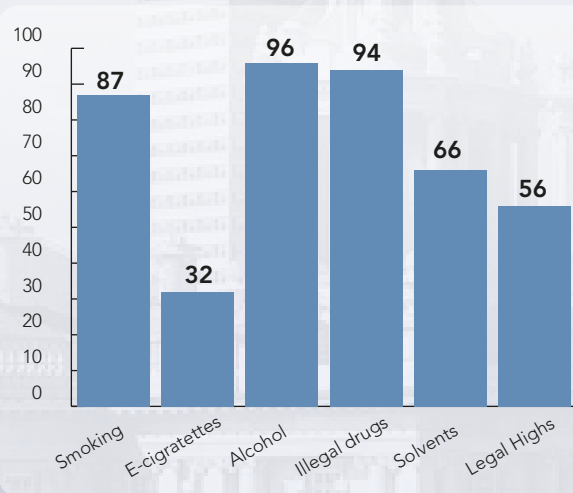


## Education

78% of YLT respondents said that, on the whole, they were happy in school. Males were just as likely to be happy in school as females, and there was no difference in happiness of pupils between different school types attended.

The vast majority of respondents had received information on alcohol and drugs (Figure 5).

**Figure 5: Respondents saying they had lessons on... (%)**



74% of respondents had received Community Relations Equality and Diversity Education (CRED) in school, whilst 28% had received CRED in a youth project. During CRED lessons, the issues most likely to be addressed in both schools and youth projects were religious and ethnic diversity; however disability, gender and diversity of political opinions were also discussed frequently.

Those who had received CRED were likely to say that this had a very positive effect on how they felt about different people.

29% said learning another language would be valuable for study, 47% said it would be for work, whilst 67% said it would be valuable for travel or leisure. 17% said they did not think they needed another language apart from English.

## Background of the YLT Survey

All too often the opinions of young people are ignored when decisions are made about many of the issues involving them.

Every year the Young Life and Times (YLT) Survey invites 16-year olds from all parts of Northern Ireland to tell us about their experiences of school, and their views on politics, community relations and other social issues. In 2016, 1,009 young people responded.

This leaflet provides a summary of the key findings of the 2016 YLT survey.

More detailed results on specific issues, as well as Research Updates, are freely available on the YLT website at [www.ark.ac.uk/ylt](http://www.ark.ac.uk/ylt).

Many participants of the survey suggested a range of subjects that could be asked in future. Some of these questions will be included in the 2017 YLT survey.

Comments on the YLT survey are welcome any time and can be submitted via the YLT website.

ARK is a joint resource between Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University

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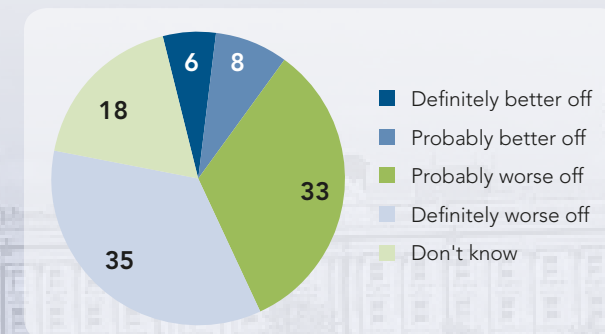
The 2016 YLT survey was part-funded by the Executive Office, the Department of Education, Sport NI, the British Council, and the Improving Children's Lives Initiative (ICLI) at Queen's University Belfast.

2016 Young Life  
and Times Survey

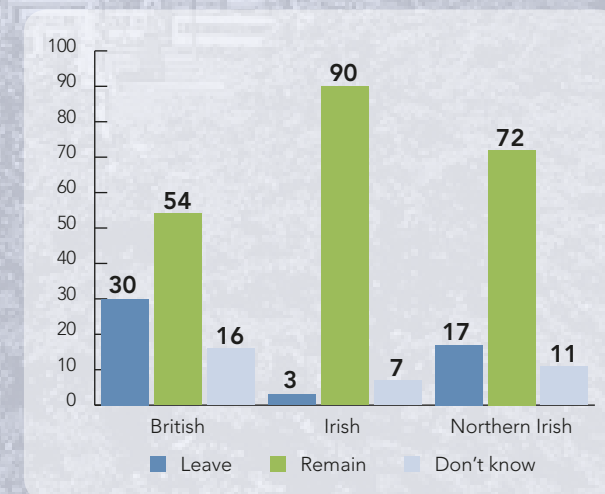


## Summary of Results

**Figure 1: Do you think you personally will be better-off outside the EU? (%)**



**Figure 2: If the EU referendum was held again tomorrow, and 16-year olds could vote, how would you vote? By national identity (%)**



