



# what is the survey and how is it conducted?

## annual survey of trends in education 2007

*This is one of a series of papers reporting the findings from the Annual Survey of Trends in Education 2007, carried out by the NFER on behalf of the LGA. During the summer term of 2007, 347 primary schools and 854 secondary schools in England took part in the survey covering a range of topics.*

### 1 What is the purpose of the Annual Survey?

The Annual Survey of Trends in Education is a unique series of questionnaire surveys which aim to provide an insight into headteachers' views on a variety of current issues in education. The survey has been conducted by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) in maintained primary schools, each year since 1994. In 2005, the series was extended to include a questionnaire survey of maintained secondary schools.

### 2 Which topics are covered in the Annual Survey 2007?

The Annual Survey of Trends in Education 2007, sponsored by the Local Government Association (LGA), was the latest in the series of surveys and covered both primary and secondary schools. Some questions on current issues in education have been included in the annual surveys over a number of years, allowing an investigation of head-

teachers' changing perceptions over time.

The findings from the 2007 survey have been published as a series of individual papers covering the following topics and issues.

- What are primary schools' views on issues that are currently affecting them?
  - including funding arrangements, the Early Years Foundation Stage and enrolment points
- What are secondary schools' views on issues that are currently affecting them?
  - including funding arrangements, the 14–19 curriculum, raising the participation age and Building Schools for the Future
- What are schools' perceptions of local authority school improvement support?
  - including School Improvement Partners (SIPs)
- How is the Every Child Matters agenda affecting schools?
  - including schools' working relationships with other services

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- What is happening on extended schools and Youth Matters?
- How are schools supporting children in care?
- How are schools involving parents in school life?
- Have schools' concerns changed over time?
  - including headteachers' main areas of concern and budgetary issues.

## 3 How was the research carried out?

In the summer term of 2007, questionnaires were sent to headteachers of all maintained secondary schools in England (3,346 schools) and to 836 headteachers of maintained primary schools in England. Approximately 35 per cent of the primary school sample consisted of schools that had responded to previous surveys and had agreed to participate in future surveys; the remaining schools in the

primary school sample were selected to deliver an overall representative national sample of schools.

For the third year running, headteachers were given the option to complete the questionnaire on-line, though the majority of respondents (75 per cent of primary headteachers and 80 per cent of secondary headteachers) chose to complete the survey on paper. Completed questionnaires were received from 347 primary headteachers (an overall response rate of 42 per cent) and from 854 secondary headteachers (an overall response rate of 26 per cent).

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This document is one of a set of nine available from the NFER at [www.nfer.ac.uk/publications/annual-survey-of-trends.cfm](http://www.nfer.ac.uk/publications/annual-survey-of-trends.cfm) or by phoning the Publications Unit on 01753 637002.

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