

The 2020 report 'Disconnected: Career aspirations and jobs in the UK' by charity Education and Employers surveyed over 8,500 people aged 14-18 and reveals a disconnect between young people's career aspirations and jobs in the UK. Here are some of the key findings for schools:

1

The majority of young people are certain about their job choices – but there is a three-fold disconnect or worse between aspirations and demand in almost half of the UK economy. Young people aged 14-18 were asked which of 21 sectors they wanted to work in, so that the results (weighted by age and gender) could be compared with current and projected future demand in the UK.

2

Some sectors show a shortfall of availability of jobs compared to interest. Five times as many young people want to work in art, culture, entertainment and sport as there are jobs available. Over half of those respondents do not report an interest in any other sector.

3

Other sectors show a contrasting shortfall of interest to availability. The greatest shortfall of interest lies in accommodation and catering which needs almost seven times as many students (9.7% of the economy) as are expressing an interest (1.5%). Wholesale and retail trade similarly sees a very large shortfall – 2.6% expressing interest against 15.1% required.

4

Young people are confident in their choices. The disconnect is strikingly similar at age 17/18 as at age 14/15, with similar patterns to the jobs to which children aspire at age 7/8. Such certainty and consistency of young peoples' career choices throughout their teenage years suggests that this disconnect from available jobs, and the frustrations and wasted energy it produces, will require significant effort to resolve.

5

Effective careers support reduces the disconnection between aspirations and jobs. Many young people report only limited careers support from their schools and colleges, but those who are benefiting from careers activities and multiple career influences in secondary education have aspirations that are better connected to the labour market.

6

Our results suggest starting in secondary education is too late. From the age of 7 we need to ensure that children get to meet a range of people from different backgrounds and doing different jobs. We need to stop children ruling out options because they believe, implicitly or explicitly, that their future career choices are limited by their gender, ethnicity or socio-economic background.

To read the full report click [here](#) or for more details on our charity visit www.educationandemployers.org