

# Who took part in the 2017 YLT survey?

All young people living in Northern Ireland (N.I.) who celebrated their 16th birthday in January, February and March 2017 were invited to take part in the survey.

Of the 1,197 16 year olds who responded:

- 77% completed a paper survey and 23% completed online.
- 60% were female, 39% were male and 1% had another gender identity.
- 7% of males and 17% of females had been sexually attracted to a person of the same sex at least once.
- 20% said they lived in a big city or its outskirts, 42% a small city or town and 36% in a village or in the countryside.
- 51% attended a grammar school, 30% a secondary school, 5% a formally integrated school, 12% a Regional College and 2% another type of school.
- 76% lived with both parents, 16% lived only with their mother, 2% lived only with their father and 4% lived with their mother some time and father some time.
- 16% of respondents said they had a long-standing physical or mental health condition.
- 70% regarded themselves as belonging to a particular religion - 40% were Catholic, 28% Protestant, while 1% belonged to another religion. 30% of respondents indicated that they belonged to no religion.
- 29% 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 (51%) described their family's financial situation as average.

## Community Relations

Almost three quarters (73%) of 16 year olds said they had a sense of belonging to the neighbourhood in which they lived, and 70% of 16 year olds expressed a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland.

However, only 10% of 16 year olds felt they had any influence when decisions were being made in the local areas in which they lived, and only 7% felt they had any say about decisions in Northern Ireland.

22% of 16 year olds agreed that Northern Ireland is a place where people respect each other, but 36% disagreed. 39% neither agreed nor disagreed.

Table 2: 16 year olds saying that they would feel very safe or quite safe in the following premises (%)

	Protestant	Catholic	No religion
GAA Club	35	93	55
Orange Hall	75	19	41
Catholic School	52	95	66
Protestant School	91	53	71

54% of 16 year olds felt their national identity was important to them. National identity was more important to Catholic (71%) than Protestant 16 year olds (58%). Only 27% of those aligned with no religion felt national identity was important.

Table 1: What do you think you'll be doing in 2 years' time? (%)

	♂	♀
Going to college/university	53	55
Working full-time	12	6
Going to college/university and working part-time	27	36
Other	8	4

Figure 1: Will religion always make a difference to the way people feel about each other in Northern Ireland? (%)

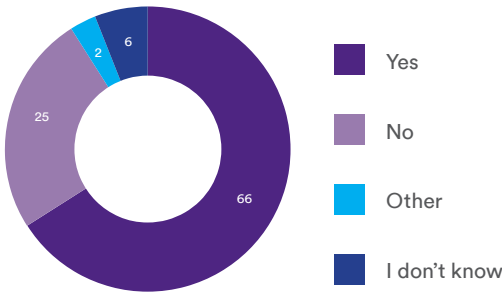
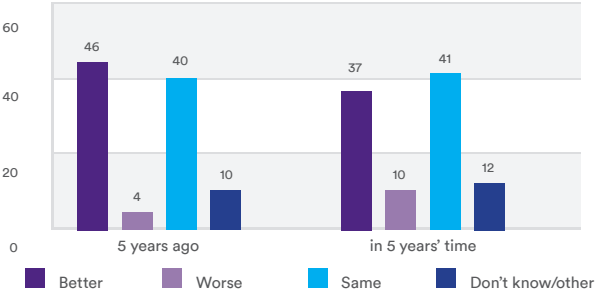


Table 3: Respondents' describing their national identity by religion (%)

	Catholic	Protestant	No religion
British	3	39	24
Irish	77	2	19
Ulster	<1	2	1
Northern Ireland	13	52	46
Other	5	3	6

66% of respondents felt that religion would always make a difference to how people in Northern Ireland feel about each other. Nearly half (46%) felt that relations between the two communities are better now than 5 years ago, but only 37% felt that they would be better in 5 years' time, whilst 10% felt that they would be worse.

Figure 2: Perceptions of community relations over time (%)



75% of respondents felt they were not prejudiced at all against people of minority ethnic communities. 15% described themselves as a little or very prejudiced. 54% agreed that people from Syria should be allowed to come to Northern Ireland, considering the current situation in their country.

Table 4: Respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing... (%)

	Protestant	Catholic	No religion
NI is a society that welcomes refugees escaping persecution	24	19	22
It is our duty to provide protection to refugees who are escaping persecution	50	69	60

# Summary of Results

## 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 16 year olds from all parts of Northern Ireland to tell us about their experiences of school, and their views on politics, community relations and other social issues. In 2017 1,192 young people responded.

