



Connecting



**CST Annual
Conference 26**

15 & 16 October, ICC, Birmingham

#CSTConf26

AI Adoption in Practice

What teachers are telling us they need

October 2026

edurio'

Today's speakers

edurio'



Ash Mudaliar
IT & EdTech Director,
Creative Education Trust



Iona Kelliher
Managing Director, Edurio

Today's speakers

edurio'



Ash Mudaliar
IT & EdTech Director,
Creative Education Trust



Iona Kelliher
Managing Director, Edurio

Agenda



The national picture



The CET Story



Lessons from the room



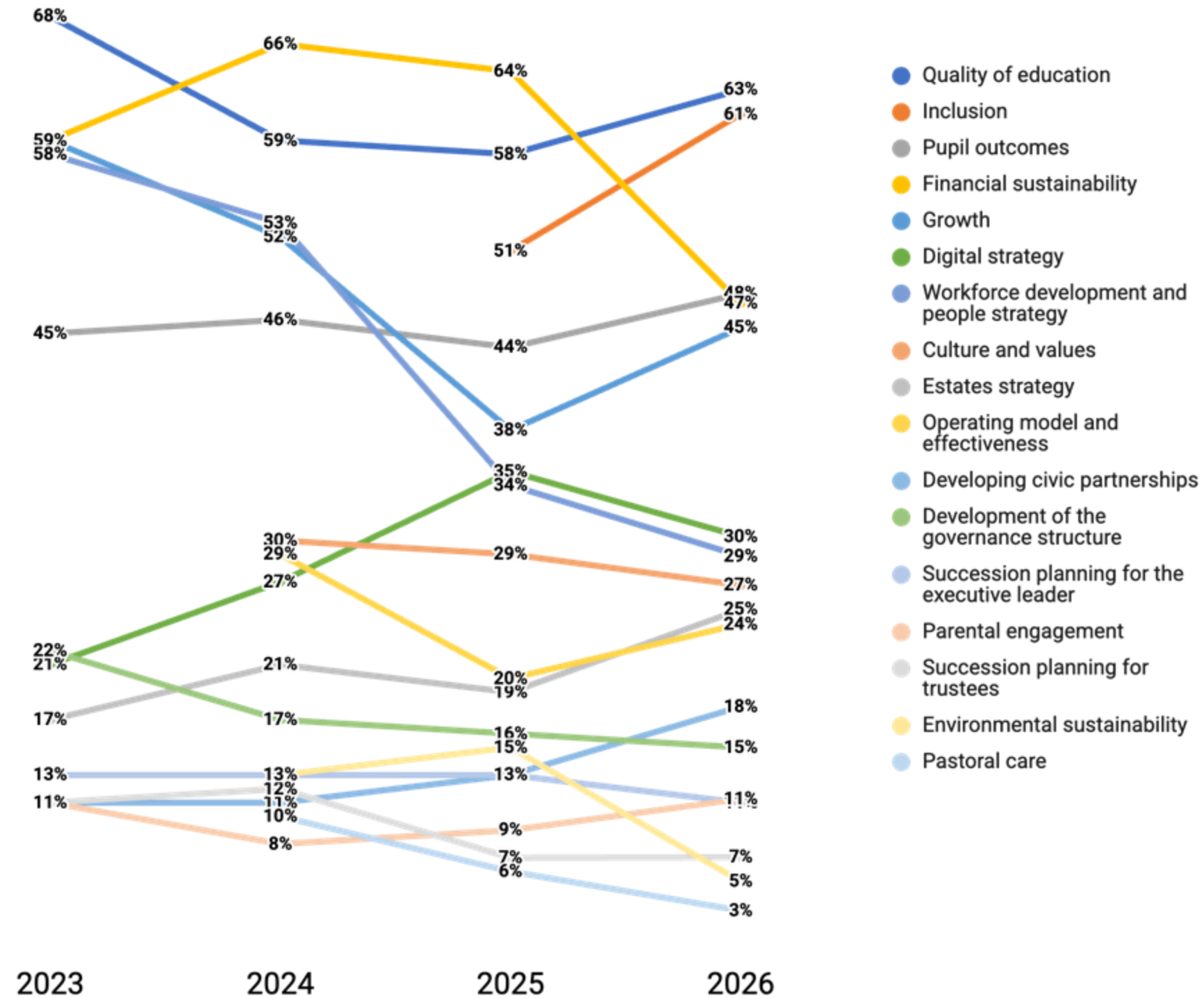
Q&A



The national picture

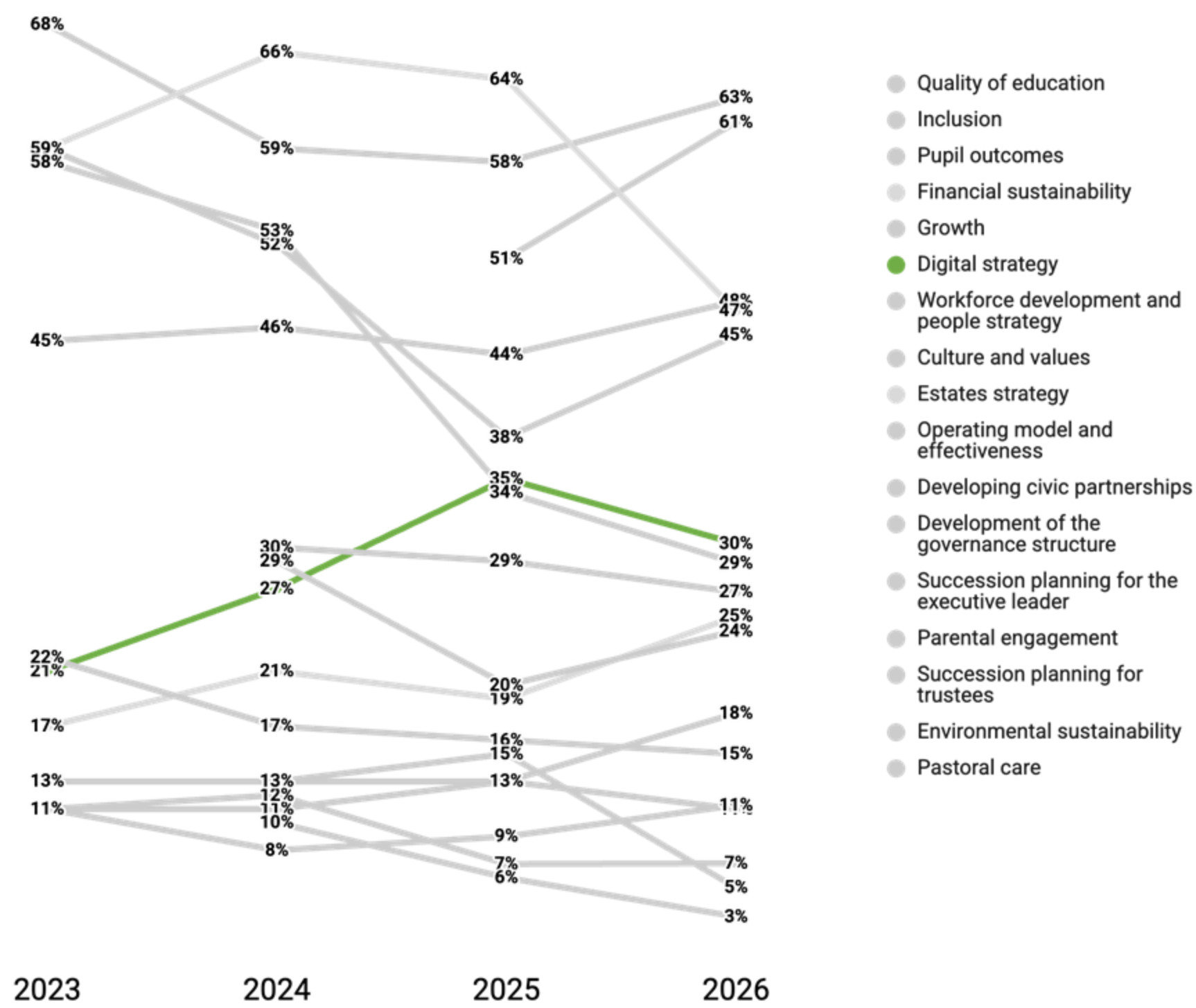
Four years of changing priorities

What are the top five strategic priorities for your trust in the next academic year?



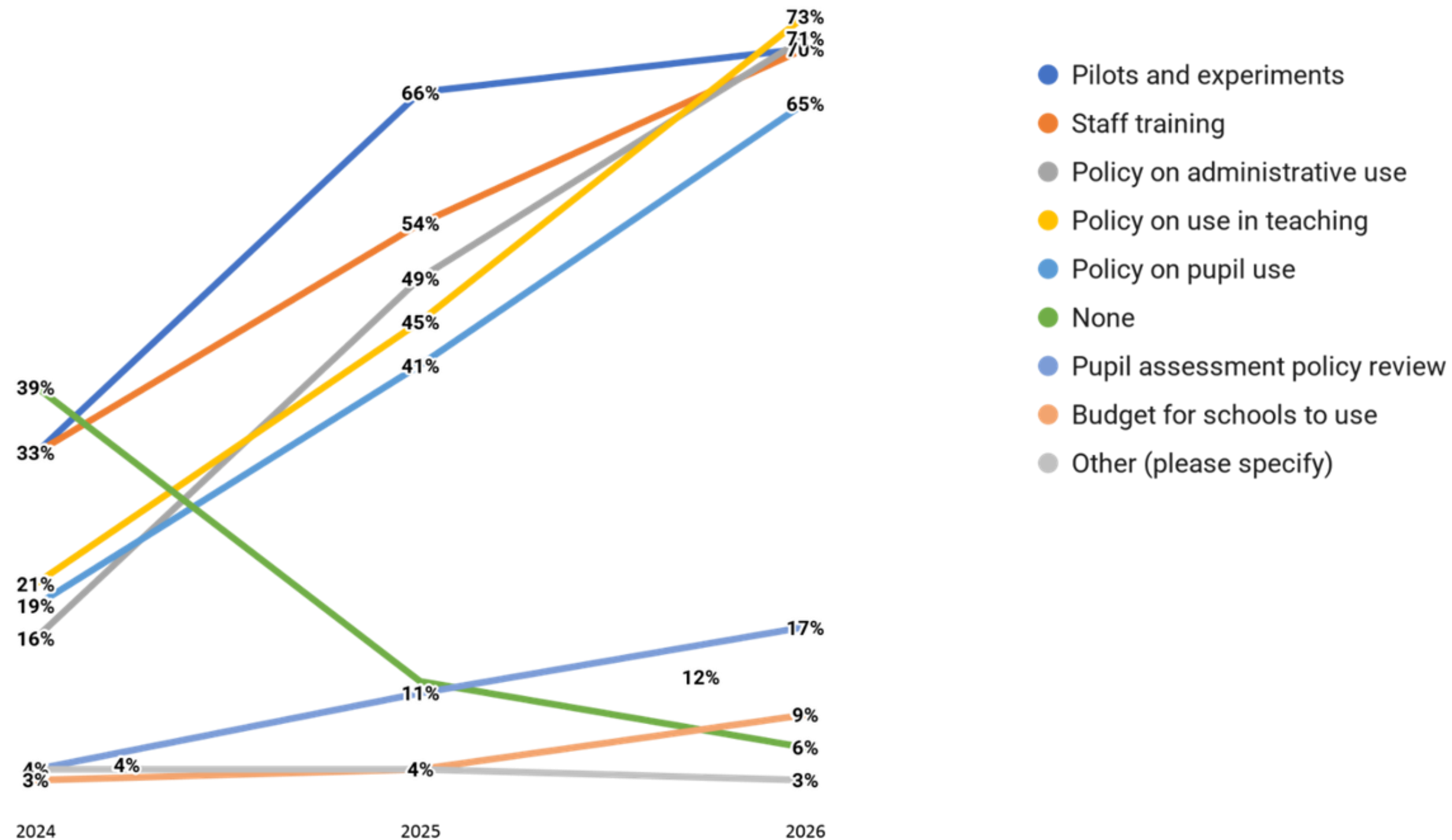
With digital strategy taking hold

What are the top five strategic priorities for your trust in the next academic year?



