



Department for

Communities

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Experience of culture and the arts by young people in Northern Ireland



Northern Ireland
Statistics & Research Agency

Findings from the Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitudes Survey 2019

Triennial publication

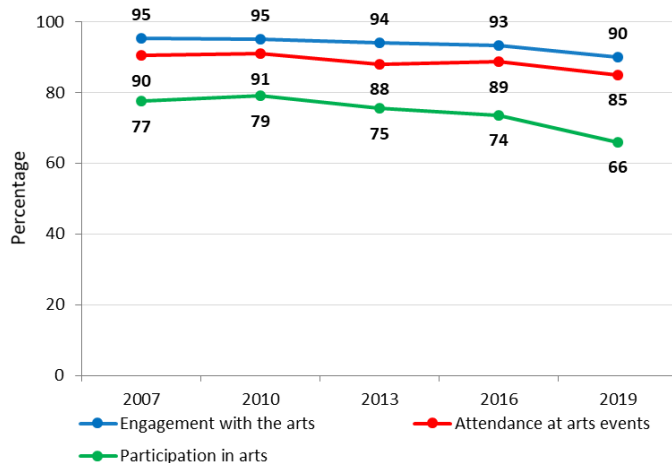
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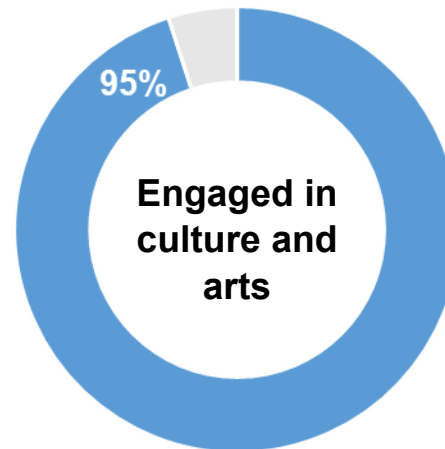
Main stories

- Overall, almost all young people (95%) had engaged with culture and the arts at least once within the previous year. This proportion has decreased slightly from the 97% who engaged in 2016.
- Nine in every ten young people had engaged with the arts in the previous year. Girls were more likely to have engaged with the arts than boys, this has also been the case throughout the entire trend period with a higher proportion of girls engaging with the arts than boys from 2007 onwards.
- Just under half (48%) of all young people had used the public library service at least once in the last year, this is lower than the proportion who had used the public library service in 2016 (54%).

Engagement in the arts Decrease from previous year's results

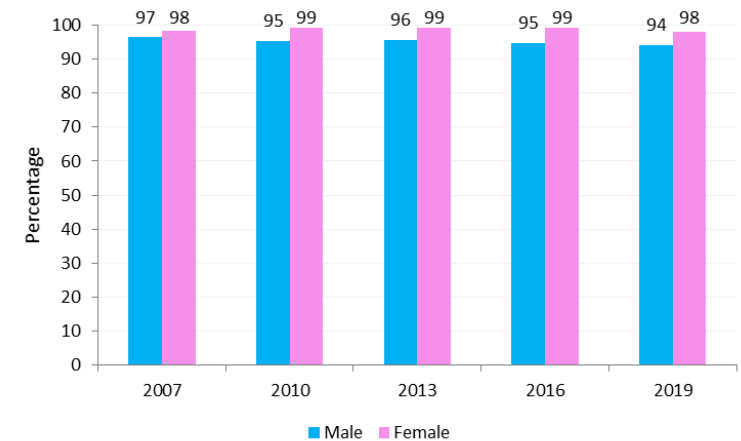


Engagement in culture and arts Decrease from previous year's results



Nearly all young people (95%) had engaged with culture and the arts at least once within the previous year. This is a decrease on the 97% who engaged in 2016.

Engagement in culture and arts Girls more likely to engage than boys



Girls were more likely than boys to have engaged in culture and the arts within the previous year (98% and 94% respectively). This trend has been apparent over the previous available years' figures.

Nine in every 10 young people had engaged with the arts at least once within the previous year. Although high, it is the lowest proportion observed over the trend period from 2007.

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Introduction

The Department for Communities (DfC) is the lead department for arts and creativity, museums, libraries and public records. This bulletin follows a headline bulletin released in July 2020 and brings together information on the experience of the arts, libraries and museums in one document. The publication will be of interest to a wide variety of users but has particular relevance in informing cultural and arts activities as defined in the draft Programme for Government for Northern Ireland 2016-21.

Engagement in culture and arts includes:

- Engagement in the arts (includes both arts participation and arts attendance)
- Usage of the public library service
- Visits to museums and science centres

Further definitions are available in the Definitions and technical notes at the end of the document.

Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitudes Survey

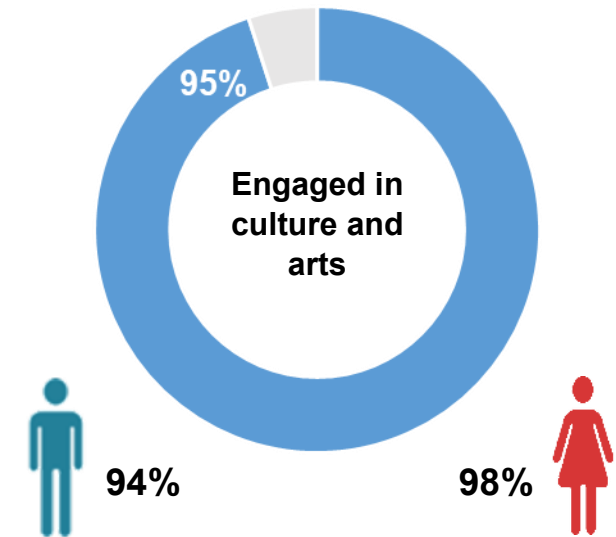
This report presents the findings from the 2019 Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitudes Survey (YPBAS) in relation to engagement with culture and arts in Northern Ireland which are used to inform the development, monitoring and evaluation of policy. More information relating to YPBAS, a triennial school-based survey, including the methodology, definitions and interpretation of the figures can be found in the [definitions and technical notes](#) section. Data tables are available in [Excel](#) and [ODS format](#). The questions that were asked in YPBAS 2019 are available [here](#)

Engagement in culture and arts

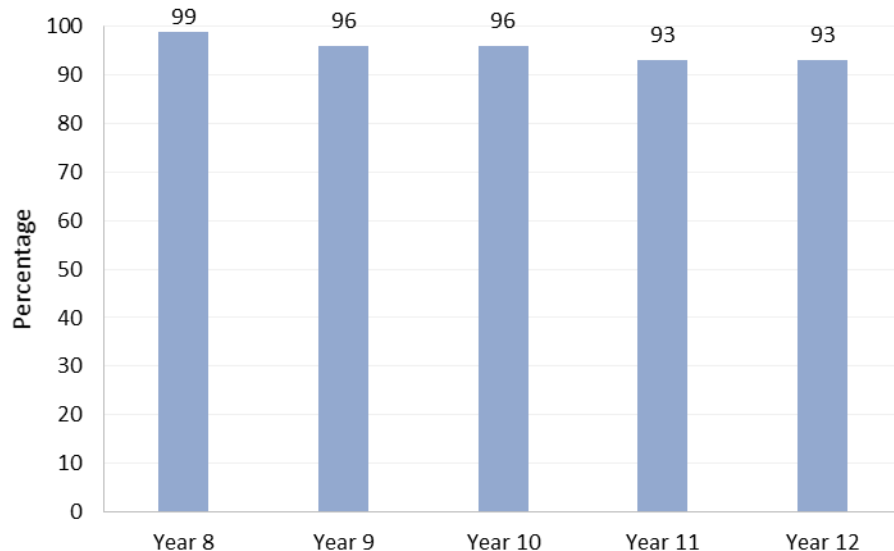
Almost all young people (95%) had engaged with culture and the arts at least once within the previous year. This is a decrease on the proportion of young people who engaged in 2016 (97%).

Girls (98%) were more likely to have engaged with activities associated with culture and the arts within the last year than boys (94%). The proportion of girls who engaged in 2019 is lower than the proportion who engaged in 2016, however there was no significant change in the proportion of boys who engaged in 2016 (99% and 95% respectively).

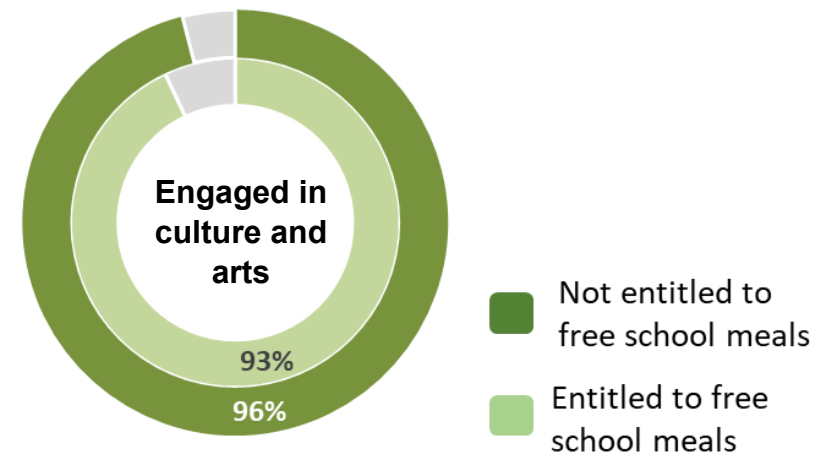
Religion did not have any bearing on engagement rates with no difference in the proportions of young people from the Protestant and Catholic communities engaging with culture and the arts within the last year (96% and 95% respectively). However, young people who have a disability were less likely to have engaged than those who do not have a disability (94% and 96% respectively).



The proportions of young people who had engaged with culture and the arts decreased as the School Year Group increased, from nearly all young people in Year 8 (99%) to 93% of young people in Year 12.



Young people who were entitled to free school meals were slightly less likely to have engaged with culture and the arts within the previous year with 93% having engaged, compared with 96% of those who were not entitled to free school meals.



