

# Inspiring Schools IN Salford

Consultation Conducted by  
Salford City Council

A report by Ipsos MORI North

November 2006

26864



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# 1. Introduction

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## 1.1 Background and Objectives

As part of the government's Building Schools for the Future programme, Salford City Council has put together a number of proposals which affect Salford's secondary education provision. It is suggested that a number of schools could be replaced, whilst others could be relocated or refurbished. The proposals will

*Create schools that are a source of pride and also provide practical resources for local people of all ages and backgrounds in the community*

The Vision - BSF Consultation document 2006

Before these proposals are submitted to the Government, the Council wishes to hear the views of all residents in Salford, not just the parents, pupils and teachers who will be directly affected.

To this end, the Council has embarked on an ongoing consultation exercise which to date has involved:

- a number of roadshows to enable residents to ask questions
- the distribution of a consultation booklet and questionnaire explaining the proposals to all parents of pupils at Council run secondary and primary schools within the city.
- an on-line version of the questionnaire which was made available on the Council's website for any interested party to complete.

Ipsos MORI North was commissioned to advise on the questionnaire content and to analyse the results. This report details the findings of this postal/electronic consultation exercise.

## 1.2 Methodology

In total, 25,000 questionnaires were printed and mailed out by the Council; 17,533 were sent to all parents of children at primary and secondary schools within the city and 1,406 were mailed out to school governors. The remaining 6,061 were made available to people who attended the roadshows. There was also a specific request made by St George's RC school to be sent 590 questionnaires direct to the school for pupils to complete. In all then, this exercise should be seen as one of consultation rather than structured research.

The questionnaires were mailed out on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2006 and the closing date for responses via the post and the Internet was 25<sup>th</sup> October 2006. A copy of the questionnaire is appended.

In total, 3,065 postal responses were received, which is a response rate of 12%, and 231 questionnaires were completed electronically. These results are therefore based upon 3,296 residents' views.

## 1.3 Analysis & Reporting

This report presents the findings in detail for this survey. Any statistically significant variances in response between different types of respondents due to the school their child(ren) attends, or their demographic or geographical profiles are highlighted throughout the report. A percentage denoted as an asterisk (\*%) represents a value of less than one per cent, but not zero.

### 1.3.1 Weighting

Since there are some schools which are more likely to be affected by the proposals than others, there is an over representation of views from parents and pupils at specific schools. In particular, parents who have or are going to have a child who attends St George's RC High school, and pupils who currently attend that school, are more likely to have returned a questionnaire. To address this bias, the data has been balanced to reflect the distribution of the school roll across all schools within the city. Although such weighting will not affect specific school based results, the overall results will be more representative.

Table 1 presents the distribution of parent/pupil responses across all schools and compares it to that of the actual pupil distribution based on school rolls : this latter distribution is the basis for the weighting.

Table 1 : Response distribution of parents and pupils

<b>School</b>	<b>Distribution of responses from parents/pupils*</b>	<b>Actual distribution of pupils across Salford</b>
Walkden High	15%	10%
Moorside High	8%	9.5%
Swinton High	6%	8%
Wentworth High	5%	7%
Irlam and Cadishead High	5%	8%
All Hallows RC High	2%	4%
St George's RC High	21%	5%
St Ambrose Barlow RC High	8%	6%
St Patrick's RC High	7%	7.5%
Buile Hill High	3%	8%
Harrop Fold High	3%	9%
Beis Yaakov High	1%	1.5%
The Albion	3%	7.5%
Hope High	4%	7%
Oakwood High	1%	1%
Chatsworth High	*%	*%
New Park	*%	*%

\* parents and pupils account for 88% of the total response.

The findings are based on a full set of computer tables, held under separate cover by Salford City Council.

## 1.4 Executive Summary

### Participants : Section 2

- The reasons for participating in this exercise are that participants are :
  - parents and prospective “school parents” 86%
  - pupils 2%
  - teachers and others employed in education 11%
  - school governors 9%
  - living near the schools 23%
- These classifications are not mutually exclusive.

### Policy : Section 3

- the main priorities for local schools are that they should focus on :
  - academic results
  - pupil behaviour
- in terms of non-mainstream, or extra-curricular services, respondents place the highest value on schools offering :
  - school holiday activities (76% would like this)

then

- youth services (58%)
- breakfast and after school clubs (52%)
- young people’s health services (48%)
- options involving people other than pupils are less welcomed e.g. :
  - early years services (17% would like this)
  - council library (26%)
  - hiring out halls (41%)
  - adult learning services (44%)

### Performance : Section 3

- with respect to current performance of local schools overall, the proportion seeing their “local school” performing very or fairly well is :
  - for offering a range of subjects (68%)
  - for grades achieved (67%)
  - for quality of sports facilities (56%)
  - for pupils behaviour (52%)
  - quality of buildings (50%).

### Proposals : Section 4

- amongst the interested parties of the schools affected, the support for the proposals falls into four distinct groups :
  - there is **strong** support for the proposals at Walkden High (net agreement +84%), Irlam & Cadishead High (+84%), St Patrick’s RC High (+81%) and Wentworth High (+78%)
  - there is **support** for the proposals at St Ambrose (+50%), All Hallows RC High (+42%), Moorside High (+33%)
  - there is **doubt** at The Swinton High (+17%)
  - there is **opposition** at St George’s RC High (-72%).

