

MyTutor

Funding Report 2022

A school's guide to funding catch-up activities in
the cost of living crisis



About MyTutor

MyTutor is an online tuition platform with a mission to make life-changing tuition accessible for all. Trusted by 1300+ UK schools, we match students from KS2-KS5 with tutors from UK universities - they're subject specialists who understand the exam process (because they've just been through it!).

MyTutor sessions are designed to reinforce classwork, fill learning gaps, and boost attainment. MyTutor students typically make 1 whole grade of progress after 1 term of lessons - over 2.5x the progress of their peers - and we've now provided 3:1 and 1:1 tuition to over 2M students including many subsidised through the National Tutoring Programme (NTP). We're committed to bridging the UK's attainment gap, helping those from disadvantaged backgrounds get the support they need in the subjects they find tricky. Lessons take place online, conveniently slotting into students' timetables, and tuition programmes can be set up within 3 weeks.



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Where we are now

This year was the first since the pandemic began where secondary students sat formal exams. For the last two years, they've instead been given teacher-assessed grades, owing to the disruption caused by multiple lockdowns and remote-only learning.

Despite the return of exams, pandemic learning loss is far from over. The UK's attainment gap between disadvantaged students and their more-advantaged peers has now widened to 9+ months according to the NFER, and despite the incredible efforts of school staff, catching up on that lost learning is no simple task.

With the country now facing a cost of living crisis, schools are feeling the squeeze, and more children stand to face poverty. As you'll see in this report, **81% of headteachers** say that the current financial situation for schools is the worst in living memory. The path to bridging the attainment gap and patching up lost learning can seem impossible - but this generation of students deserve as much as we can give them.

At **MyTutor**, we've been working with schools since 2016 to bring life-changing, knowledge-gap-filling, confidence-building tuition to disadvantaged students across the UK. Now, we've partnered with 1300+ schools and delivered over one million lessons, and we're dedicated to our mission to close the attainment gap once and for all.

In this 2022 Funding Report, we've surveyed over 1.5k senior school leaders to get the data on where schools stand right now, and we've compiled our funding knowledge from working with schools all over the country to bring you the ultimate guide to funding essential catch-up activities amid rising costs and stretched budgets.

Keep doing your amazing work, and we'll be here to help.

Florence Milner



How schools are being impacted

by the cost of living crisis

“We have staff going around the school making sure the lights are switched off when not in use and that there’s no heating on in empty classrooms. We have come up with some innovative ways to save money – our data manager is also an accomplished musician so she’s providing practical guitar lessons to students which helps!”

Zac Rawlinson,
Head of Y11 at Featherstone High School

“Our biggest concern at this time is providing our staff with the proposed pay rise. It’s a real worry; we’re being squeezed all the time across the board with 100% increase in energy costs and other key resources such as paper and food.

“Maintaining staffing levels is a real concern – if staff are leaving we have to seriously consider if we can afford to replace them like for like or will we need to reduce classes and increase class sizes.”

Chris Eccles,
Principal at Oakwood High School



Data breakdown

How schools are budgeting for catch-up activities

As the UK deals with a cost of living crisis, school budgets are even more strained and more children are entering poverty. So how are schools navigating this and still managing to fund essential catch-up activities for those who need it most?

In partnership with **Teacher Tapp**, we surveyed **1671** headteachers and SLT members across UK schools, including primary, secondary and private schools, to understand how they're using their budgets this year to fund tuition and other catch-up activities:

76% of senior school leaders say that the current financial situation is 'the worst in living memory'

That number goes up to **81%** when solely asking headteachers. **12%** of those we asked said that it's 'concerning but not as bad as in previous years', and only **3%** said it's 'not as concerning as is being reported'.

