

## Our Young People: Perceptions of the Outcomes Framework

Public opinion from questions on the 2019 Young Persons' Behaviour & Attitudes Survey

### Population Characteristics Bulletin

This report presents an in-depth look at different population characteristics of young people in Northern Ireland and how they feel about the draft Programme for Government Outcomes.

#### Available population characteristics:

Gender, Religion, Deprivation, Free School Meals, Urban/Rural, Year Group, Disability, Health, Ethnicity, School Type

Separate bulletins focusing on each of the Outcomes and headline results are available [on the TEO website](#).

### Key findings

- Almost 3 in 4 respondents in Year 8 (74%) agreed with Outcome 5 (We have opportunities for people to be innovative, creative and fulfil their potential); this was the highest agreement rate observed across any of the population groups analysed.
- In all Outcomes (except Outcome 6), mean score decreased incrementally as Year Group increased.
- The lowest agreement rate observed was in Outcome 2 (We look after our environment); only 15% of those with Very bad/bad health agreed with this statement.
- This again is reflective of a pattern in average score for each Outcome, we see that score increases incrementally as self-reported health improves.
- The highest mean score across the population groups was in found in Outcome 12: those in Year 8 scored 3.96, indicating this group agreed more than they disagreed that “we give our children and young people the best start in life”. Year 8 also had the highest mean score in 11 of the 12 Outcomes.
- The lowest mean score across all population groups came from respondents with Very bad/bad health, scoring 2.19 for Outcome 2 (We look after our environment). In fact, those with Very bad/bad health had the lowest mean score in all 12 Outcomes.

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## Draft Programme for Government & Outcomes Delivery Plan

The former Executive had agreed to develop a Programme for Government (PfG) for Northern Ireland with the stated purpose of “Improving wellbeing for all – by tackling disadvantage and driving economic growth”.

The contents of the PfG were developed following extensive public consultation in 2016-17, to gather citizens’ views on what the priorities of government should be in order to deliver for the population. The “Our Population: What Matters Most?” publication provides more details on the issues identified that helped develop the subsequent PfG framework - <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/our-population-what-matters-most>.

The draft PfG framework is used as the basis for the Outcomes Delivery Plan (ODP) which focuses on 12 stated Outcomes in key areas of economic and societal well-being. More information on the Outcomes Delivery Plan, draft Programme for Government and the Outcomes framework can be found on the “Making Government Work” page - <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/topics/making-government-work>

## Data presentation and terms

This report is focussed on the key findings for each of the 12 Outcome statements. There are two ways we measure the results:

- **Percentage** – that is, how many people as a percentage of the total responded with a given answer. For example, “The Outcome with which most respondents disagreed was Outcome 2 (We look after our environment) at 50%” or “At 44%, Outcome 1 (we have a strong economy) had the highest proportion of neutral responses”
- **Mean score** – responses to the Outcome statements are given a value between 1 and 5, where 1 = “Strongly disagree” and 5 = “Strongly agree”. We use this to calculate the average (mean) response to that Outcome statement. The higher the mean, the more people agreed with the statement. For example, a mean score of 3.0 (exactly in the middle of 1 and 5) tells us that respondents, on average, neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement. A mean score of 3.5 would suggest that, on average, respondents agreed more than they disagreed with the statement

Further information on the analysis and the survey are available in [Annex A](#).

## Note on the Outcome statements

In order to aid understanding, the Outcome statements presented to pupils in this survey differ from those used in the draft Programme for Government/Outcomes Delivery Plan and the NI population version of this report. For example, Outcome 1 in the draft Programme for Government is “We prosper through a strong, competitive, regionally balanced economy” but in this report it was presented and reported as “We have a strong economy”. These statements are based on those used in both the main and the child friendly Programme for Government consultation documents, but have been adapted to suit the format of the YPBAS questionnaire and audience. Prior to the survey being launched, testing for understanding, length and flow as carried out by NISRA’s Central Survey Unit and the National Children’s Bureau.

A full list of the statements used can be found in the [Data](#) section of this report.

## Gender Groups: Male, Female

### Key Findings

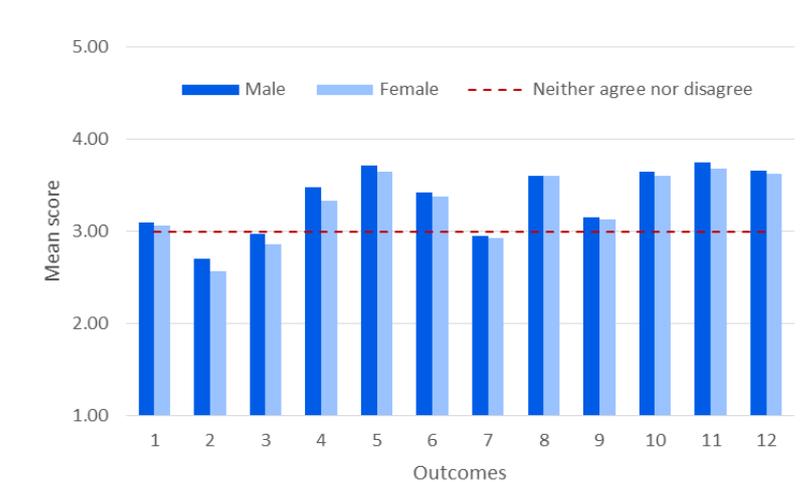
#### Male respondents generally agreed more with the Outcome statements than Females.

Responses from Males were generally more positive than those from Females. The proportion of Males agreeing with the Outcome statements ranged from 70% for Outcome 11 (Our communication and travel networks help people to connect with each other) to 24% for Outcome 2 (We look after our environment), while responses from Females ranged from 65% (Outcome 11) to 21% (Outcome 2). The trend for Outcome 2 having the lowest agreement rate and Outcome 11 the highest is repeated throughout the data and is observed in 25 of the 28 population characteristics.

Males had a higher agreement rate than Females for all Outcomes except Outcome 8 (We care for others and we help those in need) and Outcome 12 (We give our children and young people the best start in life), where both groups had the same agreement rates (63% and 61% respectively).

This pattern can be observed in the responses across the 12 Outcomes where Males had higher mean scores in 11 of the 12. For both Males and Females, Outcome 11 had the highest mean scores (3.75 and 3.68 respectively) and Outcome 2 had the lowest (2.70 and 2.57 respectively).

**Figure 1.1:** Mean score by Gender for each Outcome statement



Differences in mean score between Males and Females however were generally quite small (see Figure 1.1), with the largest difference in Outcome 4 (we enjoy long, healthy, active lives) at 0.15.

### Statistically significant differences in perceptions of the Outcomes

Significant differences\* by Gender were found in six of the 12 Outcomes, listed below. For all of these Outcomes, Males agreed significantly more than Females.

