

# Findings from the Health Related Behaviour Survey 2024 **Safety (including Bullying)**

Supporting the health of  
young people in Wolverhampton



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## Findings from the Health Related Behaviour Survey 2024 – Safety (including bullying)

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 the secondary survey.

HRBS 2024 was completed by a total of 12611 pupils in 34 primary (KS1) settings, 48 primary (KS2) settings, 15 secondary (KS 3-4) settings, the FE college and 5 special schools.

### Navigating the report

This report is one of five that reflect local priorities. Each report is divided into the following sections:

#### Headline comparisons

Each report contains headline bullet points, comparing the 2024 data and the same questions for 2022 and earlier in many cases.

Key:  Positive finding  
 Negative finding  
 Neutral finding (where it is subjective as to whether the finding is positive or negative or is little different)

#### 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 the surveys is presented to look for age-related differences in responses.

#### Mapping

The primary school data available has been divided into ward areas by postcode of the pupil.

The maps are colour coded:

Green = positive findings

Blue = neutral findings (where it is subjective as to whether the finding is positive or negative)

Red = negative findings

The darker the colour, the higher/lower the percentage proportions (see key on each map). Sadly there isn't enough secondary school post code data available for mapping purposes.

#### Inequalities ≠

A selection of questions for each of the primary and secondary questionnaires has been presented to look for different responses across potential vulnerable groups.

#### 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, one from primary and one from secondary have been selected but full lists are available.

**THEMED REPORTS  
NUMBER 5 OF 5:**

**HEALTHY  
LIFESTYLES**

**RELATIONSHIPS AND  
SEXUAL HEALTH**

**SMOKING,  
SUBSTANCES AND  
GAMBLING**

**EMOTIONAL HEALTH  
AND WELLBEING**

**SAFETY (INCLUDING  
BULLYING)**

## Headlines

There appear to be mixed findings for the safety questions. Both Key Stage 2 primary pupils and Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils are less likely to say their school deals well with bullying than in 2022 and in 2018.

Key Stage 2 pupils were more likely to report being bullied somewhere other than school (an increasing trend). They are less likely to say that their safety near where they live is 'good' or 'excellent' than previously.

Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils are less likely to rate their safety going out during the day or going to and from school as 'good' or 'excellent' compared with 2022.

Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils are less likely to say that they carry weapons when going out compared with 2022.

## Key Stage 1 pupils

- 67% of Key Stage 1 pupils said that they 'usually' feel safe. This is higher than the 64% seen in 2022 but lower than the 69% reported in 2018.
- One of the top worries for Wolverhampton Key Stage 1 pupils was their safety, 41% reported worrying about it in 2024, compared with 45% in 2022 and 44% reporting this in 2018.
- 42% of Key Stage 1 pupils said that they can go on the Internet when their parents/carers are not in the room. This is lower than the 44% seen in 2022 but higher than the 35% reported in 2018.
- 30% of Key Stage 1 pupils said that they have been teased/made fun of in 2024 compared with 25% in 2022.
- 29% of Key Stage 1 pupils said that are at least sometimes scared to go to school in 2024 compared with 25% in 2022.
- 61% of Key Stage 1 pupils said that their parents/carers have rules about what they can do online. This is lower than the 65% reported in 2022.



## Key Stage 2 pupils

- 17% of Key Stage 2 pupils in 2024 said that they have been bullied somewhere other than school in the last 6 months, this is higher than the 16% seen in 2022 and the 12% reported in 2018.
- 80% of Key Stage 2 pupils said that feel safe at break times. This is lower than the 81% seen in 2022 and the 86% reported in 2018.
- 36% of Key Stage 2 pupils said that their school deals 'very well' with bullying. This is lower than the 41% seen in 2022, the 45% seen in 2018 and the 50% seen in 2016.
- 65% of Key Stage 2 pupils said that safety in the area near where they live is 'good' or 'excellent'. This is lower than the 69% seen in 2022.
- 10% of Key Stage 2 pupils said that they have bullied someone else in 2024 compared with 8% saying this in 2022.
- 50% of Key Stage 2 pupils said that they have been pushed/hit in 2024 compared with 47% saying this in 2022.
- 41% of Key Stage 2 pupils said that they use social networks to meet up with friends in 2024 compared with 49% saying this in 2022.
- 12% of Year 5/6 pupils said that there was violence at home between adults at least once or twice in the month before the survey that had frightened them.

## Secondary pupils

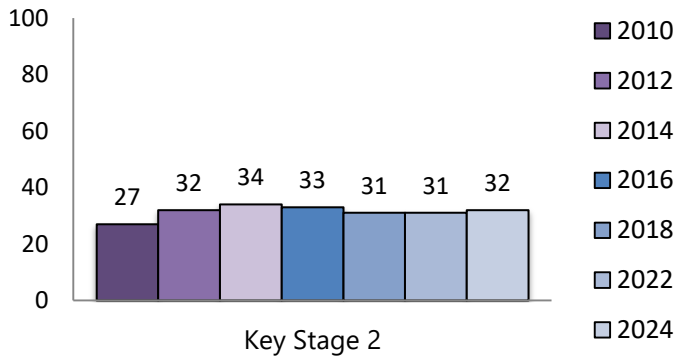
- 21% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils said that they have been picked on or bullied because of their size or weight. This is lower than the 24% seen in 2022 but higher than the 18% seen in 2018.
- 18% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2024 said that they have been bullied online (cyber-bullying); this is higher than the 17% seen in 2022 and the 13% seen in 2018.
- 23% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils said they think their school challenges homophobic bullying effectively. This is lower than the 26% seen in 2022 but higher than the 19% seen in 2018.
- 26% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2024 and 2022 think their school challenges racism and racist bullying effectively. This is lower than the 29% seen in 2018 and 32% seen in 2016 and continues a downward trend.
- 30% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils said that their safety after dark is 'good' or 'very good'. This is lower than the 35% seen in 2022 and the 39% seen in 2018.
- 68% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils said that their safety going out during the day is 'good' or 'very good'. This is lower than the 72% seen in 2022.
- 71% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils said that their safety going to and from school is 'good' or 'excellent'. This is lower than the 73% seen in 2022.
- 4% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils carry weapons when going out compared with 5% in 2022.
- 8% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils said that there was violence or abuse at home between adults at least once or twice in the month before the survey that had frightened them.



