Schools and their Cyber Security

Source Cyber Security Breaches Survey '23

Cyber & Data Protection Limited
https://www.cyber-data.co.uk
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Schools and their Cyber Security

In this document we have put together Education Specific Stats from the NCSC's 2023 Breach Report. For some we have included stats for FE, Higher Education and Business for comparison but all cover Primary and Secondary. Schools need to take the risks seriously and invest what they can in Cyber Security to protect their sensitive data.

- 4. Organisations that have identified breaches / attacks over the last 12 months
- 5. The types of breach identified
- 6. Some Cyber facts: Breaches – notable effects / Leadership views / Awareness Training
- 7. Awareness of Government guidance, initiatives or campaigns (and page 8)
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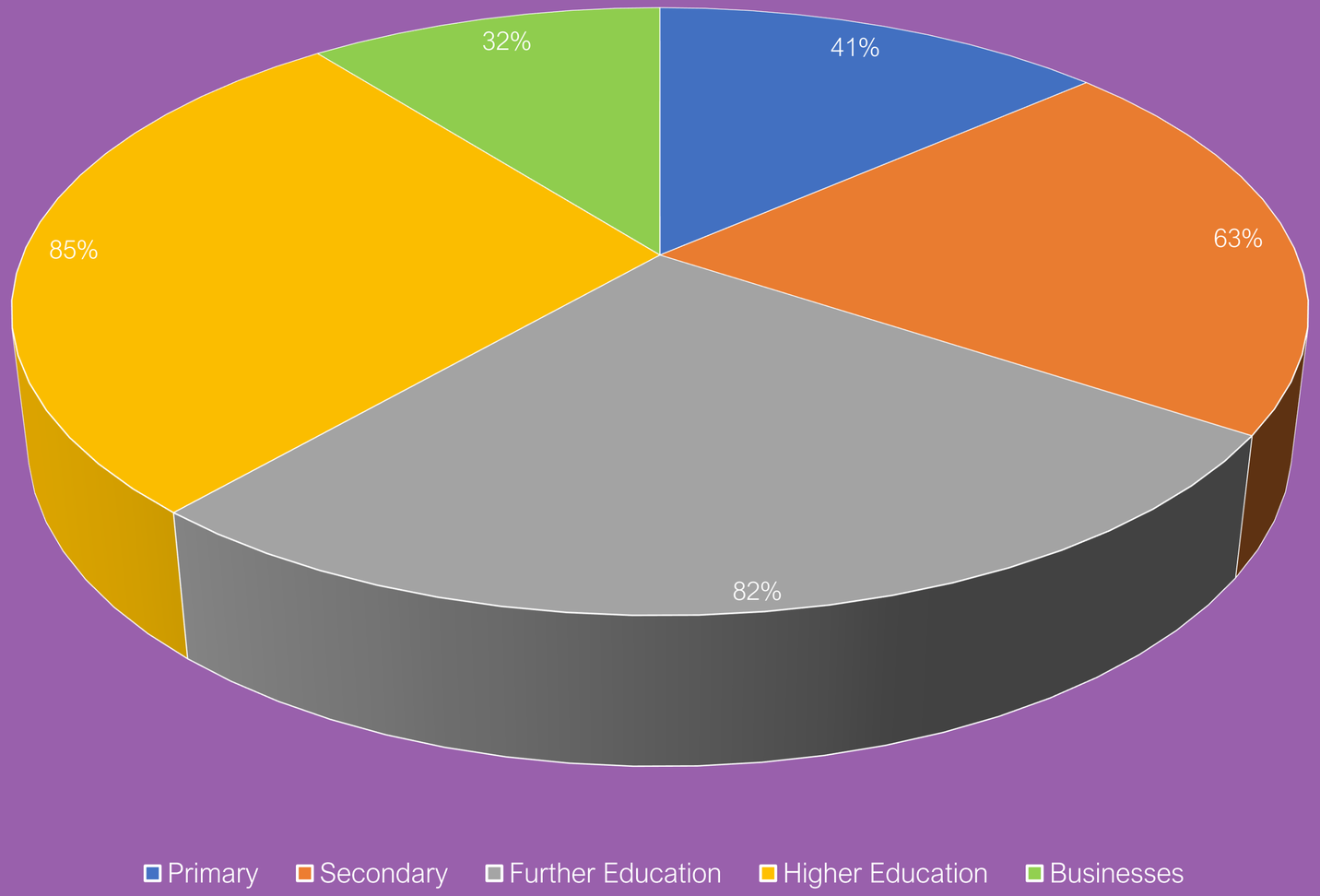
Schools and their Cyber Security

Schools are particularly vulnerable to cyber-attacks. Their focus is understandably educational, and they often hold a lot of sensitive personal information with details of children, parents, governors and supporters. They also have limited budgets for investing in the highest level of cyber security. They are much more likely to be targetted than businesses in most areas (bank accounts an exception).

The stats in this document are based on the 2023 Cyber Breaches report produced by the NCSC…

Organisations that have identified breaches / attacks over the last 12 months - %

Education organisations are significantly more likely to be targetted than business (green slice)



