

Only a quarter of working-class children doing five hours of schoolwork a day in lockdown

A YouGov poll of 877 parents, commissioned by the Sutton Trust, found that 26 per cent of youngsters from disadvantaged households are completing five hours of schoolwork a day compared to 40 per cent of their middle-class peers.

Middle-class parents were almost twice as likely to hire a tutor as working-class parents, the poll found, with 13 per cent of wealthier families doing so compared to seven per cent of the less **well-off**.

The research has led to **calls for** ministers to do more to address the lack of digital learning devices among disadvantaged children. The Government has promised to provide one million laptops and **tablets** to disadvantaged children and has so far delivered more than 800,000.

"The immediate priority has to be to address the gap in digital provision between rich and poor," said Sir Peter Lampl, the founder and chairman of the Sutton Trust. "The Government has made good progress, but it needs to do more. There also has to be substantial additional funding for schools when

they reopen, focused on students from low-income backgrounds who have fallen even further behind."

He said the first period of school closures during the spring lockdown had a huge impact on all young people, particularly those from lower-income backgrounds, adding: "The **repercussions** of these months of lost learning are **devastating** and will be felt for years to come. It's **imperative** that we don't let this happen again."

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