

**Survey to highlight the concerns around re-opening
schools during the current Covid-19 pandemic**

Conducted by Not Fine In School & Square Peg

22 April 2020



Introduction

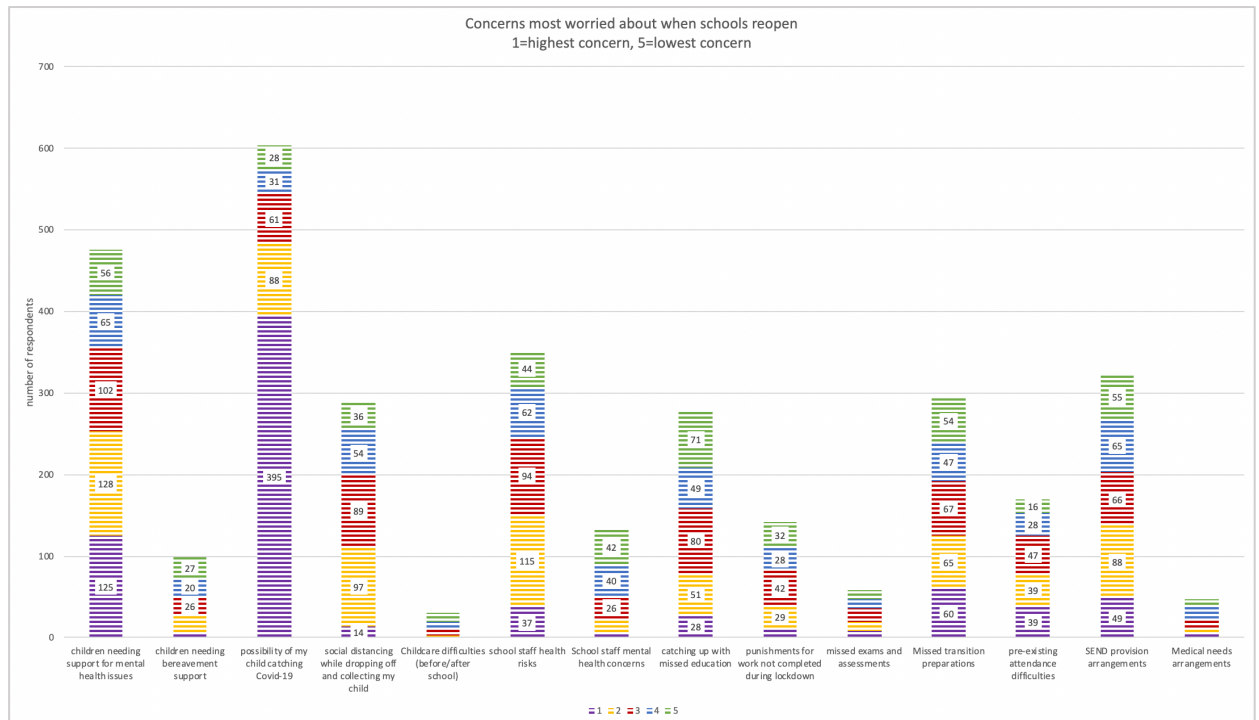
Widespread concerns are being expressed by parents and teachers in relation to the reopening of schools during the current COVID-19 pandemic. This survey was created to identify what the most significant concerns are, and which provisions will help people feel it is safe to return to school. We also included questions that could aid understanding of how the pandemic may have altered people's attitudes to our education system. Between April 18th and 21st 2020, 790 people responded to the survey.

Summary of main findings

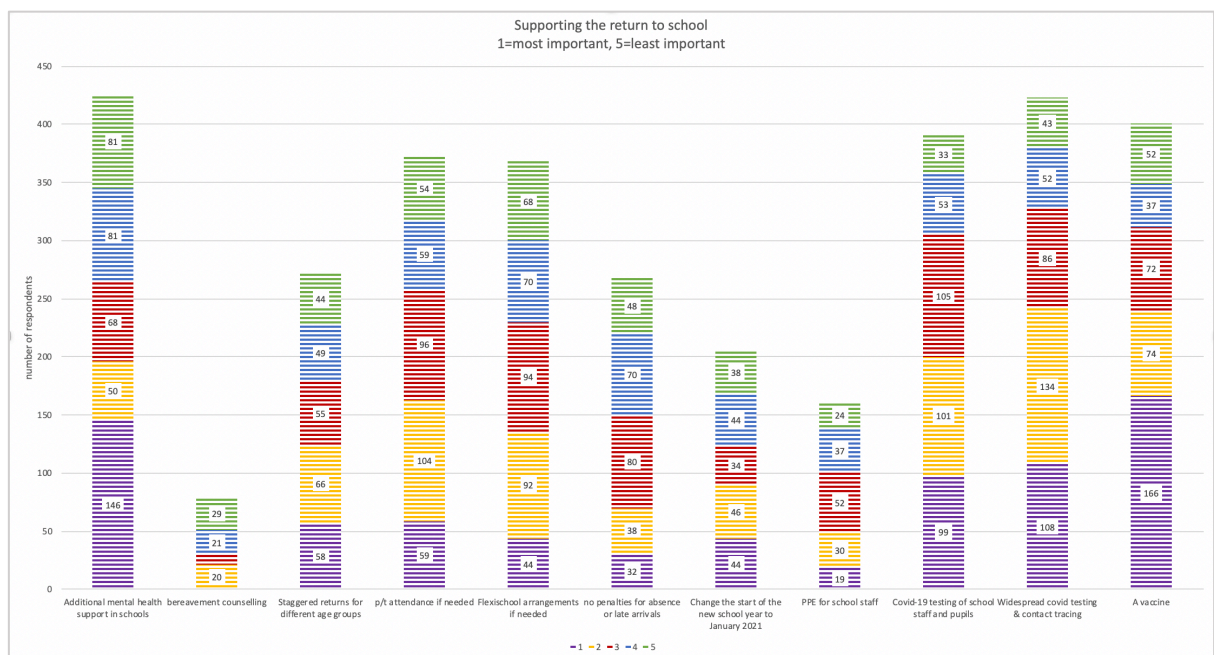


Survey results

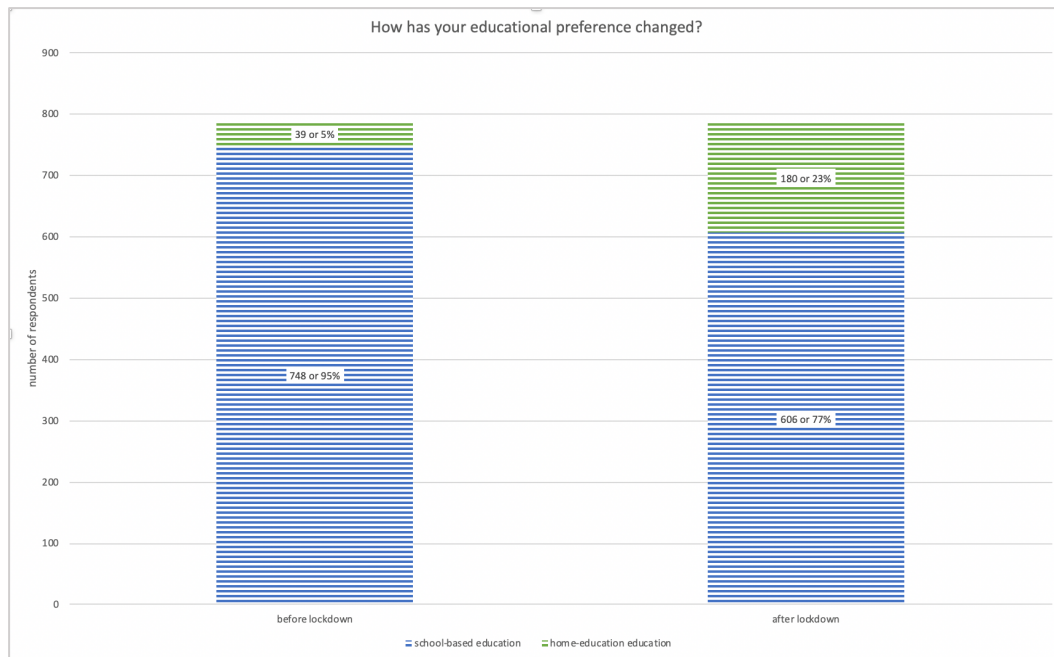
- Which five of the concerns listed below are you most worried about when schools reopen? (with column 1 being the thing you are most worried about, and so on)



