

Attitudes Towards Domestic Violence

Almost all pupils in Years 11 and 12 (95%) think that both females and males can be a victim of domestic violence/abuse. The same number (95%) think that both females and males can commit acts of domestic violence/abuse.

If they wanted to discuss concerns regarding domestic violence/abuse, pupils would be most likely to contact a family member (55%), a friend (40%), a teacher/school support staff (33%) or the police (30%).

Pupils were asked which items, from a list options, they considered to be examples of domestic violence, as shown below:



Sexual Health

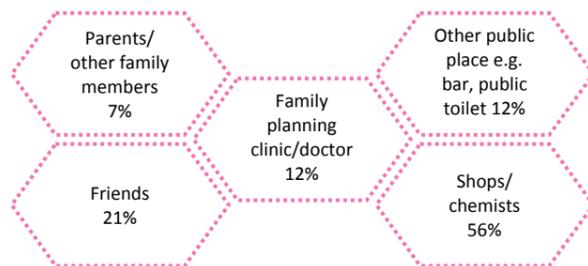
One in two pupils (49%) have ever had a boyfriend or girlfriend. Over half of pupils (56%) have had no sexual experience and a small number (4%) have had sexual intercourse.

If they needed help or advice about sexual health issues, Year 11 and 12 pupils would be most likely to go to their doctor (58%).

Of those pupils in Years 11 and 12 who have had sexual intercourse, over half (58%) were aged 14-15 when they first had intercourse, and 81% used some form of contraception. The most commonly used form of contraception was condom (60%). Pupils would be most likely to get contraception in the following places:

Table 9: If you ever needed help or advice about sexual health issues what services would you be likely to use?

	% of respondents
Doctor/GP	58%
Family	36%
Friends	31%
Sexual health clinic	21%
Internet/website	18%
An advice helpline	8%



Confidentiality (64%) and not being judged (57%) would be the most important factors when pupils are seeking sexual health advice.

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Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitudes Survey Bulletin 2016

Published August 2017

A survey of the behaviour and attitudes of young people on areas and issues affecting their lives

This bulletin presents key findings from the sixth round of the Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitudes Survey, carried out between October and December 2016. These results 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.

From a representative sample of post-primary schools in Northern Ireland, 73 schools agreed to participate in the survey. Schools were selected at random to complete one version of the questionnaire. One class from each year group (Year 8 to Year 12) was then randomly selected. A total of 6831 pupils aged 11 - 16 years took part in the survey.

Central Survey Unit was commissioned by a consortium of government departments to design and conduct a survey, covering a range of topics relevant to the lives of young people today. Interest amongst policy makers on the views and behaviours of young people was such that, in order to meet the demand for questions on the survey, the topics were split across two versions of the questionnaire, A and B.

In addition to this bulletin, tables of top-line results and a technical report are available. Details on how to access these are provided at the end of this bulletin. The accompanying dataset will be released in October 2017 and will be available on the UK Data Archive.

For the purpose of this bulletin, all percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Demographics

The majority of pupils' households are comprised of a mother (96%), a father (78%) and over half include brother(s) (60%) and sister(s) (58%).

Fifteen percent of pupils reported that their household included persons from more than one community background.

The majority (87%) of pupils were born in Northern Ireland, 3% were born in England, 3% in the Republic of Ireland, 1% in Scotland and 6% were born somewhere else. Of those who were born somewhere else, 68% stated it was somewhere else in the EU.

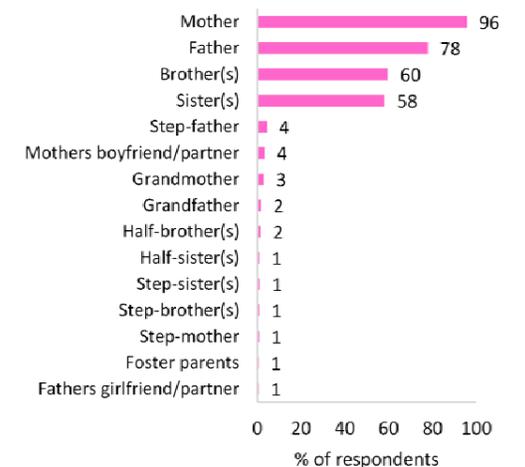


Figure 1: Who of the following, if any, do you live with?

Long Term Conditions

The majority (83%) of pupils say their health is very good or good (Figure 2).

Over a fifth (22%) of pupils have a physical or mental health condition or illness lasting, or expected to last, for 12 months or more.

Almost half of these say their condition reduces their ability to carry out day to day activities a little (48%), while 8% say it reduces their ability a lot.

