

School trust priorities

CST & Edurio research findings 2025

24 November 2025



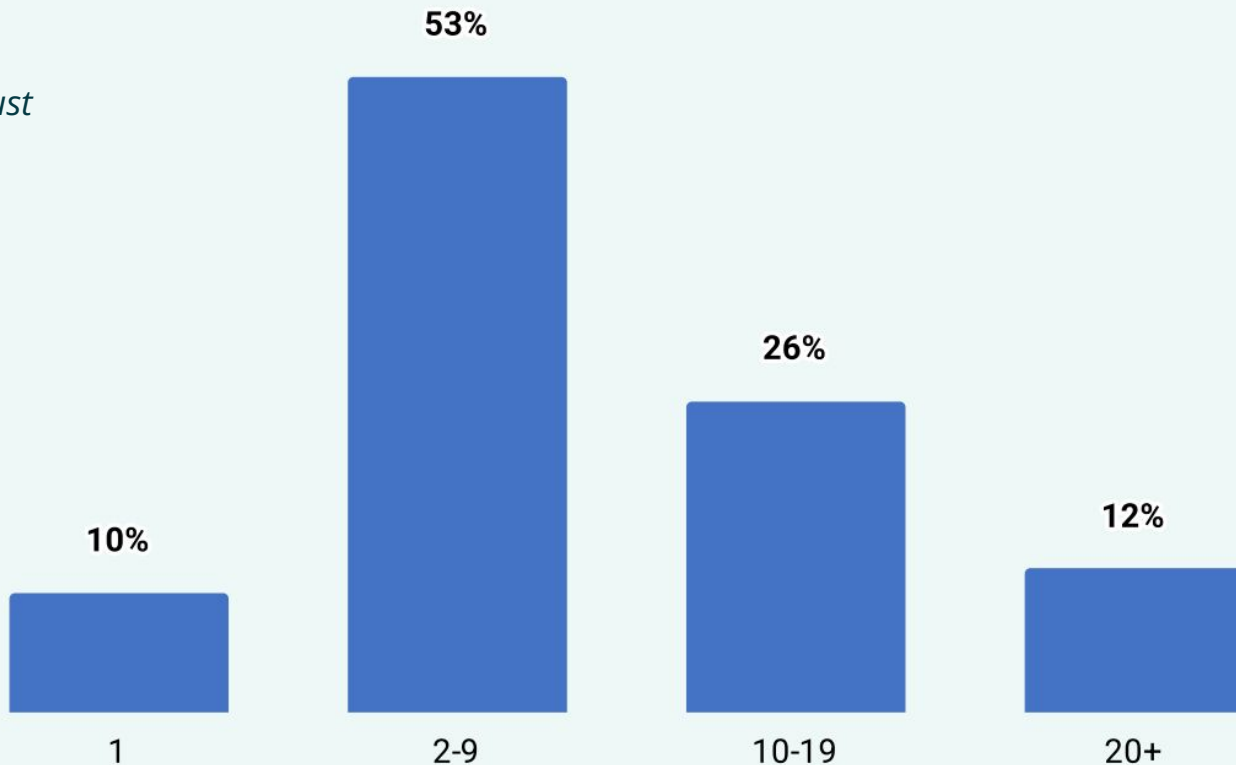


home.edurio.com/insights

Research methodology

390 trust CEOs shared their priorities

*Replies by
number of
schools in trust*

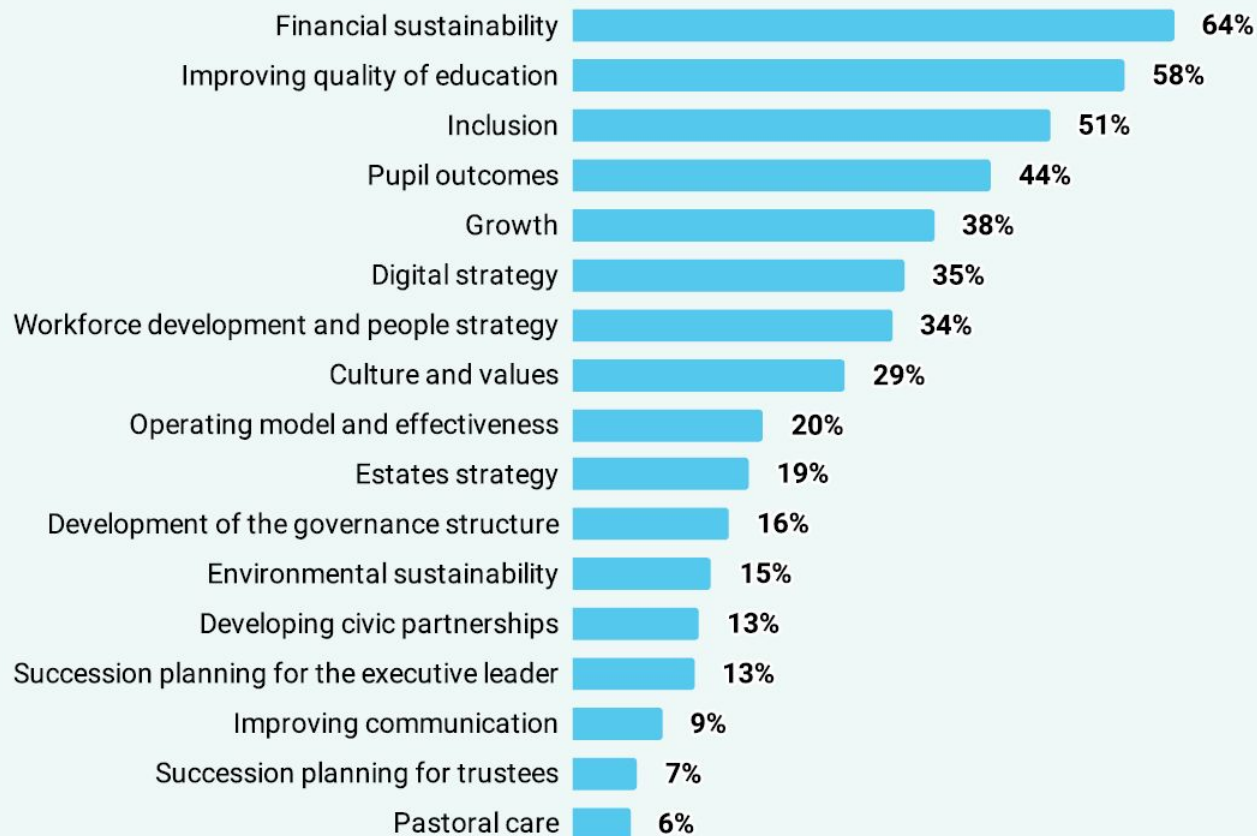


