

# The Wolverhampton Children and Young People's Health Related Behaviour Survey 2024

## Public Health Executive Report

Prepared by the Schools Health Education Unit, Exeter  
for the City of Wolverhampton Council



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## Foreword

Thank you for taking the time to read this executive report, which summarises the findings of the 2024 Health Related Behaviour Survey. Thank you to the schools and young people who participated in the survey. Your contribution to this valuable consultation tool is greatly appreciated. This is the tenth time that the survey has run in Wolverhampton, and its continued success and longevity is very much down to the strong partnerships that we have in our City.

It is so important for us to understand the views and experiences of our children and young people to ensure they live healthily and thrive within our City. Being and staying healthy, both physically and emotionally, is crucial for a fulfilling life in general and for attainment at school. Habits, attitudes, influences and environments are all components to achieving a healthy lifestyle.

The information in this report will help City of Wolverhampton Council and its partners to better understand the attitudes, behaviours and lifestyle choices of our children and young people. In addition, it will help identify priorities and plan provision in relation to young people's health and wellbeing.

Further topics and information can be found in additional, thematic reports and data held by the starting, developing and living well team within the Wolverhampton Public Health Department. For further information, please email: [Howard.Jobber@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:Howard.Jobber@wolverhampton.gov.uk)

We want to take the opportunity to use this survey data to work collaboratively with schools and our wider partners to impact on the key challenges we have in our City and make a positive difference to the lives of children and young people.



**John Denley**

*Director of Public Health and Wellbeing*

*City of Wolverhampton Council*



**Councillor Jasbir Jaspal**

*City of Wolverhampton Council*

## Acknowledgements

The work was facilitated by the by the starting, developing and living well team within the Public Health department of City of Wolverhampton Council. SHEU are grateful to the children and young people, teachers and schools for their time and contributions to this survey. As a result of their work we have excellent data to be used by all organisations that support the health and wellbeing of young people in Wolverhampton.

The starting, developing and living well team team would like to thank all those colleagues and partners who spent many hours supporting and developing the survey in order to make it as valuable as possible. Finally, we would like to thank all the schools, teachers and most of all pupils who took the time to ensure that the survey continues to provide excellent data for discussion.

## Introduction

The Health Related Behaviour Survey (HRBS) has been running in Wolverhampton since 2006. The survey is carried out as a way of consulting with pupils and collecting robust information about young people's health and wellbeing. The HRBS is commissioned by the Starting, Developing and Living Well team within the City of Wolverhampton Council Public Health Department and carried out by the Schools Health Education Unit (SHEU) which has conducted the survey on behalf of the Council since its inception in 2006.

The survey is conducted with pupils in primary and secondary phase settings across Wolverhampton, who are asked to complete an anonymous on-line version of the survey appropriate for their age group. Schools are supported to collect the most reliable data with pupils in Years 2 (Key Stage 1 survey), 4 & 6 (Key Stage 2 survey), and 8 & 10 (Secondary Key Stage 3-4 survey) with other year groups taking part where appropriate. In 2024 survey schools could also opt for a Year 7 version and a Year 12 version of the secondary survey.

HRBS 2024 was completed by a total of 12611 pupils in 34 primary (KS1) settings, 48 primary (KS2) settings, 15 secondary (KS3-4) settings, 4 schools completed the Year 12 survey and 5 special schools also took part.

School Year	Year 2	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Total
Boys	728	879	225	982	594	776	504	747	64	120	5619
Girls	741	910	216	926	781	840	522	982	160	339	6417
<b>Total</b>	<b>1490</b>	<b>1839</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>1944</b>	<b>1414</b>	<b>1668</b>	<b>1061</b>	<b>1777</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>12364*</b>

\* 328 young people didn't select male or female. 247 students took part in a bespoke special school survey so their results are reported elsewhere.

### Summary and topic reports

Five topic reports: Emotional Health and Wellbeing; Relationships and Sexual Health; Drug Education and Substances; Healthy Lifestyles and Safety (including bullying) have also been produced to disseminate the findings of the survey to as wide an audience as possible in a format that is useful to the needs of partner agencies. For more information email: [Howard.Jobber@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:Howard.Jobber@wolverhampton.gov.uk)



## Navigating the report

### Headlines

The report is divided into five sections that reflect local priorities. Section 1 – Emotional Health and Wellbeing, Section 2 – Healthy Lifestyles, Section 3 – Growing up, Relationships and Sexual Health, Section 4 – Smoking, Substances and Gambling and Section 5 – Safety (including bullying).

### Trends

The survey questions have changed somewhat compared with previous years but where possible, trend charts have been included to provide useful insight for key priority areas.

### Phase differences

A selection of questions used across both the Key Stage 2 survey and the secondary survey have been presented to look for age-related differences in responses.

### Mapping of geographical variation

The primary school data available has been divided into ward areas by postcode of the pupil. This protects the identity of the schools involved. The differences observed across the ward maps are not tested for statistical significance but the colour coding is indicative of the geographical variation in responses.

### Demographics

A selection of self-reported demographics can be found on page 21 of this report.

### Inequalities ≠

A selection of questions for each of the primary and secondary questionnaires have been selected to look for different responses across potential vulnerable groups. The full breakdown by Year group can be found on pages 22 to 24 of this report, but are also indicated with the commentary in the thematic areas.

### Links § between behaviours

§ Cross tabulations have been investigated for some of the key questions in the survey to look for links between behaviours. Each § statement is a statistically significant finding; to save space, only a few have been selected but full lists are available.

# Section 1 Key Thematic Areas – Emotional Health and Wellbeing

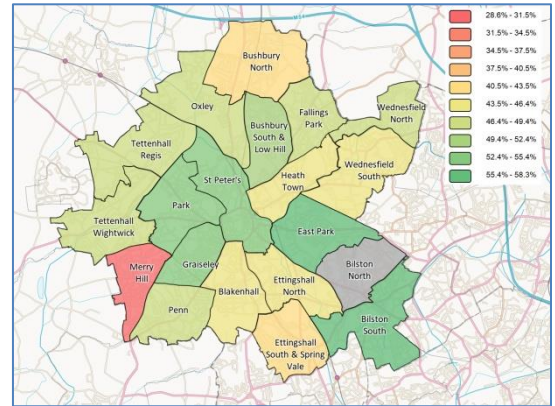
## Headlines

### Emotional and Mental Health

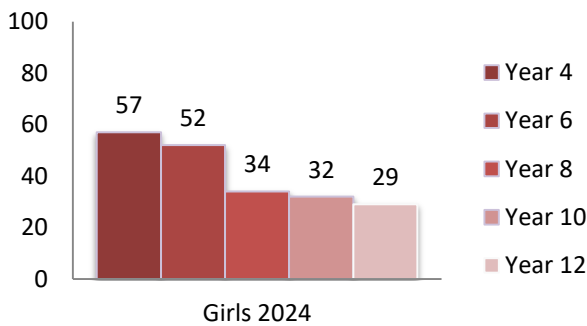
- 58% of Key Stage 1 said they mostly feel happy at school. 58% of Key Stage 2, 41% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils and 32% of FE students said that they feel happy with their life at the moment.
- There appear to be marked differences between the proportions of secondary girls achieving high percentages compared with boys for each of these indicator question sets (primary - Sterling Children's Wellbeing Scale\* and secondary – SWEMWBS\*\*). 48% of primary pupils said that they enjoy what each new day brings (an item from the Sterling Children's Wellbeing scale).
- There has been an increase this year for secondary pupils rating their school lessons on mental health and wellbeing as 'good/very good'. 46% said this in 2024 compared with 35% in 2022. The figures for Year 12 have also increased to 59% in 2024 compared with 42% in 2022.



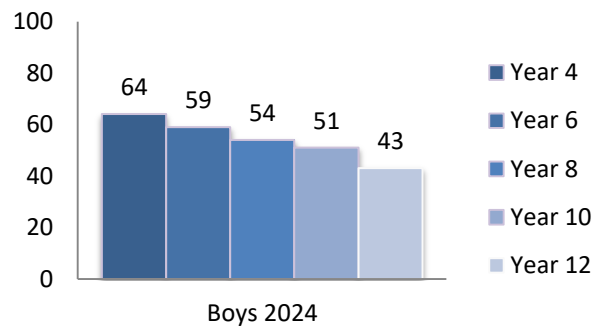
### Year 6 pupils – Enjoy what each new day brings



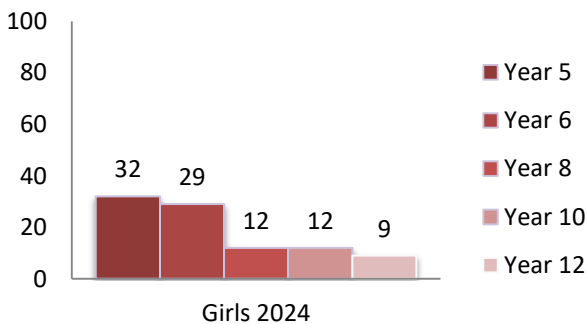
### Happy with life



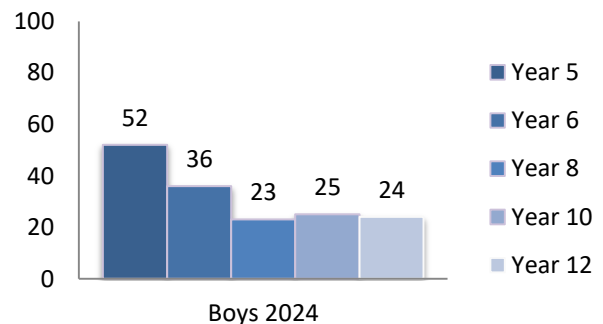
### Happy with life



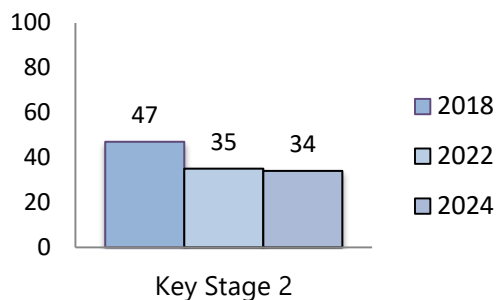
### High/maximum wellbeing score



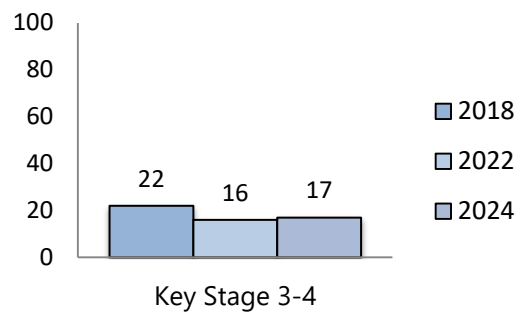
### High/maximum wellbeing score



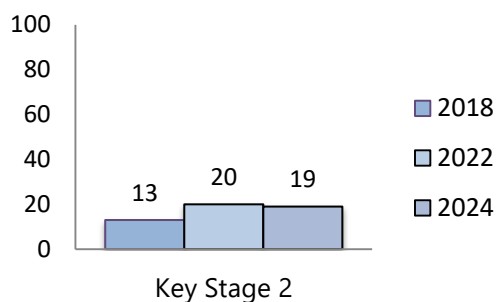
### Primary Trends – High/max wellbeing



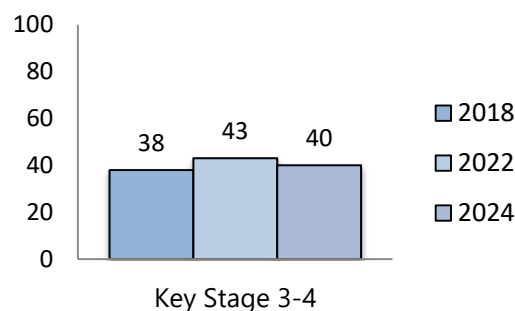
### Secondary Trends – High/max wellbeing



### Primary Trends – Low/med-low wellbeing



### Secondary Trends – Low/med-low wellbeing

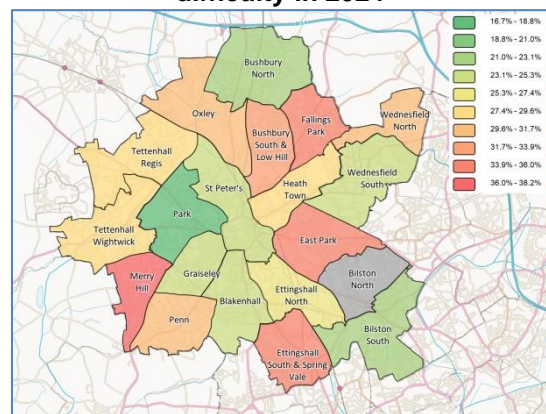


## Worries

- 73% of Key Stage 1 and 89% of Key Stage 2 said if they are worried, they have an adult they trust that they can talk to about this. 44% of secondary pupils and 59% of FE students said if they were worried about their mental health they had an adult they trust at home to talk to about this.
- There is a clear upward trend for secondary pupils worrying about tests (more girls than boys). This doesn't appear to be the same trend for the primary phase.
- There are clear links between worrying and poor mental health. 29% of Key Stage 2 pupils appeared outside the expected range for emotional issues (Me and My feelings Questionnaire\*\*\*) therefore displaying signs of emotional difficulty.
- 16% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils recorded levels suggestive of clinical emotional difficulty. This is compounded by inequalities – see breakdown below.