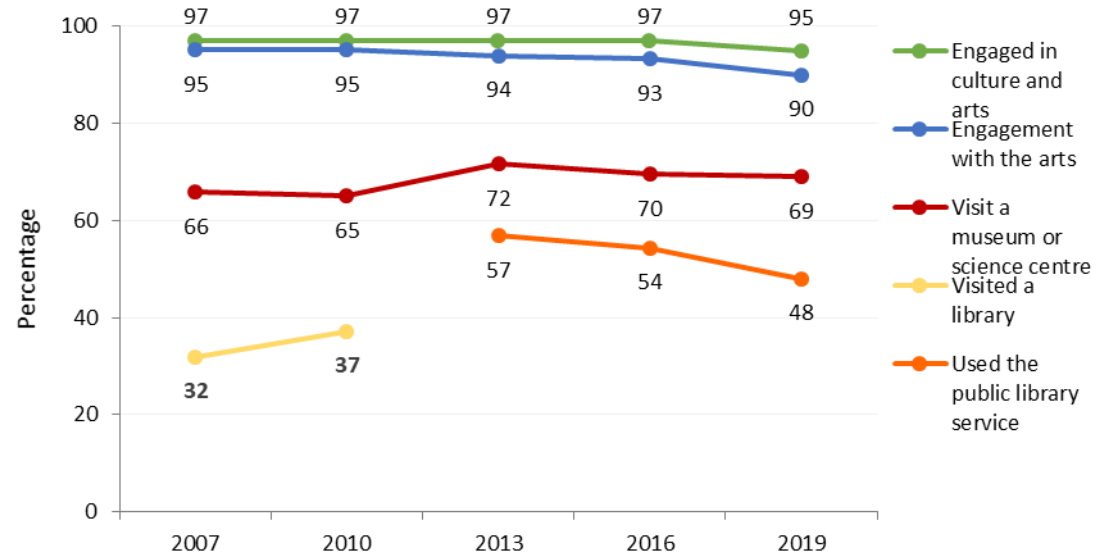
Trends

Culture and arts engagement

Nearly all young people (95%) engaged in activities associated with culture and the arts, a proportion lower than previous years' results (97%).

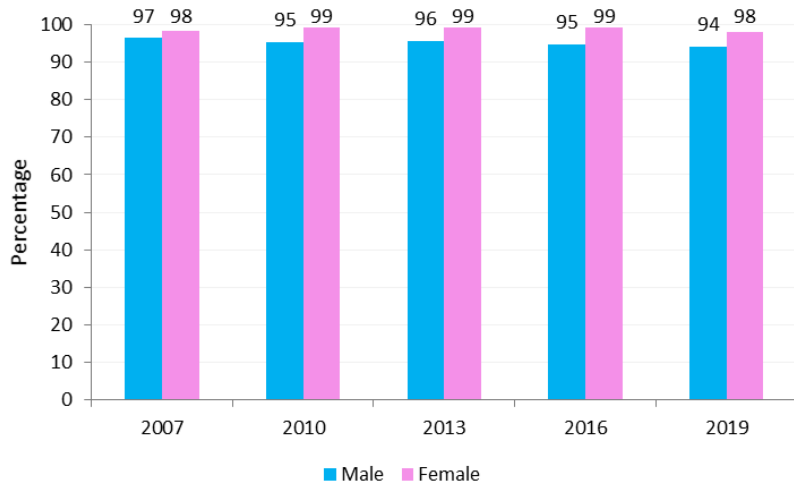
Engagement with the arts among young people in the previous year (90%) has also decreased compared with the 2016 survey (93%), and is the lowest observed arts engagement rate over the trend period.

Use of the public library service (48%) by young people in the last year has also decreased from the 2016 survey (54%). However visits to museums and science centres (69%) has remained consistent from the 2016 survey (70%). The libraries question on the YPBAS was revised in 2013 to include the wider range of services in libraries, so results prior to 2013 cannot be compared.



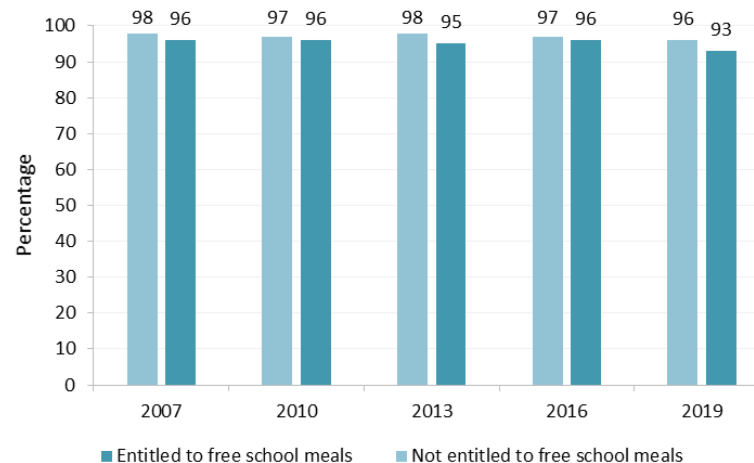
Gender

Girls (98%) were more likely to have engaged in culture and the arts within the previous year than boys (94%). This trend has remained consistent over the previous available years' figures.



Free school meal entitlement

Young people who are entitled to free school meals (93%) were less likely to have engaged in culture and the arts over the previous year than those who are not entitled to free school meals (96%). This is similar to the trend in 2010 and 2013, however there were no significant differences in culture and arts engagement rates and free school meal entitlement in 2016.



Arts

Participation in arts activities

In 2019, two-thirds of young people (66%) participated in arts activities. This is lower than the 74% of young people who participated in the arts in 2016. In comparison with 2016, there was a decrease in 2019 in participation among all demographic groups.

In 2019, more girls than boys participated in arts activities (80% and 55% respectively). The proportion of young people who participated in arts activities reduced as the School Year Group of pupils increased, with 77% of those in Year 8 participating in the arts compared to 58% of those in Year 12. Pupils with a Protestant background were more likely to have participated in arts activities than those with a Catholic background (69% and 64% respectively).

Participation rates among those who have a disability are higher than those who do not have a disability (72% and 65% respectively). It should be noted that YPBAS continues to be carried out in mainstream schools and therefore will not be representative of all young people with a disability. Year-on-year comparisons by group, however, are valid.

Concerning free school meal entitlement, pupils who were entitled to free school meals were less likely to have participated in arts activities than those who were not entitled (67% and 74% respectively).

Types of arts activities

The three most popular arts activities of young people in the previous year, were “Painting, drawing, sculpture or printmaking” (32%), “Played a musical instrument for your own pleasure” (33%), and “Dance” (26%). These activities have remained the same top three arts activities in the past two surveys, only the order has changed.

32%



Painting, drawing, sculpture or printmaking

29%



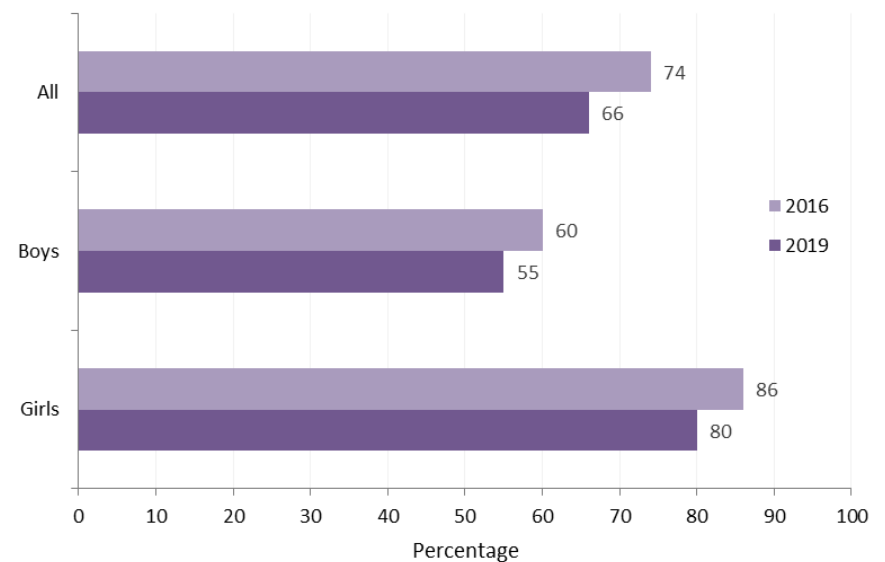
Played a musical instrument for your own pleasure

21%

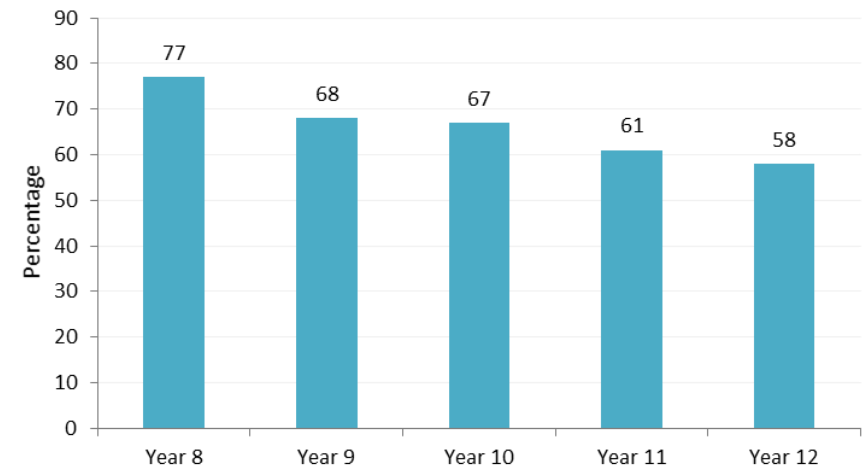


Dance

Arts participation



Arts participation by year group



Arts

Attendance at arts events

In 2019, 85% of young people attended an arts event, a decrease on the 89% of young people who attended in 2016. Since 2016, arts attendance has decreased for young people across most demographic groups, apart from boys and those in year 12, in which attendance rates remained consistent with 2016.

In 2019, girls (90%) were more likely than boys (81%) to have attended the arts. Analysis by School Year Group shows that attendance at arts events remained relatively consistent across the year groups.

Similar proportions of Catholic and Protestant pupils attended an arts event (both 85%). There was also no difference between the proportions of young people who have and do not have a disability in relation to arts attendance in 2019 (83% and 85% respectively).

However, pupils entitled to free school meals (79%) were less likely to attend an arts event than pupils not entitled to free school meals (87%).

When young people who only attend a cinema are excluded from the analysis attendance at arts events reduces to 63%. It is worth noting, however, that particularly for young people going to the cinema is a key part of their social inclusion activities.

Types of arts events

The most popular arts events attended by young people in the last year were cinema (75%), museums (27%) and pantomime or musical (25%). These remain the same most popular arts events from the previous two years' surveys.



