BRITISH TEACHERS SAY THEY WORK LONGER HOURS THAN TEACHERS IN ALMOST ANY OTHER COUNTRY POLLED, FINDS NEW GLOBAL SURVEY

KEY FINDINGS – UK:

> British teachers surveyed say they are working longer hours per week (50.9) than anywhere else surveyed in the world apart from New Zealand, Singapore and Chile. When the public were polled, they estimated the number of hours teachers work at 45.9 hours a week, almost a whole school day less per week than teachers say they are working, but this is still higher than the public estimate in all other countries surveyed apart from Japan (48.6), New Zealand (48.3) and Uganda (46.2).

> Teacher status has risen in the UK relative to other countries polled since the survey was last conducted in 2013. In 2013 it ranked at number 10 out of 21 countries surveyed then, and of those 21 countries the UK now ranks 7th, leapfrogging countries such as the US (which has remained in 9th place out of the 21 countries surveyed in both 2013 and 2018) and the Netherlands (8th of 21 in 2013 but 16th of 21 in 2018).
The UK ranks 13th in the GTSI out of 35 countries surveyed in 2018. It is the second highest European country of all those polled just behind Greece, which ranked 12. By contrast, China was the highest ranked country and Brazil the lowest.

Teachers earn around £5,000 less than the British public think. While respondents on average estimated that the salary of a starting secondary school teacher is around £29,000, it is actually much lower – around £24,000 (converted from USD adjusted for purchasing power parity). The British public do not believe this is fair. On average, respondents thought a fair wage for a starting secondary school teacher would be almost £31,500. Teachers’ pay has stagnated with barely any change over the last five years. Today, the starting salary for a British secondary school teacher is lower than in all the other major EU economies. In Germany, for example, it is £50,000 (adjusted for PPP and converted from USD) and in Spain it is £36,000 (adjusted for PPP and converted from USD).

Fewer British parents would encourage their child to become a teacher now (23%) than in 2013, when 26% said they would definitely or probably encourage them. The UK is one of only 8 countries polled in both 2013 and 2018 in which fewer people would encourage their children to become teachers now than 5 years ago, alongside Japan, New Zealand, Egypt, Singapore, Turkey, Greece, and Korea.
Around a quarter of UK respondents (26%) said the most comparable profession to teachers are social workers, while a further 26% said nurses. This puts the UK in line with the majority of countries surveyed – 18 of which said teachers were most similar to social workers. By comparison, only three countries – China, Russia and Malaysia – said teachers were most like doctors. Only 3% of British people surveyed said teachers are most similar to doctors. The UK’s view on which profession is most comparable to teachers has not changed since 2013.

Support for performance related pay for teachers in the UK has fallen massively. In 2013 almost three-quarters (74%) agreed with the notion that teachers should be rewarded in pay according to their pupils’ results compared to only around a third (34%) now. Support in the UK is the tenth lowest of all the countries surveyed. By stark contrast, 79% of people in Egypt support performance related pay, more than in any other country surveyed.
Faith in the British education system has increased over the last five years, with respondents rating it 6.5 out of 10 on average compared with 6.1 when the survey was last conducted in 2013. UK respondents have a higher opinion of their country’s education system than those in all the major EU economies, on average rating it 6.5 out of 10. This places the UK 12th of all the countries polled, tallying neatly with the British public’s GTSI ranking of 13. By contrast, Finland topped the rankings when it came to rating their education system (8.06) while Egypt came last 3.8.

Eighty-four percent of British people instinctively see teachers as caring, the fifth highest of all the countries surveyed after Finland (89%), Canada (86%), China (86%), the Netherlands (85%) and New Zealand (85%).

The British public are far more likely to think pupils disrespect their teachers than respect them. Only a quarter (26%) of British people think pupils respect their teachers, while 46% do not. However, the proportion who think that pupils respect teachers is still higher than all the other major EU economies including Germany where just 22% believe pupils respect teachers. Twenty countries rank ahead of the UK including first-placed China where 81% of respondents believe pupils respect their teachers. A slightly.
UK GTSI STATISTICS

AROUND A QUARTER OF UK RESPONDENTS (26%) SAID THE MOST COMPARABLE PROFESSION TO TEACHERS ARE SOCIAL WORKERS, WHILE A FURTHER 26% SAID NURSES.

higher proportion of British people think pupils respect their teachers in 2018 than in 2013 (25%).

> When asked to rank 14 professions including doctors, nurses, librarians and social workers in order of respect, British people ranked secondary school teachers and primary school teachers higher than respondents in any other major European economy. However the highest rank for secondary and primary school teachers of any country polled was China.

> When asked to rank 14 professions including doctors, nurses, librarians and social workers in order of respect, UK respondents ranked headteachers higher than any other European country except Finland and the Czech Republic. Overall the UK came ninth out of 35 countries polled for headteacher respect, with Malaysia coming first and Brazil last.

> Teachers in the UK think that they are less respected than the British public do. When only polling teachers, the UK status score falls from 46.6 out of 100 to 40 out of 100. This makes the UK one of only 13 countries in which teachers saw their status as being lower than the general public do.
> Despite holding teachers in higher regard than most other countries, less than a quarter (23%) of British people would encourage their child to become a teacher. This is the 9th lowest of all the countries surveyed, just ahead of Germany (20%) but behind Panama (23%). This contrasts sharply with India, where over half (54%) of people would encourage their child to become a teacher, more than any other country surveyed, and with China where 50% would encourage their child. However, it is considerably more than in Russia, where only 6% of people would encourage their child to become a teacher – the least of all the countries polled.