### Year 6 pupils – displaying emotional difficulty in 2024



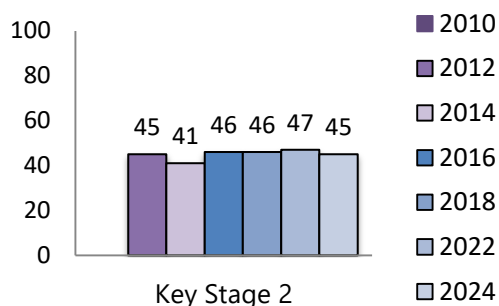
\*The Stirling Children's Well-being Scale (SCWBS) was developed by the Stirling Council Educational Psychology Service (UK) as a holistic, positively worded measure of emotional and psychological well-being in children aged eight to 15 years.

\*\* Short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale SWEMWBS © NHS Health Scotland, University of Warwick and University of Edinburgh, 2006, all rights reserved.

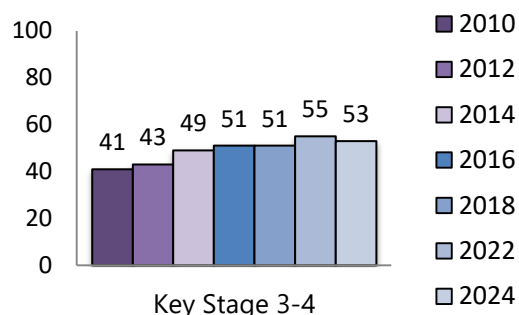
\*\*\*Me and My Feelings questionnaire © Deighton, Tymms, Vostanis, Belsky, Fonagy, Brown, Martin, Patalay & Wolpert (2012).



### Primary Trends – Worry about tests



### Secondary Trends – Worry about tests



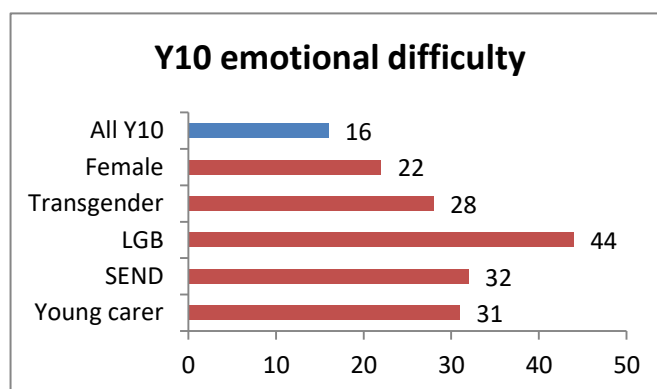
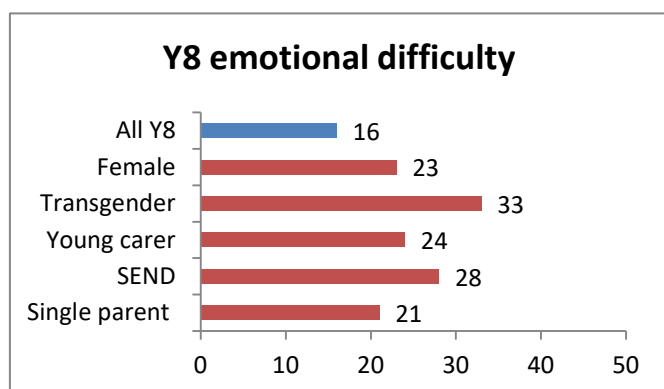
### Inequalities ≠

Year 8 pupils were significantly more likely to have recorded levels suggestive of clinical emotional difficulty if they were:

- Female
- Transgender
- A Young Carer
- Have Special Educational Need or Disability
- In a single parent family

Year 10 pupils were significantly more likely to have recorded levels suggestive of clinical emotional difficulty if they were:

- Female
- Transgender
- LGB
- Have Special Educational Need or Disability
- A Young Carer



### Commentary

As in previous years, the results for the questions around emotional health are poorer for girls compared with the results for boys. Girls are less likely to appear in the highest brackets in the Stirling (primary) and Short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale SWEMWBS (secondary). Key Stage 3-4 secondary aged girls are also more likely to have levels suggestive of clinical emotional difficulty compared with Key Stage 3-4 secondary aged boys. For those young people identifying as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender (LGBT) or have SEND, they are more likely still to be experiencing behaviour suggestive of clinical emotional difficulty.

### Inequalities

Year 10 pupils were most likely to say they were happy with life if they were male, from Asian or middle Eastern/West Asian background or if English wasn't their first language at home.

Year 10 pupils were least likely to say they were happy with life if they were female, LGBT, have SEND, are from a single parent family or are currently receiving free school meals.

Year 6 pupils were most likely to worry about at least one of the issues listed if they were female, White non-UK, are from a single parent family, a Young Carer or are currently receiving free school meals.

# Section 2 Key Thematic Areas – Healthy Lifestyles

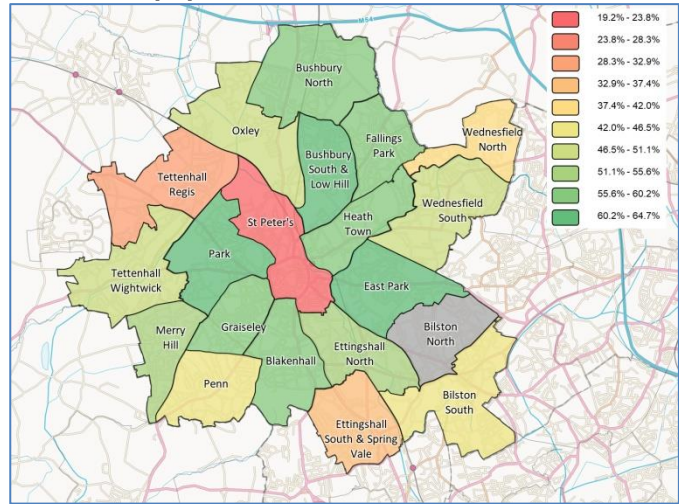
## Headlines

### Active Travel and Physical Activity

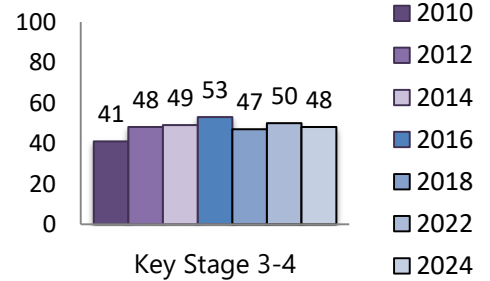
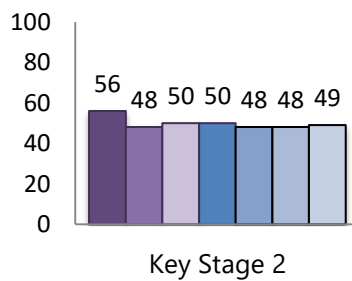
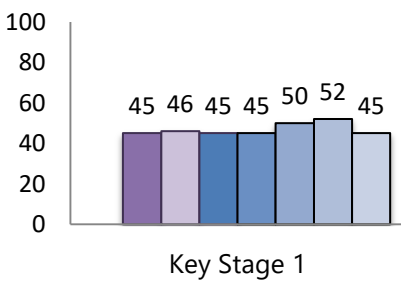
45% of Key Stage 1, 49% of Key Stage 2 and 48% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils walked, scooted or cycled to school on the day of the survey in 2024.



2024 Year 6 pupils – who walked or scooted to school:



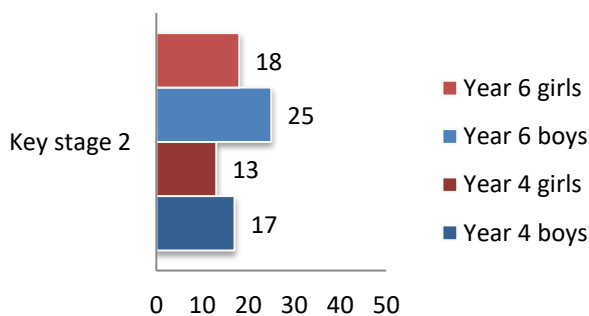
- 54% of Key Stage 1, 54% of Key Stage 2 and 42% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils came by car, van or taxi on the day of the survey in 2024.
- 87% of Key Stage 1 and 92% of Key Stage 2 pupils said it was 'quite' or 'very easy' to be physically active at playtime.
- 82% of Year 6 pupils and 74% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that they like being active.
- Trends for walking/scooting to school:



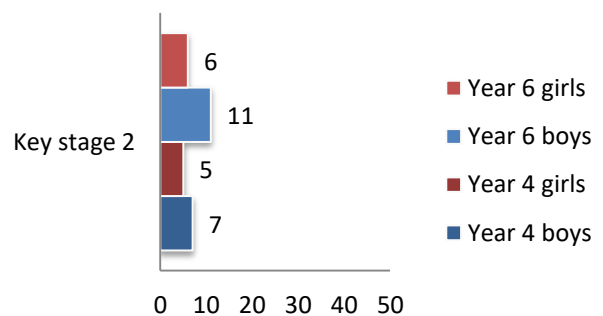
### Physical Activity and Sports

- In 2024 56% of Key Stage 2 pupils and 48% of secondary pupils attend a physical activity/sports club; 52% of Key Stage 2 pupils said this in 2022.
- 18% of Key Stage 2 pupils responded that they were active at school for at least 30 minutes where they had to breathe harder and faster on 5 or more days in the week before the survey. 7% said this for 'out of school' on 7 days in the last week.\*

Active in school for 30+ minutes on 5 days

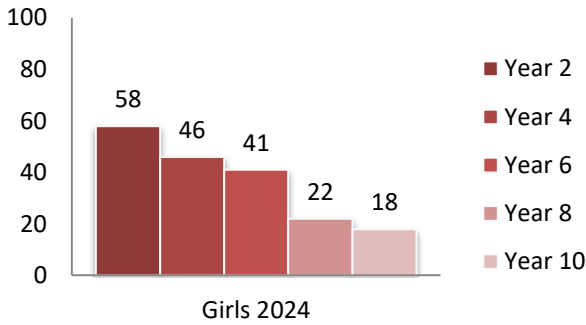


Active out of school for 30+ minutes on 7 days

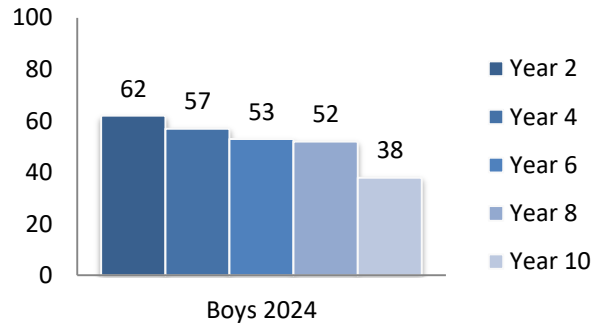


\* Chief Medical Officer's guidance on 5-18 year olds being physically active for 60 mins every day <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/physical-activity-guidelines-children-and-young-people-5-to-18-years> This is usually split as 30 mins at school and 30 mins outside of school (as in the Govt. obesity strategy).

### Enjoying being physically active at school 'A lot'

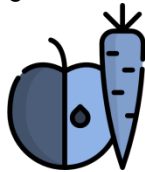


### Enjoying being physically active at school 'A lot'

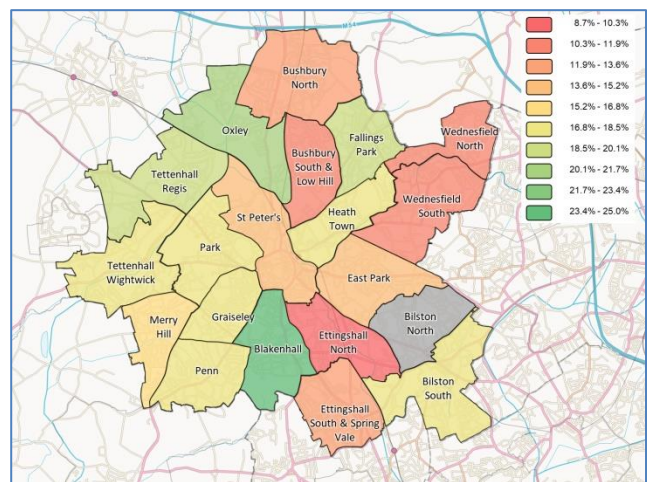


### Healthy Eating and 5-a-day

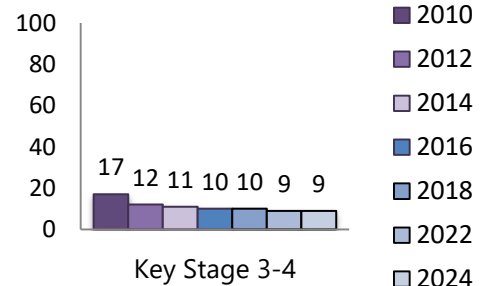
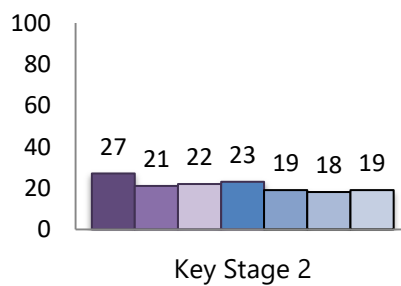
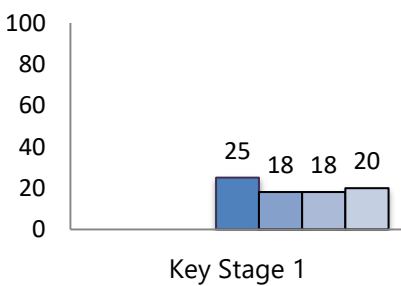
- 20% of Key Stage 1, 19% of Key Stage 2, 9% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils and 9% of FE students had at least 5 portions of fruit and vegetables the day before the survey.
- 43% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils bought food from takeaways/fast food outlets on at least one day in the week before the survey; 5% did so on at least 3 days.
- 68% of Key Stage 1, 73% of Key Stage 2 and 81% of secondary pupils said they brushed their teeth at least twice the day before.



