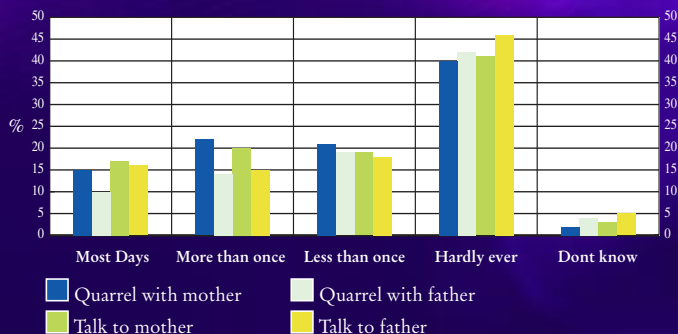


16-YEAR OLDS + THEIR FAMILIES

Three quarters (75%) of respondents lived with both their mother and their father. 19% lived with their mother only and 2% of respondents lived only with their father. The remaining 4% of respondents had other living arrangements.

Figure 4 shows how often in a week young people quarrel with their parents and talk to them about things that matter to them. Approximately four out of ten respondents hardly ever talked or quarrelled with either their father or mother. However, females were significantly more likely to talk to their mother than males were.

Figure 4: Percentage of respondents quarrelling with their parents and talking to them each week.



One in ten respondents said they personally looked after a sick or disabled or elderly person who was living with them. Nearly one quarter of respondents (25%) provided such support for someone who was not living with them. There was no statistically significant difference between males and females. However, those who said their families were financially not well-off or not well-off at all were over three times more likely than respondents who said their families were well-off or very well-off to look after someone living with them (18% and 5% respectively).

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 around 2,000 16 year olds from all parts in Northern Ireland to tell us about their experiences of school, and their views on politics, sectarianism and other social issues. In 2006, 770 young people responded.

This leaflet provides a summary of key findings of the 2006 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.

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 2007 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 the University of Ulster.

For further information contact:

Dirk Schubotz

ARK, School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work

Queen's University Belfast BT7 1NN

Tel: 028 90 973 947

d.schubotz@qub.ac.uk

www.ark.ac.uk/ylt

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Save the Children

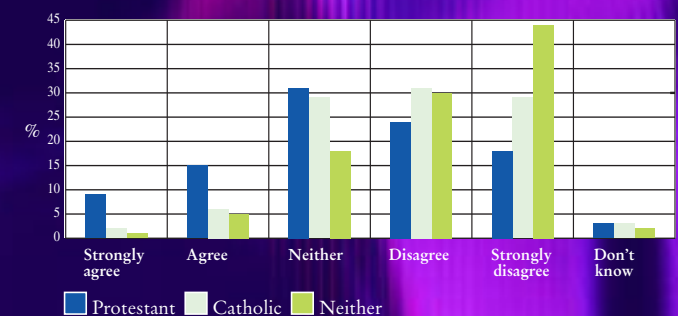


2006 YOUNG LIFE AND TIMES SURVEY SUMMARY OF RESULTS

'I DON'T FEEL A SECTARIAN DISCRIMINATION IS AN ISSUE FOR THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE. MOST DON'T CARE WHAT RELIGION YOU BELONG TO BUT I FEEL THAT THERE IS A MINORITY WHICH EXPRESS VIOLENCE AND RACIAL HOSTILITY TO PEOPLE OF ETHNIC MINORITY SUCH AS ASIAN OR CHINESE.'

'THE QUESTIONS ASKED IN THIS SURVEY WERE GOOD, BUT I THINK BETTER RESULTS COULD BE COLLECTED (...). I THINK NEXT YEAR'S SURVEY SHOULD ASK ABOUT THE USE OF THE INTERNET. IN THE PAST YEAR I HAVE NOTICED A HUGE AND WORRYING INCREASE IN THE USE OF SITES SUCH AS BEBO, WHICH CAN HURT FEELINGS AND DISPLAY SHOCKING IMAGES. HOW MANY YOUNG PEOPLE USE THESE SITES AND DO THEIR PARENTS KNOW ABOUT THEM? WHAT ARE THEIR THOUGHTS ABOUT THE INTERNET?'

Figure 1: How much do you agree or disagree with the statement: In relation to colour and ethnicity, I prefer to stick with people of my own kind.



WHO TOOK PART IN THE 2006 YLT SURVEY?

