# Primary School Insights: Challenges, Priorities and Support

Autumn 2021

We're **committed to supporting schools** with making every learning journey the best it can be.

That's why we **asked more than 1,000 primary teachers across the UK** for their views on the issues their schools are facing and what their priorities are in our autumn Teacher Tapp survey.
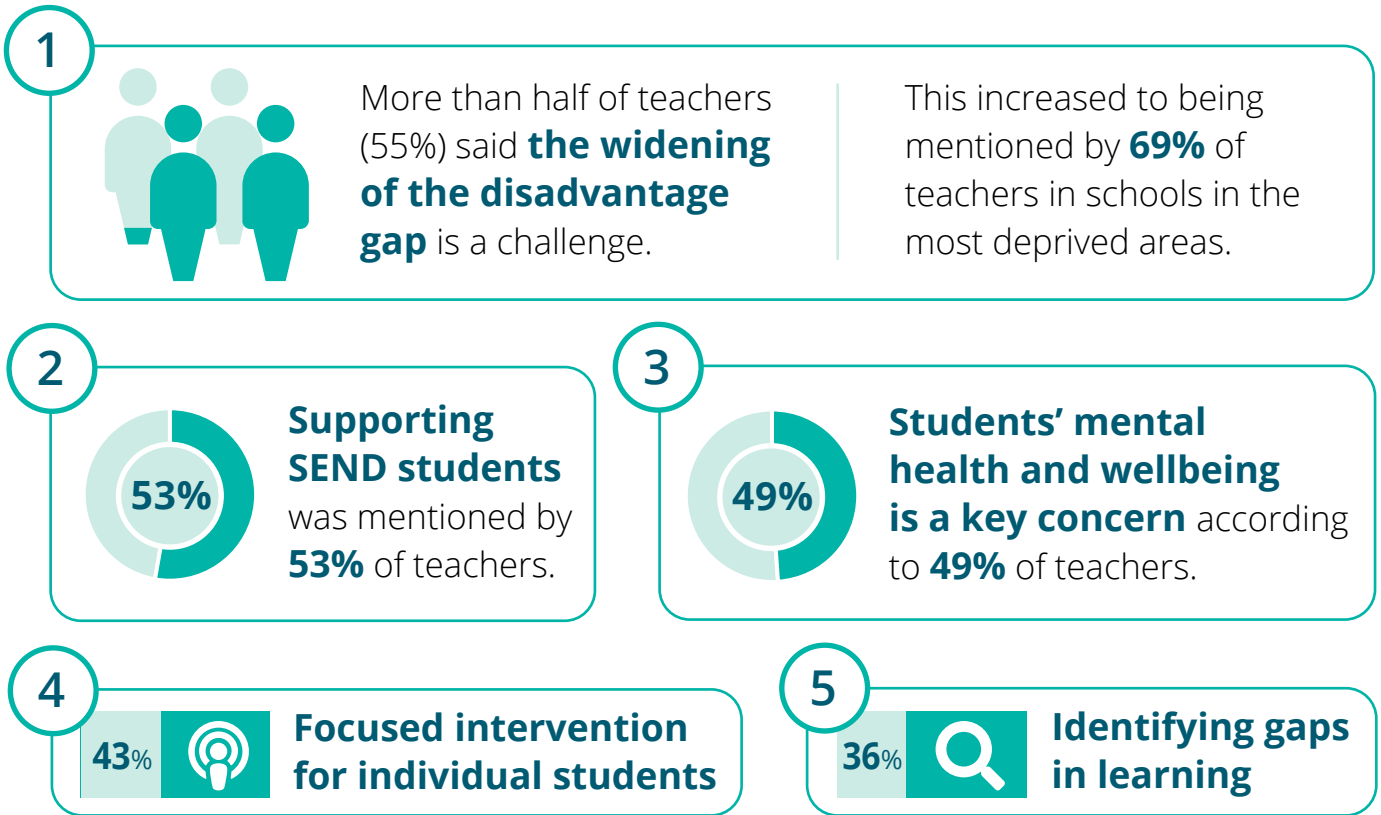
The **results show** that while challenges schools face are similar to those in the last academic year, **some priorities are starting to change**.

Here's what teachers told us…

# The top 5 **challenges** facing students

**1**

More than half of teachers (55%) said **the widening of the disadvantage gap** is a challenge.

This increased to being mentioned by **69%** of teachers in schools in the most deprived areas.

**2**

**53%**

**Supporting SEND students** was mentioned by **53%** of teachers.

**3**

**49%**

**Students' mental health and wellbeing is a key concern** according to **49%** of teachers.

**4**

43%

**Focused intervention for individual students**

**5**

36%

**Identifying gaps in learning**

# The 5 biggest **challenges** for schools as a whole

| **1** | **Staff workload** | **72%** |
| **2** | **Staff mental health and wellbeing** | **60%** |
| **3** | **Budget pressures** | **58%** |
| **4** | **Juggling further disruption due to COVID-19** | **46%** |
| **5** | **Lost learning and how to cover course content in the available time** | **44%** |

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# Top 3 **priorities** for the term ahead

| Supporting students to make academic progress | **58**% |
| Establishing consistency and structure for pupils | **56**% |
| Supporting children with SEND | **51**% |

# How have things **changed**?

We compared this with **our surveys in summer term 2021** and saw a few changes.

Overall, the top challenges and priorities for primary teachers have remained consistent. There has, however, been a **10% rise in SEND support** being mentioned as a challenge and entering the Top 5 priorities.

Interestingly, over the same period, **budget pressures increased** for primary teachers **by more than 15%** (up from 50% in the summer term to 58% today).

These findings are based on the views of 1,254 primary educators who participated in a Teacher Tapp survey commissioned by Pearson in September 2021.

# **Supporting** schools this term and beyond...

Learners, teachers and families are at the heart of everything we do, and we're fully committed to supporting learning – whenever, wherever and however it happens.

Based on the insights of this survey, here's a range of support that might help your school with the key challenges and priorities ahead.

## Mental health and wellbeing

- **The Wellbeing Zone** – a free online hub for supporting mental health and wellbeing, offering free resources to teachers, parents and students
- **Specialist services from Mable Therapy, supported by Pearson** – includes speech and language therapy and counselling delivered to children in schools
- **SEN and Mental Health Assessments**
- **Education Support** – a free helpline for teachers experiencing stress and worry, open 24/7
- **NSPCC** and **Childline** – includes resources and helpline for adults and children

## Diversity and inclusion

- **Our diversity and inclusion space** – from research and guidance developed with charities through to events to support inclusive education
- **nasen** – the National Association for Special Educational Needs, a charity offering free membership with up-to-date SEND knowledge and support for those in the sector

## Learning – curriculum resources and CPD

- **Support for parents and learners** – including tips on learning at home
- **Primary learning resources** – print, online and blended resources and services to support learning in and out of the classroom
- **Spotlight on digital learning and innovation** – support for the now and exploring the future of edtech
- **Pearson Schools Blog** – articles from teachers, subject experts and our team on topics highlighted in this survey
- **Pearson Tutoring** – online tutoring from qualified UK teachers delivered directly to schools and through the National Tutoring Programme
- **Pearson Professional Development Academy** – on-demand, live and self-guided courses to support teaching professionals at all stages of their careers

# Want to **share your views**, or learn more about **what we do**?

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