

# SUBMISSION: SCHOOLS THAT WORK FOR EVERYONE (ENGLAND)

Submission by: Kathryn Corrick of Represent on behalf of respondents to a public online survey

12 December 2016

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[Link to survey results](#)

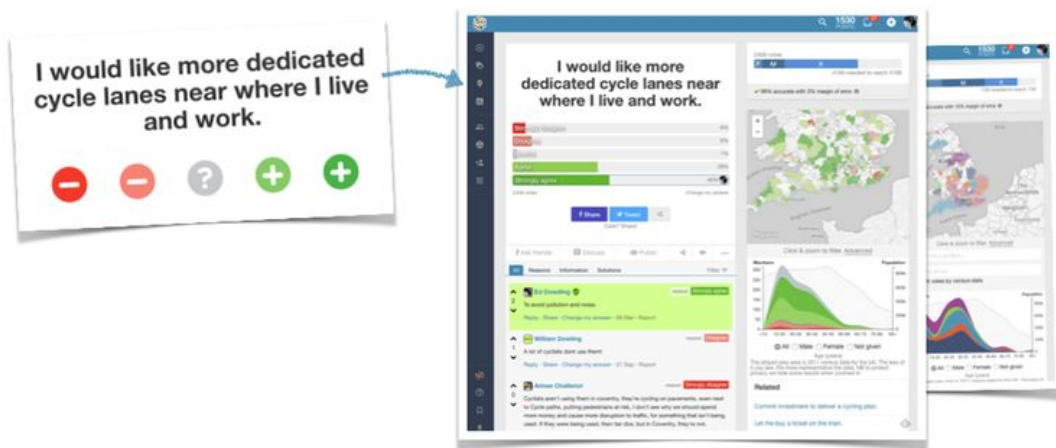
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## WHO IS REPRESENT?

Represent ([represent.me](http://represent.me)), is a London-based social-enterprise dedicated to modernising citizen participation in governance.

It is a citizen-first online voting and deliberation platform.



### Represent makes it easy for citizens to

- contribute to decisions
- understand the issues
- collaborate with local authorities and representatives
- have their say at any scale from hyper-local to global
- work together to create solutions

### Represent helps officials and organisations:

- build a collaborative relationship with residents and constituents
- discover powerful, actionable insights into local preferences
- meet open government targets

Results are analysed and made available on the site and as open data (in line with user privacy settings) that can be accessed by anyone, as well as MPs, local authorities, and others working in the field. Results are displayed in real-time and include interactive charts showing how representative answers are by age and location, down to council ward level.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### The challenge of schools for everyone

- 91% of respondents agreed that the education system should focus on equity of opportunity for children, above equality of opportunity.
- 57% stated that the most important thing a school can do is create a sense of curiosity and help them be lifelong learners.
- Twice as many people are satisfied with their local schools than are unsatisfied
- People who didn't receive extra tuition are 62.5% more likely to pay for tuition for their children
- People agree that a choice of schools is a good way to deal with unsatisfactory local schools, but would rather schools were of a better quality
- Education is too focused on academic metrics and should acknowledge the broader role of schools in a child's / family's life

### Grammar/selective schools

- Most respondents don't want to see grammar schools expanded, and many are against them in principle.
- 78% believe that grammar schools increase separation in society
- If a new grammar school isn't good enough, opinions were mixed on what to do, with the largest majority (26%) thinking a school should become a comprehensive school
- 53% think that schools should teach children of all abilities together (18% voted neutral)

### Private/public schools

- 88% agreed that private schools should help state schools
- 72% don't think it right that private schools have charitable status
- 54% agree that charitable status should be removed if a private school didn't help state schools
- Only 2% of respondents thought that private schools should set up or sponsor a free or academy school, as a stand alone action.

### Faith schools

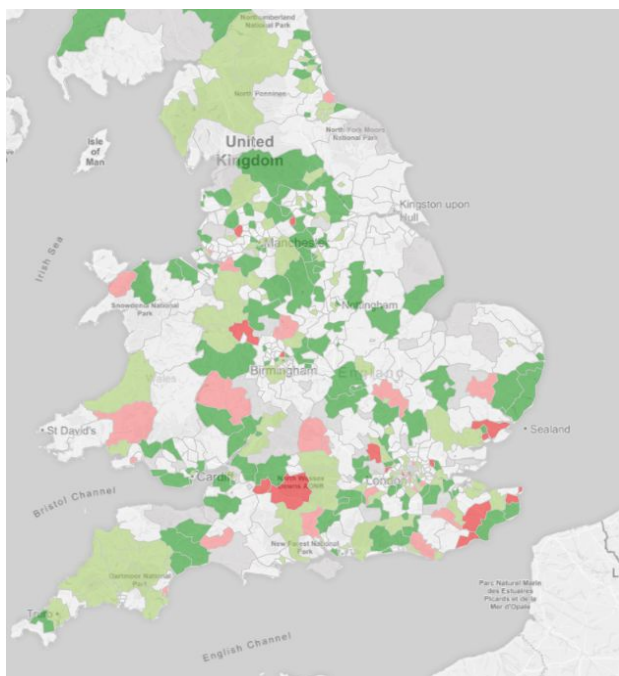
- 63% think the state should not fund faith schools, with 11% answering neutrally.
- 84% agreed that faith schools should not be permitted to select students on grounds of their faith or the faith of their parent.
- 40% think faith schools should be required to twin with a school of another faith or no faith, with 35% saying there should be no requirement to twin with another school.
- 64% agreed that faith schools should be required to have someone of another faith on their governing body.
- 65% agreed that all faith schools should be required to teach the same locally agreed religious education syllabus as non-faith schools

### Universities

- 74% think that universities have a lot to offer schools
- 45% disagree that universities must support state schools in order to charge higher fees
- Twice as many people (46%) agree that universities should have a more direct role in supporting state schools as those who disagree (23%).
- If universities are to support schools it should be done in areas where schools need support, and in a way that lets the university choose how it can best help.

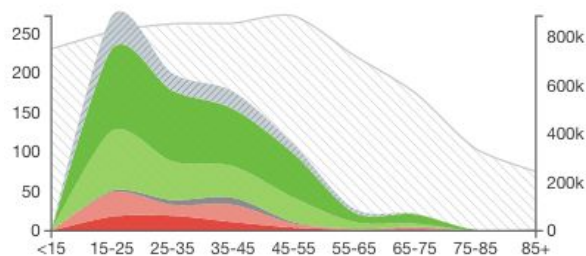
## WHO PARTICIPATED?

Answered at least 1 question	Answered more than 1 question	Total engagement	Answered all questions	Discussions & ideas	Average answers per person	Survey length
2,937 people	602 people	8,398 votes cast	110 people	108 comments	10 answers	54 questions



The majority of participation was from England, although not all constituencies were represented.

- Majority of respondents were 15-45 years old
- 46% of were answering as a parent
- 44% went to a comprehensive school, 23% had a period of private school education
- 49% do not have children

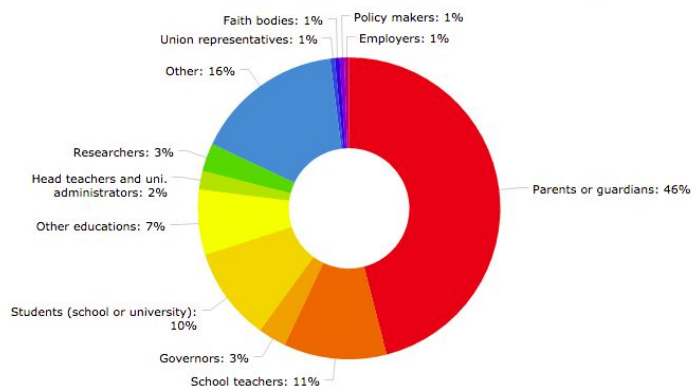


**Demographic profile of respondents**

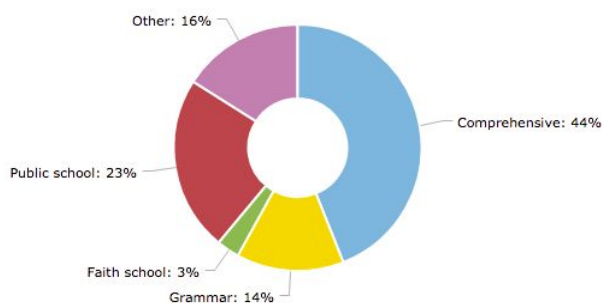
The cross-lined curve is the UK population

Charts and data from <https://represent.me/question/1247/bring-academies-and-free-schools-under-local-authority-control/>

### In what capacity are you answering?



### What school did you, or do you, attend?



Charts and data from <https://represent.me/question/2406>

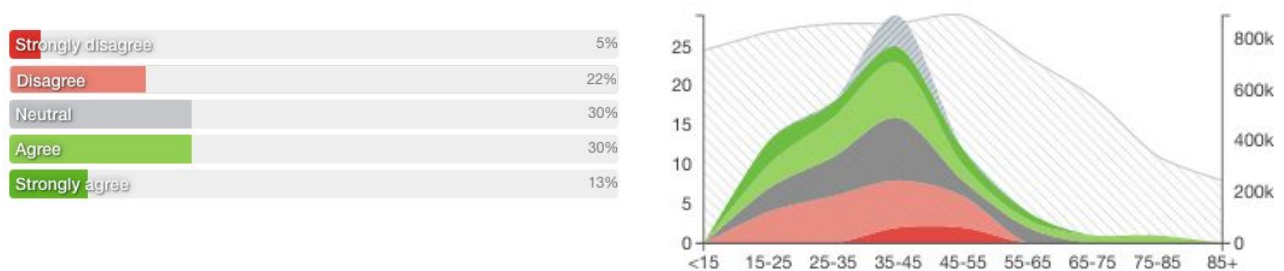
## THE CHALLENGE OF SCHOOLS FOR EVERYONE

### Are people satisfied with education in England?

Twice as many people are satisfied with their local schools than are unsatisfied. Younger people are marginally *more* satisfied than those aged 30-55.