This leaflet provides a summary of some key findings from the 2017 YLT survey. For YLT 2017 two questionnaires were produced; in the paper versions these were blue and purple. While the majority of questions were the same on both questionnaires, some questions were only included in one survey version.

More detailed results on specific issues, as well as Research Updates, are freely available on the YLT website at [www.ark.ac.uk/ylt](http://www.ark.ac.uk/ylt).

Many of the participants of the survey suggested a range of subjects that could be asked in future and questions on some of these will be included in the 2018 YLT survey.

Comments on the YLT survey are welcome at any time and can be submitted via the YLT website.

ARK is a joint resource between Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University.

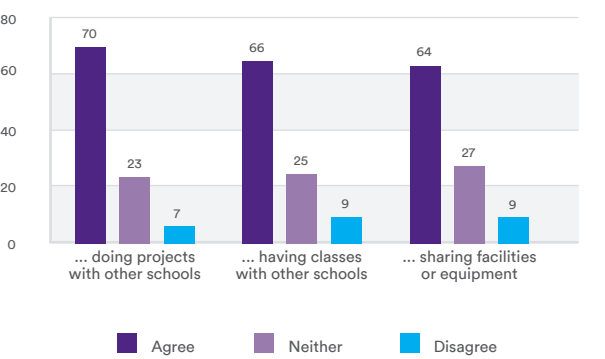
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The 2017 YLT survey was part-funded by the Executive Office, the Department of Education, The Department of Justice, and Volunteer Now.

# Shared Education

72% of respondents had taken part in Shared Education projects or classes - 43% had had classes with pupils from other schools, 50% had done Shared Education projects and 35% had shared facilities or equipment.

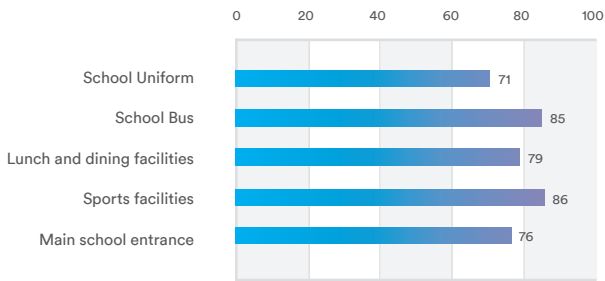
Figure 3: Respondents agreeing or disagreeing that they enjoyed... (%)



Doing classes they don’t normally get to do, and making new friends were the two aspects respondents liked most about Shared Education. Having to travel to other schools and being taught by other teachers were the two least popular aspects of Shared Education.

Respondents were asked for their opinions on Shared Education campuses. 40% of 16 year olds said they would like their school to be part of a Shared Education campus.

Figure 4: 16 year olds saying the following should be shared in a Shared Education campus (%)



# Safety in the Community

Over half of YLT respondents (54%) said that they felt very safe in the community they lived in, and a further 38% said they felt fairly safe. Those who lived in areas that they described as ‘neither Loyalist nor Republican’ were much more likely to feel ‘very safe’.

Table 6: Agreement with statements about area safety (%)

	Agree	Neither	Disagree
People in this area do not feel confident reporting crime and anti-social behaviour to the PSNI	21	20	49
The PSNI keep this area safe	52	28	16
People in this area generally abide by the law	70	16	10
People in this area feel that they are protected by the law and the justice system.	61	21	11

# School Bullying

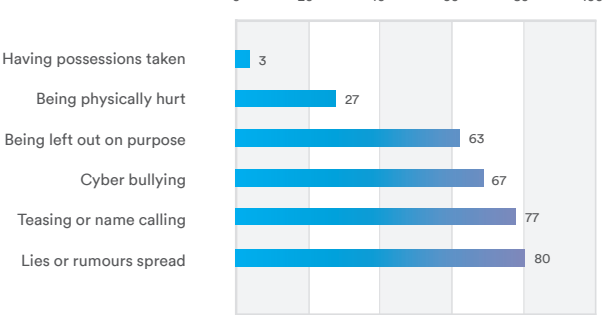
93% of all YLT respondents said their school had an Anti-bullying Policy. Amongst these 16 year olds, 24% said that pupils in their school had been involved in writing this policy. Pupils attending integrated schools (54%) were much more likely than those in secondary schools (27%) or grammar schools (21%) to say that pupils were involved in the writing of their Anti-Bullying Policy. 76% of YLT respondents said that their school treats bullying seriously and works to stop it.

