

Education (Amendment) Bill – Public Consultation

The activity ran from 27th March 2024 to 10th May 2024

Responses to this survey: **509**

Are you responding as:

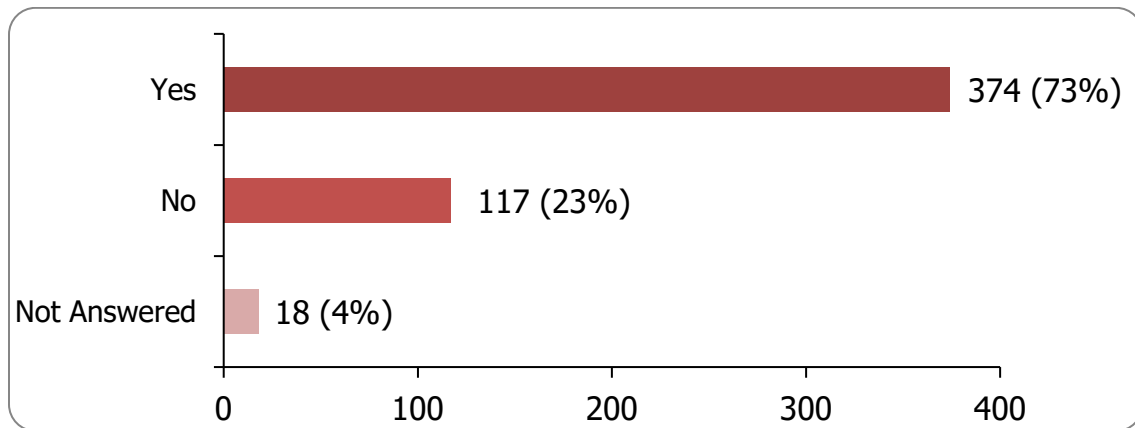
There were **506 responses** to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
A parent/carer with one or more children registered at one of the Department's schools or UCM	247	48.53%
A member of the public	101	19.84%
A teacher or Education Professional	90	17.68%
Prefer not to say	34	6.68%
A parent/carer with one or more children not registered at one of the Department's schools or UCM (home schooling or private school)	19	3.73%
A member of an organization	8	1.57%
A child or young person	4	0.79%
Not Answered	3	0.59%
A student at UCM	2	0.39%
A member of an advocacy group	1	0.20%

Additional Educational Needs

Do you think Department should broaden the concept of 'greater difficulty in learning', where schools must support children's Additional Educational Needs, regardless of the nature of that learning need?

There were **491 responses** to this part of the question.



Please use this space for any further comments you wish to make:

Of the 208 responses to this part of the question

- 66 stated that adequate funding should be in place before the concept is broadened
- 50 stated that this should only happen if suitable staff and resources are in place
- 26 stated that this should not impact on the education of other pupils
- 19 stated that alternative provisions should be made available to cater for the 'broad spectrum' of additional educational needs

"In order to provide the best possible education for children and young people on the Island it is necessary to take into account all possible factors that may temporarily or otherwise hinder their learning."

"It is broad enough. You could class all students as having additional educational needs at some point throughout school life."

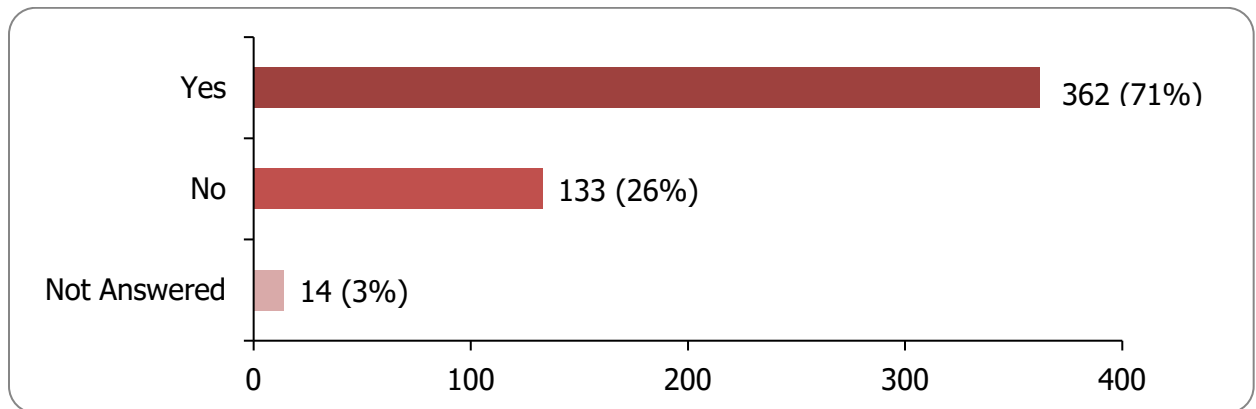
"Provided additional staff and funding is provided to enable schools to implement support for a broader range of needs."

"This seems like a sensible step to take. However, the Department should be mindful of the additional pressures this could place on staff."

"Additional educational needs is a much more inclusive term and does not single anyone out."

Do you think that educational professionals are best placed to identify needs early, provide intervention and support?

There were **495 responses** to this part of the question.



Please use this space for any further comments you wish to make

Of the 244 responses to this part of the question

- 73 stated that additional staff training and support would be required to enable this
- 68 stated that other professionals should be included (health and social care)
- 41 stated that parental / carers involvement is also required
- 41 stated that school staff are not qualified to do this or that this is too much of a further burden on school staff

"Education professionals are of course an important part in identifying needs early to provide intervention and support but there are other people who may be able to identify a child needs including the child's carer, health professionals just to name two examples"

"They are among those best places, but not necessarily THE best placed. It is of crucial importance to protect the primacy of parents over the state."

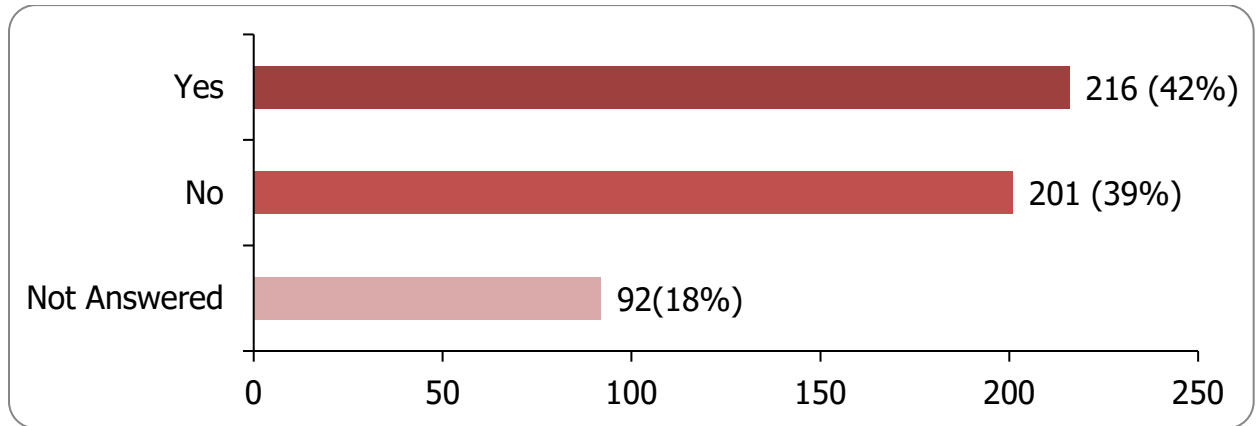
"Not always, education providers should be supported by properly trained professionals (psychologists, medics etc)"

"But it is not exclusive to them and it is not solely the responsibility of teachers to do this."

"They are well placed to detect the needs. They should inform parents/carers of available options."

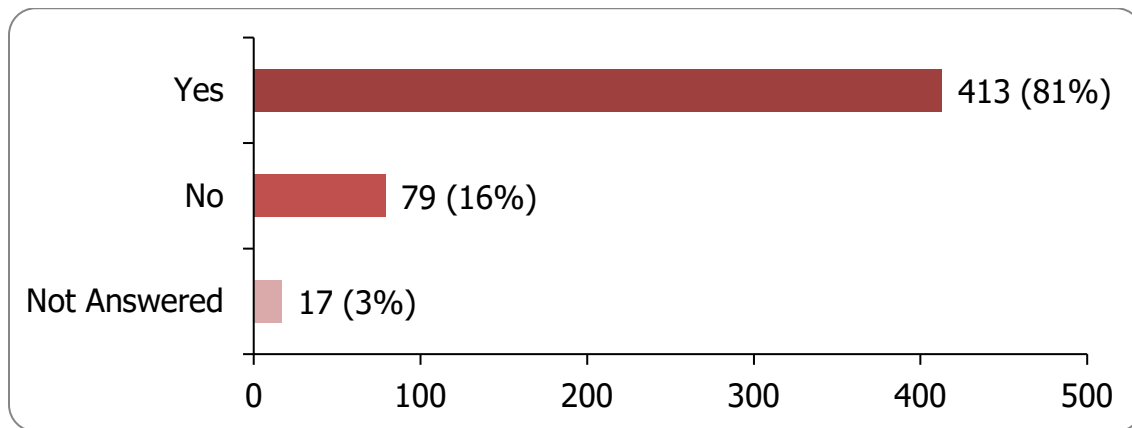
If you answered 'Yes', should this be required by law?

There were **417 responses** to this part of the question.



Do you think that collaboration between Government Departments, bodies and agencies should be required by law, ensuring that all those involved in the planning and providing of support to children and young people with Additional Educational Needs work together in the best interests of the child?

There were **492 responses** to this part of the question.