## 1.5 Publication of Data

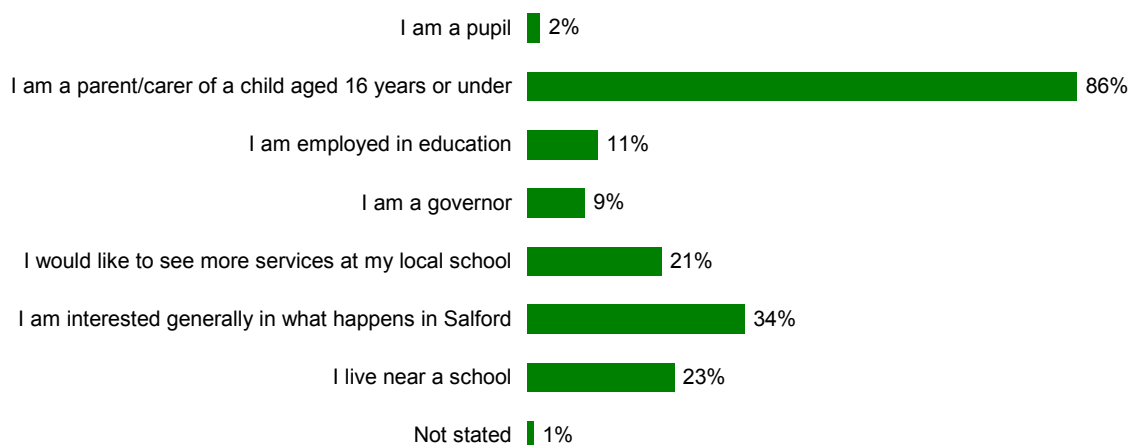
As with all our studies, findings from this survey are subject to our Standard Terms and Conditions of Contract. Any press release or publication of the findings of this survey requires the advance approval of Ipsos MORI North. Such approval will only be refused on the grounds of inaccuracy or misrepresentation.

## 2. The Participants

### 2.1 Reason for Interest in the Consultation

Respondents were asked why they were interested in the consultation. As they were able to give more than one reason, the proportions add to more than 100%.

Figure 1 : Reason for participating in this consultation (Q1)  
Base : All respondents – 3,296 (weighted)



The majority of the questionnaires were distributed to parents of pupils of primary and secondary school age, therefore it is not surprising that 88% of respondents are parents/carers and pupils. One fifth of respondents (18%) have a professional interest in the consultation i.e. they are employed in education (11%) or they are a school governor (9%).

Almost half of respondents (45%) stated that they have a general interest in the consultation, either because they would like to see more services at their local school (21%), they are interested generally in what happens in Salford (34%) or they live close to a school affected by the consultation (23%).

### 2.2 Roadshows

As part of the consultation process, Salford City Council has facilitated a number of roadshows throughout the city to enable residents to ask questions. In total, 5% of those who responded to the survey have also attended one of these roadshows.

Those most likely to have attended one of the roadshows are:

- male (12% vs 4% of females)
- teachers or governors (12%)
- non-parents 20% vs 3% of parents
- have interest in St George's RC High (24%)

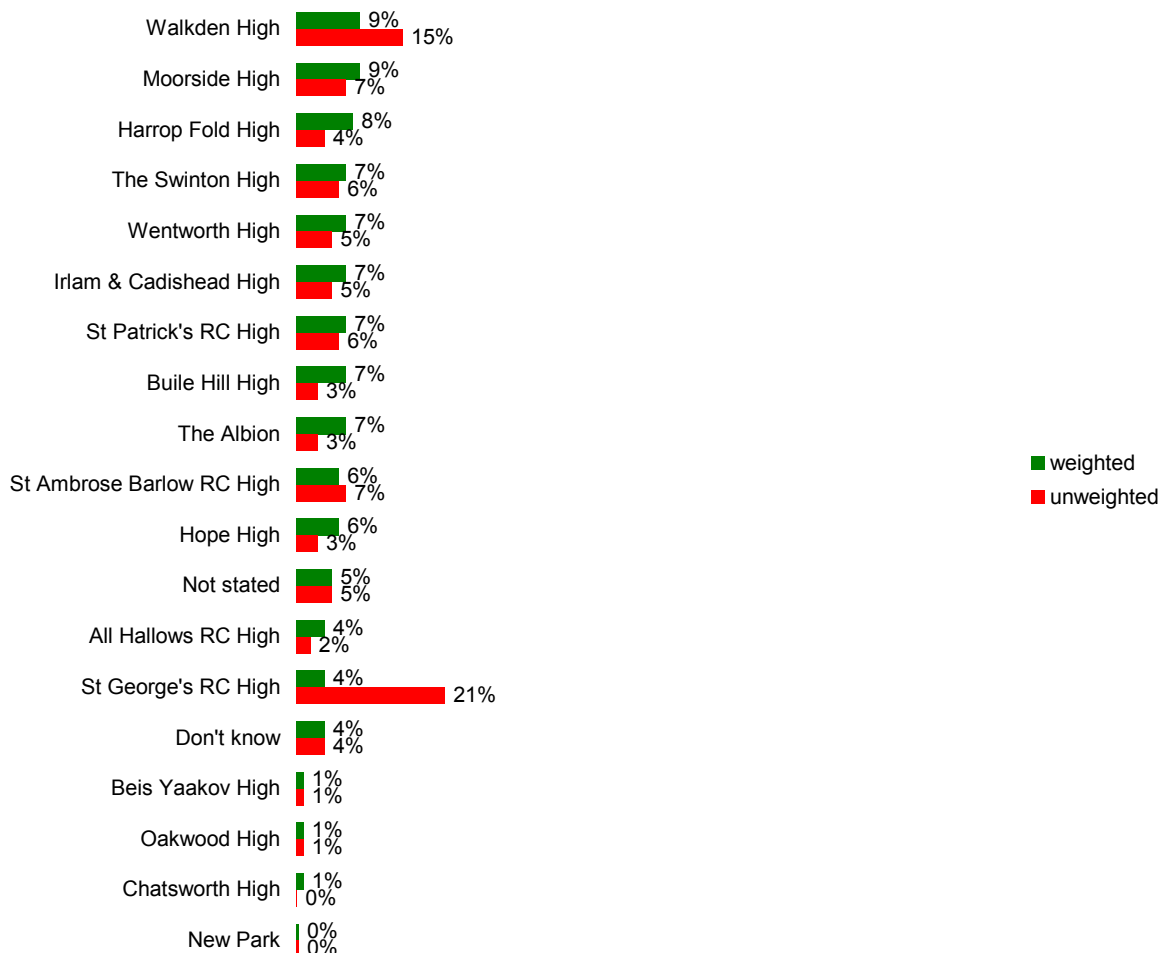
- be resident in Walkden South (14%), a neighbouring ward of Worsley, the location of St George’s RC High.

## 2.3 School of interest

To identify which school was relevant to the respondent and therefore which proposal was likely to be of most interest, pupils were asked which school they attended and parents were asked to state which secondary school within Salford their child/children currently attend or expect to attend in the future. Non-parents were asked to select the school which was nearest to where they live.