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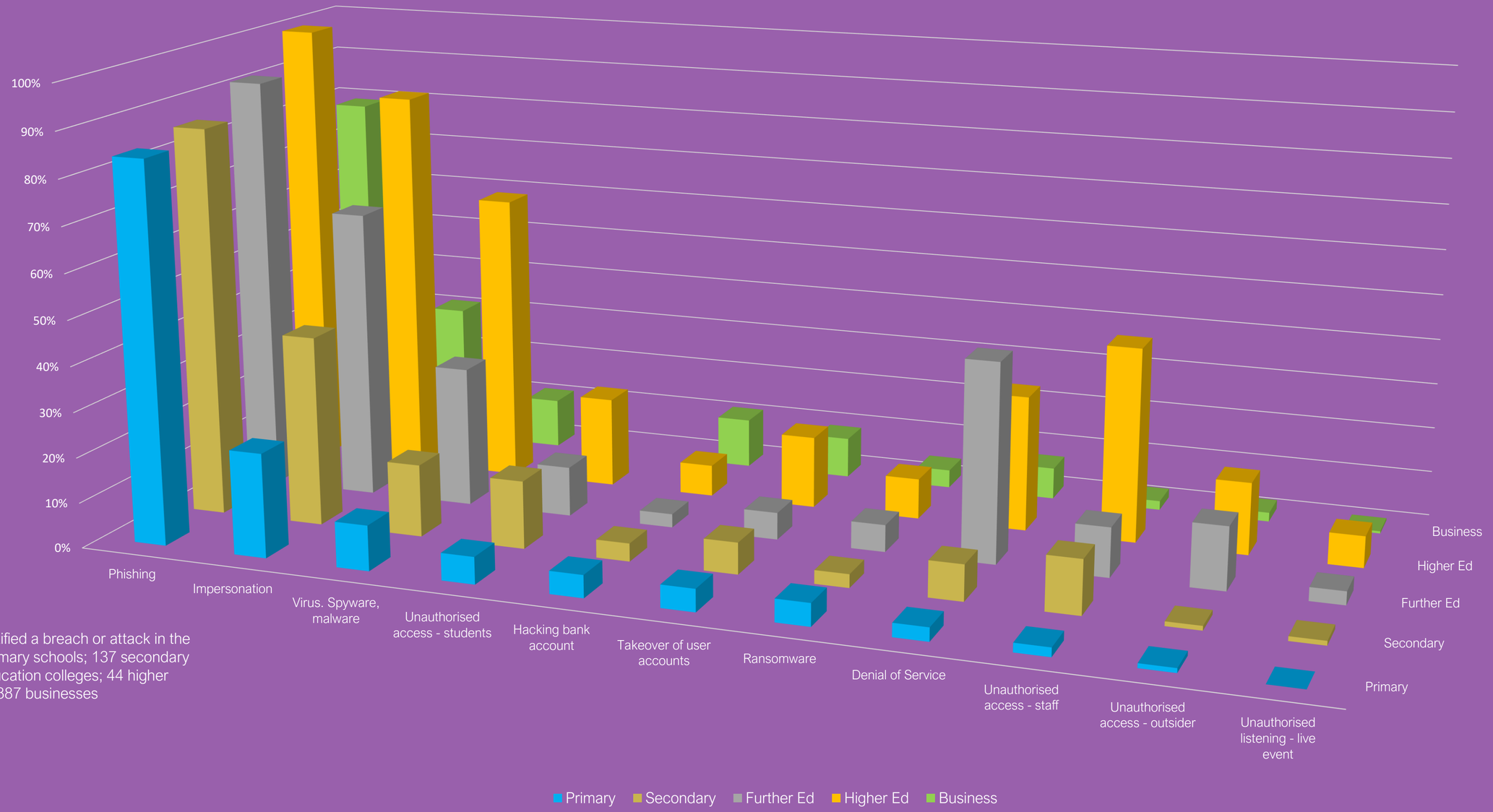
The types of breach identified - %



Bases (those that identified a breach or attack in the last 12 months): 98 primary schools; 137 secondary schools; 36 further education colleges; 44 higher education institutions; 887 businesses

Some Cyber Facts

Breaches – notable effects

- 6 out 10 higher education organisations had a negative outcome – i.e., lost money – this is compared to 22% for primary and 20 % for secondary – comparable to business (21%).
- Universities at particular risk from accounts and systems being compromised (45% compared to 8% of large business).

Senior Management

- Over 95% of all said Cyber Security is a high priority for Governors and Senior Leadership.
- Over 60% (63% primary and 61% secondary) have a Governor or senior manager with responsibility for Cyber Security.

Awareness Training

- Primary and Secondary schools have significantly boosted awareness training over the last 3 years from 39% of Secondary in 2021 to 62% now and from 34% to 49% of Primary Schools

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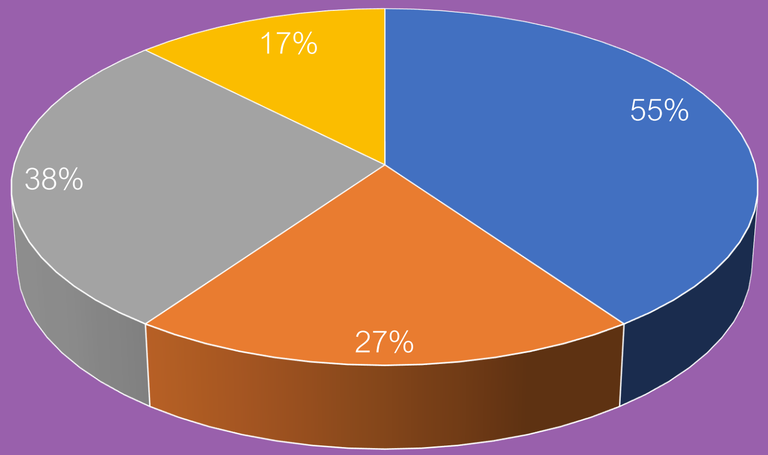
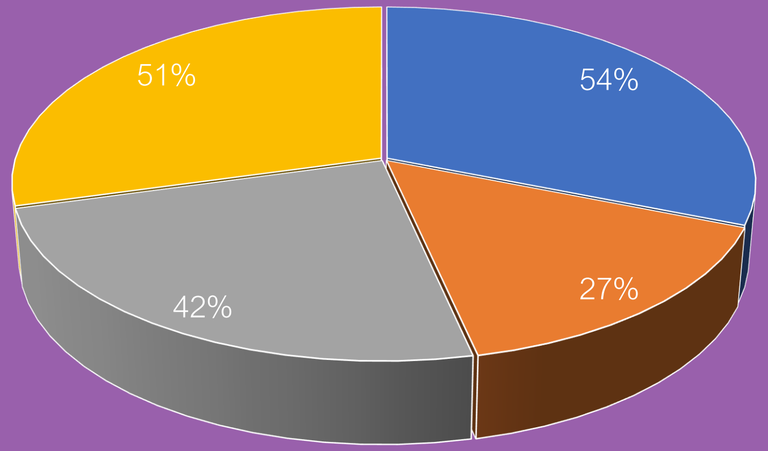
Awareness of the following Government guidance, initiatives or campaigns - %