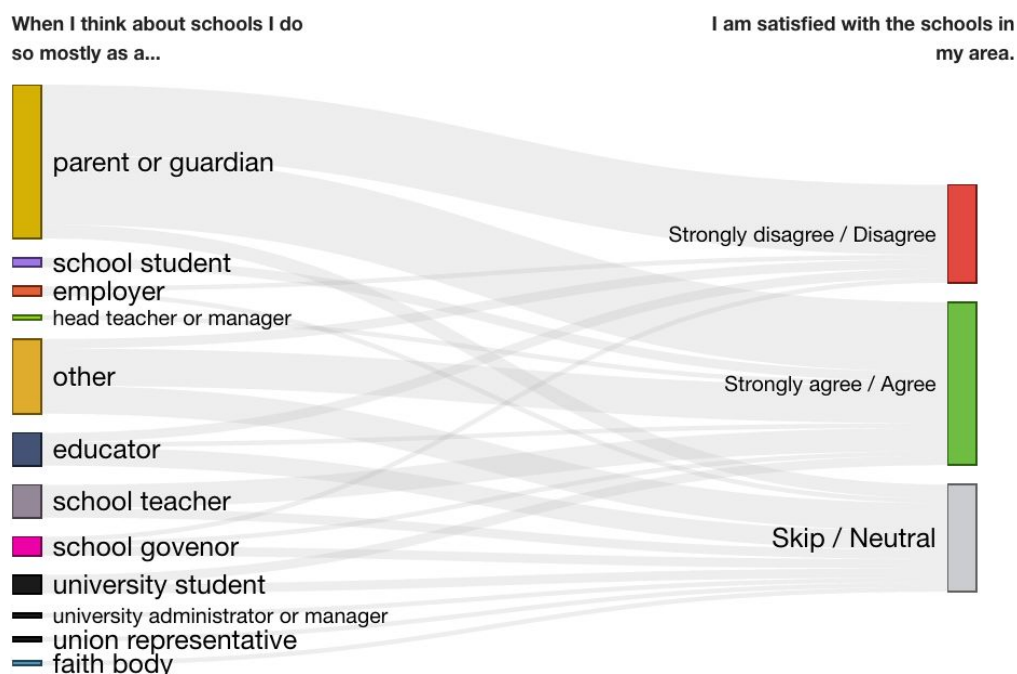
“I am satisfied with the schools in my area.”

<https://represent.me/question/1856>



Parents expressed contentment and discontentment in equal measure. The number of ‘neutral / skip’ answers to this question suggests that people find it hard to determine local quality: either through lack of direct experience, or by not having a benchmark to compare against.

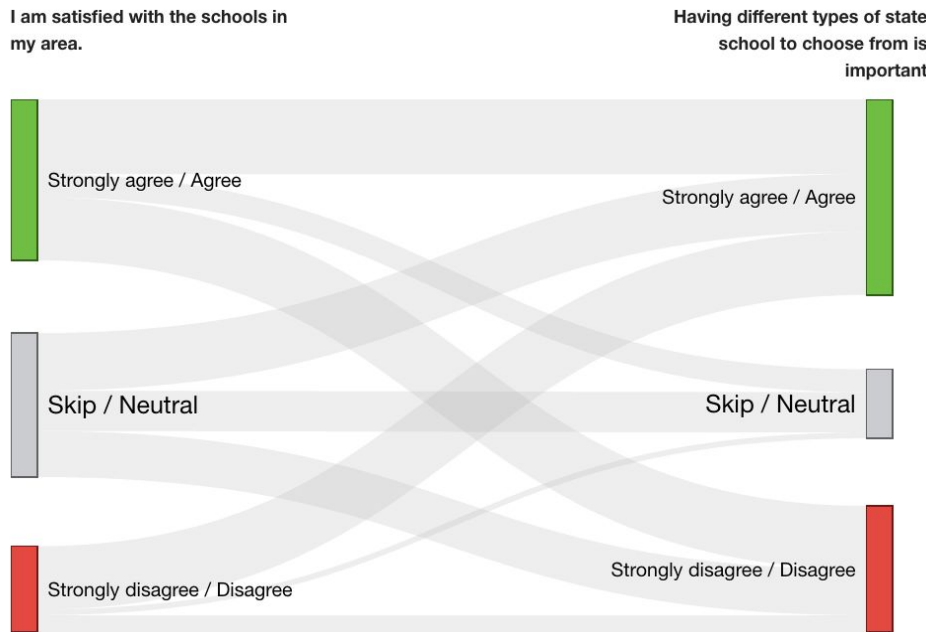
**Note:** with more respondents ward-by-ward analysis would be possible, leading to constituency and LEA comparisons.



<https://represent.me/questions/compare/?questiona=2401&questionb=1856>

There is marginally more support for having freedom to choose the type of state school a child attends - an opinion which is spread evenly between those who are satisfied and those who are dissatisfied.

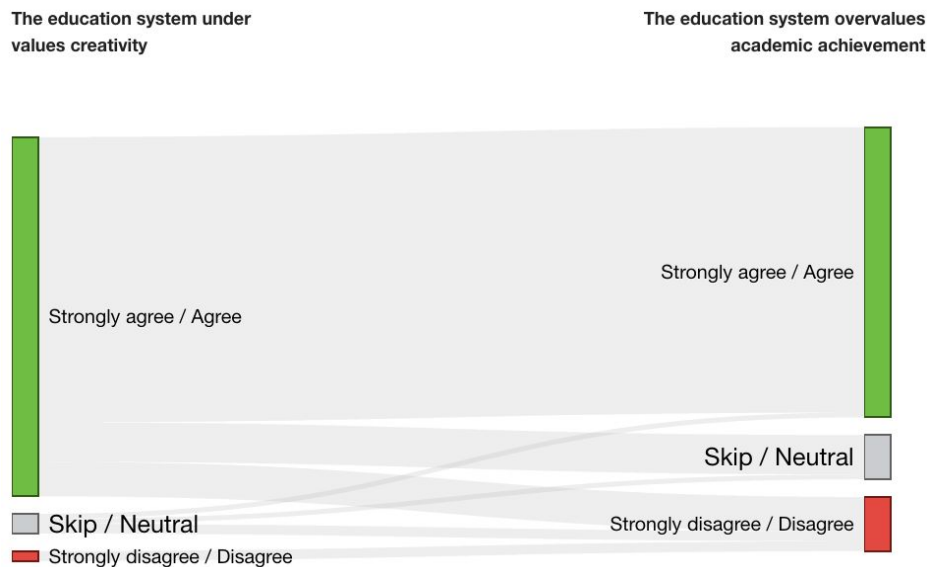
There are very few people who don't see a choice of schools as a way to deal with unsatisfactory local schools.



<https://represent.me/questions/compare/?questiona=1856&questionb=2405>

## The purpose and value of education

The overall consensus of respondents is that that England's education policy over-values academic achievement and under-values creativity.



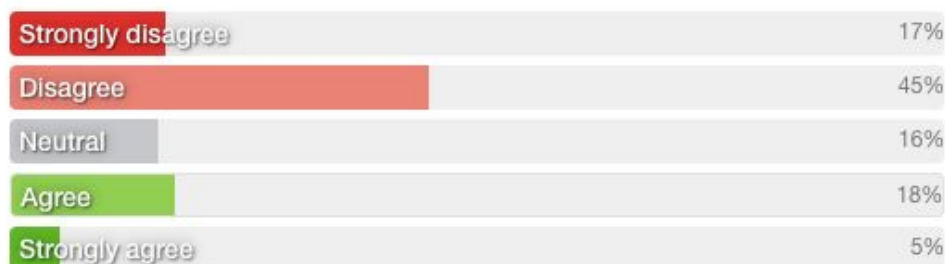
<https://represent.me/questions/compare/?questiona=2410&questionb=2409>



This is consistent with the consultation results and comments showing an over-emphasis on pupil measurement, tests, and exams. Whilst people recognise the importance of testing, they would like it to be balanced with an approach which acknowledges the multiple purposes of schooling.

Ben Zalcman comments: *"Exams are a good way. As with any form of assessment, it should be one of a number of measures used, such as value added, well-being etc."*

### Exam grades are a good way of measuring a school's performance



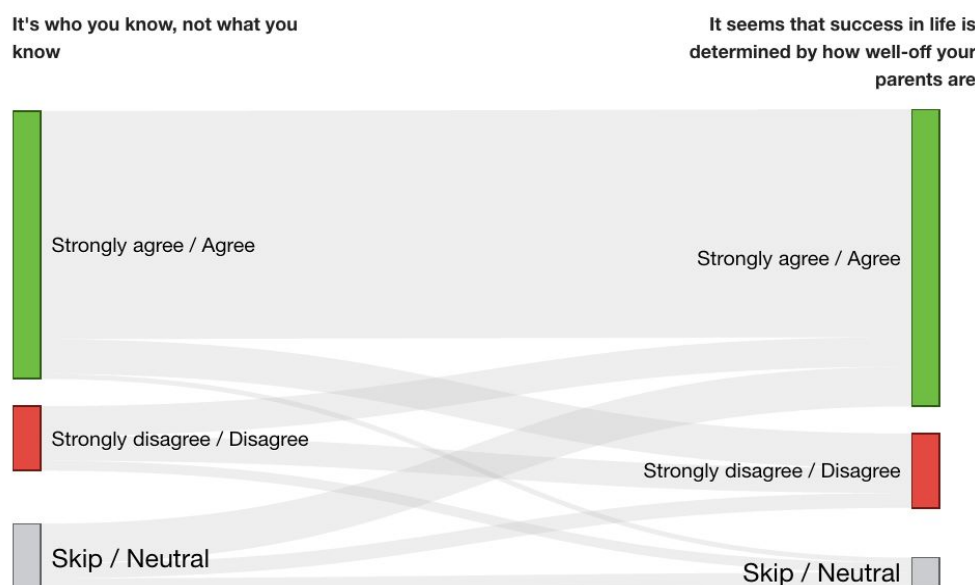
<https://represent.me/question/2408>

Bianca Pellet commented: *"It's important for students to be well-rounded. Not all students are academic and that they need a chance to thrive while not being ashamed of this to decrease their long-term chances of dropping out, depression, unemployment etc."*

### How can an equitable education system be delivered?

91% of respondents agreed that the education system should focus on equity of opportunity for children, above equality of opportunity.