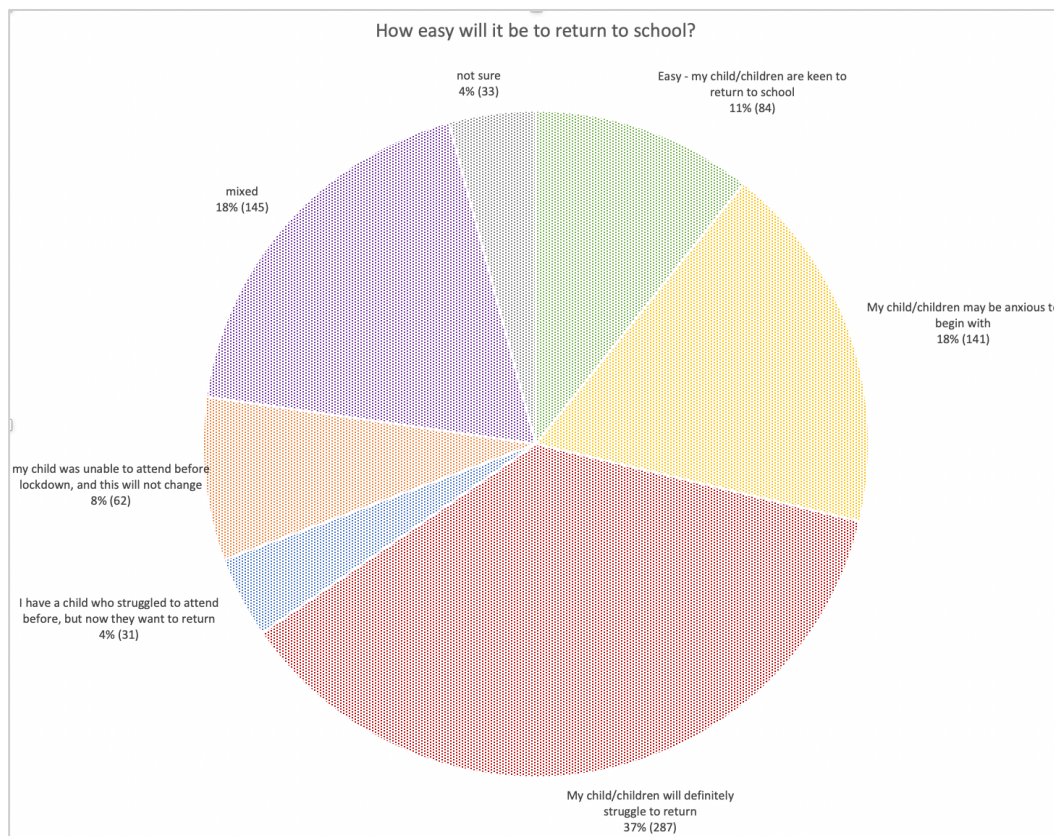
- Which five of the following options do you think are most important to support the return to school?



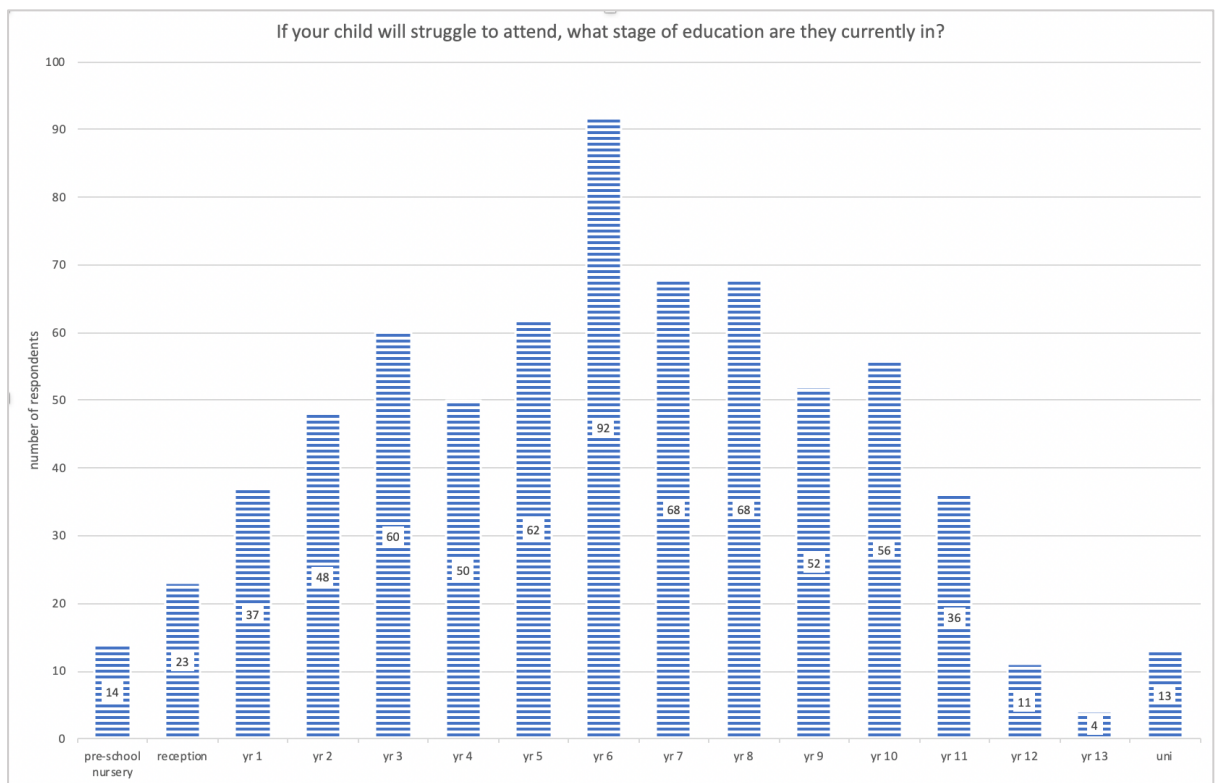
- 3a. What was your educational preference before the lockdown?
 3b. What will your educational preference be when schools reopen?



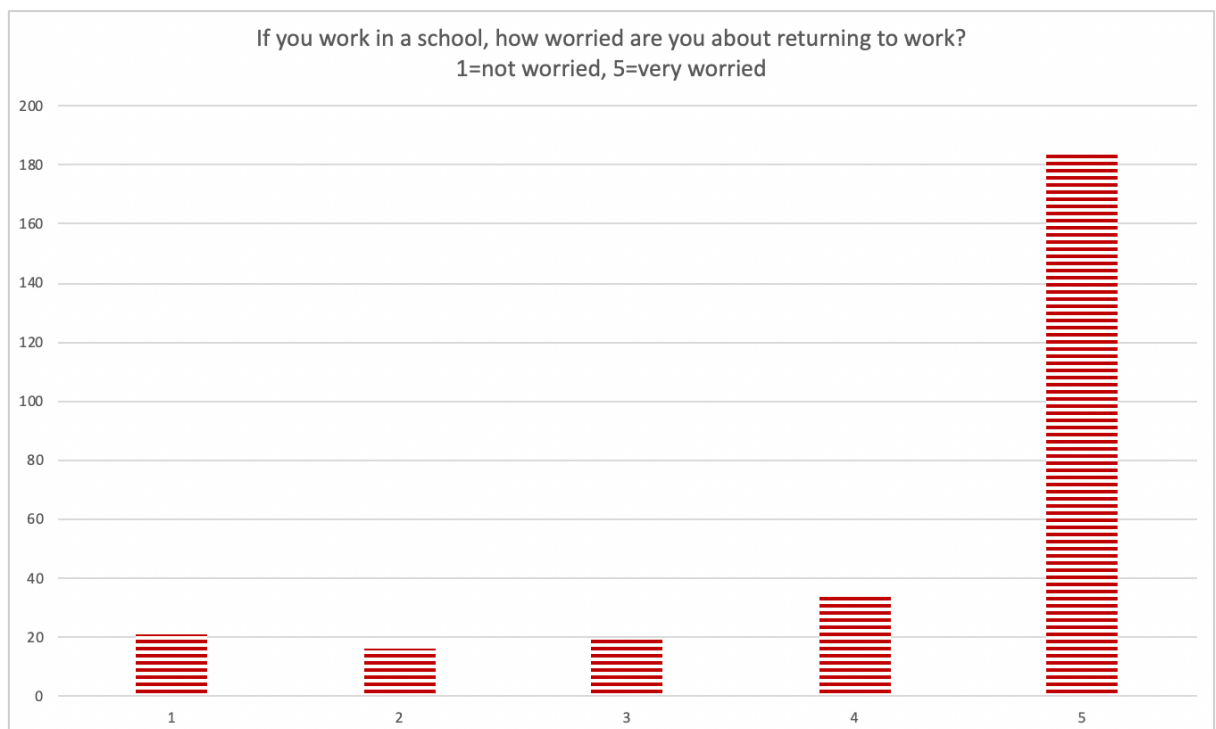
- 4a. How easy do you expect it will be for your child or children to return to school?