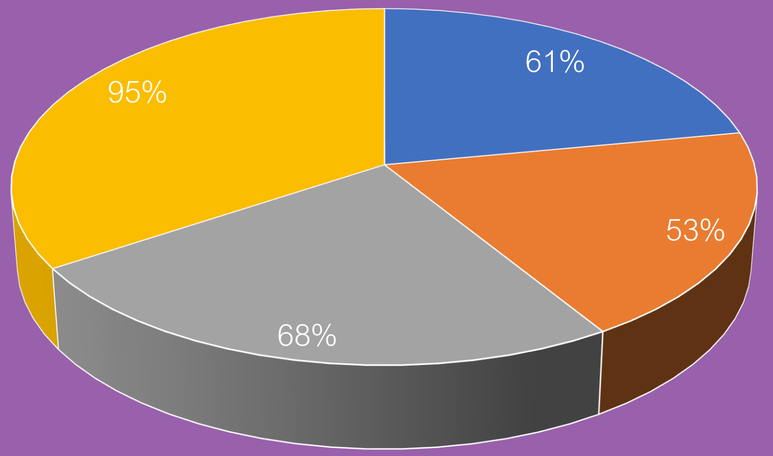
Primary Schools



Secondary Schools



Further Education Colleges

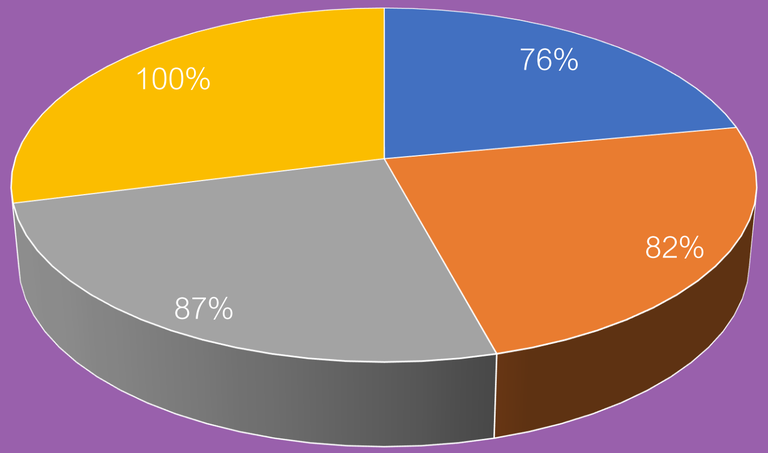


Cyber Aware Campaign
Cyber Security Board Toolkit
10 Steps Guidance
Cyber Essentials Scheme

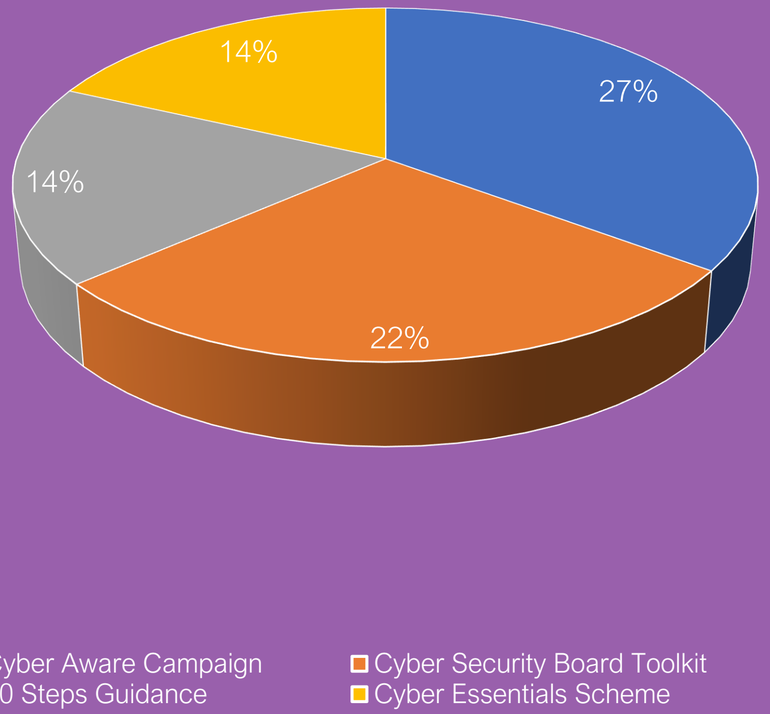
Secondary schools have become more aware of Government initiatives over time – all up double digits % since 2020. Primary schools are no more aware than back in 2020.

