

# What kids think

Issue  
**10**  
2017

## Results of the 2017 Kids' Life and Times Survey

What is this comic about? And what is Kids' Life and Times?

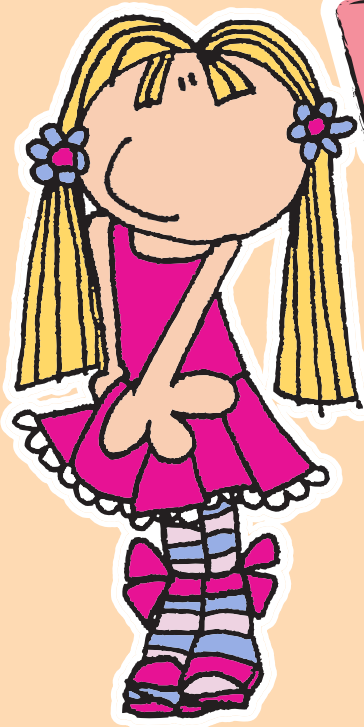
It's that big survey that the universities send every year to all primary schools in Northern Ireland. But they only ask P7s to complete it as it is our last year in primary school and we are really important!!

We did it on the computer, do you remember now?

Oh yes I remember, they asked loads of questions and wanted to know what we thought about lots of different things like school and bullying and healthy eating.

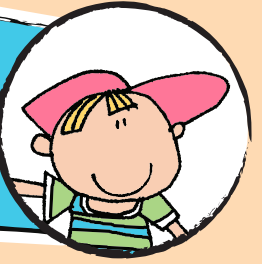
It made me feel really important being able to say what I thought. I wonder how many P7s answered.

# KLT Survey 2017



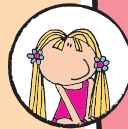
About **4,500** answered the survey which is a lot of kids!

Didn't the survey ask if we were happy at school?



Yes it did. I love school so I said I was happy most of the time, but maybe that is just me!

What about the other P7s who did the survey - what did they think?



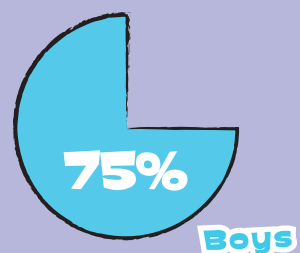
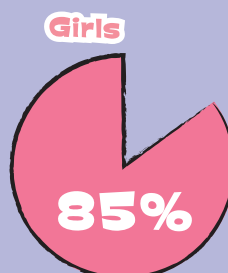
Most people were like you! 80% of kids said they were mostly happy at school, but 5% were mostly unhappy and 15% couldn't decide.

I bet girls were happier at school because they like school more than boys!



Not all of them, I know lots of boys who like school just as much as girls! But the survey did show that 85% of girls said they were happy at school compared to 75% of boys.

Ha, I told you! I knew girls were happier because we rule!



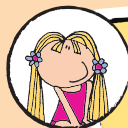
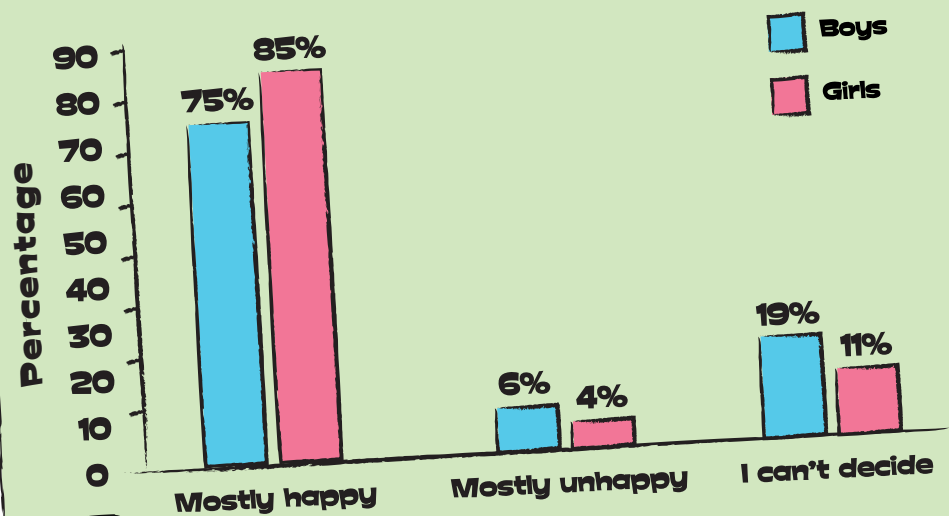


You're silly; I don't think that is how happiness at school is measured. Anyway, there wasn't that big of a difference between boys and girls and 75% means that three quarters of boys who did the survey were mostly happy at school - so there!!