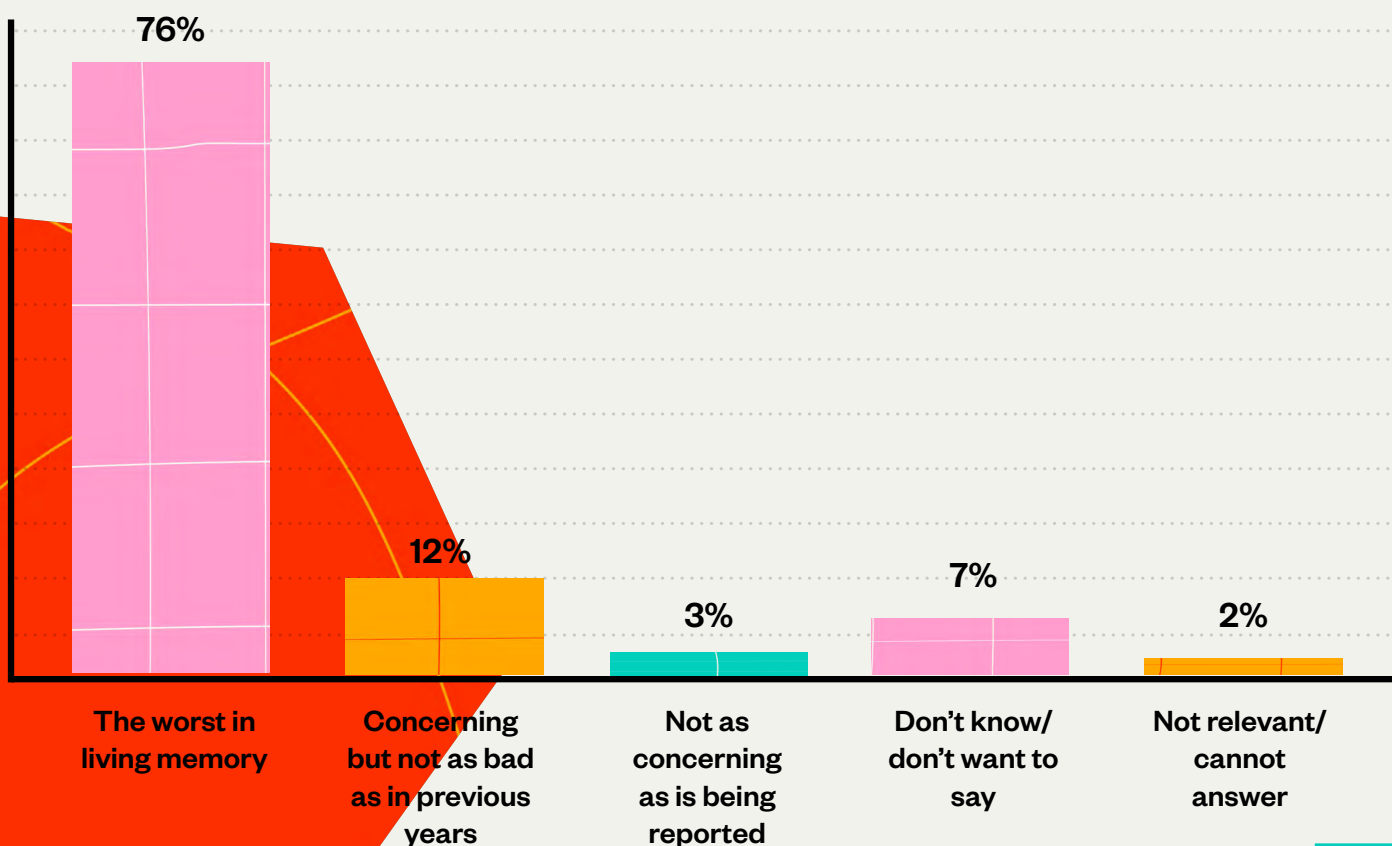
These statistics are largely consistent across primary and secondary schools, and across regions of the UK. Where they differ dramatically is between state-funded and private schools - **51%** of private school senior leaders say the country's financial situation is the worst in living memory.



Key learning:

The majority of schools are feeling the squeeze right now.

'The current financial situation in schools is...'



Due to budget pressures, many schools are considering cutting down on Teaching Assistant support and school trips

Extra constraints on spending mean that lots of schools are having to cut costs. Of the headteachers and SLTs we surveyed, **31%** are planning on reducing Teaching Assistant support, **24%** are planning on reducing the budget for school trips, and **21%** said enrichment activities are on the chopping block.