As stated in the introduction there was a proportionately greater interest from those with a direct or indirect interest in St George’s Roman Catholic school and to a lesser extent Walkden High. To address this bias, the data has been balanced to reflect the distribution of the school roll across all schools within the city. Although such weighting will not affect specific school based results, the overall results will be more representative.

Figure 2 : Current secondary school (Q5)  
Base : All respondents – 3,296



Nine out of ten respondents (90%) selected a school; these are referred to as interested parties.

## 2.4 Profile of Interested Parties per School

With the exception of St George's RC High, the overall majority of interested respondents are parents/carers of children aged under 16 years. Two fifths of St George's respondents are pupils who attend the school (44%).

Table 2 : Profile of interested parties  
Base : All identifying with a specific school - 2,976  
(weighted)

	ALL	Walkden High	Moorside High	The Swinton High	Wentworth High	Trilam & Cadishead High	All Hallows RC High	St George's RC High	St Ambrose Barlow RC High	St Patrick's RC High
Base	2,976 %	295 %	283 %	241 %	217 %	235 %	122 %	143 %	182 %	223 %
Pupil	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	44	*	*
Parent/carer of a child under 16 years	86	90	93	91	92	84	88	43	94	94
Like to see more services at local school	21	24	21	19	25	25	20	6	24	24
Interested generally in what happens	34	36	35	28	34	34	38	20	36	33
Employed in education	11	13	11	12	10	11	9	8	15	14
Governor	9	8	8	7	6	13	7	4	8	9
Live near a school	23	30	26	18	23	21	16	15	20	20
Not stated	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0

Whilst roundly one fifth of interested parties at all of the schools had responded because they would like to see more services provided at their local school this is not the case at St George's RC High where only 6% state this as the reason for their interest in the proposal.

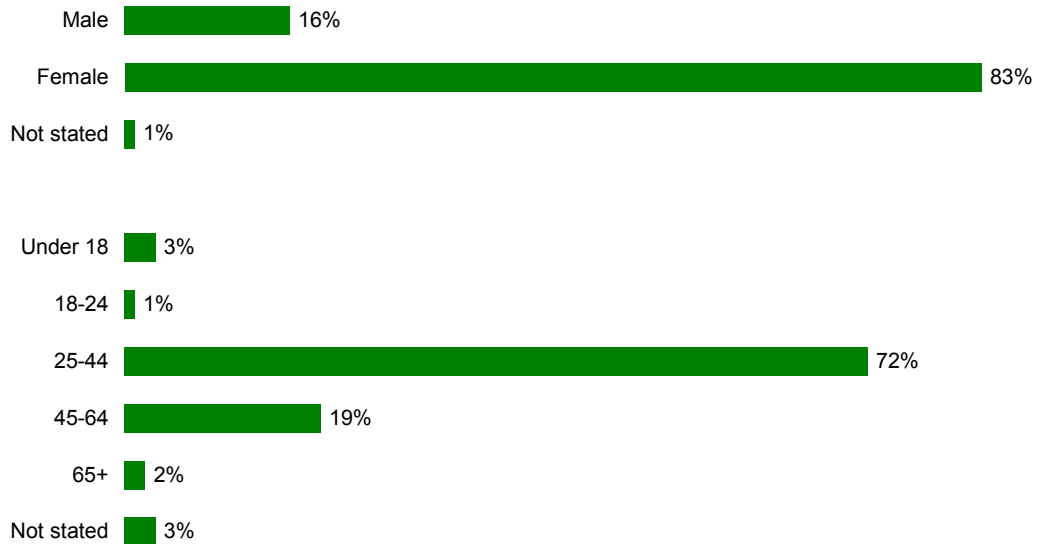
The figure above details the opinions to each proposal of those who have an interest in that particular school and therefore its specific proposal. That is, pupils or parents who have a child who attends or may attend the school in the future or those who live close to the school have had their opinion reported for that school.

## 2.5 Participant Profile

Reflecting the dominance of parents in the sample, three quarters of respondents (72%) are within the 25-44 year age bracket.

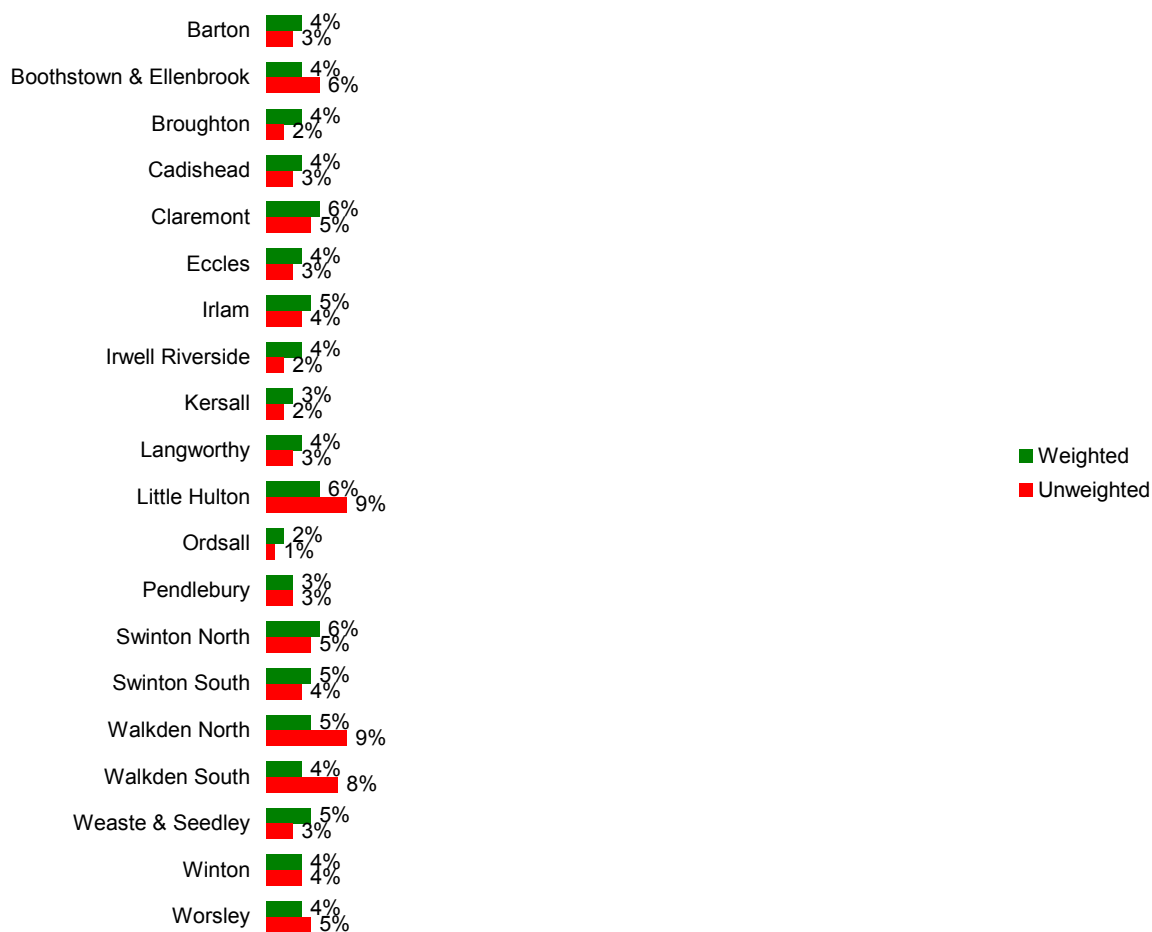
Women are far more likely to have responded than men (83% vs 16% males)

