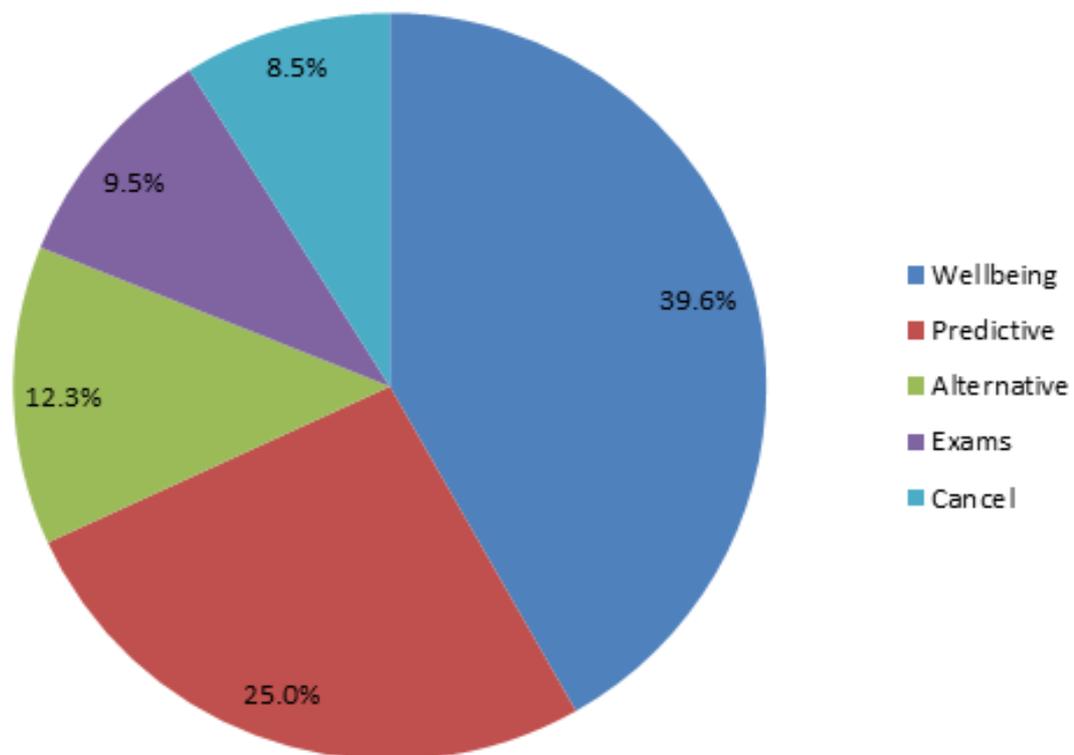


PROVISIONAL ANALYSIS OF COMMENTS LEAVING CERTIFICATE

Findings

% of Comments



The findings contained in this report are based on a provisional analysis of the comments received from the NPCPP Snapshot Survey and are representative of 1/3 of the total comments received on the Leaving Certificate.

For this purpose, the number of comments included in this section are 4,335. Out of these comments only 9.5% expressed that they wished the exams to proceed as the Department of Education and Skills have suggested in July/August 2020. 25% want predictive grades; 8.5% want exam cancelled; and 39.6% are worried about stress/well-being/safety of their kids to do the exam during COVID-19. Combined, this block of 73.1% is a firm indication to change the leaving Cert in 2020.

To supplement this, 9.36% gave alternatives to the exam i.e. repeat; matriculation examinations, a combination of predictive grades with an exam option for those who want to appeal grade; exams in Maths and English only/rest predictive; do exam in December and start third level in 2021; and skip a year, to name but a few.

“Realistically, the amount of bias in terms of predictive grading is much less of a missjustice [sic] to students than the continuation of the state exams. Consider the amount of people affected by the virus (everyone) and the amount of people experiencing death and loss of their loved ones. The results of the exams will not be improved, they will be of a much lower standard. The system in place has been building up the students exam knowledge and skills to the initial date of the exam. It doesn't account for this extra time and time where students are inclined to fall out of their established routines. It will be messy and there will be many students who are not happy. I believe a contingency should be in place for the students who have not received the points they would have liked to achieve. There will be many of these students who perhaps haven't been making clear efforts for their teachers, or even not bothering to study for the monthly assessments. But these same students may perform on the day. So the option for students to resit the exam later in the year should be there. Providing these predictive grades that many of the students may be pleased with would allow for a much lower stress on systems as we begin to reopen things. No option will be perfect but something must be done”

When considering predictive grades, many sought clarification on the potential process, with regard to the utilisation of results from previous in-house tests/examinations, or teacher nominated grades based on what students would have been expected to achieve under normal circumstances. There were also many comments stating that parents and guardians trusted teachers to be professional in such a scenario, as felt that teachers know the students and their capabilities.

Many comments mentioned the students and their ability to decide or choose their own path in this uncharted territory.

“It's a difficult decision to be made on Leaving Cert as it will have a knock on effect. I think it would be fair to listen to the students suggestions. They are our future!”

Several said they would not allow them in to sit examinations while COVID-19 is still in situ, with others noting that they would consider taking legal action with regard to decisions.

As the national representative body for parents and guardians of young people in post-primary education in Ireland, the National Parents Council Post Primary is committed to advocating on behalf of parents and guardians during the current public health crisis.

A REPORT BY THE



NATIONAL PARENTS COUNCIL
Post Primary
COMHAIRLE NA SIUNTA TUISMITHÉOIRÍ
Iarbhunoideachas