

Parentkind

The National *Parent* Survey

For Wales



2025

Supported by

THE  **TIMES**
THE SUNDAY TIMES

865
parents in
Wales have
their say
on being
a parent in
2025

Introduction from Jason Elsom



views, hopes, struggles and fears. **This report presents the results from the 865 parents in Wales.**

This year we have sought parents' views on the additional learning needs crisis, crime and their children's safety, their own loneliness, their children's happiness, behaviour, discipline and much more.

Our aim is to provide clarity to policymakers, researchers and those supporting parents through the challenges they face. The National Parent Survey is a call to action for governments across the nations to help parents as they do the most important job any of us will ever do.

Children spend the vast majority of their childhood outside of a classroom, but we spend very little time talking about what happens beyond the school gates. That's where Parentkind comes in.

As the largest parent charity in the UK, we work with over 14,000 parent groups and almost 200,000 parent volunteers who support other parents and children, strengthen communities and build relationships - all while raising almost £140 million a year for schools. If a school has a parent group supporting it, it is likely they are part of the Parentkind community.

We are proud to present the UK's largest annual poll of parents, and our biggest yet. Our work with YouGov addresses many tough and highly topical matters facing parents in 2025. We look at their

We hope that you will find this report incredibly useful, but I encourage you to go further to explore the wealth of additional data from the YouGov survey available at www.nationalparentsurvey.com. The website includes the UK report, which is based on the views of 5,866 parents from across the four nations. There you can examine the views of parents by nation, region, type of school, family income, relationship status, age of child, phase of education, gender of parent or child and more.

At Parentkind, we never pit parents against teachers. There is no them and us - most teachers are parents themselves and know the difference they can make. We need to get serious about the role of parents in schools and their role in raising children, from birth right through to the teenage years. That's why we publish the National Parent Survey.

The data in the National Parent Survey should spark debate. It should make parents part of our conversation and part of the solution to many of the challenges facing society today.

Jason Elsom
Chief Executive, Parentkind

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Parents – anyone in a parenting role
FSM – Free School Meals
ALN - Additional Learning Needs

The numbers of children quoted in the report are based on a Wales school population of 475,519.
[Source: gov.wales/schools-census-results-january-2024-html]

The National Parent Survey 2025 Patrons

We are grateful to the following organisations for supporting this research:



What *parents* in Wales told us in 2025

4 in 10 parents worry about their child being a victim of knife crime 

1 in 5 teenagers are not *allowed* to go to the nearest park with friends

38,000 children feel *unsafe* at school

30% of parents have asked schools to *assess* their child for additional learning needs

Fewer than 1 in 5 parents with a child with ALN say all their child's needs are being met at school

1 in 7 parents with a child with ALN have *given up* their job to care for their child

100,000 children are *unhappy* at school

Fewer than half of parents say children are *well-behaved* at their child's school

100,000 children have been *bullied* at school in the last year

Fewer than 1 in 5 parents think preparing children to pass exams should be a *priority* for schools

Almost half of state school parents want a *shorter* summer holiday

More than 4 in 10 parents are worried about the *impact* of AI on their children's job opportunities

1 in 3 parents find parenting *difficult*

1 in 10 parents feel *lonely* every day 

A third of dads say being a parent is good for their mental health compared to fewer than 1 in 5 mums

Half of working parents rely on grandparents for *childcare*

5% of children *share a bedroom* with an adult because of a lack of space at home

Fewer than half of children make their bed *regularly*

1 in 4 parents find it *difficult* to talk to their child about sex

4 in 10 parents think their child would have a *better* standard of living abroad when they grow up

4 in 10 parents worry they set a *bad example* for their children by using their phone too much

More than a third of parents said school *catchment* was a factor when deciding where to live 

More than 1 in 5 16 to 18-year-olds have had a *private tutor* for maths

A third of children are *required* to have a laptop or tablet by their school 

Nearly 9 in 10 parents think schools should *inform* them if their child has changed gender at school as long as there are no safety concerns

Less than a third of parents are *always* informed of the content of RSE lessons in advance



Crime and safety

Photography: istock.com/Monkeybusinessimages

Parents’ fears for their children’s safety

Fears for children's safety

? How often, if at all, do you worry about your child being a victim of the following?

	Worry regularly	Worry sometimes	Worry rarely	Worry never
Physical assault	15%	37%	29%	18%
Knife crime	12%	28%	26%	33%
Sexual assault	14%	30%	27%	27%
Grooming	14%	33%	26%	26%
Being involved in gangs	6%	13%	24%	56%
Gender discrimination	5%	12%	19%	61%
Racial discrimination	5%	6%	11%	76%

Base: All parents (865)











Photography: istock.com/Anchiy

Giving children independence

Children's independence

? Which, if any, of the following do you allow your child to do?

	All parents
 Play in a friend's garden	58%
 Go to the nearest park with friends	51%
 Be at home on their own	45%
 Stay overnight at a friend's house	49%
 Go shopping by themselves	33%
 Go into the nearest town with friends	37%
 Travel on public transport on their own	32%
 None of these	24%

Base: All parents (865)



Photography: istock.com/Daisy-Daisy

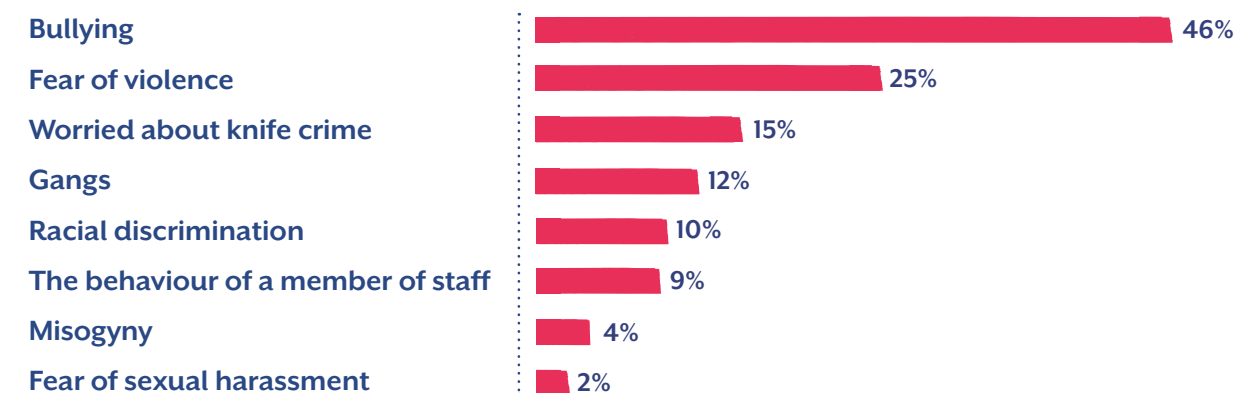
Safety at school

Feeling unsafe at school

? To the best of your knowledge, does your child feel unsafe at school?



? If yes, which if any, of the following explain why they feel this way?



Base: All parents (865), parents whose child feels unsafe (79)



Photography: istock.com/SolStock

Photography: istock.com/izusek



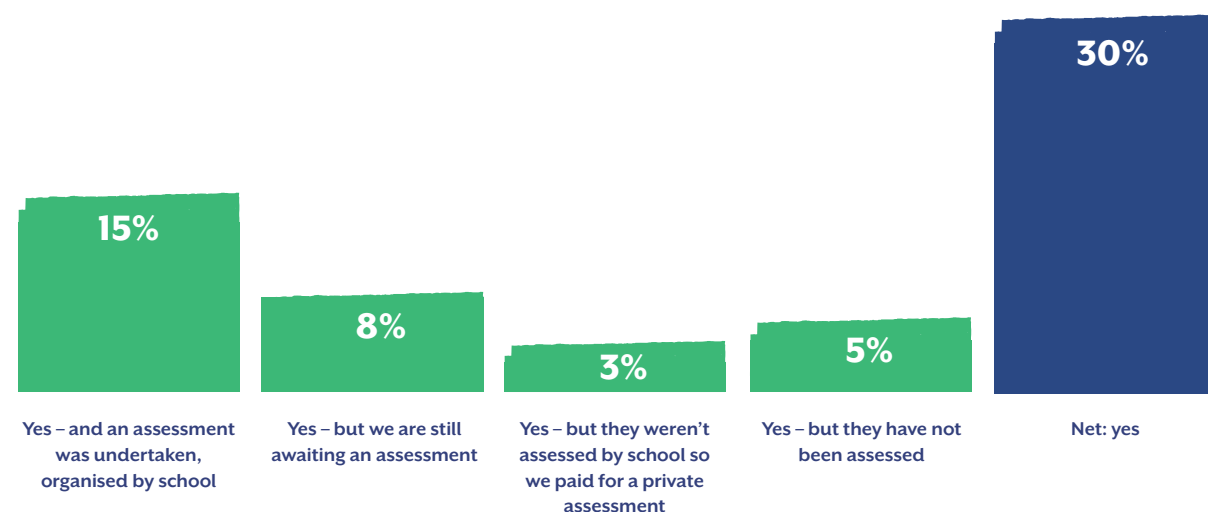
Additional learning *needs*

Photography: iStock.com/SolStock

Assessments for additional learning needs

Requests for an assessment for additional learning needs

? Have you ever asked your child's school (current or previous) to assess your child for possible additional learning needs?



Base: All parents (865)