42% of YLT respondents said they had experienced bullying in school, whilst 12% said they had also been bullied in the last 3 months. Females (45%) were more likely than males (36%) to report having ever been bullied in school, and females (12%) were also more likely than males (9%) to have been bullied in the past three months in school.

Those who considered themselves to be a member of a minority ethnic groups, those who were same-sex attracted, those who said they came from not-well-off family financial backgrounds and 16-year olds with a disability were disproportionately more likely to have experienced school bullying.

School bullying was most likely to occur in the school grounds, but not necessarily in the classroom, and the bullies came mostly from the victim's year group in their own school (70% saying this), or they were classmates (60%).

Figure 5: Forms of bullying experienced in last 3 months (%)

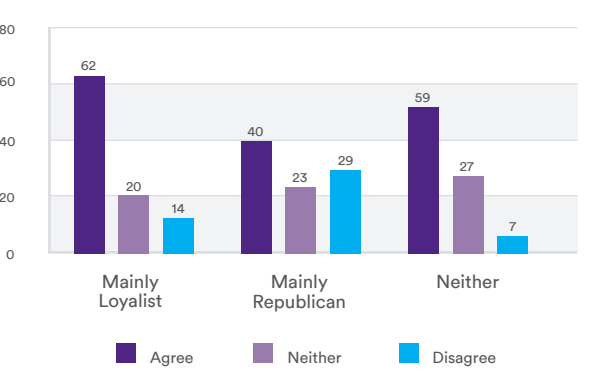


83% of victims said they had reported the bullying. However, in less than one quarter of cases (24%) action was taken that stopped the bullying completely.

# Contact with the Police (PSNI)

54% of respondents agreed that young people are treated fairly by the PSNI, 14% disagreed, whilst 24% neither agreed nor disagreed. These results varied significantly depending on where people lived, as Figure 9 shows.

Figure 6: Respondents agreeing or disagreeing young people are treated fairly by the PSNI. By area characteristics (%)



Young people who came from not well-off families, those who were same-sex attracted, and those who lived in urban rather than rural areas were much more likely to disagree that the PSNI treats young people fairly.

One in ten YLT respondents had been stopped and searched by the PSNI during the last 12 months - most of them just once, but a small proportion (1%) more than 3 times.

Friends or classmates of 34% of YLT respondents had been stopped and searched in the same 12 months period. One in five respondents said that this happened rarely, 13% said it happened sometimes, and 2% said this had happened often.

Of those who had been personally stopped and searched, 31% said they had been given a clear reason for being stopped, 41% were physically searched, 56% had their name and address recorded, 12% said the police officer gave them their name and details of their police station, 10% were given a reference number or receipt for the search, and 53% were told to move on.

# Volunteering

Two thirds (67%) of 16 year olds said they had volunteered in the past 12 months. Males (47%) were over twice as likely as females (23%) to not have volunteered. Volunteering was a little more common in rural areas than in urban areas (Table 4).

Table 5: 16 year olds saying they volunteered in the past 12 months, by where they live (%)

	Urban	Small Town	Rural
Volunteered for an organisation	41	42	50
Volunteered informally	12	14	16
Volunteered formally and informally	8	8	9
Has not volunteered	38	36	26

For most 16 year olds their volunteering was likely to be either a weekly activity (42%) or just a one-off activity (25%).

The most common volunteering activities among 16 year olds were: helping to organise an activity or event (20%), fundraising (18%), helping a specific charity (16%) and tutoring, coaching or mentoring (15%).

Those who did volunteer were most likely to have spent either 1-5 hours (42%) or 6-10 hours (26%) volunteering over the last four weeks. 15% had spent less than one hour, whilst 16% had spent more than 10 hours volunteering.

The three most likely reasons why 16 year olds volunteered was to build their CV (22%), to improve things or to help people (19%), or to learn new skills (18%).

School (35%) was the most likely location where respondents found out about volunteering opportunities, but high levels of school work was also the most likely reason (33%) why 16 year olds stopped volunteering or did not volunteer more. Greater flexibility (24%) was the most common factor given that would encourage 16 year olds to volunteer more.

