

RESULTS FROM TALIS 2018

The OECD Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS) is an international, large-scale survey of teachers, school leaders and the learning environment in schools. This note presents findings based on the reports of lower secondary teachers and their school leaders in mainstream public and private schools.

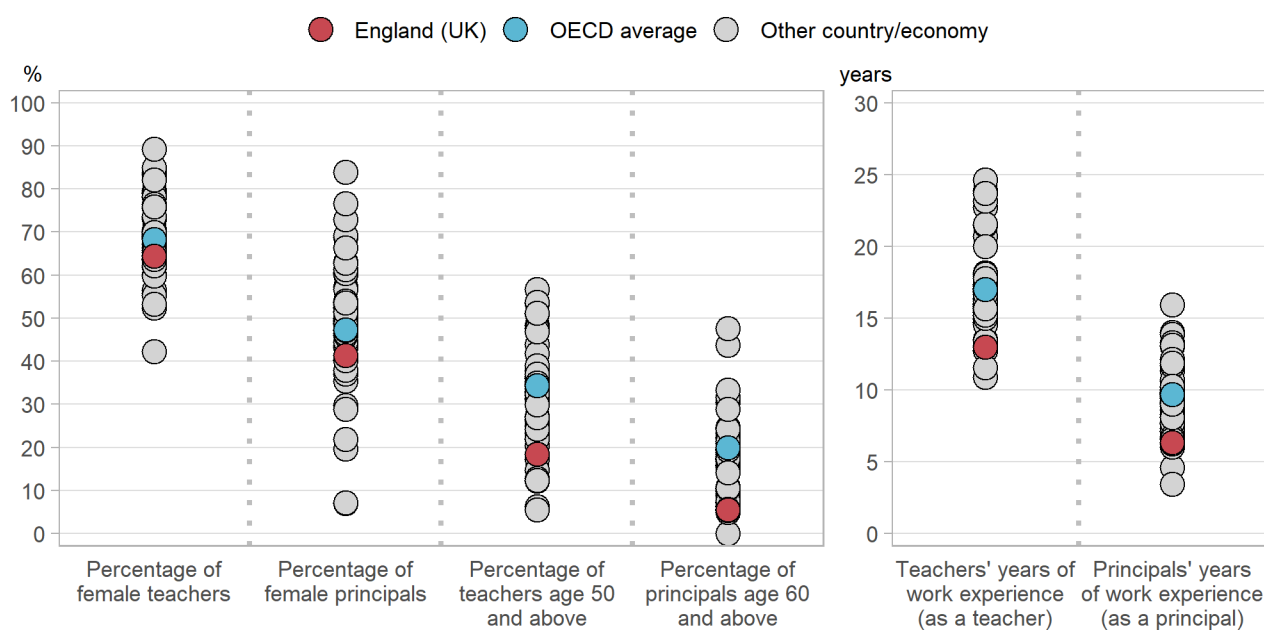
England (UK)

Who are today's principals and teachers and the students in their classrooms?

- Teaching was the first-choice career for 59% of teachers in England (UK) and for 67% in OECD countries and economies participating in TALIS. In terms of why they joined the profession, at least 93% of teachers in England (UK) cite the opportunity to influence children's development or contribute to society as a major motivation.
- In England (UK), teachers are, on average, 39 years old, which is lower than the average age of teachers across OECD countries and economies participating in TALIS (44 years old). Furthermore, 18% of teachers in England (UK) are aged 50 and above (OECD average 34%). This means that England (UK) will have to renew about one out of six members of its teaching workforce over the next decade or so.

Figure 1. Socio-demographic and experience profiles of teachers and school leaders

Results based on responses of lower secondary teachers and principals



Note: Only countries and economies with available data are shown.

Source: OECD, TALIS 2018 Database, Tables I.3.17, I.3.21, I.3.1, I.3.5, I.3.9 and I.3.13.

- In England (UK), principals are, on average, 50 years old, which is lower than the average age of principals across OECD countries and economies participating in TALIS (52 years old). Furthermore, 6% of principals in England (UK) are aged 60 and above, compared to 20% on average across the OECD.
- Information about the gender distribution of the teacher and principal workforces makes it possible to gauge the degree of gender imbalance in the teaching profession and of gender disparities in the scope for promotion to leadership positions. In England (UK), only 41% of principals are women, compared to 64% of teachers. This can be benchmarked against the OECD averages of 47% of women among school leaders and 68% among teachers.
- In terms of classroom environments, relations between students and teachers are positive overall, with 97% of teachers in England (UK) agreeing that students and teachers usually get on well with each other. However, 21% of principals report regular acts of intimidation or bullying among their students, which is not significantly different from the OECD average (14%).
- In England (UK), 25% of teachers work in schools where at least 10% of the students have a migrant background (OECD average 17%). At the same time, 99% of school leaders report that their teachers believe that children and young people should learn that people of different cultures have a lot in common (OECD average 95%).