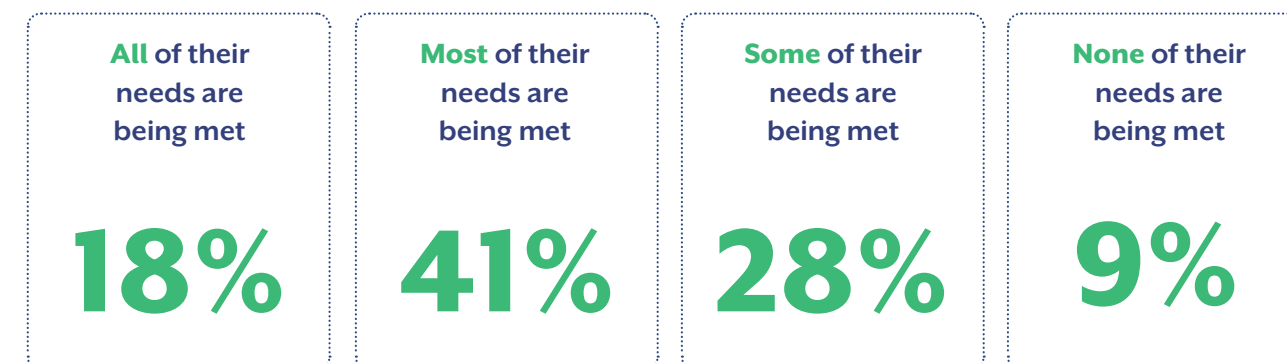


Photography: istock.com/sturti

Provision of support

Additional learning needs in the classroom

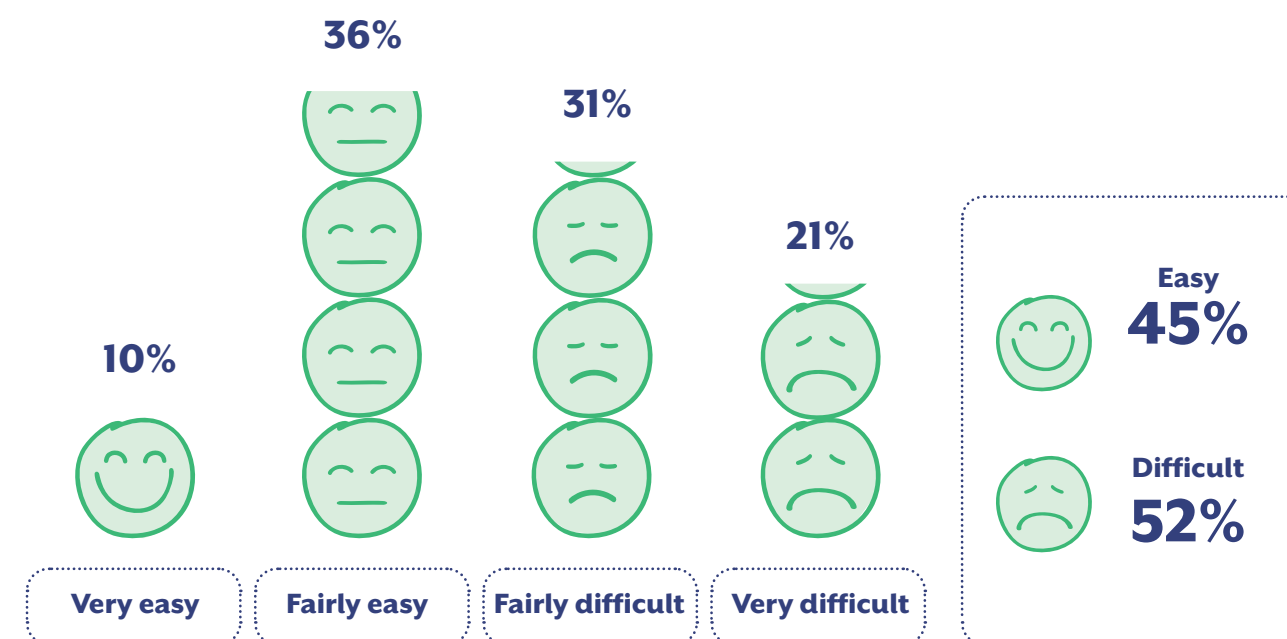
? To what extent, if at all, are your child's additional learning needs being met at school?



Base: All parents whose child has ALN/is discussing ALN (173)

Ease of getting additional learning needs support

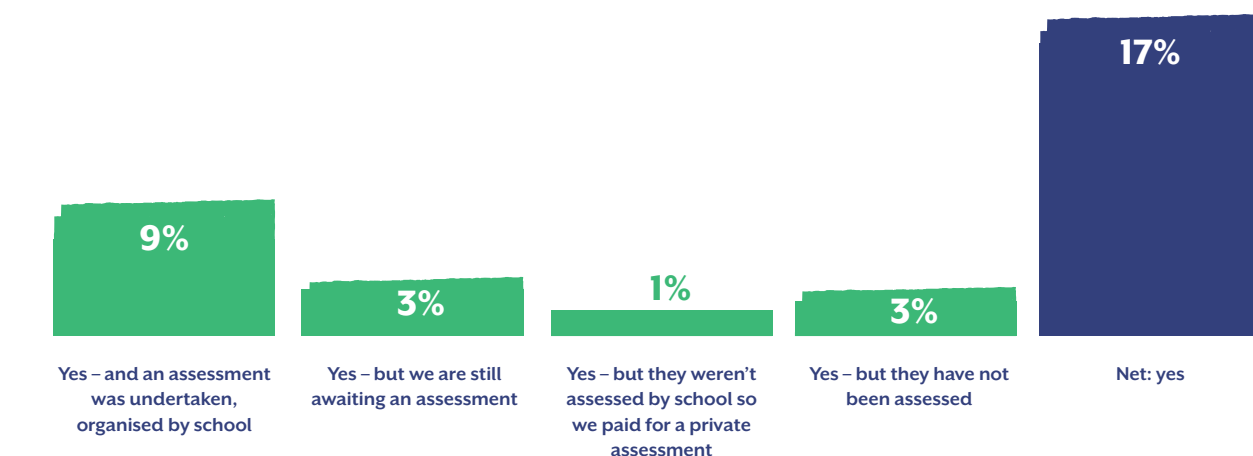
? How easy or difficult has it been for your child to receive the additional learning needs support they need to learn effectively at school?



Base: All parents whose child has ALN/is discussing ALN (173)

Requests for an assessment for extra time in exams

? Have you ever asked your child's school (current or previous) to assess your child for additional time in exams?



Base: All parents (865)

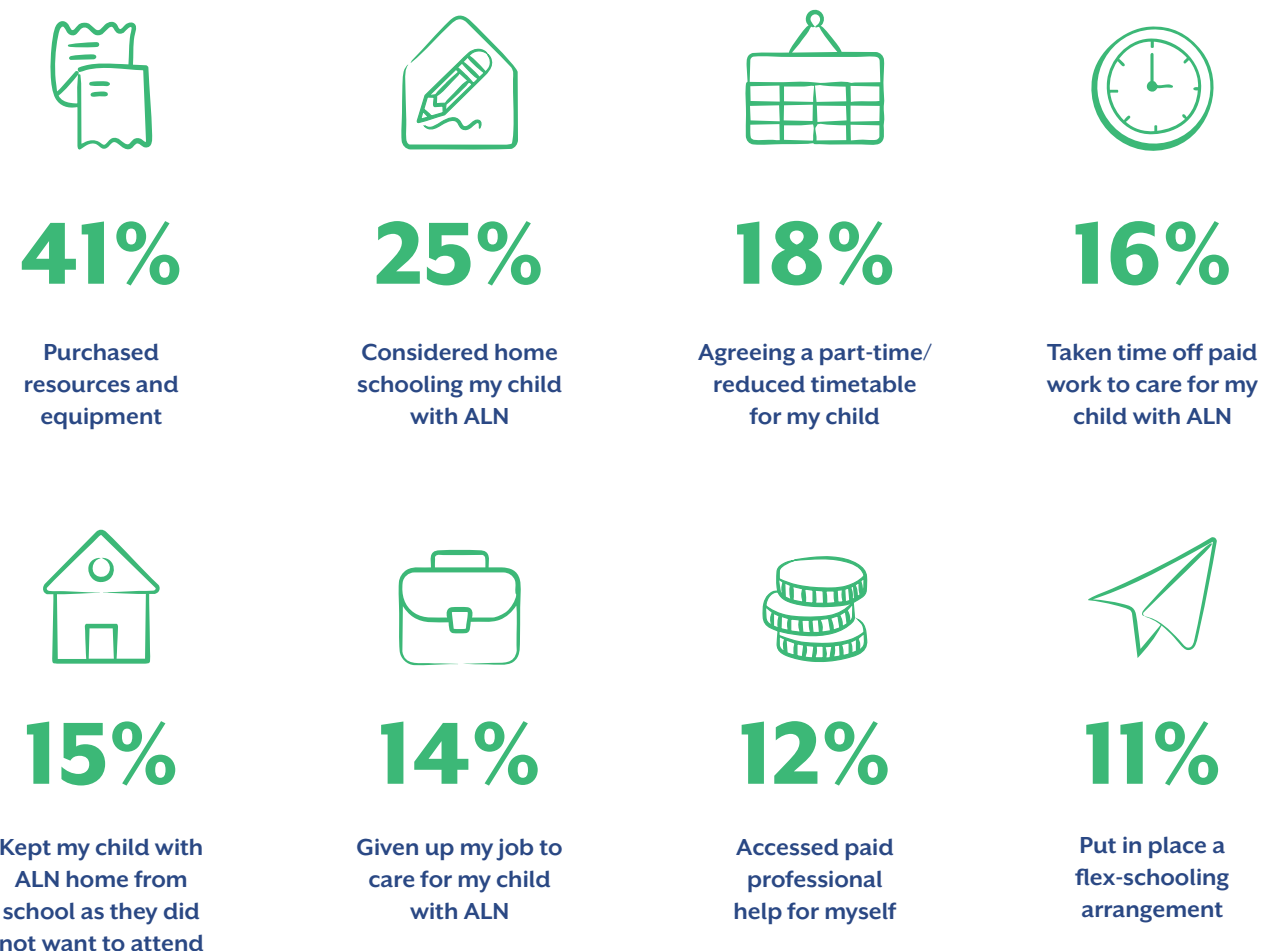


Photography: istock.com/skynesher

Parent experiences of having a child with additional learning needs

Parents' experiences of having a child with additional learning needs

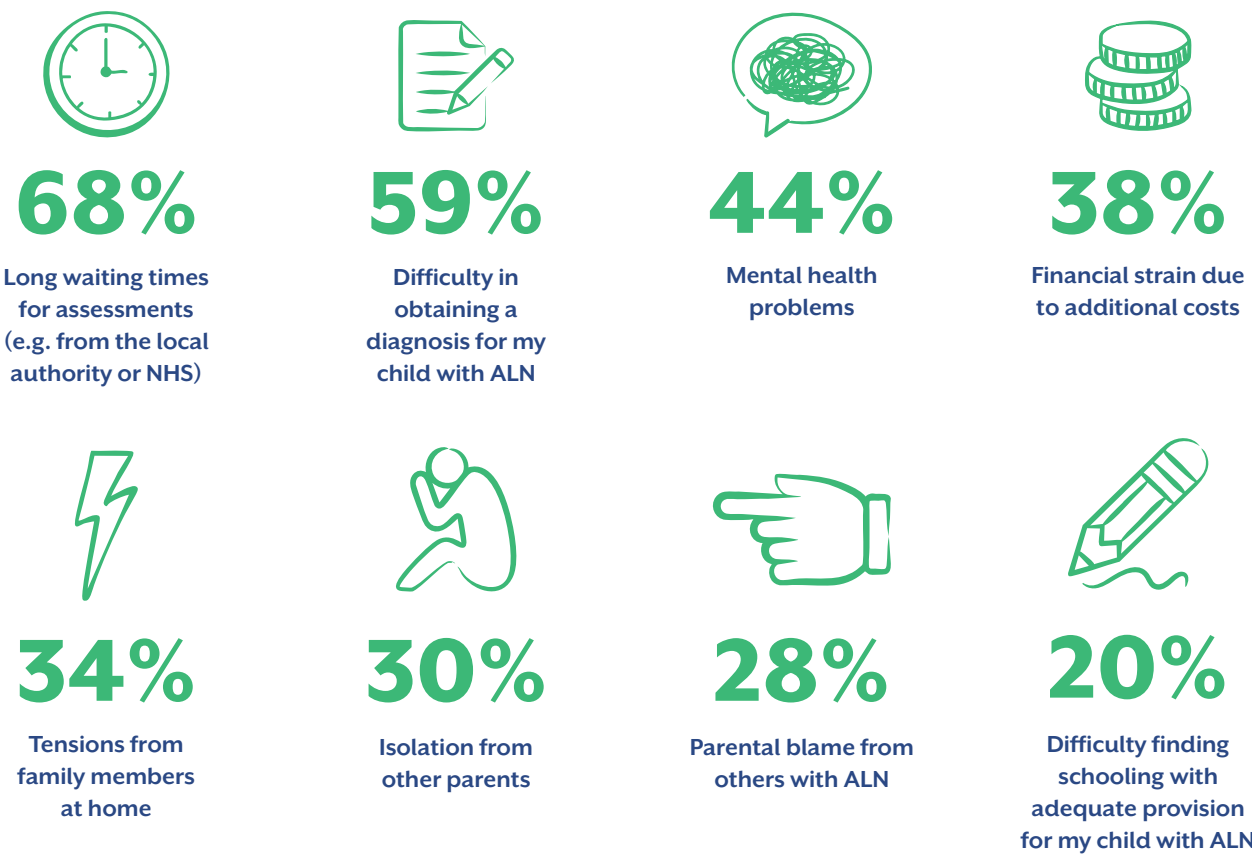
? Which, if any, of the following have you done in order to help manage your child's additional learning needs?



Base: All parents whose child has ALN/is discussing ALN (173)

Impact of managing child’s additional learning needs

? Which, if any, of the following have you experienced as a result of having a child with additional learning needs?