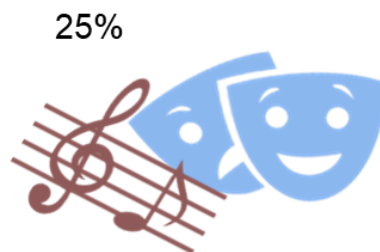
75%

Cinema



27%

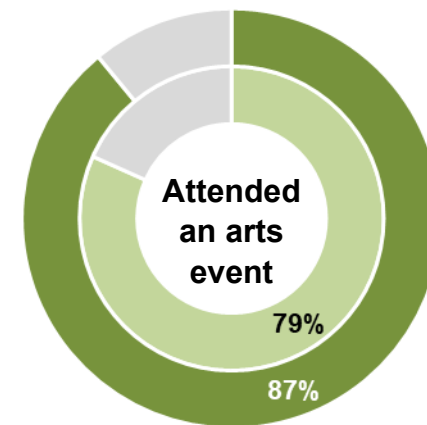
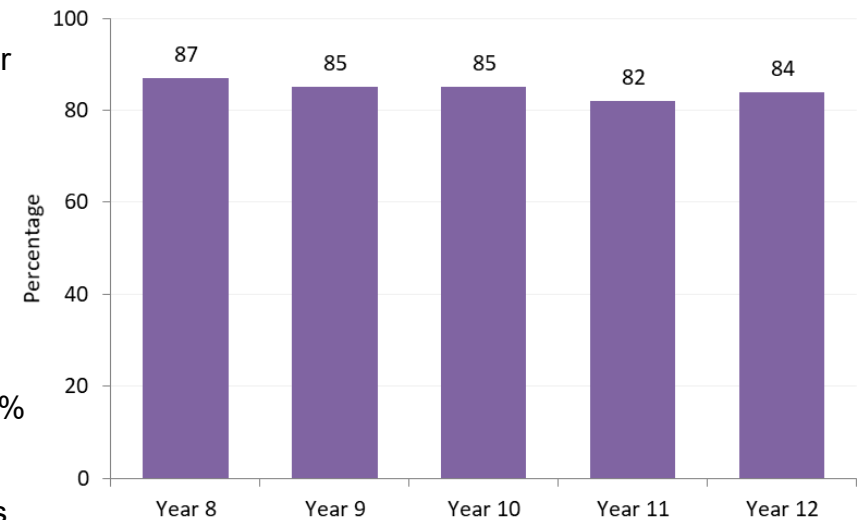
Museums



25%

Pantomime

Arts attendance by year group



- Not entitled to free school meals
- Entitled to free school meals

Arts

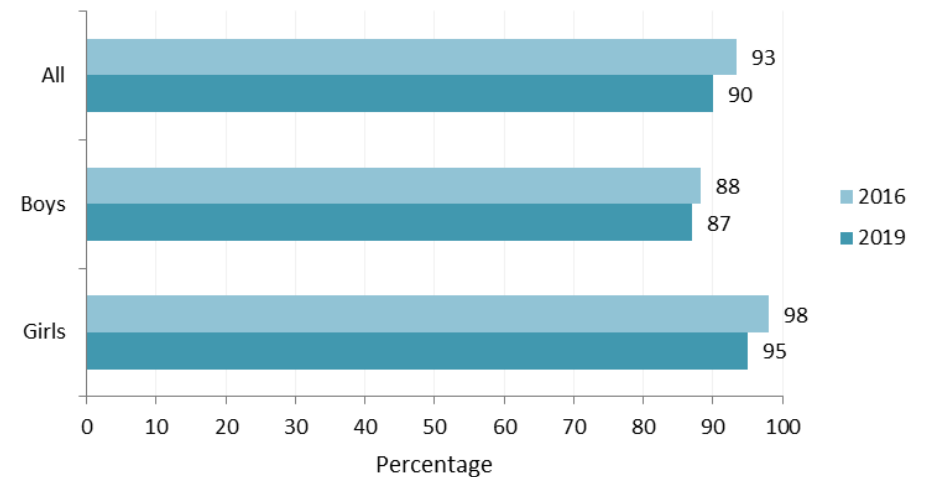
Engagement in the arts

In 2019, 90% of young people engaged with the arts (i.e. participated in an arts activity or attended an arts event) in the last year, a decrease on the proportion of young people who engaged with the arts in 2016 (93%). Since 2016, arts engagement rates have decreased across most demographic groups apart from boys, pupils in Year 11 and those with a Protestant background who saw their engagement rates remain consistent.

In 2019, nearly all girls (95%) engaged with the arts compared with 87% of boys. When looking at year group, engagement rates were lower for pupils in Year 12 than for pupils in Year 8 (87% and 93% respectively).

Similar proportions of Catholic (90%) and Protestant (91%) pupils engaged with the arts. There was also no difference in the proportions of young people who have a disability and those who do not have a disability and arts engagement (89% and 91% respectively).

Pupils entitled to free school meals (87%) were less likely to have engaged with the arts over the last year than those not entitled to free school meals (92%).



Benefits to engaging in the arts

Just over six out of every ten young people (61%) who had engaged in the arts cited having fun as a benefit.

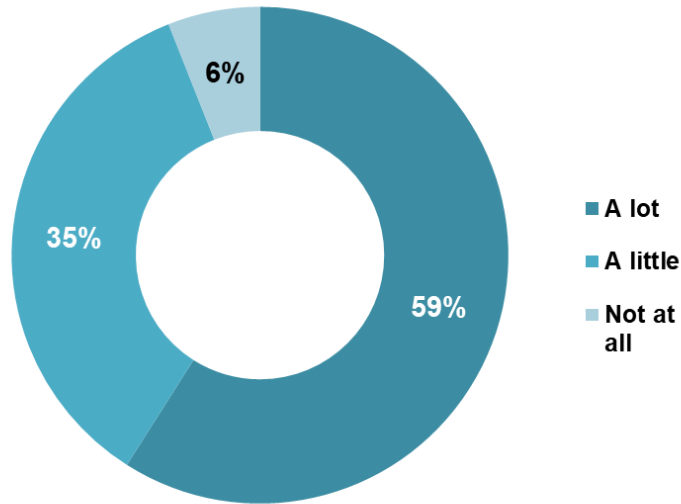
A quarter stated that it allowed them to spend time with family or friends (25%) as a main benefit. Other popular benefits stated by young people include; “it had a positive impact on my well-being” (23%), “it improved my knowledge” (23%), “I learned new skills/developed existing skills” (20%), and “I enjoyed being creative” (20%). These reasons were similar to the benefits cited by young people in 2016, albeit in a different order.

Just under one-fifth of young people (17%) felt that they “did not feel any benefits” from engaging in the arts.

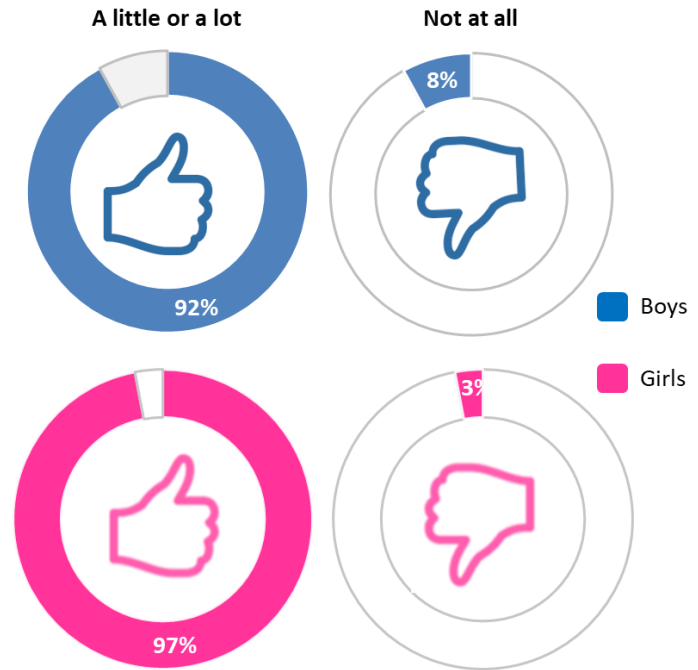
Arts

Enjoyment of the arts

For those young people who attended an arts event, almost all (94%) had enjoyed the last event they attended either a little or a lot. Just over one in twenty (6%) said they did not enjoy the arts event at all.



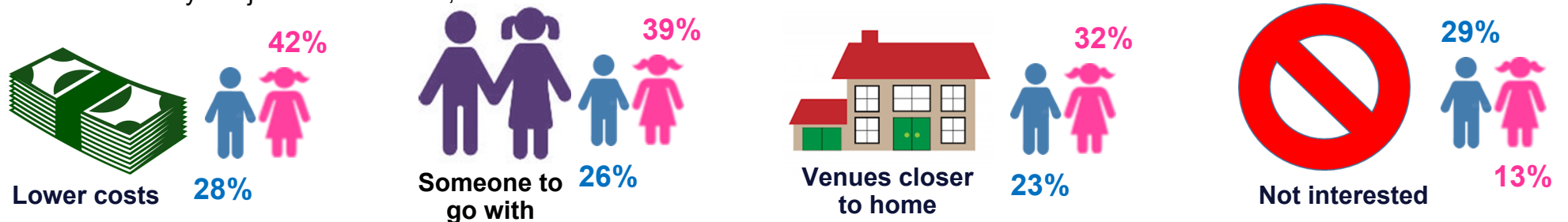
Boys (8%) were more likely to have not enjoyed an arts event than girls (3%).



Encourage attendance to the arts

Just over a third of young people (35%) stated that lower costs would encourage them to attend arts events. Other factors cited by young people that would encourage them to attend were; "Someone to go with" (32%), "Venues closer to where I live" (27%) and "More aware of what events are on" (21%).

When analysed by gender, girls were more likely to state lower costs, having someone to go with and venues closer to where they live as the main factors that would encourage them to attend than boys. However, boys were more likely than girls to state that nothing would encourage them to attend as they are just not interested,



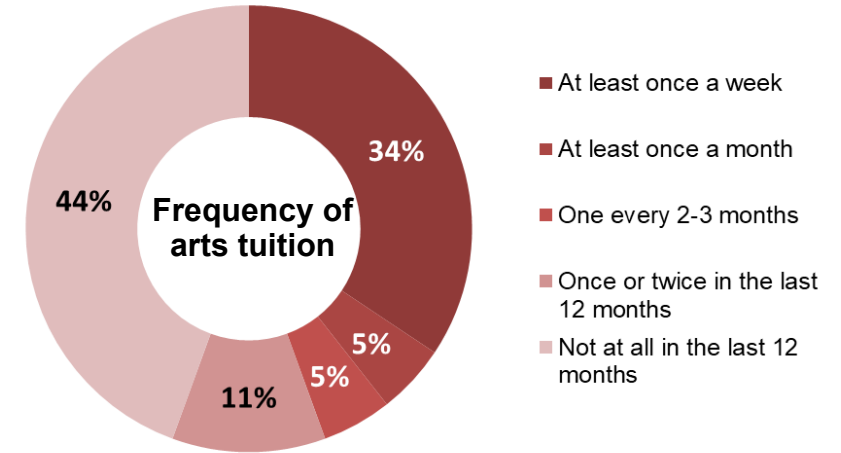
Arts

Arts tuition

Young people who had participated in an arts activity were asked how often, if at all, they have received tuition from an instructor (other than their teacher during normal lessons) to help improve their performance in any art activity.