The most common conditions/disorders that pupils reported suffering from in the past 12 months are:

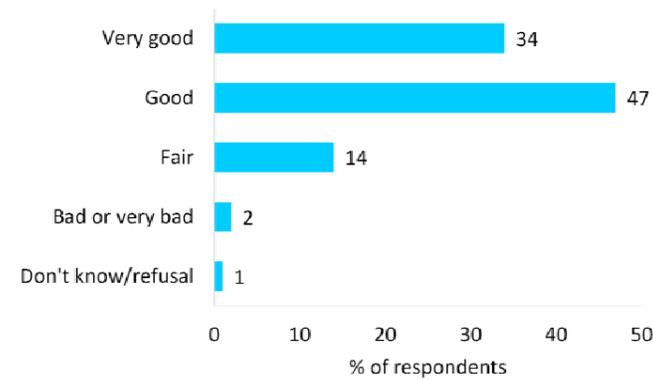
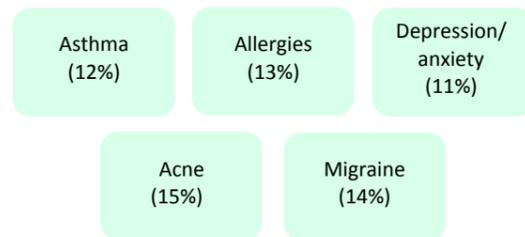


Figure 2: In general, how would you say your health is?



Organ Donation

The majority of pupils (84%) have heard of organ donation but less than half (47%) have ever heard of the NHS Organ Donor Register.

Eleven per cent of respondents think you can join the Organ Donor Register at age 16, while 29% think you can join at 18. Forty per cent of respondents don't know.

Almost half of respondents (48%) think that schools should provide young people with information on organ donation, to be taught as part of the curriculum.

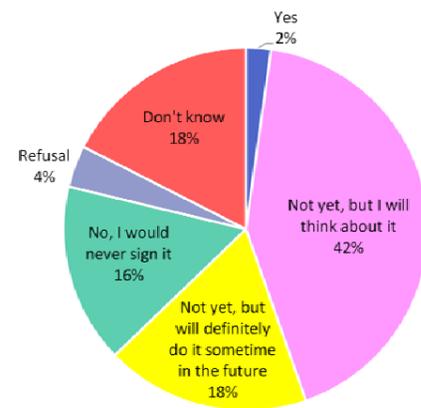


Figure 3: Have you put your name on the NHS Organ Donor Register?

School

Four fifths (80%) of pupils like school at present. The majority are in agreement that it is important to have Maths and English qualifications by the time they leave school (94%), that staying on at school is important if they want to get a good job (83%) and that they could do well at school (85%).

Eighty four percent of pupils feel a certain amount of stress due to the school work they have to do. The majority of these are worried about exams/tests (84%) while almost half are worried about homework (48%) and falling behind in class (46%) (see Figure 4).

Almost all pupils (92%) say that their family encourages them to do well at school and just over half (54%) say their teachers encourage them to do well.

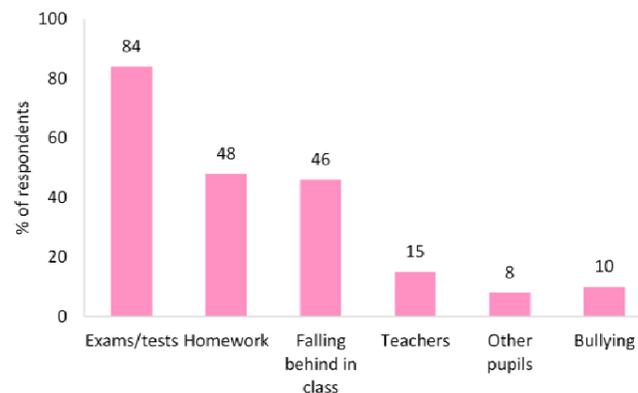


Figure 4: What is it about school that you are worried about?

Alcohol

Just under a third of pupils (31%) have taken an alcoholic drink (16% of Key stage 3 pupils and 52% of Key stage 4). Of those pupils who have ever had an alcoholic drink:



Over two thirds (70%) of pupils have received education on the use of alcohol in school, while 13% say they have not had any education on the subject.

Table 8: As a result of drinking alcohol have you ever, at least once....

	% of respondents
Had an argument	23%
Had a fight	14%
Ended up in a situation where you felt threatened/unsafe	11%
Been sick (vomited)	29%
Been in trouble with parent(s)/other family member	25%
Posted something on social media you wished you hadn't	9%
Done something you later regretted	27%

Solvents & Drugs

A small number (4%) of pupils have been offered solvents and 1% of pupils have inhaled solvents.

The drugs that pupils have most commonly been offered are:



Over a quarter (29%) of those who have been offered drugs were aged 13 or under when first offered drugs.

Of those pupils who have taken drugs, 26% have only taken drugs once, 16% used to take drugs but don't anymore, 15% take drugs a few times a year and 27% take drugs at least once or twice a month.

