



Fundamental Insight Concepts

The purpose of this document is to provide users with an overview of the key terms required to access and begin to explore the Insight Benchmarking Tool. Links will be provided throughout the document to further resources that explore concepts in greater detail.

Insight is the Senior Phase benchmarking tool that allows schools/establishments, local authorities and regional improvement collaboratives to reflect on performance as part of their processes to improve through self-evaluation.

INSIGHT data sources

The data sources are (note that data is linked through a pupils' Scottish Candidate Number):

- data collected by Education Analytical Services, which provides pupil characteristics. This data is taken from the annual School and Pupil census – further information on Pupil Census [here](#),
- attainment data from SQA,
- leaver destination data from Skills Development Scotland, and
- data on awards from wider achievement providers. A list of recognised Wider Achievement awards can be found within [Deep Dive 2 – Wider Achievement in Insight](#)

Local and National data

The *National* dashboard measures consider cohorts' achievements on leaving school; these measures only include data for leavers and do not include information on pupils who remain at school. The *Local* dashboard measures are the stage-based versions of the benchmarking measures, and use data for the whole cohort in each stage (S4, S5 or S6). The local measures provide data on pupils' achievements during the senior phase, whether or not they are a leaver or remain at school.

The Virtual Comparator

Insight allows schools to compare their performance to the performance of a virtual comparator, made up of pupils from schools in other local authorities who have similar key demographic characteristics (sex, deprivation, additional support needs and stage of leaving / latest stage) to the pupils in your school. Each pupil within the cohort is matched to 10 virtual comparator pupils; the average attainment of a cohort can therefore be compared to the average attainment of a cohort 10 times the size. Further information can be found in the technical guide [here](#).

INSIGHT Tariff Points

A tariff score calculated based on a pupils best performance in each subject/award. Tariff points for **all** attainment and achievement included in Insight is dependent on each award's SCQF credit rating and SCQF credit points. Further information on the Insight Tariff, can be found in the [Tariff Note](#), with a tariff calculator [here](#).

The Insight Dashboard

Upon logging into Insight and agreeing to the protocol, you will land on the National Measures Dashboard for your establishment. The Dashboard includes the four dashboard measures. The default visualisations are:

- *Literacy & Numeracy* – the performance of your school in pupils’ attainment in literacy *and* numeracy at the point of exit from school. See [here](#) for more information.
- *Leaver Initial Destinations* –the performance of your school in the percentage of pupils going on to positive initial destinations. See [here](#) for more information.
- *Improving Attainment for All* - how well cohorts of young people with differing learning abilities from within your establishment compare against their Virtual Comparator peers with similar characteristics. The pupils are split into groups (Lowest 20%, Middle 60%, Highest 20% of attainment) as a percentage of total selected cohort. See [here](#) for more information.
- *Attainment in the Context of Deprivation* – a comparison of average attainment (in the context of total tariff points achieved per pupil) for pupils within each of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) deciles. See [here](#) for more information.

Note that Local Measure visualisations of the same dashboard measures are available through the “*Benchmarking*” menu.

Course attainment

Course attainment can be found through the “*Course*” menu. Initially you may wish to consider:

- *Whole School Course Summary* - an overview of performance across subjects at a particular level and at particular stages.
- Attainment in both *Graded courses* (i.e. SCQF Level 5 or above for the new National Qualifications) and including former Intermediate 1 and 2 and Standard Grade and *Ungraded courses* (i.e. SCQF Level 4 or below for the new National Awards)
- *Course comparator* - how performance in one course can be analysed *relative* to predicted performance in that course
- *Curricular Areas* - how well curricular areas are contributing to whole school attainment

How often is INSIGHT data updated?

Insight data is updated twice in a calendar year:

September update – the key feature of this update is the addition of cohort attainment data from the previous academic session. The most recent update (September 2021) includes attainment data from session 2021. This attainment data is used to update a significant number of Local measures.

February update – this update includes the Positive Destination data received for leavers from Skills Development Scotland. The February 2021 update includes the initial destinations information on session 19/20 leavers. The February Update will also reflect any new information following the SQA's post-administrative review of results from session 19/20. The new destinations and attainment data is used to update both National and Local measures as appropriate.

Establishment organisation and selection

Insight computes measures for the following establishment levels:

National → *Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RICs)* → *Local authorities* → *School*

Users have full access to their own establishments’ data; the Insight access model allows users to view data for all other establishments with minimal suppression. Learning Partnerships (see below) can be made between establishments to a facilitate further collaborative work.

Sharing INSIGHT data with other establishments

A *Learning Partner* is another school in Scotland with whom a school has agreed to share data to aid partnership working. Schools which are in learning partnerships will be able to access each other’s data in full without suppression.