

What kids think

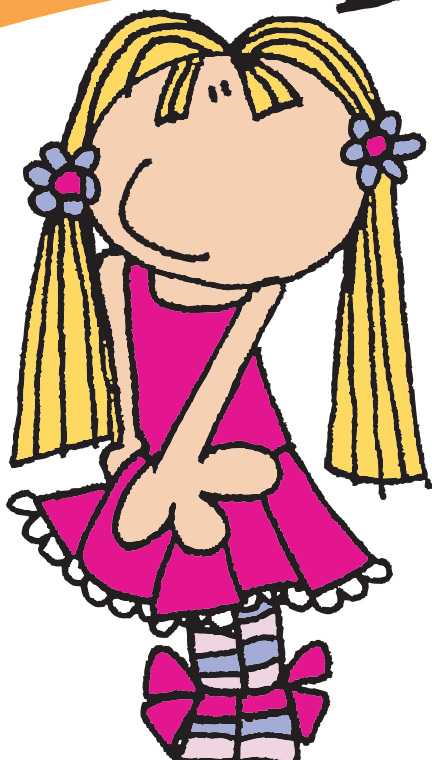
Issue
9
2016

Results of the 2016
Kid's Life and Times Survey

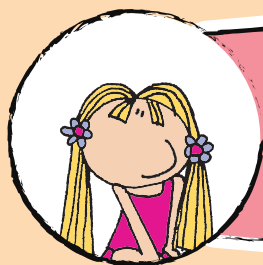
Who left this comic here?
What do kids think
about what?

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!



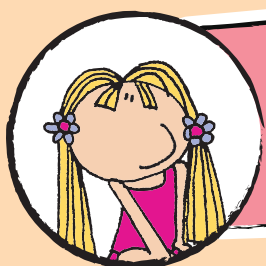
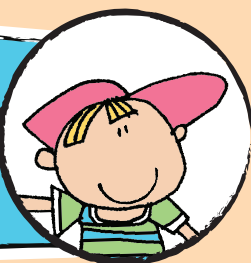
KLT Survey 2016



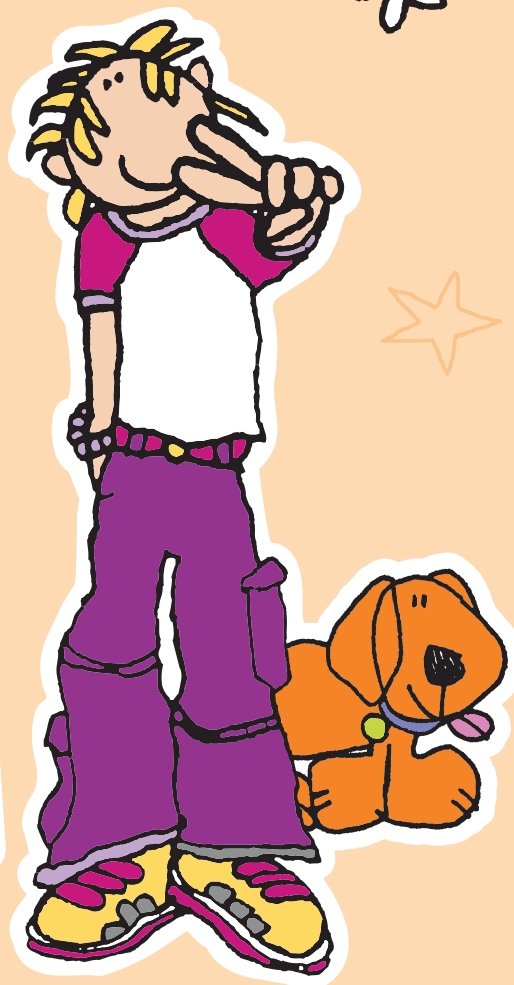
I love my school
and my teachers
are brilliant.



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?



