Smoking, Substances & Gambling



Findings from the Health Related Behaviour Survey 2026

Supporting the health of children and young people in Wolverhampton

wolverhampton.gov.uk

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 children and young people 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. It is implemented 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 children and young people 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 the 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 12942 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 Year 12+ survey, and 9 institutions took part in the SEND survey. Some schools chose to survey additional year groups, the full sample size can be found at the back of this report.

Themed Report No. 3 of 5

1. Healthy Lifestyles
2. Relationships and Sexual Health
3. **Smoking, Substances & Gambling**
4. Emotional Health and Wellbeing
5. Safety (including Bullying)

NAVIGATING THE REPORT

The report is one of five that reflect local priorities. Each report is divide into the following sections:

Headlines

Each report contains headline bullet points, comparing the 2026 data to previous years (where available).

- Positive finding
- Negative finding
- Neutral finding (where it is subjective as to whether the finding is positive or negative or is little different)

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.

Phase Differences

A selection of questions used across the surveys has been presented to look for age-related differences in responses.

Mapping

Where postcode data was available, school survey responses were mapped against wards using pupils' home postcodes. Due to limited postcode data, secondary school responses could not be mapped at ward level.

Links Between Behaviours

Cross tabulations have been investigated for some of the key questions in the survey to look for links between behaviours. Each statement is a statistically significant finding; to save space, only two from the secondary survey have been selected but full lists are available.

Inequalities

Selected questions from the primary and secondary questionnaires were analysed to explore differences in responses between demographic and potentially vulnerable groups.

HEADLINES

For those pupils who live in homes with smokers there are links with other health-risk behaviours. Except for KS1 pupils, smoking rates among parents and carers continue to fall although rates for vaping are increasing.

Vaping among secondary pupils appears to be lower in 2026 compared with 2024 but higher among the 16+ FE population compared with 2024.

A question for older pupils on the use of tobacco pouches was added in 2026, thankfully rates are still low but is a potential emerging issue worth monitoring.

Key Stage 1 Pupils

- 34% of Key Stage 1 pupils in 2026 said that their parents/carers smoke.
- 28% of Key Stage 1 pupils said that people smoke near them at home. 19% said that people smoke near them in the car.
- 28% of Key Stage 1 pupils said that their parents/carers vape.
- 19% of Key Stage 1 pupils said that they have tasted alcohol. This is higher than the 17% seen in 2024 and the 14% seen in 2022. All are still lower than the 26% seen in 2016, however.

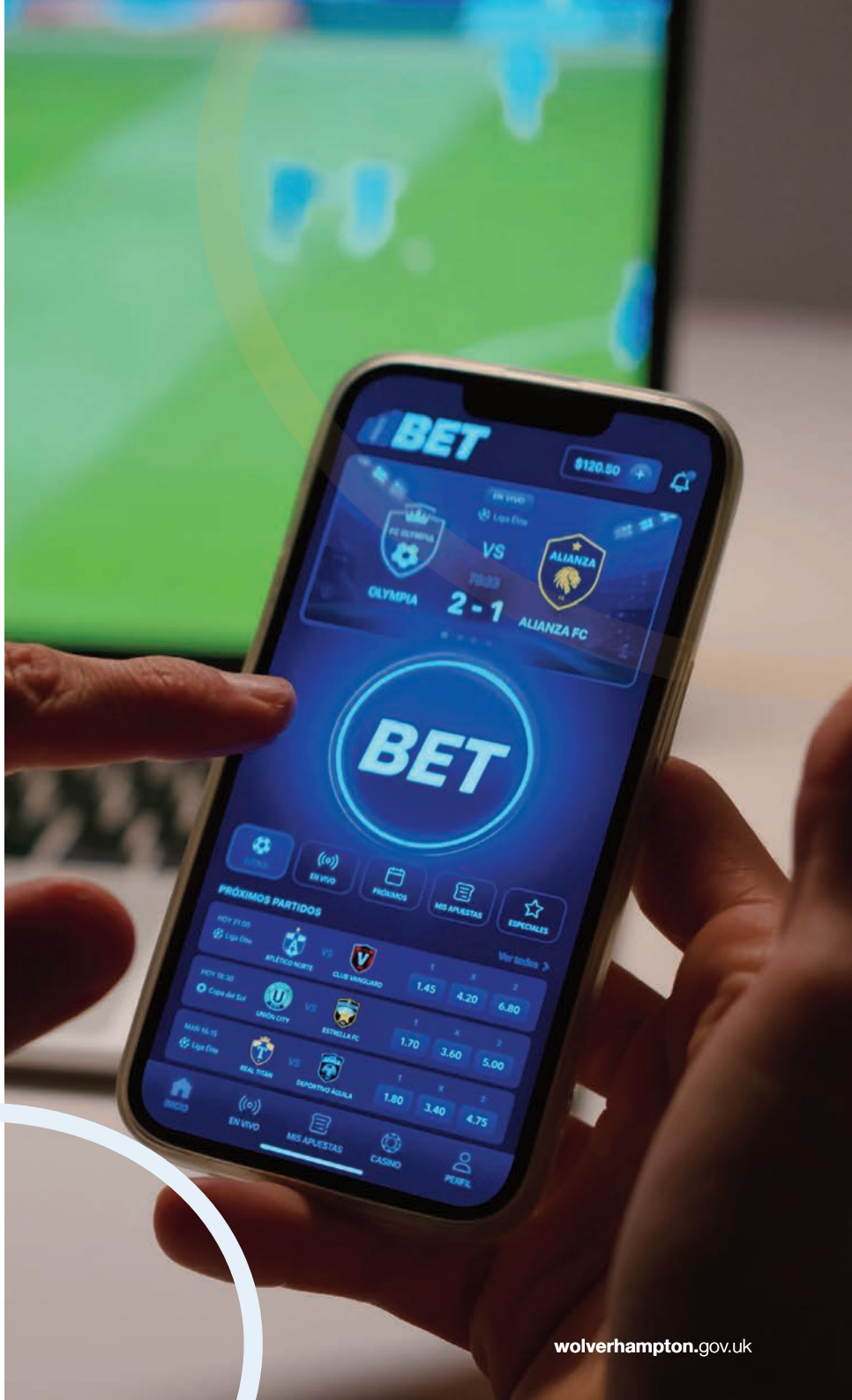
Key Stage 2 Pupils

- 17% of Key Stage 2 pupils in 2026 said that their parents/ carers smoke compared with 20% in 2024. This continues the downward trend observed since 2010 where 40% of pupils said that their parents/carers smoked.
- 2% of Key Stage 2 pupils in 2026, 2024 and 2022 said that they have at least tried smoking. This has fallen from 3% in 2018 and 6% seen in 2010.
- For those reporting having ever drunk alcohol, the trend was downward from 25% seen when the question came into the survey in 2012 to 14% seen in 2018 and 2022. It rose slightly to 15% in 2024 but has fallen to 13% in 2026.
- Of the Year 6 pupils who said they drink alcohol, 78% in 2026 said their parents/carers 'always' know if they drink it compared with 84% in 2024.
- 24% of Key Stage 2 pupils in 2026 said that their parents/carers smoke e-cigarettes/vape. This is higher than the 23% seen in 2024, 20% in 2022 and the 16% seen in 2018.
- 3% of Key Stage 2 pupils in 2026 said that their parents/carers smoke shisha. This compares with the 4% seen in 2024, 3% in 2022 and the 5% seen in 2018.
- 16% of Key Stage 2 pupils said that they are exposed to second-hand smoke at home. This is lower than the 17% seen in 2024, but higher than the 13% seen in 2018.
- 8% of Key Stage 2 pupils said that they have at least tried vaping. This is slightly higher than the 7% seen in 2024, 2022 and 2018.
- 3% of Year 6 pupils responded that they have been offered drugs (other than alcohol, cigarettes or medicines) compared with 4% in 2024.
- 50% of Year 6 pupils said they have made in-app purchases, 78% have played arcade games.
- 61% of Year 6 pupils said they know where to go to get help or advice if they feel they spend too much time or money on gambling activities compared with 58% in 2024.

Secondary Pupils

- 18% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2026 said that their parents/carers smoke. This continues the downward trend observed since 2010 where 35% of pupils said that their parents/carers smoked.
- 16% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2026 said that they have vaped at least once or twice. 19% said this in 2024 and 17% said this in 2022 and 2018. All are lower than the 20% who said this in 2016.
- 54% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2026 said their lessons on drug education (including alcohol) had been ‘quite’ or ‘very useful’. This is higher than the 42% seen in 2024 and the 46% reported in 2022.
- 5% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils said they have been offered cannabis in 2026, 7% said this in 2024 and in 2022 compared with 9% reported in 2018.

- 16% of 16+ students said they have been offered cannabis in 2026 compared with 19% in 2024 and 26% in 2022.
- 24% of 16+ students said they are aware of a special drug and alcohol service to help young people in Wolverhampton 2026 compared with 12% in 2024 and 18% in 2022.
- 7% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2026 said that they had been drunk.
- 58% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2026 said they at least 'occasionally' make in-game/app purchases compared with 54% in 2024.
- 15% of 16+ students said they have tried smoking in the past or smoke now 2026 compared with 11% in 2024 and 17% in 2022.
- 5% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2026 and 2024 said that they have tried smoking in the past or smoke now. This levels the downward trend which started at 26% seen in 2010.
- 30% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2026 and 2024 said that they had been exposed to second hand smoke compared with the 33% who said this in 2022.
- 23% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2026 said that their parents/carers use e-cigarettes/vape. This continues and upward trend from the 15% who said this in 2016.
- 2% of Year 10 pupils in 2026 and 2024 said that they have used cannabis in the last month. This compared to 3% in 2022 and 5% in 2018.



