

# What kids think

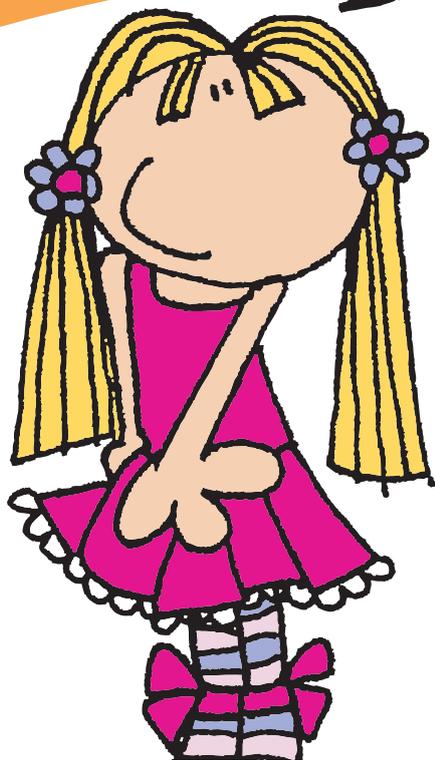
Issue  
**9**  
2016

Results of the 2016  
Kid's Life and Times Survey

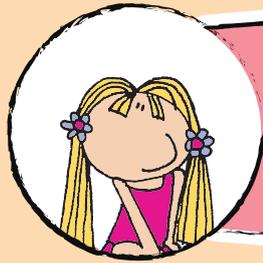
Who left this comic here?  
What do kids think  
about what?

It's about a big survey that  
researchers from the universities  
did. They said they wanted to know  
what P7 children thought about a lot  
of things now that we are finishing  
primary school. They sent out their  
survey to all schools and we answered  
loads of questions on the computers!

Oh yes I remember, it was great  
because we got time out of  
class to do the survey. They  
asked millions of questions about  
school. I hate school. It made me  
feel really good to be able to say  
that on the survey!



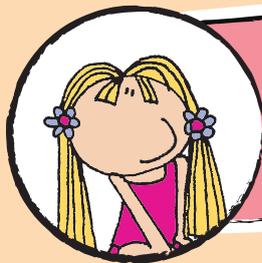
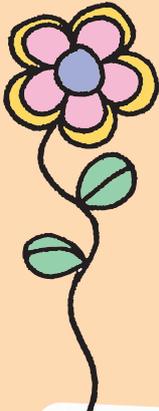
# KLT Survey 2016



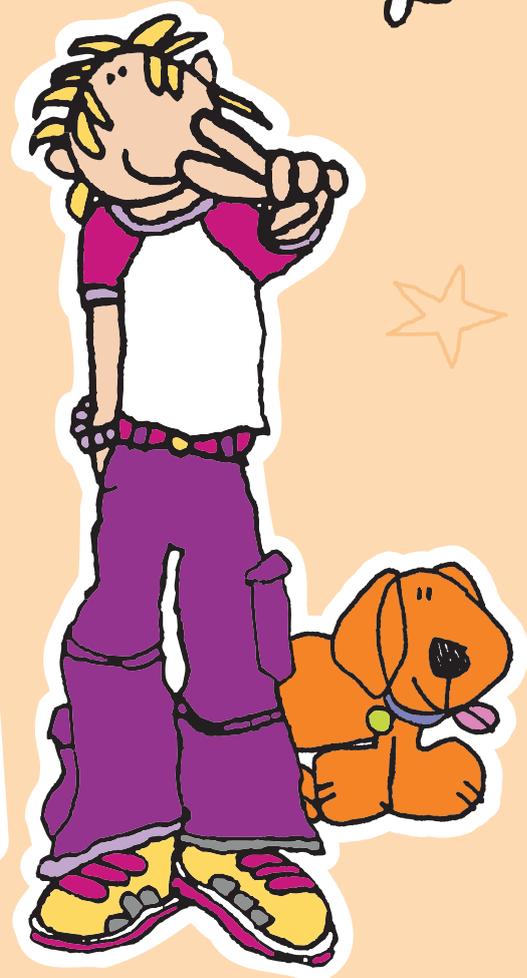
I love my school and my teachers are brilliant.



