

School Accountability and School Report Card

Omnibus Survey (November 2008)

Top Line Findings

TNS on behalf of COI Research



**Research Report No
DCSF-RR107**

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Purpose of the research

To garner the views of parents and the public to inform a public debate and policy decision making regarding school accountability and School Report Cards.

Methodology

This quantitative research took the form of a face-to-face general public omnibus survey with a nationally representative sample of 1634 adults, including 550 parents. The data presented are weighted to reflect the national profile. The research took place in England in November 2008.

Key Findings

- As presented to survey respondents, the majority of parents (84%) and public (74%) felt a School Report Card would be very or quite useful;
- The majority of parents (92%) and public (80%) were aware of at least one public source of information about school performance, with the highest awareness being public examination results;
- The majority of public and parents said it was very important to them personally that parents and the public should know how well each school performs;
- The majority of public and parents agreed that parents should be able to compare one school's performance against another, that the performance of each school in tests and exams should be published and publicly available and that test and exam results are one important measure of a school's performance.

School Accountability / School Report Card

Findings from questions placed on TNS face to face omnibus survey
12th - 17th November 2008.

Question	% of Parents of children 0-18 (524)	% of All Adults 16+ (1707)
<p>Q.1 Thinking of primary and secondary schools, what public sources of information about school performance are you aware of? (PROMPTED)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public exam results such as GCSEs/A levels • Ofsted Reports • League Tables • Test such as National Curriculum Tests (SATS) • School Profiles • DCSF Achievement and Attainment tables • Net aware of any source • Awareness of none of the sources prompted 	<p>64%</p> <p>64%</p> <p>54%</p> <p>56%</p> <p>32%</p> <p>18%</p> <p>92%</p> <p>5%</p>	<p>59%</p> <p>50%</p> <p>47%</p> <p>43%</p> <p>24%</p> <p>14%</p> <p>80%</p> <p>12%</p>
<p>Q.2 And where, if anywhere, might you see, hear or read information about school performance? (PROMPTED)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any mention of school • Any mention of internet • Any mention of newspapers • Any mention of TV • Any mention of Radio • Mentioning any channel prompted • None 	<p>52%</p> <p>51%</p> <p>49%</p> <p>25%</p> <p>15%</p> <p>91%</p> <p>6%</p>	<p>34%</p> <p>33%</p> <p>51%</p> <p>28%</p> <p>14%</p> <p>80%</p> <p>11%</p>
<p>Q.3 How important is it to you personally that parents and the public should know how well each school performs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very important • Quite important • Not very important • Not at all important 	<p>71%</p> <p>20%</p> <p>4%</p> <p>2%</p>	<p>59%</p> <p>25%</p> <p>6%</p> <p>4%</p>

Question	% of Parents of children 0-18 (524)	% of All Adults 16+ (1707)
<p>Q.4 I am now going to read out some statements people have made. For each one, I'd like you to tell me how much you agree or disagree with it, taking your answer from the screen.</p> <p>... Parents should be able to compare one school's performance against another</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree a lot • Agree a little • Disagree a little • Disagree a lot 	<p>61%</p> <p>25%</p> <p>6%</p> <p>5%</p>	<p>55%</p> <p>29%</p> <p>6%</p> <p>3%</p>
<p>...Test and exam results are one important measure of a school's performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree a lot • Agree a little • Disagree a little • Disagree a lot 	<p>55%</p> <p>32%</p> <p>7%</p> <p>2%</p>	<p>49%</p> <p>33%</p> <p>8%</p> <p>2%</p>
<p>... The performance of each school in tests and exams should be published and publicly available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree a lot • Agree a little • Disagree a little • Disagree a lot 	<p>62%</p> <p>25%</p> <p>6%</p> <p>3%</p>	<p>55%</p> <p>29%</p> <p>6%</p> <p>3%</p>
<p>Q.5 In addition to exam results, what other kinds of information would you like to see reported about the performance of each school, if any?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behaviour • Attendance rates • How well pupils progress during their time in the school • How many pupils go on to FE or HE • Overall grade of performance • Curriculum • Health & safety of pupils • Parental satisfaction surveys (or what parents/pupils think of school) • The most recent inspection report • How many pupils go on to employment 	<p>65%</p> <p>46%</p> <p>46%</p> <p>38%</p> <p>41%</p> <p>44%</p> <p>43%</p> <p>40%</p> <p>39%</p> <p>28%</p>	<p>56%</p> <p>41%</p> <p>40%</p> <p>39%</p> <p>38%</p> <p>37%</p> <p>34%</p> <p>32%</p> <p>30%</p> <p>29%</p>

Question	% of Parents of children 0-18 (524)	% of All Adults 16+ (1707)
<p>Q.6 The Government is thinking of introducing a simple School Report Card to give parents an “at a glance” comprehensive way of understanding schools’ performance, such as something along these lines.</p> <p>(report card shown) How useful do you think a School Report Card such as this would be as a way of providing parents with information about schools?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very useful • Quite useful • Not very useful • Not at all useful 	<p style="text-align: center;">47%</p> <p style="text-align: center;">37%</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9%</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5%</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">38%</p> <p style="text-align: center;">36%</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10%</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6%</p>

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