

- 2,809 interviews conducted and processed among school children aged 11-16 in schools in England and Wales.
- Pupils were selected from a random sample of schools drawn from Get Information About Schools (a database of schools maintained by the Department for Education).
- The survey was completed online during school lessons between 5th February - 24th May 2019.
- Results are based on ALL participating pupils, unless otherwise stated.
- Data are weighted by school year, gender and region to match the profile of school children across England and Wales.
- An asterisk (*) represents a value of less than half a per cent, but not zero
- Where results do not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses or computer rounding.

Trend data from previous Sutton Trust Young People Omnibus surveys has been included where applicable.

How likely or unlikely are you to go into higher education when you are old enough?	2019*	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Base: All	2809	2381	2612	2555	2488	2796	2595	2757	2739	2700	2447	2387	2417	2334	2709	2303	2469
Very likely	39%	32%	33%	36%	36%	36%	38%	38%	39%	39%	41%	39%	37%	34%	34%	33%	40%
Fairly likely	38%	45%	41%	41%	43%	42%	43%	43%	39%	41%	32%	34%	34%	37%	35%	36%	31%
Fairly unlikely	6%	7%	10%	8%	7%	7%	6%	6%	7%	6%	6%	6%	8%	5%	7%	7%	8%
Very unlikely	5%	3%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%	4%	3%	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%
Not sure either way yet	13%	11%	11%	10%	9%	10%	8%	9%	10%	11%	13%	19%	17%	19%	18%	18%	14%
Not stated	n/a	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	5%	1%	1%	1%	1%	*	2%
Likely	77%	77%	74%	77%	79%	78%	81%	81%	78%	80%	73%	72%	71%	71%	69%	70%	71%
Unlikely	11%	11%	14%	11%	10%	10%	9%	8%	10%	7%	9%	8%	11%	9%	11%	12%	13%
Net likely	66%	66%	60%	66%	69%	68%	72%	73%	68%	72%	64%	64%	60%	62%	58%	58%	58%

*The polling methodology changed to online only in 2019, therefore comparisons between 2019 results and others over time should be treated with caution

Why are you unlikely to go into higher education?	2019
Base: All who are unlikely to go into higher education	313
Don't like idea/don't enjoy learning or studying	62%
Reasons included: I prefer to do something practical rather than studying from books; I do not enjoy learning; I don't like the idea of it; Someone from a university talked to me about higher education and it put me off.	
Finance	43%
Reasons included: I want to start earning money as soon as possible; I'm worried about getting into debt as a student; My family can't afford to pay for me to be a student; My family want me to start earning money as soon as possible.	
Not clever enough	41%
Reasons included: I'm not clever enough; I won't get good enough exam results to get into a university.	
Not needed for job	33%
Reasons included: I can get a well-paid job without a degree; I do not need a degree to do the job(s) I am considering	
Social	18%
Reasons included: My parents did not go to university; People like me are not expected to go to university; Most of my friends are not planning to go to university; My teachers are encouraging me to do something else.	
I don't know enough about it	15%
Other	2%
Don't know	6%

To what extent, if at all, are you worried about the cost of higher education?	2019*	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Base: All who are likely to go into higher education or not sure	2496	2099	1942	1986	1971	2181
Very worried	10%	12%	12%	9%	10%	12%
Fairly worried	30%	34%	39%	38%	39%	39%
Not very worried	34%	36%	34%	35%	36%	34%
Not at all worried	13%	9%	8%	10%	8%	8%
Don't know	13%	8%	6%	6%	6%	6%
Not stated	n/a	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
<i>Worried</i>	40%	46%	51%	47%	49%	51%
<i>Not worried</i>	47%	45%	42%	46%	44%	42%
<i>Net worried</i>	-7%	1%	9%	1%	5%	10%

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How important, if at all, is each of the following things in helping people to do well and get on in life? <i>Going to university</i>	2019
	Base: All 2341
Very important	30%
Fairly important	35%
Not very important	17%
Not at all important	4%
Don't know	11%
Prefer not to say	4%
<i>Important</i>	65%
<i>Not important</i>	20%

How important, if at all, is each of the following things in helping people to do well and get on in life? <i>Being confident</i>	2019
	Base: All 2342
Very important	55%
Fairly important	30%
Not very important	2%
Not at all important	1%
Don't know	8%
Prefer not to say	4%
<i>Important</i>	85%
<i>Not important</i>	3%

How important, if at all, is each of the following things in helping people to do well and get on in life?
Knowing the right people

2019

Base: All

Very important	41%
Fairly important	34%
Not very important	10%
Not at all important	2%
Don't know	9%
Prefer not to say	4%
<i>Important</i>	75%
<i>Not important</i>	12%