Do you think that collaboration between Government Departments, bodies and agencies should be required by law - further comments:

Of the 182 responses to this part of the question

- 24 stated that collaboration is not enough and responsibility should be shared
- 11 stated that the voice of the parent and the child should be heard
- 9 stated that making this law may slow things down

"Mandating something by law is too rigid. A policy framework would be more effective"

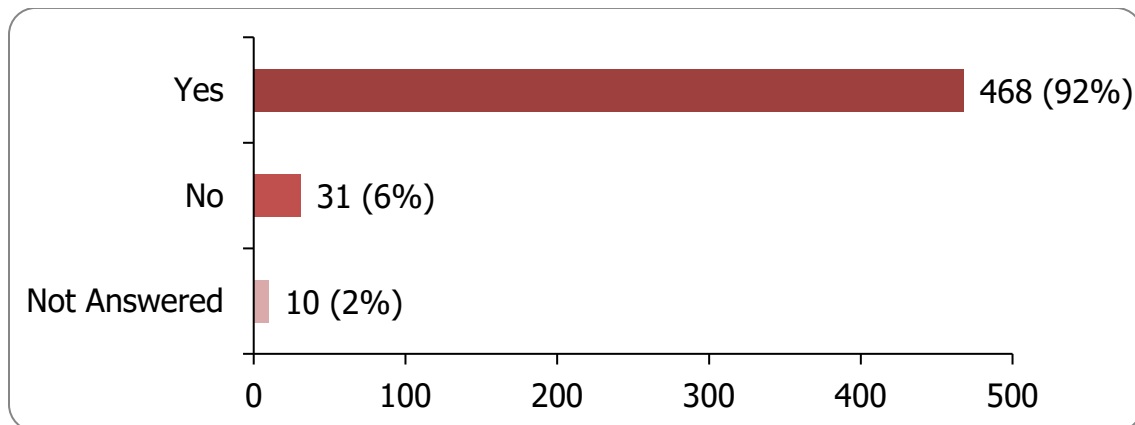
"There has to be a cohesive and collaborate approach child centric with all parties working and communicating and a clear experienced lead."

"The best interest of the child is paramount here."

"Thresholds for accessing social services and health / mental health have been raised higher in recent years leaving schools to try to manage. Collaboration is not enough – responsibility must be shared."

Where a child or young person is experiencing difficulty in accessing education in the school environment, should alternative methods of providing education be made available, such as online learning from home or another location offering support?

There were **499 responses** to this part of the question.



Should alternative methods of providing education be made available - further comments:

Of the 230 responses to this part of the question

- 49 stated that a specialist support facility should be available
- 32 stated that provision should be appropriate to the needs of the child
- 26 stated that 'education' should be broadened
- 20 stated that a special school should be available to support those who struggle with mainstream school

"Mainstream school, especially larger schools can be overwhelming and overstimulating for children with additional needs, therefore an alternative location should be available to those who struggle with mainstream, a place that offers specialised support for additional needs."

"Online learning is not a suitable solution for those who have struggled to engage with school. It further isolates the child from structure and support. Another location offering wrap around support is more likely to have a chance of success."

"Difficulty in accessing education' could mean many things. Alternatives should not be used as a way to 'offload' otherwise 'difficult' students. Every effort should be made to ensure that the school environment is accessible for children as it is deeply important for their development, and where this is not possible, other arrangements should then be made available."

"Many children are put onto a reduced timetable, with no alternative education offered. This then increases the learning gap, and an endless cycle begins. Where children are not able to access full time education in mainstream, alternative provisions should be provided to ensure the best outcomes for students."

"An alternative place of education would be so good, especially at secondary school, as some children are just not able to work the system. An alternative provision to enable them to go into the work place would eventually benefit the economy."

"Need to be very careful with just home/remote learning as a sole option, especially in students with autism and/or anxiety type issues as social exclusion can end up making things harder in the long term."

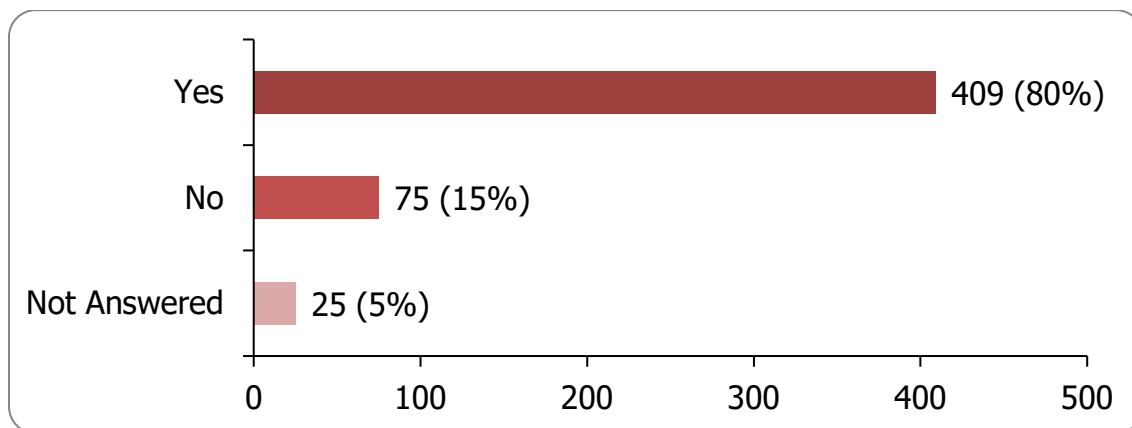
"Schools are busy, noisy places and for some children there is no suitable environment where the child can thrive. Such children find school intolerable and can end up withdrawing or behaving in an extreme manner resulting in suspension and their education is disrupted and there is also a detrimental impact on other students and staff."

"Removing children from their educational environment has to always be a last resort, but for some children this may be what they need on either a temporary or semi-permanent basis in order for them to thrive and achieve their own potential."

Routes of Appeal for Parents, Carers and Young People (Education Tribunal)

Do you think the Department should introduce an independent 'Education Tribunal' to hear appeals against decisions that do not already have an existing route to appeal?

There were **484 responses** to this part of the question.



If you answered 'No', please use this space to provide the reasons for your answer:

Of the 87 responses to this part of the question:

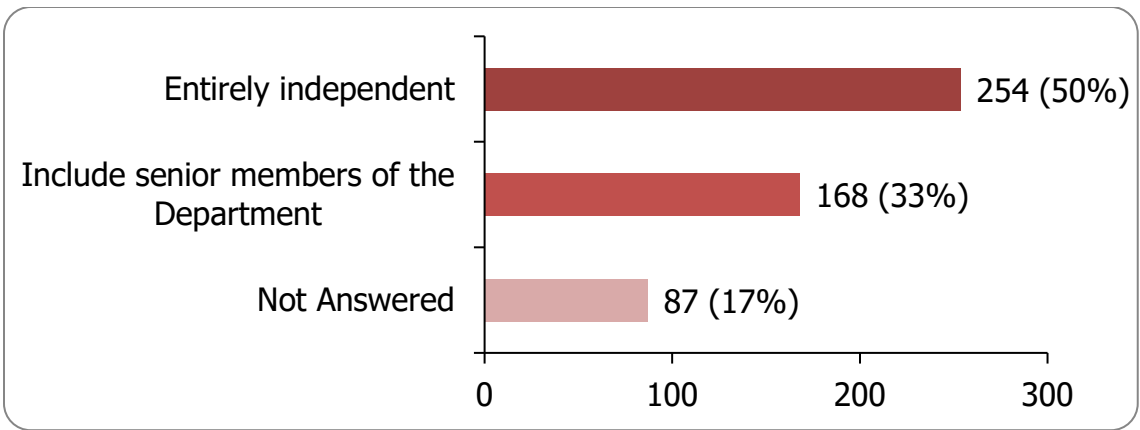
- 9 stated this may result in more work and higher costs

"This is likely to be a troublemaker's letterbox. Existing appeals routes appear sufficient and to represent adequate balance."

"The sad reality is that this legal process rarely improves outcomes for individual pupils and uses an exorbitant amount of money, time and resources which would be far better spent in schools to support pupils."

If you answered 'yes' to question 10, do you think that the composition of the 'Education Tribunal' should be entirely independent, or should it also include senior members of the Department (including educational professionals)?

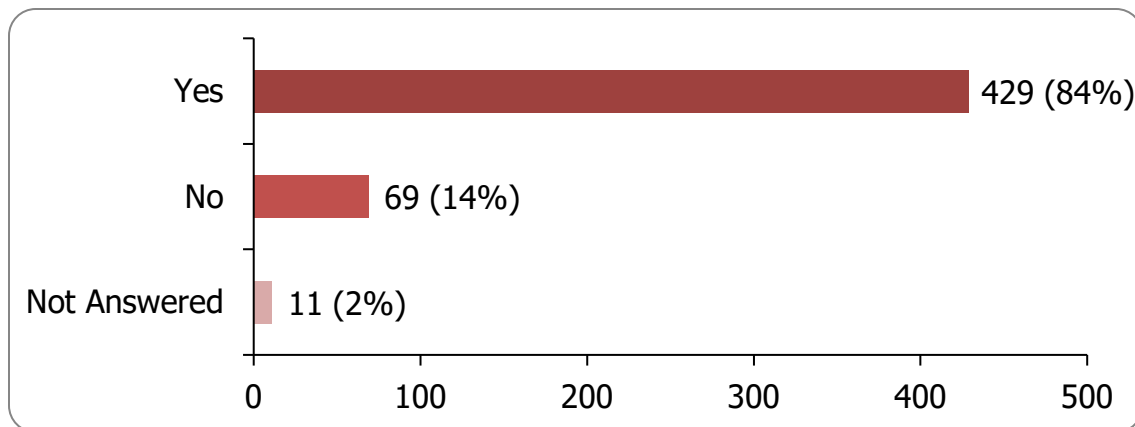
There were **422 responses** to this part of the question.



Emergency Closure of Schools

Do you think the new Bill should grant the power to close schools in an emergency?

There were **498 responses** to this part of the question.



