The Wolverhampton Children and Young People's Health Related Behaviour Survey 2026

Public Health Executive Report

Prepared by the Schools Health Education Unit, Exeter
for the City of Wolverhampton Council



wolverhampton.gov.uk

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL

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FOREWORD

I would like to thank you for participating in the 2026 Health Related Behaviour Survey (HRBS). The commitment and support from schools has once again been superb and has enabled us to collect views from almost 13,000 children and young people, from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 5, across 84 settings.

This executive report contains valuable data on the health and wellbeing of children and young people across a range of themes. The information will enable us to better understand the attitudes, behaviours and lifestyle choices of Wolverhampton children and young people. In addition, it will help us identify priorities and plan our city wise approach in relation to health and wellbeing.

From a Public Health perspective, we will take the opportunity to use this survey data, along with our Public Health Vision and Annual Report, to work collaboratively with schools and our wider partners to impact on the key challenges we have in our City and make a positive difference to the lives of children and young people.

Should you require any further support or assistance in addressing any priorities or challenges raised by the data in this report, please contact the Wolverhampton Public Health team.

Acknowledgments
The HRBS is commissioned by the Public Health team within the City of Wolverhampton Council. SHEU are grateful to the children and young people, teachers and schools for their time and contributions to this survey. As a result of their work we have excellent data to be used by all organisations that support the health and wellbeing of young people in Wolverhampton.

The Children and Young People Public Health team would like to thank all those colleagues and partners who spent many hours supporting and developing the survey in order to make it as valuable as possible. Finally, we would like to thank all the schools, teachers and most of all pupils who took the time to ensure that the survey continues to provide excellent data for discussion.



John Denley
Director of Public Health
City of Wolverhampton Council

INTRODUCTION

The Health Related Behaviour Survey (HRBS) has been running in Wolverhampton since 2006. The survey is carried out as a way of consulting with pupils and collecting robust information about young people's health and wellbeing. The HRBS is commissioned by the Public Health team within the City of Wolverhampton Council and carried out by the Schools Health Education Unit (SHEU) which has conducted the survey on behalf of the Council since its inception in 2006.

The survey is conducted with pupils in primary and secondary phase settings across Wolverhampton, who are asked to complete an anonymous on-line version of the survey appropriate for their age group. Schools are supported to collect the most reliable data with pupils in Years 2 (Key Stage 1 survey), 4 & 6 (Key Stage 2 survey), and 8 & 10 (Secondary Key Stage 3-4 survey) with other year groups taking part where appropriate. In 2026 survey schools could also opt for a Year 7 version and a Year 12 version of the secondary survey.

HRBS 2026 was completed by a total of 12,855 pupils in 23 primary (Key Stage 1) settings, 57 primary (Key Stage 2) settings, 16 secondary (Key Stage 3-4) settings, 3 institutions completed the post-16 survey, and 9 institutions took part in the SEND survey.

Summary and topic reports

Five topic reports have also been produced to disseminate the findings of the survey to as wide an audience as possible in a format that is useful to the needs of partner agencies:

- Healthy Lifestyles
- Relationships and Sexual Health
- Smoking, Substances and Gambling
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing
- Safety (including Bullying).

An additional SEND survey report is also available. For more information email: Amanda.Evans@wolverhampton.gov.uk

School Year	Year 2	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Post-16	Total
Boys	395	1,106	250	1,162	440	1,058	337	929	140	290	6,107
Girls	391	1,117	271	1,189	402	1,112	461	846	99	226	6,114
Total	**798**	**2,279**	**536**	**2,416**	**854**	**2,225**	**817**	**1,835**	**246**	**532**	**12,538***

* 317 young people didn't select male or female. 404 students took part in a bespoke special school survey so their results are reported elsewhere.

NAVIGATING THE REPORT

The report is divided into five sections that reflect local priorities:

Section 1 – Emotional Health and Wellbeing

Section 2 – Healthy Lifestyles

Section 3 – Growing up, Relationships and Sexual Health

Section 4 – Smoking, Substances and Gambling

Section 5 – Safety (including bullying)

Trends

The survey questions have changed somewhat compared with previous years but where possible, trend charts have been included to provide useful insight for key priority areas.

Mapping of Geographical Variation

The primary school data available has been divided into ward areas by postcode of the pupil. This protects the identity of the schools involved. The differences observed across the ward maps are not tested for statistical significance but the colour coding is indicative of the geographical variation in responses.

Phase Differences

A selection of questions used across both the Key Stage 2 survey and the secondary survey have been presented to look for age-related differences in responses.

Demographics

A selection of self-reported demographics can be found on page 21 of this report.

Inequalities

A selection of questions for each of the primary and secondary questionnaires have been selected to look for different responses across potential vulnerable groups. The full breakdown by Year group can be found on pages 22 to 24 of this report, but are also indicated with the commentary in the thematic areas.

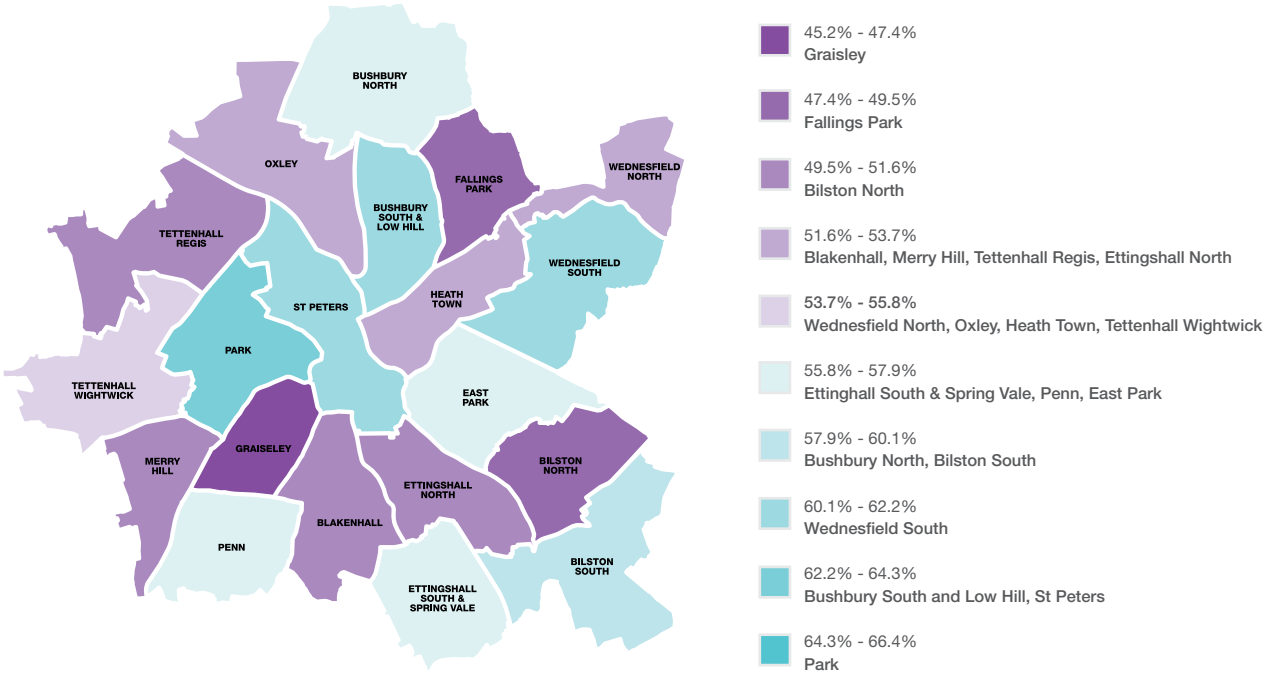
SECTION 1 - EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Headlines

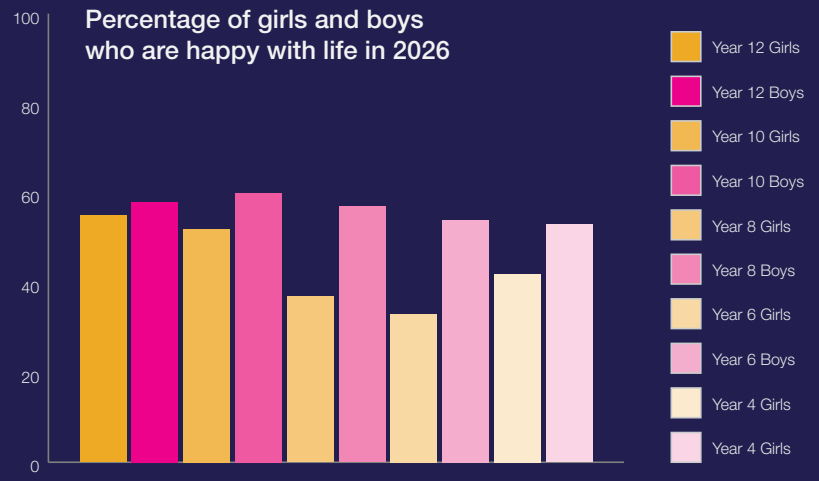
Emotional and Mental Health

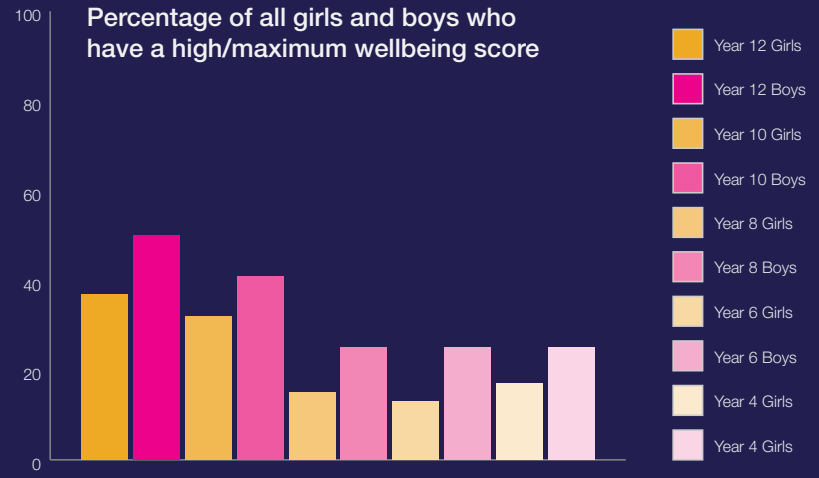
The following section looks at self-reported mental and emotional wellbeing of children and young people across Wolverhampton. Using validated survey measures, this section evaluates general life satisfaction, overall happiness at school and wellbeing trends compared to previous year's survey results.

Percentage of year 6 pupils by ward who are happy with life at the moment

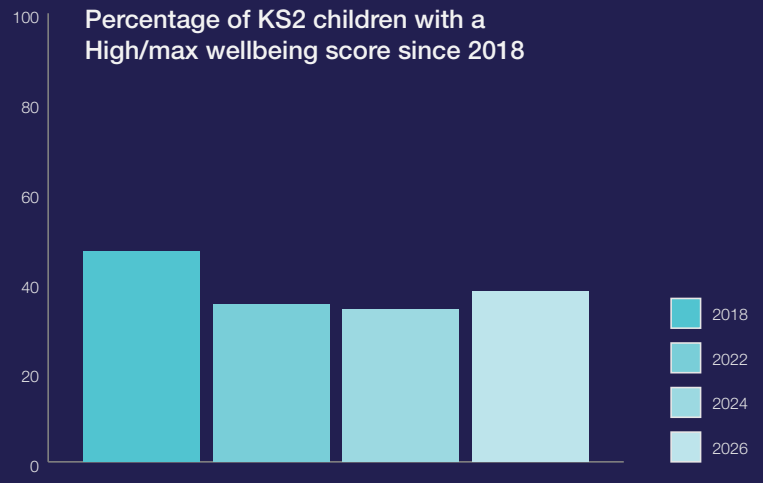


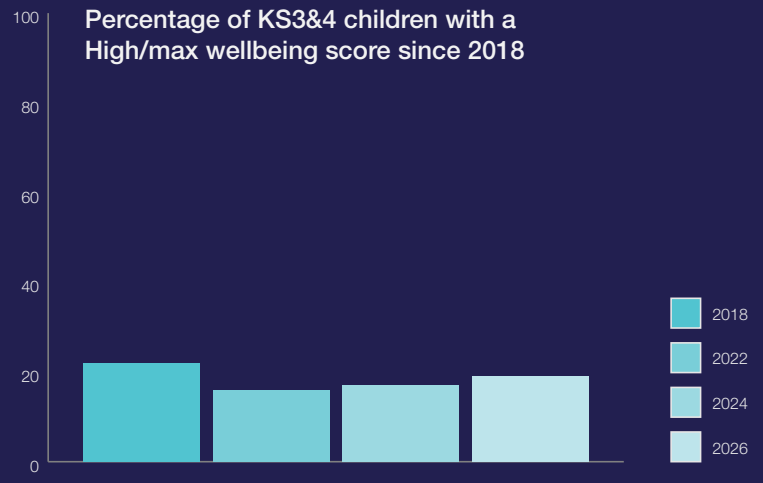
- Around half of secondary pupils rated their school lessons on mental health and wellbeing as 'quite/very useful'. The figures for Year 12 have fallen slightly in 2026 to 56% compared with 59%, previously
- 57% of Key Stage 1 said they mostly feel happy at school.
- 56% of Key Stage 2, 45% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils and 47% of post-16 students said that they feel happy with their life at the moment.
- There appears to be marked differences between the proportions of secondary girls achieving high percentages compared with boys for each of these questions. 48% of primary pupils said that they enjoy what each new day brings (an item from the Sterling Children's Wellbeing scale).
- Across all year groups within Key Stages 2-5 there is a marked difference in the percentage of boys that achieve a high/maximum wellbeing score when compared with girls.



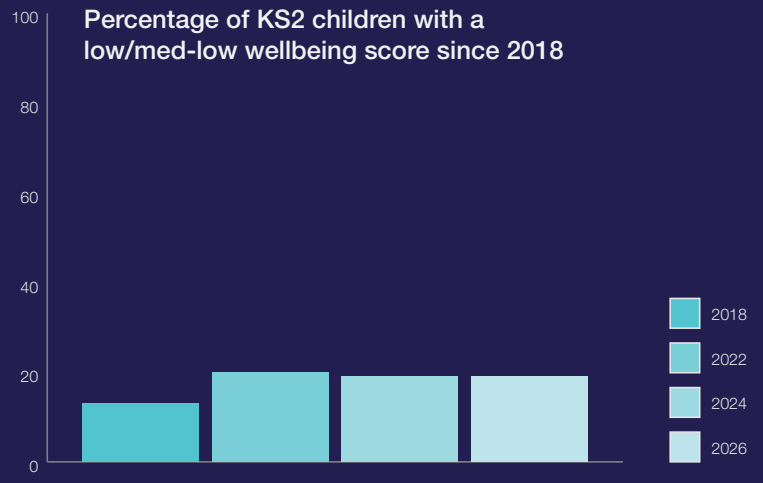


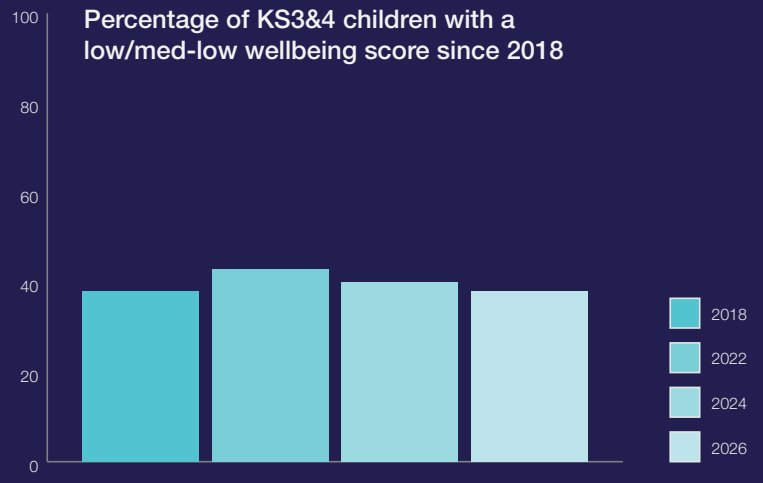
- In 2026 there has been a small increase in the percentage of pupils in Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3-4 that achieved a high/maximum wellbeing score. However, the percentages remain less than in 2018.





- In 2026, the percentage of pupils that achieved a low/medium-low wellbeing score is similar to 2022 and 2024 for Key Stage 2 pupils. In Key Stage 3-4 results again show a slight decrease.

