

Ipsos Education polling

August 2024

Over half support Labour's plan to end the VAT exception offered to private schools

Starting 1 January 2025, the Labour government will require VAT at the standard rate of 20% to be added to private school fees. If private schools decide to increase school fees as a result, then someone currently paying £15,000 a year per child for school fees would pay around £18,000 instead.

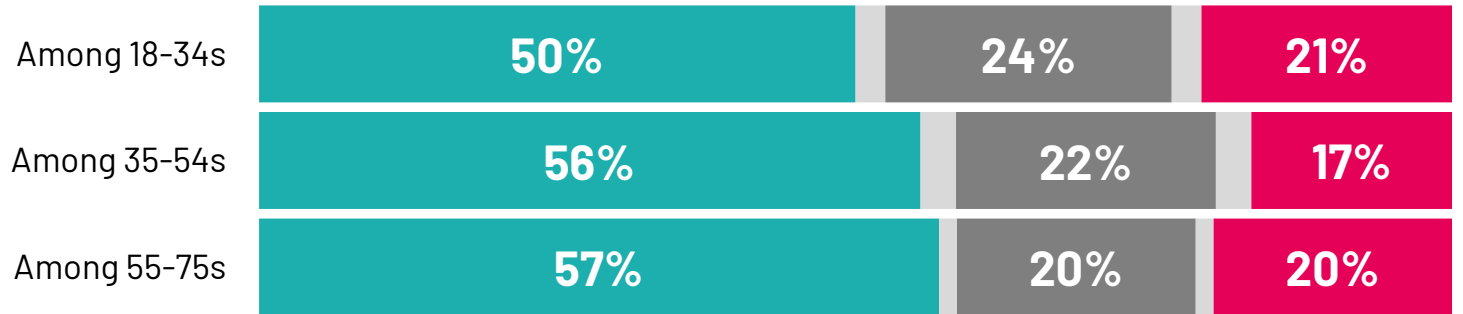
Labour has said this will raise around £1.5 billion a year that can be spent on improvements to state schools (e.g., non-private schools). However, critics say it will mean some families will be unable to afford to keep sending their children to private school.

Based on what you know, do you support or oppose Labour's plan to end the VAT exemption offered to private schools?

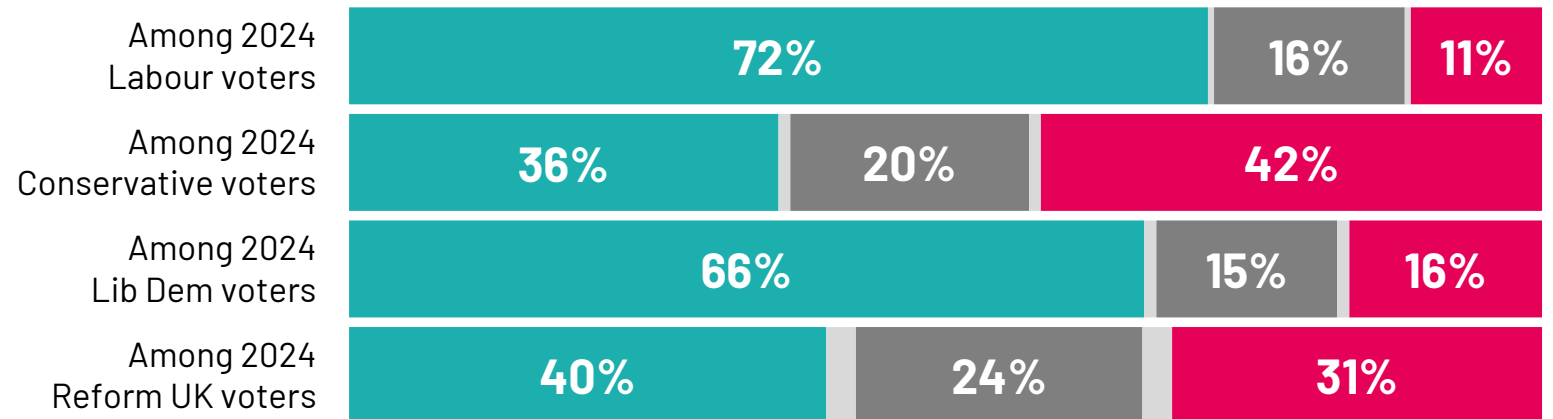
Base: 2,075 Online British adults aged 18-75, 23 - 27 August 2024, including those aged 18-34 (684), 35-54 (702) and 55-75 (689), 2024 Labour voters (719), 2024 Conservative voters (287), 2024 Liberal Democrat voters (196) and 2024 Reform voters (202).