Cannabis is the most common drug for pupils to have tried (3%). One percent of pupils have tried the following drugs:

- Speed
- LSD
- Ecstasy
- Magic Mushrooms
- Crack
- Cocaine
- Mephedrone
- Synthetic cannabis
- Other drugs (not given by a GP, nurse or chemist)

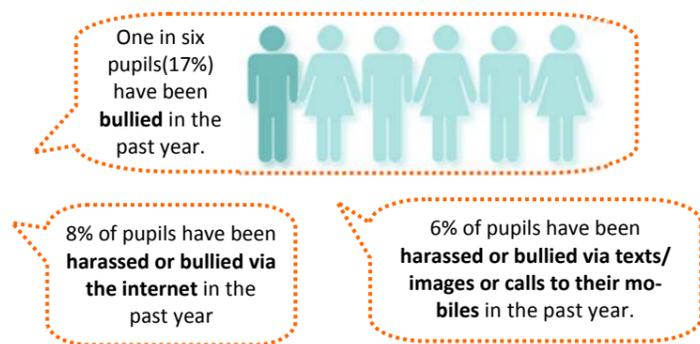
Pupils most commonly took drugs with a friend (42%) and the most commonly reported location for taking drugs was somewhere outside (e.g. park, street, entry or under a bridge) (37%).

The majority of pupils (88%) feel that the education they have received about the use of drugs has made them less inclined to take drugs.

Personal Safety

Almost two thirds of pupils (63%) feel very safe in the area in which they live and 31% feel quite safe.

A small number of pupils (4%) feel slightly unsafe in the area in which they live and 1% feel very unsafe.



Health & Wellbeing

One third (33%) of pupils from all year groups reported having concerns or worries about their mental health. Of those pupils, over a third (36%) have sought help: 73% from a family member, 41% from a friend, 24% from a GP and 22% from a teacher. The most commonly reported reason for not seeking help was that pupils felt they could handle things on their own (55%).

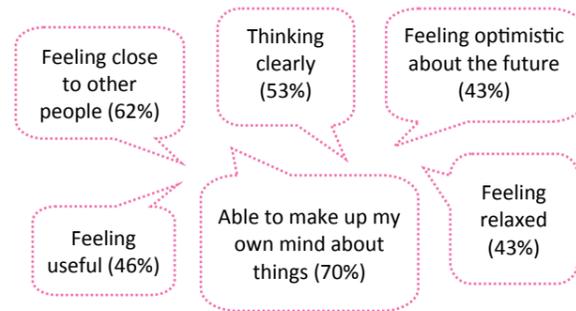
Table 7: Selected results from the Stirling Children's Wellbeing Scale.

% of respondents who think this quite a lot or all of the time	
I think good things will happen in my life.	50%
I can find lots of fun things to do.	63%
I think lots of people care about me.	67%
I think there are many things I can be proud of.	63%
I've been getting on well with people.	70%

The majority of pupils (88%) get up at around 7 or 8am on a school day.

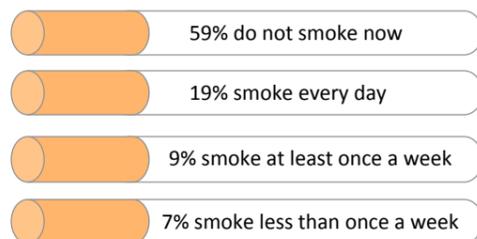
Almost two thirds of pupils (60%) go to sleep at around 10 or 11pm on a school night.

Pupils reported that, often or always during the past two weeks, they had been:



Smoking

Over one in ten pupils (12%) have ever smoked tobacco, with over half (55%) of those having smoked at age 13 or under. Only 5% of Year 8-10 pupils have ever smoked compared to 22% of pupils in years 11 and 12. Of those pupils who have ever smoked tobacco:



Of those who do smoke, 62% have tried to quit at some point.

Under a fifth of pupils (18%) have ever used an e-cigarette. Two thirds of these pupils (67%) got the e-cigarette from a friend and 70% do not use e-cigarettes now.



Medicines

Over half of pupils (52%) have had a medicine prescribed for them by a doctor or nurse in the past year, most commonly for acute illnesses (59%).

Over a third (35%) of pupils have used medicines in the last 12 months that weren't prescribed by a doctor or nurse.

Almost half (45%) of pupils would like more information about how to use medicines safely and appropriately.

Antibiotics:
Almost half (48%) have had an antibiotic in the past year. The same number (47%) think that antibiotics work on colds and flu's and 37% of pupils think it's OK to stop taking an antibiotic when you feel better.

Buying medicines using the internet:
Over half (56%) think that it is fairly or very easy to get medicines using the internet, however almost all (94%) have never used the internet to buy medicines. Two thirds (67%) know at least some information about the risks of using medicines bought on the internet.

Subject Choices & Next Steps

Two thirds (67%) of pupils in Years 11 and 12 chose their subjects with a career area in mind. Almost two thirds are content with the advice they got about their subject choices from their careers teachers (60%) and their other teachers (65%).

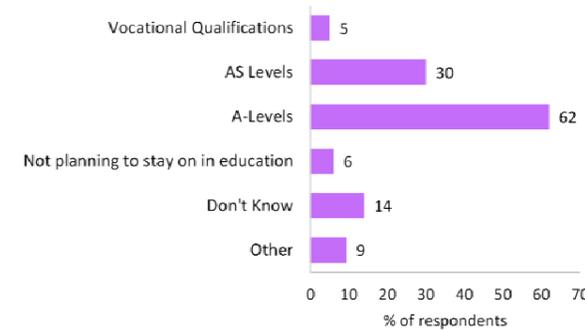


Figure 5: Which of the following do you want to do immediately after you finish Year 12?