Figure 1

### Happy at school by gender



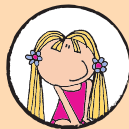
OK, but when the people in the universities looked at all the answers could they work out why some kids weren't happy at school?



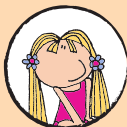
I think it's hard to know for sure though being bullied may cause kids to be unhappy.



Oh so maybe that's why they had lots of questions on bullying!



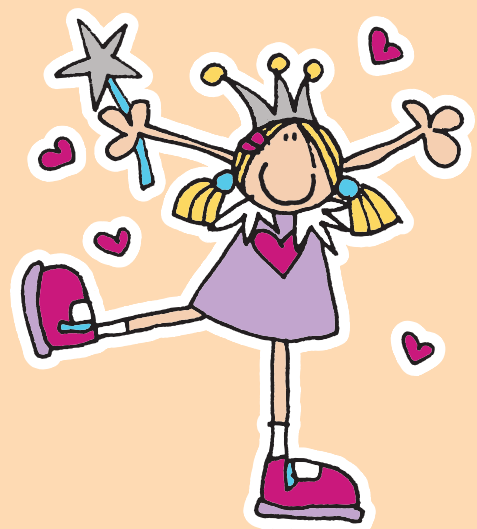
Probably, I hadn't even thought of that! Did you see that 13% of the P7s who did the survey said they had been bullied in school in the last three months?



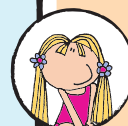
Yeah I saw that. So did being bullied affect how happy they were at school?



It did; 62% of P7s who had been bullied said they were mostly happy at school compared to 85% of P7s who said they hadn't been bullied. Do you think more boys were bullied than girls and that's why boys weren't as happy in school?



Doesn't seem to be as simple as that! Just over one in ten boys and one in ten girls said they had been bullied in the last three months, but there were some differences in the type of bullying experienced by boys and girls. More girls than boys said they had been bullied by having rumours spread about them or being left out of things on purpose and were more likely to be cyber bullied. But more boys than girls said they had been physically bullied like being punched or kicked.



**Table 1**

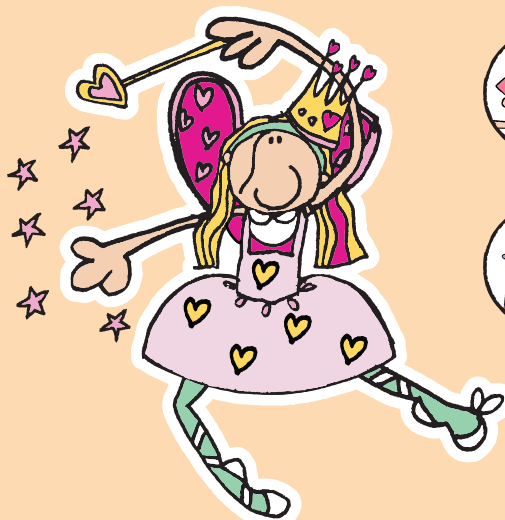
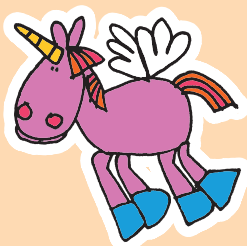
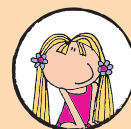
**Types of bullying experienced by children who were bullied in the past 3 months**

	Boys	Girls
Teased or called hurtful names	54	55
Left out of things on purpose	18	37
Physically hurt such as hitting, kicking etc.	34	15
Having possessions taken from me	3	4
Having lies/rumours or gossip spread about me	28	46
Cyber bullying - bullying using mobile phones online etc.	10	17

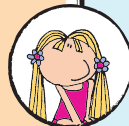


What about children who have less money than their friends, did they get bullied more?

