

Input: All SQA Qualifications

Total records	36,540,496
Total pupils	903,538
Total demographic keys	36,540,496
Total storage keys	36,540,496

Output: All SQA Qualifications*

Records that matched to the spine in SQAQ dataset	34,936,815	95.61%
Individuals matched to the spine in SQAQ dataset	860,217	95.21%

* These figures correspond to Unique Exact Matches (i.e., the stringent category of matches that is provided by default in research projects)

Degree of specificity for EAS datasets (*ADR-S Project Request*)

For Education datasets that are ADR-S ingested, **Exact / Safe / Minimum** are categories referring to the quality of the matches:

Unique Exact is the most stringent category, but with the highest precision. It only includes unique exact matches for sex, postcode, and date of birth (DEFAULT for projects). It excludes same sex twins.

Safe includes also high confidence matches: exact match for sex, exact match for date of birth, and partial match for postcode, this slightly increases the match rate, but also increases the risk of some incorrect matches

Minimum* matches are those which meet the minimal threshold: exact match for sex, exact match for postcode, and two out of three matches from the three fields of date of birth (dd/mm/yy) - this offers the highest match rate, but introduces many false positives.

Competing matches (e.g., same sex twins) are included only as minimum. NRS strongly advises against their inclusion because it introduces many duplicate matches, involving incorrect links, that in many cases will be impossible for the researcher to resolve.

Minimum

Safe

Unique Exact

If a match is **Exact**, it'll be included as **Safe** and **Minimum** too; if a match is **Safe**, it will also be considered **Minimum**

* *Minimum* matches have been called *Optimal* in the past. The name was changed as the word *Optimal* was misleading to represent the lowest quality of matches