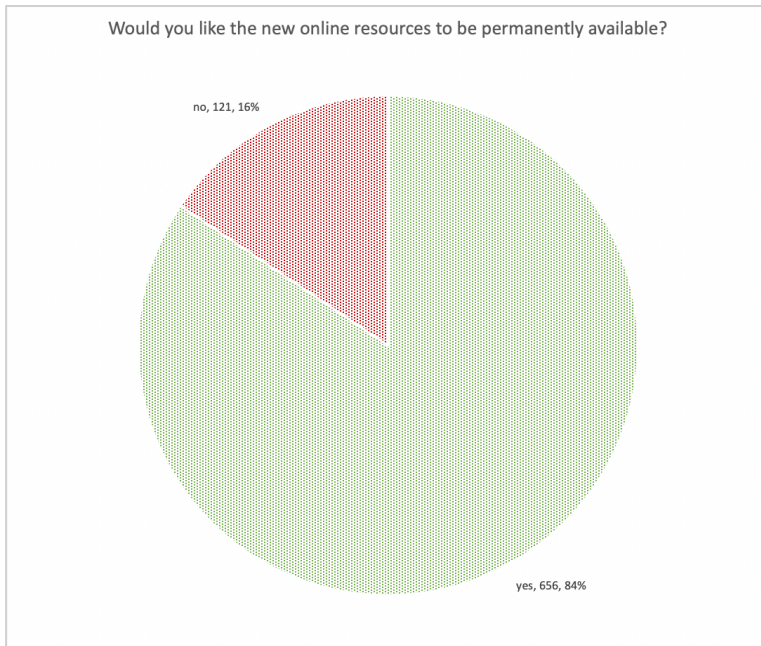
4b. If you have a child who will struggle to return to school what stage of education are they currently in? (If you have more than 1 child who may struggle please think of the one who may struggle the most)



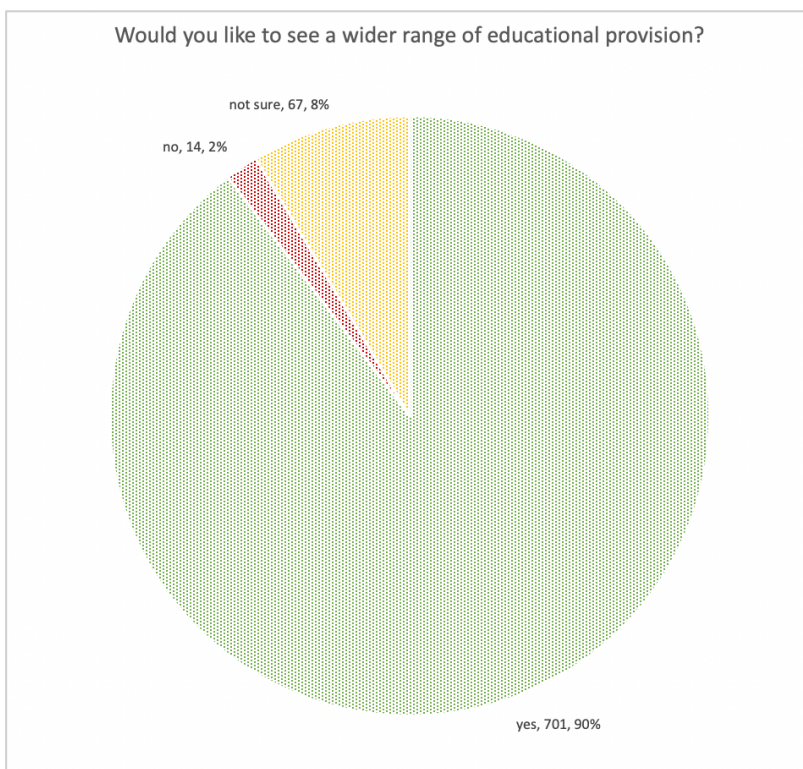
4c. If you work in a school how worried are you about returning to work?



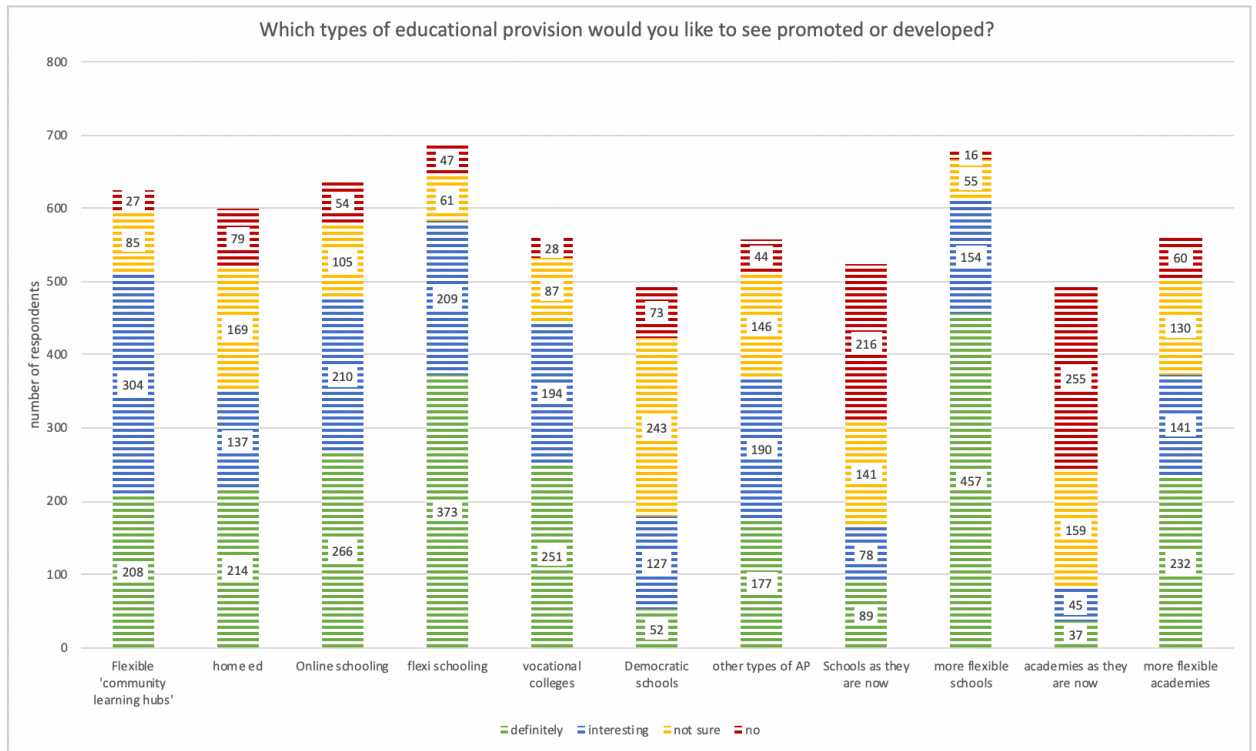
5. A wide range of remote and online learning resources have been developed since the lockdown began, would you like them to be available permanently (for use at home and school)?



