



Teacher Attitude Survey 2017 report

Teachers' awareness and perceptions of Ofsted

Please note this report is easier to interpret when printed in colour

Contents

- Background and Method
- Section 1 - Perceptions of Ofsted
 - Attitudes towards Ofsted as an organisation
 - Attitudes towards Ofsted inspections
- Section 2 - Communications with teachers
 - Awareness of Ofsted publications
 - How Ofsted could improve their output
- Section 3 – Ofsted’s myth busting campaign
 - Current understanding of myths
 - Confidence promoting and challenging information
- Appendix A – Sample profile

Background and method



The main objectives of this study were to provide Ofsted with robust and timely evidence from classroom teachers to:

- 1. Explore their perceptions of Ofsted*
- 2. Help improve the way Ofsted communicates with teachers*
- 3. Measure understanding of Ofsted's 'myth busting' campaign*

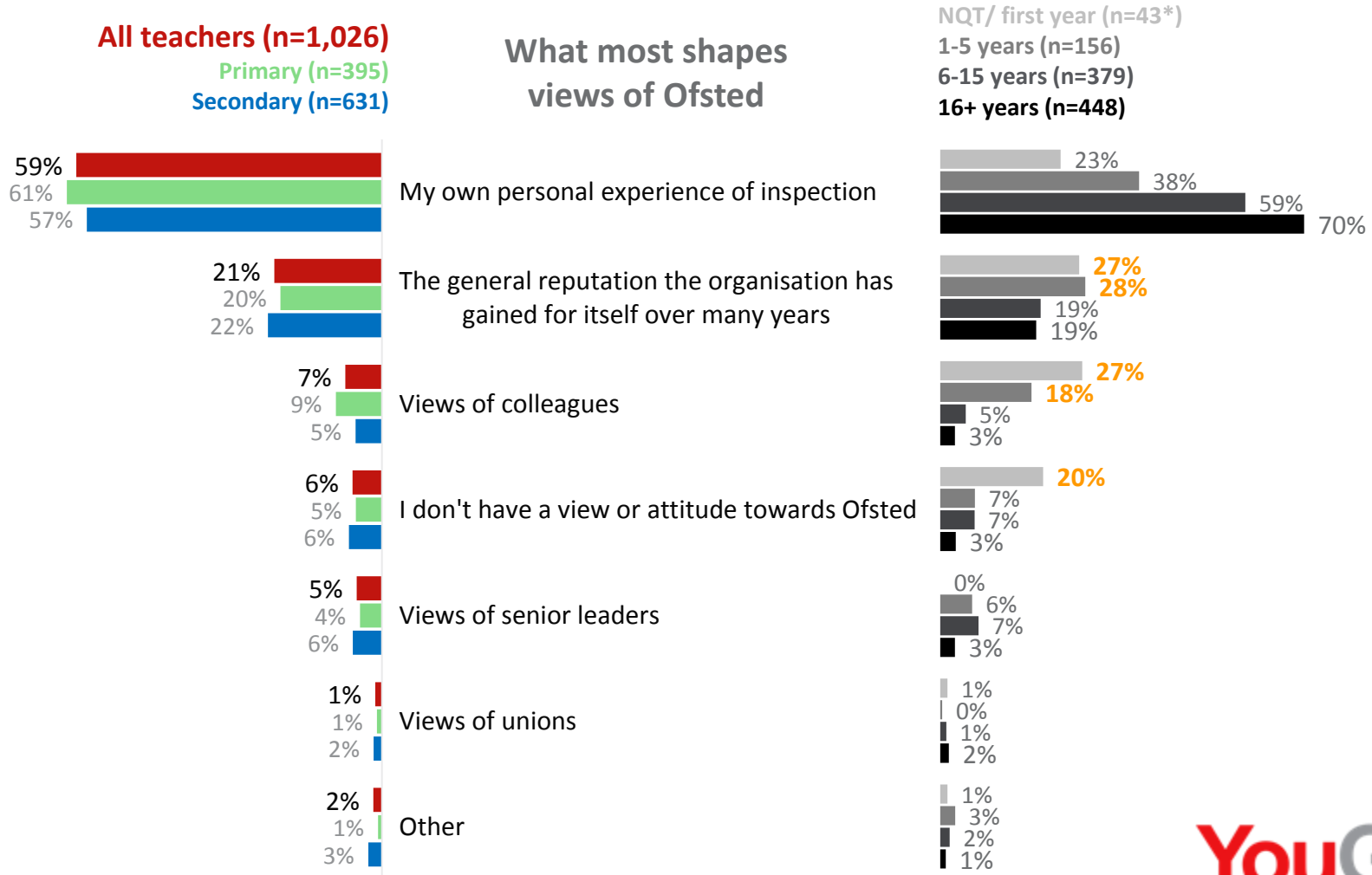
- An online survey was developed in conjunction with Ofsted and was carried out amongst teachers between 8 and 21 February 2017*
- The total number of respondents was 1,026 teachers; 395 primary and 631 secondary*
- The survey targeted teachers across England, teaching reception through to year 13 students at least once a week.*
- The figures have been weighted and are representative of teachers in England by gender and school type.*

Teachers' perceptions of Ofsted

Attitudes towards Ofsted as an organisation



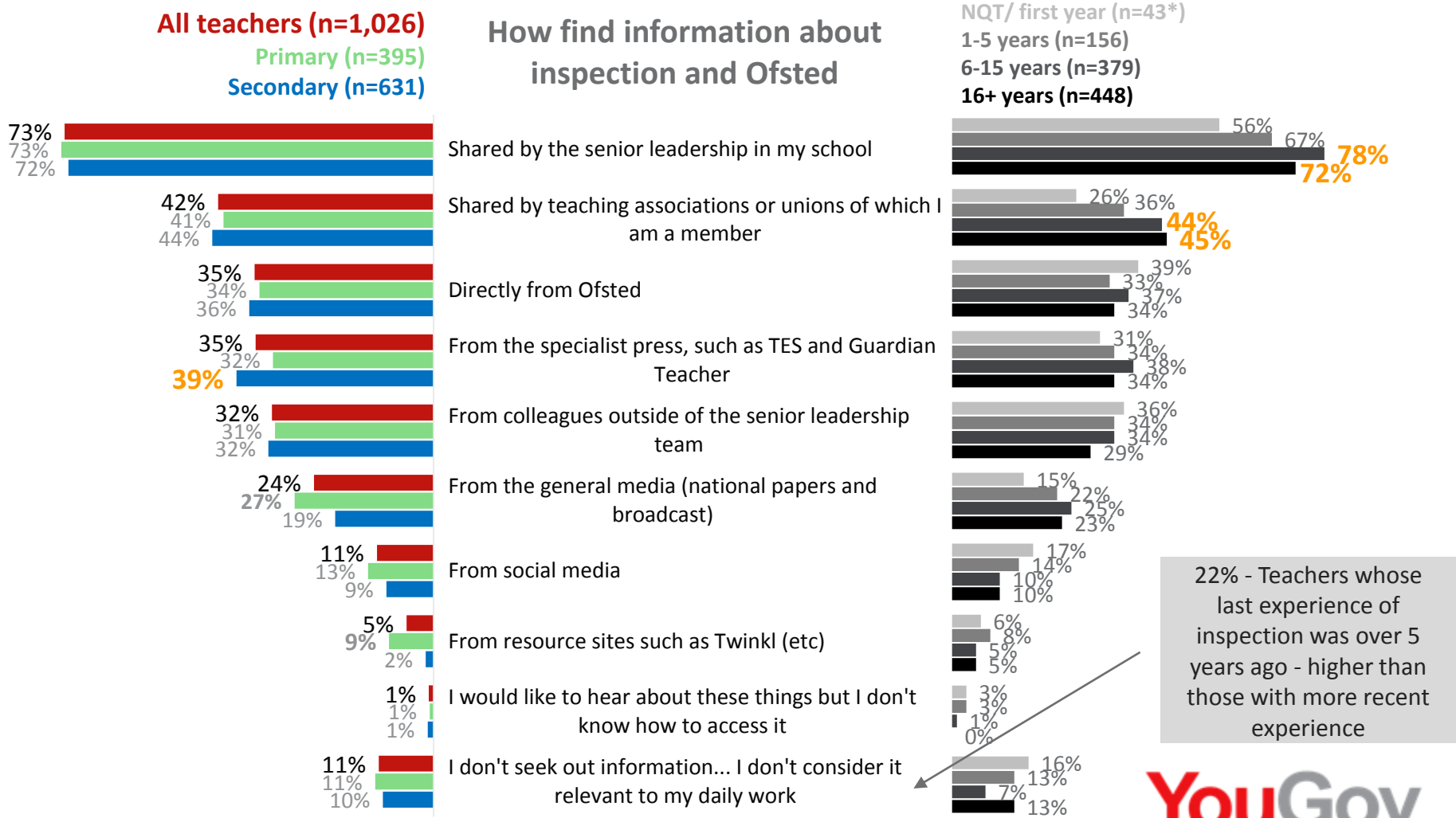
Teachers with less than 5 years teaching experience are more likely to have their attitudes towards Ofsted shaped by general reputation and views of colleagues rather than personal experience



7 S14 - Which ONE of the following most shapes your views and attitudes towards Ofsted?

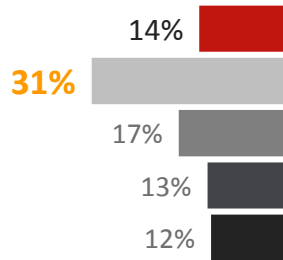
* Please note small base size

Teachers with over 6 years teaching experience are more likely to have information about inspection and how Ofsted works shared with them by their senior leadership, or through membership of a teaching association or union



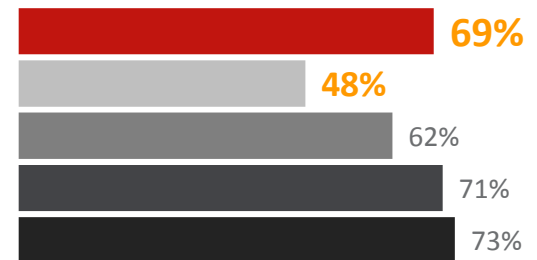
As length of service increases, agreement that Ofsted acts as a reliable and trusted arbiter, or a force of improvement decreases. Over two-thirds of teachers see Ofsted as existing to primarily help the government of the day advance its education agenda

Strongly or slightly disagree

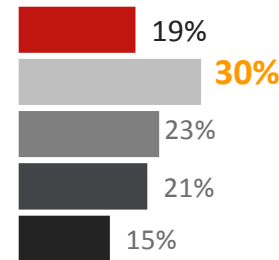


Ofsted exists primarily to help the government of the day advance its education agenda

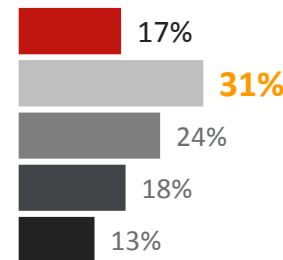
Strongly or slightly agree



Ofsted is a force for improvement in England's education system



Ofsted acts as a reliable and trusted arbiter of standards across all different types of schools in England



All teachers (n=1,026)

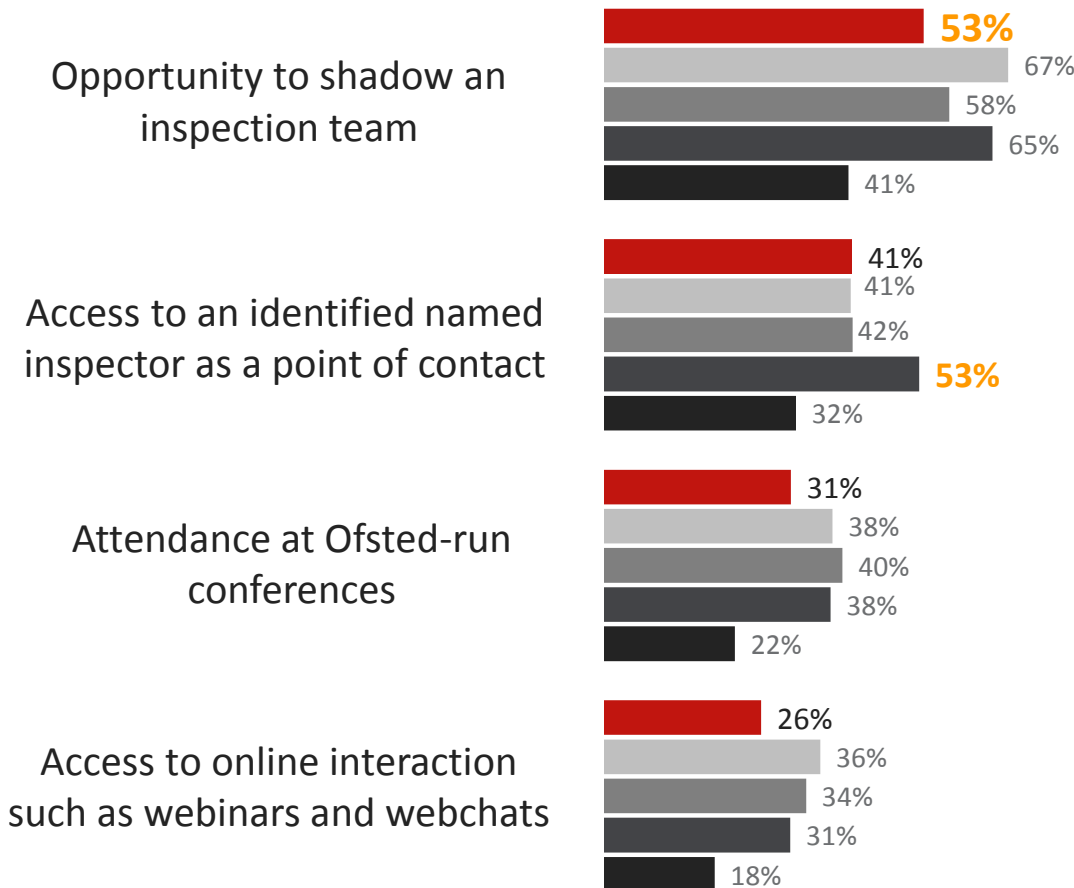
Length of service:
 NQT/ first year (n=43*)
 1-5 years (n=156)
 6-15 years (n=379)
 16+ years (n=448)



Half (53%) of teachers would be interested in engaging with Ofsted by shadowing an inspection team

How interested or uninterested would you be about engaging with Ofsted in the following ways?