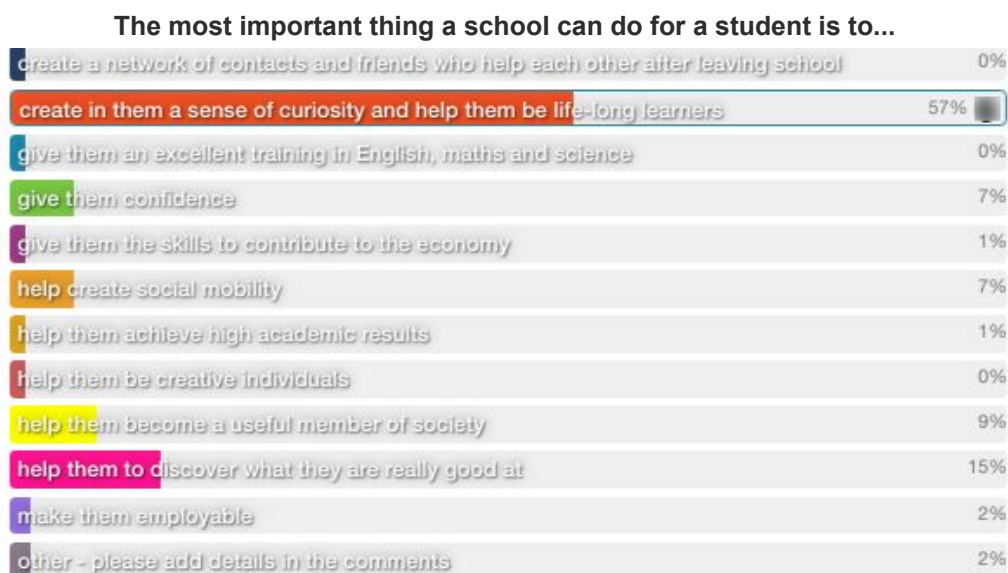
Yet, most respondents also believe that it is who you know, not what you know and how well your parent are that determines success in life.



<https://represent.me/questions/compare/?questiona=2413&questionb=2414>

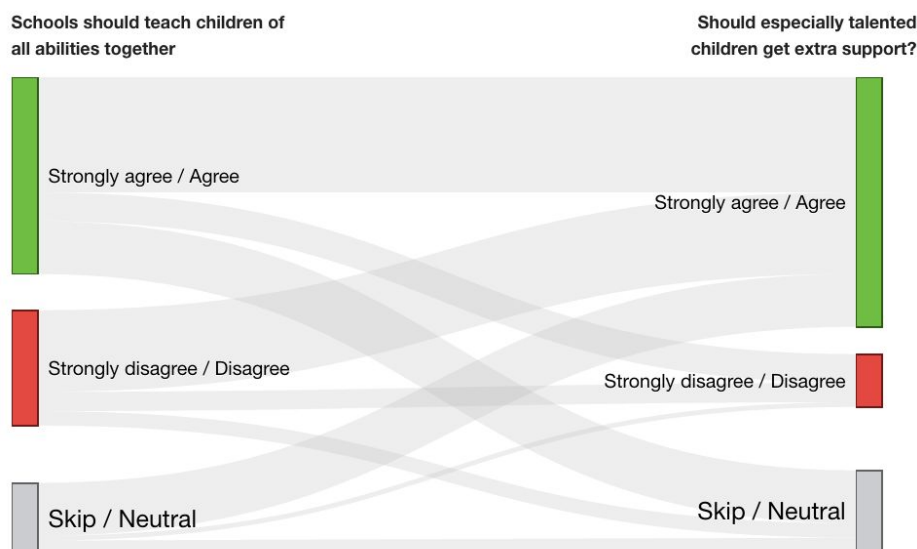
People aren't entirely comfortable with this situation. As Phillipa Watts commented: *"Sadly yes, but it shouldn't be."*

Yet, when asked what the most important thing a school can do, no one selected "create a network of contacts and friends to help each other after leaving school". 57% stated that the most important thing a school can do is create a sense of curiosity and help them be life-long learners.



<https://represent.me/question/2412/the-most-important-thing-a-school-can-do-for-a-student-is-to/>

Those who responded wanted to see both that children of mixed abilities taught together and that those who are especially talented get support. The questions did not go into further detail on how these two possibly conflicting approaches could be delivered. Also note overall, respondents did not agree with a grammar school approach (see later section).



<https://represent.me/questions/compare/?questiona=2451&questionb=2450>

There is some support (36%) for specialist schools such as technology, sport, creative arts; but more are against the idea (51%).



**The best way to help individual students is to have specialist schools that focus and nurture specific skill sets. For example, academic, sport, creative, technical skills**

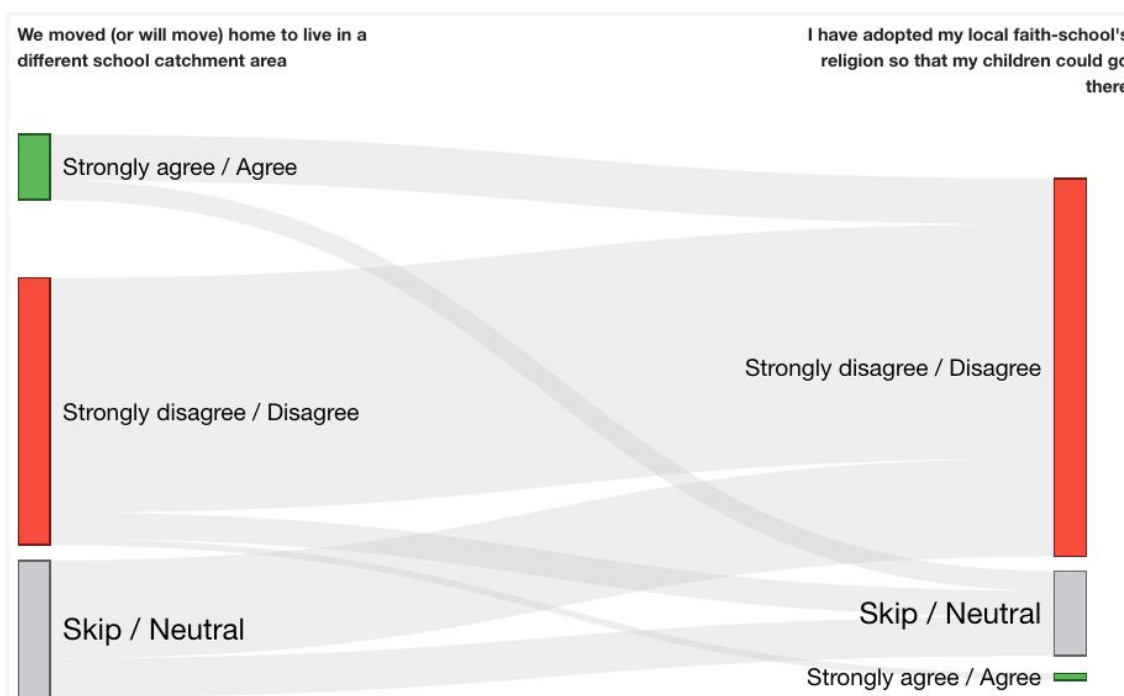


<https://represent.me/question/2416>

Philippa Watts summarised: *“there should be less pressure on children to perform in subjects to which they are not suited and are not interested, but separating this creates a risk of encouraging social divides. It is as important that students mix socially in school as learn - it creates a more understanding society.”*

## What are people willing to do to improve their child’s education?

Whilst 15% would consider moving home to be in the catchment area for a better school, only one of the respondents would be prepared to adopt a faith to accomplish the same goal.



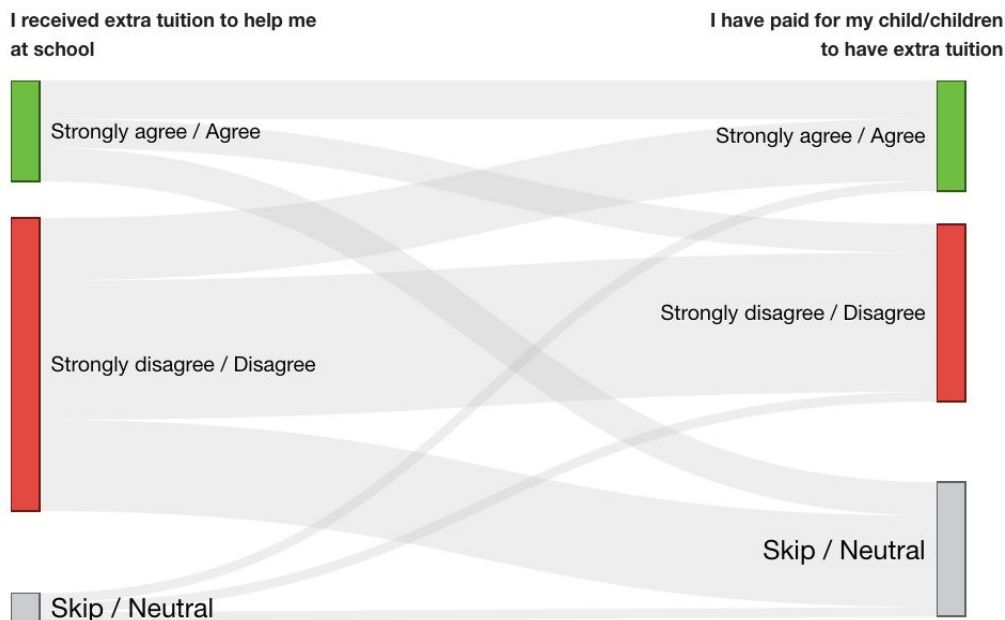
Explore here: <https://represent.me/questions/compare/?questiona=2402&questionb=2432>

Respondents acknowledged the paradox that whilst good for **their** child, the freedom to have a choice of schools or more away from a failing area exacerbates the problem for the whole system.

Sarah Byrne comments that: “Parental choice hugely exacerbates the problem of failing schools.” but would nonetheless consider moving if she had to, “I don’t need to but I might if I lived in an area where the local schools had more than their fair share of students from families living in poverty and with all the related problems that brings”

### The option of tuition

Whilst most people didn’t receive extra tuition and have not paid for their children to receive it, **those who didn’t receive extra tuition are as likely as those who did receive tuition to pay for tuition for their own children.**



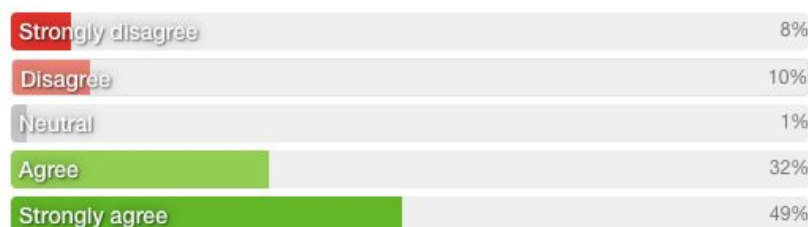
<https://represent.me/questions/compare/?questiona=2404&questionb=2403>

### Whose responsibility is education?

Respondents were broadly in agreement that universities and private schools should support, and get involved in, England’s state schools (see later sections).