Please use this space for any further comments you wish to make:

Of the 111 responses to this part of the question

- 12 stated that this decision should lie with the head teacher
- 6 stated that the existing arrangements are fine
- 6 stated that clarification of what constitutes an emergency should be provided
- 5 stated that support for working parents should be in place to assist with this power

"If it is an emergency, those who can make the decision quicker makes more sense as long as they had a set of principles that were addressed during the decision making process that were transparent."

"School heads are in a good position to do this. Adverse weather may only be affecting a particular area of the island e.g. snow."

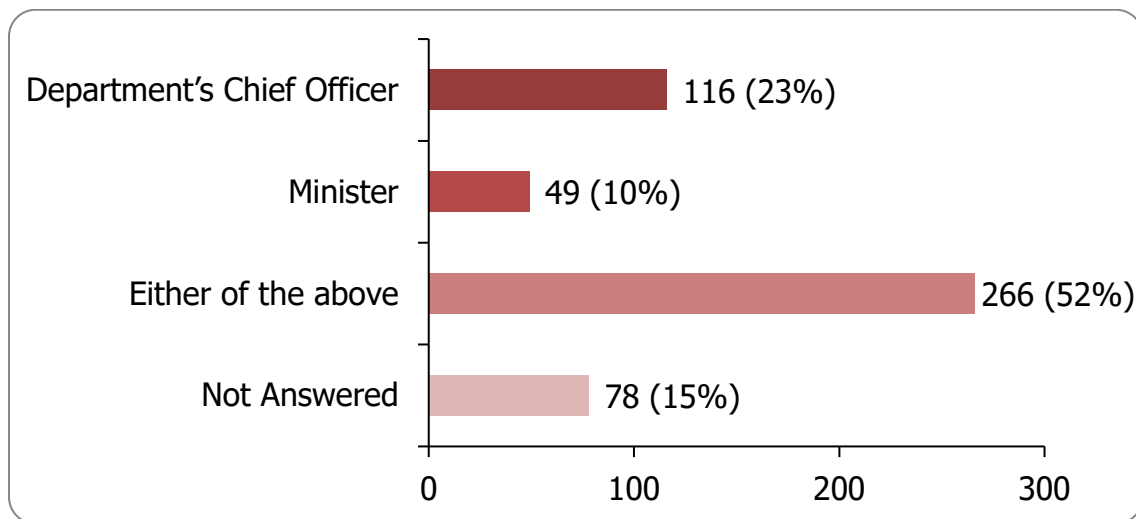
"Head teachers have heavy responsibilities on some things - surely they are capable of making an emergency decision to close schools should the rare need arise."

"Provided the emergency closure is regarding safety of the child / teachers. This should also be linked to the employment act (or wherever it could be) as the parent should not be penalized by their employers for all of a sudden having to look after their child."

"Schools could be closed for a range of reasons so power to close should be granted to officers of the Department for lower level issues, e.g. bad weather, fire in an adjacent premises, etc. but for higher level issues such as another pandemic Department approval via the Minister should be required."

If you answered 'Yes', do you think this power should be exercisable by the Department's Chief Officer or the Minister?

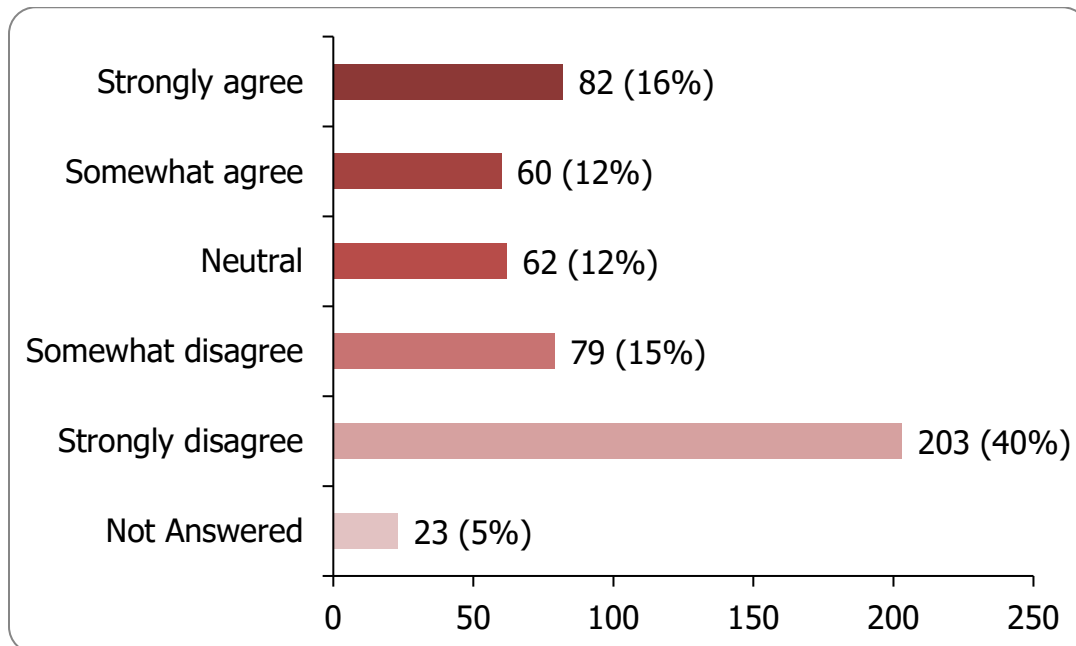
There were **431 responses** to this part of the question.



Religious Education

Do you think the requirement in the Education Act 2001 for education to be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' is still suitable? - Religious education should be 'WHOLLY' of a broadly Christian character.

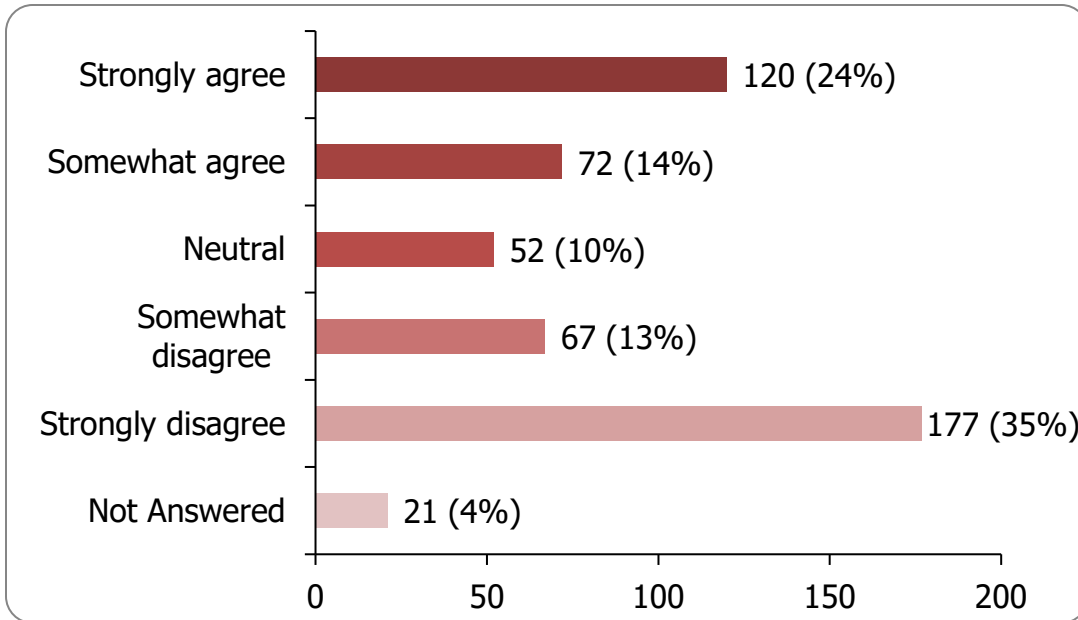
There were **486 responses** to this part of the question.



Strongly and somewhat agree combined – 142 (28%) Strongly and somewhat disagree combined – 282 (55%)

Do you think the requirement in the Education Act 2001 for education to be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' is still suitable? - Religious education should be 'MAINLY' of a broadly Christian character.

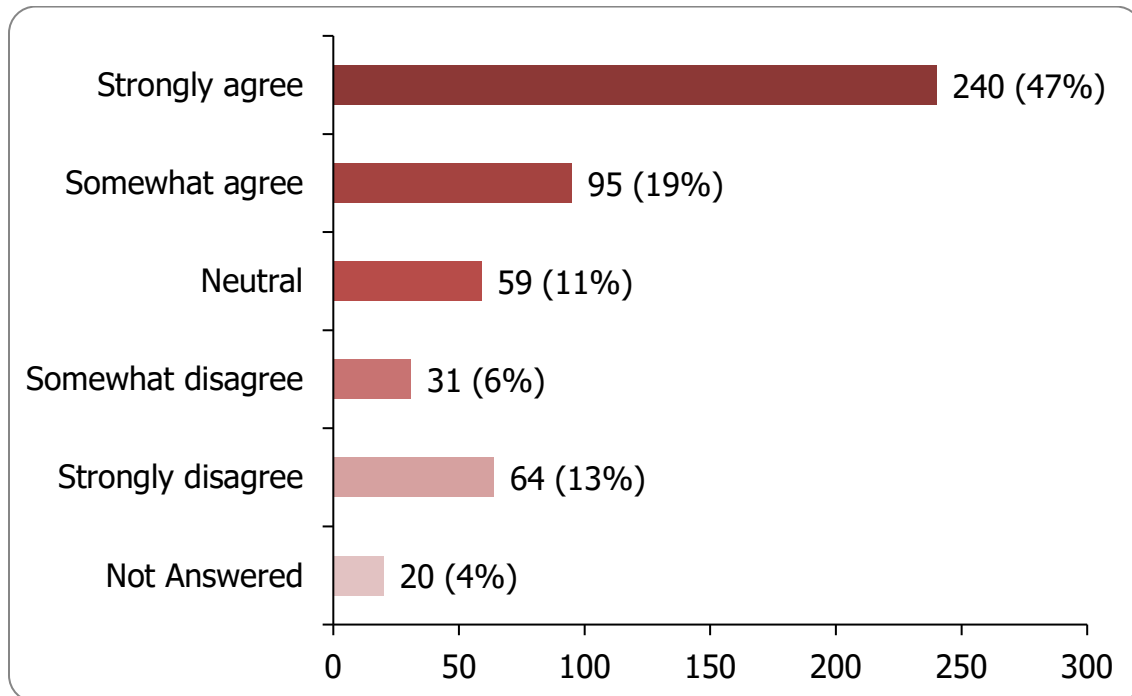
There were **488 responses** to this part of the question



Strongly and somewhat agree combined – 192 (38%) Strongly and somewhat disagree combined – 244 (48%)

Do you think the requirement in the Education Act 2001 for education to be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' is still suitable? - Religious education should be required by law to cover other religions and beliefs.