Yes well you're a girl and I'm a boy and girls just like school better.



That's sexist. Loads of the boys in my class love school.



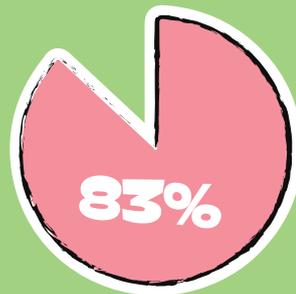
Well what did the other P7 people say? The ones who did the survey?



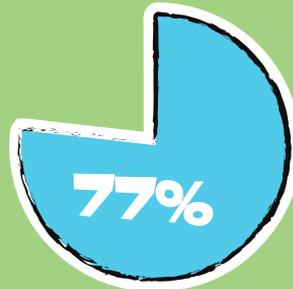
Um... it turns out that girls actually are a bit happier than boys in their time at primary school; 83% of girls said they were mostly happy compared with 77% of boys.



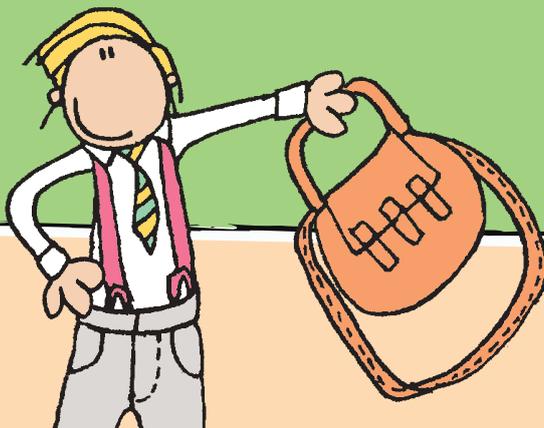
Told you so!



Girls

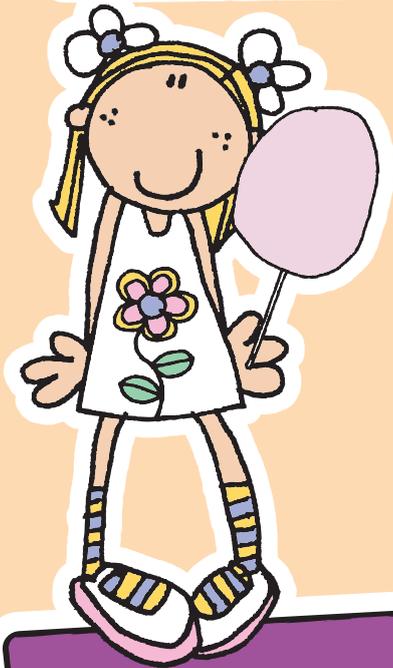


Boys



Yes, but almost 8 out of 10 boys still said that they were happy so it's not that many who were unhappy!

Do the researchers know why some people were unhappy?



Well girls were more likely than boys to say that their teachers always treated them with respect; 77% of girls said this compared with 69% of boys. Here are some of the other things that children said about how they felt when they were in school.

I don't think they know for sure. It's not that boys are bullied more. About the same number of boys as girls said that they were physically bullied in the last two months. Just over a fifth of boys and girls said they had been physically bullied. In fact, girls were a little bit **more** likely than boys to be bullied in other ways like cyber bullying or being called names or left out of stuff.

Are boys more unhappy because they get treated differently in the classroom?

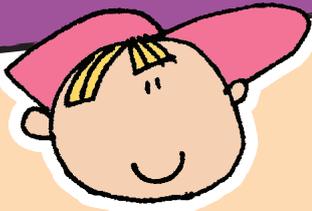


Table 1

How children feel about school by gender

	Boys %	Girls %
I find it very hard to talk in front of the class	37	45
I am proud of my school work	84	86
I am doing the best work that I can	93	97
I like to be called on in class	58	51
I am not doing as well in school as I would like to	32	28
I often feel upset in school	12	16
My teacher makes me feel I am not good enough	13	8
I often get discouraged in school	12	10

So girls are more likely to find it hard to talk in front of the class and aren't as keen as boys to be called on in class? Boys are also a bit more likely to say that they aren't doing their best work and not doing as well in class as they would like to and that the teacher makes them feel that they are not good enough?



Yes, that's what it looks like.





