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Ymateb gan: Parentkind

Response from: Parentkind

Welsh Parliament's Children, Young People and Education Committee's inquiry into routes into post-16 education and training



Submission of written evidence from
Parentkind, January 2025

Parentkind

Parentkind is one of the largest federated charities in the UK, with almost 70 years of experience working with Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs). Alongside our work with schools, we are the voice of parents. We regularly survey parents and use this research to advocate for change.

Our National Parent Survey is Britain's largest annual parent poll, and each year it asks parents about their views on a wide range of important policy issues.

In the National Parent Survey 2023¹, a survey of 5,126 parents in the UK, 768 of whom live in Wales, Parentkind asked parents with a child/young person in secondary or post-16 education about the extent to which their school or college:

- **Explores a broad range of career possibilities**
- **Gives guidance on what skills/qualifications are needed to pursue different career options**
- **Gives support to prepare for future job applications (e.g. CV preparation, interview preparation, etc.)**
- **Gives support to prepare for university/college applications (e.g. support with application forms etc.)**
- **Provides access to useful/relevant work experience.**

This submission outlines the findings that were gathered.

¹The National Parent Survey was conducted online by YouGov. The fieldwork took place 5th to 26th June 2023 amongst 5,126 parents in England (3,067), Scotland (1,032), Wales (768) and Northern Ireland (259) who have at least one child aged 4 to 18 in school. The UK figures have been weighted and are representative of all UK parents aged 18+.

Less than half of Welsh parents believe school helps their child to explore a range of career possibilities.

Only 39% of parents in Wales with a young person in secondary or post-16 education agree that their child’s school/college helps them to explore a broad range of career possibilities (see Table 1).

The support of schools in helping their students to explore careers is significantly lower in Wales than in other parts of the UK. 46% of parents in England, 49% of parents in Scotland and 53% of parent in Northern Ireland said that their child’s school/college helps them to explore a broad range of career possibilities.

Parents in Wales whose young person is in post 16 education are more likely to agree that their child’s college helps them to them to explore a broad range of career possibilities (44%), than parents whose young person is in secondary (36%).

Table 1

Thinking specifically about how your child’s school helps them explore their future beyond school, to what extent do you agree or disagree that their school explores a broad range of career possibilities?

	Wales secondary + post-16	Wales secondary	Wales post-16	England	Scotland	NI	UK
Unweighted base	511	344	167	1952	571	158	3192
Base: All parents whose child is in secondary / FE	154	102	52	2726	228	88	3196
Strongly agree	9%	8%	12%	12%	12%	16%	12%
Tend to agree	29%	28%	32%	34%	37%	37%	34%
Neither agree nor disagree	27%	28%	26%	25%	25%	21%	25%
Tend to disagree	15%	14%	17%	12%	12%	10%	12%
Strongly disagree	6%	6%	7%	5%	4%	5%	5%
Don’t know	13%	17%	6%	12%	10%	11%	12%
Net: Agree	39%	36%	44%	46%	49%	53%	46%
Net: Disagree	21%	20%	24%	16%	16%	15%	17%

Less than half of Welsh parents say their child’s school gives guidance on what skills are needed to pursue different career options.

41% of parents in Wales said their young person’s school or college gives guidance on what skills and qualifications are needed to pursue different career options. This is significantly lower than parents in England (47%), Scotland (56%) and Northern Ireland (56%) (Table 2).

Parents in Wales whose young person is in post 16 education are more likely to say their school/college gives guidance on the skills and qualifications needed (58%) than parents whose young person is in secondary (33%).

Table 2

Thinking specifically about how your child’s school helps them explore their future beyond school, to what extent do you agree or disagree that their school gives guidance on what skills/qualifications are needed to pursue different career options?

	Wales secondary + post-16	Wales secondary	Wales post-16	England	Scotland	NI	UK
Unweighted base	511	344	167	1952	571	158	3192
Base: All parents whose child is in secondary / FE	154	102	52	2726	228	88	3196
Strongly agree	9%	6%	14%	12%	11%	16%	12%
Tend to agree	32%	27%	44%	35%	45%	41%	36%
Neither agree nor disagree	26%	30%	18%	23%	20%	18%	23%
Tend to disagree	12%	11%	13%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Strongly disagree	7%	7%	5%	5%	5%	4%	5%
Don’t know	14%	19%	6%	13%	8%	10%	13%
Net: Agree	41%	33%	58%	47%	56%	56%	48%
Net: Disagree	19%	18%	19%	17%	16%	15%	17%

Only a third of parents of secondary/post-16 aged children say their school gives support for future job applications.