Figure 3 : Respondent demographics (Q11/Q12)  
Base : All respondents - 3,296



Based on home postcode, the weighted and unweighted ward distribution is presented in Figure 4.

Figure 4 : Ward distribution (Q13)  
Base : All respondents - 3,296

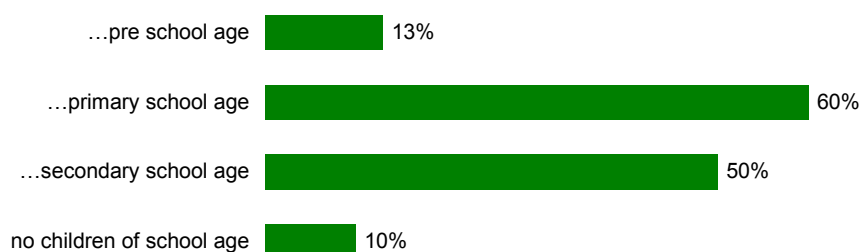


Once weighted, there is a relatively even spread of respondents across the wards within Salford.

## 2.6 Parent Profile

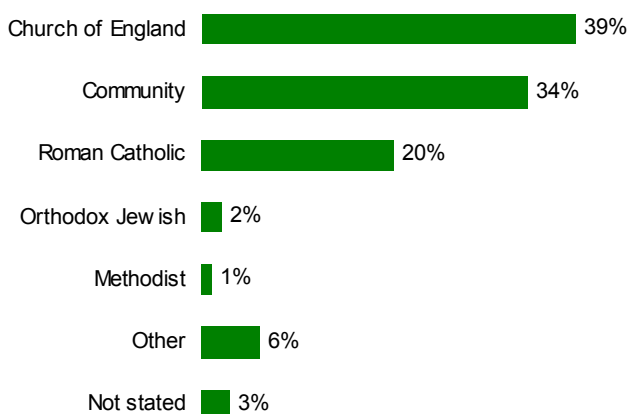
In total, 90% of participants are parents of pre-school or school age children.

Figure 5 : Are you a parent/carer of a child/children of... (Q2)  
Base : All respondents - 3,296 (weighted)



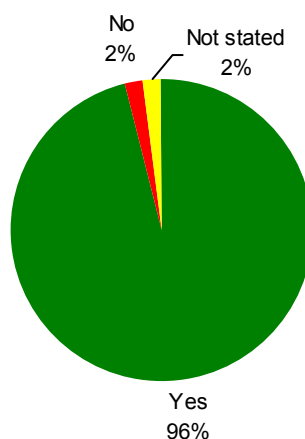
Roundly one-third of primary or secondary age children attend either a Church of England or Community school (39% and 34% respectively). One fifth attend a Roman Catholic school.

Figure 6 : Which type of school does/do your child/children attend (Q4)  
Base : All with primary/secondary children - 2,914 (weighted)



Almost all of the primary/secondary school children of respondents (96%) attend a school within Salford.

Figure 7 : Does your child attend a school on Salford? (Q3)  
 Base : All with primary/secondary children - 2,914 (weighted)



## 2.7 Summary

The reasons for participating in this exercise are that participants are :

- parents and prospective “school parents” 86%
- pupils 2%
- teachers and others employed in education 11%
- school governors 9%
- living near the schools 23%