Primary leaders were most likely to be considering reducing TA support (40% of primary leaders said this vs 17% of secondary leaders).

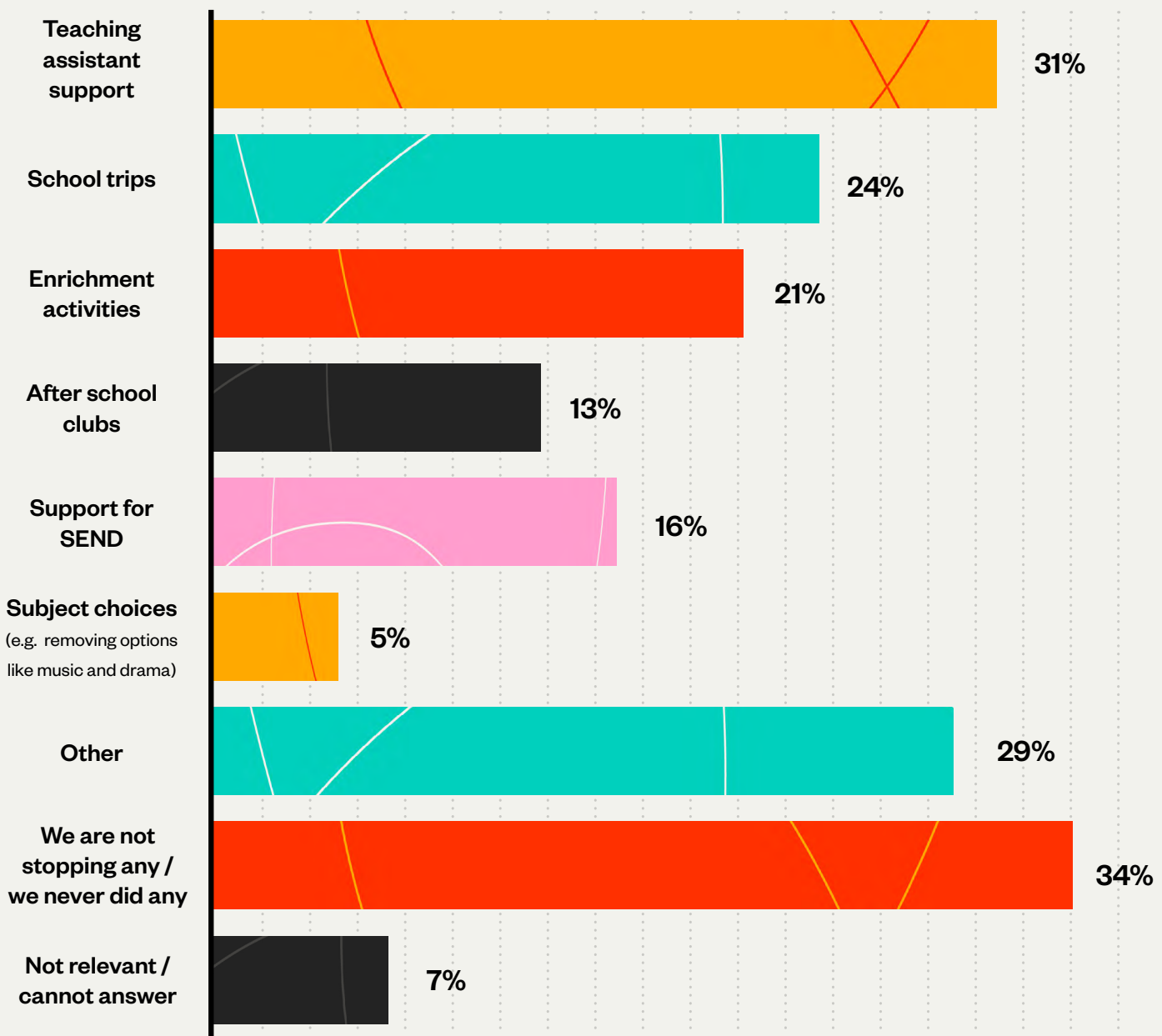


Key learning:

Schools are having to cut back on catch-up activities that provide important support.

