

The science classroom today



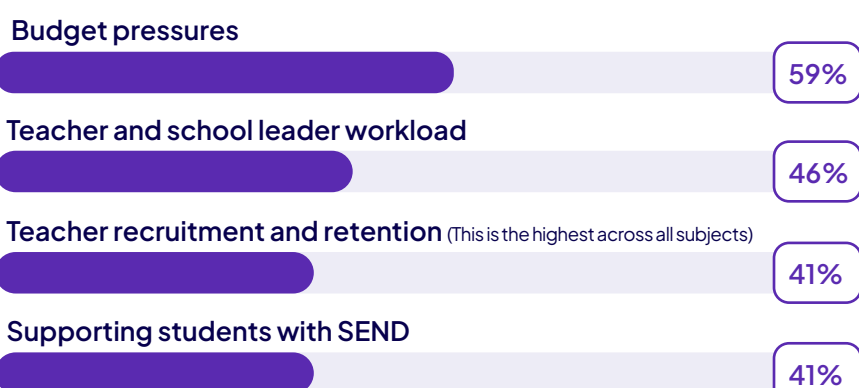
As schools across the country prepare for changes to curriculum and assessment, we explore what's standing out to secondary science teachers in the classroom today.

In the [Pearson School & College Report 2026](#), more than 1,000 secondary science teachers in England shared their thoughts...

Classroom challenges

While secondary science educators share many of the same pressures as the wider school community, their departments face an especially acute staffing challenge.

Top challenges for their schools to manage in the next 12 months, according to science teachers:



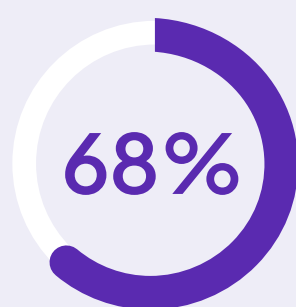
The battle for engagement

Declining attendance and focus are having an impact on daily classroom life for secondary science teachers.



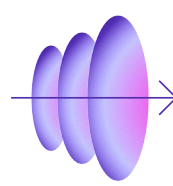
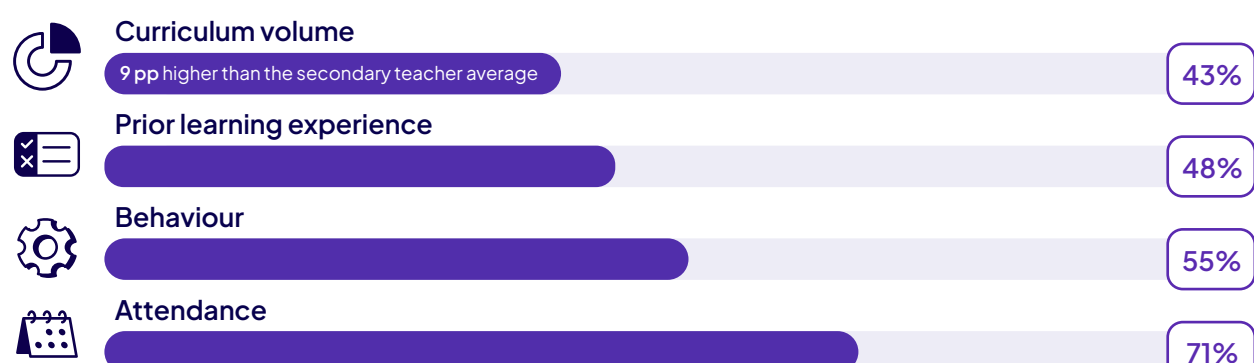
6 in 10 secondary science teachers report becoming increasingly concerned about pupil disengagement in learning over the past year.

Today, 68% flag student disengagement as a barrier to student learning.



Barriers to future student learning

Looking ahead, secondary science teachers also shared the barriers to their students' learning in the next six months:



Embracing opportunities

Secondary science teachers report that their schools have implemented a range of strategies to address these challenges and support student learning. These include:



1 in 2 say their school has focused on **attendance schemes** to improve student learning over the last 12 months.

In the past two years



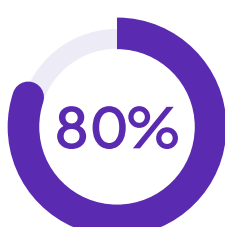
Nearly 1 in 4 say **AI tools** have positively impacted their school.



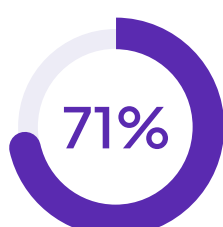
1 in 5 say the same about **more digital learning resources**.

Spotlight on skills

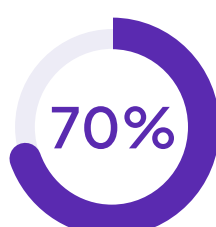
Science educators feel confident in building students' analytical skills such as:



Problem-solving



Experimentation



Critical thinking

However, secondary science teachers feel less confident in developing certain skills:



24% feel equipped to develop student **imagination**



20% say the same about **originality**

Want to know more?

[Explore secondary science teachers' views on the classroom tomorrow](#) and find out more about how we're helping schools and colleges [navigate curriculum and assessment reform with confidence](#).

Discover what 50,000+ educators, students and sector representatives think about education today and its future in the [Pearson School & College Report](#).



About the research

Surveys of primary and secondary classroom teachers, middle leaders and headteachers working in schools in England were conducted by Teacher Tapp between 9 January 2026 and 28 January 2026. Depending on the question, there were between 1,538 and 9,611 respondents. Results were weighted to reflect national teacher and school demographics.