TRENDS: SMOKING AND VAPING

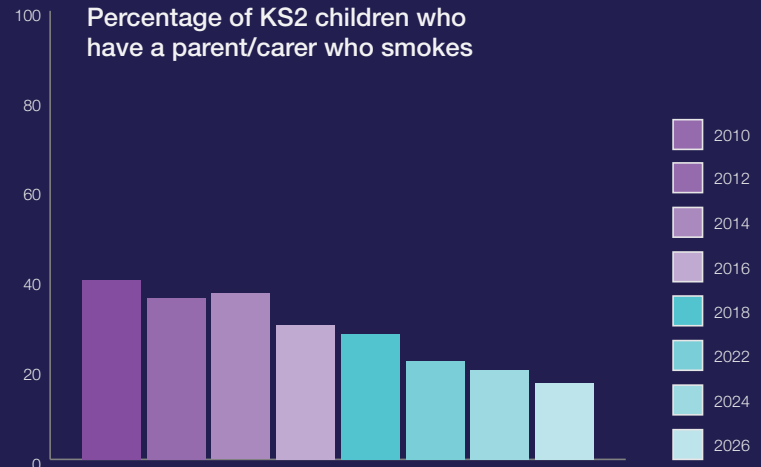
- The proportion of primary pupils reporting that a parent or carer smokes has declined in each reporting year. In addition, around 2% of primary pupils report having tried smoking, suggesting a small but persistent level of experimentation.

Percentage of KS2 children who have never smoked at all

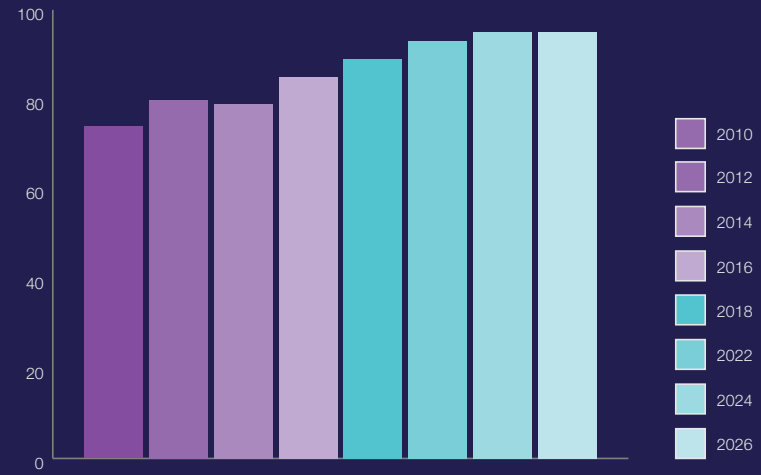


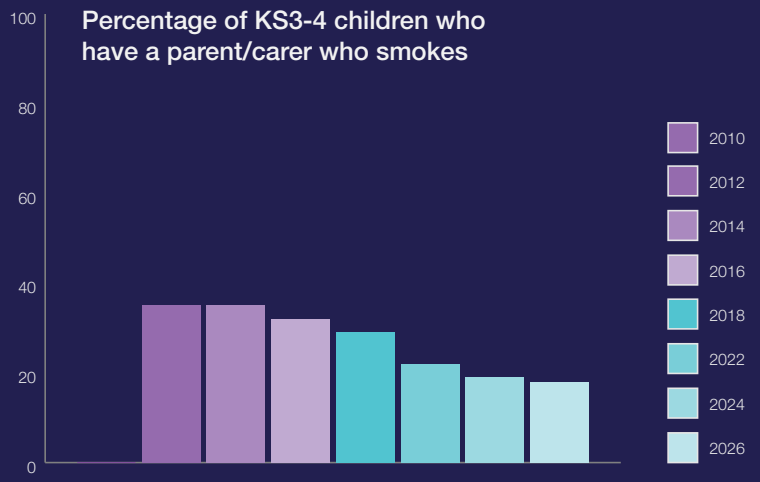
- There is a clear upward trend in the proportion of Key Stage 3-4 pupils who have never tried smoking, increasing from 74% in 2010 to 95% in 2024 and 2026. Pupils in 2026 were also less likely to report having a parent or carer who smokes than in previous years.

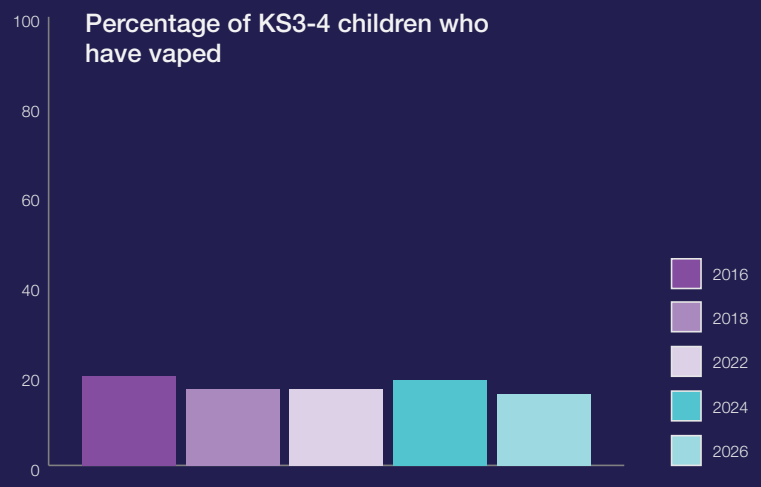
Percentage of KS2 children who have a parent/carer who smokes



Percentage of KS3-4 children who have never smoked at all

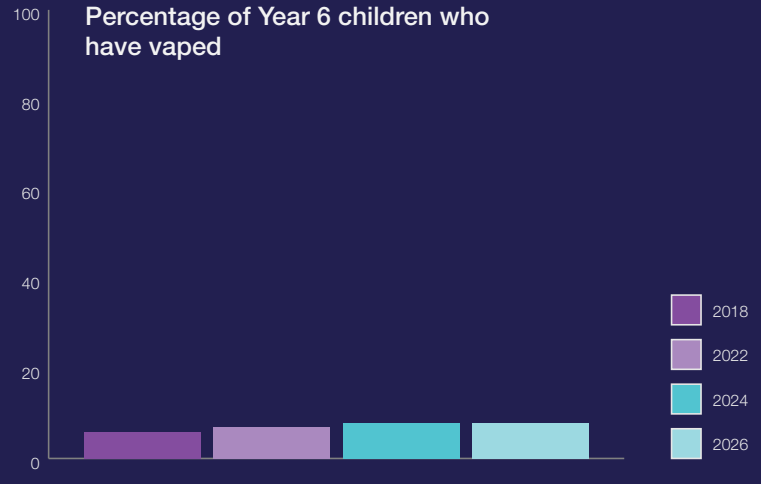






- Vaping experimentation increases with age, with 8% of Year 6 pupils, 16% of Year 8/10 pupils and 35% of Year 12+ FE students reporting that they have tried vaping.

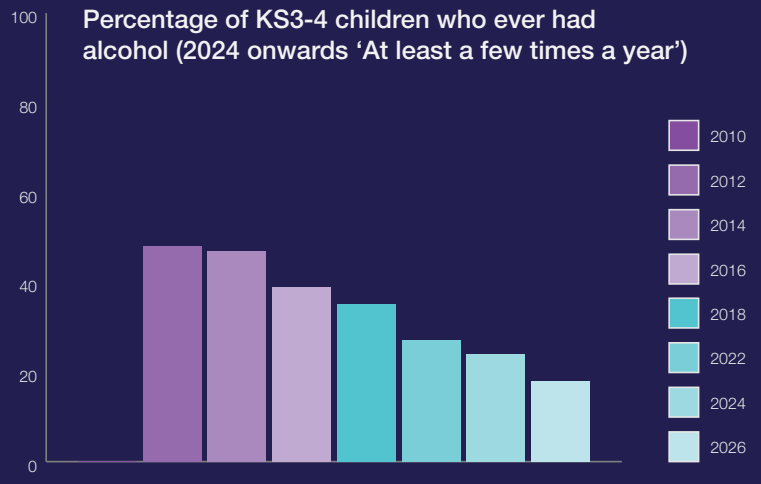
  Questions on vaping were not included in the HRBS survey between 2010 and 2014 (2018 for primary), so trend data are only available from 2018 onwards.

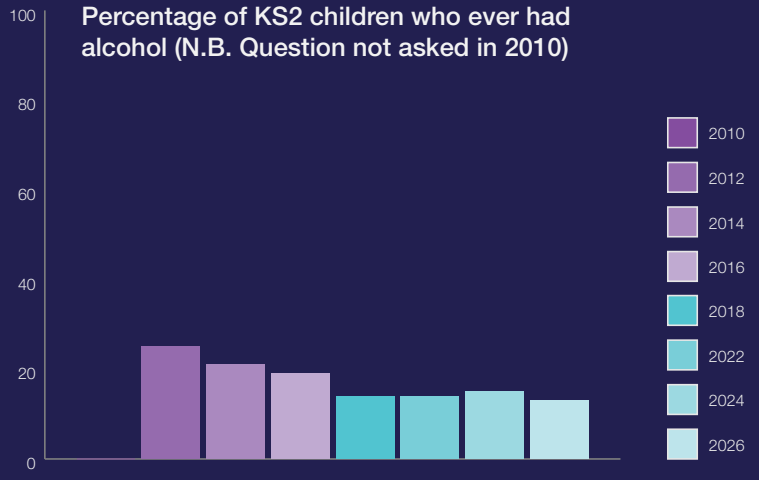


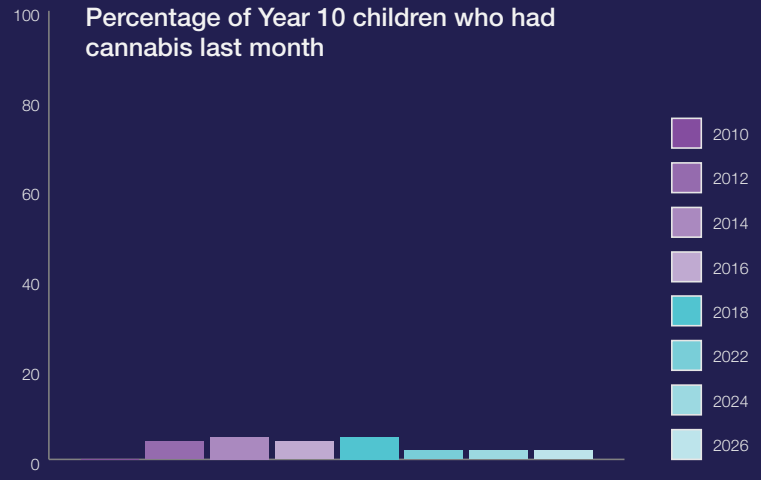
TRENDS: ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

- The proportion of Key Stage 2 children who report having ever drunk alcohol has remained stable since 2018, while the proportion of secondary pupils who have ever consumed alcohol has declined across successive reporting periods.

