

## **Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2011**



### **Consultation with Children and Young People Summer 2010**

#### **Part 1**

## **Acknowledgements**

Devon County Council would like to thank the following organisations and people for their assistance with the consultation work with children and young people:

- Helen Miller, Participation and Democracy Development Team
- District Co-ordinators, Early Years and Childcare Service
- Youth Service
- Schools
- Childcare settings
- Children and Young People
- Sue Bolt, Nik Wills, Gemma Cockerham, Early Years and Childcare Service

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## Introduction

### **Background**

Under the duties in the Childcare Act 2006, local authorities have a duty to support the development of childcare provision in their local area. This needs to be flexible, sustainable and responsive to the needs of the local community. In order to ensure this happens local authorities have a duty to undertake a detailed assessment of the supply of, and demand for, childcare in their area. This includes consulting with parents, employers, providers of childcare and children.

### **Aim**

To consult with children to find out their views on childcare. Areas to look at are:

- Children's travel methods
- Who currently looks after them after school in term time and in holiday time and who they would prefer to look after them?
- What they currently do after school in term time and in holiday time and what they would prefer to do.
- What children would change about their childcare
- Barriers to doing what they would like to do
- How safe and protected children feel
- Who children can talk to and what subjects children can talk to them about.

### **Methodology**

In order to consult with children and young people across Devon, two methods were chosen to ensure a wide variety of children and young people were captured. Schools and childcare settings were asked to express their interest in taking part in either of the two methods of consultation.

#### Method 1 – Quantitative – February / March 2010

A questionnaire was developed (see appendix 1) and put on the Early Years and Childcare website for schools to access and get children in their school to complete and return. Schools who expressed their interest in this method of consultation were then sent a letter with instructions on how children could complete the questionnaire. Some questionnaires were also given to the youth service over the summer for them to ask children who attended their sessions to complete.

**Bias** - On one occasion the youth service gave the questionnaire out whilst on a trip to a skate park and hence a lot of answers were returned stating that they would prefer to spend time at a skate park.

#### Method 2 – Qualitative – May / June 2010

In order to capture more children and young people and gain some qualitative data, the Early Years and Childcare Service approached the Participation and Democracy Development Team to conduct a face to face consultation in settings across Devon to ask children about their experiences. A short list of settings was compiled from those who had expressed an interest in being

consulted in this way, to cover a variety of types of settings and a variety of locations across Devon. During May and June 2010, Helen Miller, with support from staff from the Early Years and Childcare, Team led workshops to explore children's views.

The consultations were held in the following locations across Devon:

#### Under 5 settings

- Acorns nursery
- Offwell Under Fives Pre-School
- Carousel Nursery
- Stokenham Pre-School
- Inverteign Community Nursery
- Woolwell under 5s Pre-School
- Uffculme Pre-School

#### Primary Schools

- Marpool Primary School
- Shute Community Primary School
- Bridgerule C of E Primary School,
- Stoke Hill Junior School
- Okehampton Primary School
- Haytor View Community Primary School
- Ilfracombe C of E Junior school
- Bampton Primary School

#### After School Clubs

- Fantastic Fun Club, Buckland Monachorum Primary School
- Uffculme After School Club
- School's Out After School Club
- Kingsbridge After of School Club

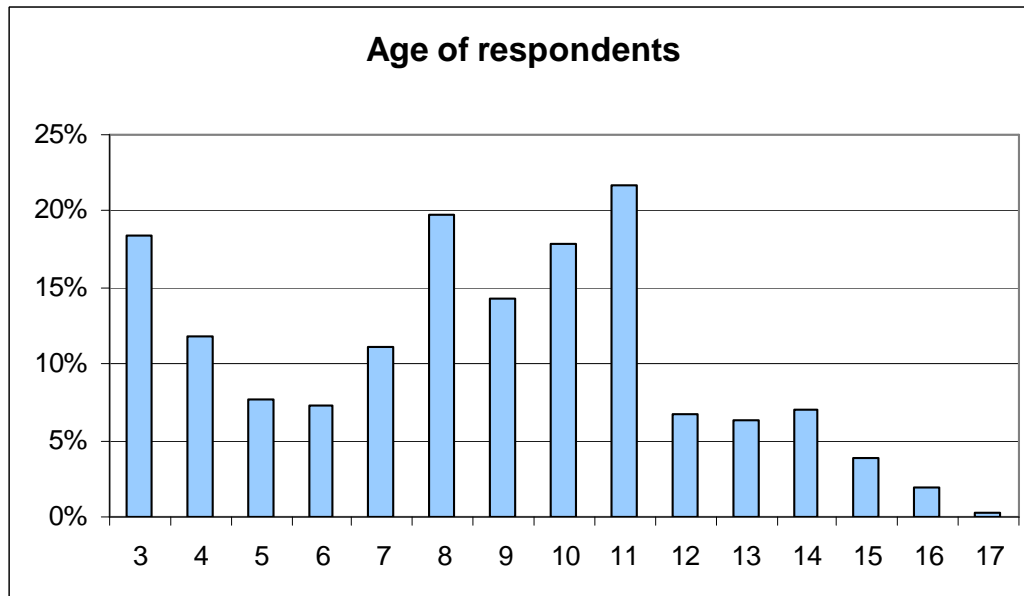
#### Holiday Clubs

- FISH Holiday Club Chudleigh
- Thorne Manor Holiday Club

## Profile of Respondents

A total of 485 children were consulted throughout the process covering an age range from 3 to 17 year olds. 171 children were consulted using the questionnaire and 314 children were consulted through the face to face workshops.

Chart 1 – Age of respondents

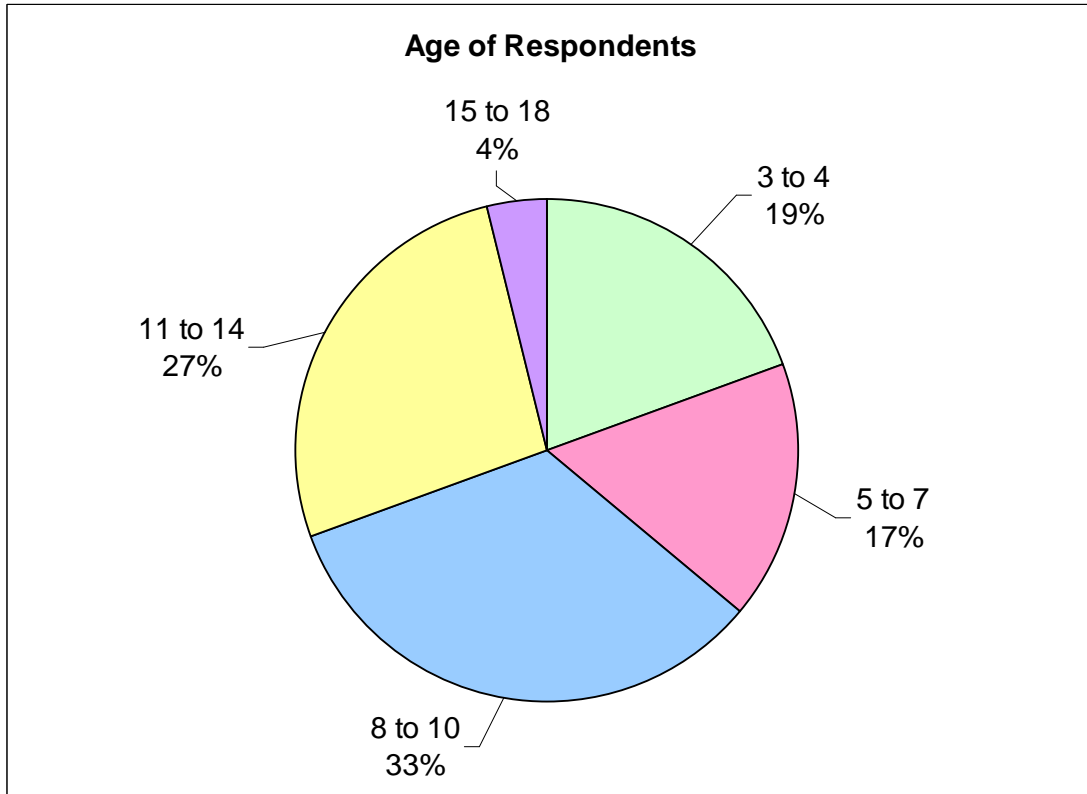


For analysis, these have been split into the following age groups:

- 3 to 4
- 5 to 7
- 8 to 10
- 11 to 14
- 15 to 18

(For the purposes of graphs just using quantitative data, the age groups used are, 4 to 7, 8 to 10, 11 to 14, and 15 to 18. This is because the quantitative data only includes one 4 year old, which will mean each selection for the 4 year old).

Chart 2 – Age groups of respondents



The largest proportion of children was in the 8 to 10 year old age group making up one third of the total children consulted, with 11 to 14 year olds making up the next largest proportion at 27%.

The majority of children consulted were boys at 54% with 46% of respondents being girls.

Chart 3 – Gender of respondents

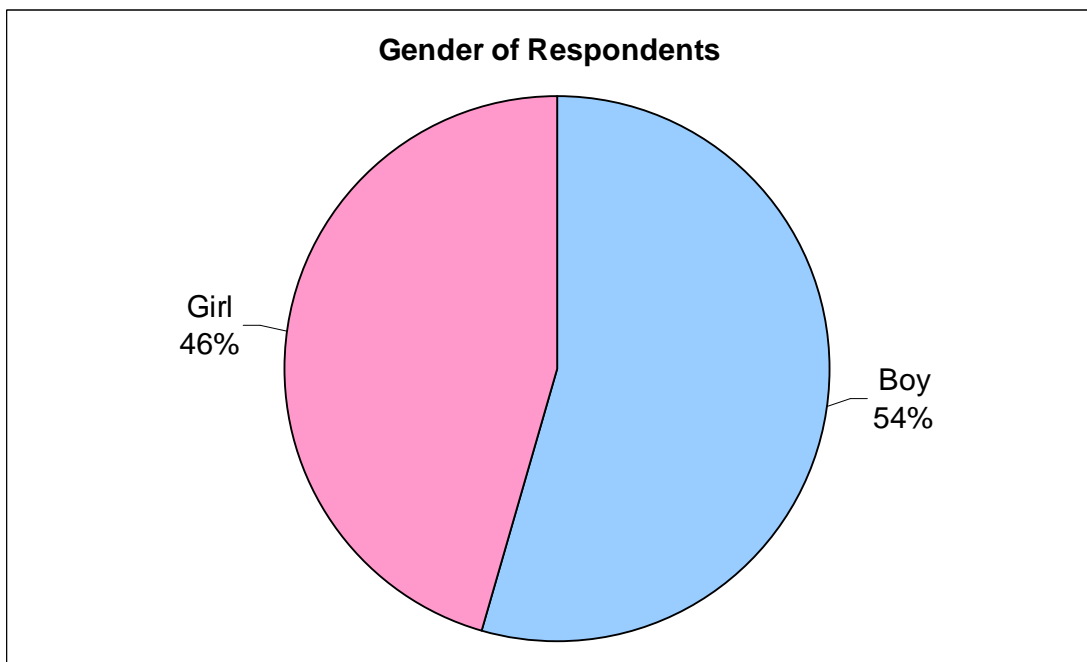
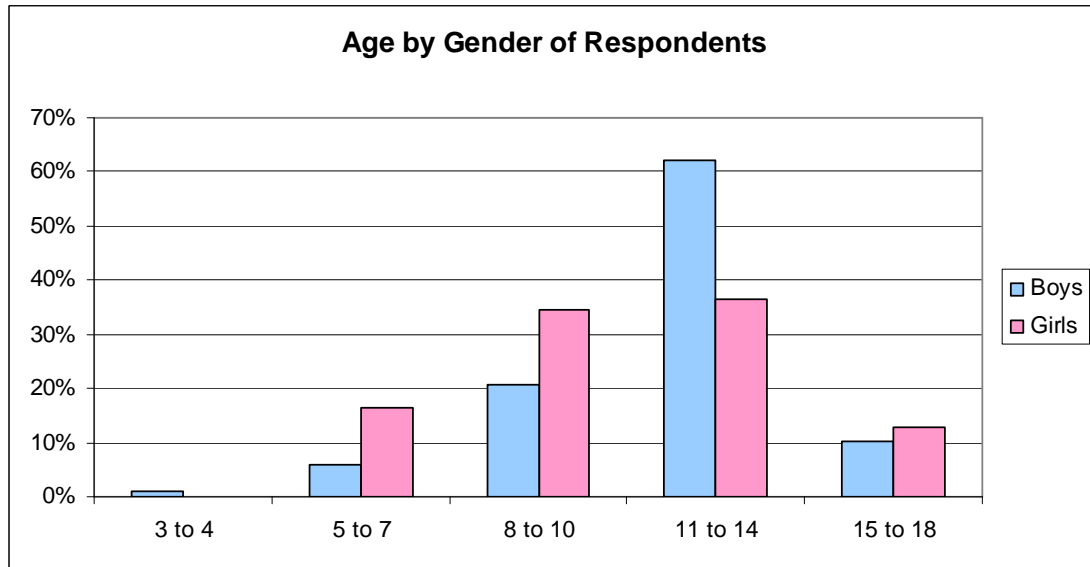