### 2024 Year 6 pupils – had at least 5+ portions the day before:



### Trends for having 5-a-day:



### Wanting to lose weight

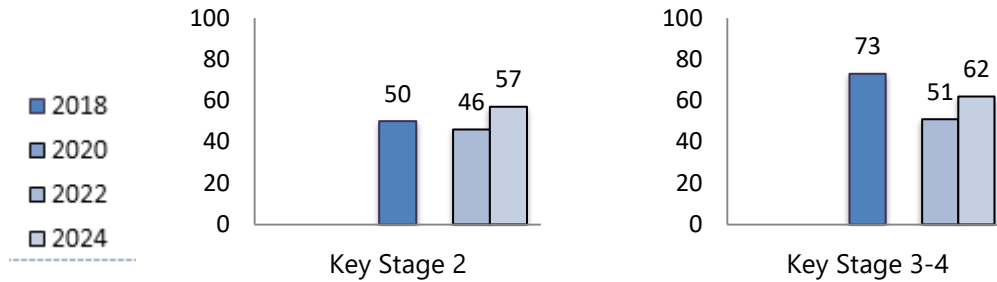
44% of Year 8 girls and 45% of Year 10 girls said they would like to lose weight in 2024; 50% of Year 12 girls in the FE survey said the same.

33% of Year 8 boys and 25% of Year 10 boys said they would like to lose weight in 2024; 25% of Year 12 boys in the FE survey said the same.

## Cookery and food preparation lessons in school

There has been an increase in pupils saying they have had cookery / food prep lessons in last 12 months. In 2024 57% of KS2 pupils said this compared with 46% in 2022. 50% said this in 2018.

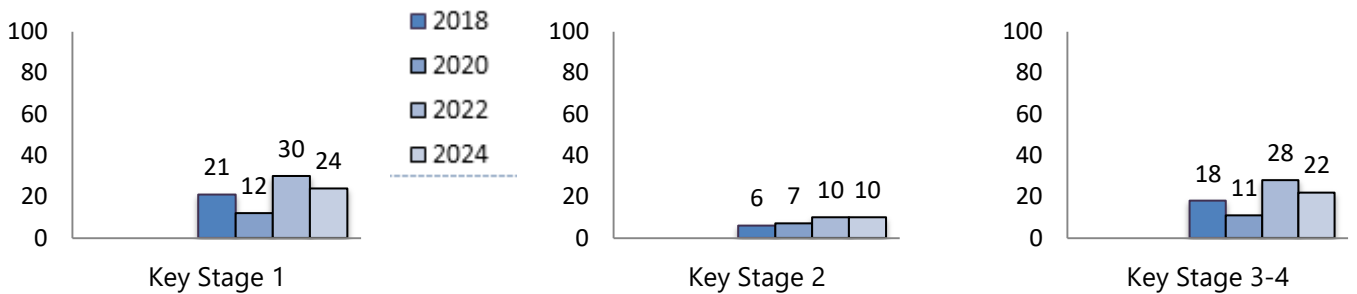
The secondary figures also appear to be recovering from a low figure of 51% in 2022 - this may have been due to Covid restrictions. For Year Y8, 62% said they have had cookery/food preparation lessons in school in 2024. This compared with 51% in 2022 but still lower than the 73% seen in 2018:



## Oral Health

Since 2018, pupils have been asked about their last visit to the dentist. In 2024, 24% of KS1 pupils and 10% of KS2 pupils said they have never been to the dentist. 22% of KS3-4 pupils said they have never been to the dentist or haven't been in a long time.

- Trends for never visiting the dentist (KS1 and KS2) or never/not been for a long time KS3/4:



### Local clubs

36% of Year 10 girls agree that there were lots of clubs/activities they can go to near where they live. 29% of girls disagree with this.

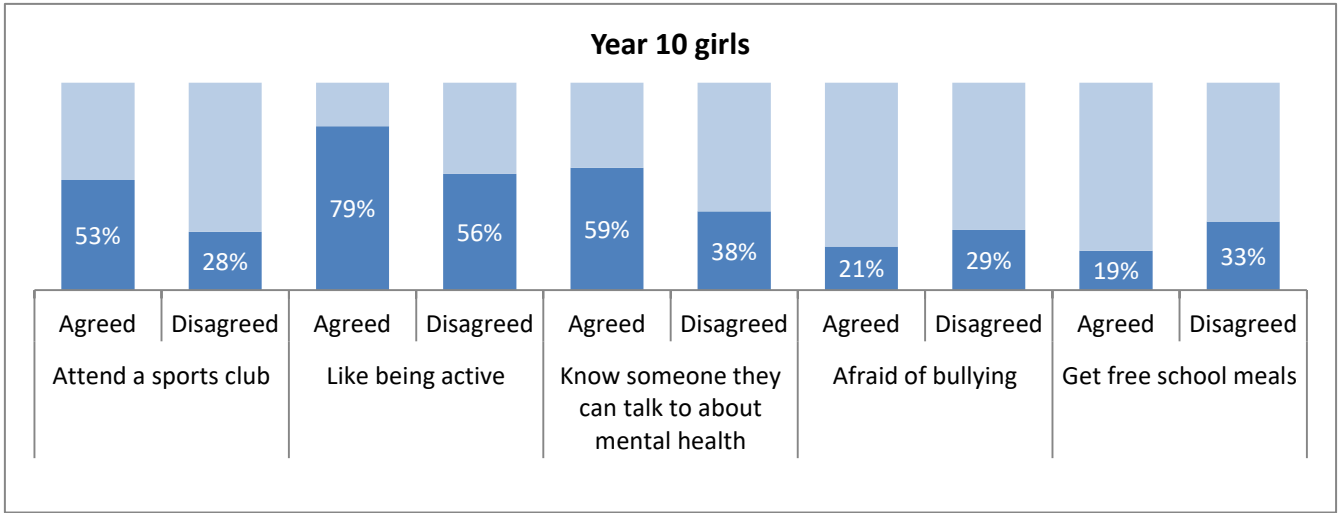
When compared with Year 10 girls who agreed that there were lots of clubs/activities they can go to near where they live, girls who **disagreed with this** were:

Significantly more likely to:

- Be afraid of going to school because of bullying at least 'sometimes'
- Have free school meals

Significantly less likely to:

- Attend a physical sports club
- Like being active
- Know someone they can talk to if they were worried about their mental health



### Take-away food

36% of Year 8 girls and 30% of Year 10 girls said they 'rarely or never' have takeaway food in 2024; 34% of Year 12 girls in the FE survey said the same.

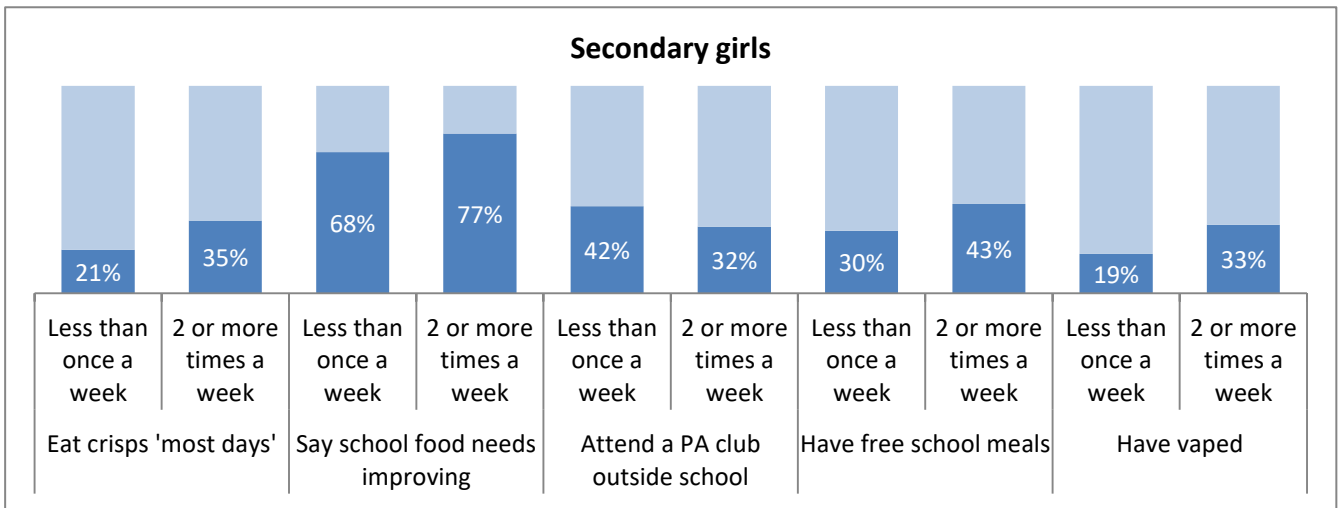
When compared with Key Stage 3-4 secondary aged girls who had take-away food no more than once a week, girls who had **take-away food on 2 or more days a week** were:

Significantly more likely to:

- Eat crisps 'on most days'
- Have at least tried vaping
- Have free school meals

Significantly less likely to:

- Attend a physical activity club outside school
- Agree that their school teaches them to deal with their feelings positively





## **Commentary**

There is a continuing downward trend for Year 10 girls saying they want to lose weight (49% in 2022 and 45% in 2024). There is a continuing downward trend for secondary pupils making unhealthy choices: crisps 'on most days' for example and more are saying they 'rarely or never' have take-away/fast food. For KS2 pupils the upward trend for having crisps 'on most days' appears now to have ended. 35% said this in 2024 compared with 38%, 32% and 27% for the previous surveys. Similarly, the KS2 downward trend for '5-A-Day' has stabilised.

## **Inequalities**

Year 8 pupils were most likely to miss breakfast if they were female, from black or mixed backgrounds, part of a single parent family or currently have free school meals.

Year 10 pupils were least likely to have lunch the day before if they were female, from a mixed or middle Eastern/West Asian background, part of a single parent family or currently have free school meals.

Year 10 pupils were least likely to walk, scoot or cycle to school if they were female, from Asian or Middle Eastern/West Asian backgrounds. Those most likely included males, those from single parent families or currently have free school meals.

# Section 3 Key Thematic Area – Growing up, Relationships and Sexual Health

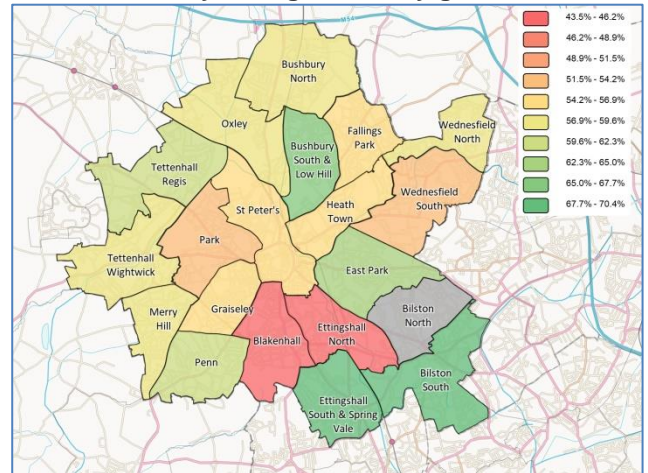
## Headlines

### Growing up

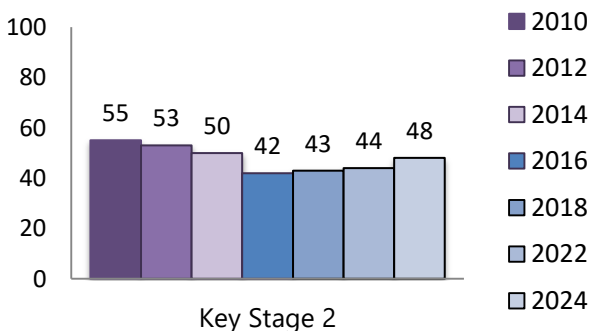
- 57% of Key Stage 2 pupils in 2024 said that they have found the information and advice they have been given in school about relationships, growing up and body changes (puberty) 'quite' or 'very' useful. This was at 58% in 2022, 53% in 2018, and 46% reported this in 2016.
- 62% of Key Stage 2 pupils in 2024 said that they feel 'happy' about growing up and body changes. This was at 66% in 2022, 65% in 2018 and 60% seen in 2016.
- 27% of Year 6 girls in 2024 have started their periods. This compares with 28% in 2022, 15% in 2018 and 19% seen in 2016.
- 76% of Key Stage 2 pupils in 2024 said that they have got helpful information about growing up and body changes from their parents/carers. This is higher than the 75% in 2022, the 70% in 2018 and the 66% seen in 2016.
- Until 2018 there had been a downward trend for primary pupils who said they know enough about body changes. This appears to be moving in the other direction now. There is a marked gender difference for feeling happy about it:



