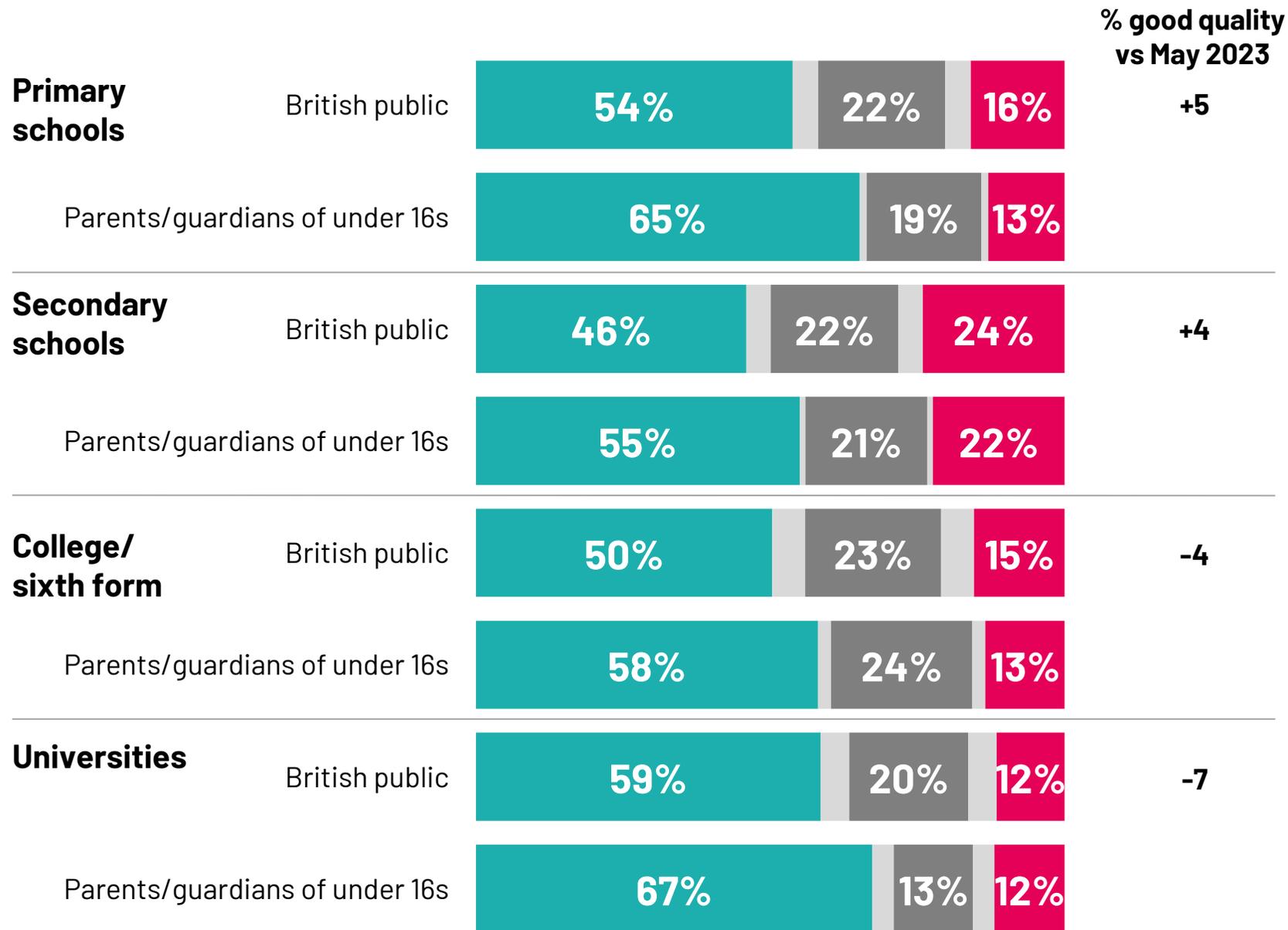


Ipsos Education and SEND polling

February 2026

Between half and two thirds of parents of under 16s are satisfied with the quality of education in Britain