Very or slightly interested



All teachers (n=1,026)

Length of service:

NQT/ first year (n=43*)

1-5 years (n=156)

6-15 years (n=379)

16+ years (n=448)

53% of teachers with 6-15 years experience would be interested in having access to an identified inspector as a point of contact – significantly higher than those with fewer or more years experience

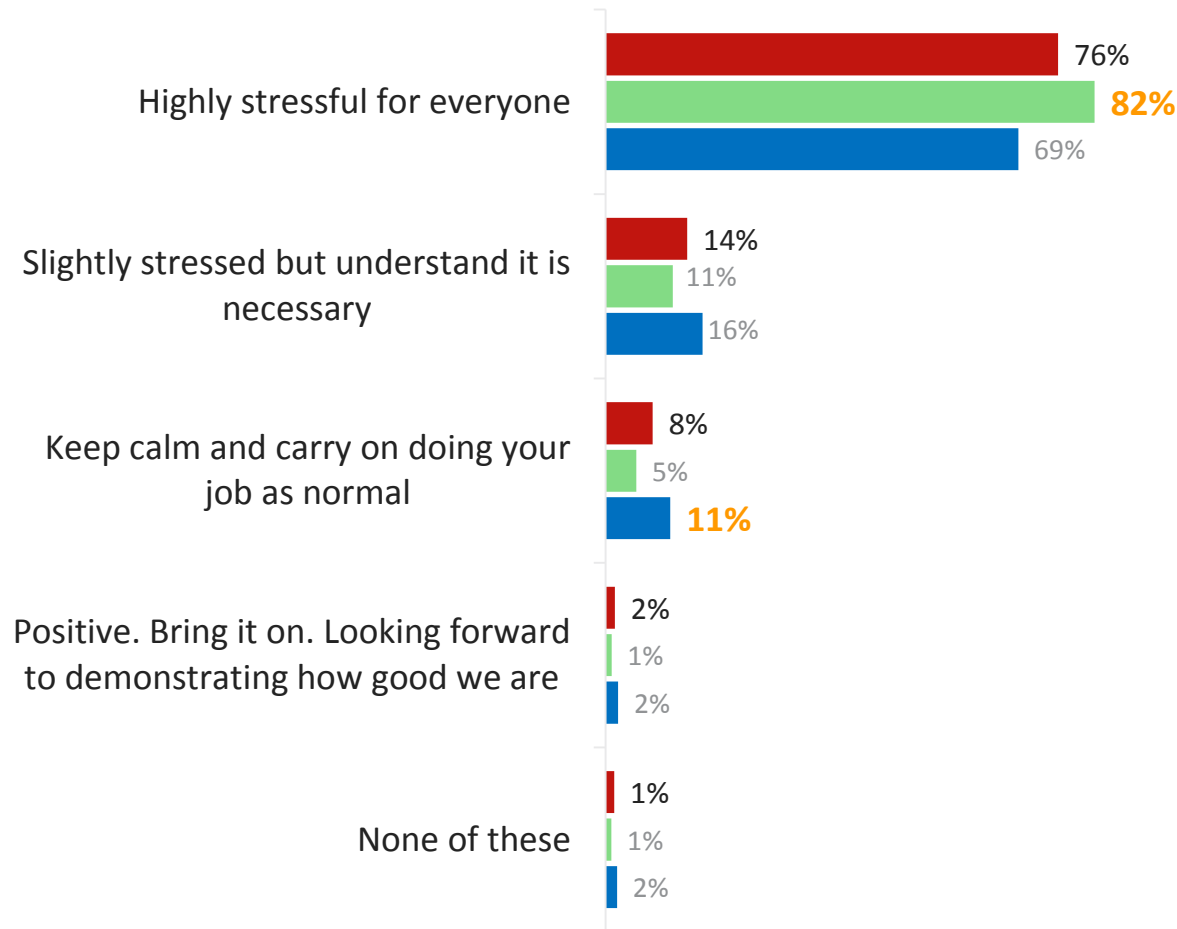
YouGov

Attitudes towards Ofsted inspections



Overall teachers find the thought of Ofsted inspecting their school highly stressful for everyone, with primary school teachers more likely to think this

Which of the following would best describe your emotions when you think about Ofsted inspecting your school?



All teachers (n=1,026)

Primary (n=395)

Secondary (n=631)

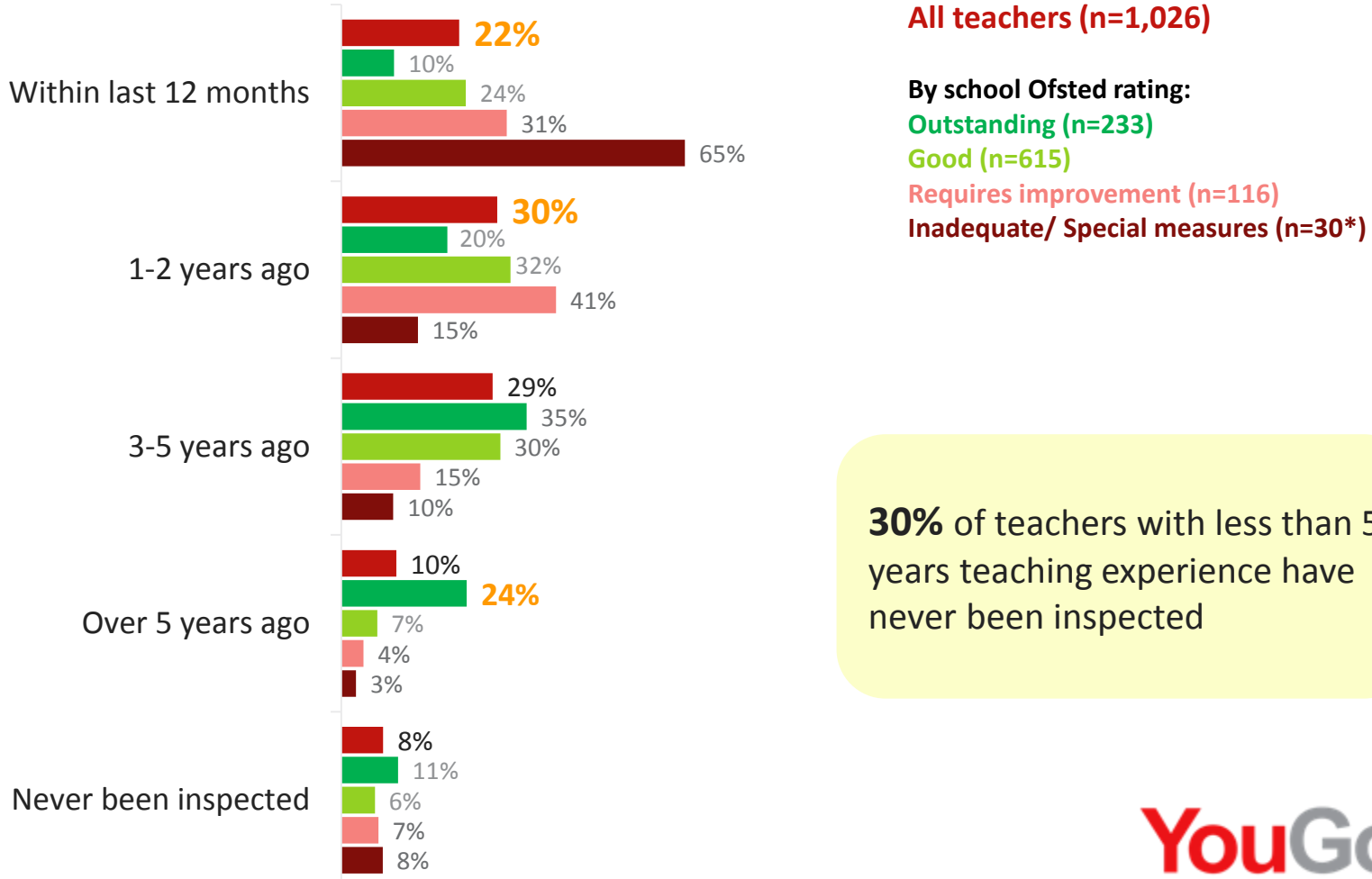
Describe as highly stressful:

- **82%** of teachers who believe the myth busting information did not permeate at all through their SLT/staffroom
- **81%** of teachers who last experienced an inspection 3-5 years ago, compared to **71%** who experienced an inspection in the last 12 months

YouGov

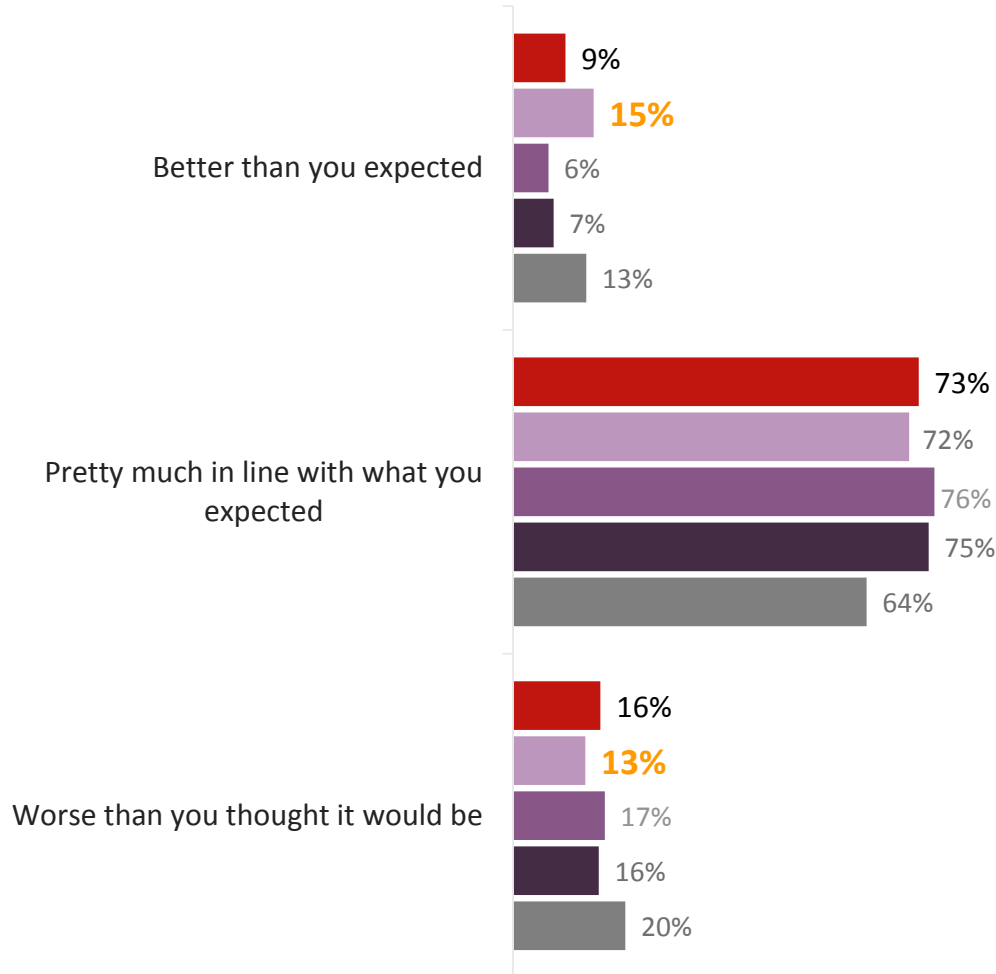
Half of all teachers' (52%) last personal experience of being inspected in a school setting was in the last 2 years. Almost a quarter (24%) of teachers working in an outstanding school last experienced being inspected over 5 years ago

How recent was your last personal experience of being inspected in a school setting?