Themes based on the CST Strong Trust framework

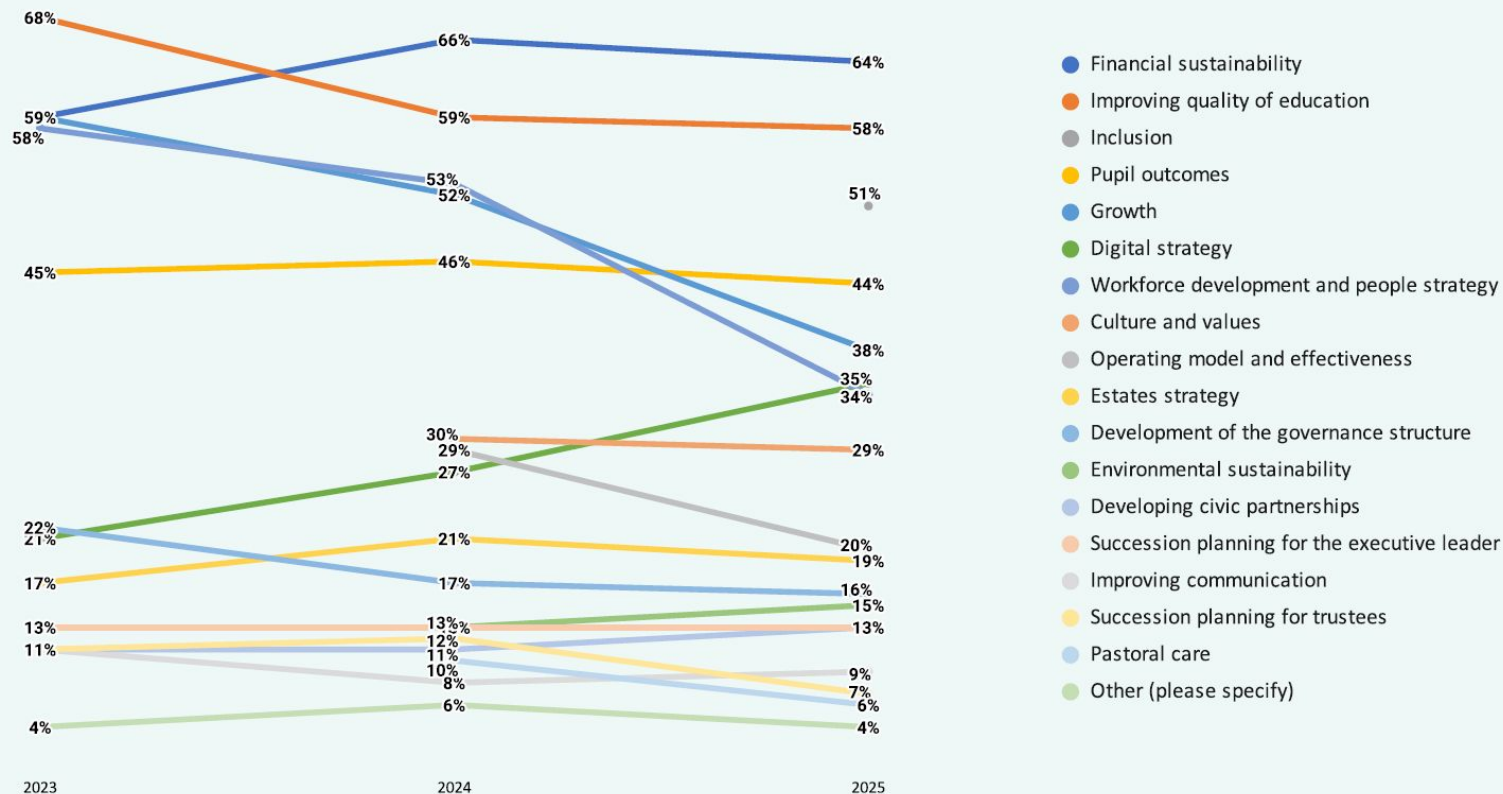


Overall findings

Top priorities

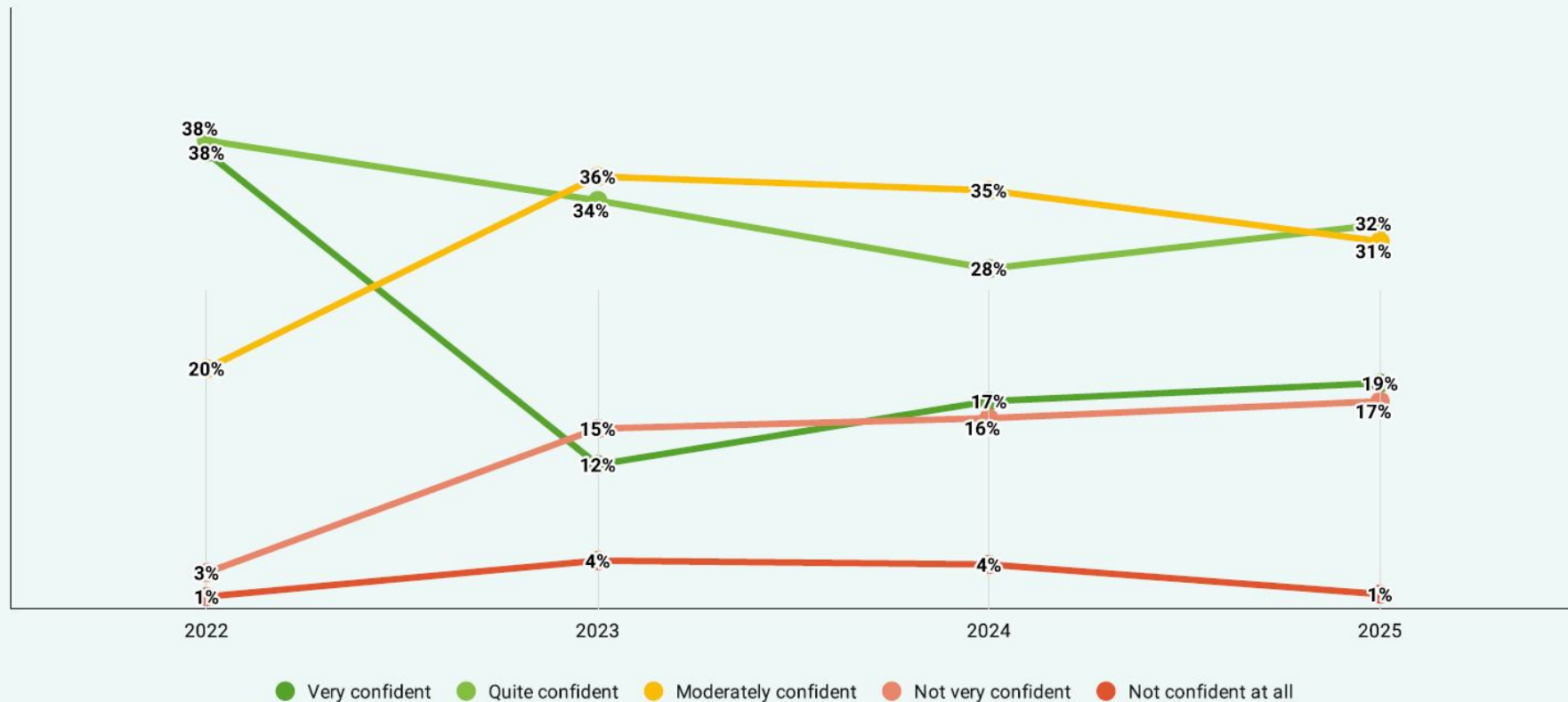


Top priorities over time

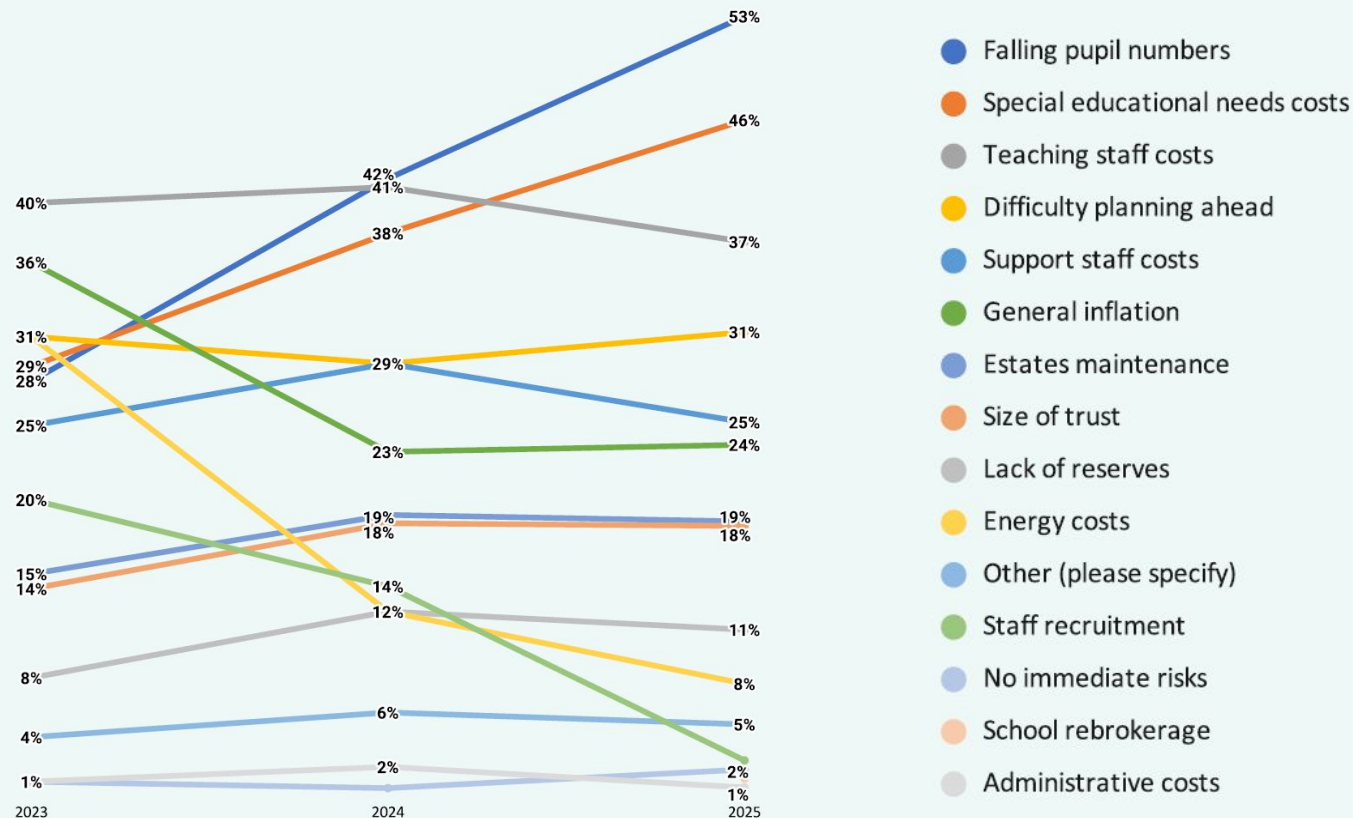


The changing face of finance pressures

Confidence with financial sustainability

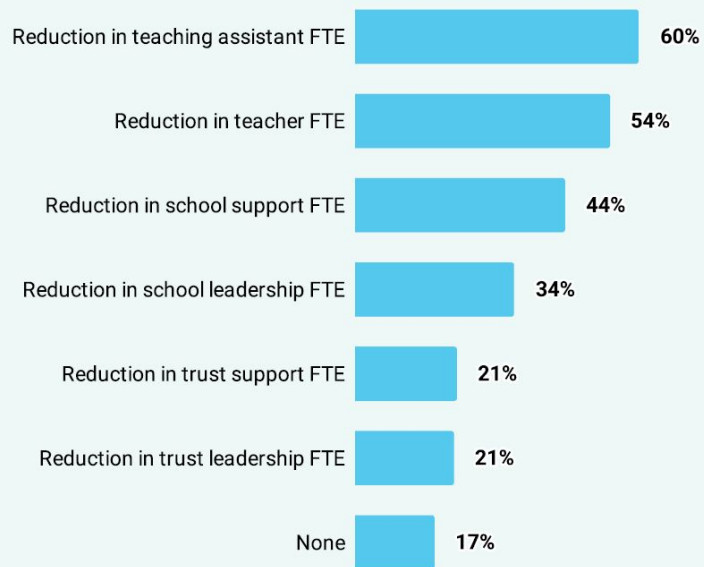