Base: All parents whose child has ALN/is discussing ALN (173)



Photography: istock.com/SolStock



Photography: shutterstock.com/NataliaNeriabina



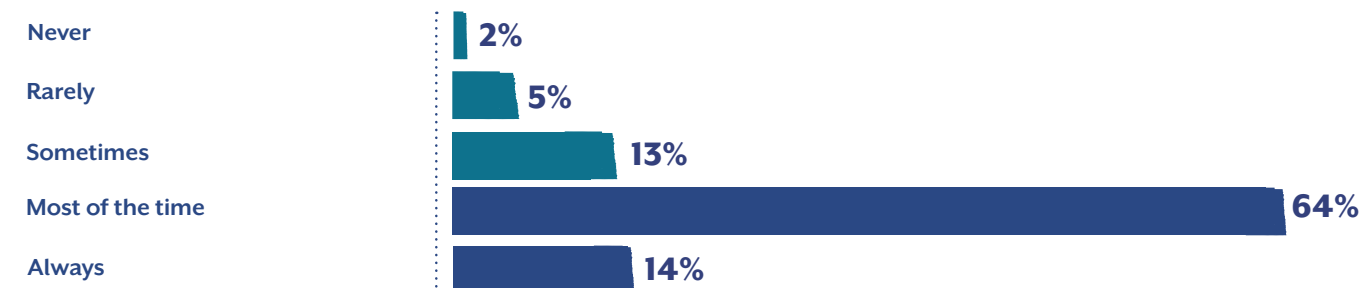
School life

Photography: istock.com/Monkeybusinessimages

Happiness at school

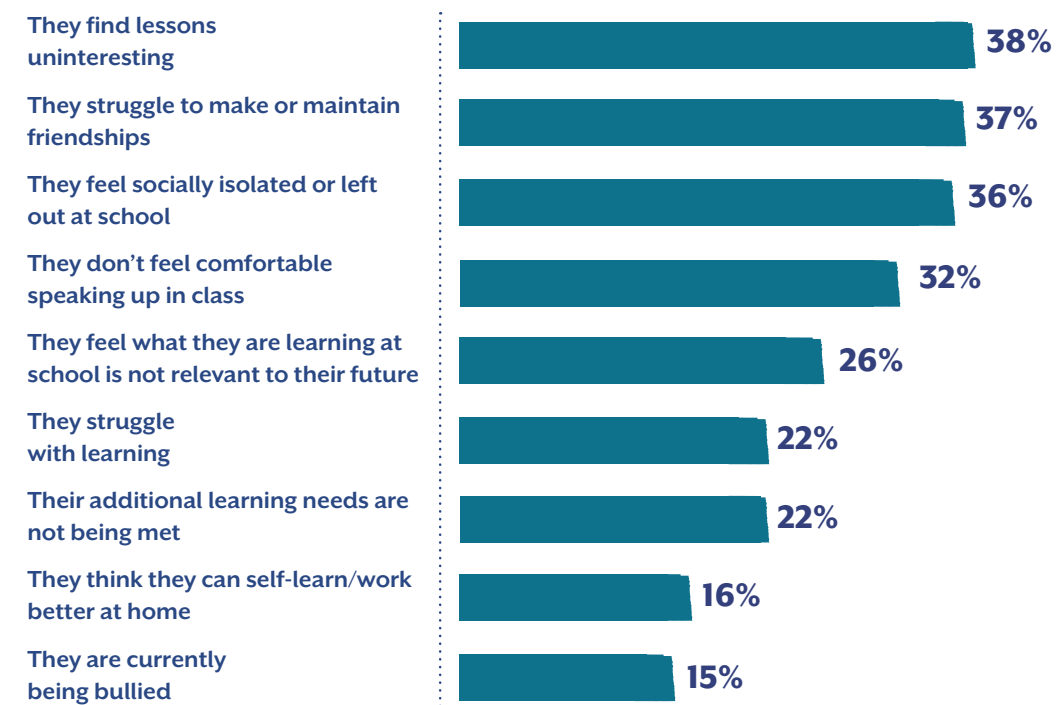
Child's happiness at school

? To the best of your knowledge, do you think your child is happy at school?



Base: All parents (865)

? If sometimes/rarely/never happy at school which of the following do you think are reasons for this?

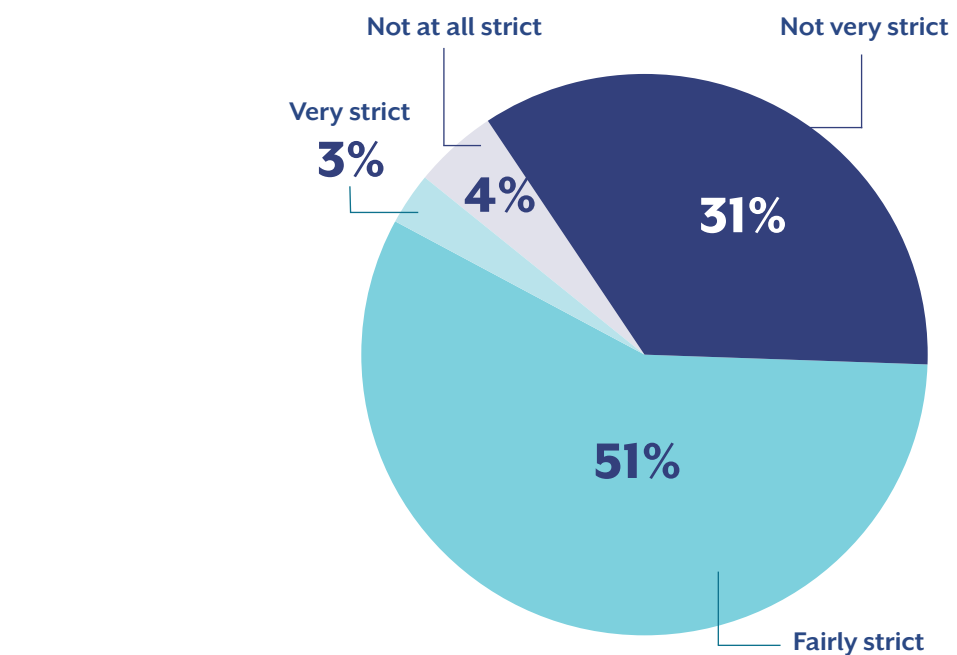


Base: All parents whose child is sometimes/rarely/never happy at school (194)

Behaviour in schools

Behaviour management at school

? How would you describe how behaviour is managed at your child's school?



Base: All parents (865)



Photography: istock.com/Monkeybusinessimages

Impact of how behaviour is managed

? Which, if any, of the following are an outcome of the behaviour management policies at your child's school?

	Parents who say behaviour management at child's school is strict	Parents who say behaviour management at child's school is not strict	All parents
My child knows what behaviour is expected from them at school	71%	64%	65%
Children at my child's school are generally well-behaved	52%	35%	44%
I am supportive of how behaviour is managed at my child's school	55%	26%	41%
My child's learning is sometimes disrupted due to poor behaviour from children in lessons	23%	43%	29%
Children at my child's school are disciplined for insignificant infringements	10%	6%	8%
My child is scared of getting disciplined at school	10%	4%	7%
My child feels unsafe at school due to a lack of discipline	2%	11%	5%
My child struggles to attend school because the school is not strict enough	1%	5%	2%
My child struggles to attend school because the school is too strict	1%	0%	1%

Base: All parents (865)

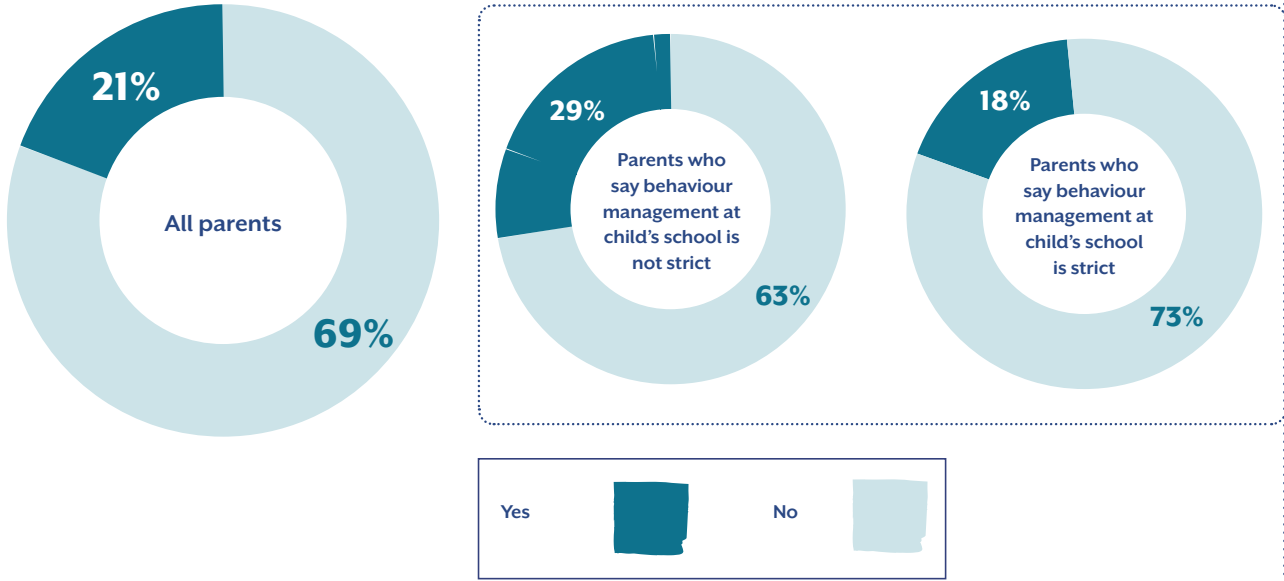


Photography: istock.com/izusek

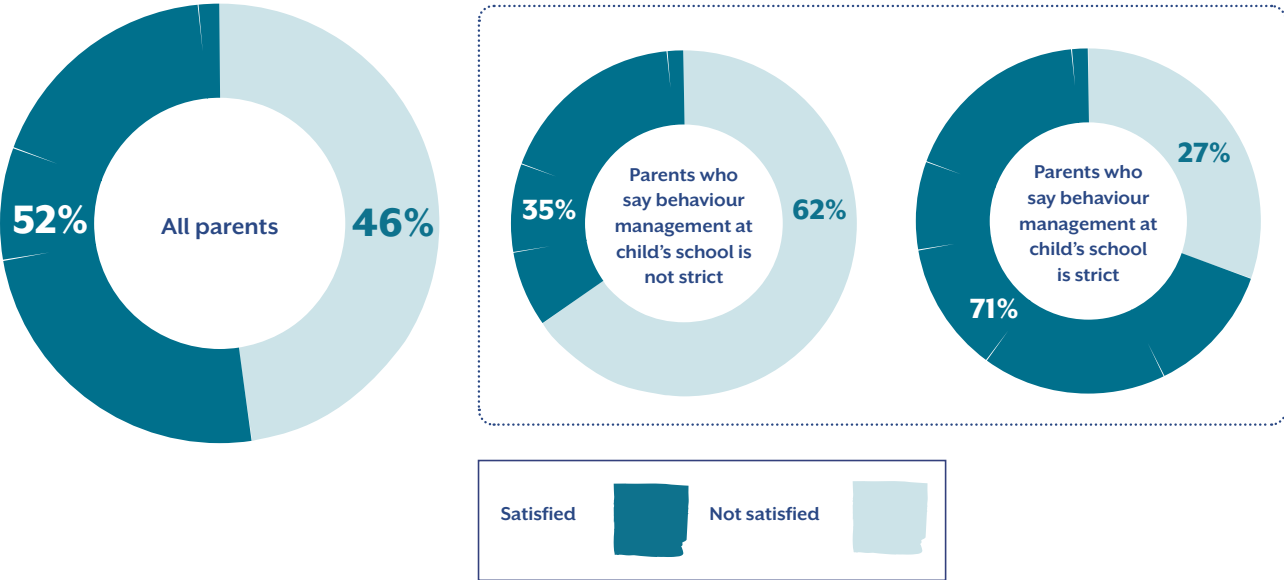
Bullying in schools

Bullying

? Has your child been bullied by another pupil at school in the last year?



