

# National Parent Forum Scotland

Strike survey results  
February 2023

# Overview

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

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

Subsequently, it was announced that 16 days of additional strikes would take place across January and February. NPFS wanted to find out if views had changed and therefore parents were once again asked for their thoughts.

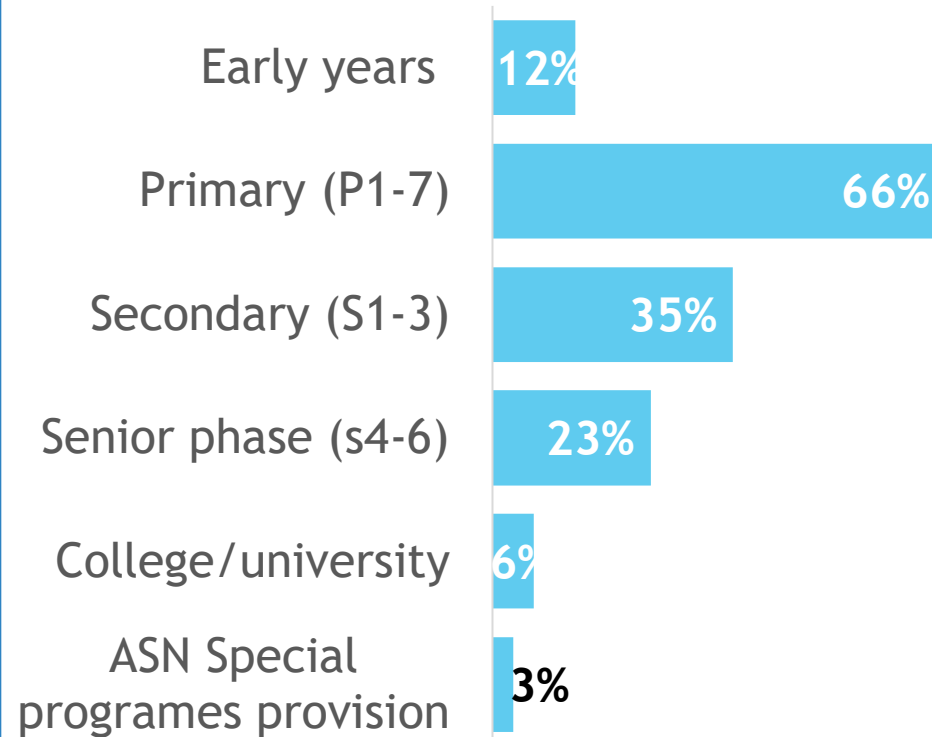