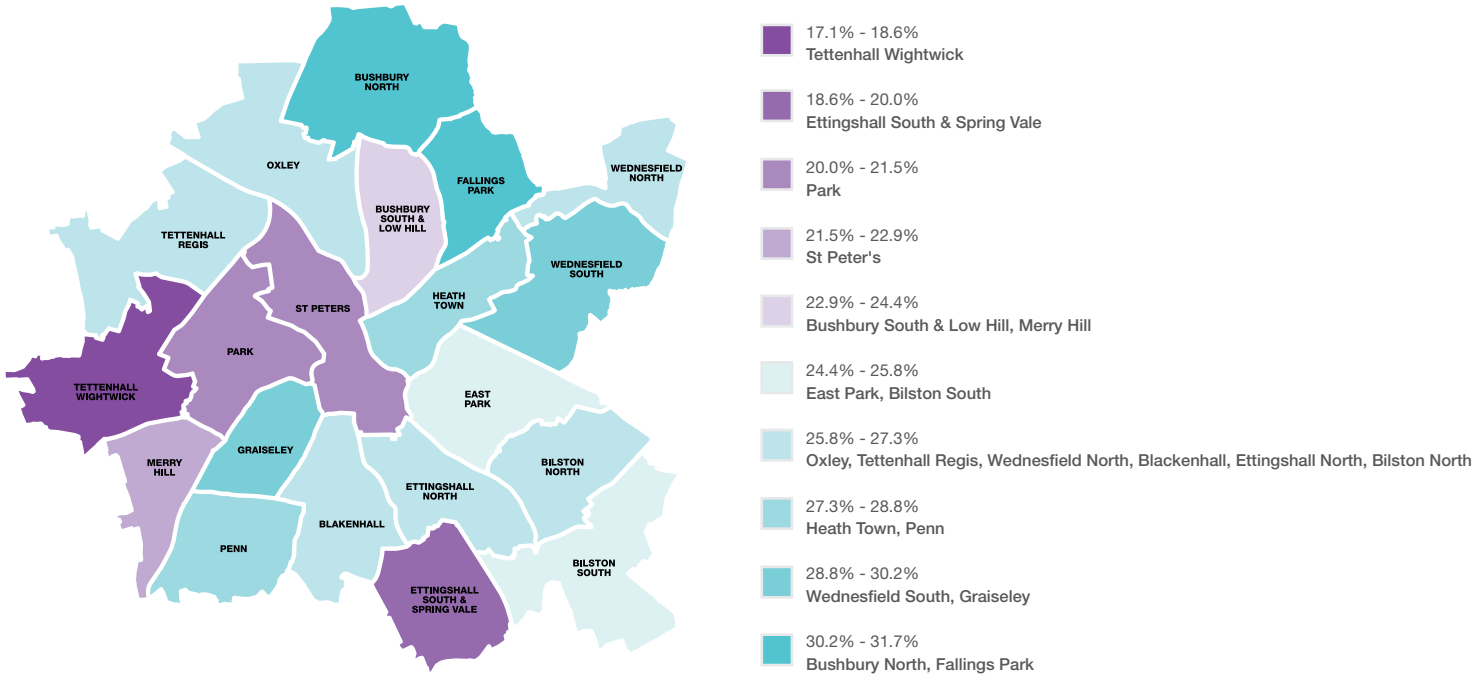




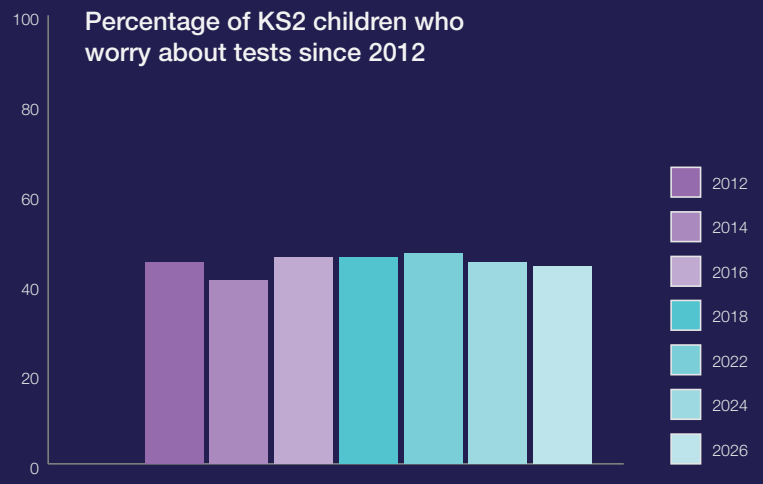
Top Worries

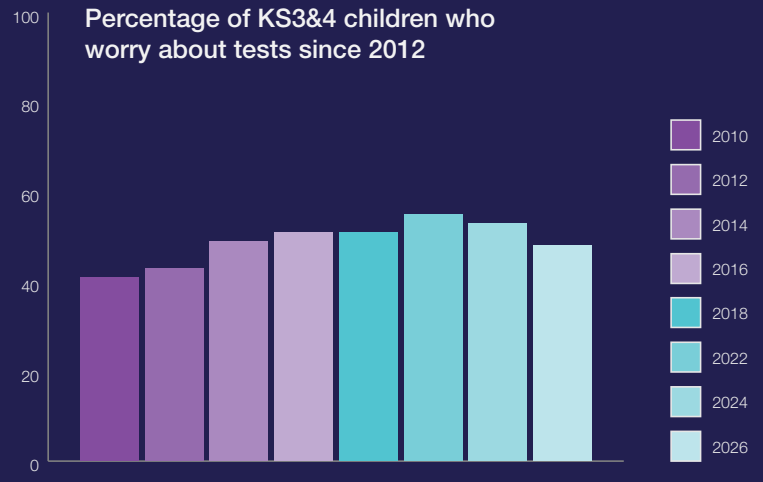
- 75% of Key Stage1 and 90% of Key Stage 2 said if they are worried, they have an adult they trust that they can talk to about this. Compared with 2024, primary pupils are more likely to say there is an adult they trust in school (63% vs. 59%) who they could talk to if they have a worry.
- 43% of secondary pupils and 51% of post-16 students said if they were worried about their mental health they had an adult, or someone else they trust to talk to about this.
- There are clear links between worrying and poor mental health. 28% of Key Stage 2 pupils appeared outside the expected range for emotional issues therefore displaying signs of emotional difficulty. This was higher in girls (32%) than boys (21%).
- 13% of Key Stage 2 and 3-4 pupils recorded levels suggestive of clinical emotional difficulty. In Key Stage 3-4 girls were significantly more likely to have a clinical difficulty when compared to boys.

Percentage of year 6 pupils by ward who displaying emotional difficulty in 2026



- Over the last 3 surveys, there appears to be a downward trend for pupils worrying about tests. Key Stage 2 figure has fallen from 47% to 44% and the Key Stage 3/4 figure has fallen from 55% to 48%.



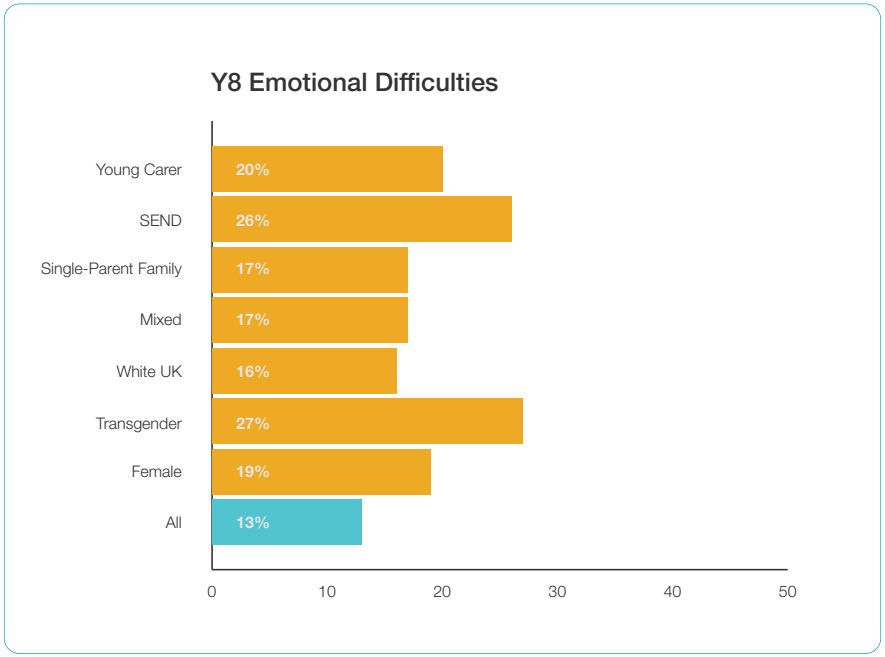




Inequalities

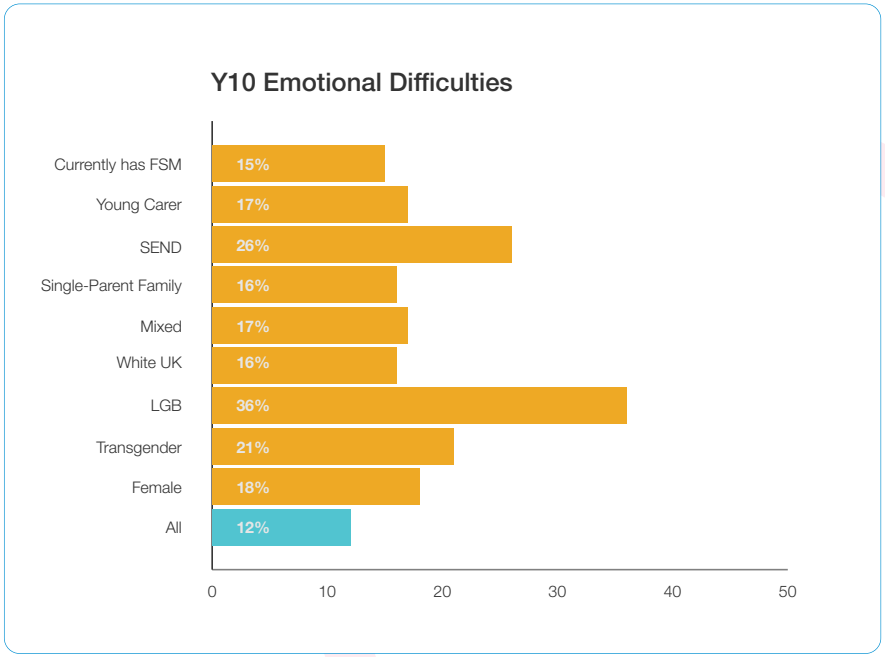
Year 8 pupils were significantly more likely to have recorded levels suggestive of clinical emotional difficulty if they were:

- Female
- Transgender
- A Young Carer
- Have Special Educational Need or Disability
- In a single parent family



Year 10 pupils were significantly more likely to have recorded levels suggestive of clinical emotional difficulty if they were:

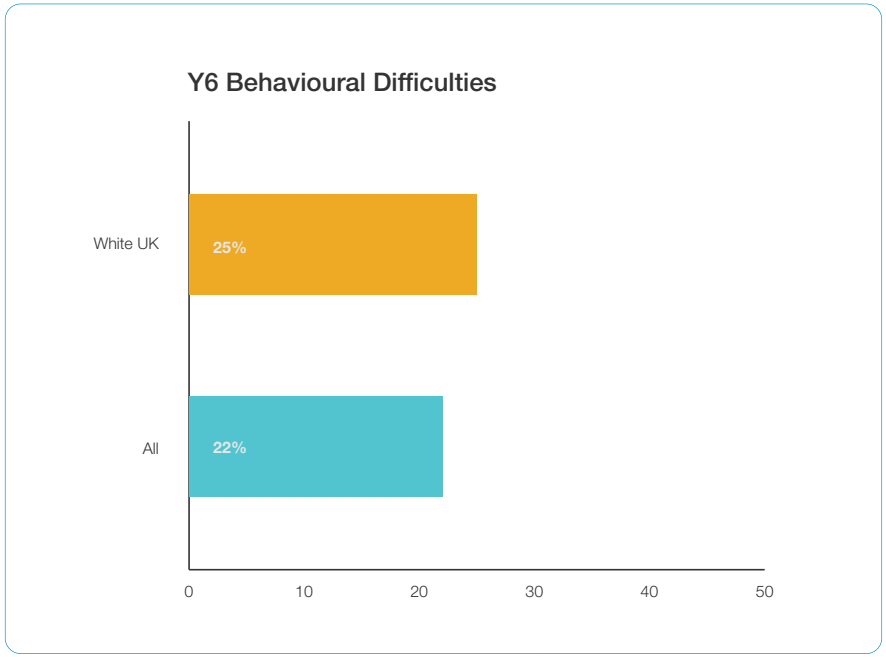
- Female
- Transgender
- LGB
- Have Special Educational Need or Disability
- A Young Carer



20% of Key Stage 2 pupils appeared outside the expected range for behavioural difficulties, 13% of which were clinically significant. In Key Stage 3-4 this decreases to 14%, 9% of which are significant.

Year 6 pupils were significantly more likely to have recorded levels suggestive of clinical behavioural difficulty if they were:

- White UK
- Other White
- In a single parent family
- A young Carer
- Have free school meals





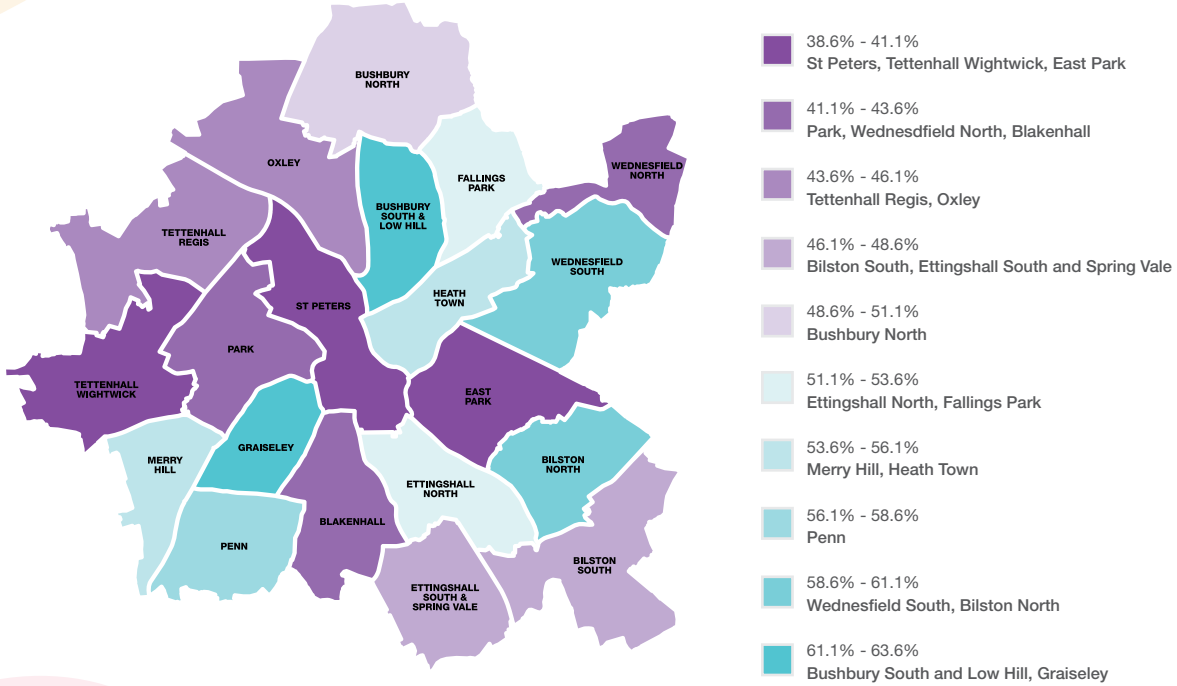
SECTION 2 - HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Headlines

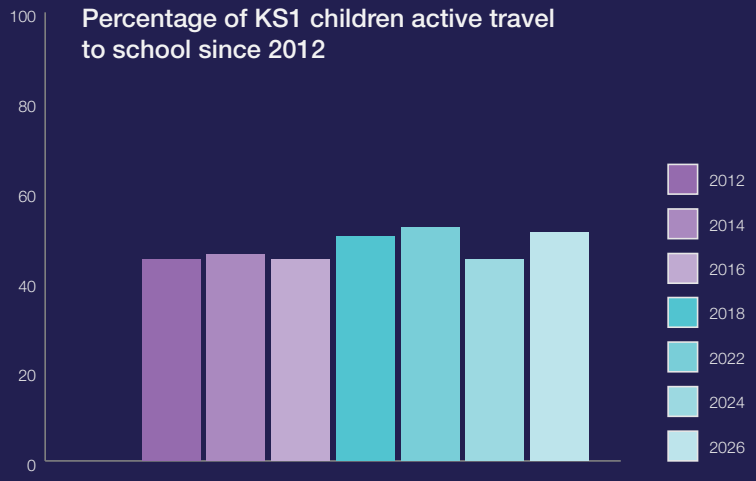
Active Travel

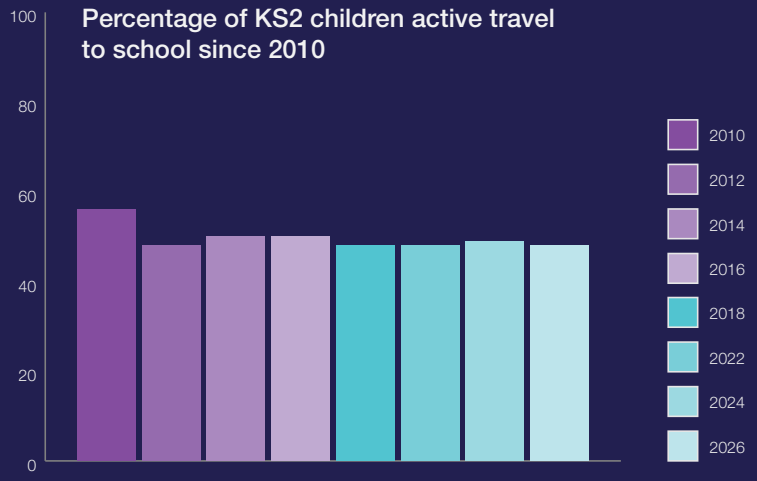
The following section looks at the daily habits and lifestyle choices affecting young people's physical health across Wolverhampton. It evaluates patterns of active travel to school, physical activity levels, dietary habits including fruit and vegetable consumption, oral health practices, and school breakfast routines.