- 2% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2026 have ever used cannabis. 7% of FE students said the same.

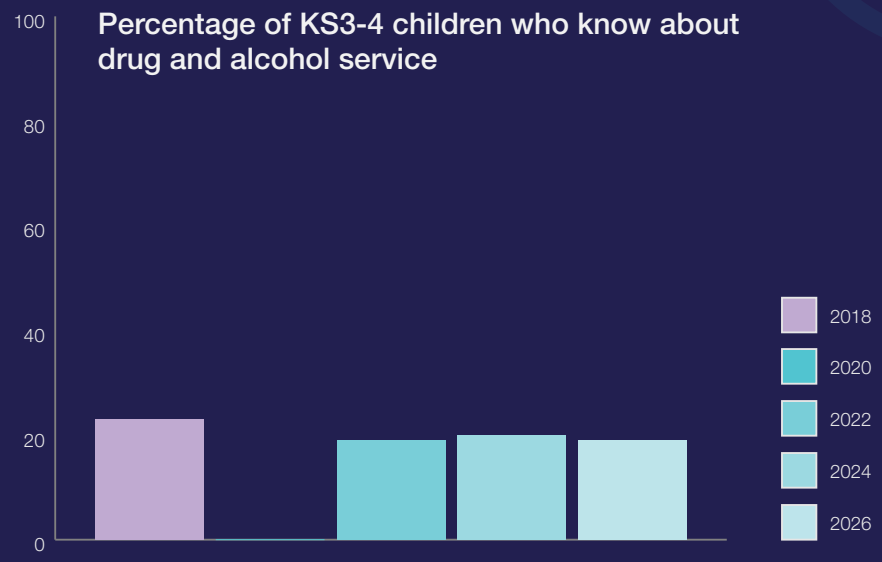


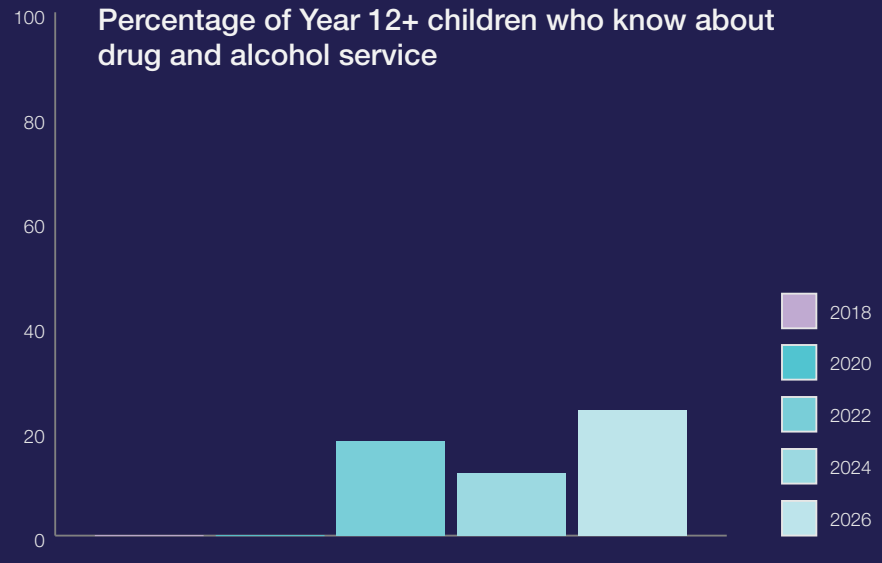




- 53% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2026 said that they have had ‘quite’ or ‘very useful’ information about drug education from school lessons. 15% said they hadn’t had any. 52% in 2024 said they received useful information and 44% said the same in 2022.
- Awareness of a specialist drug and alcohol service for young people in Wolverhampton showed a slight recovery in 2026 (Year 12+). Among Year 12+ students, awareness fell from 18% in 2022 to 12% in 2024; however, this should be interpreted with caution as differences in the schools and colleges participating in the survey may have influenced the results.

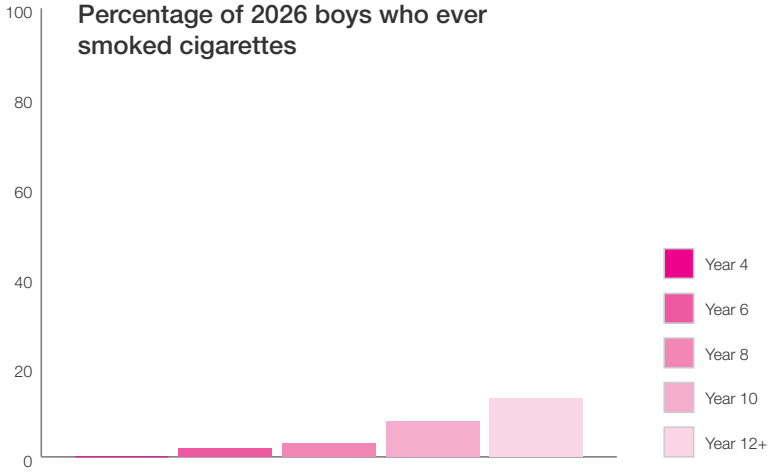
  Questions on drug and alcohol services were not included in the HRBS survey between 2010 and 2016, so trend data are only available from 2018 onwards.