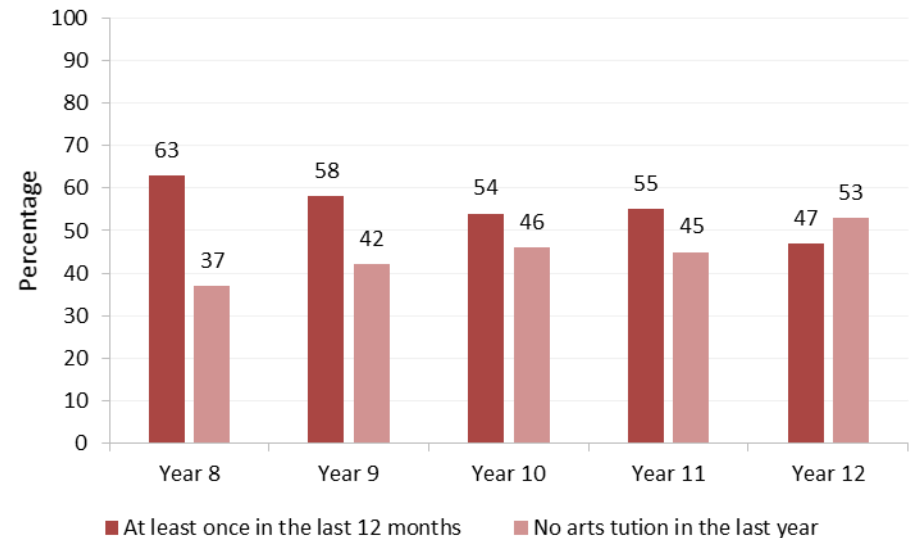
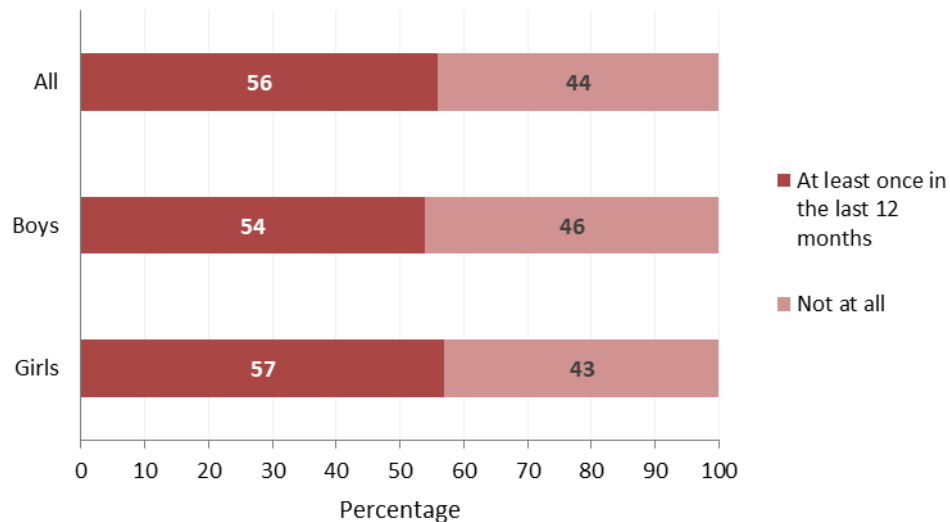
Just over two in every five have not had any arts tuition in the last year (44%). More than a third of young people who participated (34%) have had tuition at least once a week.

Five per cent of young people have had arts tuition at least once a month or once every 2-3 months and 11% have had tuition once or twice in the last year.



Girls were more likely to have had arts tuition than boys, and in particular to have the tuition at least once a week. Year group was also a factor in relation to arts tuition with 63% of pupils in Year 8 having had arts tuition at least once in the last year compared to 47% of pupils in Year 12.

Young people who are entitled to free school meals were less likely to have received arts tuition at least once in the past year than those who are not entitled (49% and 58% respectively).



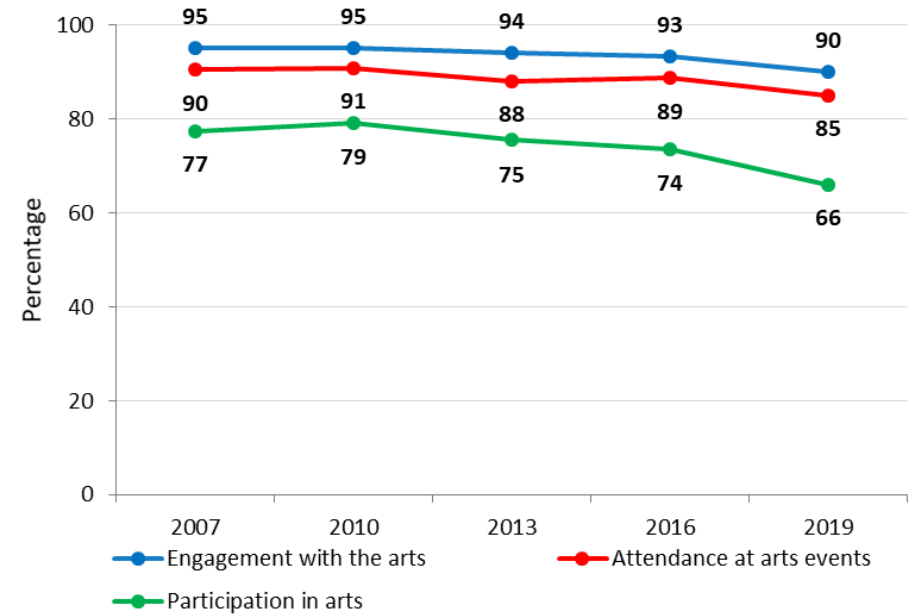
Trends

Engagement with the arts

Nine in every ten young people (90%) had engaged with the arts at least once within the previous year. This is lower than the proportion who engaged in 2016 (93%) and is the lowest observed figure over the trend period from 2007.

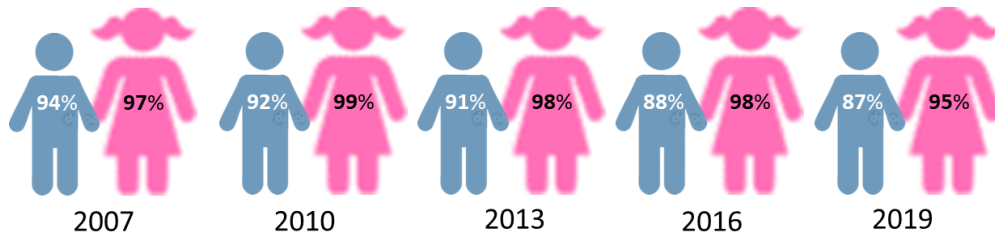
Engagement with the arts is comprised of arts attendance and arts participation figures. There was a decrease in the proportion of young people who attended an arts event in the previous year compared with 2016 (85% and 89% respectively). Again this is the lowest observed engagement rate over the trend period.

The proportions of young people who have participated in the arts has seen a consistent decline from 2010 when 79% of those participated at least once within the previous year compared to 66% in 2019.



Gender

Girls were more likely to have engaged with the arts within the previous year (95%) than boys (87%). This has also been the case throughout the entire trend period with a higher proportion of girls engaging with the arts than boys from 2007 onwards, this is partly driven by a gradual decline in boys engaging with the arts over the trend period.



Year group

Engagement with the arts is also related to year group, with young people in Year 12 less likely to have engaged with the arts within the previous year than those in Year 8 (87% and 93% respectively). This trend is also seen across previous survey results from 2010 onwards.

A similar trend is also seen when looking at participation in arts activities, with consistently fewer young people in Year 12 participating within the year prior to the survey than those in Year 8. This is evident in the results from 2007 onwards.

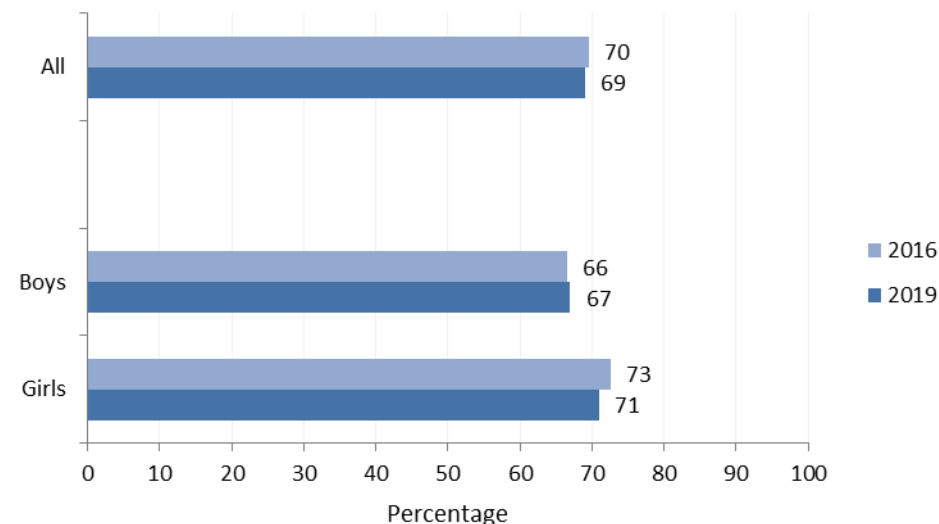
Concerning attendance rates and year group, from 2010 to 2016 proportionally more pupils in Year 8 attend arts events than those in Year 12. However, in the most recent 2019 survey there is no significant difference between the younger and older year groups when it comes to attendance at arts events.

Museums and science centres

Visited a museum or science centre

Just under seven in every ten (69%) young people had visited a museum or science centre within the last year, similar to the proportion in 2016 (70%). A higher proportion of girls had visited a museum or science centre compared to boys (71% and 67% respectively).

The proportions of young people who had visited a museum or science centre within the last year decreased with year group with 80% of those in Year 8 compared to 61% of those in Year 12. Just over seven out of ten (71%) young people from the Protestant community had visited a museum or science centre within the last year, compared to two thirds (66%) of young people from the Catholic community.

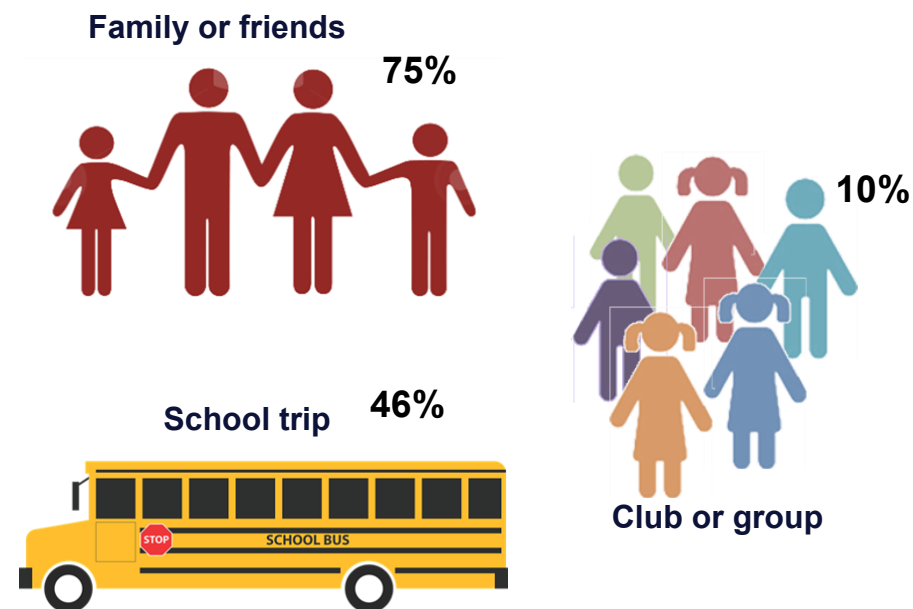


Young people with a disability were less likely to have visited a museum or science centre within the last year compared to those who do not have a disability (64% and 70% respectively). Young people who are entitled to free school meals were less likely to have visited a museum or science centre within the last year with under two-thirds (63%) having visited, compared to 70% of those who were not entitled to free school meals.