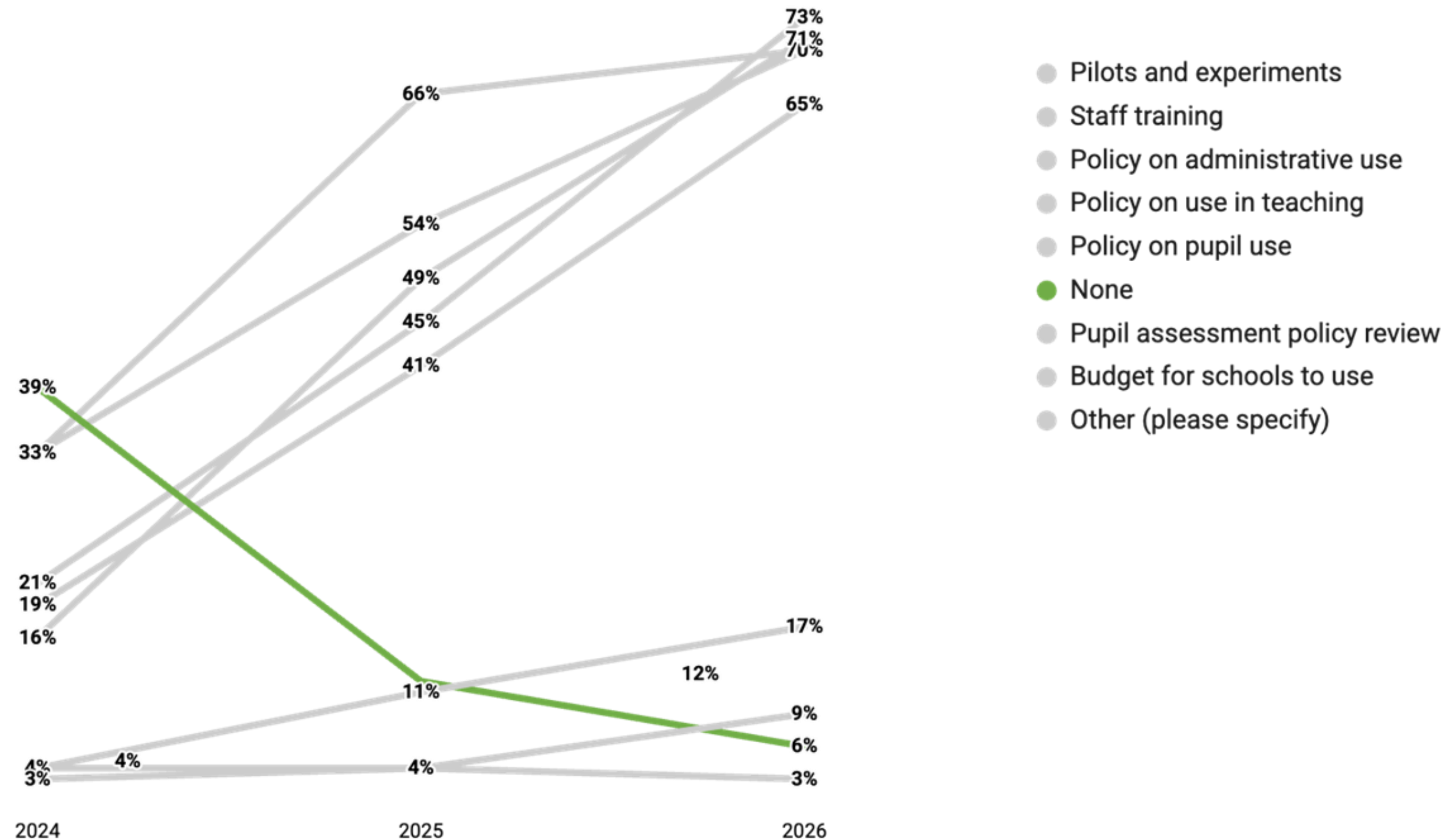
AI has moved from pilots to policy

Which of the following activities has your trust implemented in response to developments in Artificial Intelligence technology?



