasets are available for each year group.

For more information about FFT benchmarks and how they are calculated, read our blog from FFT Education Datalab here: https://ffteducationdatalab.org.uk/2022/11/a-quick-overview-of-fft-estimates-for-secondary-schools/

Targets

Targets are entered by your school into the **Multiple Subject report**, based on pupils' FFT benchmark estimates, the context information provided, as well as a teacher's own knowledge of the pupil. Targets can be set using + or – and should be based on the end of key stage 4.

Once targets have been entered for all pupils *and* saved, they will be aggregated up to cohort and pupil group level. Head over to the **Year Group by Subject report** and **Year group Overview report** to view how these aggregated targets compare to your school's benchmark estimates.

Difference

Difference to is simply the target subtracted from the benchmark estimate, giving an indication of how far above or below the benchmark a pupil, class or cohort could be if they achieve the targets set. At pupil level, differences are calculated on the basis of whole grades. E.g. A target of 5- subtracted from a benchmark estimate of 4+ would result in a difference of 1 grade.

Difference indicators

To support your analysis, the difference columns within the reports, may include the following colour indicators:

- The target is >=4 points/ percent **above** the benchmark estimate.
- The target is 2 to 3.9 points/ percent **above** the benchmark estimate.
- The target is 1 to 1.9 points/ percent **above** the benchmark estimate.
- The target is -1 to -1.9 points/ percent **below** the benchmark estimate.
- The target is -2 to -3.9 points/ percent **below** the benchmark estimate.
- The target is <= -4 points/ percent **below** the benchmark estimate.

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Filters

Each report is fully customisable through an extended range of filters. Filters can be used to analyse estimates for specific subjects & indicators, or to select particular year groups, teaching groups, and pupil groups. There are a number of filters that appear throughout the reports, each of which is detailed below:

Filter Category	Filter name	More information
SUBJECTS & INDICATORS	Key Stage	KS4 reports are currently available. KS5 will follow.
	Subjects	For the full list of GCSE subjects available, see Annex. We will extend the list of subjects available in the future.
	Indicator	For the full list of KS4 indicators available in Target Setting, see Annex.
YEARS & GROUPS	Year groups	Select all, individual or multiple year groups within the key stage (years 7-11)
	Teaching groups	These represent subject teaching groups in your school, as they appear in your school MIS. To reduce this list, filter by year group first.
PUPIL CONTEXT FILTERS	Gender	Male, Female
	FSM	FSM6, Not FSM6
	SEN	SEN Support, EHCP, Not SEND
	EAL	First Language not English, First Language English, No First Language Data
	Ethnicity	Extended DfE ethnicity groups are now available in Aspire: White, White Irish, Traveller of Irish heritage, Any other white background, Gypsy/ Roma, White & Black Caribbean, White & Black African, White & Asian, Any other mixed background, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Other Asian, Black Caribbean, Black African, Any other black background, Chinese, Any other ethnic group, Information not yet obtained
	Term of Birth	Autumn Term, spring Term, Summer Term
	Prior Attainment	Higher attainers, Middle attainers, Lower attainers (note: these groupings will depend on the estimate type selected)

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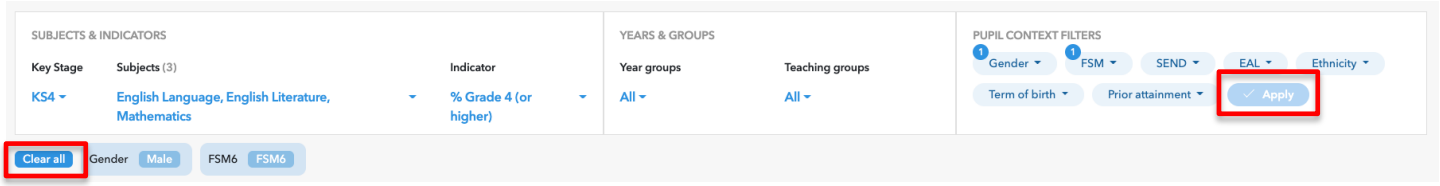
Note: Once the Pupil Context filter(s) have been selected, you must click the ✓ Apply button. Filters will be persisted within the report until removed by clicking on Clear all above the chart.

