

**RM's
BETT
2003
Survey**

**Independent Market
Research Report**

Commissioned by

RM

January 2003

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1. Summary

Worried Primary School Teachers:

- Collectively, 87% of UK primary school teachers worry about issues associated with their teaching job.
- The Top 5 most common worries are:
 1. Workload (60%)
 2. Salary (45%)
 3. Poor teaching conditions (43%)
 4. Pupils' performance in exams (41%)
 5. Poor teaching facilities (37%).
- Very close behind on the list of worries is concern for their own career prospects (35%).
- The least common issue that worries these primary school teachers is drugs and alcohol problems within school (4%), but the figure is not insignificant when extrapolated to the rest of the country – equating to 760 schools across the UK.
- Also low on the list is being a good teacher (11%), but all those who worry about this aspect are female primary school teachers – so none of the male teachers in the sample worry about this.
- But equal proportions of male and female teachers worry about relationships with other teachers (13%).
- Finally, there are some very serious issues that worry an alarmingly high proportion of primary school teachers, such as fear of aggressive students (23% - almost 1 in 4), bullying within school (21% - 1 in 5) and unruly classes (17% - almost 1 in 5).

Challenging Subjects:

- Primary school teachers tend to have their own specialist subject to teach, but they are also expected to cover the entire curriculum of subjects – yet 61% find at least 1 subject that they teach to be challenging.
- The Top 3 subjects that most commonly challenge primary school teachers are:
 1. Music (19%)
 2. Numeracy (14%)
 3. ICT (13%).

ICT in Schools:

- ICT has become an integral part of teaching and this is reflected in the research.
- Indeed, 75% of primary school teachers believe that using ICT makes learning for pupils more enjoyable.
- In the same vein, 72% of primary school teachers believe that using ICT makes teaching more enjoyable.

- Over 1 in 2 (56%) primary school teachers go even further and believe that increasing the existing ICT resources would improve pupils' education.
- And 51% of primary school teachers do not think their school provides sufficient resources to teach ICT – and this is especially so in the North of England (63%), compared to Scotland (only 37%).
- Furthermore, 71% think there is not enough funding provided to schools for ICT teaching.
- But despite the enthusiasm for ICT in teaching and the desire to see more of it, over 1 in 2 (53%) primary school teachers admit that new education technologies can be intimidating for teachers and 49% think new education technologies can be hard to use for teachers.
- Only 35% think that ICT is easy to teach, suggesting 65% do not find it easy to teach – but Welsh primary school teachers seem very comfortable with teaching ICT (73% find it easy), compared to those in the North of England (only 23%).
- Finally, almost 1 in 3 (27%) primary school teachers would welcome a complete package that assists with ICT teaching.

2. Research Methodology

This report was commissioned by RM and details findings of quantitative research with UK primary school teachers.

150 primary school teachers across the UK were interviewed by telephone by Dynamic Markets between 22nd and 28th November 2002. The questions were all pre-coded and interviews lasted 1-2 minutes. Before and during the interviews, respondents were not aware that RM had commissioned the research.

Comparative Analysis:

The findings of the survey have been analysed according to gender and broad geographic region. The tables below show the margin of error at a 95% confidence level (Table 1) and the sub-sample sizes (Tables 2 & 3). These tables can be used to determine whether an observed difference between two sub-samples (e.g. men versus women) is a *real* difference or not. In other words, to see if the difference is statistically significant.

This means that for an observed percentage of 10% on a sub-sample of 50 respondents, the *real* percentage could be +/-7.0%, so the *real* percentage could be anywhere between 3% and 17%. This means that if the survey were repeated under exactly the same conditions, there is a 95% chance of getting a number anywhere between 3% and 17%. It follows that if 5% of men selected a particular answer, compared to 15% of women, from a statistical point of view, the observed difference is NOT statistically significant at a 95% confidence level.