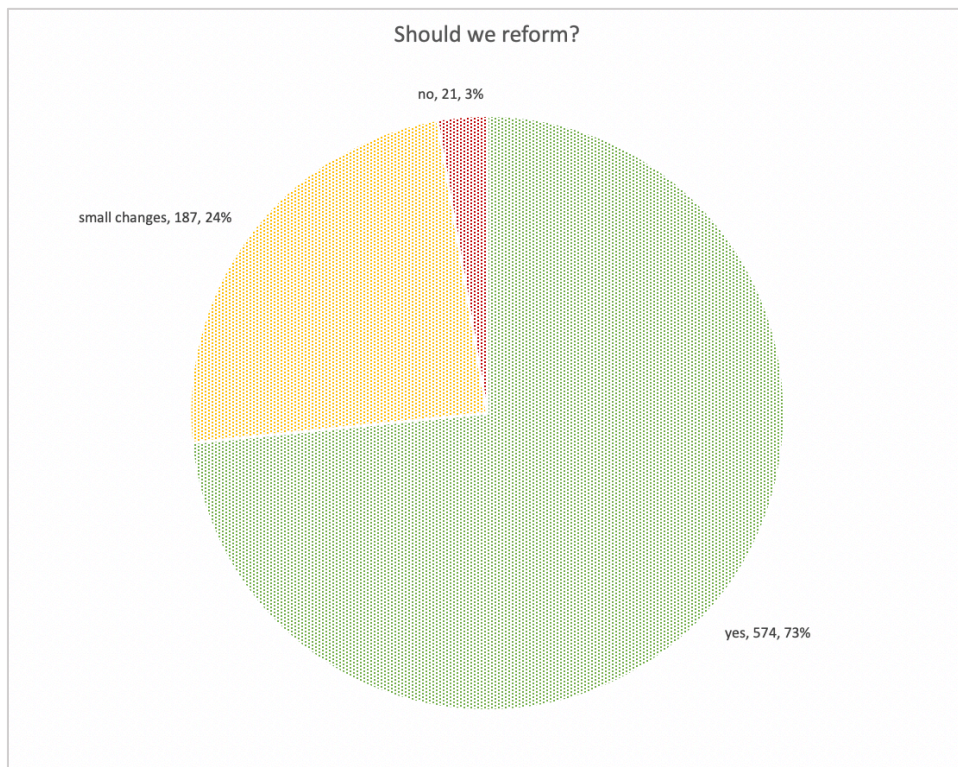
6. We have had a 'one size fits all' approach to educational provision. Since the lockdown began, it has become clear that it is possible to accommodate different educational needs through different types of provision. Would you like to see a wider range of educational provision made available to cater for different learning needs, styles or interests?



7. Which types of educational provision would you like to see promoted or developed?



8. Should we view this situation as an opportunity to reform our education system, and make it fit for purpose to prepare children for life in the 21st century?



Appendix: other comments

Children should be able to get the education they need at their own pace. Some may excel and some may need to take longer to complete the curriculum. And absolutely mark secondary work on coursework and maybe a part exam as this would cause less stress and would encourage students to reach their goals throughout the school years not just preparing for one exam.

Academies that are specialist should not be above laws or run like a business we have been badly let down by one and they should not be run by trusts but charities and LAs. We need more specialist colleges too that go on beyond 19 years old with more residential options do the most vulnerable students have choices and clearer pathways.

After shielding our daughter from the virus for a long time I would need to know that college was safe for her with testing to see who is safe to attend/ teach there.

All 3 of my children are Autistic. None of the online learning made available from schools during lockdown is suitable to their needs or interests, completely unengaging, a boring interface for them, unschooling freestyle is much more successful for us... We need resources from the education department pls to help us not relying on a Facebook community.

All children, especially those with SEND and attendance difficulties should be given plenty of time to transition back in to school to prevent them developing serious mental health difficulties.

All staff need to be supported with trauma training and follow attachment based teaching

Amazing how quick home school support has developed when previously it wasn't possible at all.

As a teacher for twenty years I feel education has been narrowed and has become a one thing fits all. This doesn't work for many. Too much testing, not enough freedom and thinking outside the box. As a parent of children with SEND it is not a system that supports all children to reach their potential and lead happy lives. The expectation and pressure children are under these days in school is causing major mental health issues. Too much too soon! Children need to play and learn when they are ready. Schools have become so much more than a place for learning. They have become so much more to many families and the pressure this puts on staff is unfair. We need major reform. Let professionals do their jobs!

As teacher who lives and works with people who find school very difficult (if not impossible at times) I have been asking for years for remote learning from schools, our kids needs weren't motivation enough. Now it has been done, I'd like to think there is no excuse now!!!!!!

Before schools, colleges etc can return to "normal " there has to be more flexibility in the current timetable and rigid curriculum that schools in particular currently function by. A more relaxed timetable, no homework and a more relaxed working environment is needed to make it easier for kids & teachers to return to education. Mental health must be a paramount concern as there will undoubtedly be more kids than ever suffering with anxiety, depression, OCD due to the pandemic . Pupils and staff must feel safe before returning to schools which is where more virus testing needs to happen.

Before this lockdown and since my son started nursery (year 1 now) we have struggled with school. He is late every day as every single day is a fight to get him there. Even more so on Mondays and after holidays. These are

planned holidays that we prepare for and count down to the day we go back with full knowledge of when we finish and when we go back to explain as best we can. I dread having to send my son back to school. We had finally got to going in through the classroom door instead of the office after so long and now I no its going to be another 10 steps backwards and months maybe years to get back to where we was. I think we need options in place to help on such situations. ... maybe go back staggered to build up to the 5 days or half days . More funding to accommodate their needs as we know this was limited before this anyway. I dread to think about if the schools don't go back until September. So much time of and then a new classroom . New teacher another new routine . Couldn't of dreamt up this nightmare if we tried. Fact is our children aren't going to just be able to walk back in and deal with it. I know my son cant anyway. We 100% need options. I haven't even heard of my sons SENCO since we have broken up. Apologies if this is more of a moan but I am honestly scared at what we will have to face when he returns back to school. At the same time of course I completely understand why he is home and agree he should be at this moment in time.

Between our family we attend three different schools. I work with highly SEND children who attack us and spit in our faces. It is impossible to socially distance. If schools go back then there is no point in any other measures as we will have mixed with so many different people between us and brought it all home

Both children struggled immensely with the school system - especially child who has been placed in a specialist setting which has been disastrous... This child will probably not be able to return to this setting as it was failing her before and her mental health has improved in lockdown.

Change academic year to running from Jan to Dec and spread the holidays out more evenly over the year .

Child at specialist ASD provisions need more flexible and kind approach, relying on routine. So far it's been a struggle, no respite, no activities open, no clubs. Child has limited understanding. His may be fine if he contacts covid-19 but worried about potentially him passing to other family members.

Children are so different we need an education system that is more versatile

Children might not be in any great danger but they can carry the virus to parents who need to be isolated due to their medical conditions. Some children will worry about this. I hope they do not remove the restrictions to early.. That the test are 100% accurate and the vaccine works.

Concerned about other members of the family in high risk group and how this could be a problem for early return to school

Core subjects are important but a lot of life skills and non-academic skills are being learnt whilst in lock down. Schools should look at these alternative learning ways

Couldn't answer question 4 - child won't 'struggle' to return, isn't anxious, just doesn't like it or learn much there.

Don't want my child travelling on a packed bus to school with no protection

Draconian boot camp style academy's don't work

Dunno but we need to get transitional arrangements for phase transfer kids with SEND sorted ASAP. I have two of them, Y6 and Y11, who are both expected to walk in cold in September, having lost everything and everyone from primary without any time to say goodbye, exchange phone numbers, no leavers dos, assemblies, discos,

PROM, anything. This needs to be sorted out. Neither got to take their exams and whilst i understand it's no one's fault, it needs to be fixed ASAP. My kids need to go back to school so they can transition to the next step in their lives. Both of them.

And before you ask, we're "distance learning" quite well, with a 5 lesson time table, on a 2 week rota. But i cannot make up for their peers, and as we were so abruptly cut off and have no way of contacting anyone, it's not going to be enough to "home school" forever.

Easy access to EHCP

Education is about children discovering their passion in life through a wide curriculum not through consistent testing we need to look at Scandinavian countries more holistic child centred approach to encourage all children to achieve their individual best.

Education needed a radical overhaul before this and this has highlighted what is possible. We are stuck in the past. I'm in Scotland. No area of the U.K. is getting it right for every child and autistic and additional support children are not given suitable support or education

entire curriculum needs rewriting and schools need to be much better funded and trained to enable true inclusion of SEN.