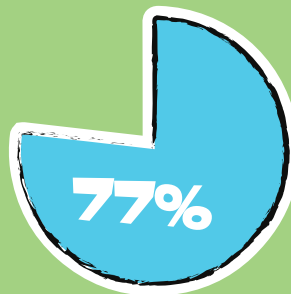
Um... it turns out that girls
actually are a bit happier than
boys in their time at primary
school; 83% of girls said they
were mostly happy compared
with 77% of boys.



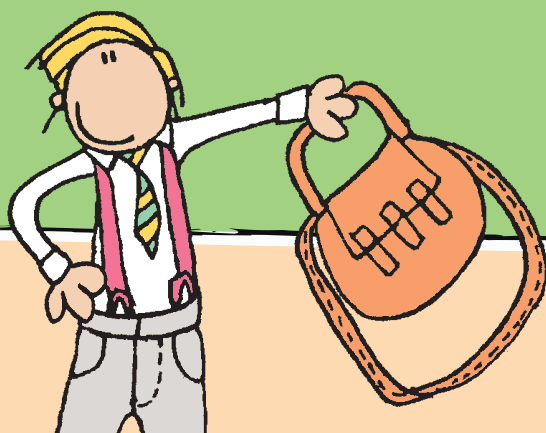
Told you so!



Girls

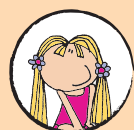
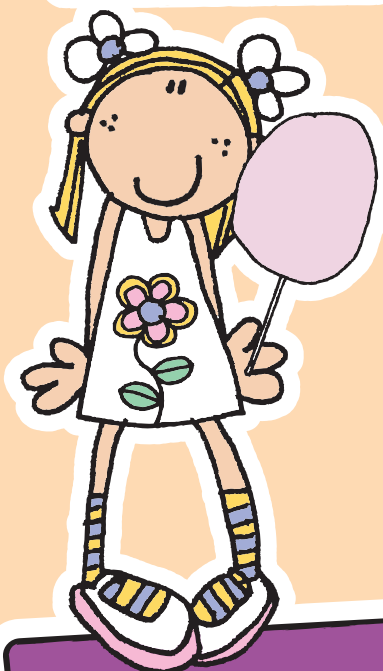


Boys

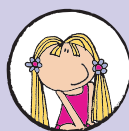


Yes, but almost 8 out of 10 boys still said that they were happy so it's not that many who were unhappy!

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.



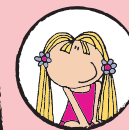
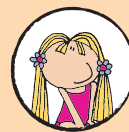
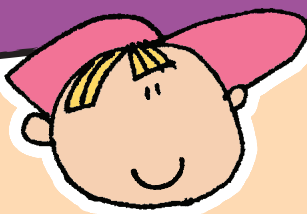
Are boys more unhappy because they get treated differently in the classroom?

How children feel about school by gender

I find it very hard to talk in front of the class
I am proud of my school work
I am doing the best work that I can
I like to be called on in class
I am not doing as well in school as I would like to
I often feel upset in school
My teacher makes me feel I am not good enough
I often get discouraged in school

Boys %	Girls %
37	45
84	86
93	97
58	51
32	28
12	16
13	8
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.

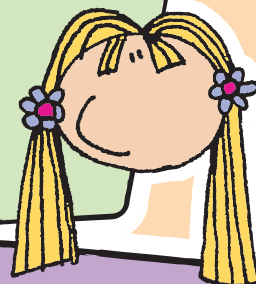




So are boys more likely than girls to say they are glad to be going to a new school after P7?