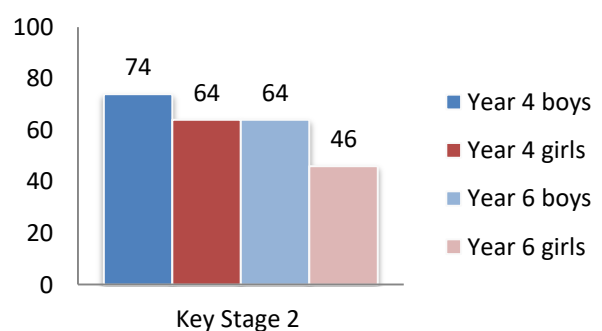
2024 Year 6 pupils – Know enough about how their body changes as they get older:



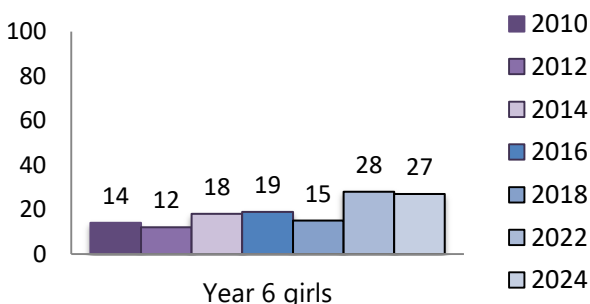
Primary Trends – know enough about body changes and growing up



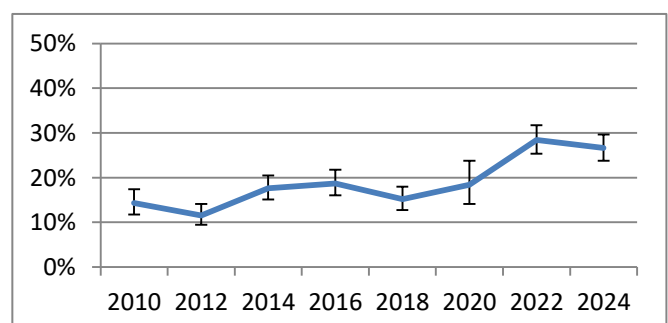
Primary – feel happy about growing up and body changes



Primary Trends – Year 6 girls have started their period



Primary Trends – Year 6 girls that have started their period (N.B. small sample for 2020)



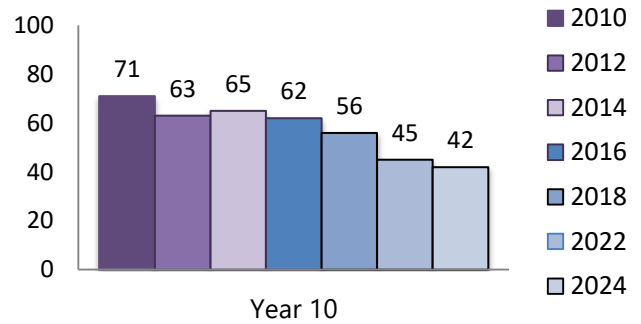
## Sexual Health

- 13% of Year 10 secondary pupils and 22% of FE students in 2024 were aware that they can order a free chlamydia test kit online or from a youth club or school nurse.

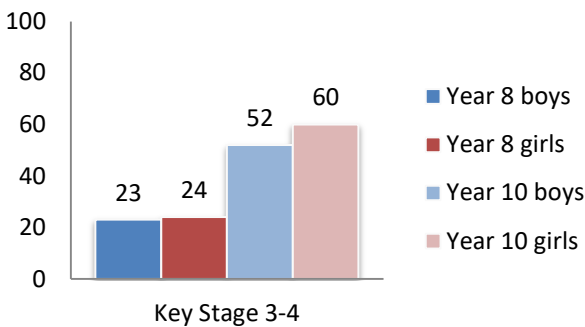


- 16% of Year 8 and 42% of Year 10 secondary pupils in 2024 said they knew where to get condoms free of charge. 35% of FE students said the same.
- There has been a downward trend for Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils who know where to get condoms free of charge:

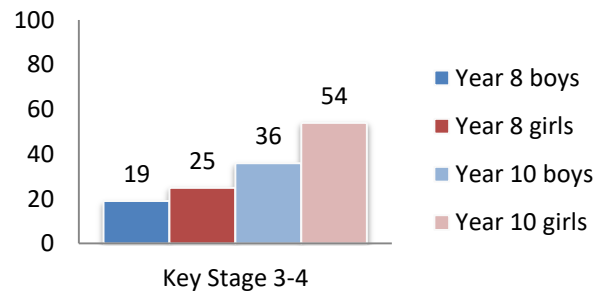
### Secondary – know where to get condoms free of charge:



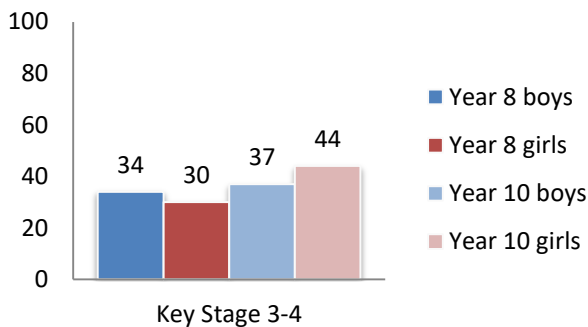
### Secondary – say they know about Chlamydia:



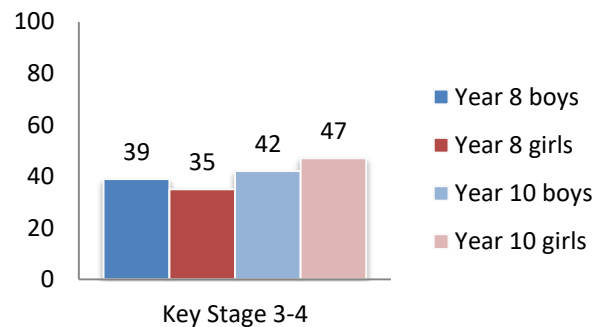
### Secondary – say they know about the contraceptive implant



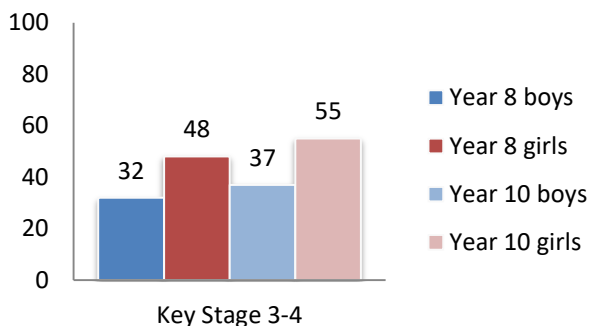
### Secondary – say RSE Lessons were 'quite' or 'very useful'



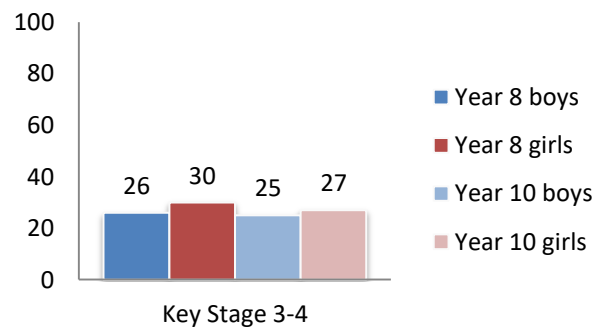
### Secondary – say lessons on sexual consent were 'quite' or 'very useful'



### Secondary – say 'I know who my School Nurse is'



### Secondary – say they are aware they can access support using 'Chat health'



- There has been an increase in pupils knowing when the School Nurse is available (46% 2024; 35% 2023; 27% 2022) and of awareness of the ChatHealth service offered by School Nursing (27% 2024; 20% 2022).

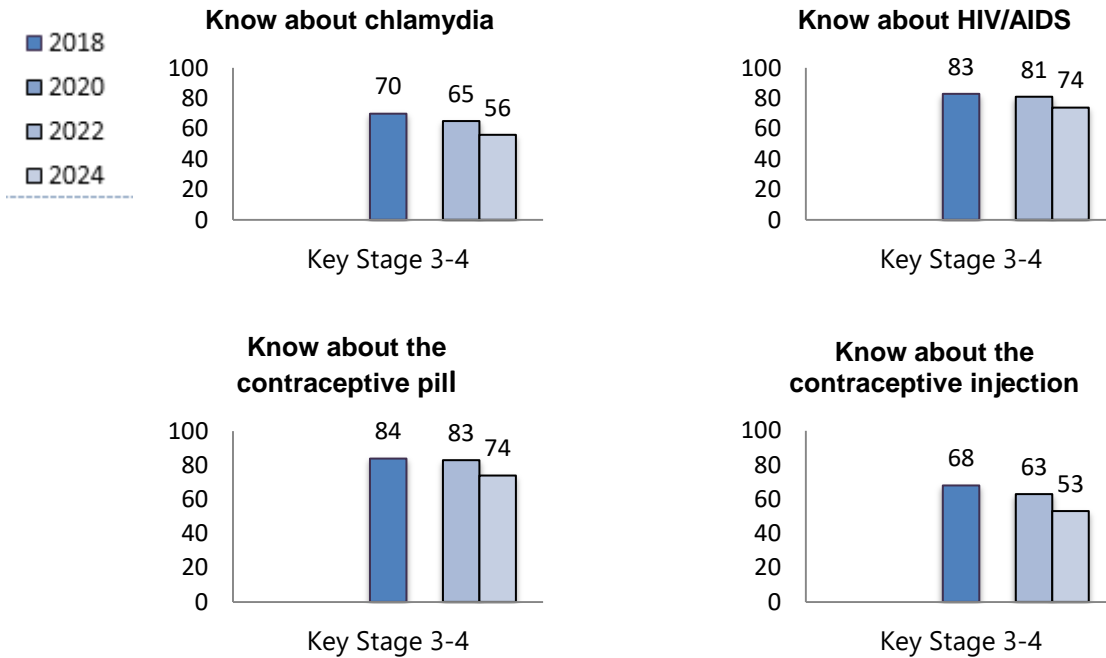
- There seems to have been a downward trend by Y10 in awareness / knowledge around some STIs and preventative forms of contraception e.g.:

Y10 know about Chlamydia (56% 2024; 65% 2022; 70% 2018)

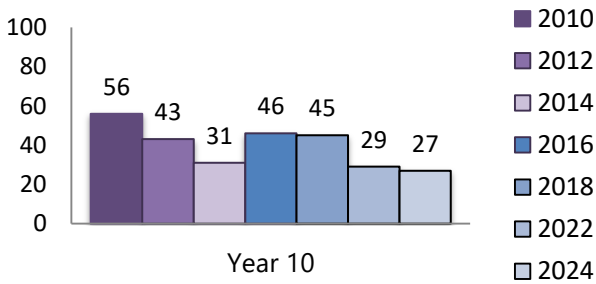
Y10 know about HIV / AIDS (74% 2024; 81% 2022; 83% 2018)

Y10 know about contraceptive pill (74% 2024; 83% 2022; 84% 2018)

Y10 know about contraceptive injection (53% 2024; 63% 2022; 68% 2018)



- There has been an overall downward trend in Y10 pupils being aware of local contraception and sexual health services available in Wolverhampton:



## Controlling Relationships

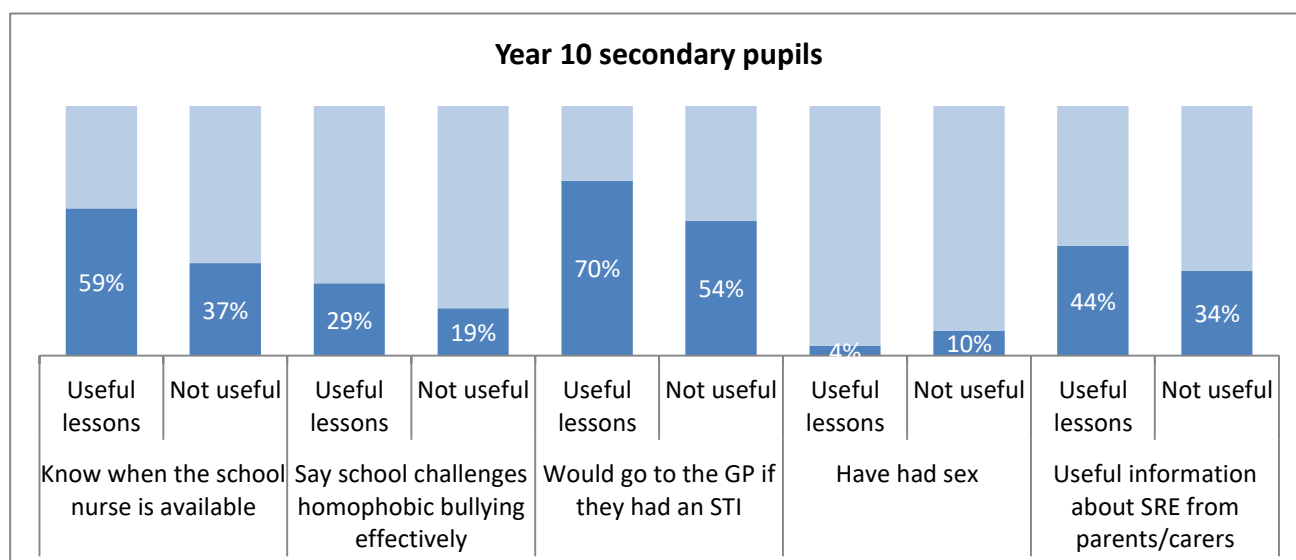
- 30% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils and 27% of FE students in 2024 said they have experienced at least one of the controlling behaviours listed by a current or previous boyfriend/girlfriend. This is slightly higher than the 27% seen in Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2022 and 2018 but much higher than the 22% who said this in 2016.
- The most commonly reported behaviour reported by Key Stage 3-4 pupils were being 'angry or jealous when I wanted to spend time with friends' (18% of boys and 19% of girls), 'used hurtful or threatening language to me' (13% of boys and 15% of girls) and 'kept checking my phone' (16% of boys and 12% of girls).
- When compared with Year 10 secondary pupils who said their RSE lessons were 'quite' or 'very useful' Year 10 secondary pupils who said that **they were 'not useful' or 'hadn't had any'** are:

