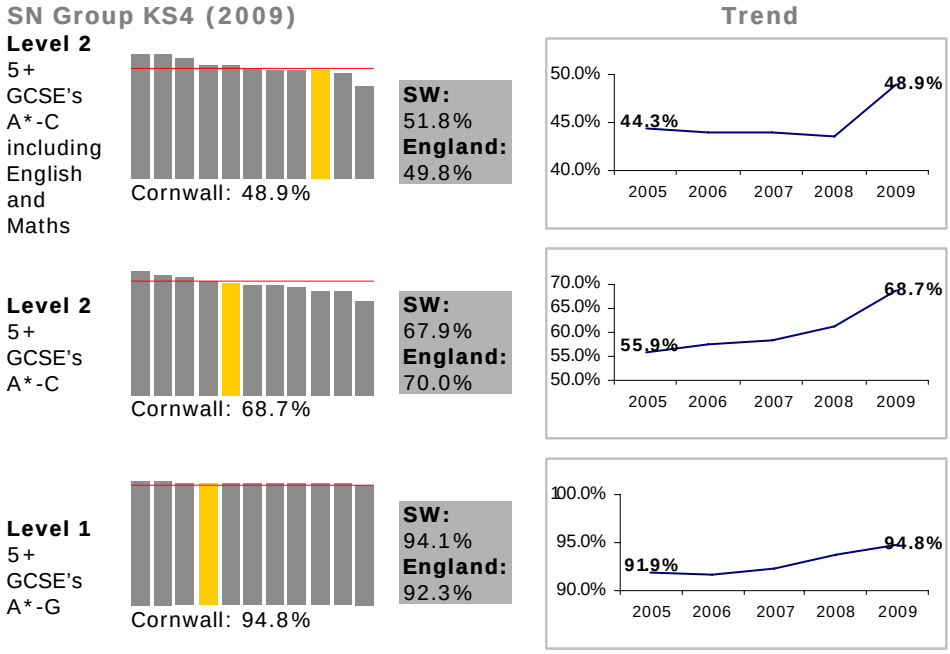
Attainment at secondary school

Key Stage 4 (2009)

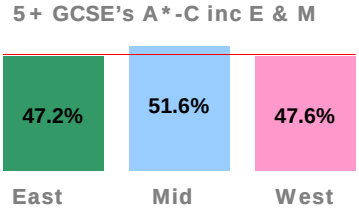
Equipping young people with the skills they need for employment and the ability to go on learning throughout their lives is vital for the future life chances of all children and young people. The link between social background, educational achievement and life chances is well documented and the14 – 19 Education and Skills White Paper sets out clear reforms to tackle these issues. The targets to be achieved by 2010 include:

- 90% of young people to achieve Level 2 (5 A* to C GCSE's equivalent) by the age of 19
- 75% to achieve level 3 qualifications by that age.

By the end of formal education (Key Stage 4, age 15/16) there are various measures that indicate levels of achievement. The *bar charts below left* show Cornwall's performance at Key Stage 4 (2009) in relation to their statistical neighbour group and the England average. The line charts below right show the trend from 2005 – 2009.



- The preferred government measure of achievement at Key Stage 4 is 5 or more GCSE's A*-C including English and Maths. Cornwall is marginally below the England average (less than 1 percentage point).
- There has been a significant increase in performance from 2008 where 43.5% of young people achieved 5+ GCSE's A*-C inc. English and Maths compared to 48.9% the following year.
- Whilst remaining broadly in line with the England average Cornwall is below the regional average by almost 3 percentage points and is in the lower half of its statistical neighbour group.



The bar chart left shows the proportion of children achieving 5 or more GCSE's A*-C including English and Maths in relation to the county average by delivery are. The chart shows that a greater proportion of young people in the Mid area achieve 5 or more GCSE's A*-C including English & Maths compared with the East & West.

Table 4.4 : **Percentage 5+ GCSE's A*-C including English and Maths**	
Network Area	**%**
Helston and Lizard	57.9%
Truro and Roseland	57.0%
Newquay	56.7%
St Agnes, Perranporth	54.1%
Falmouth and Penryn	54.0%
Wadebridge and Padstow	53.9%
St Ives and Hayle	52.8%
Launceston	51.7%
Callington	50.3%
Saltash and Torpoint	49.9%
Bude	49.3%
St Blazey, Fowey, Lostwithiel	47.9%
China Clay	47.5%
Penzance	45.5%
St Austell	44.3%
Liskeard and Looe	43.2%
Camelford	42.5%
Bodmin	37.1%
Camborne and Redruth	36.7%
Cornwall Average	**49%**
Source: Cornwall Knowledge Management Team	

