

What kids think

Issue
7
2014

Results of the 2014
Kids' Life and Times Survey

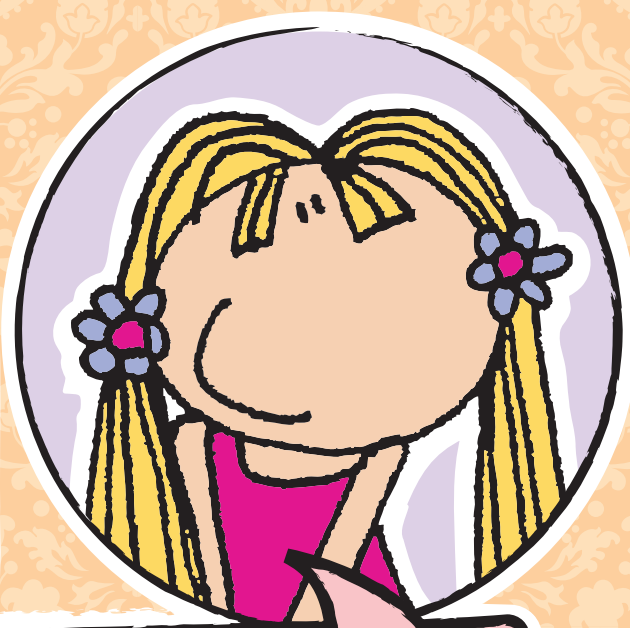
Hey why have
they given me
this comic?

Do you remember that Kids' Life and Times survey we did on the computers in school? It's that survey of all P7 children that the university people do every year. They wanted to know what we think about school and other things now that we have reached the end of primary school and this comic is to show us some of the results.

KLT Survey 2014



Oh yeah! I remember they asked us for 3 words to describe what living in Northern Ireland was like. I thought that was a bit weird but I wrote Boring, Smelly and War-torn.



You don't like this place much do you? Well most children thought Northern Ireland was a pretty good place. Here are all the words that the children wrote - the bigger the word the more times children wrote it.

friendly
good
beautiful
small
green
interesting
welcoming
cold
exciting
rainy
happy
wet
boring
lovely
awesome
great
nice
brilliant
peaceful
kind
safe
amazing
fun



I can't believe it! So P7 children think Northern Ireland is fun? I was the only one who said boring?



No, some people did say boring - look you can see a tiny boring just under that massive happy.





What about all the years of trouble and the conflict? Though I suppose children in P7 wouldn't have been affected by all that.



Maybe not but children in P7 do understand that religion is important in Northern Ireland. There were other questions on the survey about that. Forty two per cent of respondents to the survey thought that children in Northern Ireland were divided in terms of religion. Not as many thought that children were divided in terms of their skin colour or the language they speak or in terms of whether they are rich or poor.

Table 1:

	%
Children in Northern Ireland are divided in terms of religion	42
Children in Northern Ireland are divided in terms of their skin colour or the language they speak	30
Children in Northern Ireland are divided in terms of how rich or poor they are	30



Another question that the survey asked was if we had children ourselves in the future would we want them to go to a school of our own religion or to a mixed-religion school. Thirty six per cent of people said they would prefer their own kids to go to a school of only their own religion.



Yes, I remember that question because the thought of having children of my own sort of did my head in! I think I would just want my kids to go to a school where they were happy with no mean teachers. What did people say about their schools anyway?



Well, when children were asked to look back at their years at primary school most of them said that they had been mostly happy at school but girls were a bit more likely to have been happy than boys. 83% of girls and 78% of boys said that they were mostly happy at school.



So why are boys not quite as happy as girls? Something to do with being bored perhaps?



Are you obsessed with boring? I don't think the survey people know for sure but boys are a little more likely than girls to feel that there is not enough time to play at break or lunch time. Twenty five per cent of boys compared with 18% of girls think there isn't enough time to play.



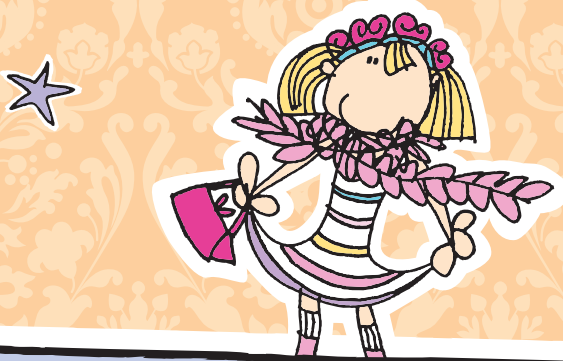
It can't be just something small like that that can it?



It might be that boys tend to think they get harsher punishments than girls at school. 56% of boys thought that boys were more harshly punished than girls at school. Thirty three per cent of girls agreed with this.