Awareness of the following Government guidance, initiatives or campaigns - %

Higher Education Institutes

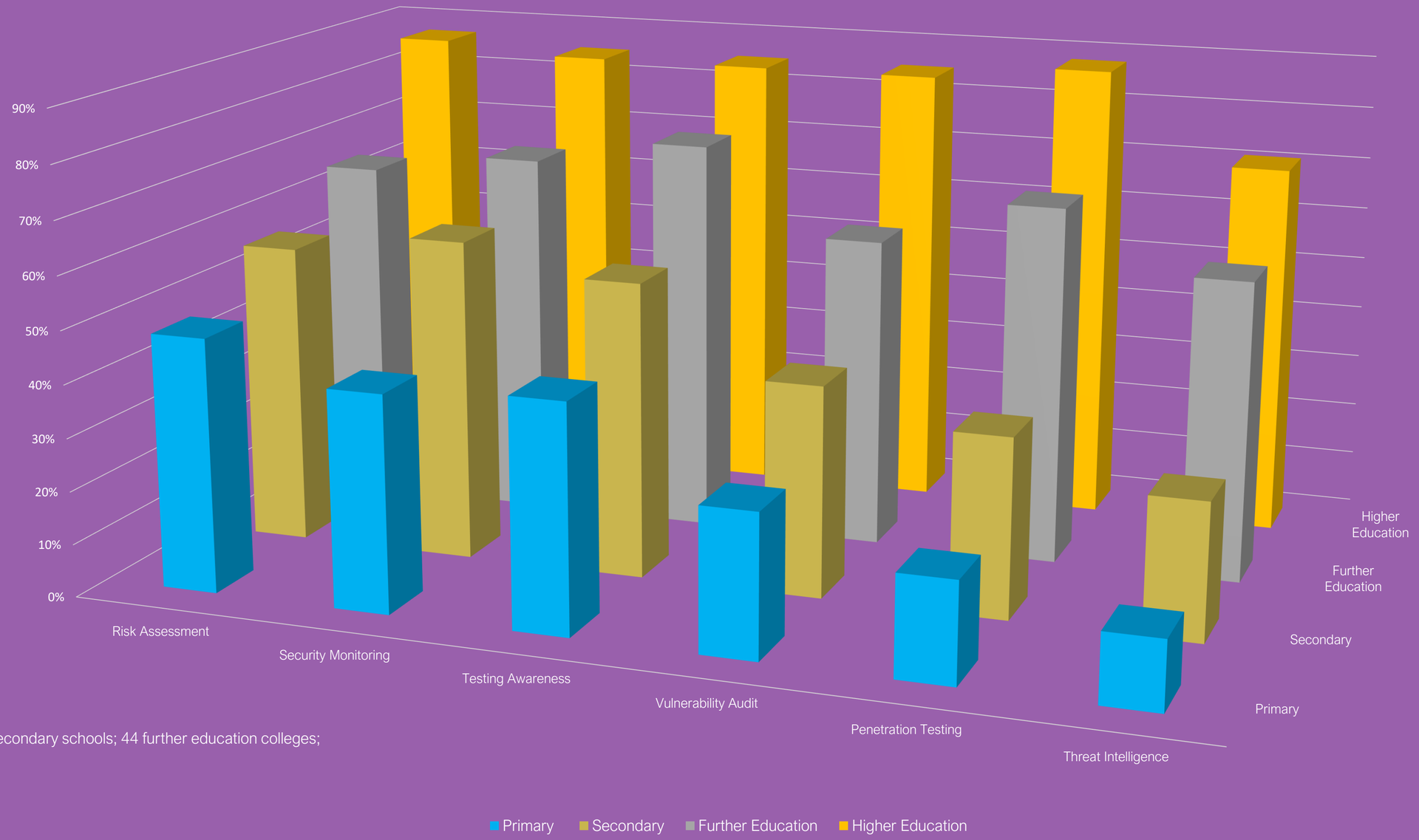


Businesses



Bases: 229 primary schools; 212 secondary schools; 38 further education colleges; 38 higher education institutions; 1,152 UK businesses (255 medium or large businesses asked about the Board Toolkit)
*For the business survey, this question was only asked of medium and large businesses rather than the full sample.

Education organisations carrying out the following protective activities - %

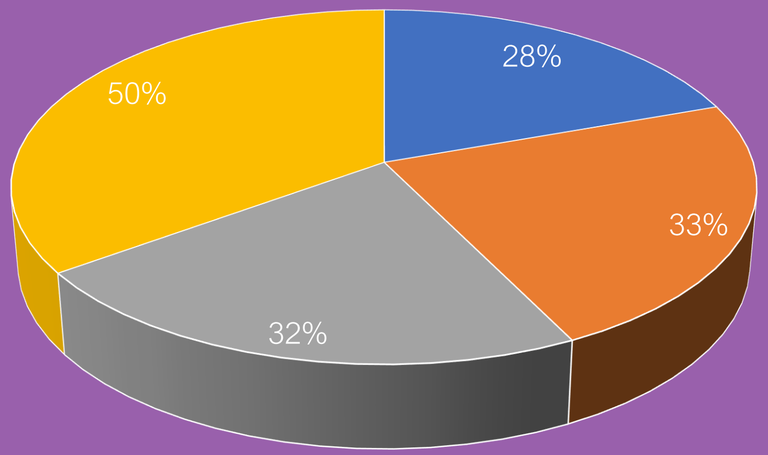


Bases: 241 primary schools; 217 secondary schools; 44 further education colleges; 52 higher education institutions

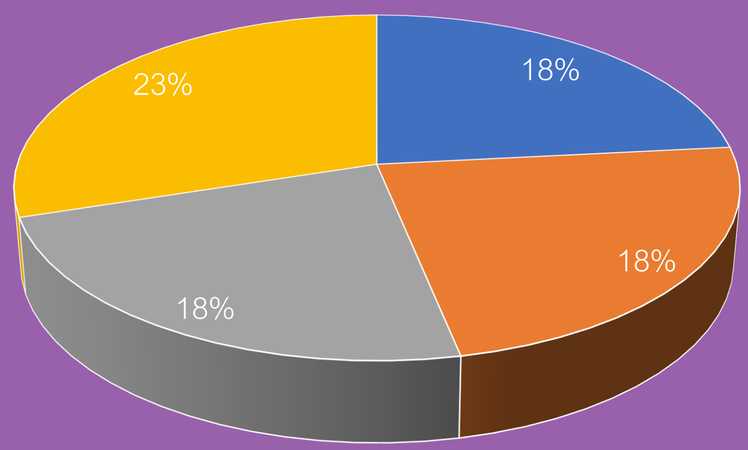
Source Cyber Security Breaches Survey '23

