

## How clustered is our sample?

Teacher Tapp is already by far the largest teacher survey in England, reaching over 7,000 teachers a day and over 9,000 a week. But where are the teachers who take our survey? There are two different ways to find teachers. A survey can either recruit teachers in clusters by targeting the school or find a way to recruit individual teachers.

### Teacher Tapp is NOT clustered – and for a good reason...

Some surveys, such as the [OECD TALIS](#), are intentionally very clustered surveys. They first recruit a set of schools and then recruit a sample of teachers from within those schools. This has two big upsides: it is cheap to recruit the sample and you can conduct analysis of responses within schools as well as across schools. For example, do headteachers who say they place a high emphasis on professional development also have teachers who feel they get a lot of professional development? However, clustered samples aren't great for learning about variation in practice across schools. For example, if you ask 200 maths teachers whether they set by ability in Year 7, but they are only in 40 schools, then you won't learn as much as if they were in 200 different schools.

### How un-clustered is Teacher Tapp?

Teacher Tapp is, by design, a survey that recruits individual teachers rather than targeting a school to sign up their teachers en masse. Obviously, once a teacher hears about us, they often tell their colleagues! Which means we sometimes find a few people working in the same schools are on the app. But how common is that? If we take our sample on just one day in August, we find that nearly half of our Tappers were the only teacher in their school to answer the three Teacher Tapp questions that day. About a quarter were one of a pair answering that day at their school. And at the other extreme, one school had 14 teachers answering questions!

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