What practices are teachers using in the classroom?

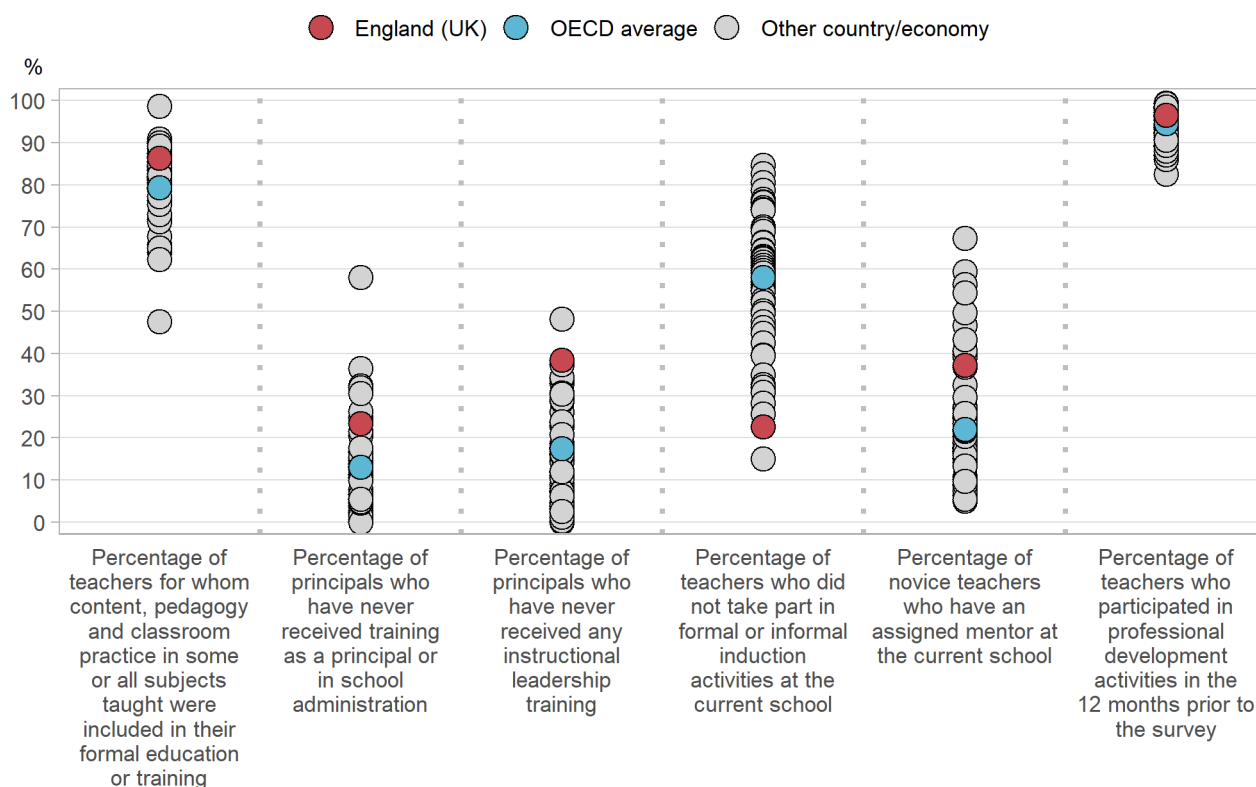
- Among the range of instructional practices TALIS asks teachers about, those aimed at enhancing classroom management and clarity of instruction are widely applied in England (UK), as well as across the OECD countries and economies participating in TALIS. For instance, in England (UK), 63% of teachers report frequently calming students who are disruptive (OECD average 65%) and 85% report frequently explaining how new and old topics are related (OECD average 84%).
- Practices involving student cognitive activation, which are known to be important for student learning, are less widespread, with about half of teachers using these methods across the OECD. Specifically, in England (UK), 43% of teachers report frequently asking students to decide on their own procedures for solving complex tasks, compared to 45% on average across the OECD.
- During a typical lesson, teachers spend 80% of classroom time on actual teaching and learning, on average in England (UK), which is higher than the OECD average of 78%.
- In the past five to ten years, classroom time spent on actual teaching and learning has decreased in about half of the countries and economies participating in TALIS. In the past five years in England (UK), classroom time spent on actual teaching and learning has decreased by 2 percentage points.
- In England (UK), 88% of teachers routinely assess their students' progress by observing them and providing immediate feedback (OECD average 79%), while 76% of teachers report administering their own assessments to their students (OECD average 77%) and 69% of teachers frequently let students evaluate their own progress (OECD average 41%).
- Overall, a vast majority of teachers and school leaders view their colleagues as open to change and their schools as places that have the capacity to adopt innovative practices. In England (UK), 84% of teachers also report that they and their colleagues support each other in implementing new ideas. This is higher than the average share across the OECD countries and economies participating in TALIS (78%).

