

Attainment Gaps

Sociology

The explanations offered for group differences, sorted by where they locate the cause.

Home, school and structure. Most evidence supports a combination.

Outside school

Material: space, food, digital access.

Cultural: language and books at home.

Health, housing and school moves.

Parental time and its constraints.

Beware deficit framing of families.

Inside school

Labelling and expectation effects.

Setting placement and its stability.

Uneven access to experienced teachers.

Exclusions falling unequally by group.

Curriculum content and belonging.

Assessment format effects.

Educational reference. Gaps differ by group and subject; explanations that fit one gap often fail on another.