Alternatively, you can deselect one or more filters at a time, but must ensure that you **Apply** these changes within the Pupil Context filters box.



Sorting

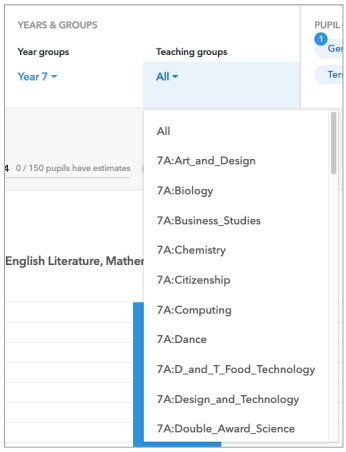
As well as filtering pupil groups, you are also able to sort them within the pupil tables, in order to bring those pupils with similar characteristics together (FSM6, EAL, SEN, gender, year group) and focus in on their estimates & targets. Any of the column headers, underlined blue, are sortable. Click once for ascending order and again for descending.

This functionality also applies to the year group tables, for both pupil characteristics (FSM6, EAL, SEN, gender, year group) but also the estimate and target columns. This means that year groups with higher proportions of pupils in a group can be moved to the top of the year list as well as those with the highest/ lowest estimates and targets. All of this helps schools to prioritise pupils or year groups who may benefit from greater support.

Teaching groups

Your teaching groups have been taken directly from your school's MIS and FFT have used exactly the same naming conventions, so that they can be instantly recognised.

In order for pupils to appear within your Target Setting reports, they must be assigned to a teaching group. If there are students that have not been assigned, this needs to be addressed within the school's MIS. Once rectified, we will process any changes nightly and they will appear in the reports the very next day. The same process must be followed if pupils are not in the correct teaching groups.



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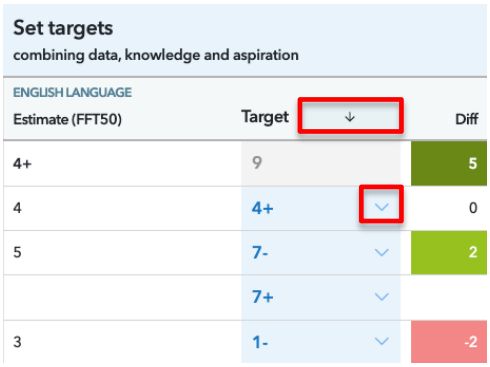
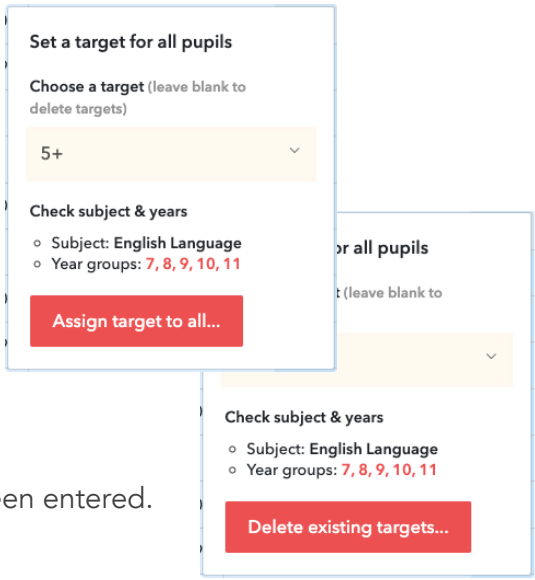
Setting targets and flood fill

Targets are set in the Multiple Subjects report and you can do this for up to 3 subjects at once. We advise that you filter by year group and teaching group first.



Within the **Set targets** section of the pupils table, you will see a **Target** column for each subject. Click on the drop-down arrows to select a target grade for each pupil. You can set targets for pupils irrespective of whether they have an FFT estimate. Alternatively, you can **flood fill** the targets at a specific grade by clicking on the downward arrow next to the column header.