Yes, 28% of P7s in the survey who said they never had enough money to do the same things as their friends were bullied in the last 3 months compared to 12% who felt that they always had enough money to do the same things as their friends.



I think bullying is awful, but maybe schools can do something to help?



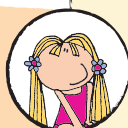
Well it seems like lots of schools are trying to help as 88% of P7s said their school had an Anti-bullying policy, 2% said their school didn't have one and 10% didn't know.

It's great that so many schools have Anti-bullying policies! It means we can all be like superheroes combating the bullies one by one!



You are silly, but that means I'm a superhero already because I was involved in writing my school's Anti-bullying policy! My friends and I were picked from our class. We felt really important and now other kids in the school follow our ideas about stopping bullying.

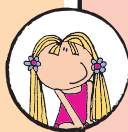
**How cool is that?!**



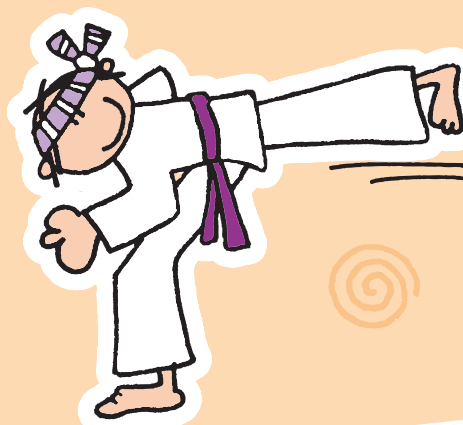




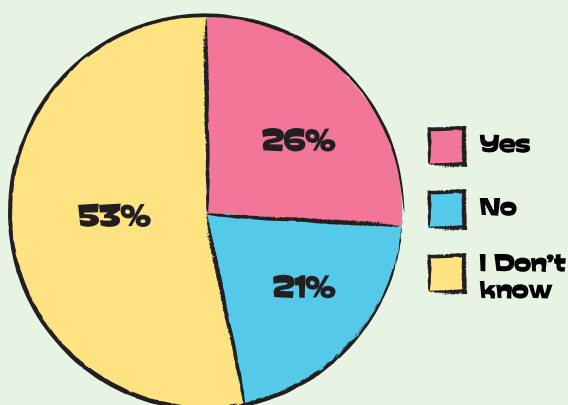
That's so cool; but you're not the only superhero because 26% of P7s said their school let pupils help to write their school's Anti-bullying policy. I wish I had got to do that!



Maybe you weren't cool enough to be a superhero...



**Figure 2**



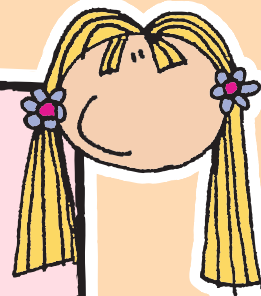
**Were children in your school involved in writing your school's anti-bullying policy?**



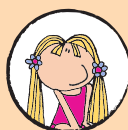
Well, I'm not the odd one out! In fact, 21% of P7s said their school didn't involve pupils in writing the Anti-bullying policy. I think we should start a big campaign to make all schools involve children in writing Anti-bullying policies then I could be a superhero too!



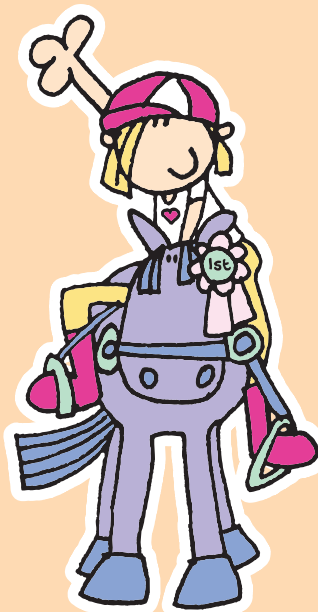
Oh dry your eyes! Seriously though, I think most schools are really against bullying. In the survey, 84% of kids agreed that their school treated bullying seriously and worked to stop it.