Outcome	Mean score
 <b>Outcome 2 – We look after our environment</b>	Male: <b>2.70</b> Female: <b>2.57</b>
 <b>Outcome 3 - We have an equal society</b>	Male: <b>2.98</b> Female: <b>2.86</b>
 <b>Outcome 4 - We enjoy long, healthy, active lives</b>	Male: <b>3.48</b> Female: <b>3.33</b>
 <b>Outcome 5 - We have opportunities for people to be innovative, creative and fulfil their potential</b>	Male: <b>3.72</b> Female: <b>3.65</b>
 <b>Outcome 10 - We have a place where people want to live, work and visit</b>	Male: <b>3.65</b> Female: <b>3.60</b>
 <b>Outcome 11 - Our communication and travel networks help people to connect with each other</b>	Male: <b>3.75</b> Female: <b>3.68</b>

\* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

A list of the Outcome statements and definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all Outcomes including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

*\* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance*

## Religion

### Groups: Catholic, Protestant, Other/None/Missing/Refused

### Key Findings

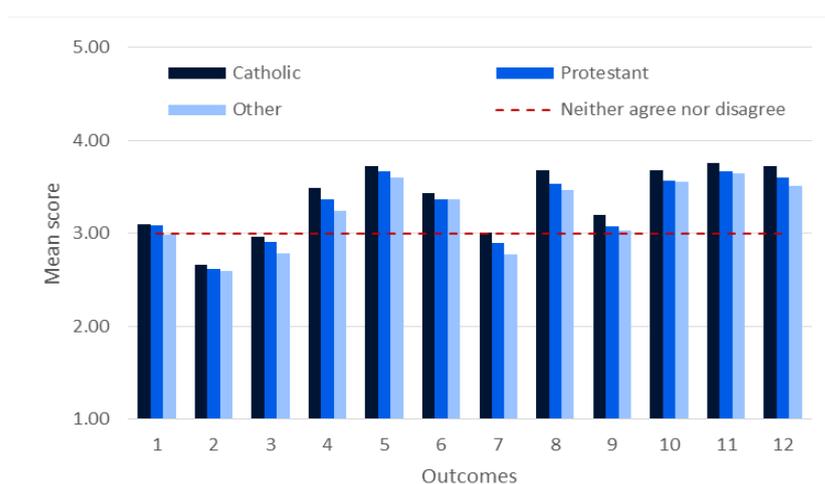
**Catholic respondents had higher agreement rates than both Protestant respondents and those from Other religious groups.**

Catholic respondents were generally more positive than other religious groups for all 12 Outcomes, with the proportion of those agreeing ranging from 71% for Outcome 11 (Our communication and travel networks help people to connect with each other) to 24% for Outcome 2 (We look after our environment). In fact, Catholic respondents had the highest agreement across the religious groups for all 12 Outcomes, with 7 of these being higher than 50% (Outcomes 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 12).

Agreement rates for Protestant respondents ranged from 65% for Outcome 11, to 21% for Outcome 2, while those from Other religious groups ranged from 62% for Outcome 11, to 21% for Outcome 2. Those from the Other religious groups agreed the least with all Outcomes with the exception of Outcome 6, where both Protestants and Other religious groups had an agreement rate of 47%.

The range of agreement for each Outcome differs between the religious groups. In 6 of the 12 Outcomes, the range between the highest and lowest agreement rates is greater than 10 percentage points. The largest of these differences is observed in Outcome 8 (We care for others and we help those in need) at 15 percentage points. However, these large ranges are not observed in disagreement proportions, where the largest difference is 7 percentage points for Outcome 3 (We have an equal society) and Outcome 7 (We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other).

**Figure 2.1: Mean score by Religion for each Outcome statement**



Despite these differences, average scores across the Outcomes show that overall, the groups agreed more than they disagreed with the Outcome statements. Only Outcomes 2 and 3 had mean scores below 3.00 from all three groups (see Figure 2.1).

### Statistically significant differences in perceptions of the Outcomes

Significant differences\* by Religion were found in 10 of the 12 Outcomes, listed below. Protestants agreed significantly less than Catholic respondents in 7 of these (no difference was found in Outcomes 1, 3 or 5), while Other religious groups agreed significantly less than Catholics in all 10.

Outcome	Mean score
 <b>Outcome 1 - We have a strong economy</b>	Catholic: <b>3.10</b> Protestant: <b>3.09</b> Other: <b>2.99</b>
 <b>Outcome 3 - We have an equal society</b>	Catholic: <b>2.97</b> Protestant: <b>2.91</b> Other: <b>2.79</b>

\* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Outcome	Mean score
 <b>Outcome 4 - We enjoy long, healthy, active lives</b>	Catholic: <b>3.49</b> Protestant: <b>3.37</b> Other: <b>3.24</b>
 <b>Outcome 5 - We have opportunities for people to be innovative, creative and fulfil their potential</b>	Catholic: <b>3.73</b> Protestant: <b>3.67</b> Other: <b>3.60</b>
 <b>Outcome 7 - We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other</b>	Catholic: <b>3.01</b> Protestant: <b>2.90</b> Other: <b>2.78</b>
 <b>Outcome 8 - We care for others and we help those in need</b>	Catholic: <b>3.68</b> Protestant: <b>3.54</b> Other: <b>3.47</b>
 <b>Outcome 9 - We are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects difference</b>	Catholic: <b>3.20</b> Protestant: <b>3.08</b> Other: <b>3.03</b>
 <b>Outcome 10 - We have a place where people want to live, work and visit</b>	Catholic: <b>3.68</b> Protestant: <b>3.57</b> Other: <b>3.56</b>
 <b>Outcome 11 - Our communication and travel networks help people to connect with each other</b>	Catholic: <b>3.76</b> Protestant: <b>3.67</b> Other: <b>3.65</b>
 <b>Outcome 12 - We give our children and young people the best start in life</b>	Catholic: <b>3.72</b> Protestant: <b>3.60</b> Other: <b>3.51</b>

While these differences were significant, it is important to note the differences in mean score were often small in real terms. A list of the Outcome statements and definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all Outcomes including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

\* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

## Deprivation

**Groups: Quintile 1 (most deprived), Quintile 2, Quintile 3, Quintile 4, Quintile 5 (least deprived)**

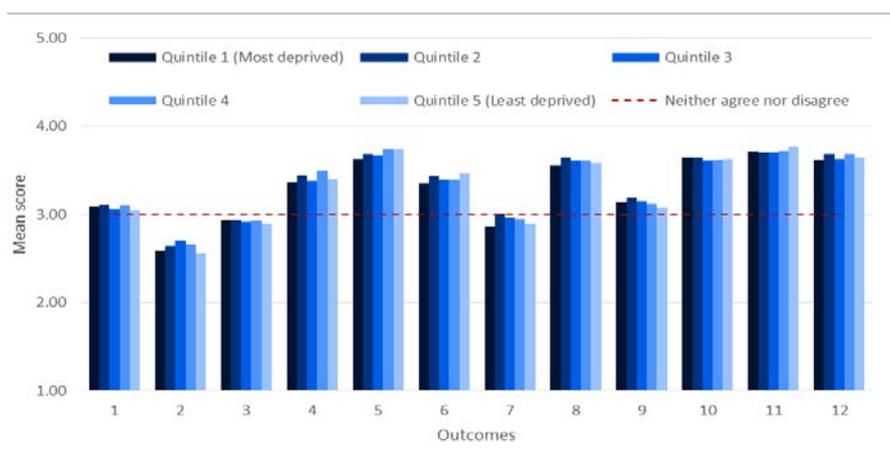
### Key Findings

#### Respondents from the most deprived areas have lower agreement rates.

Those from the most deprived areas (Quintile 1) generally responded less positively than their counterparts from less deprived areas – these respondents had the lowest agreement rates for 8 of the 12 Outcome statements. However, these respondents also had the highest agreement rate (32%) for Outcome 1 (We have a strong economy), and a comparatively high agreement rate (33%) for Outcome 3 (We have an equal society) - the second highest.

Those from the least deprived areas (Quintile 5) had more mixed views of the Outcomes overall. This group had the highest agreement rates for Outcomes 5 (We have opportunities for people to be innovative, creative and fulfil their potential), 6 (We have more people working in better jobs) and 11 (Our communication and travel networks help people to connect with each other) at 69%, 52% and 70% respectively. They also had the lowest agreement rates for Outcome 7 (We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other) at 29%.