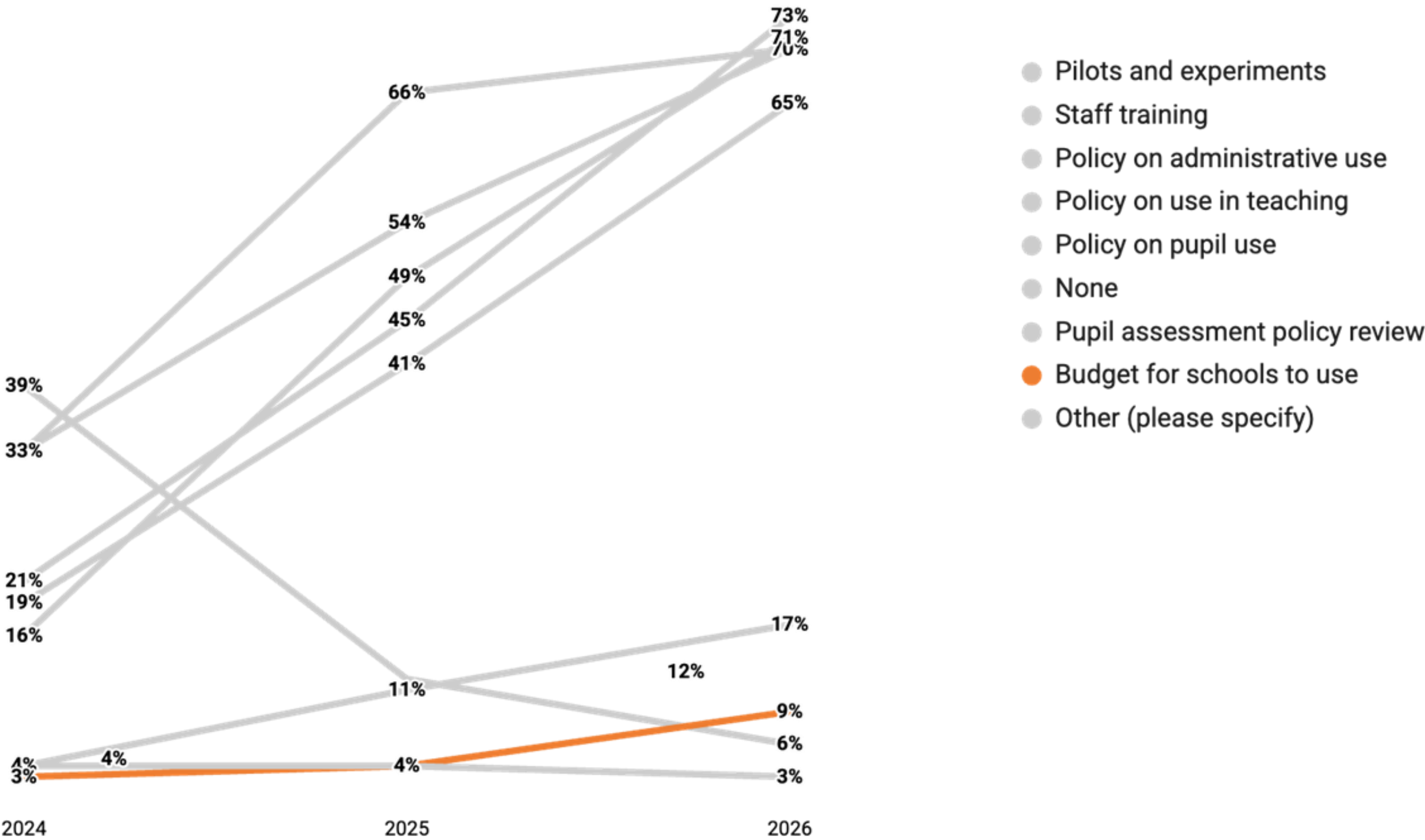
And the vast majority of trusts are responding

Which of the following activities has your trust implemented in response to developments in Artificial Intelligence technology?



But budget has increased less steeply

Which of the following activities has your trust implemented in response to developments in Artificial Intelligence technology?