How are teachers and school leaders prepared for their roles?

- In England (UK), 3 out of 4 teachers completed a regular consecutive teacher education or training programme, which requires future teachers to complete two phases of post-secondary education: a first phase of university education with the focus on subject matter and a second phase with the focus on pedagogy and practicum. In contrast, in most other OECD countries and partner countries participating in TALIS, most teachers completed a concurrent education programme.
- During their initial education and training, 86% of teachers in England (UK) were instructed on subject content, pedagogy and classroom practice – a share that is higher than the average of OECD countries and economies participating in TALIS (79%). This is complemented by a mandatory teaching practicum, which is included in initial teacher education for almost all teachers in England (97% compared to the OECD average of 62%).
- , All schools in England (UK) offer teachers access to some kind of induction activities, and 77% of teachers report having participated in some kind of formal or informal induction when they joined their current school. In contrast, only 42% of teachers across OECD countries and economies participating in TALIS report having participated in an induction activity at their current school. However, team teaching (teaching by a team of teachers working together) with experienced teachers during induction is particularly rare in England, according to teachers: 29% teachers reported that this provision was included in their induction (OECD average 45%).

Figure 2. Initial and continuous training

Results based on responses of lower secondary teachers and principals



Note: Only countries and economies with available data are shown.

Source: OECD, TALIS 2018 Database, Tables I.4.14, I.4.28, I.4.39, I.4.64, I.5.2 and I.5.10.

- While school principals across the OECD generally consider mentoring to be important for teachers' work and students' performance, 22% of novice teachers (with up to 5 years of experience) have an assigned mentor. In England (UK), this share amounts to 37%.
- On average across the OECD, school leaders usually have a higher level of educational attainment than teachers. However, only half of them complete a training course or programme for principals at least once before taking up their position as principal. In England (UK), 64% of school leaders have completed a programme or course in school administration or training for principals (OECD average 54%), and 57% have completed an instructional leadership training programme or course (OECD average 54%), before taking up their position as principal. Instructional leadership has a high standing in England (UK) with only 14% of principals reporting a "shortage or inadequacy of time for instructional leadership" compared to 32% across the OECD.

How do teachers and school leaders keep up-to-date in their profession?

- Taking part in some kind of in-service training is commonplace among teachers and principals in England (UK), with 97% of teachers (OECD average 94%) and 99% of principals (OECD average 99%) attending at least one professional development activity in the year prior to the survey.
- Attending courses and seminars is one of the most popular types of professional development for teachers across the OECD. In England (UK), 74% of teachers participate in this kind of training, at the same time 71% of teachers participate in training based on peer learning and coaching. It is interesting to note that teachers, across the OECD, report that professional development based on collaboration and collaborative approaches to teaching is among the most impactful for them.
- In England (UK), 47% of teachers have participated in a professional development on student behaviour and classroom management, (OECD average 50%). However, 63% of novice teachers (those with five years of experience or less) have recently participated in this type of training, whereas only 42% of experienced teacher did so, resulting in a gap of 22 percentage points that is one of the largest differences across the OECD.
- Teachers in England (UK) appear satisfied with the training they received, as 82% report that it had a positive impact on their teaching practice, a share that is the same as the average of OECD countries and economies participating in TALIS (82%). It is also true that teachers who report participating in such impactful training tend to display higher levels of self-efficacy and job satisfaction. The association is particularly strong in England (UK).
- But some areas of professional development are still lacking, according to teachers. Across the OECD, developing advanced ICT skills is one area in which teachers say that they need more training, along with teaching in multicultural/multilingual settings and teaching students with special needs. Among these three areas, teachers in England (UK) expressed the highest need for training in teaching students with special needs.