**Figure 3.1: Mean score by Deprivation for each Outcome statement**



The majority of the mean scores from respondents grouped by Deprivation were 3.00 or higher, meaning that on average respondents agreed more than they disagreed with the Outcome statements. Differences between the groups were generally very small, with little in the way of trends. However, those from Quintile 2 gave the highest mean score of all of the deprivation quintiles in seven Outcomes (Outcomes 1, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12).

### Statistically significant differences in perceptions of the Outcomes

There were no significant differences\* found between Deprivation Quintiles for any of the 12 Outcomes.

A list of the Outcome statements and definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all Outcomes including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

\* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

# Free School Meals

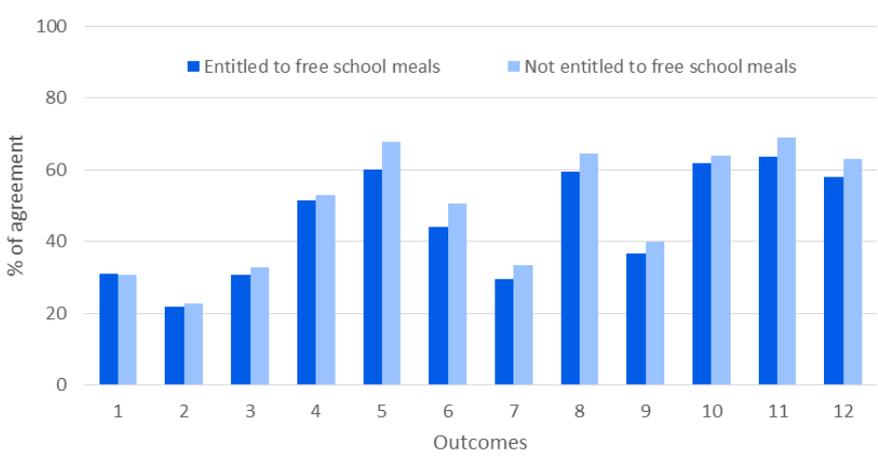
## Groups: Entitled to Free School meals, Not Entitled to Free School Meals

### Key Findings

**Respondents with Free School Meals entitlement generally agreed less with the Outcome statements than those who are not entitled Free School Meals.**

Respondents with Free School Meals entitlement had less positive responses to the Outcome statements than respondents without. In every Outcome, with the exception of Outcome 1 (We have a strong economy), those without Free School Meals entitlement agreed more than those with Free School Meals entitlement. This ranged from 69% for Outcome 11 (Our communication and travel networks help people to connect with each other) to 23% for Outcome 2 (We look after our environment), while for those with Free School Meals entitlement the agreement rate ranged between 64% for Outcome 11, and 22% for Outcome 2. Differences in agreement rate between the two groups were generally small, though differences of 5 percentage points or more were observed in Outcome 5 (We have opportunities for people to be innovative, creative and fulfil their potential), Outcome 6 (We have more people working in better jobs), Outcome 8 (We care for others and we help those in need), Outcome 11 and Outcome 12 (We give our children and young people the best start in life) (see Figure 4.1).

**Figure 4.1:** Proportion of agreement by Free School Meals entitlement for each Outcome statement



Despite those with Free School Meals entitlement generally agreeing less, mean scores for each Outcome show that, on average, both groups were more inclined to agree with the statements than disagree; with respondents providing mean scores of 3.00 or above in 9 of the 12 Outcomes. Outcome 2, 3 and 7 statements had mean scores below 3.00 for both groups, meaning that both disagreed more than they agreed with these statements. Differences in mean score between the two groups were generally small, with the largest difference being 0.13 for Outcome 5 (We have opportunities for people to be innovative, creative and fulfil their potential).

### Statistically significant differences in perceptions of the Outcomes

Significant differences\* by Free School Meals were found in five of the 12 Outcomes, listed below. In all five, respondents entitled to Free School Meals agreed significantly less with the Outcome statement than those not entitled to Free School Meals.

Outcome	Mean score
 <b>Outcome 5 - We have opportunities for people to be innovative, creative and fulfil their potential</b>	FSM: <b>3.60</b> Non-FSM: <b>3.73</b>
 <b>Outcome 6 - We have more people working in better jobs</b>	FSM: <b>3.33</b> Non-FSM: <b>3.43</b>
 <b>Outcome 7 - We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other</b>	FSM: <b>2.87</b> Non-FSM: <b>2.97</b>

\* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Outcome	Mean score
	<i>Outcome 8 - We care for others and we help those in need</i>
	FSM: <b>3.53</b> Non-FSM: <b>3.63</b>
	<i>Outcome 12 - We give our children and young people the best start in life</i>
	FSM: <b>3.59</b> Non-FSM: <b>3.68</b>

While these differences were significant, it is important to note the differences in mean score were often small in real terms. A list of the Outcome statements and definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all Outcomes including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

\* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

## Urban/Rural Groups: Urban, Rural

### Key Findings

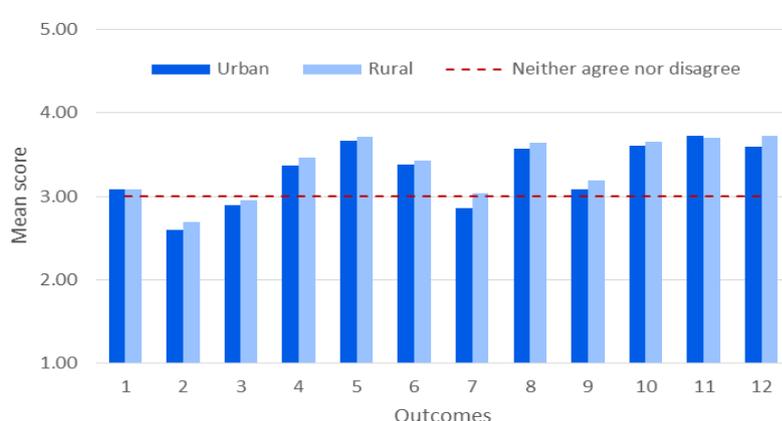
#### Respondents living in Rural areas agreed more than those from Urban areas for all Outcomes.

The proportion of agreement from Rural respondents was higher than from Urban respondents for all Outcome statements with the exception of Outcome 11, where both groups had an agreement rate of 68%. The largest differences in agreement rates was 8 percentage points in both Outcome 7 (We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other) and Outcome 12 (We give our children and young people the best start in life).

Similarly, the proportion of disagreement from Rural respondents was lower than Urban respondents for all, except for Outcome 11 (Our communication and travel networks help people to connect with each other). However, the difference was small at 0.8 percentage points.

Despite the pattern of higher agreement from those living in Rural areas, both groups generally agreed with the Outcome statements on average. In 9 of the 12 Outcomes, both Urban and Rural respondents had mean scores of 3.00 or more, meaning that on average groups agreed more than they disagreed with the Outcome statements. The difference between mean scores for the 12 Outcome statements was generally small – the largest difference was 0.18 for Outcome 7 (as shown in Figure 5.1).

**Figure 5.1: Mean score by Urban/Rural for each Outcome**



### Statistically significant differences in perceptions of the Outcomes

Significant differences\* by Urban/Rural were found in six of the 12 Outcomes, listed below. Rural respondents agreed significantly more than Urban respondents for all six of these Outcomes.