So are boys more likely than girls to say they are glad to be going to a new school after P7?

Yes they are. 62% of boys compared to 54% of girls said that they were happy that they were going to a new school, although more girls (39%) than boys (32%) said they were unsure. Girls had more worries with 38% of them worried about the new school compared with 26% of boys. They were anxious about maybe losing friends who might go to a different school and having to make new friends at the next school.



### Why children are worried about going to a new school by gender

	Boys	Girls
I might not be able to do the work	9	17
I might get bullied	12	17
My friends might be going to a different school than me	15	25
I might not like the teachers	6	8
I might not make new friends	13	25
I might have to travel a long way to get to school	4	5



So did you hate school because of the work? Or the teachers? Or was it bullying?

Table 2

No my teachers were brilliant and I did OK with the work. It was just that I didn't like having to sit at a desk for so long every day. I NEED to be playing football! It's my thing. If I can't play football my head sort of explodes!



Don't be so dramatic! Well the survey also asked about sports and exercise. Boys are definitely keener on exercise than girls. 42% of boys spent an hour on sport or exercise 7 times a week or more compared with 31% of girls.

Girls

31%

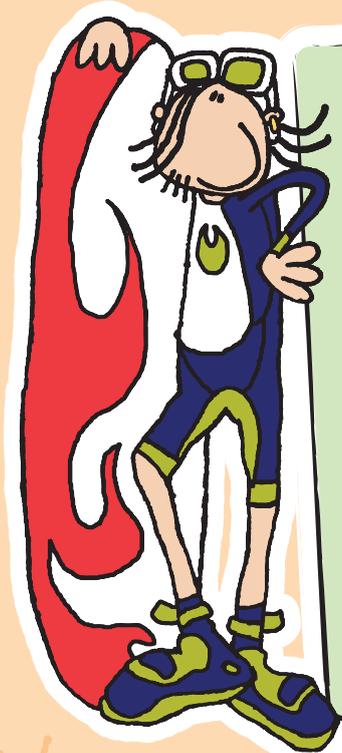
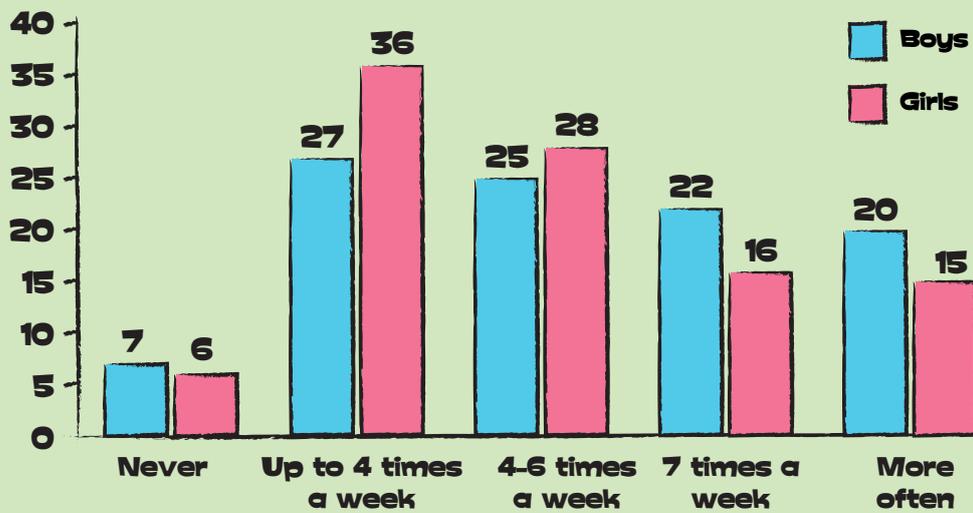
Boys

42%



Figure 1

How often children spend an hour during a day on sport or exercise in a normal week by gender



Hah! I bet they are all outside playing the beautiful game!



Yeah well this is a word picture of the sports and exercise that boys said they did.

Figure 2

Types of sports or physical activities boys do in a normal week



That's me. I play football **WAY** more than 7 times a week.