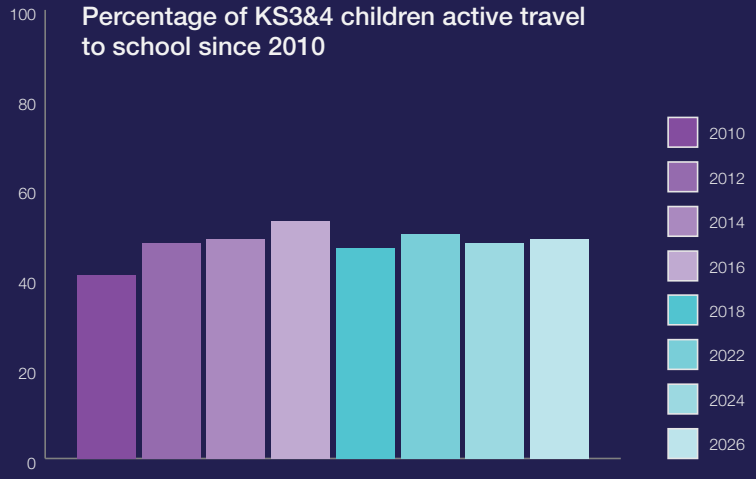
Percentage of year 6 pupils by ward who actively travel to school in 2026



- 38.6% - 41.1% St Peters, Tettenhall Wightwick, East Park
- 41.1% - 43.6% Park, Wednesdfield North, Blakenhall
- 43.6% - 46.1% Tettenhall Regis, Oxley
- 46.1% - 48.6% Bilston South, Ettingshall South and Spring Vale
- 48.6% - 51.1% Bushbury North
- 51.1% - 53.6% Ettingshall North, Fallings Park
- 53.6% - 56.1% Merry Hill, Heath Town
- 56.1% - 58.6% Penn
- 58.6% - 61.1% Wednesfield South, Bilston North
- 61.1% - 63.6% Bushbury South and Low Hill, Graiseley





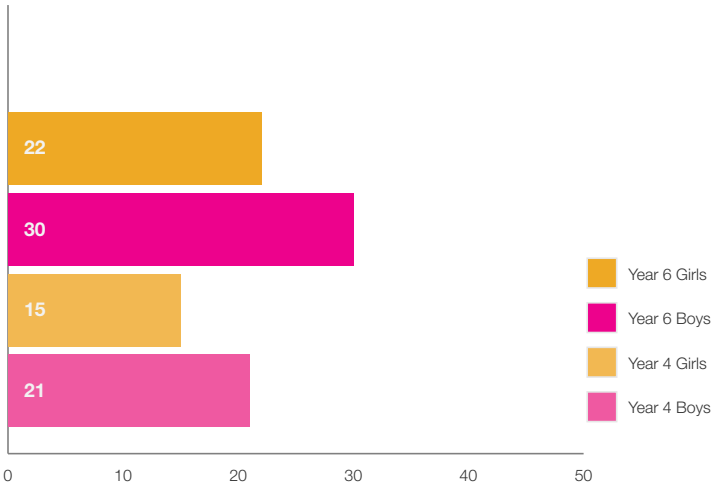


- 51% of Key Stage 1, 48% of Key Stage 2 and 49% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils walked, scootered or cycled to school on the day of the survey in 2026.
- 50% of Key Stage 1, 56% of Key Stage 2 and 44% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils came by car, van or taxi on the day of the survey in 2026.

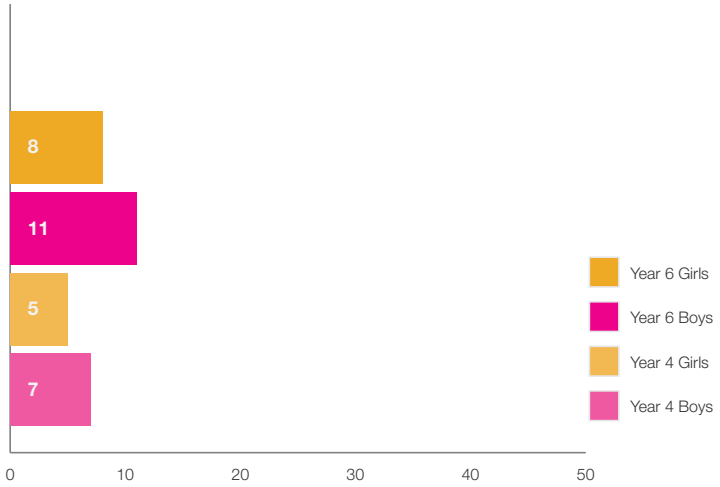
Physical Activity and Sports

- 83% of Key Stage 1 and 91% of Key Stage 2 pupils said it was ‘quite’ or ‘very easy’ to be physically active at playtime.
- 58% of Key Stage 1 pupils said that they at least ‘sometimes’ go swimming after school or at weekends compared with 56% in 2024 and 51% in 2022.
- 35% of Key Stage 2 pupils can swim more than a length (25 metres) easily. This compared with 31% saying the same in 2024.
- 74% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ that they like being active.
- Attendance at physical activity or sports clubs increased among Key Stage 2 pupils to 56% in 2026, up from 48% in 2024 and 52% in 2022. Among secondary pupils, attendance was 45% in 2026, compared with 48% in 2024 and 44% in 2022.
- 22% of Key Stage 2 pupils responded that they were active at school for at least 30 minutes where they had to breathe harder and faster on 5 or more days in the week before the survey. 8% said this for ‘out of school’ on 7 days in the last week. A higher proportion of Year 6 pupils achieve 30 minutes of daily physical activity compared with Year 4 pupils, with activity levels also higher among boys than girls.

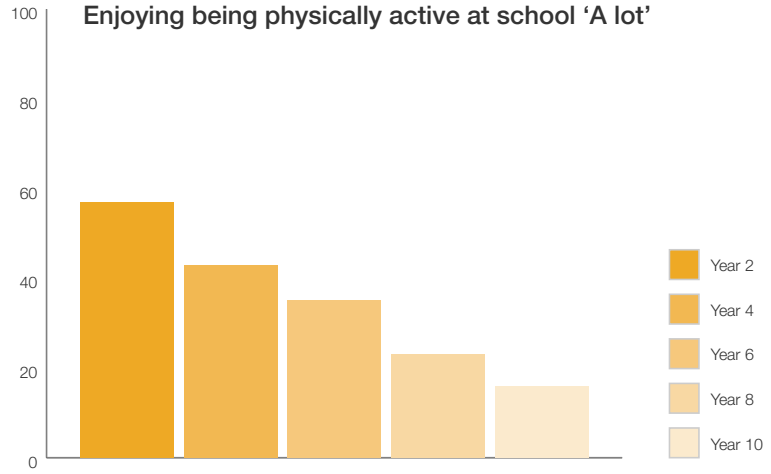
Key Stage 2: Active in school for 30+ minutes on 5 days



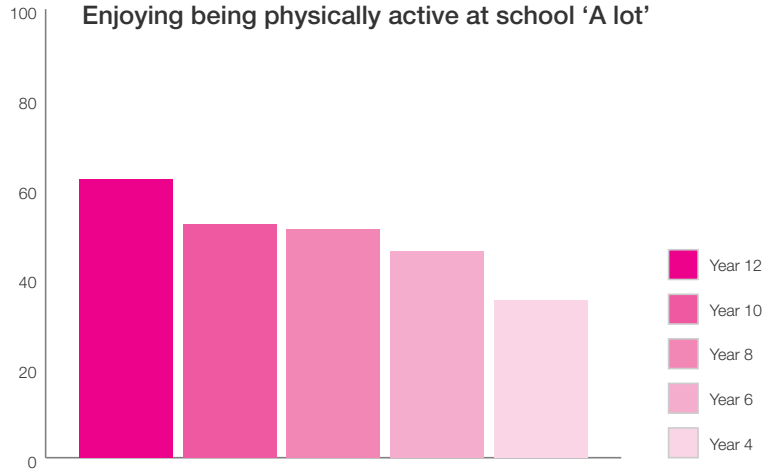
Key Stage 2: Active out of school for 30+ minutes on 7 days



- There appears to be a drop-off in enjoyment of physical activity at school between the primary and secondary phases. This is most striking for girls.



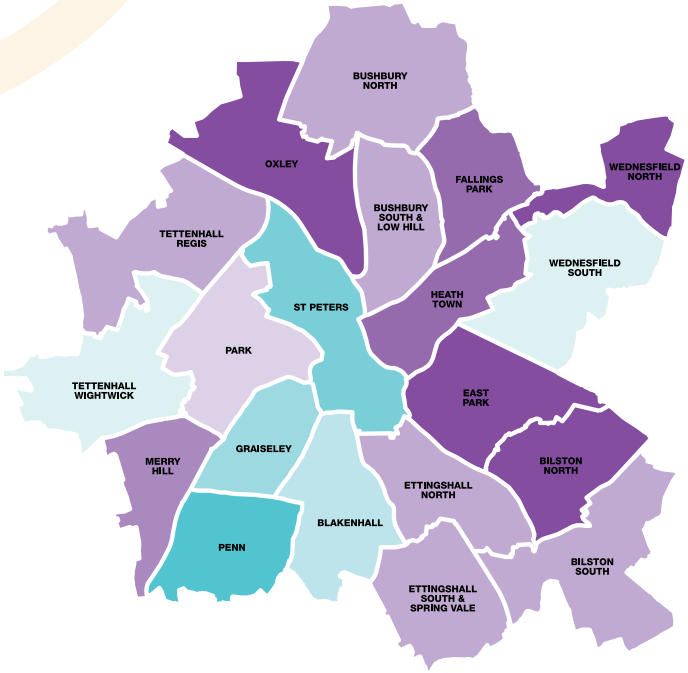
- 76% of Key Stage 2 pupils said that they enjoy being active at school. 24% of pupil said they enjoyed it ‘a bit’ at most.



Healthy Eating and 5-a-day

- 22% of Key Stage 1, 19% of Key Stage 2, 8% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils and 8% of post-16 students had at least 5 portions of fruit and vegetables the day before the survey. There has been a small increase in the percentage of Key Stage 1 pupils that have had 5 a day, however in Key Stage 2, 3 and 4 numbers remain similar.
- 42% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils bought food from takeaways/fast food outlets on at least one day in the week before the survey; 6% did so on at least 3 days.

Percentage of year 6 pupils by ward who had at least 5+ portions the day before



10.7% - 12.3%
Oxley, Wednesfield North

12.3% - 13.9%
Bilston North, East Park, Merry Hill

13.9% - 15.4%
Fallings Park, Heath Town

15.4% - 17.0%
Ettingshall North, Bushbury North, Tettenhall Regis, Bushbury South & Low Hill, Bilston South, Ettingshall Suth & Spring Vale

17.0% - 18.5%
Park

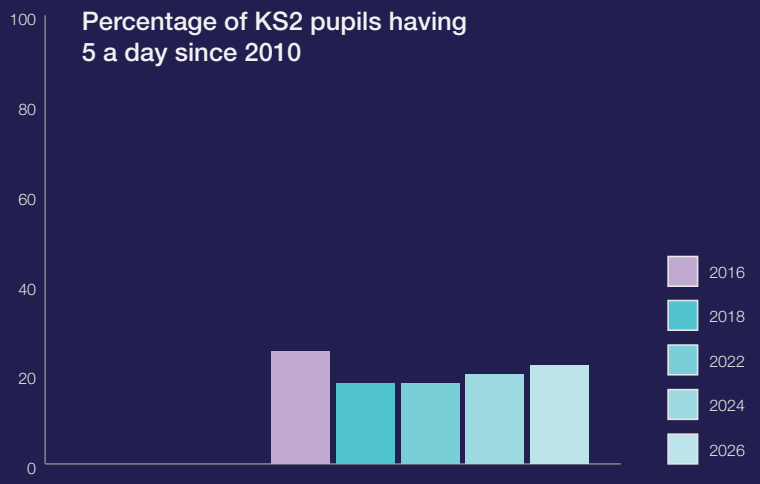
18.5% - 20.1%
Tettenhall Wightwick, Wednesfield South

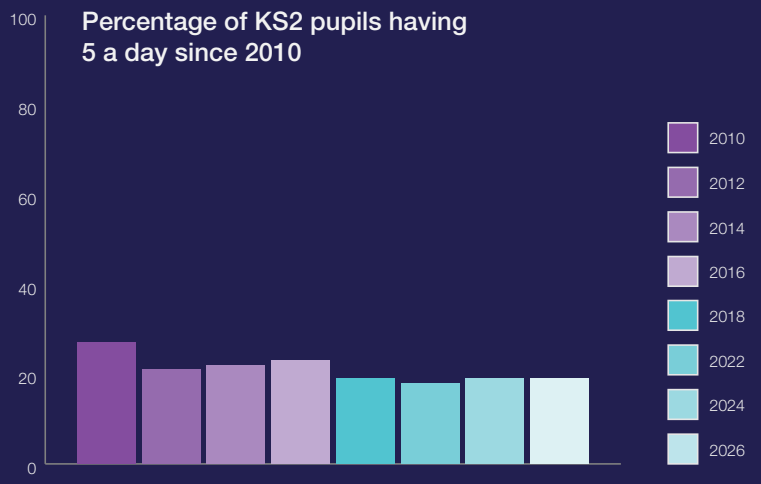
20.1% - 21.6%
Blakenhall

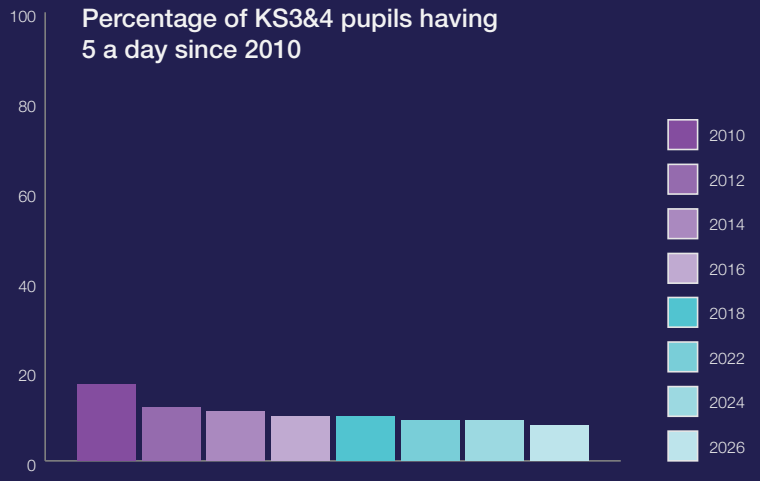
21.6% - 23.2%
Graiseley

23.2% - 24.8%
St Peters

24.8% - 26.3%
Penn


Percentage of KS2 pupils having
5 a day since 2010
100
80
60
40
20
0
2016
2018
2022
2024
2026


Percentage of KS2 pupils having
5 a day since 2010
100
80
60
40
20
0
2010
2012
2014
2016
2018
2022
2024
2026


Percentage of KS3&4 pupils having
5 a day since 2010
100
80
60
40
20
0
2010
2012
2014
2016
2018
2022
2024
2026

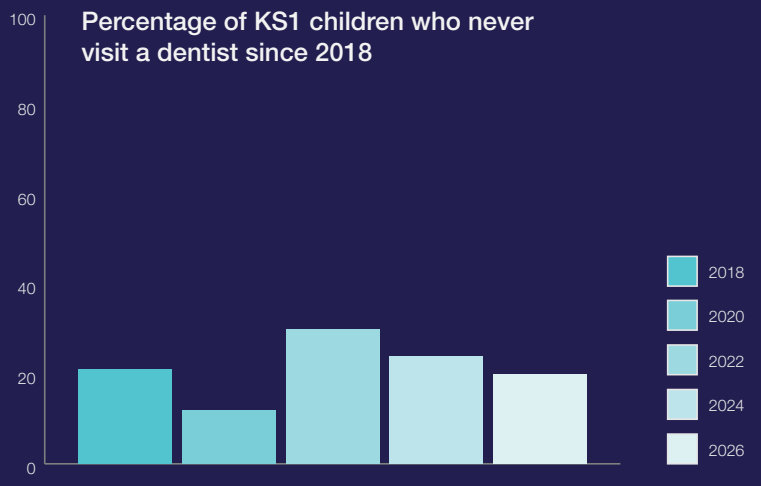


Wanting to Lose Weight

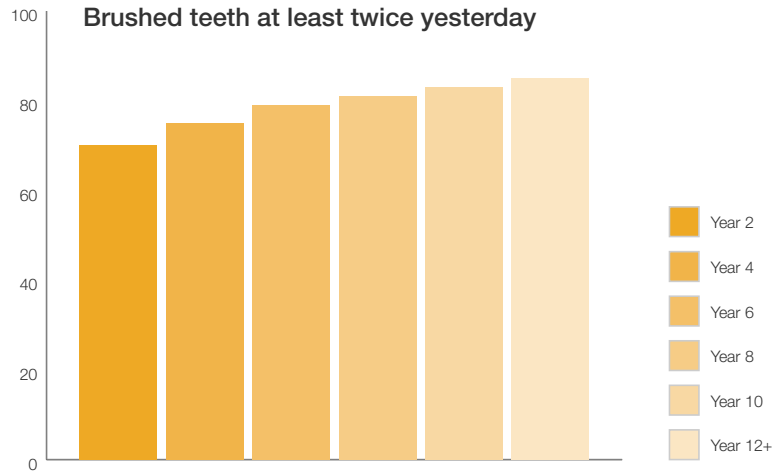
- Girls were more likely than boys to report wanting to lose weight in 2026, with 42% of Year 8 girls, 45% of Year 10 girls and 47% of post-16 students in further education expressing this view, compared with 33%, 30% and 20% of boys respectively.

Oral Health

- There has been a reduction in the number of Key Stage 1 pupils that have never visited a dentist from 30% at it's highest in 2022.
- In 2026, 20% of Key Stage 1 pupils and 11% of Key Stage 2 pupils said they have never been to the dentist. 19% of Key Stage 3-4 pupils said they have never been to the dentist or haven't been in a long time.
- In 2026, 67% of Key Stage 1, 74% of Key Stage 2 and 79% of secondary pupils reported brushing their teeth at least twice the previous day.
- Toothbrushing rates increase with age, from Key Stage 1 through to secondary school, with girls reporting higher rates than boys across all year groups.

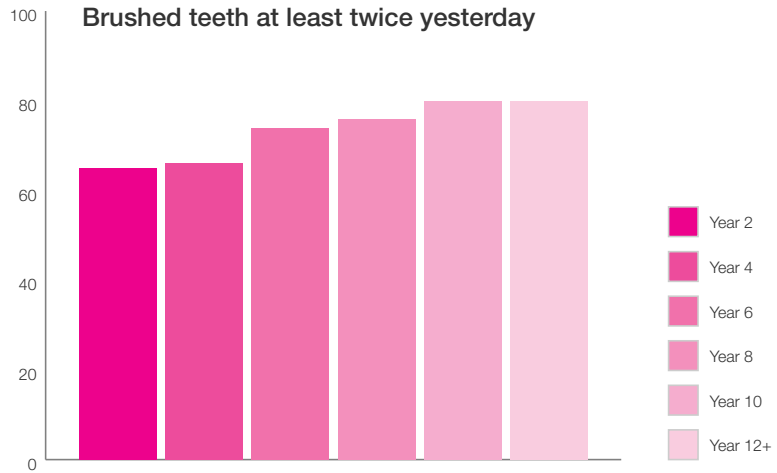


- Among Key Stage 2 pupils, the proportion brushing their teeth at least twice a day has increased steadily, from 71% in 2022 to 73% in 2024 and 74% in 2026. In contrast, rates among secondary pupils have remained relatively stable at around 80%, with 79% in 2026 compared with 81% in 2024 and 80% in 2022.