Education Organisation's Reviewing Supplier Risks - %

Immediate Suppliers



Wider Supply Chain



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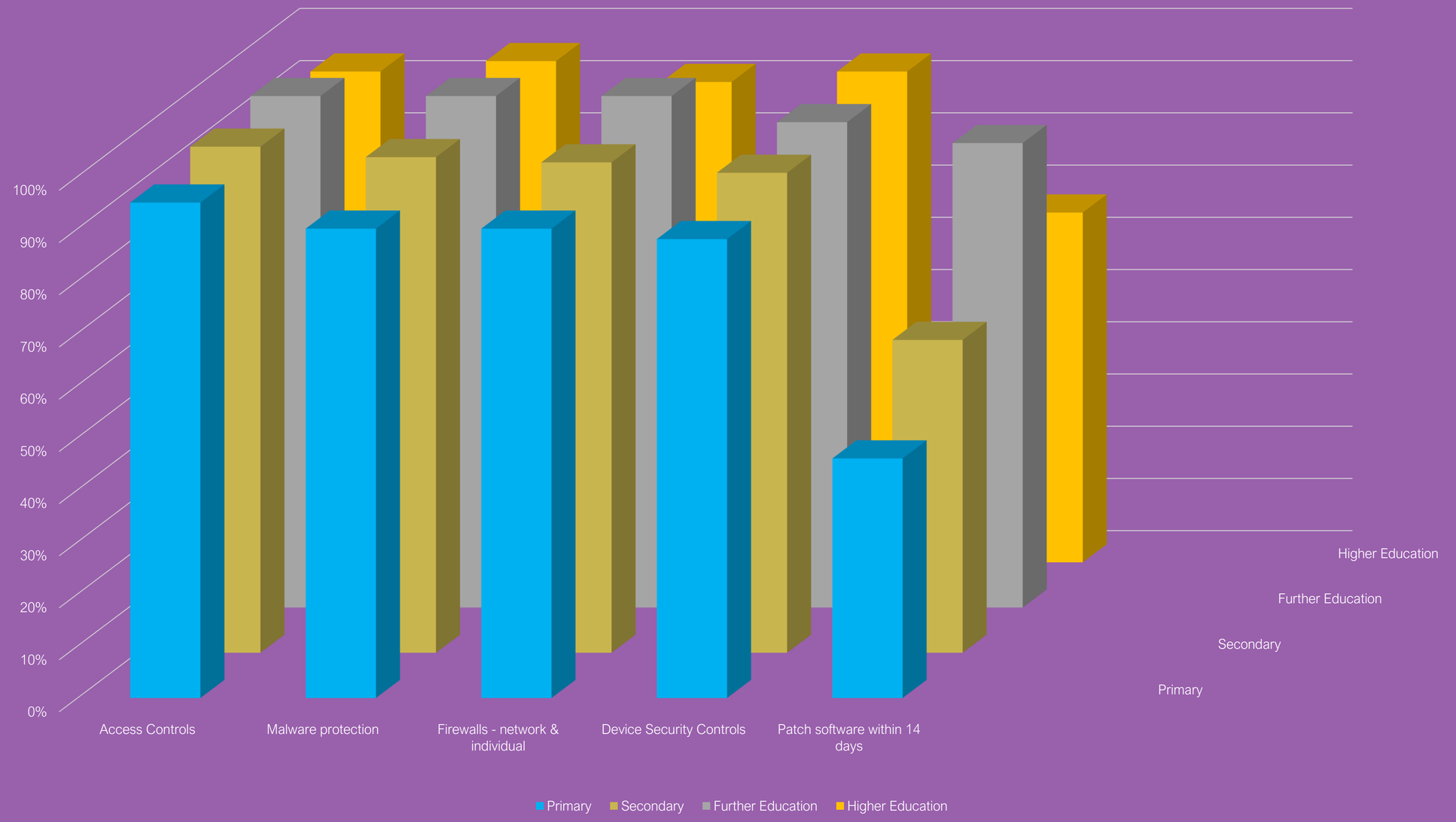
Education Organisations that have the following Cyber Essentials controls in place - %

Full rule detail on next page

*Together should be 100%



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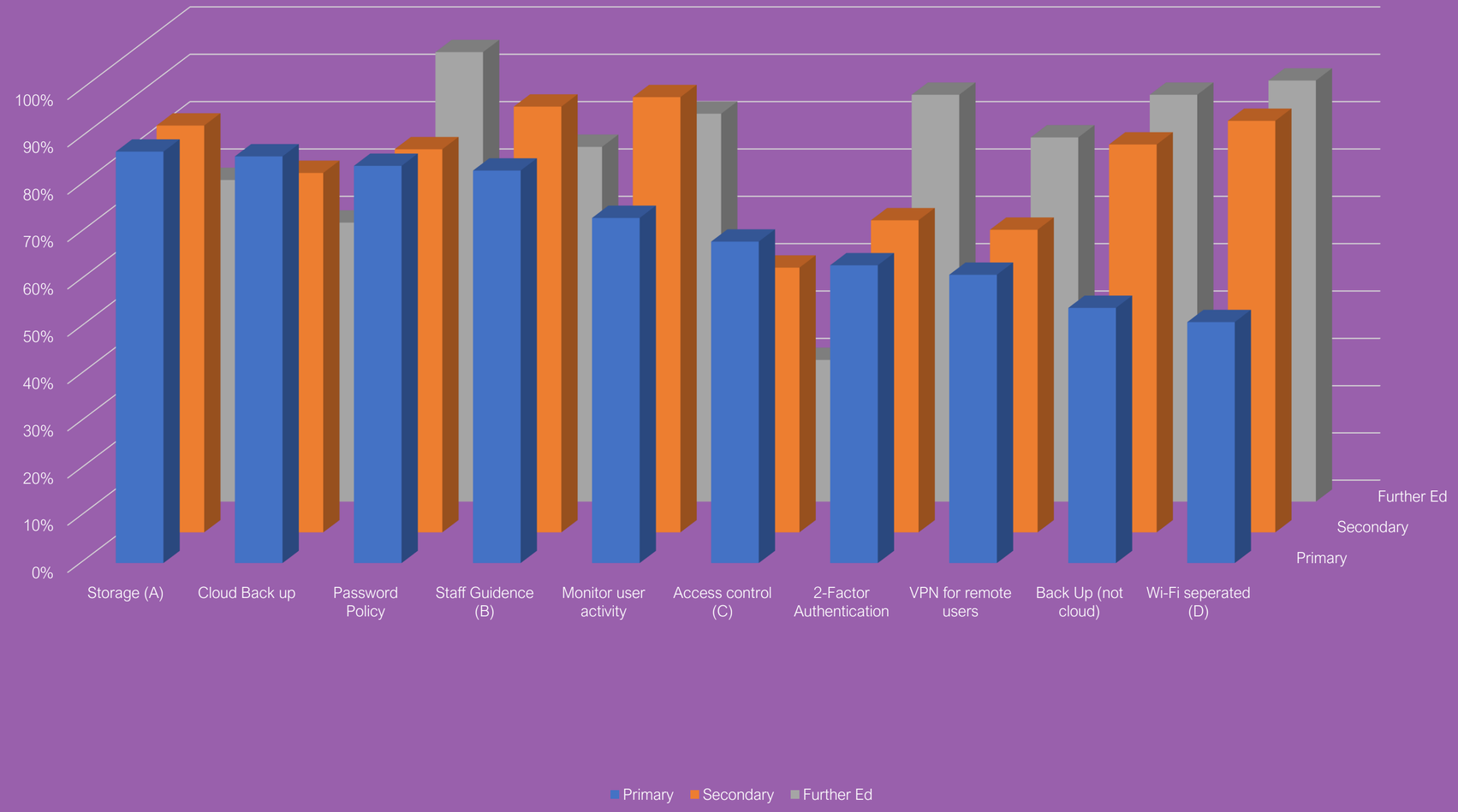
Education orgs with Cyber Policies that have the following features beyond Cyber Essentials - %



