

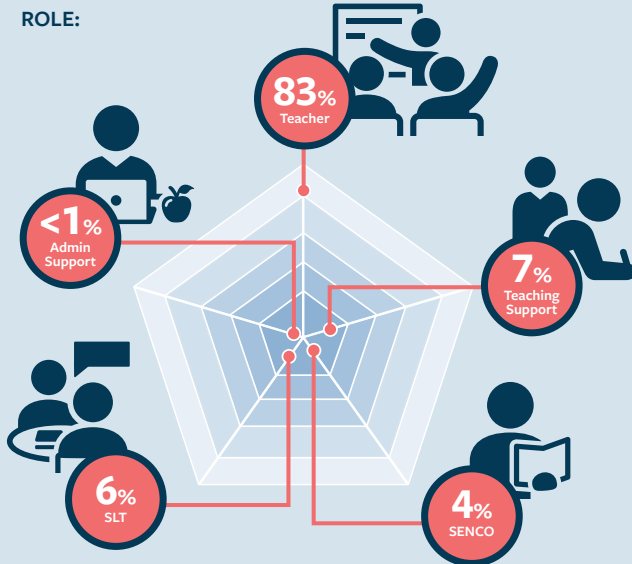
# WORKING MEMORY

IN UK EDUCATIONAL PROFESSIONALS

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## WHO TOOK PART?

ROLE:



TYPE OF SCHOOL:

Primary  
Secondary  
Both

1425  
RESPONDENTS

64%

30%

6%

## WHAT IS WORKING MEMORY?

Working memory is the ability to hold in mind and manipulate information over short periods of time.

Only a limited amount of information (up to around 4 chunks) can be held in working memory at any given time, and information is typically lost within seconds (<30 seconds).

Working memory underpins learning and is associated with educational outcomes.

We conducted a questionnaire to examine understanding about working memory in educational professionals.

## WHAT DID WE FIND?

### DEFINITION

50%

knew working memory is linked to short-term storage of information

35%

recognised that working memory is also linked to the ability to manipulate information

### CAPACITY

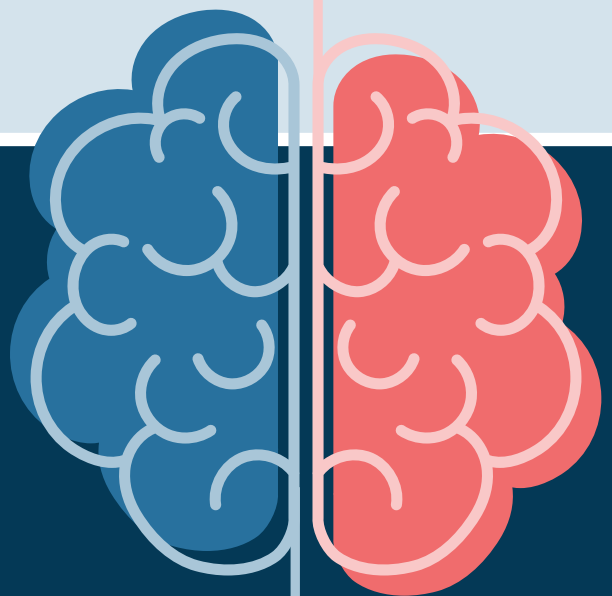
70%

had a basic understanding of how much information can be held in working memory at a given time, with some respondents overestimating the capacity

### DURATION

20%

were aware of the amount of time information can be held in working memory. Most respondents believed that information could be held for minutes or hours



### SIGNS OF POOR WORKING MEMORY

4

The average number of signs reported (range = 0-10). **Forgetting information, appearing distracted and difficulty following instructions** were commonly reported signs<sup>1</sup>

### STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH POOR WORKING MEMORY

3

The average number of strategies reported (range = 0-9). **Providing memory aids, simplifying tasks and instructions, and repeating information** were frequently reported strategies<sup>1</sup>

### CONCLUSION

There was considerable variation in understanding between individuals. Further training on working memory would therefore be beneficial.