You simply need to select the flood fill grade and click **Assign target to all**. If you are assigning the grade to multiple year groups, a prompt will appear asking if you are sure and you will need to tick the confirmation box in order to proceed. You will then be able to review and amend those targets that need to change.

Note: as the default, all pupils are selected in the pupils table. But you can untick pupils and only assign targets to those selected.

Important: Don't forget to click **Save targets** once they have all been entered.

Deleting targets

You can delete all targets using flood fill. Rather than selecting a grade, you just need to leave **Choose a target** blank and then click **Delete existing targets**. Again, if you're doing this for multiple year groups, you will be prompted to click the confirmation box before deleting.

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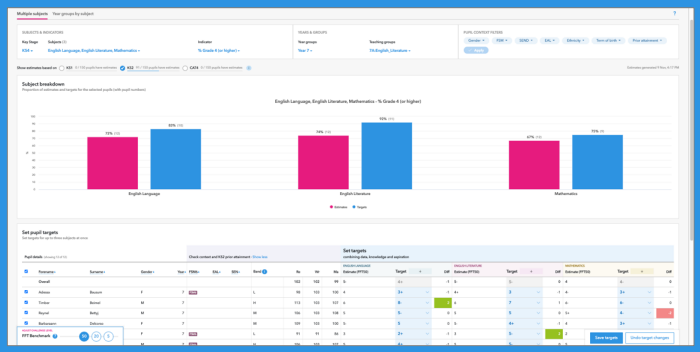
What reports are currently available?

Click the links under each report thumbnail to view their associated help guides.

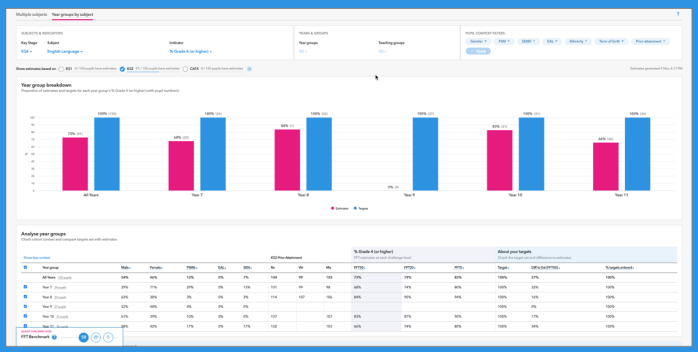
Subject dashboard

Multiple subjects report



https://help.fft.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/target-setting-multiple-subjects-ks4.pdf

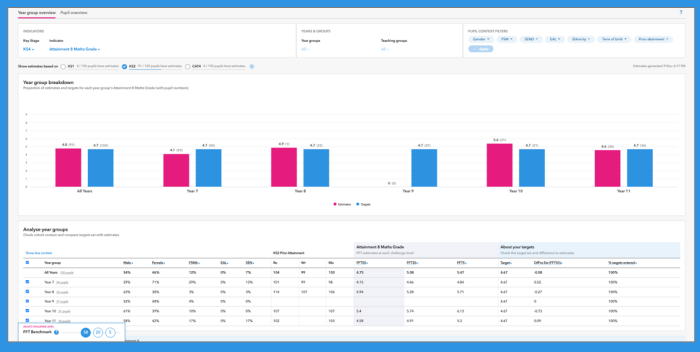
Year group by subject report



https://help.fft.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/target-setting-year-groups-by-subject-ks4.pdf

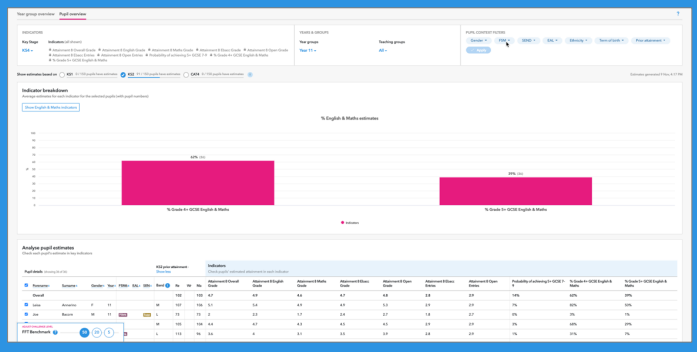
School dashboard

Year group overview report



https://help.fft.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/target-setting-year-group-overview-ks4.pdf