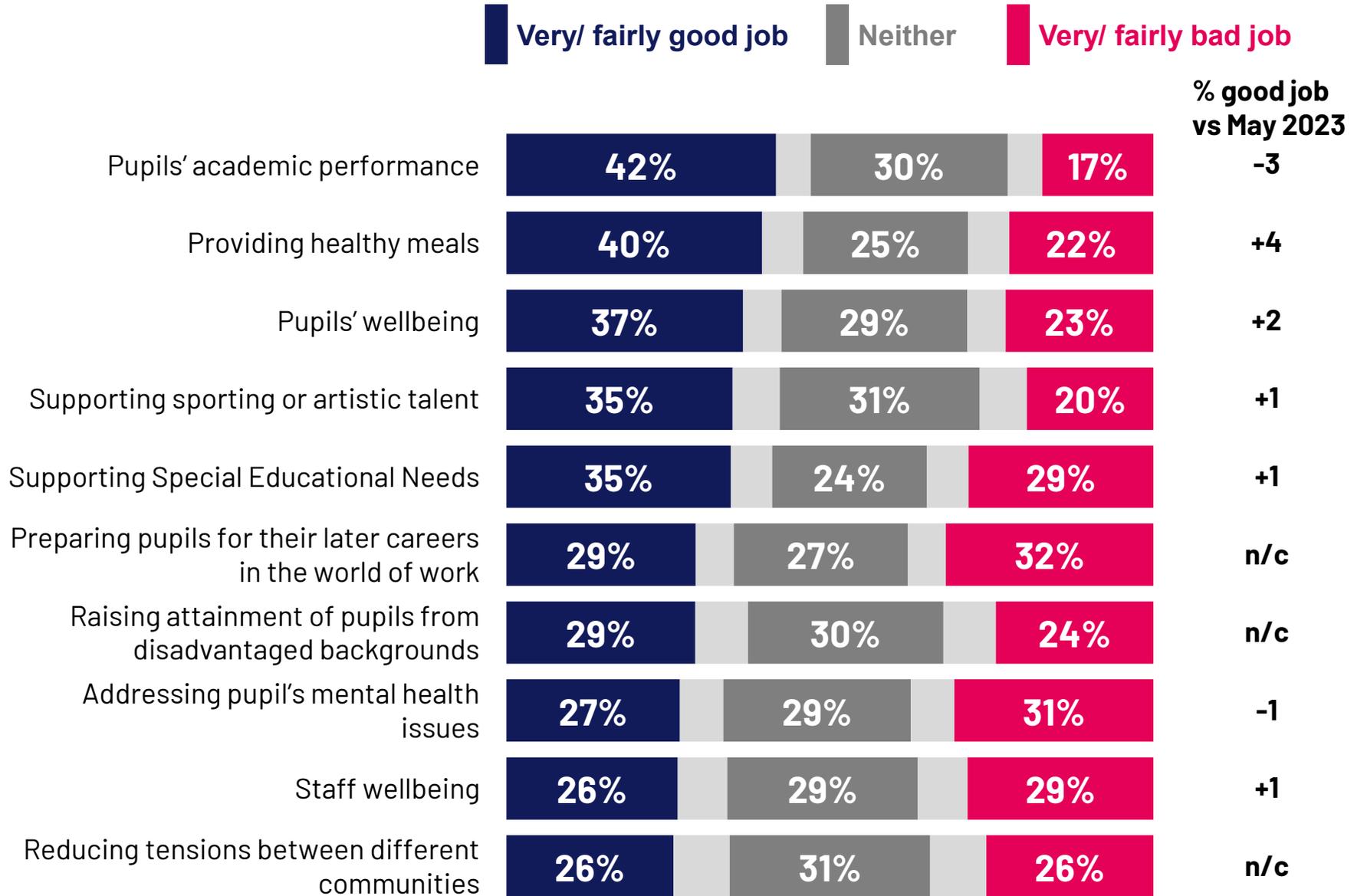
In general, to what extent, would say the quality of each of the following in Britain is good or bad?