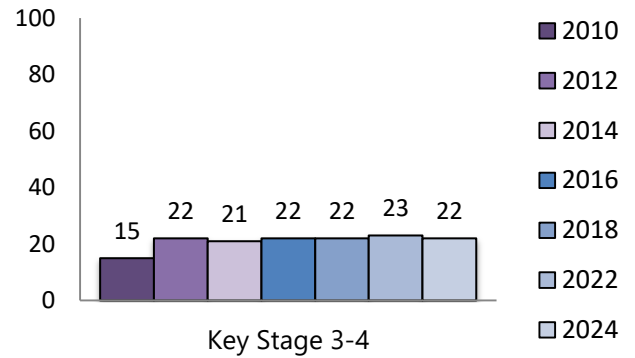
## Trends

- The previously reported downward trend for pupils who say they are at least 'sometimes' afraid of going to school because of bullying seems to have levelled. 32% of primary aged pupils said this in 2024 compared with 34% in 2014. This was after a significant rise however between 2010 and 2014. This doesn't mean they have been bullied however, but fear of bullying is likely to have an impact on school performance.

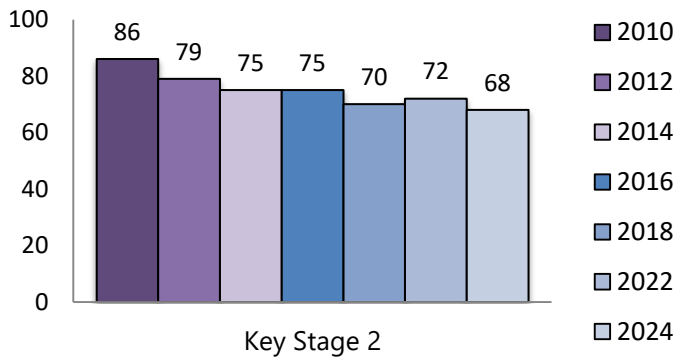
**Primary Trends – Afraid of going to school because of bullying**



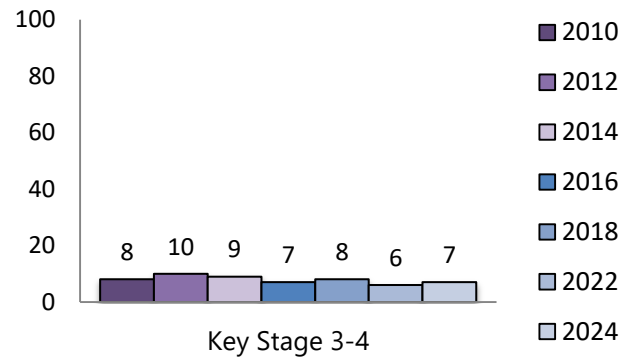
**Secondary Trends – Afraid of going to school because of bullying**



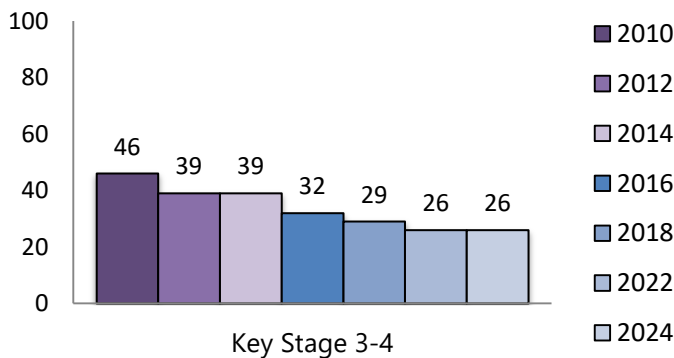
**Primary Trends – School deals with bullying quite/very well**



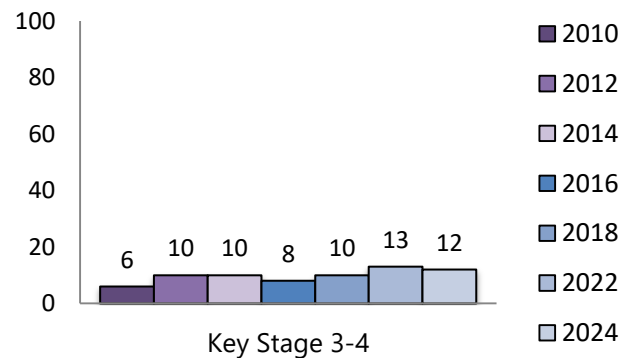
**Secondary Trends – victim of crime or violence in the area where they live in the past 12 months**



**Secondary Trends – School challenges racism and racist bullying**



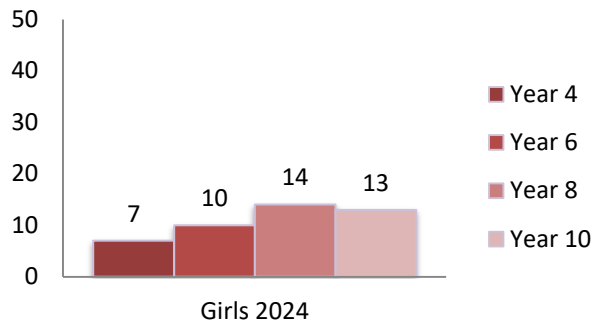
**Secondary Trends – Bullied due to colour, race or nationality**



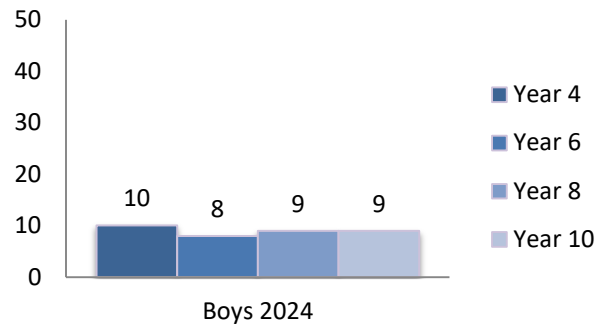
## Phase differences

- Around 1 in 10 pupils report being bullied due to their race, colour or nationality; proportions are higher in the secondary phase for girls.
- There is a decrease in the proportions of pupils saying their school deals well with bullying between the primary and secondary phases.
- There is a decrease in the proportions of pupils worrying about issues around safety between the primary and secondary phases. Worrying about gangs and keeping safe online falls with increasing age.