However, whilst respondents still want to see education governed at a local level, where 81% would like academies and free schools under local authority control.

#### Bring academies and free schools under local authority control.



<https://represent.me/question/1247>

Although, as Mellissa Norman comments, “It would depend on the capabilities of the council.”

An anonymous commenter highlighted economic inefficiencies : “Allowing the academies/free schools/sectarian schools to opt out [of local authority control] reduces choice and is economically wasteful”

**General questions using preference scale (strongly disagree to strongly agree)**

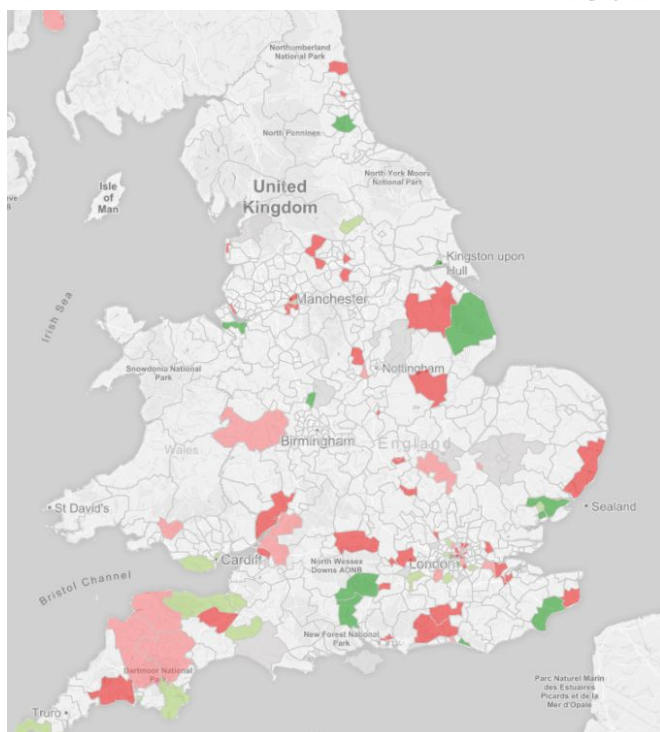
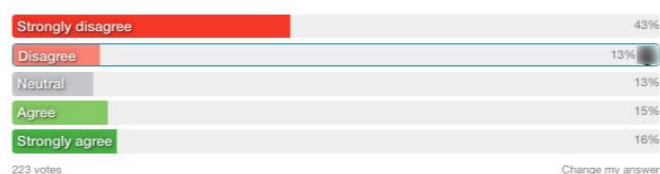
Question	Votes	--	-	0	+	++	Comments
I am satisfied with the schools in my area.	117	6	26	35	35	15	0
We moved (or will move) home to live in a different school catchment area	97	34	23	25	13	2	1
I have paid for my child/children to have extra tuition	102	30	16	32	15	9	1
I received extra tuition to help me at school	125	60	28	9	18	10	0
Having different types of state school to choose from is important	122	14	23	26	43	16	1
The subjects I took at school directly relate to my career	126	26	34	19	29	18	0
Exam grades are a good way of measuring a school's performance	114	19	51	18	20	6	1
The education system over values academic achievement	105	7	8	11	37	42	0
The education system under values creativity	106	1	4	6	32	63	0
It's who you know, not what you know	111	4	13	18	49	27	1
It seems that success in life is determined by how well-off your parents are	106	7	13	7	41	38	1
The best way to help individual students is to have specialist schools that focus and nurture specific skill sets. For example, academic, sport, creative, technical skills	117	27	33	16	25	16	4
The education system should focus on equity of opportunity for children	105	2	2	4	23	74	2
Bring academies and free schools under local authority control.	2335	17 8	227	31	75 4	114 5	4
Should especially talented children get extra support?	107	4	10	19	43	31	0
Schools should teach children of all abilities together	118	7	28	21	29	33	5

**General multiple choice questions (highest percentage in bold)**

Question	Vote count	Multiple choices and results	Comments
When I think about schools I do so mostly as a...	180	parent or guardian 46% school governor 3% school student 3% university student 7% school teacher 11% head teacher or manager 1% university administrator or manager 1% educator 7% union representative 1%	2

		employer 1% local education authority member 0% faith body 1% policy maker 1% researcher 3% other 16%	
I went, or go, to a...	124	grammar school 14% comprehensive school 44% faith school 3% home school 0% free school 0% academy 1% private school 23% secondary modern school 4% secondary technical school 0% a mix of schools 8% other - please add details in the comments 3%	5
If you have children are they mostly...	106	under 5 years old 14% 5 to 11 years old 15% 11 to 18 years old 8% over 18 years old 14% I don't have children 49%	0
The most important thing a school can do for a student is to...	92	create a network of contacts and friends who help each other after leaving school 0% create in them a sense of curiosity and help them be life-long learners 57% give them an excellent training in English, maths and science 0% give them confidence 7% give them the skills to contribute to the economy 1% help create social mobility 7% help them achieve high academic results 1% help them be creative individuals 0% help them become a useful member of society 9% help them to discover what they are really good at 15% make them employable 2% other - please add details in the comments 2%	3
The real problems facing schools, and ensuring good school places for everyone, are	95	funding cuts 17% recruiting teaching staff 8% both 60% other - please state in the comments 15%	8

## GRAMMAR/SELECTIVE SCHOOLS



63% of respondents from across England disagreed with having grammar schools.

79% thought that good schools should not have the option to become a grammar school, so that they could select the students who can attend.

With 78% of respondents thinking that grammar schools increase separation in society.

And, emphasising this further, 66% of respondents didn't think that grammar schools increased social mobility.

### Comments:

*"Completely outdated" - Zoe Parker*

*"Not in their current form." - Mickel Langevald*

*Grammar schools: "Not in any form the idea a snapshot can be taken based on a small age set to determine ability in that early period of huge dynamic change is just completely elitist. The movement and dynamism of classes and forms should have more focus rather than just age and these should be dynamic with much crossover, but not some form of youth academic based apartheid." - Stuart Naylor*

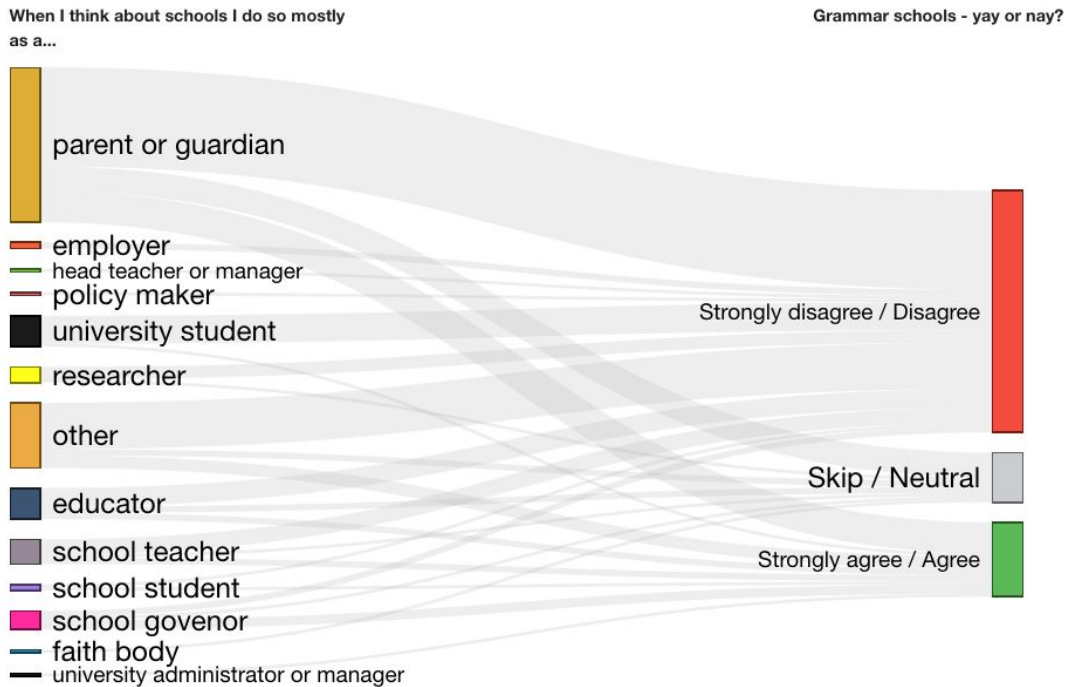
*"In an ideal world, they [grammar schools] encourage social mobility and give young people opportunities they may not have access to otherwise. However, it is not an ideal world - a child's background has so much impact that I am not convinced that there is a fair way of selecting children based on innate intelligence. It can only end up skewed socially, creating further social divide." - Phillipa Watts.*

Data: <https://represent.me/question/495/grammar-schools-yay-or-nay/>

### Who would/wouldn't like to see grammar schools?

Parents mostly didn't agree with grammar schools or were neutral, but were the largest group to want grammar schools from all other respondents followed by those who identified as 'other', some educators and all the school governors who participated.

No employer, head teacher, policy maker or researcher agreed with grammar schools. And only a few teachers and educators agreed with grammar schools.