Significantly more likely to:

- Have had sex
- Have experienced controlling partner behaviour

Significantly less likely to:

- Know when the school nurse is available
- Say school challenges homophobic bullying
- Go to their GP if they had an STI
- Say they have had useful information about SRE from their parents/carers



## Commentary

There appears to be continuing good news in the findings for questions in the primary survey for 2024. More primary pupils report receiving useful information about growing up from parents and carers. Slightly less in 2024 compared with 2022 found the information and advice they have been given in school about relationships, growing up and body changes (puberty) 'quite' or 'very' useful but the figures are still much higher than previous years. Secondary pupils are less likely to know where to get condoms free of charge in 2024 compared with previous years. During COVID-19, as we have seen in other areas, Year 6 girls in Wolverhampton were more likely to have started their periods than in previous years. This jumped from 19% in 2018 to 28% in 2022 but has fallen slightly to 27% in 2024 results.

## Inequalities

Year 8 pupils were most likely to have been the subject of sexual harassment if they were female, from White non-UK, black or mixed backgrounds, part of a single parent family or have SEND.

Year 10 pupils were least likely to have been the subject of sexual harassment if they were male, from Asian backgrounds or if English wasn't their first language at home.

Year 10 pupils were most likely to have been the subject of sexual harassment if they were female, LGBT, from White non-UK, black or mixed backgrounds, part of a single parent family, SEND, a Young Carer or currently have free school meals.



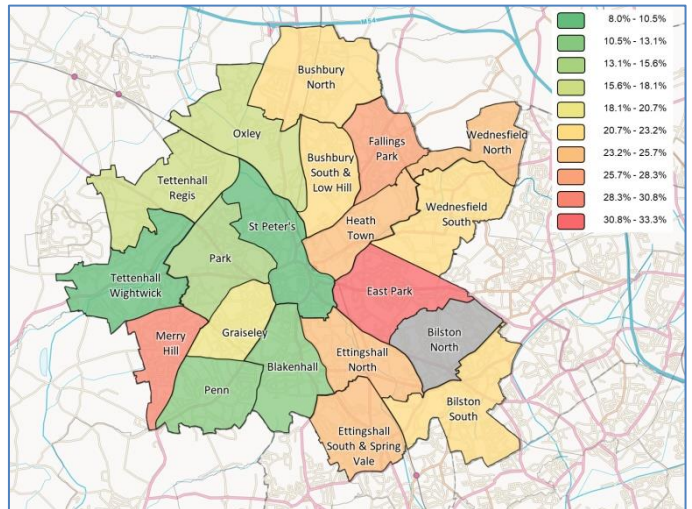
# Section 4 Key Thematic Area – Smoking, Substances and Gambling

## Headlines - smoking

- 34% of Key Stage 1, 18% of Key Stage 2 and 20% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils said that they have a parent or carer who smokes cigarettes, cigars or pipe tobacco.
- Only 5% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils have ever smoked, 0.4% say they smoke at least one cigarette a week.
- 21% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2024 said that their parents/carers vape. This is higher than the 20% saying this in 2022, the 19% in 2018 and 17% who said this in 2016.
- 19% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2024 said that they have vaped at least once or twice. 27% of FE students in 2024 have vaped. 3% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils and Year 12 students said that they vape at least once a week.

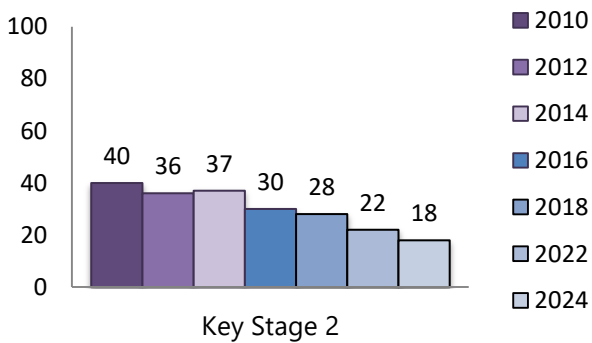


2024 Year 6 pupils – parent/carer smokes:

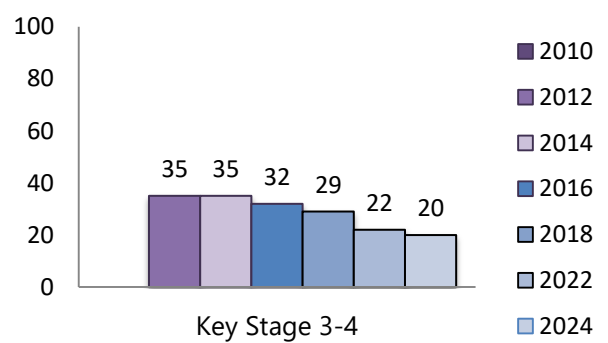


## Trends for Smoking:

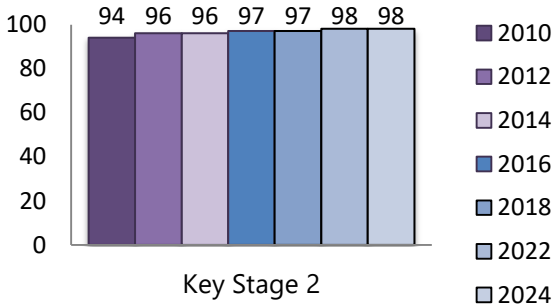
Primary - parent/carer smokes (2024 cigarettes, cigar or pipe tobacco)



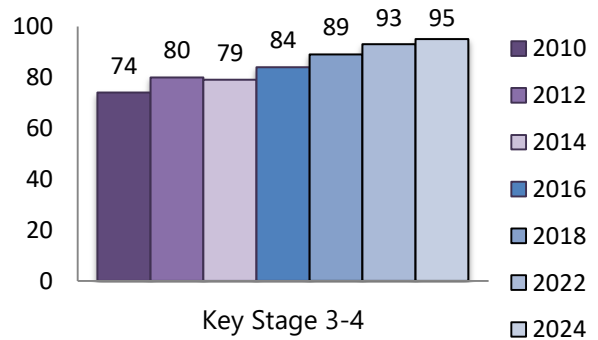
Secondary - parent/carer smokes (2022 onwards cigarettes, cigar or pipe tobacco)



Primary - never even tried smoking

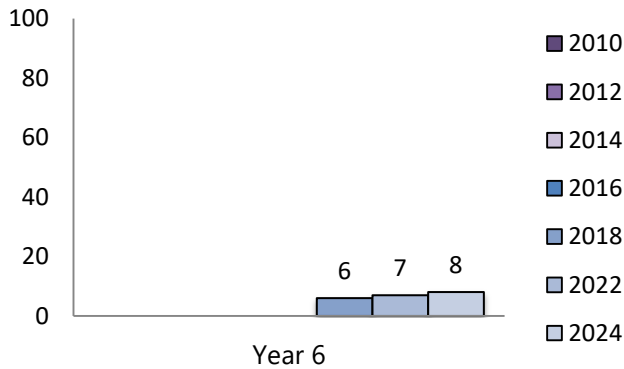


Secondary - never even tried smoking

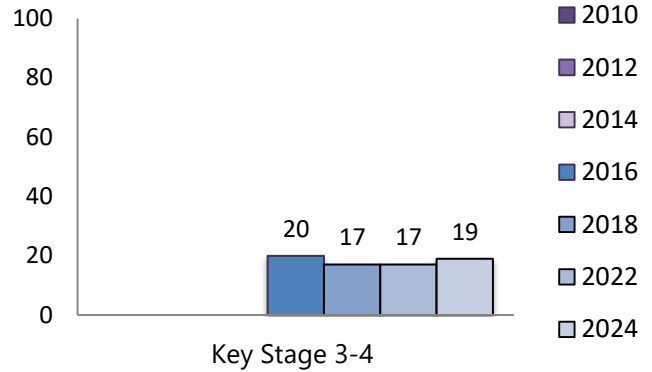


- There would appear to be an upward trend for vaping in the primary pupils' responses. The secondary trend seems less clear:

**Primary Trends – have vaped (Year 6)**

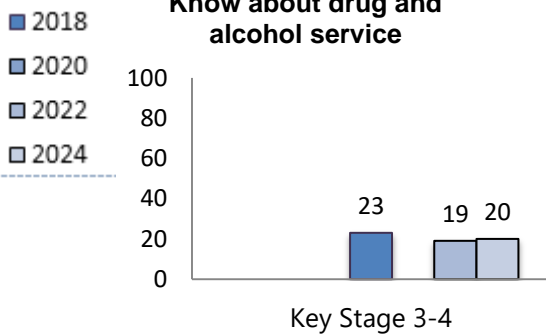


**Secondary Trends – have vaped**

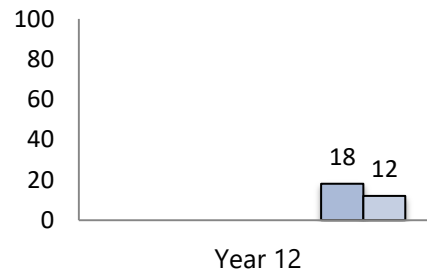


- There has been a slight recovery in the awareness of a special drug and alcohol service to help young people in Wolverhampton in 2024. For the Year 12 results, there appears to be a drop from the 18% in 2022 to 12% in 2024, but this may be due to the differences between the schools/colleges that surveyed, so caution must be taken with the interpretation of this fall.

**Know about drug and alcohol service**



**Know about drug and alcohol service**



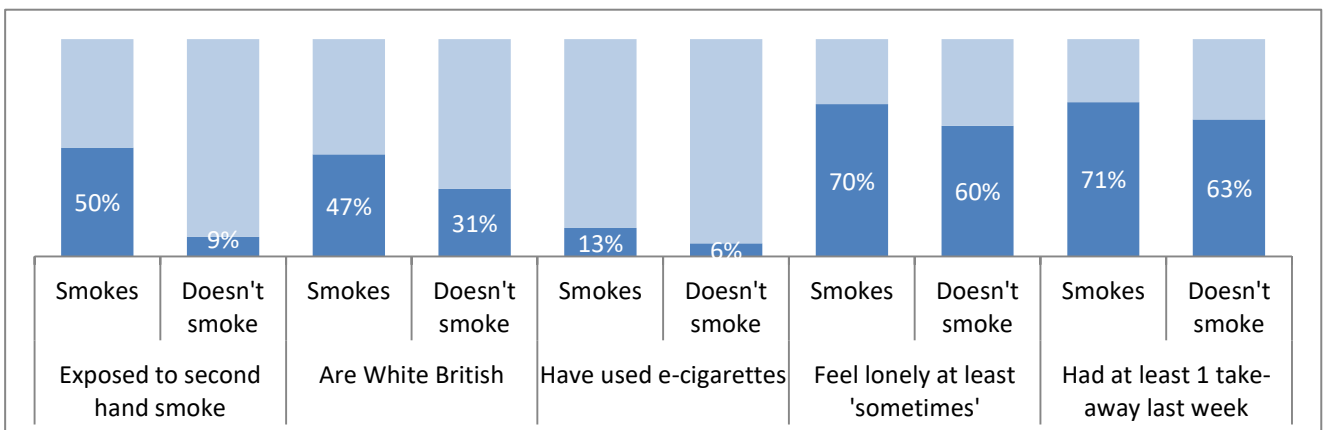
When compared with **primary pupils** who said they didn't have a parent/carer who smoked, primary pupils who said that **they have a parent/carer who smokes** are:

Significantly more likely to:

- Have been exposed to second hand smoke
- Say they are White British
- Have used e-cigarettes

Significantly less likely to:

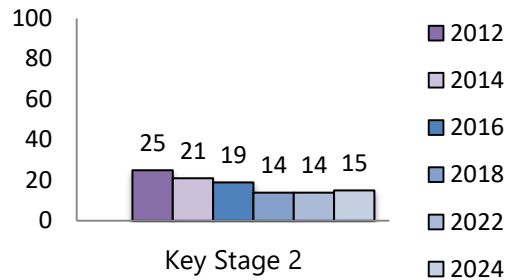
- Feel confident when they play sport
- Say it is important to go to school regularly



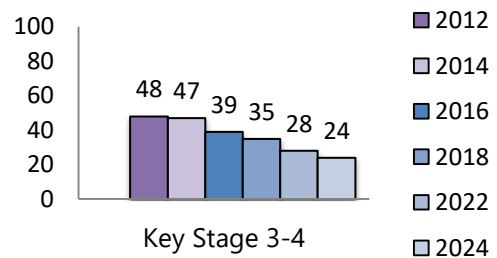
## Headlines – alcohol and other substances

- 17% of Key Stage 1 pupils have tasted alcohol. 15% of Key Stage 2 have drunk alcohol. 24% of secondary pupils said that they drink alcohol at least a few times a year.
- For those Key Stage 2 pupils reporting having ever drunk alcohol, the downward trend from 25% seen when the question came into the survey in 2012 to 14% in 2018 seemed to have levelled at 14% in 2022 but has risen slightly to 15% in 2024.
- 43% of Key Stage 2 pupils in 2024 said that they have got helpful information from teachers in school lessons about drugs; this is lower than the 58% reported in 2018.
- For Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils there is a similar downward trend: 48% in 2012 said that they have drunk alcohol compared with 24% in 2024. 44% of FE students in 2024 said they drink alcohol at least a few times a year.
- 4% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2024 have used an illegal drug. 10% of FE students said the same.
- 3% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2024 have ever used cannabis. 9% of FE students said the same.
- 1% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2024 have used cannabis in the last month. 3% of FE students said the same.
- 43% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2024 said that they have had 'quite' or 'very useful' information about drug education from teachers in school lessons. 21% said it was OK but they needed more.

