

What kids think

Issue
5
2012

Results of the 2012 Kids' Life and Times Survey

I think I've heard of the Kids Life and Times survey, is this the survey that the universities do with P7 children?

Yes, that's it. Our school did it. It's supposed to be about letting adults hear what children think so that the adults in charge can make better decisions about schools and other stuff.

I don't believe that anyone really cares what we think! If one more person says to me that your childhood is the happiest days of your life I think I'm going to throw up.

You didn't really enjoy primary school did you?

How did you guess?

KLT Survey 2012



Well, the survey showed that most people were happy at their primary school. About 88% of girls and 82% of boys said that they were mostly happy at their school.



What was wrong with your school? Were you bullied? Were the teachers mean?



Not really - I think I was just bored. I only enjoyed it when we had PE or got to go to the swimming pool in the secondary school up the road.



They asked a bit about that on the survey. You know, schools getting together with other schools to use their computers or swimming pool, or sometimes they might do classes or projects with the children from the other school. About 58% of children had done something like that and most people thought it was a good idea, especially those who had actually done it. Boys were more likely than girls to like the idea of using sports facilities and computers/equipment. On the other hand, girls were more likely than boys to like the idea of making new friends.



Figure 1: Pick two favourite things that you think would be good.

	% All	Boy	Girl
Using their sports facilities and computers or equipment	27	36	20
Getting fun teachers	18	22	15
Doing classes we don't normally get to do at our school, like learning a new language	27	22	32
Making new friends	50	42	57
Doing fun projects	40	37	43



Well, I liked using the pool but I'm not sure I would have liked other children coming to my school!



Most people were a bit worried about having to be with children that might be rough or nasty, and some people were worried about having to be with children of a different religion.

Figure 2: Pick the two worst things that you think would be bad.

	% All	Boy	Girl
Having to be with children I think are rough or nasty	68	65	71
Having to share our sports facilities or computers	9	11	8
Having to be with children of a different religion	12	15	9
Having to travel to get to the other school	14	14	15
Having to mix with children who are very different from me	22	24	21



I wouldn't care what religion they were as long as they weren't **GIRLS!**



That's sexist! Anyway, I don't mind mixing with any other children as long as they're not **BOYS!**



Tell me about something that we're not going to fight about.



OK. Well, they asked about how happy children were in their lives and about 2/3 of children (65%) said they were very happy with life, and 26% were happy. So only about 10% were unhappy with their lives. This is a word picture of what boys said made them happy.

What makes you happy? (Boys)

* outside *
football **friends**
 dad everything *
family school dog
 home brother rugby
 mum games sports xbox
 * **playing** *

And here is one for the girls.

What makes you happy? (girls)

* playing *
 school pets dancing
 * brother *
 mum **friends** *
 sister
 spending playing
 * **family** *
 dog



The three Fs! Friends, family and football. Did they ask what made those 10% of people unhappy?



No, but you can tell what kinds of things make people sad from the things that make them happy. You can see what I mean if you read some of the things people wrote.



I feel really bad now for complaining. My life's not so bad - I just didn't like school because it was boring. But I wasn't bullied or anything, and my teachers were sort of OK.



I know what you mean. Even though most people are very happy, some people are having a really hard time.

My teacher not shouting at me because he always shouts at me.

I don't get bullied anymore and I get treated fairly

Nothing

I like meeting my friends and thinking about when my mum died.

When the bell rings to get out of school

My pets, they seem to be the only things that I can talk to without turning around and shouting

When my joint pains aren't very sore

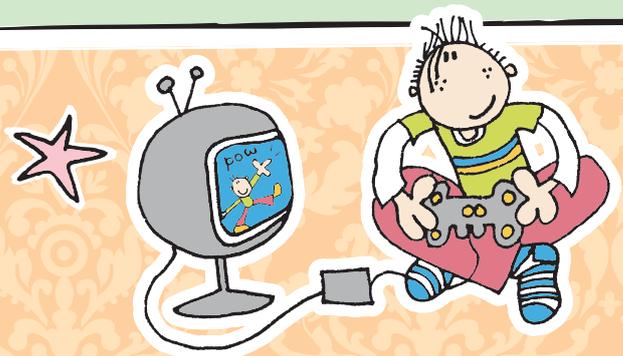
The thing that makes me happy that nobody will talk behind my back again.

Now that the transfers over

Only my mum and dad because I feel like I have no friends

Looking at pictures of my dad since he died and listening to his voice I miss him

That the fact that my parents are split up and it is a mess now that my brother lives with my dad and my parents fight. Sometimes we get involved and I just want to live with no one and I don't like taking one of my parents' sides either.





What about money problems? Did anybody say anything about that? All that you ever hear about on TV is the recession or what my granda calls the credit munch.



They asked people about how their families were managing for money, and about a fifth of children said that there was enough money for ordinary things but not enough for some special things. Another 3% said that there was not enough money for ordinary things or special things. Only about 10% of kids said that they didn't know. The main thing that there wasn't enough money for was holidays. Here are some of the things that people said there wasn't enough money for.



Trips, holidays and sometimes if I want to go out with my friends to the cinema

Shoes

Foreign holidays, university

Bills, TV licence, electricity

Holidays, fix things that are broken in the house, diesel for the car, heating oil.

Sometimes it hurts when children say stuff to you when you don't have expensive stuff

Stupid things like ps3s or xbox360s

Well, my mum is on long term sick and we survive on benefit. My parents are separated we sometimes don't get holidays or fancy clothes

Holidays, things that my mum and dad want. But I think my mum and dad is very good to everyone in my family no matter what

A new school uniform

My dad lost his job but we can still live with it



I think it's good that kids know when money is short in the family. Some parents think that they can hide that sort of thing from us but they don't realise just how much we know!



Did a lot of children get fed up with all these personal questions though?





Some people thought that these questions were a bit personal, but one of the good things about the survey was that you could skip any question you didn't like the look of! Most children said that the survey was interesting and only 4% thought it was boring. Here are some of the other things they said.

It lets us express ourselves and let out how we're feeling

It was good to let people find out about children

Surveys are epic!!! Thanks for making a survey to see the views of children, often we aren't taken seriously

It proves we're as important as adults

It really made me realise things I was trying to ignore

I love the survey because it got us out of class for 20 minutes woohoo. And I like doing surveys like these because they're fun to do

I missed an explanation on maths now I don't know what to do

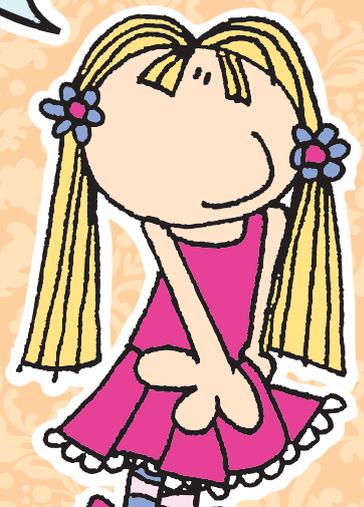


Hey! It's not fair that children had to do the survey as well as all their usual classwork!

You're still trying to find something to complain about aren't you?



Yes. And don't worry, I'll find it! Tell me more about what the survey said...





KLT Survey 2012



Kids' Life and Times is an annual online survey of P7 children in Northern Ireland carried out in school. In 2012, 4,212 children participated.

The Kids' Life and Times survey is a joint initiative between Queen's University Belfast and the University of Ulster, and provides an independent source of information on what children think about the social issues of the day. Check the web site for more information on the survey findings (www.ark.ac.uk/klt) or call Katrina Lloyd on 028 9097 5962 with any queries.

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