Teaching Assistants **may not be as cost effective** as other types of catch-up activities, and this seems to be where most schools are cutting back.

When it comes to helping students catch-up, what activities are you considering reducing, given budget pressures?



When it comes to tutoring support, only half of the senior leaders we surveyed said they were confident they'd use their full funding allocation for tutoring this year

49% of leaders said they plan to use all of their tuition funding, while 12% said they either don't understand the funding allocation or don't have time to figure it out. Only 6% said they don't plan to pursue tutoring support for their students.

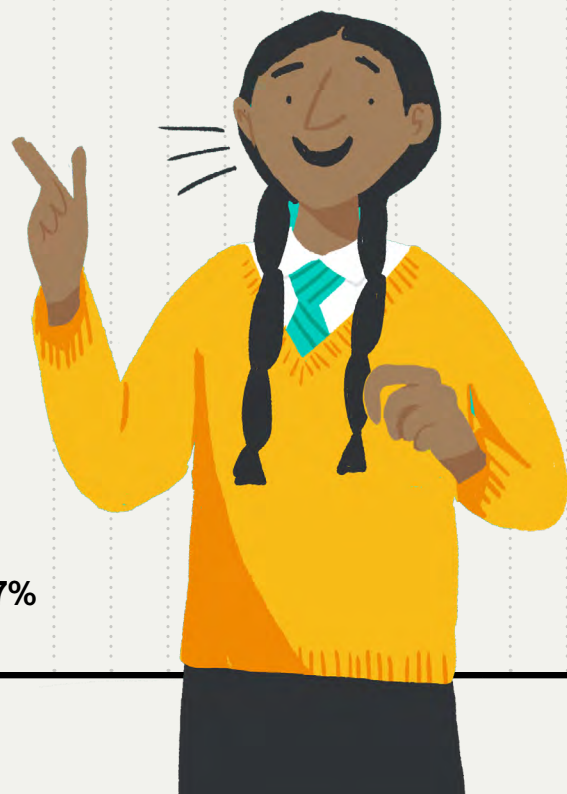
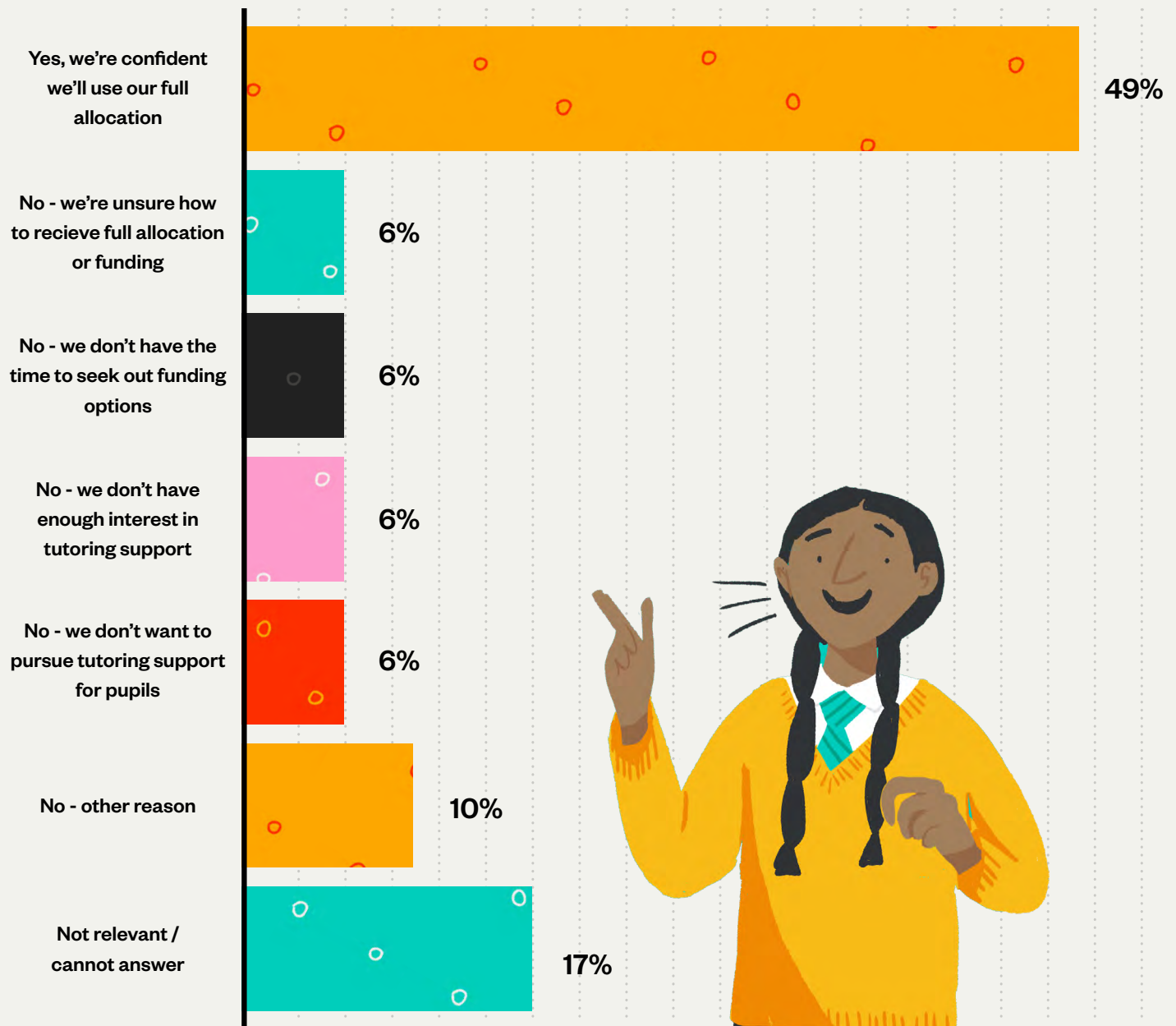
Primary leaders were slightly more likely to say they would use their full allocation than secondary leaders (52% vs 44%).



