Technical Report for Winter 2018 School Snapshot Survey

Technical report

April 2019

IFF Research

Overview

Since Winter 2017, the School Snapshot survey been conducted bi-annually to better understand the opinions of leaders and teachers in primary and secondary schools on a range of educational topics.

This technical report discusses the methodology used for the Winter 2018 School Snapshot Survey, the third wave of the survey.

The survey comprised surveys with 836 school leaders and 1,010 classroom teachers. Both groups could undertake the survey online or over the phone. As shown below, nearly all surveys with leaders were conducted over the telephone while most teacher surveys were conducted online. Fieldwork took places between 29 October 2018 and 21 December 2018.

Table 1. Completed surveys by mode

	Teachers Online	Teachers Telephone	Leaders Online	Leaders Telephone
Completes	653	357	2	834

Cognitive testing

Cognitive testing was undertaken between 12 September 2018 and the 27 September 2018 to ascertain how professionals working in the education sector understood proposed questions for the Winter 2018 survey. Seventeen cognitive surveys were carried out over the phone and allowed time for participants to go through each proposed question and share their views on each question. These views were then used to refine the questions for leaders and teachers. The table below illustrates the spread of surveys across the key secondary/primary and leader/teacher sample groups:

Table 2. Cognitive testing surveys

Role	Primary	Secondary	Total
Leader	4	4	8
Teacher	4	5	9
Total	**8**	**9**	**17**

Pilot

Prior to the main fieldwork, a pilot of 20 leader and 12 teacher surveys was conducted by telephone from 8 October 2018 to 22 October 2018 to help further refine the questionnaire and assess overall survey length for each target group. As a result of the pilot a number of amendments were agreed with DfE.

Table 3. Pilot surveys

Role	Primary	Secondary	Total
Leader	10	10	20
Teacher	8	4	12
Total	**18**	**14**	**32**

Sampling

Leaders

The target for the leader element of this survey was a minimum of 800 surveys. To achieve this a sample of 1,600 schools was drawn from the 'Get Information about Schools' database. Ahead of fieldwork starting, each of 1,600 school leaders were sent a letter outlining the purpose of the survey (see Appendix A in this technical report for a copy of the letter). A stratified sampling approach was taken for the selection of the 1,600 schools. A 4-cell sampling grid was used splitting schools by phase (primary/secondary) and by academy status (academy/non-academy). The aim for the survey was to achieve an even split in the number of surveys conducted between primary and secondary schools, and a representative split between academies and non-academies within each school phase. To aim to achieve this, the following number of records was drawn, which took into account the lower response rate achieved in previous waves of the survey for secondary compared with primary schools (around 40% and 60% respectively).

Table 4. Starting sample for the leader survey

School Type	Primary	Secondary
Academies	150	600
Non-academies	502	348
Total	**652**	**948**

In order to reduce the burden on schools, those that had taken part in the Summer 2018 Survey were excluded before the sample was drawn. Within each cell the sample was

drawn on a '1 in n' basis from all eligible schools. Eligible schools were defined as those left after the following exclusions:

- Phase of education: 16 plus institutions; nursery institutions; and not applicable codes were excluded

- Status of establishment: Closed schools were excluded

- Type of establishment: Excluded institutions that were not state primary or secondary; alternative provision schools e.g. free school alternative provision, academy alternative provision; pupil referral units; independent special schools; free school special school; and schools in Wales.

- Those that were invited to take part in the previous wave (Summer 2018).

Teachers

For the teacher element, a target of a minimum 1,000 achieved surveys was set. The sample for this element was obtained through asking schools to nominate details of teachers to participate, a form of clustered random sample. All schools in the sample drawn for the leaders' survey were asked to provide contact details and an additional boost sample of 300 schools (split evenly between primary and secondary schools) were also asked to provide contact details. Each school was asked to provide contact details (e-mail addresses and telephone numbers) for three teachers (excluding teaching assistants). These details could be entered into an online portal or collected over the telephone. To achieve a sample with a spread of teachers:

- Primary heads were asked to provide either two reception/KSI teachers and one KS2 teacher, or one reception/KS1 teacher and two KS2 teachers (allocated at random);

- Secondary heads were asked to provide teachers from three specified subjects (allocated to be maths, English, science, humanities/RS/Citizenship, MFL, IT/technology, music/art/design or PE).

  o In this wave (Winter 2018) we increased the proportion of secondary heads asked to nominate an MFL teacher so that we would have a sufficiently large base for some questions specifically about resources used for MFL teaching. This has been accounted for when we weighted the data to be nationally representative.

In total, 1,649 teacher details were collected from schools (821 primary school teachers and 828 secondary school teachers). Of these, 1,235 details were collected over the telephone and 414 were entered by the school directly into the online portal.

The teachers survey was then conducted as an attempted census of all those for whom contact details were provided. All nominated teachers were initially invited to complete the survey online and then followed-up by telephone to boost the response rate.

Response rate

Table 5. Response rate by key group

	Primary Leaders[1]	Secondary Leaders[2]	Primary Teachers[3]	Secondary Teachers[4]
Starting sample	652	948	821	828
Complete surveys	426	410	533	477
Response rate	**65%**	**43%**	**67%**	**58%**

Table 6. Response rate by academy status

	Academy Leaders	Non-academy Leaders	Academy Teachers	Non-academy Teachers
Sample size	750	850	681	968
Completes surveys	410	426	408	602
Response rate	**55%**	**50%**	**60%**	**62%**

[1] Sample drawn from GIAS.
[2] Sample drawn from GIAS.
[3] Sample collected through leaders' survey.
[4] Sample collected through leaders' survey.