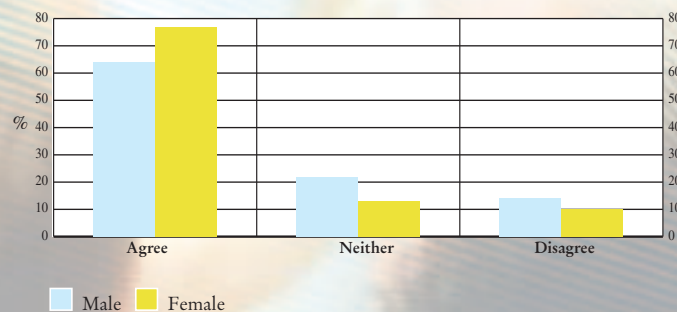
All young people from Northern Ireland who celebrated their 16th birthday in February 2006 were invited to take part in the survey. Among the 770 16 year olds that responded:

- 42% were male and 58% were female.
- 26% said they lived in a big city or its outskirts, 36% lived in a small town and 37% lived in a village or in the countryside.
- 44% attended a grammar school, 47% attended a secondary school, 6% attended a planned integrated school and 4% attended some other type of school.
- 83% regarded themselves as belonging to a particular religion, 17% said they did not.
- 42% of respondents who belonged to a religion were Catholics. 18% were Presbyterians, 10% belonged to the Church of Ireland and 3% were Methodist. 9% belonged to other religions.
- Less than four in ten respondents (38%) who belonged to a religion said they attended church at least once a month.
- 7% of males and 8% of females had been sexually attracted to a person of the same sex at least once.
- Over one quarter (29%) 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. The majority (54%) of respondents described their family's financial situation as average.
- Over four in ten respondents (44%) said they intended to leave Northern Ireland to study, to have better job prospects or to seek a better future generally. However half of these respondents also said they would come back to live in Northern Ireland.

EXPERIENCES + SAY IN SCHOOL

The vast majority of respondents reported positive school experiences. 71% agreed that, on the whole they felt happy at school. 12% disagreed with this statement. Males were less happy in school than females (Figure 2).

Figure 2: *On the whole I was very happy in school:*



Two thirds of respondents (67%) agreed that school taught them skills they really needed in life. The same proportion of 16-year olds (67%) agreed that they had achieved at school to the best of their ability. Males were significantly more likely to disagree with this statement (23%) than females (13%).

Only 16% of respondents felt that teachers did not respect them as individuals. However, over one quarter (27%) said that they were not allowed to express their views about the running of the school. Only 12% said students could express their views 'a lot'. Over half (56%) of respondents said their school had a school council, but just one quarter of those who did (25%) felt their council was effective.

Respondents reported that students in their school were most likely to have a say in relation to the following:

- School policies (63%)
- School facilities (63%)
- School uniform (34%)
- The curriculum (14%)
- The school budget (10%)
- School meals (8%).

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

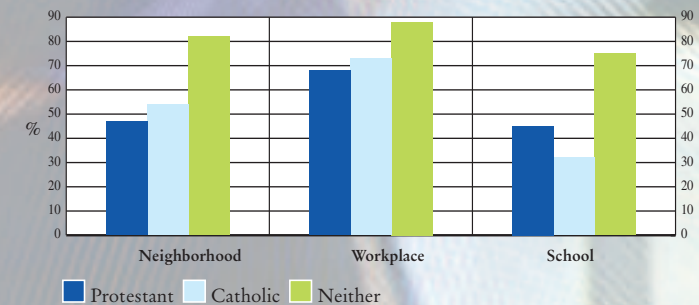
62% of YLT respondents felt that their national identity was important to them and 54% felt that their religious identity was important. Religious and national identity was more important for Catholics than for Protestants.

- 38% of respondents said they were Irish. Over one quarter (29%) said their national identity was Northern Irish. 24% said they were British, whilst 5% of respondents described their national identity as 'Ulster'.
- The same proportion of respondents said they were part of the Catholic community as said they were part of the Protestant community (41%). 18% felt they were part of neither.

Over eight in ten 16 year olds (83%) felt that religion will always make a difference to how people in Northern Ireland feel about each other.

Respondents were asked whether they preferred to live in a mixed-religion neighbourhood, work in a mixed-religion workplace or send their children to a mixed-religion school. Those who said they were member of neither the Catholic nor Protestant community were most supportive of mixing. Catholics were more supportive towards mixing in the neighbourhood and workplace, but only one in three Catholics said they would send their children to a mixed-religion school (31%).

Figure 3: *Support for religious mixing:*



15% of Protestants felt unfavourable towards Catholics and 7% of Catholics felt unfavourable towards Protestants.