Key learning:

About half of senior leaders plan to use all of their tuition funding, including the NTP and 16-19 Tuition Fund, but there's room for improvement - there's some confusion for school leaders around **what their funding allocation is and how they can use it.**

Do you think your school will use its full allocation of funding for tutoring support this year?



The majority of senior school leaders agree that the amount of funding they have to pay towards the National Tutoring Programme is a barrier to them participating

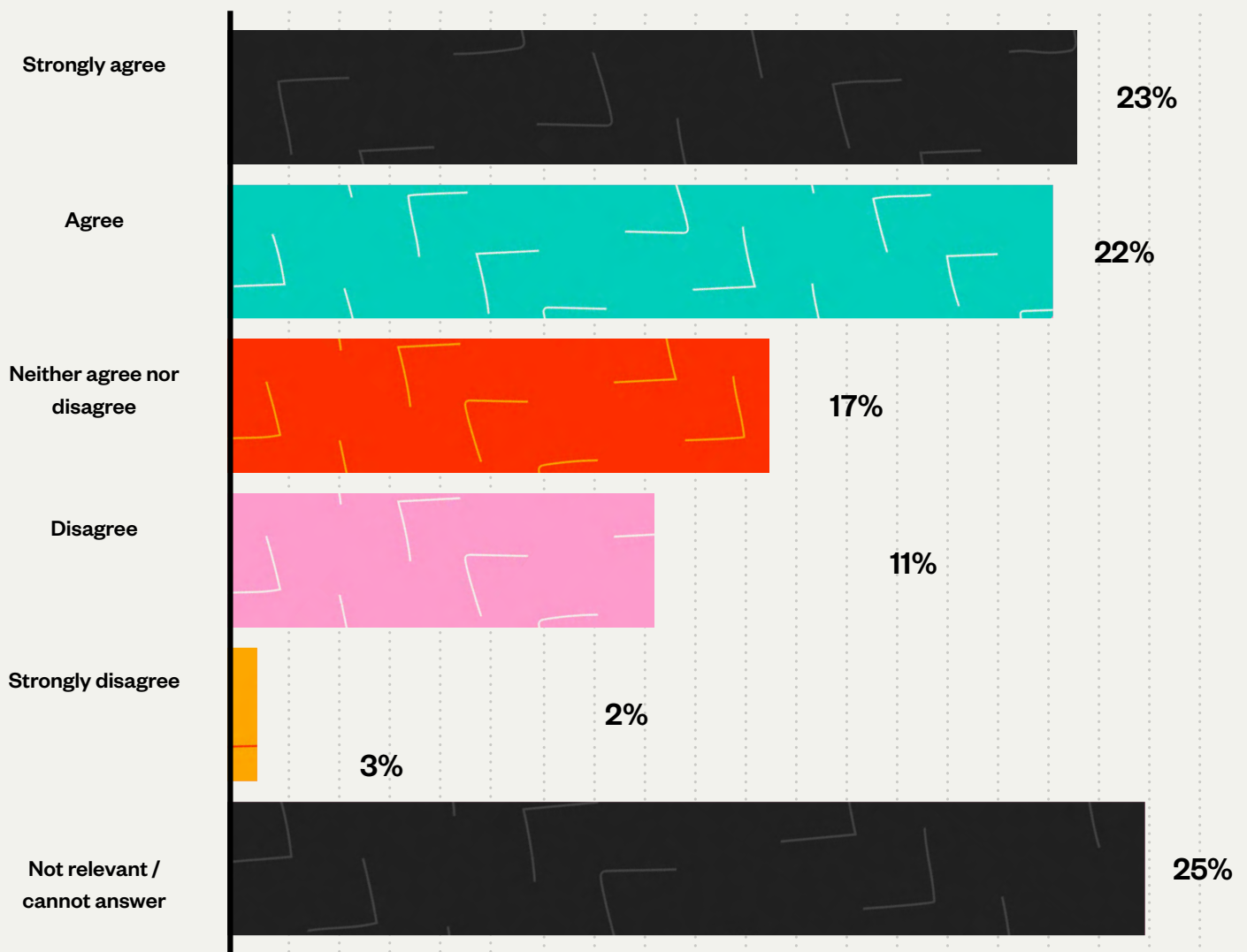


Key learning:

Schools need help funding the **40%** of a tuition programme that the NTP doesn't cover, including understanding how Pupil Premium can be used for this.

45% of teachers either 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that having to source 40% of the cost of tutoring was a barrier to using the grant from the National Tutoring programme, which covers 60% of the average cost of tuition. When looking only at primary school leaders, that goes up to **49%**, vs **39%** for secondary school leaders.

“The amount of funding our school has to pay towards the National Tutoring Programme is a barrier to our participation”



The life-changing impact of tuition

Tutoring changes lives. There are lots of approaches to running a really successful tutoring programme, and each of our partner schools does it differently - they all have amazing stories to tell about the impact they've seen, as well as tons of tricks and tips for getting the most out of online tutoring.