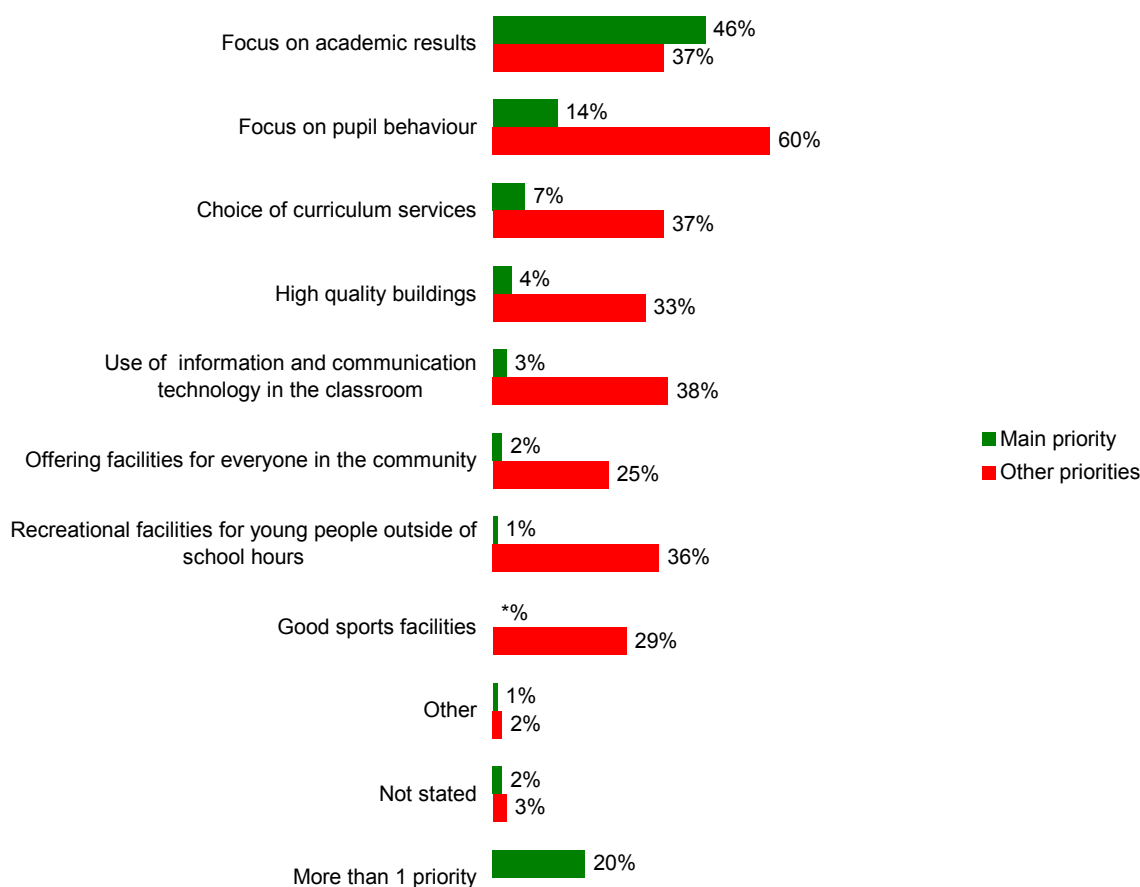
These classifications are not mutually exclusive.

## 3. The Context

### 3.1 Future Priorities for Schools

Respondents were asked to identify what the priorities should be for a 21<sup>st</sup> century school by selecting from a list what they consider to be the main priority and two other priorities. In total, 20% of respondents were unable to select a “no. 1 priority”: where this occurred their responses are collected under “other priorities”.

Figure 8 : Priorities (Q7/Q7b)  
Base : All respondents - 3,296



Half of respondents (46%) believe the main priority to be academic results, a further 14% believe the focus should be upon pupil behaviour.

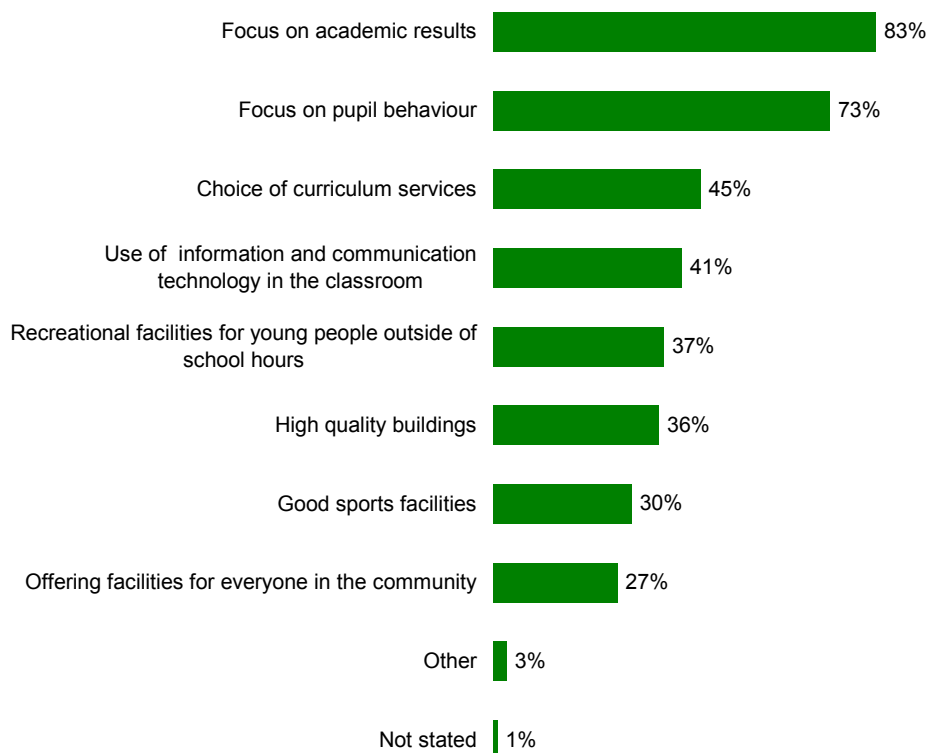
Those who do not have children of secondary school age are significantly more likely to place emphasis on academic results (50% say this should be the main priority vs 44% of those with a child at secondary school)

When analysed by school, mention of academic results as the main priority ranges from 57% of those with interest in Walkden High and 55% St Ambrose Barlow RC High to 23% at Beis Yaakov High (although small numbers) and 33% at The Albion and 34% at All Hallows RC High.

Focus on pupil behaviour is deemed the main priority for 42% of respondents with an interest in Beis Yaakov High (note this is 19 respondents) compared with 8% of those concerned with All Hallows RC High.

The figure below shows all mentions (the main priority and other priorities combined).

Figure 9 : Priorities - all mentions (Q7/Q7b)  
Base : All respondents - 3,296



As expected, the top priority is for:

- academic results (83%)

as well as

- focus on pupil behaviour (73%).

Roundly two-fifths of the sample believe that a choice of curriculum services and the use of ICT technology in the classroom should be a priority (45% and 41% respectively).

Roundly one-third of respondents made mention of:

- the use of recreational facilities for young people outside of school areas, particularly respondents living in the ward of Irwell Riverside (58%)
- high quality buildings (36%)
- good sports facilities (30%).