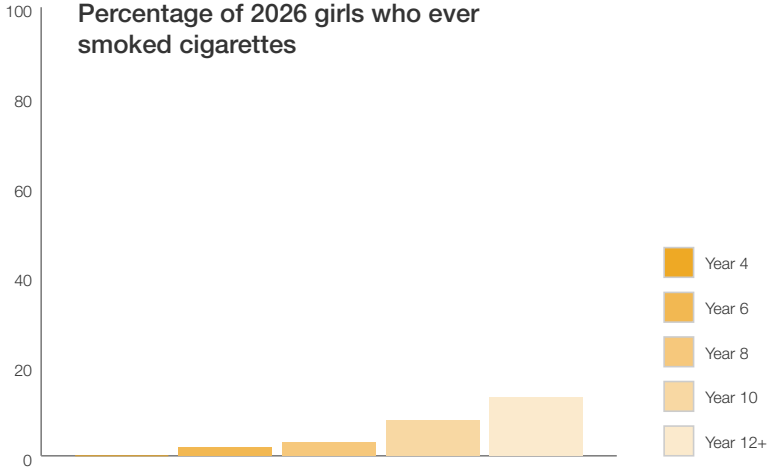


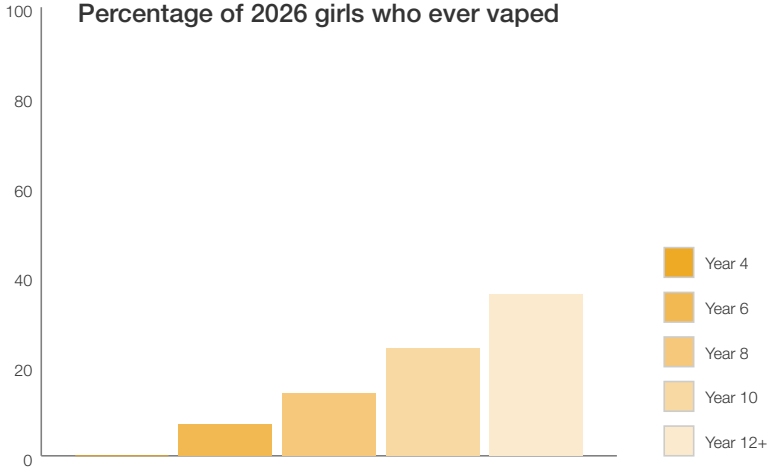


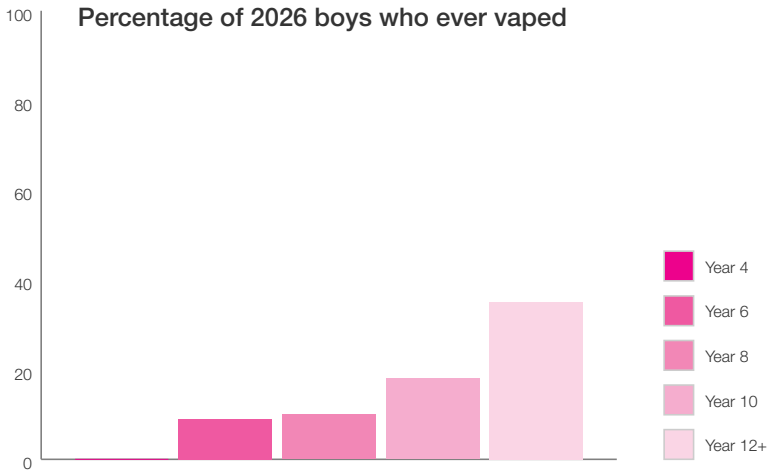
PHASE DIFFERENCES SMOKING AND VAPING

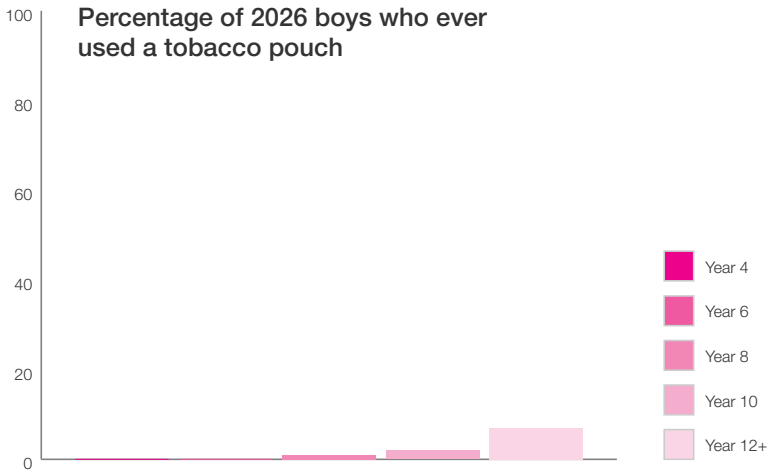
- There are consistent increases in the proportions of pupils who have smoked cigarettes, vaped, or used tobacco pouches between the primary and secondary phases, with only marginal differences between boys and girls.

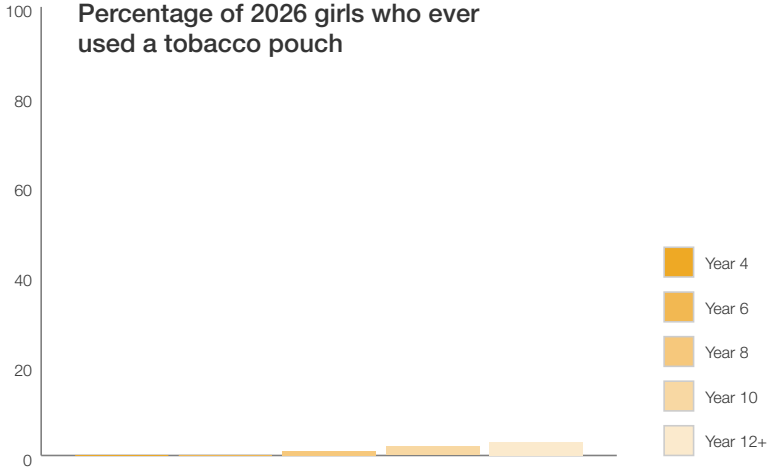







Percentage of 2026 boys who ever vaped
100
80
60
40
20
0
Year 4
Year 6
Year 8
Year 10
Year 12+

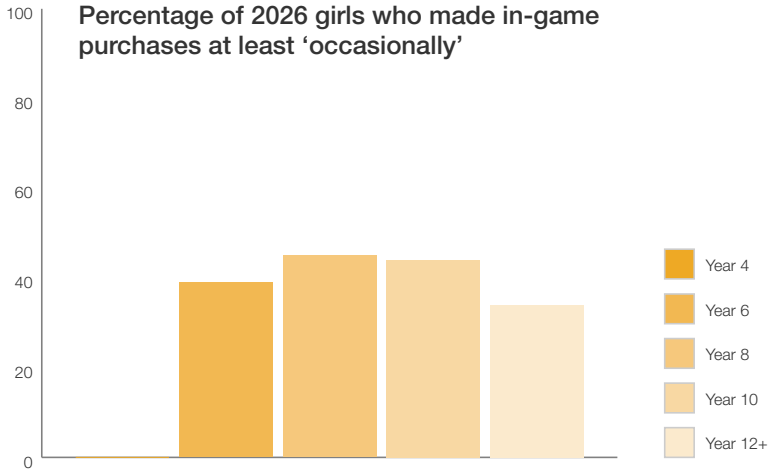

Percentage of 2026 boys who ever used a tobacco pouch
100
80
60
40
20
0
Year 4
Year 6
Year 8
Year 10
Year 12+

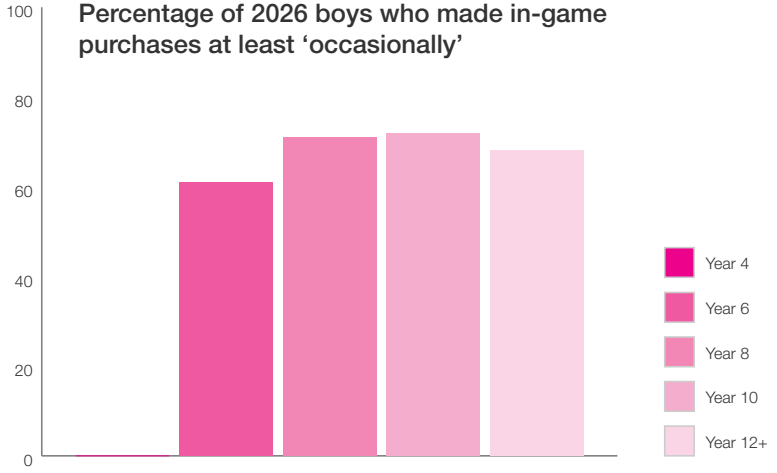

Percentage of 2026 girls who ever used a tobacco pouch
100
80
60
40
20
0
Year 4
Year 6
Year 8
Year 10
Year 12+

PHASE DIFFERENCES GAMBLING

Questions on gambling were introduced into the survey in 2024.

- 50% (52% in 2024) of KS2 pupils made in game purchases (e.g. coins, Loot boxes, skins). 61% (58% in 2024) said they know where to get support if they are spending too much time or money on these activities.
- 58% (54% in 2024) of KS3-4 pupils made in game purchases (e.g. coins, Loot boxes, skins). More boys than girls said this.
- 27% (27% in 2024) KS3-4 pupils in 2026 said they lied about the money they spent on gambling and 19% (20% in 2024) spent more than they can afford.
- 28% (23% in 2024) of 16+ students said they lied about the money they spent on gambling and 21% (12% in 2024) spent more money than they can afford.
- More boys than girls have made in-game/app purchases such as ‘loot boxes’ or ‘skins’.





MAPPING

Percentage of Year 6 pupils by ward who make in-game or app purchases at least monthly



- 11.7% – 13.6% Park, Blakenhall
- 13.6% – 15.6% Graisley
- 15.6% – 17.5% Bushbury North, Bilston South Ettingshall South & Spring Vale
- 17.5% – 19.4% East Park
- 19.4% – 21.4% Wednesfield North
- 21.4% – 23.3% Penn, Tettenhall Wightwick
- 23.3% – 25.2% St Peter's, Ettingshall North, Bilston North
- 25.2% – 27.2% Bushbury South & Low Hill, Tettenhall Regis
- 27.2% – 29.1% Fallings Park, Wednesfield South
- 29.1% – 31.0% Heath Town, Oxley, Merry Hill

Percentage of Year 6 pupils by ward who play arcade games at least monthly



- 14.1% – 15.9% Ettingshall South & Spring Vale
- 15.9% – 17.7% Bushbury North, Bilston South
- 17.7% – 19.5% Park, Blakenhall
- 19.5% – 21.3% Tettenhall Wightwick
- 21.3% – 23.1% Oxley
- 23.1% – 25.0% Fallings Park, Merry Hill, Graiseley, Ettingshall North
- 25.0% – 26.8% Penn, Bilston North
- 26.8% – 28.6% Tettenhall Regis, Heath Town, East Park, Wednesfield North, Bushbury South & Low Hill,
- 28.6% – 30.4% St Peter's
- 30.4% – 32.2% Wednesfield South

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



- 8.9% – 10.9% Tettenhall Regis, Tettenhall Wightwick, St Peter's, Blakenhall
- 10.9% – 12.8% None
- 12.8% – 14.8% Park, Graisley, Penn, Bilston North
- 14.8% – 16.7% Merry Hill, Bushbury South & Low Hill, Ettingshall North
- 16.7% – 18.7% Oxley, East Park, Wednesfield South
- 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% Heath Town, Fallings Park

Percentage of Year 6 pupils by ward who are exposed to second hand smoke at home



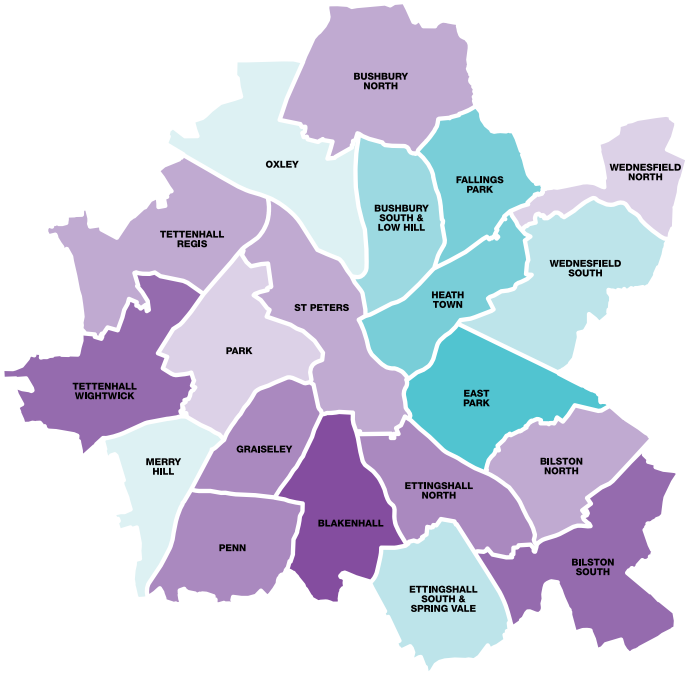
- 7.5% – 9.2% Tettenhall Regis, St Peter's, Blakenhall, Bilston North
- 9.2% – 10.8% Bushbury South & Low Hill, Tettenhall Wightwick
- 10.8% – 12.5% Penn
- 12.5% – 14.1% Park, Graisley, Ettingshall North
- 14.1% – 15.7% Merry Hill, Bushbury North, Bilston South
- 15.7% – 17.4% Wednesfield North, Ettingshall South & Spring Vale
- 17.4% – 19.0% Oxley
- 19.0% – 20.7% Heath Town, East Park
- 20.7% – 22.3% Wednesfield South
- 22.3% – 24.0% Fallings Park