In the **2022 Impact Report - School Experience Edition**, you'll find case studies from schools all over the country, as well as what both teachers and students think of using MyTutor, in their own words.

Here's what's inside:

How students felt about their tutored subject before and after tutoring

Quotes from students and teachers on their tutoring experience

The results of an extensive survey on what teachers think of our platform

The ways in which schools across the country have used tutoring:

- 1:1 GCSE and A-level support
- Closing KS3 learning gaps post-pandemic
- Boosting attainment in STEM
- Raising confidence and aspirations in disadvantaged students

Read the 2022 Impact Report

The ultimate guide to funding tuition



Finding the funding for **life-changing tuition** can seem at best overwhelming, and at worst impossible. Schools are dealing with stretched budgets, but the good news is that there is government funding available, and thousands of schools across the country are accessing it.

Through our work with 1300+ UK schools, and a lot of digging through government guidance, we've compiled the ultimate guide to exactly how schools can fund personalised tuition for the students who need it most.

This is our ultimate guide to tuition funding for schools, correct as of November 2022:

Everything you need to know about the National Tutoring Programme (NTP)

The **National Tutoring Programme**, or NTP, is a pot of money schools can use to pay for tuition for their pupils, from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 4.

The programme was first rolled out in 2020 to give schools some extra support to bridge the learning gaps resulting from disruptions from the Covid Pandemic, and it's now running for the third year.