There were **489 responses** to this part of the question.



Strongly and somewhat agree combined – 335 (66%) Strongly and somewhat disagree combined – 95 (19%)

Do you think the Education Act's requirement for education to be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' is still suitable in today's society - please use this space for any further comments you wish to make:

Of the **258 responses** to this part of the question

- 122 stated there should be more balance
- 70 stated that teaching should promote understanding and tolerance of all religions
- 21 stated that school is not the place for religion
- 13 stated that there should be no bias towards one particular group

"The world consists of many different beliefs and education is preparing our children for a life within a world of many different beliefs too. This makes it all that more important that the parameters of education are widened to incorporate the world. We never know where our children might live."

"The island is traditionally a Christian based society and this shouldn't be overlooked or undervalued. However, an understanding of other religious beliefs helps form tolerance and acceptance of other points of view and enables everyone to be respectful of others"

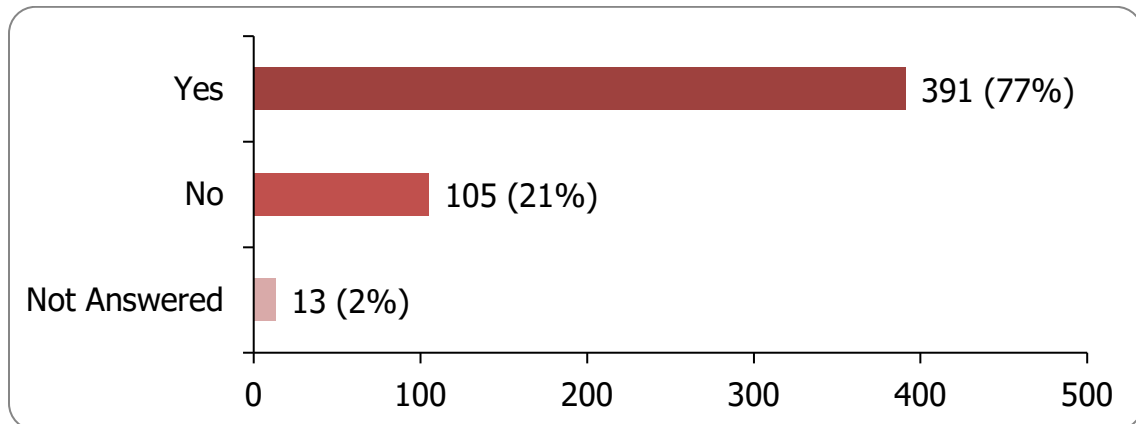
beliefs even if they do not agree with those. If people feel heard and respected, it helps to reduce extremism which is vital."

"Very few pupils now are from families of practising Christians. In fact, it is, more often than not, the case that I have more Hindu or Muslim children in my class and the current primary RE guidance curriculum is inappropriate. It is heavily focused on Christianity with an embarrassing nod to other religions through festivals, gods, unusual customs, which I find belittles those religions. We should be putting more time aside in the curriculum to talk about equality, fairness, empathy, and human rights. By doing this, we would cover the importance of respecting others religion in a more appropriate way."

Governing Bodies

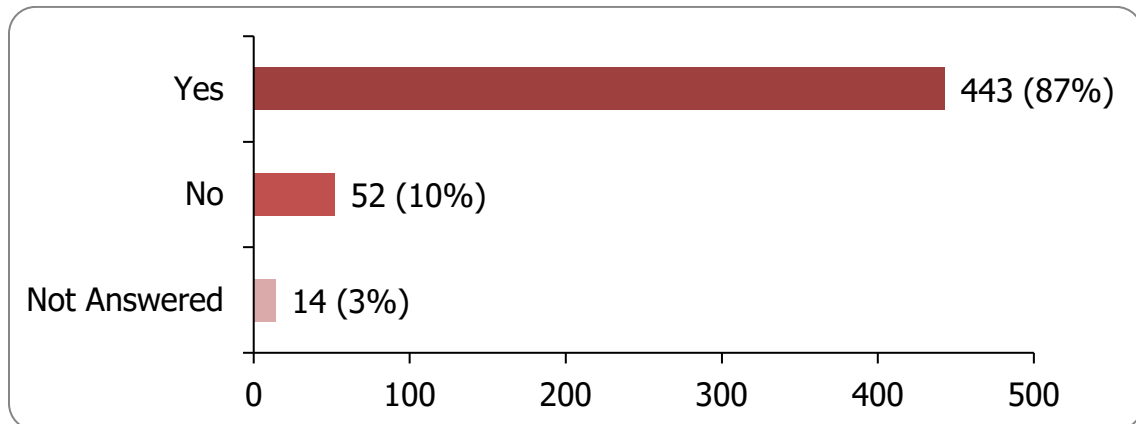
Do you understand the role of the governing body within a school/UCM?

There were **496 responses** to this part of the question.



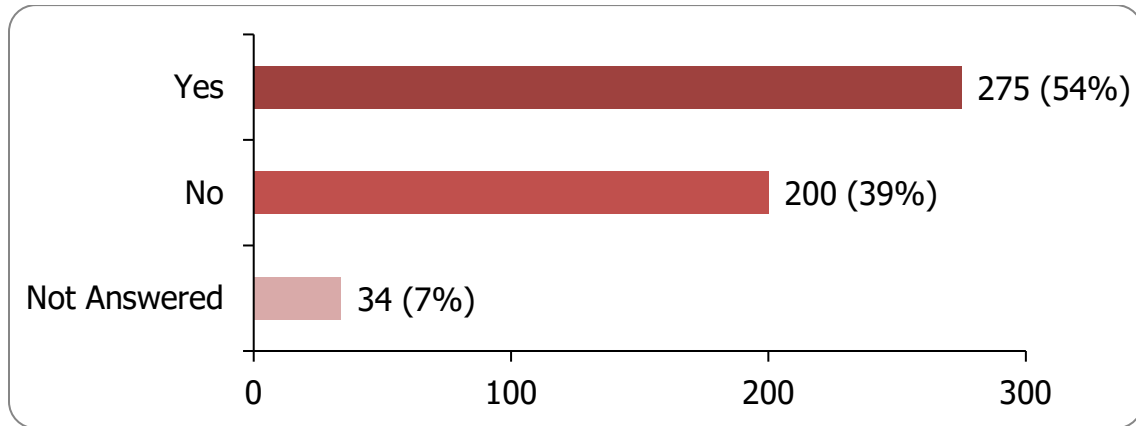
Should more information be made available about the function/business, meetings and decisions of governing bodies?

There were **495 responses** to this part of the question.



Do you think the current role of the governing bodies is suitable?

There were **475 responses** to this part of the question.



Do you think the current role of the governing bodies is suitable? Please use this space for any further comments you wish to make:

Of the 149 responses to this part of the question

- 23 stated there should be improved transparency and accountability
- 11 stated there should be more communication from governing bodies
- 10 stated governing bodies should be more visible
- 5 stated there should be a greater clarity of remit for school leadership, governing bodies and the Department – where does accountability and responsibility lie

"Information should be shared in an open and transparent manner."

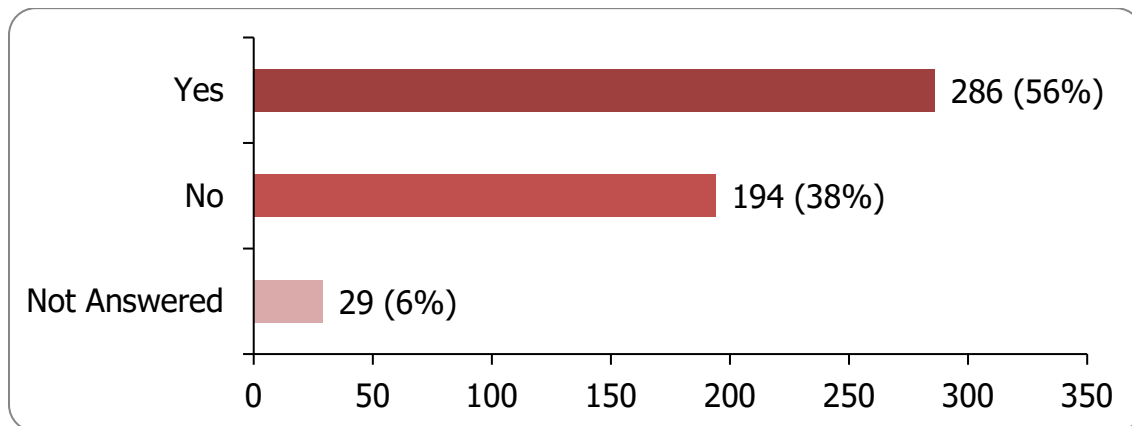
"I have never heard of any outcomes at all from governors of my children's school."

"It is not visible. We do not receive minutes of meetings or agendas and at such meetings there should be open door unless sensitive information is being shared. The governors should be seen around the school showing an interest every now and then."

"The extent of the delegation of responsibilities to the governing body needs to be made clear and the governing body needs to have the necessary training and authority to be able to hold the head teacher of the school to account."

Should governing bodies be more active in decision-making for schools?

There were **480 responses** to this part of the question.