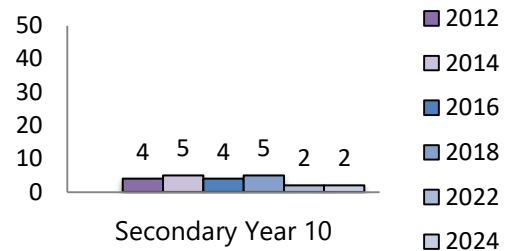
**Year 6 pupils – ever had alcohol:**  
(N.B. Question not asked in 2010)



**Secondary Trends – drink alcohol:**  
(N.B. 'At least a few times a year' 2024)



**Secondary Trends – cannabis last month:**



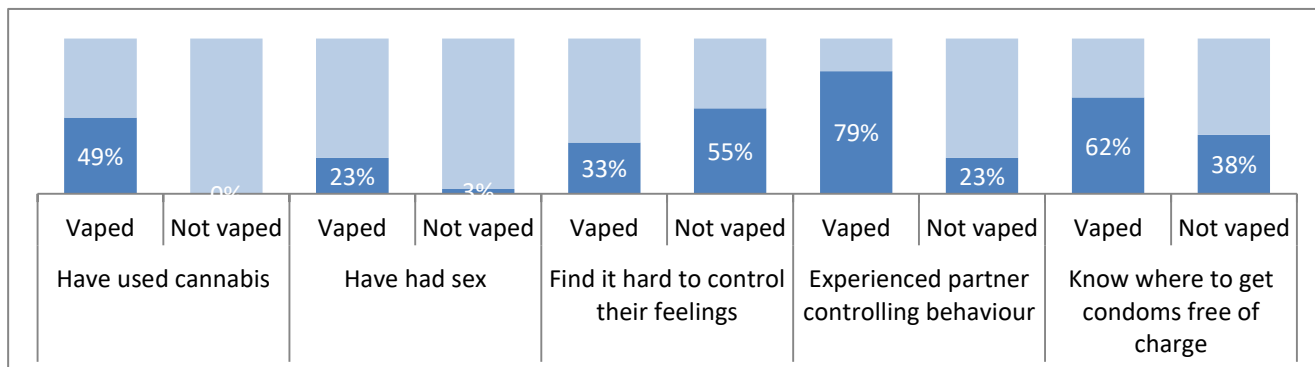
§ When compared with **Year 10 pupils** who said they haven't vaped, Year 10 pupils who said that **they have vaped** are:

Significantly more likely to:

- Have used cannabis
- Have had sex
- Have experienced controlling partner behaviour
- Know where to get condoms free of charge

Significantly less likely to:

- Find it easy to control their feelings
- Think safety going out during the day is good or very good



### Commentary

There appears to be a lot of good news for smoking both at pupil level and in the wider community. For those pupils who do live in homes with smokers however, there are links with other health-risk behaviours. More parents in 2024 are using e-cigarettes than in previous years (KS3/4 pupils - 21% in 2024 vs. 17% in 2016). The proportion of young people who have tried alcohol has continued to decline over time secondary pupils but there is a slight increase for the primary results for 2024. There remains a gap between the perception of how many peers drink or smoke and the reality of how many actually do.

Secondary aged pupils who vape are most likely to get them from their friends. By Year 12, vapers are most likely to get them from a shop - newsagent/off-licence/petrol station.

### Inequalities

Year 8 pupils were most likely to have smoked if they were transgender, from White non-UK or mixed backgrounds, part of a single parent family, a Young Carer, currently have free school meals or have SEND.

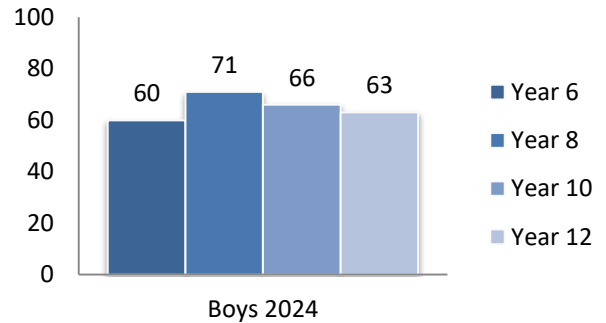
Year 10 pupils were least likely to have been offered drugs if they were male, from Asian backgrounds or if English wasn't their first language at home.

Year 10 pupils were most likely to have been offered drugs if they were female, LGBT, from mixed backgrounds or be part of a single parent family.

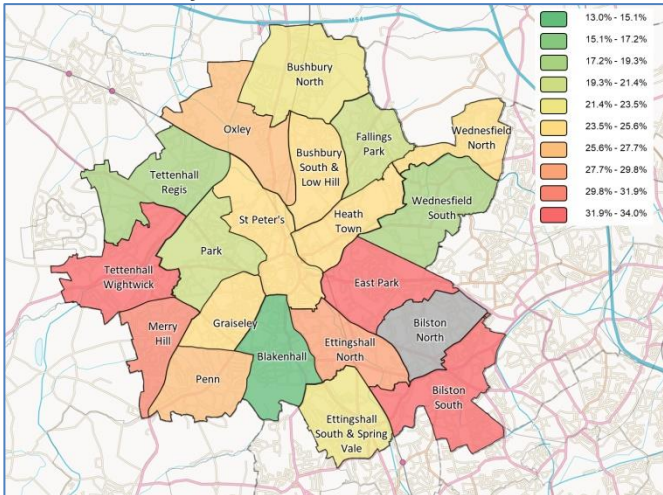
# Headlines – gambling

- 2024 was the first time we have asked questions about gambling. Some key findings include:
- 52% of KS2 pupils made in game purchases. 58% said they know where to get support if they are spending too much time or money on these activities.
- 54% of KS3-4 pupils made in game purchases (more boys than girls).
- 27% KS3-4 pupils said they lied about the money they spent on gambling and 20% spent more than they can afford.
- 23% of 16+ students said they lied about the money they spent on gambling and 12% spent more money than they can afford.

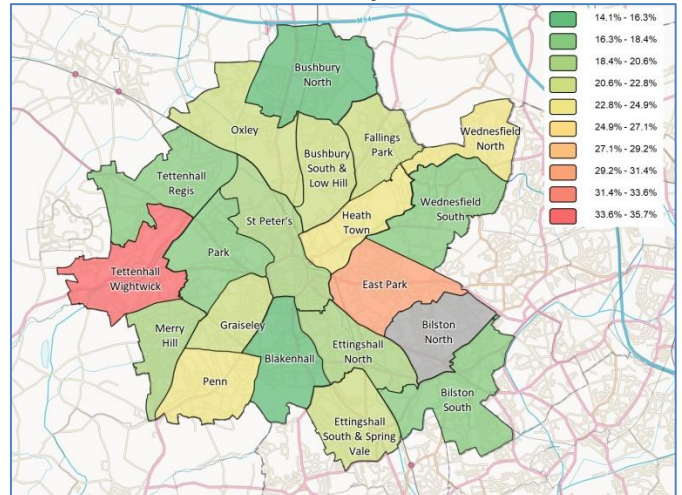
## Boys – who have made in game purchases (e.g. loot boxes, skins):



## 2024 Year 6 pupils - Make in-game or app purchases at least monthly



## 2024 Year 6 pupils - Play arcade games at least monthly





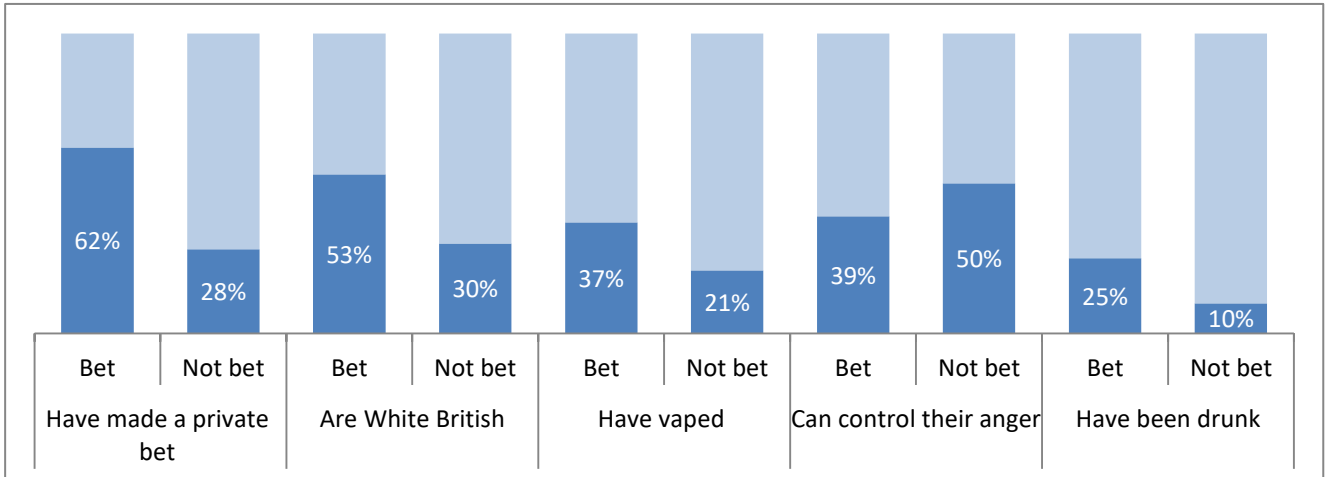
§ When compared with **Year 10 pupils** who said they haven't bet on sports events, Year 10 pupils who said that **they have made sports bets** are:

Significantly more likely to:

- Have made a private bet with family/friends
- Be White British
- Have at least tried vaping
- Have been drunk

Significantly less likely to:

- Say they can control their anger when they want to



§ When 56% of pupils who had lied to someone important to them about gambling said they have taken part in gambling activities and spent more than they could afford at some point; 17% said they have done so at least 'about once a month'. This compares with 11% and 3% respectively for pupils who hadn't lied to someone important to them about gambling.

# Section 5 Key Thematic Areas – Safety (including bullying)

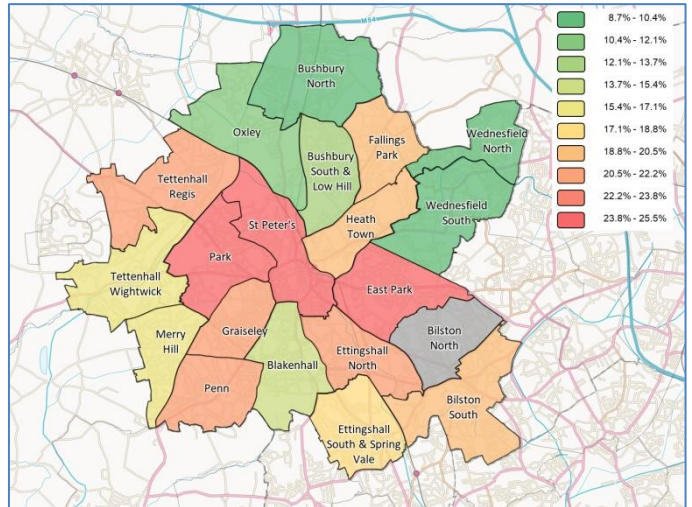
## Headlines

### Bullying

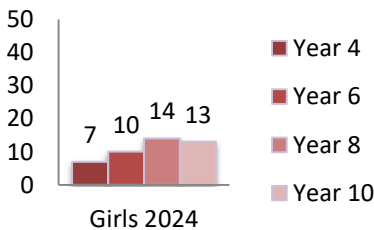
- 29% of Key Stage 1 said they feel scared to go to school because of other children, 32% of Key Stage 2 and 22% of secondary pupils said they feel afraid of going to school because of bullying at least 'sometimes'.
- 36% of Key Stage 2 pupils in 2024 said that their school deals 'very well' with bullying. This is lower than the 41% seen in 2022, the 45% seen in 2018 and 50% in 2016. 38% of secondary pupils said that their school deals 'not very well' with bullying. This is higher than the 30% seen in 2016.
- 25% of Key Stage 2 pupils in 2024 and 2022 said that they have been bullied online (cyber-bullying), this is higher than the 14% seen in 2018. 19% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2024 said that they have been bullied online compared with 13% seen in 2018.
- 17% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2024 said that they have been bullied in school in the last 6 months. This is lower than the 18% seen in 2018 but still higher than the 12% seen in 2016.