Base: 1,086 Online British adults aged 18-75, 30 January – 4 February 2026, including parents/guardians with children under 16 (302)

The public are most likely to think schools are doing a good job on academic performance and providing healthy meals

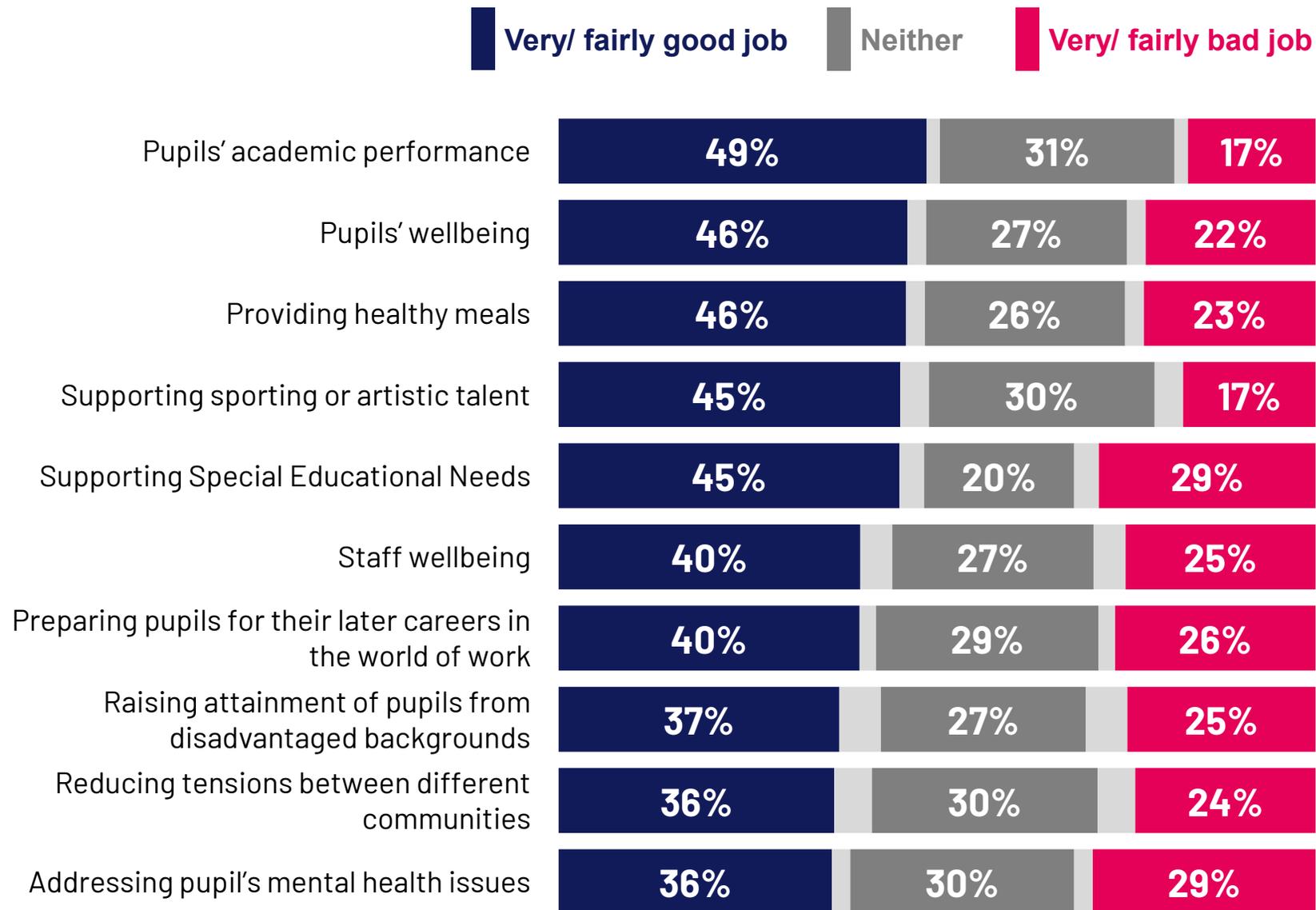
To what extent do you think schools in Britain are doing a good job or bad job in each of the following areas?
– General public