Teachers inspected within the last 12 months are significantly more likely to have found the experience better than expected compared with teachers inspected between 1 and 5 years ago

Thinking of the most recent experience of being inspected in a school setting. Did you find the experience....



Teachers that have been inspected (n=932)

Last personal experience of inspection:

Within last 12 months (n=229)

1-2 years ago (n=300)

3-5 years ago (n=297)

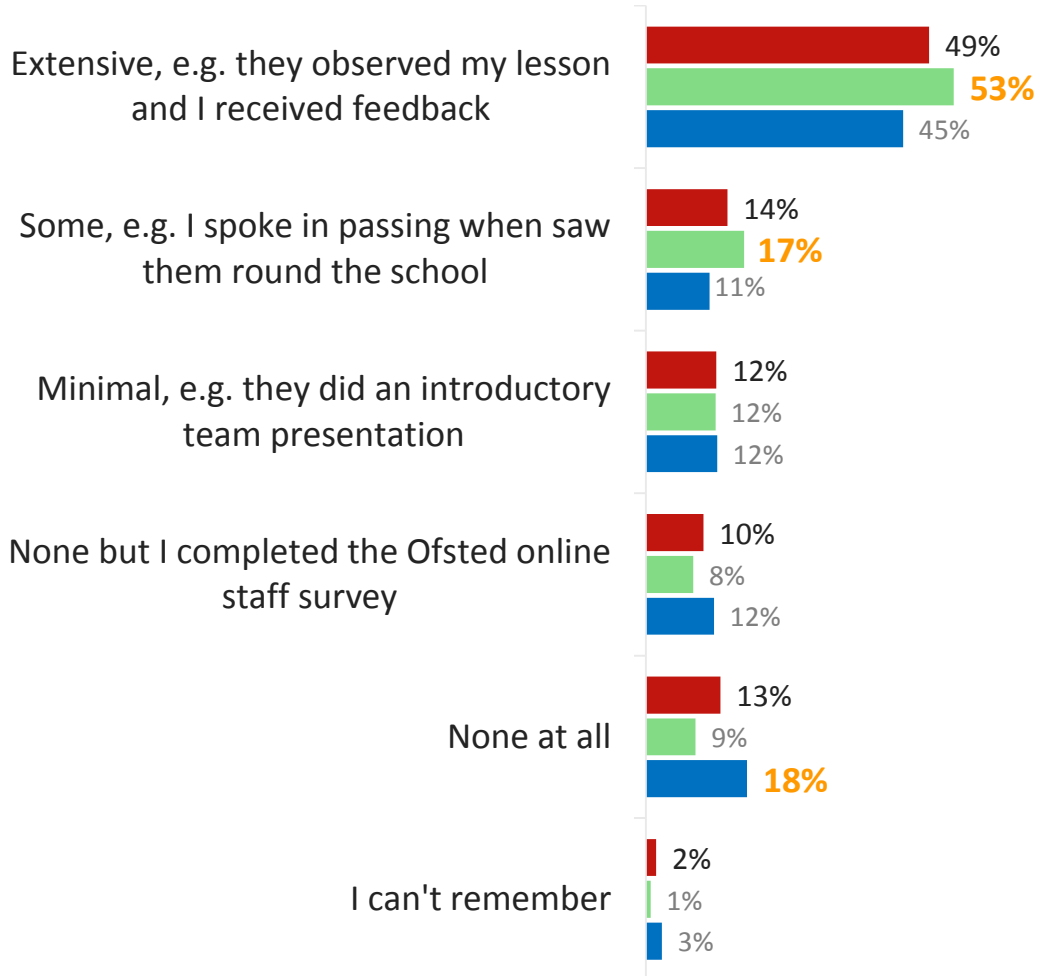
Over 5 years ago (n=106)

- **23%*** of teachers who believe the myth busting information completely permeated through their SLT/staffroom found inspection better than expected
- **25%** of teachers who believe the myth busting information did not permeate at all through their SLT/staffroom found inspection worse than expected



Primary school teachers are more likely to have more direct involvement with the Ofsted inspection team than secondary school teachers

Still thinking about your last inspection: How much direct involvement did you have with the inspection team?

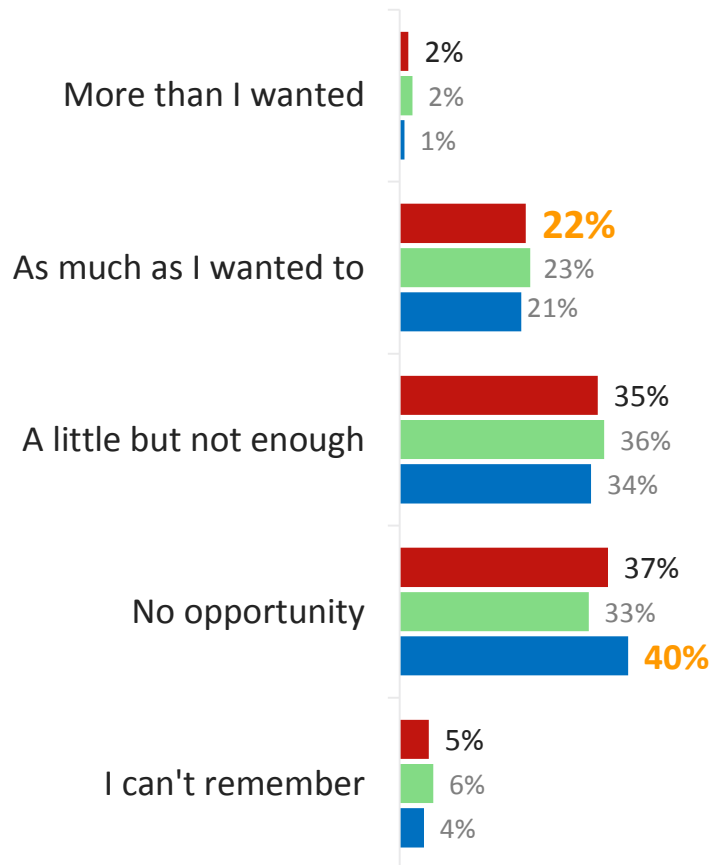


Teachers that have been inspected:
All (n=932)
Primary (n=354)
Secondary (n=578)

- **58%** of teachers inspected over 3 years ago had extensive direct involvement, compared to **43%** of teachers inspected within the last 2 years
- **18%** of teachers at an outstanding school had no direct involvement at all with the inspection team

Seven out of ten teachers feel they had no or little opportunity to feed their views and contribute to the whole experience of their school being inspected.
 Two fifths of secondary school teachers feel they had no opportunity, compared to a third of primary teachers

To what extent did you feel you had an opportunity to feed in your views and contribute to the whole experience of your school being inspected?



Teachers that have been inspected:

All (n=932)

Primary (n=354)

Secondary (n=578)

No opportunity:

- **54%** of teachers who believe the myth busting information did not permeate at all through their SLT/staffroom
- **46%** of teachers working in a school with an Ofsted rating of requires improvement
- **40%** of teachers who feel Ofsted inspecting their school is highly stressful for everyone

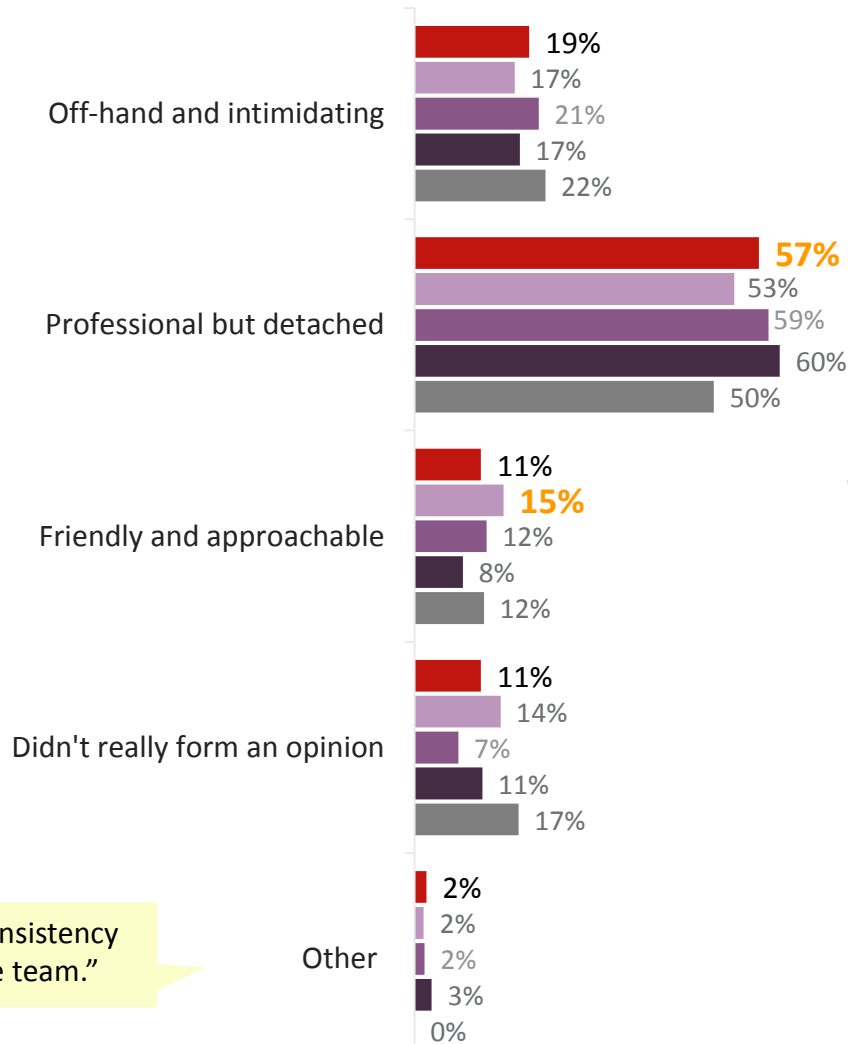
Ofsted inspection teams being described as friendly and approachable is almost double for teachers inspected within the last 12 months (15%), compared to those whose last inspection was 3-5 years ago (8%).

32% of teachers who believe the myth busting information did not permeate at all through their SLT/staffroom

30% of teachers working in a school with an Ofsted rating of requires improvement

17% of secondary teachers

“Mixed. Vast difference and inconsistency between members of the same team.”



