

# What kids think

Issue  
**6**  
2013

## Results of the 2013 Kids' Life and Times Survey

Is this Kids' Life and Times survey the thing we did on the internet in school?

Yes - it's a big survey of all P7 children to ask us what we think about school and other things in our lives. It's supposed to allow us to say what we think about loads of things so that the adults who make the decisions that affect children know what **we** actually think. Some people in the universities organise the survey every year.

Oh yeah. I remember that there was a question asking me what I had for breakfast! I thought that was a bit weird to be honest.

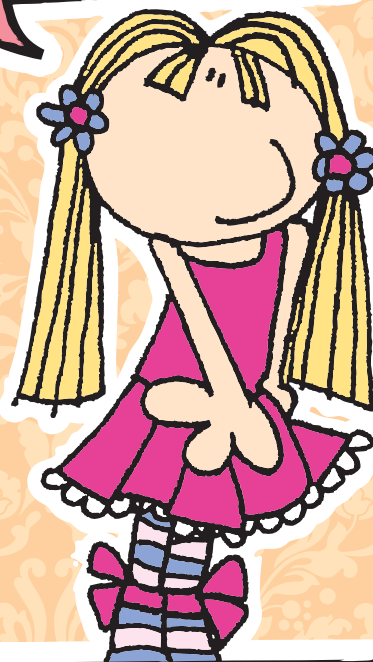
I think they were curious if we ate a proper breakfast and what we thought about breakfast clubs. About three quarters of P7 children eat breakfast every day and about 4% go to breakfast clubs.

# KLT Survey 2013



Well, not everybody is like you and, anyway, sometimes if people are late for school they might not have time to eat.

How can so many people not eat breakfast every day? I'm so hungry in the morning I could eat my shoes.



**But not many people go to breakfast clubs right?**



That's right, but it's interesting that quite a lot of people go because they want to go or want to be with their friends, not just because they have to go to let their parents get to work on time. Or maybe it's because they don't want to eat their shoes for breakfast?



**Actually I usually have cereal but I'm not sure I spelt it write in the survey.**



I think maybe you do have a bit of a problem with your spelling but you're definitely not the only one. I think like all the kids who had croissants for breakfast just gave up on this question. Anyway here is a picture showing all the things that everyone said they had for breakfast. The bigger the word, the more children ate this for breakfast.



**No shoes then?**



Apparently not.

**What do you have for breakfast?**



Figure 1: What kids had for breakfast



**What else did the survey ask me about that I can't remember?**



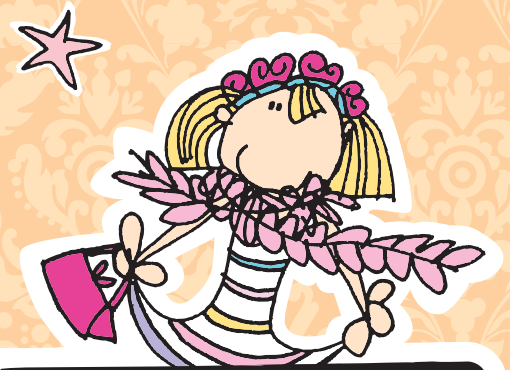
Well, it asked you about mobile phones and the internet. About 90% of P7 children have their own mobile phones and over 80% of those are smart phones that use apps or where you can get the internet on it.



**Oh I know where this is going, it's about internet safety isn't it?**



Yeah and the first bit of bad news is about cyberbullying. About one in eight kids said that they had been bullied by someone sending nasty texts or putting bad things about them on the internet.



**I know somebody that that happened to and it was horrible. She was so upset and embarrassed she couldn't go into school for days.**



Yes, there were more questions about whether kids had been talked to about using the internet safely and 87% of children said that their parents or teachers had talked to them about this. It was most often teachers who taught about internet safety but kids also wrote down other things like these:

“

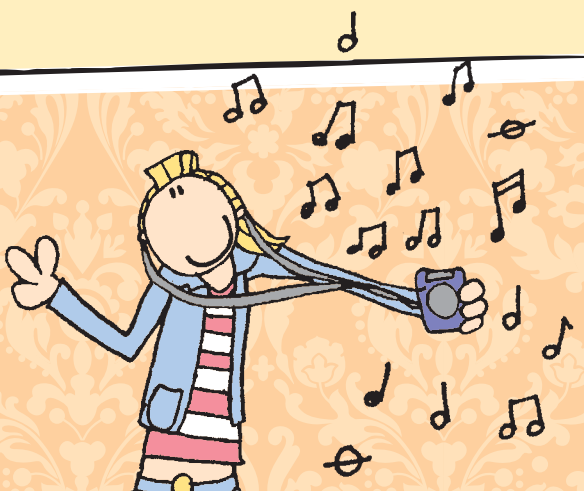
**“My Mum, Dad, Granny, Granda and several police visits to school.”**

**“My class went to a Bee Safe Day (about being safe) and the police talked to us about staying safe online.”**

**“The police came to school and talked about cyberbullying.”**

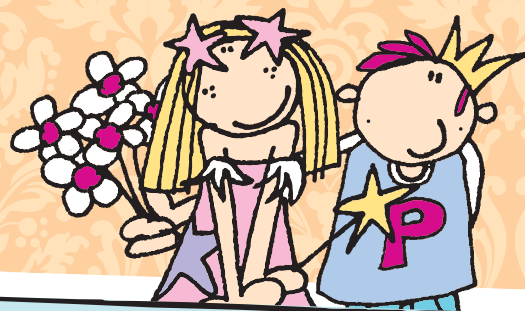
**“My parents said don't go on Facebook or anything because of people sending bad messages.”**

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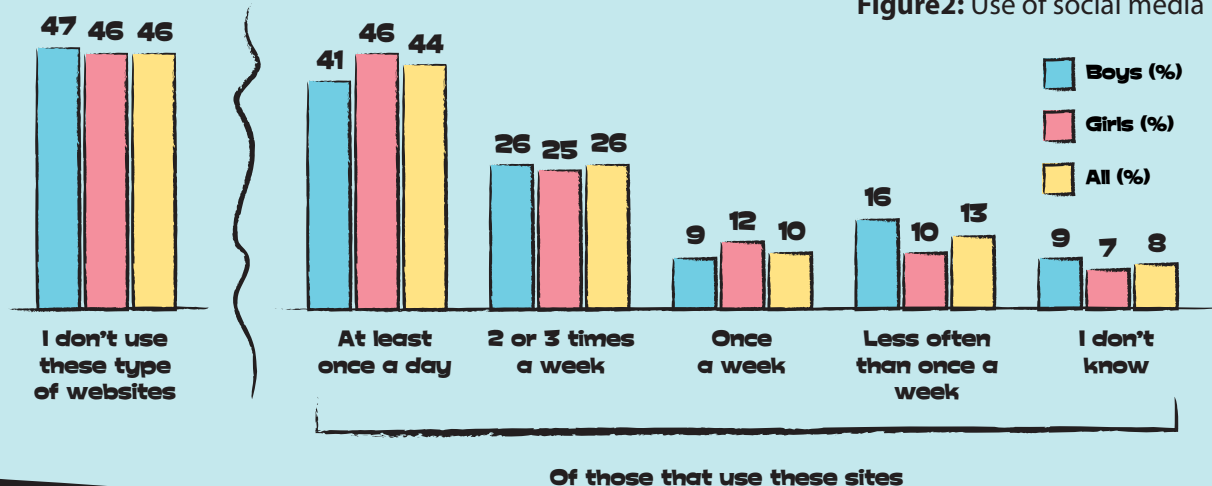




