



Census 2021 - Education Headline Findings

The 2021 Census provides information on the number of school children and students in full-time education, and for those residents aged 16 and above, details of their highest level of qualification. Summary headlines are set out below.

School children and full-time students

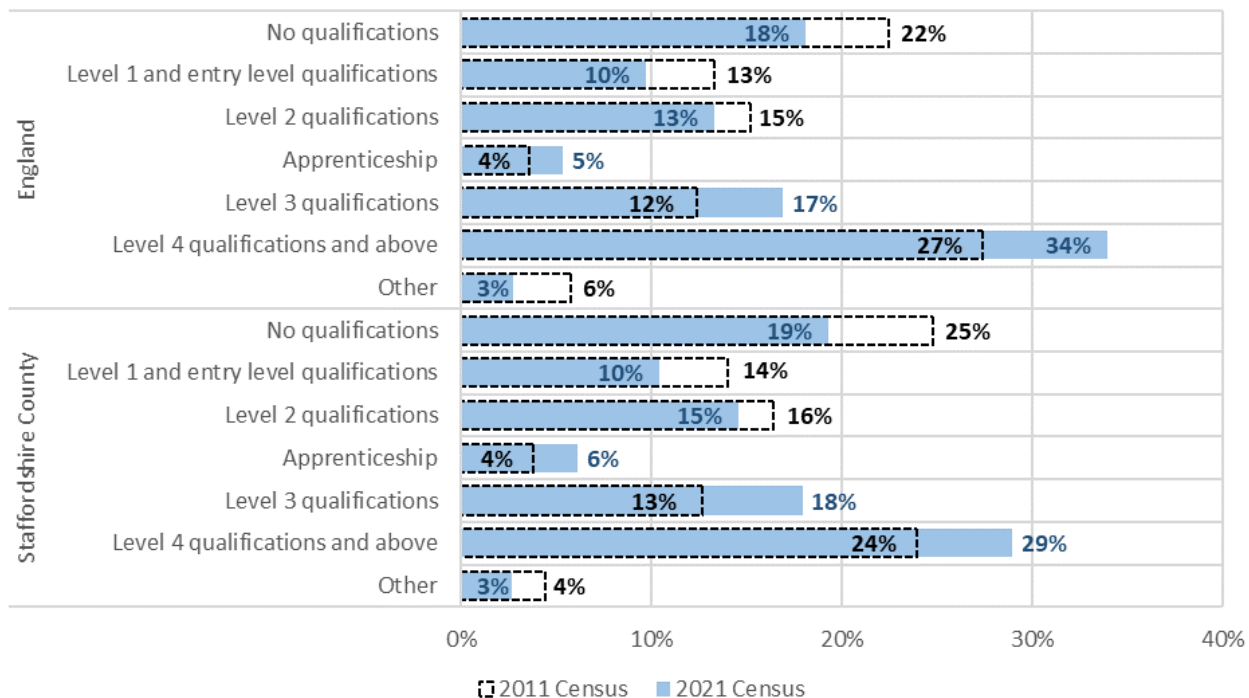
In 2021, as a proportion of residents aged 5 and over:

- Staffordshire had a lower proportion (17% or 145,276) of residents who were school children or full-time students than the England average (20%).
- Newcastle (20%) and East Staffordshire (19%) had the highest proportion of residents in school or full-time education and Staffordshire Moorlands (16%) and South Staffordshire (15%) the lowest.

Highest Level of Education

In the Census, residents aged 16 and over were asked to record any qualifications, including academic, vocational, and professional qualifications, they had achieved. This was in turn used to calculate their highest level of qualification¹ - Figure 1.

Figure 1 – Highest level of qualification achieved, 2011 and 2021



Of those residents aged 16 years and over:

- Since 2011 there has been a reduction in the proportion of residents with no qualifications and those whose highest level was the equivalent of GCSEs (Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications). However, increases can be seen in those obtaining Apprenticeships and qualifications equivalent to A Levels and above (Level 3 and Level 4 qualifications), which reflects the national picture.

- Diplomas, degrees or post graduate qualifications (Level 4 and above) were the most common highest level of qualification both in Staffordshire and nationally, with 29% (210,500) of Staffordshire's residents holding a qualification at this level - lower than the England average (34%) but an increase locally from 24% in 2011.
- Again, mirroring the national picture, the second most common category, accounting for almost one in five (140,207 or 19%) residents was no qualifications, higher than the England average (18%) but lower than the 25% in 2011.
- Apprenticeships were the highest level of qualification for 6% of residents (44,202); higher than the England average (5%) and an increase from 4% in 2011.
- Cannock Chase and Tamworth had the highest proportions of residents with no qualifications (both 22%) and the lowest with diploma/degree level qualifications (23% and 22%).
- Lichfield and Stafford had the lowest proportions of residents with no qualifications (17% and 16%) and the highest with diploma/degree level qualifications (34% and 35%).

Access to the ONS data tables can be found [here](#).

¹ Highest level of qualification was summarised into a number of categories:

- No qualifications: no formal qualifications
- Level 1: one to four GCSE passes (A* to C or 4 and above) or equivalent
- Level 2: five or more GCSE passes (A* to C or 4 and above) or equivalent
- Apprenticeships
- Level 3: two or more A Levels or equivalent
- Level 4 or above: Higher National Certificate or Diploma, Bachelor's degree or post-graduate qualifications
- Other qualifications, of unknown level