Outcome	Mean score
 <b>Outcome 2 - We look after our environment</b>	Urban: <b>2.60</b> Rural: <b>2.69</b>
 <b>Outcome 4 - We enjoy long, healthy, active lives</b>	Urban: <b>3.37</b> Rural: <b>3.47</b>
 <b>Outcome 7 - We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other</b>	Urban: <b>2.86</b> Rural: <b>3.04</b>
 <b>Outcome 8 - We care for others and we help those in need</b>	Urban: <b>3.57</b> Rural: <b>3.64</b>
 <b>Outcome 9 - We are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects difference</b>	Urban: <b>3.09</b> Rural: <b>3.19</b>
 <b>Outcome 12 - We give our children and young people the best start in life</b>	Urban: <b>3.59</b> Rural: <b>3.73</b>

While these differences were significant, it is important to note the differences in mean score were often small in real terms. A list of the Outcome statements and definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all Outcomes including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

\* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

## Year Group Groups: Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11, Year 12

### Key Findings

#### Younger respondents had higher rates of agreement with the Outcome statements than older respondents.

Those in Year 8 generally responded more positively than other year groups. At 74%, the Year 8 agreement rate with Outcome 5 (We have opportunities for people to be innovative, creative and fulfil their potential) was the highest agreement rate across all population characteristics. Of the 12 Outcomes, seven had agreement rates higher than 50% from Year 8 respondents, with the lowest agreement rate (32%) for Outcome 2 (We look after our environment).

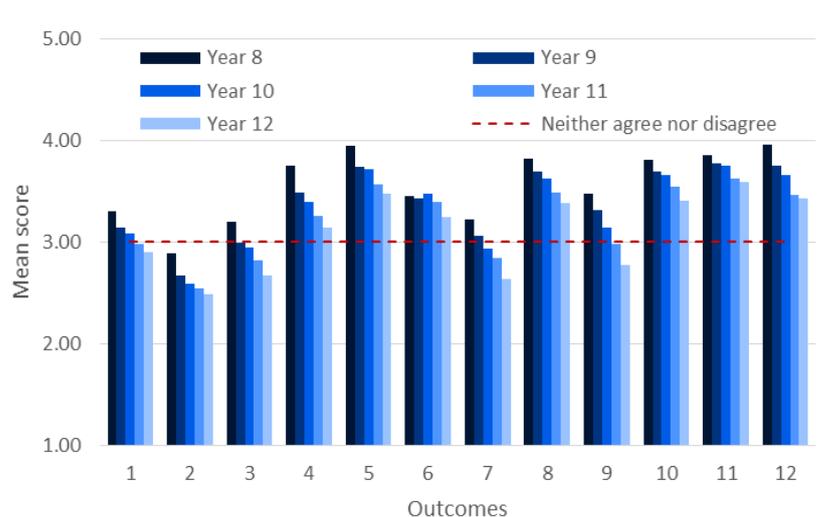
Conversely, Year 12 generally responded more negatively than the other year groups. For this group, proportions of those agreeing with the Outcome statements ranged from 65% for Outcome 11 (Our communication and travel networks help people to connect with each other) to 18% for Outcome 2. Of the 12 Outcomes, five had agreement rates higher than 50% from those in Year 12.

This pattern is reflected again when we consider the average responses for each Outcome by Year Group. In all Outcomes (except Outcome 6), mean score decreased incrementally as Year Group increased - Year 12 had the lowest mean score and Year 8 had the highest in all Outcomes (see Figure 6.1). In fact, Year 8 had the highest mean score of all population groups for every Outcome with the exception of Outcome 6.

The majority of mean scores by Year Group were 3.00 or higher, meaning that on average groups agreed more than they disagreed with most of the Outcome statements. Seven of the 12 Outcomes had no mean scores lower than 3.00 from any Year Group (Outcomes 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 12).

Outcome 11 received the highest mean scores from Years 9-12, ranging from 3.59 (Year 12) to 3.77 (Year 9). This means that on average, these year groups agreed more than they disagreed with this Outcome statement.

**Figure 6.1:** Mean score by Year Group for each Outcome statement



Outcome 12 meanwhile, received the highest mean score from Year 8 (3.96), which was also the highest mean score for any Outcome across all population groups. This means on average Year 8 agreed more than they disagreed with the statement “We give our children and young people the best start in life”.

### Statistically significant differences in perceptions of the Outcomes

Significant differences\* by Year Group were found in all 12 Outcomes, listed in the table below. Key findings include the following:

- Year 8 agreed significantly more\* than all other Year Groups for 10 of the Outcomes (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12).
- Year 12 agreed significantly less\* than all other Year Groups for 3 of the Outcomes (Outcomes 6, 7 and 9).
- The mean scores for all Year Groups in Outcome 9 were significantly different\* from each other.

\* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Outcome		Mean score
	<b>Outcome 1 - We have a strong economy</b>	Year 8: <b>3.30</b> Year 9: <b>3.14</b> Year 10: <b>3.08</b> Year 11: <b>2.98</b> Year 12: <b>2.90</b>
	<b>Outcome 2 - We look after our environment</b>	Year 8: <b>2.89</b> Year 9: <b>2.67</b> Year 10: <b>2.59</b> Year 11: <b>2.54</b> Year 12: <b>2.49</b>
	<b>Outcome 3 - We have an equal society</b>	Year 8: <b>3.20</b> Year 9: <b>2.99</b> Year 10: <b>2.95</b> Year 11: <b>2.82</b> Year 12: <b>2.67</b>
	<b>Outcome 4 - We enjoy long, healthy, active lives</b>	Year 8: <b>3.75</b> Year 9: <b>3.49</b> Year 10: <b>3.39</b> Year 11: <b>3.26</b> Year 12: <b>3.14</b>
	<b>Outcome 5 - We have opportunities for people to be innovative, creative and fulfil their potential</b>	Year 8: <b>3.95</b> Year 9: <b>3.74</b> Year 10: <b>3.72</b> Year 11: <b>3.57</b> Year 12: <b>3.47</b>
	<b>Outcome 6 - We have more people working in better jobs</b>	Year 8: <b>3.45</b> Year 9: <b>3.43</b> Year 10: <b>3.48</b> Year 11: <b>3.40</b> Year 12: <b>3.25</b>
	<b>Outcome 7 - We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other</b>	Year 8: <b>3.22</b> Year 9: <b>3.06</b> Year 10: <b>2.94</b> Year 11: <b>2.84</b> Year 12: <b>2.63</b>
	<b>Outcome 8 - We care for others and we help those in need</b>	Year 8: <b>3.82</b> Year 9: <b>3.69</b> Year 10: <b>3.62</b> Year 11: <b>3.49</b> Year 12: <b>3.38</b>
	<b>Outcome 9 - We are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects difference</b>	Year 8: <b>3.48</b> Year 9: <b>3.31</b> Year 10: <b>3.14</b> Year 11: <b>2.98</b> Year 12: <b>2.77</b>
	<b>Outcome 10 - We have a place where people want to live, work and visit</b>	Year 8: <b>3.81</b> Year 9: <b>3.69</b> Year 10: <b>3.66</b> Year 11: <b>3.54</b> Year 12: <b>3.41</b>

\* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Outcome		Mean score
	<b>Outcome 11 - Our communication and travel networks help people to connect with each other</b>	Year 8: <b>3.85</b>
		Year 9: <b>3.77</b>
		Year 10: <b>3.75</b>
		Year 11: <b>3.62</b>
		Year 12: <b>3.59</b>
	<b>Outcome 12 - We give our children and young people the best start in life</b>	Year 8: <b>3.96</b>
		Year 9: <b>3.75</b>
		Year 10: <b>3.66</b>
		Year 11: <b>3.46</b>
		Year 12: <b>3.43</b>

A list of the Outcome statements and definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all Outcomes including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

\* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

## Disability

### Groups: With a Disability, Without a Disability

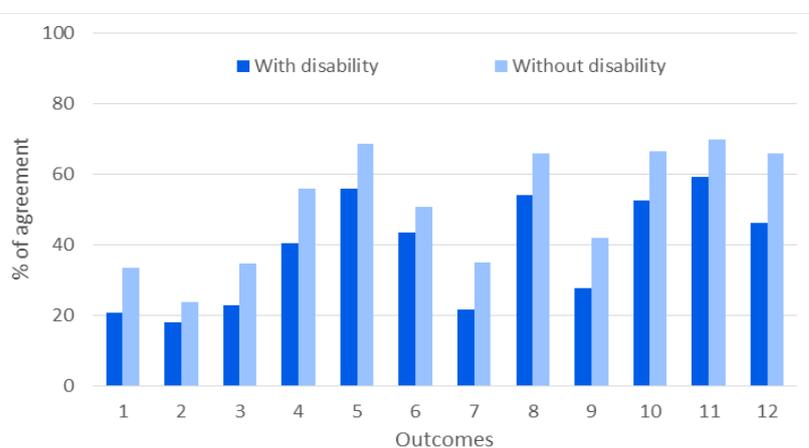
### Key Findings

**Respondents with a disability generally responded more negatively towards the Outcome statements than those without.**

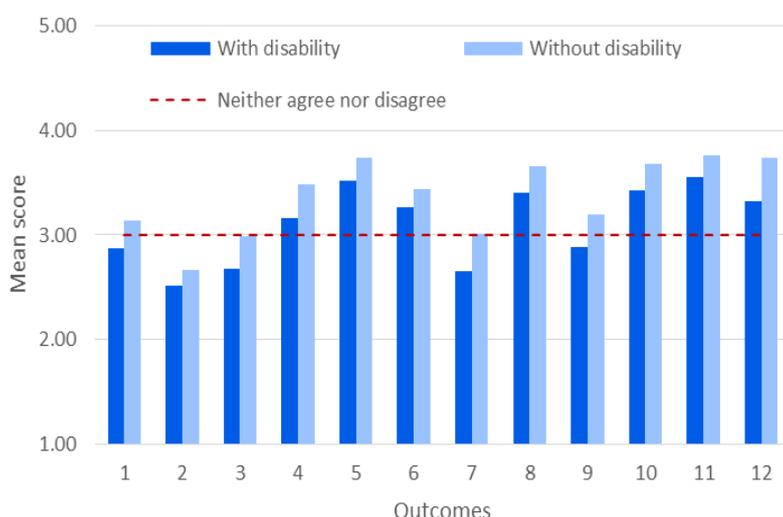
Agreement rates from respondents with a disability ranged from 59% for Outcome 11 (Our communication and travel networks help people to connect with each other) to 18% for Outcome 2 (We look after our environment). This reflects a generally less positive response towards all Outcome statements than those without a disability, whose agreement rates ranged from 70% to 24% for the same two Outcomes.

Often these differences in agreement were quite large, reflecting a wider disparity in terms of opinion by health groups. Ten of the Outcomes had agreement rates differing by 10 percentage points or more. The largest of these was observed in Outcome 12 (We give our children and young people the best start in life), where the agreement rate for those without a disability was 66%, compared with 46% for those with a disability (see Figure 7.1).

**Figure 7.1:** Proportion of agreement by Disability for each Outcome statement



**Figure 7.2:** Mean score by Disability for each Outcome statement



Despite the differences between groups noted above, 7 of the 12 Outcome statements had mean scores of 3.00 or more for both groups, meaning that on average both groups agreed more than they disagreed with these statements (see Figure 7.2).

### Statistically significant differences in perceptions of the Outcomes

Significant differences\* by Disability were found in all 12 Outcomes, listed below. Respondents without a disability agreed significantly more than those with a disability for all 12 of the Outcomes.

Outcome	Mean score
<b>Outcome 1 – We have a strong economy</b>	With disability: <b>2.87</b> Without disability: <b>3.14</b>

\* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Outcome	Mean score
 <b>Outcome 2 – We look after our environment</b>	With disability: <b>2.52</b> Without disability: <b>2.67</b>
 <b>Outcome 3 – We have an equal society</b>	With disability: <b>2.68</b> Without disability: <b>2.99</b>
 <b>Outcome 4 – We enjoy long, healthy, active lives</b>	With disability: <b>3.16</b> Without disability: <b>3.48</b>
 <b>Outcome 5 – We have opportunities for people to be innovative, creative and fulfil their potential</b>	With disability: <b>3.52</b> Without disability: <b>3.74</b>
 <b>Outcome 6 – We have more people working in better jobs</b>	With disability: <b>3.27</b> Without disability: <b>3.44</b>
 <b>Outcome 7 – We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other</b>	With disability: <b>2.65</b> Without disability: <b>3.01</b>
 <b>Outcome 8 – We care for others and we help those in need</b>	With disability: <b>3.40</b> Without disability: <b>3.66</b>
 <b>Outcome 9 – We are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects difference</b>	With disability: <b>2.88</b> Without disability: <b>3.20</b>
 <b>Outcome 10 – We have a place where people want to live, work and visit</b>	With disability: <b>3.43</b> Without disability: <b>3.68</b>
 <b>Outcome 11 – Our communication and travel networks help people to connect with each other</b>	With disability: <b>3.55</b> Without disability: <b>3.76</b>
 <b>Outcome 12 – We give our children and young people the best start in life</b>	With disability: <b>3.32</b> Without disability: <b>3.74</b>

A list of the Outcome statements and definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all Outcomes including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

\* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

## Health

### Groups: Very good/good, Fair, Very bad/bad

### Key Findings

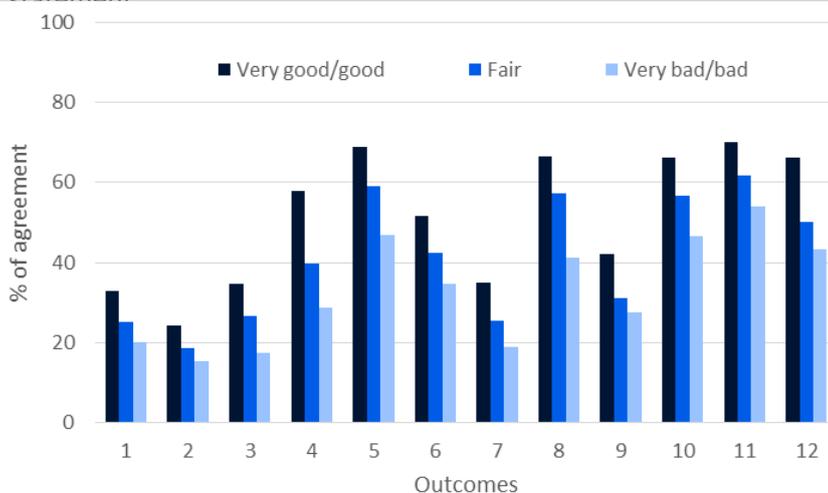
#### Rates of agreement increased incrementally as perception of self-reported health improves.

For all three health groups the highest agreement rate was for Outcome 11 (Our communication and travel networks help people to connect with each other) and the lowest agreement rate was for Outcome 2 (We look after our environment).

Across all 12 Outcomes, the highest agreement rates were found among those with very good/good health, ranging from 70% to 24%, and the lowest agreement rates were found among those with very bad/bad health, with rates of 54% for Outcome 11, and 15% for Outcome 2 – the lowest agreement rate across all population groups. Among those with very bad/bad health, the agreement rate was less than 50% for 11 of 12 Outcomes, with the exception being Outcome 11.

The largest difference in the rate of agreement was for Outcome 4 (We enjoy long, healthy, active lives), with a difference of 29 percentage points between those with very good/good health (58%) and those with very bad/bad health (29%).