## Who took part in the 2016 YLT survey?

All young people living in Northern Ireland who celebrated their 16th birthday in February and March 2016 were invited to take part in the survey. Of the 1,009 16-year olds that responded:

- 42% were male and 57% were female.
- 21% said they lived in a big city or its outskirts, 40% lived in a small town and 38% lived in a village or in the countryside.
- 55% attended a grammar school, 35% attended a secondary school, 7% attended a planned integrated school and 4% attended some other type of school.
- Around 1 in 2 respondents said they would consider studying (49%) or working (52%) abroad whilst around 1 in 3 (31%) said they would consider doing an apprenticeship abroad.
- 76% lived with both their parents, 18% lived only with their mother and 2% lived only with their father. 3% lived with their mother some time and their father some time.
- 13% of respondents said they had a long-standing physical or mental health condition.
- 70% regarded themselves as belonging to a particular religion, 30% said they did not.
- 37% of 16 year olds identified as Irish, 36% as Northern Irish, 21% as British and 6% had a different national identity.
- 8% of males and 16% of females had been sexually attracted to a person of the same sex at least once.
- 34% of respondents said their families were financially either very well-off or well-off. 15% said their families were not at all well-off or not well-off. About half (51%) of respondents described their family's financial situation as average.

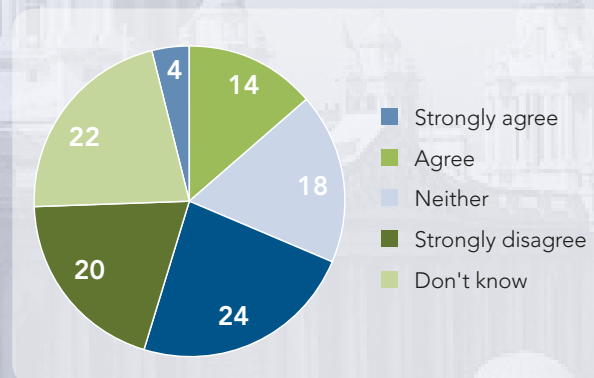
## Sense of Belonging and Respect

Nearly three quarters (75%) of 16-year olds said they had a sense of belonging to the neighbourhood in which they lived; however, only 11% of 16-year olds felt that they had some influence in local decisions.

Over seven in ten (72%) 16-year olds also expressed a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland, but only 8% felt that they had any influence on decisions in Northern Ireland.

18% of 16-year olds agreed that people in NI respected each other, 44% disagreed (Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Northern Ireland is a place where people respect each other (%)**



16-year olds were very divided in their opinion on whether it was the Government's responsibility to ensure that people feel respected: 36% agreed, 33% disagreed, whilst 32% neither agreed nor disagreed or said they did not know. 60% of respondents said that respect has to be earned.

Over eight in ten 16-year olds said that they respected other people regardless of their religious belonging, political opinion, race or sexual orientation.

Over one third (36%) of 16-year olds reported that a few times a month or more someone treated them with less courtesy than other people.

## Experience of Sport and Culture

The word cloud below illustrates what 16-year olds think of when they hear the word 'culture'. The larger the word, the more often it was mentioned.

**Figure 4: What respondents think of when they hear the word 'culture'**



Table 1 shows what proportion of YLT respondents thought they expressed their culture in these ways

How do you express your culture?	%
In what you wear	11
In the activities you take part in	14
In your religious beliefs and practice	16
In the language you speak	16
In what you eat	12
In who you hang about with	9
In the music you hear and films you watch	12
Something else	10

Not having enough time was the single most important reason why respondents said they did not engage in more sport (65%) or cultural activities (69%).

Only 5% of respondents were physically active at the recommended level, i.e. at least one hour every day of the week. 12% said they were not active for 60 minutes any day of the week. The most likely response (33%) was that 16-year olds were active for one hour 2-3 times per week.