Almost three quarters (72%) of Year 11 & 12 pupils have heard of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), however almost half (49%) of those pupils do not understand what it is. Over a third (35%) of pupils said that they would only stay on at school or Further Education if they received an EMA.

Table 1. If you were eligible to receive an allowance of £60 every two weeks and a cash bonus of £100 every so often, would you stay on at school, go to Further Education (FE) College or do an apprenticeship?

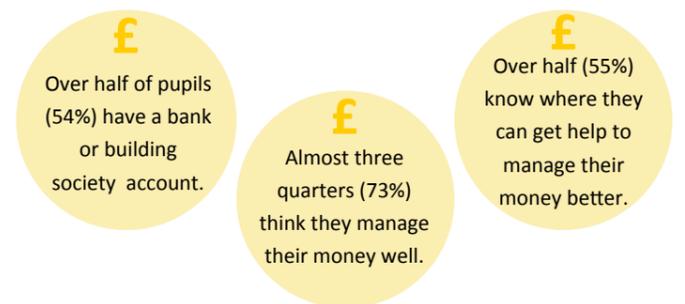
	% of respondents
Yes, I would only stay on at school if I received this	28%
I would stay on at school anyway	47%
Yes, I would only go to FE college if I received this	7%
I would go to FE college anyway	8%
No, I would do none of the above	4%
Don't know	5%

Employment and Money

Fifty four percent of Year 11 & 12 respondents have had a part-time job, such as a paper round, babysitting, cutting grass or working in a cafe. Of those remaining, most (85%) are likely to look for a job while still at school or college.

Almost all (97%) Year 11 & 12 pupils think it is important to get a job when they finish school/college or training and 75% have goals and plans for the future regarding work. Over half (52%) are confident they will get the type of job they want when they leave school/university or training.

Almost two thirds (64%) of Year 11 & 12 pupils would be willing to travel outside of Northern Ireland in the future to look for a job.



Play and Leisure

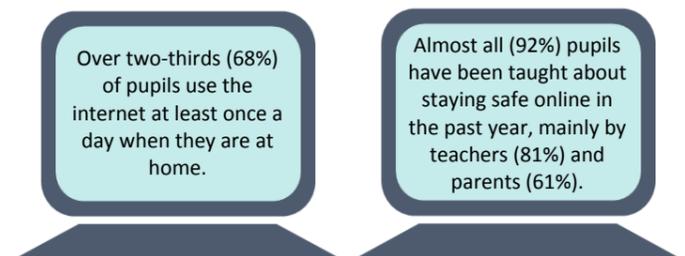
Almost two thirds (64%) of pupils think that the play and leisure facilities in their area are good. The majority (82%) think that there are safe and welcoming places where they can meet up with friends in the area in which they live. The main factors that stop pupils accessing play and leisure facilities in their local area are reported in Table 2.

Table 2: Which, if any, of the following reasons stop you from accessing play and leisure facilities in your local area?

	% of respondents
Not enough time	43%
There aren't enough facilities close to where I live	24%
I don't have any friends to go to them with	19%
Difficulty getting there/lack of transport	19%
Cost of activities	17%

Over a third (37%) of pupils think that the media often or always represents young people in a fair way, however 18% feel that you people are rarely or never fairly represented.

Almost half of pupils (46%) are bothered at least sometimes by the way that young people are represented in the media.



University

Almost three out of four pupils in Years 11 & 12 (72%) want to go to university and 60% of pupils expect that they will.

Almost two thirds (63%) of pupils think it is important to have a university degree.

62% of pupils feel their **teachers** encourage them to go to university.

77% of pupils feel that their **family** encourage them to go to university.

12% of pupils feel that **no-one** encourages them to go to university.

Shared Education

Over a third of pupils (37%) have been involved in projects or classes with pupils from another school in the last year. The types of activity are reported in Table 3.

Table 3: Have you done any of the following (with pupils from another school)?

	% of respondents
Project(s) with pupils from other schools	58%
Had classes with pupils from other schools	30%
Used or shared sports facilities or equipment	36%
Other	9%

The majority (79%) of the pupils who have participated in shared education enjoyed the experience. Pupils reported that they enjoyed it because they made new friends (55%), did interesting/fun projects (60%), did classes they don't normally get to do at their school (36%) and got to use the other school's sports/computer facilities (15%).

Over three quarters of pupils (76%) don't have any concerns about participating in classes or projects with pupils from other schools.

Nutrition

Over three quarters of pupils (77%) think you should eat 5 or more portions of fruit/vegetables each day to be healthy, however only 16% of pupils usually eat 5 or more portions of fruit or vegetables per day.

Sixteen percent of pupils who are entitled to a free school meal do not usually take it, with almost a quarter (24%) saying they prefer to bring a packed lunch and almost a fifth (19%) saying they don't like the quality/choice of food available.