How do I access the NTP, and how does it get paid?

Schools don't need to apply for the NTP grant - they get it automatically, and it's calculated based on the number of Pupil Premium eligible students enrolled. It's paid in instalments, with the first instalment landing in September, the second in December, and the third around April time.

(For MATs, funding lands about a month later than it does for maintained schools.)



How much money does my school get via the NTP?

This year, the National Tutoring Programme will cover 60% of the average cost of tuition for Pupil Premium students, which amounts to £10.80 per hour of tuition per student - that means £162 per student to cover the cost of a tuition programme.

Research from the **Education Endowment Foundation (EEF)** found that tuition is one of the most impactful and cost-effective ways to help your students' progress and bridge the attainment gap between disadvantaged students and their more-advantaged peers. They found that with targeted small-group tuition, students make on average, four months of additional progress.

What can I use the NTP money for?

Schools can use the NTP grant to access tuition via three different routes: School-led tutoring delivered through school's own staff, Academic Mentors, or through an NTP-approved Tuition Partner.

While schools are encouraged to use the funding to support Pupil Premium students, they can also use it to support any other students who may benefit from tuition support. Who you choose for a tuition programme is up to you.

What's a Tuition partner?

Tuition Partners, like MyTutor, are external tuition providers who've been approved by the NTP to deliver tuition via the programme.

These Tuition Partners have undergone a very thorough quality assurance process, to certify that they can deliver tuition at a high standard.

MyTutor has now been an NTP Tuition Partner for 3 years running, supporting over 60,000 pupils through the programme with 1:1 and 3:1 tuition.

What's changed from last year (21/22)?

This year (22/23), a few things about the NTP are different: the subsidy is now 60% of the cost tuition programme, down from 70% in 21/22. There's also no longer a quota on how many students enrolled in a tuition programme have to be Pupil Premium eligible. This year, you can also contact NTP Tuition Partners (like MyTutor) directly, instead of having to go through the NTP platform, making it easier for schools to access tuition through an approved provider.

Is the NTP the same as the Schools-Led Tutoring Grant (SLTG)?

No - last year the government issued the Schools-Led Tutoring Grant, which was money given to schools to cover the costs of tuition, separately from the NTP subsidy (which was for tuition provided by Tuition Partners and Academic Mentors). This year the SLTG has been technically scrapped, but it's become a pillar of the NTP alongside Tuition Partners and Academic Mentors. Most importantly, the NTP now works as a grant rather than a subsidy.



How do I cover the remaining 40%?

Understandably, this is a question that lots of schools ask! The amount schools receive via the NTP grant subsidises 60% of the average cost of tuition, so schools are expected to cover the remaining 40% using other pots of money.

The most common way they do so is by using Pupil Premium funding to support outcomes of disadvantaged pupils.

This year, the allocation is £1385 per Pupil Premium student for Primary schools, and £985 for Secondary schools. There are also other smaller budgets in play, but the Pupil Premium tends to be the first choice - if you want to know more about what this looks like in practice, we'll be happy to talk you through the details on a [15-minute call](#).

In addition, schools who are looking to reach as many students as possible, tend to prefer small group tuition (like 3:1) as a more cost-effective option.



Can the NTP be used for both 3:1 and 1:1 tuition?

The short answer is: yes! 3:1 (or small group) tuition programmes tend to offer the best value and allow schools to reach the most students with tuition support.

Here's a breakdown of how MyTutor prices our 3:1 and 1:1 lessons on the NTP:

Programme type	Cost per student per lesson	Cost per package of 12 lessons per student	Subsidy % using NTP Grant	Amount covered per student per lesson using NTP grant	Amount covered per student for 12 lessons using NTP grant
3:1	£17	£204	60%	£10.20	£122.40
1:1	£25	£300	43%	£10.80	£129.60

Is there a minimum course length that the NTP can be used for?

The NTP recommends that tutoring courses be 12-15 hours long to have a meaningful impact on student attainment. At MyTutor, we offer 12-week programmes that easily slot into a term.

Can students access multiple subjects on the NTP?

