Press Release

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For immediate release

**Teachers and school leaders in England are working excessive hours, finds DfE study**

Teachers and school leaders across England are working excessive hours, found a study commissioned by the Department of Education (DfE) to help them design policies to better support teachers and leaders and improve recruitment and retention.

The first wave of the study, delivered jointly by IFF Research and IOE, UCL’s Faculty of Education and Society, revealed that full time teachers are averaging almost 52 hours per week, with full time leaders nearing 58 hours.

As a result, almost three quarters disagreed that their workload was acceptable and nearly two thirds disagreed that they had sufficient control over their workload.

While these findings raise concern over the sustainability of a career as a teacher or school leader, there were some positives to note: 84% of teachers agreed that they enjoyed classroom teaching and almost all (98%) reported undertaking professional development in the last year.

The Working Lives of Teachers and Leaders is one of the largest surveys of teachers and leaders in England, capturing over 11,000 responses in its first year. With the survey being repeated each springtime over the course of 5 years, it will provide DfE with significant insight over time to better support the profession.

Speaking of the study, IFF Research Director, Lorna Adams said, “it’s really exciting to see the results of the first year of the study published. The size and the longitudinal nature of the study give us a great opportunity to understand the experiences of teachers and leaders in England, and the findings will be instrumental in informing policy decisions for teachers and leaders in the coming years.”

Established in 1965, IFF provides tailor-made research solutions specialising in eight key sectors: Business and Enterprise; Energy and Environment; Higher Education; Financial Services; Housing; Learning & Skills; Regulation; and Work, Welfare and Wellbeing.

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**Notes to Editor**

**For more information**:

Sara Fernie-Jones

Marketing Director

sara.fernie-jones@iffresearch.com

**About IFF Research**:

IFF Research is an independent social and market research agency who help their partners make better informed decisions. Established in 1965, IFF provides insight to the private, public and voluntary sector. Their experienced team provide tailor-made research solutions specialising in eight key sectors: Business and Enterprise; Energy and Environment; Higher Education; Financial Services; Housing; Learning & Skills; Regulation; and Work, Welfare and Wellbeing. IFF offers a full suite of social and market research services, including data collection, data analysis and reporting.

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**About the research**

This longitudinal study will capture insight from teachers and leaders across England from 2022-26. The first wave of this research, encompassing responses from 11,177 teachers and leaders in the spring of 2022, was [published by DfE on 11 April 2023](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-lives-of-teachers-and-leaders-wave-1).