Top risks to financial sustainability

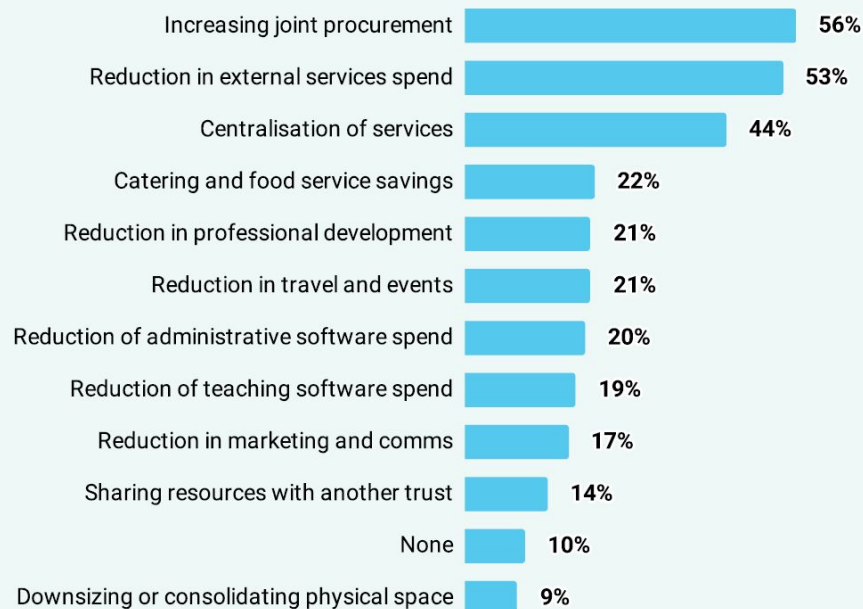


Actions to mitigate financial risks

Staff

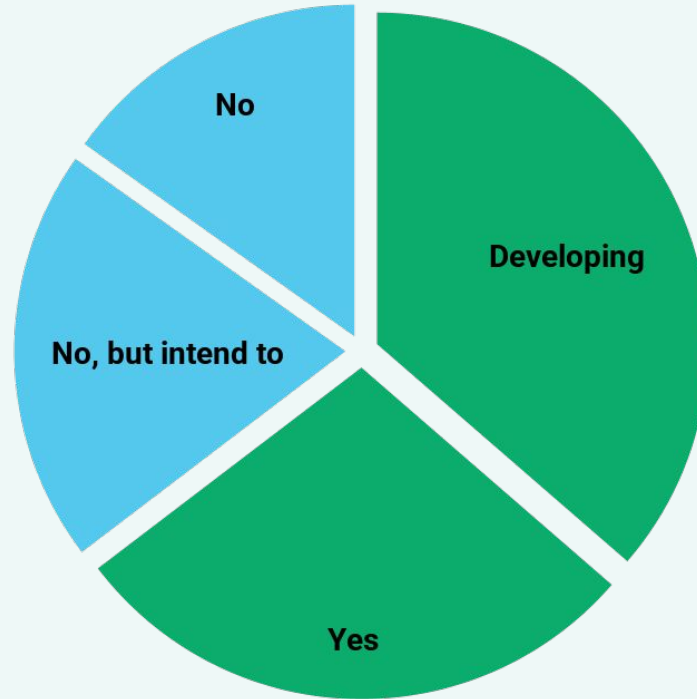


Non-Staff



Pressure on potential priorities

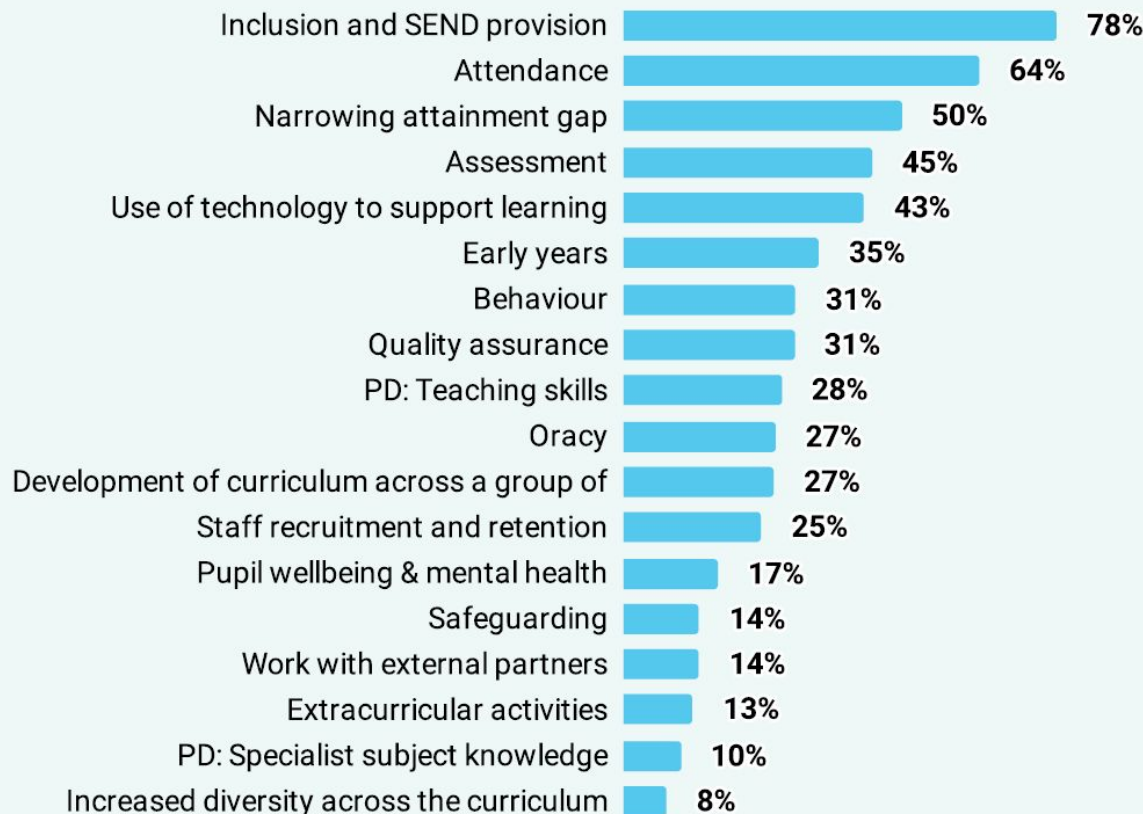
Does your trust have a climate action plan?