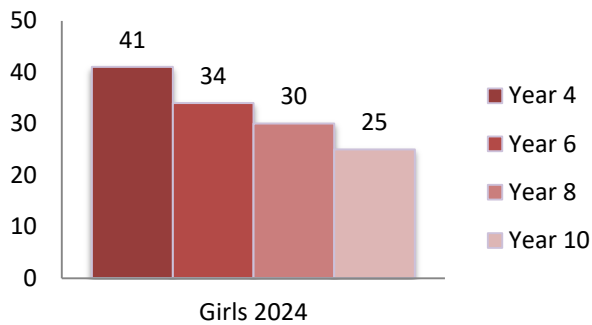
**Bullied for race, colour or nationality**



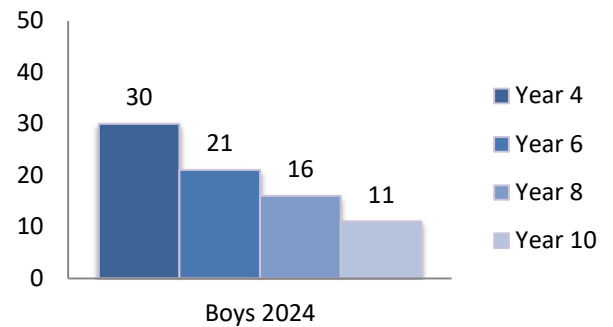
**Bullied for race, colour or nationality**



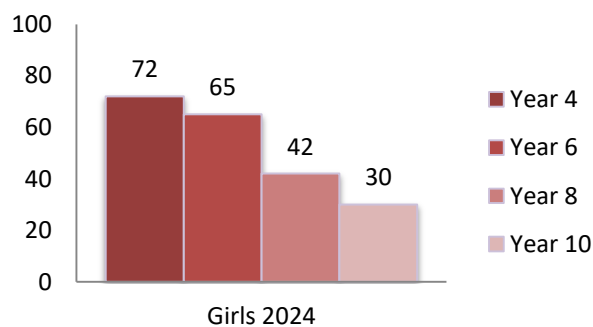
**At least sometimes afraid of going to school because of bullying**



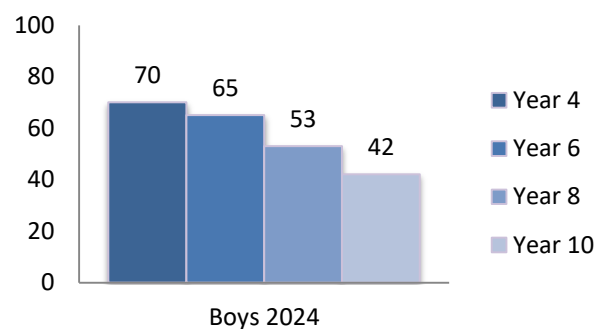
**At least sometimes afraid of going to school because of bullying**