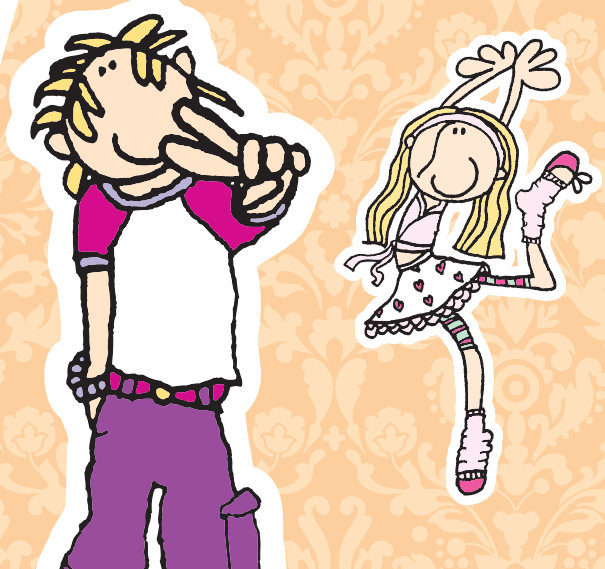
Maybe it's bullying, are boys more likely to be bullied at school than girls?



No, I don't think so. About one in 5 girls and one in 5 boys said that they had been physically bullied at school in the last two months and girls are more likely than boys to be bullied in other ways. Thirty five per cent of girls and 28% of boys said that they had been bullied in other ways. Overall children did seem to see quite a lot of bullying going on in their school. Five per cent said that pupils got bullied a lot at their school and 44% said they got bullied a little.



I was bullied in P6. It took me ages before I told anyone but when I did it turned out well and I learnt a lot about dealing with things like that. My school was actually pretty good about helping me.





Yes, about 3 in 10 children said that some of the things they learnt at school helped them to deal with difficult things that had happened to them in their lives. Here are some of the things they said about how they were helped.

- Helped me to cool down when I was angry.
- I was bullied and school helped me through it.
- My mum and dad divorcing.
- My teacher helped me when my daddy passed away.
- They have helped me not stress and calm down.
- They've helped me not to get upset when I'm let down.
- They talk to you in private about your problems and don't tell anybody.
- They helped me to speak out loud and not be scared.
- Stage fright.
- Yes, because I now know I have loads of rights and people can't take them away from me.
- To believe in myself.
- They helped me to be myself even if that means being different.



Well, I was bullied because I had Asperger's Syndrome and they helped me a lot with one guy in my class who kept picking on me.



Oh, so you have autism? You must have been able to answer all those survey questions on autism then! When they asked us if we knew what autism was my friend thought that it was something to do with autumn and I wrote down that it was a website about cars. I was pretty sure about that actually. It turns out that 63 of the children who did the survey had autism themselves and about half of P7s knew what it was and about half didn't. .



Now that's interesting; so what did children think about people with autism? People like me.

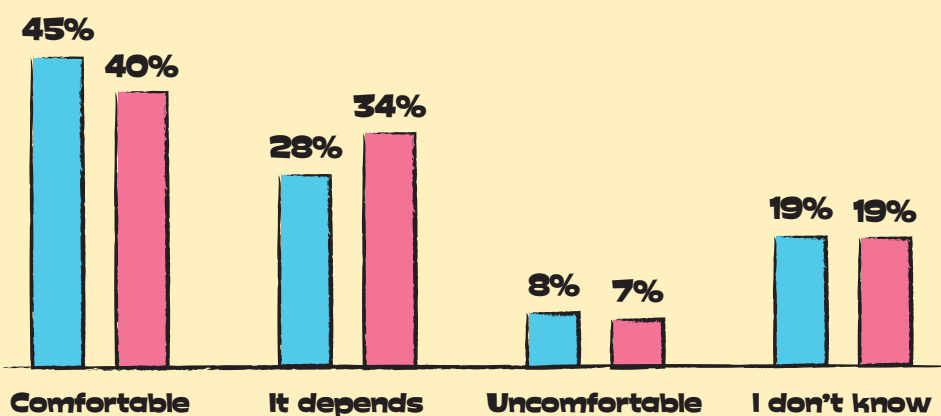


Children weren't too sure whether they were comfortable with the idea of having someone with autism in their class or living next door to them - I think it depended a bit on how much the person was affected.

Figure 1:

How would you feel if someone with autism was in your class?

How would you feel if a child with autism lived next door?



Was there anything about bullying people with autism?



Yes, in fact 17% of P7s had seen a child or young person with autism being bullied. I think that's pretty sad. Here are some of the things children said about people with autism.

- Nobody should treat them rude, or badly everybody is unique and they can't change the way they are.
- Its very sad they don't get treated the same.
- Stay strong don't let the bullies get to u.
- I would like to say that it's okay and there will always be people in the world who want to hurt you because you are different, but it's okay .
- I got picked on by someone with autism.
- Even though they might not be able to detect emotions they still have them.
- I think there should be a autism school.
- People with autism are very intelligent/weirddddd.
- It's a hard condition to live with I personally have it but it doesn't change me very much though it usually doesn't interfere with my life and I don't get bullied I feel sorry about other people who have it and in my opinion it's pathetic to bully someone with autism.
- You shouldn't feel sorry for people with autism you should just respect them for who they are.