Base: 1,086 Online British adults aged 18-75, 30 January – 4 February 2026

Parents are more likely than the general public to say schools do a good job across a range of areas, with half saying they do a good job on academic performance, but only a third say that of mental health

To what extent do you think schools in Britain are doing a good job or bad job in each of the following areas?
 – Parents/guardians of under 16s

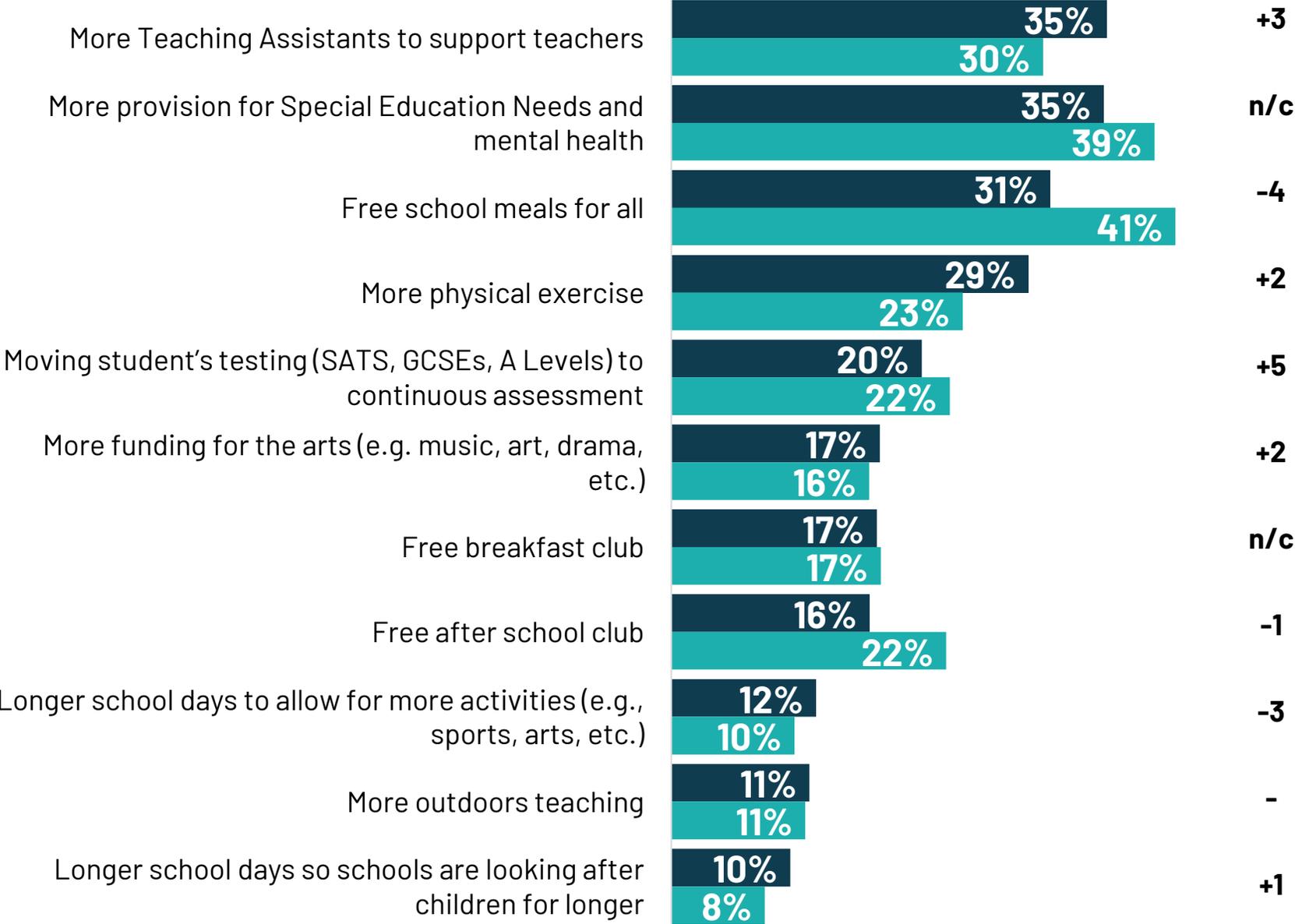


Base: 1,086 Online British adults aged 18-75, 30 January – 4 February 2026, including parents/guardians with children under 16 (302)

SEND provision, more teaching assistants and free school meals are priorities for the general public and parents, with parents more likely to prioritise free school meals