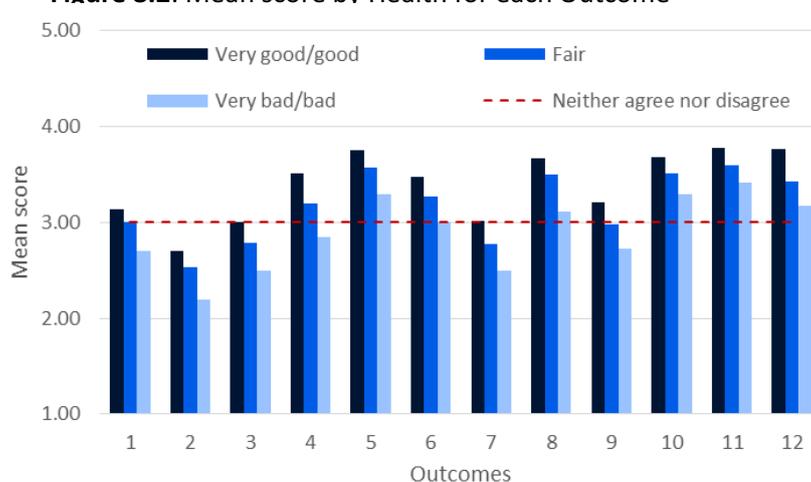
**Figure 8.1:** Proportion of agreement by Health for each Outcome statement



When we look at average scores for each Outcome we see that score increases incrementally as self-reported health improves (see Figure 8.2). For those with very good/good health, 11 of 12 Outcomes had mean scores above 3.00, meaning they agreed more than they disagreed with this Outcome statement. This fell to 8 of 12 among those with fair health and 6 of 12 among those with very bad/bad health. In fact, those with very bad/bad health consistently had the lowest mean scores of all population groups for every Outcome, and were also the group with the highest number of mean scores below 3.00.

Outcome 2 received the lowest mean scores from all Health groups, all of which were below 3.00. This means on average all groups disagreed more than they agreed with the statement “We look after our environment”. At 2.19, the mean score for those with Very bad/bad health was the lowest mean score across all population groups.

**Figure 8.2:** Mean score by Health for each Outcome



\* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

## Statistically significant differences in perceptions of the Outcomes

Significant differences\* by Health were found in all 12 Outcomes, listed in the table below. Key findings include the following:

- For ten of 12 Outcomes, the differences between all three groups were significant. Those with very good/good health had significantly higher mean scores than those with fair health, who had significantly higher mean scores than those with very bad/bad health.
- For Outcomes 10 and 11 however, the differences between those with fair health and very bad/bad health were not significant.

Outcome	Mean score
 <b>Outcome 1 - We have a strong economy</b>	Very good/good: <b>3.13</b> Fair: <b>3.00</b> Very bad/bad: <b>2.70</b>
 <b>Outcome 2 – We look after our environment</b>	Very good/good: <b>2.70</b> Fair: <b>2.53</b> Very bad/bad: <b>2.19</b>
 <b>Outcome 3 - We have an equal society</b>	Very good/good: <b>3.00</b> Fair: <b>2.79</b> Very bad/bad: <b>2.50</b>
 <b>Outcome 4 - We enjoy long, healthy, active lives</b>	Very good/good: <b>3.51</b> Fair: <b>3.19</b> Very bad/bad: <b>2.84</b>
 <b>Outcome 5 - We have opportunities for people to be innovative, creative and fulfil their potential</b>	Very good/good: <b>3.75</b> Fair: <b>3.57</b> Very bad/bad: <b>3.29</b>
 <b>Outcome 6 - We have more people working in better jobs</b>	Very good/good: <b>3.47</b> Fair: <b>3.27</b> Very bad/bad: <b>3.00</b>
 <b>Outcome 7 - We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other</b>	Very good/good: <b>3.02</b> Fair: <b>2.77</b> Very bad/bad: <b>2.50</b>
 <b>Outcome 8 - We care for others and we help those in need</b>	Very good/good: <b>3.66</b> Fair: <b>3.50</b> Very bad/bad: <b>3.11</b>
 <b>Outcome 9 - We are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects difference</b>	Very good/good: <b>3.21</b> Fair: <b>2.98</b> Very bad/bad: <b>2.72</b>
 <b>Outcome 10 - We have a place where people want to live, work and visit</b>	Very good/good: <b>3.68</b> Fair: <b>3.51</b> Very bad/bad: <b>3.29</b>
 <b>Outcome 11 - Our communication and travel networks help people to connect with each other</b>	Very good/good: <b>3.77</b> Fair: <b>3.59</b> Very bad/bad: <b>3.41</b>
 <b>Outcome 12 - We give our children and young people the best start in life</b>	Very good/good: <b>3.76</b> Fair: <b>3.42</b> Very bad/bad: <b>3.17</b>

While these differences were significant, it is important to note the differences in mean score were often small in real terms. A list of the Outcome statements and definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all Outcomes including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

\* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

## Ethnicity Groups: White, Other

### Key Findings

**Those from White ethnic groups generally responded less positively towards the Outcome statements.**

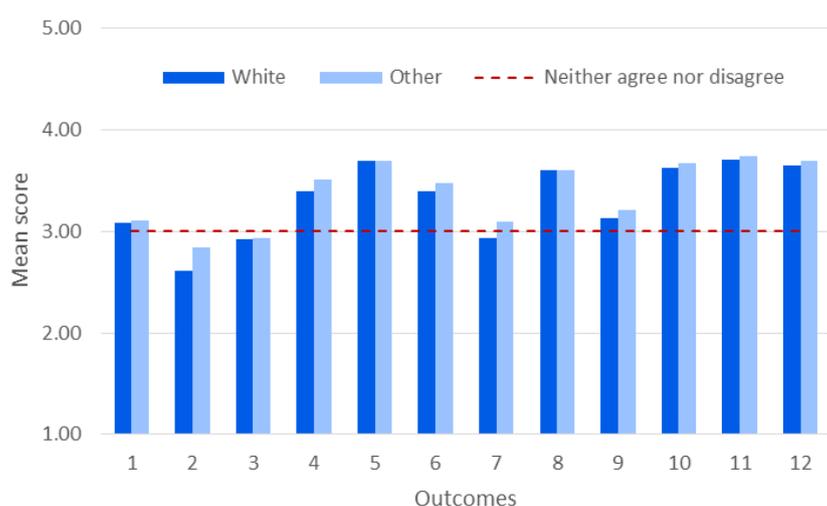
Similar proportions of respondents (68% from a White ethnic group and 67% from Other ethnic groups) agreed with Outcome 11 (Our communication and travel networks help people to connect with each other), which was the highest rated across all Outcomes.

However, there was a difference of 9 percentage points for the lowest agreement rate; Outcome 2 had an agreement rate of 30% among those from Other ethnic groups, compared with 22% for those from a White ethnic group.

This trend is further reflected when we consider the average scores for each Outcome statement. Respondents from a White ethnic group had lower mean scores than those from Other ethnic groups for all Outcome statements except Outcome 8 (we care for others and we help those in need).

Despite this, 9 of the 12 Outcomes had no mean scores lower than 3.00 from either group, meaning that on average both groups agreed more than they disagreed with the Outcome statements (see Figure 9.1). Only two Outcome statements had mean scores below 3.00 from both groups (Outcomes 2 and 3).

**Figure 9.1:** Mean score by Ethnicity for each Outcome statement



### Statistically significant differences in perceptions of the Outcomes

Significant differences\* by Ethnic Group were found in 2 of the 12 Outcomes, listed below. Those from a White ethnic group agreed significantly less with than those from Other ethnic groups for both of these Outcomes.