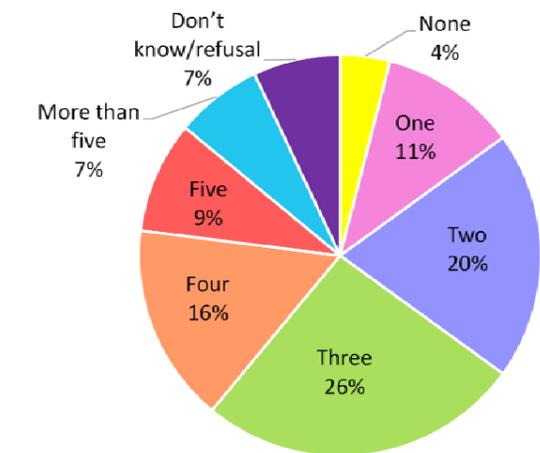


Figure 6: How many portions of fruit/vegetables do you usually eat each day?

Just under half (48%) of pupils eat fruit and 36% eat vegetables and salads at least once a day. Almost a quarter (23%) eat meat products every day and over half (53%) only eat fish less than once a week or never.

Half of pupils (50%) think that their body size is about right.

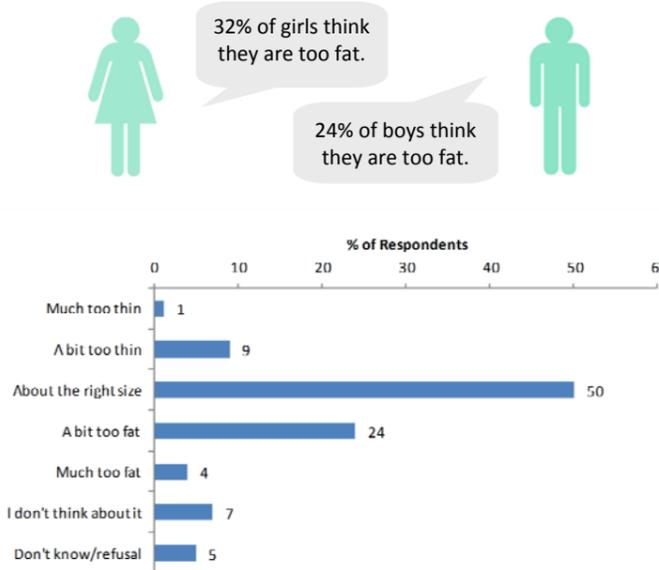


Figure 7: Do you think your body size is...

Travelling to School

Bus is the most common mode of transport that pupils use for travelling to (40%) and from (47%) school.

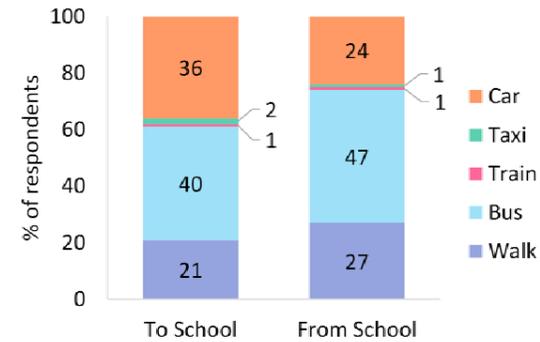


Figure 17: How do you usually travel most of the way to and from school?

Over one in four (28%) of pupils live 3km or more from their school, while 36% live within 1.6km of their school.

Almost all pupils feel safe on the way to (95%) and from (94%) school.

Two out of five (39%) of pupils qualify for free school transport and 76% of those pupils use their free transport every day.

Living closer to school (58%), better weather (37%) and not having things to carry (35%) would encourage pupils to walk to/from school more often.

Road Safety

Most pupils often or always pay attention to traffic (93%), use the Green Cross Code (75%), and wear a seatbelt in the front (96%) and back (91%) of the car.

Over a third (37%) never wear brightly coloured clothing when walking/cycling at night.

One in three pupils (36%) have received education on road safety in the past 12 months, mainly provided by teachers (53%) and Road Safety Education Officials (38%). Almost all (90%) pupils found this education useful.

- Over a quarter (26%) of pupils have **run across the road without checking** for traffic.
- 47% of pupils have **used a mobile phone/iPod/mp3 player when crossing** the road.
- Over two-fifths (44%) of pupils have **carried on with friends while crossing** the road.
- Almost two thirds (65%) of pupils have **walked out onto the road to cross between cars**.

Public Transport

Apart from travelling to school, over a quarter (29%) of pupils never travel by bus or train.

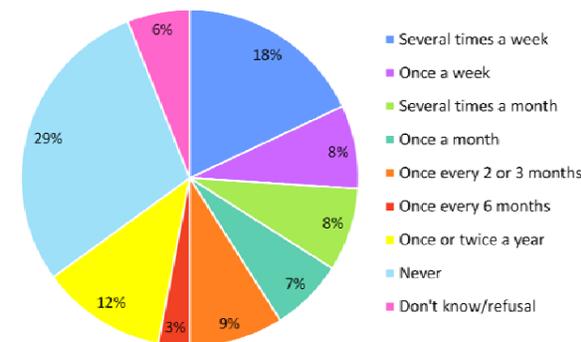


Figure 18: When not going to school or home from school, how often do you travel on a bus or train?