Chart 4 – Age of respondents by gender – QUANTITATIVE DATA ONLY



This shows that for children answering the questionnaire, the majority of 4 to 7 year olds, 8 to 10 year olds and 15 to 18 year olds were girls whereas the majority of 11 to 14 year olds were boys.

There was not a good spread of respondents over the county by learning community.

In 7 of the 31 learning communities there were no respondents. The highest proportion of respondents were from the Culm Valley Learning Community.

Children came from 43 different settings in 24 learning communities including Early Years Settings, Primary and Secondary Schools, After School Clubs and Holiday Clubs.

There was one 17 year old who had finished school from the Sidmouth Learning Community. There were 6 respondents from outside Devon

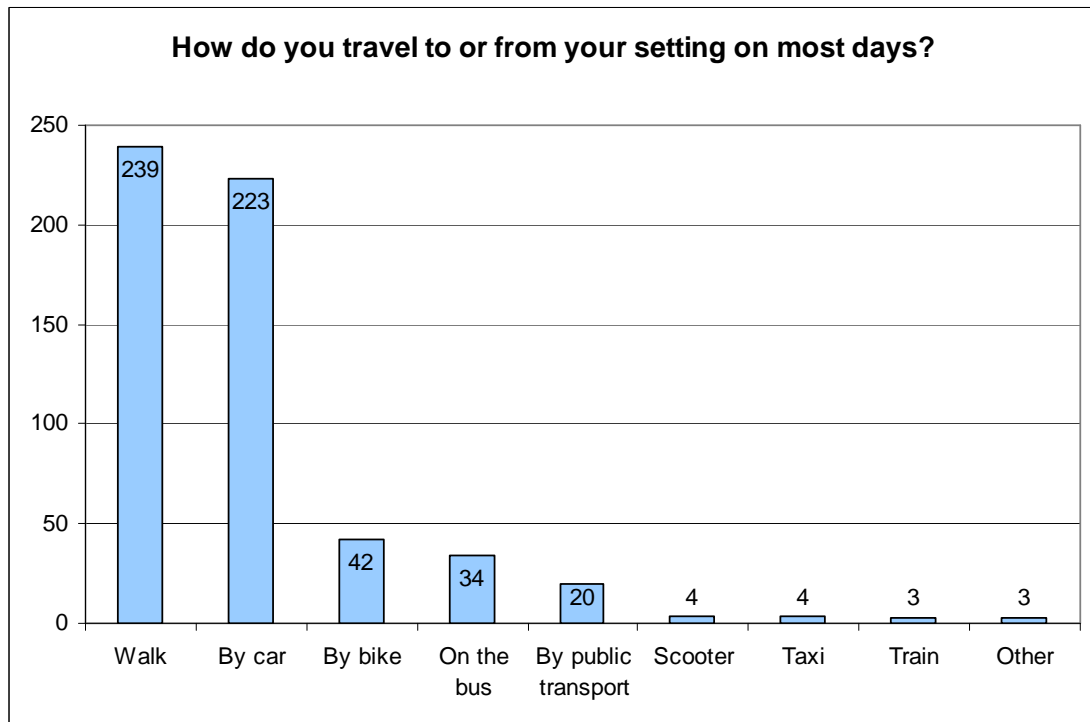
## Children's Views on Childcare After School

### Children's Travel Methods

In the questionnaire children were asked the question 'How do you get home after school on most days?'. In the face to face consultation children were asked how they get to their setting.

The majority of children reported that they walk to or from their setting on most days. This was closely followed by 223 children reporting that they travelled by car.

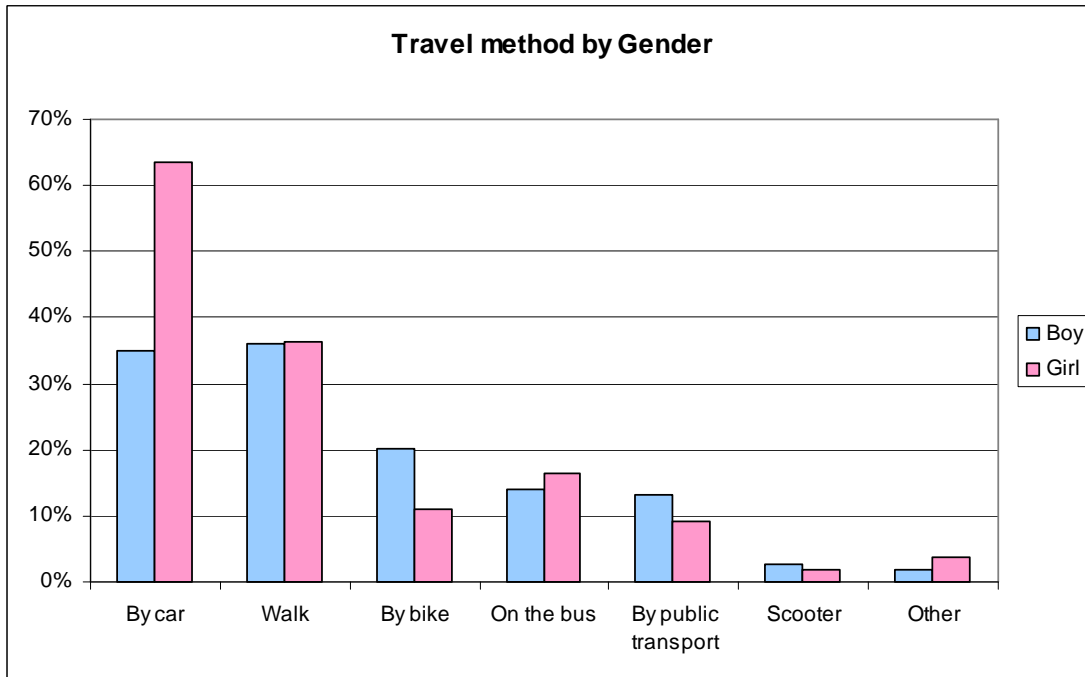
Chart 5 – Children's Travel Methods



In some cases children reported that they used a variety of travel methods and would either travel in the car or walk or ride their bike.

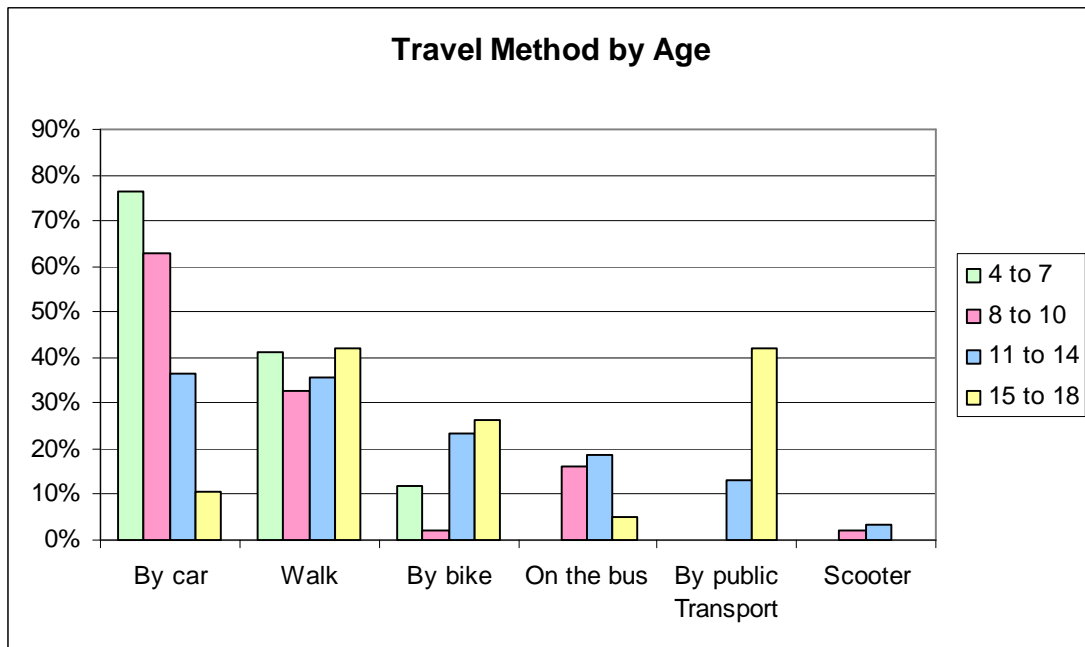
Other methods of transport included by Skateboard and one child reported that they car shared.

Graph 6 – Children’s Travel Methods by Gender – QUANTITATIVE DATA ONLY



Interestingly a significantly larger proportion of girls (64%) travel by car than boys (35%). On the other hand a larger proportion of boys travel by bike and public transport than girls. An equal amount of girls and boys walk to or from their setting.

Graph 7 – Travel Method by Age – QUANTITATIVE DATA ONLY



This graph shows that the older the child is the less likely they are to travel by car after school. This could be due to the fact that the child is getting more responsible and may be linked to the evidence that suggests the older the child is the more likely they are to use public transport.