**School deals with bullying quite/very well**

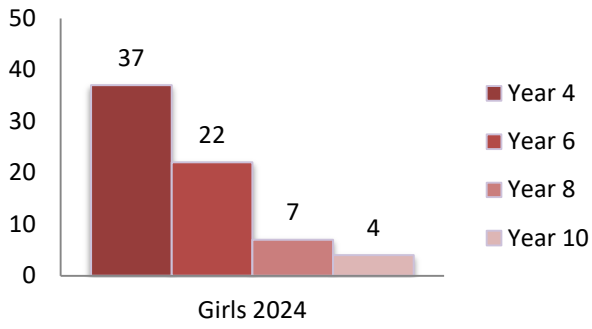


**School deals with bullying quite/very well**

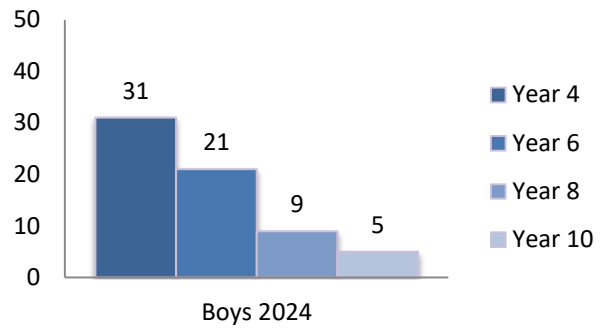




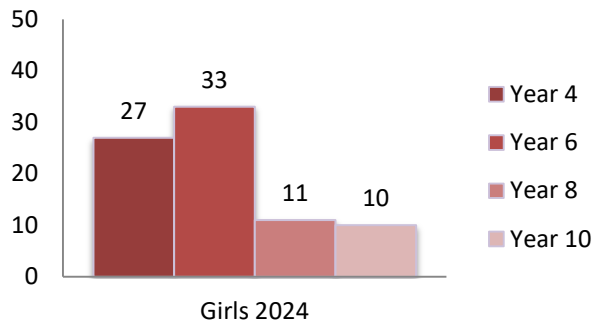
**Worry about keeping safe online**



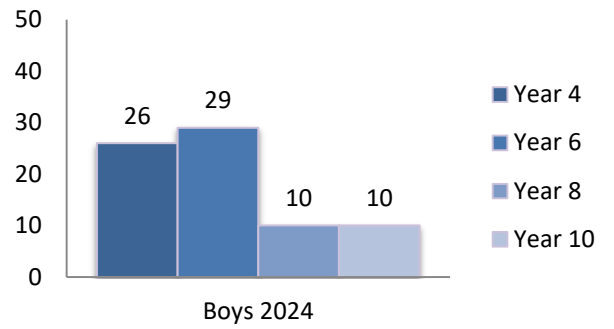
**Worry about keeping safe online**



**Worry about gangs**

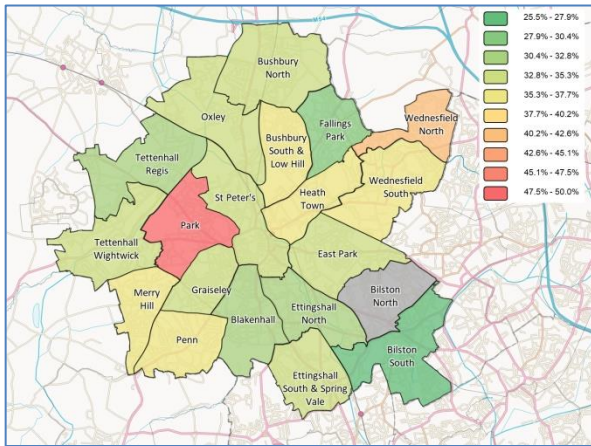


**Worry about gangs**

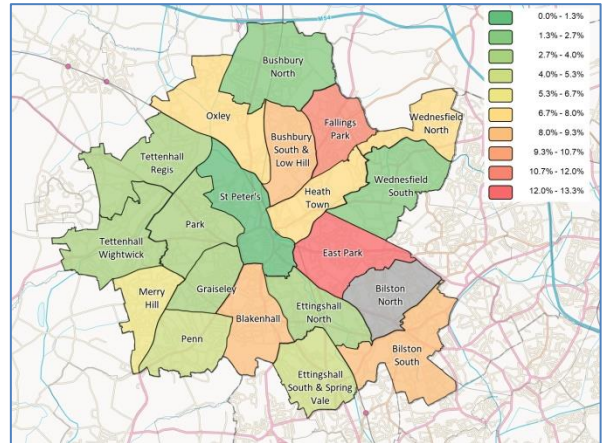


# Mapping

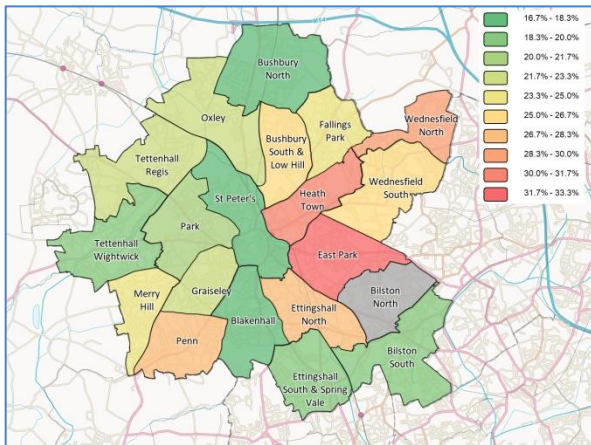
**Year 6 pupils – worry about crime**



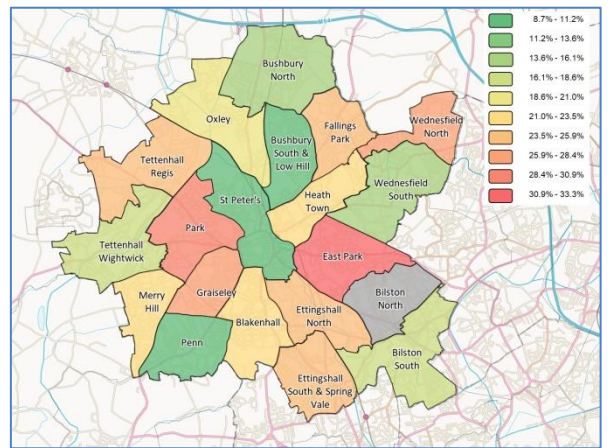
**Year 6 pupils – use social networking sites to meet people they first met online**



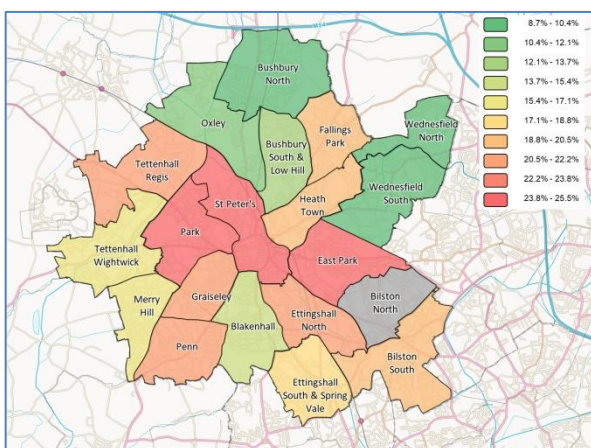
**Year 6 pupils – have seen something online that worried or made them upset**



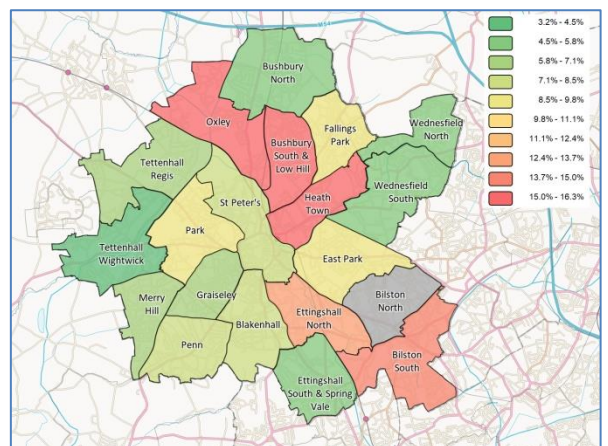
**Year 6 pupils – worry about keeping safe online**