? If yes, how satisfied were you with how the school dealt with the situation?



















Base: All parents (865), all parents whose child has been bullied at school in the last year (169)

The purpose of school

Parents’ top five priorities for a school

? Which, if any, of the following roles do you think are most important for a school to fulfil? (up to five answer options)

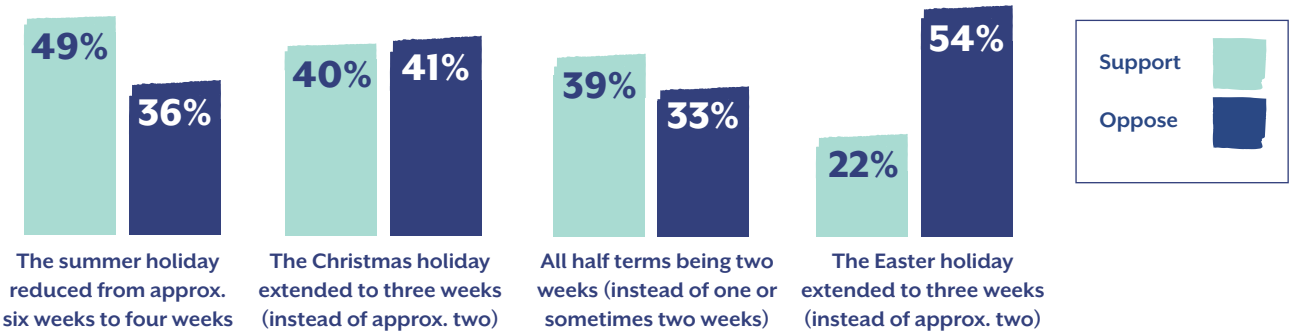
	Primary	Secondary	Post-16	All parents
 Educate children in a broad range of subjects	58%	64%	65%	62%
 Teach useful life skills	61%	55%	63%	59%
 Teach the 'three Rs' (reading, writing and arithmetic)	59%	56%	50%	56%
 Nurture creativity and independent thinking	64%	49%	55%	56%
 Prepare children for the world of work	32%	47%	36%	38%
 Mix with different groups of people	39%	30%	24%	33%
 Instil strong moral values	25%	23%	22%	24%
 Instil good behaviour	23%	22%	27%	23%
 Develop financial literacy	20%	23%	19%	21%
 Support physical health	23%	14%	20%	19%
 Develop resilience	19%	16%	19%	18%
 Provide mental health support	17%	16%	23%	18%
 Prepare children to pass exams	10%	22%	25%	17%
 Teach British values	9%	9%	11%	9%
 Act as a hub for community services	3%	1%	3%	2%
 Provide support services (e.g. food banks)	0%	1%	0%	0%

Base: All parents (865)

School holidays

Possible changes to the school holidays

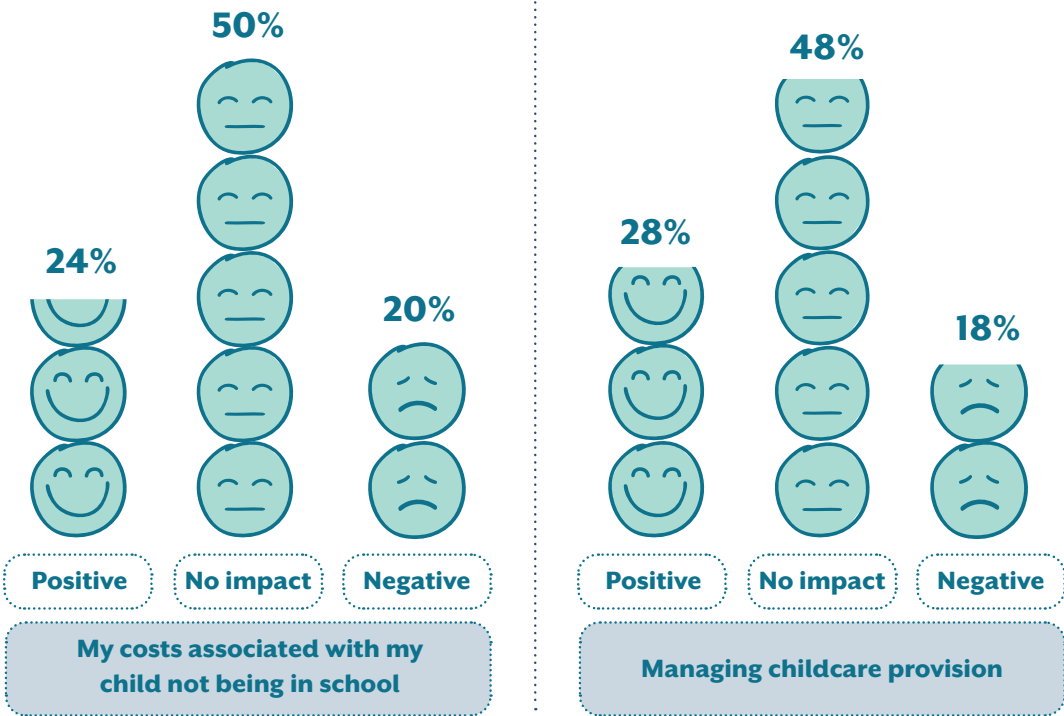
? To what extent would you support or oppose any of the following changes in the redistribution of the school holidays?



Base: All parents whose child attends a state school (639)

Impact of possible changes to the summer holiday

? Imagine the school holidays were redistributed across the year, meaning that the summer holidays were reduced to four weeks. What impact, if any, would this have on the below?

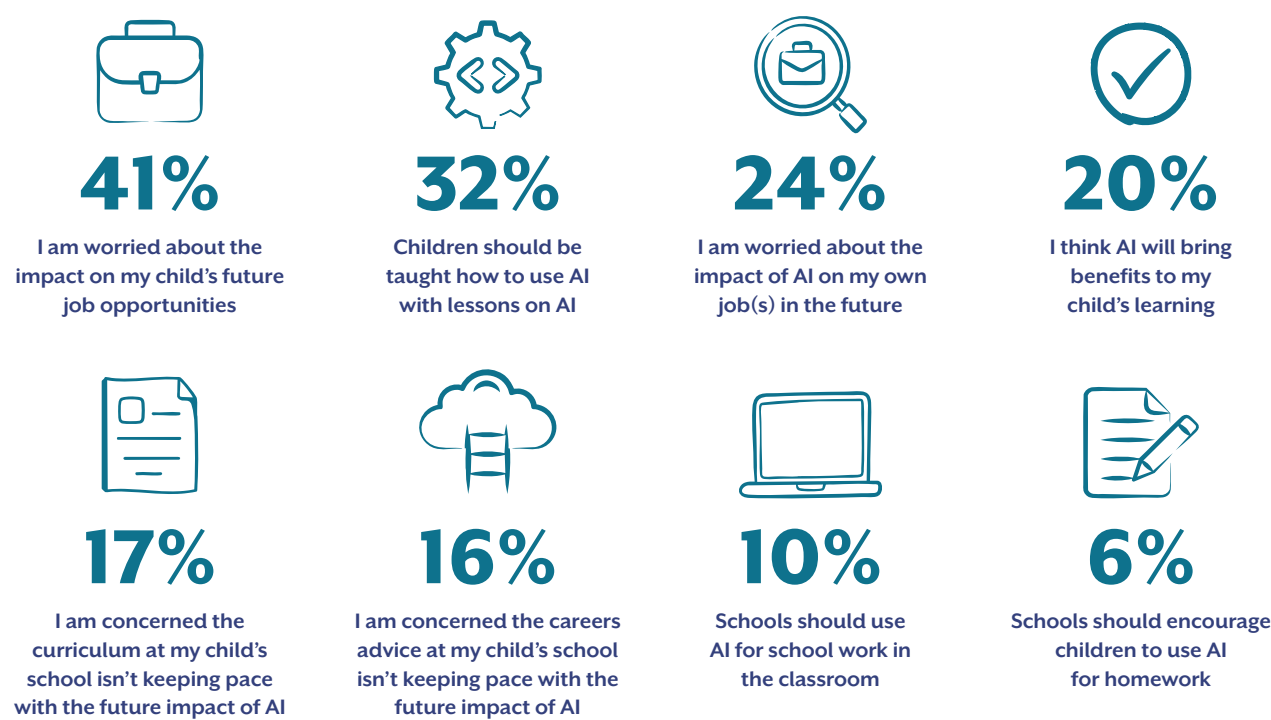


Base: All parents (865)

Parents' opinions on AI

Parents' views on AI

? Which, if any, of the following summarise how you are currently feeling about the future impact of AI?



Base: All parents (865)



Photography: istock.com/svetikd



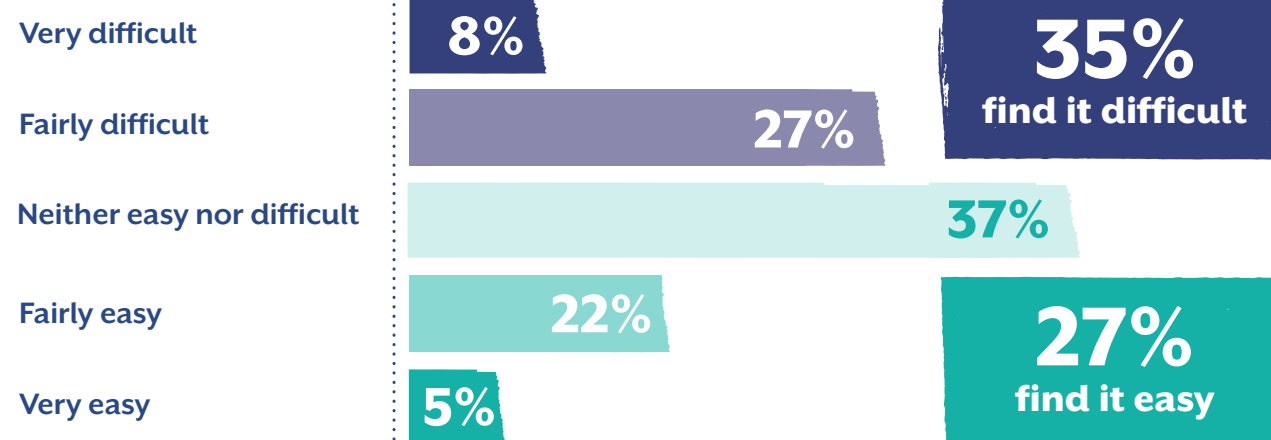
Parenting challenges

Photography: istock.com/Monkeybusinessimages

How parents find parenting

Being a parent

? How easy or difficult do you find being a parent?



