

Growing up in Wales: school students' perspectives and experiences

Evidence from the WISERD Education Multi-Cohort Study

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How young people spend their time



67% use social media at least five times a week.

50% take care of family members at least once a week.



24% work outside their family home at least once a week (53% for 16 to 17-year-olds).

59% study at least three times a week (60% of 11 to 12-year-olds, 52% of 13 to 14-year-olds, 92% of 16 to 17-year-olds).



18% do extra classes/ tuition at least once a week (34% of 16 to 17-year-olds).



75% play on electronic games at least once a week.

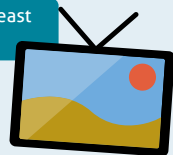


83% play sport or do exercise at least once a week.



82% spend time outside at least once a week.

38% watch TV at least five times a week.



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Money and gambling

55% of young people regularly receive money each week.

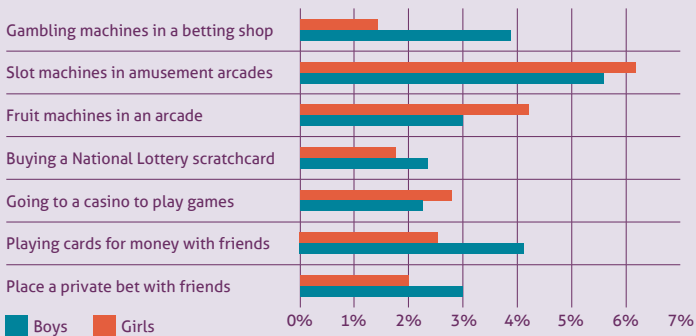
Around one third receive 'pocket money' from their parents.

Almost one in five receive money from other relatives or in exchange for doing chores at home. **38%** of 16 to 17-year-olds have part-time jobs.

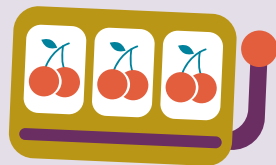
Our research shows the incidence of gambling in young people may be much lower than recent media reports suggest.

The 'worst' gamblers appear to be the 11 to 12-year-olds.

Gambling activities of 11 to 12-year-olds over seven-day period



Overall, our research revealed young people have generally negative attitudes towards gambling.



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Technoference

Exactly a quarter of young people said their parents spend quite a lot of time using their mobile phones when they're with them.

23% said they often ask their parents to stop using their mobile phones.

Nearly one in six young people whose parents post pictures of them on social media said they were not happy that they did this without asking for permission first.



Reasons young people ask their parents to get off their mobile phones

34% were talking and not being listened to.



21% wanted to ask something or get some help (eg. with homework).



7% wanted to spend dinnertime together.



5% wanted to watch tv together.



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Views on teachers

Our longitudinal study has been key to seeing how young people's views change over time.

This year's study has shown that generally 11 to 12-year-olds had the most positive views about their teachers, followed by 16 to 17-year-olds, and lastly 13 to 14-year-olds.

8% of young people said they never or rarely get enough help from their teachers if they find something difficult.



6% said they never or almost never understand their lessons.

13% of children said their teachers never or not very often listen to them and take their views seriously.



6% of children said they thought their teachers should be stricter always or most of the time.

All of the above were most strongly felt by those from the most deprived households.

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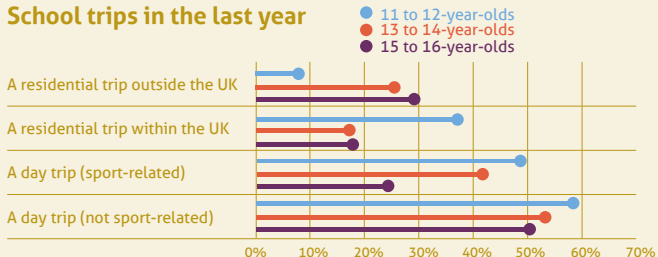
School trips

Only a minority of young people have been on a residential school trip either in the UK (26%) or abroad (17%) in the last year. Around half of those aged 11 to 12 years old went on a day trip.