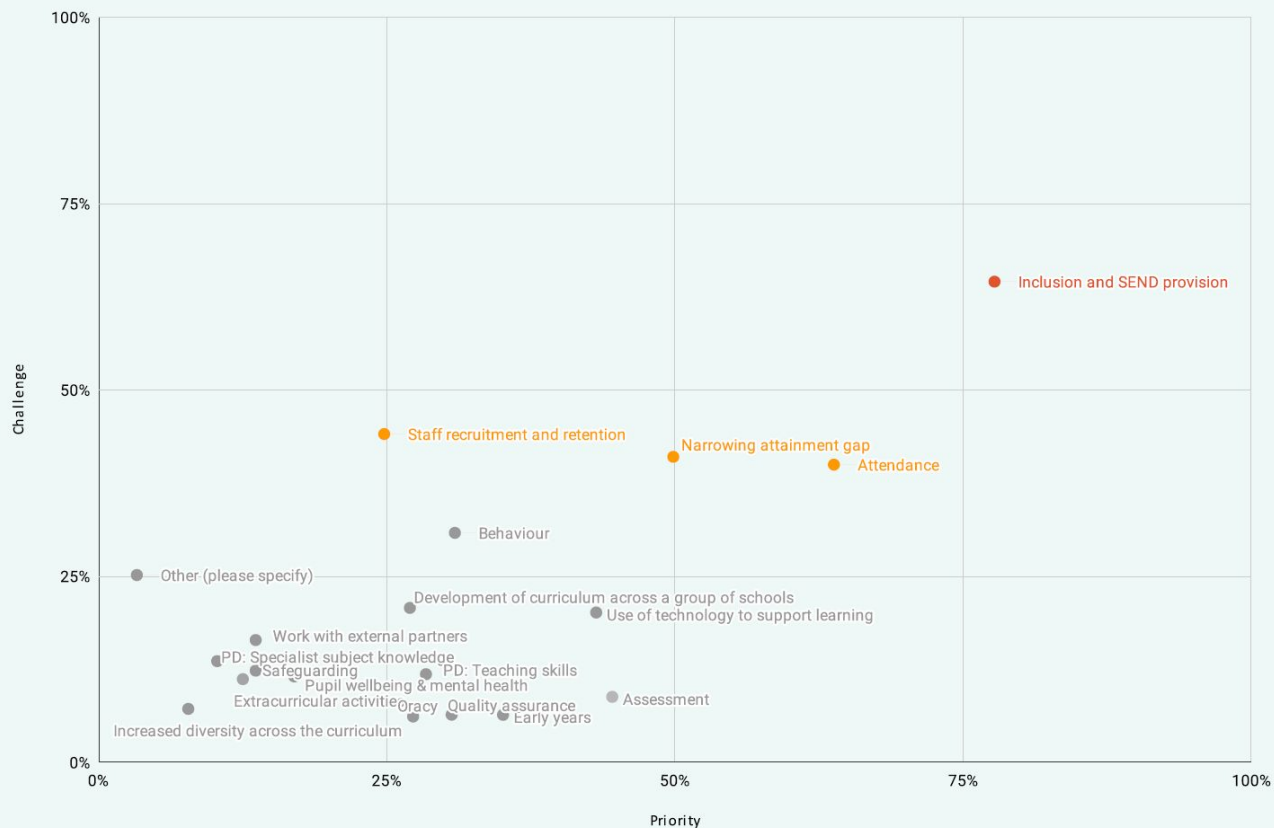
The changing face of finance pressures

Inclusion and SEND

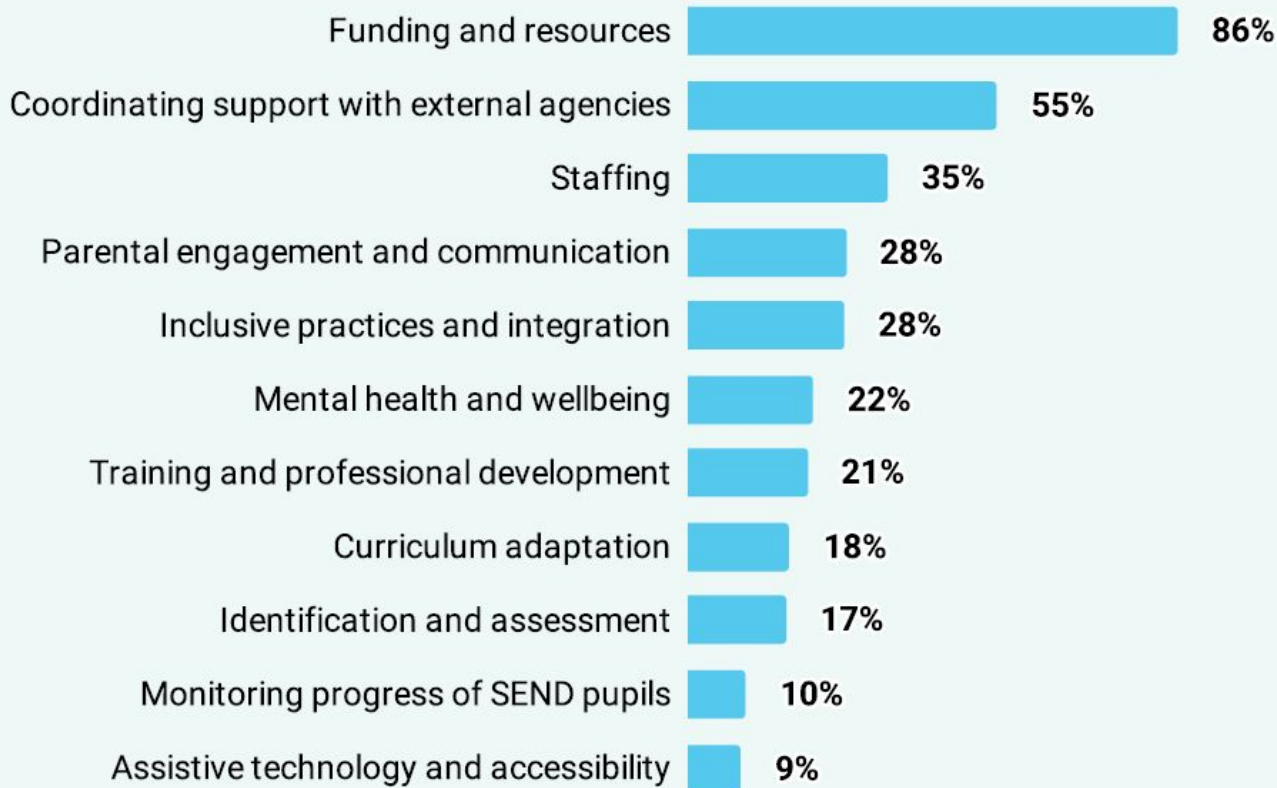
Top education priorities



Most demanding education priorities



Main challenges in managing SEND provision



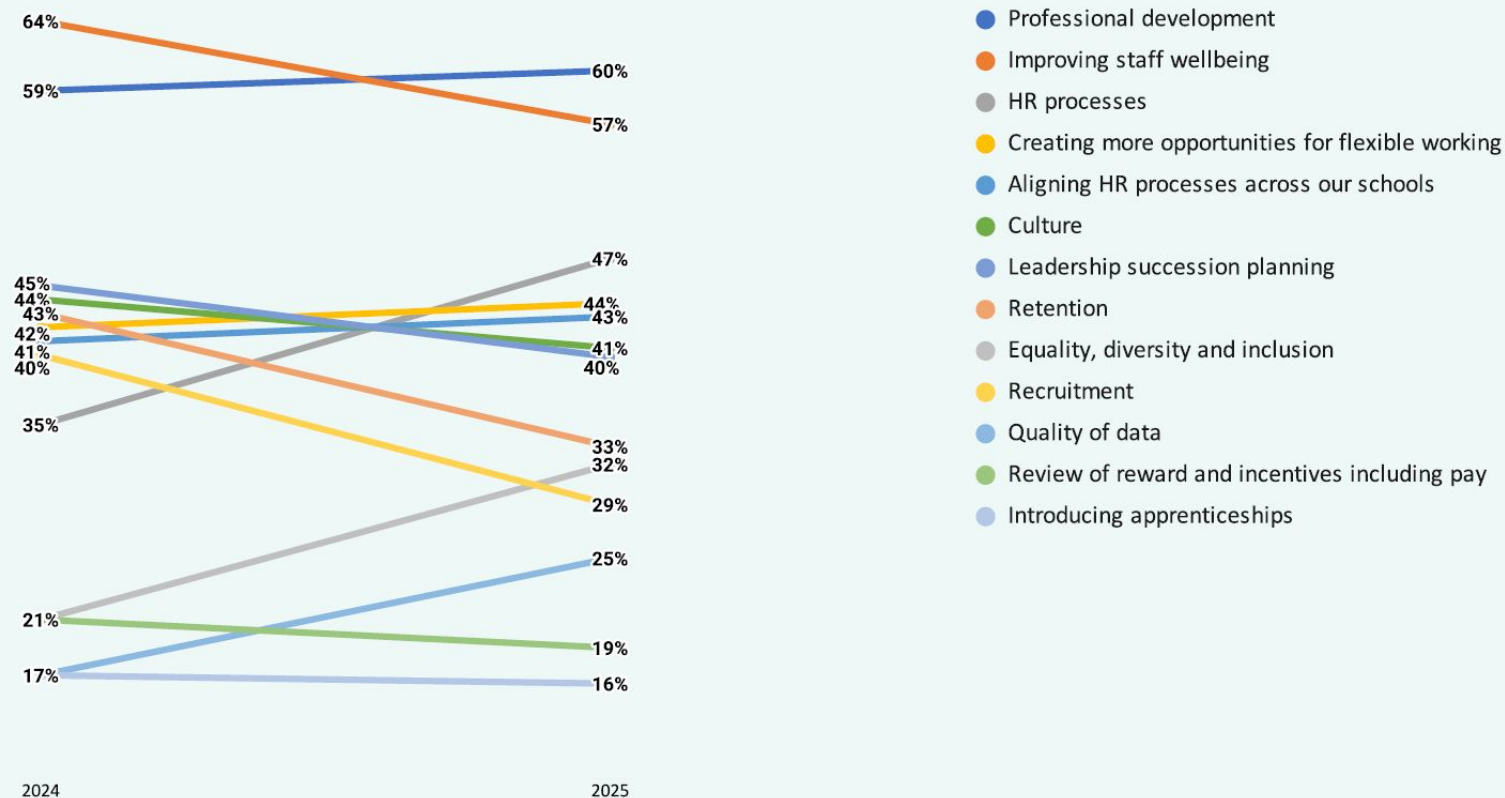
Inclusion and SEND

