

RETURN TO SCHOOL & ATTAINMENT GAP SURVEY

June 2020



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INTRODUCTION

In unprecedented times, maintaining education for pupils has been a huge challenge, requiring teachers to adapt quickly to online learning, leaving some of the most disadvantaged children even further behind. The evolving governmental plans to fully re-open schools during the pandemic and the impact of this on teachers has triggered much media debate but what do teachers really think?

About this survey

This survey was carried out on behalf of Operam Education Group and Success for All, in order gain an understanding of the opinions of teachers and classroom support staff regarding governmental plans to re-open schools and the effects of school closures on the attainment gap.

1000 teachers and classroom support staff were asked to complete the survey via Operam Education Group's recruitment agencies which cover the Midlands and the North of England. 454 responses were received (45% response rate) with an 86% completion rate of all questions.

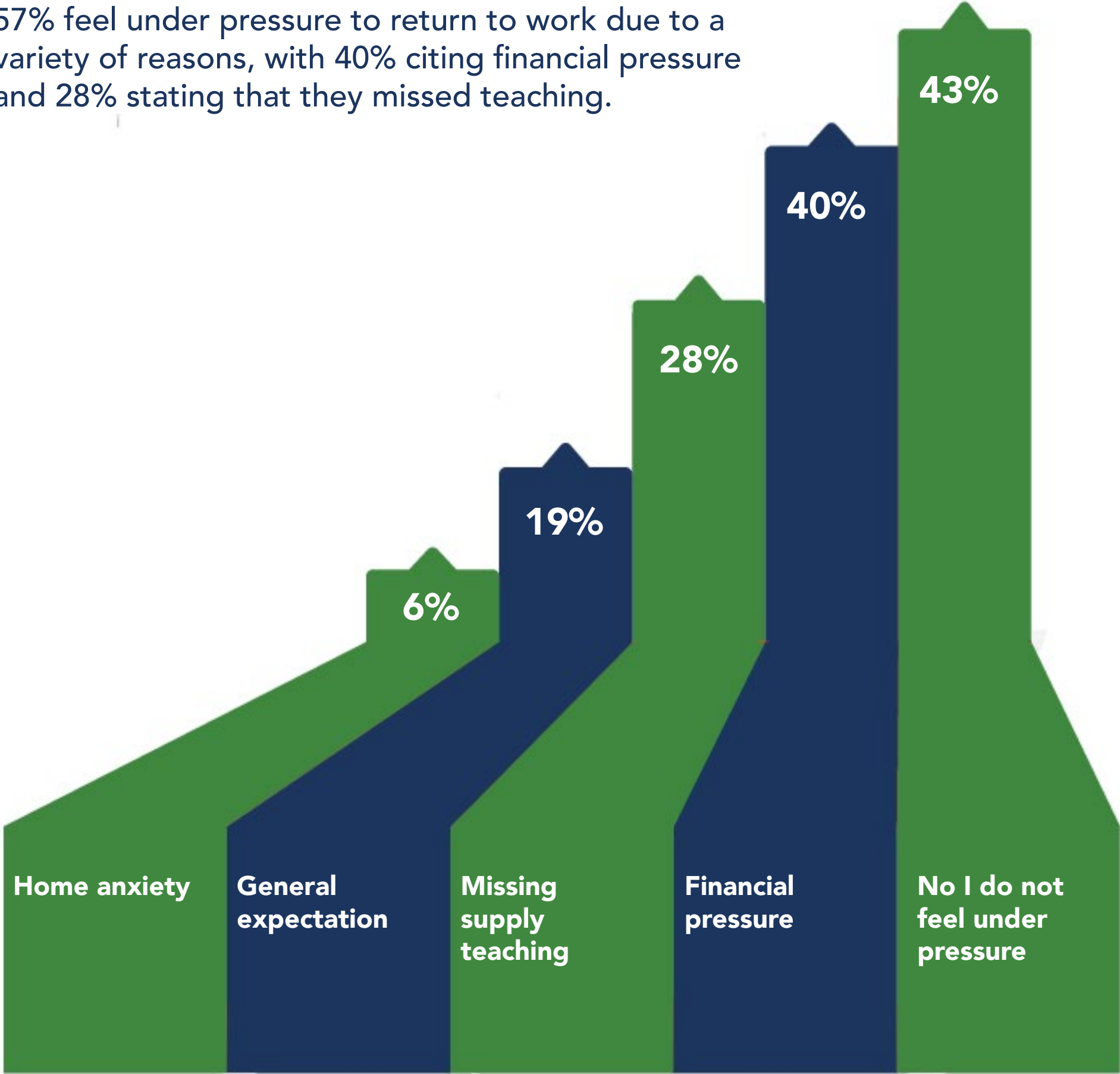
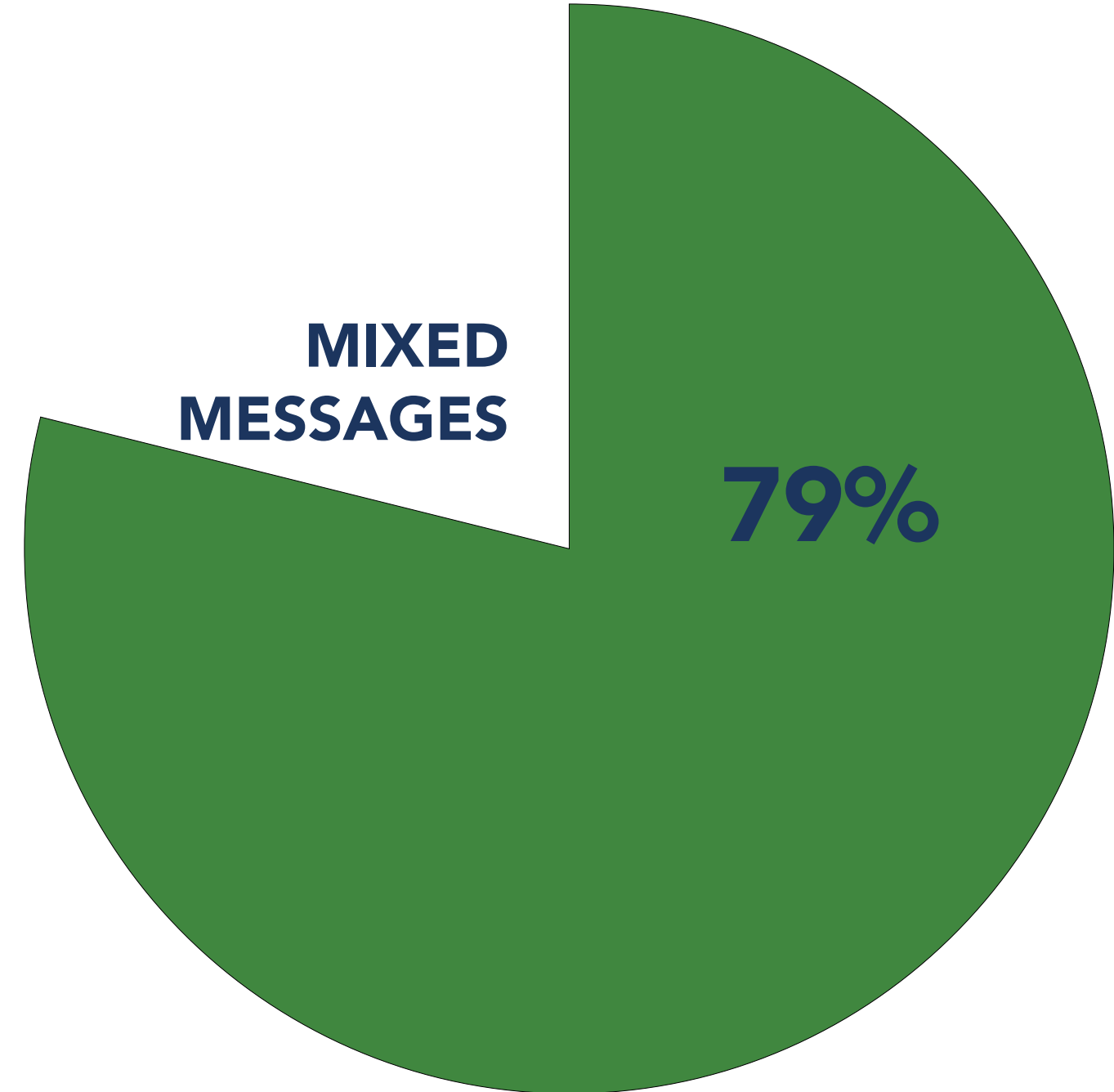
All education sectors were represented in the survey sample, however, the majority, of respondents worked in primary or secondary education. 12% of people classed themselves as vulnerable, and 19% indicated that they were shielding a household member.

