

## Representativeness and methodology

### Methodology

The findings of this research are informed by an annual self-selecting online survey. This is the twelfth consecutive year that NGA has conducted this school and trust governance survey. It is the largest of its kind, open to all those governing, and provides an extensive overview of the governance of state funded schools in England. While not all respondents answered every question, this survey provides a detailed insight on the demographic, views and experience of England's largest volunteer forces.

The survey was open to all governors, trustees and academy committee members between 25 April 2022 and 30 May 2022 via the online survey website SmartSurvey. In total, 4,185 respondents engaged with the survey.

We are grateful to our partners, including local authorities and local governance associations that distributed the survey through their own networks. The survey is completely anonymous to encourage individuals to share their thoughts and opinions freely. While the survey obtains many responses, it is still a relatively small sample of the total school governance population and relies on self-reported data from self-selecting participants. However, there are markers which indicate that the distribution of respondents and their school setting broadly matches the national picture by school phase, type, structure, and region. Any significant variations are reported in the findings.

### Representativeness

The survey was disseminated predominantly through NGA's channels. Respondents do not need to be members of NGA, but 87% are. However, the views and experiences of those who are and those who are not NGA members remain similar on most issues.

Survey respondents from different school structures are very closely in line with the proportion of local authority maintained schools in England and academies within single or multi academy trusts.

State funded schools in England    Survey respondents

	Nationally	Survey respondents
1 Academy	53%	38%
2 to 5 academies	27%	21%
6 to 10 academies	12%	21%
11 to 20 academies	7%	12%
21 to 30 academies	1%	3%
31 plus academies	1%	3%

Figure 2 shows trust sizes nationally compared to annual survey respondents.

Figure 3 shows respondents to the survey have a mostly proportional distribution across different phases. However, those governing in nursery and secondary settings are overrepresented and a slightly lower proportion of respondents are in primary settings.

3%

0 Tc 0 Tw E0 Tc

Yorkshire and Humber	10%	9%
----------------------	-----	----

*Figure 4 shows the percentage of schools*