Table 1: Margin of error at a 95% confidence level:

Sample size	50	100	200	300	400	500	1000
5% or 95%	±7.0	±4.4	±3.1	±2.5	±2.2	±1.9	±1.4
10% or 90%	±9.7	±6.0	±4.2	±3.5	±3.0	±2.7	±1.9
25% or 75%	±14.0	±8.7	±6.1	±5.0	±4.3	±3.9	±2.7
50%	±16.1	±10.0	±7.1	±5.8	±5.0	±4.5	±3.2

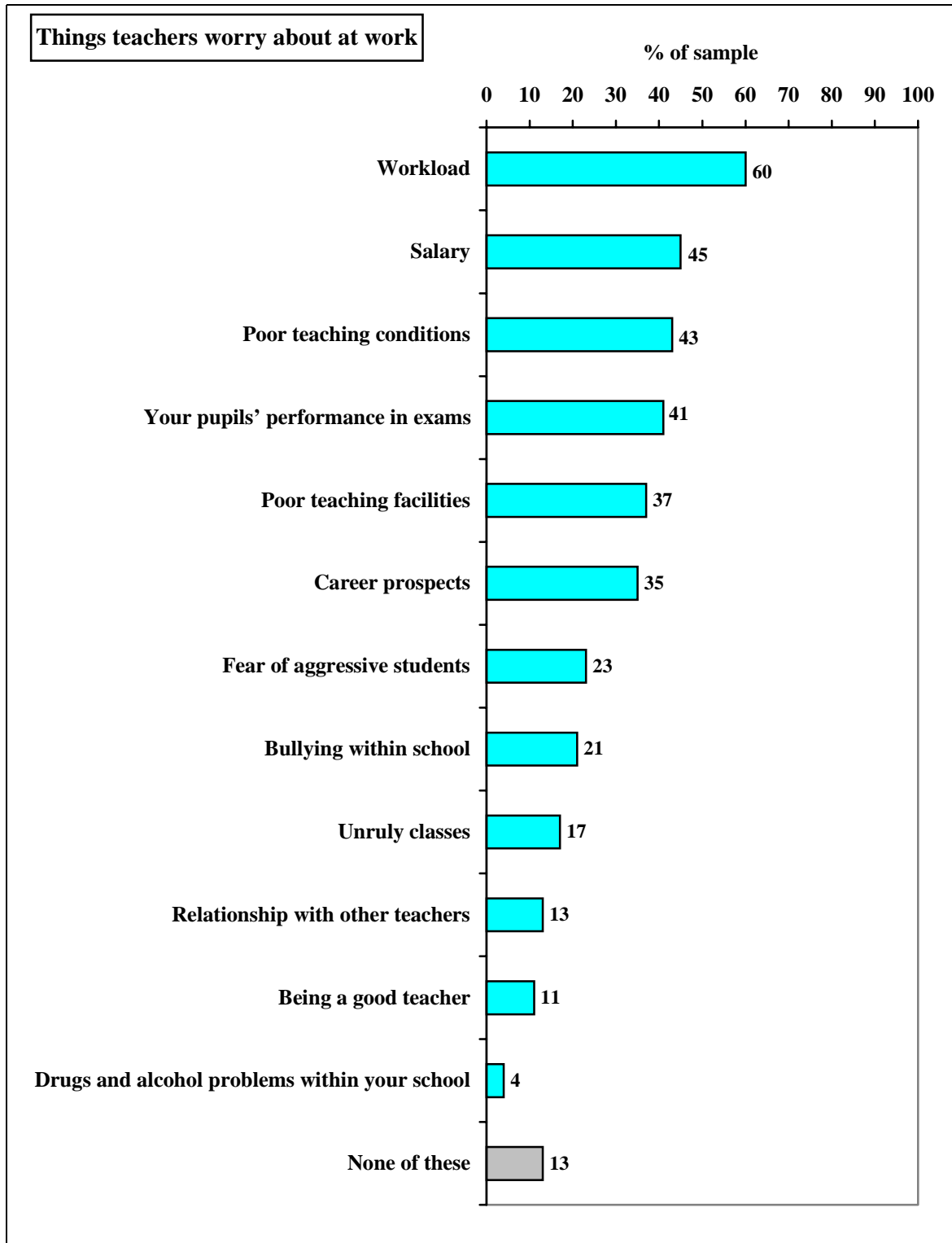
Table 2: Weighted Sub-Sample Sizes (n):