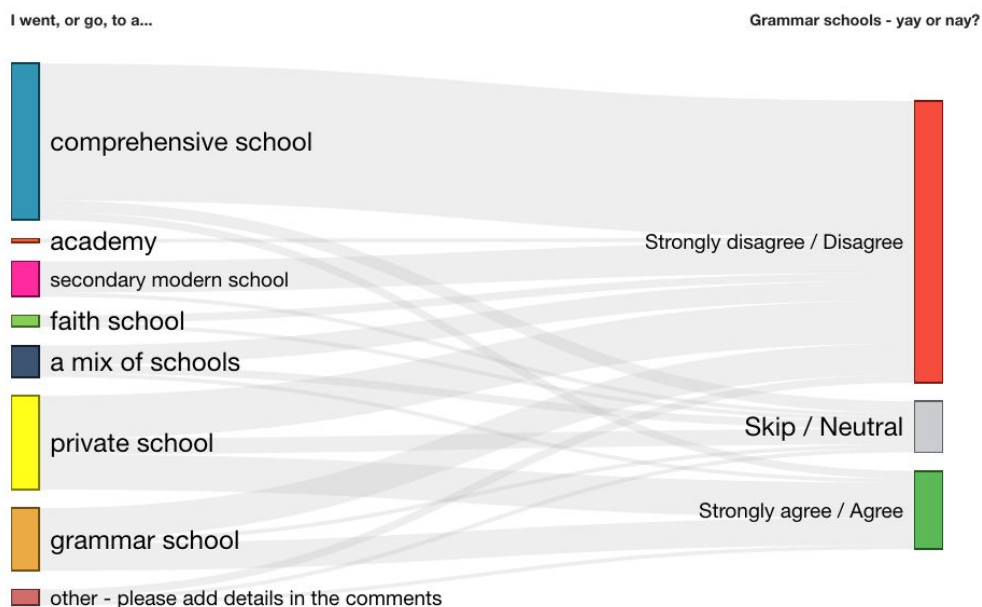


Explore this interactive chart here: <https://represent.me/questions/compare/?questiona=2401&questionb=495>

## Did where someone went to school affect their response?

Of those who went to, or attend, a comprehensive school, only a small minority of respondents agreed with grammar schools. Those who went to or attend a grammar school were split: 46% agreed with grammar schools and 54% disagreed.

Sarah Byrne commented: *"I don't think we should have grammar schools. I believe in the comprehensive system. I think it benefits everyone for children to learn in the same school, not necessarily class, as peers of different abilities and levels of wealth."*



View chart here: <https://represent.me/questions/compare/?questiona=2406&questionb=495>



To understand the question of mixed ability teaching and the comprehensive approach we asked if schools should teach children of all abilities together. Of which, 53% agree, with 18% neutral.

Note: we did not ask specifically how a school might manage teaching children of different abilities without selection - such as subject streaming.

## Schools should teach children of all abilities together



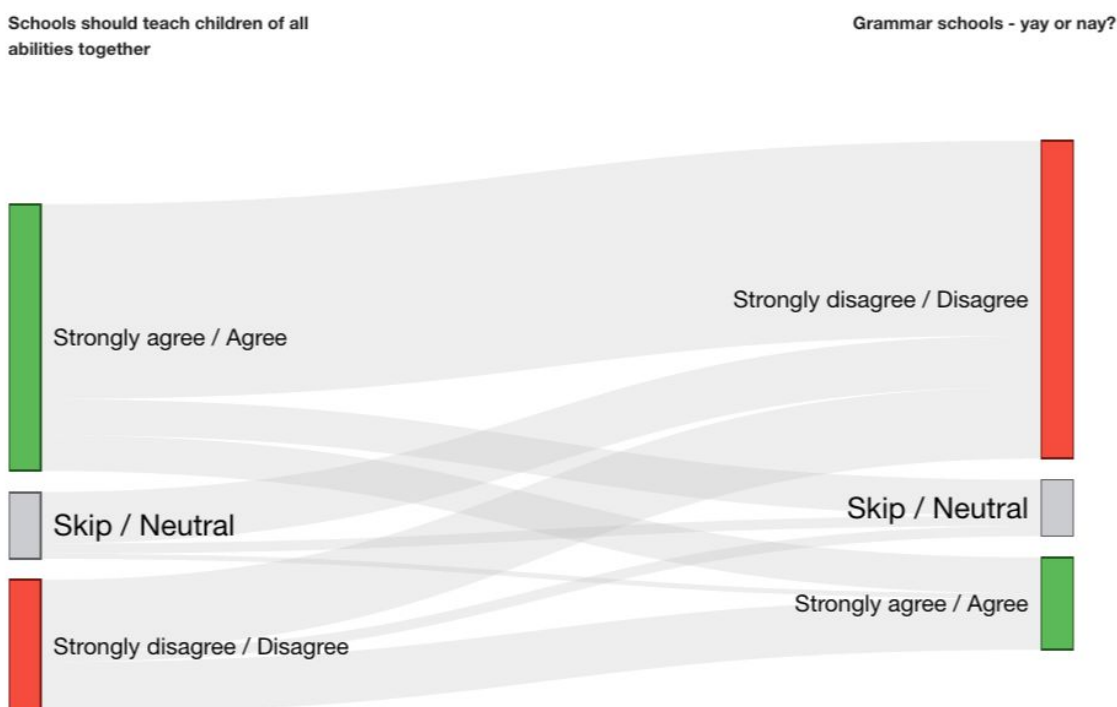
<https://represent.me/question/2451/schools-should-teach-children-of-all-abilities-together/>

Comparing the responses of teaching children together and whether people want grammar schools shows that whilst grammar schools are unpopular and many people believe that children should be taught together, there is a small degree of inconsistency in this area, in both directions.

### Those who commented pointed towards streaming within a mixed ability school

Kris Barber stated: "Mixed ability schools should stream children by subject. Some children may be excellent at maths, but not in history." Streamryan agreed saying: "Within ability sets in the same school."

IBN Gibril stated: "You don't teach piano to mixed ability groups you don't put soccer players into mixed ability groups you need to encourage academic excellence of the capable as an engine of future economic competitive advantage".



View this chart here: <https://represent.me/questions/compare/?questiona=2451&questionb=495>

## On more grammar schools

On the expansion of grammar schools and how this should be managed if a new grammar school isn't good enough, opinions were mixed. With the largest majority (26%) thinking a school should become a comprehensive school, but 17% selecting 'none of the above'.

As an alternative action to the given options, Ben Zalcman suggested: ***"The leadership should be overhauled and an action plan for improvement implemented."***

Timothy Barnes commented that more widely: ***"We should also be more comfortable with schools (and universities) that do not work properly being closed and the resources redirected to new schools or existing ones that are effective."***

### If a (new or existing) grammar school isn't good enough, or supportive enough of other schools...



### Other comments:

*"I marked NOTA [none of the above]. I think failing schools should be given help with their leadership, pedagogy, teacher training, classroom management and student welfare. Not condemned." - SY*

*"The question seems to imply that grammar schools are or should be inherently better than other schools. E.g. One option was to become comprehensive if not good enough (!) I don't support grammar schools, but think they should be treated in the same way as other schools if not good enough." - Stuart Sinclair*

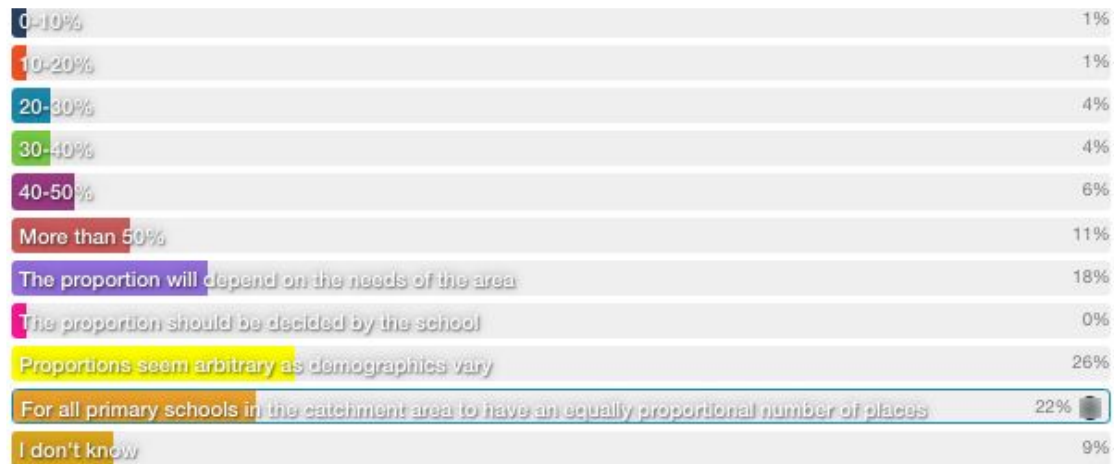
*"Schools positively adopt a student centred approach, focus on leadership development and inspire a self responsibility mode of education. Build from the inside up. This can only be done by respecting the ecosystem of the school as a whole - the efforts and views represented by everyone; the student - parent - assistant - teacher - head - governors. Collectively, respecting those with experience and the reality of the issues students and teachers are facing on a daily basis. Incentivize state schools where such processes have already successfully been implemented, to receive some redirected funding from said failing grammar school, to offer facilitation for the above ('ecosystem brainstorm sessions and follow up implementation and research within school')"* - Sarah Rust

## On selection measures for grammar schools

88% of respondents agreed that grammar schools should be required to help children from all backgrounds. However, there was less strong agreement on how this should be implemented.

Less respondents thought that a fixed percentage intake was the answer. Overall, respondents thought that proportions would differ locally, with 22% agreeing that all primary schools in the grammar school catchment area should have an equally proportional number of places.

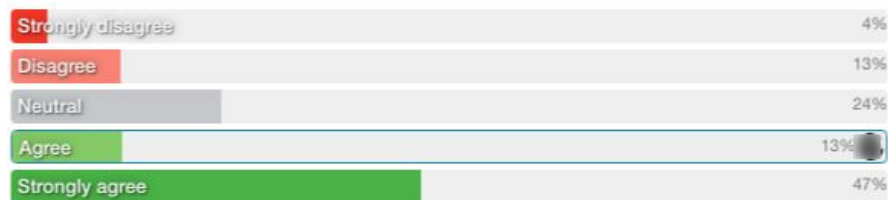
### What should be the minimum percentage of students from poorer backgrounds in a grammar school?



