

Secondary 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 almost 3,000 secondary 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  **Students' mental health and wellbeing** is a key concern, mentioned by almost two-thirds (65%) of teachers.

2  More than half of teachers (53%) said **the widening of the disadvantage gap** is a challenge.

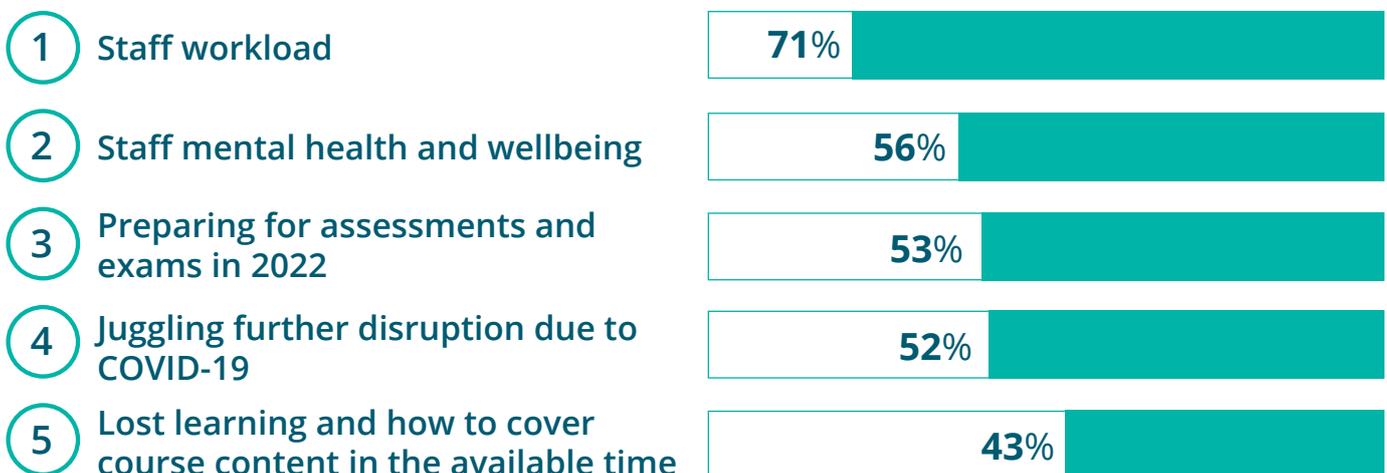
This increased to being mentioned by **69%** of teachers in schools in the most deprived areas.

3  **Reduced academic motivation** is a challenge for students, according to 48% of teachers.

4  **Lower student confidence** 46%

5  **Identifying gaps in learning** 42%

The 5 biggest challenges for schools as a whole



Top 3 priorities for the term ahead



Supporting students to make academic progress

65%

Establishing consistency and structure for pupils

57%

Building confidence

45%

How have things changed?



We compared this with [our surveys in summer term 2021](#) and saw a few changes. While the main issues have remained similar for secondary teachers, reduced academic motivation (reported as the second largest concern in summer at 59%), while still in the top three, is now a concern for around 10% fewer teachers.

There has also been a shift in secondary schools towards **building student confidence**, with 45% of teachers highlighting this as a priority in autumn, compared to 35% in summer, when examinations and assessments were a point of focus.

These findings are based on the views of 2,998 secondary 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, qualifications and CPD

- [Secondary qualifications](#) – all the details on our GCSE, A level and BTEC qualifications, including [summer 2022 support](#) and [support for parents and learners](#)
- [Secondary 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**?

We'd love to hear from you.



[Tweet us @PearsonSchools](#)



[Sign up to our email updates](#)



[Chat to our team](#)