My school certainly does - they even talked to us about what bullying was and what we should do if we were bullied. In the survey 84% of P7s agreed that their school explained what bullying was and 91% agreed that they knew what to do if they were being bullied.

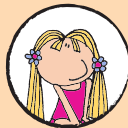
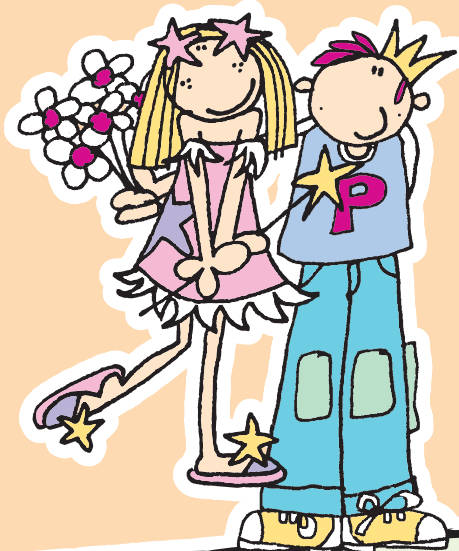


Yes but you need to feel you can go to someone in your school if you are being bullied and they will help. Seems like most of the P7s who did the survey think they can because 83% felt confident that their school would help if they were being bullied.





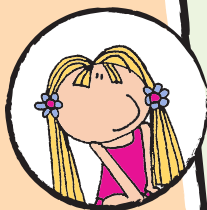
There were lots of questions about doing stuff with other schools, wasn't there? It was called something special but I can't remember what!



Yes, those were the questions on Shared Education.



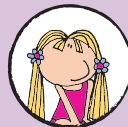
Yes that's it. I wasn't even sure what Shared Education was; I thought it meant sharing what you learnt in school at home!



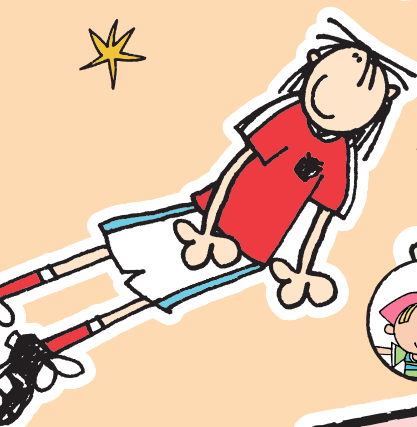
No silly! Shared Education is when schools get together with other schools to use computers or sports equipment, or to do classes or projects. Sometimes the pupils can be from different classes or projects. So if you go to a school where most kids are from a Catholic background, it would mean going on trips, or doing projects or classes together with kids from a Protestant background. I've done it in my school.



That sounds good. Do you get to make friends with kids from the other school?



Yes, that's the whole point! The results from the survey showed that 67% of P7s had been involved in Shared Education and 50% said that that some or all of the children they shared with were a different religion from them.



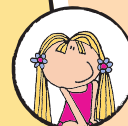
I have never done stuff like that with my school.



I told you my school was better than yours!



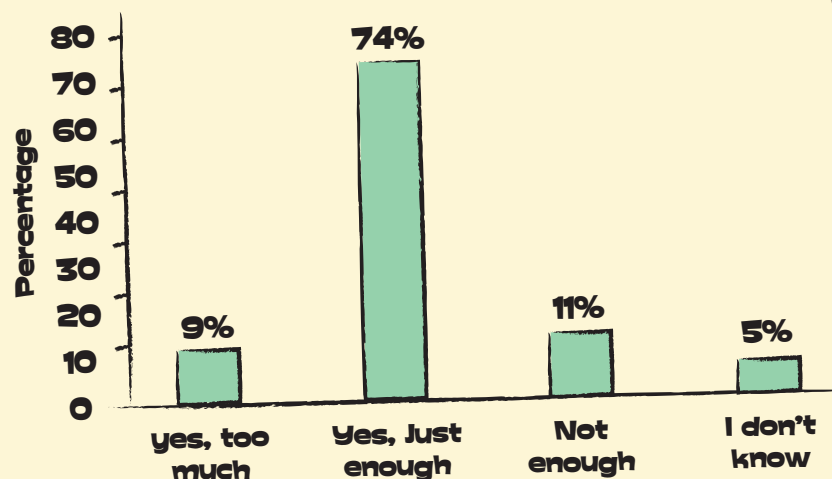
No way - I still think my school is better than yours! Did you enjoy doing Shared Education?