**Year 6 pupils – have been bullied in school in the last 6 months**

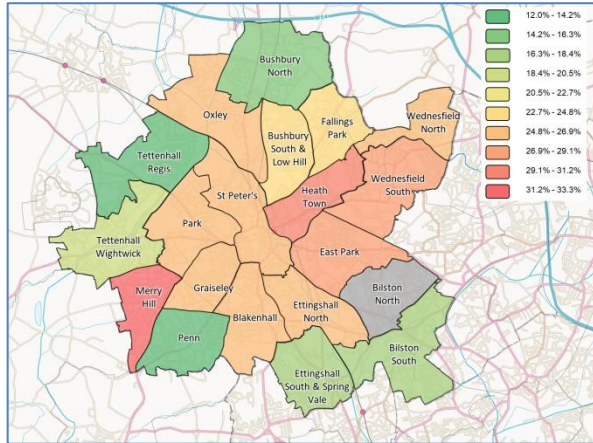


**Year 6 pupils – bullied due to race etc.**

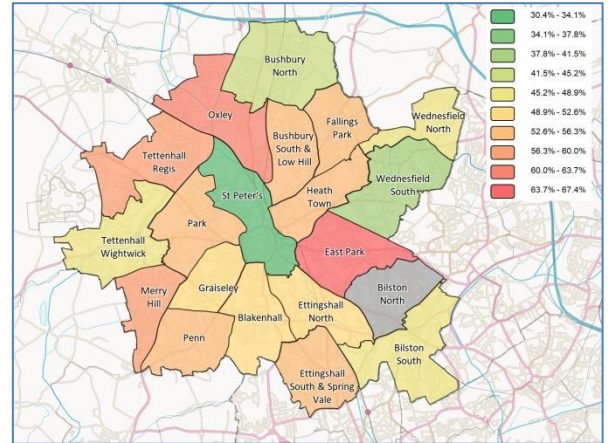




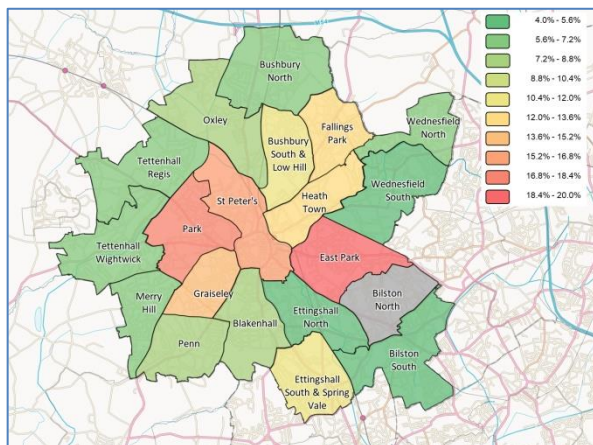
**Year 6 pupils – been made to do something they didn't want to do**



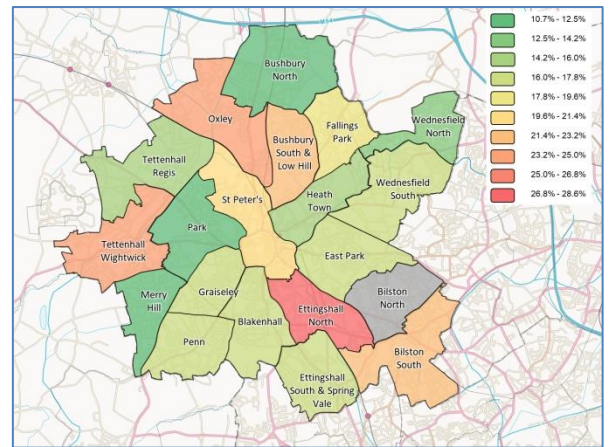
**Year 6 pupils – have been teased/made fun of in the last 6 months**



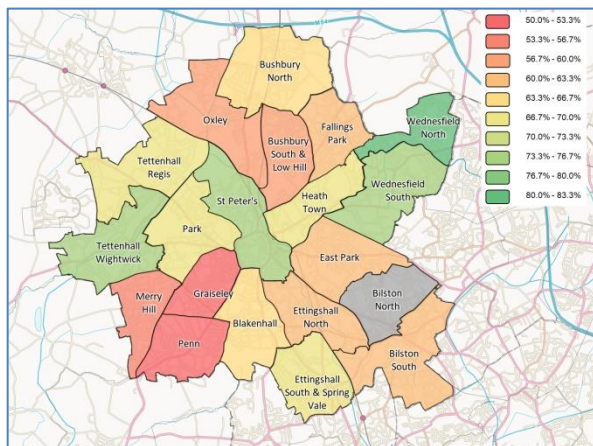
**Year 6 pupils – have bullied someone else in the last 6 months**