Teachers that have been inspected (n=932)

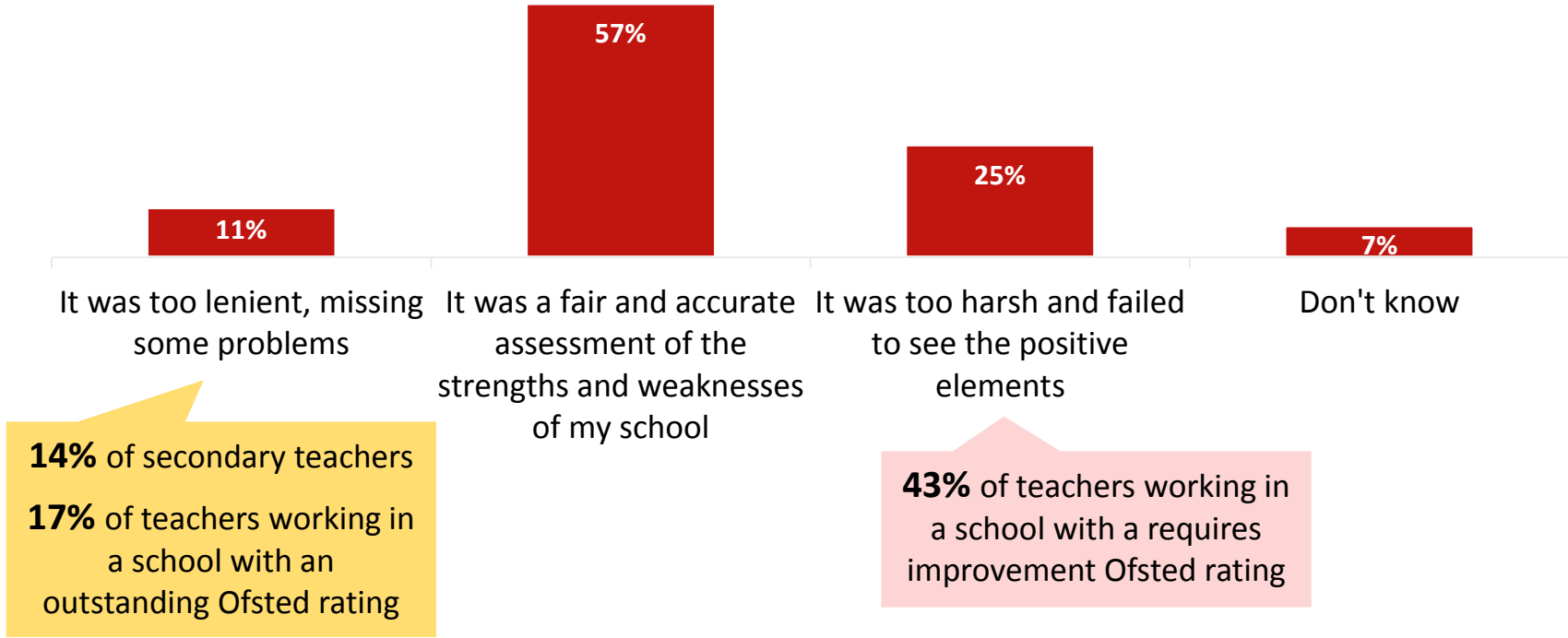
Last personal experience of inspection:
 Within last 12 months (n=229)
 1-2 years ago (n=300)
 3-5 years ago (n=297)
 Over 5 years ago (n=106)



Six out of ten (57%) teachers whose school has been inspected by Ofsted feel the final judgement reached by the inspection team was a fair and accurate assessment

Teachers that have been inspected (n=932)

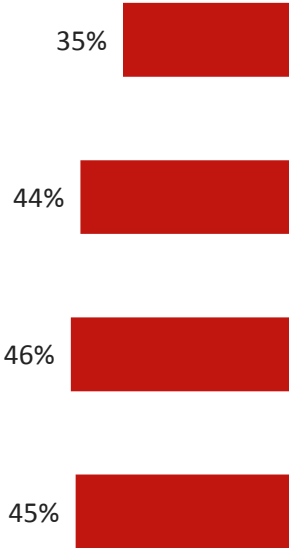
Which of the following best describes how you felt about the final judgement (and sub-judgements) that the inspection team reached?



Four out of ten (44%) of teachers agree that inspection is an important and necessary method of monitoring performance and holding schools to account

- ✓ Teachers working in an 'outstanding school' (43%) or those that have been inspected within the last 12 months (42%) are more likely to **agree** that senior leaders want to focus on achieving the best outcomes for pupils
- ✓ Teachers with up to 5 years experience (52%) are more likely to **agree** that inspection is an important and necessary method of monitoring than those with 16+ years experience (37%)
- ✓ Teachers with up to 10 years experience (31%) are more likely to **agree** that those employed to undertake inspections have the relevant frontline experience

Strongly or slightly disagree



All teachers (n=1,026)

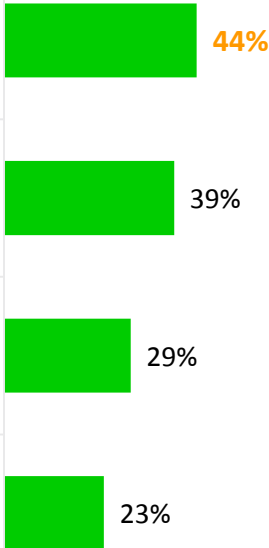
Inspection is an important and necessary method of monitoring performance and holding schools to account

Senior leaders in my school want to focus everyone's efforts on achieving the best outcomes for our pupils and not on preparing for inspection

Inspection helps individual schools improve

Those employed to undertake inspections on behalf of Ofsted have the relevant frontline experience, skills and qualifications to do so

Strongly or slightly agree



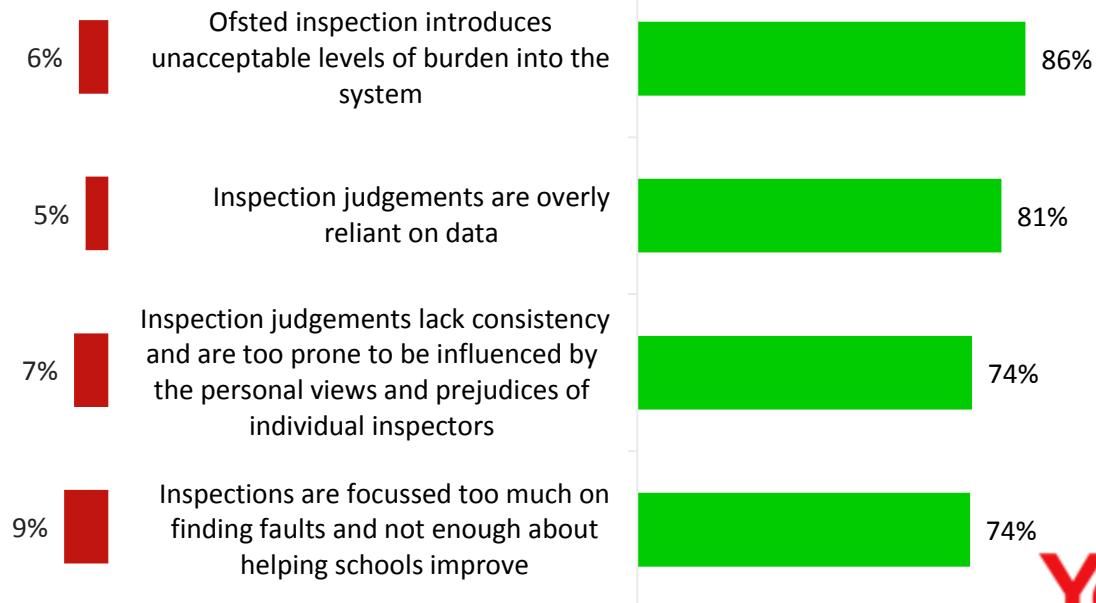
Teachers are more likely to agree with statements that imply Ofsted inspections are burdensome, overly reliant on data and open to the subjectivity of the inspection team

- ✓ Those with five years or less teaching experience (12%) are more likely to **disagree** that inspections are focussed too much on finding faults
- ✓ NQTs* are more likely to **disagree** that inspection judgements lack consistency and are too prone to be influenced (21%)
- ✓ Teachers working in an 'outstanding school' are more likely to **disagree** that inspection introduces unacceptable levels of burden (10%) and inspection judgements lack consistency and are too prone to be influenced (12%)
- ✗ Primary teachers are more likely to **agree** that inspection introduces unacceptable levels of burden (90%) and inspection judgements are overly reliant on data (84%)

Strongly or slightly disagree

All teachers (n=1,026)

Strongly or slightly agree



Communications with teachers

Awareness of Ofsted publications

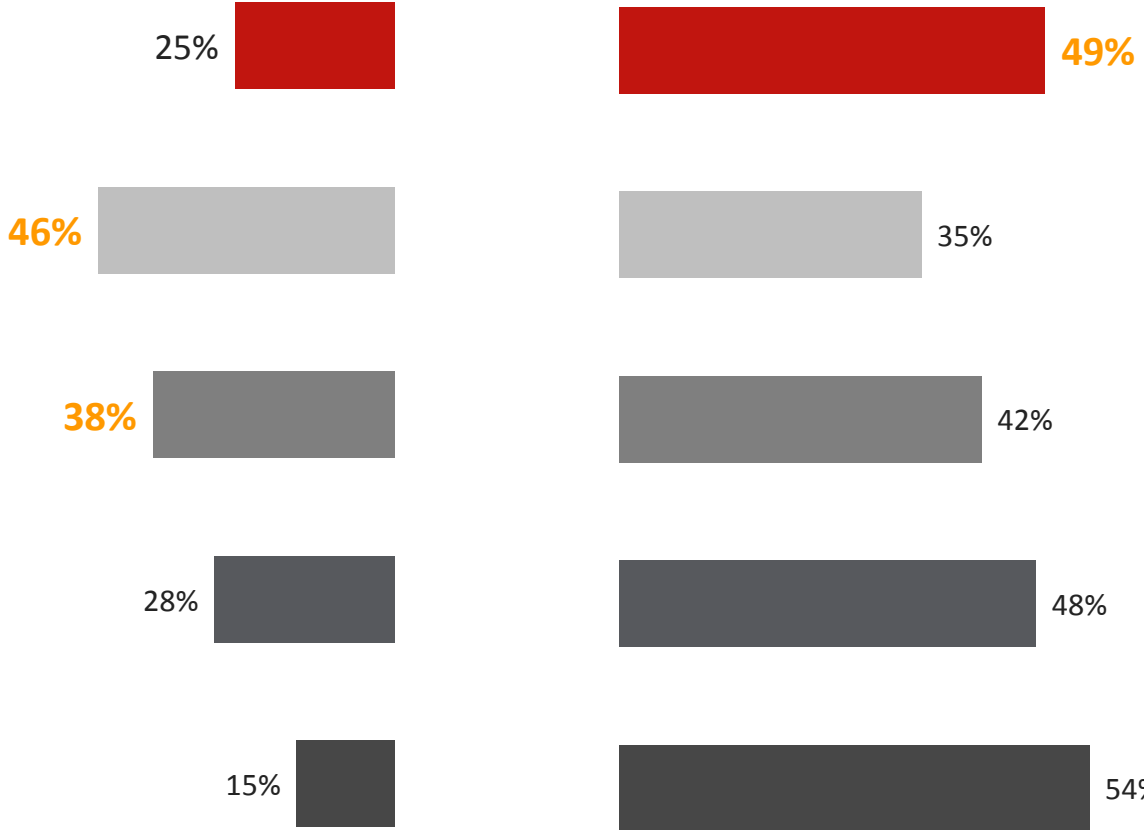


Teachers with less than five years experience are more likely to be unaware of information published by Ofsted but would like to hear about it

Which of the following best describes your awareness of information that Ofsted publishes?

I didn't know Ofsted published this type of material but would like to hear about these things

I am aware of this information that Ofsted publishes

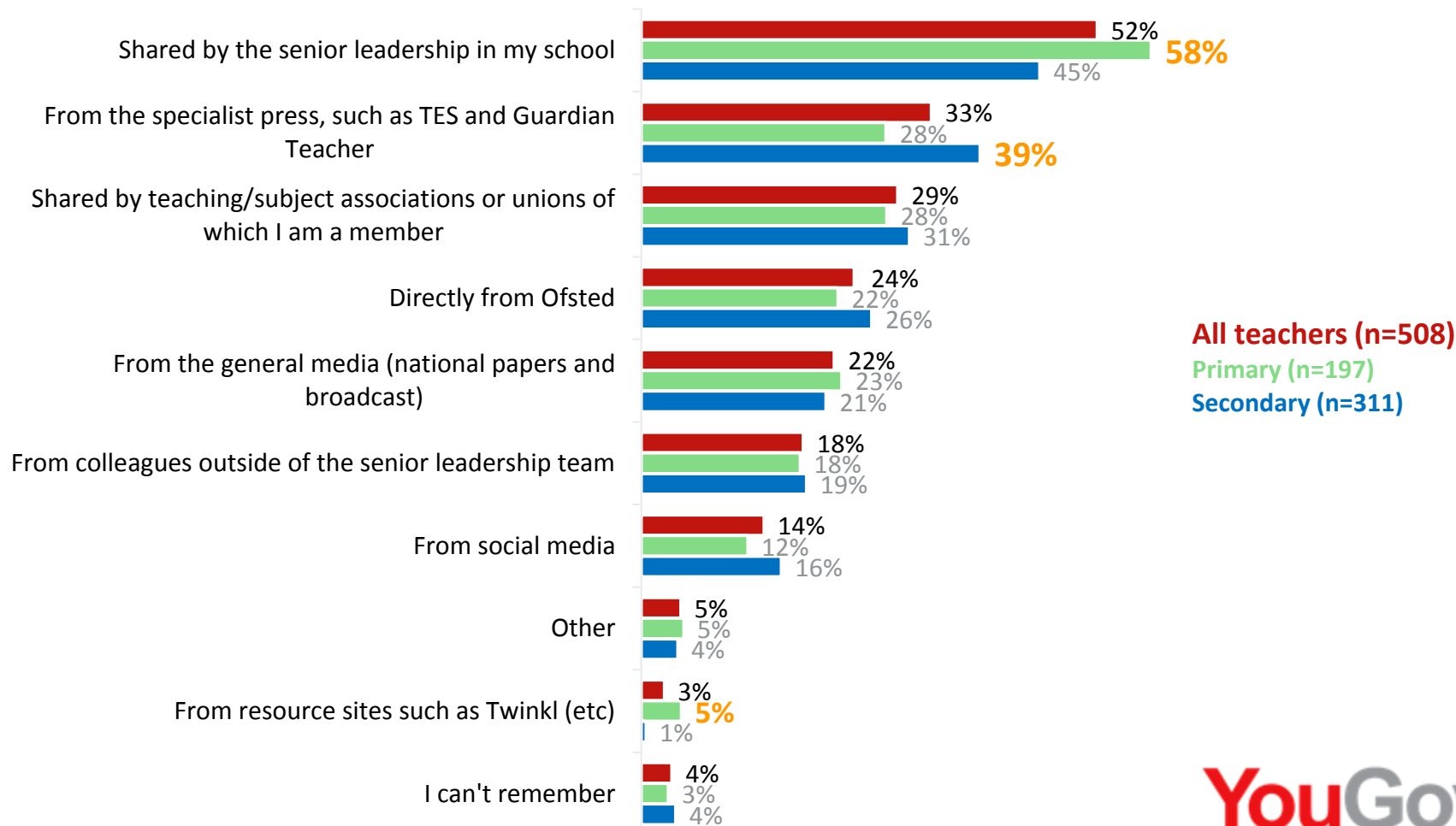


All teachers (n=1,026)
Length of service:
 NQT/ first year (n=43*)
 1-5 years (n=156)
 6-15 years (n=379)
 16+ years (n=448)