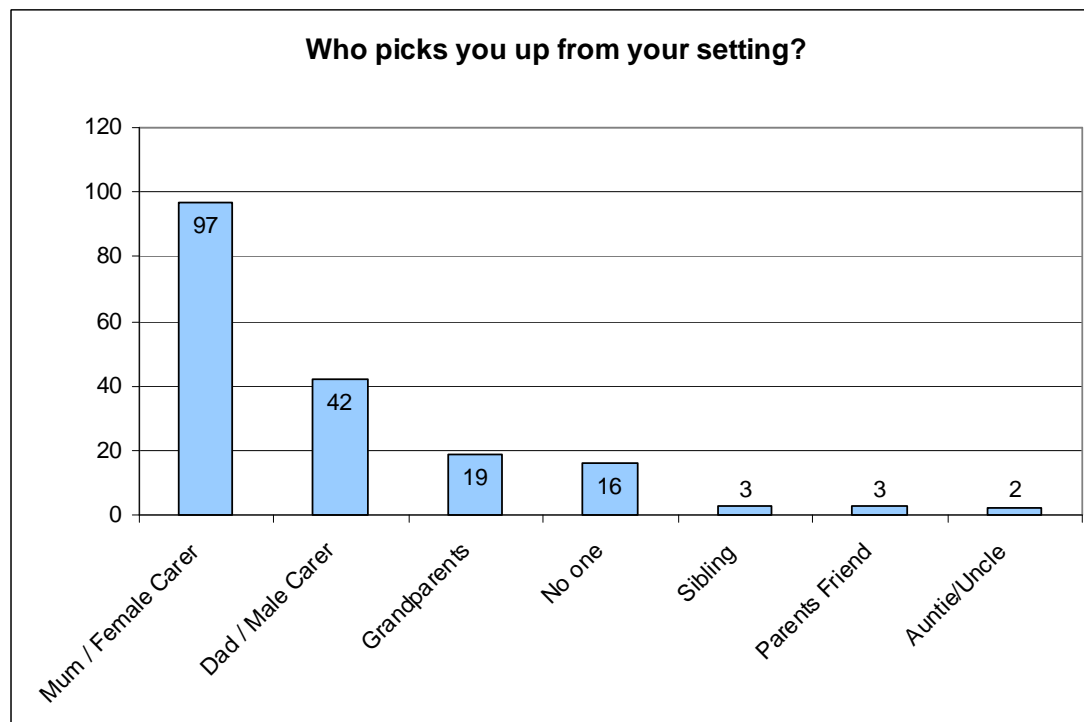
The likelihood of walking does not seem to be affected by age. This is probably more due to location.

## What Children do After School?

In the face to face survey children were asked who picks them up after they have been to their setting.

The majority of children reported that they are collected by their parents but mainly their mum. Others reported that other member of their family pick them up or a parent's friend. Other children report that no one picks them up and they go home by themselves.

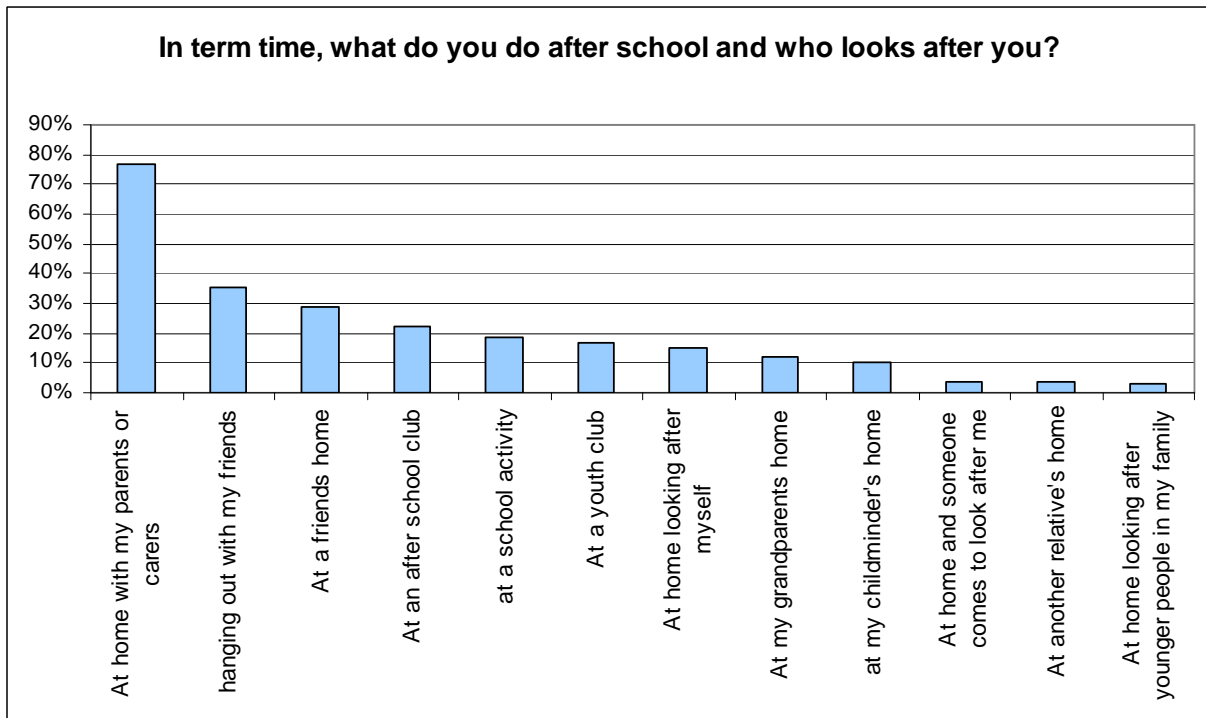
Chart 8 – Who picks children up from their settings – QUALITATIVE DATA ONLY



Children's after school arrangements were complex with children reporting that they go to 'school clubs or go home with mum or my sister or to my Nan's house'. For one child they went to 'school clubs sometimes, home with dad sometimes, or on my own with the dog'. Other comments included 'I have to go home and help do the housework for my mum, she is at work and I wait at home till she comes home'. For others after school arrangements were not as complex, as they go to 'after school club everyday'. One child commented that they go to 'the after school club or Karate Club in school and mum's friend picks me and my brother up and takes us home and I look after my brother till Mum gets home'. It was clear to see that many parents relied on their friends or relatives as children reported 'sometimes my mum's friend picks me up and looks after me'.

Children who responded to the questionnaire were asked 'in term time, what do you do after school and who looks after you?' Over three quarters, 77%, of children reported that they spend time at home with their parents or carers after school during term time.

Chart 9 –What do children do after school in term time and who looks after them  
 QUANTITATIVE DATA ONLY



Other places that children go to after school included the skate park, a sports club and Cubs or Brownies.

There was little difference between what boys and girls did after school although a slightly higher proportion of girls than boys go to a friends house or go to an after school club, whereas a slightly higher proportion of boys than girls hang out with friends or go to a youth club.

Table 1 – What do children do after school in term time and who looks after them-  
 QUANTITATIVE DATA ONLY

	4 to 7	8 to 10	11 to 14	15 to18
<b>At home with my parents or carers</b>	82%	93%	72%	56%
<b>At home and someone comes to look after me</b>	18%	2%	2%	0%
<b>At my grandparents home</b>	12%	17%	11%	6%
<b>At another relative's home</b>	6%	2%	4%	0%
<b>At a friends home</b>	24%	33%	28%	28%
<b>At home looking after myself</b>	6%	10%	19%	17%
<b>At home looking after younger people in my family</b>	0%	0%	4%	6%
<b>hanging out with my friends</b>	12%	14%	47%	50%
<b>at my childminder's home</b>	12%	12%	11%	0%
<b>at a school activity</b>	18%	21%	21%	0%
<b>At an after school club</b>	12%	36%	19%	17%
<b>At a youth club</b>	0%	10%	23%	17%
<i>Total Answered</i>	17	42	90	18

For 4 to 7 year olds, they are most likely to be at home either with their parents or with someone coming in to look after them or at a friend's home.

More of the 8 to 10 year olds are also being cared for outside of the home. A higher proportion are being cared for in a friend's home, a grandparents home, at a school activity or at an after school club. This age group has the highest proportion of children and young people in after school care, some 36%.

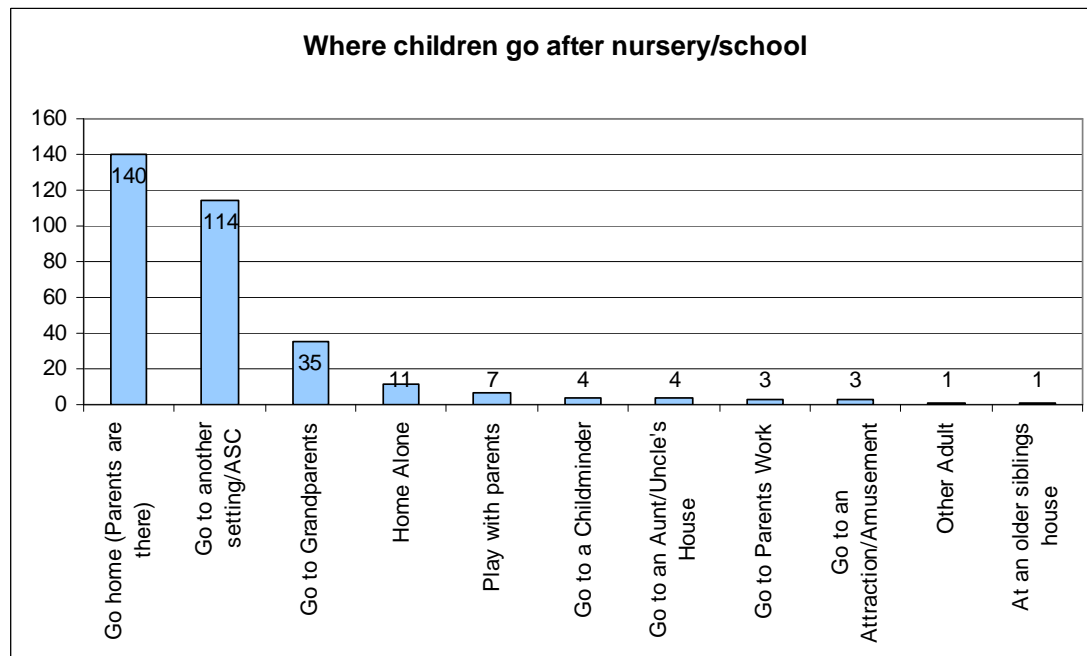
Besides being at home with their parent, the secondary age, 11-14 year olds, are now more likely to be hanging out with their friends, at a youth club, or school activity. This age group has the highest proportion who are at home by themselves.

The older age group, 15 to 18 year olds are the group who spend least time at home with their parent and are more likely to be looking after a younger sibling.

In terms of formal childcare outside the home, equal proportions of 4 to 7 year olds spend time with a childminder or in an after school club. At aged 8 to 10 years, three times as many are at an after school club as with a childminder whilst for 11 to 14 year olds only twice as many. The proportion of children and young people cared for by a childminder, approximately one in eight children, is fairly consistent across the age range 4 to 14 years whilst the numbers in an after school club peaks at 8 to 10 years and then falls away.

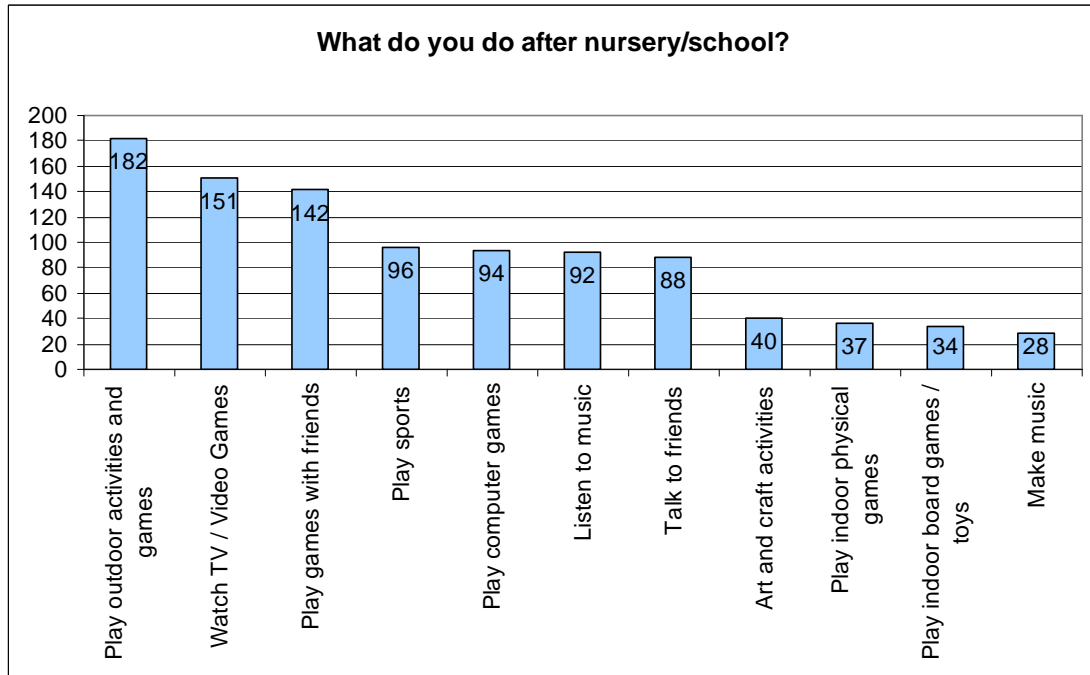
Children were then asked about what they currently did after school.