<https://represent.me/question/2430/what-should-be-the-minimum-percentage-of-students-from-poorer-backgrounds-in-a-grammar-school/>

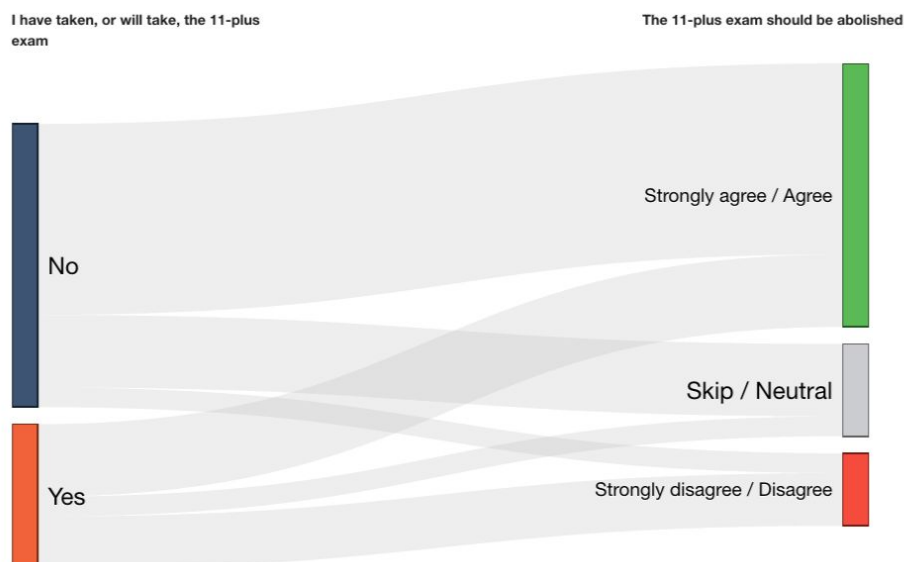
60% of respondents when asked about the 11-plus exam, used by grammar schools to select students, thought it should be abolished. With 33% of respondents having taken the 11-plus exam.

### The 11-plus exam should be abolished



<https://represent.me/question/2426/the-11-plus-exam-should-be-abolished/>

Of those who had taken the 11-plus exam slightly more agreed that it should be abolished than disagreed. Of those who had not taken the exam most believed either it should be abolished or answered neutrally.



**Grammar schools - preference questions and results in full**

Question	Vote count	--	-	0	+	++	Comments
All grammar schools should be required to help children from all backgrounds	90	0	2	9	17	62	1
The 11-plus exam should be abolished	96	4	12	23	12	45	1
Good schools should have the option to become a grammar school, so that they can select the students who can attend	91	57	15	8	10	1	1
Grammar schools - yay or nay?	223	96	30	28	33	36	3
Schools should teach children of all abilities together	118	7	28	21	29	33	5

### Multiple choice questions and results in full

Question	Vote count	Multiple choices and results	Comment count
If a (new or existing) grammar school isn't good enough, or supportive enough of other schools...	127	It should become a comprehensive school 26% I'm not sure what should be done 17% all of the above - please add any other ideas in the comments 6% it should be prevented from selecting students 15% it should be stopped from growing any more 5% its extra funding should be stopped 15% none of the above - please add other suggestions in the comments 17%	8
What should be the minimum percentage of students from poorer backgrounds in a grammar school?	140	0-10% 1% 10-20% 1% 20-30% 4% 30-40% 4% 40-50% 6% More than 50% 11% The proportion will depend on the needs of the area 18% The proportion should be decided by the school 0% Proportions seem arbitrary as demographics vary 26% For all primary schools in the catchment area to have an equally proportional number of places 22% I don't know 9%	4
I think grammar schools...	96	decrease separation in society 3% increase separation in society 78% neither increase or decrease separation in society 9% I don't know 9%	2
I have taken the 11-plus exam	95	Yes 33% No 67%	0

## PRIVATE/PUBLIC SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT IN STATE SCHOOLS

**Context:** 23% of respondents stated that they went to or had gone to a private school.

### Should private schools support state schools?

Only 12% of respondents thought that private schools should not help state schools. The remaining 88% were divided on whether help should be voluntary, incentivised or a legal requirement.

Bianca Pellet commented: "...help, good wishes etc only count for something if they are genuine, not forced."

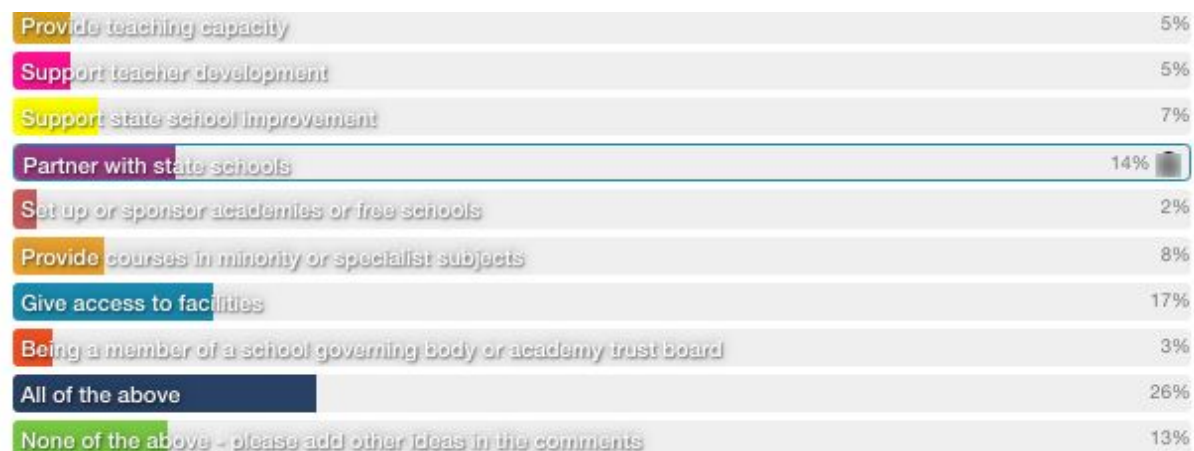
### Should private schools help state schools?



### This sentiment was repeated in separate questions whereby:

- 71% of respondents agreed that [private schools should be required to help improve state education locally](#)
- 71% thought [private schools should each be required to give a number of sixth form scholarships to students from state schools](#)
- 71% agreed that [private schools should be required to give access to their facilities](#)
- 69% thought [private schools should be required to help state schools with the provision of minority subjects](#)
- 56% agreed that [private and state school head teachers should be officially linked with one another](#) (24% voted 'neutral')

When asked specifically [what private schools should do to support state schools](#) 26% percent stated that they should: provide teaching capacity, support teacher development, support school improvement, partner with state schools, set up or sponsor a free/academy school, provide courses in minority subjects. The rest of the respondents selected one of these options or "other".



<https://represent.me/question/2440/what-should-private-schools-be-doing-most-to-support-state-schools/>



Only 2% of respondents thought that private schools should set up or sponsor a free or academy school, as a stand alone action.

The question of the kind of support private schools should give gained the most comments of all the consultation questions.

### **Additional ideas by respondents on how private schools could support state schools**

*"Private schools should promote and **develop bursaries and scholarships** making private education more accessible to low income families whose children pass required entrance exams as they did in the past" - Clark Davidson*

*"Private schools are iniquitous and should not exist. If they do, **they should have their charitable status taken away, so that parents who choose to pay, pay the full amount. The money accrued can go to comprehensive schools** to support more staff and better facilities." - Clare Morrish*

This was echoed by Charles Graham who stated: *"**Private schools should pay tax** as their charitable status is inappropriate because access is dependent on ability to pay and not on need for education."*

*"There should be transparency over how they are funded. **They should also pay something towards other state schools in the area** as they, in effect, cherry-pick the potential top achievers, and thereby leave state schools with less likelihood of performing well academically. It's like a PL club taking the best players from a lower league club. At some point there has to be reparation to enable the production line to keep flowing." - Andrew Thomas*

Zoe Parker commented that rather than asking private schools for support, **state school teachers should be given more autonomy**: *"I don't think we should have private schools (or faith schools) and I also wish successive governments had interfered less with teachers denying them autonomy and professionalism and imposing 'reforms that are not improvements - we still do not make adequate provision for the most needy/underprivileged/vulnerable children in our society."*

### **Some commenters did not think private schools had much to give or even if they should exist**

*"The question implies that private schools are inherently better than state schools. I think they thrive on privilege and parent power - not on better teaching. Thus they have little to offer." - Stuart Sinclair*

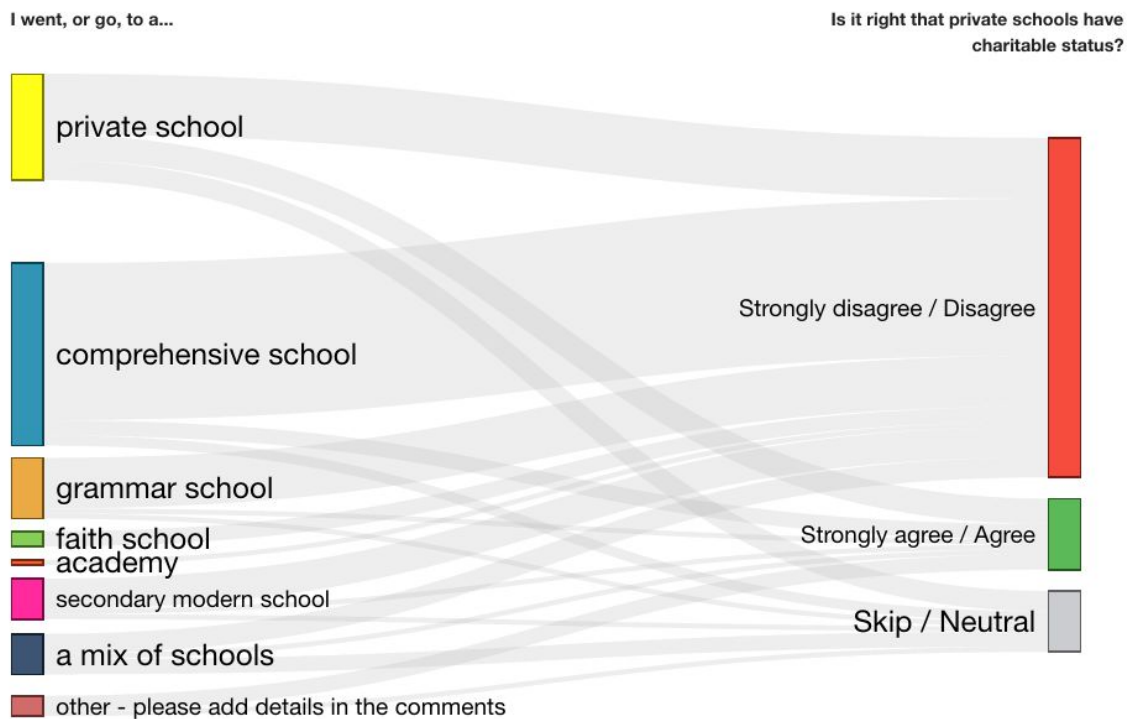
*"I chose none of the above because I don't think state schools should exist and if they do any of the above, it justifies their existence. If they are to be legal, **they should not be allowed charitable status and they should not be considered part of the state education system or expected to support it.**" - Sarah Byrne*

*"There shouldn't be private schools." - Paul Burrows*

*"I believe all schools should be state" - Cris2189*

### **On the charitable status of private schools**

72% of respondents didn't think it was right that private schools have charitable status. Of those respondents who went to a private school, the majority also disagreed with private schools having charitable status.