Pupil overview report



https://help.fft.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/target-setting-pupil-overview-ks4.pdf

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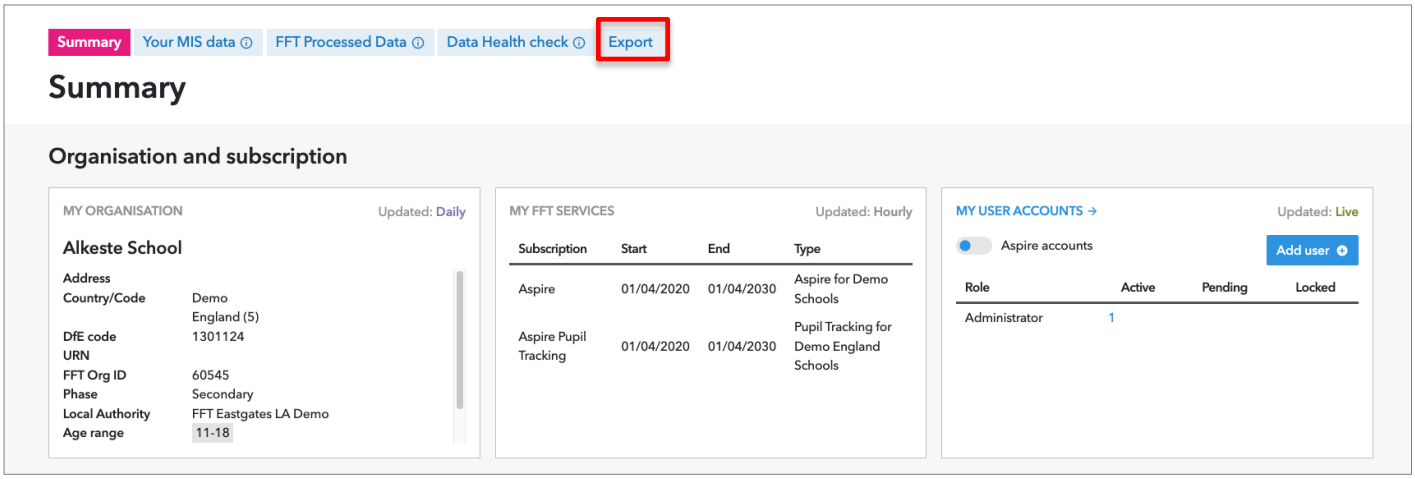
Exporting estimates & targets

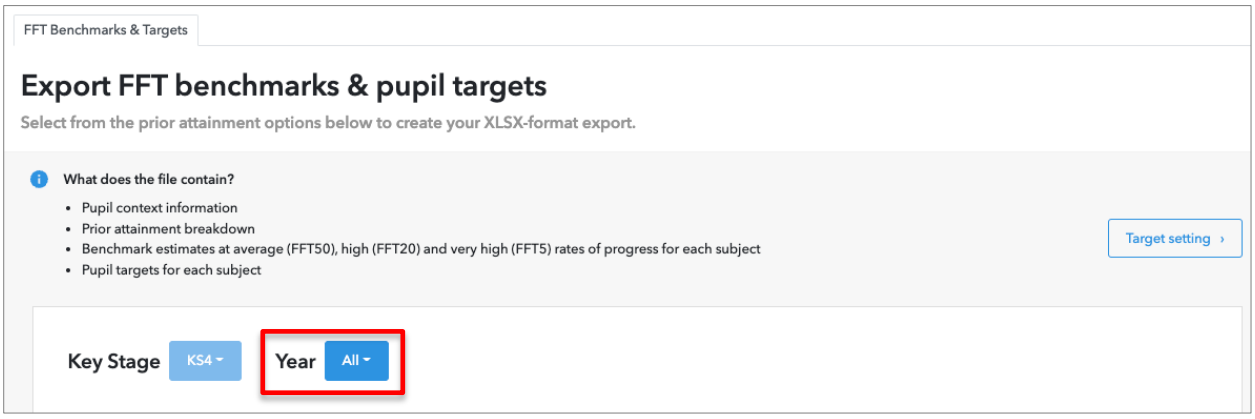
You may wish to export your pupil estimates & targets for all or individual year groups. This can be done by your school's FFT Administrator within new Data Manager: http://my.fft.org.uk/app/datamanager.