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

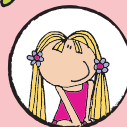
	Boys	Girls
I might not be able to do the work	9	17
I might get bullied	12	17
My friends might be going to a different school than me	15	25
I might not like the teachers	6	8
I might not make new friends	13	25
I might have to travel a long way to get to school	4	5



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%

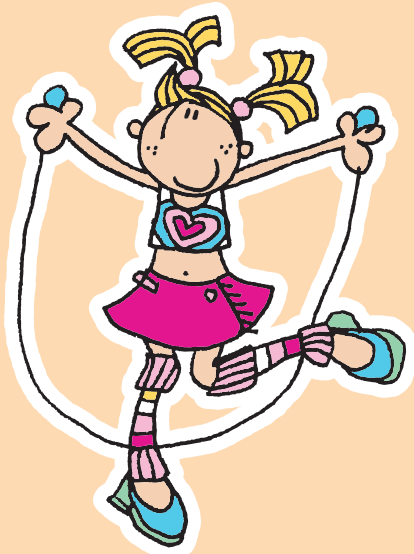
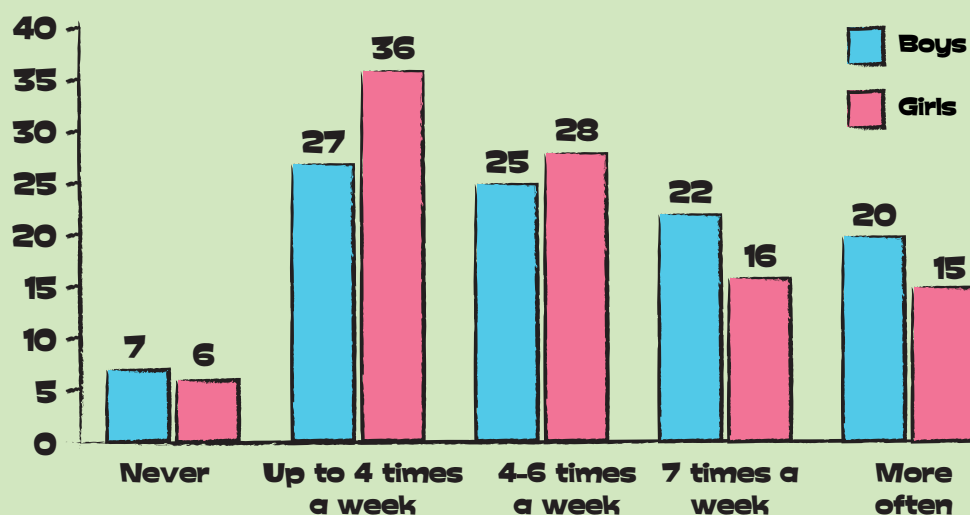


Figure 1

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

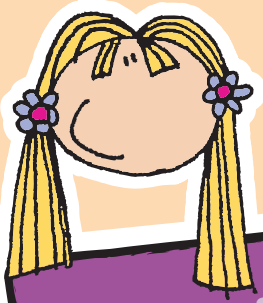


That's me. I play football **WAY** more than 7 times a week.

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

Trampolining

Hockey

play

Tennis

Camogie

Cycling

Riding

Irish

Walking

Football Dancing

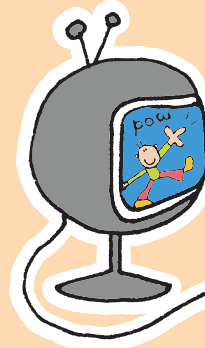
Swimming

Gaelic

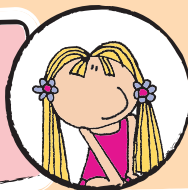
Figure 3



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.



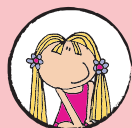
Nice. But aren't you
breaking the law by playing
a 12+ game when you're
only eleven?



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.