Explore this interactive chart here: <https://represent.me/questions/compare/?questiona=2406&questionb=2444>

Comments for this question were only made by those making the case for charitable status to remain.

*"If they behave as a charity, then yes." - Ed Dowding*

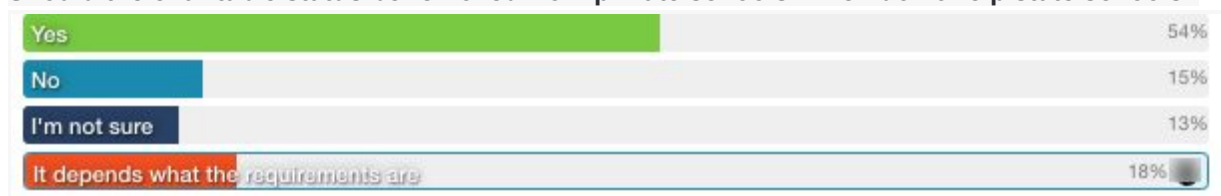
*"Charitable status comes with responsibility to behave in a socially responsible manner. If they do not deliver they should lose their status and the bar should be high." - SY*

Pertinently, one respondent works in a for-profit (not charitable status) school, who stated:

*"I vote yes. I work in a private school that is run as a for-profit organisation and this does not help the children as **there is no commitment to reinvest in their education and facilities under this setup**. If they have charitable status then there is greater onus on them to do this and it changes the school's ethos." - Bianca Pellet*

54% of respondents thought that charitable status should be removed if a private school didn't help state schools. 18% said it depended on the requirements.

#### Should the charitable status be removed from private schools which don't help state schools?



#### Private/public schools - preference question results in full

Question	Vote count	--	-	0	+	++	Comment count
Private schools should be required to do more to	102	7	12	10	32	41	0

improve state education locally							
Private schools should each be required to give a number of sixth form scholarships to students from state schools	136	13	10	17	35	61	1
Is it right that private schools have charitable status?	112	57	23	14	12	6	4
Private schools should be required to give access to their facilities (e.g. playing fields, science labs) to local state schools	109	4	14	13	31	47	1
Private and state school head teachers should be officially linked with one another	107	9	12	26	36	24	0
Private schools should be required to help state schools with the provision of minority subjects	84	5	8	13	33	25	5

### Private/public schools - multiple choice results in full

Question	Vote count	Multiple choices and results	Comment count
What should private schools be doing most to support state schools?	204	Provide teaching capacity 5% Support teacher development 5% Support state school improvement 7% Partner with state schools 14% Set up or sponsor academies or free schools 2% Provide courses in minority or specialist subjects 8% Give access to facilities 17% Being a member of a school governing body or academy trust board 3% <b>All of the above 26%</b> None of the above - please add other ideas in the comments 13%	12
Should the charitable status be removed from private schools which don't help state schools?	106	<b>Yes 54%</b> No 15% I'm not sure 13% It depends what the requirements are 18%	2
Should private schools help state schools?	103	Yes, they should be encouraged to do so with incentives 20% <b>Yes, they should be required to do so by law 48%</b> Yes, they should help voluntarily 20% No 12%	1

## FAITH SCHOOLS

**Context:** only 3% of respondents reported that they went to a faith school.  
**Respondents were not asked if they followed a faith.**

### On the funding of faith schools

Overall 63% of respondents thought the state should not fund faith schools, with 11% answering neutrally.

Given that the state currently fund state schools, to maintain funding, 57% agreed that faith schools should have to prove support from other faiths, with 26% neutral.

**To maintain government support faith schools should have to prove that parents of other faiths are interested in their children attending the school**



<https://represent.me/question/2434/to-maintain-government-support-faith-schools-should-have-to-prove-that-parents-of-other-faiths-are-interested-in-their-children-attending-the-school/>

### On student admissions by faith schools

84% agreed that faith schools should not be permitted to select students on grounds of their faith or the faith of their parent.

**This sentiment was repeated in separate questions whereby:**

- 66% agreed that parents or children should not have to prove their faith to go to a faith school
- 83% agreed that in school admissions: It should be unlawful for any school, including faith schools, to discriminate against a child on grounds of faith

Mike Walford commented: *"Religion should not influence education. It stifles progress."*

*"I don't think we should have faith schools at all."* - Zoe Parker

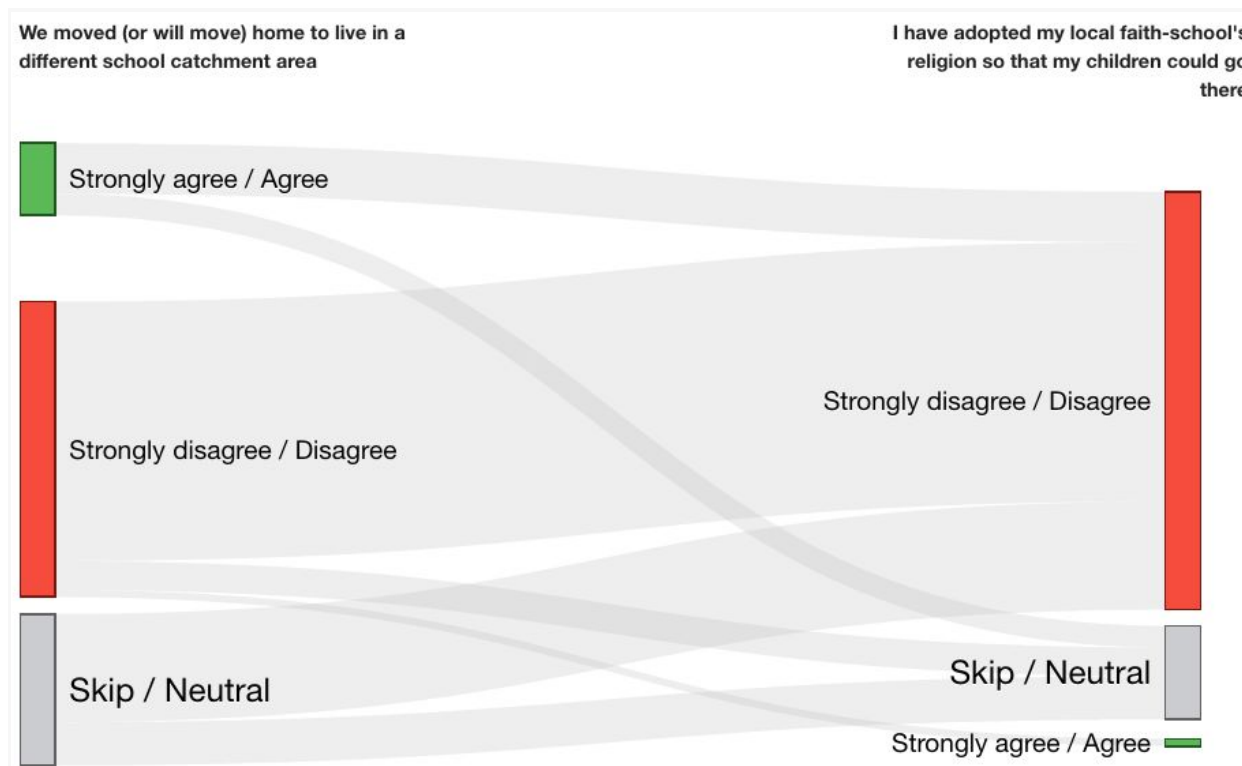
*"I don't agree with faith schools."* - RitaT

### Not all agreed

*"If a school is a faith school and is oversubscribed e.g. Catholic school and funding is provided by the diocese then the school should have the right to refuse pupils based on whether they are members of the local church. Government should provide nominal funding to faith schools based on admittance, SEN and school budget."* - Maddie Price

### On moving house and/or adopting a faith for children to attend a school

Whilst some respondents were willing to move house to live in a different school catchment area, only one respondent reported adopting the faith of school so that their children could attend.



Explore here: <https://represent.me/questions/compare/?questiona=2402&questionb=2432>

## On other ways of managing inclusivity

- 65% thought faith schools should be required to twin, of which 40% thought it should with 'a school of another faith or no faith'.
- 35% of respondents disagreed that faith schools should be required to twin with another school. 64% agreed that faith schools should be required to have someone of another faith on their governing body.
- 65% agreed that all faith schools should be required to teach the same locally agreed religious education syllabus as non-faith schools.

## Faith schools - preference question results

Question	Vote count	--	-	0	+	++	Comment count
The state should not fund faith schools	123	10	22	14	21	56	2
I have adopted my local faith-school's religion so that my children could go there	92	65	6	19	2	0	0
Parents or children should not have to prove their faith to go to a faith school	117	7	20	13	34	43	5
To maintain government support faith schools should have to prove that parents of other faiths are interested in their children attending the school	102	10	6	27	31	28	1
In school admissions: It should be unlawful for any school, including faith schools, to discriminate against a child on grounds of faith	128	7	7	8	14	92	2

Faith schools should be required to have someone of another faith on their governing body	106	8	8	22	31	37	0
All faith schools should be required to teach the same locally agreed religious education syllabus as non-faith schools	114	9	10	9	31	55	0
Faith schools should not be permitted to select students on grounds of their faith or the faith of their parents	127	12	17	17	34	47	3
I would adopt my local faith-school's religion so that my children could go there	89	67	14	8	0	0	1

