

# League Tables

Education

What a published ranking of schools can and cannot tell a reader.

*Most of the variation between schools is not caused by the schools.*

## What drives position

Prior attainment of the intake

Socio-economic composition

Admissions and selection rules

Entry policy for which subjects are taken

Actual teaching quality: a smaller share

## Reading them safely

Prefer progress measures to raw attainment

Check the confidence interval, if published

Small cohorts move a school by chance alone

One year is noise; look at three

Compare like intakes, not like postcodes

Educational reference. Value-added measures reduce intake bias but do not remove it, and rankings remain unstable year to year.