

School Funding and Pupil Premium

April 2021



NFER surveyed teachers across England in March 2021. A panel of 1,535 practising teachers from 1,349 schools in the publicly funded sector in England completed the survey. Teachers completed the survey online during the period 12 to 17 March 2021. The panel included teachers from the full range of roles in primary and secondary schools, from headteachers to class teachers. Out of the respondents 816 (53.2%) were teaching in primary schools and 719 (46.8%) were teaching in secondary schools.

1. With the money received through the Pupil Premium, what is the main priority for extra spending at your school in 2020/2021?

	Primary			Secondary			All		
	Senior leaders (%)	Classroom teachers (%)	All (%)	Senior leaders (%)	Classroom teachers (%)	All (%)	Senior leaders (%)	Classroom teachers (%)	All (%)
Reducing class sizes	5	3	4	6	4	5	5	3	4
Additional teaching assistants	18	14	15	8	6	7	17	12	14
Additional teachers	13	6	9	12	3	6	13	5	8
Teacher recruitment and retention	3	1	2	6	3	4	3	2	2
More one-to-one/small group tuition (for example, through the National Tutoring Programme)	8	10	9	17	9	11	9	10	9
Peer-to-peer tutoring schemes for pupils	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Improving feedback between teachers and pupils / providing more feedback that is effective	4	1	2	7	1	3	5	1	2
Early intervention schemes	23	17	19	14	9	10	22	16	18
Extending the breadth of the curriculum	3	1	2	2	1	1	3	1	2
Improving the classroom or school environment	3	1	2	1	2	2	3	2	2
Offsetting budget cuts elsewhere	9	3	5	4	2	3	8	3	5
Extra running costs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic	2	3	2	4	2	3	2	3	3
Other, please specify	5	2	3	7	3	4	5	2	3
Don't know	3	36	23	11	51	40	4	40	26
None of these	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
N=	320	491	811	185	532	717	505	1023	1528

2. How does your school decide which approaches and programmes to adopt to improve pupil learning?

	Primary			Secondary			All		
	Senior leaders (%)	Classroom teachers (%)	All (%)	Senior leaders (%)	Classroom teachers (%)	All (%)	Senior leaders (%)	Classroom teachers (%)	All (%)
Using past experience of what works	81	59	68	76	49	56	80	57	66
Considering research evidence on the impact of different approaches and programmes	79	47	60	80	52	60	79	49	60
Evaluating different approaches and programmes then deciding which to adopt	59	44	50	52	40	43	59	43	49
Considering which approaches and programmes are the most cost effective	43	30	35	44	29	33	43	30	35
Reading the Sutton Trust/EEF toolkit	69	21	40	69	30	40	69	23	40
Learning from what works in other schools	60	47	52	58	44	48	60	46	51
Consulting the school's governing body	8	12	10	12	15	14	8	12	11
Consulting the Local Authority	17	15	15	8	10	9	15	13	14
Other	4	4	4	7	4	5	5	4	4
Don't know.		18	11	1	26	19	0	19	12
No response		0	0		0	0		0	0
N=	321	495	816	185	534	719	506	1029	1535

3. Is pupil premium funding being used to plug gaps elsewhere in your school's budget?

	Primary			Secondary			All		
	Senior leaders (%)	Classroom teachers (%)	All (%)	Senior leaders (%)	Classroom teachers (%)	All (%)	Senior leaders (%)	Classroom teachers (%)	All (%)
Yes	35	19	25	28	12	16	34	17	23
No	55	26	38	53	21	30	56	25	36
Don't know	9	55	37	19	67	54	10	58	40
N=	319	493	812	185	531	716	504	1024	1528

4. Has your school had to cut back on any of the following for financial reasons?

	Primary			Secondary			All		
	Senior leaders (%)	Classroom teachers (%)	All (%)	Senior leaders (%)	Classroom teachers (%)	All (%)	Senior leaders (%)	Classroom teachers (%)	All (%)
Teaching staff	22	14	17	33	24	27	24	16	19
Teaching assistants	47	44	45	33	39	38	45	43	44
Support staff	27	28	28	33	37	36	28	30	29
Subject choices at GCSE				20	26	25	19	25	23
Subject choices at A level				18	23	22	17	22	20
IT equipment	32	22	26	23	23	23	32	22	26
Trips and outings	26	25	25	20	32	28	25	27	26
Sport and other extracurricular activities	17	13	15	10	16	14	16	14	15
Other	3	7	6	5	4	4	3	7	5
No response				37	25	28	5	6	5
N=	321	495	816	185	534	719	506	1029	1535