74%

**Feel confident using
digital devices and
platforms overall**

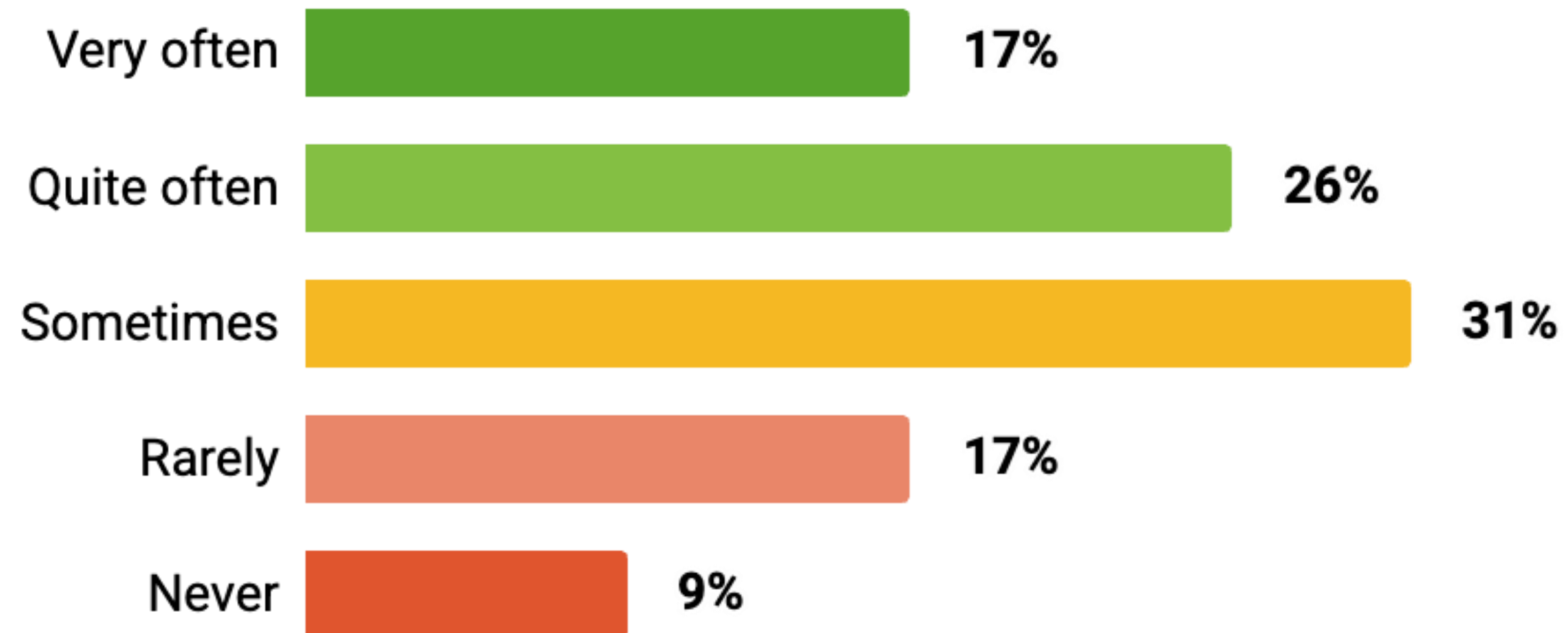
56%

Feel confident using AI

Three quarters of teachers use AI at least some of the time

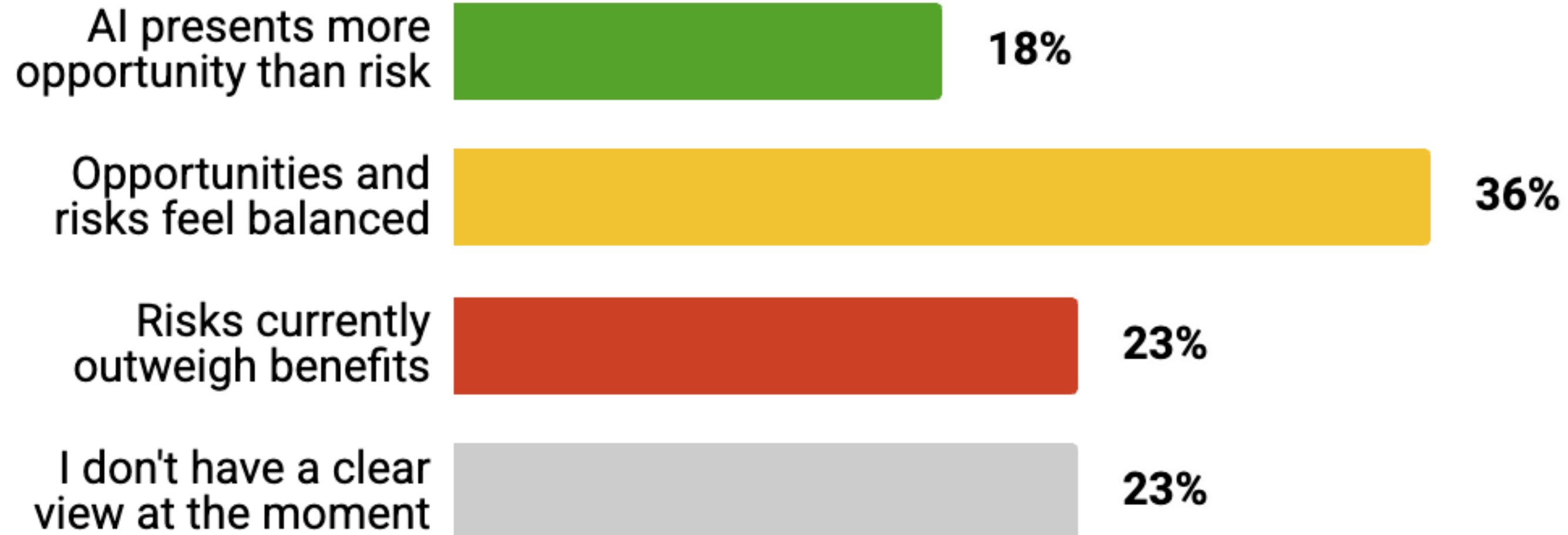
edurio

How often do you use AI tools in your work?



But there's no consensus on the size of opportunity or threat edurio'

Which statement comes closest to your view right now about opportunities and risks of AI in education?



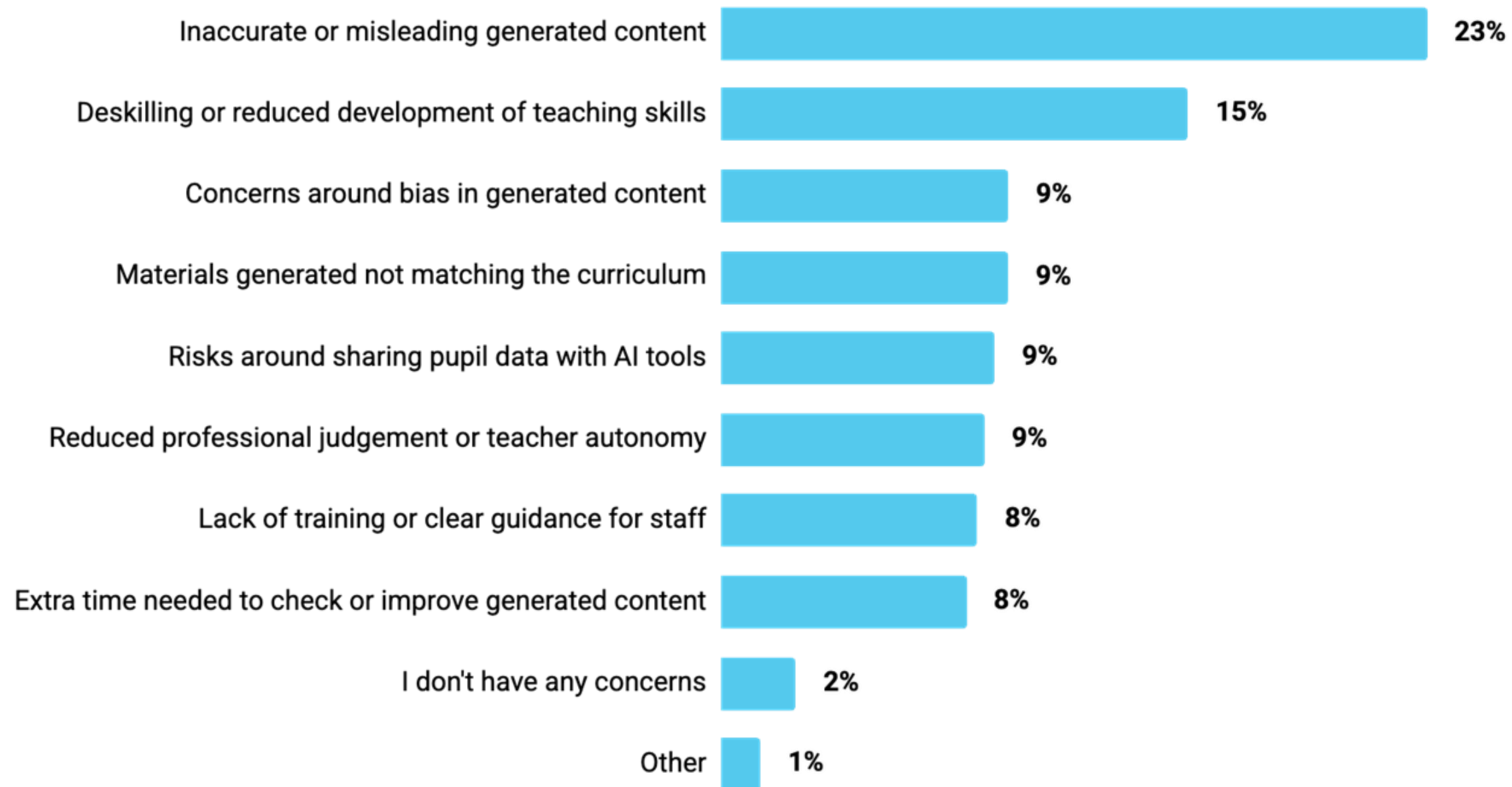
The potential benefits are widespread

Where do you think AI could have the greatest positive impact for teachers?



