

Life in Lockdown: Evidence from the WISERD Education Multi-Cohort Study

Data reflects May-July 2020

Loneliness in lockdown



miss their school friends

Over 90% of young people



miss their grandparents

78% of young people



miss their teachers

46% of young people

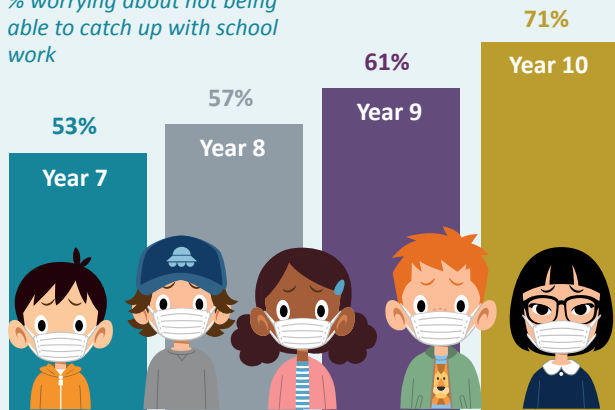
However, there is significant ambivalence about whether they should be able to see their friends – with nearly half unsure or disagreeing that they should be allowed to see their friends.

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Coronavirus: A time of worry

% worrying about not being able to catch up with school work



Around 30% **worry about the safety of teachers and other people who work at the school, and over 50% worry about the safety of themselves and their families.**

Over one quarter of our young people also **worry about whether their family has enough money to get by.**



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Helping out during lockdown

Children and young people have been supporting their families and communities during lockdown.

- **74%** helped out more around the house.
- **37%** looked after younger siblings.
- **21%** looked after older relatives who needed extra help.
- **22%** helped with dropping off food or other items to their neighbours, including food, newspapers and PPE.

They also supported causes by donating, fundraising, sewing or baking:

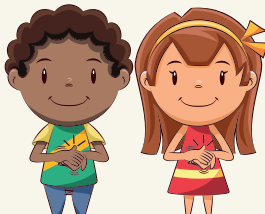
"Sewing masks"

"Raising money with my rugby club for an old people's home"

"Made cakes for care homes and hospital"

"Donating to food banks and others who need it"

"Baked cakes for hospital and care homes with my mum"



- **32%** had decorated the windows with drawings or support messages.
- **65%** took part in clapping for key workers.



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Devolution and Covid

The varying regulations put in place to control the spread of the virus within the UK appear to have heightened young people's awareness of devolution.

- **94%** knew that England had different lockdown regulations.
- **91%** were supportive of Welsh Government policy.



However, while there was a high level of awareness that the rules were different, there appears to be a lot of confusion about what the rules in Wales were during the lockdown in the summer of 2020.

	% Right answer	% Wrong answer
People in England have more freedom to see people they don't live with (FALSE)	6.8%	93.2%
People in Wales can only go outside to exercise once a day (TRUE)	29.9%	70.1%
People in Wales can drive to visit the beach (FALSE)	43.3%	56.7%
People in Wales must wear facemasks (FALSE)	29.3%	70.7%

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Covid-19 and changing sensibilities

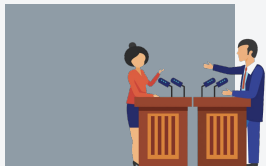
Both lockdown and the virus have had an impact on young adults' sensibilities and their interests.

33%



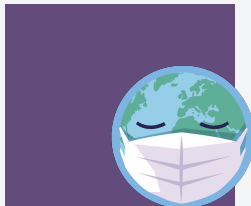
Think more about where
their food comes from.

41%



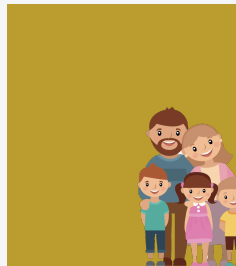
More interested in politics
and what the government
is doing.

52%



More interested in what
is going on in other
countries.

70%



Appreciate their family
more.

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Covid and the curriculum

Subjects

For which subjects were students being sent work to do at home:

CDT	25%	Welsh	47%
Other language	30%	English	50%
Geography	39%	Maths and Numeracy	52%
RE	40%	Science	52%
History	41%		


Note: As around half of the sample had made GCSE subject choices, this may explain the lower percentages receiving work to do at home in these subjects.

Resources

In terms of learning resources:



50% used
BBC Bitesize



63% did not
use Hwb



95% did not
use the Oak
National Academy

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Going to school during lockdown

Attendance and safety at school

Attendance

- 24% did go to school during lockdown.
- 10% attended school for more than one day a week.
- 69% enjoyed going to school in lockdown.

Safety

- 98% felt 'very safe' or 'quite safe' in travelling to school.
- 96% felt 'very safe' or 'quite safe' while they were at school.
- 46% managed to follow social distancing rules all the time.
- 52% managed to follow social distancing rules some of the time.

Curriculum while at school

"Communicating with friends and teachers and learning about Year 9 and talking about our time in lockdown"

"An hour of Welsh lesson, an hour outside, half an hour on mental health and half an hour colouring"

"Fun activities and mental health activities"



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What young people look forward to on 'lockdown schooldays'



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Studying at home during lockdown



55% relied on their teachers to tell them what schoolwork to do whilst at home all the time and 32% some of the time.



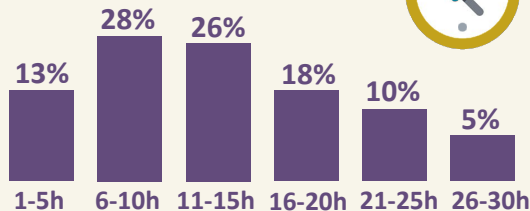
Nearly 70% of children said that their parents rarely or never helped set them tasks.



39% chose what to do themselves all of the time and 21% some of the time.

There were disparities in time spent learning: 47% reported doing schoolwork five days a week but 28% spent 3 or fewer days on school tasks.

Hours spent studying each week



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Physical wellbeing during lockdown

During lockdown, young people's habits varied a lot.



26% of the students reported going to bed at roughly the same time every night.



36% of Year 10 students were not going to bed until after midnight.



76% said they took some exercise most days.



22% said they never or only occasionally ate breakfast during lockdown.



Over 15% said they felt tired when they got up 'most days' and over 20% said they felt this way 'about half of the time'.



In general, the Year 11 students' average number of hours in bed was less than the recommended 8.