Should governing bodies be more active in decision-making for schools? Please use this space for any further comments you wish to make:

Of the 137 responses to this part of the question

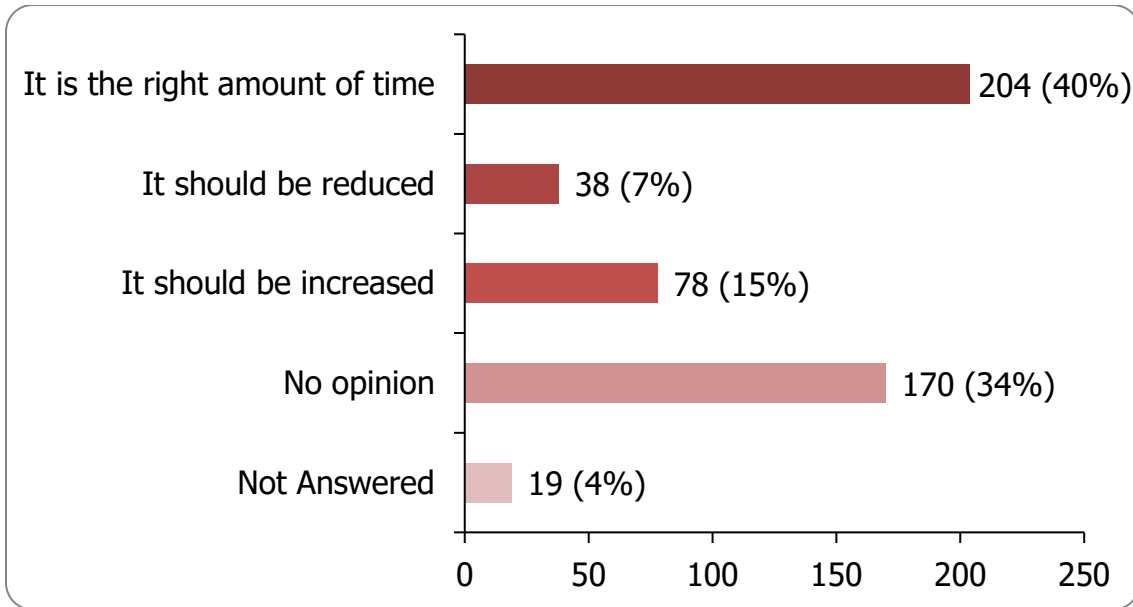
- 9 stated that they should be trained to make meaningful decision
- 9 stated that decision making should be left to the head teacher
- 7 stated that governors should simply advise and challenge
- 5 stated only if qualified to do so

"Properly trained, publicly accountable governors could make an excellent contribution."

"The Head Teacher should carry the ultimate responsibility within the school. However, governors should offer unwavering support, whilst being comfortable positively challenging the Head's long term vision and strategies to raise standards of teaching and learning. Governing bodies should represent the local community and can bring a wealth of knowledge. They require dynamic training to ensure that they are effective."

Co-opted governors may be appointed to the governing body for a duration of up to two academic years, unless they choose to resign earlier. Do you think this amount of time is right or should it be changed?

There were **490 responses** to this part of the question.



Please use this space for any further comments you wish to make:

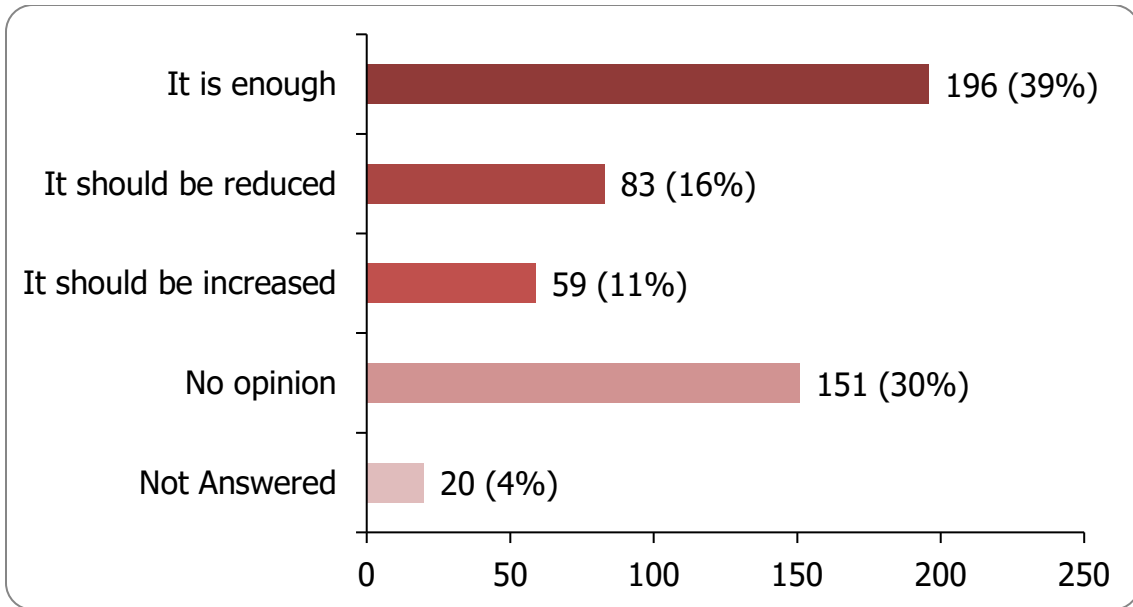
There were 78 responses to this part of the question.

"It would seem to be the right amount of time but it should be possible for the term to be extended where the skills and expertise of an individual have been proved to be of particular value."

"It takes some time to understand the role and get to grips with educational systems, jargon and acronyms. 3 years with an option for a further 3 would be normal for other trustee roles."

When a governor's tenure expires, they may be reappointed but shall not serve for more than 6 years in a single school. Do you think this maximum service is right, or should it be amended?

There were **489 responses** to this part of the question.



Do you think this maximum service is right, or should it be amended? Please use this space for any further comments you wish to make:

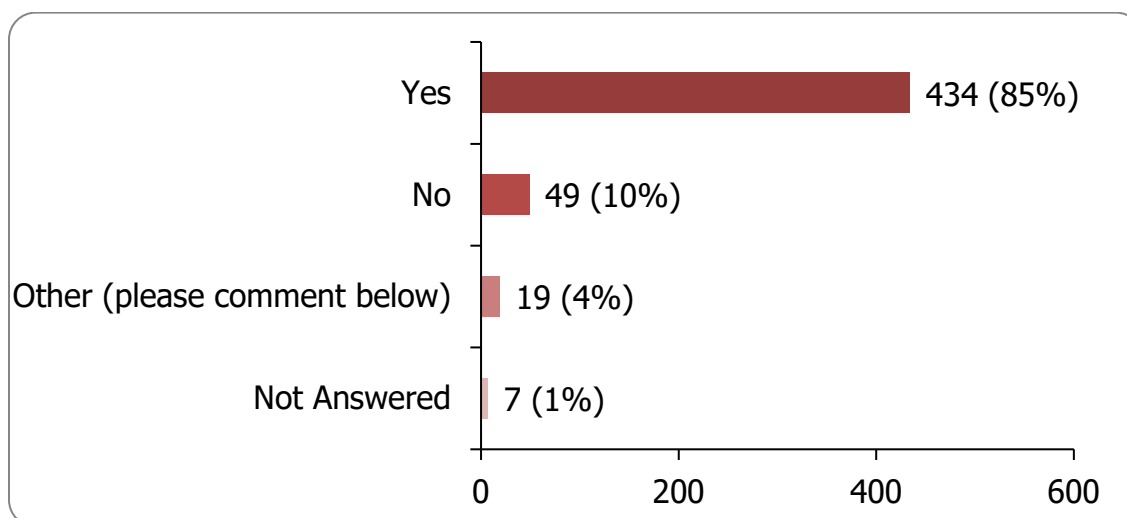
There were 69 responses to this part of the question.

"If they are working in the best interests of the school population and have acquired the skills and experience to do so, I see no reason to remove them. However, a mechanism should exist to remove governors should they fail to perform their duties adequately."

Home Education

Do you think DESC should produce a guidance document for reference by those who have elected to home educate or are considering doing so?

There were **502 responses** to this part of the question.



Please use this space for any further comments you wish to make

Of the 122 responses to this part of the question

- 14 stated that help for home schooling would be welcome
- 9 stated that this could support minimum education standards being met
- 9 stated that this is a parents / carers responsibility

"Parents know the needs of their children and are quite capable of designing their own curriculum or else of finding any number of programs and resources available online or in print."

"The production of a guidance document implies an intention to enforce that guidance, either now or in the future. There is no point in investing resources such as time and funding into producing a non-mandatory guidance document. In my view this represents the first small step on a trajectory to try to discourage or discontinue the home education of children. The government should not try to limit the rights of parents to raise and educate their own children."

"Not all home educators are teachers and so any support and guidance must be welcome, in order that parents/caregivers can assess what is the best option for their child/children."

