



Department
for Education

28 September 2026

Dear Headteacher/Principal,

2026 Key Stage 4 (KS4) Autumn Checking Exercise

Provisional Publication details

Provisional 2026 KS4 performance data is due to be published at **9:30am on Thursday 15 October 2026**.

This publication will contain data based on the results of pupils at the end of KS4 studies in the 2025/26 academic year.

Early access to provisional publication data

You will be able to access your **provisional** data, in advance of publication, from **Monday 5 October 2026** on the [**KS4 Checking Exercise Portal**](#).

This information will be provided to you in advance, in confidence and on the condition that it is not released to other persons outside of your school or college before 9:30am on Thursday 15 October 2026.

KS4 Autumn Checking Exercise

The 2026 KS4 Autumn Checking Exercise will **open on Monday 5 October 2026 and close at 5:00pm on Friday 16 October 2026**.

You will be able to access the 2026 KS4 Autumn checking exercise here: [**KS4 Checking Exercise Portal**](#).

You are advised to access the portal on **'day one' of the checking exercise**. Evidence shows us that many schools and colleges wait until the last few days of a checking exercise to do this. If you need to contact the CYPMD Helpline about your pupil data, you need to do this **as soon as possible once the checking exercise has opened** in case you are required to take any action within the [**KS4 Checking Exercise Portal**](#) before **5:00pm on Friday 16 October 2026**.

We will write to you again on Monday 5 October 2026 when your **provisional** data is available to view and the 2026 KS4 Autumn checking exercise is live.

2026 KS4 June Checking Exercise Decisions

Decisions for pupil amendment requests made during the 2026 KS4 June checking exercise will be available to download from the 'Your pupil details' page of the [KS4 Checking Exercise Portal](#).

Supporting Information

We are making the [2026 KS4 Autumn Checking Exercise Guidance](#) available now to help you prepare in advance of the checking exercise opening.

To further assist schools and colleges with their participation in the 2026 KS4 Autumn checking exercise we shared the [2025 KS4 Autumn Checking Exercise Requests Summary](#) in April. This summarises the requests submitted during the 2025 KS4 Autumn Checking Exercise, alongside common reasons why some amendment requests could not be accepted.

Prior to the checking exercise opening, we will be sharing several guidance documents including a 'How to' guide and results enquiries guidance in the 'Further guidance' section of the [CYPMD Help Centre](#). These guidance documents will assist you with the completion of the checking exercise, checking your school or college data and if necessary, raising results enquiries.

We strongly recommend that you read these documents before requesting any pupil amendments or results enquiries during the 2026 KS4 Autumn checking exercise.

Changes Since 2025

There have been some changes since the 2025 KS4 Autumn checking exercise. A full explanation of these changes can be found in the [2026 KS4 Autumn Checking Exercise Guidance](#):

- you can now request to 'add' a pupil in the [KS4 Checking Exercise Portal](#) rather than via an online form
- the process for submitting your school or college's 'full return summary' has been improved. There are now additional prompts and clearer wording within the [KS4 Checking Exercise Portal](#) to provide further clarity on when and how a 'full return summary' should be submitted (if applicable). Please refer to the 2026 KS4 Autumn 'How to' guide for step-by-step instructions, the guide will be available on the [CYPMD Help Centre](#) prior to this checking exercise opening
- CSV files are now ordered alphabetically by surname. Pupils' results have also been separated into two CSV files for 'included pupils' and 'non included pupils'

CYPMD Portal

The [KS4 Checking Exercise Portal](#) will be accessed using a DfE Sign-in account. This is the same secure sign-in system used by many DfE services. Details on how to create an account can be found [here](#).

If you encounter any difficulties creating a DfE Sign-in account or have forgotten your login details, please go to this contact form: [DfE Sign-in \(education.gov.uk\)](#). The CYPMD Helpline cannot assist users with DfE Sign-in account creation or login queries.

CYPMD Help Centre

The [CYPMD Help Centre](#) is the main source of information for the CYPMD service and will be updated on a regular basis to provide important information for schools and colleges regarding the 2026 checking exercises and data shares.

In advance of each checking exercise or data share opening, the [CYPMD Help Centre](#) will have all the guidance your school or college will need to check your data. You should read all associated guidance that we provide in full **before** you check your school or college data, request any pupil amendments or submit any results enquiries.

We are asking you to check the [CYPMD Help Centre](#) regularly for updates and save this link to your favourites for future ease of access.

CYPMD Communications

To improve your experience of the CYPMD service you should consider the following advice:

- if you have not already done so, or if additional people within your school or college would like to receive future communications **you/they can sign-up** to receive CYPMD communications by [sending a message](#) via the [CYPMD Help Centre](#) and selecting 'option 1'
- further information about the 2026 checking exercises and data shares will be sent to all school and college headteachers and principals, **so your headteacher/principal contact details must be correct** on '[Get information about schools](#)' (GIAS)

In the meantime, if you have any queries, please visit the [CYPMD Help Centre](#).

Yours faithfully

Department for Education