

# What parents want to see in **RECOVERY**

**Parents' priorities for education are clear. Our nationwide survey of nearly 3000 parents revealed the overwhelming majority of parents want to see a greater focus on well-being and mental health in schools. Parents are shocked and disappointed by the curriculum and by the pressure placed on children by statutory assessment. They are not supportive of "catch up" policies and want real change.**

**Parents' priorities are:**

- ▶ **A focus on mental health and wellbeing**
- ▶ **A forward-looking curriculum and assessment system**
- ▶ **Closing the long-standing attainment gap for disadvantaged children and sufficient support for children with SEND**

**Achieved by long term-investment direct to schools**

**"The pandemic has exposed that the education system isn't fit for purpose and is damaging to mental health. There are too many exams, and not enough focus on art and other creative subjects. Teachers are over-worked and underpaid and children are over-assessed."**

## **About our parent survey**

- ▶ **Almost 3000 respondents from 150 areas nationwide.**
- ▶ **Approx. half responses from online "Parent Voice" survey conducted between 1 May and 18 June.**
- ▶ **Approx. half responses from daily parental survey app "Parent Ping" [www.parentping.co.uk](http://www.parentping.co.uk) on 19 June.**
- ▶ **Results from the 2 surveys strongly corroborate each other.**

**Trust in government and support for their COVID response in education is low.**

65% of parents have low or very low trust in government, meanwhile trust in schools and teachers remains high.

The government's flagship recovery policies are unpopular. Although parents agreed with the focus on helping the most disadvantaged pupils, only 1 in 10 parents support longer school days and shorter holidays to catch up, only 13% feel positive about the national tutoring programme, and 14.5% support the policy of focusing on behaviour.

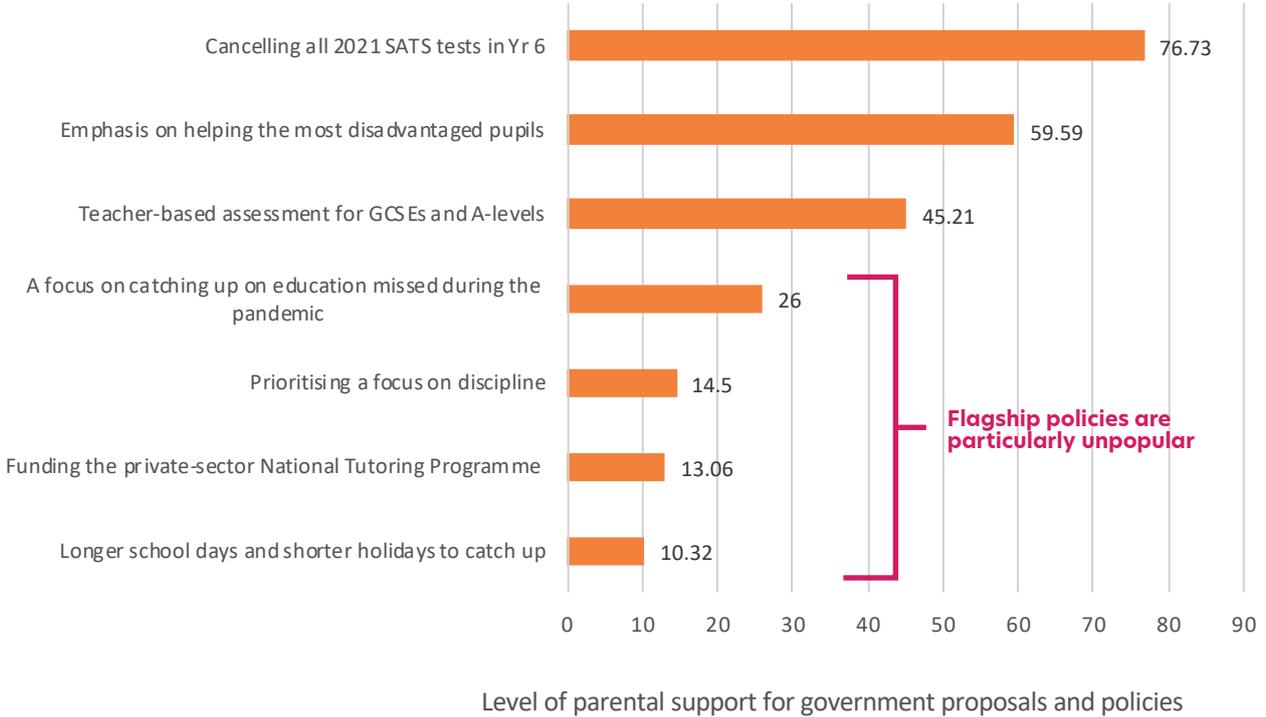
We understand the findings of our survey are remarkably consistent with similar surveys. There is a groundswell of parental dissatisfaction. We need recovery in education to be bold and to genuinely support our children and their learning.



**“Reduce class sizes: this in itself is likely to deliver the outcomes the government is seeking, lessening the need for longer days or catch-up sessions.”**

**“Extra money for wellbeing and staffing for schools to deploy as they see fit.”**

**Percentage of parents who feel positive about the government's COVID response policies and proposals**



**“The emphasis on catching up is really just about arbitrary maths and English targets - fronted adverbials for 7-year-olds anyone?!”**

**“Smaller class sizes, less red tape which takes teachers away from children, less ridiculous assessments.”**

**“The ever-increasing focus on testing and assessment is having a devastating effect on young people’s mental health.”**

**“We need to create a culture where data is not a priority.”**

**“Well being and mental health is more important than schools hitting their targets.”**

## What are your priorities for schools and education as we recover from the pandemic?

We asked parents to rank these priorities, this is what they told us:



"My priorities are for an end to endless, pointless testing, an end to school league tables and a return to teacher-led curriculum."

"Priorities are mental health and well being. I don't care about test results or national attainment targets. It's vital that our kids are confident and resilient and able to adapt to a changing world."

Parents' priorities for recovery are clear, and it is clear the government is out of step with those priorities.

### We need to make our voices heard

1. Share this survey with your friends, family and school WhatsApp and Facebook groups
2. Send it to your MP asking how they can support parent's priorities for recovery in education
3. Join a local parent campaign, or start one!



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