

Technology, AI and skills for the future

The digital divide affects pupils at home and in school. Some students have reliable wi-fi and devices at home, while others lack internet access or a usable device both at home and school. According to the Communications and Digital Committee Digital Exclusion 2023 report, 1.7 million UK households lack broadband access. In 2022, the government promised that by 2025, all schools will have high-speed internet access as part of 'Project Gigabit'. The surge of interest in AI for classroom use has led to an explosion of programmes and apps claiming to save teachers time on lesson planning and marking. However, if time is saved, it is also spent as teachers report more students using AI to 'cheat' on homework.

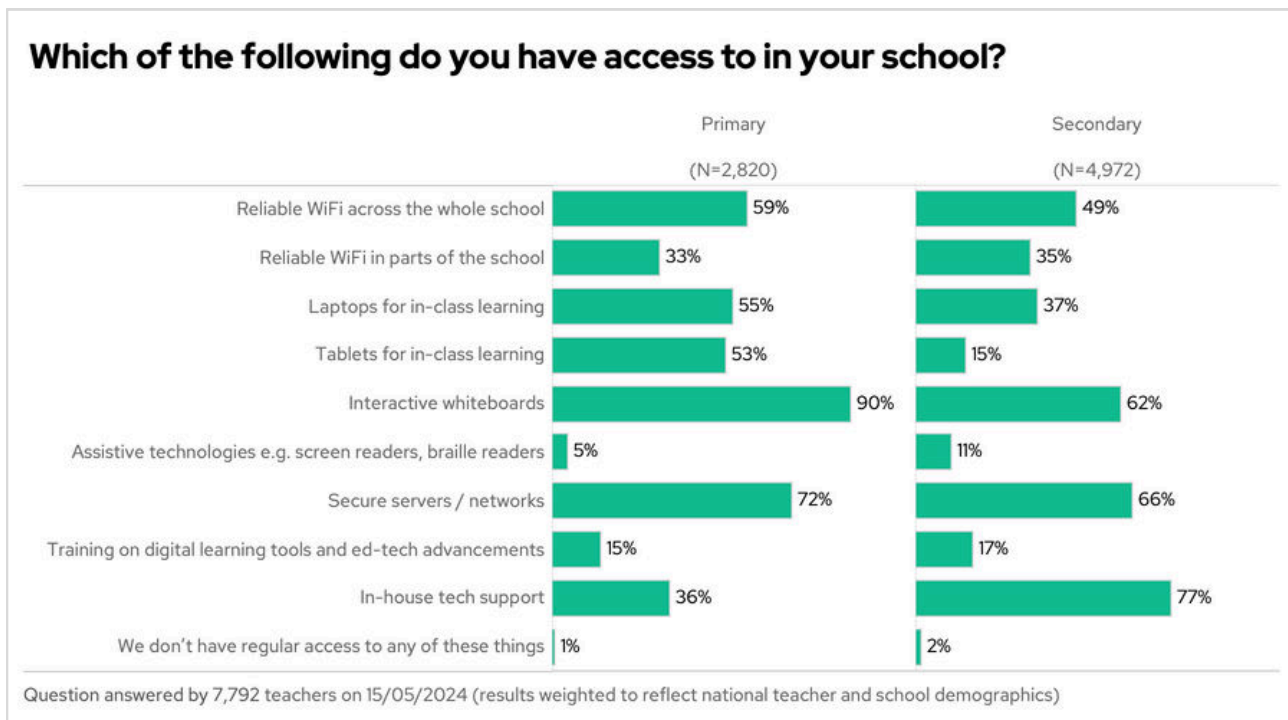
Access to technology

Nearly all teachers use some form of technology in their teaching on a daily basis. When asked about the consequences of a hypothetical power outage that affects their school's IT network, wi-fi, projectors and computers, only **5%** of teachers report that their teaching would remain virtually unchanged. Just **7%** of teachers say they haven't used computers with a whole class across an entire academic year.

But teachers also face a range of technology challenges:

- Nearly **half** (46%) of teachers do not have reliable wi-fi across their school.
- On any given day, over a **third** of teachers report that technology has failed them.
- A **quarter** of teachers do not have a school-owned device (tablet/laptop) that they can use at home/elsewhere for school work.

Technology provision is significantly different in primary and secondary schools: primaries are more likely to have devices for in-class learning and interactive whiteboards, whilst secondaries are more likely to have in-house technical support.



The rise of AI

A **quarter** of teachers have used AI tools for school work in the past week. More than **half** have used it at least once in their school work and **one in ten** secondary school teachers have used it during a lesson. English and primary school teachers are the group most likely to have used AI in the past week - not the maths and computing teachers which people sometimes expect!

One in four teachers has suspected a pupil of using AI in their homework *without* permission - a leap from just **6%** last year. In fact, cheating and plagiarism were the top concerns (63%) for teachers when asked what their worries were about the use of AI in the classroom. Despite this, teachers remain optimistic about AI capabilities, saying that they can see it helping with creating lesson content (50%), analysing assessment data (37%) and lesson planning (37%).

