

Big Education Conversation

 A summary of the feedback



The Government of Jersey wants an education system that is right for the future.
So we started a big conversation. We wanted to find out what people think about education in Jersey.

What was it about?

We asked people 4 important questions:

- What do you think about Jersey's education system?
- What matters to you most?
- What are your aspirations (hopes) for the future and what changes, if any, do you think are needed?
- What will education look like in 20 years?

Who was involved?

The conversation was open to everyone including:

- children and young people
- teachers and staff in our schools and colleges
- adult learners
- parents, family members and carers
- businesses and community organisations.

These are some of the main things that people told us.

Talking about: The future

People across Jersey said they want a great education system. They want it to work well and help all children to:

- learn and reach their goals for the future
- get the knowledge and skills they need for work and life
- learn literacy, numeracy and digital skills
- be resilient and able to bounce back
- have healthy social and emotional skills
- be open to everyone and help everyone learn, no matter what their background is.



Talking about: **Problems**

People across Jersey said that the education system isn't meeting everyone's needs.

Some children don't get the education they need. This includes children:

- with special educational needs and disabilities
- whose first language is not English
- who face poverty
- who are looked after or have other care experiences.

Some parts of the education system need to change to prepare pupils for work and life.

Some pupils don't get enough support and challenging work to be the best they can be.

Talking about: **Funding**

People across Jersey said the education system needs more funding and resources.

Some schools find it difficult to

- get basic learning materials for their pupils like books and stationery.
- get support from other services, like mental health services, when their pupils need it.

Schools think funding should focus on a pupil's needs so those with the highest needs get more funding.

Talking about: **Making decisions**

Head teachers said they want to make their own decisions. They want more control over their money, staff and the school buildings. There could be systems to check they are making the right decisions.

Private schools already have the freedom to make these decisions. People would like to know more about how this works and how much the government supports them.



Talking about: **Information**

Parents want more information about how their child is doing and how well the school is doing. This could help them make better decisions.



Talking about: **Teachers**

People across Jersey said good quality teaching makes a big difference. Many teachers told us they feel under pressure and stretched too far. To help them, the education system needs:

- more teachers with high qualifications
- more funding for training
- more teaching assistants in the classroom
- to look at how to keep teachers in Jersey.

Talking about: **Special education needs**

Some schools said they can't support pupils with special education needs (SEN) well enough. Sometimes giving enough support to pupils with special education needs means other pupils miss out.

Schools need more funding, resources and teaching assistants to help meet these needs.

Talking about: **Children at risk**

Some children need protection from harm more than others. Schools said they need more resources to support:

- vulnerable children
- children in care
- young carers.

Talking about: **Student welfare**

People across Jersey said social, emotional and physical health are important. These should be a bigger part of school life and experience.

Teachers said they need more training and help to meet students' wellbeing needs. They need more specialist support services.

Talking about: **Working together**

Schools said they want to work together more.

Some schools already do, but there should be more opportunities, including:

- ways to share lessons and courses
- time for head teachers to work together.

Talking about: **Choice**

Most people think there's a good level of choice in the Jersey education system.

But parents need to be able to make choices.

Some parents pay for their children's education because they think it's a better choice. But that choice isn't an option for all parents because it costs a lot. This means some children have more learning opportunities than others.

At 14, some pupils move to Hautlieu School. It's a big part of Jersey's education system.

Some people think this is a problem because:

- it takes funding from other schools doing GCSEs
- it doesn't give pupils a full curriculum
- students who don't get to go sometimes feel bad.

Some people think this is positive because:

- it gives pupils the opportunity to study with others at the same level
- it helps pupils get good grades.