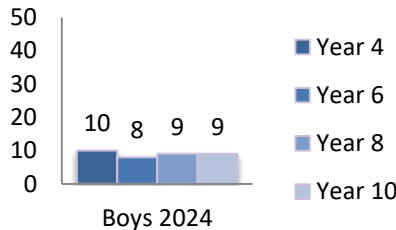
Year 6 pupils – bullied in school 2024



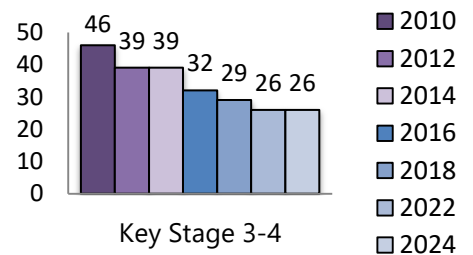
Bullied for race, colour or nationality



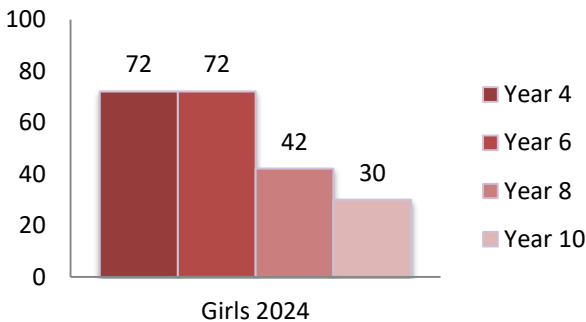
Bullied for race, colour or nationality



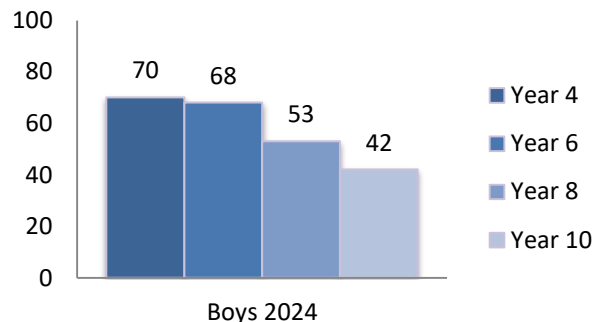
School challenges racism and racist bullying



School deals with bullying quite/very well



School deals with bullying quite/very well



## Inequalities ≠

Year 6 pupils were significantly more likely to report being bullied in school in the last 6 months if they were:

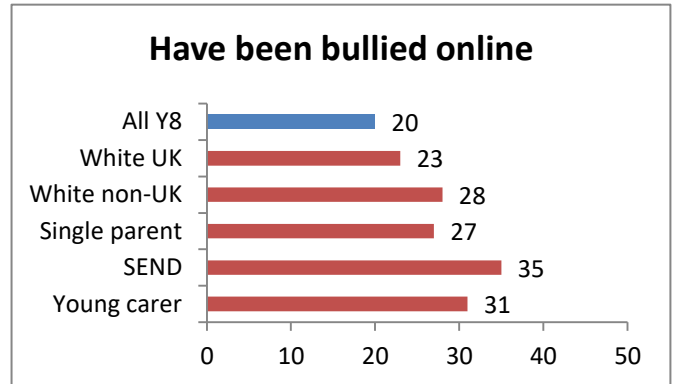
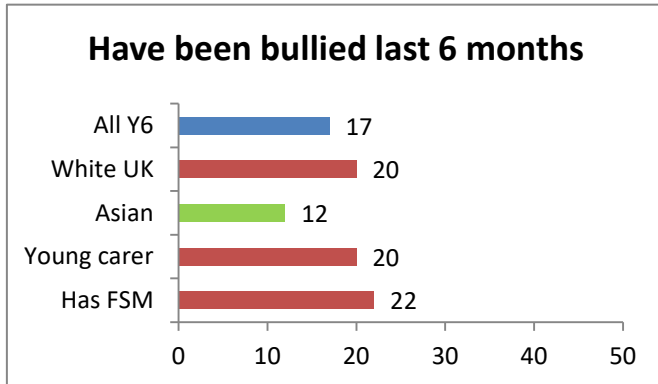
- A young carer
- Currently has free school meals
- White UK

Significantly less likely if they were:

- Asian

Year 8 pupils were significantly more likely to report being bullied online if they were:

- A young carer
- Have a special need or disability
- In a single parent family
- White non-UK
- White UK

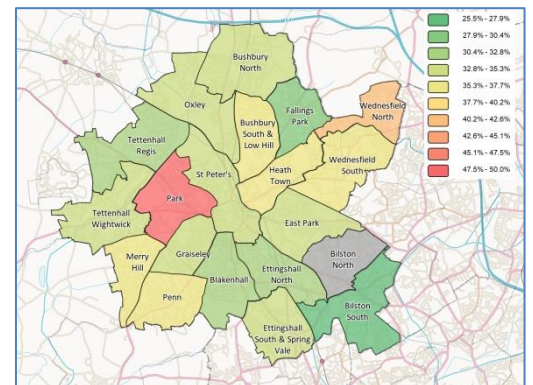


## Local safety

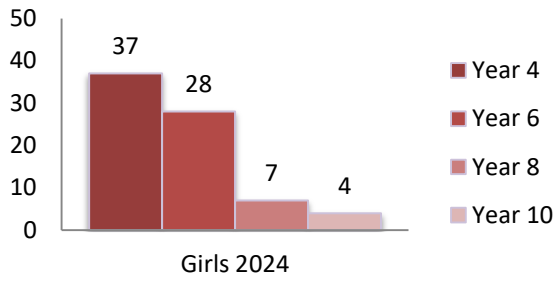
- 41% of Key Stage 1 pupils said they worried about their safety, 29% of Key Stage 2 pupils said they worried about gangs. 33% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils and 36% of FE students said their safety going out after dark in the area where they live is 'poor' or 'very poor'.
- 50% of Key Stage 2 pupils said that they can 'usually or always' say no to someone who is asking them to do something they don't want to do. This is higher than the 43% seen in 2022.
- 10% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils said they worry about gangs in 2024. 11% said they worry about weapons. 4% of secondary pupils and 1% of FE students said that they carry a weapon at least 'sometimes'.
- 9% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils who use social networking sites said that they use them to arrange to meet people they don't know. This is higher than the 8% in 2022, 6% in 2018 and 3% seen in 2016.
- 12% of Key Stage 2 pupils said that there had (at least once or twice) been violence between adults (e.g. hitting, punching) at home in the last month that frightened them. 8% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils said that there had been (at least once or twice) violence or abuse e.g. hitting, punching at home in the last month.
- 42% of Key Stage 1 pupils said that they can go on the Internet when their parents/carers are not in the room.



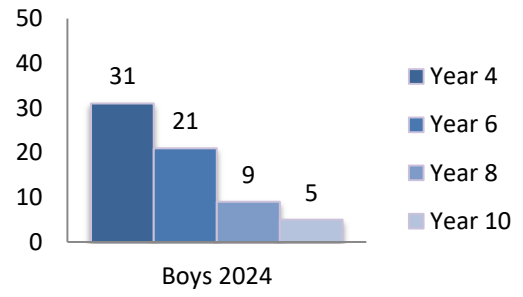
## Year 6 pupils – worry about crime 2024



**Worry about keeping safe online**



**Worry about keeping safe online**



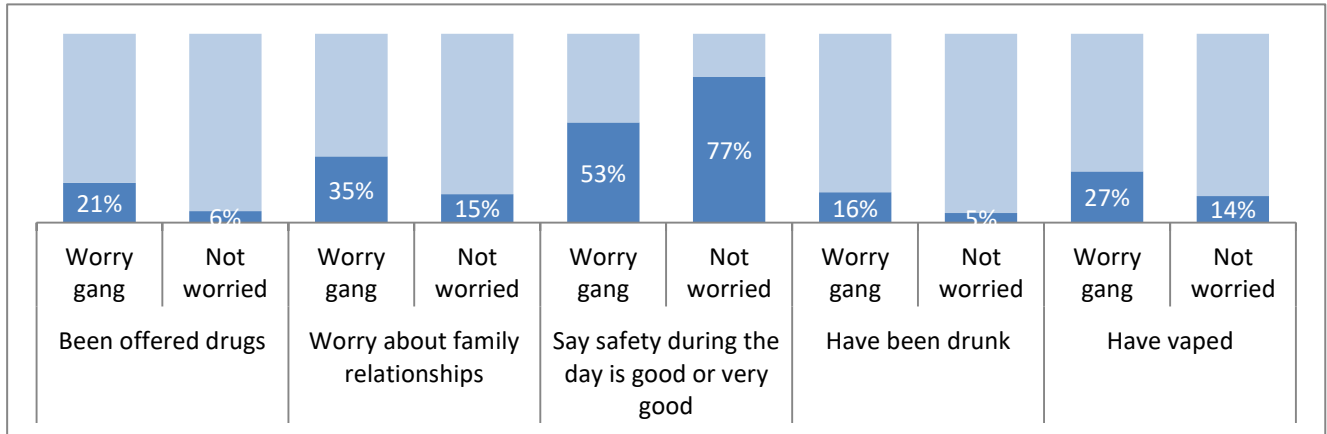
§ When compared with secondary boys who aren't worried about gangs, **secondary boys** who said that **they are worried about gangs** are:

Significantly more likely to:

- Have been offered drugs
- Worry about family relationships
- Have been drunk

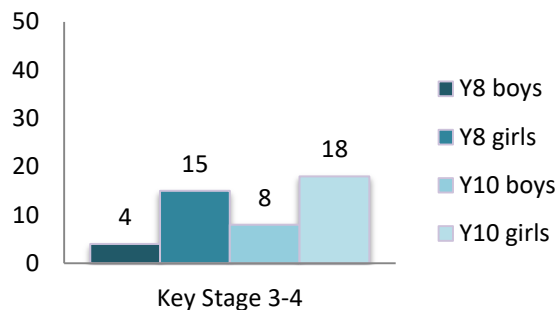
Significantly less likely to:

- Say safety during the day in their local area is good or very good
- Say safety at school is good or excellent

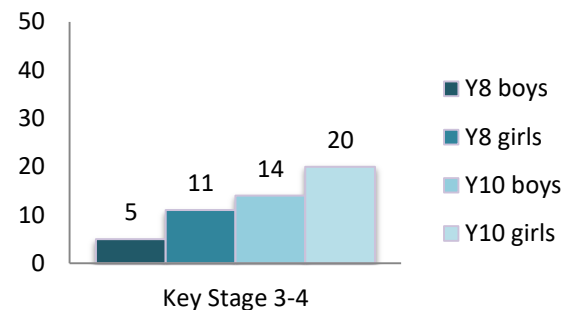


■ 20% of Year 8 and 32% of Year 10 pupils reported some form of sexual harassment in the last 6 months. The top 3 experiences included: sexualised comments/banter being made to you online, sexualised comments/banter being made to you offline and someone showing you sexual images you didn't want to see:

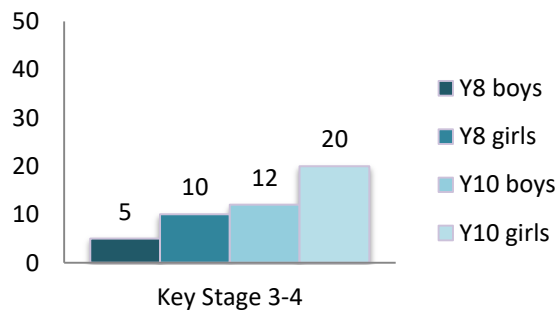
**Someone showing you sexual images you didn't want to see**



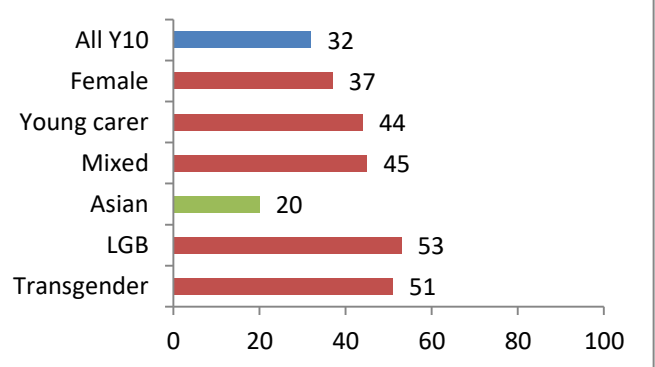
**Sexualised comments/banter being made to you online**



**Sexualised comments/banter being made to you offline**



**Y10 sexually harassed in last 6 months**



## Commentary

Both primary and secondary pupils are less likely to say their school deals well with bullying than in previous years. Secondary pupils are less positive towards their school's response to bullying than are primary pupils.

There is also a difference between the boys and girls responses particularly in the secondary school results for 'at least sometimes' feeling afraid of going to school because of bullying. There has been little change over time in attitudes to whether school deals with racist / homophobic / trans bullying.



