

2007 TellUs2: Children and young people Survey

Introduction

TellUs2 is a survey of children and young people in year 6, year 8 and year 10 which asks about their experiences and views of their life, their school and their local area. The online questionnaire was developed by Ofsted, the DCSF and MORI to gather comparable data on children and young people's views across England. The survey took place in the summer term 2007.

The surveys asks children and young people questions about their satisfaction with local services (including aspects of their school life) and questions relating to the five Every Child Matters outcomes.

Response rate

In total, 111,325 children and young people in England took part in the survey, drawn from 141 of the 150 local authorities.

In York, 1035 pupils (from 29 schools) took part in the survey.

Results

The results of the survey show a positive picture for most children and young people living in York. The York results for nearly all questions show a similar outcome to the overall national results. A summary of the main results for York are shown below:-

Being healthy

The survey found that the vast majority (86%) of children consider themselves to be quite or very healthy. The national figure was also 86%. Some 77% of respondents say that they take part in sports or other activities for at least 30 minutes on more than three days a week. The national figure was 73%. 77% also say they have never smoked a cigarette and 83% of the year 8 and year 10 pupils asked say that they have never taken drugs.

However, almost half (49%) claimed they have had an alcoholic drink and 18% said they have been drunk at least once in the past four weeks. This mirrors the national picture.

The results do indicate that more needs to be done to encourage healthy eating, as only 24% of respondents saying that they manage to eat five portions of fruit and vegetables every day.

Children and young people also have clear views about the information and advice they receive. A significant minority of year 8 and year 10 respondents think they need better and/or more information and advice on healthy eating (19%), alcohol (27%), smoking (26%), drugs (31%) and sex and relationships (38%).

The things that pupils worry about the most are; exams (45%), friendships (37%), school work (33%), money (28%) and being healthy (26%).

Staying safe

The survey found that 77% of children feel quite or very safe around the local area, 76% felt safe on public transport (this result is significantly higher than the national average), 87% felt safe going to and from school and 88% felt safe in school.

Some 73% of respondents said that they have not been bullied in the last four weeks. However, 17% said that they have been bullied a couple of times in the last four weeks. 56% of pupils say they think bullying is handled quite or very well, 28% say it is handled not very or not at all well and 5% say that bullying is not a problem in my school.

Enjoy and achieve

The survey found that 60% of pupils enjoy school always or most of the time. The national figure is 58%. 81% say that they try their best school always or most of the time.

Children and young people also have clear views about what would help them to do better in school. An overwhelming 76% of pupils called for more fun and interesting lessons at school. 31% wanted more help from teachers along with 33% wanting quieter and better behaved classmates and 35% wanting smaller classes.

Making a positive contribution

A large proportion of respondents in year 8 and year 10 (60%) said that children and young people's views in decisions about the local area are not taken into account. The national figure is 58%. Only 48% said that their views are listened to in the running of their school.

The survey shows that involvement in their local community is important to children and young people. All but 22% of those in years 8 and 10 children said they had done something to help another person. Meanwhile 69% of all respondents have helped to raise money for charity or for a local group. The national figure is 65%.

Achieving Economic Well-Being

75% of children and young people said that they think their local area is a very or fairly good place to live. The national figure is 74%. 61% think the public transport in the area is very or fairly good.

Only 32% of pupils think that the information and help they get to plan their future is good enough. The national figure is 36%.

A large proportion, 42% said that more or better sport clubs/centres and also more or better activities for children and young people would make their area a better place to live in.

Asked about what would make their life better, 31% said that having more places where they could hang out with their friends would make a difference.

Source: TellU2 survey 2007 and Ofsted website report