Region	n=	Gender	n=
Wales	11*	Male	29
The South of England	65	Female	121
The North of England	30		
Scotland	32		
Northern Ireland	12*		

Table 2 show that the size of some of these sub-samples is very low (<25 respondents*). This means that what might appear to be a striking difference between this and other regions may in fact be statistically *insignificant* at a 95% confidence level. However, only differences that are statistically significant are described in this report.

3. Main Survey Findings

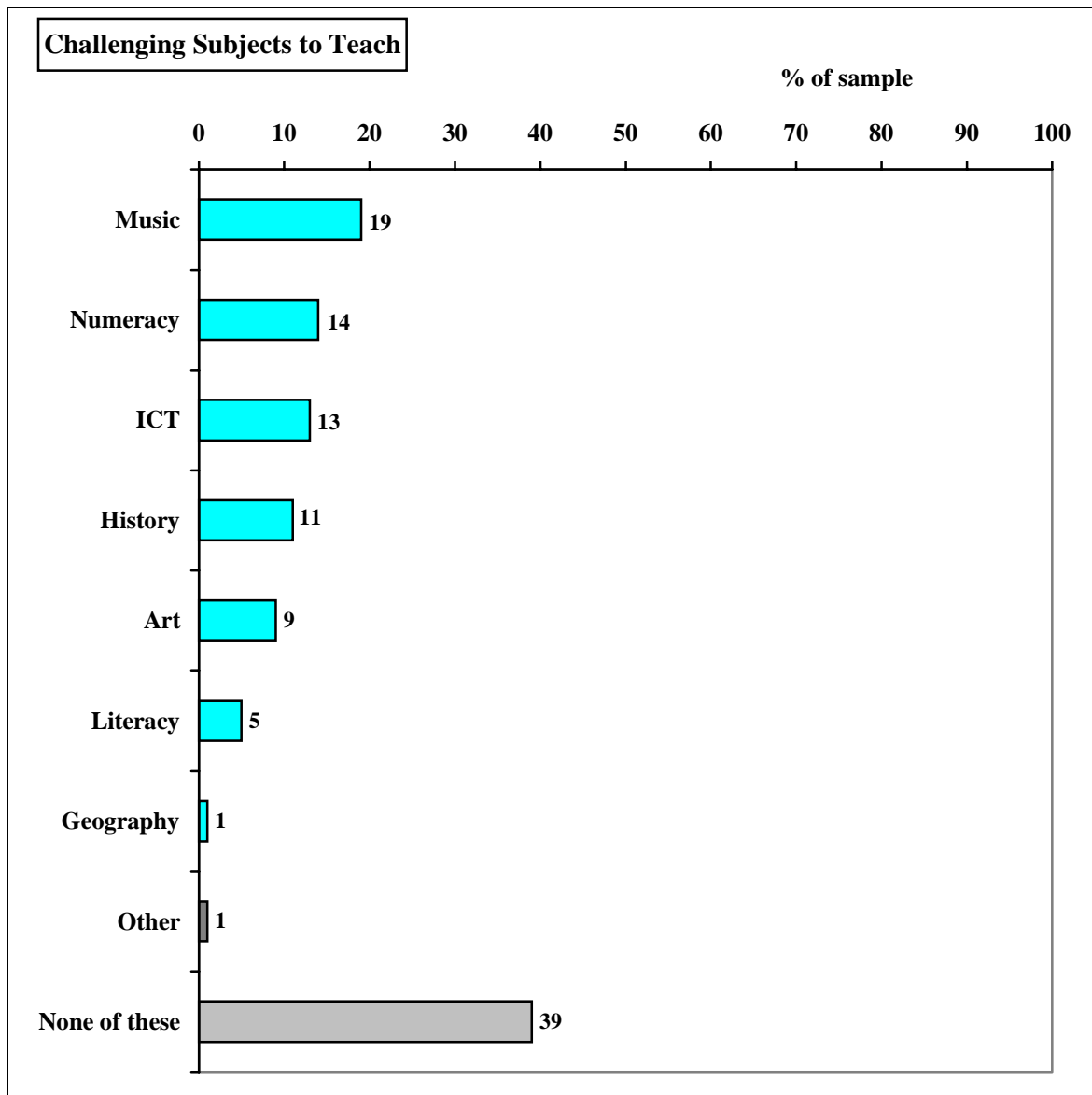
3.1 Which of the following work-related issues worry you?