Follow the simple steps below:

1. Click the **Export** tab within Data Manager.



2. Select the year group(s) you would like the export estimates and targets for. You have the option to select 'all' or each individual year group.



3. Decide which model you would like your export to be based on – KS2 or CAT4 prior attainment. Compare the number of **pupils with estimates** to support your decision.

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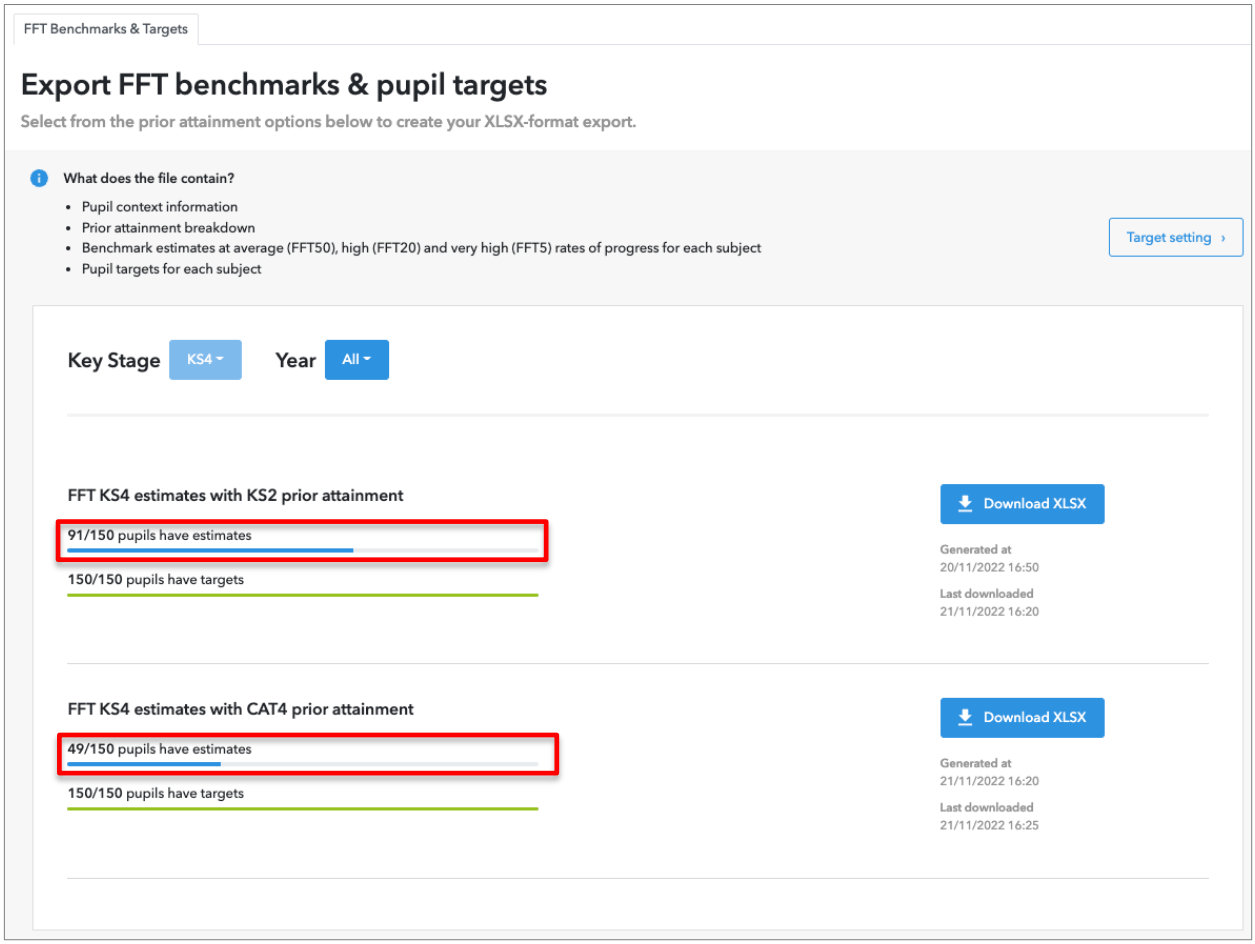

