



Headline Findings

Grammar Schools Poll

April 2015



METHODOLOGY

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
Support	54%	49%
Oppose	9%	11%
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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