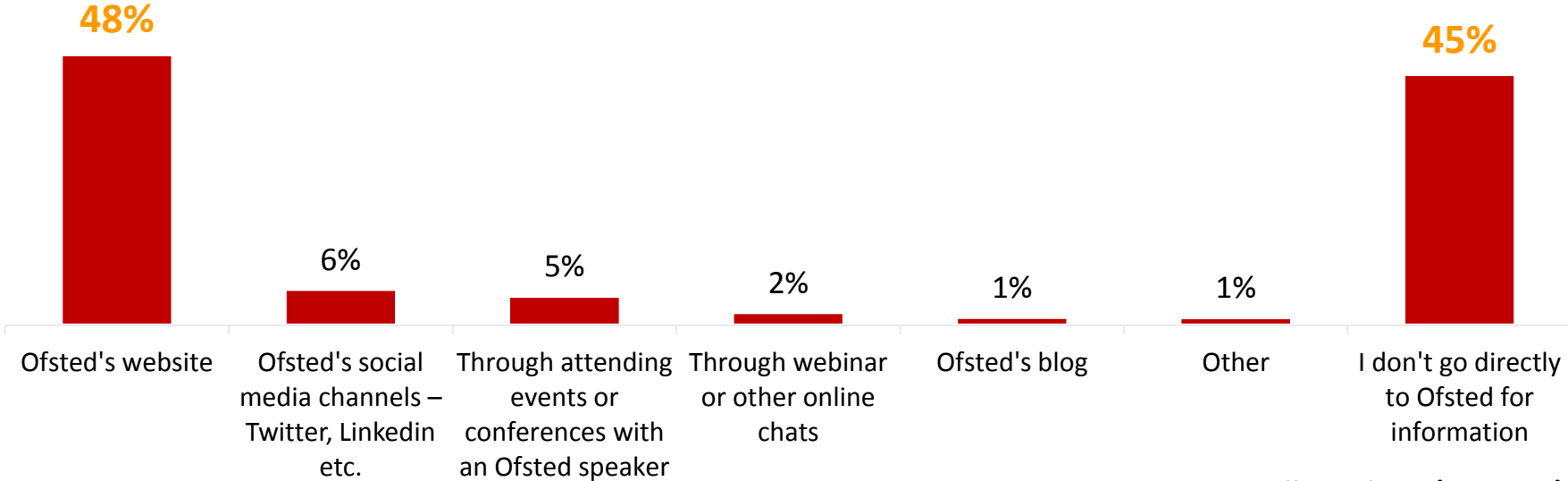
Teachers are most likely to hear about information Ofsted publishes from the SLT, especially primary teachers. Secondary teachers are more likely to hear about information in the specialist press

How do you hear about the information that Ofsted publishes?



The Ofsted website is the main channel used by teachers to get information directly from Ofsted. Over two fifths of teachers disagree that Ofsted’s research contributes to the general understanding of the strengths and weaknesses in England’s education system

Thinking about information that you might get directly from Ofsted, which channels do you use?



All teachers (n=1,026)

Ofsted's research and evidence contributes to the general understanding of the strengths and weaknesses in England's education system

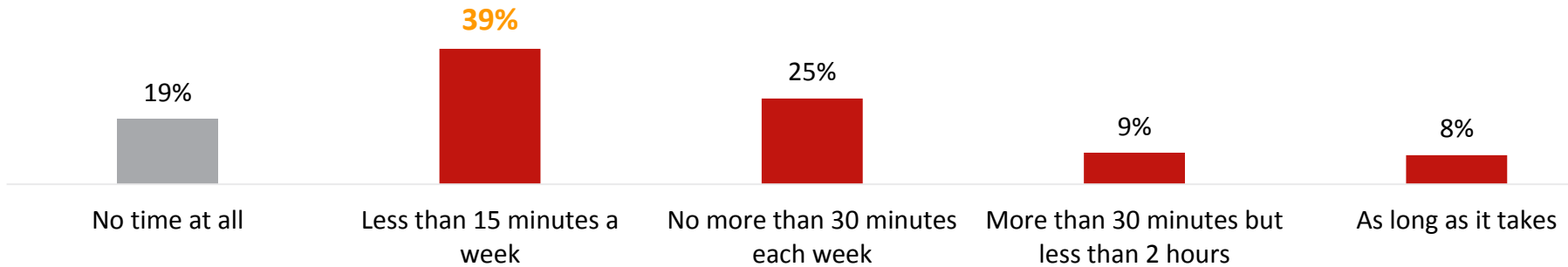


No differences in results between primary and secondary teachers, or by length of service
 A3 - Thinking about information that you might get directly from Ofsted, which channels do you use?
 s13_7 - To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? - Ofsted's research and evidence contributes to the strengths and weaknesses in England's education system



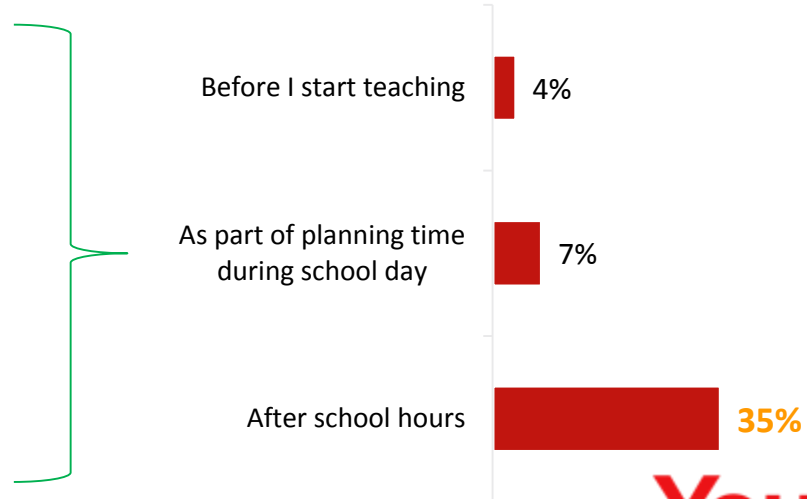
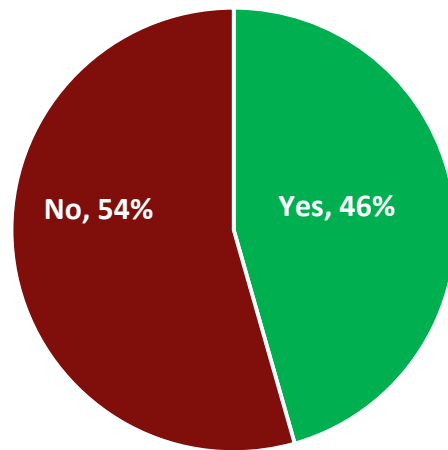
Eight out of ten (81%) teachers set aside some time in an average week to read relevant educational information, with four out of ten setting aside less than 15 minutes. Over a third (35%) of teachers set aside a particular time after school hours to read this information

Teachers setting aside some time to read educational information



Teachers setting aside a **particular** time to read educational information

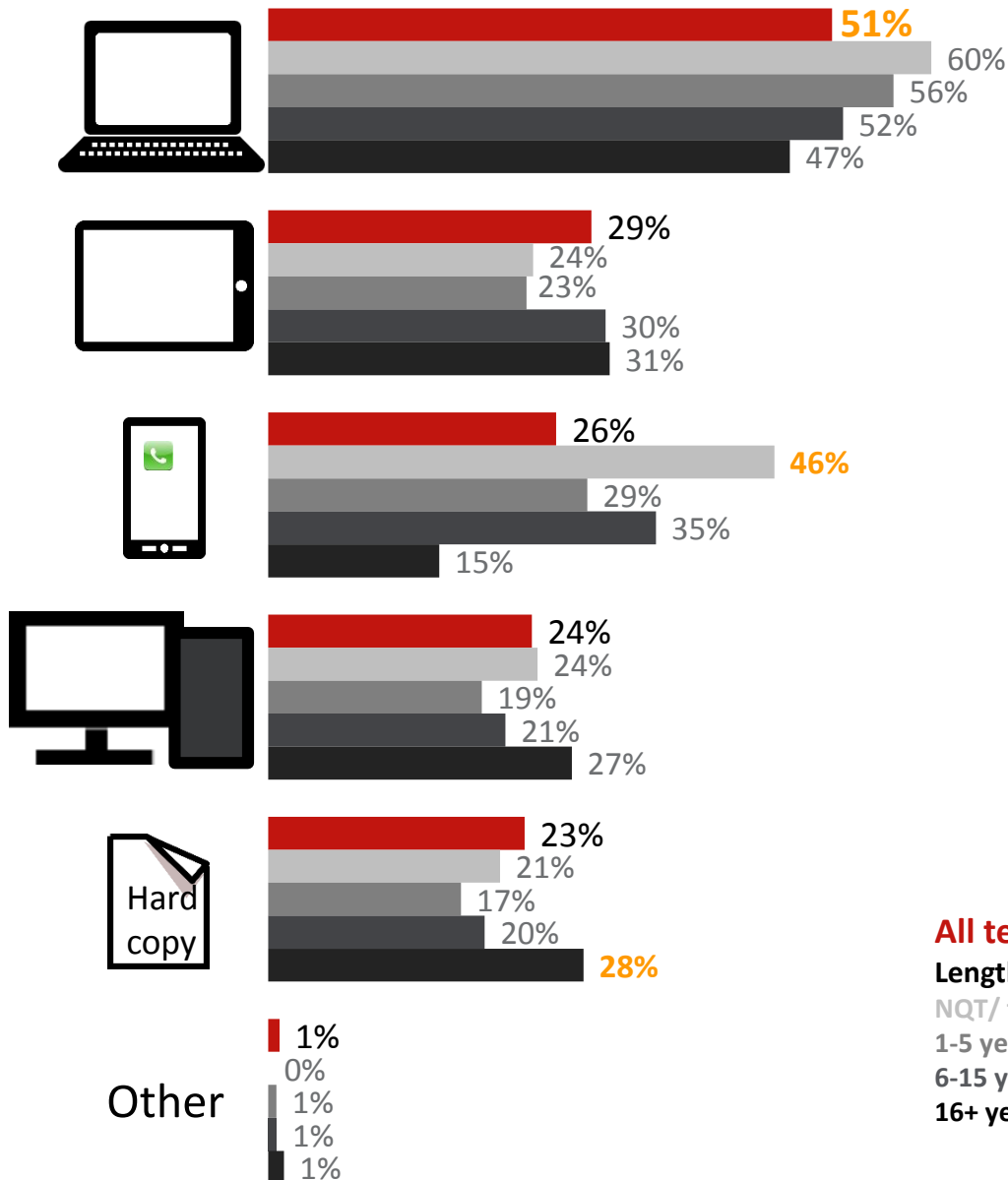
All teachers (n=1,026)



How Ofsted could improve their output



Half of teachers prefer to read information relevant to their job on a laptop



- NQTs* are most likely to prefer reading information on a smartphone
- **37%** of teachers aged 18-44 years old prefer to use a smartphone, compared to **14%** of teachers aged 45 and over
- **30%** of secondary teachers prefer to use a desktop, compared to **18%** of primary teachers