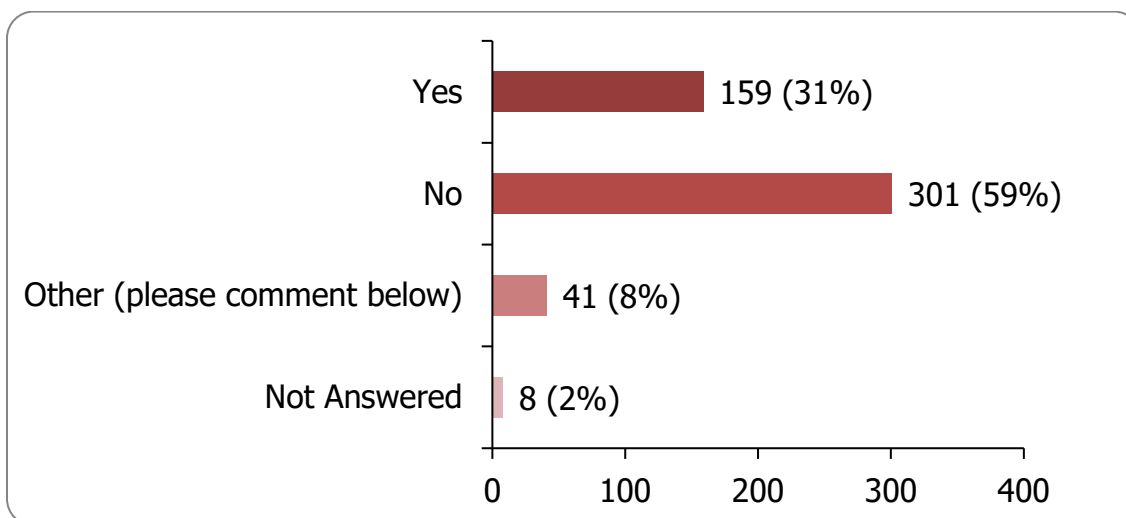
"Assuming the guidance is helpful and not judgemental then guidance would be beneficial for many I'm sure. It should probably be drawn up by a committee that includes home educators."

"Every child has the right to a good standard of education. What that means should be clearly set out for those choosing to home school. The decision should be in the child's best interest and monitored carefully to ensure they are being educated."

"The Department may wish to give consideration to defining minimum educational standards that a child may be reasonably expected to attain through home schooling. These will need to be very light touch, if they are applied at all, noting a significant reason for home schooling is a desire for parents to provide their children with an education that is significantly different from that provided in schools. Balanced against this is a concern that a child who is poorly educated will lack the necessary skills and knowledge to relate to society as a whole. To take an extreme example, a child who is educated without an understanding of computers will likely have significant difficulties in obtaining basic public services, or meeting their public duties, upon becoming an adult."

Where a parent/carer chooses to opt-out of registering their child in a Department school and elects to home educate their child, should this amount to opting out of access to the Department's facilities and resources, including funding and provision for the exams they choose to sit?

There were **501 responses** to this part of the question.



Please use this space for any further comments you wish to make:

Of the 175 responses to this part of the question

- 51 stated that those who are home educated should be supported with exam fees

- 19 stated that access to facilities and resources should depend on the reason for electing for home education
- 12 stated that access to school resources should be available
- 8 stated that those that have paid taxes should have access to the educational support they need

"It is reasonable to fund exams for all Island students, to help ensure our overall competitiveness in the market."

"Exams should be funded for every child and for some, home schooling works well. It shouldn't be an oppositional situation."

"The right to access exams which most employers and further education places require should be universal irrelevant of the method of the child's education."

"Most who choose to homeschool do so as the schools are not able to support their child's needs, they should not be punished for allowing their child to learn in a safe environment tailored to suit their needs."

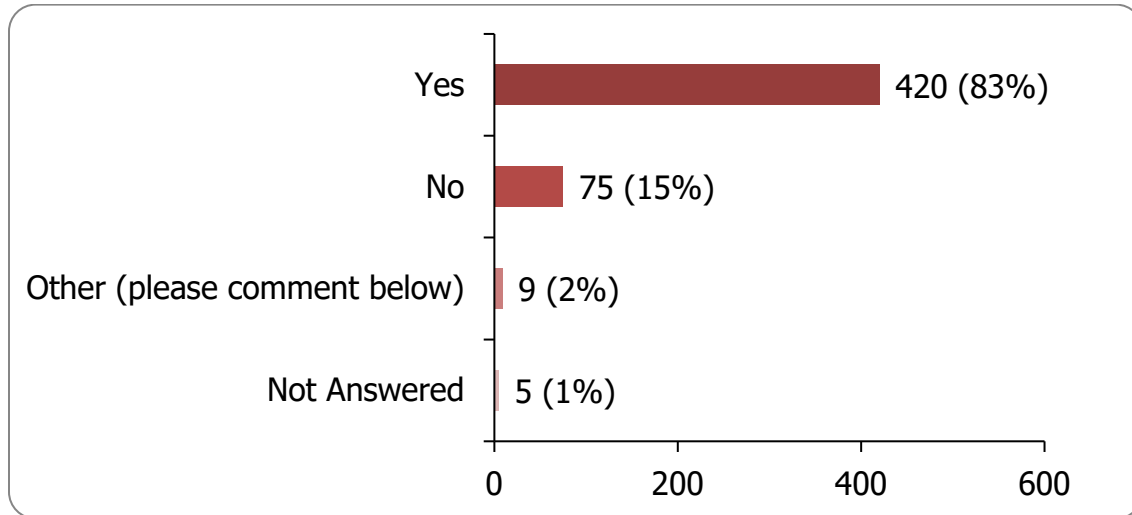
"The island needs to look at the provision they have in place and what needs to be added. Mainstream education is not suitable for every child and can be a harrowing experience for those young people who are awaiting assessment/diagnosis and treatment/support for a host of issues. Parents/carers may choose to remove their child to safeguard their mental health and due to the fact that there simply is no alternative provision available to them."

"A child has the right to an education and regardless of whether that is in the classroom or not, a home educated child should still have access to the same resources to that of a school child."

"People choose home schooling for a variety of reasons, this should not mean that the child is punished by being refused access to facilities and resources."

Do you think that parents/carers should have a duty to notify the Department of their decision not to register at one of the Department's schools for each academic year that their child is of compulsory school age?

There were **504 responses** to this part of the question.



Please use this space for any further comments you wish to make:

Of the 125 responses to this part of the question

- 46 stated that it is required to ensure the Department is fulfilling its safeguarding duty
- 20 stated that there is a responsibility on Government / Department to ensure that every child is receiving an education
- 3 stated that DESC should have no jurisdiction over home educators

"For child protection and safety reasons i believe it is sensible for the Dept to have some connection to each child"

"Parents are the primary educators of their children, and that this principle forms the fundamental philosophical basis for the provision and funding of education in a free society. A consequence of this principle is that parents have the right to choose home education. At the same time, the health, safety and welfare of the child or young person must be paramount, and the State is entitled to put in place measures to ensure that children and young people are protected from harm. It is essential that there is an appropriate framework to ensure that the necessary safeguarding arrangements are in place, including where parents choose to exercise their right to home educate their child. There should be a legal duty on parents to notify the Department of a decision not to register their child at a Department school. However, it should remain clear in any guidance that is issued that home education is a fundamental right, and that no consent is required for that right to be exercised."

"Without this there is a danger children can just "disappear" along with any potential safeguarding concerns."

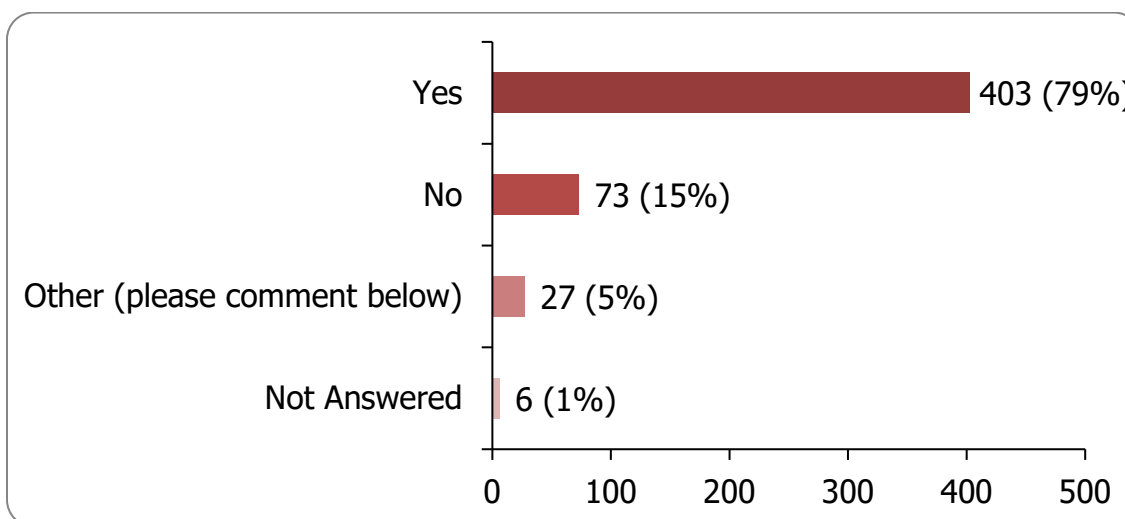
"A once-a-year check-in would be prudent, to make sure the home educator is still doing the job properly if nothing else."

"I would say that it's the child's human right to receive an education and so the Department should be satisfied that they are - as far as possible."

"The education of their child is a parental responsibility - the department could be considered to be attempting to twist this point of law by interpreting it as if the parent requires permission or approval to choose a non state-funded educational pathway. This is a fundamental point of law which must remain unfettered by the administrators of educational departments who do not set the law."

Do you think that the Department should have a duty to maintain a register of children who are being home educated for each academic year, including details of the education that is being provided?

There were **503 responses** to this part of the question.



Please use this space for any further comments you wish to make:

Of the 140 responses to this part of the question

- 36 stated that this would be required for safeguarding purposes
- 22 stated that DESC should maintain an annual register but not record details of the education that is being provided
- 12 stated DESC should ensure that a suitable education is being provided
- 8 stated that it is parents decision as to how a child is educated

"Register from child protection perspective absolutely. But it doesn't matter really what is being taught and when / how. If a child has an interest in a topic not taught in schools. Who is the department to interfere with that? After all, some struggle with traditional school and don't meet minimum education expectations in that setting so it's unfair to have those expectations or imply you have those expectations for those that are schooled differently."

"If DESC are not aware of who is being home-schooled there is potential for children to become invisible and not looked out for by Gov agencies. Parents need support when home-schooling, but so do the children."

"A register for safeguarding purposes but the choice of what's educated is down to the parent."

"As part of their duty of care to every child."

"If the children are being home schooled for any reason then it is the right of the parent to provide this in the way they feel best supports the child's learning, not be dictated to by the system that they felt it necessary to remove their child from."