Chart 10 – Where children go after nursery? - QUALITATIVE DATA ONLY



The majority of children reported that after they are picked up from their setting they go home. A large proportion of children go to another setting or an after school club.

Chart 11 – What children currently do after school

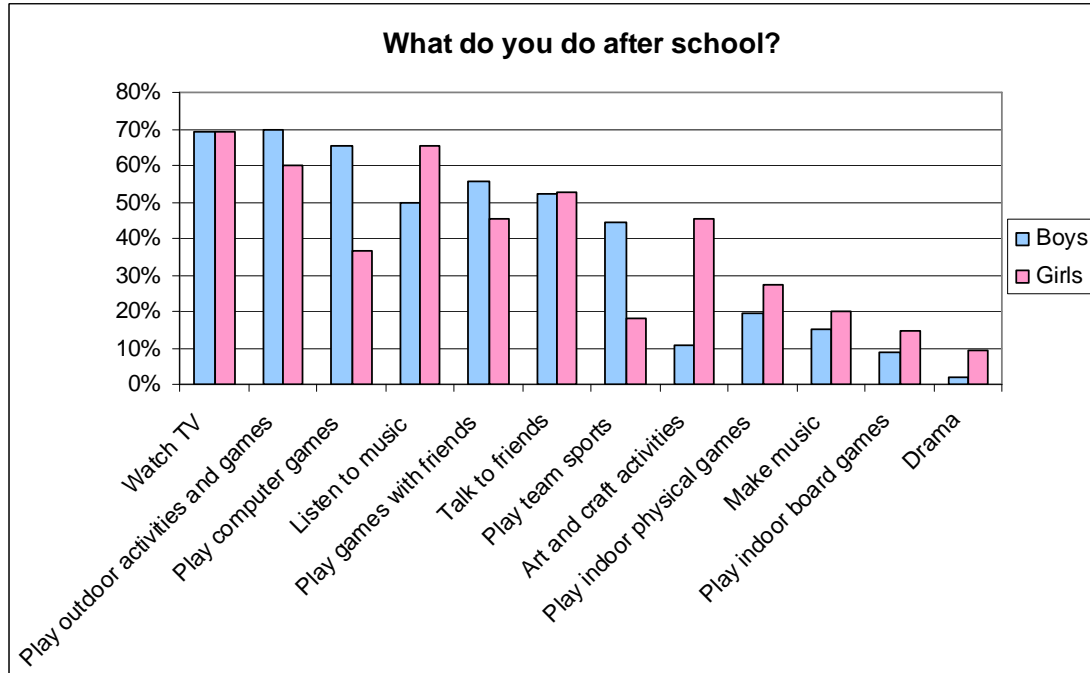


The most popular activity to do after school is play outdoor activities and games with 182 children reporting this. This included comments such as ‘I like to play at home in the garden’, ‘I play on the trampoline’, ‘I play in my swimming pool in my garden’ and ‘I go to the park with my sister’.

Another popular activity was watching TV or playing video games such as ‘I play on my game boy or Nintendo Wii’. Playing with friends was also a popular activity with children reporting that they ‘go out and call for my friends and we go to the park’.

Other popular activities included playing sports and listening to music.

Chart 12 – What children currently do after school by gender - QUANTITATIVE DATA ONLY



This shows that boys prefer doing outside activities or playing computer games whereas girls prefer indoor activities such as arts and crafts and drama.

Younger children seemed to prefer watching TV, playing indoor and outdoor games and arts and crafts whereas older children prefer playing team sports, talking to friends and listening to music.

## Children's Opinion about what they do after school

Children were also asked about what made what they did after school fun and enjoyable.

Table 2 – What makes it fun? – QUANTITATIVE DATA ONLY

Being with other / friends	42	40%
Enjoying the activity	16	15%
Being with family	12	11%
Something to do	4	4%
Laughing	3	3%
More exercise	3	3%
Relaxing	3	3%
Being outside	3	3%
Doing what I want	2	2%
Good TV	2	2%
Learning and Developing	2	2%
Don't Know	2	2%
Weather	1	1%
Makes me feel good about myself	1	1%
Variation	1	1%
Other	20	19%

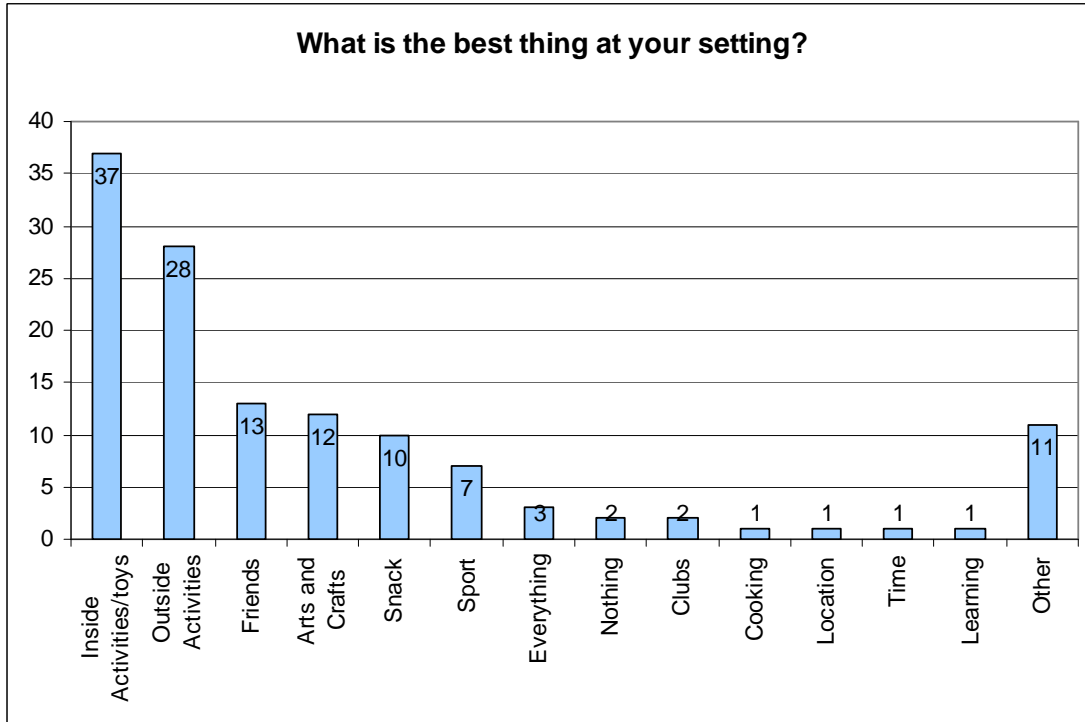
The majority of children reported that being with friends or other children made the activity fun and enjoyable. Just over a half of girls reported that being with friends made the activity fun compared with a third of boys. Comments include 'I like going to school clubs so I can be with my friends or I would be on my own, no one lives close to me'. A number of children reported that actually enjoying the activity they are doing also made it fun.

Other comments included that they like 'everything, I would not like to stay at home all the time it would be boring'.

The common theme running through the consultation seemed to be that children wanted to go to After School Clubs even if their parents were at home because they could see their friends there and it gave them something to do. One child reported 'I go to football and netball club because I want to, mum is at home'.

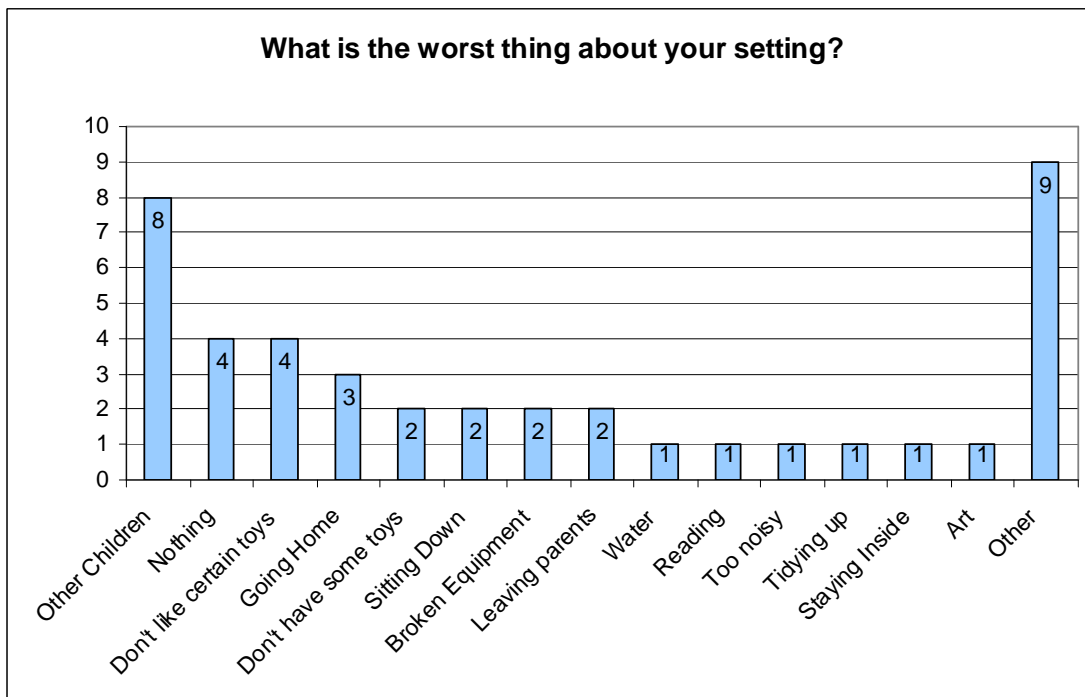
In the face to face consultation children were asked what the best and worst things were about their setting. This question was mainly asked to Early Years settings.

Chart 13 – The best things about the child’s setting? – QUALITATIVE DATA ONLY



The majority of children reported that the best thing about the setting was inside activities or the toys that they were playing with. Children reported that they like ‘playing with the sand’ or ‘the marble run’. A large proportion of children reported that they liked the outdoor activities such as ‘cars and bikes’. One child reported that they liked ‘playing with friends and the animals and outside on the bikes’. Other children reported that they simply like ‘everything’.