Key Findings

57% feel under pressure to return to work due to a variety of reasons, with 40% citing financial pressure and 28% stating that they missed teaching.

Returning to face to face teaching

79% of respondents indicated that they feel they have received mixed messages from the government and other organisations.



Key Findings

Government plans to re-open

70% of respondents indicated they were concerned/very concerned about contracting COVID-19 by returning to the classroom, with 78% stating they are concerned/very concerned about passing the virus on to a member of their household.



This means the majority, of respondents feel very much at risk and that they feel they may put their families at risk by returning to face to face teaching, which would suggest a general lack of confidence in current plans and suggested safety measures to date.

70%

**CONCERNED / VERY CONCERNED
CONTRACTING COVID-19**

78%

**CONCERNED OR
VERY CONCERNED
PASSING TO HOUSEHOLD
MEMBER**

Key Findings

Views on the attainment gap as a result of the lockdown

Three quarters (75%) of respondents felt that home learning during the lockdown has led to reduced or very reduced standards, with 62% indicating that the attainment gap for the poorest pupils in society has widened a lot and 30% stating it has widened a little.

Over half of respondents (57%) agreed or strongly agreed that there needed to be a focus on providing a sound base of attainment in early years, more than any other education sector (almost a quarter of respondents were indifferent).

75%

REDUCED LEARNING STANDARDS
DUE TO HOME LEARNING

62%

BIG WIDENING ATTAINMENT
GAP FOR THE POOREST
PUPILS

Key Findings

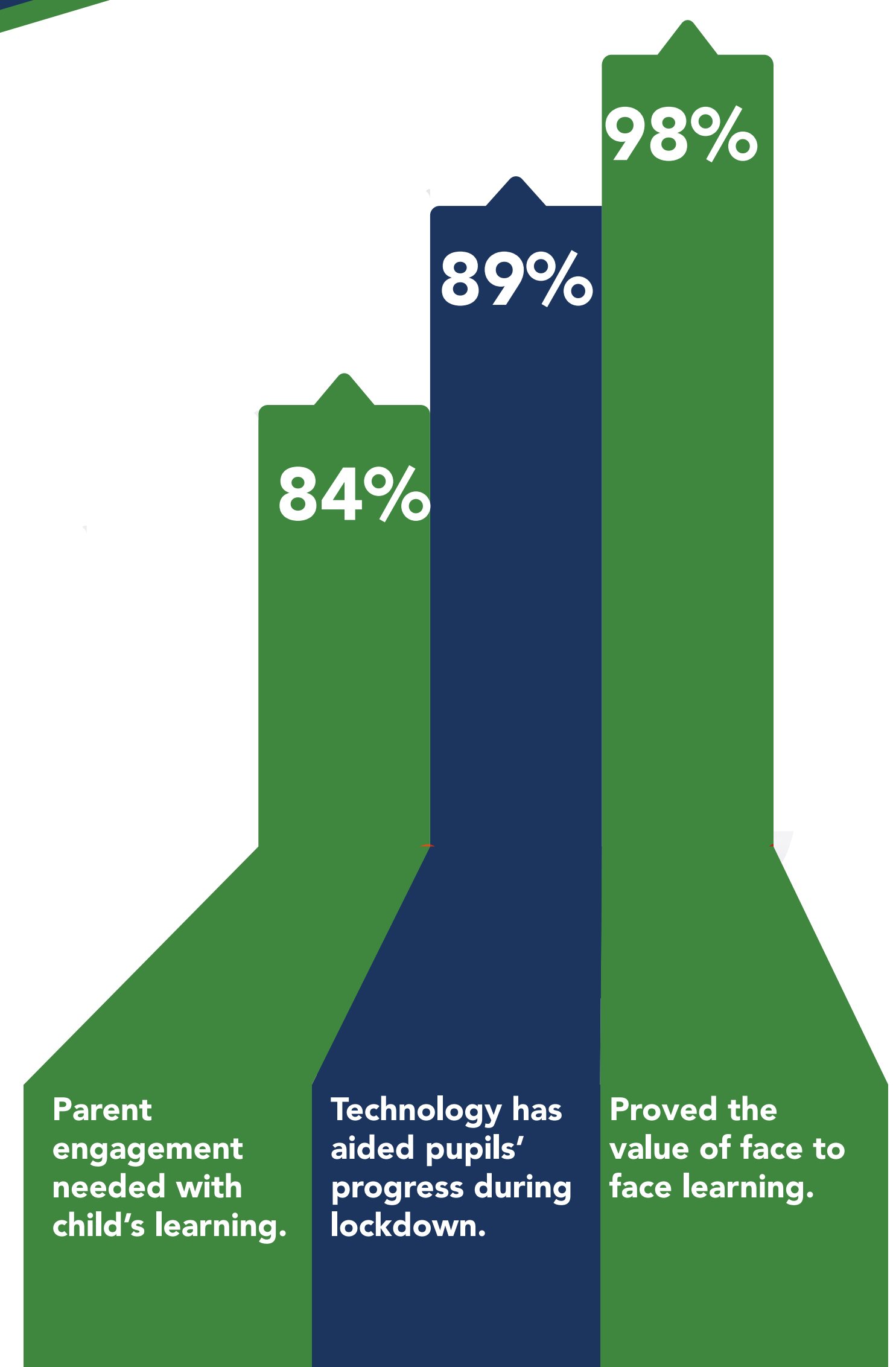
Views on the attainment gap as a result of the lockdown

84% felt that the lockdown had proved how much schools need to engage parents with their child's/children's learning (52% a lot and 32% a bit).

89% of respondents stated that they felt technology had aided pupils' progress during the lockdown. A consensus of opinion suggests that the lockdown has dramatically increased the pace of digital developments in education.

Nearly all of respondents (98%) stated that the lockdown has proved the value of face to face learning through teachers and support staff.

The widening attainment gap amongst the most disadvantaged pupils of society and the fall in standards across mainstream pupils evidences the value of face to face teaching.





During the lockdown, you felt as an agency we:

Communicated effectively and remained accessible **76%**

Where applicable, responded with government guidelines on furloughing **76%**

Kept informed in honest and transparent manner **66%**

Offered enough support **59%**

Adapted our recruitment processes **15%**