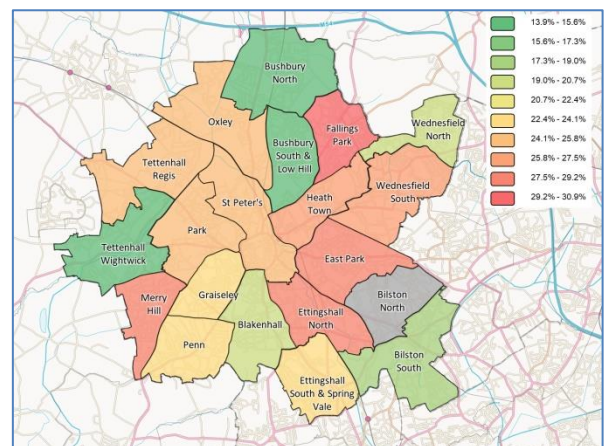
**Year 6 pupils – livestream online**



**Year 6 pupils – school deals well with bullying**

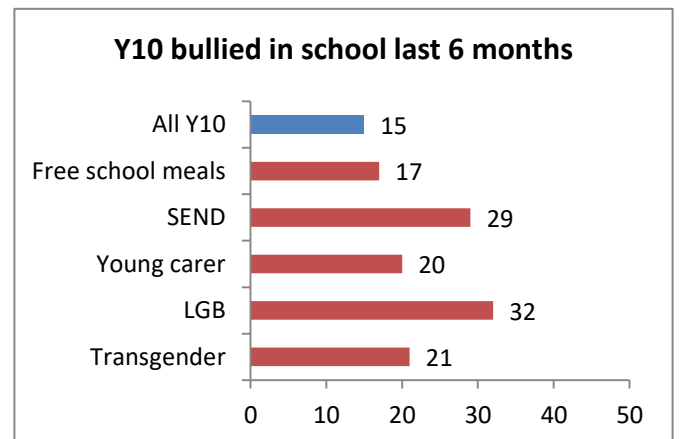
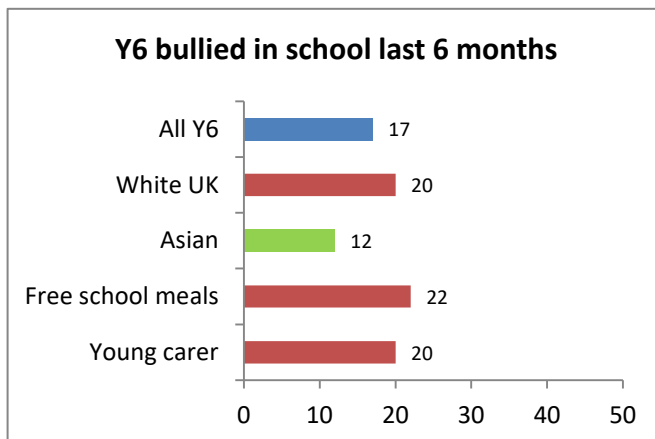
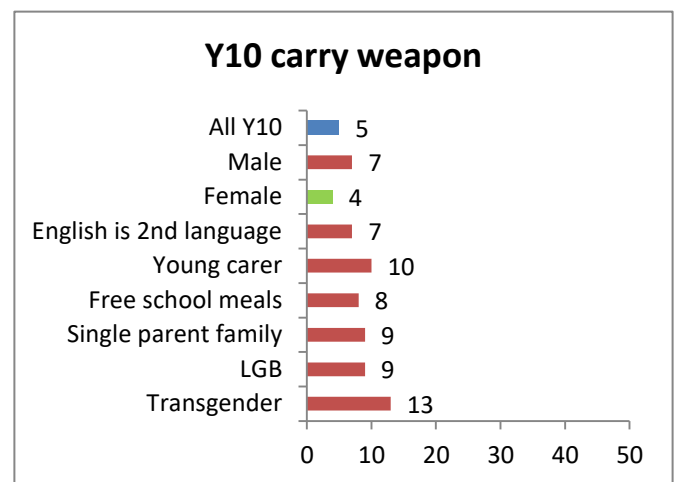
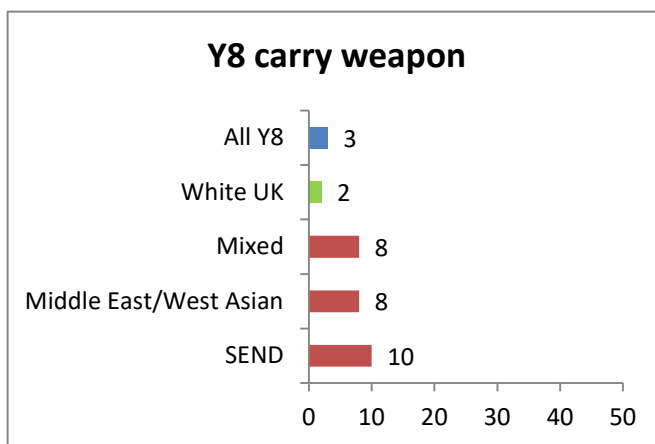
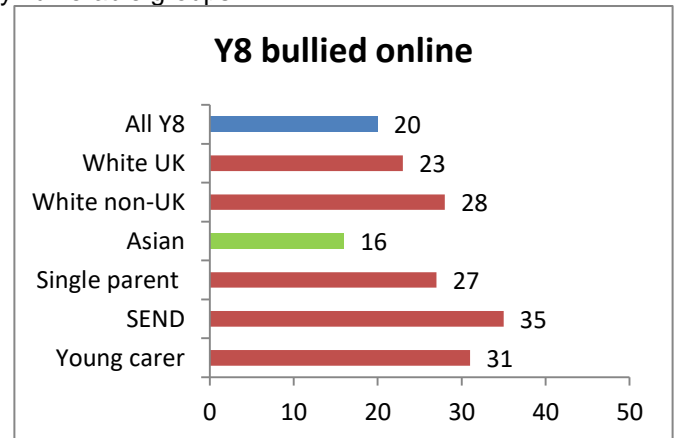
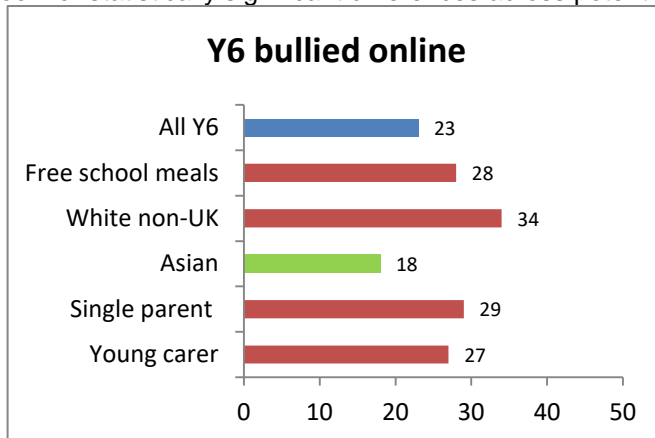


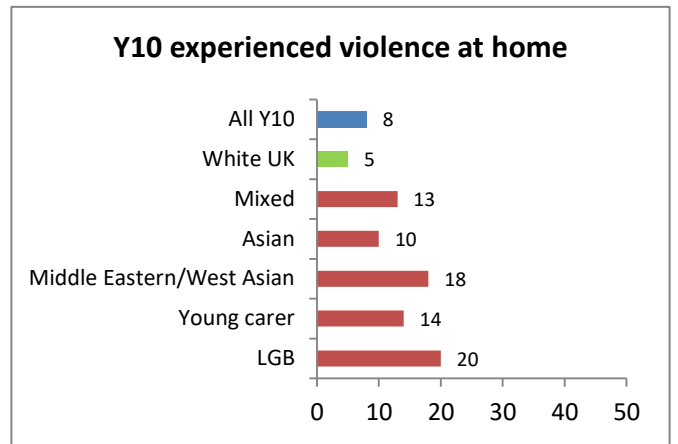
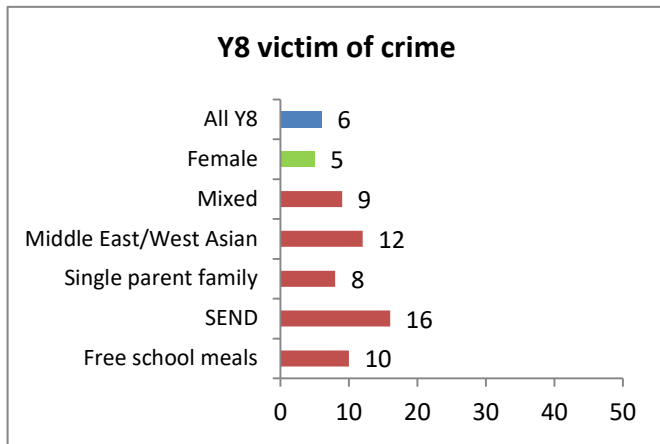
**Year 6 pupils – have been bullied online in the last 6 months**



