

What's the best and worst thing about growing up in Wales?

Young people think the best thing about living in Wales is the scenery and the worst thing is the weather.

"It's always raining"

"The fact that people think we're part of England"

"Being stereotyped"

What's the best thing about living in Wales?



Scenery	24.4%
Civic values and politics	15.7%
Sport	9.7%
Language and culture	8.1%
People and community	5.2%
Welsh identity	2.1%

What's the worst thing about living in Wales?



Weather	42%
Lack of facilities	27%
Language issues	16.7%
Isolation	14%
Lack of opportunities	9%
Stereotyping	7.3%
Nothing	6%
Welsh policies	3.7%

A future in Wales?

Young people are uncertain whether they have a future in Wales.

Concerns over whether they will be able to stay in Wales to do the job they want increase as they get older.

*"I think I will have to leave
Wales to do the job I want"*

22.5% **30.1%** **33.3%**
12-year-olds 15-year-olds 17-year-olds

*"I feel that Wales
may not be able to
provide a job in my
interests following
further education"*

*"It's not as advanced as
other European countries"*

*"It is a nowhere
sort of place"*

*"You don't get much
opportunities in Wales"*



Young people's understanding and interest in politics

Young people are more interested in UK and world politics than local and Welsh politics.

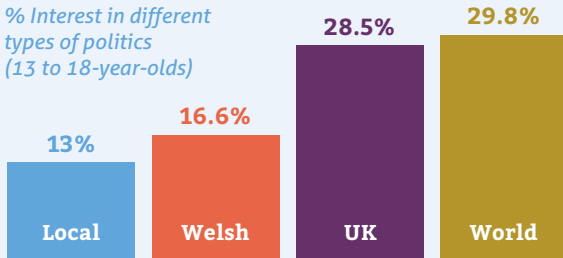


Young people have **better knowledge** of **UK** politics than **Welsh** politics.



Young people rely on **social media** and **family or friends** for information on **current affairs**.

% Interest in different types of politics (13 to 18-year-olds)



Young people want **greater opportunities** for **political participation**.



When asked whether the **voting age** should be **lowered to 16**, **66.3%** said **"yes"** and **22.7%** said **"no"**.

Do school councils make a difference?

Having compulsory school councils in Wales has not led to high levels of pupil engagement or a belief that councils make a difference.

"I would have a school council where the school actually listens to what they have to say and where we are taken seriously in our suggestions"



The main issues raised in councils relate to **uniform and facilities**.



Young people want **more say over subject choice**, however they may not raise this in councils as they don't think their remit includes the curriculum.



Only **16%** thought the school council **made a difference** to what happens in school.

Young people's views on the Welsh language

*Young people have mixed
views on the Welsh language.*

An equal percentage of young
people (10%) named the Welsh
language as a positive and negative
thing about living in Wales.

What's the best thing about living in Wales?



*"You get a huge opportunity
to become bilingual"*

"Having our own language"

What's the worst thing about living in Wales?

"Being forced to learn Welsh"

*"Being forced to speak English,
eg. in a restaurant, shop"*



Growing up in Wales: Evidence from the WISERD Education Multi-Cohort Study

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The unhappiness of girls

15-year-old girls are significantly less happy about themselves than 15-year-old boys.

Girls were much more likely to have felt miserable or unhappy in the previous two weeks, to have cried a lot in the previous two weeks, to be unhappy about the way they look and unhappy with their 'life as a whole'.

	Boys		Girls	
<i>"I feel good about myself"</i>	75.2% ✓	7.6% ✗	46.7% ✓	21% ✗
<i>"I felt miserable or unhappy in the last two weeks"</i>	28.4% ✓	56.1% ✗	47.9% ✓	26.3% ✗
<i>"I cried a lot"</i>	7.8% ✓	82.5% ✗	26.3% ✓	53.9% ✗
<i>The way you look</i>	59.5% 😊	7.2% ☹️	28.7% 😊	28.1% ☹️
<i>Your life as a whole</i>	79.5% 😊	4.0% ☹️	55.6% 😊	10.7% ☹️



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How would you describe your school?

Younger pupils in secondary schools are more likely to use positive terms to describe their schools than the older pupils.

As pupils progress through secondary school they are less likely to believe that teachers listen to them and that their views are taken seriously. However, those who enter sixth forms feel they are far more listened to.

Year 8 pupils



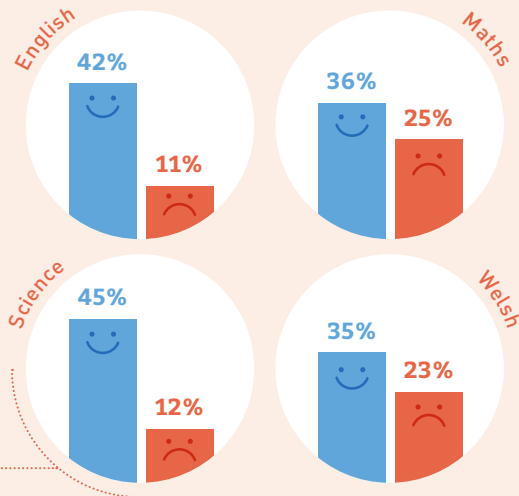
Year 10 pupils

What subjects do pupils like the most?

Science is the most popular core subject, Maths is the least popular.

Of the four core subjects studied at secondary school, 45% of 13-year-olds like Science 'a lot'. However, while 25% do not like Maths 'at all', 36% still 'like it a lot'. To some extent, this reflects gender differences. Boys were more likely to like Maths, and girls were more likely than boys to not like it at all.

Core subjects 'liked a lot' or 'not at all' by Year 8 pupils



Sleepless in school?

A third of young people said they "almost always" go to school feeling tired.



25% of pupils have **fewer than eight hours in bed.**



The most common **bedtime** for **12 to 13-year-olds** is around **10pm** and for **13 to 14-year-olds** it's nearly an hour later at **11pm.**



28% of **14 to 15-year-olds** reported that they went to bed around or after **midnight.**



Over a third of young people reported **waking up during the night** to send or check messages via **social media.**

Excluded from the classroom

Over 40% of pupils have been asked to leave the classroom or go home early by their teachers.

32% of young people thought it was fair that they were asked to leave, but 36% did not.

Young people generally supported the policy of removing disruptive students from the classroom, though they did not support school exclusion and nearly half thought they needed someone to talk to about their problems.

Reasons for exclusion

"For playing around"

"Because I was late"

"I kept talking and ended up swearing"

"Because the teachers hate me"

"Arguing over my rights"

"Chewing gum"