- Collectively, 87% of UK primary school teachers worry about at least 1 of these issues.

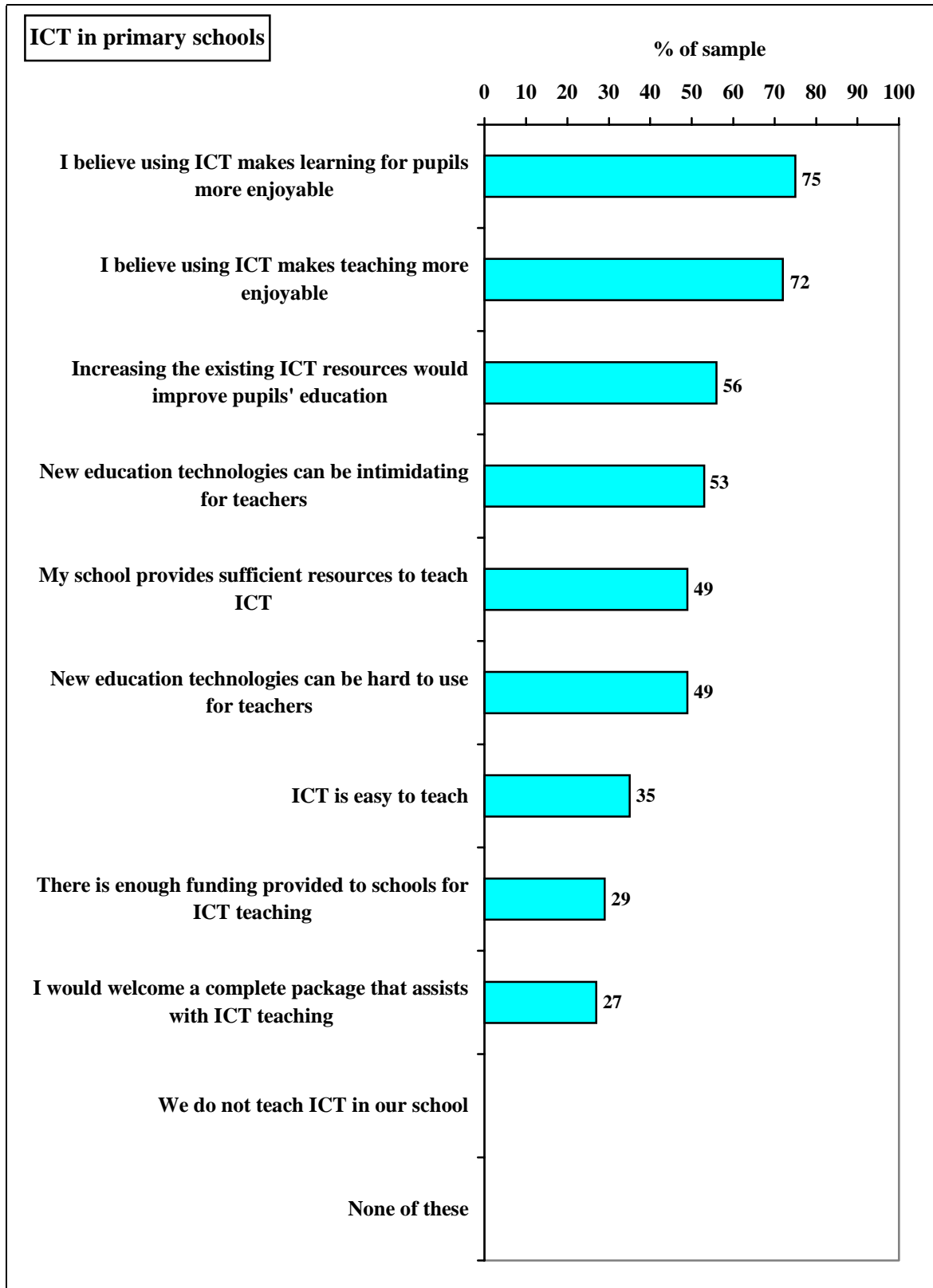
- The Top 5 most common worries for primary school teachers are:
 1. Workload (60%)
 2. Salary (45%)
 3. Poor teaching conditions (43%)
 4. Pupils' performance in exams (41%)
 5. Poor teaching facilities (37%).
- The least common issues that worry these primary school teachers are drugs and alcohol problems within school (4%), being a good teacher (11%) and relationships with other teachers (13%).
- But all those who worry about being a good teacher are female primary school teachers – none of the male teachers in the sample worry about this.
- But other serious issues worry an alarming proportion of primary school teachers, such as fear of aggressive students (23%), bullying within school (21%) and unruly classes (17%).
- In addition, 35% of primary school teachers worry about their own career prospects.