Which of the following, if any, do you think should be the Government's priorities for schools in Britain?

- Among all
- Among parents/guardians of Children under 16



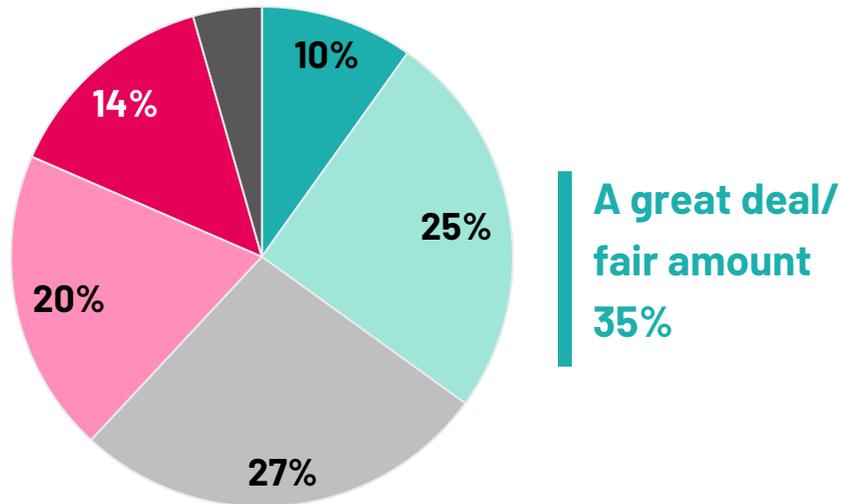
Base: 1,086 Online British adults aged 18-75, 30 January – 4 February 2026, including parents/guardians with children under 16 (302)



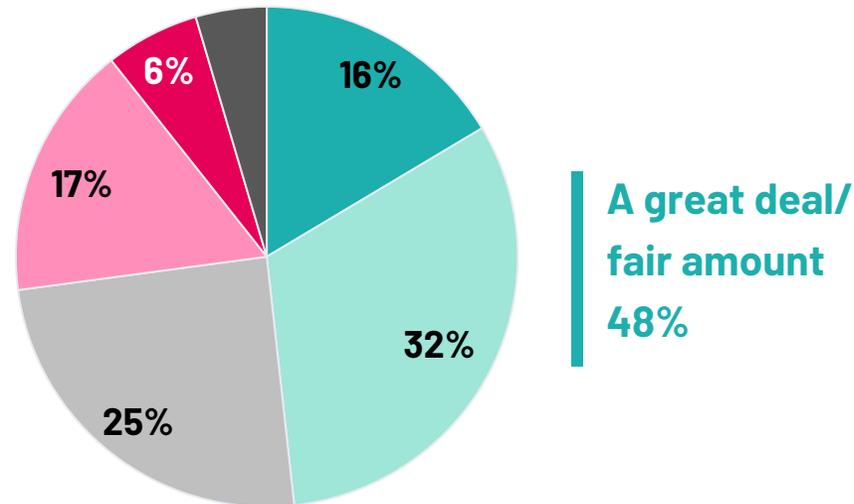
A third of Britons have heard a great deal/fair amount about SEND, with awareness higher among parents of under 16s

How much, if anything, do you know about the Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) system?