Yes - primary school students can access Maths, English, and Science, while secondary students can access Maths, English, Science, Humanities (like History and Geography), and Modern Foreign Languages.



How does NTP reporting work?

Schools need to record the total cost of their tuition programmes and the number of tutoring hours delivered, and share this with the DfE via a funding return in summer 2023. **Schools are encouraged to record:**

- The number of PP-eligible pupils who have received tutoring
- The number of other pupils who have received tutoring
- How many hours of tutoring have been provided to PP-eligible pupils
- How many hours of tutoring have been provided to other pupils
- The type of tutoring provided (whether it was delivered by an employee of the school or a tuition partner)



For the 2022 to 2023 academic year, they'll be asked to provide the following returns:

- Termly school census (October 2022, January 2023 and May 2023)
- Mandatory year-end statement (June 2023)

What happens if I don't spend all my NTP Grant?

Any NTP funding that's leftover at the end of the academic year will be clawed back, and you won't be able to carry it over to the next academic year, so it's worth making sure you use it all!

What's the NTP subsidy going to be next year?

Right now, the NTP subsidy is expected to decrease from 60% to 25% for the next academic year (23/24).



Everything you need to know about the 16-19 Tuition Fund

As the name suggests, the 16-19 Tuition Fund is ring-fenced funding available to schools, colleges, and other FE institutions to support disadvantaged students with tuition.

This pot of money was made available for the first time in 2020 to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on learning, and has been in place ever since.

How does the 16-19 Tuition Fund work?

To access the 16-19 funding allocation, schools new to the fund had to opt-in by submitting a form at the beginning of the Autumn term. Schools who had opted in previous years will receive their allocation automatically, without needing to fill in any paperwork.

Once opted in, the 16-19 tuition fund gets paid directly to schools in three instalments throughout the academic year, with the first landing in December 2022.

How much funding does each student get?

How much 16-19 funding a student gets depends on whether they meet one or more of the criteria for 'band one disadvantage' or 'band two disadvantage', so there's no set amount. Schools should have found out how much funding they've been allocated either at the beginning of the school year or immediately upon submission of the online form.

Which students are eligible for funding?

The good news is that this year eligibility criteria for 16-19 tuition has broadened, so you might find that your allocation has increased. **Funding is now available for:**

- Students who had a 6 or lower GCSE grade in Maths or English, compared to 5 or lower last year.
- Students from the most deprived areas of the UK
- Students that are eligible for the Bursary Fund
- Students between 19 and 24 year old who have an education, health, and care (EHC) plan



What can I use the 16-19 Tuition fund to pay for?

Tuition, tuition, tuition, whether it's by using your own staff, or via an external tuition provider like MyTutor.

You can use this pot of money to cover the costs of both small group (3:1) and 1:1 tuition in English, Maths and other academic subjects, as well as non-vocational subjects and vocational courses for the students eligible.

How does 16-19 Tuition Fund reporting work?

Unlike last year, your school won't need to publish a statement of intent, but only the mid- and end-of-year financial report.

To do that, you need to make sure you record info on which providers you partner with to deliver tuition, which students need the support and what their needs are, and the number of hours of tuition delivered.

It's a bit of admin, but the good news is that if you've used the 16-19 Tuition Fund before, you should expect the load to be a bit lighter this time around!



What happens if I don't spend all of my 16-19 Tuition Grant?

One thing that's really important to keep in mind is that any 16-19 funding that's leftover at the end of the academic year will be clawed back, and unlike in the past, you won't be able to carry it over to the next academic year.



Can schools use their Pupil Premium budget to pay for tuition?

Yes, and many do! As tuition is recognised by the EEF as a high impact intervention for disadvantaged students, lots of schools choose to invest the Pupil Premium they receive in personalised tutoring for students who are struggling.

Can schools use their Recovery Premium budget to pay for tuition?

No, the DfE have stated that **Recovery Premium** cannot be used to cover the cost of tuition this year. However, it can be used to pay for the many other things that Pupil Premium can also be used for, so many schools shift budgets around and use Recovery Premium to free up Pupil Premium budget to pay for tuition support.



To find out more about how online tuition can support your students, get in touch with our team. We'd love to hear about your school's needs.

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