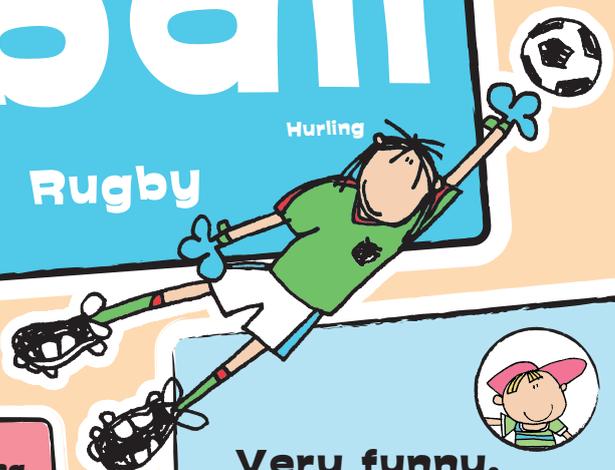


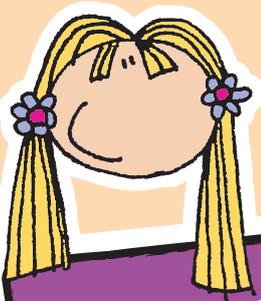
Are you counting playing FIFA on the Xbox?



Very funny.

The thing is we are all out playing serious footie while you girls are at home doing your nails.





You really are sexist aren't you?  
You think girls don't play football?  
Look at the word picture for the  
exercise that girls do.



Types of sports or physical activities girls do in a normal week

**Netball** **Running**

Basketball

Skipping

Horse

Trampoline

Hockey

Play

**Gymnastics**

Tennis

Camogie

Cycling

Riding

Irish

Walking

**Football** **Dancing**

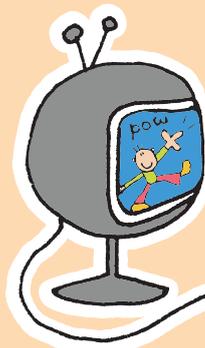
Gaelic

**Swimming**

Figure 3



Seriously? Anyway I was  
just joking and I'm not really  
sexist. I know that loads of  
girls play football and video  
games just as much as boys.



Yeah that's me. I love  
playing video games.  
I'm a serious gamer!



What do you play?  
**Extreme Knitting?**



**You're tragic!**  
I am Grand Master in  
Overwatch.



Nice. But aren't you  
breaking the law by playing  
a 12+ game when you're  
only eleven?



Um.... Actually that  
reminds me.... one of  
the really interesting  
questions was what we  
thought the age of criminal  
responsibility should be in  
Northern Ireland.



Yeah I remember. They  
asked us if we thought  
that anyone who is ten  
years of age is old enough  
to understand if they are  
committing a crime and old  
enough to be arrested and  
go to court.