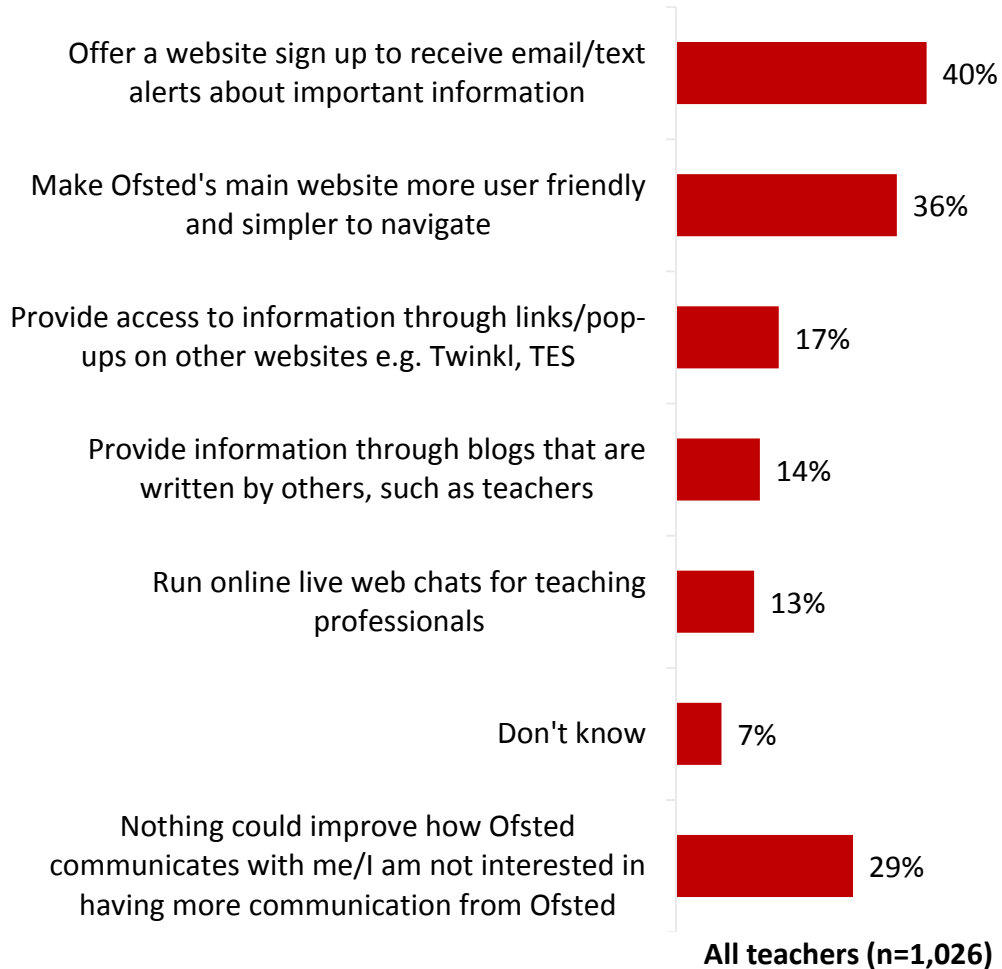
All teachers (n=1,026)

Length of service:
 NQT/ first year (n=43*)
 1-5 years (n=156)
 6-15 years (n=379)
 16+ years (n=448)



Two fifths (40%) of teachers would like Ofsted to offer a website sign up to receive alerts about important information and a third (36%) would like Ofsted's main website to be made more user friendly and simpler to navigate

Which of the following, if any, could Ofsted do in the future to improve how it communicates directly with you?

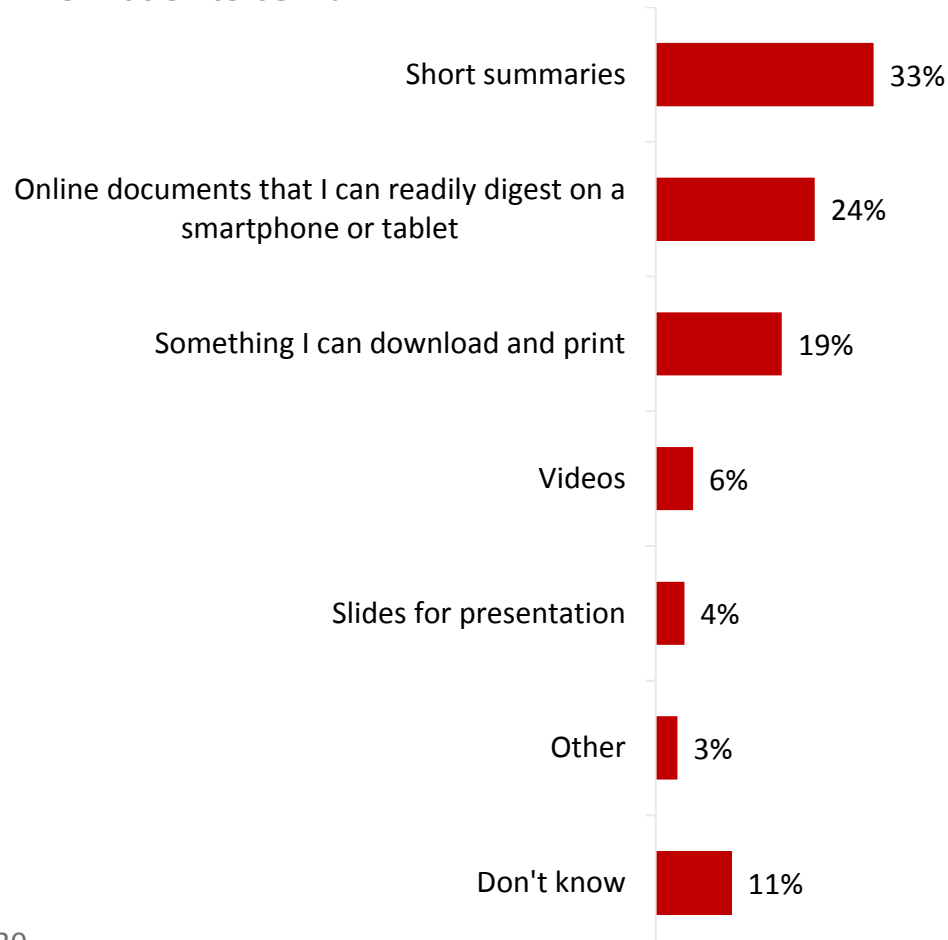


- **46%** of teachers working in a school with a rating of requires improvement would like Ofsted's main website more user friendly and simpler to navigate
- **38%** of teachers with 16 or more years experience feel Ofsted could do nothing more to improve/they are not interested in having more communication from Ofsted, compared to **18%** of teachers with 5 years or less experience
- **20%** of primary teachers would like Ofsted to provide access to information through links/pop-ups on other websites, compare to **13%** of secondary teachers



A third (33%) of teachers would find short summaries the most useful format for Ofsted to provide practical information and a quarter (24%) would find online documents most useful

Thinking about the kind of practical information that Ofsted could provide to you, which format would you find most useful for the information to be in?



All teachers (n=1,026)

- **44%** of NQTs* find short summaries the most useful format, compared to **28%** of teachers with 16 or more years experience
- **25%** of teachers with 16 or more years experience would find something they can download and print most useful, compared to **10%** of teachers with 5 years or less experience
- **25%** of teachers working in a school with a rating of requires improvement would find something they can download and print most useful, compared to **14%** of teachers working in an outstanding school

YouGov

Ofsted's 'myth busting' campaign

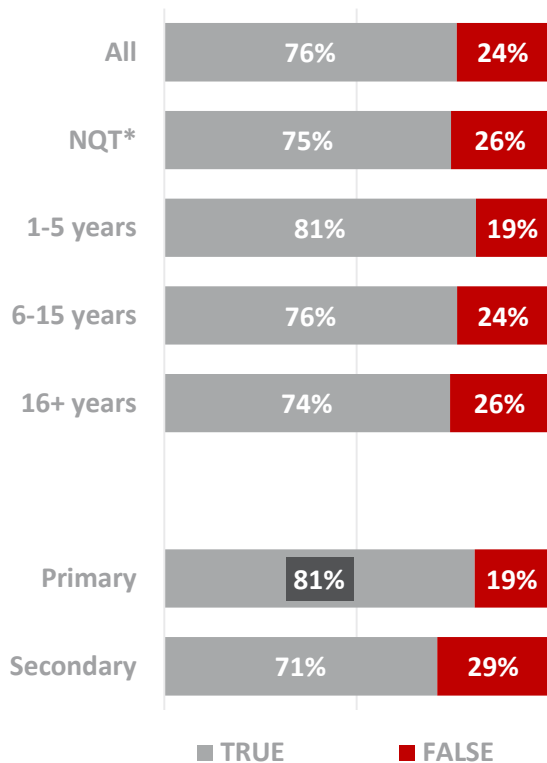
Current understanding of myths



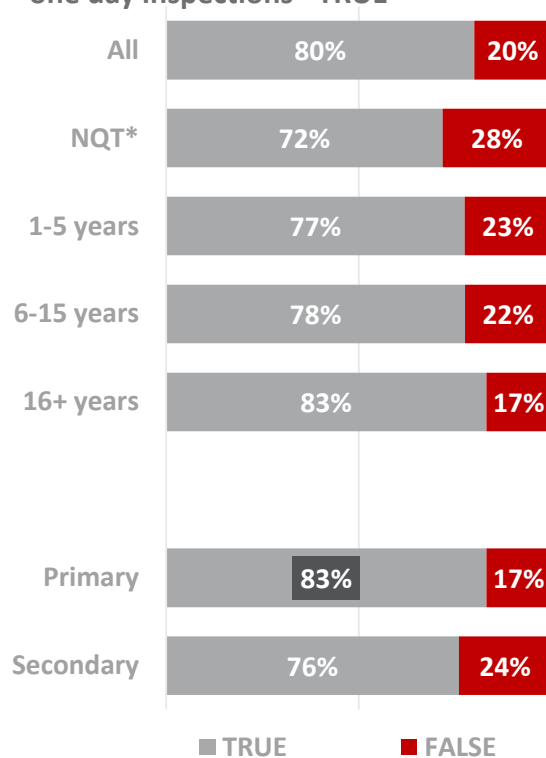
Eight out of ten teachers can correctly identify that it is true that Ofsted generally gives schools half-a-day's notice of an inspection and schools previously judged to be good are now, in most cases, subject to short one day inspections

- Primary school teachers were more likely than secondary school teachers to correctly identify that it was true that 'Ofsted gives schools half-a-day's notice of inspection' and that 'schools previously judged good are subject to short one day inspections'
- NQTs* were much more likely to incorrectly report that it is true that 'as part of an inspection Ofsted inspectors grade individual lessons'

Ofsted generally gives schools half-a-day's notice of an inspection - TRUE



Schools previously judged to be Good are now, in most cases, subject to short one day inspections - TRUE



Teachers who have been inspected with the past 12 months were most likely to know that Ofsted generally gives schools half-a-day's notice of an inspection (84%) – 74% of those inspected over 3 years ago reported this to be true

Teachers were shown a series of statements about school inspection and asked if they thought each was true or false. The results here are displayed to show which proportion considered each statement to be true or false. Whether the statement was true or false is shown in the title above each chart

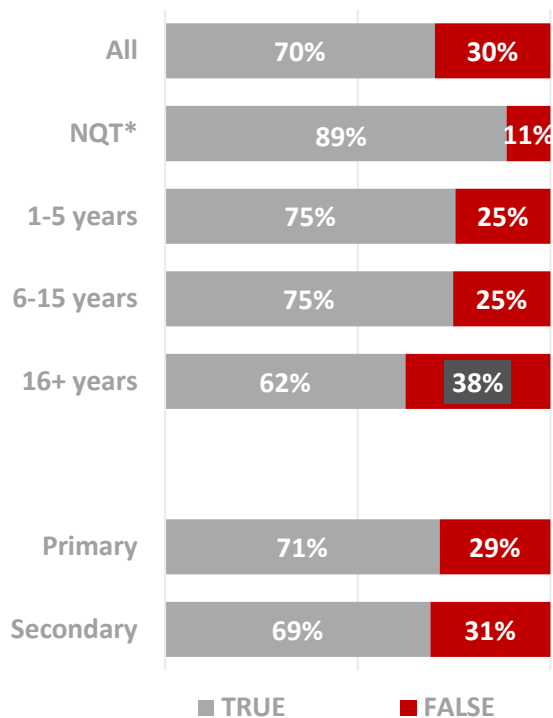
All teachers (n=1,026), Primary (n=395), Secondary (n=631), NQT/ first year (n=43*), 1-5 years (n=156), 6-15 years (n=379), 16+ years (n=448)