Exams are the biggest cause of concern years of children being anxious and stressed leading to mental health conditions but yet exam results can be based on the year's work and teacher assessments - which could benefit thousands of children with SEND AND mental health difficulties. Also there is a concern of how easy it is to dismiss children with EHCPs without putting home support in place to meet the EHCP this should be highlighted as this is what was happening pre COVID. Also lots of children denied education when they have physically been unable to attend for short or long periods and there has been nothing arranged for non-elective home schooling before COVID shows us this is possible and therefore it is a choice to ignore these children who are staying at home because their physical or mental health is a barrier to schooling - also realising some parents are able to educate their children and therefore there must be a mutual respect between teachers and parents especially at secondary level

Exams only based testing at end of year 11 is a disaster for most children with SEND. We need a more flexible system of testing children at end of academic career. High stakes exams are not suitable for all children and many very bright children are leaving school feeling like failures. Practical maths and English for all and higher exams if need to head off to a university course. We need a new mindset where vocational exams are as valued as academic qualifications. Too much academic snobbery in this country. Who needs to be able to quote Shakespeare by heart when you can look it up on your phone!

Flexi schooling be a choice for adopted children where attachment and bonding at home are as important as education.. later school starting age my son had to start 3 weeks after 4th birthday and is still struggling because of this now.. I would love the option to flexi school him as the 1:1 support would help with work and more work on attachments could take place

Flexible schooling to meet individual needs and skill sets has been needed for many, many years

<p>For a whole year my son received no help at home and suddenly everyone can work at home. This is an ideal opportunity to change the school system away from one size fits all. I also see this as the ideal time to discuss why we need GCSES when everyone has to stay in education until 18. The lack of exams this year is just the start. There is also a huge impact on the current year 10s and year 9s.</p>
<p>Formal School is not just about academics but also about social skills and home schooling with an only/ single child during times such as lockdowns creates minimal opportunities to grow social skills that will be needed later in life.</p> <p>Schools also provide so much more for children and families that struggle and financially and social emotionally and when children are not 'seen' outside of the home regularly it is worrisome as to if the needs of the children are being met.</p>
<p>Get rid of Academy schools they are robbing children of the right to an education</p>
<p>Government to have more awareness about young child or those with having SEN will be unable to social distance themselves.</p>
<p>Having a child with an EHCP I think it's not personal enough to him once in a classroom setting (and he's in a specialist school).</p>
<p>Home school needs to be seen as a valid option rather than a last resort for some families</p>
<p>Huge difference in teachers from mainstream input to the students in lockdown. It isn't good enough just to put websites on school website.</p>
<p>I am dreading schools returning and the needs of one of my children in particular not being met.</p>
<p>I am happy with my sons education setting at special school. I think mainstream schools definitely need a kinder approach and a lot of changes. More support should be available for home schooling</p>
<p>I am nervous about anyone in our family leaving the house as i lost my 10 year old son to an epidemic in USA 3 years ago</p>
<p>I am shielded so my child is not allowed to school</p>
<p>I believe schools should remain closed while the virus is still ongoing. The spread of germs will be hard to contain in a school environment. Children are constantly touch noses, mouths and coughing. Some have hygiene issues.</p>
<p>I believe the educational provisional available via the welsh hub, possibly does not cater for SEN pupils, especially as they had not been shown how to access & which sections to use. To date we've had a login details & password. No follow up telephone calls or emails. Very disappointing. Child has full statement, no one seems to monitor if child & or family are managing.</p>
<p>I don't think this is the right time to make drastic changes. The main priority is safety and wellbeing. I am a parent, but I am also a SCITT trainee who is in their forties. I am worried about being exposed to COVID and I have health issue (chronic pain and a genetic marker for lupus). I don't get paid so I don't see why I should be forced into a school if it isn't safe to do so just to get my QTS. Trainees need protection as they are students and we don't all get bursaries and salaries.</p>

I dread the start of school. If I thought that home education could be practical and effective in our situation, in the absence of other suitable options this is what I would choose.
I feel the school week should be 4 days to give families a long weekend to spend more time together as this pandemic has slowed everyone down and made them realise the importance of family time.
I find this survey way too complicated & gave up. Won't be sharing.
I have 3 children with very different needs. Home schooling during COVID has allowed us to experiment with different ways of teaching & learning. All three would benefit from some days a week in school, but I think 2 would benefit from a more flexible approach in the future.
I have a child with an SEN plan - I am concerned she will have missed out on months of support before her transition to primary school in September. I do not have the teaching skills to support her like her nursery key workers would have done
I have battled the education system for 5yrs to get the support my son needs. During the fight I was ignored and disbelieved, I was reported to SS with awful lies (case closed after investigation and multidisciplinary meetings), all of which caused my son's MH to deteriorate significantly - he ended up having a breakdown. He has not taken any exams despite being very bright and is unlikely to take any in the next few years. This attitude from the education system needs changing.
I have one child (Yr11) for whom education has continued without too much change (home based, medical alternative provision) but child has refused to engage in any online lessons following the announcement that GCSEs have been cancelled as deemed to be "no point". Tangible support from two schools (one for each child) has been lacking - especially as I don't have all the facilities needed to complete work set (e.g. printer).
I have two children with ASD and their needs are not met in the current system.
I have two children with autism but no learning disability. They have both suffered so much in mainstream school. It has broken them both.
I home ed my middle child and the other 2 are in school. I would ideally like to home ed all 3 after lockdown but the fact that my eldest is in year 10 is making it a hard choice with him due to GCSEs. Being able to continue to educate at home but sit the exams at school for free would be brilliant. Away from the stress of school and peer pressure my children are a lot happier. School puts too much stress on kids from too young an age.
I just think on the whole educational needs need to be looked at because it's not a case of one fits all not when you have a child with special needs schools and especially mainstream and even special schools need to stop trying to make kids fit when it can't be done you can't put a peg into a round hole so why try to do it with our children!
I really don't want to be forced to send my children back until we have suitable treatment for COVID 19. Also working in a school, I don't want to be forced back to work without a treatment. ATM we are all safer at home

<p>and don't think we should be forced to potentially kill ourselves. I understand the effect this is having on the economy, but personally we need to save lives first and then sort the economy out later.</p>
<p>I suspect that due to lack of funding the children most in need of help, whether it be educationally or emotionally, will be those who suffer most.</p>
<p>I think a more nurtured environment will be needed, particularly due to the increased mental health issues, take schooling back to how it was in the 80's and 90's, children need to be social they need to learn through play and experiences, where they will naturally work through any potential trauma, schools are far too results driven, break is not long enough for children to eat a nutritious meal and have time to interact which is why junk food and energy drinks are increasingly popular, both of which are addictive, both of which lead to physical and mental health issues! Energy drink regulations should be in line with alcohol!</p>
<p>I think radical changes needed but in the desire to get the country running again, unemployment, Brexit, U.K. and global financial changes I'm not sure there will be government desire to review schools etc</p>
<p>I think the kids will be fine after this. Children are much more resilient than we give credit for. It's all very well some people saying their kids are happier at home (my youngest definitely is!) but it's because he's not particularly learning academically and doesn't have to socialise. Both these things are important for children in adulthood. We</p>
<p>I think the whole school year needs repeating</p>
<p>I was seriously considering/researching home education for my 3 children for around 6 months prior to lockdown, due to my children being unhappy at school. Seeing the positive change in my children's overall mood and general health since all school anxiety has been removed, has convinced me that permanent home education is best for us all. Now I just need to convince my husband!</p>
<p>I will not be rushing to send my children back to school I would rather home school them than risk them being exposed to the virus so until a vaccine is developed or guarantee they are safe is given I will continue to home school even if I have to remove them from the school register and officially home school</p>
<p>I will NOT be sending my vulnerable at risk boys back until they are vaccinated</p>
<p>I would like to see all years going back to school have a similar transition period to what yr6/7 kids have now. They are going to need some form of off curriculum period like a summer school and they are going to need to spend more time with form groups to ease back in. They are going to need to build back up slowly to full timetable</p>
<p>I would like to see more acceptance and accommodation of individual needs. My older child was achieving fairly well in mainstream secondary school but had potential to be a higher achiever with the right support. This child is finding the transition to home learning very challenging, is missing the social interaction and is finding motivation a challenge. My younger child in primary school (previously NFIS/ reluctant attendee/ school refuser) was achieving well academically but struggling with mental health and social difficulties but is now doing much better emotionally and is willing to learn. Both children have been raised in a similar way and attended the same schools but have very different needs in order to thrive.</p>

