

YouGov Survey Results

Sample size: 1023

Fieldwork Dates: 30th June - 10th July 2025



Total	Education Phase		
	Primary	Secondary	All through
	J	K	L

Please place yourself on the scale below. (left text: SEND is over-diagnosed within schools, right text: SEND is under-diagnosed within schools)

Unweighted base	1023	544	421	58
Base: All	1023	573	400	50
1	8%	6%	12% ▲ J	3% *
2	23%	19% ▼	31% ▲ J.L	10% ▼ *
3	30%	31%	27%	43% ▲ K*
4	23%	28% K	17% ▼	22% *
5	9%	11% K	6% ▼	13% K*
Don't know	6%	5%	7%	9% *
Net: Over diagnosed (1-2)	31%	24% ▼	44% ▲ J.L	13% ▼ *
Net: Under diagnosed (4-5)	33%	39% ▲ K	23% ▼	35% *

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You said you feel SEND is over-diagnosed within schools, why do you think it is over-diagnosed?

	Unweighted base	J	K	L
	327	136	183	8
Base: Those who feel SEND is over-diagnosed within schools	321	140	174	7
For schools to access additional funding	23%	24%	23%	10% **
For parents/ students wanting examinations accommodation	61%	47% ▼	72% ▲ J	48% **
Schools being incentivised to identify more children as eligible for EHCP, so they don't have to pay the cost of support	26%	23%	28%	43% **
Mental health issues being confused with SEND	63%	59%	65%	85% **
Misunderstanding of SEND	43%	47%	39%	47% **
Other	21%	23%	20%	20% **
Don't know	2%	2%	1%	- **
Prefer not to say	1%	1%	-	- **

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Please place yourself on the scale below. (left text: Students from disadvantaged backgrounds are more likely to be incorrectly labelled as SEND, right text: Students from disadvantaged backgrounds are less likely to be incorrectly labelled as SEND)

	1023	544	421	58
Unweighted base	1023	544	421	58
Base: All	1023	573	400	50
1	8%	8%	6%	11%
				*
2	34%	36%	33%	29%
				*
3	31%	35%	26%	31%
		K	▼	*
4	9%	8%	12%	6%
			J	*
5	2%	1%	3%	2%
				*
Don't know	15%	12%	20%	21%
		▼	▲ J	J*
Net: More likely (1-2)	42%	44%	39%	40%
				*
Net: Less likely (4-5)	11%	9%	15%	8%
			J	*

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Which of the following best describes where most SEND students at your school are taught?

	Unweighted base	Primary	Secondary	All through
	1023	544	421	58
	Base: All	573	400	50
In the same classroom as other students but taught separately	11%	15% ▲ K	4% ▼	12% K*
In a designated SEND unit or resource base	10%	10%	10%	13% *
In the same classroom as other students with full integration	76%	73% L	82% ▲ J.L	59% ▼ *
N/A – Our school has no SEND students	1%	1%	1%	6% ▲ J.K*
Don't know	2%	1%	3% J	9% ▲ J.K*

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Please place yourself on the scale below. (left text: The current SEND system works well, right text: The current SEND system is not working)

	1023	544	421	58
Unweighted base	1023	544	421	58
Base: All	1023	573	400	50
1	1%	1%	2%	1%
				*
2	9%	6%	13%	6%
		▼	▲ J	*
3	14%	10%	17%	20%
			J	J*
4	35%	31%	39%	41%
			J	*
5	37%	49%	23%	26%
		▲ K.L	▼	*
Don't know	4%	3%	6%	6%
				*
Net: Works well (1-2)	10%	7%	15%	7%
		▼	▲ J	*
Net: Not working (4-5)	72%	80%	62%	67%
		▲ K.L	▼	*

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Please place yourself on the scale below. (left text: Most students with SEND should be educated in mainstream schools, right text: Most students with SEND should be educated in special educational needs schools)

	1023	544	421	58
Unweighted base	1023	544	421	58
Base: All	1023	573	400	50
1	5%	2% ▼	8% ▲ J	7% *
2	23%	17% ▼	32% ▲ J	19% *
3	38%	42% K	32% ▼	43% *
4	22%	26% K	18% ▼	21% *
5	8%	10% K	5% ▼	3% *
Don't know	4%	3% J	6% J	8% *
Net: Mainstream (1-2)	28%	19% ▼	39% ▲ J.L	26% *
Net: SEN schools (4-5)	30%	36% ▲ K	22% ▼	24% *

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Total	Education Phase		
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	J	K	L

In your opinion, are the following made better or worse for SEND students by being educated in mainstream schools?