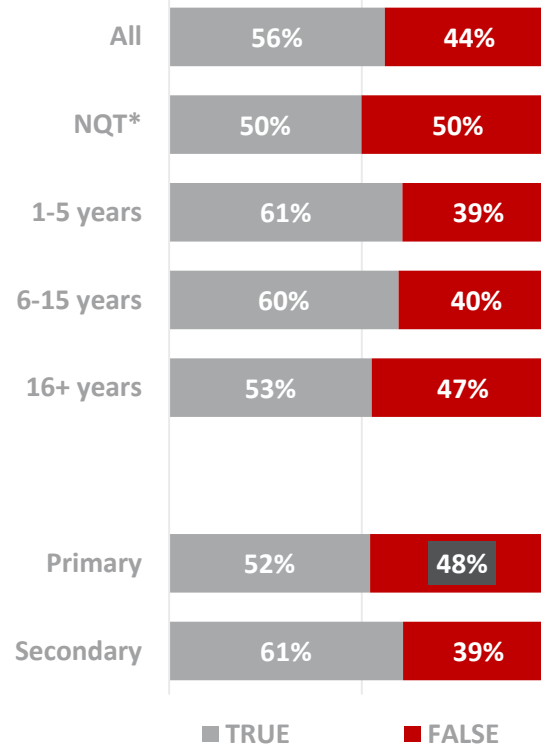
A majority of teachers felt it was true that many inspection teams will include at least one serving leader from another school. A majority of teachers (incorrectly) felt it was also true that Ofsted prefers to see a child-centred teaching style

- Overall seven out of ten teachers (70%) incorrectly reported that it is true that ‘Ofsted prefers to see a child-centred teaching style’
- Primary school teachers were more uncertain than secondary school teachers as whether it was true or false that ‘many inspection teams will include at least one serving leader from another school’

Ofsted prefers to see a child-centred teaching style - FALSE



Many inspection teams will include at least one serving leader from another school - TRUE



Teachers with 16+ years experience were most likely to believe it was false that Ofsted prefers a child-centred teaching style, with 38% stating this

Teachers who were aware of the myth busting work Ofsted has done were also more likely than those unaware of this work to state that it was false that Ofsted prefers a child-centred teaching (42% compared with 26%)

Teachers were shown a series of statements about school inspection and asked if they thought each was true or false. The results here are displayed to show which proportion considered each statement to be true or false. Whether the statement was true or false is shown in the title above each chart

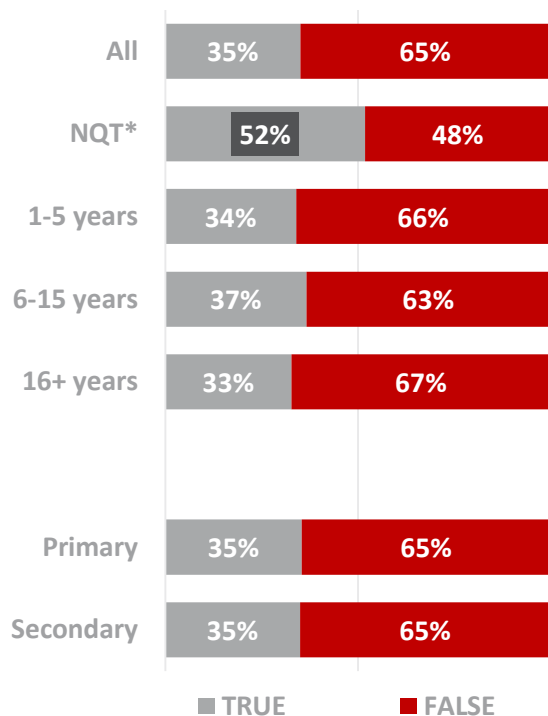
All teachers (n=1,026), Primary (n=395), Secondary (n=631), NQT/ first year (n=43*), 1-5 years (n=156), 6-15 years (n=379), 16+ years (n=448)



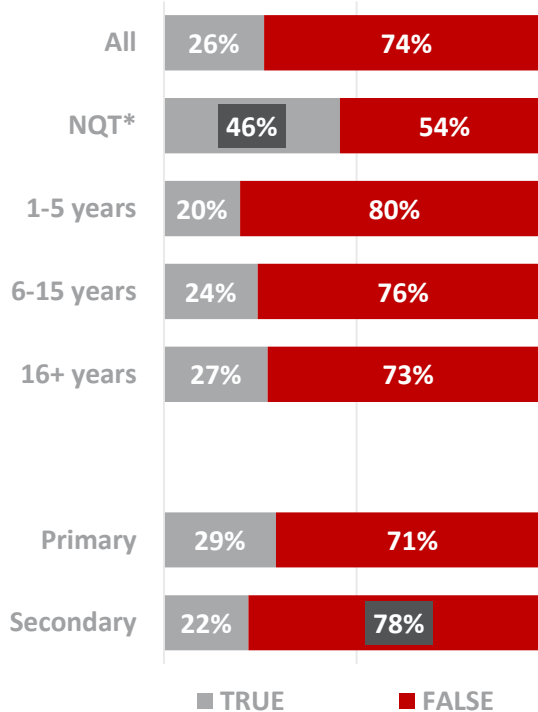
Eight out of ten teachers correctly identified that it was false that ‘as part of an inspection Ofsted inspectors grade individual lessons

- The majority of teachers (65%) also correctly identified that it is false that Ofsted expects to see data about pupil performance and progress set out in a particular way

Ofsted expects to see data about pupil performance and progress set out in a particular way - FALSE



As part of an inspection – Ofsted inspectors grade individual lessons - FALSE



Teachers who were aware of the myth busting work Ofsted has done were much more likely than those unaware of this work to state that it was false that Ofsted expects to see data about pupil performance and progress set out in a particular way (86% compared with 57%)

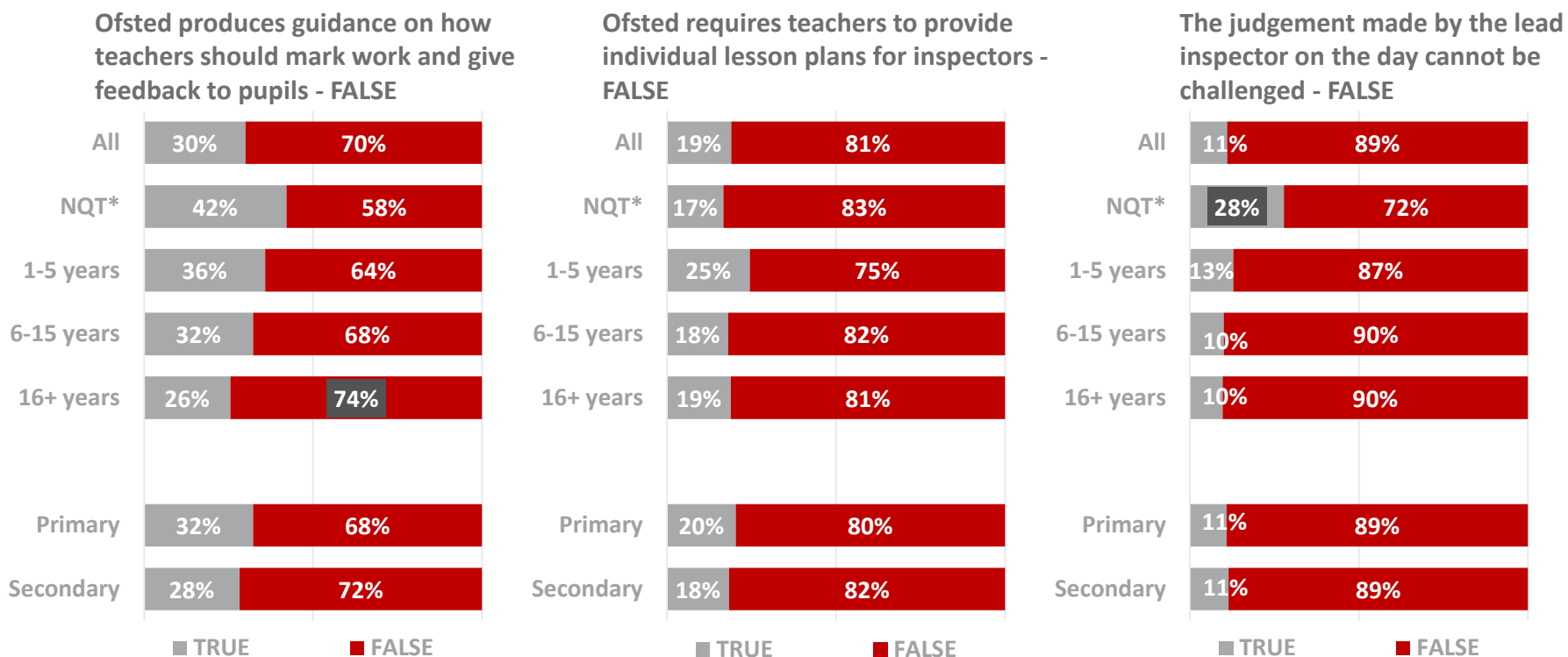
Teachers were shown a series of statements about school inspection and asked if they thought each was true or false. The results here are displayed to show which proportion considered each statement to be true or false. Whether the statement was true or false is shown in the title above each chart

All teachers (n=1,026), Primary (n=395), Secondary (n=631), NQT/ first year (n=43*), 1-5 years (n=156), 6-15 years (n=379), 16+ years (n=448)



The vast majority of teachers correctly identified that it is false that Ofsted produces guidance on how teachers should mark work and give feedback, that Ofsted requires teachers to provide individual lesson plans for inspectors and that the judgement made by the lead inspector on the day cannot be challenged

- There was a very high understanding from teachers that Ofsted *does not* require ‘teachers to provide individual lesson plans for inspectors’ and that Ofsted *does not* produce ‘guidance on how teachers should mark work and give feedback to pupils’
- Teachers with 16+ years experience were most likely to correctly identify that ‘the judgement made by the lead inspector on the day cannot be challenged’ is false
- Teachers whose last experience of inspection was over 5 years ago were more likely than those who have experienced inspection in the past 2 years to believe it is true that Ofsted requires teachers to provide individual lesson plans for inspectors



All teachers (n=1,026), Primary (n=395), Secondary (n=631), NQT/ first year (n=43*), 1-5 years (n=156), 6-15 years (n=379), 16+ years (n=448)

M1 Do you think the following statement about Ofsted is true or false? * Please note small base size

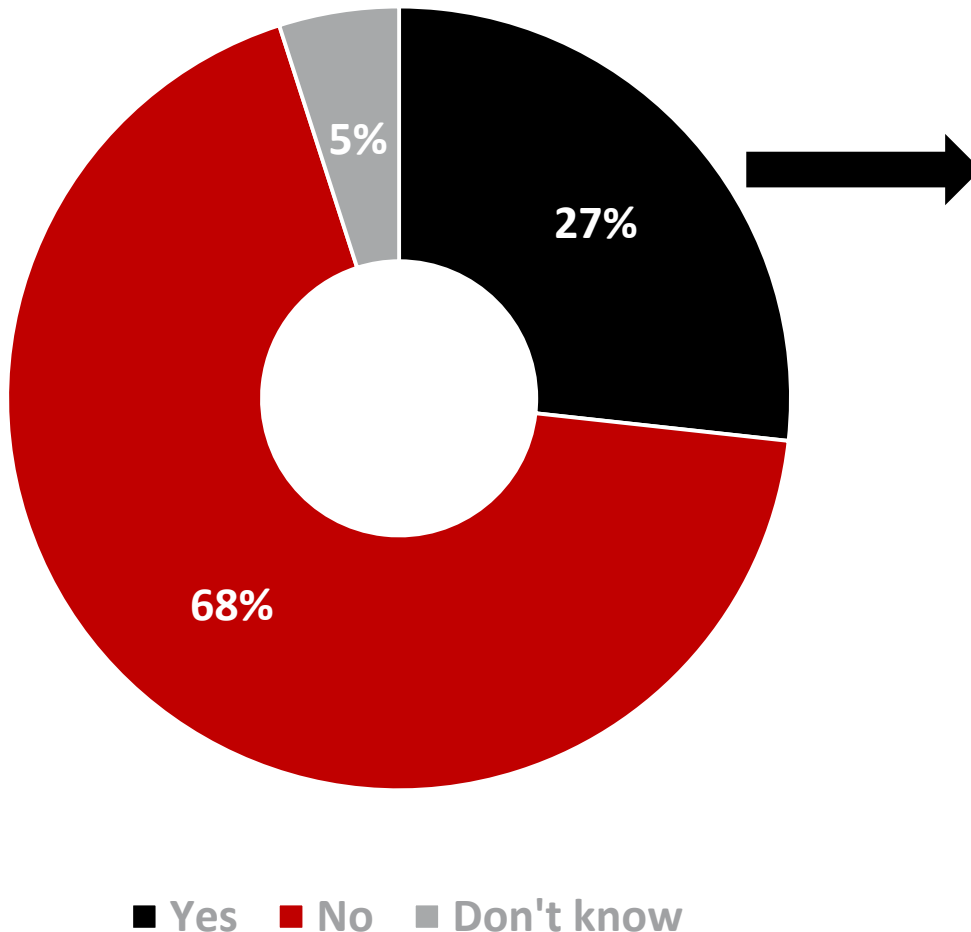
Teachers were shown a series of statements about school inspection and asked if they thought each was true or false. The results here are displayed to show which proportion considered each statement to be true or false. Whether the statement was true or false is shown in the title above each chart

YouGov

X% Denotes proportion is statistically significantly different

A quarter of teachers have heard something about Ofsted's myth busting campaign

Have you heard anything about Ofsted's myth busting campaign?