A). Rules for storing and moving personal data securely

B). An agreed process for staff to follow with fraudulent emails or websites

C). Only allowing access via organisation-owned devices

D). Separate Wi-Fi networks for staff and visitors

Source Cyber Security Breaches Survey '23

Some more Cyber Facts

Falling deployment

- As with small and micro businesses Primary School deployment of Password Policies, An agreed process around Phishing, rules for storing and moving personal data and using a VPN for remote workers has fallen over the last 3 years – this may well be down to budgetary pressures following Covid and the Cost-of-Living Crises but with Cyber Crime rising these are decisions that may be regretted…

Cyber Essentials

- Take up of Cyber Essentials has stalled since 2022 and 2021 for both Primary and Secondary Schools

2-Factor Authentication

- 2-Factor Authentication is more common in FE & HE than in schools. We think it should be standard everywhere

4 Schools had Cyber Attacks or Data Breach in September 2023. They were in Suffolk, London, Maidstone and Altrincham.

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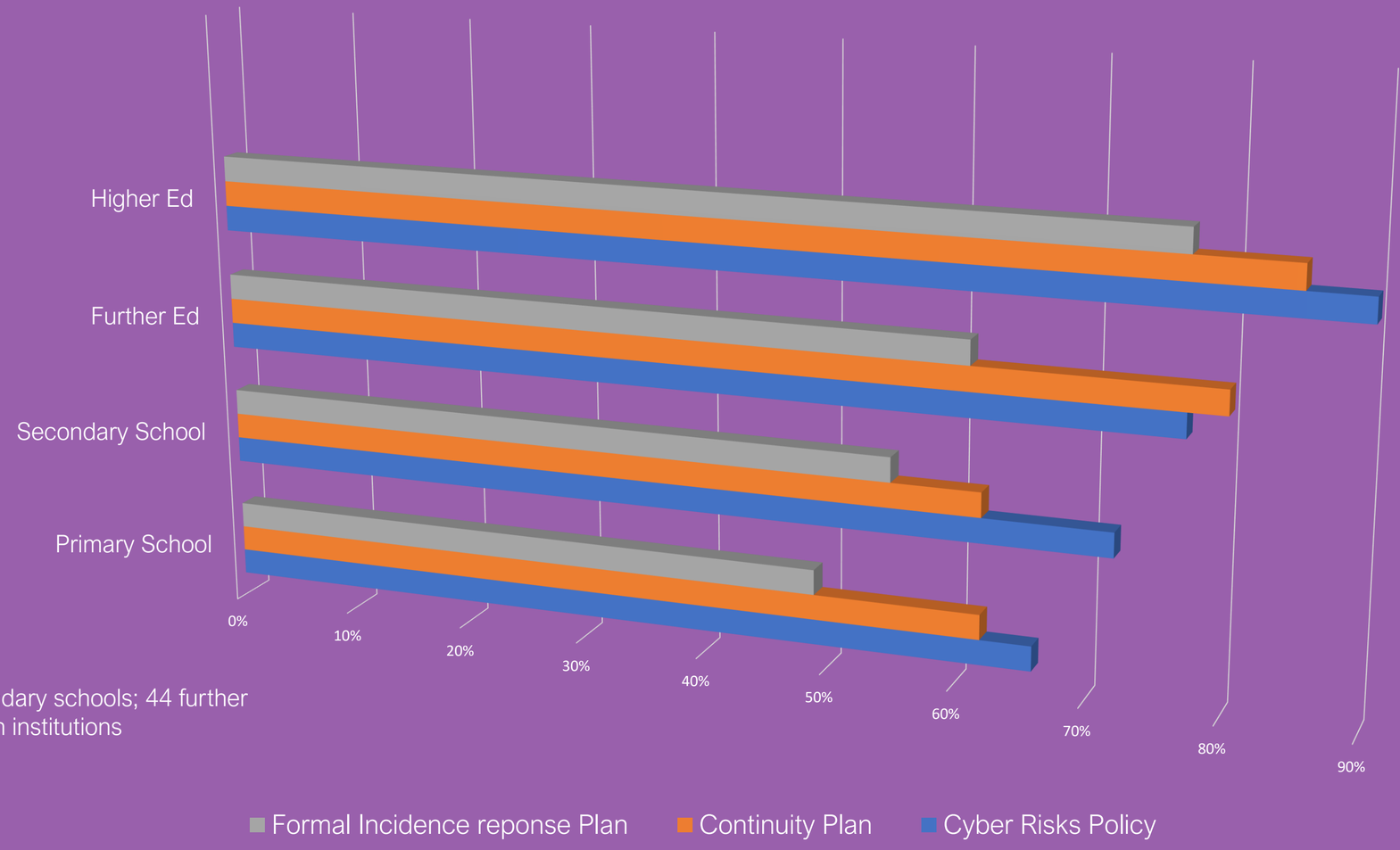
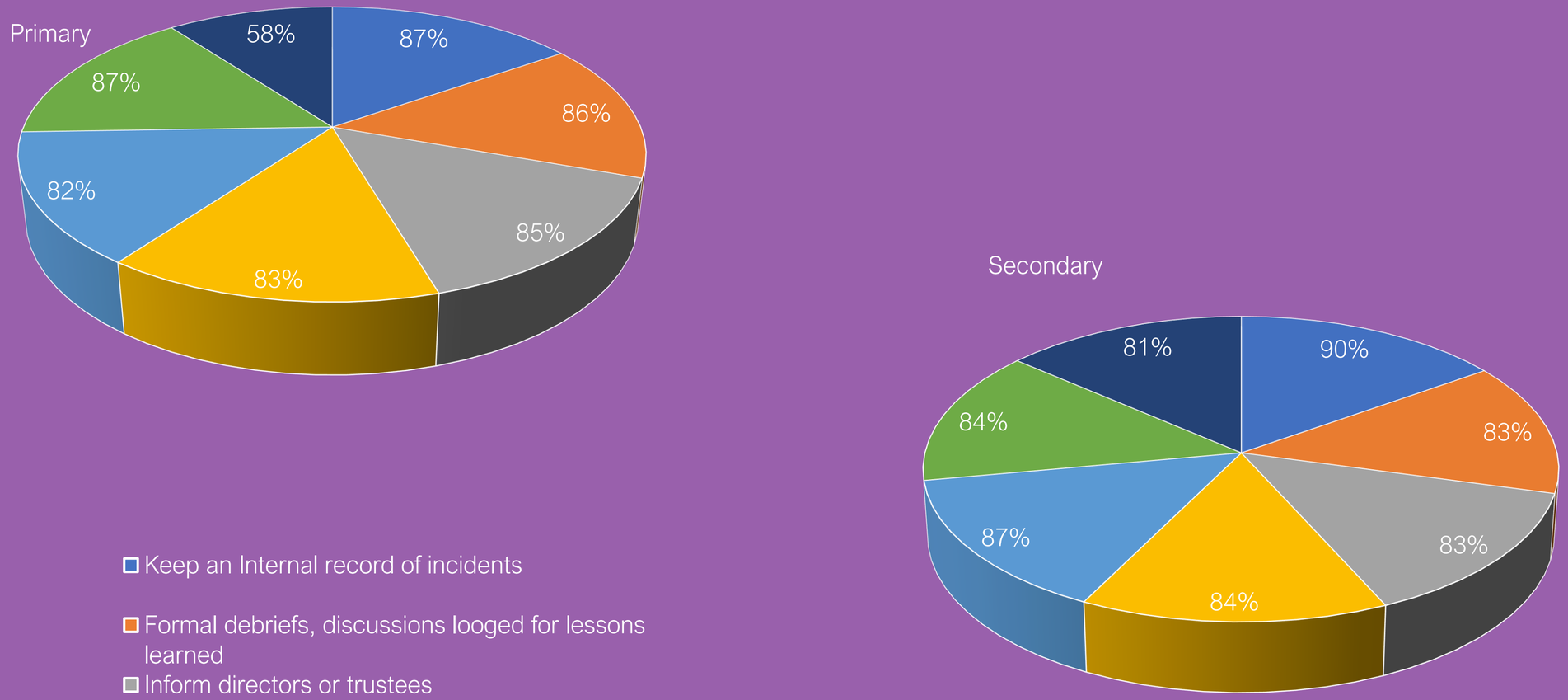
Education Organisations with following documentation- %



Bases: 241 primary schools; 217 secondary schools; 44 further education colleges; 52 higher education institutions

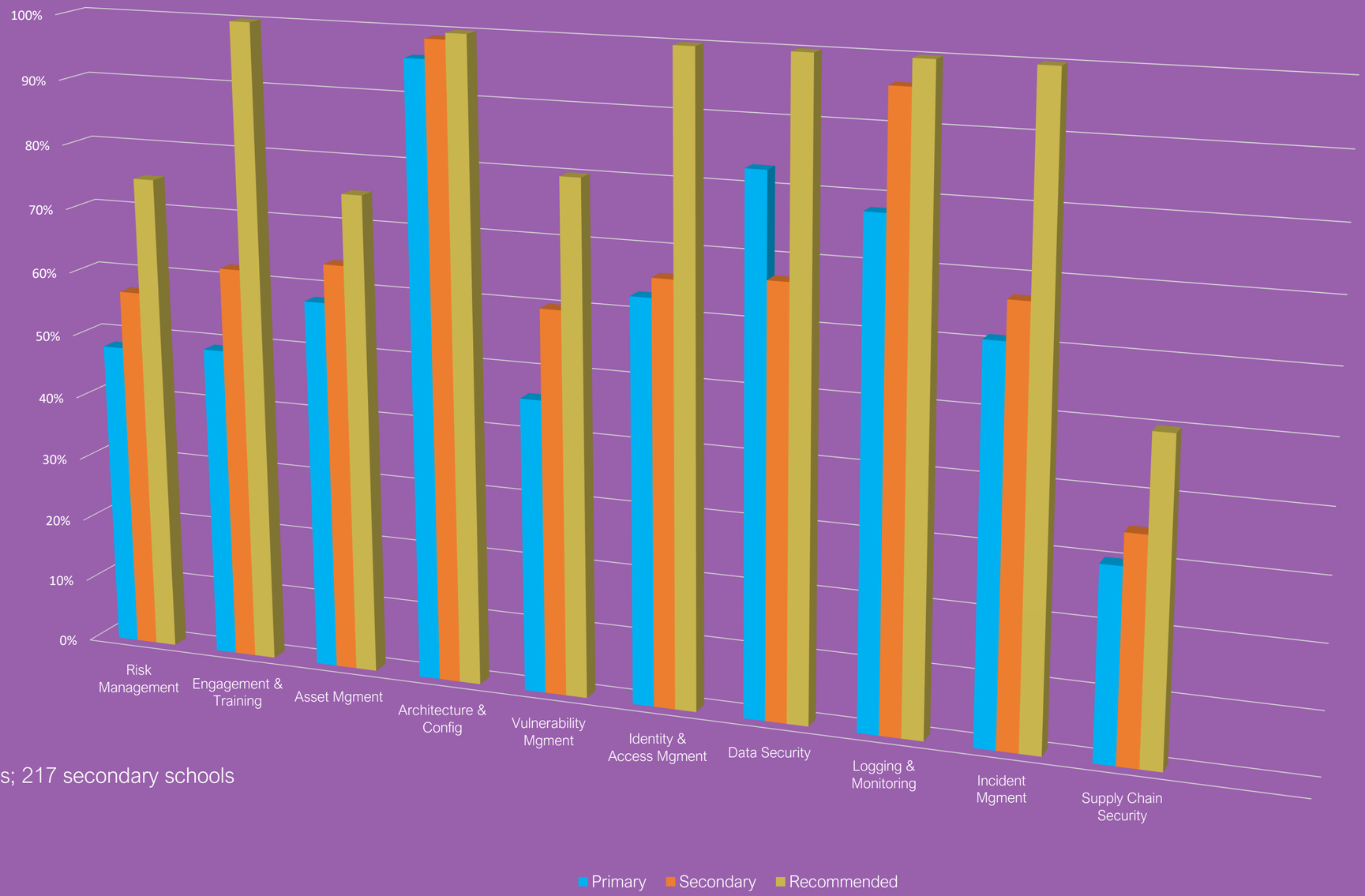
Primary and Secondary Schools that would do any of the following an attack or breach - %