## Inequalities ≠

A selection of questions for each of the primary and secondary questionnaires has been presented to look for statistically significant differences across potentially vulnerable groups:

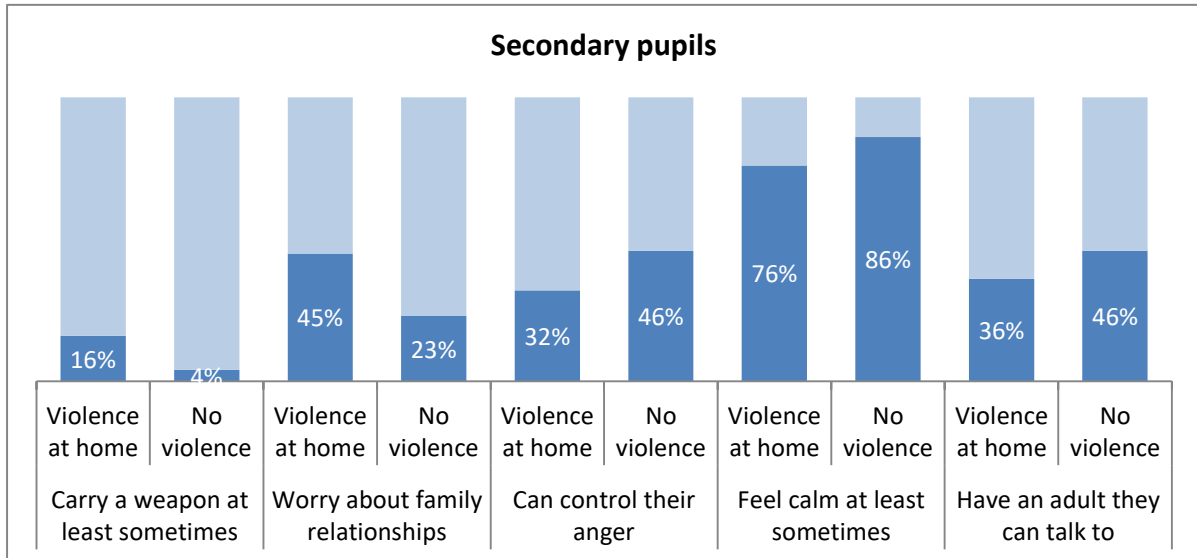




## Links between behaviours

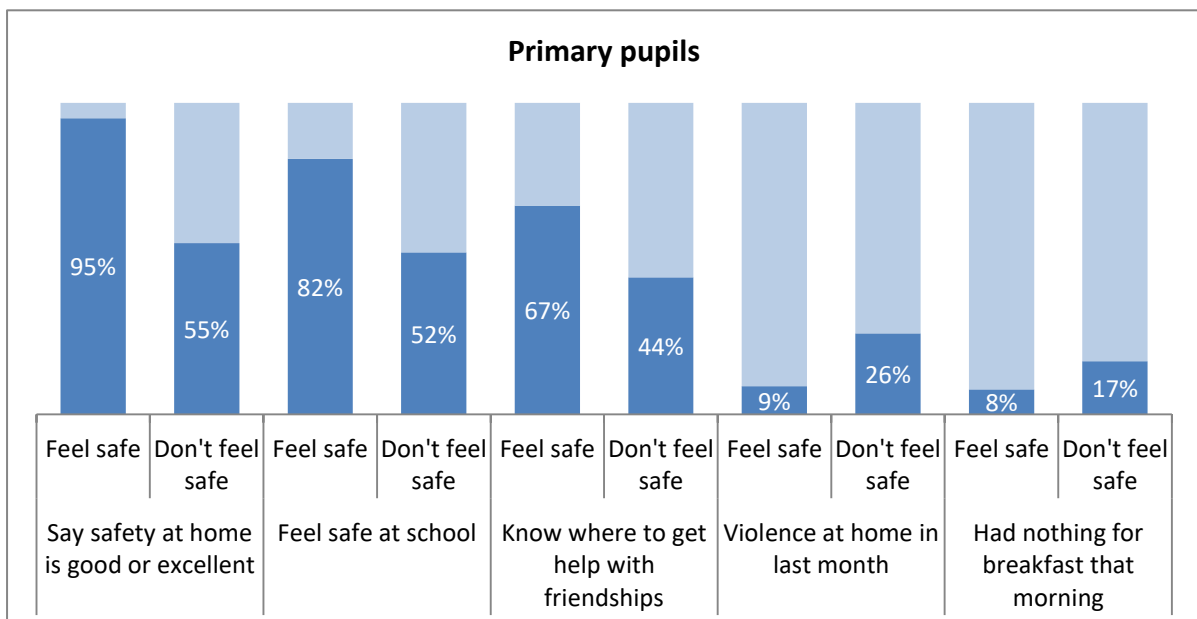
§ When compared with secondary pupils who said they haven't experienced violence or abuse at home in the last month, secondary pupils who said that **they have experienced this at home** are:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>Significantly more likely to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry a weapon at least 'sometimes'</li> <li>• Worry about family relationships</li> </ul> | <p>Significantly less likely to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be able to control their anger</li> <li>• Feel calm at least 'sometimes'</li> <li>• Have an adult they can talk to about mental health issues</li> </ul> |
|--|--|



§ When compared with primary pupils who feel safe travelling to and from school, primary pupils who **don't feel safe travelling to and from school** are:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>Significantly more likely to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have missed breakfast</li> <li>• Say violence at home has frightened them in the last month</li> </ul> | <p>Significantly less likely to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say safety at home is good or excellent</li> <li>• Feel safe at school</li> <li>• Know where to get help with friendship issues</li> </ul> |
|--|--|