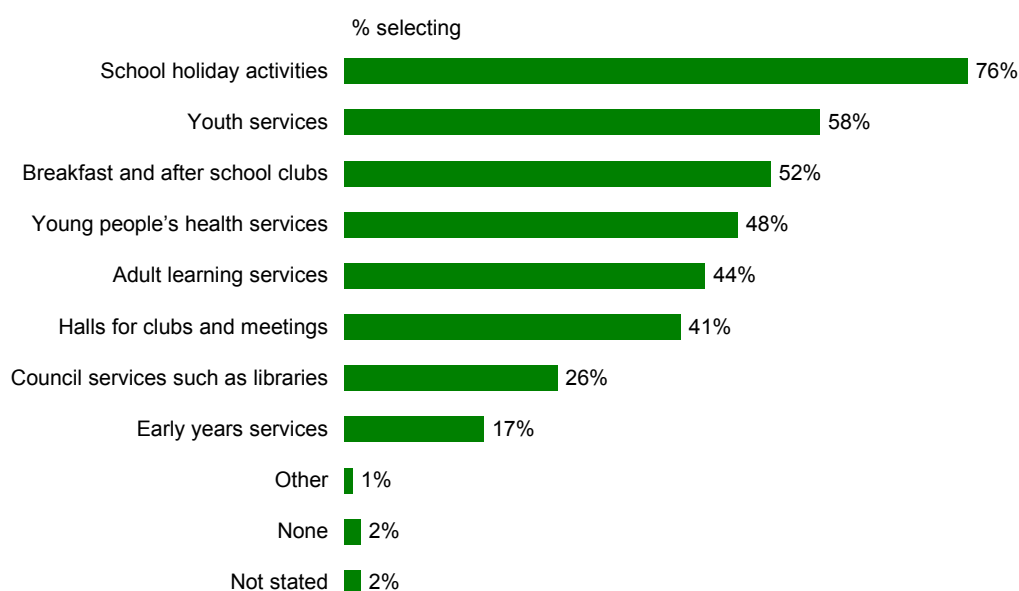
Just over one quarter of respondents (27%) made mention of facilities being made available to the wider community. There was highest support for this priority from respondents living in Irwell Riverside (40%)

### 3.2 Additional Services Schools Should Provide

Respondents were provided with a list of services and asked which if any they would like to see provided at secondary schools.

Figure 10 : Local services would like to see at secondary school (Q8)

Base : All respondents - 3,296 (weighted)



There is greatest support for services for young people, in particular:

- school holiday activities (76%)
- youth services (58%)
- breakfast and after school clubs (52%)
- young people's health services (48%).

Two fifths of respondents would like to see adult learning services provided in schools (44%) and school halls used for clubs and meetings (41%). Teachers and governors are more likely to lend their support to the provision of such services (58% and 56% respectively).

One quarter of respondents (26%) believe that schools could be used for Council services such as libraries. It should be noted that although a small base size, support for such a facility rises to 40% among those aged 65+.

When analysed at school level, the following differences are noted:

#### Early years services

- those with interest in The Albion are significantly more likely to state that they would like to see this service (30%) than the rest of the sample (17%)
- those resident in the neighbouring ward of Irwell Riverside support this view (28%).

#### Adult Learning Services

- those with interest in Irlam & Cadishead High are more likely to lend their support to adult learning services (68% compared to total 44%)
- not surprisingly, it is the outer lying wards of Irlam and Cadishead where residents are most likely to support this service (56% and 59% respectively).

#### School holiday activities

- those with significantly greater support for such a service tend to be respondents with an interest in Wentworth High and Chatsworth High (83% and 100% respectively). Although please note there is a small base (21 respondents) for Chatsworth High
- residents in the schools' neighbouring wards of Swinton South and Weaste & Seedley have expressed greater interest than the rest of the sample in this service (83% and 88% respectively) as do those resident in Irwell Riverside (89%).

#### Halls for clubs and meetings

- venues for clubs and meetings appears to be more in demand for respondents with an interest in Wentworth High (53%)
- residents in Boothstown & Ellenbrook are also more likely to express a need for this service (50%).

#### Young people's health services

- those with interest in Buile Hill High are significantly more likely than the rest of the sample to state that they would like to see such a service (59% vs 48% total)
- those residents in the South side of the city are also more likely than the total sample to want to see young people's health services being provided at secondary schools – Irlam (57%), Barton (60%), Weaste & Seedley (58%) and Winton (58%).

## Youth services

- almost three quarters of those with an interest in Wentworth High (72%) support the provision of youth services in schools, a significantly higher proportion than the rest of the sample (58%).

### 3.3 Present Performance

Respondents considered the school which they or their children either currently attend or may be attending in the future, or for non-parents their local school and state how well they perceive that school to perform against a number of aspects. Such aspects include the:

- quality of the buildings
- grades achieved
- quality of sports facilities
- range of subjects
- pupils' behaviour.

The full results by school are detailed on the table overleaf.

The schools which are perceived to perform significantly better than the average for all of the aspects listed above are:

- St George's RC School
- St Ambrose Barlow RC School
- St Patrick's RC School
- Oakwood High.

Other schools where results were either in line with or exceed the average, that is to say significantly more respondents perceive the school to perform well with respect to certain aspects include:

- The Swinton High, particularly with respect to quality of sports where a significantly greater proportion of respondents perceived the school to perform well (65% vs total 56%)
- All Hallows RC High, particularly with respect to quality of the buildings (significant at 64% vs total 50%)
- Beis Yaakov High, particularly with respect to quality of the buildings (significant at 90% vs total 50%) and grades achieved (significant at 90% vs total 67%). Please note this is a small sample of 45 respondents.
- Chatsworth High, particularly with respect to quality of the buildings (significant at 100% vs total 50%) and quality of sports facilities (significant at 86% vs total 56%). Please note this is a small sample of 21 respondents

Harrop Fold High and Hope High are schools where significantly fewer respondents perceive their school (the one they or their child attends or is hoping to attend or for non parents the school which is nearest to where they live) to perform well against almost all aspects. The exception is the range of subjects provided by Hope High where 61% perceive the school to perform well (in line with the total 68%).

It should be noted that Harrop Fold and Hope High are in two existing investment programmes. Harrop Fold is to be rebuilt and Hope High is to be replaced.