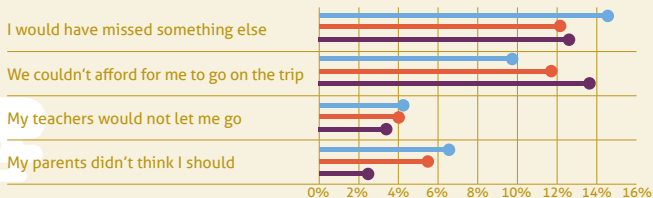
More than one third (38%) of young people wanted to attend a residential trip but were unable to.



School trips in the last year



Reasons for being unable to go on a residential trip



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Being asked to leave the classroom

31% of young people said they've been asked to leave the classroom because of their behaviour.



Young people from socio-economically disadvantaged households were as likely to be asked to leave as those from the least disadvantaged households.

Boys are far more likely to have been asked to leave in the last year than girls (39% of boys compared to 22% of girls).

Older pupils are more likely to say they've been asked to leave in the last year than younger pupils (41% of 13 to 14-year-olds compared to 20% of 11 to 12-year-olds).



Why are young people asked to leave the classroom?

For being disruptive (eg. talking, laughing or misbehaving) **74%**

For being rude to the teacher (including "answering back") **7%**

Because the teacher has "over-reacted" or falsely accused them of something **7%**



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School Detention

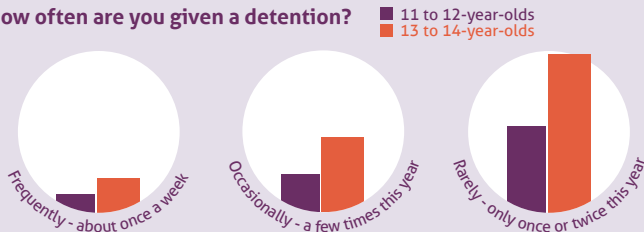
Half of our young people have been given a school detention.

5% said they had a detention frequently (at least once a week) and a further 13% say they've had a few detentions in the last year.

13 to 14-year-olds were twice as likely to say they've had several detentions in the last year as 11 to 12-year-olds.

Boys are nearly twice as likely to have received several detentions or more in the past year than girls.

How often are you given a detention?



Why young people believe they were given their last detention



Schoolwork-related reasons (such as not completing homework)	40%
General disruption in the classroom	25%
Being late to class	10%
Physical misbehaviour (including fighting)	3%
Part of a whole-class detention	3%
Falsely accused of something by their teacher	2%
Mobile phone/social media use	2%

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GCSE subject choices



Around three-quarters of young people between 13 and 17 years old were happy with the choices

available to them when choosing GCSE subject options.



For those who weren't happy, the most common answer was that they *couldn't choose the*

subjects they wanted because they had to choose them out of subject columns.

Others said *the subjects they wanted to take weren't available.*

Other subjects that 13 to 14-year-old students were interested in taking were:



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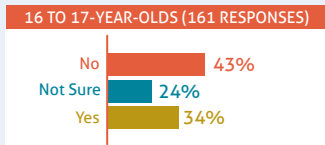
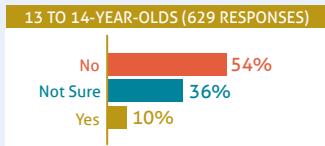
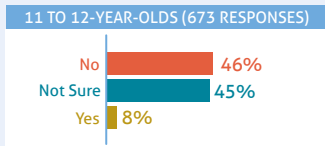
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Awareness of vocational education

Young people show very low levels of awareness around vocational education, even 16 to 17-year-olds (sixth formers) who have made all their choices about future steps.

Of those who do know what vocational qualifications are, a generally low proportion of young people see them as valuable for their future, although the oldest age group is most likely to agree with this.

Do you know what vocational qualifications are? (1,463 responses)



Vocational qualifications taken in school are valuable for young people's futures (746 responses)