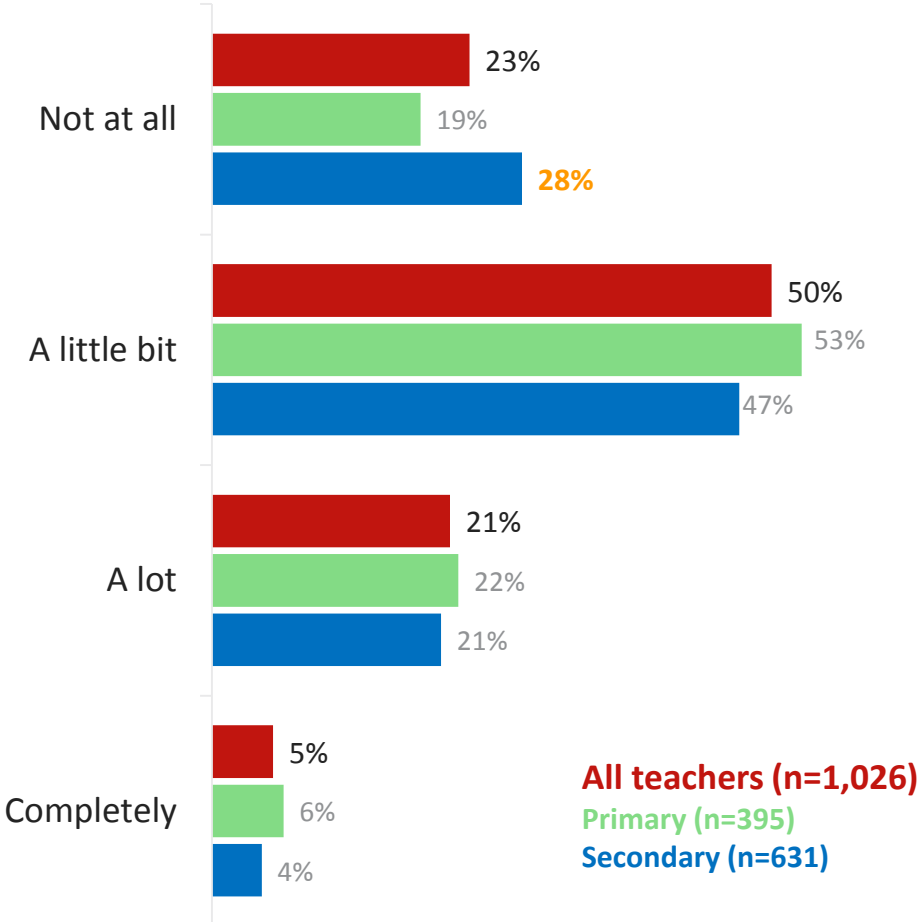


- Just one in ten (10%) of NQTs* surveyed had heard something about Ofsted's myth busting campaign
- This compares with:
 - 31% of those with 1-5 years experience
 - 28% of those with 6-15 years experience
 - 26% of those with 16+ years experience

- Teachers whose most recent experience of school inspection was within the last 12 months are more likely than those inspected over three years ago to be aware of Ofsted's myth busting work (35% compared with 27%)

Three quarters of all teachers feel that the myth busting messages from Ofsted have permeated at least a little bit through their school

How far have the messages from Ofsted about myths permeated through your school?



Proportions reporting 'not at all':

- **36%** of teachers in a school rated as requires improvement – compared with 20% of those from a 'good school or 22% from an 'outstanding school'

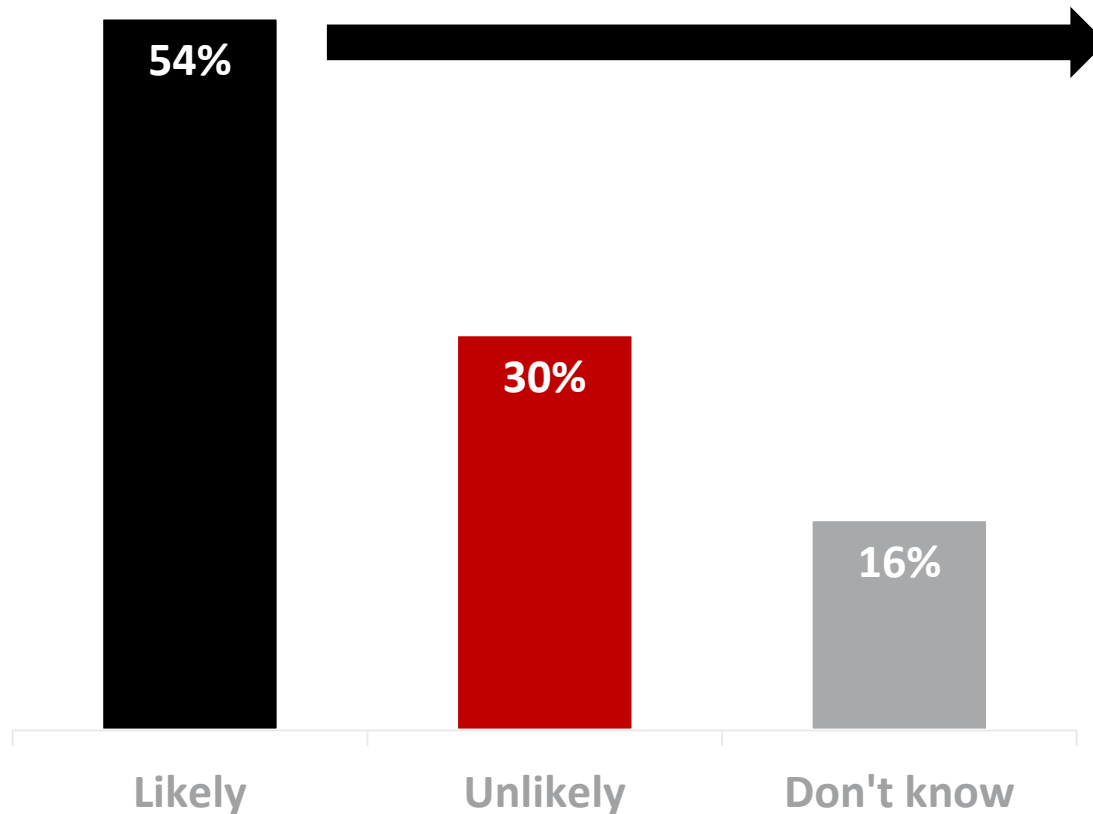


Confidence in promoting and challenging information



Half of teachers would be likely to promote statements related to inspection to colleagues and senior leaders at their school

Likelihood of promoting statements that are myths to colleagues and senior leaders in schools

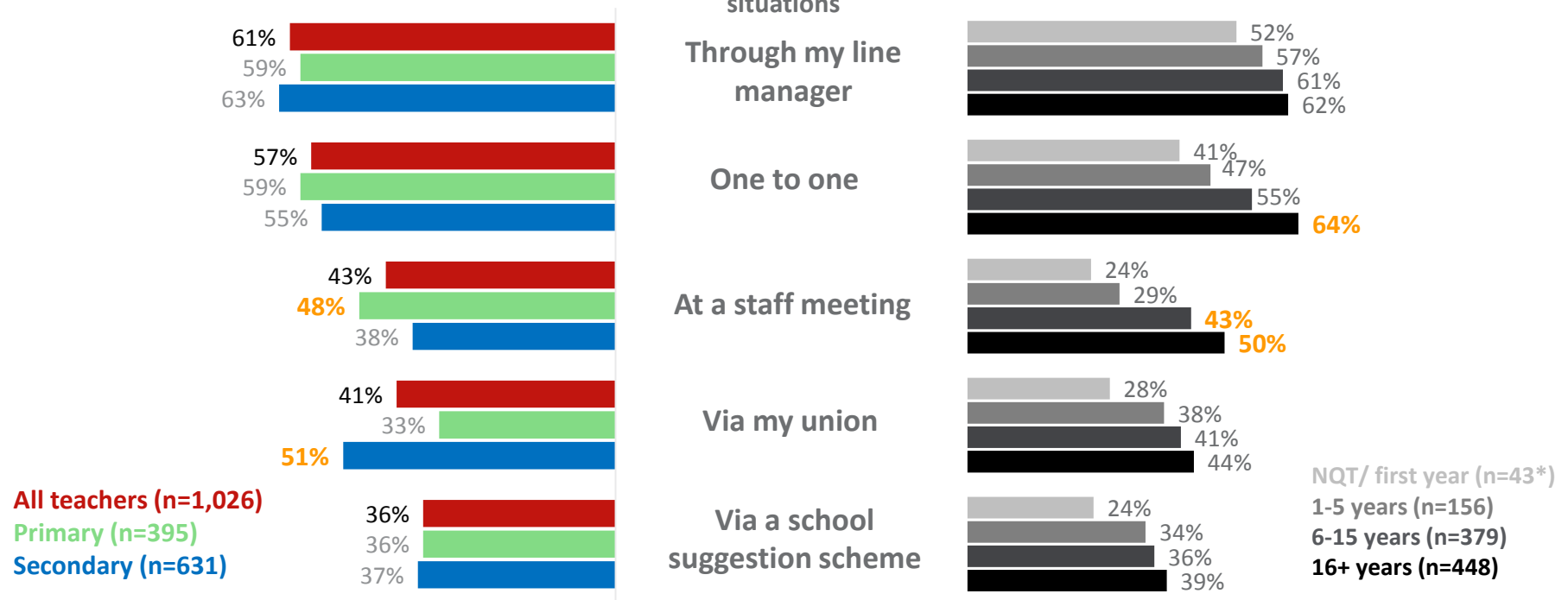


- Teachers who were aware of the myth busting work that Ofsted has undertaken are more likely to be likely to promote these messages than those unaware of Ofsted's work in this area (65% v 50%)
- Teachers in primary (52%) and secondary (55%) schools are equally likely to promote these statements to colleagues and senior leaders in their schools

Six out of ten teachers would be confident in challenging a senior leader in a staff meeting or one to one on information they knew to be untrue

- Teachers are most likely to report that they feel confident challenging senior leaders on facts they know to be untrue through their line manager and on one to one situations
- Teachers report they are less confident in challenging senior leaders in staff meetings
- Lower proportions of teachers report they are confident in challenging senior leaders through their union and via a school suggestion scheme, although teachers provided much higher responses of don't know to these situations

Proportion stating that they feel confident to challenge senior leaders on facts in each of these situations



Appendix A

Sample profile

Sample profile by school demographics

Variable – school type	Unweighted base	Weighted base
Local authority maintained school	552	575
Academy/ Free school	429	359
Special school/ PRU	45	92

Variable - phase	Unweighted base	Weighted base
Primary	395	534
Secondary	631	492

Variable – Ofsted LA area	Unweighted base	Weighted base
North East and Yorkshire & Humber	158	121
North West	118	121
West Midlands	123	124
East Midlands	88	93
London	136	135
South East	187	187
East of England	126	126
South West	90	92

Sample profile by teacher demographics

Variable – last experience of inspection	Unweighted base	Weighted base
Never been inspected	82	81
Within the last 12 months	229	229
1-2 years	300	303
3-5 years ago	297	294
Over 5 years ago	106	107

Variable – gender	Unweighted base	Weighted base
Male	297	246
Female	729	780

Variable – teaching experience	Unweighted base	Weighted base
NQT/in first year of teaching	43	46
1-5 years	156	164
6-15 years	379	371
16+ years	448	445



YouGov