

YouGov Survey of Labour Party members

Sample size: 803

Fieldwork: March 2-6, 2006

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At present, local education authorities have the power to open new local primary and secondary schools where they feel they are needed. In future, do you think...?

All new primary and secondary schools should be set up and run by outside, independent organisations, such as education trusts	5
Most new schools should be run by outside organisations, but the Secretary of State for Education should have the power to allow local education authorities to set up some new schools	25
Local education authorities should continue to have the power to open new local schools, without the Secretary of State being able to veto their plans	60
Don't know	9

Thinking about the possible expansion of popular schools, which of these statements comes closer to your view?

Popular schools should have the freedom to expand, so that more parents are able to send their children to their first choice school	31
Local authorities should manage the expansion of successful schools, to ensure the efficient use of the authorities' resources and to prevent damage being done to surrounding schools	64
Don't know	5

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

As external sponsors make a financial contribution to setting up Trust schools, it is reasonable that they have some influence over what children are taught there.

Agree strongly	2
Tend to agree	14
Tend to disagree	22
Disagree strongly	58
Don't know	2

All trust schools should be accountable to local communities via a majority of elected representatives on the governing body.

Agree strongly	40
Tend to agree	44
Tend to disagree	9
Disagree strongly	2
Don't know	4

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It should be a requirement that all parent governors on a Trust school governing body should be elected by parents of children at the school.	
Agree strongly	43
Tend to agree	37
Tend to disagree	10
Disagree strongly	3
Don't know	6
Thinking about policy on admissions to secondary schools, which do you think should have the highest priority?	
Fair access, so that children from all backgrounds have an equal chance of going to good schools	72
Maximum choice, so that the largest possible number of parents are able to send their children to their first-choice school	13
A diverse range of provision so that there is a wide range of different types of school within a local area	11
Don't know	4
At present, existing grammar schools in England (though not in the rest of the UK) are allowed to select by academic ability. Which of these statements comes closest to your view?	
Selection by academic ability should be banned by law at all state schools, including grammar schools, in England	51
Existing grammar schools should be allowed to remain, but no other schools should be allowed to select by academic ability	16
The Government should encourage the establishment of more grammar schools, selecting by academic ability	14
Decisions about whether to open, close or keep grammar schools should be made by the local education authority, consulting with local parents, not by central government.	15
Don't know	5
<i>(To those who want selection by academic ability banned)</i> Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?	
I would like to ban selection in all existing grammar schools but other priorities for improving school standards are more urgent.	
Agree strongly	30
Tend to agree	49
Tend to disagree	14
Disagree strongly	7
Don't know	1
<i>(To all)</i> Which of these options do you prefer regarding the rules for admissions to state secondary schools?	
The fair allocation of parental preferences for schools should be managed by Local Authorities within an agreed Code of Practice for Admissions	56
Schools should decide who to admit, subject to a fair set of criteria under a Code of Practice to make sure that children from all backgrounds have an equal chance of admission	36
Schools should be completely free to choose who to admit	4
Don't know	4