Percentage of Year 6 pupils by ward who have at least tried smoking



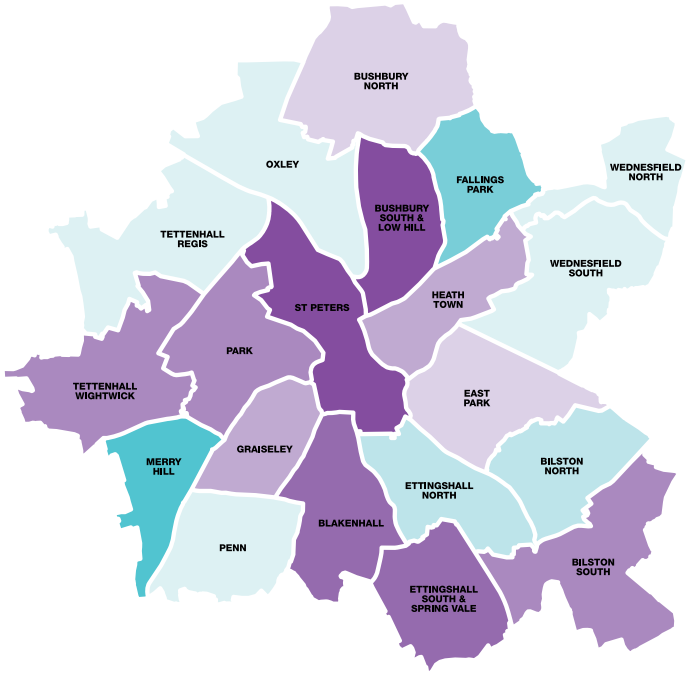
- 0.0% – 0.6% Penn, Tettenhall Wightwick, St Peter's, Bilston South
- 0.6% – 1.3% Bushbury South & Low Hill, Tettenhall Regis, Ettingshall South & Spring Vale, East Park, Penn
- 1.3% – 1.9% Oxley, Wednesfield North
- 1.9% – 2.6% Bushbury North, Park, Heath Town
- 2.6% – 3.2% Merry Hill, Blakenhall, Bilston North
- 3.2% – 3.9% Wednesfield South
- 3.9% – 4.5% None
- 4.5% – 5.1% Fallings Park
- 5.1% – 5.8% Graiseley, Ettingshall North
- 5.8% – 6.4% None

Percentage of Year 6 pupils by ward who have exposed to second hand smoke at any of the listed places



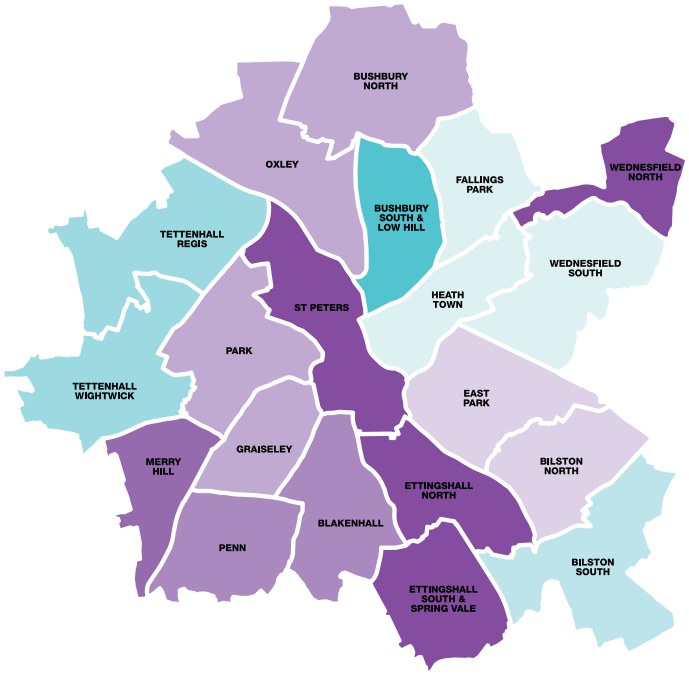
- 18.8% – 21.4% Blakenhall
- 21.4% – 24.0% Bilston South, Tettenhall Wightwick
- 24.0% – 26.5% Ettingshall North, Graisley, Penn
- 26.5% – 29.1% St Peter's, Bilston North, Tettenhall Regis, Bushbury North
- 29.1% – 31.6% Park, Wednesfield North
- 31.6% – 34.2% Oxley, Merry Hill
- 34.2% – 36.8% Wednesfield South, Ettingshall South & Spring Vale
- 36.8% – 39.3% Bushbury South & Low Hill
- 39.3% – 41.9% Fallings Park, Heath Town
- 41.9% – 44.4% East Park

Percentage of Year 6 pupils by ward who have ever drank alcohol



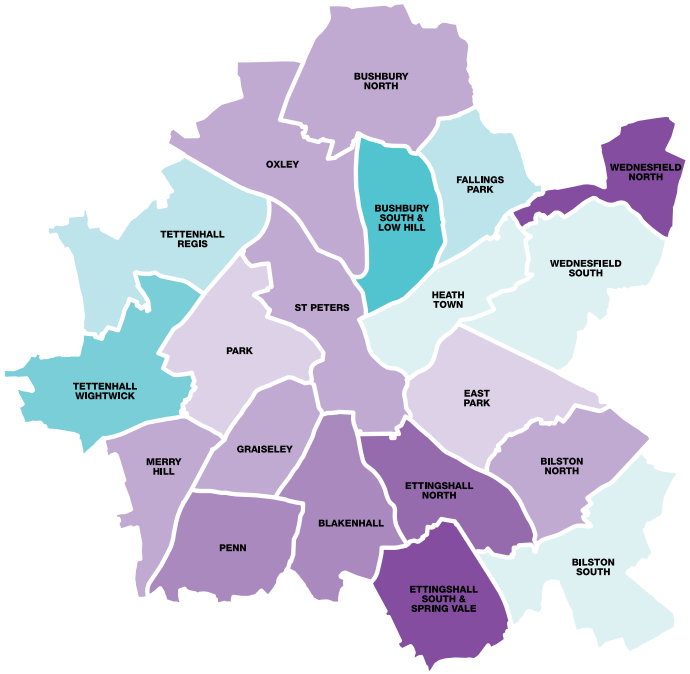
- 3.6% – 6.0% — St Peter's, Bushbury South & Low Hill
- 6.0% – 8.3% — Ettingshall South & Spring Vale, Blakenhall
- 8.3% – 10.7% — Tettenhall Wightwick, Park, Bilston South
- 10.7% – 13.1% — Heath Town, Graisley
- 13.1% – 15.5% — East Park, Bushbury North
- 15.5% – 17.9% — Oxley, Penn, Tettenhall Regis, Wednesfield North, Wednesfield South
- 17.9% – 20.3% — Ettingshall North, Bilston North
- 20.3% – 22.7% — None
- 22.7% – 25.1% — Fallings Park
- 25.1% – 27.5% — Merry Hill

Percentage of Year 6 pupils by ward who have had useful information from school about drugs and alcohol



- 49.6% – 53.0% — St Peter's, Ettingshall North, Wednesfield North, Ettingshall South & Spring Vale
- 53.0% – 56.3% — Merry Hill
- 56.3% – 59.6% — Penn, Blakenhall
- 59.6% – 62.9% — Bushbury North, Oxley, Park, Graisley
- 62.9% – 66.3% — East Park, Bilston North
- 66.3% – 69.6% — Fallings Park, Heath Town, Wednesfield South
- 69.6% – 72.9% — Bilston South
- 72.9% – 76.2% — Tettenhall Regis, Tettenhall Wightwick
- 76.2% – 79.6% — None
- 79.6% – 82.9% — Bushbury South & Low Hill

Percentage of Year 6 pupils by ward who have had useful information from school about smoking



- 45.9% – 49.4% Wednesfield North, Ettingshall South & Spring Vale
- 49.4% – 53.0% Ettingshall North
- 53.0% – 56.6% Penn, Blakenhall
- 56.6% – 60.2% Oxley, Bilston North, Graisley, Merry Hill, Bushbury North, St Peter's
- 60.2% – 63.7% Park, East Park
- 63.7% – 67.3% Heath Town, Wednesfield South, Bilston South
- 67.3% – 70.9% Fallings Park, Tettenhall Regis
- 70.9% – 74.4% None
- 74.4% – 78.0% Tettenhall Wightwick
- 78.0% – 81.6% Bushbury South & Low Hill

Percentage of Year 6 pupils by ward who have at least tried vaping



- 2.6% – 4.0% Tettenhall Regis, Tettenhall Wightwick, Penn, Ettingshall South & Spring Vale
- 4.0% – 5.5% St Peter's, Bilston South, Park
- 5.5% – 6.9% Blakenhall, Wednesfield South, Bushbury South & Low Hill
- 6.9% – 8.4% Wednesfield North, Oxley, Bilston North
- 8.4% – 9.8% Bushbury North
- 9.8% – 11.3% Heath Town
- 11.3% – 12.8% Graisley, Fallings Park
- 12.8% – 14.2% None
- 14.2% – 15.7% East Park
- 15.7% – 17.1% Merry Hill, Ettingshall North