Table 3 : Opinion of school (Q6)  
Base : All selecting secondary school of interest - 2,976 (weighted)

	ALL	Walkden High	Moorside High	The Swinton High	Wentworth High	Irlam & Cadishead High	All Hallows RC High	St George's RC High	St Ambrose Barlow RC High	St Patrick's RC High	Buile Hill High	Harrop Fold High	Beis Yaakov High	The Albion	Hope High	Oakwood High	Chatsworth High	New Park
Base	2,976	295	283	241	217	235	122	143	182	223	232	259	45	223	200	42	21	12
	%perceive the school to perform very/fairly well																	
Range of subjects	68	78	62	69	60	67	70	93	85	81	65	43	81	59	61	89	71	50
Grades achieved	67	90	49	71	51	75	72	93	95	90	51	42	90	44	53	84	43	25
Quality of sports facilities	56	47	48	65	56	47	59	81	81	76	49	26	71	69	31	89	86	50
Pupil behaviour	52	66	39	52	36	46	58	92	87	73	38	31	90	26	37	89	71	25
Quality of the buildings	50	35	24	52	60	43	64	88	64	61	41	33	90	83	20	89	100	50

Green shading indicates that agreement that the school performs very/fairly well is significantly higher than the total sample.  
Red shading indicates that agreement that the school performs very/fairly well is significantly lower than the total sample

When perceptions are analysed by the type of respondent, the following differences are noted:

The quality of buildings

- Those with a professional interest (ie teachers or governors) are more likely to be negative about the quality of the buildings (35% perceive their school to perform poorly vs 28% of pupils and parents).

The grades achieved by pupils

- Those who are most likely to be negative about grades achieved by pupils include:
  - those from a professional background (17% perceive their school to perform poorly vs 13% of pupils and parents)
  - those who have no children at secondary (16% vs 11% of those with secondary age children)
  - those who are not parents (20% vs 13% of parents).

The quality of sports facilities

- Those with children aged under 16 years are more likely to be positive about the sports facilities than non-parents (56% perceive the school they have an interest in to perform well vs 50% of non-parents).

The range of subjects

- Those who are most likely to be positive about the range of subjects provided at the school in question are:
  - Parents and pupils (69% vs 64% of those with a professional interest).

It should be noted that there is no significant difference in opinion between those respondents who attended a roadshow and those who did not.

Perhaps not surprisingly, those who do not have children of secondary school age were more likely to state that they didn't know how the school performed against each of the aspects.

### 3.4 Summary

- the main priorities for local schools are that they should focus on :
  - academic results
  - pupil behaviour
- in terms of non-mainstream, or extra-curricular services, respondents place the highest value on schools offering :
  - school holiday activities (76% would like this)

then

- youth services (58%)
- breakfast and after school clubs (52%)
- young people's health services (48%)
- options involving people other than pupils are less welcomed e.g. :
  - early years services (17% would like this)
  - council library (26%)
  - hiring out halls (41%)
  - adult learning services (44%)
- with respect to current performance of local schools overall, the proportion seeing their "local school" performing very or fairly well is :
  - for offering a range of subjects (68%)
  - for grades achieved (67%)
  - for quality of sports facilities (56%)
  - for pupils behaviour (52%)
  - quality of buildings (50%).

## 4. The Proposals

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### 4.1 The Options

The proposals are summarised in the table below.

Table 4 : Summary of the proposals

SCHOOL	INVESTMENT PROPOSALS
Walkden High	Rebuild
Moorside High	Close and replace with a 1,500 place school
Swinton High	
Wentworth High	Refurbish
Irlam and Cadishead High	Refurbish
All Hallows RC High	Rebuild All Hallows on another site.
St George's RC High	Close St. George's RC school.
St Ambrose Barlow RC High	Refurbish and increase capacity at St. Ambrose to 900.
St Patrick's RC High	Refurbish St. Patrick's RC school.

## 4.2 Reactions to Proposals

The figure below shows that for each of the different interested parties that there is net agreement (the proportion of those agreeing is greater than those who disagree) with each of the proposals apart from the proposed change to St George's RC school where there is net disagreement (-72%).

There is least net agreement with the proposals to consolidate Swinton High (+17%) and Moorside High (+33%).

Figure 11 : Reaction to proposals (Q9)  
Don't know/no responses are not shown



When opinion is analysed by the type of person who responded, the following is noted.

Those who tend to be most positive about each of the proposals are:

- those with a professional interest in the proposals ie teachers and governors. The exception is St George's, where there is no difference.
- those who believe community resources and good facilities within schools and good quality buildings should be priorities for a 21<sup>st</sup> century school

- those who attended the roadshows. The exception is those with an interest in Wentworth High and Irlam & Cadishead High where there was no difference and St George's High, where attendees are also more likely to be negative about the proposals.
- those resident in the ward or neighbouring wards to where the school in question is situated. There are however some anomalies:
  - Moorside High has a significantly large number of residents in favour of the proposal in Boothstown & Ellenbrook
  - St Patrick's High has a significantly large number of residents in favour of the proposal in Cadishead
  - Those resident in the North West of the city tended to be the most negative about the proposal for St George's RC school, whilst there was a significantly greater proportion of respondents in Winton who were likely to agree with the proposal.

With the exception of St George's RC school, there is no difference in opinion to each of the proposals dependent upon the age of the child(ren) in the household. With the proposal for St George's however, those who only have children of pre-school age are likely to be more positive than others with an interest in the proposal (38% agree with the proposal vs 23%).

There is no difference between the attitudes of parents and non parents or males and females to each of the proposals.

A final question on the survey invited respondents to make any other comments relating to the consultation

The table overleaf details these comments by the school which most interests the respondent.