Who you visited a museum or science centre with

The majority of young people who had been to a museum or science centre within the last year (75%) stated that they had gone with family or friends. Nearly half (46%) stated that they had gone on a school trip, with 10% stating they had been with a club or group (e.g. youth club).

Those who were entitled to free school meals were less likely to have gone with family or friends (68%) compared with those not entitled to free school meals (77%).



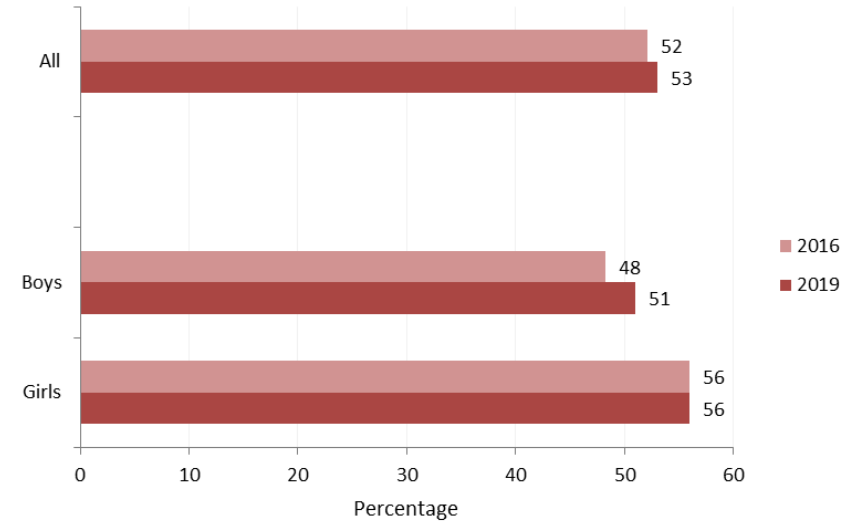
Museums and science centres

Visited a National Museums Northern Ireland museum

National Museums Northern Ireland (NMNI) has three museums across Northern Ireland, the Ulster Museum with free entry and two paid museums, the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum and the Ulster American Folk Park. Just over half of the young people surveyed (53%) had been to a NMNI museum within the last year, similar to the proportion that visited a NMNI museum in 2016. Girls were more likely (56%) than boys (51%) to have visited a NMNI museum within the last year.

Young people from the Protestant community were more likely to have visited a NMNI museum within the last year (56%), compared to those from the Catholic community (49%). The proportions of young people who had visited a NMNI museum within the last year decreased as year group increased from 62% of those in Year 8 to 47% of those in Year 12.

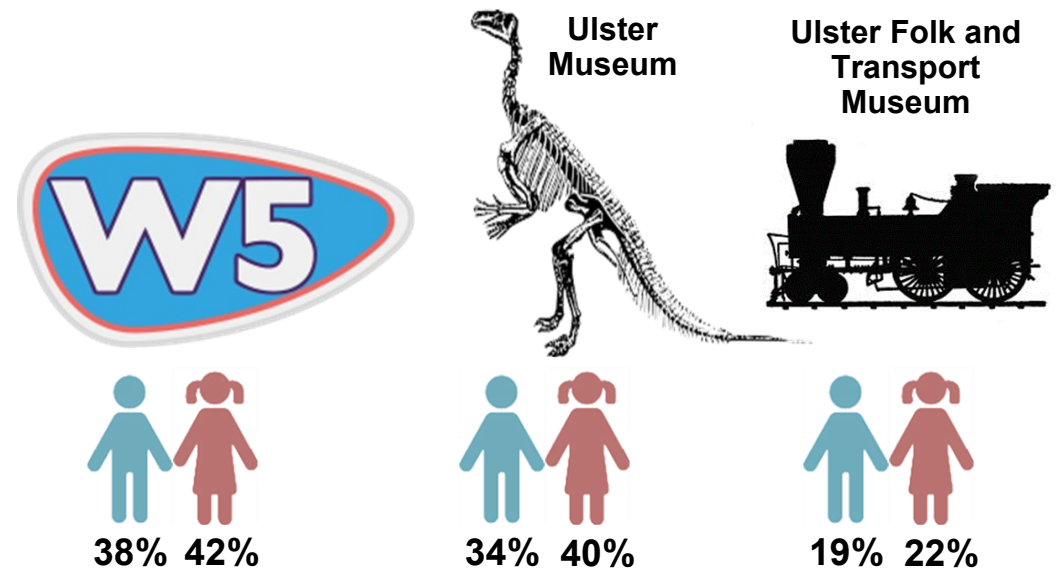
Young people with a disability were less likely to have visited a NMNI museum within the last year compared to those who do not have a disability (49% and 54% respectively). Young people who are entitled to free school meals were less likely to have visited a NMNI museum in the year prior to the survey, with just under half (47%) having visited, compared to 55% of those were not entitled to free school meals.



Museums and science centres visited

The most popular museum or science centre was W5, with two-fifths (40%) of the young people surveyed having visited in the year prior to survey. Thirty-seven per cent of young people had visited the Ulster Museum with around one-fifth visiting the Ulster American Folk Park (21%) and the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum (20%) in the year prior to the survey.

Considering gender, a higher proportion of girls visited W5 (42%), the Ulster Museum (40%) and the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum (22%) in the year prior to survey, compared with boys (38%; 34% and 19% respectively).



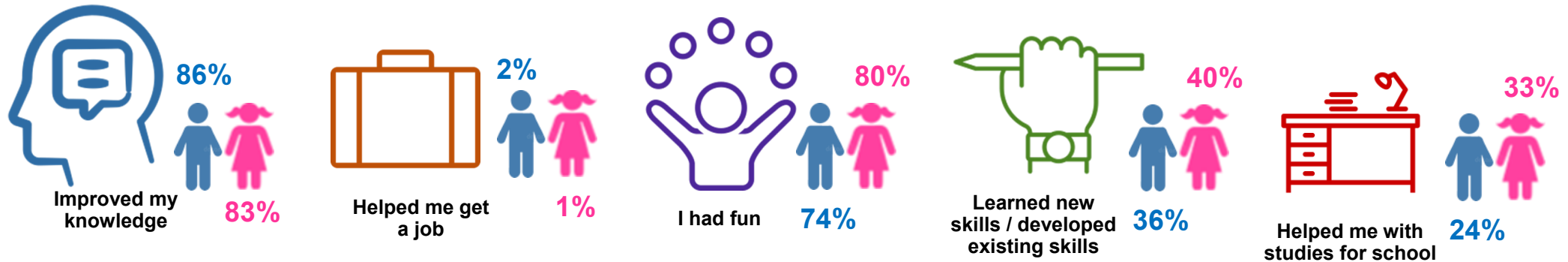
Museums and science centres

Benefits experienced from visiting a museum or science centre

Over four-fifths (85%) of young people stated that visiting a museum or science centre had improved their knowledge, and just over two-thirds (76%) said that they “had fun” when visiting.

Other benefits experienced by young people who had visited a museum or science centre at least once within the previous year include: “Learn new skills / developed existing skills” (38%), “Helped me with studies for school” (28%) and “Helped me think about a future career” (18%). Just under one-third (31%) of young people who had visited a museum or science centre stated that they had experienced “No benefit” as a result.

When analysed by gender, boys were more likely than girls to state “Improved my knowledge” and “Helped me get a job”, whereas girls were more likely than boys to state “I had fun”, “Learned new skills/developed existing skills” and “Helped me with studies for school” as benefits of visiting a museum or science centre.



Visited a museum and school

Six per cent of young people stated that a museum had visited their class within the last 12 months. Those young people who had visited a museum or science over the last year were more likely to have a visit from the museum to their classroom, than those who had not visited a museum or science centre within the last year (8% and 4%, respectively).

In 2019, over two-fifths of young people (42%) who had been to a museum or science centre within the last year had taken part in an activity relating to something they were studying at school whilst there, this was a decrease on the proportion in 2016 (45%). Girls were more likely to have taken part in an activity than boys (45% and 39% respectively). Similarly younger pupils (Year 8; 51%) were more likely than older pupils to have taken part in a school related activity whilst visited a museum than older pupils (Year 12; 38%).

Museums and science centres

Factors that would encourage visits to a museum or science centre

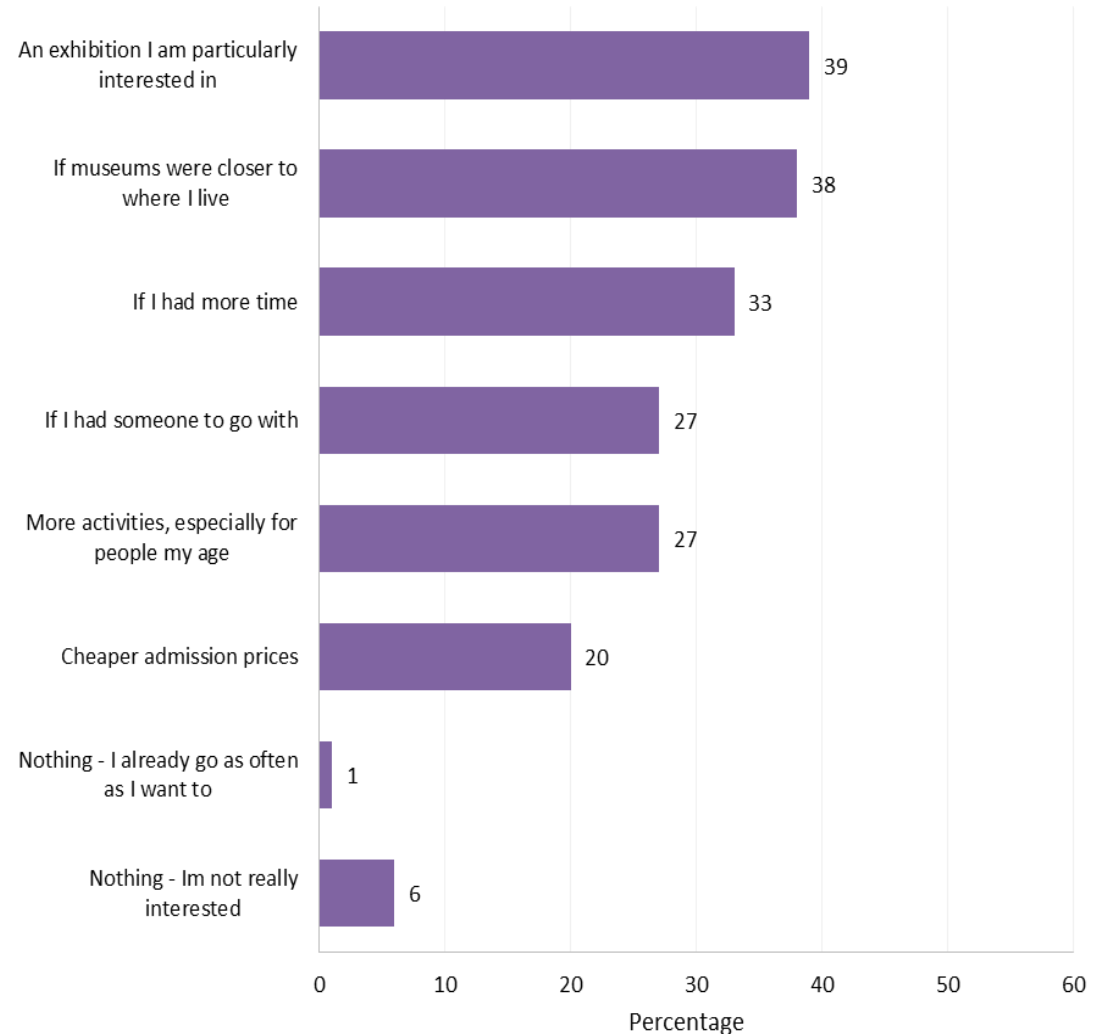
Nearly two-fifths of all young people surveyed (39%) stated that they would be encouraged to visit a museum, or visit more often, if there was an exhibition they were particularly interested in or if museums were closer to where they live (38%).