"Absolutely not. Parents have opted out of a traditional education model specifically because they do not feel it suitable for their child. No one child learns the same way and same pace as another child. One year from the next can look so different to a HE family. For an external person to come in and tell a family how and what they should be doing goes against what a HE family is trying to achieve which is, often, specifically not a government controlled education"

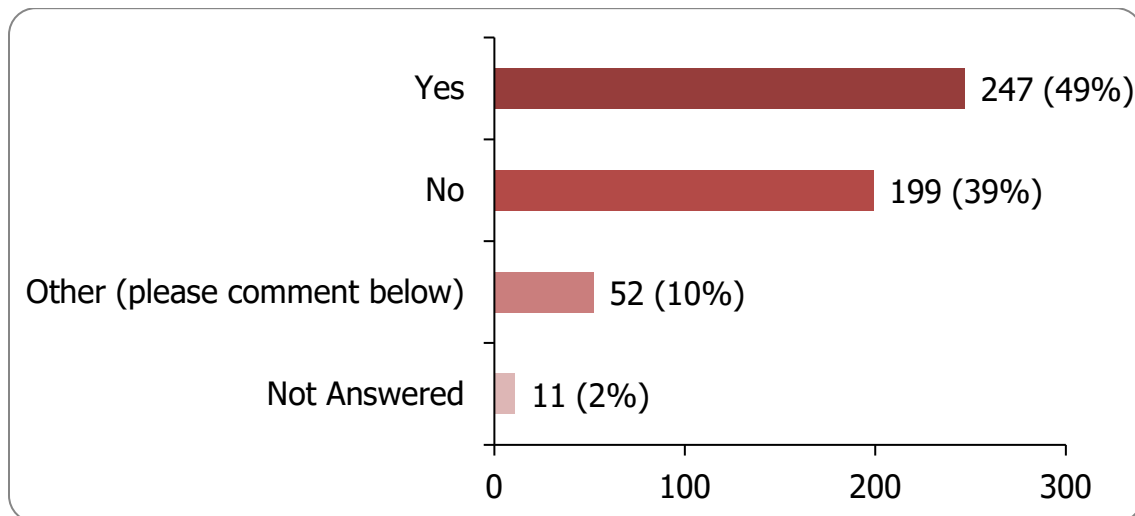
"Absolutely not. The education of their child is a parental responsibility - an education department has no authority to appoint themselves as grand adjudicators over the lives of parents who do not choose a state funded education for their child. Even if they did have a legal remit to perform any kind of evaluation, state education departments do not have the expertise or the crucial lived experience required to be able to understand and evaluate an individualised learning pathway due to the disparities between this form of education and mass education based on the teach-test approach."

"Does this overlap some of the roles of social services? What powers do education have to assess the value of home education?"

Admissions and Catchment

Should schools have the power to declare year groups/schools full upon reaching capacity, even where this would deny entry to a new child within the school's catchment area?

There were **498 responses** to this part of the question.



Please use this space for any further comments you wish to make:

Of the 180 responses to this part of the question

- 21 stated that schools should engage in more forward planning to avoid having to do this
- 8 stated that all children should be accommodated in their catchment school
- 8 stated that there needs to be more flexibility around catchment areas if a school / year group can be declared full
- 8 stated that bigger schools should be built to avoid this problem

"Additional resources need to be found for that school. Attending school in your own catchment area is what anchors most people (along with home and family) to their community."

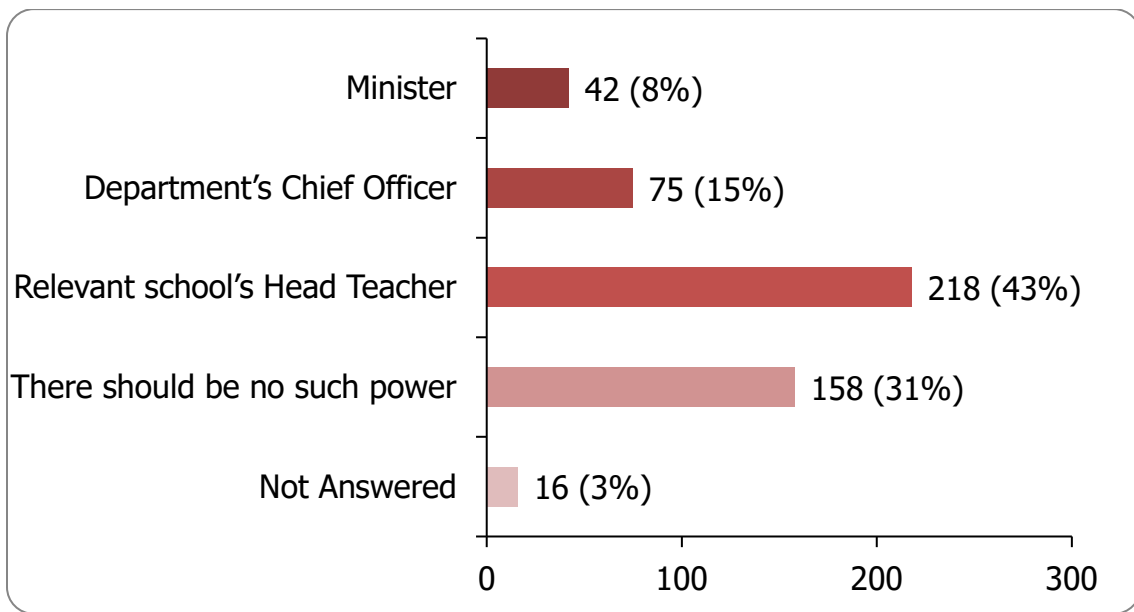
"Perhaps the focus should be on building developers. If you build in an area that is oversubscribed then part of the permission to build would involve contributing to the school. Building other schools in large developments."

"Capacity and resource planning needs to take place ahead of time to ensure demands are met. Be more flexible with people who wish for their children to attend schools outside of their catchment area."

"If schools need to declare year groups full then there needs to be more flexibility for parents over catchment."

If the power to declare the closure of year groups or schools was created, who should have the power to make such a declaration?

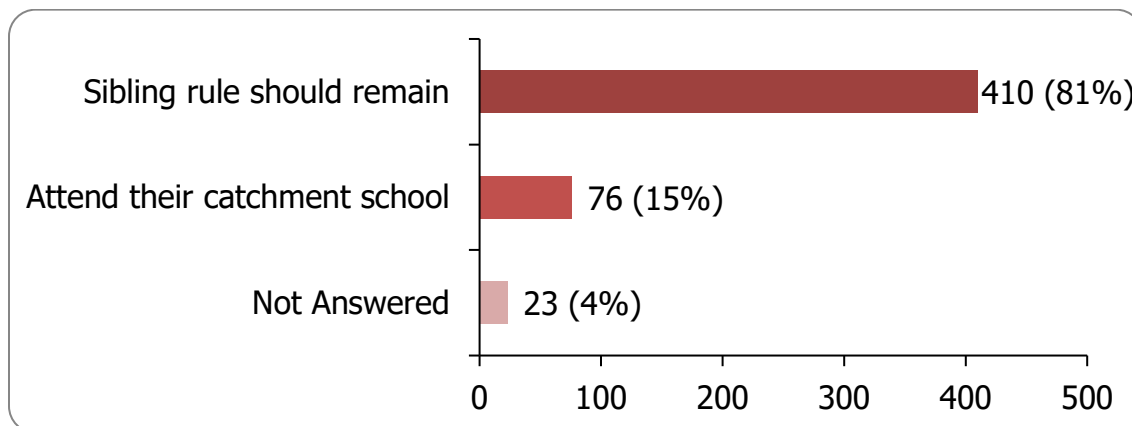
There were **493 responses** to this part of the question.



One of the exceptions to the requirement to attend a school within the catchment area is the 'sibling rule', which allows a child to attend a non-catchment school if they have a sibling attending that school.

Do you think children should be able to access a non-catchment school on this basis, or should they be required to attend their catchment school regardless?

There were **486 responses** to this part of the question.

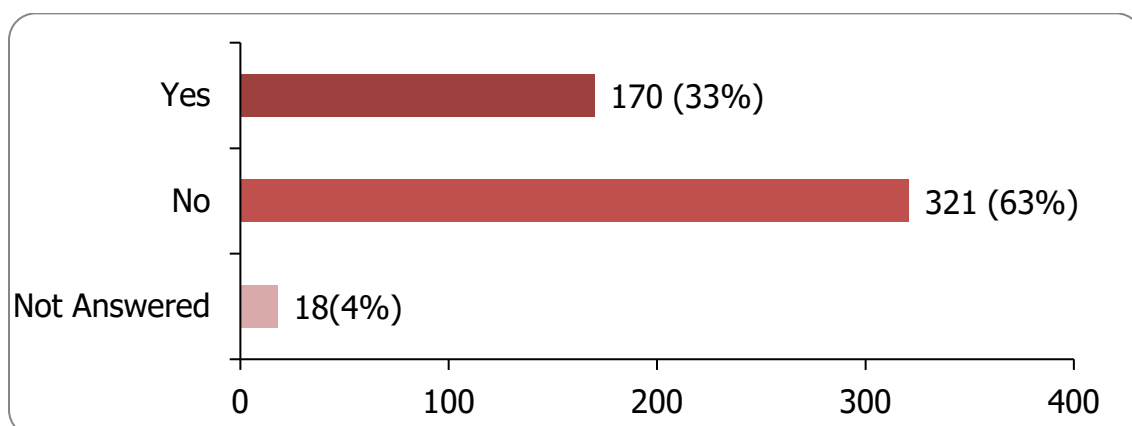


Please use this space for any further comments you wish to make:

"The sibling rule should remain, for simplicity of childcare arrangements if nothing else (it makes little sense for a parent to drive their children to two separate schools and attend two separate parent's evening) and it allows the potential sharing of resources (uniform) in the family as well."