I would prefer not to send my children back to school but I work full-time. They are thriving at home and have always hated school (due to lack of teacher training meaning their needs aren't met). The only things they miss from school are their friends (not mentioned any adult working or volunteering at the school once during the time away).
I'd like to say that we should have more schools which cater for Autism with mild symptoms and specialist schools which do GCSE'S as an alternative to functional skills.
I'd like to say that we should have more schools which cater for Autism with mild symptoms and specialist schools which do GCSE'S as an alternative to functional skills.
I'm not happy to return my children to school until procedures in place to support teachers and staff with covid19.
I'm not sending mine in before Summer unless it's supported by the statistics. I think schools have the potential to be a massive infection risk for wider family members and I'm not wanting my children to be the spreaders in overcrowded schools.
I'll get my daughter into school as soon as possible
I'm answering as both a teacher and a parent and the pace of life in my independent school is ridiculous. Our wages are lower than state schools and the hours are longer but we have no choice to return when the government decide it's safe to because otherwise we could lose our jobs. I'm a single parent with a high risk illness. I fear for my health and there's no one to look after my child if I catch the virus and die. I live on a very tight budget and want to see my child through to GCSE then I will be reassessing my career path. My daughter is permanently scared that I will catch the virus - she will need support if we both return to school together as she will worry greatly about me.
I'm sure for many of us it's been a mixed bag with schools being closed etc. For some families with attendance difficulties (we have had this ...) it's probably been a relief without schools/LA's breathing down their backs. More relaxed family times 😊. For others it's probably difficult to get children to actually do the work set by school for reasons such as school is where work should be done and home is for fun ! Personally because of our previous situation I'm not stressing about my girls getting any school work done, we've been doing arts and crafts, knitting, Joe wicks PE classes, baking, going out for a walk each day etc. Mental health is much more important than School grades in my opinion. I'm sure lots of families will choose to electively home educate after all of this. I for one will NOT be sending my girls back to school until I'm reassured that they will be safe from Covid19.
If I did not need to work (in a school) I would 100% not send my children back to school once they reopen as it has been so lovely teaching them at home and seeing anxieties disappear.
it concerns me the number of children that will need mental health provision on re-entering the school system, I feel in house child psychologist would be extremely beneficial
It is hard to answer some questions as not one answer fits all and there is no space to explain your answer.

<p>It would be a shame to waste the opportunity to keep schools as the more inclusive space they have become during the epidemic, showing that adaptations for those struggling through mental or physical health CAN be made relatively easily.</p>
<p>It would be nice to see less pressure put on the learning of children. My son in year 5 is SEN with a newly given EHCP and he felt the stress the year above were under for the SATs and was already saying he didn't want to go into year 6 and didn't want to sit the test.</p>
<p>Knee-jerk changes will cause more problems for staff and vulnerable students. This should be a catalyst for rethinking schools today but you cannot place on staff or students change at the point of return as they all need the familiarity of what went before otherwise we will see yet more mental health problems.</p>
<p>Main concern that it is safe for kids and teachers to return</p>
<p>Mainstream schools do not cater well for those who are not perfect students. A more flexible child led approach needed. But no more pressure on parents to teach.</p>
<p>More contact from school as we have received non since the lock down</p>
<p>More emotional support, understanding and support for families and look at different ways of learning and teaching. My eldest has ADHD and struggles to concentrate at home we mix it up more and have more small breaks to do star jumps etc but home school isn't the right option she needs friends and teachers and their knowledge and the social aspects. I think maybe more links within the community between school care homes etc</p>
<p>More emphasis on mental health in children</p>
<p>More should be thought about how siblings of our most vulnerable can be managed to return to school, but be safe so as not to bring it home to their family member, especially if there is no vaccine. This without sanctions from the local authority/ school.</p>
<p>My 3 children will most certainly not be returning until this is over. I've not kept them in for 4 weeks to just one day say ok it's off to school again.</p>
<p>My 4 year old is already so far behind before lockdown started so I do worry where we will stand once school returns</p>
<p>My autistic son will struggle massively to go back to school, although he needs the structure and routine. I know he would thrive in a school which promotes life skills as well as academic skills. He loves the outdoors, and loves trying new things like archery.</p>
<p>My child has been happier not being at school</p>
<p>My child has SEN needs and I am very concerned that with the majority of children inevitably needing more support, my child will miss out even further, even with her EHCP. My mother works in a school and is terrified to return, she does not wish to return until the situation is resolved but may have no choice.</p>
<p>My child has severe cerebral palsy. He will be shielded by me until there is a vaccine that works. But the health of teachers and support workers in schools is not being considered. Thinking of children as potential carriers to a</p>

<p>deadly illness for them and their families. It is totally unacceptable! What about the vulnerable relations of education staff. The notion of bringing school back is because the modelling suggests a fall of 2 per cent on 550,000 (the original number of dead predicted by the model without lockdown) people - that is still a lot of people. However, it has a huge impact on the economy. This is a decision about money vs (potentially) the lives of 11,00 people. So, as long as you are promoting the death of 11,000 'other' people - can you live with that? (Because of course it won't be you or someone you love, will it?)</p>
<p>My child is at independent specialist school For ASD and is Super bright and had a gifted IQ but will struggle to achieve academically due to DCD and SPD therefore some kind of vocational specialist learning geared to his specific skills and interests would prepare him for work much better than GCSES.</p>
<p>My child is happy to return to school but I am not. Until they can confirm that my child won't catch Covid-19 in school I won't be happy for them to return. I have elderly parents and a baby and i don't want to lose anyone from this virus</p>
<p>my child was in a Steiner school, they were more able to meet my child's needs, I wish all schools were kinder as I cannot afford to send him and if schools don't change he will have to stay home for home emotional well-being.</p>
<p>My child will not be returning back to school until I decide it's safe.</p>
<p>My child's college has not contacted me until I messaged them Friday about what's expected off my SEN child and now she's apparently behind in coursework ! Better communication is needed between parents with SEND children and their educational providers</p>
<p>My children are so much happier and willing to learn since lockdown and state they hate school</p>
<p>my daughter is 18 and due to leave year 14 special school post 16 in July. She was in mainstream primary. age 11 - 16 mainstream/specialist provision unit 50/50 split. None of the settings have met her needs adequately due to lack of adequate staff, staff being specialist trained, too many pupils the list goes on. We have been very disappointed with the education system and just hope that when she starts college in September 2020? that it will be better. At least it won't be full time so we will be able to tailor the other 2 days more to her specific needs. She is relieved to be at home at the moment having found the pressure of all her schools (in different ways) to be too much. Even though she doesn't like the change she is still happier to be at home. My daughter does not have an ASD diagnosis in spite of displaying a lot of ASD behaviours. She has a different primary diagnosis not to do with autism</p>
<p>My major concern for returning to school is not listed. I am most concerned about the transition from being at home full time to school/college. My teenager is sleeping a lot and not leaving the house. My 11 year old has a diagnosis of separation anxiety and is already hiding when we see people on our walks. He needs to be with people other than his parents regularly but he can't. To be suddenly left again may cause problems.</p>
<p>My preference is for home schooling as my child's emotional & developmental needs are not met at school and they have not been open to learning about early life trauma. However, financially I'm not in a position to home school full-time. We flexi-school just now and I would like to increase this but unfortunately that comes down to money and working hours. Our schools need to be based on child development models and research based curriculum. All staff need to be trauma informed and aware of attachment theory and how that relates to the</p>

school environment. More play based & outdoor opportunities including regular sensory breaks and access for kids throughout the day. More individualised learning - groups of kids who share a similar learning style as well as being at the same development stage rather than focusing on chronological ages.

My son has autism and goes to an autistic school. He has high anxiety and even before the lockdown we had reduced days as he struggles. He definitely prefers home school and he learns more at home than he does at school. There definitely needs to be more flexibility in learning .

My son has SEND & needs support to attend (he's been out of school for long periods when this support wasn't made available) I'm concerned that those pushing for schools to return aren't taking on board the support & resources that will need to be made available to make this a return that includes everyone & doesn't leave behind families whose children will need more support.

My son has struggled to overcome his anxiety around school for all of his school life, this became much more profound when he commenced High School. School respond to requests for support, but this is always on a short term basis and once he has to do full days in all lessons he isn't able to cope again. It's very frustrating that school don't see his true anxiety as he 'masks' so well, he hangs onto his mask all of the school day then explodes when I collect him. I am dreading school reopening, I am in the high risk group as I have brittle asthma and I am in constant fear of catching covid-19 and how this could potentially impact upon my health/life and in turn how my son would cope as I am a single parent. This whole situation is very stressful. My son though is the happiest I have seen him in well over 2 years, he's is relieved he doesn't have to go out into a world that is overwhelming and misunderstand him.