It was great fun and I made lots of new friends. In fact, 71% of P7s who had been involved in Shared Education activities enjoyed doing projects with other schools, 68% said they enjoyed sharing facilities such as computers and sports equipment and 66% enjoyed having classes with other schools.

Figure 3

Do you think children your age learn enough in school about how to be healthy?



Can you remember what else was on the survey?

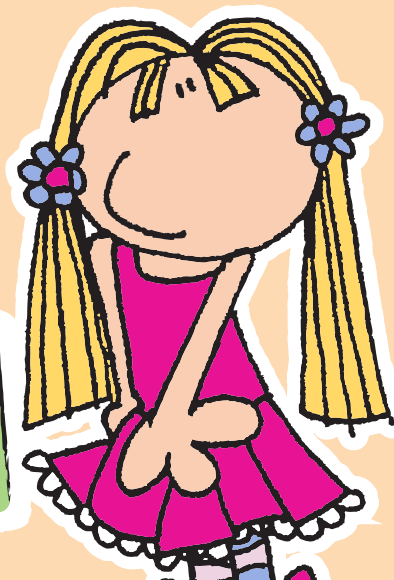
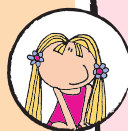
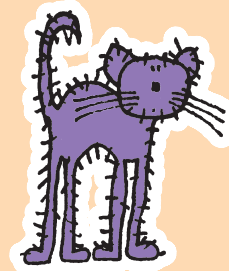
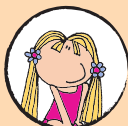
Yes, they wanted to know if we think we learn enough in school about being healthy. So there were some questions about things we do and what we eat and if we think these are good or bad for us.

Oh yes, there were questions about whether eating too many sugary things or drinking too much alcohol or getting stressed or smoking made someone unhealthy. There were others but I can't remember them all!

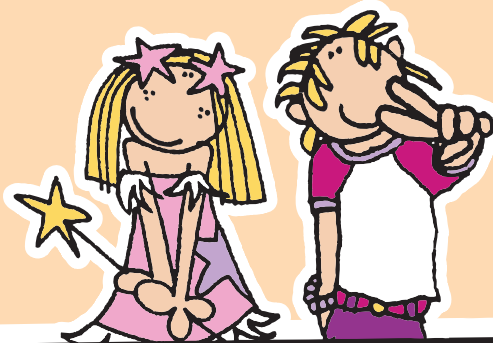
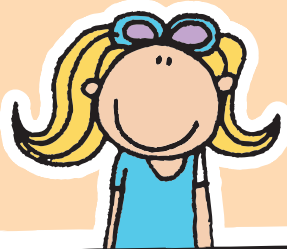
Yeah I remember the one about the sugary stuff because I love sweets but I know that eating too many isn't good for me so when it asked how unhealthy it was I ticked 'quite a lot'.

Well, 80% of P7 pupils agreed with you and said that having too many sugary things made a person unhealthy! Do you know what most P7s thought was the worst thing for your health - smoking!

Yeah, 92% of P7s knew that -  
**who says kids aren't clever!**



# KLT Survey 2017



**Kids' Life and Times is an annual online survey of P7 children in Northern Ireland carried out in school. In 2017, 4,505 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

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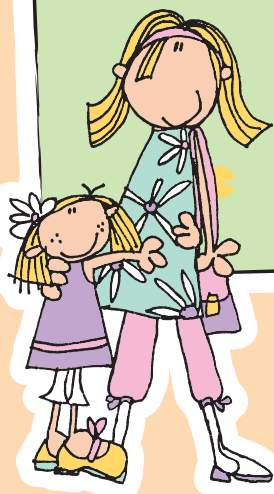
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