School leader job titles

Table 7 shows the job titles of the leaders surveyed. Two-thirds were head teachers and almost 9 in 10 were Headteachers or Deputy Headteachers.

Table 7. Completed surveys by type of leader

Job role	Frequency	Proportion
Headteacher	550	66%
Deputy Headteacher	188	22%
Assistant Headteacher	42	5%
Leading Practitioner	3	<0.5%
Other	53	6%
Total	**836**	**100%**

Weighting

School level weighting

At the analysis stage, the school-level/leaders' data was grossed up to the overall population of schools. This process corrects for the over-sampling of secondary schools (relative to the proportion of the population that they represent) so that the findings can be interpreted as being representative of all (in scope) state-funded schools. The population data for weighting was drawn from GIAS. The following population figures were used:

Table 8. Population data (from Get Information about Schools)

Number of schools	Primary[5]	Secondary[6]	Grand Total
Academy converter	3,641	1,549	5,190
Academy sponsor led	1,447	743	2,190
Community school	6,377	405	6,782
Foundation school	567	194	761
Free schools	171	175	346
Studio schools	-	28	28
University technical college	-	51	51
Voluntary aided school	2,802	243	3,045
Voluntary controlled school	1,819	35	1,854
Grand Total	**16,824**	**3,423**	**20,247**

[5] Includes middle deemed primary schools.
[6] Includes all through and middle deemed secondary schools.

Table 9. Achieved surveys (unweighted)

Number of schools	Primary	Secondary	Grand Total
Academy converter	67	193	260
Academy sponsor led	38	67	105
Community school	177	60	237
Foundation school	22	15	37
Free schools	1	33	34
Studio schools	-	5	5
University technical college	-	6	6
Voluntary aided school	74	30	104
Voluntary controlled school	45	3	48
Grand Total	**424**	**412**	**836**

Table 10. Grossing factors by cell

Number of schools	Primary	Secondary
Academy converter	54.3	8.0
Academy sponsor led	38.1	11.1
Community school	36.0	6.8
Foundation school	25.8	12.9
Free schools	171.0	5.3
Studio schools	-	5.6
University technical college	-	8.5
Voluntary aided school	37.9	8.1
Voluntary controlled school	40.4	11.7

Teachers / individual weighting

For the analysis on a teacher base, the responses from leaders and classroom teachers were combined and weighted together to the overall population of teachers. The population data for the teachers weighting was taken from the Schools Workforce Census.

The calculations for this element of the weighting are shown in the table below:

Table 11. Population data (from Schools Workforce Census)

School level	Classroom teachers	School leaders	Total
Primary	210,129	43,127	253,256
Secondary	196,315	22,429	218,744
Total	406,444	65,556	472,000

Table 12. Achieved surveys

School level	Classroom teachers	School leaders	Total
Primary	539	426	539
Secondary	471	410	471
Total	539	826	1,010

Table 13. Weights applied

School level	Classroom teachers	School leaders
Primary	1.485	0.386
Secondary	1.588	0.208

Appendix A. Advance letter for school leaders

Dear <CONTACT>,   ID: <ID>

Wave 3 of the School Snapshot Survey

The Department for Education (DfE) has commissioned IFF Research, an independent research agency, to administer a survey exploring the views of professionals working in education on a number of topical issues. This study will help DfE understand the range and depth of experiences and views among those working across education. The survey explores issues such as **teacher workloads, careers development, extracurricular provision and pupil wellbeing**.

We would like to request your assistance in this research. This would involve two key elements:

- We would like to conduct a **telephone survey interview** with you or another School Leader. This would last around 20 minutes and can be arranged at a time that is convenient to you**.**
- Before then, we would like you to **nominate 3 classroom teachers** that we will then invite to provide their views via an online survey.

One of our researchers will be in touch over the next few weeks to arrange a telephone survey with you.

To provide us with details of classroom teachers we would be very grateful if you, or another member of staff could log on to this website: www.iffresearch.com/schoolsnapshotsurvey and provide us with work e-mail addresses (and also telephone numbers where possible) for:

- <TEACHTYPE1>
- <TEACHTYPE2>
- <TEACHTYPE3>

If your school does not have one or more of these types of teacher, we'd still like to hear from your school. You can decide which teachers to provide contact information for. Ideally, these teachers should include a mix by gender and number of years of teaching experience.

When you log-on to the website you will be asked to provide the ID number at the top right-hand side of this letter as an access code. You can access the link as many times as you need to.

We may also ask for this information over the phone when we call to arrange a telephone survey, so **please inform your school's receptionist/gatekeeper** that they we will be asking for this information.

Please be reassured that the findings are strictly confidential. Your personal details and those of your school will not be shared with anyone outside of IFF Research. The research is being conducted strictly in accordance with the Market Research Society Code of Conduct, and any information you provide will be handled securely in line with the UK Data Protection Act and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). All names and contact details will be deleted 6 months after completion of this project. You have a right to have a copy of your data, change your data, or withdraw from the research at any point. If you'd like to do this, please visit our website at: iffresearch.com/gdpr.

If you have any questions about the research, please contact Jonnie Felton on 0207 250 3035 or email schoolsnapshotsurvey@iffresearch.com. Alternatively, if you wish to discuss the research with DfE, our contact is Toby Heffernan (Toby.HEFFERNAN@education.gov.uk). We very much hope you will be able to contribute to the research.

Kind Regards,

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