My son is autistic who I have based my answers on

My son is in a very expensive independent school, so my answers were based on that, if he was in mainstream still they would of been very different

My son was permanently excluded 3 years and is 2 years behind in school and now has no free schooling but in my opinion kids and parents should not be penalised for exclusions by getting less education. Some kids are on benefits to attend college. Mine was turned down as his fulltime course with part time hours is not being allowed as part time for his universal credit application so we have to support him while on benefits ourselves so he can better himself. He's near genius according to the Ed. Psych he saw. The whole mess is very unfair.

My sons anxiety/mental health about being at school has improved immensely. I worry about it starting again once he goes back. He's so much happier with online schooling at his own pace with me to help him understand the work. It's been a pleasure to do it with him.

My teen was struggling with anxiety to attend school some days. Since the lockdown she has enjoyed self-education with her friends facetimeing each other. She misses the company of her friends but has really enjoyed the freedom it has given her.

My two are so happy being at home, no stress, willingly doing work via Moodle, both work better early evening, so the change in routine has been brilliant. Both have really developed an interest in helping with animals and outdoor work, have set their days out so they do activity and have self-limited their screen time - it's brilliant! Both are fourteen.

<p>My son separates home and school so I have been unable to get him to do school work during lockdown. I wish schools would remove the pressure of having to do the home schooling. I worry about him being humiliated in front of his peers for not doing the work when we go back. I am enjoying the break from the stresses and trauma school causes. My son is more relaxed. He was rebelling and getting into lots of trouble. Now he is calm.</p>
<p>Need to be allowed to have time off for important family bonding or family occasions, need to be flexible with parents concerns regarding co vid 19</p>
<p>No option to abstain in question 4b & 4c, my son isn't struggling and I don't work in a school.</p>
<p>On line learning provided by our special school is not teaching new things, it's providing practice to go over old things.</p>
<p>Once in a millennium opportunity to see what has gone wrong and change it for children to be educated in a kinder and more flexible way and I think most teachers see this; but as soon as Government flicks the switch back on, then I fear it will all go back to being the same in terms of pressures and rigid thinking.</p>
<p>One size does not fit all</p>
<p>One size does not fit all. Education, especially SEN needs a complete overhaul, with an end to ridiculous SATS. Let the teachers teach.</p>
<p>Online-home schooling might be option, but parents must have some financial help like - paid programmes, printers staff and etc. As well I would like to say that we are doing really great with home schooling and only problem I will not continue this after lockdown finished is social part of school education. As well I can't do it by myself, so when my husband will return back to work I can't managed with 3 kids in different education age, so defiantly 1 parent per child to maintain quality education.</p>
<p>Our education system is archaic, the contents of subjects needs to change as do modes of teaching, large numbers of children struggle to learn with current methods of teaching.</p>
<p>Our school system is too pressured and harsh, from a very young age. It needs to be far more child friendly. It's no wonder so many children struggle with their mental health.</p>
<p>Play should happen until the end of ks1. The reception curriculum could then start at y3, imagine how quickly children would pick it up? What a boost to their mental health! Less intense curriculum - good old topic work should come back in More focus on arts & sport</p>
<p>Q1. That the parents will be forced to return to work once the schools reopen and our children are forced to attend.</p>
<p>Question 8 didn't work. Practically..... Schools hygiene policies need up dating hand washing on return to school. Outer toilet doors need removing so after handwashing after toileting a child doesn't have to touch a communal door as they leave the toilet. (Think eating sandwiches with hands) . Curriculum.... provide more music and fitness and science and art and technology. My daughter's school does pe once a week! Sometimes that is missed. They rarely do music. Science is lacking. And art is bi termly and technology is non-existent. Social emotional aspects of learning is also an odd day here and there. It needs an underlying philosophy of emotional safety and</p>

<p>understanding of mental health. Breathing and strengthening grounding and embodied practise. Regulation of the nervous system sensory work. (Not yoga or mindfulness a more embodied and simple no labels approach) the teachers need to lead with example.</p>
<p>Really want things to change for all children! Testing scrapped and new ways to See how Children learn</p>
<p>Recognition of pathological demand avoidance profile of autism (as defined in CG128 of NICE guidelines) should be recognised and diagnosed as autism and the correct approach and support provided (see PDA society website for current research and 'keys to care'. Move away from just a positive behaviour support to recognition of anxiety driven need to control and avoid ordinary everyday demands. Rewards bared behaviour approaches all wrong for this but many pupil referral units and special schools still purely use this for autistic /PDA profile kids and it doesn't help them it makes them more anxious increasing their fight/fright/fawn/ freeze/ fight behaviours. Choice and control and suggestion models of support work better. Training to schools across the board is required. Elizabeth Newsome Centre provides research on this complex form of autism. Also CAMHS across the country are finally starting to recognise PDA as ' a profile' of autism under the NICE guidelines. I have a letter from the House of Commons about the recognition of this.</p>
<p>Return schools back until the control of the LEA and get rid of academy schools and greedy CEOs</p>
<p>SATS need to be removed. GCSEs need reform.</p>
<p>School as it is not working for many, this is an ideal opportunity for change such as high course work content for GCSE. The accurate assessment of children for GCSE has been impossible during covid19 because it is largely exam based.</p>
<p>School needs to be adaptive and flexible. It should be based on the individual child's needs and not league tables and statistics. The argument there is not enough resources and provision has just been proved wrong. My daughter has learnt more in the past 4 weeks than she did in 2 school years. But I still feel schools are necessary for socialising and peer relations.</p>
<p>Schools are a breeding ground for germs with no social distancing or PPE ticking time bomb for staff and parents especially when key workers children who are been exposed to virus still as workers often have no PPE or testing are put back with children And staff who have been in isolation will all Start again</p>
<p>Schools are not fit for purpose with the amount of SEN, they are too rigid with one way fits all. Our children learn in different ways and education system does not reflect this. It needs a radical shake up including more vocational learning.</p>
<p>schools MUST stop putting children into their boxes.</p>
<p>Schools need to be more child-centred, focus on wellbeing and mental health and completely change the whole structure in my opinion.</p>
<p>Schools need to work with parents of children with EHCP to ensure that the transition back to school is safe and at the child's pace</p>

Schools should never have been closed, this whole thing is ridiculous and completely unacceptable
Schools should not reopen at the very least until September - even then children of vulnerable parents should be given the opportunity to be home-schooled for the foreseeable.
Schools should not reopen until it is 100% safe. Social distancing at schools is simply not possible and we should not allow any parents to think this is a possibility.... I work at a school and know for sure, it could not work. SEN should be prioritised more. It's had very little funding, I had a 2 year battle to find my son a SEN school placement, and yet this home schooling back to typical schooling will cause many issues with SEN children. Support needs to be in place, and teachers are already overworked and underpaid. We have 15 SEN children in my class... 1 teacher and 1 TA (me). We cannot 'cope' at the best of times, let alone with further anxieties out of this pandemic. Financial support for additional support staff is a must. An absolute must.
Schools should not return until it is completely safe for all. This is about staff health as well as children's, they often get overlooked and get no PPE, however are put massively at risk.
SEN provision needs a complete overhaul and far, FAR more funding and support for SEN children. More SEN schools and lots, lots more understanding and support in mainstream schools. We needed this before but now more than ever!
SEN provisions need to be assessed, there needs to be more understanding of the difficulties these children face every day, and a closer look at the high functioning autism within schools too. As a parent of an autistic child with no EHCP I have been left with absolutely no support at all, daily meltdowns as routine has been completely thrown out and homework that she wouldn't be able to complete in school never mind at home. We need to make sure services are available all the time, autism isn't 9-5, Monday to Friday or term time only
SEN- there are very hardworking staff at my sons school. However a different attitude is needed at my son's school for SEN. They under estimate and are letting his gap widen. They do not support or take leadership when we discuss his capabilities at home. I have been able to teach him so much at home. If the Head Teacher had a different mindset, the staff would approach this differently. There is so much that I see is lacking which could simply be achieved.
Should be a recognised value on broader types of learning opportunities, experiences and environments. Child interest led learning is the best method for many in order to reach potential.
Shows that more flexible learning could be put in place for those that struggle in school
So many will now be aware of the difficulties SEN children face when they are unable to attend school, the isolation etc . Increase funding for SEND so it is NEVER again thousands of us appealing for our children's needs and provision at tribunals.
Speaking as a mum to 2 children in the same SEN school, I feel that there has been support for FSM families and key workers but if you don't fit into those then the contact and support hasn't been there, 4 weeks and no one from school has run to check how we are doing, some children will fall through gaps I fear.
Special needs need more support