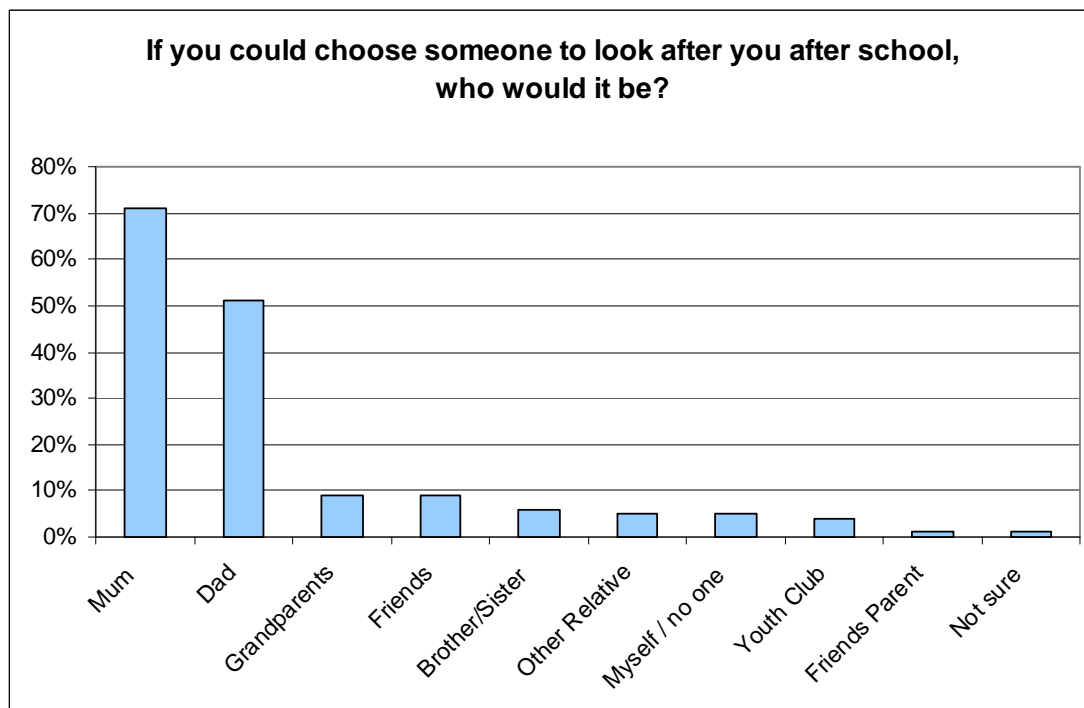
Chart 14 – The worst things about the child’s setting? – QUALITATIVE DATA ONLY



The majority of children reported that the worst thing about their setting was other children. For example one child reported that ‘I don’t like him (another child) to hurt me, and I don’t like the things he does!’. Other children reported that ‘going home’ was the worst thing whilst other children reported that ‘leaving my mum and dad’ was the worst thing about the setting. Other things included very specific things about the setting.

Children who were consulted through the questionnaire were asked ‘If you could choose someone to look after you after school, who would it be?’.

Chart 15 – Children’s choice of carer after school- QUANTITATIVE DATA ONLY



81% of children who responded to the questionnaire reported that if they could choose someone to look after them after school it would be their parents.

A much smaller proportion, just under 10%, reported that they would like to be with their grandparents or their friends.

It was also noted that a higher proportion of girls (79%) compared to boys (68%) wanted their mum to look after them whereas a higher proportion of boys (55%) compared to girls (43%) wanted their dads to look after them.

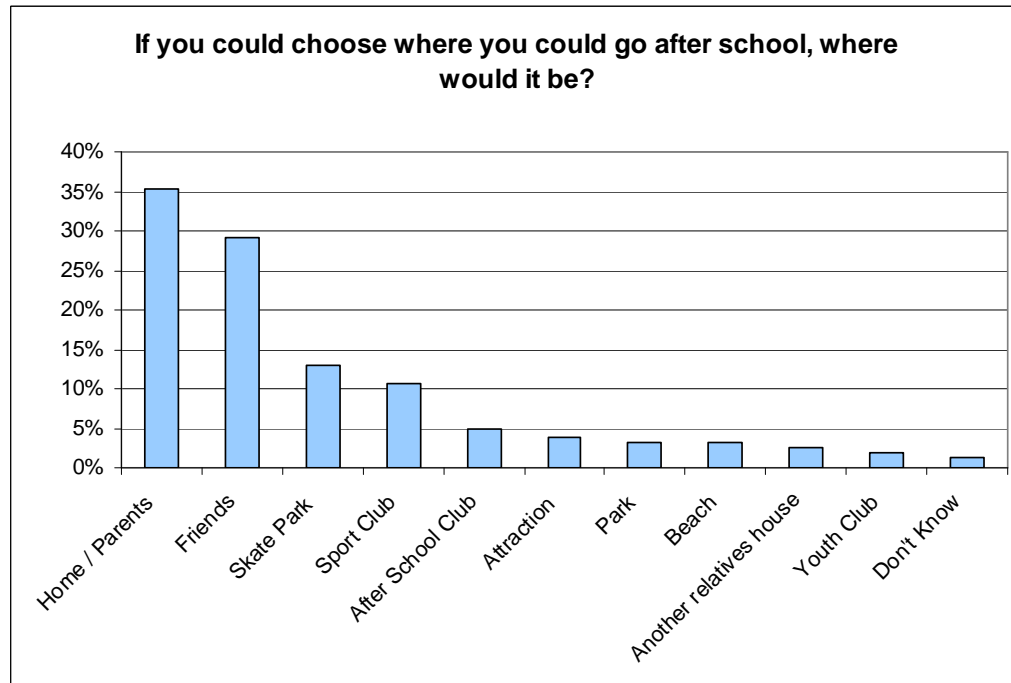
A higher proportion of girls wanted their friends or their friends’ parent to look after them than boys.

Greater proportions of younger children wanted their parents to look after them than older children, whereas higher proportions of older children did not want anyone to look after them, preferring to hang out with friends or go to a youth club.

## Children's preferences about what they do after school

Children answering the questionnaire were asked 'If you could choose where you could go after school, where would it be?'

Chart 16 – Where children would go after school if they had the choice- QUANTITATIVE DATA ONLY

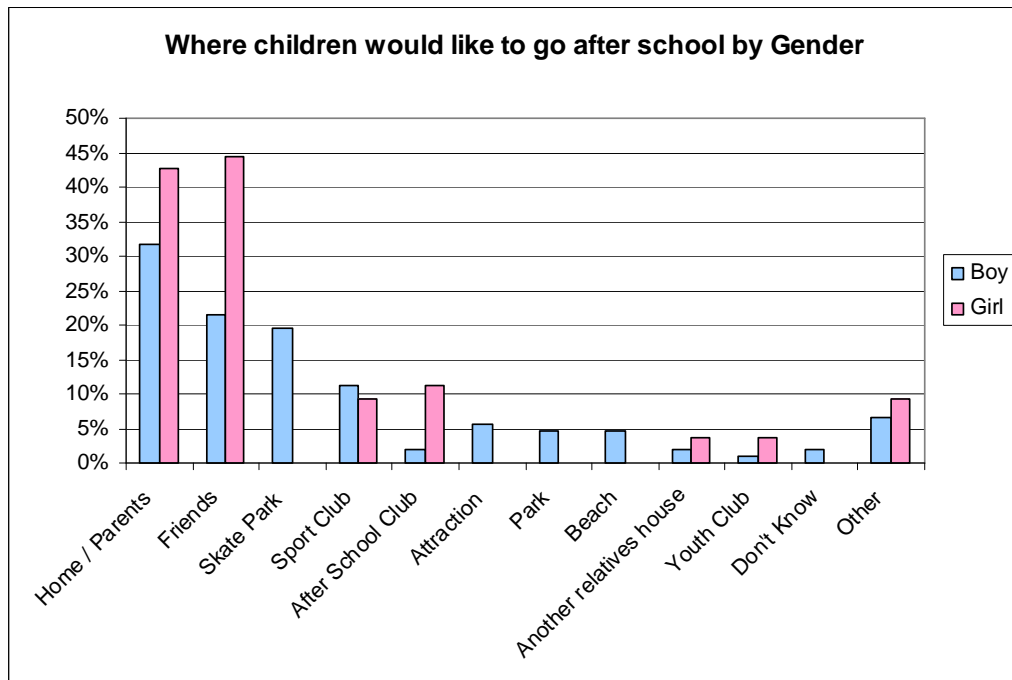


The highest proportion of children, over a third, would choose to go home and be with parents. This compares to 77% who currently go home after school. This indicates that there are potentially 42% of children who go home after school that would choose to do other activities outside of the house.

Slightly less, some 29%, said that they would prefer to be with friends.

Note: This is the question where the children and young people were on their way to a skate park and of course answered that they would choose to go to 'a skate park' after school.

Chart 17 – Where children would go after school by Gender - QUANTITATIVE DATA ONLY



Significantly higher proportions of girls reported that they would rather be at home with their parents or with their friends than boys. However boys seem to prefer being outside doing activities such as going to the skate park, going to a sports club, at an attraction, at the park or at the beach.

Again higher proportions of younger children would choose to be at home with their parents compared with older children. Older children prefer to be with friends or at clubs.

Children were asked 'If you could change anything about what you do after school what would it be?'

*Table 3 – What children would change about their after school care?*

<b>I wouldn't change anything</b>	69
<b>More time to chill out</b>	65
<b>More time with friends</b>	62
<b>More physical activities to do / Sport</b>	44
<b>More ideas of things to do</b>	39
<b>More equipment to play with</b>	34
<b>More computer games</b>	28
<b>More art and crafts to do</b>	25
<b>More After School Clubs</b>	20
<b>Watch more TV</b>	18
<b>Better behaviour</b>	16
<b>Better Resources and Equipment</b>	13
<b>More drama</b>	12
<b>More games</b>	12
<b>More time with family</b>	12
<b>Want to go home</b>	11
<b>Cheaper Cost</b>	5
<b>More Trips</b>	4
<b>No One Listens</b>	1
<b>Anything else?</b>	97

The highest proportion of children, 69, are happy with what they do after school and reported that they would not change anything about their after school care.

For those who wanted a change, the largest number, 65 children, reported that they wanted more time to chill out and slightly less, 62 children, reported that they wanted more time with their friends. This suggests that children's lives are busy and that they want more time to relax and time to spend with friends. One child said 'I would like more time to be with my friends, but I'm always busy'. Another child reported that 'I want to have time to do things but I have to look after my sister'.

A high number of children would like more physical activities or sport, more ideas of things to do and more equipment to play with including computer games, arts and crafts.

Other things children would change would be that they wanted to go home and spend more time with their parents. For example one child reports 'I want to see my mum, I miss her a lot.' In particular children reported that they would like to spend more time with their dads.

Children also reported that they would like cheaper activities as 'I'm not allowed to go to after school club because mum doesn't work and it costs too much but I want to go'. It should be noted that children do want to go to after school clubs as 20 children reported that they would like more clubs to go to.

A significantly higher proportion of girls (44%) than boys (13%) who completed the questionnaire reported that they wanted more ideas of things to

do. Also a significantly higher proportion of girls (33%) than boys (5%) reported that they want more arts and crafts to do.

However a higher proportion of boys than girls wanted more computer games and more equipment to play with.