The concerns are equally so

Which of the following are your main concerns about AI being used to support teaching and teachers' practice?



The tension is clear: we are at the beginning of a long journey

edurio

1%

**Cannot see how AI can
benefit teachers**

2%

**Have no concerns using
AI to support teaching**

In their own words, teachers need training, guidance, and time edurio

Training on AI. Time to explore digital devices and platforms

Specific training on use of AI for staff and then time given to put new knowledge into practice

How to use AI to improve workload and upskill teachers

The AI policy has been really helpful to refer to if there is something I want to put into AI but want to check that it is OK to do so

In their own words, teachers need training, guidance, and time edurio

**It comes down to time.
We have none. Every
time new IT is brought
out there is a video and
no time to watch.**



The CET Story

Creative Education Trust: Who We Are



17 Schools (11 Secondary, 6 Primary)



1,700+ Staff



13,500+ Students

*Our mission is to transform lives by delivering an education that unlocks **opportunity**, inspires **ambition**, and equips every student for lasting success*



AI starts with strong technology foundations

Centralising and Standardising

- Core Technologies and platforms
- Infrastructure
- Classroom AV and devices

Investment – budgeted refresh

- Classroom AV and devices
- Wifi, networking, internet

People

- High quality, proactive IT support



Technology as an enabler, not a barrier



2023: AI Foundations & Awareness

Building understanding and readiness

- Senior leaders and Trustees briefed on opportunities, risks, and emerging sector guidance
- Early version of AI policy, centred on safety, privacy and professional judgement
- Informal "AI Champions" identified in schools to test early use cases
- Approved AI tool: Microsoft Copilot chat
- Focus on cultural readiness, not rapid deployment



2024: AI Strategy, Community & Capacity

Building strategy, governance and capacity

- Launch of the CET EdTech & AI Strategy
- Appointment of a dedicated Trust EdTech Lead
- School EdTech Leads to build local capacity
- Creation of EdTech & Innovation Professional Community
- Launch of Trust-wide AI Policy aligned with DfE guidance
- AI Training: Intro to AI (schools and central functions)



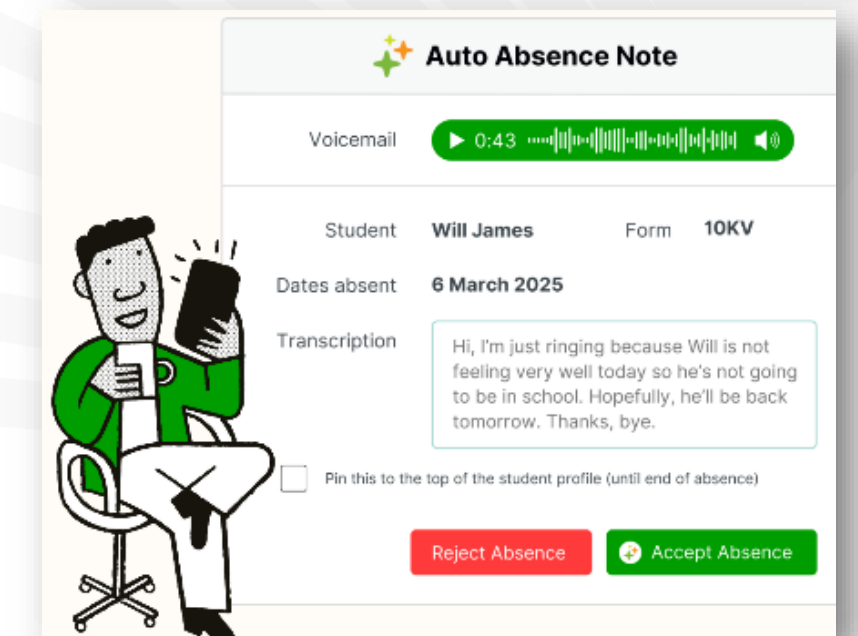
Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy



2025: Scaling & Embedding AI

Building impact and maturity

- Trust-wide EdTech & AI Conference
- Creation of part-time EdTech Development Lead roles to expand capacity
- Delivery of Level 2 AI training (aligned to DfE materials)
- Increasing staff confidence in use of AI across teaching, operations & leadership
- Successful pilots leading to Arbor Auto Absence AI rollout Trust-wide, and wider use of Teams AI
- Staff voice: AI use survey



2026: AI Enablement & Responsible Practice

Embedding confident, governed use

- Trust wide AI training for all staff
 - AI survey feedback, impact and Prompt Library
 - Prompt crafting with time for staff practice
 - Key points of current AI policy with time for feedback
- Updated AI Policy released
 - Aligned to latest guidance and staff feedback
 - Technology Request Process for new AI tools
 - Student coursework and academic integrity resources
- Practical AI tools and engagement
 - AI risks and awareness as a key focus at our Safeguarding and PD Conference
 - AI Awareness Day - 4 June 2026
 - Launch of AdaptEd, our AI agent for Adaptive Teaching

Using AI – Student Edition

Focusing on Coursework | KS4 & KS5

✓ AI can support your learning

✗ AI must not do the work for you

Quick guided support

Fill in what you can. You can include more than one need or more than one pupil.