One third (33%) stated that if they had more time it would encourage them to visit a museum at all or more often. Twenty-seven per cent stated that “If I had someone to go with” or “More activities, especially for people my age” would encourage them to visit a museum. One fifth (20%) stated cheaper admission prices as factor that would encourage them to visit.

Gender

There were some differences in the proportions of girls and boys stating factors that would encourage them to visit a museum.

Girls were more likely to state that “If museums were closer to where I live” (41%), “If I had more time” (37%) or “More activities, especially for people my age” (32%) as reasons that would encourage them to visit, compared to boys (36%, 30% and 24% respectively).



Free school meal entitlement

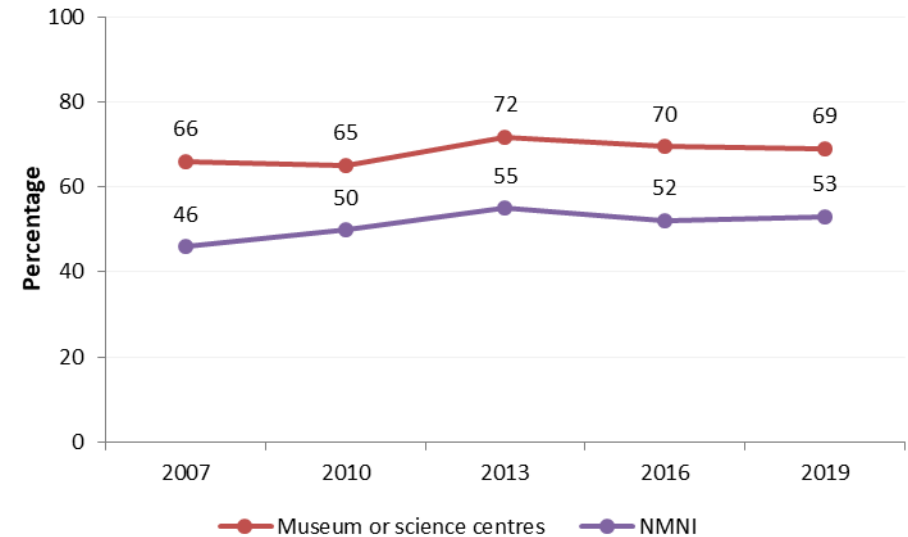
Young people who were not entitled to free school meals cited “An exhibition I am particularly interested in” (42%), “If I had more time” (34%) or “More activities, especially for people my age” (29%) as reasons that would encourage them to visit, compared with pupils not entitled to free school meals (30%, 30% and 21% respectively).

Museums and science centres

Trends in visits to museums and science centres

Similar proportions of young people visited a museum or science centre in the year prior to the 2019 survey (69%) compared to the year prior to the 2016 survey (70%). This is lower than the proportion of young people visiting a museum or science centre in 2013 (72%).

Looking in more detail at overall visits to museums or science centres, there was little change among most of the demographic groups analysed. The exception being pupils in Year 10, there was a significant decrease in the proportion visiting in the year prior to the 2019 survey, from 74% to 69%.



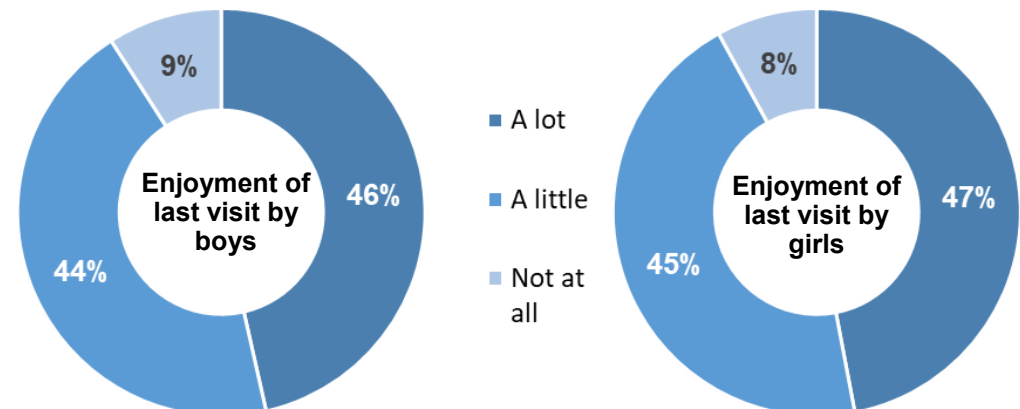
Trends in visits to NMNI museums

When visits to only NMNI museums are considered, the picture is similar. There was no difference in proportions of young people visiting in a NMNI museum in the year prior to the 2019 survey (53%), compared to the year prior to the 2016 survey (52%). This again is a decrease on the proportion who visited in 2013 (55%).

When looking at visits to NMNI museums by demographic groups, there were no significant differences in proportions of visits between 2016 and 2019 across any of the groups.

Levels of enjoyment when last visited a museum or science centre

Just under half (46%) of young people who had visited a museum within the last year enjoyed their visit a lot. Similar proportions of girls (47%) and boys (46%) stated that they had enjoyed their visit a lot. While 9% of young people responded that they did not enjoy their last visit at all, similar proportions of boys (9%) and girls (8%) stated that they did not enjoy their visit.



Libraries

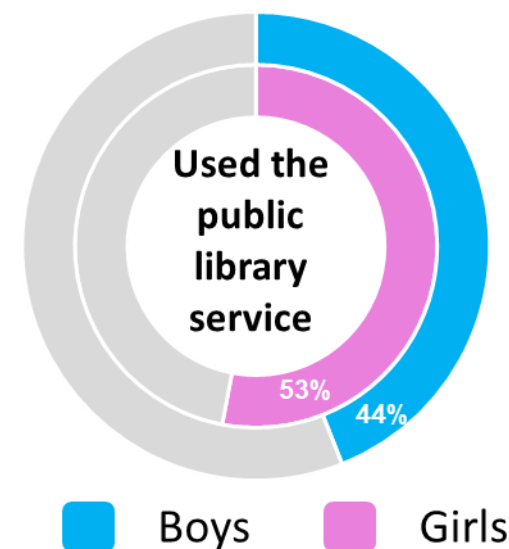
Use of the public library service

Just under half (48%) of all young people had used the public library service at least once in the last year, this is lower than the proportion who had used the public library service in 2016 (54%).

Girls were more likely to have used the service than boys (53% and 44% respectively).

Usage of the public library service decreased with year group, with pupils in Year 12 (32%) less likely to have used the service within the previous year compared with pupils in Year 8 (69%).

There were no differences in usage of the public library service by whether a young person has a disability or not, however pupils that are entitled to free school meals were less likely to have used the public library service than those who are not entitled (44% and 50% respectively).

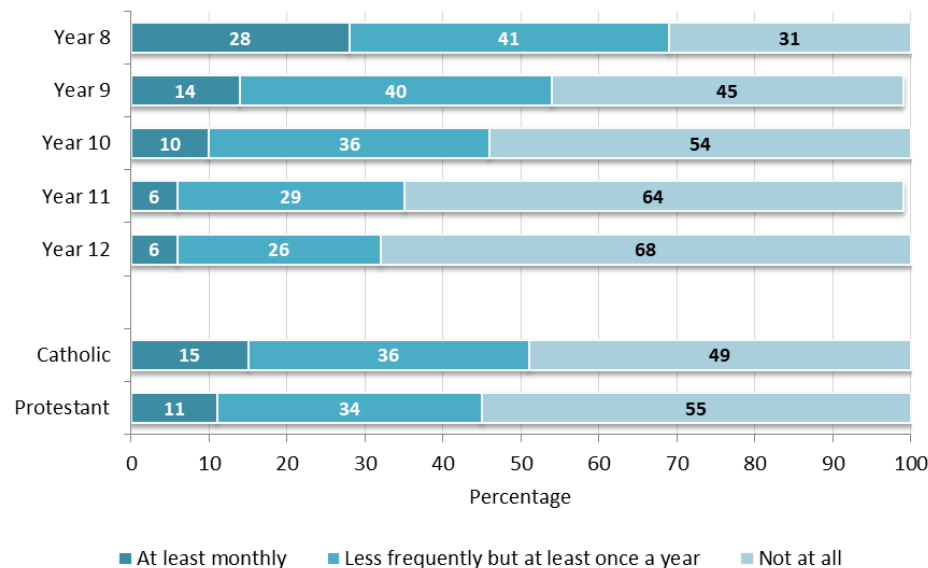


Frequency of use of the public library service

Over one in every ten (13%) young people used the public library service at least monthly.

Concerning gender, there was no significant difference in the proportions of girls (14%) and boys (12%) who used the public library service at least monthly. Analysis by year group shows that pupils in Year 8 were more likely to have used the public library service at least monthly than other year groups.

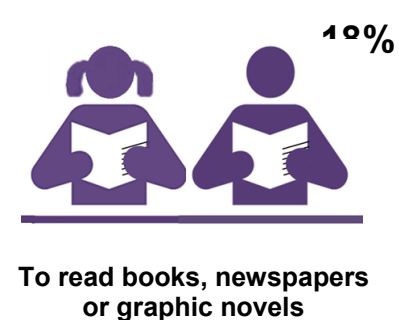
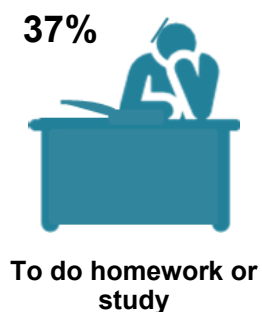
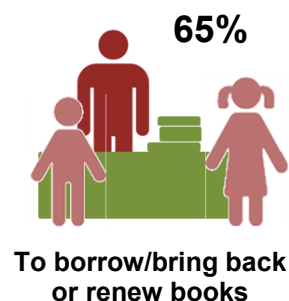
Similar to the annual usage of the public library service, there were no significant differences in frequency of usage and disability. However, a higher proportion of Catholic young people (15%) used the public library service at least monthly, than Protestant young people (11%).



