

Equity related to gender

- In all countries and economies that participated in PISA 2018, girls significantly outperformed boys in reading— by 30 score points on average across OECD countries. In the United Kingdom, the gender gap in reading (20 score points) was lower than the average gap. The gap was similar to that observed in 2009 (25 score points), as boys' performance improved and girls' performance remained stable over the period.
- In the United Kingdom, boys outperformed girls in mathematics by 12 score points, which is wider than the average gender gap in mathematics across OECD countries (5 score points). While girls slightly outperformed boys in science (by two score points) on average across OECD countries in PISA 2018, in the United Kingdom, girls and boys performed similarly in science.
- Amongst high-performing students in mathematics or science, about three in ten boys in the United Kingdom expects to work as an engineer or science professional at the age of 30, while only one in five girls expect to do so. About one in four high-performing girls expects to work in health-related professions, while only one in nine high-performing boys expects to do so. Only 7% of boys, and 1% of girls in the United Kingdom expect to work in ICT-related professions.