stop having attendance rewards, stop all the testing! more play, more play, more play!!!!!!
Stop the testing on children under 10 it's not needed
The arts and crafts have been really important during the lockdown and so has home economics and exercise. Also the whole concept of fining parents for children missing days in the class room and the draconian every day in school count is utter rubbish. All the ridiculous testing of pupils to grade a school? Teachers know pupils abilities give them back their pride and allow them to teach and assess. Education is more than maths and some deconstructing sentences let imaginations flow instead of being stifled.
The children should only go back once it is safe for everyone but they need to go back into the school year they left in, so if we go back in September then the new school year needs to start later.
The class teacher rang us to check in for the first time this week. My daughter has been out of school since November 2019. Says it all really. It would be a scandal if this opportunity to learn how to improve our school system is missed.
The conversation needs to start now, not when we are out of lockdown
The creative activities deemed vital for maintaining good mental health during the lockdown - pe, art, cooking, gardening, etc - are the first to be taken out of school timetables.
The current education system is failing pupils and teachers alike. I could rant about all of its failings for hours but now is the time to look forward and view this current horrendous period in time as opportunity to instigate change for future generations. The mental health crisis in young people and the teaching community needs addressing. We as a society need to be more compassionate and caring towards each other. Some good will hopefully come from this global pandemic.
The curriculum is all wrong. Too much pressure on children. This is. Causing too much anxiety. Harder ways of learning than there used to be. I.e. phonics. Not many people understand this. There was nothing wrong with the way it used to be taught. Maths has also become complicated in some areas
The decision whether each individual C & YP returns to school MUST rest with the parent(s) of each child with no recriminations or interrogations by school, LAs or social workers where the parent has clearly stated they are not satisfied that the overall arrangements regarding the management of COVID-19 risk meet their families unique circumstances. While the risk to children from COVID-19 may be low, they are carriers / spreaders of COVID-19 and this may be an unacceptable risk to the direct & wider family of each individual child.
The DoE and all schools across our nation need to accept they are outdated and causing harm. Time to scrap GCSE's, and the current compliance system.
The education system is outdated. Most other parts of life have evolved, yet education has not really changed at all. For those children who find attending school difficult, there has been no support. If you look at the technology we have available to us.... should we be pushing those children to still attend school, and then punish them for their behaviour when they find school overwhelming or should they have the opportunity to learn in a

less hostile environment for them. I believe that a child needs to be happy to learn. Some children become so distressed about the school environment, they struggle through. It should not be this way.
The fact the curriculum has been suspended is proof that it is not relevant. The amount of time spent in school is far too high with little benefit. The system needs to change to embrace everybody
The mental health of children should be regarded as seriously as physical health and send children diagnosed and undiagnosed children need to be supported without the battles with local authorities to get assessments.
The school curriculum and ways of educating our children are so out of date. We need to develop a more child led, relevant curriculum and school system. we need to be flexible in approaches and especially for children who struggle with mainstream schools. The fact that we have to choose between home schooling or a harsh, narrow education system is no longer acceptable. Children who are unwell, physically or mentally have been overlooked . The COVID crisis has shown that schools can support children at home. Let's not exclude them anymore. They need a chance to be educated and to be social and at the same time kept well emotionally and physically. For too long parents have been blamed for children who struggle with school but now we know that health is more important than anything. Parents need to be respected and allowed to make decisions to keep their families and children safe and well. The whole system needs to be changed .
The school system needs a huge shakeup to cater for the future not the past. Children need the opportunity for self-development through hands on play learning at all stages. Exams need to be thought about as currently 11 years of learning is assessed over a few exams at the end of school
The situation must not be used as an excuse for lack of support by schools or LAs. My LA has already released a statement saying they will no longer accept EHCP applications - wrongly saying the COVID act allows it.
There are some big changes needed to our education system. But, after all the impact of the current situation some stability is needed.
There is a chance to widen the learning approach - let's use it.
There is a huge need for alternative provision. Any FSW will tell you their workload is diminished now schools are closed. The issue lies with the system not being flexible for children with additional needs; it's needs reform.
There is no way my kids are going back to school until the virus is gone no matter how long that takes. Life is more important than education!
There needs to be a massive change into how school teach today's children. I've fought for two years for one child and it's been hell I'd rather pull my youngest out than put us all through that again. This is a chance for schools to look at what today's children need and want to prepare them to be the best learners they can for a better future for all
They needs to be a lot more support for children in mainstream schools who suffer from autism more so girls who mask very good are ignored so much .my daughter as had to go back a year is on a part timetable. And as only done 20 days this school year. Because of severe anxiety

<p>They needs to be a lot more support for children in mainstream schools who suffer from autism more so girls who mask very good are ignored so much .my daughter as had to go back a year is on a part timetable. And as only done 20 days this school year. Because of severe anxiety</p>
<p>This government has inherited snucive control of students instead of provision age 8 kick out of school secondary said parenting nothing ring him or brother ASD total anxiety after trashing pre op on max pre mead leaving their so called care brother diagnosed as well but the lies to protect the selves for gov files vanish reports vanish and police say photos aren't evidence that's not ok that's abuse oh and the both have very high morals which was their main clash the torchering staff had none but now doing fine in a school in fact the only one left in Bucks that refuse to follow gov abuse tecs as they are SEN professionals</p>
<p>This is a key opportunity to shake off the shackles of an industrialised data driven education model and embrace child centred neurodevelopmentally attuned emotionally fit education systems focussed on nurturing creativity and wellbeing for our future adult generations.</p>
<p>This is the pause we need to rethink. We need to take the opportunity to reassess. The system was not working for many children and families. We should not be punished for attendance. The system needs to be much more flexible and acknowledge parents can be educators</p>
<p>This questionnaire is difficult to do to reflect the different children I have. Both ASD send but 6 years age difference, very different approach to school, one in mainstream primary and one in specialist independent.</p>
<p>Time for change, the school system was not fit for purpose of all kids</p>
<p>To return to school is going to be an upheaval for every one of us - emotionally for all as well it will be extremely difficult and to remain safe in school environment will be worrying for some as more children will be there and they are not that clean - washing has to be main priority again with them</p>
<p>We have high risk people in the house so don't see how we can return to schools etc because that would endanger the people at risk. It's a terrifying prospect about returning to school and one I believe will be hurried through without the time needed.</p>
<p>We need more autism schools</p>
<p>We need schools, parents and CYP to lead the change and be brave and stubborn over this. Need to switch power from gov to the experts on the ground. Have to act decisively and boldly. Strike action if necessary.</p>
<p>We used to home educate my eldest due to his anxiety. We enrolled him at school because the freedom of home education didn't suit him: he fares better going to a familiar place with supportive staff each day, and seeing the same friends. We are lucky that he is in a supportive school. However, there is a lot about school and the education system my husband and I disagree with, and it would be fantastic if this could be used as an opportunity for reform. Flexible schooling should definitely be an option, together with a shorter school week.</p>
<p>When both the child's parents are in the vulnerable category as in our case it is impossible and dangerous to send back to school. Worries re child missing out on friendships but more worried he could lose both parents if he were to go back to school. Our child is autistic and was a school refuser. Just before lockdown we were threatened with the prospect of prosecution if we didn't attend a meeting on the 24th of March I think it was</p>

despite the fact we had already informed the school we would not send our child in or make any plans for reintroduction to school at the moment due to both of us being in the vulnerable category(heart failure and autoimmune)and we had already decided to shield which we started on 6th March. With the threats from school we pulled him out of school to home school but felt forced. Our families health was more important and the threats were adding more stress to an already very stressful time. We intend to take legal action against the school after all this is over.

Would like to see more individual learning continue

Year 11's are missing from all the support! Mine is mainstream with EHCP, won't now be back in education until September for certain! He could attend school, but we have decided home is safer.

Yes! SEND families have been self-isolating for years and we have the expertise to draw on to make fair and sustainable changes which are needed throughout education. From EY to 6th form and uni. Education is just one of the broken layers exposed during C19. Housing, food inequality, access to Wifi and devices, access to employment, financial hardship..... the list is endless. Out of the box thinking, a ton of support and meaningful 'real life' agendas - education could be the place to start x