Workforce challenges changing shape

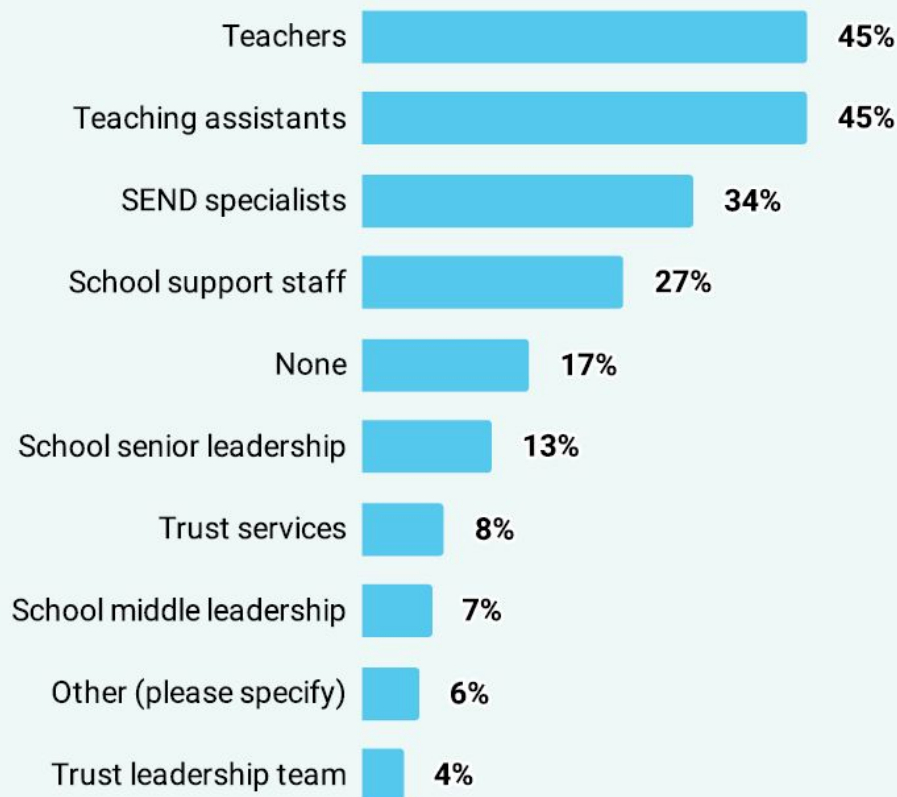
Top workforce priorities



Changes in workforce priorities



Which roles have you struggled to fill vacancies in?



Do trusts have a formal people strategy?



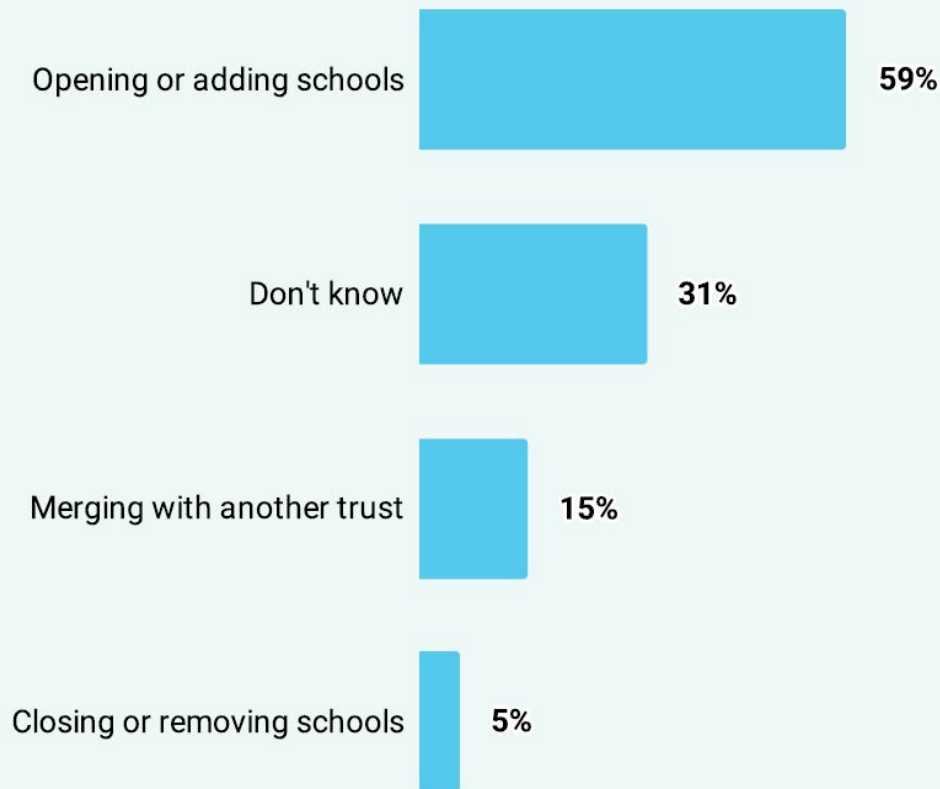
Staff incentives beyond national arrangements