Girls 2026

- Pupils were asked if they had a toothbrush when they said they didn't brush their teeth yesterday, 0.4% of primary pupils in 2026 and 2024 said they didn't have one, 0.2% of pupils said this in 2022.



Boys 2026

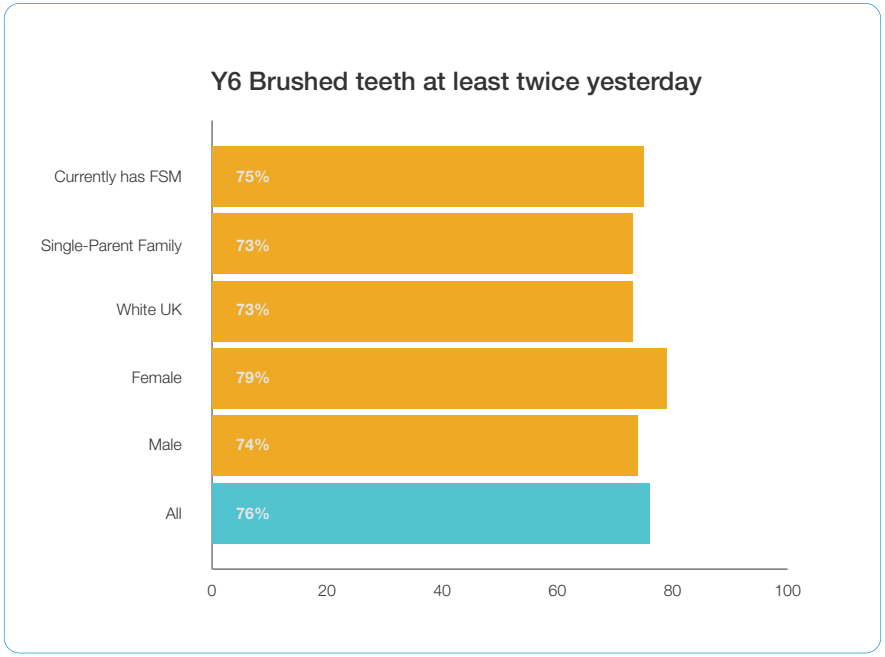
Inequalities

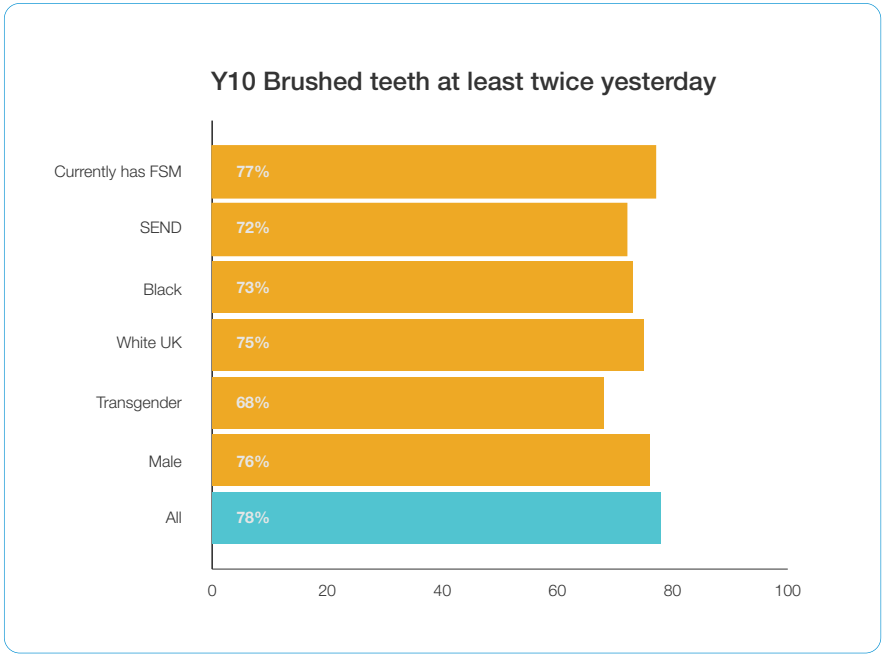
Year 6 pupils were significantly less likely to have brushed their teeth at least twice yesterday if they were:

- Male
- White UK
- In a single parent family
- Have free school meals

Year 8 pupils were significantly less likely to brushed their teeth at least twice yesterday if they were:

- Male
- Transgender
- White UK
- Black
- Have SEND
- Have free school meals

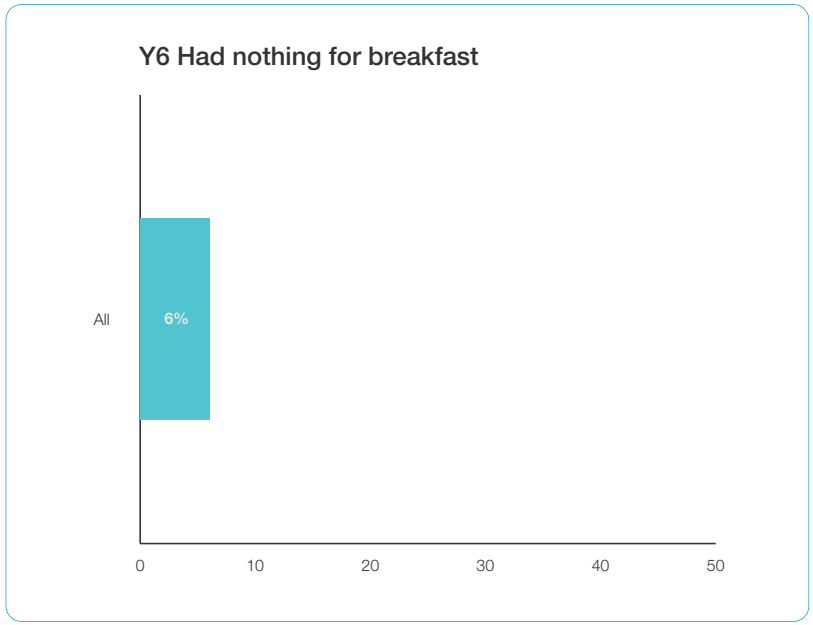




Breakfast consumption was highest among primary-aged pupils, with 90% of Key Stage 1 and 86% of Key Stage 2 pupils reporting that they had eaten breakfast on the day of the survey, compared with 64% of Key Stage 3-4 pupils.

Year 10 pupils were significantly more likely to have missed breakfast if they were:

- Female
- LGB
- Mixed
- Black
- In a single parent family
- Have free school meals





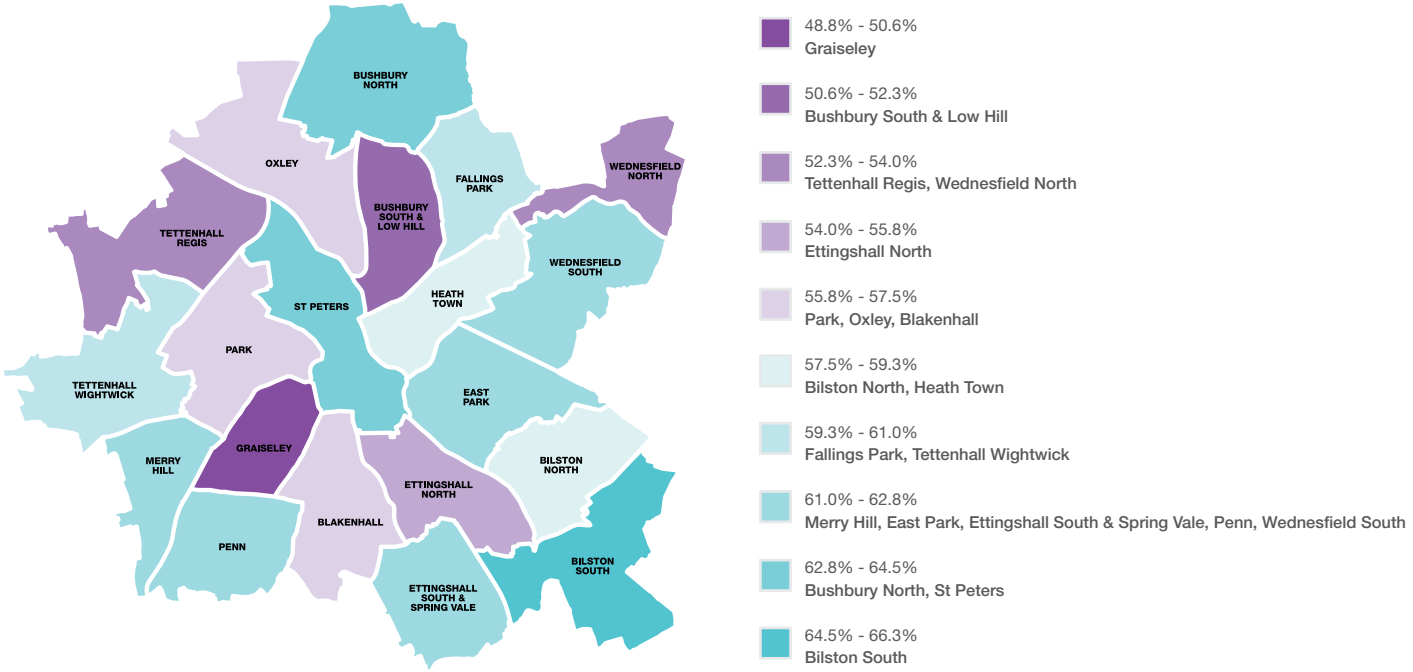
SECTION 3 - GROWING UP, RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUAL HEALTH

Headlines

Growing up

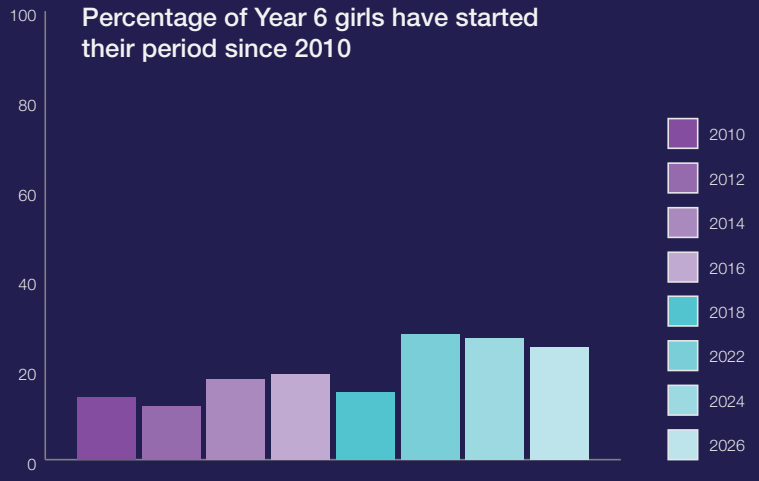
The following section looks at children and young people's experiences with growing up, body changes, and relationships. It assesses the perceived usefulness of school-based relationship and sex education (RSE), awareness of sexual health services and support, and experiences regarding controlling behaviors within relationships.

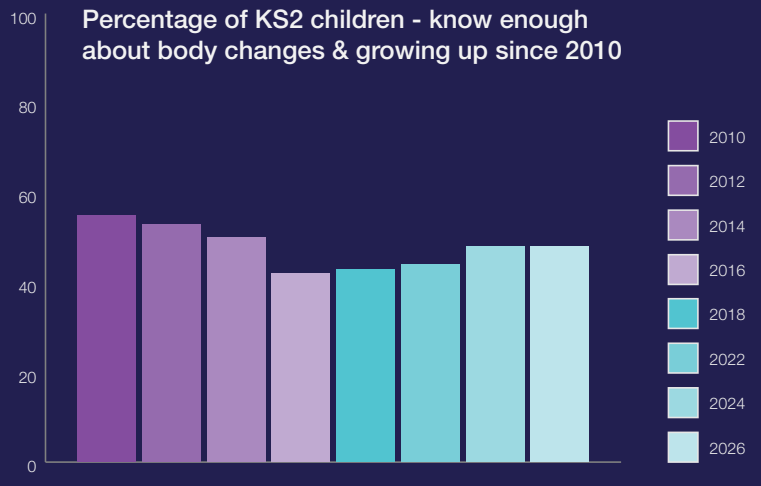
Percentage of year 6 pupils by ward who know enough about how their body changes as they get older

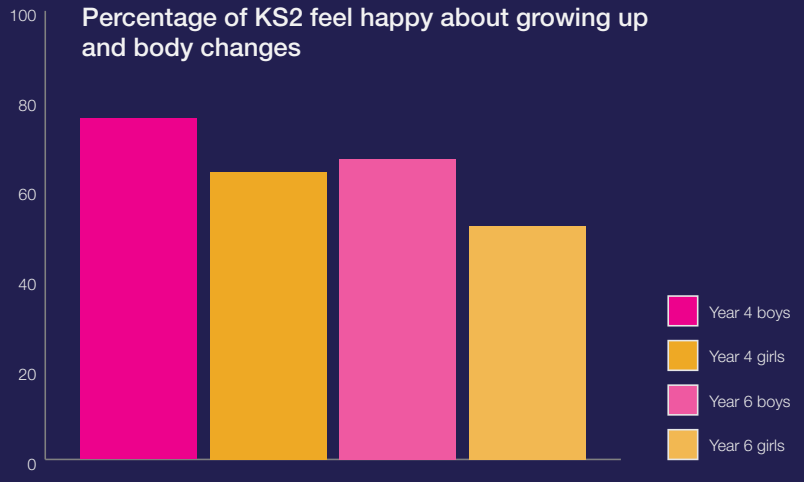


- 48.8% - 50.6% Graiseley
- 50.6% - 52.3% Bushbury South & Low Hill
- 52.3% - 54.0% Tettenhall Regis, Wednesfield North
- 54.0% - 55.8% Ettingshall North
- 55.8% - 57.5% Park, Oxley, Blakenhall
- 57.5% - 59.3% Bilston North, Heath Town
- 59.3% - 61.0% Fallings Park, Tettenhall Wightwick
- 61.0% - 62.8% Merry Hill, East Park, Ettingshall South & Spring Vale, Penn, Wednesfield South
- 62.8% - 64.5% Bushbury North, St Peters
- 64.5% - 66.3% Bilston South

- 57% of Key Stage 2 pupils in both 2026 and 2024 reported that the information and advice they received at school about relationships, growing up and puberty was either quite or very useful. This is broadly consistent with 2022 (58%) and represents an improvement from 53% in 2018 and 46% in 2016.
- In 2026, 80% of Key Stage 2 pupils reported receiving helpful information about growing up and body changes from their parents or carers, the highest proportion recorded and an increase from 76% in 2024, 75% in 2022, 70% in 2018 and 66% in 2016.
- 64% of Key Stage 2 pupils in 2026 said that the feel 'happy' about growing up and body changes. Year 4 pupils were more likely than Year 6 pupils to report feeling happy, and boys were more likely to do so than girls.
- 25% of Year 6 girls in 2026 have started their periods. This compares with 27% in 2024 and 28% in 2022, 15% said this in 2018 and 19% seen in 2016.





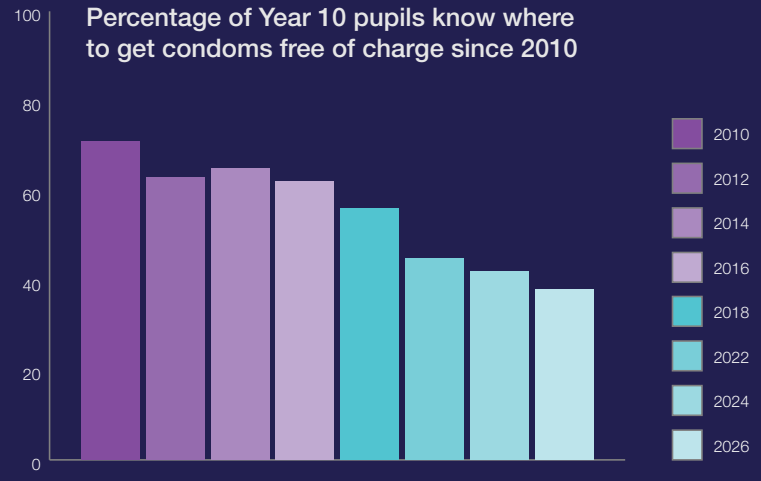


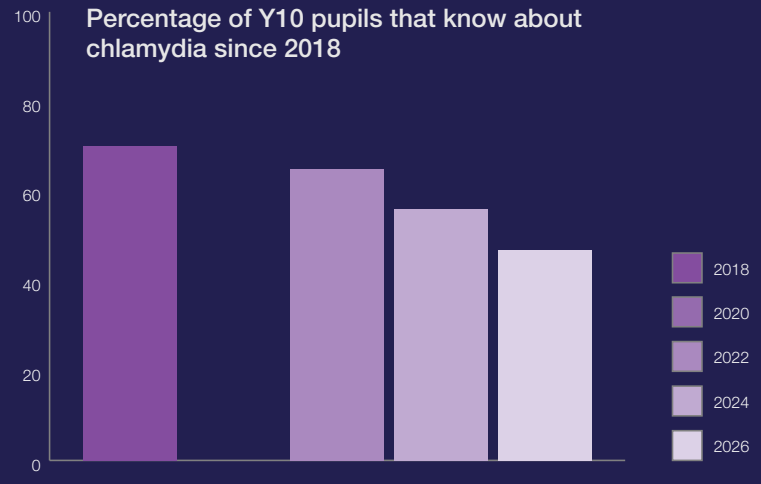
Sexual Health

- There is a continuing downward trend of Year 10 pupils knowledge of chlamydia. Awareness of chlamydia increases with age, with 18% of Year 8 pupils and 47% of Year 10 pupils reporting that they had heard of it. Awareness is also higher among girls than boys.
- In 2026, 13% of Year 10 secondary pupils and 29% of post-16 students were aware that they could order a free chlamydia test kit online or obtain one from a youth club or school nurse.
- In 2026, knowledge of where to obtain free condoms increased across age groups, 38% of Year 10 pupils and 47% of post-16 students reporting that they knew where to access them.
- There is a continuing downward trend for year 10 pupils who know where to get condoms free of charge.