Outcome	Mean score
 <b>Outcome 2 – We look after our environment</b>	White: <b>2.61</b> Other: <b>2.84</b>
 <b>Outcome 7 - We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other</b>	White: <b>2.93</b> Other: <b>3.09</b>

While these differences were significant, it is important to note the differences in mean score were often small in real terms. A list of the Outcome statements and definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all Outcomes including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

\* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

## School Type Groups: Grammar, Secondary

### Key Findings

**Those attending grammar schools generally responded less positively towards the Outcome statements than those attending secondary schools.**

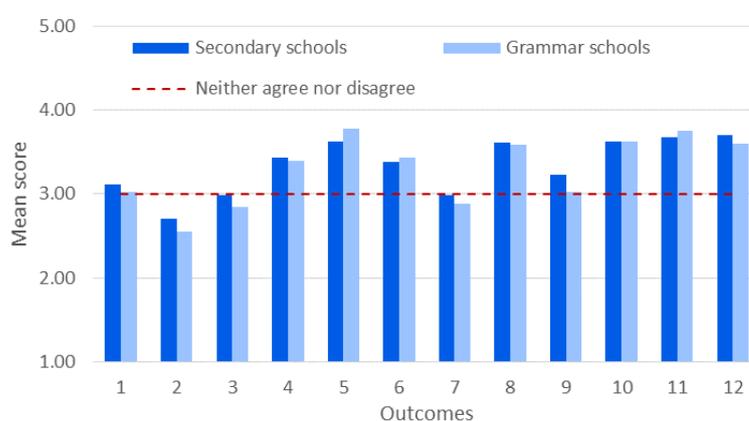
Respondents attending grammar schools had the highest agreement rate (72%) for Outcome 5 (We have opportunities for people to be innovative, creative and fulfil their potential). For those in secondary schools, the highest agreement rate was 64% for Outcome 11 (Our communication and travel networks help people to connect with each other). The pattern of agreement was evenly balanced with respondents from grammar schools having the highest agreement rate for six Outcomes (Outcomes 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 11) and secondary schools having the highest agreement rates for the other six (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 7, 9 and 12).

However, the rate of disagreement was higher from respondents attending grammar schools for eight of the Outcome statements. The largest differences in the rates of disagreement were for Outcome 3 (We have an equal society) and Outcome 9 (We are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects difference). In both cases grammar schools had a higher rate of disagreement by 10 percentage points.

This has resulted in average scores for respondents from grammar schools being lower than secondary school in 9 of the 12 Outcomes. Despite this, the majority of mean scores by School Type were 3.00 or higher, meaning that on average both groups agreed more than they disagreed with the Outcome statements. Nine of the 12 Outcomes had no mean scores lower than 3.00 from either group (Outcomes 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12).

Outcome 2 received the lowest mean scores from both School Types, 2.55 from grammar schools and 2.71 from secondary schools. This means that on average, both groups disagreed more than they agreed with the statement “we look after our environment”. Meanwhile, Outcome 12 (We give our children and young people the best start in life) received the highest mean score from those attending secondary schools (3.70) and Outcome 5 received the highest mean score from those attending grammar schools (3.78).

**Figure 10.1: Mean score by School Type for each Outcome**



### Statistically significant differences in perceptions of the Outcomes

Significant differences\* by School Type were found in 8 of the 12 Outcomes, listed in the table below. Key findings include the following:

- Those attending secondary schools agreed significantly more\* than those attending grammar schools for 6 of the Outcomes (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 7, 9 and 12).
- Those attending grammar schools agreed significantly more\* than those attending secondary schools for 2 of the Outcomes (Outcomes 5 and 11).

Outcome	Mean score
<b>Outcome 1 - We have a strong economy</b>	Secondary schools: <b>3.12</b> Grammar schools: <b>3.03</b>

\* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Mean score</b>
 <b>Outcome 2 – We look after our environment</b>	Secondary schools: <b>2.71</b> Grammar schools: <b>2.55</b>
 <b>Outcome 3 - We have an equal society</b>	Secondary schools: <b>2.99</b> Grammar schools: <b>2.85</b>
 <b>Outcome 5 - We have opportunities for people to be innovative, creative and fulfil their potential</b>	Secondary schools: <b>3.62</b> Grammar schools: <b>3.78</b>
 <b>Outcome 7 - We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other</b>	Secondary schools: <b>2.99</b> Grammar schools: <b>2.88</b>
 <b>Outcome 9 - We are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects difference</b>	Secondary schools: <b>3.23</b> Grammar schools: <b>3.03</b>
 <b>Outcome 11 - Our communication and travel networks help people to connect with each other</b>	Secondary schools: <b>3.68</b> Grammar schools: <b>3.75</b>
 <b>Outcome 12 - We give our children and young people the best start in life</b>	Secondary schools: <b>3.70</b> Grammar schools: <b>3.60</b>

While these differences were significant, it is important to note the differences in mean score were often small in real terms. A list of the Outcome statements and definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all Outcomes including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

\* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

## Data

View all data used in this statistical bulletin by downloading the [data tables](#) (available in Excel and ODS formats. Other formats available on request).

**Table 1:** Northern Ireland 2019 Young Persons' Behaviour & Attitudes Survey – Outcomes mean score

	Mean Score <sup>1</sup>
Outcome 1 - We have a strong economy	3.08
Outcome 2 - We look after our environment	2.64
Outcome 3 - We have an equal society	2.93
Outcome 4 - We enjoy long, healthy, active lives	3.41
Outcome 5 - We have opportunities for people to be innovative, creative and fulfil their potential	3.69
Outcome 6 - We have more people working in better jobs	3.40
Outcome 7 - We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other	2.94
Outcome 8 - We care for others and we help those in need	3.60
Outcome 9 - We are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects difference	3.14
Outcome 10 - We have a place where people want to live, work and visit	3.63
Outcome 11 - Our communication and travel networks help people to connect with each other	3.72
Outcome 12 - We give our children and young people the best start in life	3.66

<sup>1</sup>Mean score agreement - responses to the questions have been given a numeric weight from 1 to 5, where 1 = "Strongly disagree" and 5 = "Strongly agree". The mean (average) of these scores is then taken; the higher the number, the more people agreed with the statement.

## Glossary and data presentation

### Glossary:

**Programme for Government** – The PfG is the Executive’s highest level strategic document. It determines the direction of travel and provides the basis for the work of every government department. Since 2016, and in line with recommendations of the OECD and consistent with a commitment contained in the Fresh Start Agreement, the local administration has been following an “Outcomes-based approach” to the PfG which puts a focus on achieving real world impacts in the things that people have told us matter most to them.

**Outcomes** – Focusing on Outcomes of societal wellbeing transforms the way public services are delivered. It removes organisational barriers and helps drive the collaborative working practices that are needed to effect meaningful and lasting change. The key principle is about government working in partnership with people and communities everywhere to identify and deliver improved quality of life conditions for people. In Northern Ireland’s current draft Programme for Government framework, there are 12 Outcomes – for example, “We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other”

**Population characteristics** – to help identify any inequalities that may exist in how the Outcomes are being perceived, the report presents data that allows the views from smaller groups within society to be monitored. For example, we can look at there is a difference between Males and Females in how those groups agree with the Outcome statements in this report.

## Measuring the data / where does the data come from

The data in this report are collected using responses to the Young Persons’ Behaviour & Attitudes Survey (YPBAS), a school-based survey conducted among 11-16 year-olds. In 2019, a total of 3,892 pupils were surveyed on the YPBAS questionnaire with Outcome statements – this is the first time that questions relating to Outcomes have been included in the survey.

