

# 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...



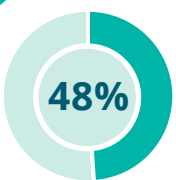
# The top 5 challenges facing students



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.

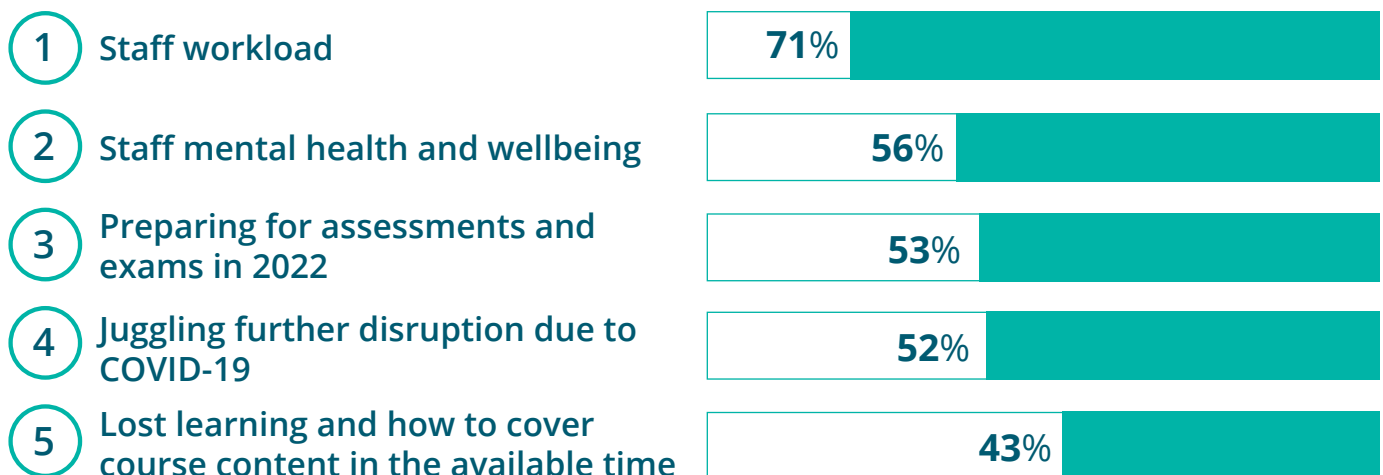
This increased to being mentioned by **69%** of teachers in schools in the most deprived areas.

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?

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