## Are many P7 people on Facebook or other social networking sites?



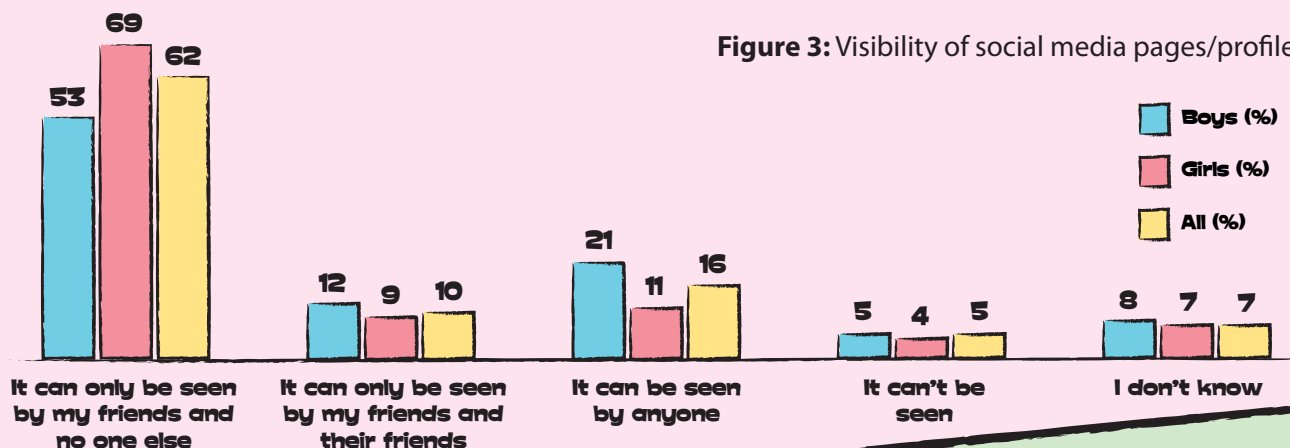
About half of all the kids said that they had a page or profile on a website like Facebook, Bebo, Twitter or MySpace. Loads of people said that they were on the sites at least once a day and about a quarter were on it 2 or 3 times a week.



## And did kids keep their profiles private like we're supposed to?



Well, some people did and some people didn't. Boys were more likely to have a page or profile that could be seen by anyone (21%) but only 11% of girls had a completely public profile.



**You know... the adults aren't going to like that.**



At least they now know what really goes on and maybe they should try and find out why people **want** to keep their profiles public and understand why kids do it.





### What about other things on the internet as well as social media. Like, do people come across bad stuff or anything that freaks them out?



About one in six children (16%) said that they had seen something on the internet in the last year that upset or worried them, with girls being slightly more likely to say this than boys.

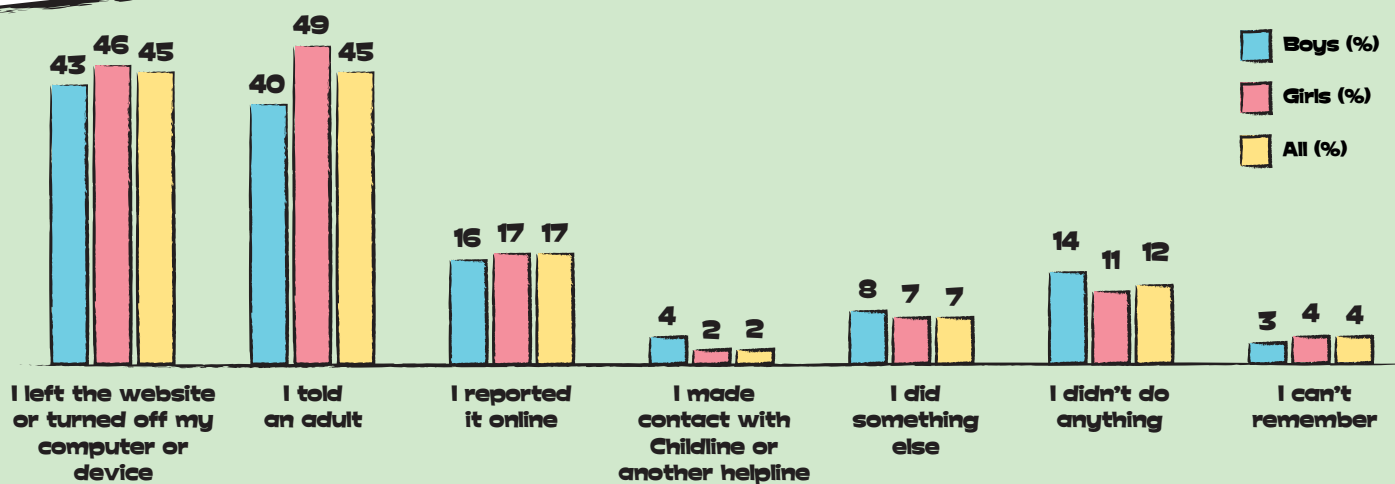


### So what did they do when this happened?



People did lots of different things. Usually they left the website, turned off the internet or told an adult. Sometimes they reported it online and sometimes they didn't do anything at all.