33% of secondary/post-16 school parents in Wales say that their young person’s school or college gives CV and interview preparation support for future job applications (Table 3). This is significantly lower than in other nations of the UK, with parents in England (40%), Scotland (42%) and Northern Ireland (52%) saying their child receives this type of support.

Children in a post-16 setting are more likely to receive support in preparing to apply for jobs. 45% of parents in Wales whose young person is in a post 16 setting agree they provide this support, compared with 26% of parents whose young person is under 16.

Table 3

Thinking specifically about how your child’s school helps them explore their future beyond school, to what extent do you agree or disagree that their school gives support to prepare for future job applications (e.g. CV preparation, interview prep etc.)?

	Wales secondary + post-16	Wales secondary	Wales post-16	England	Scotland	NI	UK
Unweighted base	511	344	167	1952	571	158	3192
Base: All parents whose child is in secondary / FE	154	102	52	2726	228	88	3196
Strongly agree	9%	7%	12%	11%	10%	14%	11%
Tend to agree	24%	20%	33%	29%	32%	38%	29%
Neither agree nor disagree	24%	25%	23%	23%	24%	20%	23%
Tend to disagree	16%	16%	16%	13%	10%	8%	13%
Strongly disagree	7%	7%	8%	6%	6%	5%	6%
Don't know	20%	26%	9%	18%	19%	16%	18%
Net: Agree	33%	26%	45%	40%	42%	52%	40%
Net: Disagree	23%	23%	23%	19%	16%	13%	19%

Less than half of parents of secondary aged children say their child is given support with university or college applications by their school.

42% of secondary/post-16 school parents in Wales say that their young person’s school or college gives support to prepare for university or college applications. This was lower than any other part of the UK, with 47% of parents in England, 50% of parents in Scotland and 62% of parents in Northern Ireland saying the same (Table 4).

There is a significant difference between the support young people in secondary school receive for university/college applications, compared to the support received by young people in post-16 education. Almost two thirds (64%) of parents in Wales whose young person is in a post 16 setting say their child’s school provides this support, compared with less than a third (30%) of parents whose young person has not yet completed their GCSEs or equivalent.

Table 4

Thinking specifically about how your child’s school helps them explore their future beyond school, to what extent do you agree or disagree that their school gives support to prepare for university/college applications (e.g. support with application forms etc.)?

	Wales secondary + post-16	Wales secondary	Wales post-16	England	Scotland	NI	UK
Unweighted base	511	344	167	1952	571	158	3192
Base: All parents whose child is in secondary / FE	154	102	52	2726	228	88	3196
Strongly agree	14%	9%	23%	16%	13%	18%	16%
Tend to agree	28%	21%	41%	31%	37%	44%	32%
Neither agree nor disagree	24%	29%	14%	21%	24%	12%	21%
Tend to disagree	10%	9%	11%	9%	6%	3%	9%
Strongly disagree	6%	6%	6%	4%	4%	7%	5%
Don't know	19%	26%	5%	18%	16%	15%	18%
Net: Agree	42%	30%	64%	47%	50%	62%	47%
Net: Disagree	16%	15%	16%	14%	10%	10%	14%

Only just over a quarter of parents of secondary/post-16 aged children say their school/college provides access to appropriate work experience.

28% of parents with a young person in secondary or post 16 education in Wales say that their child’s school/college provides access to useful or relevant work experience. This is significantly lower than in other parts of the UK (England 37%, Scotland 40% and Northern Ireland 43%) (Table 5).

Less than a third (32%) of parents in Wales with a young person in post-16 education and only a quarter (25%) with a young person in secondary school said that they have access to useful or relevant work experience.

Table 5

Thinking specifically about how your child’s school helps them explore their future beyond school, to what extent do you agree or disagree that their school provides access to useful/relevant work experience?

	Wales secondary + post-16	Wales secondary	Wales post-16	England	Scotland	NI	UK
Unweighted base	511	344	167	1952	571	158	3192
Base: All parents whose child is in secondary / FE	154	102	52	2726	228	88	3196
Strongly agree	5%	5%	7%	10%	9%	15%	10%
Tend to agree	22%	21%	25%	27%	30%	29%	27%
Neither agree nor disagree	26%	25%	28%	23%	27%	16%	23%
Tend to disagree	15%	14%	15%	14%	12%	13%	14%
Strongly disagree	14%	11%	19%	9%	7%	7%	9%
Don't know	18%	25%	6%	17%	14%	21%	17%
Net: Agree	28%	25%	32%	37%	40%	43%	37%
Net: Disagree	28%	25%	34%	23%	19%	20%	23%