Year group *

Subject *

Optional: Topic or lesson focus

Needs or barriers (select all that apply) *

- ☐ Attention and focus (including ADHD)
- ☐ Autism / ASC
- ☐ Dyslexia
- ☐ Dyscalculia
- ☐ Speech, language and communication needs (SLCN)
- ☐ Working memory and processing speed
- ☐ Emotional regulation, anxiety, behaviour (SEMH)



Our approach to AI



Human in the loop - AI supports people, never replaces professional judgement



Purpose led – used only where it improves teaching, learning, inclusion, operations or efficiency



Safe & ethical – approved tools, clear AI policy, alignment with DfE expectations



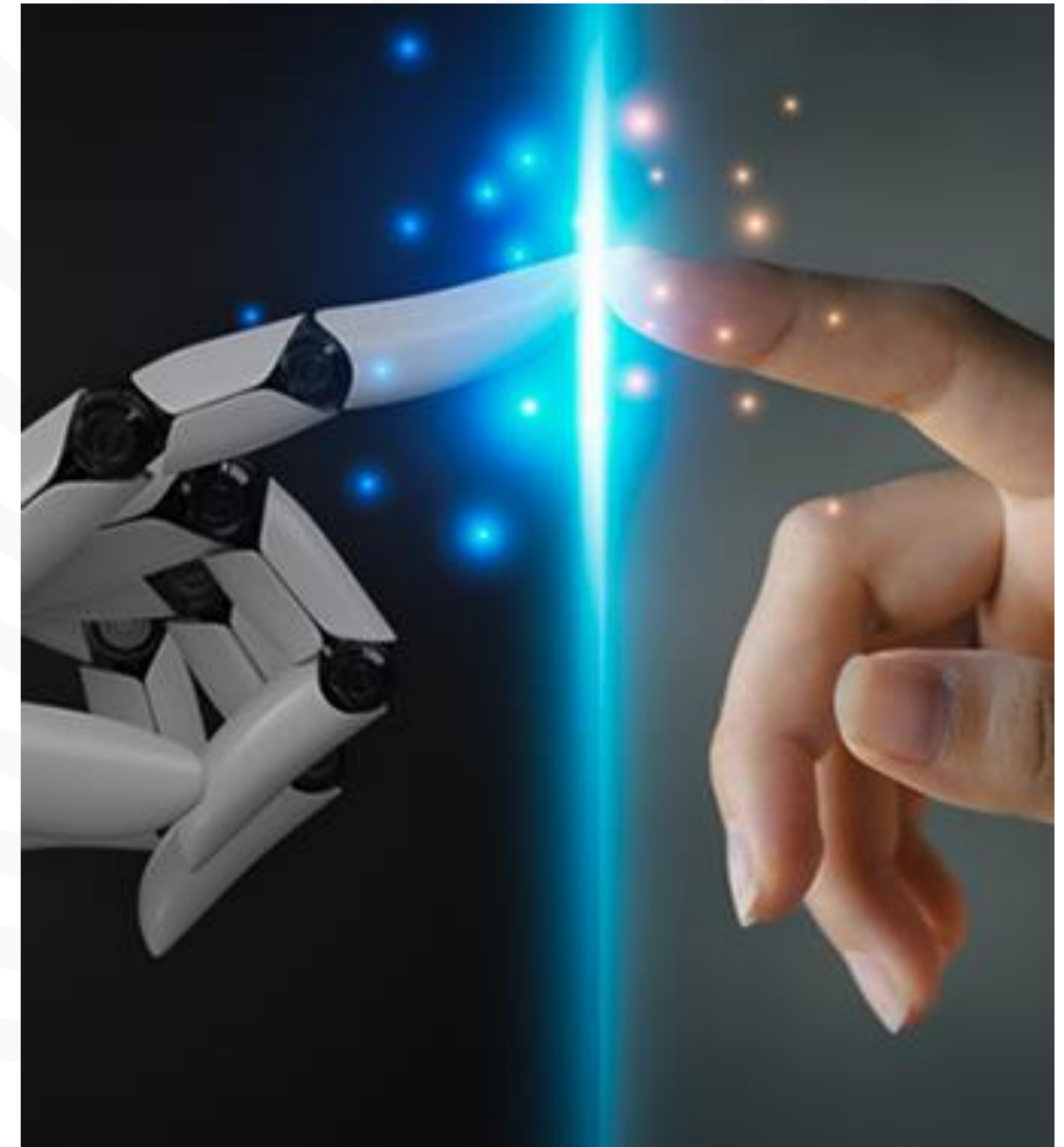
Pilot, learn, scale – start small, gather evidence, expand where impact is clear



Build confidence – training for all staff, AI Hub, Prompt Library, sharing what works



Community informed – feedback and insight from EdTech Professional Community and surveys



Surveys – Technology in the Classroom

Edurio Technology and AI Survey – May 2026

- 51% response-rate across the Trust (completed by teachers)
- National survey – enabling benchmarking against other schools and Trusts

How often are the necessary shared digital devices available for you to use at the time you need them (teacher technology)?

89% Positive Responses
87% National Benchmark

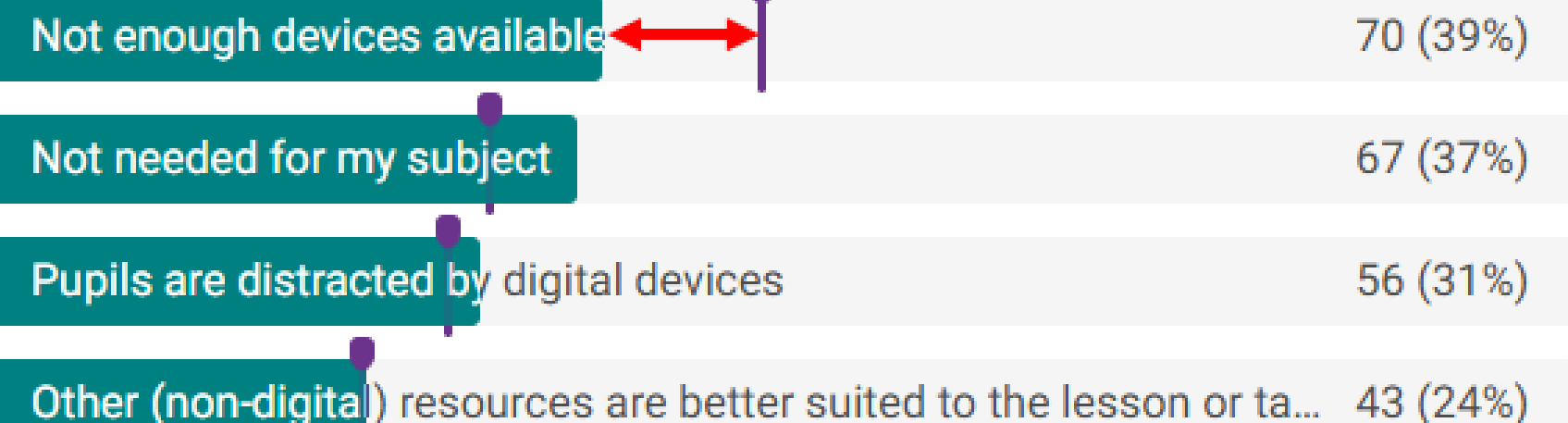
How often are the necessary digital devices available for pupils when they need them for learning (student technology)?