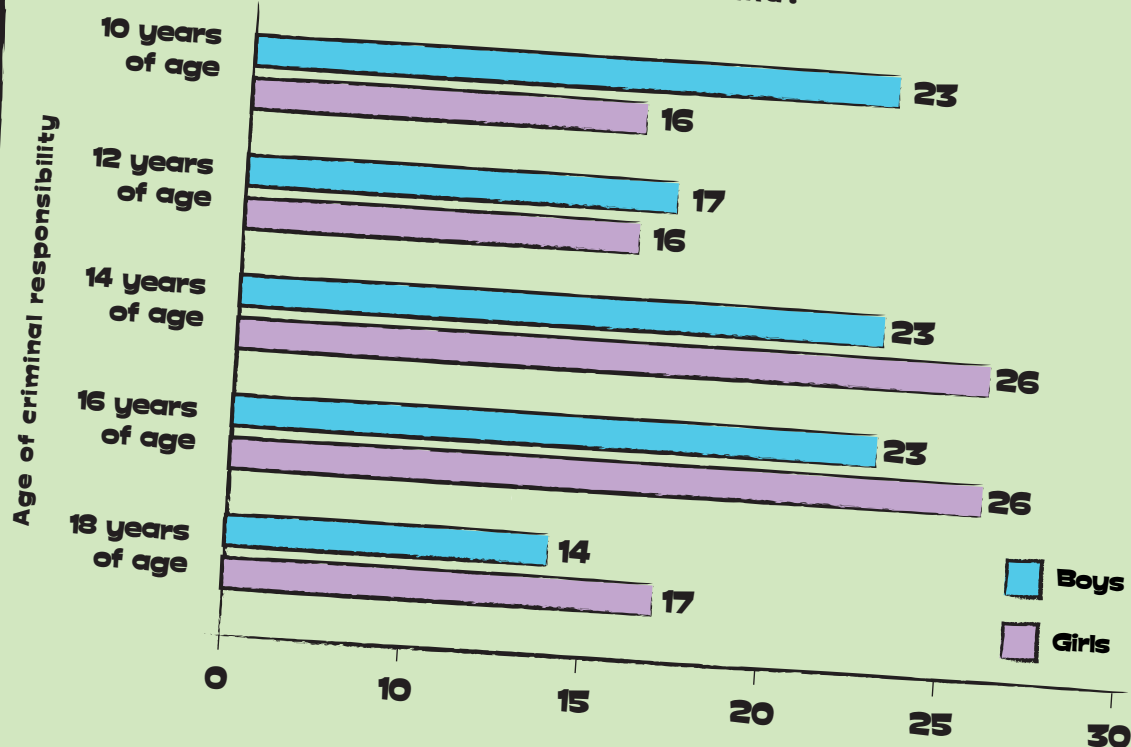


Well only 54% of boys and 44% of girls thought that someone who was 10 years old understood if they had broken the law and most people thought that the age of criminal responsibility should be at least 14.



Figure 4

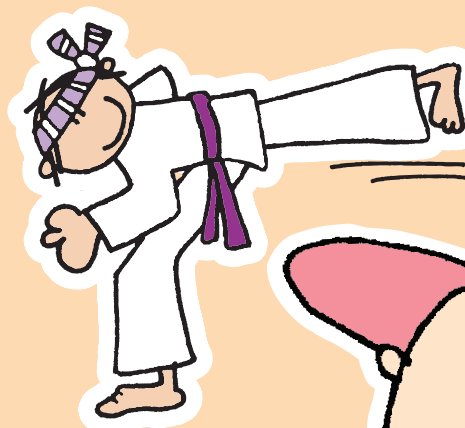
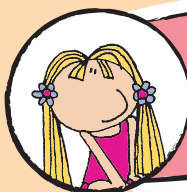
What do you think the age of criminal responsibility should be in Northern Ireland?



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) or call the Kids' Life and Times team on 028 9097 5962 with any queries.

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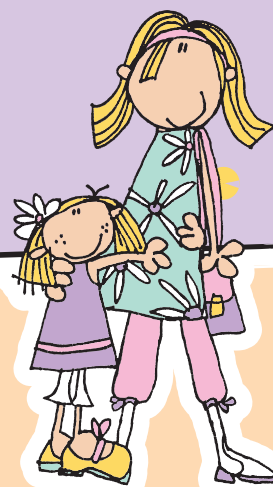
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Kids' Life and Times is part of **ARK**, a resource providing access to social and political material on Northern Ireland. Established in 2000 within Ulster University and Queen's University Belfast, **ARK** has developed a range of resource materials 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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