Base: All parents (865)

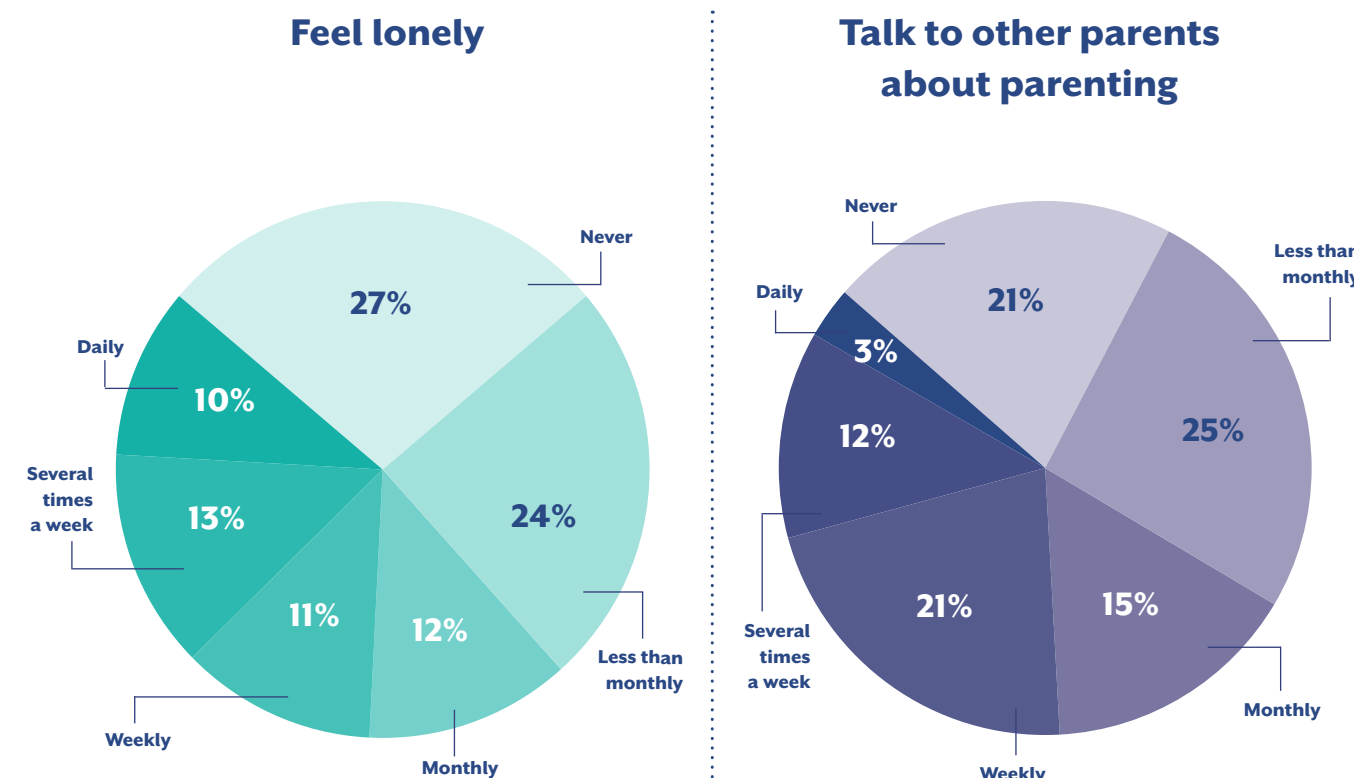


Photography: istock.com/Daisy-Daisy

Loneliness

Loneliness and talking about parenting

? How often, if at all, do you...



Base: All parents (865)

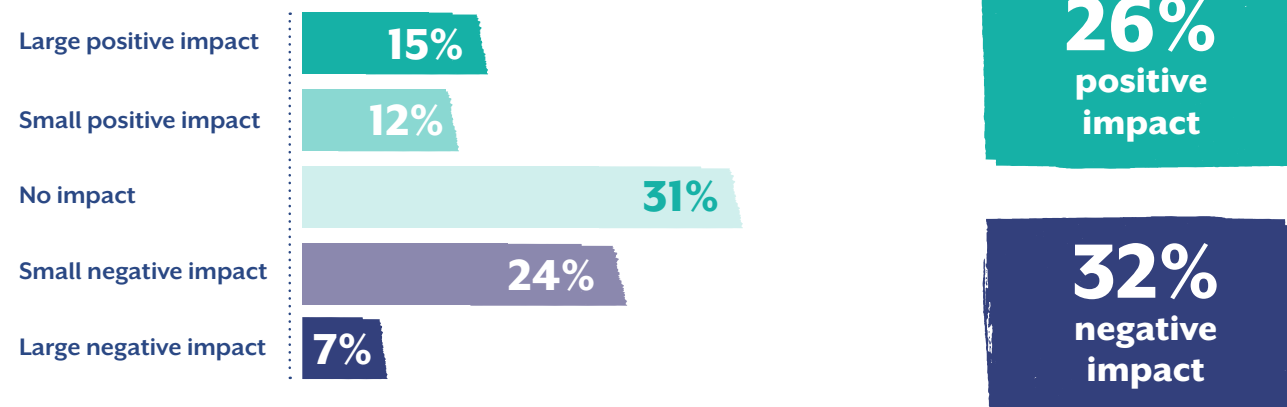


Photography: Shutterstock/Inside Creative House

Impact of parenting on mental health

Impact of parenting on mental health

? To what extent, if at all, has being a parent impacted on your mental health in the past year?



Base: All parents (865)

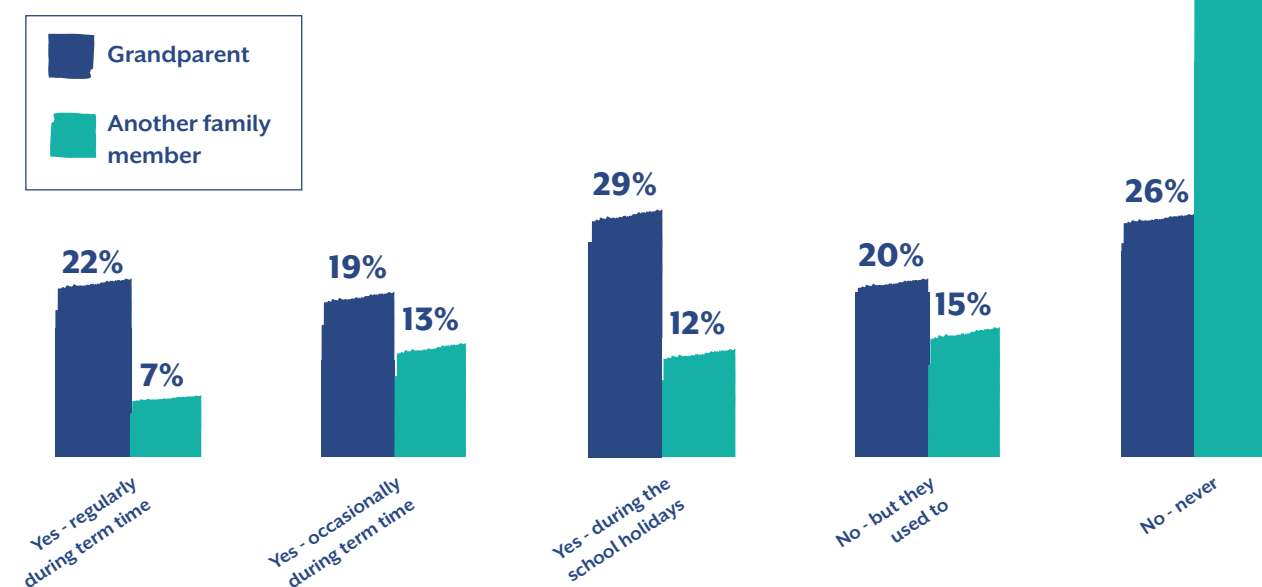


Photography: istock.com/Marizza

Support from grandparents

Childcare support from grandparents and other family members

? How often, if at all, do you rely on grandparents, or other family members for 'free' childcare so you/your partner can work?



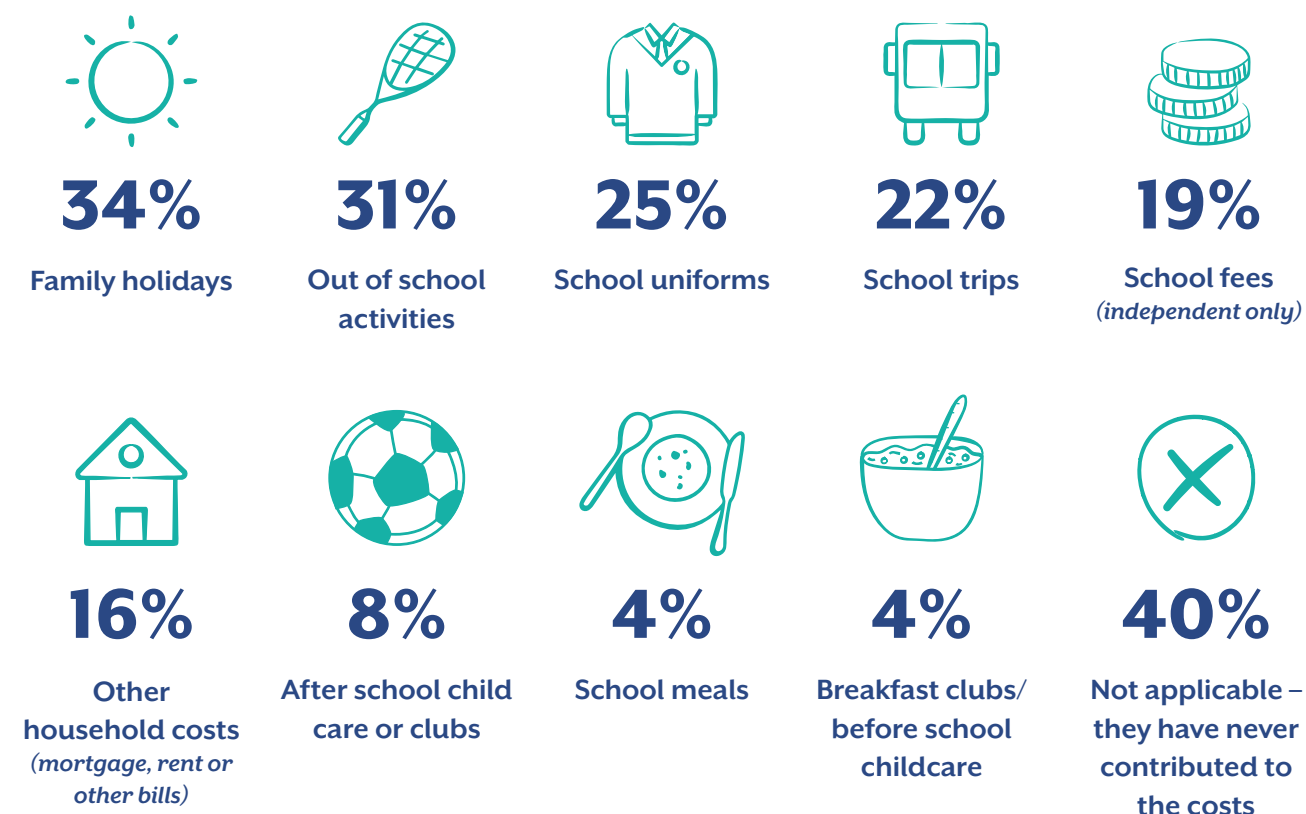
Base: All working parents (716) and working parents with a living parent (596). Another family member excludes child's parents