4. Click the **Download XLSX** button for the estimates you wish to export. Targets will remain the same no matter which you choose.

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Understanding the export

Your file will contain the following columns:

Note: Blue rows below only apply to the KS2-based estimates model, and green rows, to the estimates based on CAT4.

Columns	Description
School DfE	
UPN	Unique pupil number
Forename	
Date of Birth	
Gender	
NC Year	National Curriculum year
FSM6	Free School Meals in the last 6 years
EAL	English as an additional language
SEN	Special educational needs
PA Band – HML	Prior attainment band – Higher, Middle or lower
KS2 Reading	KS2 Reading prior attainment
KS2 Writing	KS2 Writing prior attainment
KS2 Maths	KS2 Maths prior attainment
KS2 GPS	KS2 GPS prior attainment
Verbal	Verbal CAT4 test result
Non-verbal	Non-verbal CAT4 test result
Quantitative	Quantitative CAT4 test result
Spatial	Spatial CAT4 test result
Meancat	Mean CAT score
Subject_FFT50_FG	Subject – FFT50 fine grade estimate
Subject_FFT50_G	Subject – FFT50 estimated grade
Subject_FFT20_FG	Subject – FFT20 fine grade estimate
Subject_FFT20_G	Subject – FFT20 estimated grade
Subject_FFT5_FG	Subject – FFT5 fine grade estimate
Subject_FFT5_G	Subject – FFT5 estimated grade
Subject_Target	Subject – Target grade

In a future release, we will give you the ability to export your Target Setting reports in PDF format. So, watch out for FFT emails on updated features to the system.

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Annex

KS4 Subjects (GCSE only)

The following 29 subjects are available within the Subject Dashboard reports:

Art & Design	Geography
Art & Design (Photography)	German
Biology	History
Business Studies	Mathematics
Chemistry	Media Studies
Citizenship	Music
Computer Studies/ Computing	Physical Education/ Sports Studies
Dance	Physics
Design & Technology	Psychology
Drama	Religious Studies
English Language	Science: Double Award
English Literature	Sociology
Film Studies	Spanish
Food Technology	Statistics
French	

* Note: We will look to extend the range of subjects in future releases

KS4 Indicators

The following indicators are available within new Target Setting:

Report	Indicator	Aggregated Targets available (*first release)
Summary Dashboard: **Year group overview** & **Pupil Overview**	Attainment 8 Overall Grade	N
	Attainment 8 English Grade	Y
	Attainment 8 Maths Grade	Y
	Attainment 8 Ebacc Grade	N
	Attainment 8 Open Grade	N
	Attainment 8 Ebacc Entries	N
	Attainment 8 Open Entries	N
	Probability of achieving 5+ GCSE 7-9	N
	% Grade 4+ GCSE English & Maths	Y
	% Grade 5+ GCSE English & Maths	Y
Subject Dashboard: **Multiple subject** & **Year group by subject**	Average Point Score (9-1 scale)	Y
	Average Grade (9-1 scale)	Y
	% Grade 4 (or higher)	Y
	% Grade 5 (or higher)	Y
	% Grade 6 (or higher)	Y
	% Grade 7 (or higher)	Y
	% Grade 8 (or higher)	Y

Further guidance

If you have any queries or would like to speak with a Support Team member about Aspire Target Setting, then please contact us on 01446 776 262 (option 2), or you can send an email to support@fft.org.uk

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