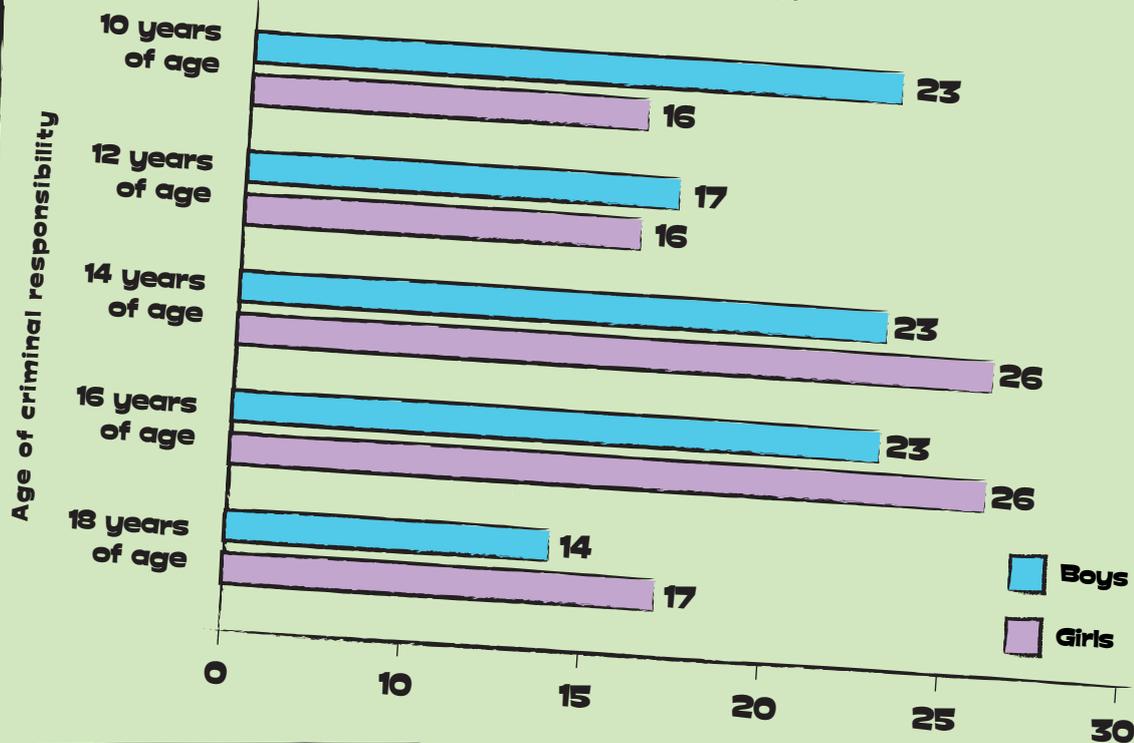


Well only 54% of boys and 44% of girls thought that someone who was 10 years old understood if they had broken the law and most people thought that the age of criminal responsibility should be at least 14.

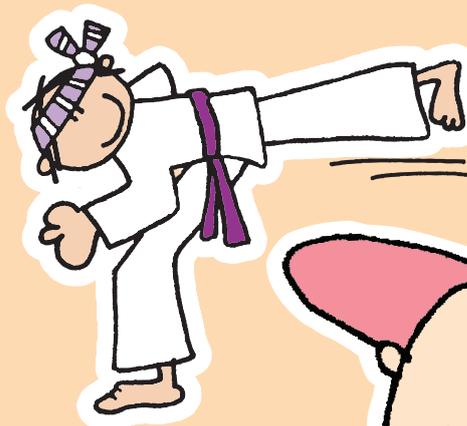


What do you think the age of criminal responsibility should be in Northern Ireland?

Figure 4



I think 10 is way too young. There were loads of other questions about how children who break the law should be treated and we had an interesting discussion about it when we got back to class. People had very very different opinions.



An interesting discussion?  
Massive fight then?



Yeah.  
**CARNAGE!**



# KLT Survey 2016



**Kids' Life and Times is an annual online survey of P7 children in Northern Ireland carried out in school. In 2016, 5,094 children participated.**

The Kids' Life and Times survey is a joint initiative between Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University and aims to provide 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](http://www.ark.ac.uk/klt)) or call the Kids' Life and Times team on 028 9097 5962 with any queries.

In collaboration with Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University

School of Social Sciences,  
Education and Social Work  
Queen's University Belfast  
Belfast  
BT7 1NN

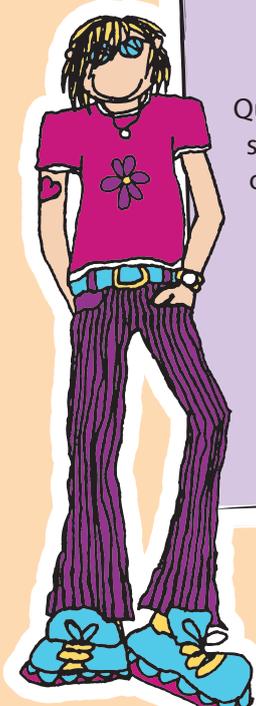
Magee Campus  
Ulster University  
Northland Road  
Londonderry  
BT48 7JL

Tel: 028 9097 5970/028 9097 5962  
E-mail: [info@ark.ac.uk](mailto:info@ark.ac.uk)

Tel: 028 7167 5500  
E-mail: [info@ark.ac.uk](mailto:info@ark.ac.uk)

Kids' Life and Times is part of **ARK**, a resource providing access to social and political material on Northern Ireland. Established in 2000 within Ulster University and Queen's University Belfast, **ARK** has developed a range of resource materials that inform social and political debate in the region and raise the profile of social science research on Northern Ireland. **ARK's** mission is to make social science knowledge on Northern Ireland easily accessible to the widest possible audience.

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