Academic outcomes

Unweighted base	1023	544	421	58
Base: All	1023	573	400	50
A lot better	3%	2%	4%	2% *
Somewhat better	23%	18% ▼	29% ▲ J	26% *
Somewhat worse	32%	33%	31%	27% *
A lot worse	21%	27% ▲ K,L	12% ▼	13% *
It makes no difference	10%	11%	8%	12% *
Don't know	12%	9%	16% J	21% J*
Net: Better	25%	20% ▼	33% ▲ J	28% *
Net: Worse	53%	61% ▲ K,L	43% ▼	40% *

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Total	Education Phase		
	Primary	Secondary	All through
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Social skills

Unweighted base	1023	544	421	58
Base: All	1023	573	400	50
A lot better	13%	12%	13%	19% *
Somewhat better	51%	51%	53%	43% *
Somewhat worse	14%	14%	13%	18% *
A lot worse	9%	11%	6%	6% *
It makes no difference	7%	8%	7%	3% *
Don't know	7%	5%	8%	12%
			J	J*
Net: Better	64%	62%	66%	62% *
Net: Worse	23%	25%	19%	23% *
		K		*

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Total	Education Phase		
	Primary	Secondary	All through
	J	K	L

In your opinion, are the following made better or worse for non-SEND students by SEND students being educated in mainstream schools?

Academic outcomes

	Total	Primary	Secondary	All through
Unweighted base	1023	544	421	58
Base: All	1023	573	400	50
A lot better	2%	1%	2%	2% *
Somewhat better	11%	10%	14% J	9% *
Somewhat worse	34%	38% K.L	30%	23% *
A lot worse	15%	20% ▲ K	8%	13% *
It makes no difference	28%	22% ▼	36% ▲ J	39% J*
Don't know	10%	10%	10%	13% *
Net: Better	13%	11%	16% J	11% *
Net: Worse	49%	58% ▲ K.L	38% ▼	37% *

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Total	Education Phase		
	Primary	Secondary	All through
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Empathy

Unweighted base	1023	544	421	58
Base: All	1023	573	400	50
A lot better	19%	23%	12%	27%
		K	▼	K*
Somewhat better	52%	53%	54%	30%
		L	L	▼ *
Somewhat worse	8%	7%	9%	11%
				*
A lot worse	3%	3%	4%	6%
				*
It makes no difference	11%	9%	14%	14%
			J	*
Don't know	6%	5%	8%	12%
				J*
Net: Better	71%	76%	66%	57%
		▲ K,L		▼ *
Net: Worse	11%	10%	13%	17%
				*

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Total	Education Phase		
	Primary	Secondary	All through
	J	K	L

How easy or difficult do you find teaching SEND students alongside mainstream students in your lessons?

	Unweighted base	Primary	Secondary	All through
Unweighted base	1010	539	417	54
Base: Those who have SEND students at their school	1011	568	396	47
Very easy	2%	1% ▼	4% J	9% ▲ J*
Somewhat easy	12%	6% ▼	20% ▲ J	25% ▲ J*
Somewhat difficult	52%	53% L	52% L	34% ▼ *
Very difficult	28%	36% ▲ K.L	18% ▼	11% ▼ *
N/A – I do not teach any SEND students alongside mainstream students	3%	2%	4% J	19% ▲ J.K*
Don't know	3%	2%	3%	3% *
Net: Easy	15%	7% ▼	24% ▲ J	33% ▲ J*
Net: Difficult	80%	89% ▲ K.L	70% ▼ L	45% ▼ *

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Total	Education Phase		
	Primary	Secondary	All through
	J	K	L

Which, if any, of the following are your main concerns about the proposed SEND reforms? Please select up to three options.