LINKS BETWEEN BEHAVIOURS

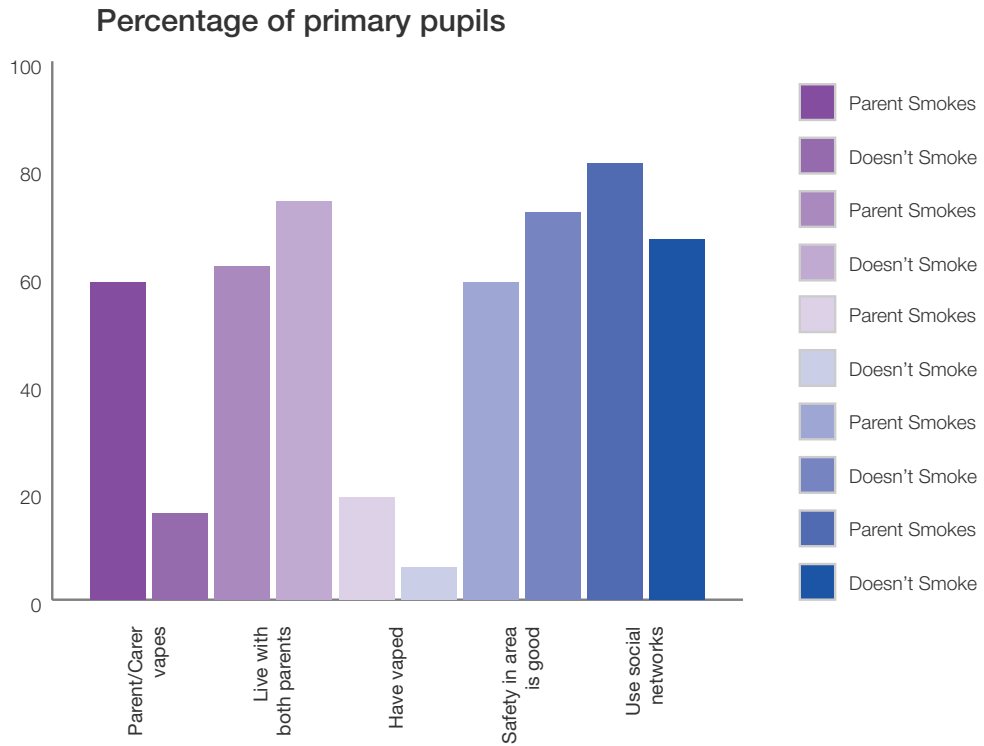
Compared with primary pupils who do not have a parent who smokes, those who report having a parent who smokes are:

Significantly more likely to:

- Say that a parent/carer vapes
- Use social networking sites
- Have tried vaping

Significantly less likely to:

- Live with parents
- Rate safety in their local area as ‘good’ or ‘excellent’



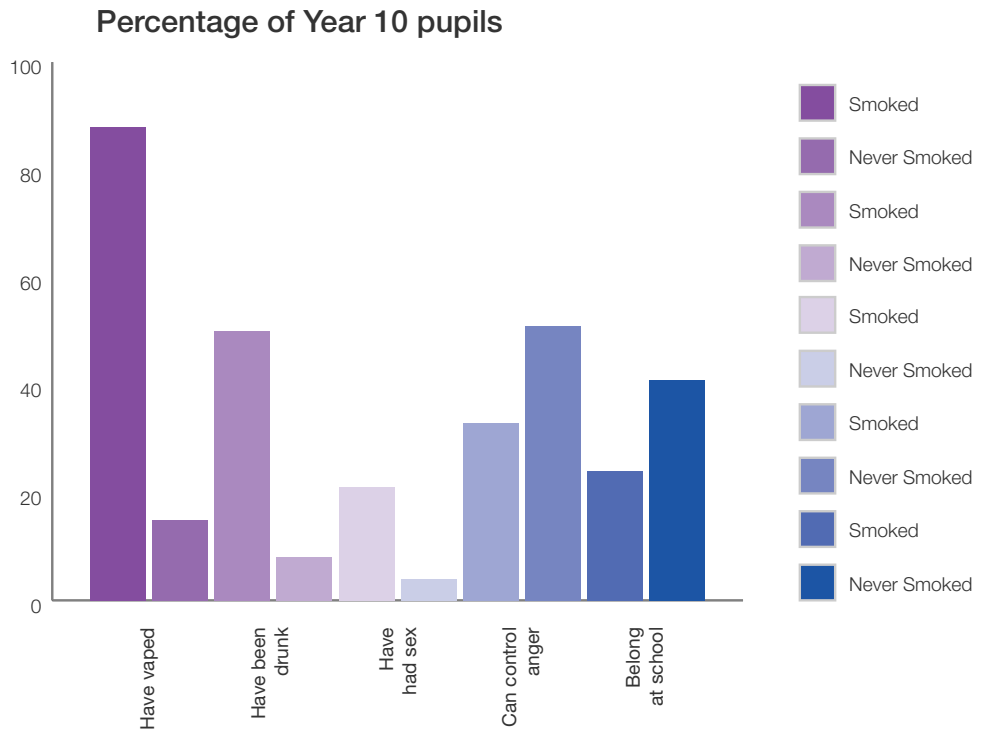
Compared with Year 10 pupils who have never smoked, those who report having smoked are:

Significantly more likely to:

- Have vaped
- Been drunk
- Had sex

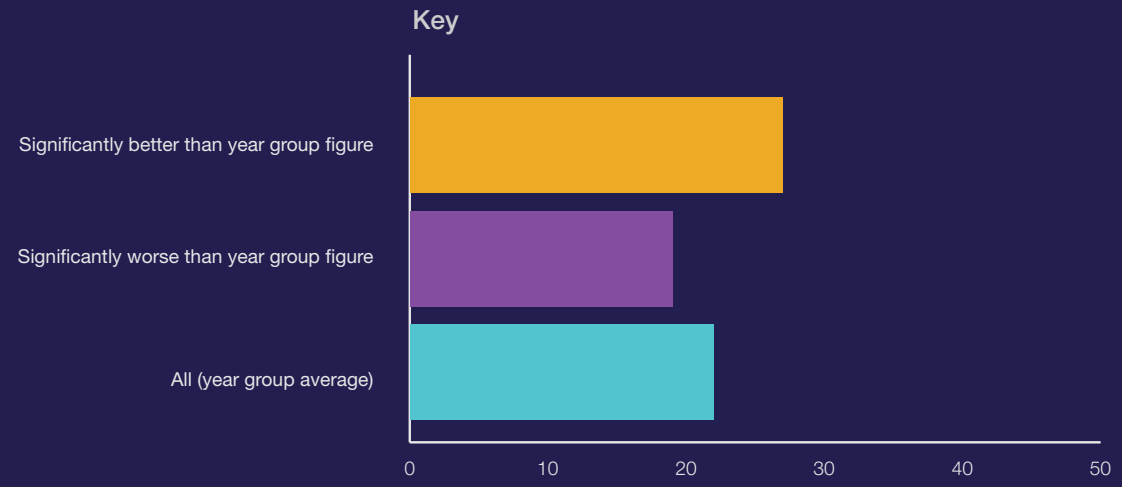
Significantly less likely to:

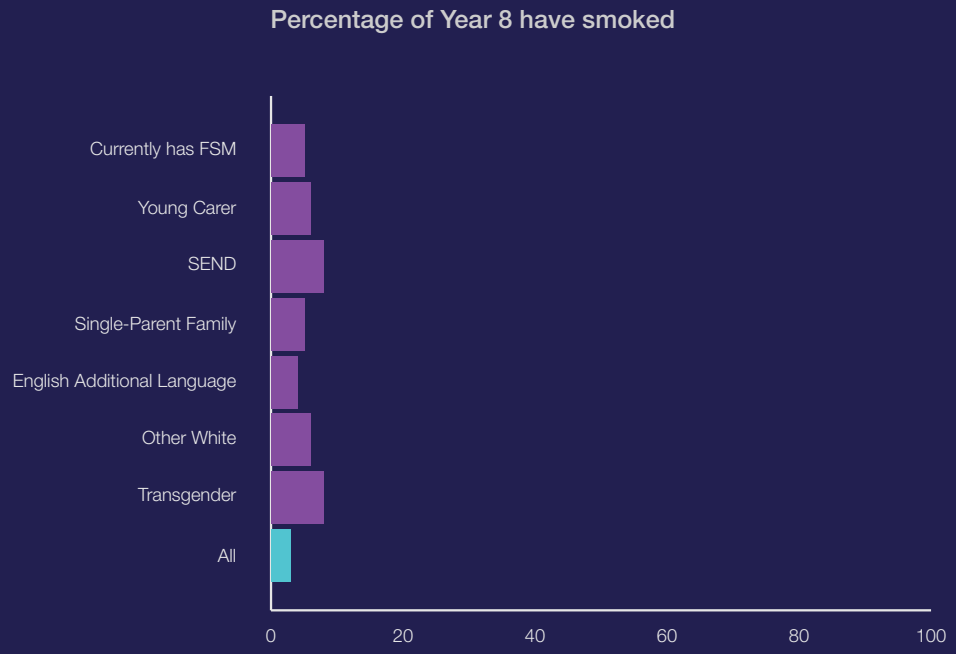
- Report being able to control their anger
- Feeling that they belong at their school