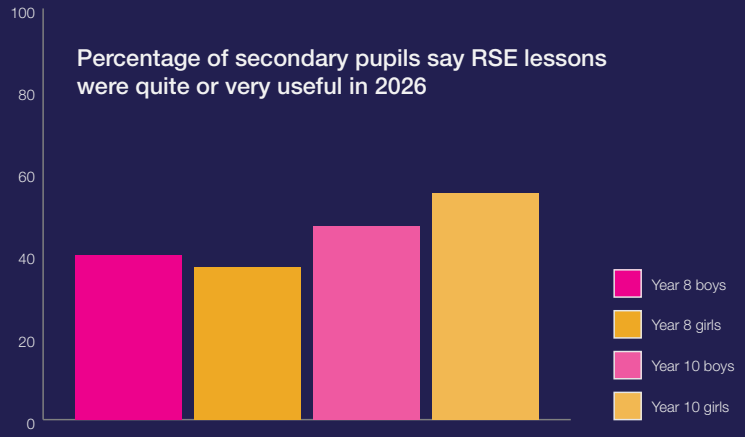


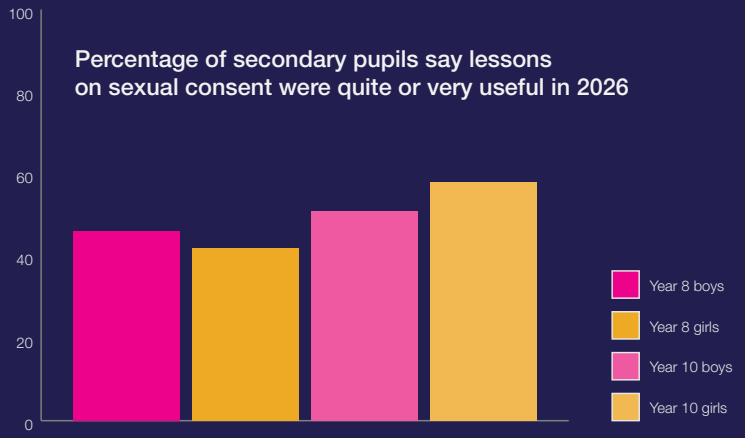
- Year 10 pupils were most likely to know where to get free condoms if they were LGB, were White UK or currently have free school meals. They were least likely to know this if they were Asian or have English as an additional language.



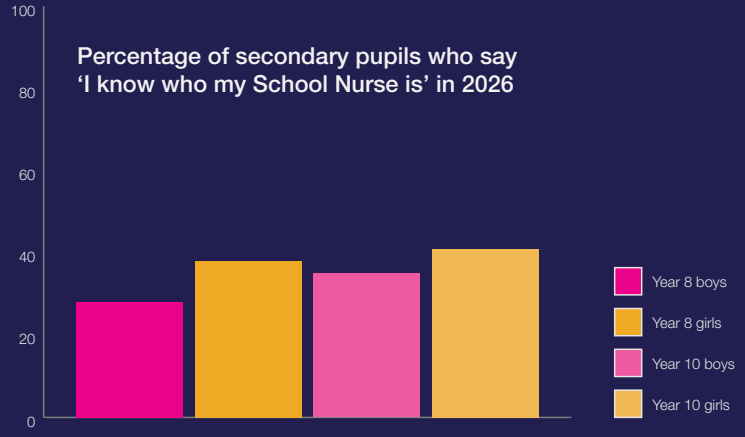


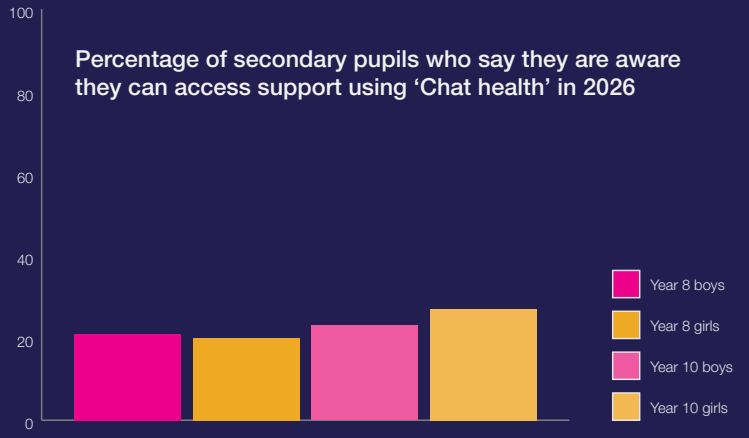
- 43% of Key Stage 3-4 pupils reported that they found Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) lessons quite or very useful, although 22% said they had not received any. Similarly, 48% found lessons on sexual consent quite or very useful, while 20% reported not having received these lessons.
- The perceived usefulness of both RSE and sexual consent lessons increased between Year 8 and Year 10 for both boys and girls.



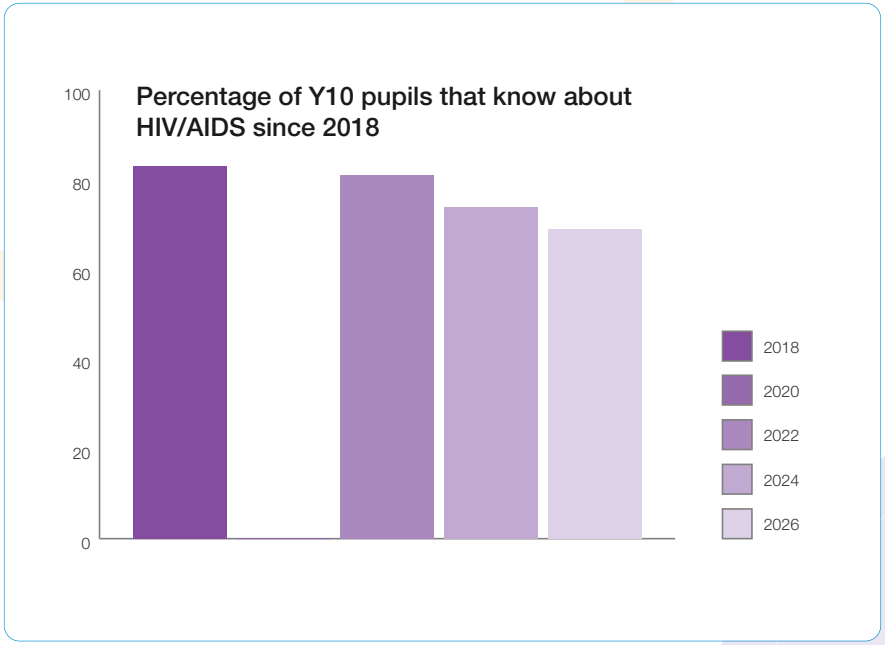


- Awareness of when the School Nurse is available had increased over time but fell back in 2026, with 38% of pupils reporting this compared with 46% in 2024, 35% in 2023 and 27% in 2022. Awareness increases with age and girls are more likely to know who their School Nurse is.
- Awareness of the School Nurse and ChatHealth support service followed a similar pattern, with 22% reporting awareness in 2026, down from 27% in 2024 but up from 20% in 2022.

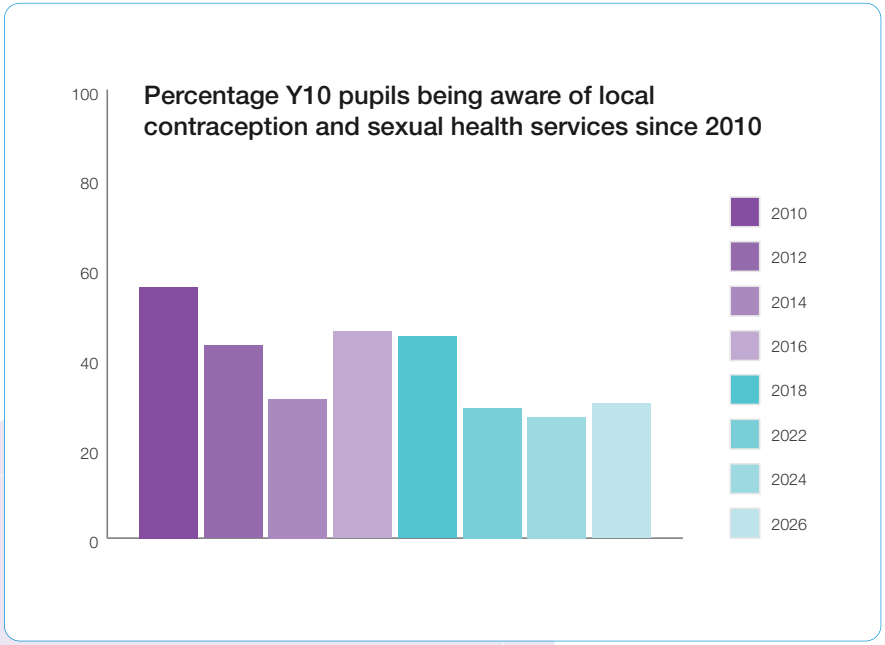




- Awareness of HIV/AIDS among Year 10 pupils has declined over time, with 69% reporting that they had heard of HIV/AIDS in 2026, compared with 74% in 2024, 81% in 2022 and 83% in 2018.



- Although awareness of local contraception and sexual health services among Year 10 pupils has generally declined, 2026 saw a small increase compared with previous survey results, up to 30%.



Controlling Relationships

- Reports of experiencing controlling behaviours in a relationship decreased among Key Stage 3-4 pupils in 2026 (26%) compared with 2024 (30%), returning to levels similar to 2022 and 2018 (27%). Post-16 students reported higher levels, at 34%
- The most commonly reported behaviour by Key Stage 3-4 pupils were being ‘angry or jealous when I wanted to spend time with friends’ (15% of boys and 18% of girls), ‘used hurtful or threatening language to me’ (11% of boys and 13% of girls) and ‘kept checking my phone’ (14% of boys and 11% of girls).



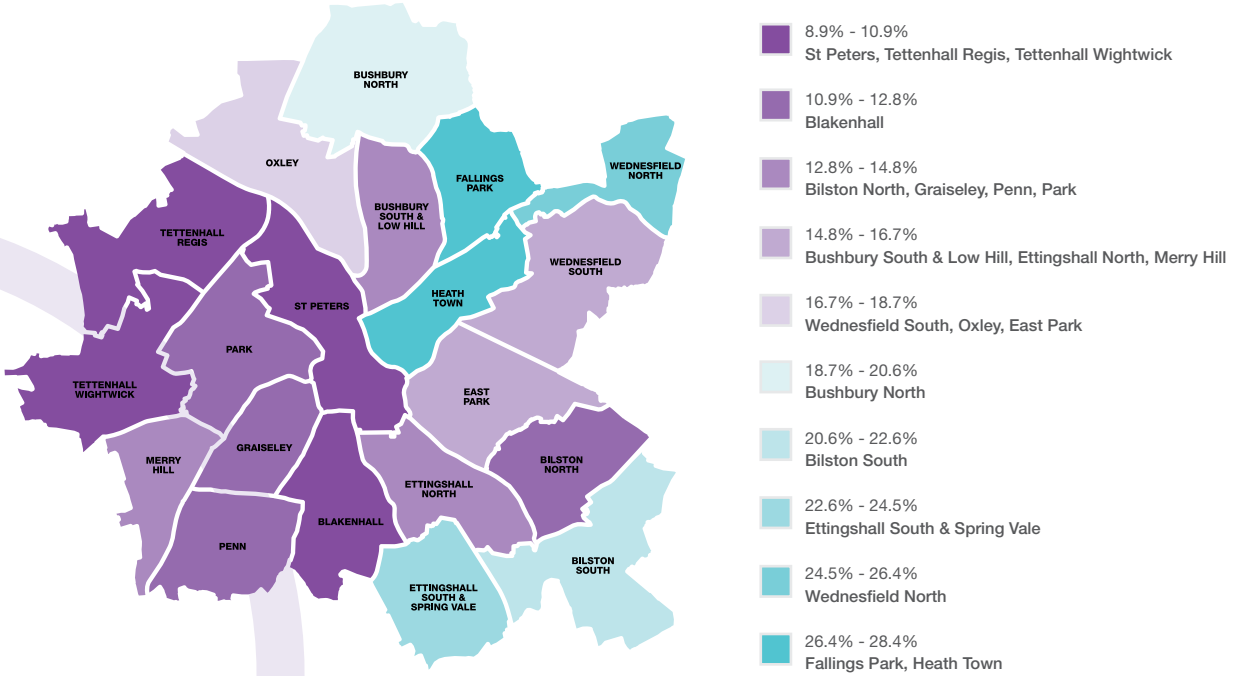
SECTION 4 - SMOKING, SUBSTANCES AND GAMBLING

Headlines - Smoking

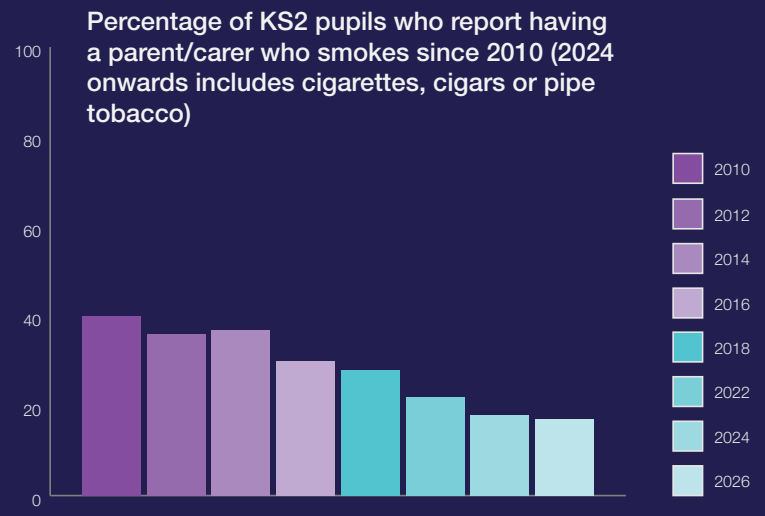
Growing up

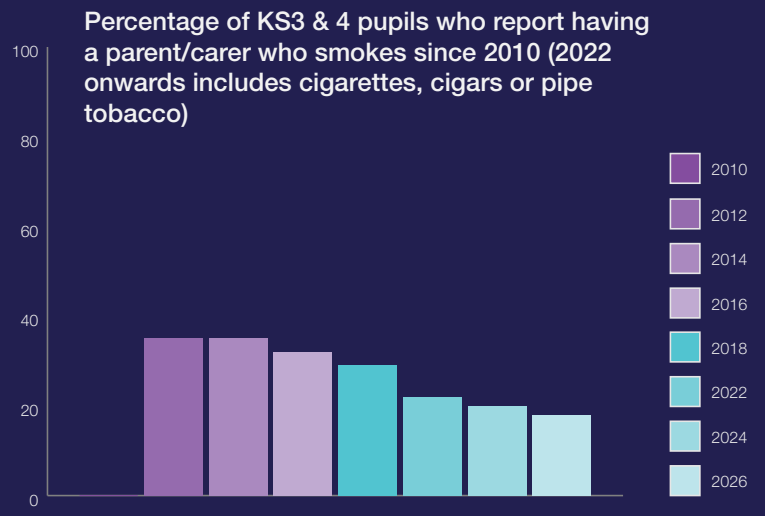
The following section looks at young people's attitudes toward and engagement with potentially harmful substances and behaviours. It analyses trends in cigarette smoking, vaping, alcohol consumption, and drug use, alongside findings on exposure to gambling and in-game digital purchases.

Percentage of year 6 pupils by ward who's parent/carer smokes

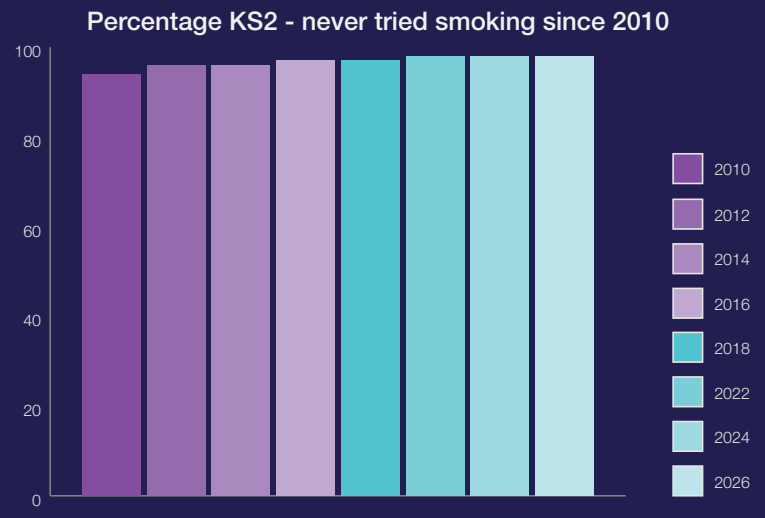


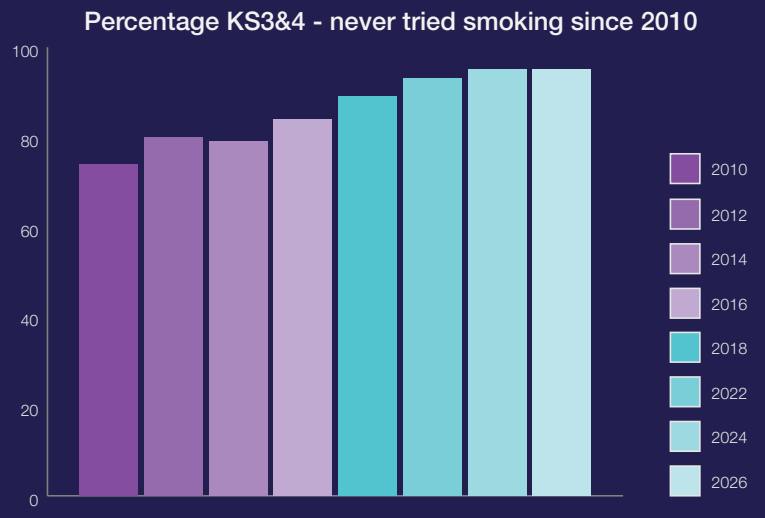
- 8.9% - 10.9%
  St Peters, Tettenhall Regis, Tettenhall Wightwick
- 10.9% - 12.8%
  Blakenhall
- 12.8% - 14.8%
  Bilston North, Graiseley, Penn, Park
- 14.8% - 16.7%
  Bushbury South & Low Hill, Ettingshall North, Merry Hill
- 16.7% - 18.7%
  Wednesfield South, Oxley, East Park
- 18.7% - 20.6%
  Bushbury North
- 20.6% - 22.6%
  Bilston South
- 22.6% - 24.5%
  Ettingshall South & Spring Vale
- 24.5% - 26.4%
  Wednesfield North
- 26.4% - 28.4%
  Fallings Park, Heath Town



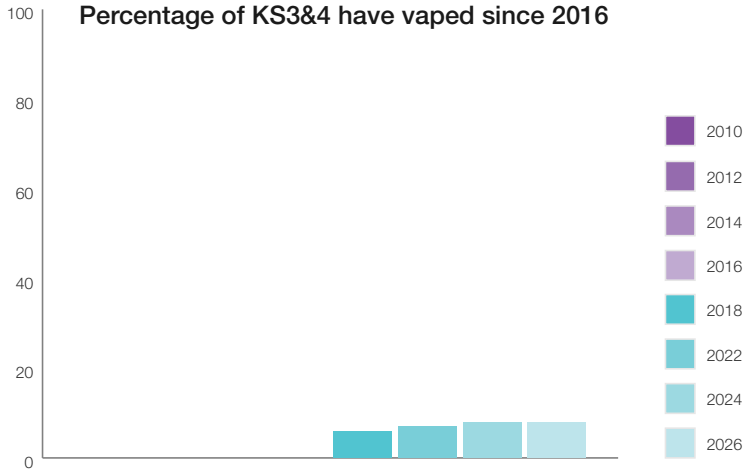


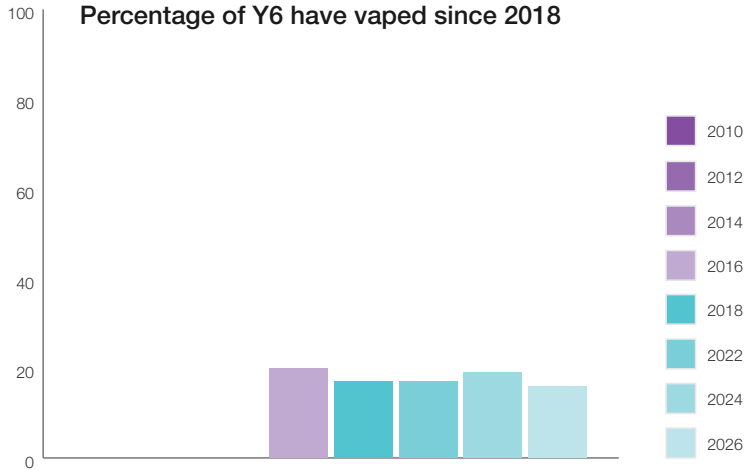
- Primary and secondary children who have never tried smoking remains consistently high at 98% and 95% respectively.