## Inequalities

Year 6 pupils were most likely to have been bullied online if they were White non-UK, part of a single parent family, a Young Carer, currently have free school meals or have SEND. They were least likely to have been bullied online if they were Asian.

Year 8 pupils were most likely to have been bullied in school in the last 6 months if they were female, Transgender, White UK, a Young Carer or have SEND. They were least likely to have been bullied if they were male, Asian or backgrounds or if English wasn't their first language at home.

Year 10 pupils were most likely to have experienced violence between adults at home in the last month if they were LGB, from mixed, Asian or Middle Eastern/West Asian backgrounds, be part of a single parent family, have SEND or say they are a Young Carer.

## Section 6 Demographics

The tables below show percentages for self-reported demographic characteristics:

Ethnicity of respondents:

	White UK	White non-UK	Mixed	Black	Asian	Other
<b>Year 2</b>	35%	5%	7%	12%	22%	7%
<b>Year 4</b>	35%	4%	10%	13%	22%	4%
<b>Year 6</b>	34%	5%	12%	16%	23%	5%
<b>Year 8</b>	33%	6%	11%	14%	27%	6%
<b>Year 9</b>	34%	5%	11%	12%	31%	5%
<b>Year 10</b>	34%	7%	11%	15%	28%	5%
<b>Year 12</b>	28%	3%	5%	12%	47%	4%

Additional characteristics:

	Transgender or non-binary	LGBT*	Single-parent family	In care	SEND	Young carer	Currently has FSM	English is not 1st language
<b>Year 4</b>			14%	0%		22%	38%	30%
<b>Year 6</b>			19%	1%		15%	38%	27%
<b>Year 8</b>	5%		17%	1%	7%	10%	33%	24%
<b>Year 10</b>	5%	12%	19%	1%	8%	9%	30%	24%
<b>Year 12</b>	7%	21%	13%	0%	8%	3%	14%	19%

## Section 7 Inequalities ≠

The table below shows percentages for selected criteria for the whole year group sample and selected sub-samples of young people who may be vulnerable.

The table shows significance testing; the tests were performed using actual numbers of respondents for each criterion, not the overall sample size shown.

No correction has been attempted for multiple comparisons, so we could expect 1 in 20 cells to show an apparently significant difference by chance alone. However, there are 96 cells, 34 of which show a significant result, 18 at  $p < 0.01$ ; this greatly exceeds expectations.

Significant differences are shown in green if desirable, orange if undesirable

99	99	$p < 0.05$	Green=Higher on a positive criterion or lower on a negative one
99	99	$p < 0.01$	Orange=Lower on a positive criterion or higher on a negative one

Year 4	All	Male	Female	White UK	White non-UK	Mixed	Black	Asian	Middle East/West Asian	EAL	Single-parent family	Young carer	Currently has FSM
Sample	1839	879	910	640	65	181	233	398	58	539	265	401	687
Nothing to eat or drink before lessons this morning	8	7	7	8	6	7	9	6	14	10	11	10	11
Nothing for lunch yesterday	2	3	1	1	0	1	3	3	9	3	1	2	2
5+ portions fruit/veg yesterday	22	21	23	21	23	25	22	22	25	25	18	25	23
Brushed teeth at least twice yesterday	70	66	74	70	66	74	72	69	63	70	70	76	69
Active travel to school	46	46	46	51	54	36	38	40	36	46	48	49	49
Worry about gangs at least 'quite a lot'	27	26	27	25	31	26	31	28	29	28	30	30	28
Ever bullied online	27	30	24	26	41	28	31	22	29	26	36	32	29
Bullied in school in last 6 months	21	21	21	24	17	20	17	22	21	23	24	25	21
Bullied elsewhere in last 6 months	22	23	20	23	22	26	22	18	21	23	27	28	27
School deals very well with bullying	43	44	43	45	37	43	48	38	32	40	42	42	41
Clinically significant [emotional] difficulties	15	10	19	16	18	18	12	9	18	13	17	20	18
Clinically significant [behavioural] difficulties	13	15	10	16	12	18	14	7	15	10	19	16	16
Happy with life	60	64	57	59	60	60	61	63	70	61	53	55	54
Worry about at least one issue at least 'quite a lot'	87	84	89	86	92	83	88	86	86	85	88	91	90
Views & opinions listened to at school	44	44	45	49	39	46	53	38	28	40	52	45	44

Year 6	All	Male	Female	White UK	White non-UK	Mixed	Black	Asian	Middle East/West Asian	EAL	Single-parent family	Young carer	Currently has FSM
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1944</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>730</b>
Nothing to eat or drink before lessons this morning	11	11	11	10	12	12	11	8	21	11	16	15	15
Nothing for lunch yesterday	3	3	3	2	0	3	2	4	15	4	2	4	4
5+ portions fruit/veg yesterday	16	17	15	13	15	19	22	16	19	18	15	20	17
Brushed teeth at least twice yesterday	76	72	81	73	70	78	76	81	76	77	76	74	75
Active travel to school	50	52	48	52	55	50	56	39	47	52	57	53	55
Worry about gangs at least 'quite a lot'	31	29	33	31	40	29	35	29	30	32	32	33	33
Ever bullied online	23	23	23	25	34	22	25	18	24	22	29	27	28
Bullied in school in last 6 months	17	16	18	20	18	13	18	12	21	16	19	20	22
Bullied elsewhere in last 6 months	13	14	12	14	17	13	15	9	14	15	13	16	16
School deals very well with bullying	28	30	26	33	25	20	29	28	23	28	26	31	28
Clinically significant [emotional] difficulties	15	9	21	19	24	17	12	9	8	13	16	18	18
Clinically significant [behavioural] difficulties	14	14	14	15	17	17	16	9	9	13	18	15	18
Offered drugs	4	5	2	3	8	3	6	3	4	5	4	7	4
Ever smoked cigarettes	2	2	2	2	5	3	2	1	6	3	2	1	3
Happy with life	55	59	52	54	49	54	53	60	60	54	50	50	51
Worry about at least one issue at least 'quite a lot'	83	79	86	84	92	82	79	80	82	82	88	87	85
Poor mental health (Stirling score <31)	9	7	11	10	18	10	7	6	10	9	11	12	12
Violence at home last month	11	13	10	11	15	11	11	11	8	13	10	19	14
Views & opinions listened to at school	49	48	50	50	44	49	53	51	45	46	47	50	47

Year 8	All	Male	Female	Transgender	White UK	White non-UK	Mixed	Black	Asian	Middle East/West Asian	EAL	Single-parent family	SEND	Young carer	Currently has FSM
Sample	1668	776	840	66	550	106	182	227	453	60	391	289	122	162	548
Happy with their weight	52	55	48	52	53	42	51	49	51	65	54	44	45	54	52
Nothing to eat or drink before lessons this morning	22	16	29	29	22	25	35	27	15	25	19	31	22	26	28
Nothing for lunch yesterday	12	9	14	9	9	12	20	15	10	13	9	14	10	14	12
5+ portions fruit/veg yesterday	10	11	10	11	10	14	11	8	10	14	11	9	12	12	10
Brushed teeth at least twice yesterday	81	77	85	82	77	88	83	80	81	88	85	81	71	81	84
No days last week with total >=60m exercise	4	3	4	5	3	5	2	5	4	2	3	2	9	6	4
7 days last week with total >=60m exercise	17	22	12	17	20	10	14	16	15	24	15	18	17	19	19
Active travel to school	49	53	45	48	57	56	49	50	37	36	48	58	48	53	55
Worry about gangs at least 'quite a lot'	10	10	11	6	10	10	13	11	8	14	9	10	17	16	11
Carry weapon when going out	3	4	3	4	2	4	8	5	3	8	5	3	10	4	4
Ever bullied online	20	16	22	27	23	28	23	16	16	18	17	27	35	31	22
Bullied in school in last 6 months	20	16	23	29	24	22	20	18	17	18	17	21	38	30	22
Bullied elsewhere in last 6 months	7	6	8	11	10	10	6	5	4	12	6	8	14	12	10
School deals very well with bullying	13	18	9	2	14	8	8	15	15	10	12	14	17	19	13
Clinically significant [emotional] difficulties	16	6	23	33	18	26	18	11	12	12	14	21	28	24	17
Clinically significant [behavioural] difficulties	14	12	15	22	18	16	18	11	8	15	9	21	36	17	19
Drink ever spiked	1	1	0	3	1	2	1	0	0	3	1	1	2	1	0
Usually drink at least weekly	1	1	0	2	0	3	2	0	0	3	1	2	2	1	1
Offered drugs	7	6	8	16	6	6	14	8	3	10	7	10	14	12	8
Ever taken drugs	2	2	2	5	1	2	5	2	1	3	2	3	6	2	3
Ever smoked cigarettes	4	3	3	9	4	7	6	1	2	5	4	5	10	6	5
Know where to get free condoms	16	18	14	14	19	21	20	10	13	16	13	17	23	21	14
Any negative behaviour in a relationship	27	28	26	34	36	34	36	23	16	24	21	33	40	39	33
Happy with life	42	54	34	30	43	34	35	44	44	51	45	37	43	29	41
Worry about at least one issue at least 'quite a lot'	74	67	80	86	76	79	79	70	72	71	75	76	84	82	76
Low wellbeing score (SWEMWBS)	12	9	12	21	11	14	13	9	10	14	13	14	17	22	15
Violence at home last month	8	7	8	5	6	5	9	8	9	10	8	6	13	11	8
Victim of crime/violence last 12 months	6	7	5	4	5	6	9	7	5	12	7	8	16	9	10
Any sexual harassment last 6 months	20	13	26	27	18	35	26	26	14	24	18	23	27	24	21

Year 10	All	Male	Female	Transgender	LGB	White UK	White non-UK	Mixed	Black	Asian	Middle East/West Asian	EAL	Single-parent family	SEND	Young carer	Currently has FSM
Sample	1777	747	982	79	154	594	117	186	261	497	52	422	339	145	152	523
Happy with their weight	49	52	46	41	37	47	47	46	51	52	52	50	49	43	38	47
Nothing to eat or drink before lessons this morning	26	21	30	29	34	25	27	26	33	21	48	26	34	30	30	34
Nothing for lunch yesterday	16	13	19	17	20	16	12	20	15	13	35	14	20	14	17	18
5+ portions fruit/veg yesterday	8	8	8	8	12	6	5	9	7	10	8	10	5	6	7	7
Brushed teeth at least twice yesterday	82	78	86	74	76	83	81	84	76	84	92	80	81	76	81	81
No days last week with total >=60m exercise	4	3	5	8	6	4	3	4	6	3	8	5	6	7	6	7
7 days last week with total >=60m exercise	14	18	11	19	18	13	18	12	17	13	12	17	12	16	15	15
Active travel to school	49	54	44	52	53	57	52	52	46	39	28	48	53	47	53	53
Worry about gangs at least 'quite a lot'	10	10	10	23	18	10	15	10	10	8	8	11	15	20	14	11
Carry weapon when going out	5	7	4	13	9	4	4	8	7	4	9	7	9	7	10	8
Ever bullied online	18	15	19	21	34	21	28	19	15	12	16	16	22	28	30	20
Bullied in school in last 6 months	15	12	15	21	32	15	21	15	11	13	18	15	13	29	20	17
Bullied elsewhere in last 6 months	6	4	7	14	14	7	10	6	4	3	7	7	6	10	11	6
School deals very well with bullying	9	14	6	13	9	9	3	7	10	11	13	14	5	9	7	9
Clinically significant [emotional] difficulties	16	7	22	28	44	18	24	18	16	12	15	15	18	32	31	17
Clinically significant [behavioural] difficulties	11	10	12	18	24	13	21	12	10	8	15	11	13	24	26	15
Drink ever spiked	1	1	1	4	3	1	0	2	1	1	0	1	1	5	4	1
Usually drink at least weekly	3	3	2	1	6	5	4	3	1	1	0	2	3	5	4	2
Offered drugs	14	13	15	24	20	15	17	20	14	11	10	10	17	18	16	14
Ever taken drugs	5	5	6	13	8	6	10	9	6	2	8	5	9	12	9	6
Ever smoked cigarettes	7	6	8	20	15	8	13	11	7	3	8	7	11	13	14	10
Know where to get free condoms	42	44	40	51	38	40	50	43	50	38	49	43	49	42	49	50
Any aggressive/coercive behaviour in a relationship	32	31	31	37	49	40	45	36	29	19	22	28	39	42	45	38
Happy with life	39	51	32	25	18	34	40	35	37	45	58	44	31	27	31	33
Worry about at least one issue at least 'quite a lot'	78	64	87	87	94	80	84	78	77	75	75	78	80	90	82	80
Low wellbeing score (SWEMWBS)	11	8	12	20	25	11	13	9	11	8	17	13	13	18	15	16
Violence at home last month	8	7	9	13	20	5	10	13	7	10	18	11	9	14	14	9
Victim of crime/violence last 12 months	8	9	7	13	11	8	9	10	11	5	11	7	11	13	16	11
Any sexual harassment last 6 months	32	23	37	51	53	35	39	45	38	20	30	27	41	41	44	35

## Over to You

This report has been produced to disseminate the findings of the survey and promote further action and discussion in schools and other organisations. The results will be discussed by relevant forums and partnerships. We hope you will be able to use these results in your own thinking and discussions with young people. If you would like further information about the survey or the findings, please contact Howard Jobber at [howard.jobber@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:howard.jobber@wolverhampton.gov.uk)