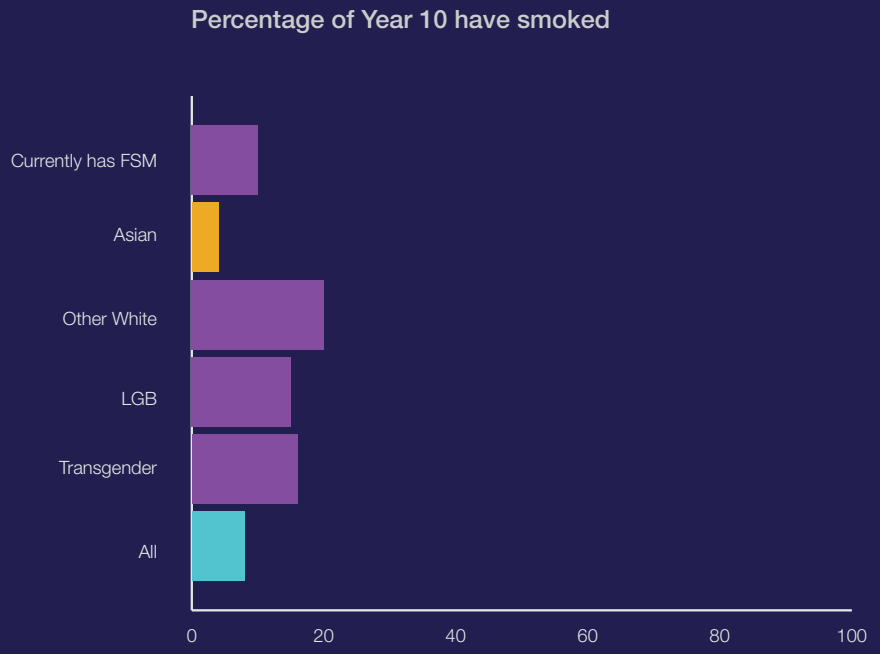


INEQUALITIES

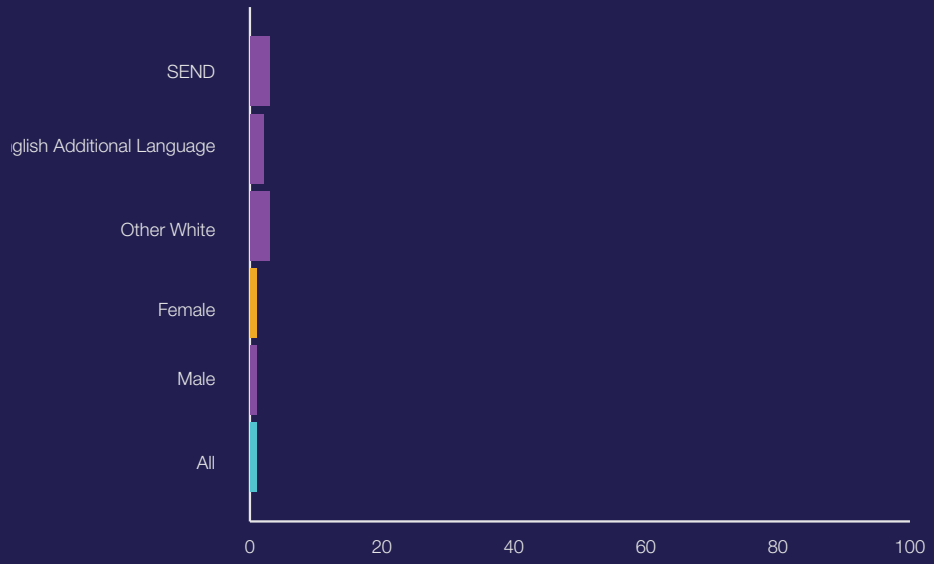
Selected questions from the primary and secondary questionnaires were analysed to identify statistically significant differences between population groups.



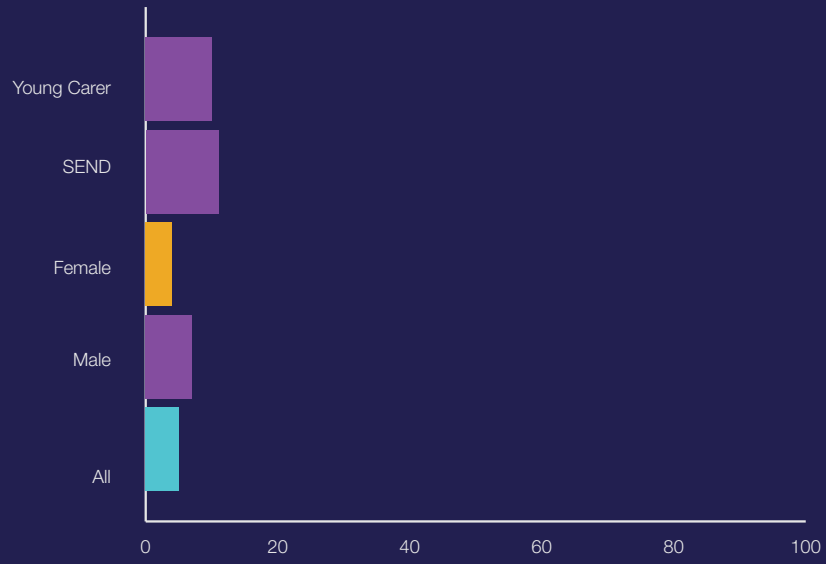




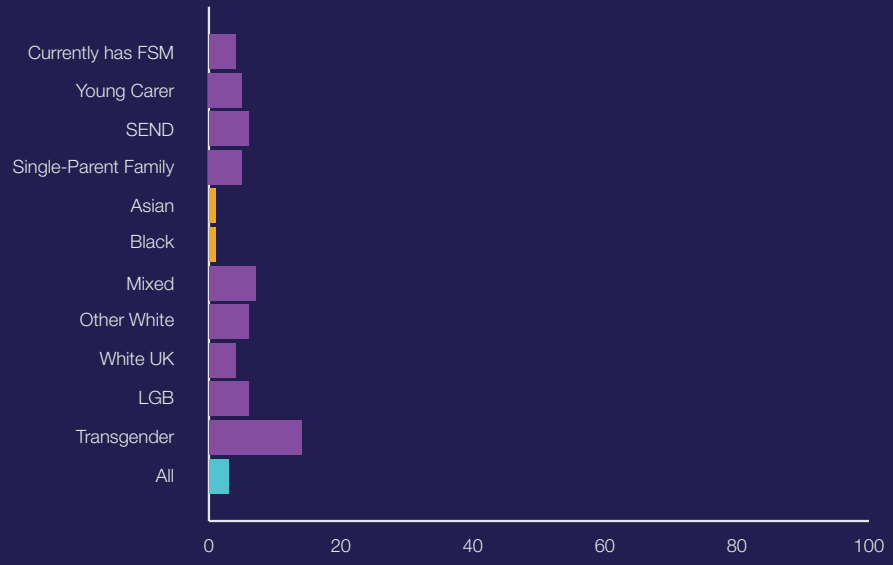
Percentage of Year 8 drink alcohol weekly



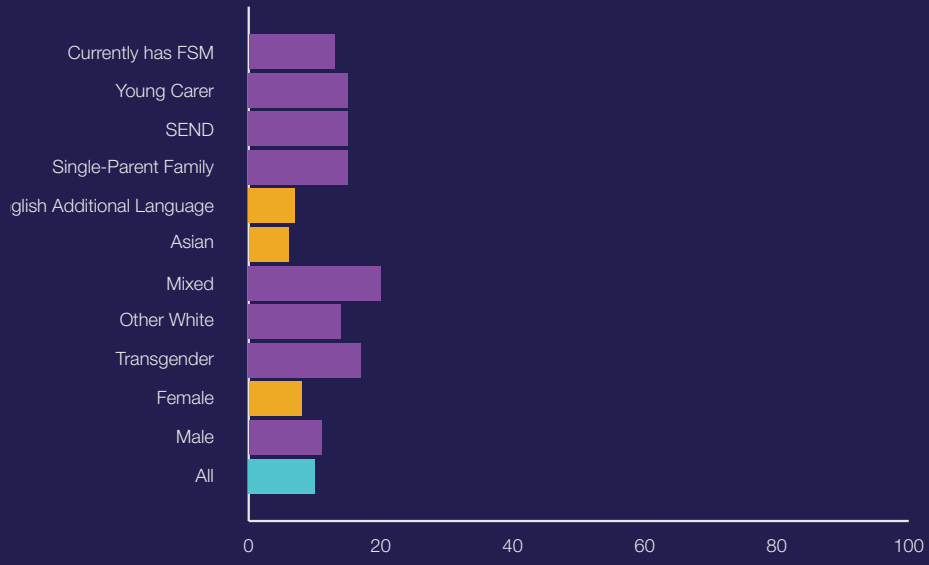
Percentage of Year 8 offered drugs



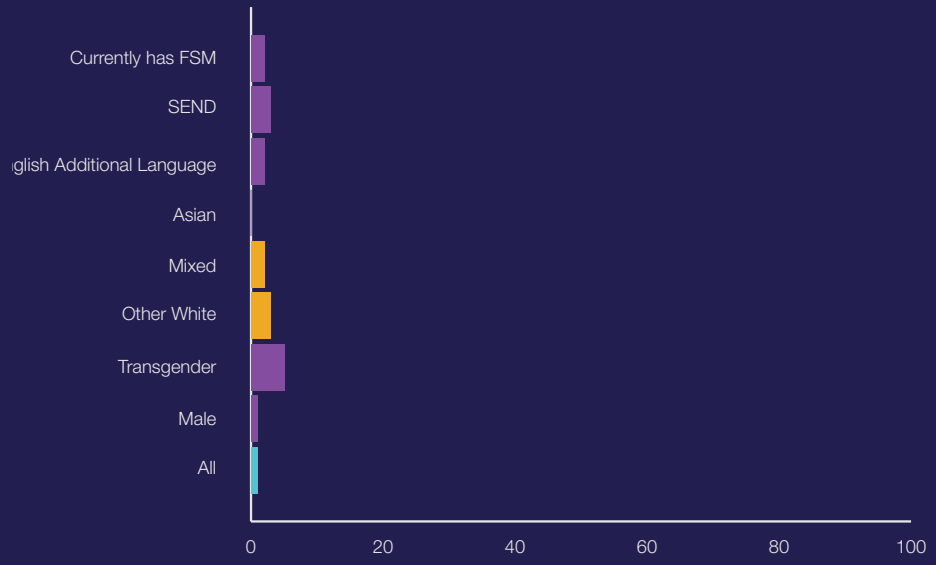
Percentage of Year 10 drink alcohol weekly