By age

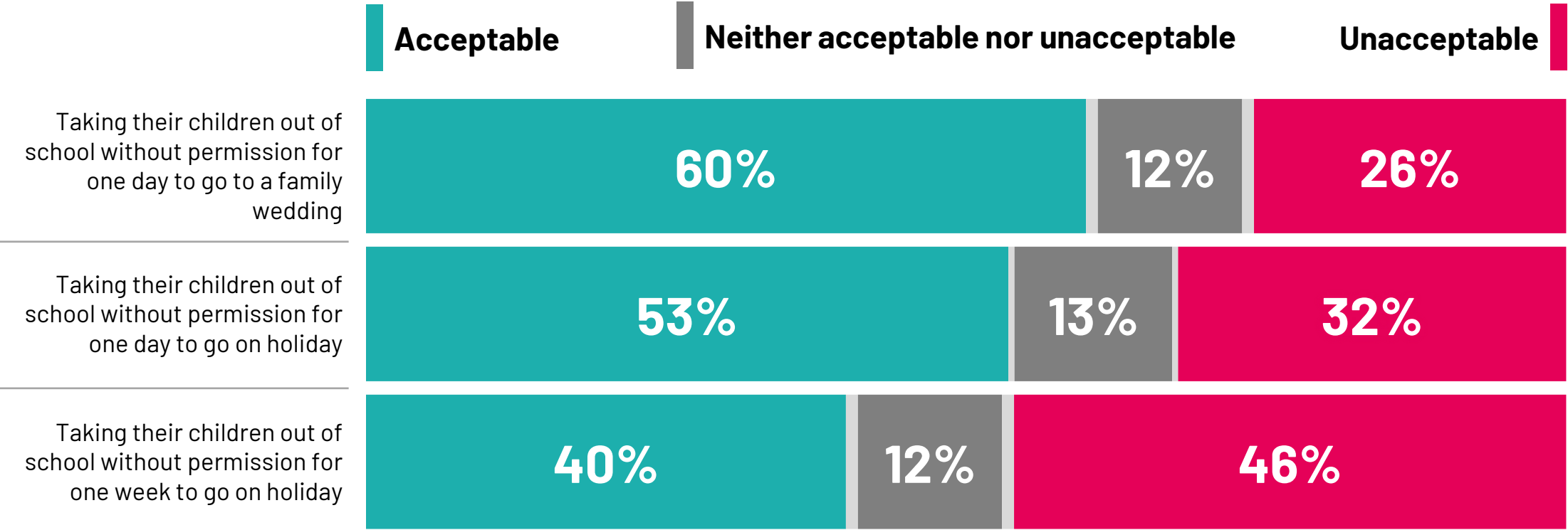


By GE2024 vote



Over half think it is acceptable for parents to take their children out of school without permission for a day to go to a family wedding/on holiday. They are more divided on the acceptability to go on holiday for a week.

How acceptable or unacceptable do you think it is for parents to take their children out of school during term time without the school's permission in each of the following circumstances?



Base: 2,075 Online British adults aged 18-75, 23 - 27 August 2024

Around two in five think the fine for unauthorised school absences is about right

As you may know, from August 2024, the fine for unauthorised school absences in England will rise to £80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days. This rate is in line with inflation and is the first increase since 2012.

In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160. Under specific circumstances, such as family emergencies, these fines are waived.

Do you think the level of these fines for unauthorised school absences is too high, too low, or about right?

