

Growing up in Wales: the pandemic and beyond | Evidence from the WISERD Education Multi-Cohort Study
Data collected from secondary school pupils in years 7, 9 and 11, June-July 2021

Impact of COVID-19 on learning

93%

*of pupils said that the pandemic
had affected their learning.*

48%

said it had affected them 'a lot'.

*Older students and girls reported
the greatest impact.*

What aspects of home-schooling affected their learning?

We asked them to respond to the following statements:

	Agreed	Disagreed
<i>'I haven't been able to access the materials at home'</i>	34%	44%
<i>'I found it easier to concentrate'</i>	29%	52%
<i>'I don't have space at home to work'</i>	22%	65%



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Year 11 assessments during the pandemic

The overwhelming majority (82%) of Year 11 students expressed worry about how their learning would be assessed. It is not clear what the basis of the worry is.



Are you worried about how your learning will be assessed this year?



A little	45%
A lot	37%
Not really	18%

Do you think you will get better grades from your teachers than from external markers?

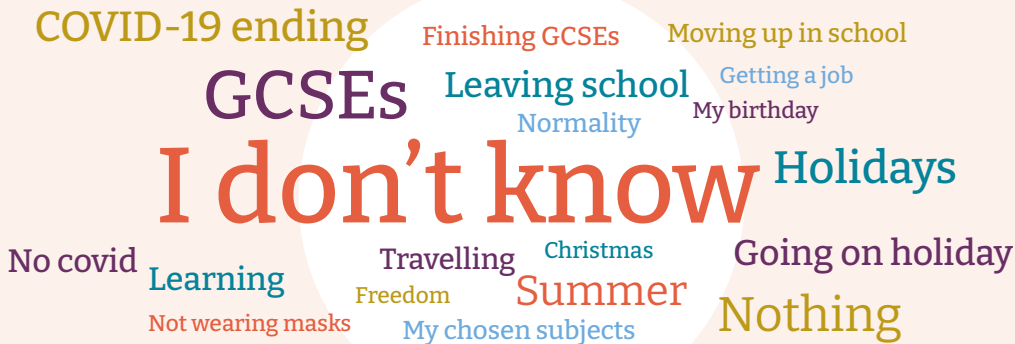


Yes	44%
May or may not	41%
No	15%

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The year ahead

What are you most looking forward to
in the next year?



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Impact of COVID-19 on future opportunities



Around a third (34%)
of pupils think that
COVID-19 means they
will have less chance of
going to university.



Less than half (41%)
think that COVID-19
means there will be
fewer jobs in the future.



Over half (57%)
think that COVID-19 will
reduce their opportunities
to travel in the future.

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Future plans

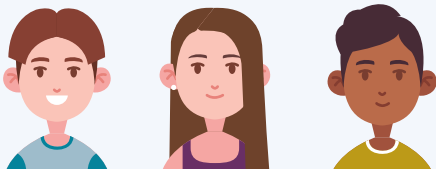
We asked pupils from Year 9 and 11 what they would like to do after their GCSEs...

71% study for A-Levels

16% find a job

(Pupils eligible for free school meals were nearly three times as likely to say this than those not eligible.)

11% do an apprenticeship



Also, what they would like to have achieved by the age of 25...

69% a job they enjoy

68% a well-paid job

52% a university degree

40% plenty of free time for things they enjoy

39% to have travelled or lived abroad

39% a long-term relationship

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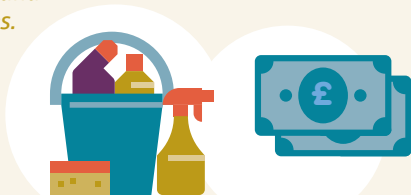
Relationships and responsibilities

Just over half (55%) of pupils see themselves living with a partner and having children in the future.

Most want to share household, family and financial responsibilities equally, however there are still some expectations around traditional gender roles.

How would you like to share the responsibility of earning money for the family?

	Boys	Girls
I do most of it	44%	6%
We both do the same amount	48%	82%
My partner does most of it	2%	6%
I don't know	6%	6%

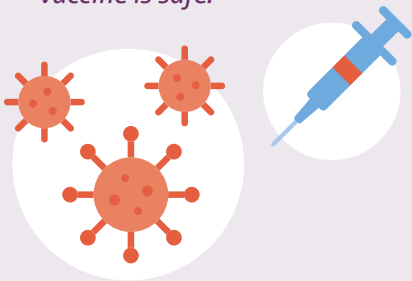


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Trust in the COVID-19 vaccine

50%
*of pupils feel the COVID-19
vaccine is safe.*



However, there are considerable differences
by age, gender and socio-economic status:

Age

Confidence in the safety of
the vaccine appears to **increase**
with age.

Gender

60% of boys think the vaccine is
safe compared to **43% of girls**.

Free school meal eligibility

Pupils eligible for free school
meals are **2.5 times** more likely
to believe the vaccine is not safe.

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Welsh politics





Most young people are not interested in politics (interest is highest in Year 11 – 18% 'interested').

58% of pupils believe it is important to vote. However, only 37% of Year 11 pupils voted in the Senedd elections (first year eligible).

Reasons for low turnout reported by pupils in Year 7, Year 9 and Year 11 include lack of perceived knowledge about politics (61%) and a feeling that most politicians are not good people (47%).

How would pupils vote in a referendum on Welsh independence?



 Unsure	42%
 Would not vote	25%
 Would vote 'yes'	19%
 Would vote 'no'	15%

Whilst 82% were able to correctly identify Wales' First Minister, he was found to be the least recognisable leader for our pupils compared to leaders in England, Scotland and the US.



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Who do young people trust?

We asked pupils how trustworthy they believe different professions are.

Firefighters were rated the most trustworthy and politicians were rated the least trustworthy.



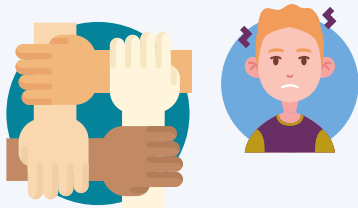
How much do you generally trust the following people?

	Completely	Mostly	Not very much	Not at all
Firefighters	54%	39%	5%	2%
Doctors	42%	50%	6%	2%
Police Officers	31%	44%	15%	10%
Scientists	24%	57%	16%	3%
Social Workers	20%	53%	19%	9%
Teachers	19%	53%	19%	9%
Youtubers	7%	22%	50%	22%
Politicians	3%	21%	47%	29%

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Issues young people care about

We asked pupils about the issues they think about the most – racism and mental health were the two issues pupils were most concerned about (both 66%).



What issues do you think about most often?