Bases: 241 primary schools; 217 secondary schools

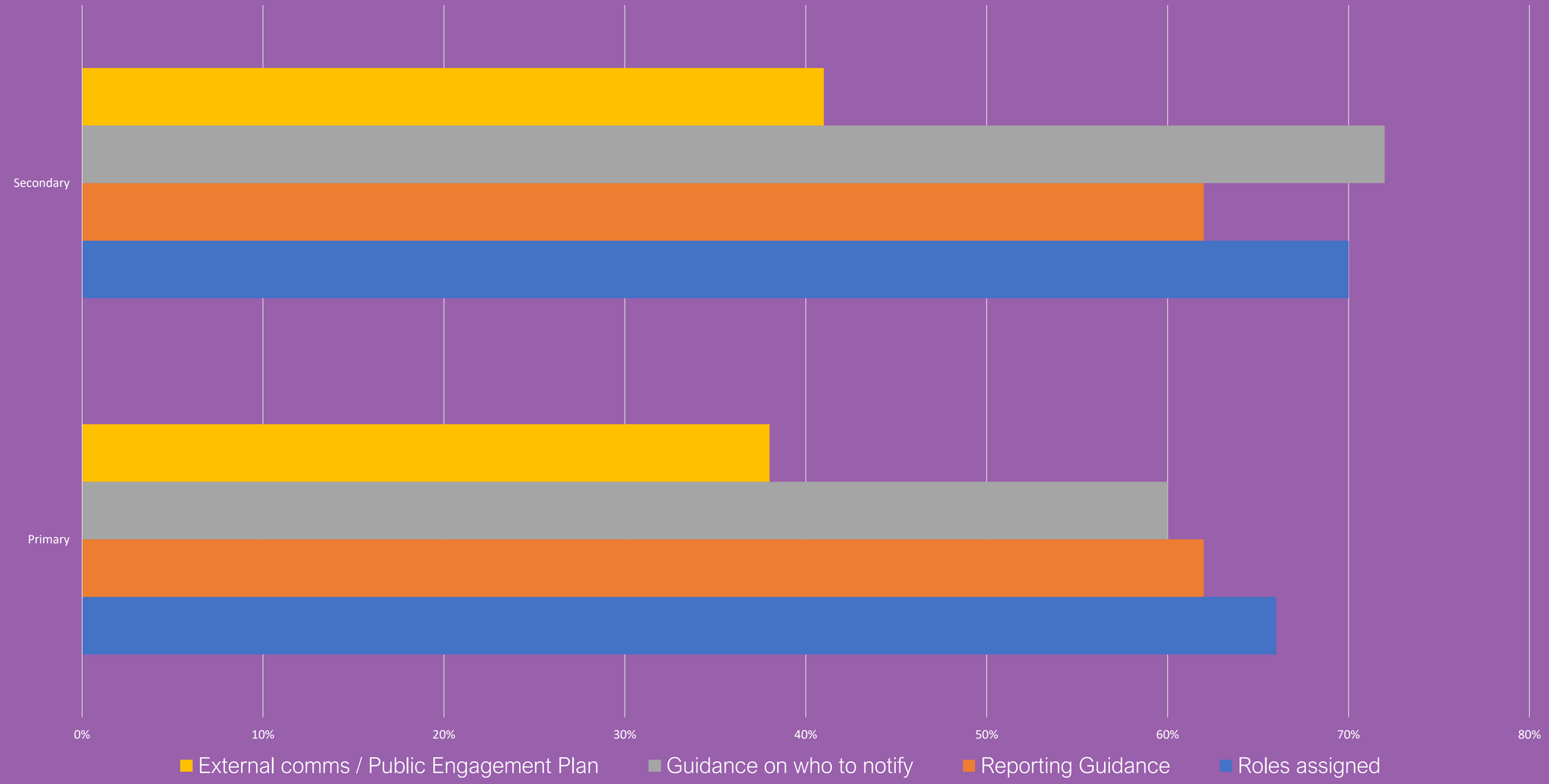
Primary & Secondary Schools undertaking action in each of the NCSC 10 Steps areas - %

Only 6% of Primary and 12% of Secondary have undertaken action in all 10



Bases: 241 primary schools; 217 secondary schools

Primary & Secondary Schools with these measures in place for dealing with Cyber Security Incidents- %



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