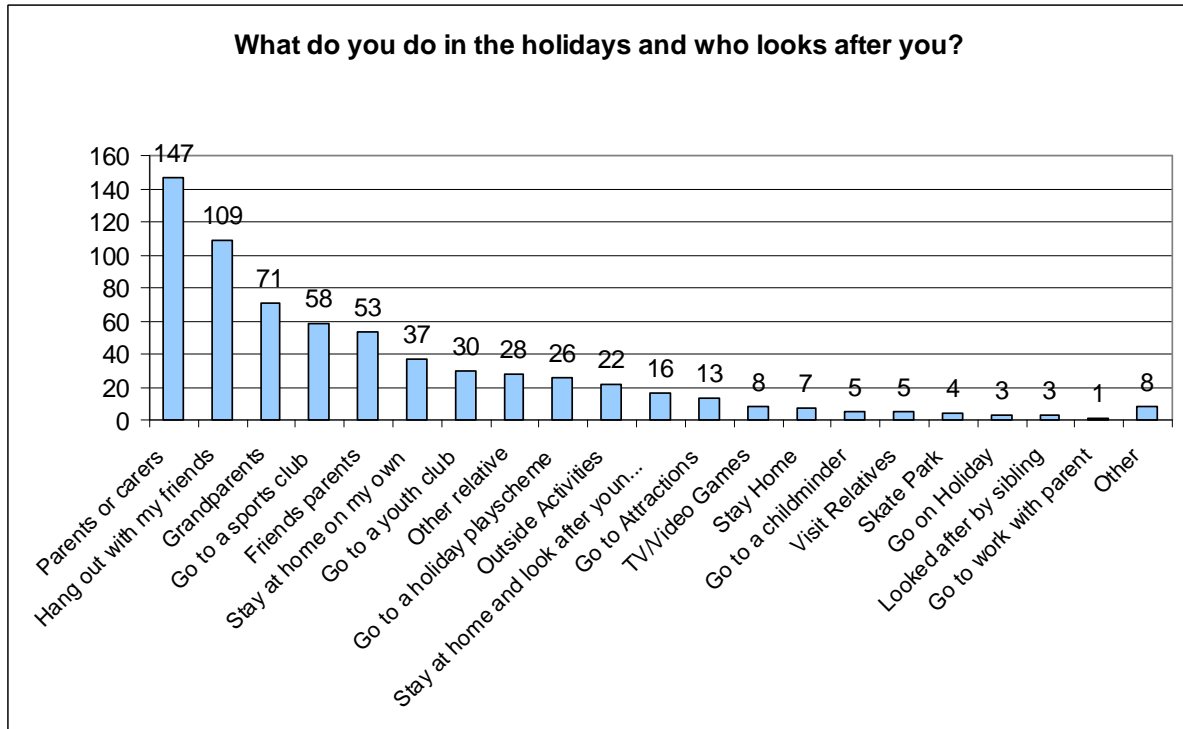
Higher proportions of younger children than older children wanted more equipment to play with, more arts and crafts to do, more TV, better behaviour, more drama and more board games.

## Children's Views on Childcare in School Holidays

### What children currently do in school holidays?

Children responding to the questionnaire were asked what they currently did in school holidays and who looks after them.

Chart 18 - What do children do after school in holiday time and who looks after them



The majority of children, 147, reported that their parents or carers look after them most of the time during school holidays. A large proportion of children reported that they spend their school holidays hanging out with friends. For example one child reported that 'I see my friends, we go to each others houses'. These were both equal between boys and girls answering the questionnaire.

During the school holidays twice as many children report that they are looked after by grandparents then for after school care demonstrating that grandparents are an important source of care for children during holiday time. One child reports that they 'go to Nanny and Grandads' and another child reports they 'go with nanny and granddad we go and see the fishes' More children are also being cared for by other relatives, for example one child reports 'I like going to Auntie Viv's house and play with the Lego.'

A high number of children are cared for by friend's parents similarly to after school care.

The number of children who stay at home on their own is also higher during the school holidays as compared to term time as one child reports that

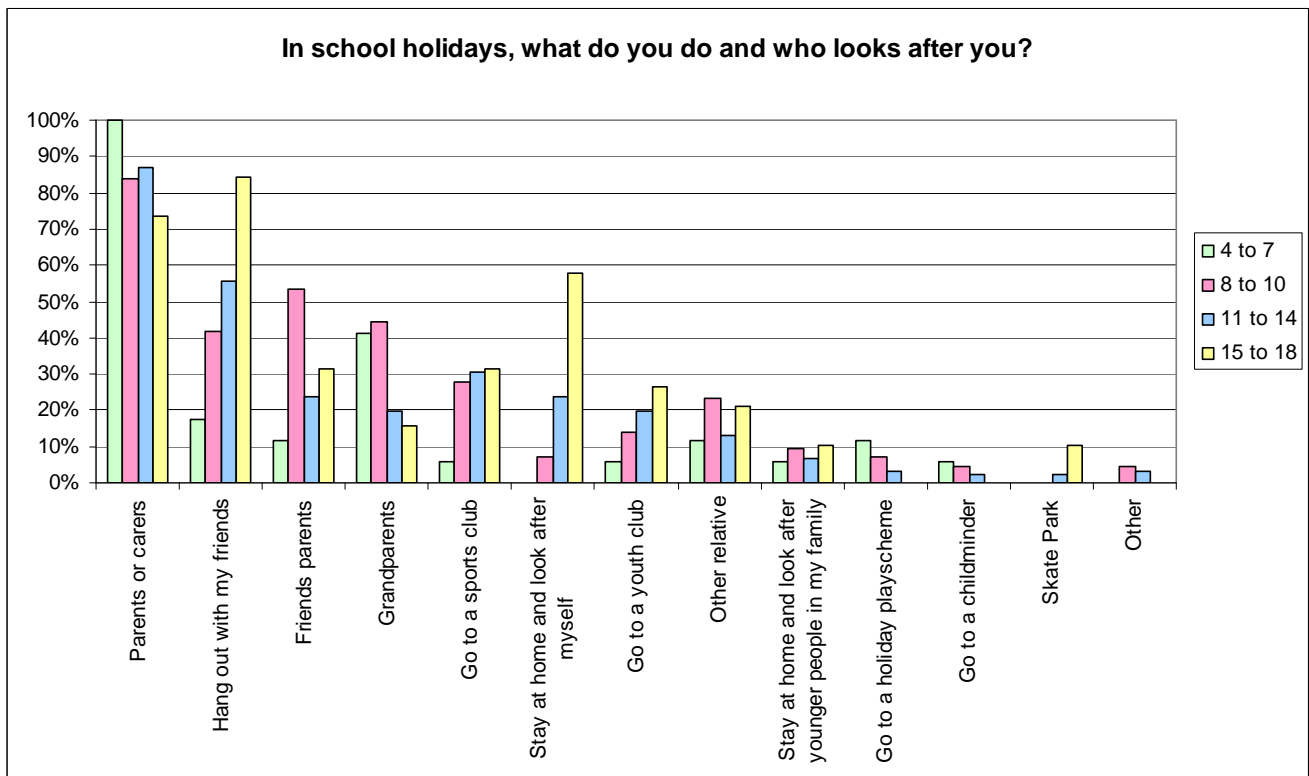
'sometimes I will be on my own while mum goes to work' with another child reporting that 'I'm usually on my own'.

In terms of formal childcare, children go to sport clubs, youth clubs, holiday play schemes and childminders. One child reported that they 'have to go to a childminder'.

More girls than boys are looked after by their friends' parents, grandparents or another relative during school holidays, whereas more boys than girls went to sports clubs, holiday playschemes or youth clubs.

Other things that children did during school holidays included going to the skate park (particularly on the day of the consultation!).

Chart 19 - What do children do after school in holiday time and who looks after them by age – QUANTITATIVE DATA ONLY



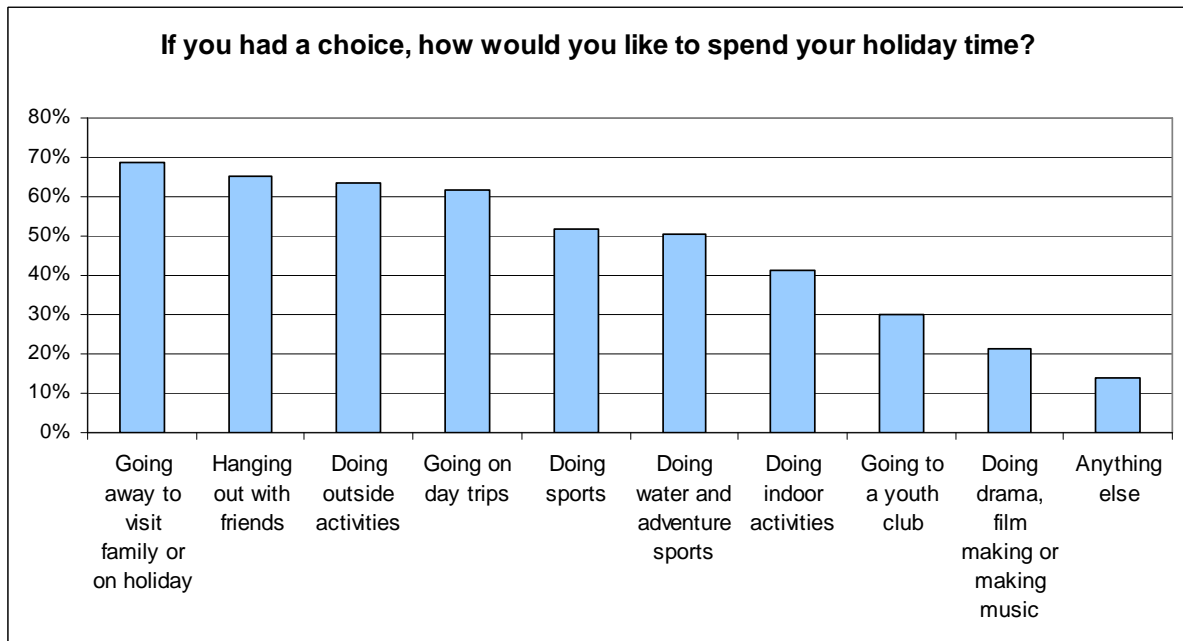
More younger children tend to be looked after by their parents or grandparents. 100% of 4 to 7 year olds are looked after by their parents for most of the time during school holidays compared to 74% of 15 to 18 year olds.

More older children tend to go to a sports club, a youth club, and stay at home and look after themselves or hang out with friends. Only 12% of 4 to 7 year olds hang out with their friends whereas 84% of 15 to 18 year olds hang out with their friends during school holidays.

## Children’s preferences about what they would like to do in school holidays

Children responding to the questionnaire were asked ‘If you had a choice, how would you like to spend your holiday time?’.

Chart 20 – Children’s choice of activity in school holiday time- QUANTITATIVE DATA ONLY



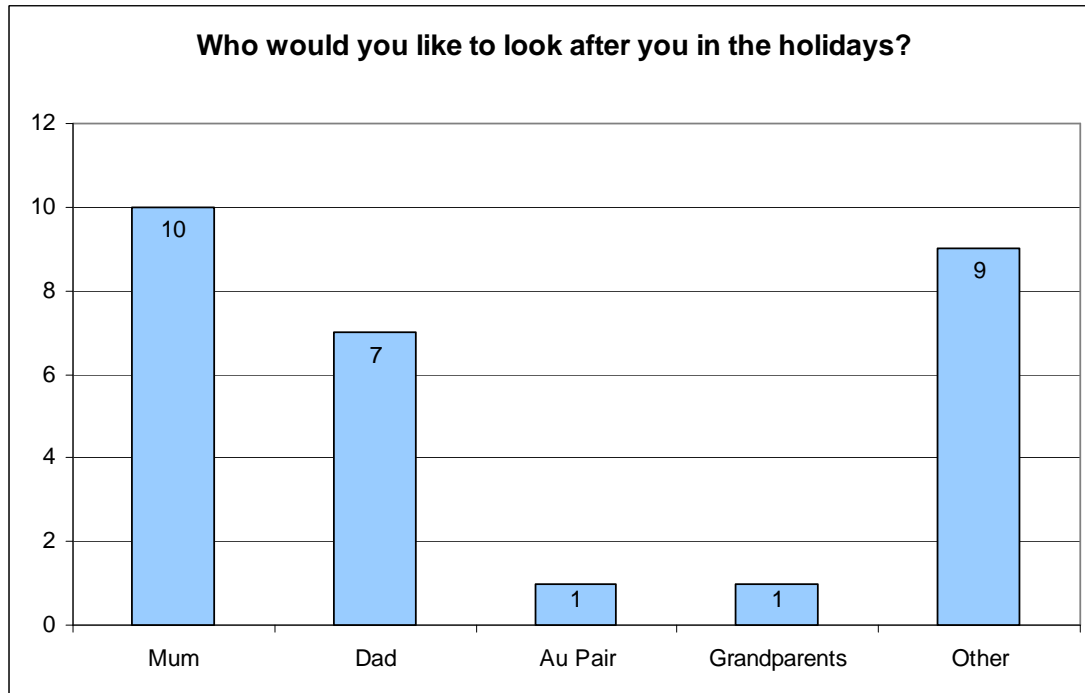
69% of children reported that they would like to spend their holiday time going away to visit family or on holiday with the majority of these being girls. Similarly 65% of children reported that they would like to hang out with friends with the majority of these being girls. This compares to 50% of children who currently do spend time with friends suggesting that there are some children who want to spend more of their time with friends but are currently not doing so. A high proportion of children also reported that they would like to do outside activities and sports. The majority of these were boys.