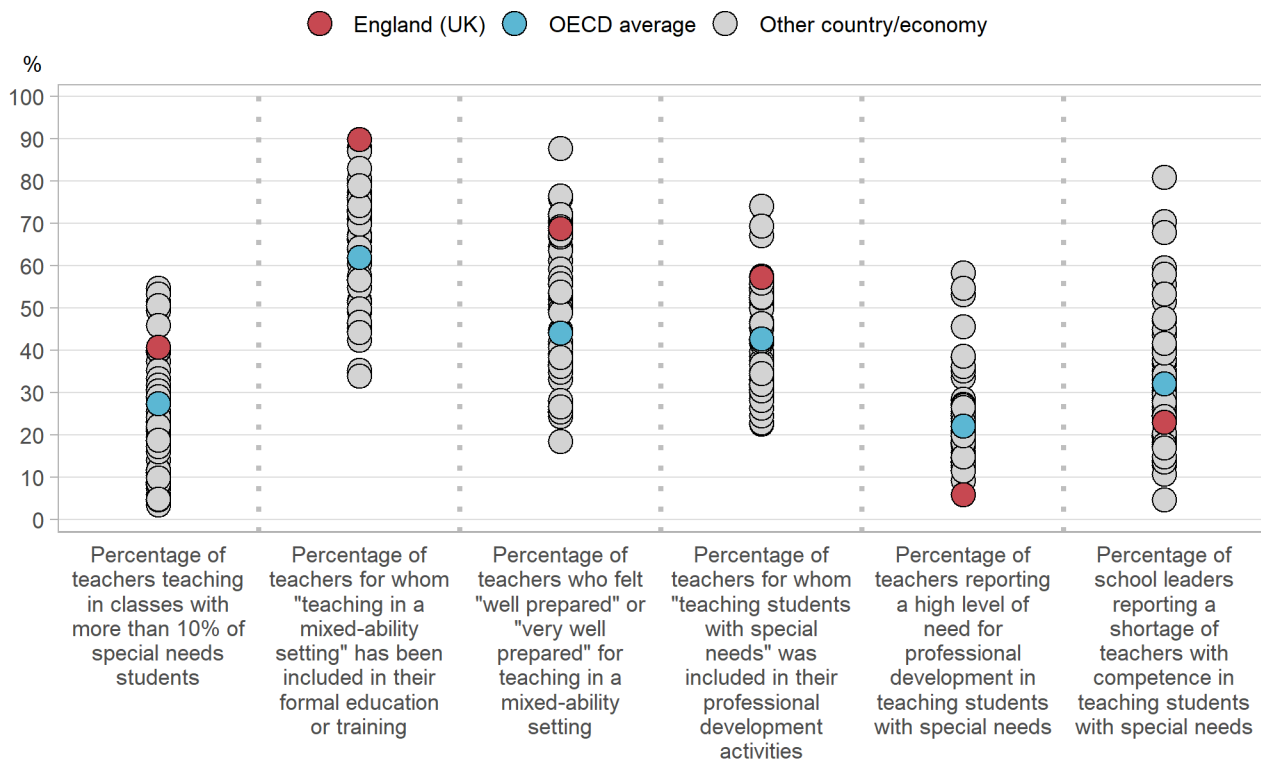
Teaching students with diverse ability levels and needs

- On average in England (UK), according to teachers' reports, 41% of teachers work in classes with at least 10% of students with special needs (defined as students for whom a special learning need has been formally identified because they are mentally, physically, or emotionally disadvantaged), which is higher than the average of OECD countries and economies participating in TALIS (27%). Since 2013, according to principals' reports, England (UK) experienced a substantial decrease in the share of schools with more than 10% of students with special needs by 13 percentage points (from 67% to 54%).
- In England (UK), 90% of teachers were trained to teach in mixed-ability settings as part of their formal teacher education or training, while 69% of teachers on average felt prepared to teach in such settings when they finished their studies.

- Furthermore, although 57% of teachers on average participated in professional development activities including teaching students with special needs in the 12 months prior to the survey, training in teaching special needs students is the professional development topic with the highest percentage of teachers reporting a high need for it – 6% in England (UK) (compared to 22% across the OECD).
- On average in England (UK), 23% of school principals report that delivery of quality instruction in their school is hindered by a shortage of teachers with competence in teaching students with special needs (compared to 32% across the OECD).

Figure 3. A snapshot of teaching students with diverse ability levels and needs

Results based on responses of lower secondary teachers and principals



Note: Only countries and economies with available data are shown.

Source: OECD, TALIS 2018 Database, Tables I. 3.28, I. 4.13, I. 4.20, I. 5.18, I. 5.21 and I. 3.63.

Teaching in multicultural or multilingual settings

- On average in England (UK), 27% of teachers work in classes with at least 10% of students whose first language is different from the language of instruction, which is higher than the average of OECD countries and economies participating in TALIS (18%). Between 2013 and 2018, the share of teachers working in schools with multilingual settings has increased by 14 percentage points (from 28% in 2013 to 41% in 2018), one of the highest increase across the countries and economies participating in TALIS.
- Also, according to school leaders, more than half of the teachers (55%) work in schools with at least 1% of students who are refugees, which is almost twice the average of OECD countries and economies participating in TALIS (30%).