Figure 4: What children did when seeing something upsetting online



### Aren't we supposed to tell someone?



Yes, but I think it's not all like trolls, creepy images and online bullies. Sometimes it was just stuff that was upsetting because it was sad or frightening things on the news. Here are some of the other things that people said they did when it happened.

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“I put something nasty up to upset the person that upset me but I regret it.”

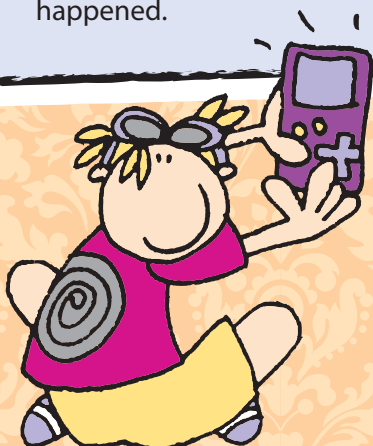
“Got scared because it was about the end of the world.”

“I saw the Boston marathon so I got scared and told my parents.”

“Started laughing.”

“I cried and couldn't sleep that night.”

”





**You know what I think? I know it's good that adults are trying to protect children on the internet and I know the one time I told my mum about some stuff I saw on my brother's Facebook page that she went after him like a heat-seeking missile. But I really wish they would listen to us just as much about the ordinary stuff like too much homework and annoying people at school.**



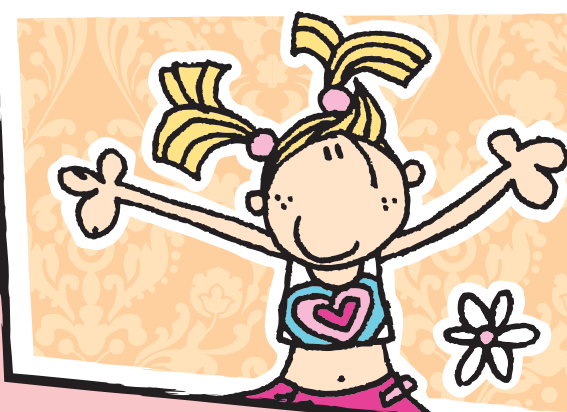
I know what you mean. One really interesting bit was that the survey asked lots of questions about children's rights and it was some children themselves who came up with these questions and gave them to the university people to put on the survey.



**You mean things like taking our views seriously?**

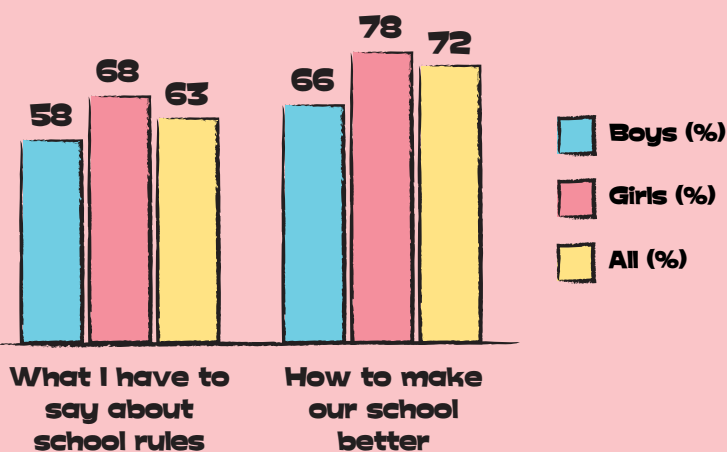


Yes, in school and in the community as well. Most people seemed to think that schools weren't too bad although girls were more positive than boys. For example 58% of boys thought that their school often listened to what they had to say about school rules compared with 68% of girls.