A list of the statements can be found in [Annex A](#). More information on the YPBAS can be found on the NISRA Central Survey Unit page:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/find-your-survey/young-persons-behaviour-attitudes-survey>

## Strengths and limitations

This bulletin explores the views of Northern Ireland’s young people on the 12 draft Programme for Government Outcomes and the differences that exist between groups on those views - for example between males and females. The results are based on a sample. So, when a difference or change is described as “significant”, this means we are 95% confident that there is an actual difference at population level. Where we cannot be confident (at the 95% level) of an actual difference or change, the result is not considered to be statistically significant.

Where there is a significant difference it does not necessarily mean one group agrees with a statement and another disagrees. A small difference may still be significant; for example, perhaps both males and females agree with a statement but the average for females is higher, indicating they agree more strongly than males.

This bulletin also references one or more groups having a “significantly higher” or “significantly lower” score than others. In all cases, the same thing could be said by changing the order around. For example, where the score for females is significantly higher than the score for males, it could also be said that the score for males is significantly lower than the score for females.

## Related links

This report is part of a series: “Improving wellbeing for all”, which aims to collect information on what matters to the people of Northern Ireland and the public’s perception of the Outcomes within the draft PfG framework. This series includes:

- [Our Population: What Matters Most?](#) – exploring the day-to-day issues that were most important to the people of Northern Ireland
- [Our Population: Perceptions of the Outcomes Framework – 2018/19 Headline report](#) – the overall results on how the population views the Outcomes
- [Our Population: Perceptions of the Outcomes Framework – 2018/19 Outcomes Bulletin](#) (this report) – an in-depth look at how the population views each of the 12 Outcomes
- [Our Population: Perceptions of the Outcomes Framework – 2018/19 Population Characteristics Bulletin](#) – an in-depth look at smaller sections of society and how they feel about the Outcomes

This report expands on the series and takes an in-depth look at young people in Northern Ireland’s overall attitudes towards the 12 Outcome statements, and looks at differences between groups within that population, with respect to each Outcome.

## Annex A: Technical notes

### Survey Questionnaire

To collect the data for this report, individuals were asked to respond to statements about Northern Ireland society today as listed below. The responses included a 5 point Likert scale from strongly disagree to strongly agree. The instructions and statements were:

“The following statements are about Northern Ireland society today. Please select whether you agree or disagree with each one.”

1. We have a strong economy
2. We look after our environment
3. We have an equal society
4. We enjoy long, healthy, active lives
5. We have opportunities for people to be innovative, creative and fulfil their potential
6. We have more people working in better jobs
7. We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other
8. We care for others and we help those in need
9. We are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects difference
10. We have a place where people want to live, work and visit
11. Our communication and travel networks help people to connect with each other
12. We give our children and young people the best start in life

### Young Persons' Behaviour & Attitudes Survey

This report presents findings from the 2019 Young Persons' Behaviour & Attitudes Survey (YPBAS) on the extent to which 11-16 year olds agree with 12 statements reflecting the Outcomes in the draft Programme for Government framework. The YPBAS is carried out by the Central Survey Unit (CSU) within the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). Seven rounds of the survey have taken place: in autumn 2000, 2003, 2007, 2010, 2013, 2016, and most recently in autumn 2019.

More information on YPBAS can be found here: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/ypbas-publications>

### Sample

The target population for the YPBAS is young people at different stages in post-primary education. A stratified random sample of post-primary schools in Northern Ireland is drawn from a list held by the Department of Education (DE). The sample is representative of school size, selection type (i.e. Secondary, Grammar), management group (i.e. Controlled, Voluntary, Roman Catholic Maintained, and Grant Maintained Integrated etc.) and Education Authority regions. Participating schools provide details of the number of classes in Years 8-12, together with class names. A class in each of the five year groups is then randomly selected to take part. Only pupils from the selected classes are included in the survey.

A total of 3,892 pupils were surveyed on the questions related to Outcomes and 3,867 responses to the 12 Outcome statements.

### Sampling error and weights

As the YPBAS is a sample survey there is a certain level of sampling error, i.e. the characteristics of the group sampled may differ slightly from the population as a whole. To account for this sampling error, the data has been weighted in order to produce estimates that better represent the population. The adjustment may be less than or greater than 1, but is generally close to 1. Two separate weights were produced – one for Year group, gender and

religion; and a second for School type. This reduces (but does not completely eliminate) error. All reported means / percentages have been weighted.

### **Statistical significance**

Statistically significant differences between groups (at the 95% level) have been highlighted throughout the report. This means that we can be 95% confident that the differences between groups are actual differences and have not just arisen by chance. The base numbers, mean scores and percentages have an effect on statistical significance. Therefore on occasion, a difference between two groups may be statistically significant while the same difference in mean score or percentage points between two other groups may not be statistically significant. The reason for this is because the larger the base numbers or the closer the percentages are to 0 or 100, the smaller the standard errors. This leads to increased precision of the estimates which increases the likelihood that the difference between the proportions is actually significant and did not just arise by chance.

### **Available population characteristics:**

#### **Gender**

The YPBAS outlines two sex categories for respondents: Male and Female. Figures are reported based on school records for the pupil.

#### **Religion**

Figures are reported based on school records for the pupil. The religious categories represented within the report are:

- 1) Catholic
- 2) Protestant
- 3) Other
- 4) None/Missing/Refusal

The classifications “Other” and No Religion/Missing/Refusal have been combined to form the “Other” group within this report.

#### **Deprivation**

Deprivation figures presented in this report are based on the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017, which is a measure of deprivation at the small area level. Quintiles of deprivation categorise an area of deprivation; Quintile 1 (Q1) represents the 20% most deprived areas, and Quintile 5 (Q5) represents the 20% least deprived.

#### **Free School Meals**

Figures are reported based on school records for the pupil. The question used to collect the information is: “Does this child receive free school meals (according to school records)?” to which data can be recorded as “Yes”, “No” or “unknown”. Due to small numbers, population characteristic breakdowns for “unknown” are not available.

#### **Urban/Rural**

Data presented in this report have also been analysed by whether respondents are living in areas that have been categorised as either urban or rural using the “Settlement 15” geography classification. Classification by SOA is available in the full YPBAS data set, but due to the small sample sizes for the “Mixed” category, Settlement 15 is presented here. More information on the definitions for urban/rural classifications can be found on the NISRA website: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/support/geography/urban-rural-classification>

## **Year Group**

This is the year group that the responding students belonged to – Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12 results are included in this report.

## **Disability - limiting long-standing illness**

Respondents are defined as having a limiting long-standing illness if they have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expecting to last for 12 months or more, and these condition(s) or illness(es) reduce their ability to carry out day to day activities.

## **Health**

The YPBAS outlines 5 distinct health categories by which respondents report on their general health. For the purposes of this report, responses were recoded into three groups; 1) Very good/good, 2) Fair, 3) Very bad/bad.

## **Ethnicity**

The YPBAS outlines 16 distinct ethnic groups for respondents. For the purposes of this report, the aforementioned groups were coded into two distinct categories, as follows: 1) White 2) Other – to include Irish Traveller, White and Black Caribbean, White and Black African, White and Asian, Any other mixed / multiple ethnic background, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Chinese, Any other Asian background, African, Caribbean, Any other Black / African / Caribbean background, Arab, and Any other ethnic group.

## **School Type**

Figures are reported based on school records for the pupil. There are two categories; Secondary and Grammar.

## **Feedback**

We are interested in understanding more about the quality of this publication and how it is used. This will help us provide a high quality service which meets users' needs. We would be grateful if you could spend a couple of minutes answering our User Feedback Survey questions. This can be accessed at the link below.

<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/nisra-pfg-analytics/614468fc>