Libraries

Reasons for using the public library service

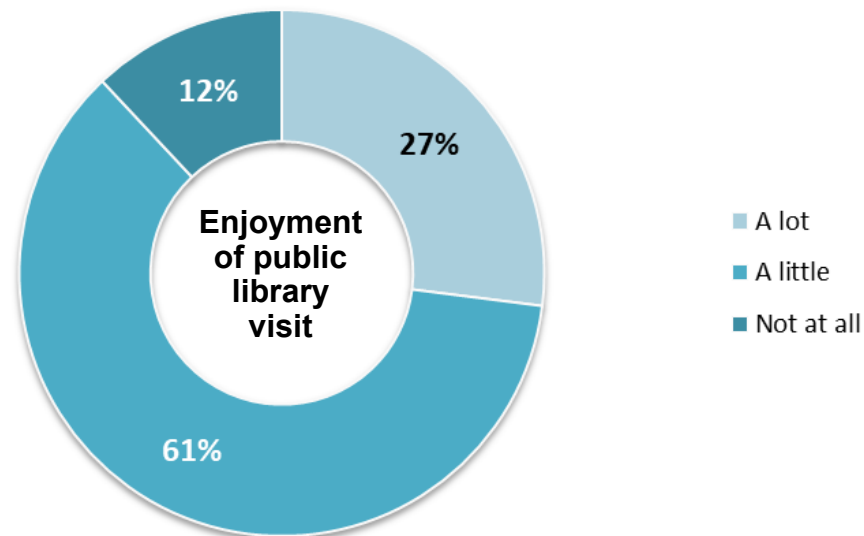
When asked why they used the public library service, the response most frequently cited by young people was 'To borrow/bring back or renew books' (65%). More than a third of young people (37%) had used the public library service 'To do homework or study', while around a fifth had used it 'To look up information' (20%) and 'To read books, newspapers or graphic novels' (18%).



Enjoyment of last visit to a public library

Just over one in every ten (12%) young people who had used the public library service had not enjoyed their last visit. Just over a quarter (27%) young people who had used the public library service had enjoyed their last visit a lot, with just under two-thirds (61%) enjoying it a little.

Girls were more likely to enjoy their last visit to the library a lot than boys (31% and 24% respectively), while older pupils (Year 12, 21%) were less likely than younger pupils (Year 8, 36%) to enjoy their last visit to a public library a lot.



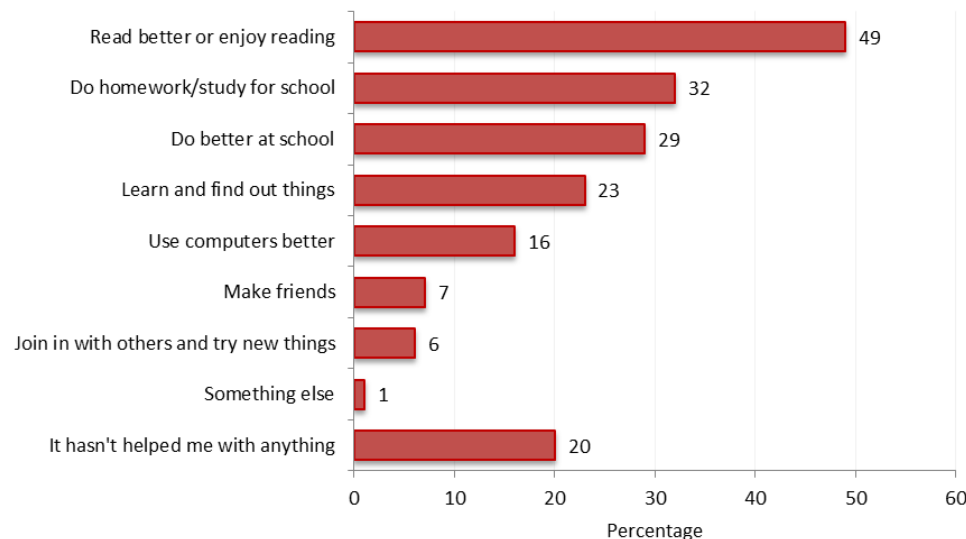
Libraries

Benefits of using the public library service

Around half of young people surveyed (49%) felt that using the public library service had allowed them to 'Read better or enjoy reading'.

Nearly a third of young people said their usage had allowed them to do homework or study for school (32%), while 29% cited that their usage of the public library service had allowed them to 'do better at school' and just under a quarter cited 'learn and find out things' (23%).

In contrast, a fifth of young people (20%) felt that using the public library service had not helped them with anything.



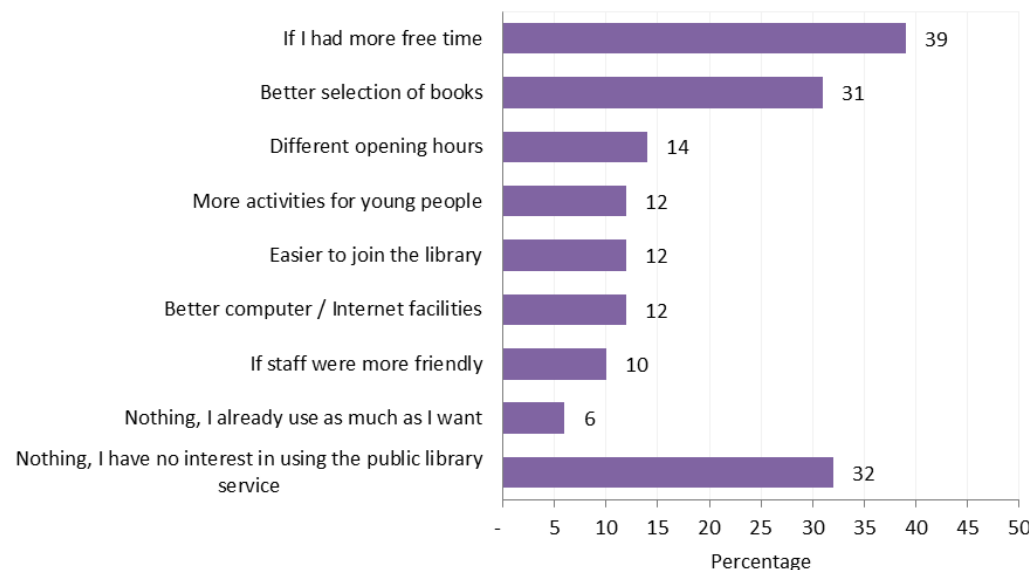
Reasons to encourage use of the public library service

All young people, both library users and non-users, were asked what would encourage them to use the public library service.

The most frequently cited response, by almost four out of every ten young people (39%) was 'If I had more free time'.

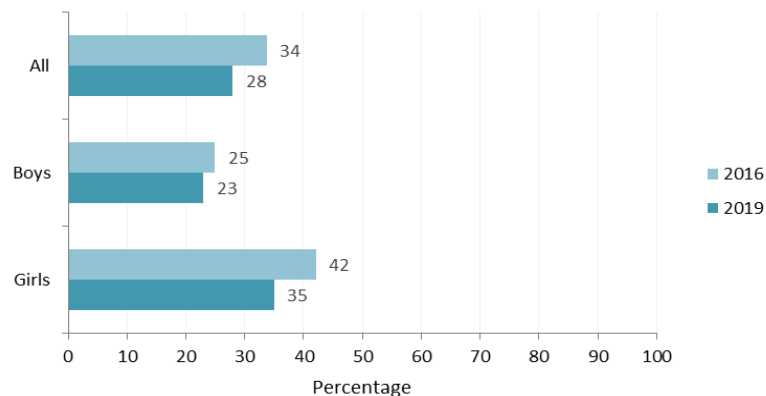
Just under a third (31%) of young people stated that a 'better selection of books' would encourage them to use the public library service, while 14% of young people cited 'different opening hours'. Similar proportions of young people cited 'more activities for young people', 'easier to join the library' and 'better computer/internet facilities' as factors that would encourage them (all 12%).

However, nearly a third (32%) of young people stated that nothing would encourage them to use the public library service as they have no interest in doing so.

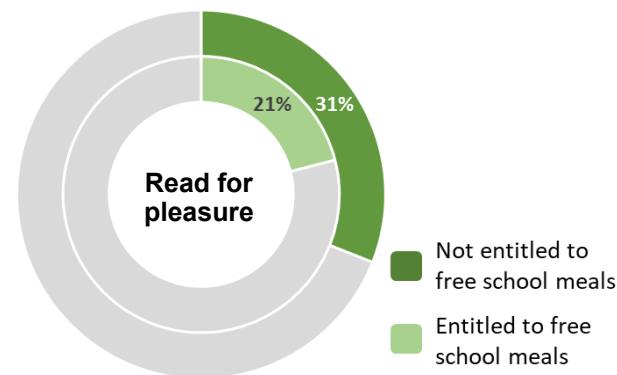


Reading for pleasure

Just under three in every ten (28%) young people said that they had read for pleasure in the last year, a decrease on the proportion who read for pleasure in the year prior to the survey in 2016 (34%). As in 2016, girls were more likely than boys to have read for pleasure (35% and 23% respectively).

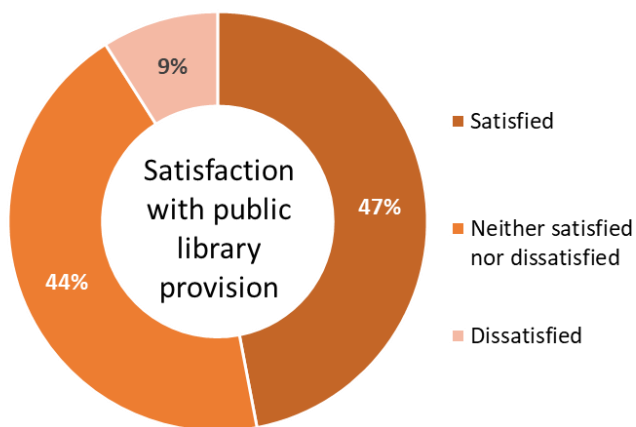


Analysis by year group showed that younger pupils in Year 8 (33%) were more likely to read for pleasure than older pupils in Year 12 (28%). However similar proportions of Catholic young people and Protestant young people read for pleasure (both 28%). Reading for pleasure was more prevalent among young people not entitled to free school meals (31%) than young people who were entitled to free school meals (21%).