### Faith schools - multiple choice question results

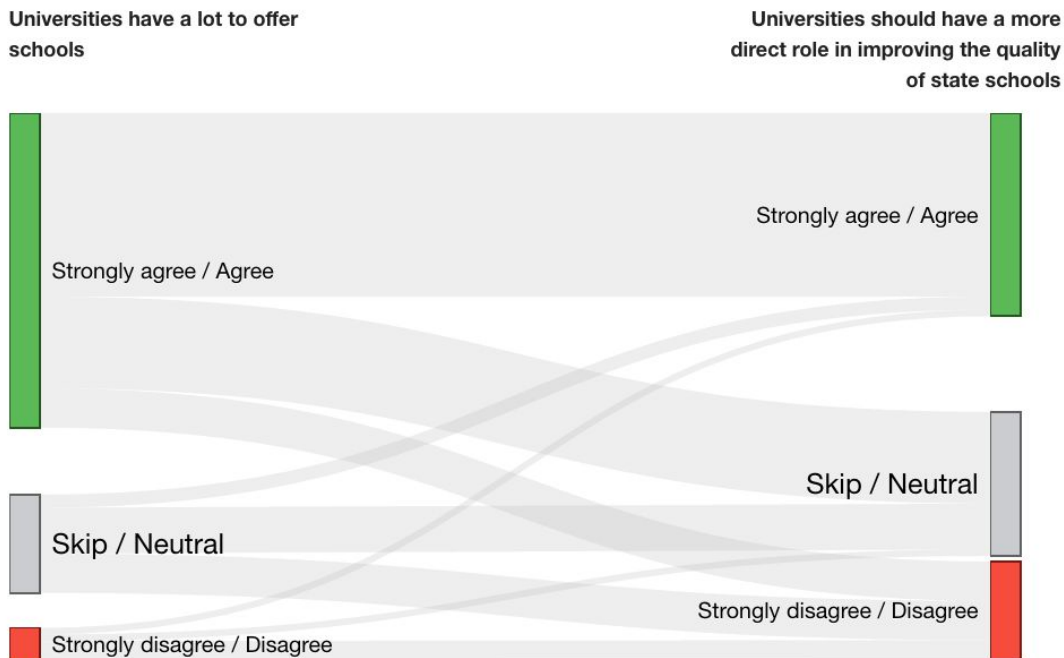
Question	Vote count	Multiple choices and results	Comment count
Faith schools should be required to twin with:	101	a school of a different faith or denomination 5% <b>a school of either a different faith or no faith 40%</b> a school of no faith 21% they shouldn't be required to twin with another school 35%	0



## UNIVERSITIES

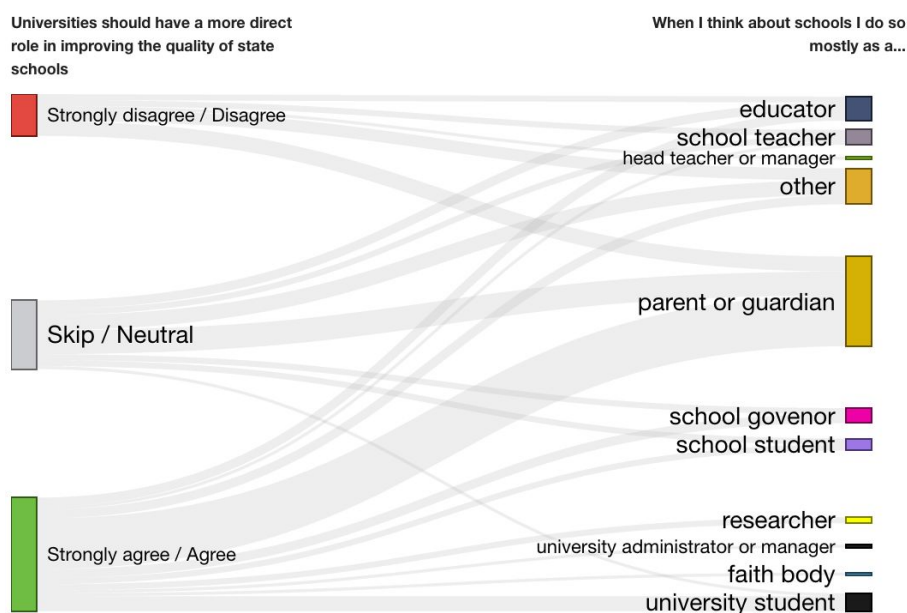
### What role should universities play in state education?

Whilst there is strong agreement that universities have a lot of to offer schools, 41% of people are doubtful if universities should be involved (12.5% object to the idea).



<https://represent.me/questions/compare/?questiona=2418&questionb=2420>

People who work in education mostly do not agree that universities should have a larger role in improving state schools. Parents and students mostly do think it's a good idea.



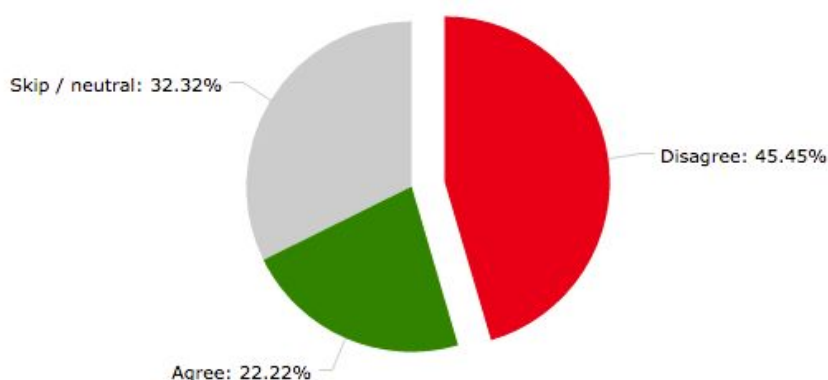
<https://represent.me/questions/compare/?questiona=2401&questionb=2420>

As Anna Gear comments, *"Universities are already completely overstretched. Staff are subject to various assessments and metrics, endless form filling and apparently irreconcilable demands from government, students, management, funding bodies and the like. **Schools should be properly invested in. Universities are not remedial organisations for an underfunded public education sector.**"*

This is echoed by Duncan Lloyd, *"University teaching staff are already overloaded and some of the most measured around (good degrees, good course results, student satisfaction, ref, quality framework, Ofsted, KPIs, etc) which takes away the time they have."*

45% disagree that universities must support state schools in order to charge higher fees.

**In order to charge higher fees universities must be required to support a school in the state system.**



<https://represent.me/question/2419>

As Philippa Watts comments, *"That's not the purpose of a university."*

Another respondent who has been involved with a university sponsoring a school in the state system found it to be interesting but noted that there are *"too many things schools are obligated to do, assess, report, manage and deliver in prescribed ways for university sponsors to be able to bring that much positive input"* and so was strongly against making it compulsory.

Of those who agreed that universities have a lot to offer state schools, 54% want it to happen locally or in geographic areas where there is low university attendance. The next most important aspect is to give the university the freedom to choose how it can best help increase pupil attainment.

There is a slightly stronger preference for universities to offer support where they can identify they will have greatest impact.

### How do those who agree that universities can help schools think it should be given?

If a university is to support state schools what is the most important factor?

Universities have a lot to offer schools



<https://represent.me/questions/compare/?questiona=2422&questionb=2418>

Maddie Price suggests that: “Universities should offer resources relevant to all schools and to courses that they offer, e.g. Imperial should support STEM for girls. Lecturers should visit schools not just in local areas but in cities with high levels of poverty and universities should support and encourage children from these areas.”

This attitude is evidenced by the data below which shows a strong preference (51%) for universities offering activity-centered support: clubs, summer schools, special subjects, and ‘all of the above’. Only 14% thought that universities should not engage as they thought it was a different teaching environment.

### What should universities be doing most to enable school students to gain the skills to go to university?



<https://represent.me/question/2421>

## University involvement in schools - data

Question	Votes	--	-	0	+	++	Comments
Universities have a lot to offer schools	105	2	5	20	42	36	0
In order to charge higher fees universities must be required to either establish a new state school or sponsor an academy in the state system	99	25	20	32	16	6	3
Universities should have a more direct role in improving the quality of state schools	84	6	13	26	25	14	3

Question	Votes	Multiple choices and results	Comments
What should universities be doing most to enable school students to gain the skills to go to university?	154	Run summer schools 11% Create inspiring materials and syllabus for schools, mentor school students 12% Provide teaching capacity 5% Partner with schools 9% Set up or sponsor academies or free schools, such as a specialist subject sixth form college 3% Provide courses in minority or specialist subjects 5% Give access to facilities 5% Being a member of a school governing body or academy trust board 1% Run in-school 'university clubs' 10% <b>All of the above 25%</b> None of the above - universities are different teaching environments 14%	1
If a university is to support state schools what is the most important factor?	99	Allow the university to identify where its skills and resources can most improve attainment 36% Other factors - please add details in the comments 3% <b>Support geographic areas where there is low entry to university 38%</b> Support local schools 11% Support struggling schools 11%	2

## APPENDIX: Methodology

### Questions and content

Represent worked with Simple Politics ([www.simplepolitics.co.uk](http://www.simplepolitics.co.uk)) to make the content of the '*Schools that work for everyone*' consultation accessible to the widest possible audience. Clear links to the original consultation were given. This entailed:

- **Editing and re-writing the questions into plain English.** Where necessary using more widely understood terms. For example, using the phrases 'private schools' rather than 'public schools', 'grammar schools' rather than 'selective schools'.
- **Converting all the questions from open to closed**, with the option for comments.
- **Ensuring each question could be answered in isolation**, without the requirement to answer all the questions before submitting.
- **All questions were made either preference scale or multiple choice**, with options to add extra choices, ideas and solutions in the comments.
- **Adding contextual questions** not in the original consultation to give background of the participants and the subject. For example, asking what kind of school participants had attended so as to compare and understand the answers given.
- **Adding existing relevant questions** from our dataset.
- **Repeated questions with different phrasing** to check for consistencies and manage any unintentional bias.

### Who were the questions open to?

- The questions were placed on the Represent.me website as well as on our blog.
- Anyone with access to the internet was able to respond.
- All respondents had to register with at least their email address or Facebook/Google login and were encouraged to give their age and location.
- Questions were asked only to those living in England where applicable (as Represent has location filtering tools).
- There was no requirement to answer all the questions
- People who had previously responded to relevant existing questions
- All respondents were encouraged to answer the full government consultation
- Responses could be made publicly or privately.

### To whom was the consultation promoted?

- All Represent members living in the UK, with emphasis on England (circa 4,500 people)
- Partners Represent works with who have an interest in education, such as Simple Politics and British Youth Council.
- Followers of Represent and Represent staff on Facebook, Twitter and Medium.
- On Facebook it received a large number of shares, especially among education groups.

### Who were we seeking to respond?

- Individuals who may not have a say on these issues otherwise or be aware of the consultation, yet be affected by it.
- In particular: parents, children over 13 years old (those under 13 are not permitted to use the site for data protection purposes), students who have just left education, experienced educators not represented by teaching unions.