The methods that pupils most commonly use to plan their journeys are timetables on the Translink website (63%) and paper timetables (33%). Some of the factors that would encourage pupils to use the bus or train more often are reported in Table 6.

Table 6: What would encourage you to use the bus or train more often?

	% of respondents
Wi-fi on buses	50%
Lower costs	35%
Living closer to a bus/train stop	18%
More frequent weekend services	14%
More reliable or punctual services	13%
Better information on services	13%

Careers Advice & Guidance

Two thirds (67%) of Year 11 & 12 pupils feel a certain amount of confidence about making career decisions (See Figure 13).

Only 15% of pupils are aware of the Government's/ Department for the Economy's all-age careers service, and one in four (26%) know how to contact a careers advisor outside school.

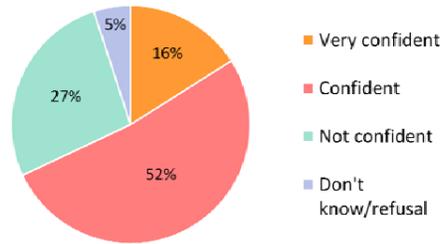


Figure 13: How confident do you feel about making decisions about your career?

Some of the types of career support which pupils think would help them to achieve their career goals are shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Which of the following types of careers support would help you to achieve your career goals?

Support Type	% of respondents
Help with interview skills	95%
Help with CV writing	93%
Help to find work experience opportunities	93%
Information on further & higher education	93%
Information on training & apprenticeships	88%
A meeting with a careers advisor	85%

Tattooing & Piercing

Around one in six (16%) respondents in Years 11 & 12 have a tattoo or piercing (other than earlobes).

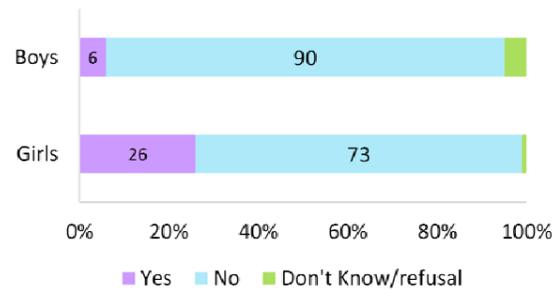


Figure 14: have you had a tattoo or piercing (other than earlobes)?

Almost a third (29%) of pupils have had problems, such as infection or pain, after getting their tattoo(s) or piercing(s). Of those pupils, 23% sought medical advice from a pharmacist, GP or A&E.

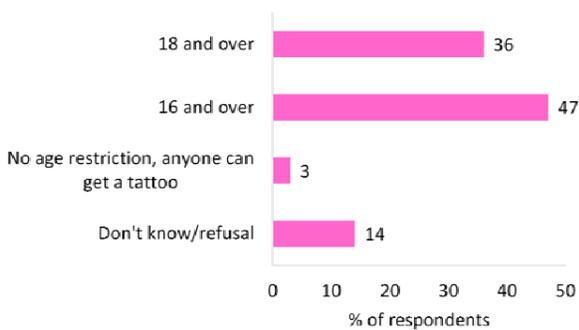


Figure 15: Do you know if there is an age restriction on getting a tattoo?

The majority (82%) of those who have a tattoo or piercing visited a registered premises to have it done. Less than half (43%) of pupils are aware that tattooing and piercing businesses must be registered with their local council.

Sign Language

Just under one in ten pupils (8%) can communicate using some form of sign language (see Figure 16). Half of pupils (51%) would be interested in learning sign language in school.

Of those who can use sign language:

64% can sign single words or simple phrases.

12% can sign simple sentences.

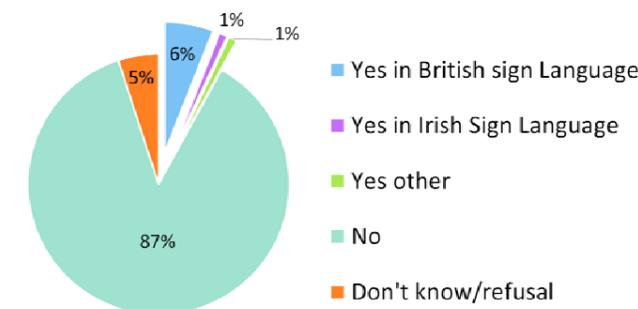


Figure 16: Do you know how to communicate in Sign Language?

Learning to Drive

Almost all pupils (97%) in Years 11 & 12 want to learn to drive, with 65% of those pupils hoping to begin learning when they're 17 years old.

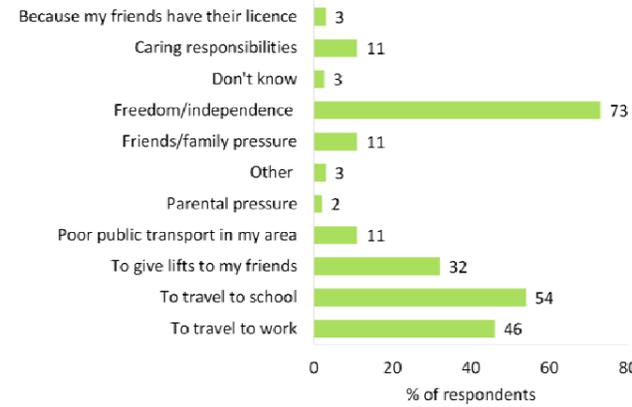


Figure 8. What are the main reasons you want to learn to drive?

