



Department  
for Education

# Technical Report for Summer 2019 School Snapshot Survey

Technical report

May 2020

IFF Research



Social Science in Government

## Overview

The School Snapshot survey been conducted bi-annually since Winter 2017, with the aim of better understanding 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 Summer 2019 School Snapshot Survey, the fourth wave of the survey.

This wave comprised surveys with 820 school leaders and 1,028 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 for both strands commenced on 3 June 2019, finishing on 12 July 2019 for the leaders and 19 July 2019 for the teachers.

**Table 1. Completed surveys by mode**

	Teachers		Leaders	
	Online	Telephone	Online	Telephone
<b>Completes</b>	755	273	3	817

## Cognitive testing

Cognitive testing was undertaken between 26 April 2019 and the 2 May 2019 to ascertain how professionals working in the education sector understood proposed questions for the Summer 2019 survey. Eleven 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**

	Primary	Secondary	Total
Leader	3	3	6
Teacher	2	3	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>

## Pilot

Prior to the main fieldwork, a pilot of 9 leader and 10 teacher surveys was conducted by telephone and online from 16 May 2019 to 21 May 2019 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**

	Leader completes		Teacher completes	
	Telephone	Online	Telephone	Online
Primary	4	1	2	3
Secondary	3	1	1	4
<b>Total</b>	7	2	3	7

## Sampling

### Leaders

The target for the leader element of this survey was a minimum of 800 surveys. To achieve this a sample of 1,666 schools was drawn from the 'Get Information about Schools' database. Ahead of fieldwork starting, each of 1,666 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 1,666 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**

	Primary	Secondary
Academies	213	680
Non-academies	453	320
<b>Total</b>	666	1,000

In order to reduce the burden on schools, those that had taken part in the Winter 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 (Winter 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).

In total, 1,691 teacher details were collected from schools (835 primary school teachers and 856 secondary school teachers). Of these, 1,179 details were collected over the telephone and 512 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**

	Leaders <sup>1</sup>		Teachers <sup>2</sup>	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
Starting sample	666	1,000	835	856
Complete surveys	418	402	519	509
Response rate	<b>63%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>59%</b>

**Table 6. Response rate by academy status**

	Leaders		Teachers	
	Academy	Non-academy	Academy	Non-academy
Sample size	893	773	868	823
Completes surveys	412	408	510	518
Response rate	<b>46%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>63%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Sample drawn from GIAS.

<sup>2</sup> Sample collected through leaders' survey and boost sample.

## School leader job titles

Table 7 shows the job titles of the leaders surveyed. Three-quarters were Headteachers (73%) and 9 in 10 (91%) were Headteachers or Deputy Headteachers.

**Table 7. Completed surveys by type of leader**

	Job role	
	Frequency	Proportion
Headteacher	596	73%
Deputy Headteacher	149	18%
Assistant Headteacher	43	5%
Leading Practitioner	2	<0.5%
Other	30	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>100%</b>

# 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 <sup>3</sup>	Secondary <sup>4</sup>	Grand Total
Academy converter	3,912	1,575	5,487
Academy sponsor led	1,463	732	2,195
Community school	6,161	381	6,542
Foundation school	558	181	739
Free schools	170	174	344
Voluntary aided school	2,736	238	2,974
Voluntary controlled school	1,766	34	1,800
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>16,766</b>	<b>3,315</b>	<b>20,081</b>

<sup>3</sup> Includes middle deemed primary schools.

<sup>4</sup> Includes all through and middle deemed secondary schools.

**Table 9. Achieved surveys (unweighted)**

<b>Number of schools</b>	<b>Primary</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
Academy converter	105	208	313
Academy sponsor led	33	66	99
Community school	163	50	213
Foundation school	7	22	29
Free schools	4	22	26
Voluntary aided school	63	28	91
Voluntary controlled school	43	6	49
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>820</b>

**Table 10. Grossing factors by cell**

<b>Number of schools</b>	<b>Primary</b>	<b>Secondary</b>
Academy converter	37.3	7.6
Academy sponsor led	44.3	11.1
Community school	37.8	7.6
Foundation school	79.7	8.2
Free schools	42.5	7.9
Voluntary aided school	43.4	8.5
Voluntary controlled school	41.1	5.7



## 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)**

	Classroom teachers	School leaders	Total
Primary	206,311	42,024	248,335
Secondary	195,876	23,365	219,241
<b>Total</b>	<b>402,187</b>	<b>65,389</b>	<b>467,576</b>

**Table 12. Achieved surveys (unweighted)**

	Classroom teachers	School leaders	Total
Primary	519	418	937
Secondary	509	402	911
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,028</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>1,848</b>

**Table 13. Weights applied**

	Classroom teachers	School leaders
Primary	1.571	0.397
Secondary	1.521	0.230

# Appendix A. Advance letter for school leaders

Dear <CONTACT>,

ID: <ID>

## Wave 4 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, diversity support in the workforce, assessment and curriculum planning, pupil behaviour 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 25 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 interview 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](http://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 interview, 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). Unless express permission is given by you, your name 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](http://iffresearch.com/gdpr).

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

Kind Regards,



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