# 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	English is not 1st language	Single-parent family	Young carer	Currently has FSM
Sample	1,839	879	910	640	65	181	233	398	58	539	265	401	687
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%

Year 6	All	Male	Female	White UK	White non-UK	Mixed	Black	Asian	Middle East/West Asian	English is not 1st language	Single-parent family	Young carer	Currently has FSM	Violence between adults at home last month
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1,944</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>	<b>196</b>
Worry about gangs at least 'quite a lot'	<b>31%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>33%</b>	31%	<b>40%</b>	29%	<b>35%</b>	29%	30%	32%	32%	33%	<b>33%</b>	30%
Ever bullied online	<b>23%</b>	23%	23%	25%	<b>34%</b>	22%	25%	<b>18%</b>	24%	22%	<b>29%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>40%</b>
Bullied in school in last 6 months	<b>17%</b>	16%	18%	<b>20%</b>	18%	13%	18%	<b>12%</b>	21%	16%	19%	<b>20%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>30%</b>
Bullied elsewhere in last 6 months	<b>13%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>12%</b>	14%	17%	13%	15%	<b>9%</b>	14%	<b>15%</b>	13%	16%	<b>16%</b>	<b>34%</b>
School deals very well with bullying	<b>28%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>33%</b>	25%	<b>20%</b>	29%	28%	23%	28%	26%	31%	28%	<b>17%</b>
Violence at home last month	<b>11%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>10%</b>	11%	15%	11%	11%	11%	8%	13%	10%	<b>19%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Year 8	All	Male	Female	Transgender	White UK	White non-UK	Mixed	Black	Asian	Middle East/West Asian	English is not 1st language	Single-parent family	SEND	Young carer	Currently has FSM	Violence between adults at home last month
Sample	1,668	776	840	66	550	106	182	227	453	60	391	289	122	162	548	108
Worry about gangs at least 'quite a lot'	10%	10%	11%	6%	10%	10%	13%	11%	8%	14%	9%	10%	17%	16%	11%	17%
Carry weapon when going out	3%	4%	3%	4%	2%	4%	8%	5%	3%	8%	5%	3%	10%	4%	4%	12%
Ever bullied online	20%	16%	22%	27%	23%	28%	23%	16%	16%	18%	17%	27%	35%	31%	22%	34%
Bullied in school in last 6 months	20%	16%	23%	29%	24%	22%	20%	18%	17%	18%	17%	21%	38%	30%	22%	37%
Bullied elsewhere in last 6 months	7%	6%	8%	11%	10%	10%	6%	5%	4%	12%	6%	8%	14%	12%	10%	17%
School deals very well with bullying	13%	18%	9%	2%	14%	8%	8%	15%	15%	10%	12%	14%	17%	19%	13%	9%
Any aggressive/coercive behaviour in a relationship	27%	28%	26%	34%	36%	34%	36%	23%	16%	24%	21%	33%	40%	39%	33%	37%
Violence at home last month	8%	7%	8%	5%	6%	5%	9%	8%	9%	10%	8%	6%	13%	11%	8%	100%
Victim of crime/violence last 12 months	6%	7%	5%	4%	5%	6%	9%	7%	5%	12%	7%	8%	16%	9%	10%	19%
Any sexual harassment last 6m	20%	13%	26%	27%	18%	35%	26%	26%	14%	24%	18%	23%	27%	24%	21%	43%

Year 10	All	Male	Female	Transgender	LGB	White UK	White non-UK	Mixed	Black	Asian	Middle East/West Asian	English is not 1st language	Single-parent family	SEND	Young carer	Currently has FSM	Violence between adults at home last month
Sample	1,777	747	982	79	154	594	117	186	261	497	52	422	339	145	152	523	135
Worry about gangs at least 'quite a lot'	10%	10%	10%	23%	18%	10%	15%	10%	10%	8%	8%	11%	15%	20%	14%	11%	18%
Carry weapon when going out	5%	7%	4%	13%	9%	4%	4%	8%	7%	4%	9%	7%	9%	7%	10%	8%	18%
Ever bullied online	18%	15%	19%	21%	34%	21%	28%	19%	15%	12%	16%	16%	22%	28%	30%	20%	39%
Bullied in school in last 6 months	15%	12%	15%	21%	32%	15%	21%	15%	11%	13%	18%	15%	13%	29%	20%	17%	33%
Bullied elsewhere in last 6 months	6%	4%	7%	14%	14%	7%	10%	6%	4%	3%	7%	7%	6%	10%	11%	6%	15%
School deals very well with bullying	9%	14%	6%	13%	9%	9%	3%	7%	10%	11%	13%	14%	5%	9%	7%	9%	12%
Any aggressive/coercive behaviour in a relationship	32%	31%	31%	37%	49%	40%	45%	36%	29%	19%	22%	28%	39%	42%	45%	38%	51%
Happy with life	39%	51%	32%	25%	18%	34%	40%	35%	37%	45%	58%	44%	31%	27%	31%	33%	17%
Violence at home last month	8%	7%	9%	13%	20%	5%	10%	13%	7%	10%	18%	11%	9%	14%	14%	9%	100%
Victim of crime/violence last 12 months	8%	9%	7%	13%	11%	8%	9%	10%	11%	5%	11%	7%	11%	13%	16%	11%	18%
Any sexual harassment last 6m	32%	23%	37%	51%	53%	35%	39%	45%	38%	20%	30%	27%	41%	41%	44%	35%	58%



# The 2024 Sample

Teachers were briefed on how to collect the most reliable data by Schools Health Education Unit staff. The facility was offered to all schools to complete the survey online, using a customised website. Where technical issues made this impossible, a paper-based alternative was provided. The 2024 HRBS was completed by a total of 12,611 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.

Each of the schools has its own report comparing their results to the combined sample for schools and pupils in their age phase.

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
Total	1490	1839	455	1944	1414	1668	1061	1777	235	481	12364*

\* 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

For more information contact SHEU on 01392 66 72 72 or visit [www.sheu.org.uk](http://www.sheu.org.uk)

## The Way Forward – over to you

These reports have 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.

### Acknowledgements

The work was facilitated by the Starting, Developing and Living Well team within the Public Health department. 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 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.

**For further information about the survey please contact:**  
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