Girls also tended to prefer going on day trips, going to a youth club or doing art.

Younger children tended to prefer going away to visit family or on holiday, doing outside and indoor activities and going on day trips whereas older children tended to prefer going to a youth club.

Some children being consulted through the face to face consultations were asked who they would like to look after them in the holidays.

Chart 21 – Who would you like to look after you in the holidays? - QUALITATIVE DATA ONLY



The majority of children would like their parents to look after them, mainly their mum. Other includes specific named people.

Children answering the questionnaire were asked 'If you had the choice, how would you like to spend your school holiday time?'

Responses of how children would like to spend their school holiday time included:

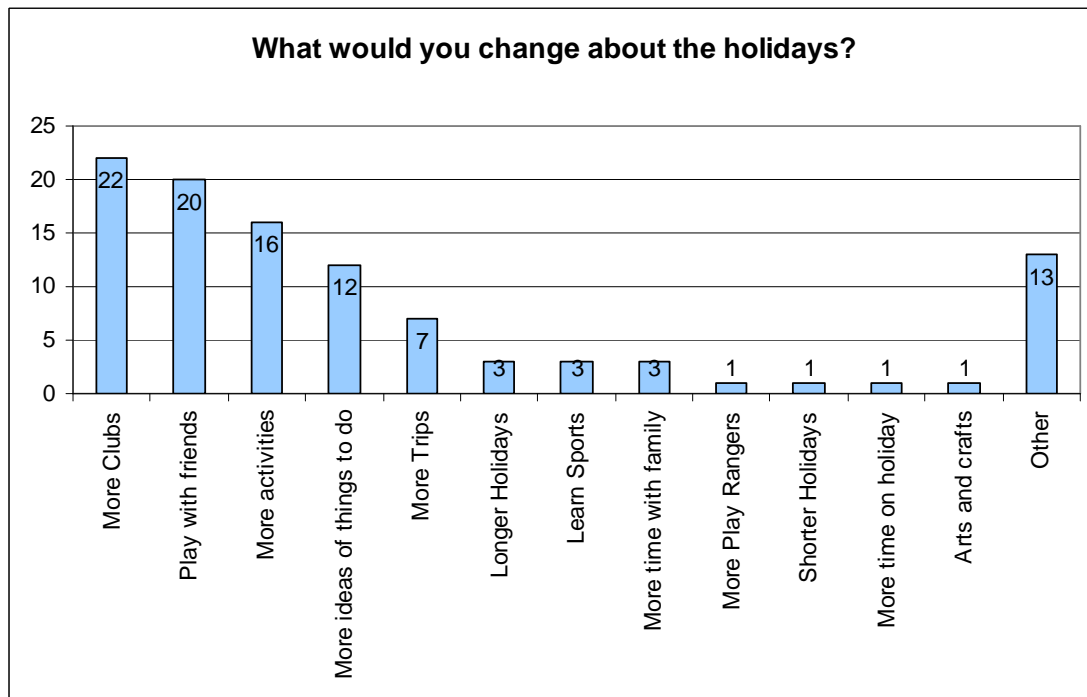
Table 4 – How children would like to spend their school holiday time? - QUANTITATIVE DATA ONLY

Being with friends	37	26%
On Holiday	28	20%
Being with family	24	17%
Skate Parks	17	12%
Sports	15	11%
At attractions	10	7%
Playing	6	4%
Being outside	4	3%
Outdoor activities	4	3%
Youth Club	4	3%
At home	3	2%
Swimming	3	2%
Beach	3	2%
Doing what I want to do	3	2%
Holiday Club	2	1%
Music	2	1%
Shopping	1	1%
Other	26	18%

A quarter of the children reported that they would like to spend their school holiday time with their friends and a fifth of children reported that they would like to go on holiday. Slightly less said they would like to spend their holiday being with friends.

Children in the face to face consultation were asked what they would change about the holidays.

Chart 22 – What children would change about the holidays – QUALITATIVE DATA ONLY

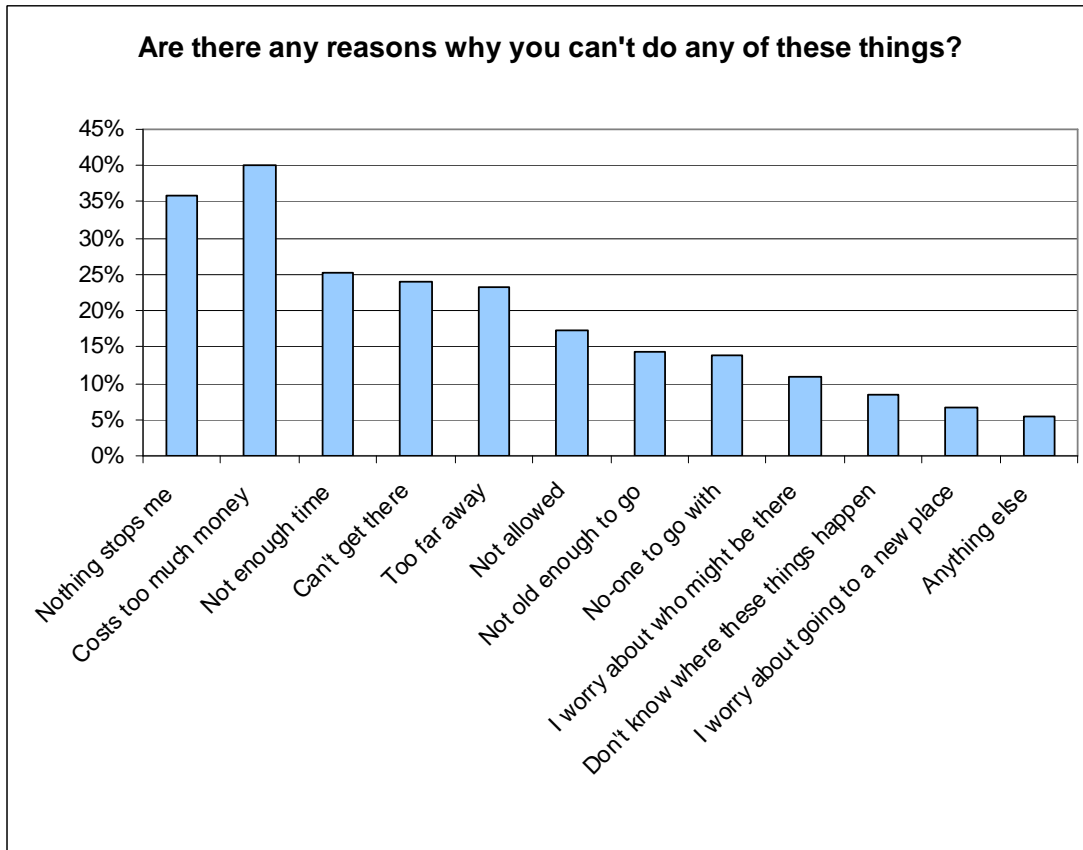


The majority of children reported that they would like more clubs to go to in the holidays so that they can see their friends. One child reports ‘I want more things to do. Friday Club stops and there is nothing to do and I can’t see my mates’. Children also wanted more activities and things to do to keep them occupied. One child reports ‘The summer holidays are so boring, they should be shorter, there is nothing to do and everything costs so much’ and other child reported that ‘everything is so expensive we need more clubs’.

## Barriers to accessing chosen activities

Children answering the questionnaire were asked 'Are there any reasons why you can't do any of these things?'

Chart 23 – Barriers to accessing chosen activities - QUANTITATIVE DATA ONLY



Over a third, 36%, of children reported that nothing stops them doing what they want to do. The majority of these were boys with 39% reporting that nothing stops them and 30% of girls reporting that nothing stops them doing what they want. Interestingly over 40% of 4 to 7 year olds and 11 to 14 year olds reported that nothing stops them accessing their chosen activities whereas a significantly lower proportion of 8 to 10 year olds (22%) reported that nothing stopped them. 32% of 15 to 18 year olds reported that nothing stopped them accessing the activities that they wanted.

The biggest barrier to accessing their chosen activity was that the activity cost too much money with 40% of children reporting this with the majority of these being girls. A significantly higher proportion of 15 to 18 year olds reported that cost was a barrier to doing what they wanted to do. This could be because the activities that they wish to do, cost more money than activities available for younger children. Children reported that they 'would like to have a Rainbow Fun House here that is free...we can't go to the rainbow fun house because it costs too much money'.

Approximately a quarter of children reported that barriers to doing the activities they wanted were having enough time, they can't get there or it is too far away.

A significantly higher proportion of girls than boys reported that they have no one to go with, they worry about who might be there and they don't know where the activities happen. This suggests that girls have greater anxieties about going to activities than boys.

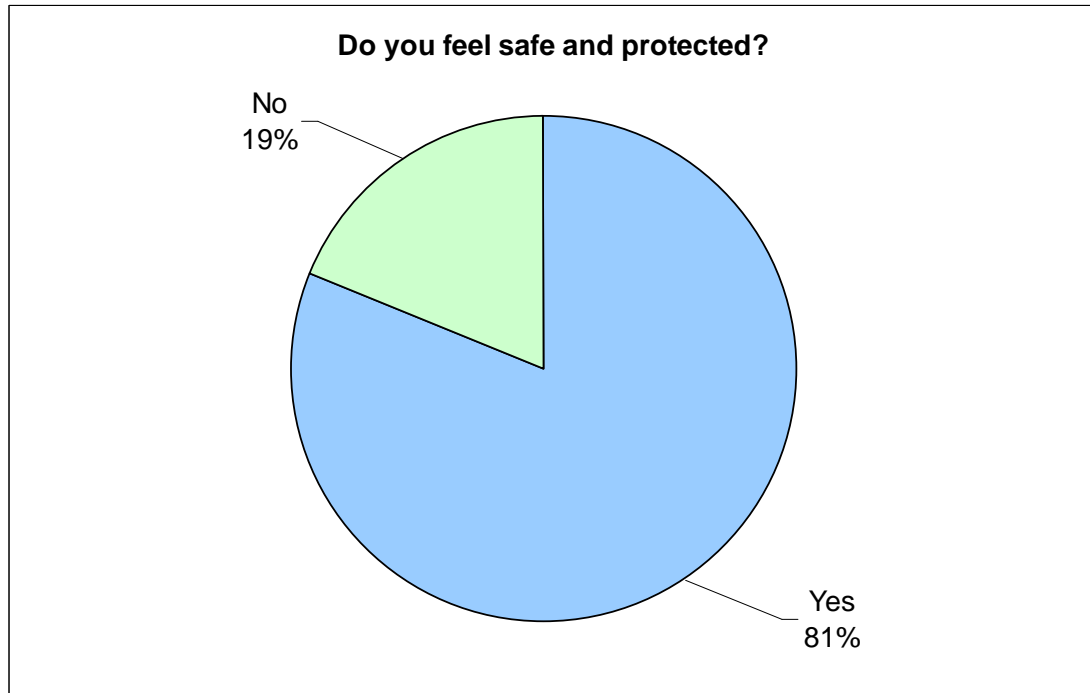
Interestingly a significantly higher proportion of 15 to 18 year olds (47%) compared to younger children reported that a barrier to not doing what they want is not being able to get there. A possible explanation for this could be that older children are more independent and parents give them more responsibility and so do not offer to take them places whereas parents probably take their children to the activities.