The most commonly reported ways in which pupils plan to prepare for their **theory test** are taking a practice theory test (66%) and discussing it with their driving instructor (49%).

The most commonly reported ways in which pupils plan to prepare for their **practical driving test** are lessons with a driving instructor (82%) and learning with parents (66%).

The qualities that most pupils think make a good driver are:

- Has good concentration (75%)
- Is responsible (73%)
- Is confident (67%)
- Drives within the speed limit (66%)
- Is patient (65%)
- Obeys the Highway Code/rules of the road (63%)

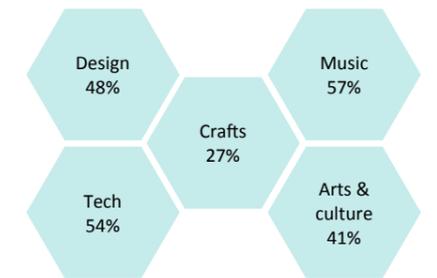
Creative Industries

Over three quarters (79%) of Year 11 & 12 pupils are aware that they can have a career in the creative industries.

Almost half (49%) of Year 11 & 12 pupils would be interested in studying specific areas to help them work towards a career in the creative industries. The creative subjects that most pupils have had the opportunity to study at school are:

Table 4: Would you be interested in working in any of these areas?

Area	% of respondents
Games	33%
TV & Film	32%
Design	27%
Tech	27%
Music	23%
Fashion	20%



Libraries & Arts

Over two fifths (43%) of pupils have not visited the public library in the past 12 months. For those who did visit, the most popular reasons for visiting were to borrow, bring back or renew books (59%) and to do homework or study (34%). Pupils reported that a better selection of books (31%) and having more free time (35%) would encourage them to use the public library more.

The most commonly reported types of arts activities that pupils had **taken part in** were reading for pleasure (30%), playing an instrument (30%), dancing (23%) and painting, drawing, sculpting or printmaking (29%). Pupils felt the following benefits from participating in or attending arts activities:

The majority (82%) of pupils have **been to** some form of arts event in the past year. The most common types of event were: film at a cinema (73%), pantomime/musical (27%), museum (25%) and play/drama at a theatre or other venue (18%).



Museums & Science Centres

The museums and science centres that pupils are most likely to have visited in the last 12 months are W5 (39%) and the Ulster Museum (32%) (see Figure 9).

Over two thirds (70%) of pupils who visited museums and science centres did so with family and friends. Less than half (41%) of visits were with a school trip and 10% were with a club or group. Almost four out of five (79%) pupils enjoyed their last visit.

A small number of pupils (8%) reported that a museum had visited their class in the past year.

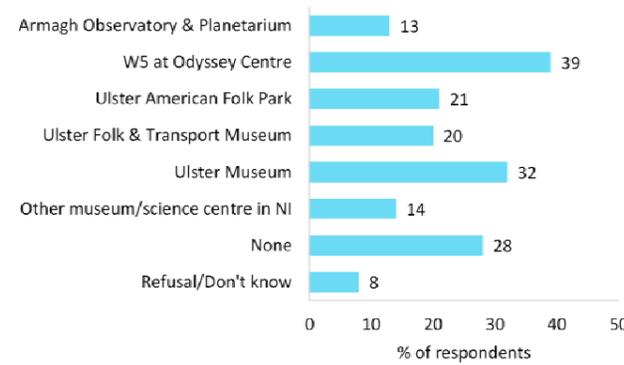


Figure 9: Which, if any, of the following places have you visited in the last 12 months?

Breastfeeding

A third of pupils (32%) think that the healthiest way to feed a 3 month old baby is breast and bottle feeding, however 24% don't know what the healthiest way to feed a 3 month old baby is (see Figure 10).

When they see a woman breastfeeding her baby, almost half (48%) of pupils think that is it just a normal part of life. Sixteen percent of pupils have never seen anyone breastfeeding and 16% feel uncomfortable when they see a woman breastfeeding her baby.

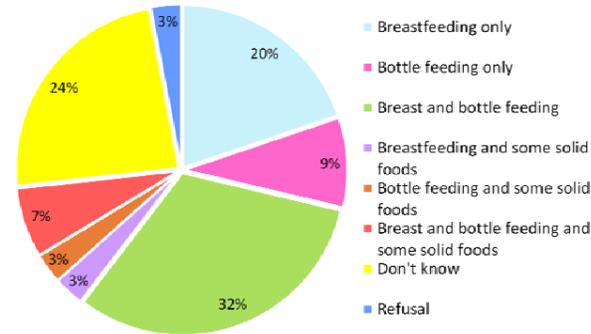
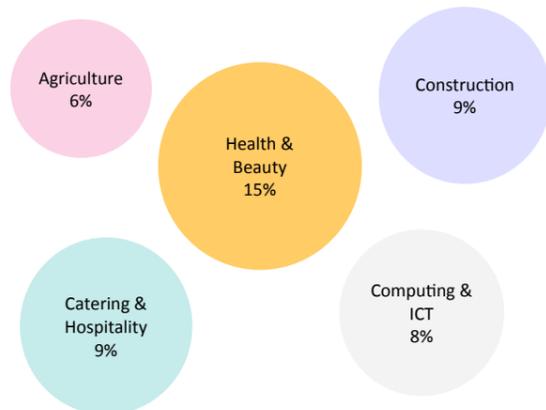


Figure 10: What do you think is the healthiest way to feed a 3 month old baby?

