

## Representativeness and methodology

### Methodology

The findings of this research are informed by an annual self-selecting online survey. This is the twelfth consecutive year that NGA has conducted this school and trust governance survey. It is the largest of its kind, open to all those governing, and provides an extensive overview of the governance of state funded schools in England. While not all respondents answered every question, this survey provides a detailed insight on the demographic, views and experience of England's largest volunteer forces.

The survey was open to all governors, trustees and academy committee members between 25 April 2022 and 30 May 2022 via the online survey website SmartSurvey. In total, 4,185 respondents engaged with the survey.

We are grateful to our partners, including local authorities and local governance associations that distributed the survey through their own networks. The survey is completely anonymous to encourage individuals to share their thoughts and opinions freely. While the survey obtains many responses, it is still a relatively small sample of the total school governance population and relies on self-reported data from self-selecting participants. However, there are markers which indicate that the distribution of respondents and their school setting broadly matches the national picture by school phase, type, structure, and region. Any significant variations are reported in the findings.

### Representativeness

The survey was disseminated predominantly through NGA's channels. Respondents do not need to be members of NGA, but 87% are. However, the views and experiences of those who are and those who are not NGA members remain similar on most issues.

Survey respondents from different school structures are very closely in line with the proportion of local authority maintained schools in England and academies within single or multi academy trusts.

	State funded schools in England	Survey respondents
Local authority maintained	54%	52%
Academies within trusts	46%	47%

*Figure 1 shows the percentage of school structures within England compared with proportion of survey respondents within each structure.*

As seen in figure 2, smaller trusts with between one and five academies are underrepresented in our sample compared to national data. Trusts with six plus academies however are overrepresented and respondents governing in a single academy trust are underrepresented.

	Nationally	Survey respondents
1 Academy	53%	38%
2 to 5 academies	27%	21%
6 to 10 academies	12%	21%
11 to 20 academies	7%	12%
21 to 30 academies	1%	3%
31 plus academies	1%	3%

Figure 2 shows trust sizes nationally compared to annual survey respondents.

Figure 3 shows respondents to the survey have a mostly proportional distribution across different phases. However, those governing in nursery and secondary settings are overrepresented and a slightly lower proportion of respondents governing in primaries compared to school distribution nationally.

	State funded schools in England	Survey respondents
Nursery	2%	10%
Primary	76%	70%
Secondary	16%	28%
Special	5%	6%
Alternative provision or pupil referral unit	2%	1%

Figure 3 shows the percentage of school phases within England compared with proportion of survey respondents within each phase.

Survey respondents are from all nine English regions and are predominantly in line with the regional spread with the exception of the South East which is heavily overrepresented and the East of England that is underrepresented.

	State funded schools in England	Survey respondents
East Midlands	9%	10%
East of England	12%	6%
London	12%	11%
North East	5%	5%
North West	15%	14%
South East	15%	24%
South West	11%	11%
West Midlands	11%	10%

Yorkshire and Humber	10%	9%
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Figure 4 shows the percentage of schools across all nine English regions compared to proportion of survey respondents within regions. [national data excludes nurseries and all-through provisions]

	State schools in England	Survey respondents
Outstanding	19%	18%
Good	68%	69%
Requires improvement	10%	11%
Inadequate	3%	1%
Not yet inspected	X	1%
Don't know	X	0%

Figure 5 shows the percentage of state schools in England's Ofsted rating nationally compared to survey respondents.

Over a third of survey respondents were chairs or co-chairs (33%) with a further 13% vice chairs. 9% held committee chair positions whilst the majority (42%) were other governors or trustees. A further 1% of respondents reported that they were a CEO of a multi academy trust and head teacher of a maintained school. There was also a broad range of perspectives offered by those new to school governance and more experienced governors and trustees with 19% of respondents having governed for under two years while 53% had been governing for over eight years.

### Survey questions

Certain questions in the annual survey will now appear every other year. This is so that we can explore these topics in detail whilst keeping the survey relevant to current affairs. The questions have been analysed using SPSS software and undergone comparative analysis to determine trends and consistencies. This is predominantly the case when data has been broken down to gather data about specific regions, school types, school phases and respondent demographics.