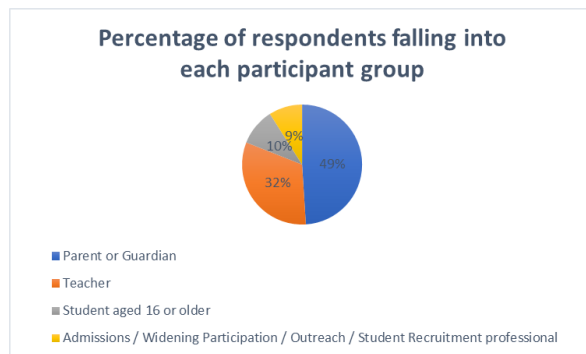


Technical Note: Rapid Response Survey on the impact of school closure

Our survey on the impact of school closure went live on the 28th of March 2020 and we downloaded the data for analysis after 23 days on the 20th of April 2020. Parents / guardians, teachers, admissions and outreach professionals and young people aged 16-18 were eligible to participate in the survey. The research had ethical approval from the University of Exeter and participation was voluntary. The survey was promoted through social media and professional networks of the research team.

As a result of the dissemination method, **we cannot claim that our survey is representative** of the respondent groups. Participants self-selected to participate and many chose to participate as a result of being approached through our networks. This is different from a population random probability sample where there is confidence that the findings are broadly representative of the respondent groups.

Survey responses are time-stamped. 700 responses were registered within the first 48 hours of the survey going live. In total, 2219 responses were received of which almost half were parents or guardians.



We note the following main skews in the data, where our participants differ most from the general population:

- An over-representation of female respondents (e.g. 81 % of the teachers and 92% of parents / guardians)
- An over-representation from the South-West (34% of teachers and 51% of parents responded from Exeter, Taunton, Torquay, Bath, Truro and Bristol)
- An over-representation of highly educated parents: 79 percent had a postgraduate (37%), undergraduate (31%) or other professional qualification (11%).
- An over-representation of secondary school teachers in the teacher survey
- An over-representation of Russell Group staff in the admissions and outreach staff survey (34%)
- A geographic focus on England (e.g. 97% of admissions and outreach staff were from England)
- An over-representation of Key Stage 5 students, primarily in Year 13, studying A-levels

While we are not claiming that our findings are representative of the wider populations of the groups we sampled, they provide a snapshot into the experience of key groups during the initial phase of school closure, including both short- and potential long-term impacts on attitudes, behaviours and wellbeing. In particular, the survey offers detailed accounts of the lived experiences of a large sample of teachers, parents and students, through a range of open-ended questions. In this way, the survey provides a chance to go 'behind the statistics', and generates a range of useful insights into important avenues for further rapid research, and practical action. For instance, the survey of admissions and outreach professionals suggests a variety of rapid responses for supporting transitions into higher education.

We are now in the process of following up with research participants who have opted in to participate in further research to obtain a more qualitative overview of the experience of the school closure.

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