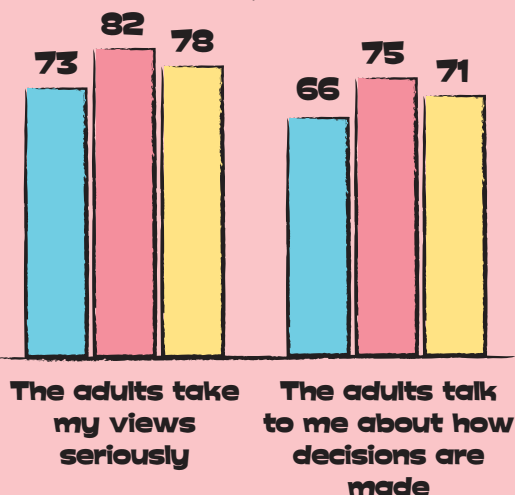


**Figure 5: Children's rights and schools**

**My school listens to what I have to say about...**



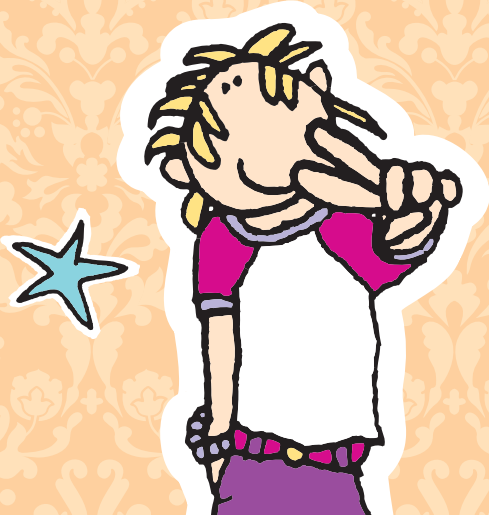
**In my school...**



**What about the community?  
What is a community anyway?**



It's like your neighbourhood or your area. Things like the leisure centres or activity centres we go to, libraries, churches, shops, health centres and parks. Children were a bit less positive about this, 48% of boys thought that people in the community often asked them for their views and 54% of girls thought the same.





**So people think that their schools aren't too bad but the community...meh!**



That's right and they also asked what children thought could be done in their school or community to make sure that children's views are taken seriously. Here are some of the things they said.



**"Our school has a grins and grumbles box. I think the community should get one."**

**"Give more surveys to children and listen to their opinions."**

**"Have a children's day where all adults have to listen to the children and their opinions."**

**"You could have a board where you pin up your ideas and views about things."**

**"Give the children a part in the newspaper for their views to be heard."**

**"Send out leaflets in the post and put up posters in a place where everyone can see them."**

**"Make a online post forum so all children can get their views across."**

**"Have a protest, but only with signs. No tear gas or anything."**

**"Make a giant billboard showing children's views."**

**"Have place during lunch to go to say what on your mind."**



**These are all good ideas but I think the one thing that really needs to happen is that adults actually listen to what we are saying!**



You aren't the only one who thinks that. Here are some of the things that other kids said about being listened to.



**"They could at least just listen to us."**

**"Some adults could be less patronising."**

**"LISTEN TO US CHILDREN."**

**"Let you speak and finish."**

**"Actually ASKING the children for their views."**

**"The adults could LISTEN MORE CAREFULLY!"**

**"To listen and don't play on the phone and pretend to listen."**

**"Maybe listen to what the child has to say???"**

**"MAKE THE ADULTS LISTEN!"**

**"Listen to the person and do not accuse them straight away of being rude."**

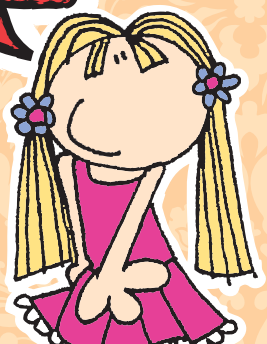
**"LISTEN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"**

**"Tell adults to wise up."**

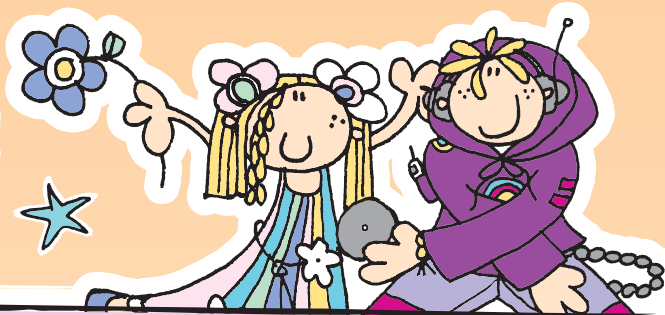


**Tell adults to wise up?**

**AWESOME!**



# KLT Survey 2013



**Kids' Life and Times** is an annual online survey of P7 children in Northern Ireland carried out in school. In 2013, 3,773 children participated.

The Kids' Life and Times survey is a joint initiative between Queen's University Belfast and the University of Ulster 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.

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