Among all



Among parents/guardians of children under 16



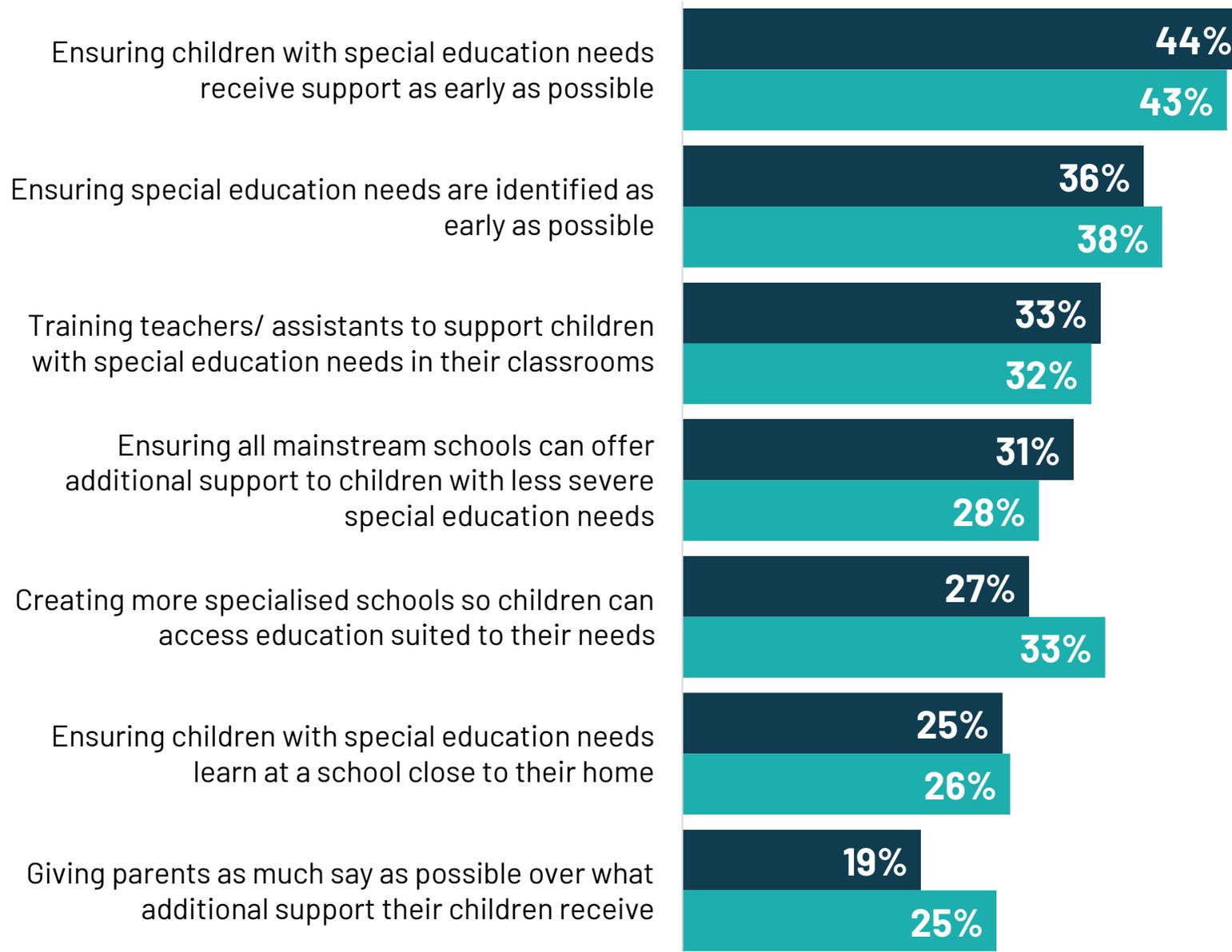
- A great deal
- A fair amount
- Not very much
- Heard of, but know nothing about
- Haven't heard of
- Don't know

