



# the National Parent Forum of Scotland

Strike survey results

January 2023

# Overview

Teacher unions in Scotland called for industrial action, which took place in November 2022 in a dispute over teacher's pay.

Additional strike dates were announced in December 2022 which will impact both primary and secondary schools in Scotland.

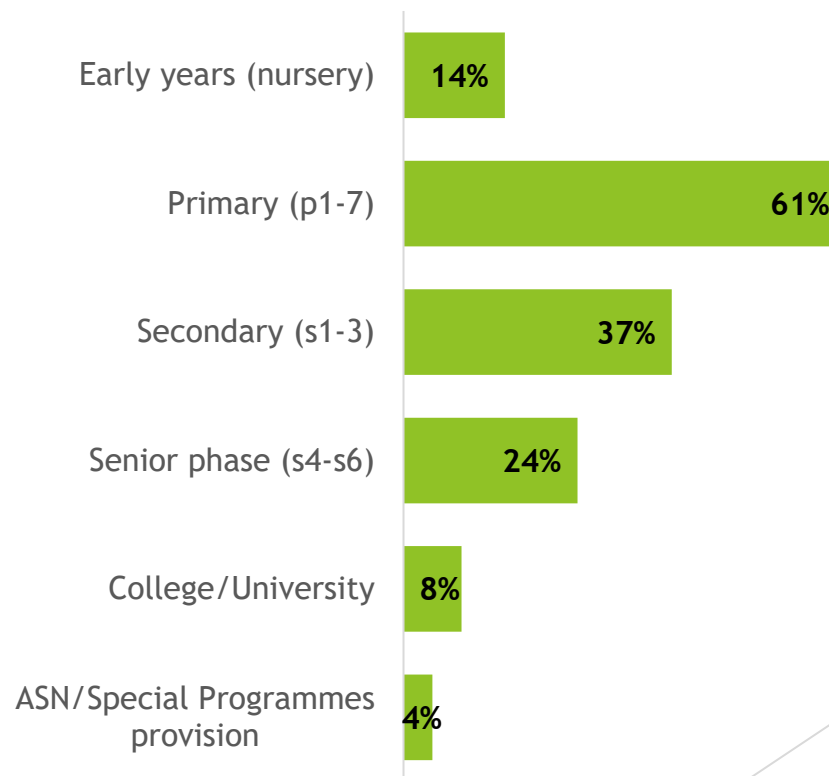
As a result, the National Parent Forum Scotland invited parents and carers across Scotland to share their views on the impending strikes through an online survey.

# Survey Responses

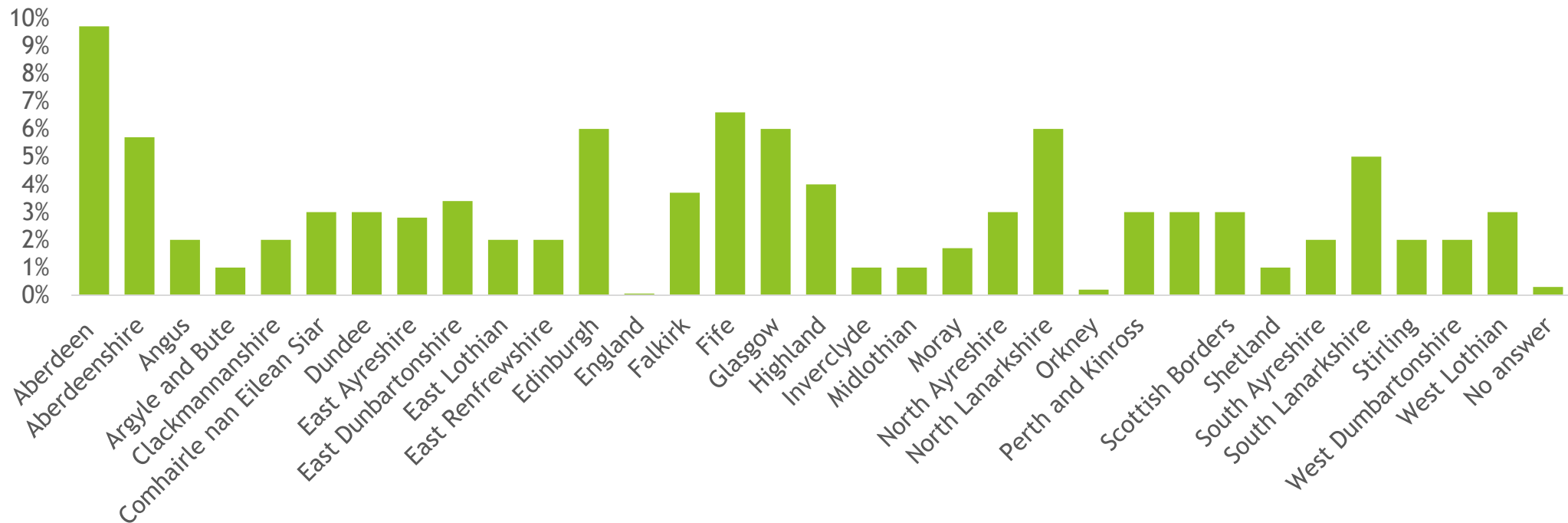
**1789** responses were received

- 87% said they **did** support strike action
- Of those who had supported strike action in November, **87%** were still supportive.
- **12%** **did not** support strike action

## Education settings of respondent's children



# Responses received from local authority areas



## Support for strike action

Parents and carers were critical of the Scottish government and felt that they greatly undervalued teachers. Concerns were raised about the quality of education children and young people would receive if teachers did not get a pay rise.

- *“Do we really want demoralised teachers teaching our children? I want students of the highest calibre training to be teachers and tbh I don't think the current pay and conditions will attract the brightest and best.”*
- *“A few days of strike action are much less inconvenient than losing wonderful skilled teachers that can't afford to continue teaching.”*

## Support for strike action

Parents and carers felt that the pay and working conditions did not reflect the work that teachers do.

- *“No concerns! Support teachers 100%! They deserve the pay rise for all of their hard work they do! They are heroes!”*
- *“Teachers are now providing more pastoral and family supports than simply educating our children and as such their pay should reflect the all-encompassing role and demands of the post-Covid teacher in Scotland.”*

## Support for strike action

Parents and carers were concerned about the manner in which teachers on strike have been portrayed by the media and government.

- *“Groups and the media bias towards teachers and others that strike and trying to vilify them. Pay workers a fair wage and they would not need to strike.”*
- *“Do not let the government divide and conquer the workforce. Pay a fair payrise and the strikes will stop.”*

## Concerns about strike action

Parents and carers were mainly concerned about the days of school missed especially for children/young people with additional support needs or who were approaching exams.

- *“Lack of childcare facilities leads to unpaid days off older children missing school with exams approaching”*
- *“I feel that children and young people’s education has already suffered due to two lockdowns and lack of funding to support those with ASN.”*



## Concerns about strike action

Concerns were raised about the disruption to routines, lack of childcare available, loss in earnings and disruption to education post-covid.

- *“...my children lost their father this year and this has already affected their attendance. That alongside COVID lockdowns their mental health has been affected and so has their anxiety and return to school. They rely on structure and routine and these strikes do not help! ”*

## Concerns about strike action

- Some parents/carers felt that a 10% pay rise was unrealistic.
- There were also concerns that they money would be taken from education services that are already underfunded.

“A 10% increases at this difficult times is not a idle solution as even private sector no one has increase at this rate. I would support if there was plan to increase as one off in this difficult times until such time inflation comes down.”