3.2 What subject do you find challenging to teach?



- Collectively, 61% of primary school teachers find at least 1 of these subjects challenging to teach – whereas 39% say none of them presents a challenge.
- The Top 3 most challenging subjects for primary school teachers are:
 4. Music (19%)
 5. Numeracy (14%)
 6. ICT (13%).
- The 'Other' category includes science and PE.

3.3 Which of the following about ICT in primary schools do you think apply?



- All of these primary school teachers work in schools that teach ICT.

- Indeed, 75% of primary school teachers believe that using ICT makes learning for pupils more enjoyable.
- Similarly, 72% of primary school teachers believe that using ICT makes teaching more enjoyable.
- Indeed, 56% of primary school teachers believe that increasing the existing ICT resources would improve pupils' education.
- But, 53% of primary school teachers admit that new education technologies can be intimidating for teachers.
- Another 49% think new education technologies can be hard to use for teachers.
- Yet 49% of primary school teachers think their school provides sufficient resources to teach ICT, suggesting 51% think the opposite – in detail, more primary school teachers in Scotland (63%) think they have sufficient resources to teach ICT, compared to those in the North of England (37%).
- 29% think there is enough funding provided to schools for ICT teaching, suggesting 71% disagree.
- Only 35% think that ICT is easy to teach, suggesting 65% do not find it easy to teach – in detail, more of those in Wales (73%) think ICT is easy to teach, compared to those in the North of England (23%).
- And 27% would welcome a complete package that assists with ICT teaching.

Appendix 1: Quantitative Questionnaire

1) Which of the following work-related issues worry you? [Select all that apply]

- Unruly classes
- Fear of aggressive students
- Poor teaching conditions
- Poor teaching facilities
- Workload
- Relationship with other teachers
- Salary
- Career prospects
- Your pupils' performance in exams
- Bullying within school
- Drugs and alcohol problems within your school
- Being a good teacher
- [None of these]

2) What subject do you find challenging to teach? [Select all that apply]

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Geography
- Music
- ICT
- History
- Art
- Other (Please specify)
- [None of these]

3) Which of the following about ICT in primary schools do you think apply? [Select all that apply]

- ICT is easy to teach
- My school provides sufficient resources to teach ICT
- There is enough funding provided to schools for ICT teaching
- New education technologies can be intimidating for teachers
- New education technologies can be hard to use for teachers
- I believe using ICT makes teaching more enjoyable
- I believe using ICT makes learning for pupils more enjoyable
- Increasing the existing ICT resources would improve pupils' education
- I would welcome a complete package that assists with ICT teaching
- [We do not teach ICT in our school]
- [None of these]

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