# Survey Responses

## Headlines

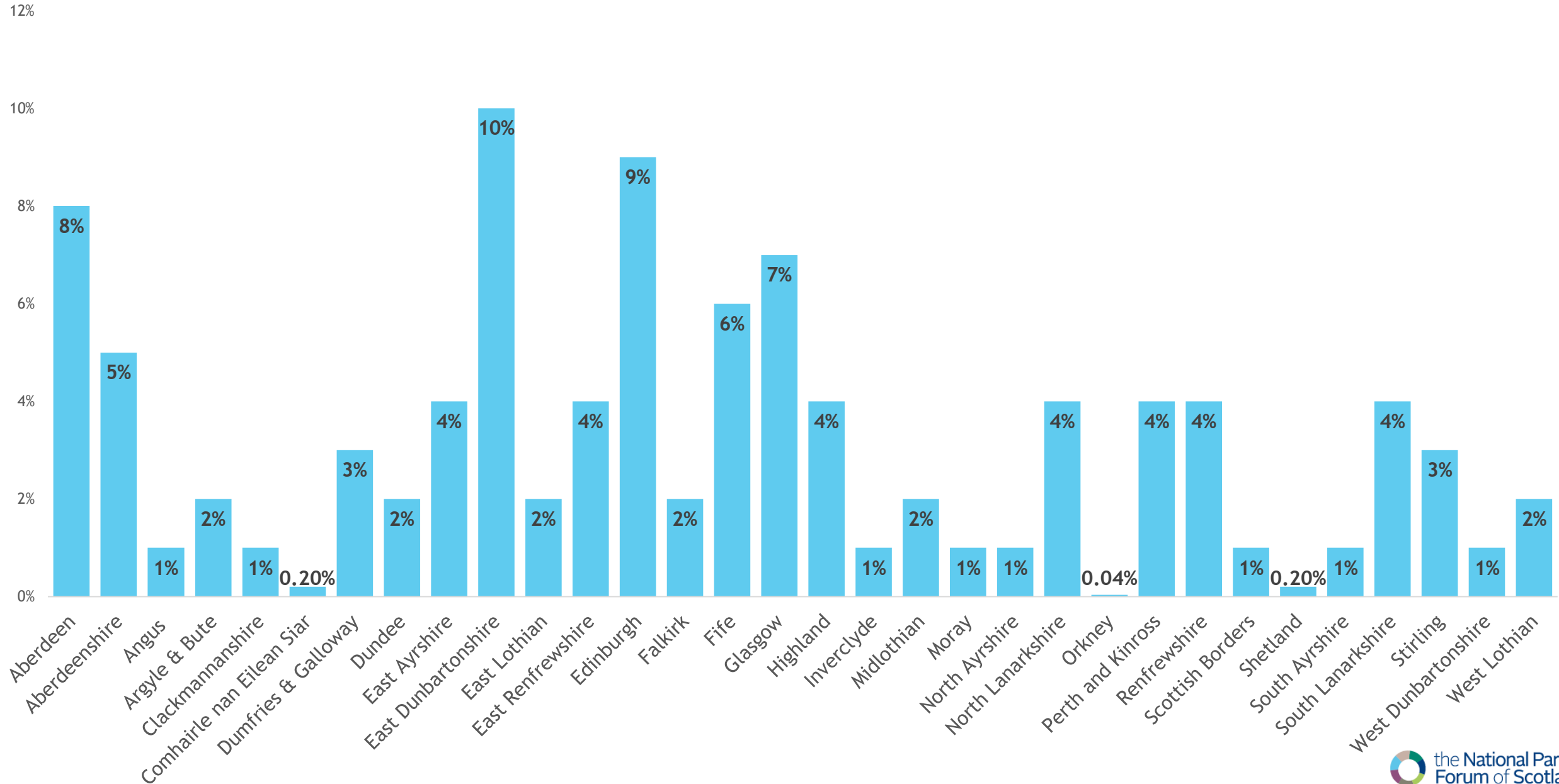
**6,953** responses received

- **67%** said they **did** support strike action
- This is a **20% decrease** since parents/carers were last asked in January
- Of those who had supported strike action in November, **62% were still supportive.**
- **32% did not** support strike action
- Targeted strikes, the cost/availability in childcare, and disruption to education appear to have influenced levels of support