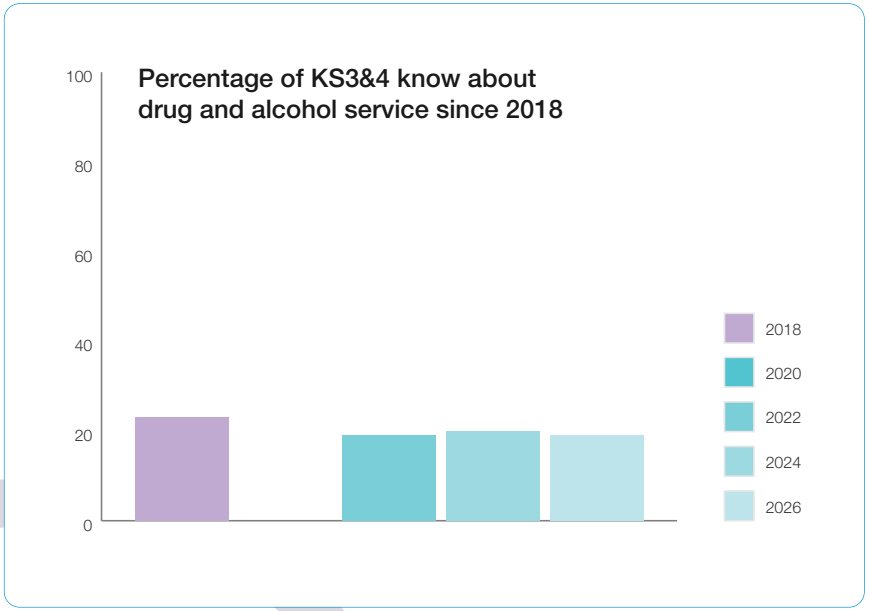


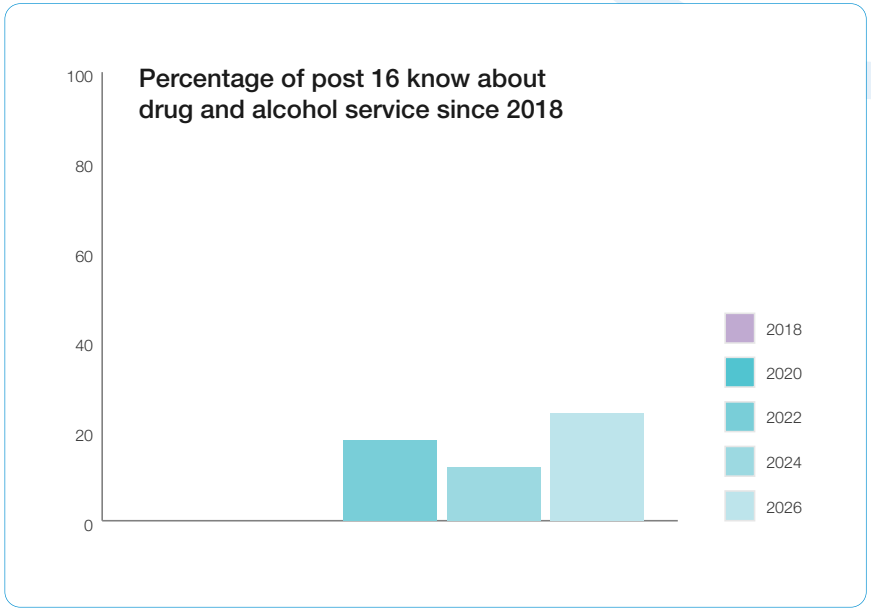
- There has been an upward trend for vaping in the primary pupils' responses until 2024. This has not increased in 2026. The secondary results show a fall in vaping in 2026.
- There has been a decrease of an average of 20% of pupils who say they have parents and carers who smoke since reporting started in 2006. However, those who have parents or carers who vape has increased by 5% to 23% since 2016.
- 16% of Key Stage 3-4 pupils in 2026 said that they have vaped at least once or twice. 35% of post-16 students in 2026 have vaped. 3% of Key Stage 3-4 pupils and 13% of post-16 students said that they vape at least once a week.
- Only 5% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils have ever smoked, 1% say they smoke at least one cigarette a week.





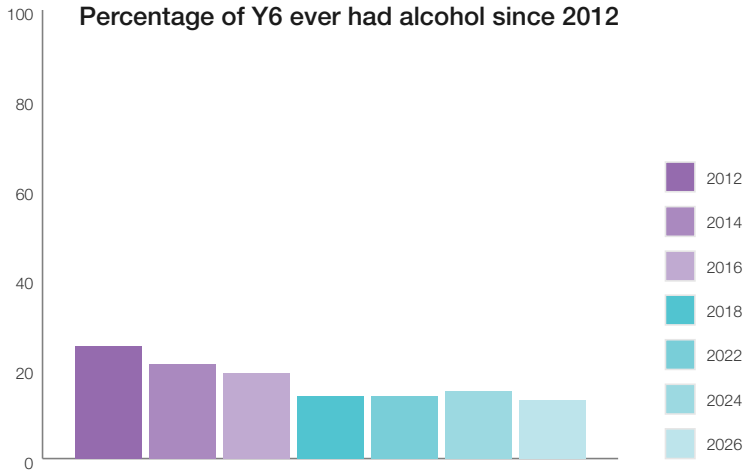
- There has been a recovery in the awareness of a special drug and alcohol service to help young people in Wolverhampton in the post 16 sample for 2026. This may be due to the differences between the schools/colleges that were surveyed, so caution must be taken with the interpretation of this change.





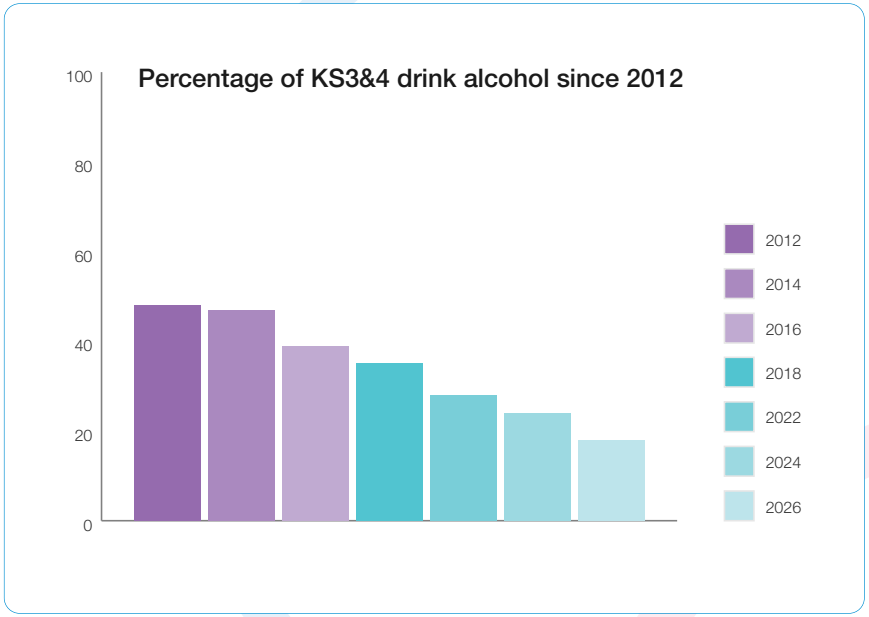
Headlines - Alcohol and Other Substances

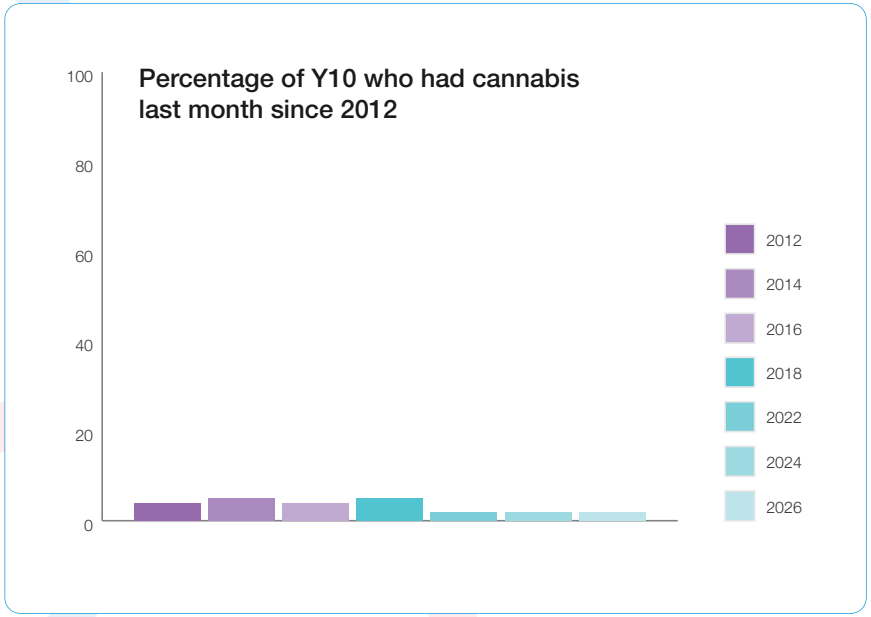
- 19% of Key Stage 1 pupils have tasted alcohol. 13% of Key Stage 2 have drunk alcohol. 18% of secondary pupils said that they drink alcohol at least a few times a year.
- For those Key Stage 2 pupils reporting having ever drunk alcohol, there has been a downward trend from 25% seen when the question came into the survey in 2012 to 13% in 2026.
- 44% of Key Stage 2 pupils in 2026 said that they have got helpful information from teachers in school lessons about drugs; this is 14% lower than the 58% reported in 2018.





- For Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils there is a similar downward trend: 48% in 2012 said that they have drunk alcohol compared with 18% in 2026. 45% of post-16 students in 2026 said they drink alcohol at least a few times a year.
- 3% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2026 have used an illegal drug. 8% of post-16 students said the same.
- 2% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2026 have ever used cannabis. 7% of post-16 students said the same.
- 1% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2026 have used cannabis in the last month. 2% of post-16 students said the same.
- There has been an increase from 44% in 2022 of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils, who said that they have had 'quite' or 'very useful' information about drug education from school lessons to 53% in 2026. However, 15% said they hadn't had any information.





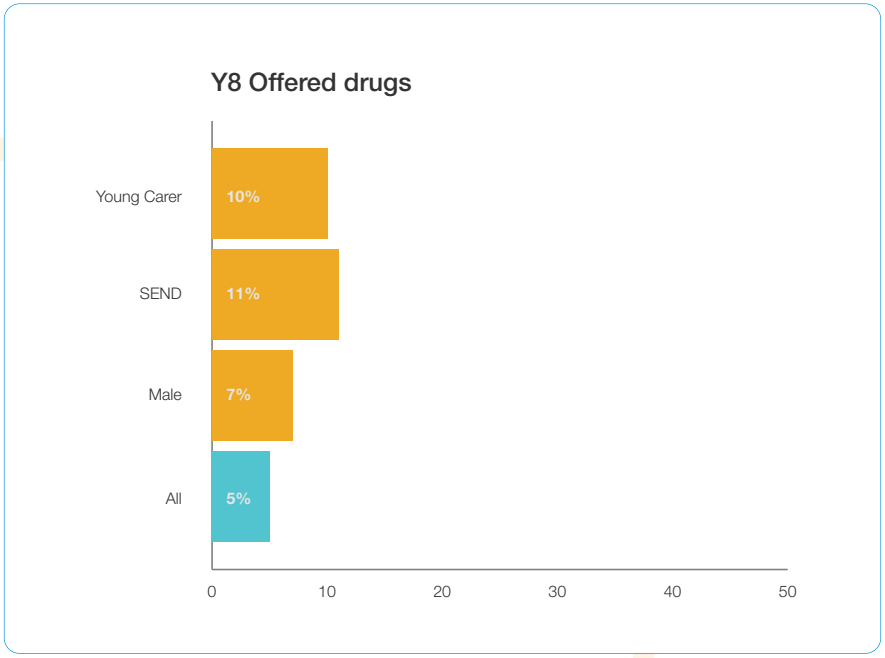
Inequalities

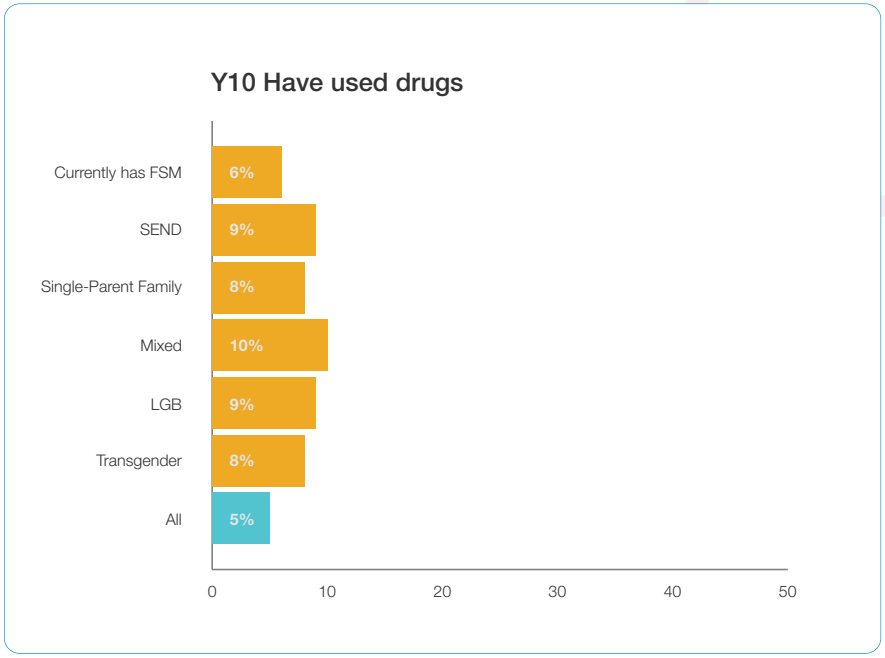
Year 8 pupils were significantly more likely to have been offered illegal drugs if they were:

- Male
- Have SEND
- A Young Carer

Year 10 pupils were significantly more likely to have used drugs if they were:

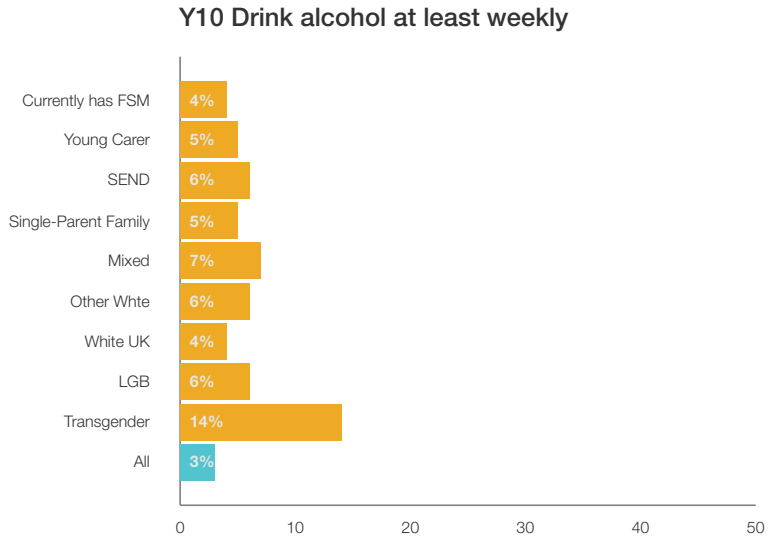
- Transgender
- LGB
- In a single parent family
- Have SEND
- Have free school meals





Year 10 pupils were significantly more likely to drink alcohol at least weekly if they were:

- Transgender
- LGB
- White UK
- Other White
- Mixed
- In a single parent family
- Have SEND
- A Young Carer
- Have free school meals



Commentary

Smoking rates both at pupil level and in the wider community continue a downward trend. For those pupils who do live in homes with smokers however, there are links with other health-risk behaviours. More parents in 2026 are vaping than in previous years (Key Stage 3/4 pupils - 23% in 2026 vs. 17% in 2016).