Photography: istock.com/SolStock

Financial contributions of grandparents

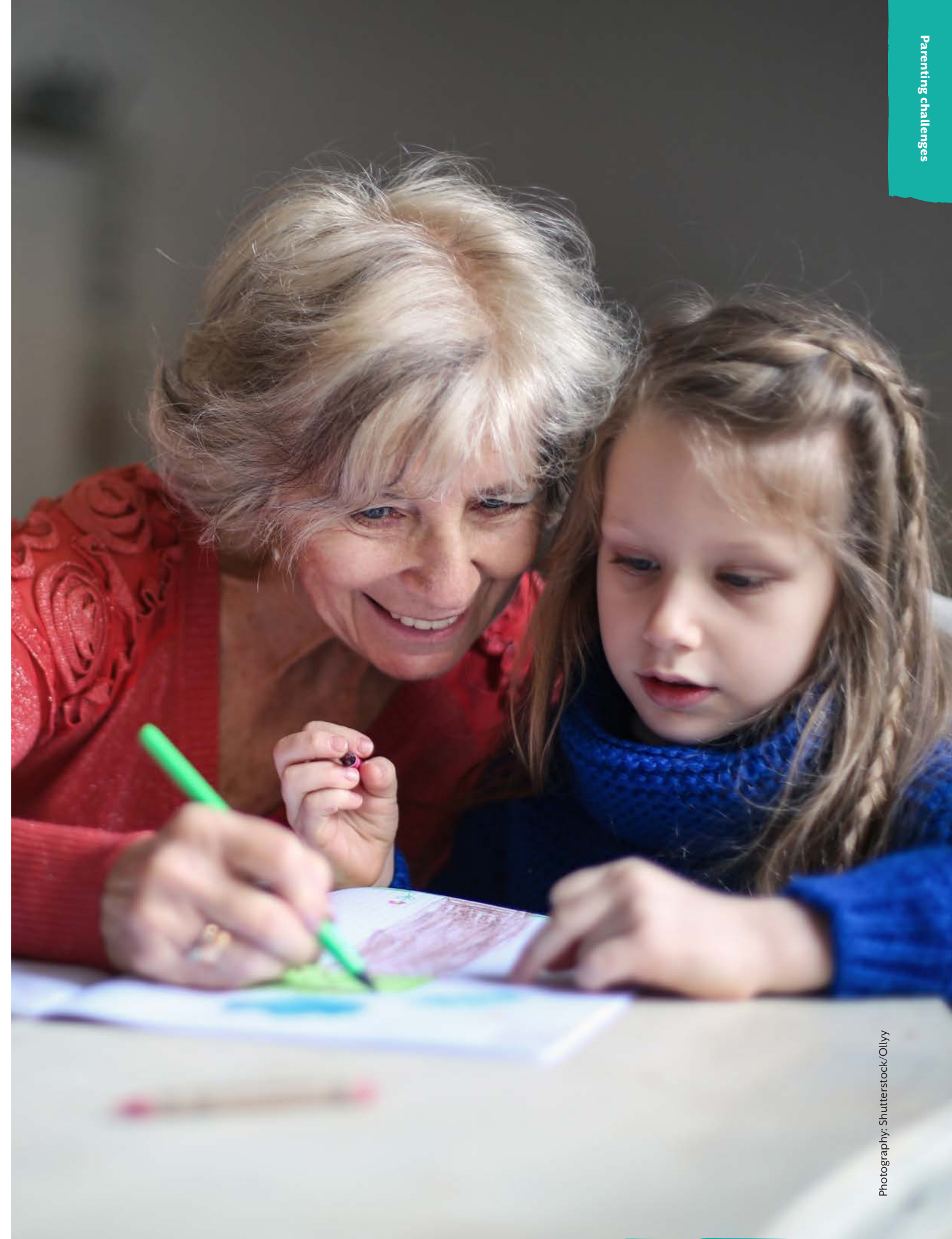
? Which, if any, of the following have your child's grandparent(s) ever contributed to the costs of any of?



Base: All parents with a living parent (713)



Photography: Shutterstock/Gorodonkoff



Photography: Shutterstock/Ollyy



Home life

Photography: istock.com/lbjorn

Bedroom poverty

Bedroom poverty

5% of children

share a bedroom with an adult because of a lack of space in the home only

zz

15% of children

share a bedroom with a sibling because of a lack of space in the home only



Photography: istock.com/miracsaglam

Children helping at home

What tasks children do regularly

? Which, if any, of the following does your child do regularly in your household?



Base: All parents (865)



Photography: Shutterstock/Volodymyr TVERDOKHLIB

Parents talking to their children

Discussions with children

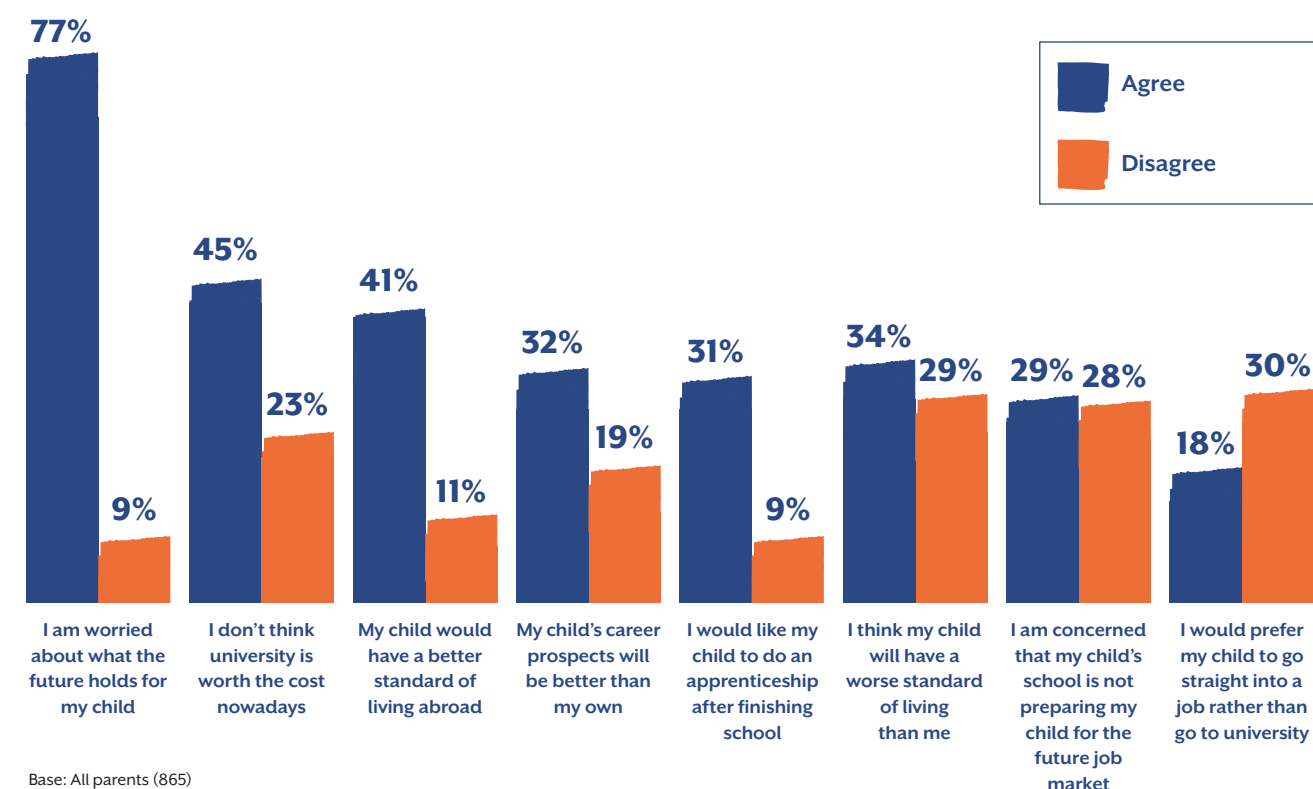
? How easy or difficult would you find discussing the following with your child?



Parents' hopes for their child's future

Parents' reflections on their child's future

? To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements in relation to your child's future?



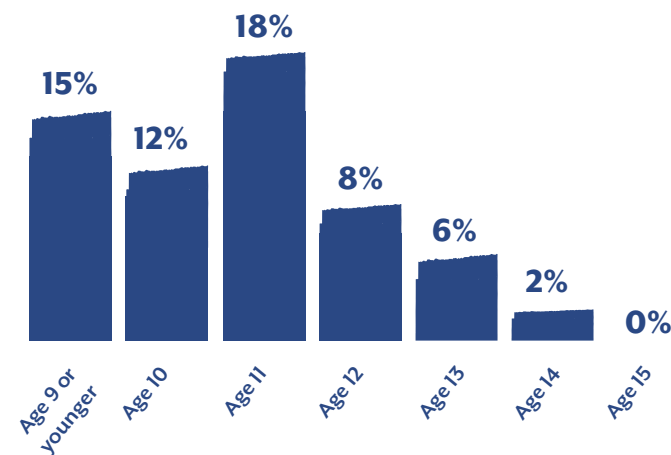
Photography: Shutterstock/SolStock



Parents' smartphone use

Age child given smartphone

? How old was your child when they first had their own smartphone?



* Not applicable - my child doesn't have a smartphone - 39%

Base: All parents (865)

Reasons for child having a smartphone

? Which, if any, of the following reasons explain why your child has a smartphone?



82%

To allow them to contact me more easily



47%

So I can monitor their location (e.g. 'find my friends')



42%

Most of their friends have one



36%

To help them access the internet for school work



23%

To help them access social media to keep in touch with their social group



11%

Because they put pressure on me to buy them one

Base: All parents whose child has a smartphone (584)



19% of parents

regret giving their child a smartphone when they did

Photography: Shutterstock/Daisy-Daisy

Parents' own smartphone use

? Which, if any, of the following statements apply to you?



I spend too much time on my smartphone

42%



I worry that I set a bad example to my children by using my phone too much

40%



I can't go more than an hour without looking at my phone

21%



Sometimes I do not engage with my children when they would like my attention because I'm using my phone

20%



I spend time on my phone as I feel lonely

19%



I feel that I'm addicted to using my smartphone

17%



Sometimes I use my smartphone while eating dinner with other family members

16%



The time I spend on my phone gets in the way of things I would like to do with my children

13%



My children tell me I spend too much time on my phone

9%

Base: All parents (865)



The hidden cost of education

Photography: istock.com/DGLimages

School catchment

Moving house for school catchment

? Thinking about the choices you've made when choosing where to live... Which, if any, of the following statements best applies to you?

I have chosen where I live(d) with the main reason being to live within a catchment area for a school I wanted my child to go to



I have moved house with school catchment area in mind, but not as the main reason



School catchment area has never been a reason for choosing where I live(d)



Base: All parents (865)



Photography: istock.com/Monkeybusinessimages

Private tutoring

Private tutoring

? For which, if any, of the following subjects has your child ever had a tutor for outside of school?



12%
Maths



4%
English



2%
Science



2%
An additional learning need
e.g. dyslexia

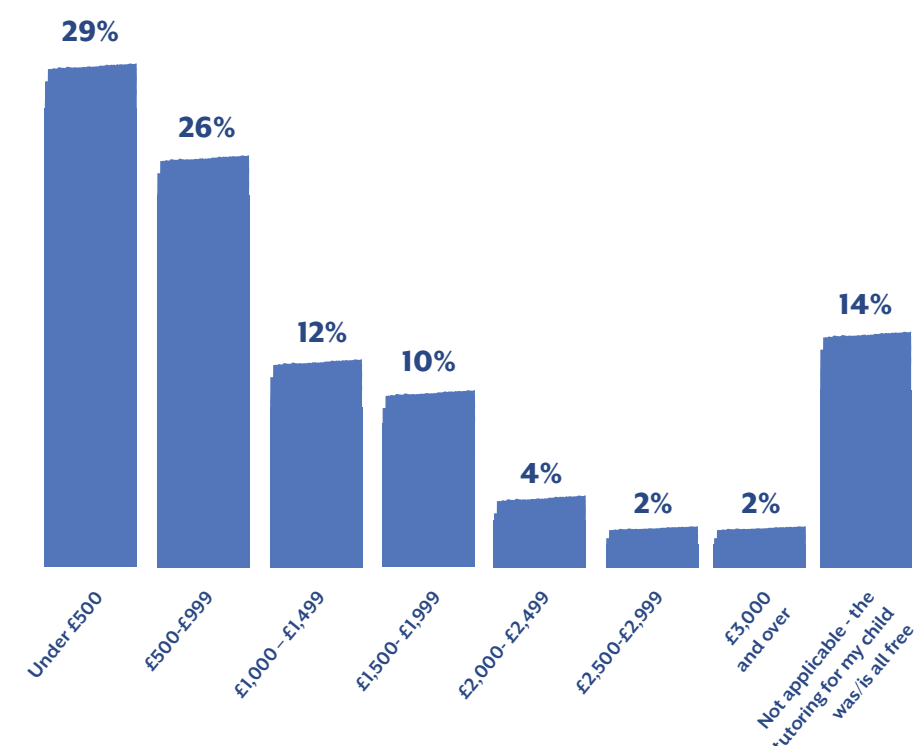


83%
Not applicable – my child has never had a tutor outside of school for any subject

Base: All parents whose child received tutoring outside school (153)

Spend on tutoring

? How much, if anything, do/did you spend on average per year on tutoring for your child?