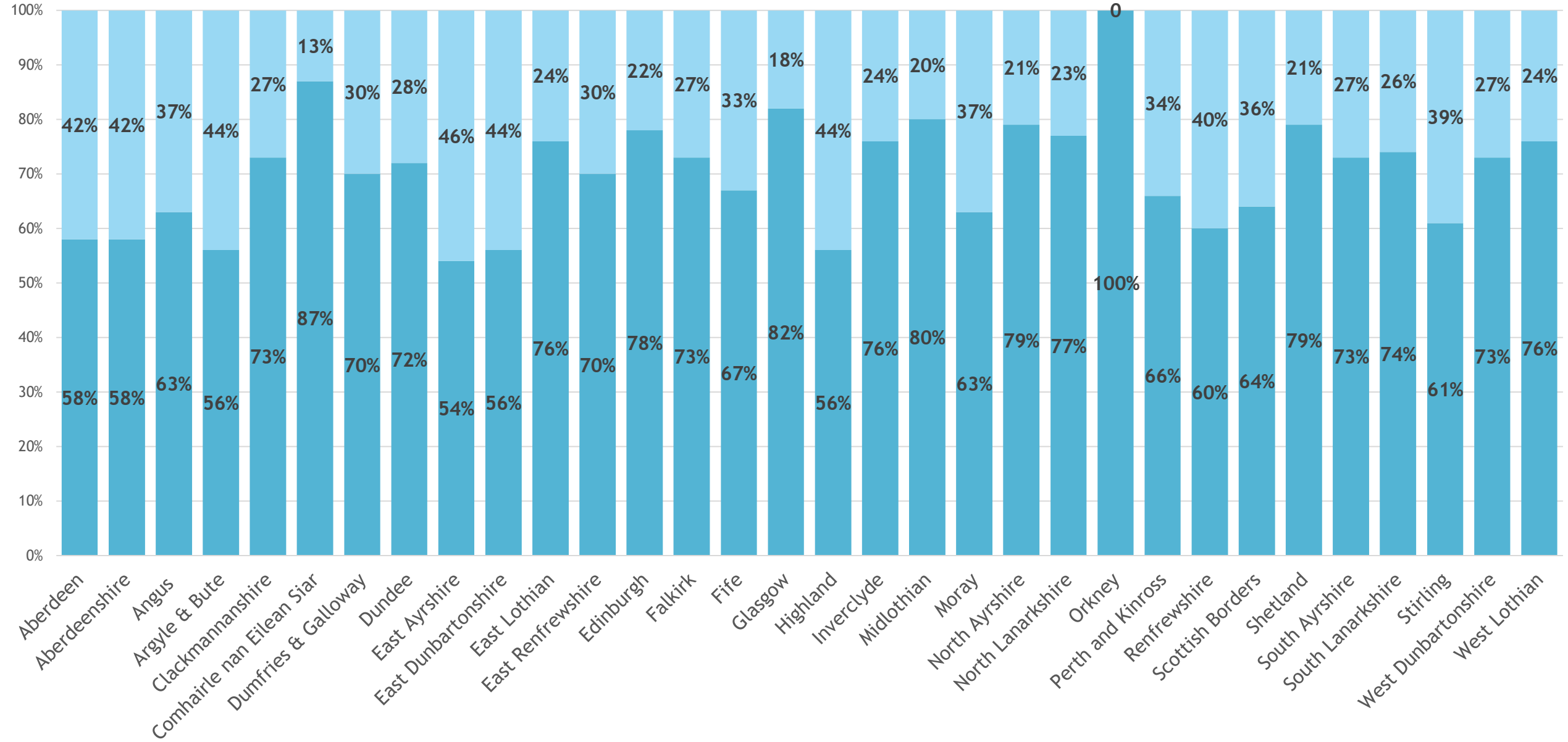
## Education settings of respondents' children



