



# Headline Findings

## Grammar Schools Poll

April 2015



## METHODOLOGY

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### Methodology Note

ComRes interviewed 2,048 British adults aged 18+ online between 17th and 19th April 2015. Data were weighted to be representative of all GB adults aged 18+. ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules.

## Results

### Support for Grammar Schools

Half (51%) of British adults support allowing new grammar schools to open while just one in ten (10%) oppose it.

Conservative voters are most likely to support the opening of new grammar schools (64%), while six in ten Liberal Democrats and UKIP supporters also give their backing (60% each) but less than half (44%) of Labour voters do.

*Q. To what extent, if at all, do you support or oppose allowing new grammar schools to open?*

Statement	%
Support	51%
Oppose	10%
Strongly support	25%
Tend to support	26%
Neither support nor oppose	28%
Tend to oppose	5%
Strongly oppose	5%
Don't know	12%

*(Base: 2,048 British adults)*

Similarly around half of Britons support the creation of new grammar schools in their local area (49%) and areas of England that do not currently have any Grammar Schools (54%).

*Q. To what extent, if at all, do you support or oppose the creation of new Grammar Schools in each of the following...*

Statement	Areas of England that do not currently have any Grammar Schools	My local area
<b>Support</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>11%</b>
Strongly support	27%	24%
Tend to support	27%	24%
Neither support nor oppose	25%	28%
Tend to oppose	4%	6%
Strongly oppose	5%	5%
Don't know	12%	11%

*(Base: 2,048 British adults)*

### **Social mobility**

While half (48%) of British adults think Grammar Schools are good for social mobility, giving the less privileged a chance to succeed, just one in five (18%) think they are bad for social mobility because they mainly help those who are privileged already.

Around two thirds of Conservatives (64%) believe Grammar Schools to be good for social mobility compared to just two in five (41%) Labour voters.

*Q. Which of the following best reflects your view about Grammar schools?*

Statement	%
Grammar schools are good for social mobility – giving the less privileged a chance to succeed	48%
Grammar schools are bad for social mobility – they mainly help those who are privileged already	13%
Grammar schools are neither good nor bad for social mobility	18%
Don't know	21%

*(Base: 2,048 British adults)*

### **The ban**

Labour is seen the party most commonly seen to be responsible for banning the building of new Grammar Schools (38%), however, two in five (43%) say they don't know.

Half of Conservatives (53%) blame Labour, while a third (34%) of Labour supporters think it is their party.

*Q. Which party do you think is responsible for banning the building of new Grammar Schools?*

Statement	%
Conservatives	15%
Labour	38%
Liberal Democrats	4%
Don't know	43%

*(Base: 2,048 British adults)*

Around half (52%) of Britons believe the ban on opening new Grammar Schools in areas that do not have any reduces the choice of schools for parents. Around two in three Conservatives (63%), Liberal Democrats (65%) and UKIP voters (62%) also believe this.

While one in five (20%) agree that Grammar Schools do not provide a fair choice for parents, more than twice as many (44%) disagree.

Three quarters (74%) of Conservative voters believe Grammar Schools help to drive up education standards, as do 58% of the general public.

*Q. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the current ban on opening new grammar schools in areas that do not have any?*

Statement	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
The ban reduces the choice of schools parents have for their children	52%	17%	30%
Grammar schools do not provide a fair choice for parents	20%	44%	37%
Grammar schools help to drive up education standards	58%	13%	29%

*(Base: 2,048 British adults)*

Ed Miliband is viewed as being the leader most likely to abolish the remaining 164 Grammar Schools if he was in power with 39% choosing the Labour leader, far ahead of the other leaders.

Two thirds of Conservatives (62%) and a quarter of Labour (27%) voters think Mr Miliband is most likely to do so.

*Q. Which of the following party leaders, if any, do you think is most likely to abolish the remaining 164 Grammar schools if they were in power?*

Statement	%
David Cameron	8%
Ed Miliband	39%
Nick Clegg	5%
Nigel Farage	7%
Neither	7%
Don't know	34%

*(Base: 2,048 British adults)*



Twice as many British adults say they are more likely to support vote for a party that promises to bring back grammar schools than say they are less likely to do so (20% and 10% respectively). However, most (55%) say they would be no more or less likely.

A promise on grammar schools is more likely to put Labour voters off (16%) than any other party. However, it has the potential to attract around a quarter of Conservatives and Liberal Democrats (26% and 27%) and 29% of UKIP voters.

*Q. Would a promise to bring back grammar schools, and allow academic selection, make you more or less likely to vote for a political party at the coming General Election?*

Statement	%
More likely	20%
Less likely	10%
No more or less likely	55%
Don't know	14%

*(Base: 2,048 British adults)*

## FURTHER INFORMATION

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