The proportion of young people who have tried alcohol has continued to decline for secondary pupils and after an upward trend in 2024 for primary pupils, the 2026 figure is at the lowest we have seen (10%).

For vaping, 8% of primary pupils and 16% of secondary pupils report vaping (19% of secondary pupils reported this in 2024). There has been an increase in the percentage of post-16 students vaping; 35% reported vaping in 2026 compared with 27% in 2024. 7% of post-16 males have used nicotine pouches.

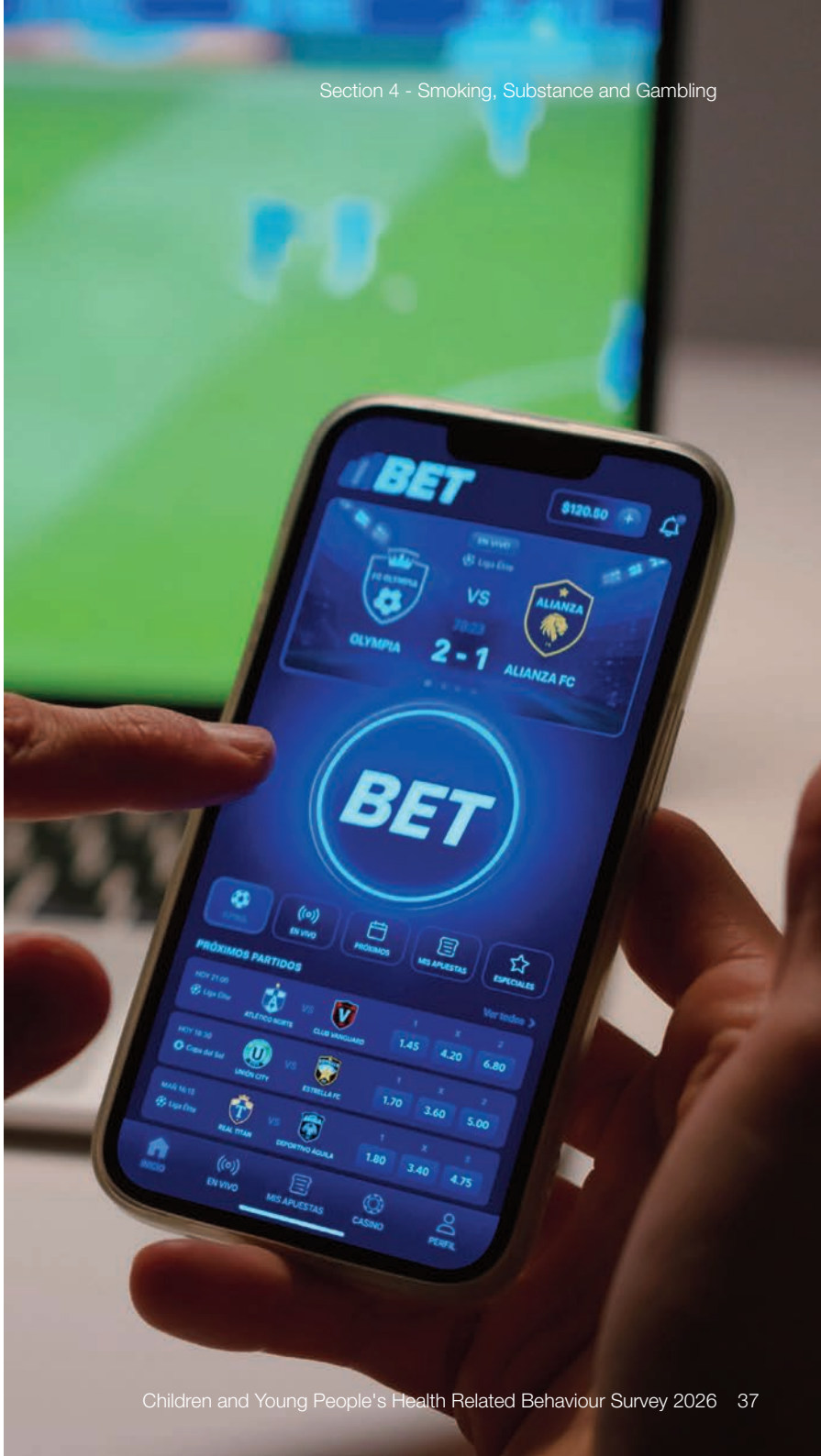
2% of Year 10 pupils and 7% of post-16 males have used nicotine pouches.

Headlines - Gambling

Questions on gambling were first introduced in the 2024 survey. Key findings from 2026 show that:

- Half (50%) of Key Stage 2 pupils and 58% of Key Stage 3-4 pupils had made in-game purchases, with purchases higher among Key Stage 3-4 boys (71%) than girls (44%).
- 61% reporting that they knew where to access support if they were spending too much time or money on these activities.
- 28% of Key Stage 3-4 pupils reported lying about the amount of money they had spent on gambling.
- 19% of Key Stage 3-4 pupils and 21% of FE students said they had spent more money than they could afford on gambling activities.






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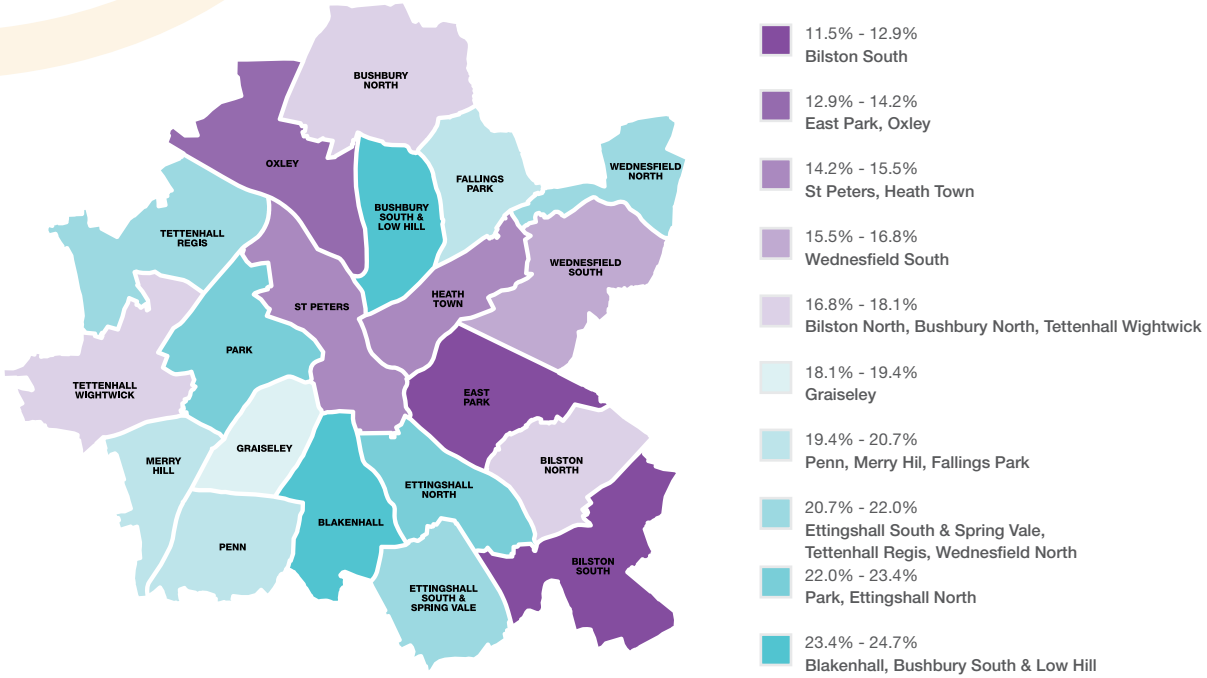
SECTION 5 - SAFETY (INCLUDING BULLYING)

Headlines

Bullying

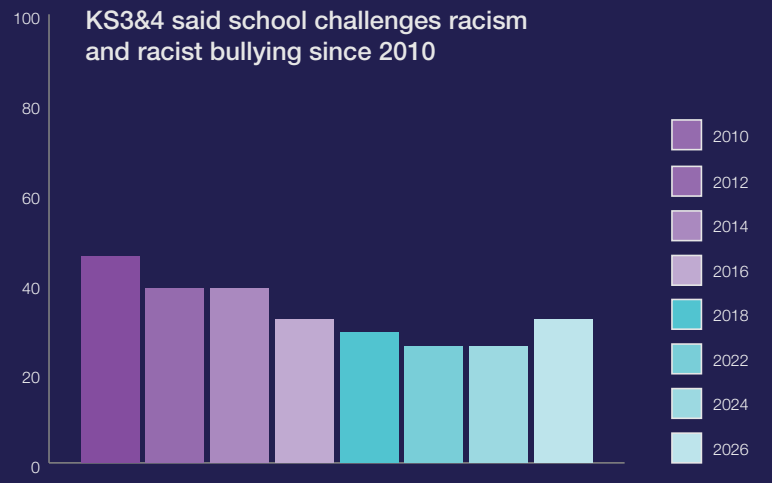
The following section looks at the personal safety, security, and online experiences of children and young people both in and out of school. It covers peer relationships, rates of physical and online bullying, perceptions of safety in the local community, exposure to harassment, and domestic safety concerns.

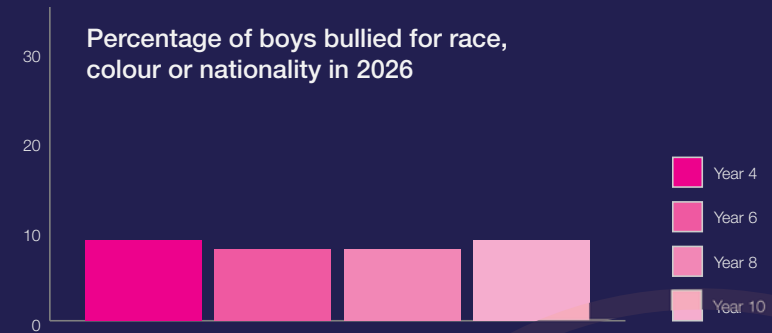
Percentage of year 6 pupils buy ward who were bullied in school

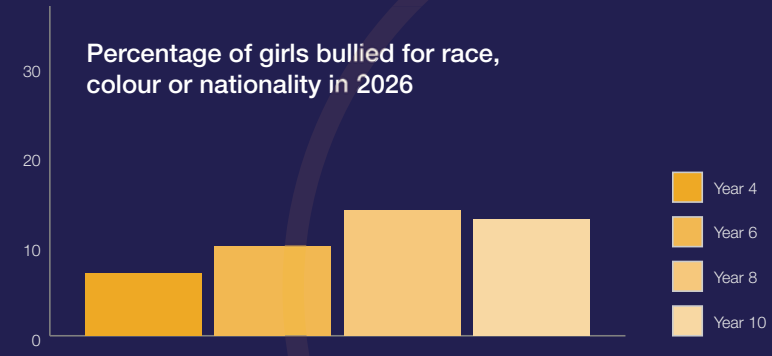


- 11.5% - 12.9% Bilston South
- 12.9% - 14.2% East Park, Oxley
- 14.2% - 15.5% St Peters, Heath Town
- 15.5% - 16.8% Wednesfield South
- 16.8% - 18.1% Bilston North, Bushbury North, Tettenhall Wightwick
- 18.1% - 19.4% Graiseley
- 19.4% - 20.7% Penn, Merry Hil, Fallings Park
- 20.7% - 22.0% Ettingshall South & Spring Vale, Tettenhall Regis, Wednesfield North
- 22.0% - 23.4% Park, Ettingshall North
- 23.4% - 24.7% Blakenhall, Bushbury South & Low Hill

- Experiences of bullying related to race, colour or nationality were reported by 8% of Key Stage 2 pupils and 11% of Key Stage 3-4 pupils. Among Key Stage 3-4 pupils, girls were more likely than boys to report this type of bullying.
- Perceptions of how effectively schools challenge racism and racist bullying have improved since 2022, with 32% of Key Stage 3-4 pupils reporting that their school does this effectively in 2026.
- 21% of Key Stage 2 pupils and 17% of Key Stage 3-4 pupils reported that they had been bullied in the last 6 months.
- 39% of Key Stage 1 pupils said they feel scared to go to school because of other children, 32% of Key Stage 2 and 22% of secondary pupils said they feel afraid of going to school because of bullying at least ‘sometimes’.
- Perceptions of how well schools deal with bullying have declined among Key Stage 2 pupils over time. In 2026, 34% felt their school deals with bullying ‘very well’, compared with 36% in 2024, 41% in 2022, 45% in 2018 and 50% in 2016.'
- Among Key Stage 3-4 pupils, perceptions improved slightly, with 13% reporting that their school deal with bullying ‘very well’ in 2026, compared with 11% in 2024.
- Online bullying among Key Stage 2 pupils has remained broadly stable in recent years, with 24% reporting that they had been bullied online in 2026, compared with 25% in 2024 and 2022. However, this remains higher than the 14% reported in 2018. Among Key Stage 3-4 pupils, 17% reported experiencing online bullying in 2026, compared with 13% in 2018.

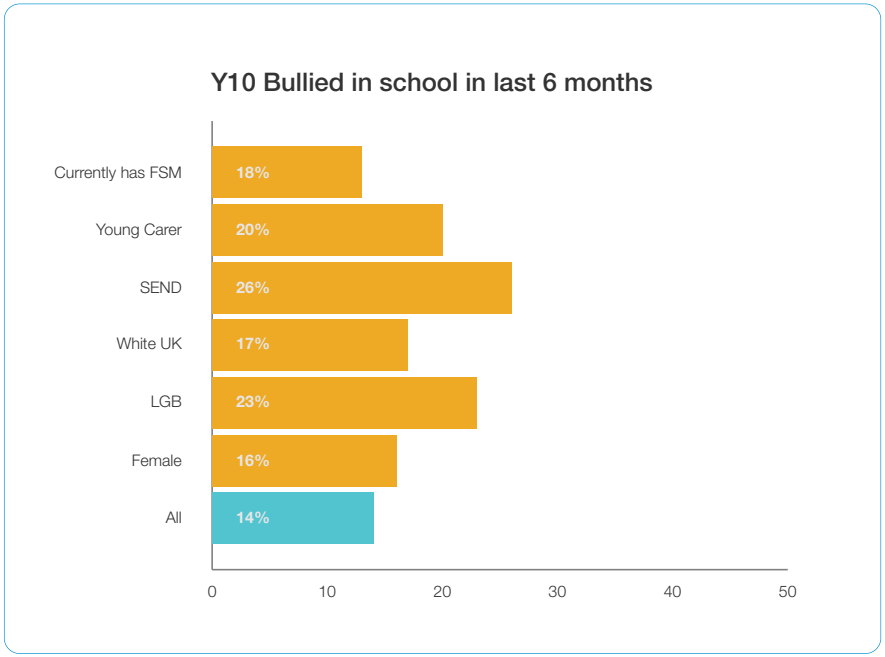






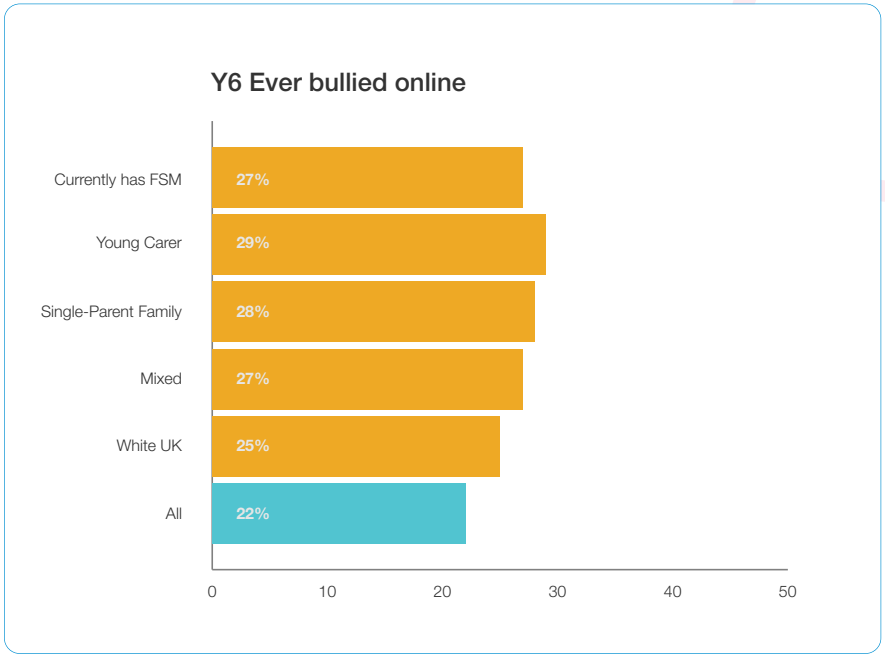
Year 10 pupils were significantly more likely to report being bullied in school if they:

- Have free school meals
- Were a young carer
- Have a special need or disability
- Were White UK
- Were LGB
- Were female



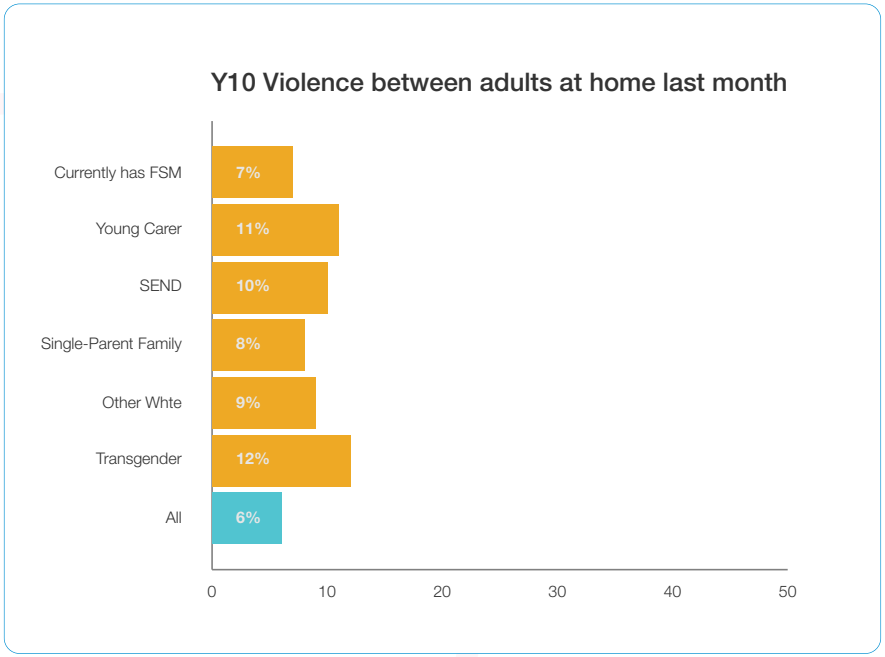
Year 6 pupils were significantly more likely to report being bullied online if they:

- Were White UK
- Mixed
- Were from a single parent family
- Were a young carer
- Currently have free school meals



Year 8 pupils were significantly more likely to report violence at home if they:

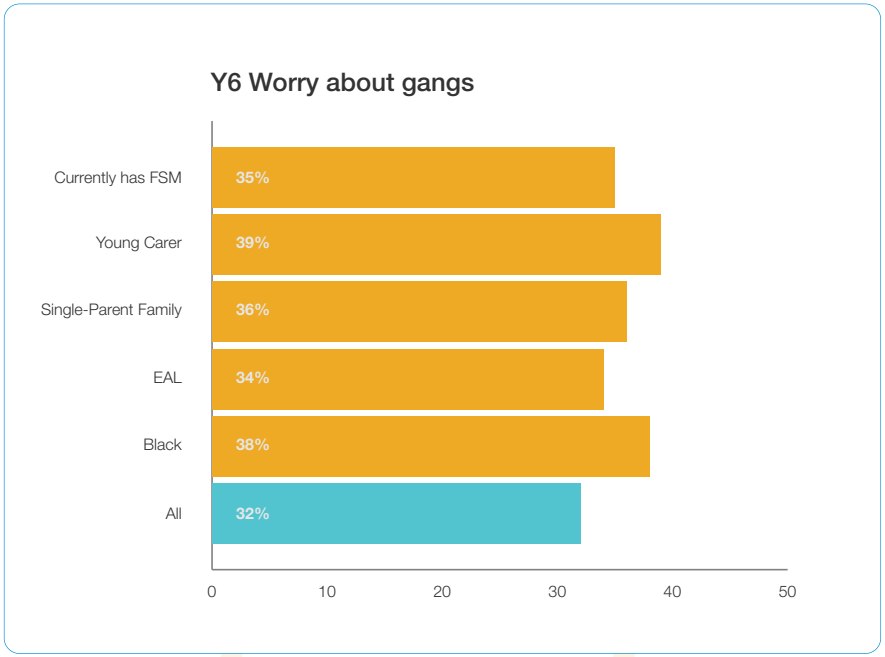
- LGB
- Mixed
- In a single parent family
- Have SEND
- Were a young carer
- Have free school meals



Inequalities

Year 6 pupils were significantly more likely to report worrying about gangs if they:

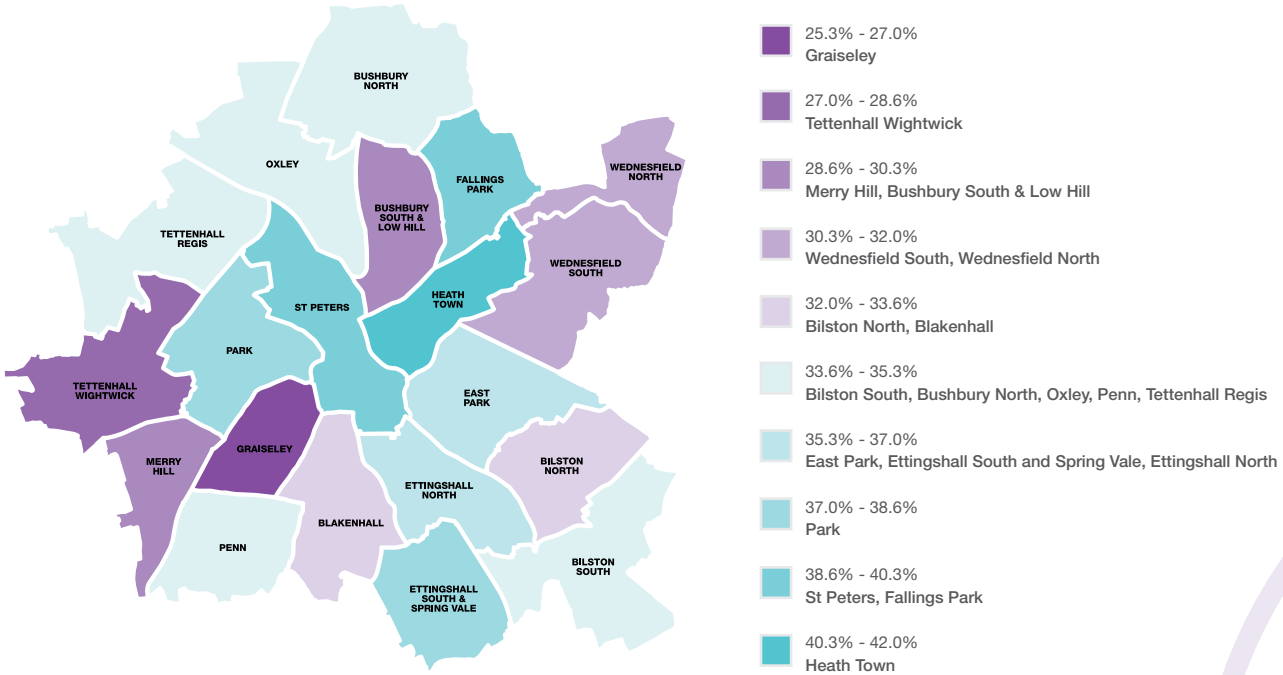
- Were Black
- Had English as an additional language
- Were from a single parent family
- Were a young carer
- Currently have free school meals



Local Safety

- 44% of Key Stage1 pupils said they worried about their safety.
- 53% of Key Stage 2 pupils in 2026 said that they can ‘usually or always’ say no to someone who is asking them to do something they don’t want to do. This is higher than the 50% in 2024 and 43% seen in 2022.
- 30% of Key Stage 2 pupils compared to 9% of Key Stage 3-4 pupils worry about gangs.
- 34% of Key Stage 2 pupils worry about crime.
- 4% of Key 3-4 pupils and 2% of FE students said that they carry a weapon at least 'sometimes'.
- Perceptions of safety after dark among Key Stage 3-4 pupils have continued to decline, with 26% rating their safety as ‘good’ or ‘very good’ in 2026, compared with 30% in 2024, 35% in 2022 and 39% in 2018.
- 12% of Key Stage 2 pupils and 8% of Key Stage 3-4 pupils reported violence or abuse in the home during the previous month.

Percentage of year 6 pupils by ward who worry about crime in 2026



25.3% - 27.0%
Graiseley

27.0% - 28.6%
Tettenhall Wightwick

28.6% - 30.3%
Merry Hill, Bushbury South & Low Hill

30.3% - 32.0%
Wednesfield South, Wednesfield North

32.0% - 33.6%
Bilston North, Blakenhall

33.6% - 35.3%
Bilston South, Bushbury North, Oxley, Penn, Tettenhall Regis

35.3% - 37.0%
East Park, Ettingshall South and Spring Vale, Ettingshall North

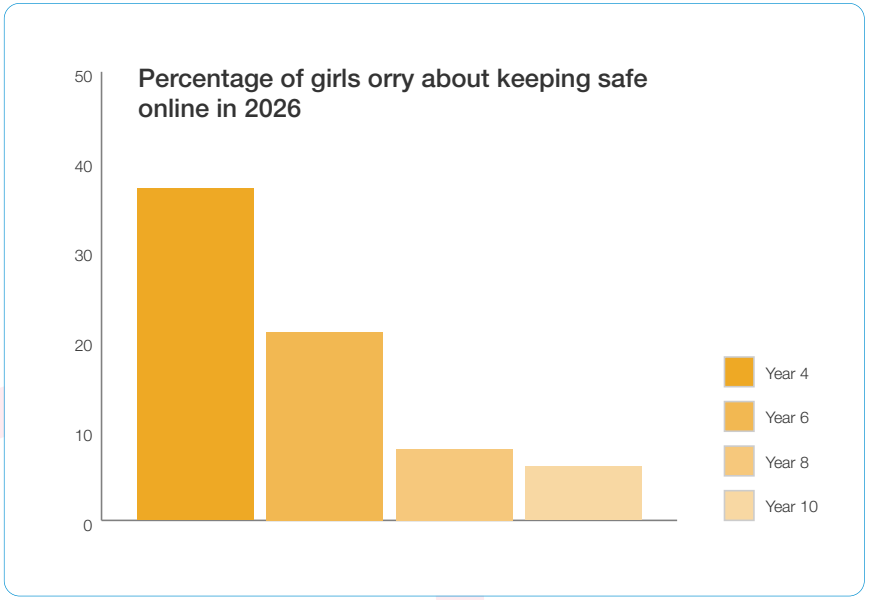
37.0% - 38.6%
Park

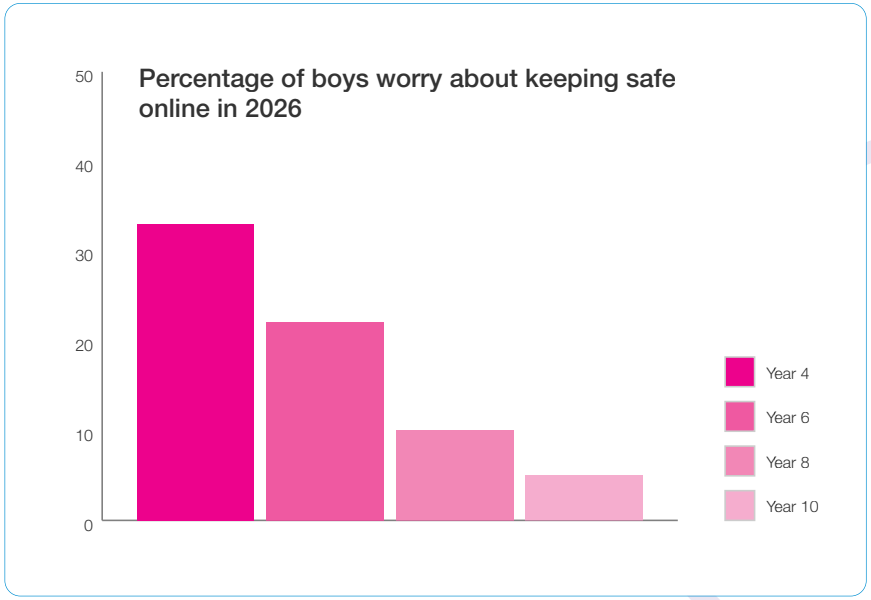
38.6% - 40.3%
St Peters, Fallings Park

40.3% - 42.0%
Heath Town

Online Safety

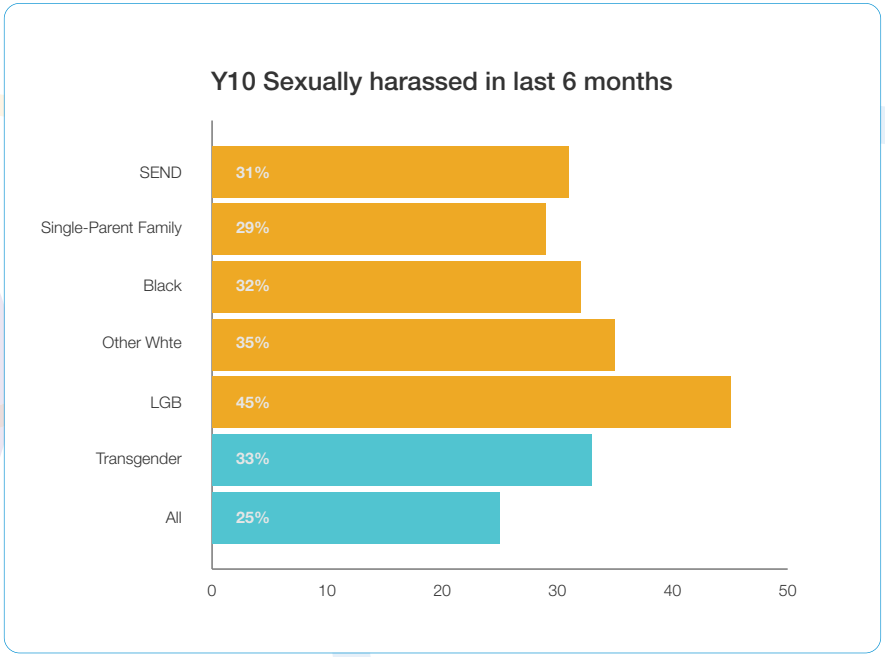
- The proportion of Key Stage 3-4 pupils using social networking sites to arrange meetings with people they do not know in real life has increased over time. In 2026, 10% reported doing this, compared with 9% in 2024, 8% in 2022, 6% in 2018 and 3% in 2016.
- 40% of Key Stage 1 pupils in 2026 said that they can go online when their parents/carers are not in the room. This is lower than the 42% seen in 2024 and the 44% seen in 2022.
- 21% of Key Stage 1 pupils said they go online to chat, for example using WhatsApp, and 12% said they use social media. Among Year 5 and Year 6 pupils, 66% said they used social networking sites in 2026, down from 73% in 2024. Key Stage 3/4 pupils, however, appear more likely to use social media in 2026 than in 2024 (87% vs. 69%).

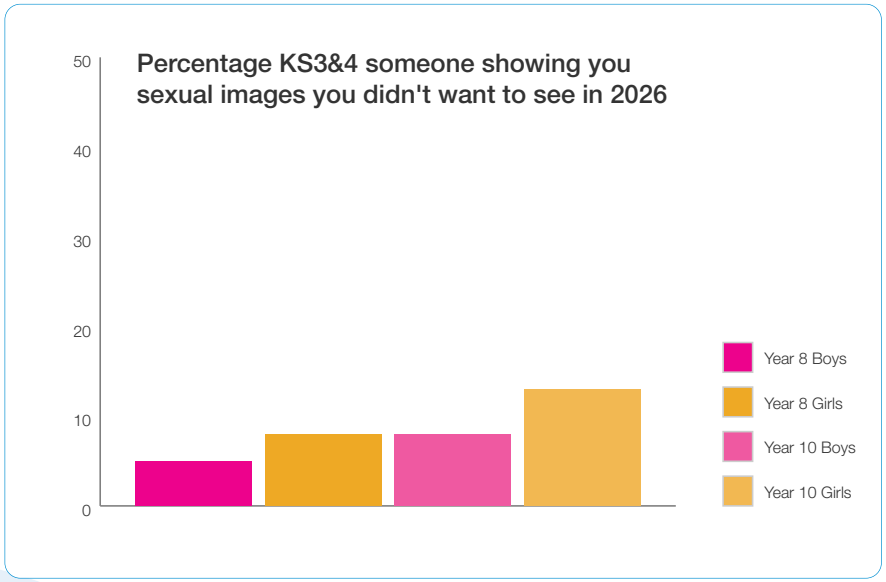


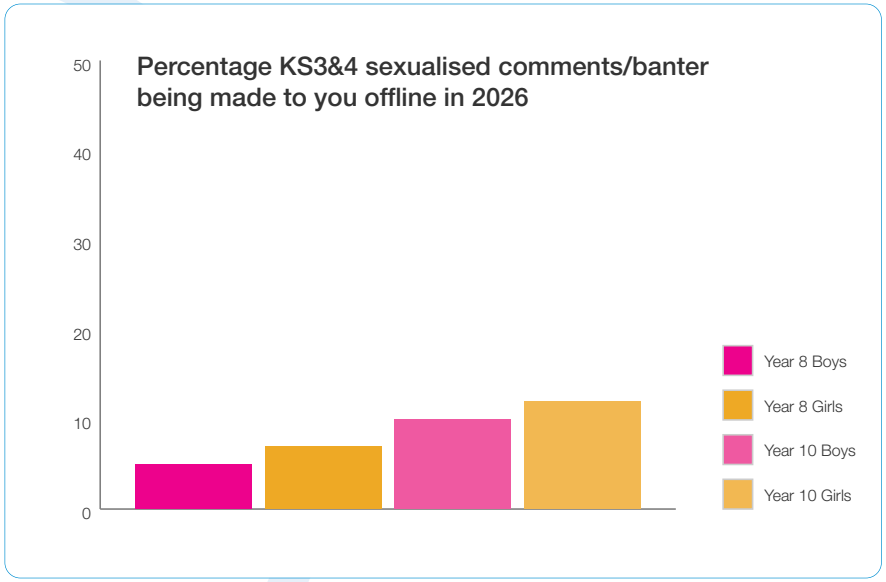


Harassment

- 19% of Year 8 and 25% of Year 10 pupils reported some form of sexual harassment in the last 6 months. The top 3 experiences included: sexualised comments/banter being made to you offline, sexualised comments/banter being made to you online and someone showing you sexual images you didn't want to see.







DEMOGRAPHICS

The tables below show percentages for self-reported demographic characteristics.

Ethnicity of Respondents

	Total Students	White UK	White Non-UK	Mixed	Black	Asian	Other
Year 2	798	36%	4%	9%	10%	22%	5%
Year 4	2,279	35%	5%	11%	12%	21%	5%
Year 6	2,416	37%	6%	12%	14%	23%	5%
Year 8	2,225	31%	6%	11%	15%	29%	6%
Year 10	1,835	33%	7%	10%	14%	28%	6%
Post-16	532	43%	5%	11%	10%	25%	4%

Additional Characteristics

	Transgender or Non-Binary	LGB	Single-Parent Family	In Care	SEND	Young Carer	Currently has FSM	English is not first language
Year 4			15%	1%		19%	39%	27%
Year 6			16%	0%		13%	40%	24%
Year 8	4%		17%	0%	7%	9%	37%	23%
Year 10	5%	8%	19%	0%	9%	10%	39%	26%
Post-16	6%	7%	22%	1%	14%	9%	26%	19%



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