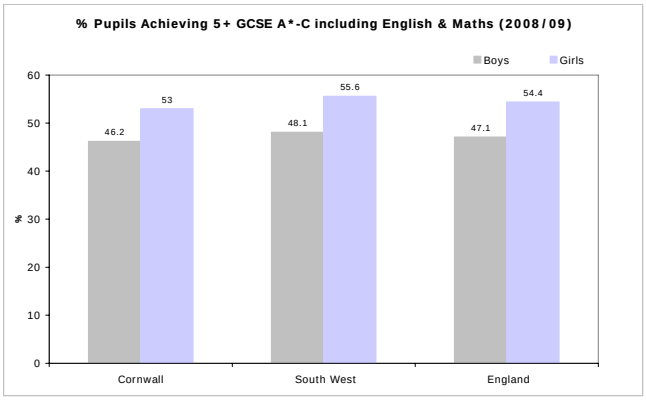
Table 4.4 shows the performance in 2009 by community network area. Those areas shaded in dark green are well above the county average. Consistent with performance at Key Stage 2 Helston and the Lizard network area is well above the county average whilst Camborne and Redruth is consistently below. The Liskeard and Looe network also shows below average performance for the proportion of children achieving Level 4+ in English and maths at Key Stage 2. School level results can be accessed from the online Performance Tables 2009.

Progress Measure Key Stage 2 – 4 (2009)

Contextual Value Added (CVA) offers a more statistically robust analysis of determining the progress by pupils in a school by taking into account factors that could potentially affect an individual pupils performance including gender, age, ethnicity and prior achievements. Table 4.5 shows the number of schools with a CVA significantly below or above the score of 1000. The trend shows a reduction in the number of schools with a CVA significantly above the average.

Table 4.5: **Contextual Value Added**			
Year	**Overall CVA**	**Schools Sig -**	**Schools Sig +**
2005	1010.4	0	15
2006	1006.2	3	13
2007	1006.3	2	13
2008	1004.5	2	7
2009		4	6
Source: KMT Cornwall Summary Report			

Attainment and Gender at Key Stage 4 (2009)



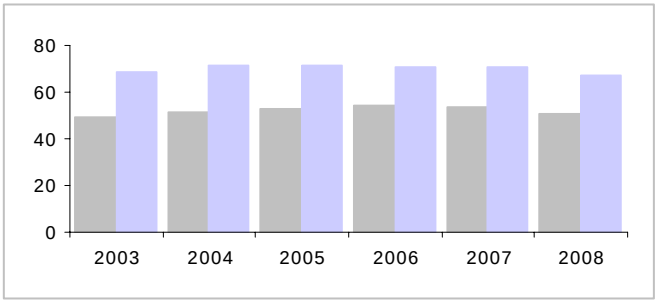
The bar chart left shows the proportion of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSE grade A*-C including English and Maths by gender in Cornwall, compared with regionally and national data for the 2008/09 academic year.

The percentage point gap in attainment is slightly smaller in Cornwall compared to the average attainment across the region and nationally.

Whilst the gap in overall attainment closes between girls and boys at the end of Key Stage 4, local data breaking down attainment by gender in English and Maths shows that girls continue to significantly outperform boys in English despite the gap closing completely in Maths. The below charts show the trends from 2003 to 2008 in each subject *(boys represented in grey, girls in purple).*

% Pupils achieving GCSE A*-C by Gender

English



Maths

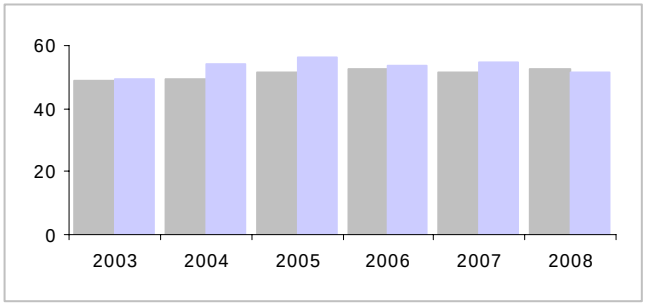


Table 4.6 below presents the figures broken down by gender for additional measures at the end of Key Stage 4:

Table 4.6 **Key Stage 4 Attainment by Gender (2009)**

	Cornwall %		SW %		England %	
	B	G	B	G	B	G
5+ A*-C	64.3	73.8	63.6	72.4	65.8	73.9
5+A*-G	93.5	96.0	92.7	95.5	92	95.1
2+ A*-C in Science	49.9	54.1	53	55.7	52.5	55.5

Source: KMT Cornwall Summary Report 2009

Key Stage 4 (2010)

Provisional data indicates that 53.2% of pupils in Cornwall achieved 5 or more GCSE's A*-C including English and Maths on 2010, this represents an increase of 4.5% from 2009. Validated data for Key Stage 4 will be available later in the year in addition to the national comparison.

Recommended Focus Areas *Secondary*

John Morey: Senior Manager Secondary School Improvement

Integration and more for less	➢ Support school partnerships, adding value to school-school/school-links ➢ Draw on school specialist status to augment school improvement capacity ➢ Commission improvement work against revised national frameworks/targets
Prevention and Early Intervention	➢ Extend effectiveness of Locality provision for learners ➢ Continue to develop School Improvement Partner roles
Transition services	➢ Support phase transition to improve rates of progress
Geographical Variations	➢ Target resources on areas of relative low attainment