# Responses received from local authority areas

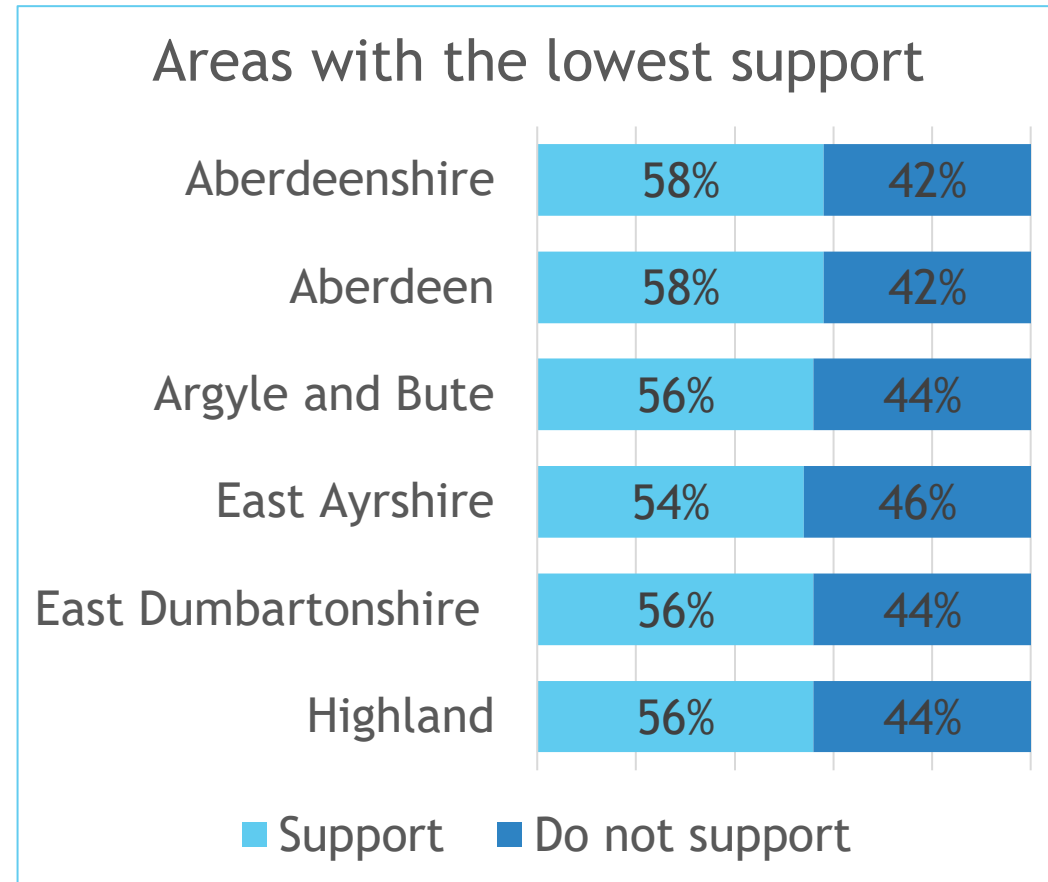
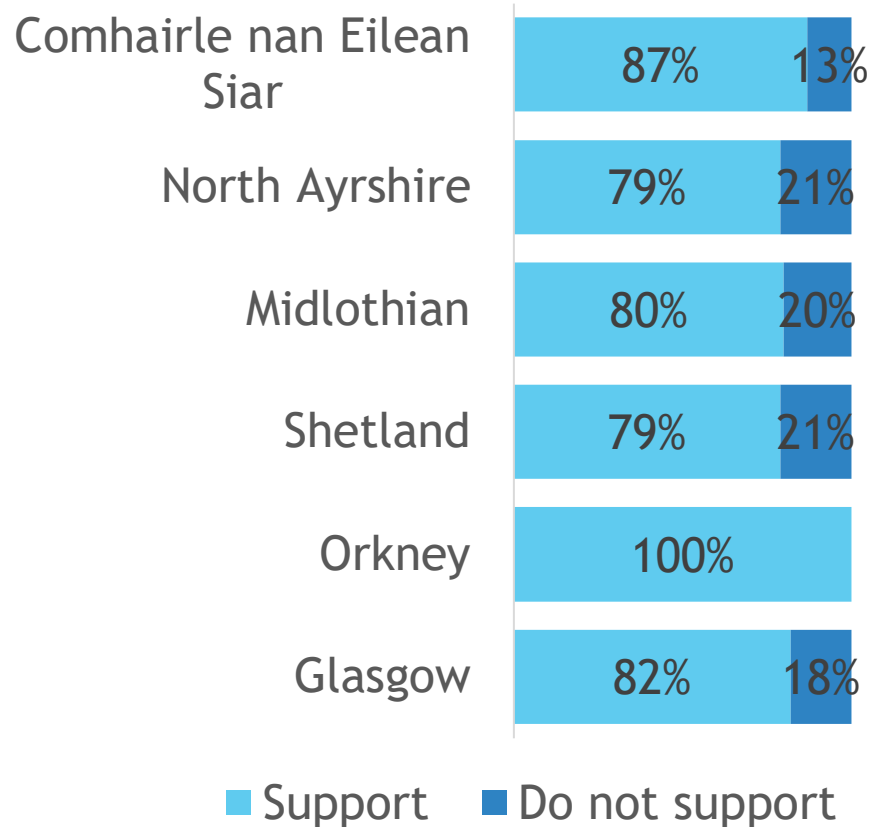