Table 5 : Any other comments (Q14)

Base : All - 3296

Base	ALL	Walkden High	Moorside High	The Swinton High	Wentworth High	Irlam & Cadishead High	All Hallows RC High	St George's RC High	St Ambrose Barlow RC High	St Patrick's RC High	Buile Hill High	Harrop Fold High	Beis Yaakov High	The Albion	Hope High	Oakwood High	Chatsworth High	New Park
	3296	295	283	241	217	235	122	143	182	223	232	259	45	223	200	42	21	12
Do not close or move school	8%	6%	6%	7%	6%	2%	8%	56%	8%	6%	2%	11%	3%	3%	5%	5%	-%	-%
Do not merge schools/too big	7%	7%	18%	16%	2%	2%	7%	4%	14%	4%	5%	5%	3%	5%	6%	-%	-%	-%
Standards of educations & academic standard needs improved/reorganised	7%	6%	6%	6%	11%	8%	5%	1%	6%	4%	5%	8%	6%	9%	6%	5%	-%	25%
Not enough/need more consultation/information on individual proposals/ information on special needs	6%	7%	16%	16%	3%	4%	4%	2%	5%	2%	2%	3%	-%	3%	7%	-%	-%	-%
General comment unrelated to proposals	4%	5%	5%	3%	6%	4%	4%	1%	5%	6%	4%	3%	10%	3%	4%	5%	-%	-%
Agree in general with proposals	4%	5%	6%	7%	5%	5%	1%	*%	4%	2%	2%	1%	6%	-%	8%	16%	-%	-%
If school no longer local – impact on travelling time & cost	4%	3%	4%	5%	1%	-%	7%	12%	4%	2%	3%	2%	-%	3%	17%	-%	-%	-%
Need to retain local Catholic HS	4%	4%	2%	2%	-%	1%	7%	21%	6%	3%	2%	3%	-%	3%	2%	-%	-%	-%
Disagree in general with proposals	3%	3%	5%	5%	2%	1%	4%	7%	4%	1%	1%	4%	3%	1%	5%	-%	-%	-%
Need more/better teaching staff	3%	1%	2%	4%	3%	5%	5%	*%	2%	2%	-%	4%	-%	7%	2%	-%	-%	-%
Proposals will have adverse effect on academic standards	3%	3%	2%	6%	4%	1%	1%	5%	4%	1%	2%	2%	-%	2%	3%	5%	-%	-%
Investment in wrong place	2%	1%	4%	1%	2%	2%	5%	2%	3%	1%	-%	3%	-%	3%	1%	-%	-%	-%
Would have liked school to be refurbished	2%	4%	1%	2%	1%	5%	3%	2%	2%	2%	-%	-%	-%	-%	4%	-%	-%	-%
New school needed/close school	1%	1%	3%	1%	1%	1%	-%	-%	1%	1%	2%	1%	-%	-%	-%	5%	-%	-%
No need for as much investment for religious minority schools	1%	1%	-%	-%	2%	-%	-%	-%	*%	-%	2%	-%	-%	2%	-%	-%	-%	-%

Red shading indicates that a significantly higher proportion of respondents have made such a comment

It can be seen from the table above, that respondents with an interest in Moorside High and The Swinton High are concerned with the proposed consolidation of the schools into one new building. Comments include:

- “do not merge schools/too big” (Moorside High 18%, The Swinton High 16%)
- “not enough consultation/need more information” (Moorside High and The Swinton High both 16%)

The results intimate that there is opposition to the consolidation of the four Roman Catholic schools into three, with one new school from those with an interest in St George’s and St Ambrose Barlow RC schools. Comments include:

- “Do not close or move school” (St George’s RC school 56%)
- “Need to retain local Catholic high school” (St George’s RC school 21%)
- “If school no longer local – impact on travelling time and cost” (St George’s RC school 12%)
- “Do not merge schools/too big” (St Ambrose Barlow RC school 14%).

### 4.3 Summary

- amongst the interested parties of the schools affected, the support for the proposals falls into four distinct groups :
  - there is **strong** support for the proposals at Walkden High (net agreement +84%), Irlam & Cadishead High (+84%), St Patrick’s RC High (+81%) and Wentworth High (+78%)
  - there is **support** for the proposals at St Ambrose (+50%), All Hallows RC High (+42%), Moorside High (+33%)
  - there is **doubt** at The Swinton High (+17%)
  - there is **opposition** at St George’s RC High (-72%).



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# Appendices

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Statistical Reliability and Presentation of Data  
Questionnaire

## A. Statistical Reliability and Presentation of Data

### A.1 Presentation and Interpretation of Data

Where percentages do not sum to 100, this may be due to computer rounding, the exclusion of “don’t know” categories, or multiple answers. Throughout this volume, an asterisk (\*) denotes any value of less than half a per cent, but greater than zero.

### A.2 Statistical Reliability

A sample of 3,296 rather than the entire population, has been involved in this consultation. However, the majority of the returns have come via the postal survey of parents. The results are therefore subject to sampling tolerances, which means that not all differences in findings are statistically significant. The respondents to the questionnaire are only samples of the total “population of parents”, so we cannot be certain that the figures obtained are exactly those we would have if all parents had responded (the “true” values). We can estimate the total de facto population of parents as 17,500 (see section 1.2) x 2 = 35,000. We can, however, predict the variation between the sample results and the “true” values from a knowledge of the size of the samples on which the results are based and the number of times that a particular answer is given. The confidence with which we can make this prediction is usually chosen to be 95% - that is, the chances are 95 in 100 that the “true” value will fall within a specified range. The table below illustrates the predicted ranges for different sample sizes and percentage results at the “95% confidence interval”, based on estimated survey population of 35,000.

Approximate sampling tolerances applicable to percentages at or near these levels			
	10% or 90%	30% or 70%	50%
<b>Interviews</b>			
100	5.9	9.0	9.8
300	3.4	5.2	5.6
400	2.9	4.5	4.9
500	2.6	4.0	4.4
1000	1.8	2.8	3.1
3,296	1.0	1.5	1.6

*Source: MORI North*

For example, with a sample of 3,296 where 30% give a particular answer, the chances are 19 in 20 that the “true” value (which would have been obtained if the whole population had been interviewed) will fall within the range of plus or minus 2 percentage points from the sample result.

When results are compared between separate groups within a sample, different results may be obtained. The difference may be “real”, or it may occur by chance (because not everyone in the population has been interviewed). To test if the difference is a real one – i.e. if it is “statistically significant”, we again have to know the size of the samples, the percentage giving a certain answer and the degree of confidence chosen. If we assume “95% confidence interval”, the differences between the two sample results must be greater than the values given in the table below:

<b>Differences required for significance at or near these percentage levels</b>			
	<b>10% or 90%</b>	<b>30% or 70%</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Size of the samples compared</b>			
100 and 100	8	13	14
100 and 200	7	11	12
100 and 300	7	10	11
100 and 400	7	10	11
100 and 500	7	10	11
500 and 500	4	6	6

*Source: MORI North*