Base: 2,075 Online British adults aged 18-75, 23 - 27 August 2024, including those aged 18-34 (684), 35-54 (702) and 55-75 (689), households with a child (762) and without a child (1313), 2024 Labour voters (719), 2024 Conservative voters (287), 2024 Liberal Democrat voters (196) and 2024 Reform voters (202).



Among all



By age

Among 18-34s



Among 35-54s



Among 55-75



Among those with a child in the household

Households with a child



Households without a child



By GE2024 vote

Among 2024 Labour voters



Among 2024 Conservative voters



Among 2024 Lib Dem voters



Among 2024 Reform UK voters



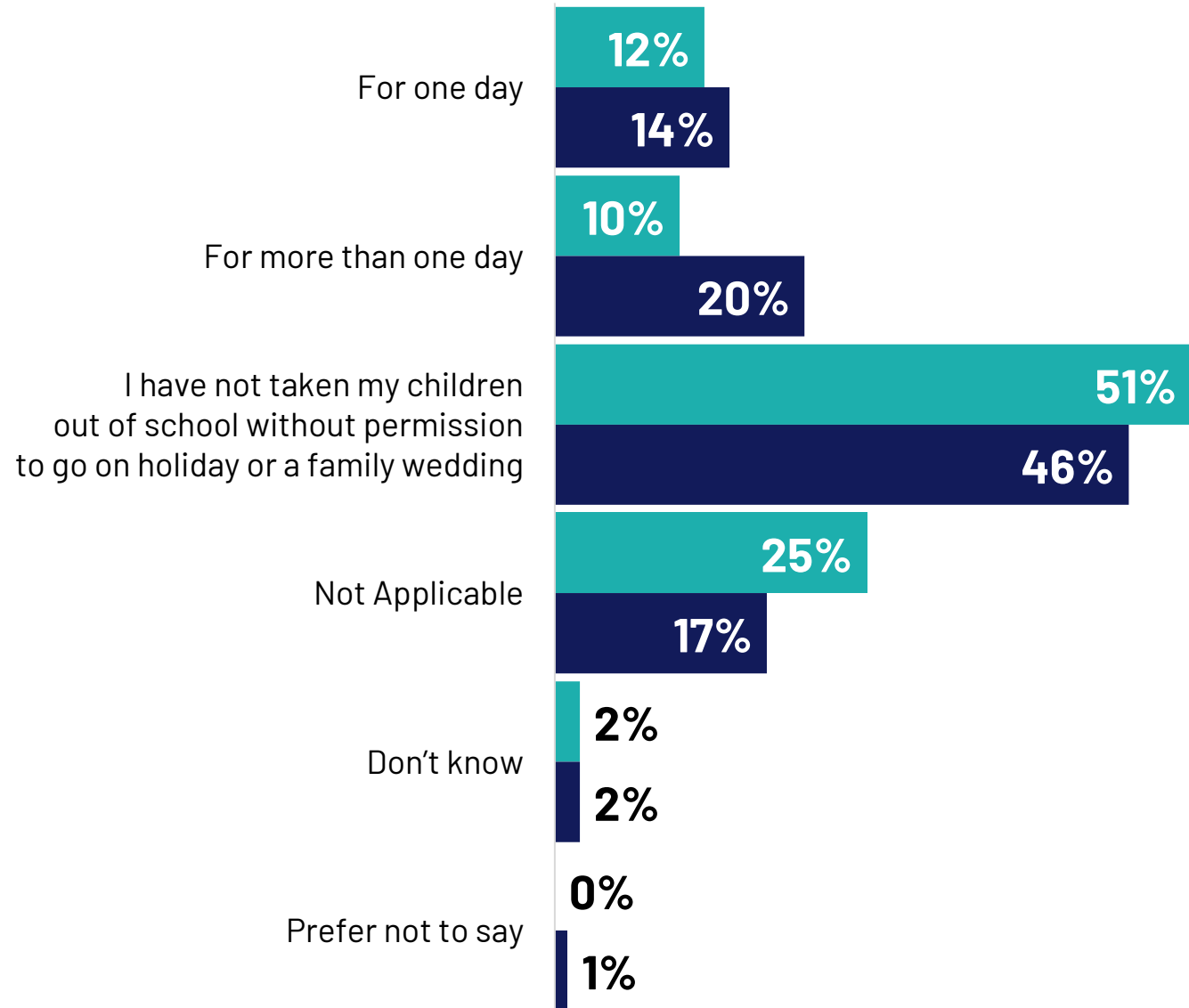
The majority of parents have not taken their children out of school without permission to go on holiday or to a family wedding