Base: 1,086 Online British adults aged 18-75, 30 January – 4 February 2026, including parents/guardians with children under 16 (302)

Britons and parents alike have a range of demands from the SEND system, including children receive support and needs are identified as early as possible

Which of the below, if any, do you think the Government should prioritise when it comes to the Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) system?

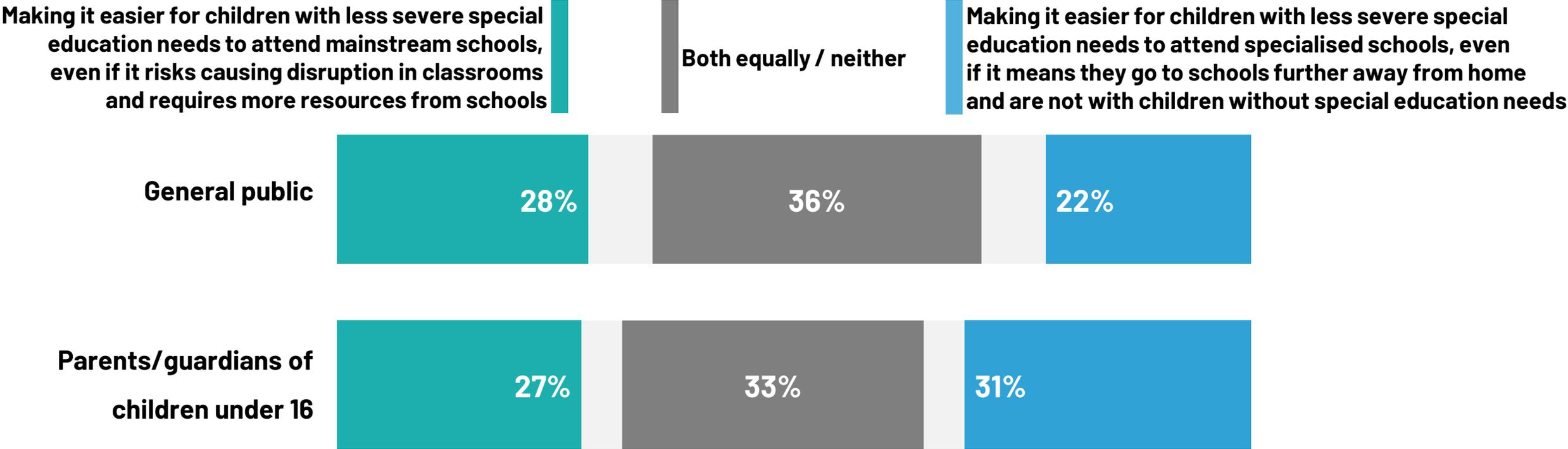
- Among all
- Among parents/guardians of Children under 16



Base: 1,086 Online British adults aged 18-75, 30 January – 4 February 2026, including parents/guardians with children under 16 (302)

The public and parents are split on whether the Government should prioritise access to mainstream or specialised schools for children with less severe special education needs

Now please think about children with less severe special education needs. Which of the below, if any, do you think the Government should prioritise?



Base: 1,086 Online British adults aged 18-75, 30 January – 4 February 2026, including parents/guardians with children under 16 (302)



Ipsos

February 2026

For more information

Gideon Skinner

Research Director

gideon.skinner@ipsos.com

Alex Bogdan

Research Director

alex.bogdan@ipsos.com

Jessica Ozan

Research Director

jessica.ozan@ipsos.com