

A PICTURE OF SMALL SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND

Small schools* are at the heart of our local and rural communities. As one of the groups hit hardest by budget cuts, for many small schools, the future remains uncertain. We asked our members in small primary schools what the specific challenges are for them and how they are coping with the funding crisis.

42%

CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF CLOSURE



WHAT DOES THE FUTURE LOOK LIKE FOR SMALL SCHOOLS?

More than four in ten respondents (42%) are concerned or very concerned about the possibility of closure of their school.

A lack of funding was cited as the primary cause for this (84%), followed by low or fluctuating pupil numbers (73%).

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE A TEACHER IN A SMALL SCHOOL?

Typically, small schools employ fewer than four full-time equivalent teachers in their school (65%). Most teachers in small schools lead three or more subjects (69%).



WHAT ARE SMALL SCHOOLS DOING TO BALANCE THEIR BUDGETS?

School leaders are doing the following:

- Reducing investment in equipment (70%)
- Cutting down the number or the hours of teaching assistants (67%)
- Decreasing investment in CPD (63%)
- Cutting back on building maintenance budget (60%).



WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE A SCHOOL LEADER IN A SMALL SCHOOL?

Senior leadership teams (SLT) tend to be quite small. Less than half of all respondents had a deputy or assistant head teacher in their school (46%).



HOW MUCH FUNDING DO SMALL SCHOOLS RECEIVE?



Less than half of respondents receive additional (sparsity) funding through the national funding formula (41%).

Of those that do receive additional funding, the majority said this is not enough to provide reasonable budget stability (84%).

*We identified small schools as having fewer than 150 pupils on roll. According to this definition, there are 3,475 small schools in England. These statistics represent the experiences of school leaders in small primary schools only.

For more information, visit naht.org.uk/smallschools