Percentage of Year 10 offered drugs



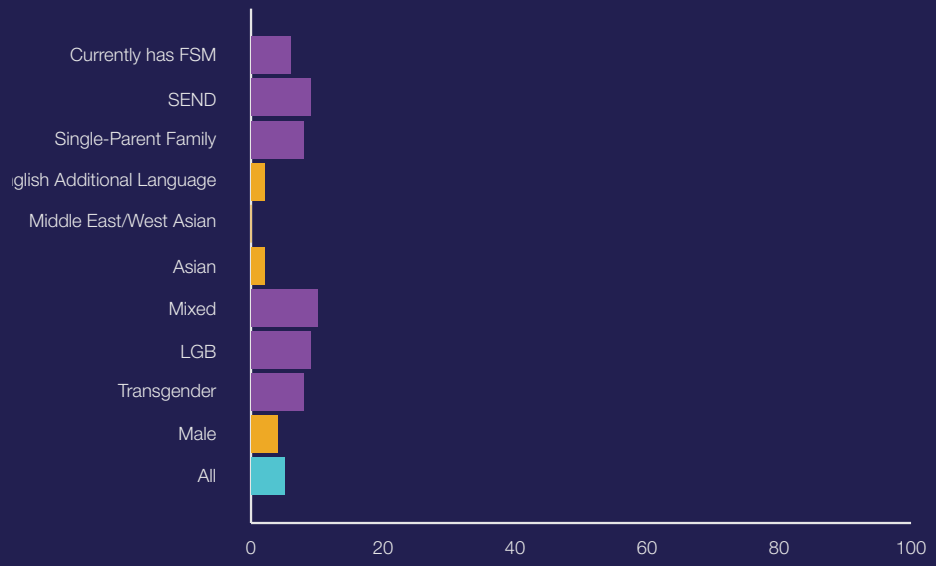
Percentage of Year 8 have used drugs



Percentage of Year 8 in-game purchases (at least occasionally)



Percentage of Year 10 have used drugs



Percentage of Year 8 in-game purchases (at least occasionally)



The table below shows percentages for selected criteria for the whole year group sample and selected sub-samples of young people who may be vulnerable.

The table shows significance testing; the tests were performed using actual numbers of respondents for each criterion, not the overall sample size shown.

No correction has been attempted for multiple comparisons, so we could expect 1 in 20 cells to show an apparently significant difference by chance alone. However, there are 96 cells, 34 of which show a significant result, 18 at $p < 0.01$; this greatly exceeds expectations.

99	99	$p < 0.05$ Purple = Higher on a positive criterion or lower on a negative one
99	99	$p < 0.01$ Orange = Lower on a positive criterion or higher on a negative one

Year 6	All	Male	Female	White UK	Other White	Mixed	Black	Asian	Middle East / West Asian	EAL	Single-Parent Family	Young Carer	Currently has FSM
Sample	**2,416**	1,162	1,189	881	139	284	328	549	85	584	395	312	953
Offered Drugs	**3%**	**5%**	**2%**	**3%**	**1%**	**3%**	**3%**	**3%**	**3%**	**3%**	**5%**	**5%**	**3%**
Ever smoked cigarettes	**2%**	**3%**	**2%**	**3%**	**3%**	**3%**	**2%**	**1%**	**4%**	**3%**	**3%**	**3%**	**3%**
Play arcade games at least occasionally	**78%**	**78%**	**77%**	**87%**	**79%**	**82%**	**70%**	**72%**	**54%**	**68%**	**75%**	**81%**	**77%**
Place a private bet for money at least occasionally	**26%**	**28%**	**23%**	**29%**	**26%**	**26%**	**31%**	**19%**	**18%**	**22%**	**25%**	**29%**	**27%**
make in-game /app purchases at l[illegible] occasionally	**50%**	**61%**	**39%**	**58%**	**51%**	**54%**	**50%**	**38%**	**39%**	**40%**	**52%**	**52%**	**51%**

Year 8	All	Male	Female	Transgender	White UK	Other White	Mixed	Black	Asian	Middle East / West Asian	EAL	Single-Parent Family	SEND	Young Carer	Currently has FSM
Sample	**2,225**	1,058	112	80	683	123	245	332	648	103	512	381	157	196	827
Drink alcohol and had a drink spiked	**0%**	**1%**	**0%**	**3%**	**0%**	**1%**	**0%**	**2%**	**0%**	**0%**	**1%**	**1%**	**1%**	**1%**	**1%**
Usually drink at least weekly	**1%**	**1%**	**1%**	**1%**	**1%**	**3%**	**1%**	**1%**	**0%**	**1%**	**2%**	**0%**	**3%**	**1%**	**1%**
Offered drugs	**5%**	**7%**	**4%**	**6%**	**5%**	**8%**	**7%**	**5%**	**5%**	**4%**	**4%**	**6%**	**11%**	**10%**	**6%**
Ever taken drugs	**1%**	**1%**	**1%**	**5%**	**1%**	**3%**	**1%**	**2%**	**0%**	**2%**	**2%**	**2%**	**3%**	**0%**	**2%**
Ever smoked cigarettes	**3%**	**3%**	**3%**	**8%**	**4%**	**6%**	**3%**	**2%**	**2%**	**4%**	**4%**	**5%**	**8%**	**6%**	**5%**
Play arcade games at least occasionally	**76%**	**77%**	**75%**	**81%**	**85%**	**83%**	**78%**	**63%**	**74%**	**61%**	**67%**	**78%**	**80%**	**75%**	**75%**
Place a private bet for money at least occasionally	**30%**	**33%**	**27%**	**26%**	**29%**	**37%**	**37%**	**31%**	**27%**	**24%**	**26%**	**28%**	**33%**	**32%**	**29%**
Make in-game / app purchases at least occasionally	**57%**	**71%**	**45%**	**59%**	**67%**	**64%**	**66%**	**48%**	**49%**	**45%**	**45%**	**60%**	**72%**	**63%**	**59%**
Bingo for money prizes at least occasionally	**10%**	**12%**	**8%**	**10%**	**15%**	**19%**	**11%**	**8%**	**5%**	**7%**	**7%**	**13%**	**17%**	**13%**	**12%**
Scratch Cards at least occasionally	**22%**	**23%**	**21%**	**23%**	**28%**	**32%**	**23%**	**11%**	**21%**	**9%**	**17%**	**19%**	**32%**	**29%**	**21%**
Sports betting at least occasionally	**19%**	**21%**	**16%**	**14%**	**25%**	**21%**	**23%**	**15%**	**11%**	**19%**	**15%**	**20%**	**27%**	**26%**	**21%**

Year 10	All	Male	Female	Transgender	LGB	White UK	Other White	Mixed	Black	Asian	Middle East / West Asian	EAL	Single-Parent Family	SEND	Young Carer	Currently has FSM
Sample	**1,835**	929	846	93	143	599	125	189	258	509	79	481	354	166	180	707
Drink alcohol and had a drink spiked	**1%**	1%	0%	3%	3%	1%	2%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%
Usually drink at least weekly	**3%**	3%	3%	14%	6%	4%	6%	7%	1%	1%	1%	2%	5%	6%	5%	4%
Offered drugs	**10%**	11%	8%	17%	11%	10%	14%	20%	8%	6%	10%	7%	15%	15%	15%	13%
Ever taken drugs	**5%**	4%	5%	8%	9%	5%	6%	10%	3%	2%	0%	2%	8%	9%	7%	6%
Ever smoked cigarettes	**8%**	7%	8%	16%	15%	8%	20%	10%	8%	4%	8%	7%	9%	11%	10%	10%
Play arcade games at least occasionally	**74%**	75%	71%	78%	83%	84%	71%	79%	64%	68%	54%	62%	72%	78%	75%	71%
Place a private bet for money at least occasionally	**35%**	39%	29%	35%	32%	38%	35%	42%	33%	32%	18%	31%	33%	39%	37%	31%
Make in-game / app purchases at least occasionally	**58%**	72%	44%	55%	52%	67%	65%	66%	51%	52%	41%	47%	60%	61%	60%	57%
Bingo for money prizes at least occasionally	**14%**	14%	13%	16%	20%	19%	13%	19%	9%	9%	6%	9%	13%	20%	19%	12%
Scratch Cards at least occasionally	**23%**	22%	23%	24%	28%	30%	34%	26%	15%	18%	7%	18%	24%	28%	26%	20%
Sports betting at least occasionally	**20%**	23%	16%	21%	27%	30%	18%	18%	14%	14%	13%	14%	19%	29%	26%	20%

THE 2026 SAMPLE

Teachers received guidance from Schools Health Education Unit staff to support consistent and reliable data collection. Schools were offered the option to complete the survey online through a bespoke website, with paper questionnaires provided where technical issues prevented online participation. A total of 12,942 pupils took part in the 2026 HRBS, including pupils from 23 Key Stage 1 settings, 57 Key Stage 2 settings, 16 secondary (Key Stage 3-4) settings, three institutions completing the Year 12+ survey, and nine institutions participating in the SEND survey.

Each participating school received an individual report comparing its results with the combined results for pupils in the same age group.

School Year	Year 2	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12+	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.

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