



independent
schools
council

Attitudes towards independent schools

The survey of attitudes to the independent schools sector was carried out by Populus and commissioned by ISC. Populus interviewed 2,057 adults in Great Britain for the survey between 12 – 14 September 2012.

Data was weighted by Populus to be representative of all GB adults in terms of gender, age, SEG and region. The survey was carried out using an online format.

Questions on the charitable work of the independent sector were new to this year's survey.

If you could afford it, would you send your child to an independent school or not?

	1997	2002	2008	2010	2011	2012
Base: All with children	(610)	(595)	(602)	(518)	(634)	(590)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	51	48	57	53	54	57
No	41	42	36	25	26	25
Don't know/no opinion	8	10	7	21	19	18

Why do you say that you would send your child to an independent school?

	2012
Base: All who would send their child to an independent school (343)	(337)
	%
Better standards of education	51
Smaller classes/smaller pupil-teacher ratio	15
Better start to life/more chances in life/better chance for future careers	14
Better discipline	8
Individual/personal education/more support from teachers	7
More subjects/better options	7
Better results/would get on better	6
Better qualified/better teachers	5
Better facilities/equipment	4

Do you believe that educational standards in state schools are higher, lower or about the same as independent schools?

	1997	2002	2008	2010	2011	2012
Base: All aged 18+	(1,871)	(1,759)	(2,063)	(2,022)	(2,051)	(2,075)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Higher	9	9	8	6	7	6
Lower	47	49	54	56	57	59
About the same	31	29	24	26	27	23
Don't know/no opinion	13	13	14	12	9	13

To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about independent schools?

Base: All aged 18+ (2,075)	Agree	Disagree
	%	%
They provide good university and employment prospects for pupils	71	3
They provide opportunities for pupils to fulfil their potential	71	3
They offer high academic quality	68	4
They instil a sense of confidence in pupils	66	3
They provide excellence in the teaching of maths, science and languages	62	3
They provide excellence in arts, drama and music	52	4
They excel in developing 'soft' skills such as communication and teamwork, which are important to employers	49	7
They achieve excellence in sport	52	4
They offer bursaries and scholarships which help to broaden access and increase social mobility	49	8
They contribute the UK's reputation as a world leader in education	49	10
They make a positive contribution to the UK economy	45	10

To what extent do you agree or disagree that each of the following is a good way for independent schools to contribute to their charitable work?

	Agree	Disagree
Base: All aged 18+ (2,075)	(2,075)	(2,075)
	%	%
Offer bursaries to enable children from lower income families to attend independent schools	59	7
Share sporting facilities and hold joint sporting events with pupils from state schools	58	7
Help prepare state school A-level pupils for entry to university	55	10
Work with local schools to share lessons, knowledge and skills. E.g. summer schools	53	10
Work with schools in poorer parts of the world to help them and their pupils	42	16
Sponsor academies or free schools	41	13
Second their teachers to work part time in state schools	34	19

Of ISC schools in England that are charities, what proportion were involved in the following types of charitable work in 2012?

	%
Offer bursaries to enable children from lower income families to attend independent schools	90
Share sporting facilities and hold joint sporting events with pupils from state schools	70
Help prepare state school A-level pupils for entry to university	10
Work with local schools to share lessons, knowledge and skills. E.g. summer schools	40
Work with schools in poorer parts of the world to help them and their pupils	18
Sponsor academies or free schools	4
Second their teachers to work part time in state schools	7