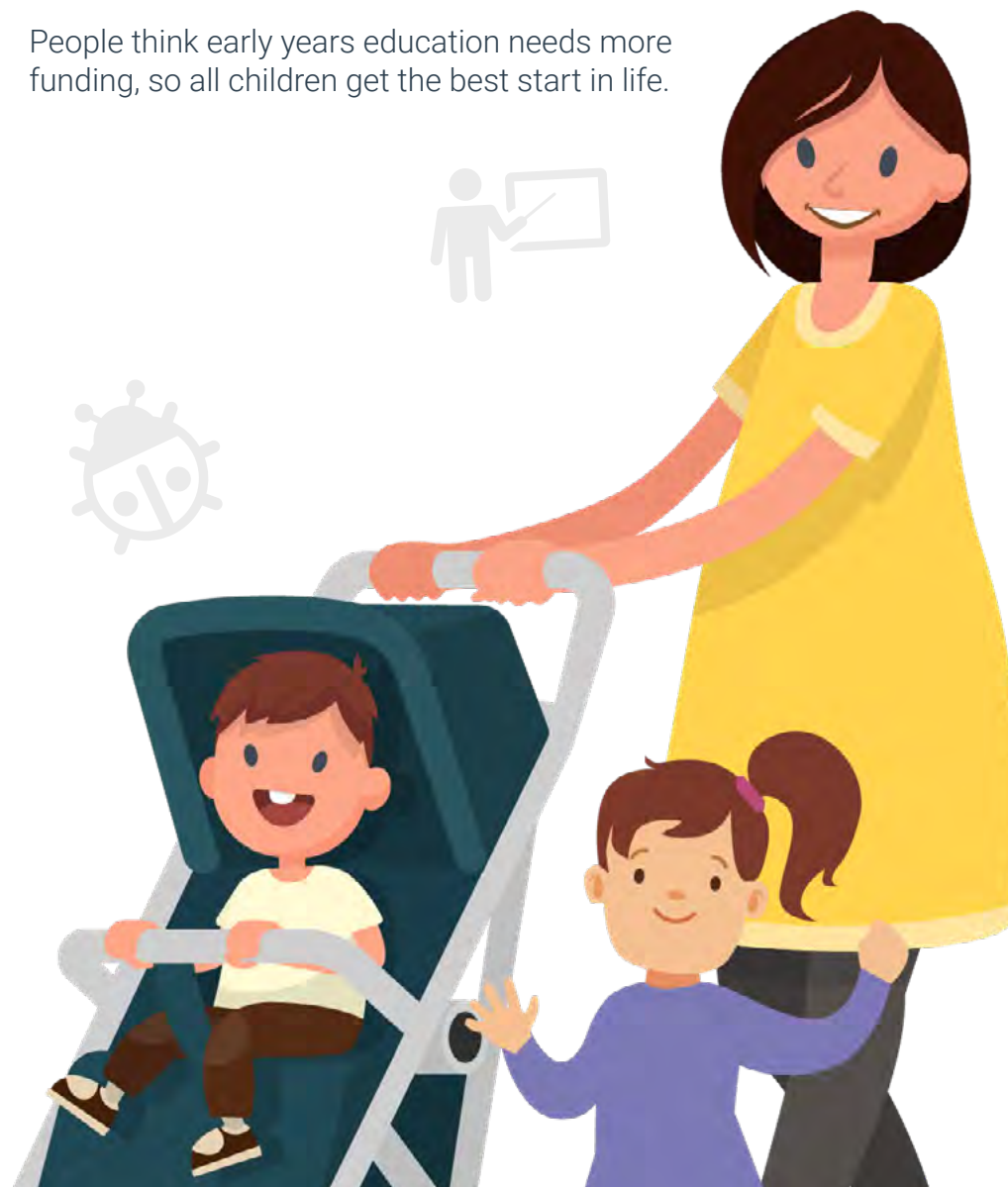
Some people think Hautlieu should only offer a sixth-form option. That would end the 14+ transfer for GCSEs.

Talking about: **Early years**

People across Jersey said positive learning experiences are important for young children.

It makes a big difference to outcomes and achievement later on.

People think early years education needs more funding, so all children get the best start in life.



Talking about: **The curriculum**

The curriculum is what you learn and how you learn it. People said the curriculum needs to:

- be flexible and help pupils learn at their own pace
- fit different learning styles.