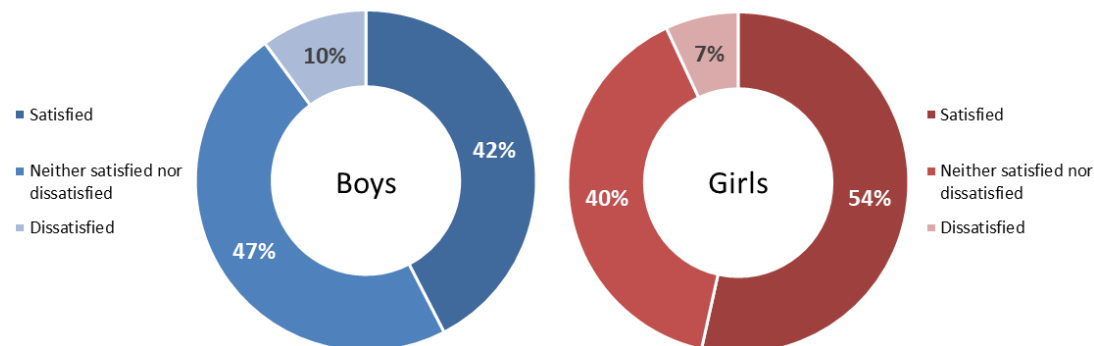
Library Satisfaction

Almost half of young people (47%) were satisfied with public library provision in Northern Ireland. Whereas, almost one in every ten (9%) young people stated that they were dissatisfied with public library provision in Northern Ireland.



Girls were more likely to have said that they were satisfied with public library provision compared with boys (54% and 42% respectively). On the other hand, boys were more likely to have said that they were dissatisfied with public library provision than girls (10% and 7% respectively).

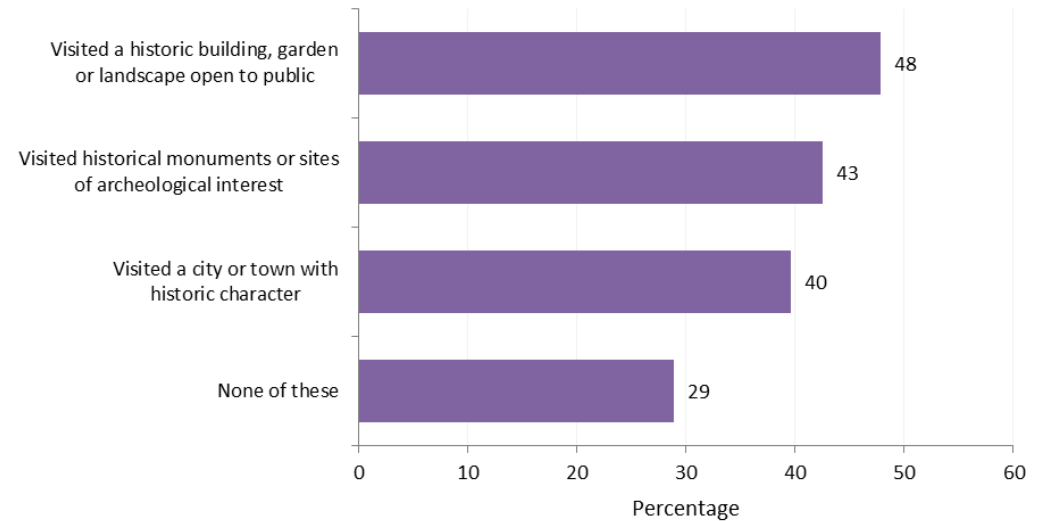
Satisfaction with public library provision



Historic environment

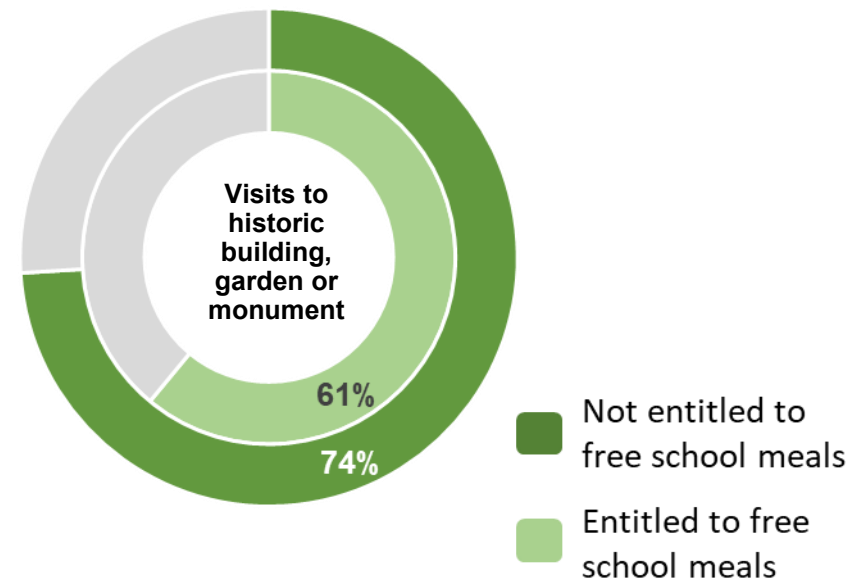
Just over seven out of ten young (71%) people had visited a historic building, garden, monument or city/town with historic character over the 12 months prior to the 2019 survey. This is similar to the proportion who visited in 2016 (71%)

Looking in more detail at visits to historic buildings, gardens or monuments, there was no change among the demographic groups analysed.



Free school meal entitlement

Young people who are entitled to free school meals were less likely to have visited a historic building, garden, monument or city/town with historic character over the last year than those who are not entitled (61% and 74% respectively).



Definitions and technical notes

Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitudes Survey

The Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency was commissioned by a consortium of government departments and public bodies to design, conduct and report on a study of the behaviour and attitudes of young people in Northern Ireland. The Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitudes Survey (YPBAS) is a school-based survey carried out among year groups 8 - 12 and covers a wide range of topics relevant to the lives of young people today. The main aim of the YPBAS is to gain an insight into, and understanding of, their behaviour and lifestyle. It also aims to influence various government policies and practices relating to young people and to facilitate access to research findings and expertise.

Questionnaire

Two versions of the questionnaire were used to accommodate demand for topics on the 2019 survey. The content and structure of each questionnaire was agreed in consultation with clients. Schools were randomly assigned one version of the questionnaire. A copy of the DfC questions can be accessed at:

[DfC Questions on the Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitudes Survey 2019](#)

Sample and response rate

The Department of Education (DE) provided CSU with a list of all post-primary schools in Northern Ireland (excluding independent schools and those which catered solely for pupils with special needs). All 196 post-primary schools, were contacted and invited to participate. Eighty schools agreed to participate in the study, resulting in a response rate of 41%. One class in each of the five year groups (years 8-12) was then randomly selected to take part in the study. A total of 3,892 pupils were surveyed using Version A (response rate 85%) and 4,226 pupils using Version B of the questionnaire (response rate 87%). DfC's questions on engagement of culture, arts and leisure were included in Version A.

Engaged in culture and arts - Have done at least one of the following in the 12 months prior to the YPBAS:

- Engaged in the arts
- Used the public library service
- Visited a museum or science centre

Arts engagement – Either participated in arts activities or attended arts events in the 12 months prior to the YPBAS.

Arts participation – Participated in at least one of the following arts activities in the 12 months prior to the YPBAS:

- Danced (any kind, not for fitness)
- Sang (not karaoke) or played a musical instrument to an audience, including rehearsed for a performance
- Played a musical instrument for own pleasure
- Written music in your free time
- Performed in or rehearsed for a play/drama/pantomime/musical/opera
- Painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture in your free time (not including schoolwork or homework)
- Photography or made films/videos as an artistic activity (not including family or holiday photos, films or videos)
- Any sort of crafts such as textiles, wood, pottery or jewellery making
- Read for pleasure (not including school books, newspapers, magazines or comics)
- Helped to organise or run a musical/festival/pantomime or any show of any kind
- Used a computer to create original artworks or animation
- Written any stories or poetry in your free time (not including schoolwork or homework)

Arts attendance – Attended at least one of the following arts events in the 12 months prior to the YPBAS:

- Film at a cinema or other venue
- Circus or carnival
- Pantomime or musical
- An arts festival or community festival
- Play or drama at a theatre or other venue
- Opera
- Rock or pop music performance
- Folk, or traditional music performance
- Classical or jazz performance
- Other live music performance or concert
- Ballet
- Irish dance performance
- Other live dance event
- Poetry reading or storytelling/anything to do with books/writing
- Any type of event including art/photography/sculpture/video/electronic arts/crafts
- Street art (such as in parks, busking)
- A museum

Visited a museum or science centre – Visited one of the following museums or science centres in the 12 months prior to the YPBAS:

- Ulster American Folk Park
- Ulster Folk & Transport Museum
- Ulster Museum
- W5, Odyssey Centre
- Armagh Observatory & Planetarium
- Other museum in Northern Ireland

Visited a National Museum – Visited one of the following museums in the 12 months prior to the YPBAS:

- Ulster Museum
- Ulster Folk & Transport Museum
- Ulster American Folk Park

Used the public library service – Used the public library service at least once in the 12 months prior to the YPBAS, e.g. visited a public library or mobile library; used the Libraries NI website; attended a library event outside a library. Public library does NOT include school, college, or university libraries. A library event outside a library is an event run by Libraries NI which has taken place in a venue other than a library.

Historic environment—Visited any of the following places in the 12 months prior to the YPBAS:

- Visited a historic building, garden or landscape open to the public (e.g. A National Trust House, a historic town hall, a museum in an old building, or an event in a historic house or its grounds).
- Visited historical monuments or sites of archaeological interest (Castles, ruins and forts).
- Visited a city or town with historic character (a town with lots of old buildings).

Statistical significance in this report

The result presented in this report are based on data which has been weighted by year group, gender and religion in order to reflect the composition of the Northern Ireland post-primary population. Since a three stage sample design was used: schools, classes and pupils, the required assumption of random sampling was not met for significance testing. In 2013, standard errors were calculated for some of the variables in the survey using a formula for complex samples. However, when these were compared with standard errors calculated using the formula for random samples there was little difference (see [Technical Report](#)). Given those findings, and that the methodology is consistent with that used in 2013, tests of statistical significance in this bulletin have been carried out using the formula for random samples.

Any statements in this report regarding differences between groups such as different years and whether young people are entitled to free school meals, are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. This means that we can be 95% confident that the differences between groups are actual differences and have not just arisen by chance. Both the base numbers and the sizes of the percentages have an effect on statistical significance. Therefore on occasion, a difference between two groups may be statistically significant while the same difference in 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.

Other notes

The following should be noted when interpreting figures and tables:

- Percentages less than 0.5% are denoted by '0' and where there are no responses, they are denoted by '-'.
- Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
- Percentages may not add to 100% for questions where multiple responses are allowed.
- Detailed tabulations are not provided where the number of respondents is too small to allow meaningful analysis.
- The base number of responses to each question, which is shown in each table, is the unweighted count. The base may vary due to some respondents not answering certain questions.