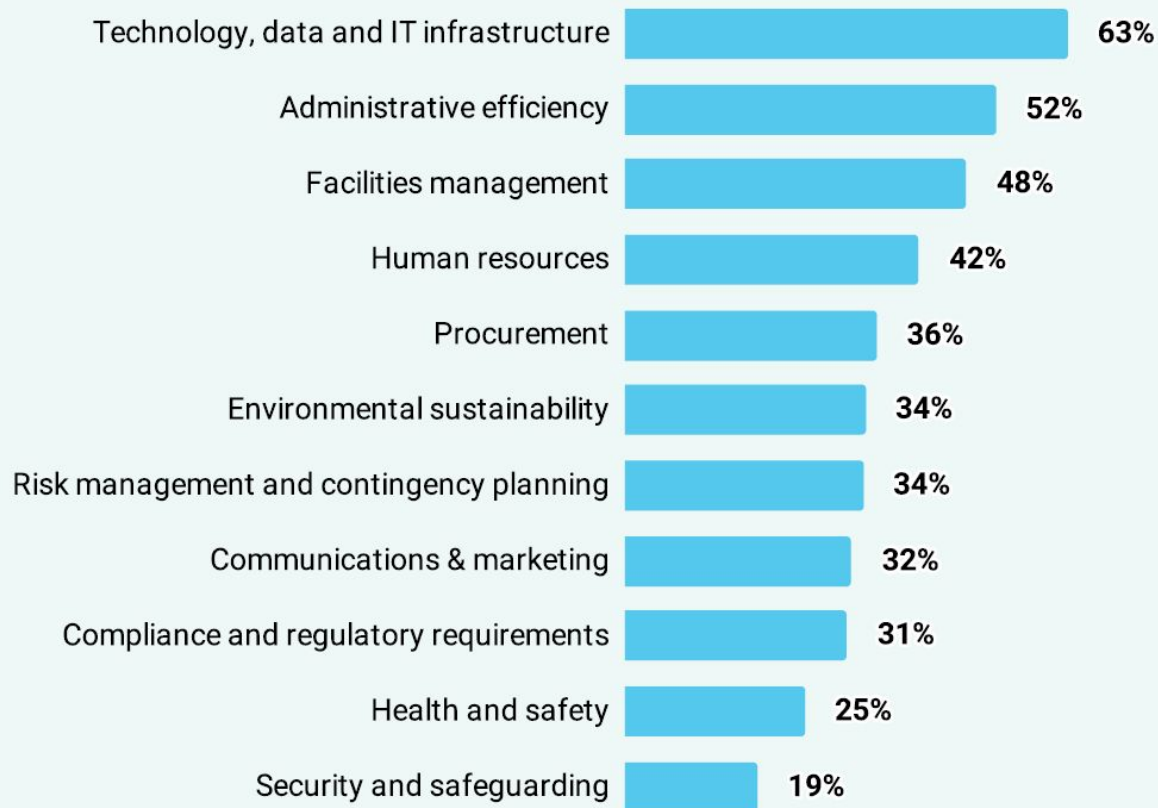
Workforce challenges changing shape

Evolving trust operating models

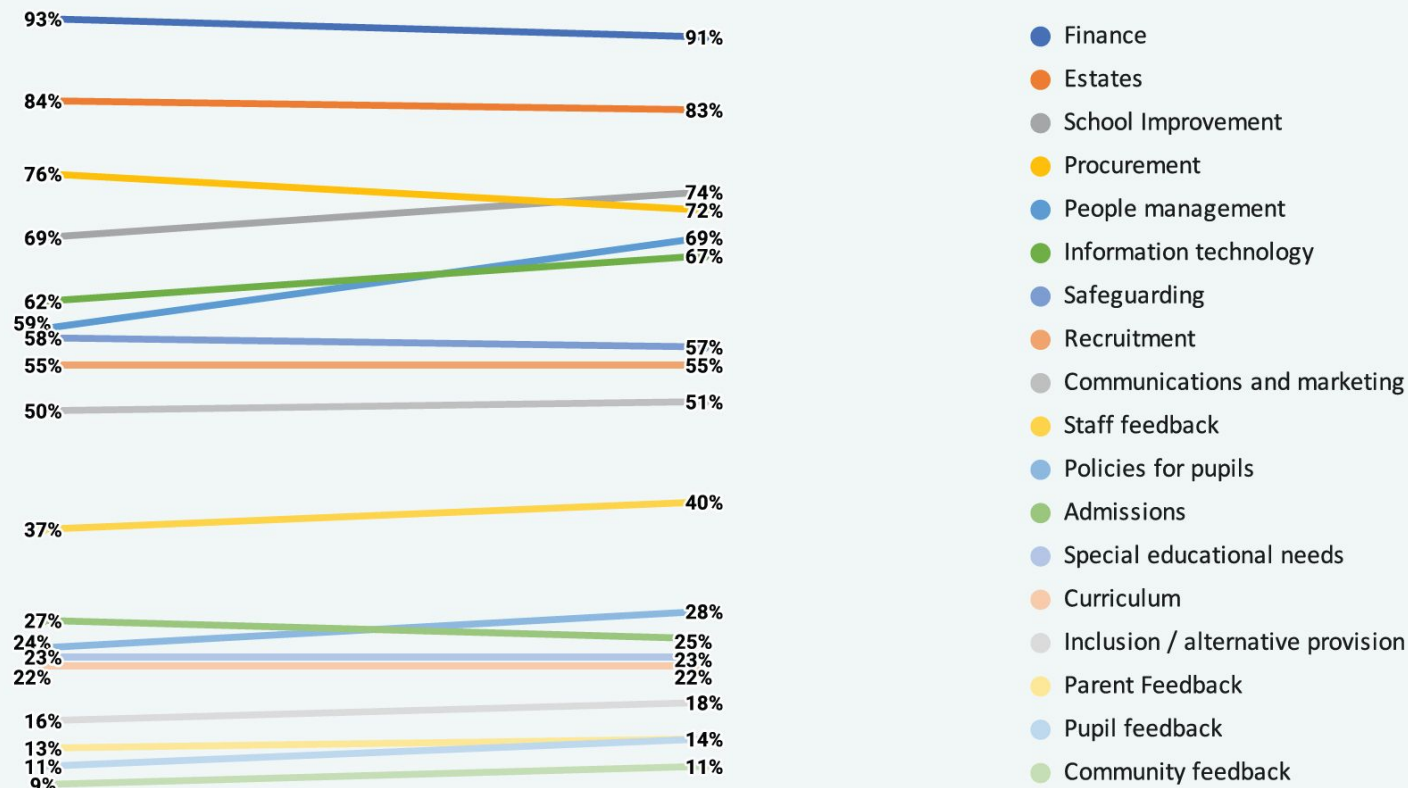
Changes expected in the trust over the next year