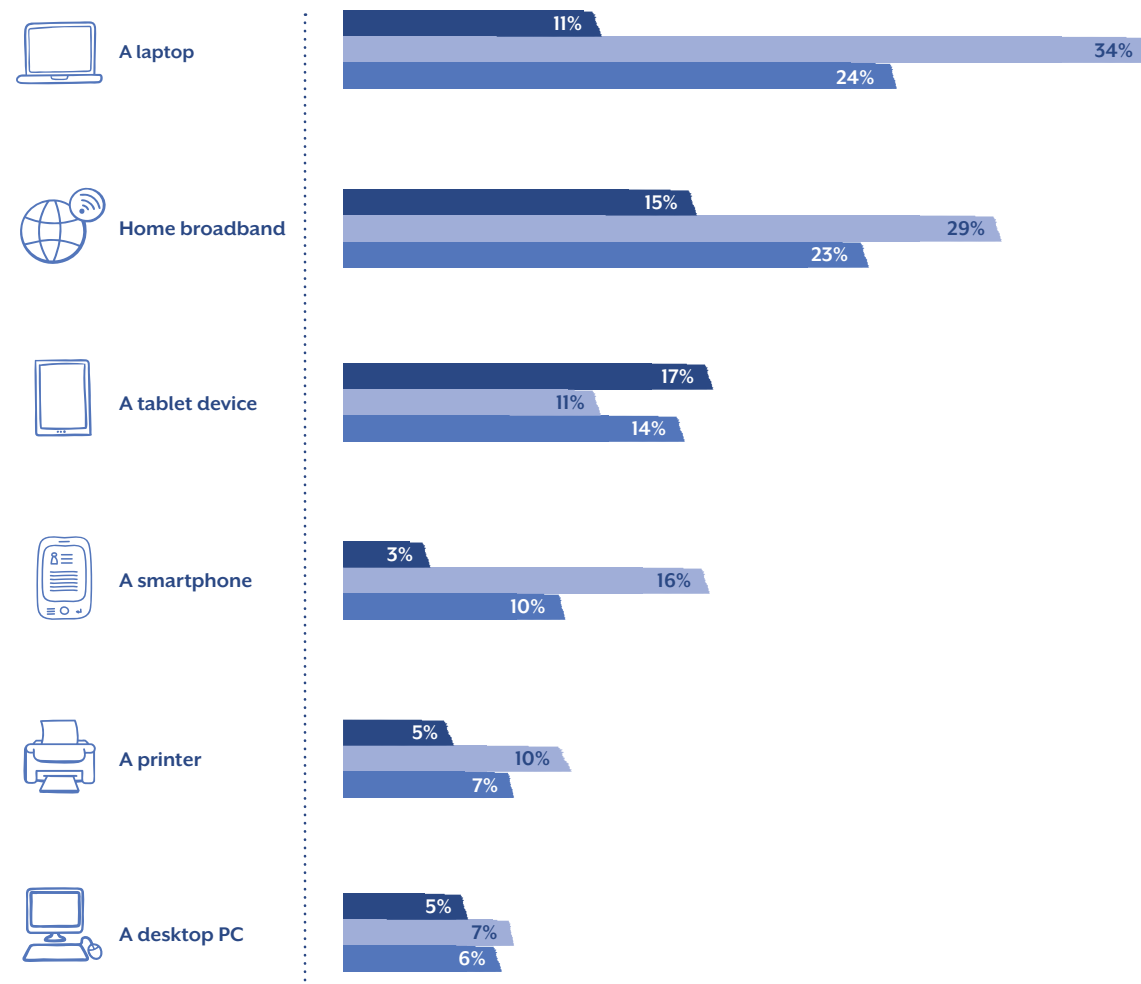


Base: All parents whose child received tutoring outside school (152)

Technology required by schools

Technology required by schools

? Which, if any, of the following has your child's school required them to have?



Primary parents Secondary/post 16 parents All parents

* 55% of parents (68% of primary parents and 45% of secondary/post-16 parents) answered none

Base: All parents (865)





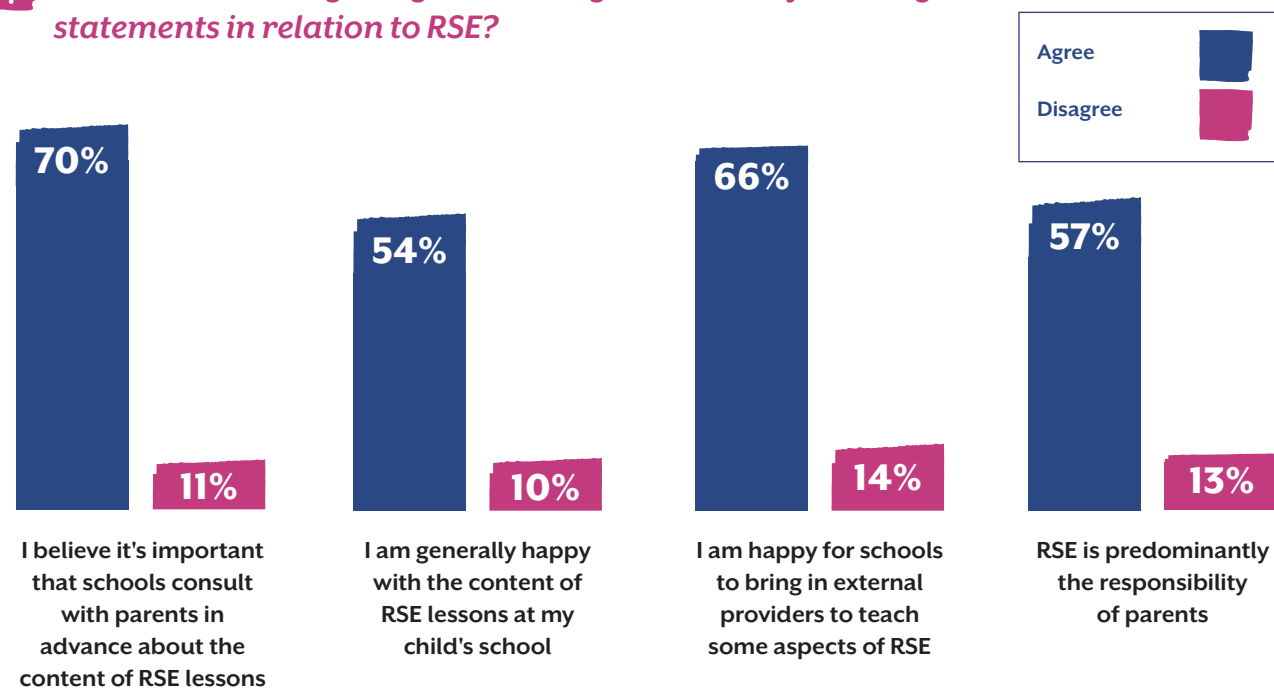
Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) and *gender questioning* children

Photography: istock.com/Monkeybusinessimages

Attitudes towards the Relationships and Sexuality Education curriculum

Relationships and Sexuality Education in schools

? To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements in relation to RSE?



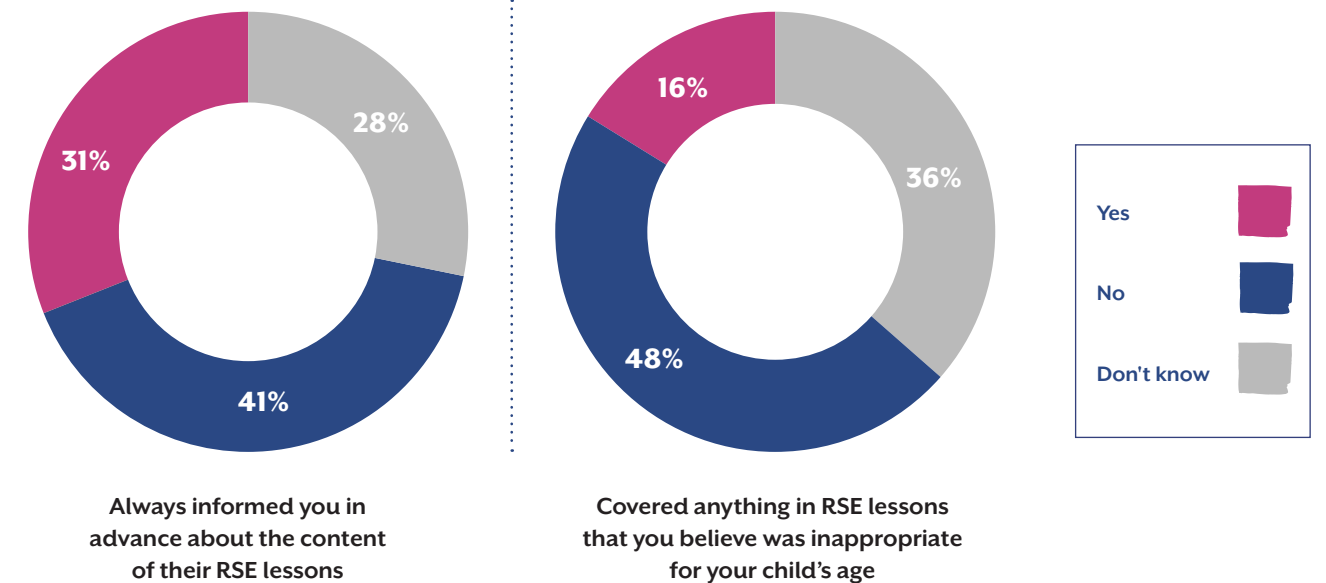
Base: All parents (865)



Photography: istock.com/Caiaimage/Sam Edwards

Relationships and Sexuality Education content in schools

? Has your child's school...?



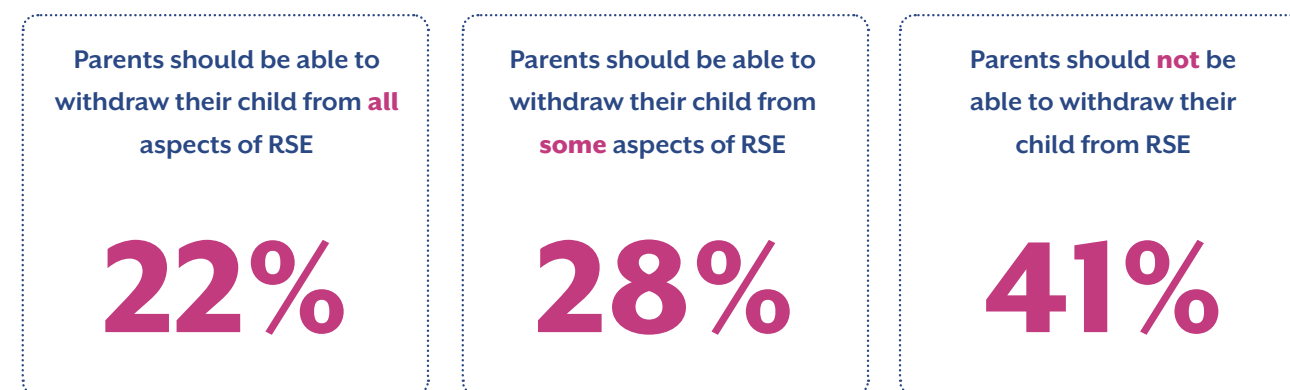
Base: All parents (865)



Photography: istock.com/Caiaimage/Sam Edwards

Right to withdraw from Relationships and Sexuality Education

? Currently, across the UK, policies vary whether parents should be able to withdraw their child from relationships and sex education... Which, if any, of the following best summarise your opinion?



