

## Parentkind Curriculum Poll (June - October 2022) for Incorporated Society of Musicians and Edge Foundation

### Key findings

- Communication, problem-solving and critical thinking are the skills parents consider most important for schools to teach children to prepare them for the work place.
- 95% of parents agree – 81% strongly - that it is important for schools to teach pupils skills as well as knowledge/facts.
- 80% of parents feel it is very important for their child’s school to provide access to a full arts and technology curriculum (such as art, design, drama and music) up to and including GCSE level. 13% say it is somewhat important with 6% not important.
- 56% of parents say they have noticed arts subjects being treated differently from other subjects at their child’s school – this could mean arts and technology subjects being taught on a rotational basis in Y7-9; GCSE courses starting in Y9 instead of Y10 and/or a reduction of or limited arts and technology subjects offered at GCSE level. 31% of parents said they hadn’t noticed this whilst 13% of parents didn’t know if this was happening at their child’s school.
- 24% of parents attach some importance to accountability measures such as the EBacc and Progress 8 when choosing a school for their child. 24% of parents said these measures weren’t important at all whilst 22% said they weren’t so important in school selection. 26% of parents said they did not know what the EBacc is and 28% of parents weren’t familiar with Progress 8.
- Regarding chargeable extra-curricular activities such as instrumental lessons or drama trips, 10% of parents said their child hadn’t been able to take part in any of these activities due to cost and 17% said they hadn’t been able to take part in as many of these activities as they would have liked due to cost. For 29% of parents cost is an issue but their child has been able to take part in everything they wanted to whilst cost has not been an issue to their child participating in these activities for 33% of parents.

### Methodology

Parentkind’s Curriculum poll was carried out online between 8<sup>th</sup> June and 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022, with recruitment through social media and via partner organisations. 196 parents with children in secondary school responded, with children spread across all age groups (Figure 1). Just over half of children (54%) attend an academy, with 25% attending a maintained school (Figure 2).

**Figure 1. What school year(s) is/are your child / children currently in? [tick all that apply]**

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Y7	30.93%	60
2	Y8	20.10%	39
3	Y9	21.13%	41
4	Y10	22.68%	44
5	Y11	19.59%	38
6	Y12	7.22%	14
7	Y13	8.25%	16
		answered	194

Figure 2. What type of secondary school does your child / children attend? [tick all that apply]

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Academy		53.57%	105
2	Maintained school		25.00%	49
3	Independent school		8.16%	16
4	Free school		5.61%	11
5	Don't know		6.12%	12
6	Other		5.61%	11
			answered	196

## Results






Figure 3. Which of the following skills do you think it is most important for schools to teach children to prepare them for the work place? [pick up to three]

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
3	Communication		59.69%	117
8	Problem-solving		42.35%	83
5	Critical thinking		40.31%	79
4	Creativity		29.08%	57
6	Independence		27.55%	54
7	Initiative		25.51%	50
2	Collaboration		22.45%	44
1	Adaptability		18.37%	36
9	Questioning mindset		15.82%	31
10	Other		6.12%	12
			answered	196




Figure 4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: 'It is important for schools to teach pupils skills (such as those in the previous question) as well as knowledge/facts?'

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		81.12%	159
2	Somewhat agree		14.29%	28
3	Neither agree nor disagree		1.53%	3
4	Somewhat disagree		1.02%	2
5	Strongly disagree		1.53%	3
6	Don't know		0.51%	1
			answered	196








**Figure 5. How important is it that your child’s school provides access to a full arts and technology curriculum (e.g. music, drama, art, design) up to and including GCSE level?**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Very important		80.10%	157
2	Somewhat important		12.76%	25
3	Not so important		5.10%	10
4	Not at all important		1.02%	2
5	Don't know		1.02%	2
			answered	196







**Figure 6. Have you noticed arts subjects being treated differently from other subjects at your children’s school(s)? (e.g. arts and technology subjects being taught on a rotational basis in Y7-9; GCSE courses starting in Y9 instead of Y10; reduction of or limited arts and technology subjects offered at GCSE level)**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		56.12%	110
2	No		30.61%	60
3	Don't know		13.27%	26
			answered	196

**Figure 7. How important were accountability measures such as the EBacc and Progress 8 when choosing a school for your child(ren)?**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Very important		3.57%	7
2	Somewhat important		20.92%	41
3	Not so important		21.94%	43
4	Not at all important		24.49%	48
5	Don't know		2.04%	4
6	I do not know what EBacc is		26.02%	51
7	I do not know what Progress 8 is		27.55%	54
			answered	196

**Figure 8. To what extent, if at all, is cost a barrier to your child(ren) accessing extra-curricular activities where there is a charge, such as instrumental lessons or drama trips?**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	They haven't been able to take part in any of these activities due to cost		9.69%	19
2	They haven't been able to take part in as many of these activities as they would have liked due to cost		17.35%	34
3	The cost is an issue but they have been able to take part in everything they wanted to		29.08%	57
4	Cost has not been an issue to them participating in these activities		32.65%	64
5	Not applicable		9.18%	18
6	Don't know/prefer not to say		2.04%	4
			answered	196