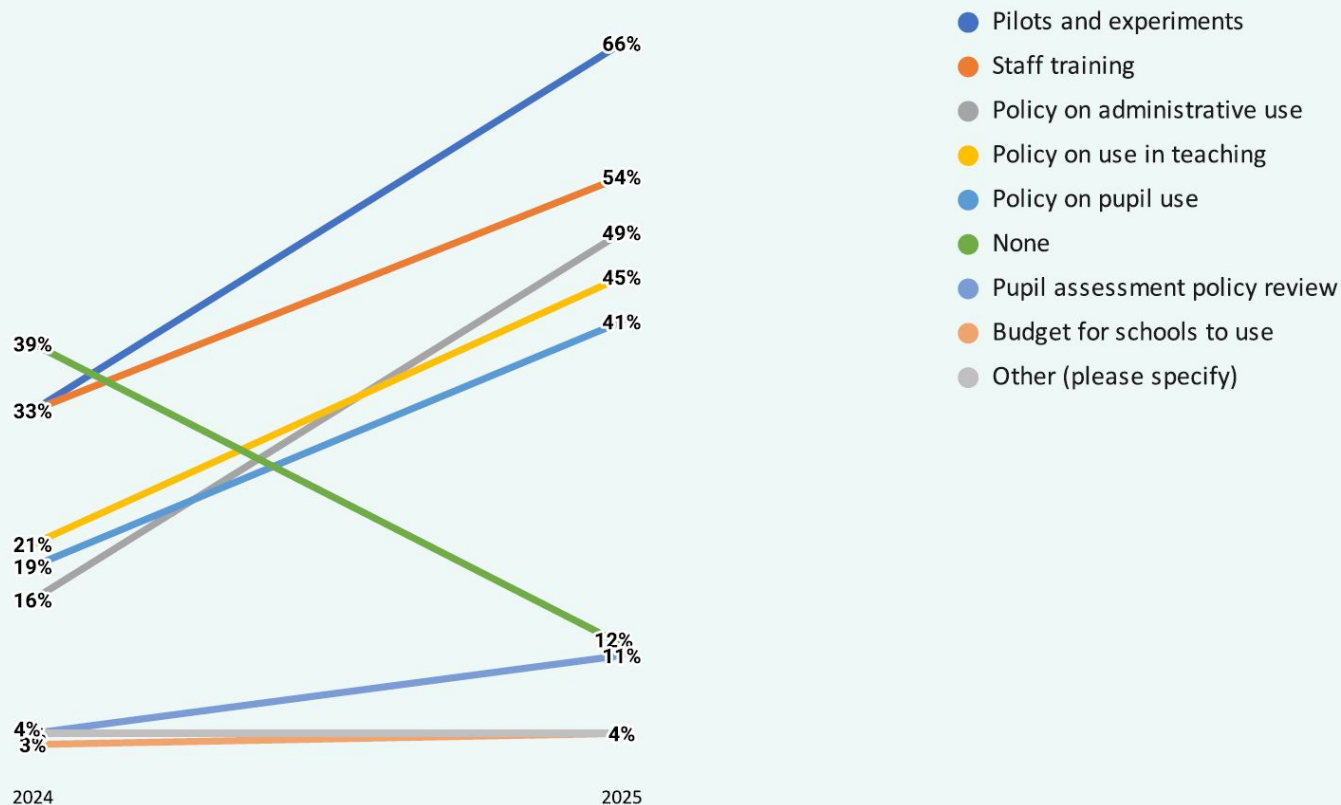
Top operational priorities



What areas are managed centrally



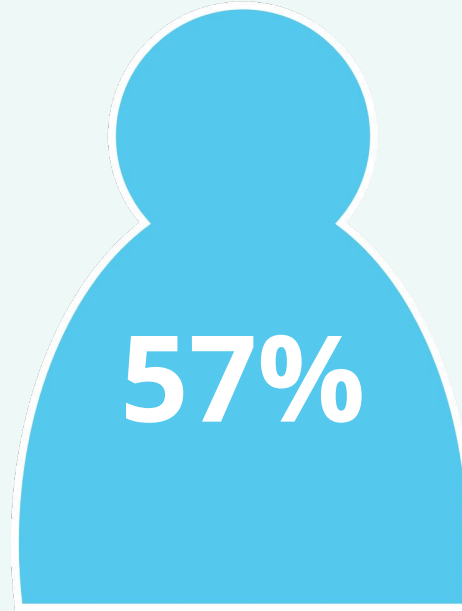
Activities in response to AI development