Base: All parents whose child attends secondary/post-16 education (535)



Photography: istock.com/Daisy-Daisy

Gender questioning children in school

The gender debate

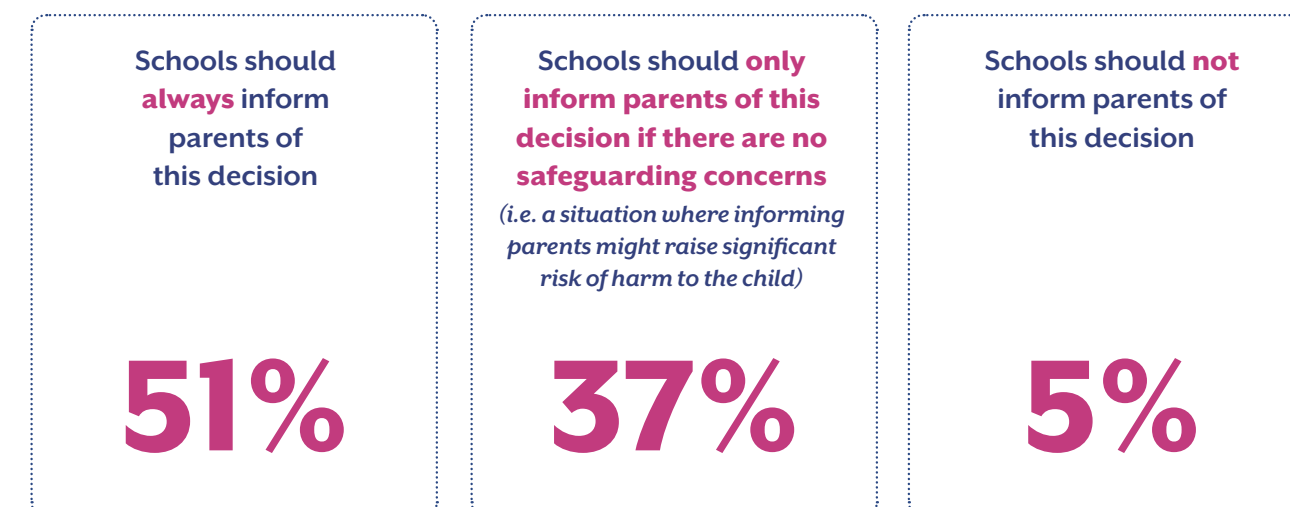
? Which, if any, of the following of these best reflects your view?



Base: All parents whose child attends secondary/post-16 education (535)

Informing parents about a gender change

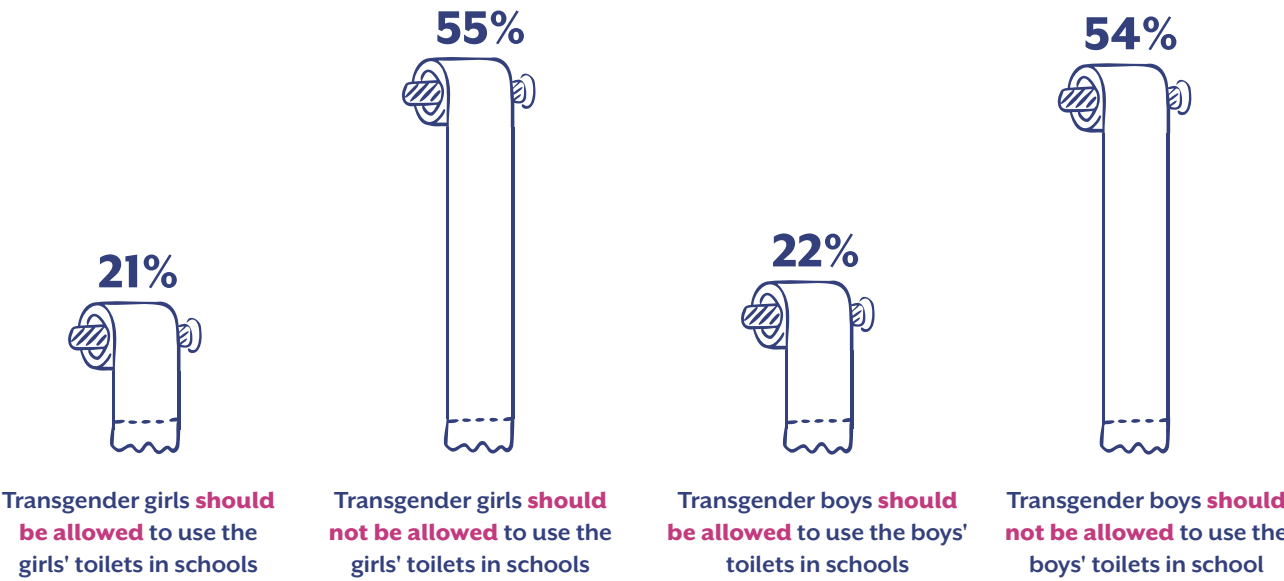
? Imagine a pupil has disclosed to their school that they would like to be known by a different name and/or pronoun and had not told their parents. Which, if any, of the following best reflects your view?



Base: All parents (865)

Use of school toilets

? In the following questions, a transgender girl is someone who was biologically male at birth but now identifies as a girl. A transgender boy is someone who was biologically female at birth but now identifies as a boy. Do you think...



Base: All parents (865)



Photography: istock.com/xavieramau



Photography: istock.com/izusek

What we should do in response to the National Parent Survey 2025...

1 Too many children don't feel safe at school

Too many children don't feel safe at school, and we know this is mostly due to a bullying crisis documented in this year's National Parent Survey.

School inspectorates should always measure whether children feel safe at school and report back on the results. Where children regularly feel unsafe, this should be a cause for concern.

The Cabinet Secretary for Education should work towards a national snapshot of bullying in schools so we know the full extent of how many children are being bullied and to shine a spotlight on this awful experience for too many children.

Banning smartphones in school has been shown to reduce bullying and improve behaviour. If we want to tackle bullying, we need to introduce a clear and unambiguous ban on smartphones in schools.

2 Children should enjoy school

Being happy at school should be an expectation for every child.

We need a new national measure of how happy children are at school and roll out school-level data tracking tools that allow headteachers and school inspectorates to monitor how happy children are at school.

3 Give children their independence by banning smartphones and social media

We need to give children their childhood back.

This means a national effort to remove smartphones from children and help them reacclimatise to real life. The UK urgently needs to become a world leader in removing access to social media and smartphones for our children and help them rediscover the world on their doorstep.

4 Reimagined PTAs can tackle parent loneliness and provide help to parents

Parenting is hard and parents tell us they feel isolated and lonely.

There is an important role for Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) to play in helping bring parents together to talk about parenting and the challenges all parents face. PTAs are more than fundraising bodies.

The Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) should be amended to include a question on PTAs to establish how many schools have a PTA group.

5 Parents need to model responsible smartphone behaviour

We need to ban smartphones for children, but parents need to model good behaviour.

Parents need to think carefully about the message compulsive scrolling and time spent staring at smartphones sends to children.

We need a national campaign to nudge behaviour and help parents understand the dangers of displaying obsessive smartphone behaviour when children are nearby.

6 Laptops and tablets are the new school cost worry for parents

It isn't just school uniform that is a worry for parents, technology is increasingly a big concern. A third of children are required to have a laptop or tablet for school, which is a major cost worry for parents.

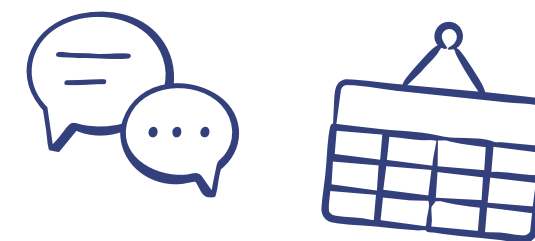
The Cabinet Secretary for Education should commission an urgent review to establish exactly what technology is required by schools and how much this is costing parents.

7 It is time to rethink the school holiday calendar

Teaching is tough and physically draining, but the six-week summer holiday is out of date.

We need to make sure teachers get the time off they need, but our school holiday calendar is out of date and out of sync with the expectations of parents.

The Welsh Government should take another look at rebalancing the school year following last year's consultation on the topic and in light of the polling in this survey, which shows more parents support a reduction of the summer holiday from six weeks to four weeks than oppose it.

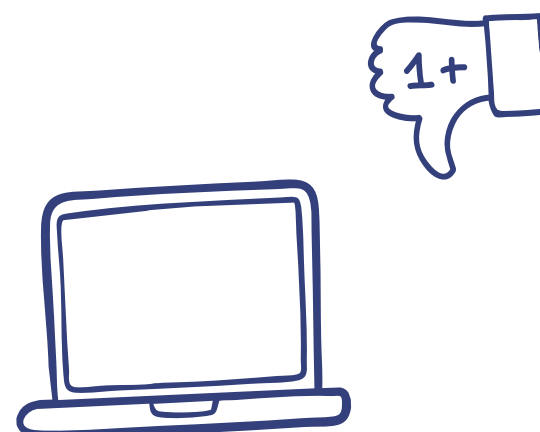


8 Supporting parents worried about Relationships and Sexuality Education

Transparency should be an expectation when it comes to 'sex ed' and Relationships and Sexuality Education, and parents with concerns should always be listened to.

We know that when schools get this right, parents are much more likely to understand and support what is being taught in class.

We should look again at how we can improve transparency and communication between home and school to make sure every parent is heard and no parent has to send their child into a class they are uncomfortable with.



Methodology

The National Parent Survey was conducted online by YouGov. The fieldwork took place from 27th March to 18th April 2025 amongst 5,866 parents in England (3,391), Scotland (1,309), Wales (865) and Northern Ireland (301), who have at least one child aged 4 to 18 in school. If respondents have more than one child, parents are asked to answer all the questions with their oldest child who currently attends school/college in mind. **The charts in this report show the results for parents in Wales.** The figures have been weighted and are representative of all parents in Wales.

All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov plc. Analysis and reporting was carried out by Parentkind.

Unless otherwise noted, all percentages on the charts/graphics are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Margin of error

As the survey is not polling the entire population of parents in Wales, but rather a sample of the population, results are subject to a margin of error which is estimated to be ± 3.3 percentage points for the whole sample. The exact margin of error varies with the proportion considered. This means that if, for instance, according to the survey 14% of respondents say that their child is always happy at school, in reality the proportion is likely to be between 10.7% and 17.3% (i.e. the margin of error would be $\pm 3.3\%$). Some of the statistically significant differences in results for particular demographic subgroups are mentioned in this summary.



Photography: istock.com/Undrey



Photography: istock.com/Andreasr



About Parentkind

Parentkind is the UK's largest parent charity, working with more than 14,000 parent groups and 200,000 parent volunteers to raise almost £140 million a year for schools.

We are the voice of parents in education, our research with parents gives parents a say in education debates.



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