# Comparison of local authority areas



■ Support ■ Do not support

# Snapshot comparison of local areas



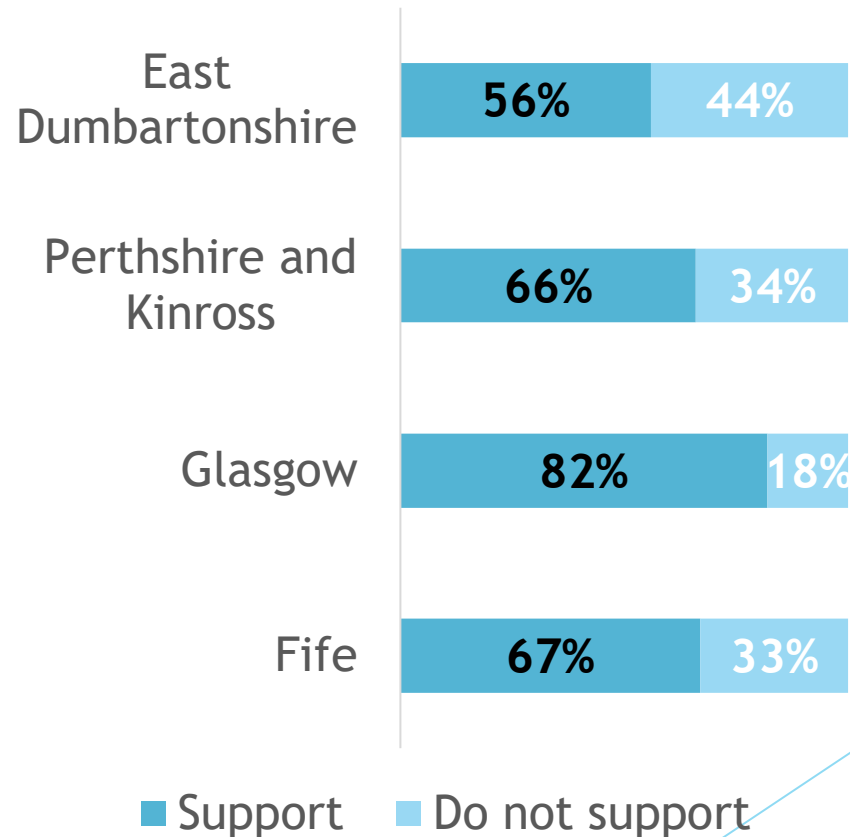
Please note - the number of responses from Shetland, Orkney and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar were significantly lower than the average number of responses

# Targeted areas

- In general, parents/carers did not agree with targeted strikes
- Concerns were raised regarding individuals who were already vulnerable being further impacted
- Parents/carers were concerned about the impact on exams and felt that those in targeted areas were going to be disadvantaged.

*“I support the right for anyone to strike and I think teachers should receive a pay rise. However the current strikes targeting specific constituencies is misguided, discriminatory and morally reprehensible.”*

## Targeted areas for strike action



# Reasons behind the decline in support for strike action

- 49% of parents/carers were concerned about ongoing education recovery
- Concerns were raised about the days of school missed especially for children/young people with who are approaching exams and those with additional support needs (ASN).
- Parents/carers highlighted the disruption to their routine and the consequences for their children especially those with ASN.
- It was felt by some that the needs of teachers were being placed before the needs of children and young people.

*“It concerns me how much the children...are missing before their exams. We’re talking about their future, not teachers!!”*



- For those who were initially supportive, it was felt that the latest offer was fair, and concerns were raised about the impact of a pay increase on education.

*“At first I was in support of the industrial action. However, given the pay rise and change of conditions offered and subsequently refused by teachers I now do not support them. Given the economic situation of the country at the moment I think their pay offer was very fair and much more than has been offered to other professions of the same calibre”*

*“I do not want the additional funds required to come out of the existing educational budget as the children will then be worse off in the long run”*

- As the number of strikes continue to increase, parents/carers are finding it harder to cover childcare.
- **27%** of parents/carers stated they had concerns regarding affordability and availability of childcare.

*“I work full time and I don’t know how much longer my employer will allow me to continue doing what I can on strike days before I start loosing Income.”*

*“I almost lost my job as a result of strike action. I’m a single parent and the only household wage coming in. I know others who have had to take unpaid leave, leaving their families struggling.”*

# Support for strike action

- Although there appears to have been a decline in support, **the majority of parents/carers remain supportive** of strike action
- Parents/carers were unhappy with the way the situation has been dealt with by Scottish Government and COSLA and the length of time it is taking to resolve.

*“Whatever inconveniences there are for children and parents, they could easily be remedied by the government by offering an appropriate pay rise for teachers in line with inflation.”*

“This has gone on too long and I am extremely angry at the Scottish Government for allowing this to drag on and impact on pupils”

# Support for strike action

- Many of the responses were reflective of those who responded to the first survey:
  - parents and carers felt that the pay and working conditions did not reflect the work that teachers do
  - concerns were raised regarding the standard of education children would receive if teachers did not receive a satisfactory offer

*“Want my children to have a quality education. Need to pay for quality. Solidarity with the teachers”*

*“Fully support the strikes. It's not just about pay but conditions too. Failing to pay our teachers what they're worth will ultimately have a much bigger impact on our children's education than a couple of strike days.”*