Some people want the curriculum to teach lots of different subjects. Others want it to teach fewer subjects but in more depth.

English, Maths and Science are the foundation of learning and skills. Most people want these to be taught better. They should prepare pupils for work and life. They should link to life situations better.

People said the curriculum needs to teach life skills including:

- how to get a job
- how to look after yourself
- physical health, mental health and wellbeing
- how to manage finances
- communication skills
- critical thinking
- resilience
- understanding of other people's needs.

People said technology is important. It's changing how we all work and live. Pupils need to know how to use technology in every area.



Talking about: **Community activities**

Some schools told us they have activities so pupils take part in the community and learn. These opportunities are important and should be part of every school.

Talking about: **Support**

Schools said they offer support services like:

- childcare
- after-school clubs
- breakfast clubs
- homework clubs
- support for parents
- adult learning opportunities.

People were concerned about issues that affect children's education. This includes housing, health, welfare and money issues. They said government policies need to deal with these issues better.

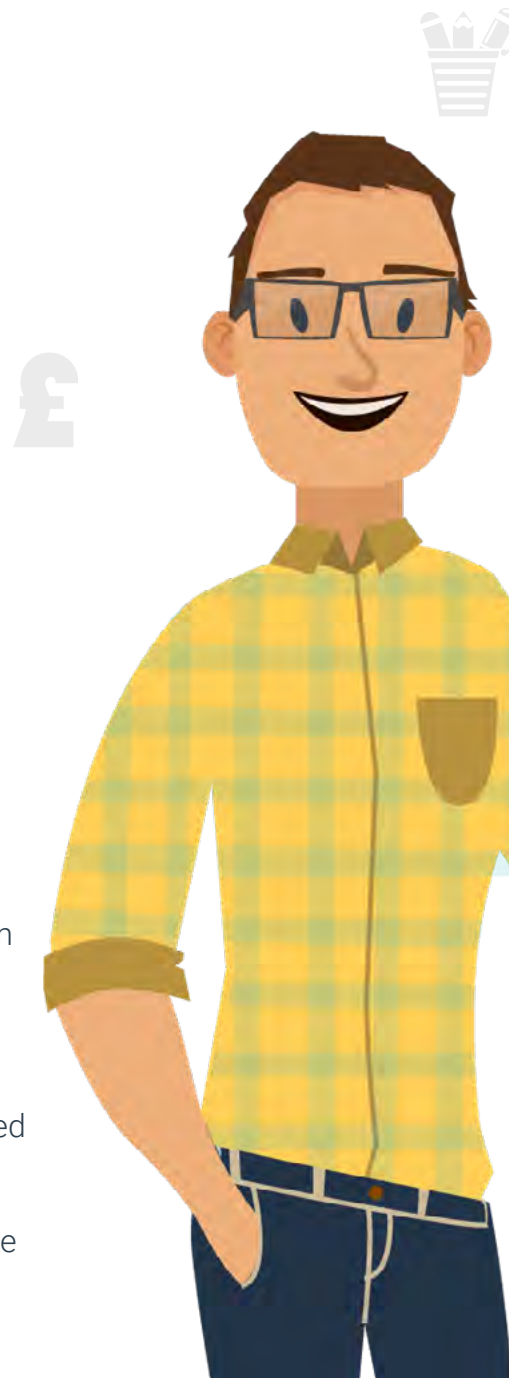
Talking about: **Further education and lifelong learning**

Students told us they want flexible ways to move from secondary school to higher education.

Some students think there is a stigma if you choose vocational education or training.

Employers said some students and adults lack literacy and numeracy skills. The education system must support them better. Courses should link to the skills that local businesses need. Businesses should be involved in developing courses and give students 'on-the-job' training.

Some adults want more lifelong learning opportunities. They said jobs are changing and they want to learn new skills.



What happens now?

We have collected all these ideas and opinions. They help us understand what people want and what needs to happen.

This is helping us set out the priorities for Jersey's education system.



Thanks for reading this.

You can find more information at:

 [gov.je/Education](https://www.gov.je/Education)