	Unweighted base	J	K	L
	1023	544	421	58
	Base: All	573	400	50
Loss of legal entitlements for vulnerable pupils	10%	9%	12%	9% *
Reduced funding for mainstream schools to support SEND pupils	50%	56% ▲ K.L	42% ▼	37% *
Increased pressure on already stretched special school places	29%	31%	27%	28% *
More SEND pupils in mainstream with insufficient support	67%	73% ▲ K.L	59% ▼	52% ▼*
Teaching staff not adequately trained for increased SEND responsibilities	36%	37%	35%	29% *
Lack of clarity about what will replace current support systems	22%	22%	23%	21% *
Risk that pupils with greatest need will be overlooked	22%	20%	25%	27% *
Disruption to pupils currently receiving good support	17%	16%	19%	13% *
Parents losing rights to challenge decisions	3%	4%	3%	4% *
System becoming less accountable to families	4%	3%	4%	13% ▲ J.K*
N/A – No concerns about the proposed SEND reforms	2%	1%	2% J	7% ▲ J*
Don't know	6%	5%	9% J	5% *
Net: Any	92%	95% K	89%	88% *

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Total	Education Phase		
	Primary	Secondary	All through
	J	K	L

In your opinion, will the proposed SEND reforms have an overall positive or negative impact on the following groups, or will they make no difference?

SEND pupils with the most complex needs

Unweighted base	1023	544	421	58
Base: All	1023	573	400	50
Very positive	2%	1%	2%	1% *
Somewhat positive	8%	8%	9%	9% *
No impact	9%	8%	9%	11% *
Somewhat negative	22%	20%	25%	18% *
Very negative	34%	39% ▲ K	27% ▼	28% *
Don't know	26%	23%	28%	33% *
Net: Positive	10%	9%	11%	10% *
Net: Negative	56%	60% K	51%	46% *

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	Primary	Secondary	All through
	J	K	L

SEND pupils with moderate learning difficulties

Unweighted base	1023	544	421	58
Base: All	1023	573	400	50
Very positive	1%	1%	1%	2%*
Somewhat positive	9%	9%	9%	14%*
No impact	12%	11%	14%	8%*
Somewhat negative	37%	38%	36%	26%*
Very negative	16%	18% K	13%	18%*
Don't know	25%	23%	26%	32%*
Net: Positive	10%	10%	10%	16%*
Net: Negative	53%	56% K	49%	44%*

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	Primary	Secondary	All through
	J	K	L

SEND pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs

Unweighted base	1023	544	421	58
Base: All	1023	573	400	50
Very positive	1%	1%	1%	2%*
Somewhat positive	8%	7%	10% J	11%*
No impact	8%	7%	9%	8%*
Somewhat negative	34%	35% L	33%	22%*
Very negative	24%	28% K	18% ▼	23%*
Don't know	25%	22%	29% J	34% J*
Net: Positive	9%	8%	11%	13%*
Net: Negative	57%	63% ▲ K.L	51% ▼	45%*

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	Primary	Secondary	All through
	J	K	L

Non-SEND students

Unweighted base	1023	544	421	58
Base: All	1023	573	400	50
Very positive	1%	2%	1%	- *
Somewhat positive	6%	5%	7%	13% ▲ J*
No impact	20%	15% ▼	28% ▲ J	18% *
Somewhat negative	31%	33%	29%	22% *
Very negative	18%	24% ▲ K	8% ▼	18% K*
Don't know	24%	22%	26%	29% *
Net: Positive	7%	6%	8%	13% J*
Net: Negative	48%	56% ▲ K.L	38% ▼	40% *

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	Primary	Secondary	All through
	J	K	L

Which of the following would be most helpful for supporting SEND students you teach? Please select a maximum of three options.

	Unweighted base	J	K	L
Unweighted base	1010	539	417	54
Base: Those who have SEND students at their school	1011	568	396	47
More specialist training on different types of SEND	22%	21%	24%	25% *
Additional teaching assistant support in classrooms	65%	70% ▲ K.L	60% L	34% ▼ *
Smaller class sizes when teaching SEND pupils	58%	55%	63% J.L	49% *
Better access to specialist external support services	25%	29% K	19% ▼	33% K*
More time for planning and preparation	23%	20%	29% ▲ J.L	15% *
Improved school facilities and resources	33%	39% ▲ K.L	26% ▼	25% *
Smarter used of SEND-specific Ed-tech tools	7%	5%	9%	16% ▲ J*
Clearer guidance on curriculum adaptations	12%	11%	13%	21% J*
Better leadership support and understanding	6%	7%	5%	4% *
More collaboration with special school experts	13%	14%	11%	21% *
Protected time for liaison with parents and specialists	8%	8%	8%	14% *
Other	2%	1%	2%	- *
N/A – I do not teach any SEND pupils	1%	1%	1%	5% ▲ J.K*
Don't know	2%	1%	2%	2% *
Net: Any	97%	98% L	97%	92% ▼ *

▲ indicates result is significantly higher than the result in the Total column
▼ indicates result is significantly lower than the result in the Total column