Starting a Business

Just over half (52%) of Year 11 & 12 pupils would like to start their own business in the future and over a third of pupils (35%) already have a business idea. The most popular categories of business idea are shown below:



Less than half (40%) of pupils are aware that support is available to help them start their own business and just over a quarter (28%) have ever had the opportunity to trial a business idea in school.



Figure 11: Which, if any, of these organisations have you heard of?

Sport and Physical Activity

The majority (94%) of pupils generally enjoy doing sport or physical activity. Most pupils (83%) think that they should spend 60 minutes or more per day doing physical activity or sport, however only 12% of pupils had exercised for at least 60 minutes per day over the previous week.

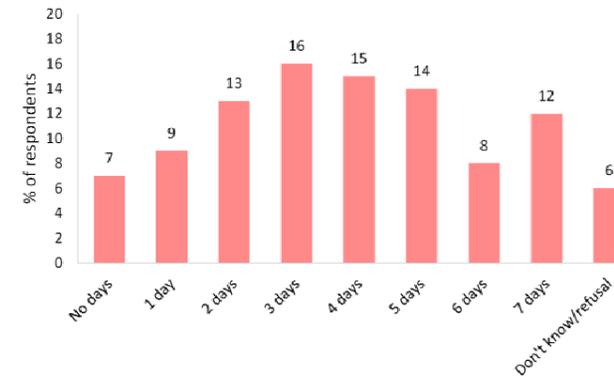
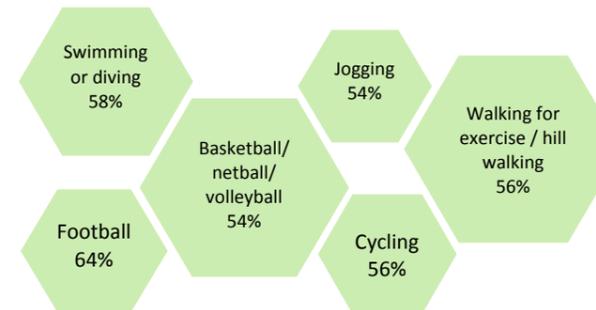


Figure 12: Over the last 7 days, on how many days have you played any sport, done any physical activity, or played actively that made you out of breath or hot and sweaty for a total of at least 60 minutes each day?

The most popular sports that pupils have done in the past year are:



63% of pupils normally spend at least **2 hours a week doing PE** or games lessons at school.

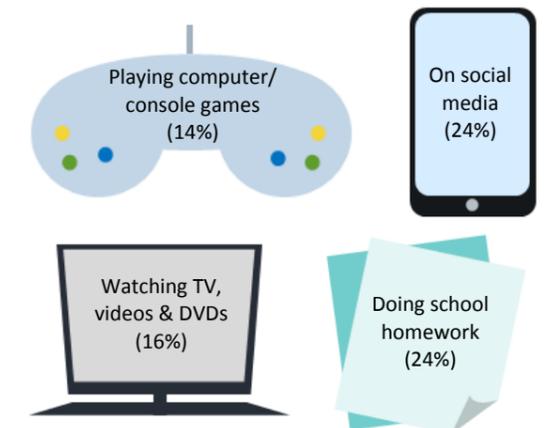
45% are **members of school clubs or teams** that involve sport or physical activity.

62% are **members of clubs or teams outside of school** that involve sport or physical activity.

The most common benefits that pupils feel they get from sport and physical activity are: having fun (80%), keeping fit (71%) and learning new skills or developing existing skills (63%).

Pupils reported that having someone to go with (54%), facilities nearer to home/school (41%) and cheaper admission prices (30%), would encourage them to participate in sport more in the future.

Pupils were asked how long they had spent participating in certain other activities during the past week. The percentage of pupils who spent between 10 and 20 hours on each activity is shown below:



Care in the Sun and Sunbeds

Most pupils (89%) have never used a sunbed. Almost two thirds (63%) of pupils would associate sunbeds with a higher risk of skin cancer, 29% would associate them with eye damage and 25% would associate them with premature ageing.

Over half (58%) of pupils think they look better with a tan and 37% think that having a tan makes people look healthier. Two fifths (41%) of pupils disagree with the statement "people who tan are damaging their skin".

77% of pupils **use sunscreen**, at least sometimes, if spending 30 minutes outside on a sunny day.

15% often or always take **no protective measures** if outside on a sunny day.

39% of pupils have had **sunburn at least twice** in the past year.

73% of pupils **seek shade**, at least sometimes, if outside for more than 30 minutes on a sunny day.