Changing sector approaches to governance



Dedicated governance role

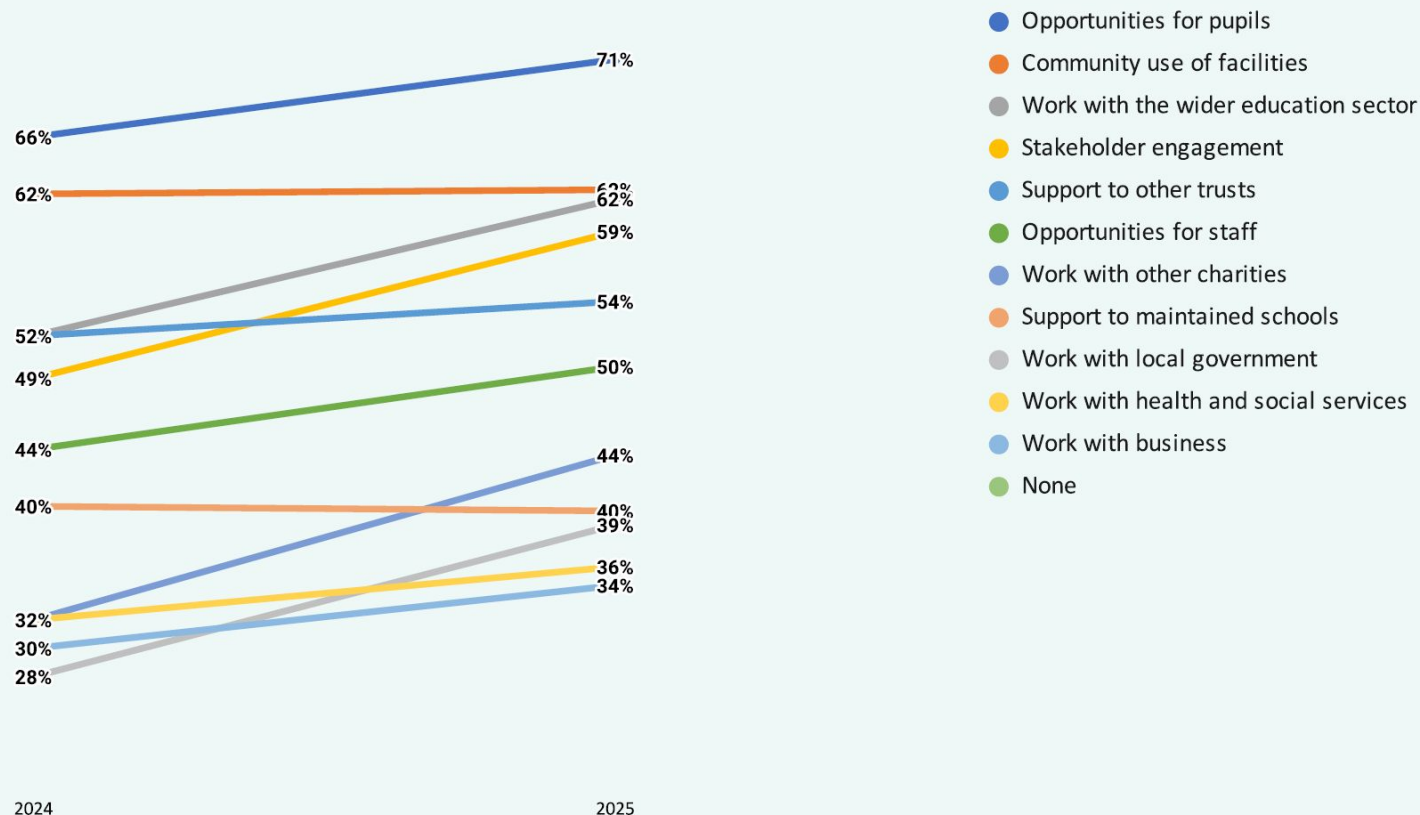


Chief Executive is a trustee

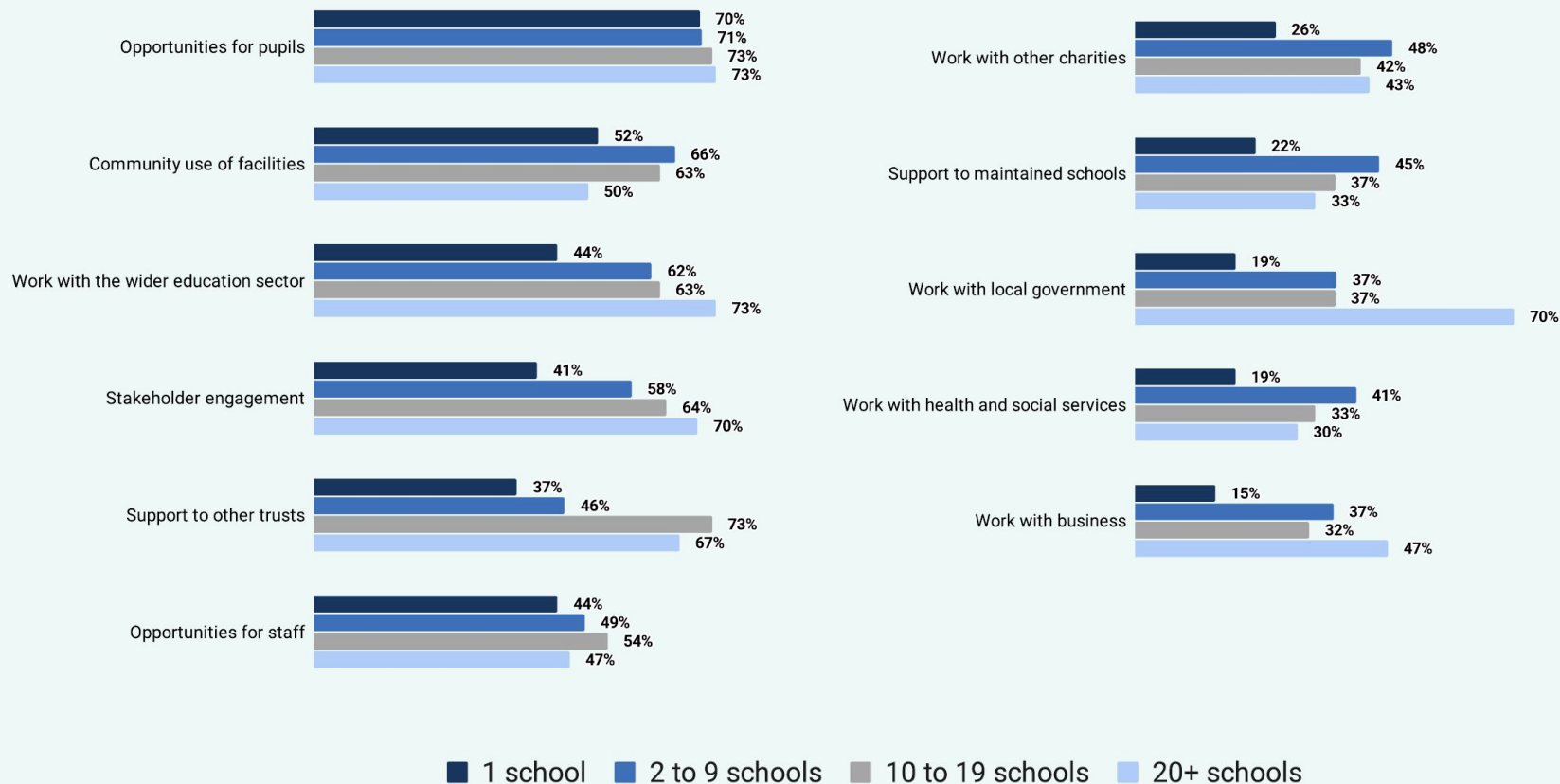
Evolving trust operating models

Growing system leadership

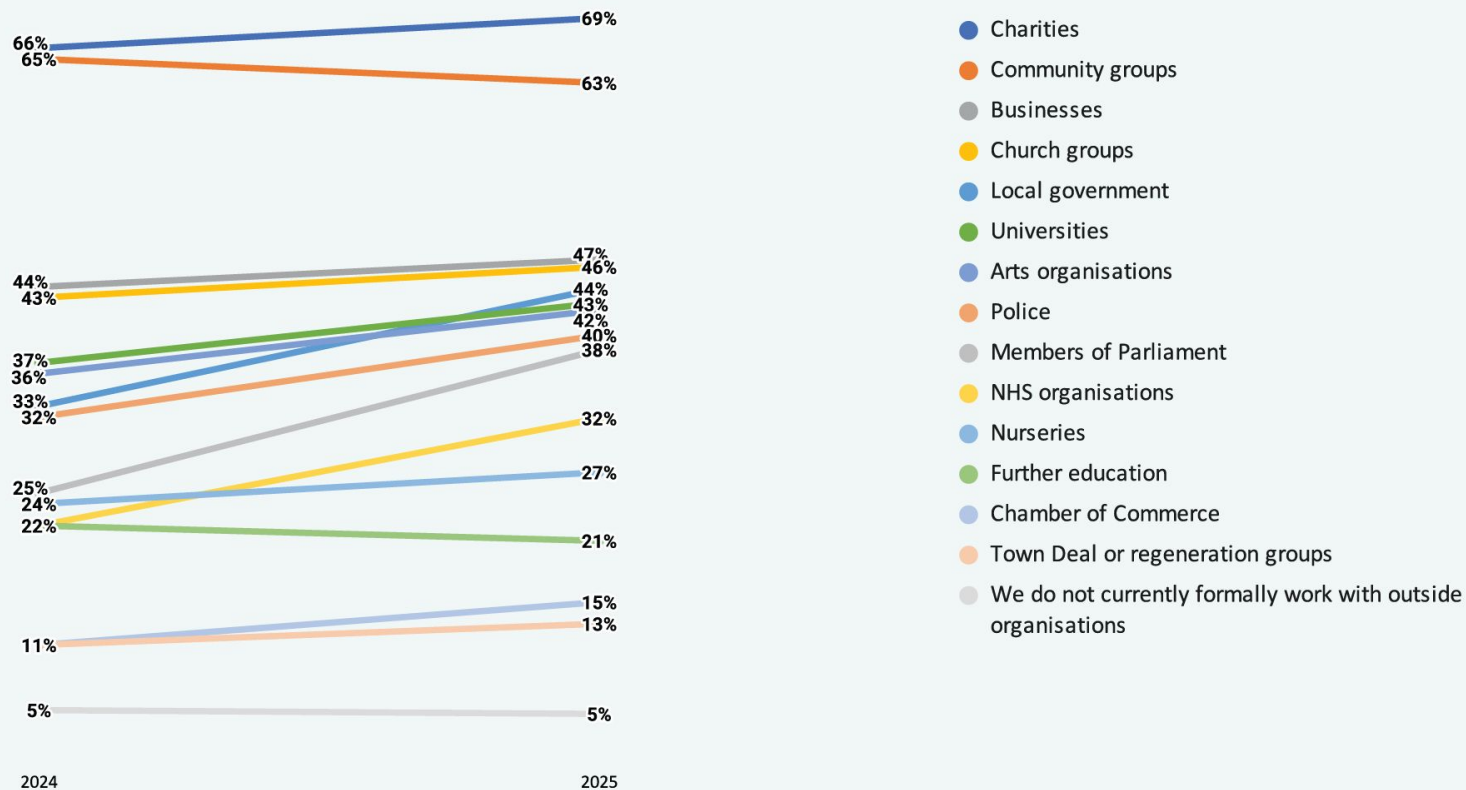
Priorities in public benefit and civic duty



Priorities based on trust size



What organisations do you work with for civic impact?



Growing system leadership

Discussion