73% Positive Responses
66% National Benchmark

35) What are the reasons your pupils do not use digital devices in lessons? Select all that apply.

Compare by subgroup ▾

■ National - June 2026



Surveys – Tech Support and Issues

How clear are the processes for getting technical support when a technical issue happens?

92% Positive Responses
86% National Benchmark

How reliable is the internet connection at school?

83% Positive Responses
70% National Benchmark

In the past 3 months, how often have technical issues disrupted your work or lessons?

48% Positive Responses
38% National Benchmark

15) In the past 3 months, what are the most common technical issues you have experienced? Select up to three.

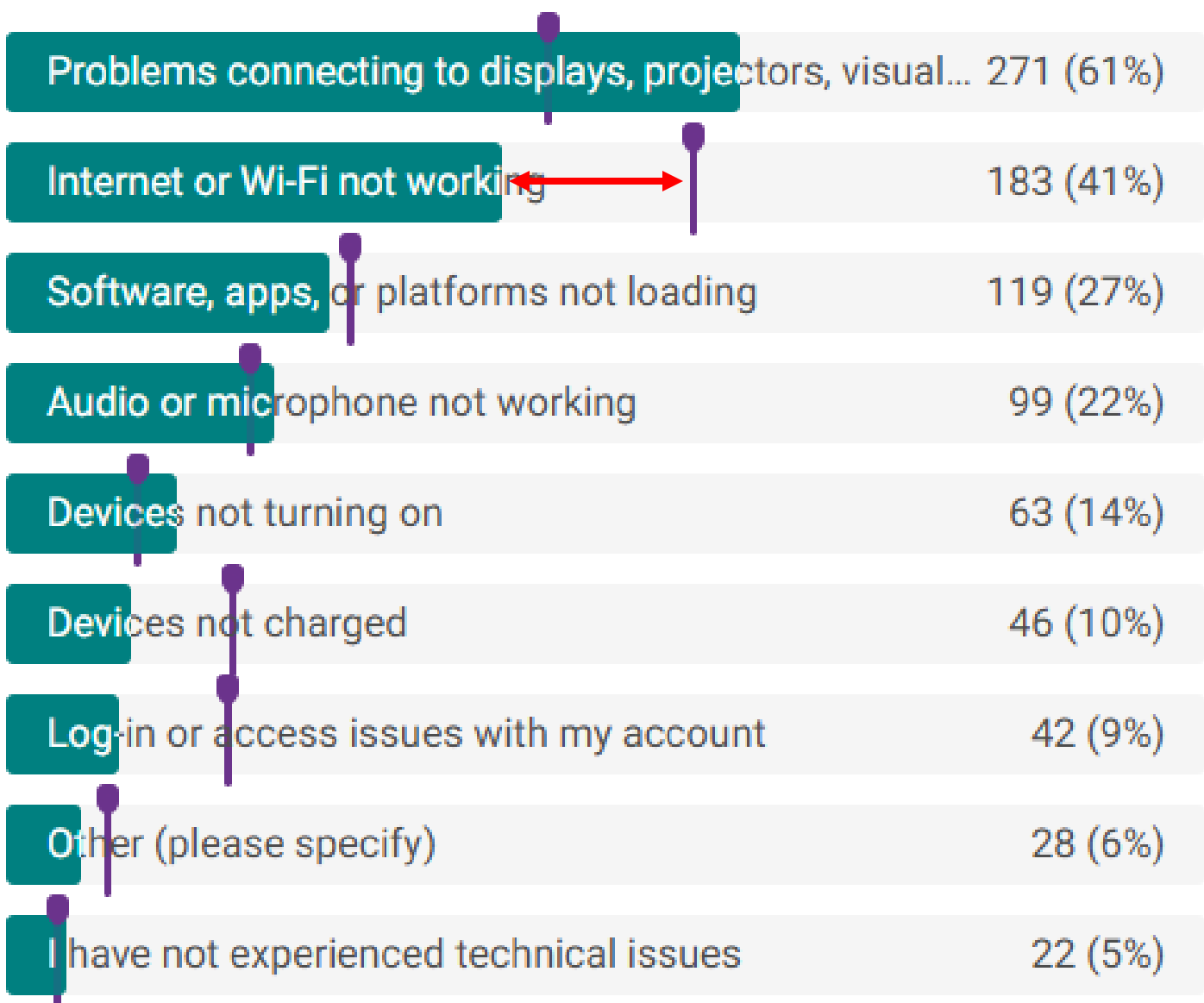
Convert to filter

Save as image

Compare by subgroup ▾

443 responses

■ National - June 2026



Surveys – Developing our staff

How confident are you in using digital devices and platforms effectively for your work?

78% Positive Responses

+9% Increase from last year

74% National Benchmark

How confident do you feel in your ability to use AI effectively for your work?

61% Positive Responses

+23% Increase from last year

56% National Benchmark

Structured walkthroughs provide practical guidance that helps staff build confidence and consistency when using digital tools

Reliable access to devices, responsive IT support and regular training help staff confidently use digital platforms

Expert support and a dedicated staff training sessions helped develop our use and understanding of AI





Lessons from the room



Q&A

AI Adoption in Practice

What teachers are telling us they need

October 2026

edurio'

Thank you



Connecting