Should the Department remove Catchment Areas and move to a system determined by the capacity of schools, where parents/carers apply to register their child at their chosen school, on a first-come-first-served basis?

There were **491 responses** to this part of the question.



Please use this space for any further comments you wish to make:

Of the 152 responses to this part of the question

- 9 stated that parents should have a choice in their child's education
- 8 stated that this would create a tiered system of education
- 6 stated that 'first come first served' could be unfair
- 5 stated that priority should be given to children living in catchment

"Parents should be able to send their kids to any school on island regardless of catchment area. Certain schools offer better sports programmes or music or arts. Parents should be able to send children wherever they feel will be the most beneficial for their child."

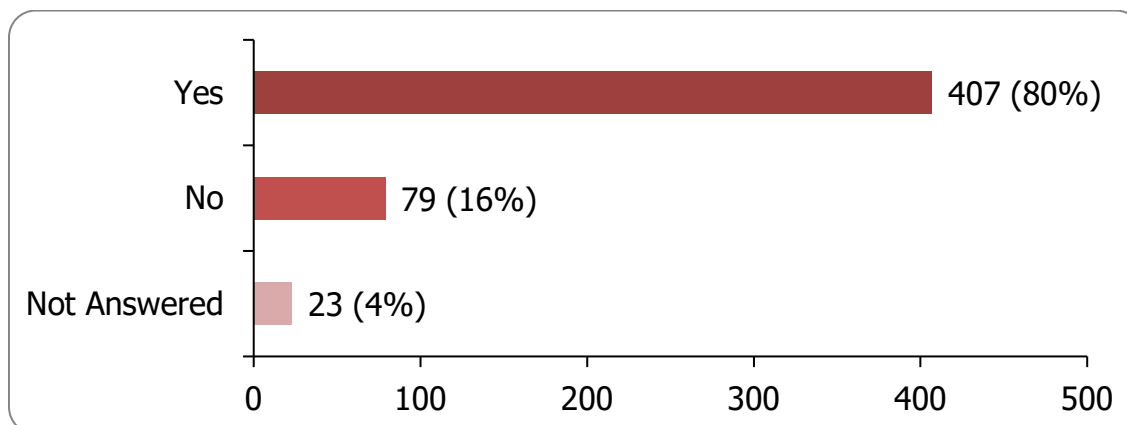
"Whilst the catchment area system is not perfect, moving away from it could generate huge levels of bureaucracy resulting from the race to what may be (wrongly) perceived as the 'best' schools. It could lead to unintentional consequences that reduce equality of provision and fair funding systems."

"Catchment areas should be the expectation but this needs to be reviewed on a more regular basis. First come-first served can be unfair to families new to the island who may not be familiar with DESC policy or parents who may have additional / social needs themselves. Redrawing a catchment area could save building costs - why extend a school building when another school nearby has empty classrooms or capacity to accommodate additional numbers?"

Children who are Looked After

Should the role of the Virtual Head Teacher for Children who are Looked After on the Isle of Man be a legal requirement of the Department?

There were **486 responses** to this part of the question.



Please use this space for any further comments you wish to make:

Of the 74 responses to this part of the question

- 29 stated that there should be more support for children who are looked after
- 3 stated that a law should not be necessary for the relevant support to be given

"Is the Dept really doing as much as it possibly can to encourage, on a one-to-one level, children who are looked after to get involved with sport or the arts? Is the Dept doing all it possibly can to ensure as many children as possible, who are looked after, go on to higher education?"

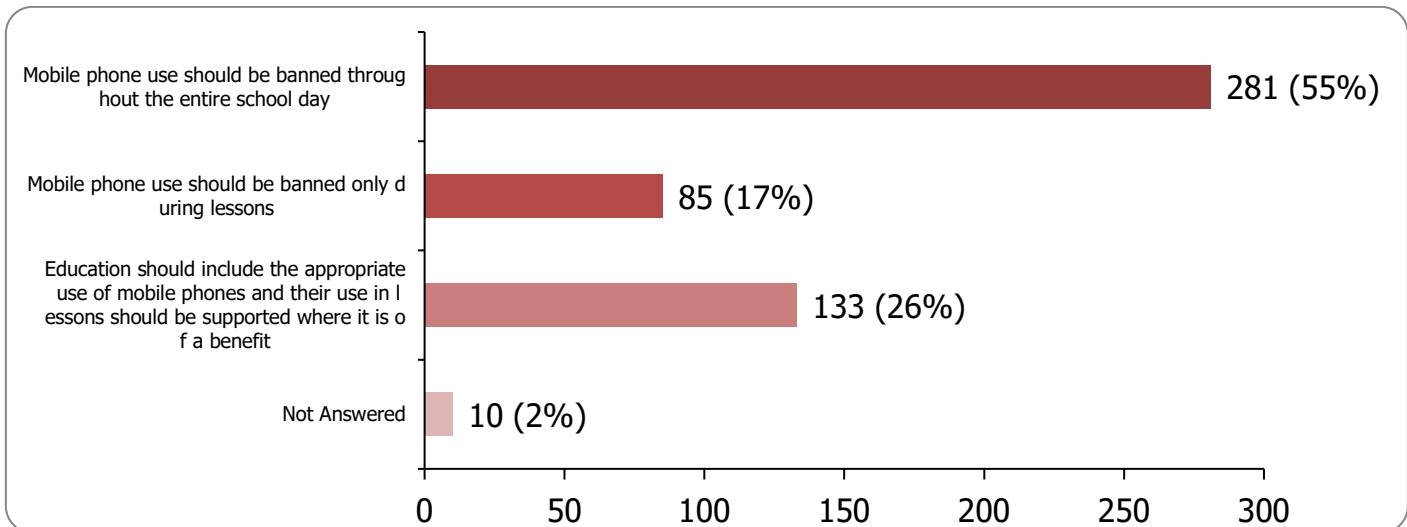
"Looked after children need to have an advocate. An experienced virtual headteacher who treats children who are looked after with respect, oversees their progress and participates in a multi-agency approach to their education is a good idea."

"The Department has already appointed such a person without the need for a legal requirement. In the future other, better ideas might supersede the notion of a virtual headteacher, in which case the law would not be beneficial."

Mobile Phone Use

Which of the below do you think should apply to mobile phone use in schools?

There were **499 responses** to this part of the question.



Please use this space for any comments you wish to make:

Of the 194 responses to this part of the question

- 20 stated that only the use of school provided devices should be allowed
- 18 stated that phones can support learning for example, photos of notes, audios of lessons and their use is reflective of real life
- 15 stated that teaching the responsible use of phones is important
- 10 stated that phones can promote bullying

"Phones are a part of daily life for everyone and they can be a great tool. Rather than always teaching children to remember random and sometimes pointless information, schools should teach children how to use phones to properly search for and scrutinise information."

"I agree with banning the phones which with internet access can be both a distraction, used for bullying and a source of 'cheating'. However, I also agree with providing education on the safe, secure and relevant use of such devices as they are a necessary tool of modern life."

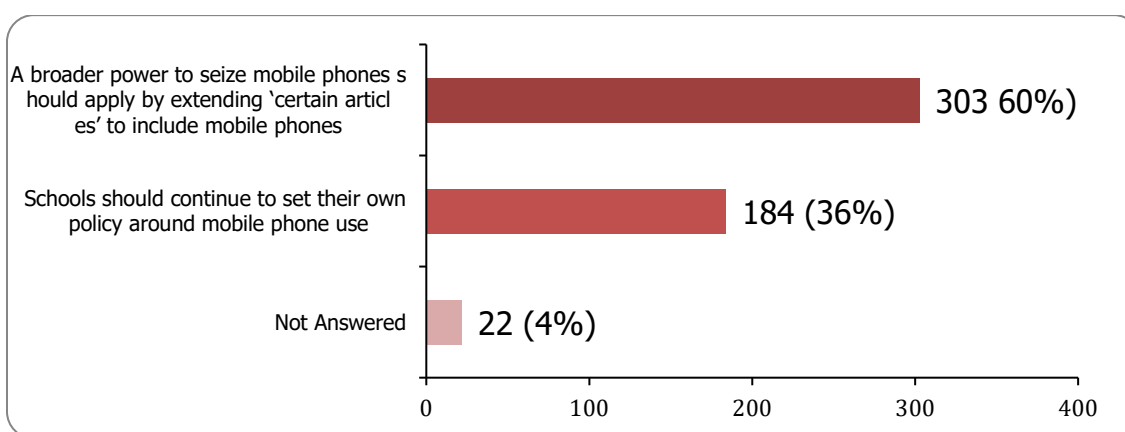
"In the modern world, for which you are charged with educating my children, it would be remiss to NOT include mobile phones in lessons as an excellent portable resource."

"There is no need for phones during the school day. If devices are required during lessons, they should be supplied by the school. Requiring phones for lessons puts financial pressure on parents and creates opportunities for bullying."

"Bullying, a lot of which happens using mobile phones is invidious and any measures to restrict and prevent it should be implemented. It should bring some relief to the victims at least during the school day."

How do you think mobile phone use in schools should be managed?

There were **487 responses** to this part of the question.



Please use this space for any further comments you wish to make:

Of the 109 responses to this part of the question

- 26 stated that a Department Policy ensuring consistency across all schools should apply

"Mobiles are issues however technology is widely used across schools, universities and business. That is to remove mobiles would mean more computers, laptops and iPads would need to be supplied to fill in the gaps where phones can no longer be used in lessons. This all comes at a cost! I don't think the government will pick up the said cost, so trust schools and teachers to use them appropriately in lesson and sanction students accordingly."

"If phones must have a place in school, staff need to be empowered to deal and tackle with their misuse."

"I want to select both options. Enshrine the right to seize, then allow schools to create own policies within this."

Any further comments....

Please use the space below to provide your views on any areas of the current Education Act that could be considered for amendment.

There were **148 responses** to this part of the question – the comments varied widely resulting in no clear trend regarding further areas for consideration.