

## **STEVEN GERRARD TOPS LIST AS CHILDREN'S FAVOURITE 'CELEBRITY TEACHER'**

A survey released today shows that children choose sporting heroes over academics as their favourite teachers. The survey of primary school children, sponsored by BT's Better World Campaign, run in children's publication *First News*, puts England footballer Steven Gerrard as top choice, ahead of other sporting stars such as Beckham and Rooney.

Children chose Steven Gerrard because they believe he is a good role model and would be a great P.E. teacher. Other celebrities highlighted by the young people included Peter Andre, because he is "clever" and Katie Price who would provide girls with great "shopping tips". However, academics did not miss out, with Albert Einstein and Isaac Newton receiving a number of votes between them for being able to "answer every question".

As well as picking their favourite celebrity teacher, the survey asked what children thought of their real teachers in the run up to this year's BT Primary School Teacher of the Year Award. Teachers who are "funny" and "kind" topped the list, followed closely by teachers that offer bribes of sweets and biscuits. A handful of teachers were chosen for having more unusual attributes, such as performing puppet shows and singing.

When asked what attributes an invented teacher would have, answers were varied, with one child preferring their teacher to be "dumb" so the class would always be right. Other pupils wanted their teacher to have a beard, extendable arms and X-ray vision to tackle bullies.

Dave Hancock, head of education and volunteering at BT said: "Young people are the focus of the BT Better World Campaign, which aims to help children and young people communicate better and get their voices heard. Teachers have an essential role to play in helping children develop as communicators. BT has been involved with the Teaching Awards since 2001, and every year it is great to see teachers being rewarded for the remarkable work they do".

Children can vote for next year's teacher of the year right now at [www.teachingawards.co.uk](http://www.teachingawards.co.uk). This year's winners will be unveiled at the National Teaching Awards Ceremony, screened on the BBC, October 21<sup>st</sup>.

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### **Notes to Editor**

The survey was conducted through the publication *First News*, answers were collected from 66 children from 34 primary schools across the UK. The children were aged between seven and eleven years old.

### **Better World Campaign**

BT is committed to improving how young people communicate and ensuring that their voices are heard. The Better World Campaign, BT's largest corporate responsibility programme, invests £3.5 million annually to provide free resources and training to improve children's communication skills and programmes to enable young people to speak out. The Campaign is particularly concerned with children in most need and works in support of ChildLine. (or something similar.)

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