Have you taken your children out of school without permission to go on holiday or to a family wedding...

Base: 762 Online British adults aged 18-75 who are parents, 23 - 27 August 2024

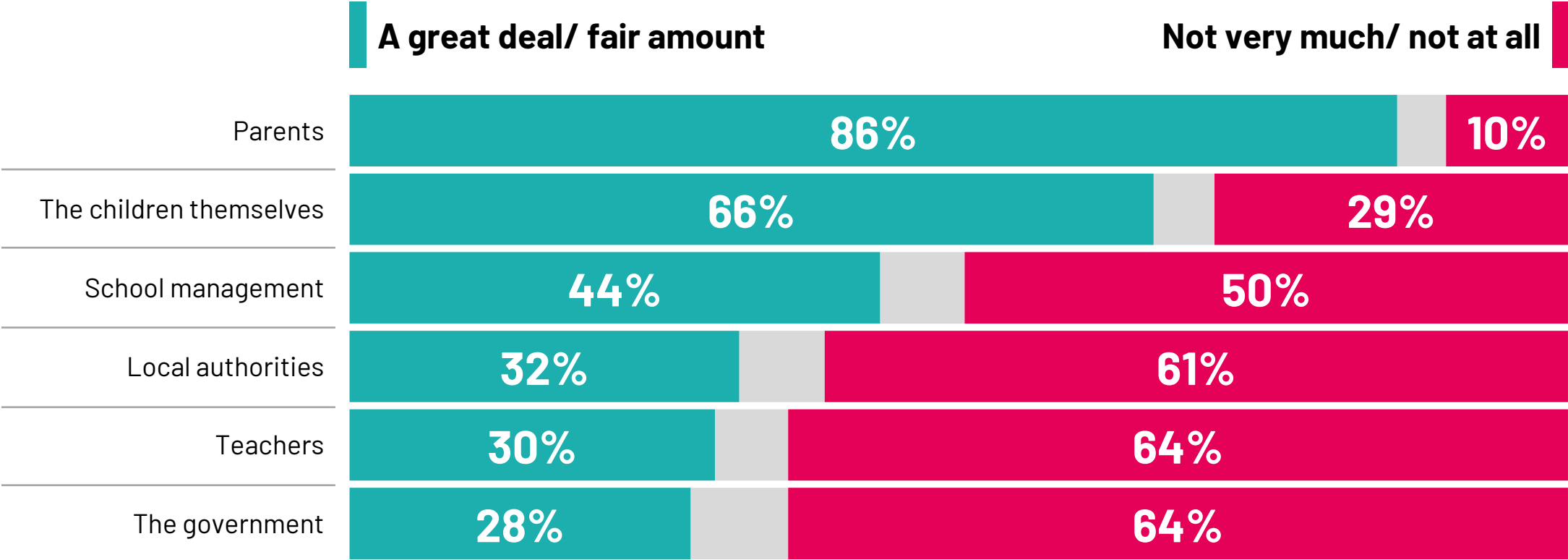
In the last academic year?

Ever?



The large majority think parents are most to blame for children being persistently and regularly absent from school without permission, followed by the children themselves

Please now think about children being persistently and regularly absent from school without permission. How much, if at all, do you think each of the following are to blame when children are regularly absent from school without permission?



Base: 2,075 Online British adults aged 18-75, 23 - 27 August 2024



IPSOS

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Ipsos – Education Polling

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