Yeah, they should respect us for who we are!



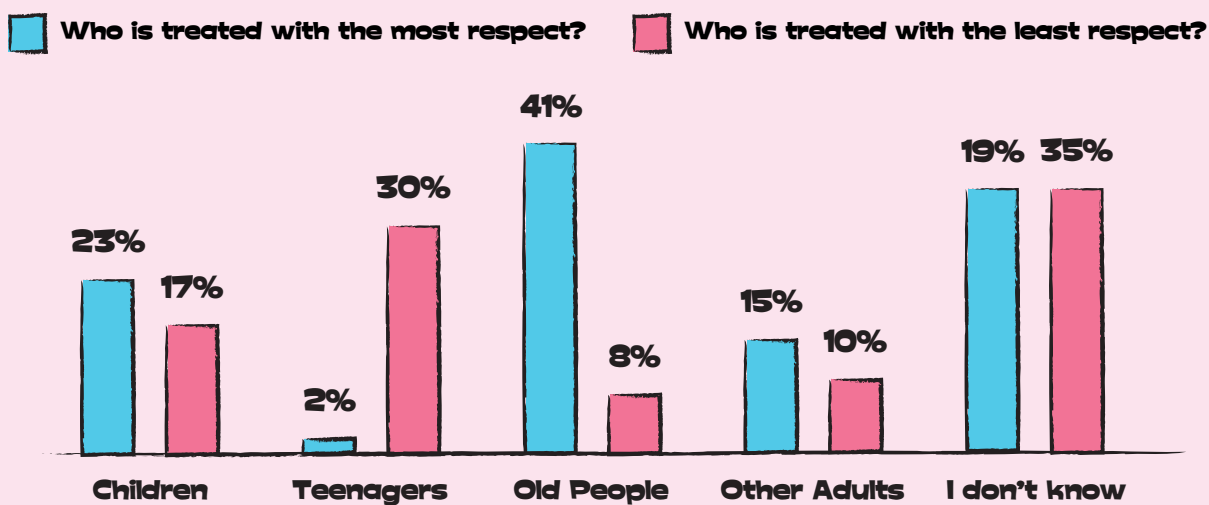
Funny, there was another question about respect which 'Who do you think gets treated with the MOST respect? The table below shows the answers.



Nooooooooo! In two years' time we are going to be completely disrespected teenagers living in boring Northern Ireland....



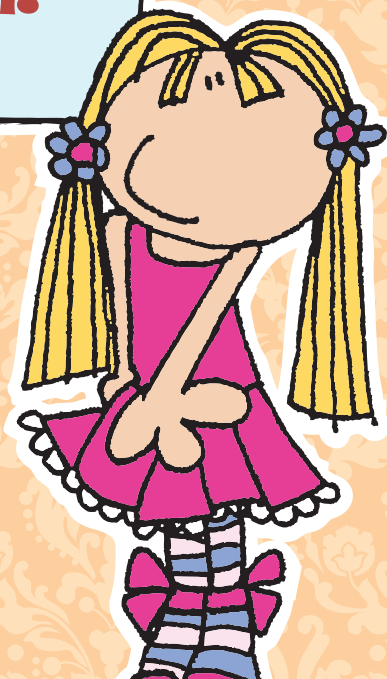
Figure 2:



Hey, I think it's going to be

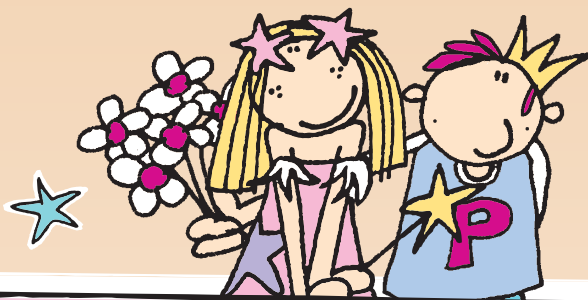
**happy cold wet
rainy cool fun!**

And only a little bit boring.





KLT Survey 2014



Kids' Life and Times is an annual online survey of P7 children in Northern Ireland carried out in school. In 2014, 4,757 children participated.

The Kids' Life and Times survey is a joint initiative between Queen's University Belfast and the Ulster University, 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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In collaboration with Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University

School of Sociology,
Social Policy and Social Work
Queen's University Belfast
Belfast
BT7 1NN

Magee Campus
Ulster University
Northland Road
Londonderry
BT48 7JA

Tel: 028 9097 3034
Fax: 028 9097 3943
E-mail: info@ark.ac.uk

Tel: 028 7167 5513
Fax: 028 7137 5510
E-mail: 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 the 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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