## Children's Views About Feeling Safe and Protected

### How safe and protected children feel

Children in the face to face consultation were asked whether they felt safe and protected.

Chart 24 – Do you feel safe and protected? – QUALITATIVE DATA ONLY

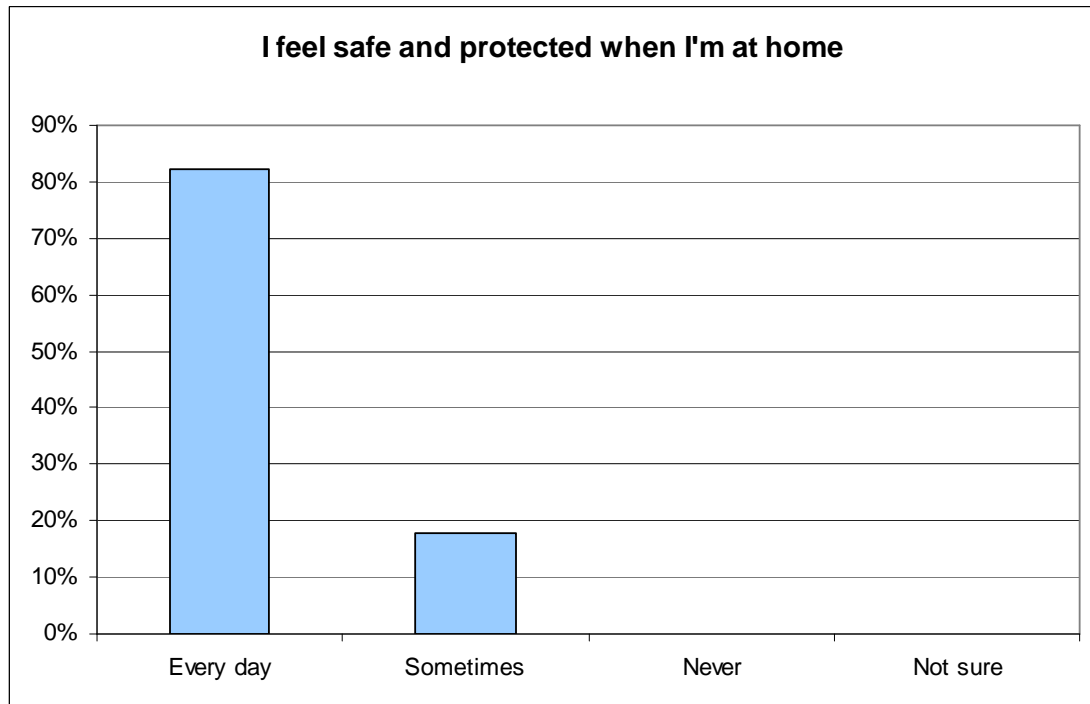


A large proportion, 81% of children, reported that they did feel safe, with less than 1 in 5 reporting that they did not feel safe.

The children responding to the questionnaire were asked to state whether they felt safe and protected everyday, sometimes, never or they weren't sure in different situations.

## At home

Chart 25 – How safe and protected to children feel at home- QUANTITATIVE DATA ONLY

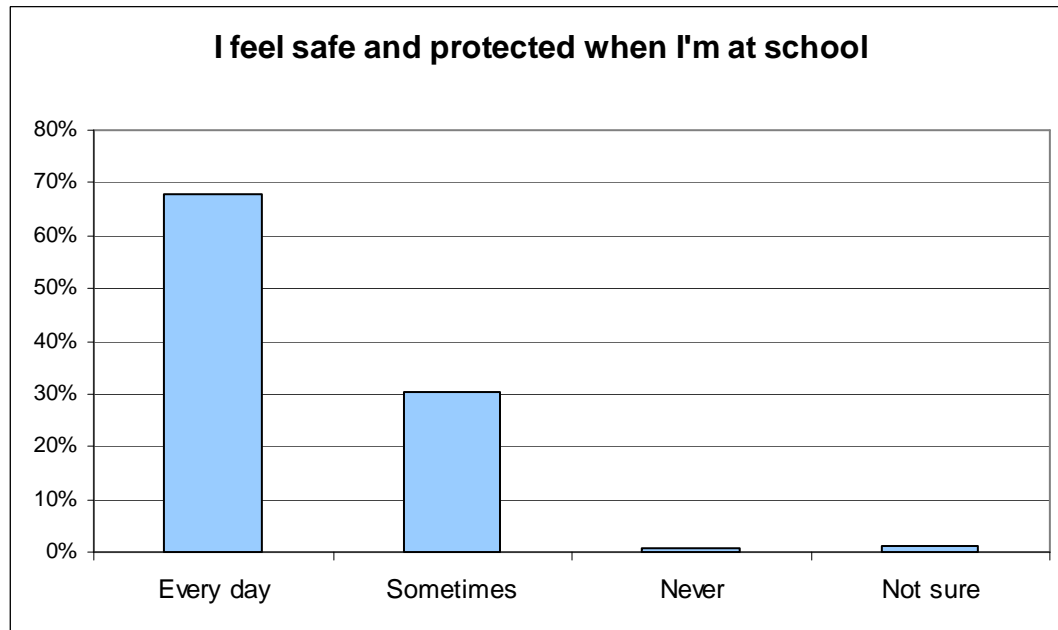


82% of children reported that they felt safe and protected every day at home. 18% of children reported that sometimes they felt safe and protected at home. No children reported that they never felt safe and protected at home.

A slightly larger proportion of boys reported that they felt safe and protected every day whereas a slightly larger proportion of girls reported that they sometimes feel safe and protected.

## When I'm at School

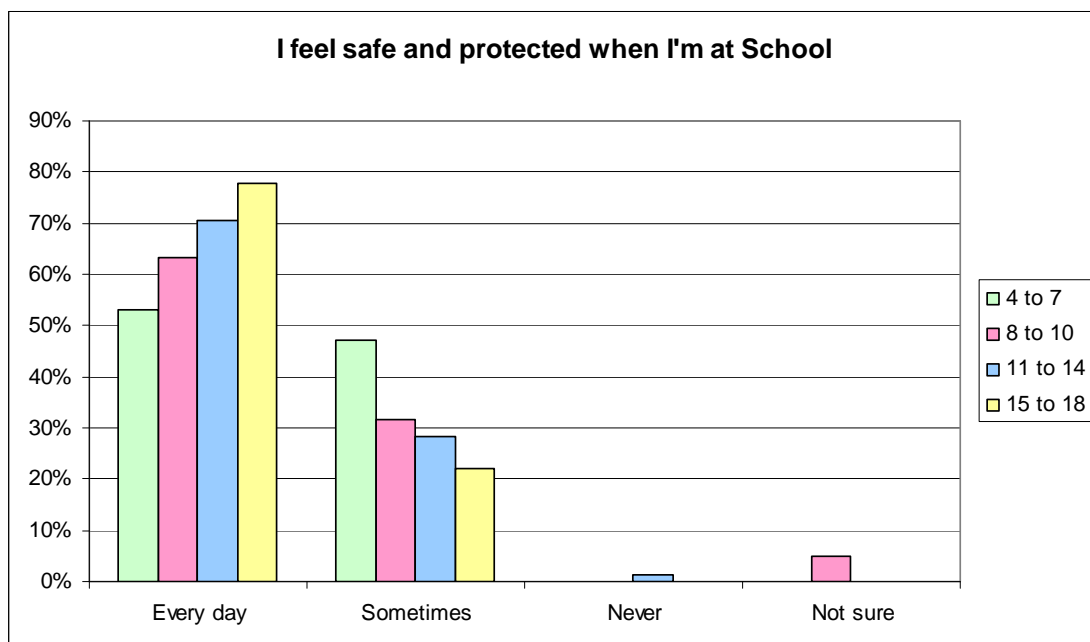
Chart 26 – How safe and protected children feel at school I- QUANTITATIVE DATA ONLY



Just over two thirds of children reported that they feel safe and protected every day at school. Just under one third of children reported that they sometimes feel safe and protected at school. Only 1 child reported that they never feel safe and protected at school.

Slightly more girls than boys reported feeling safe and protected at school every day and slightly more boys than girls reported that they sometimes feel safe and protected at school but not always. This reveals a difference in attitudes about school between boys and girls.

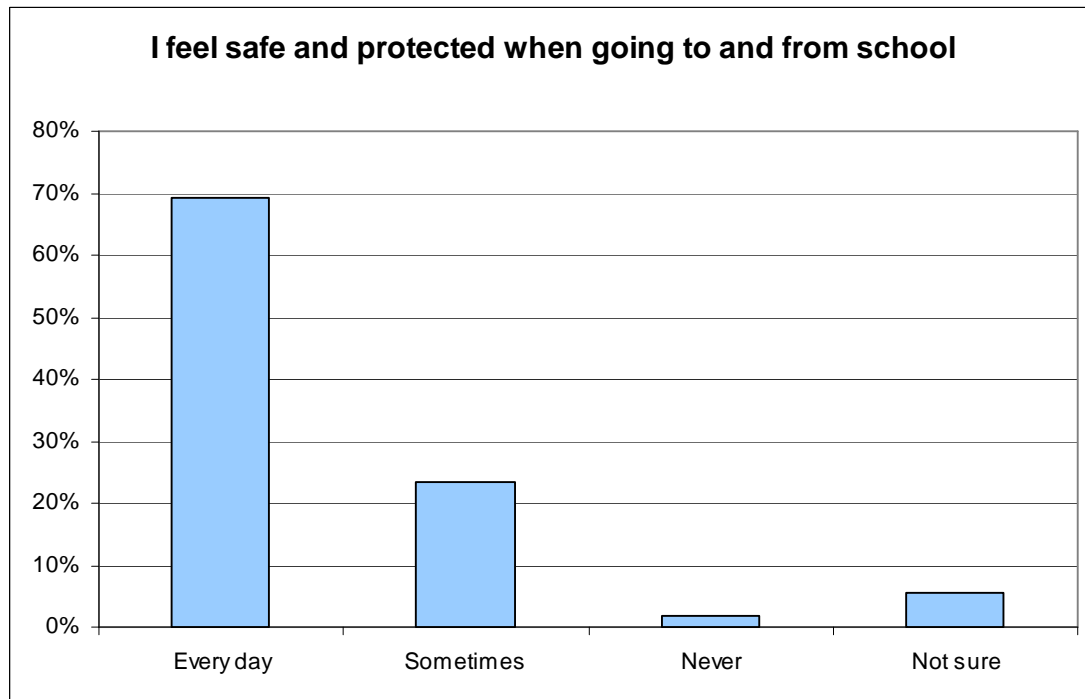
Chart 27 – How safe and protected children feel at school by age - QUANTITATIVE DATA ONLY



Older children seem to feel more safe and protected at school than younger children. This indicates younger children are less confident in the school environment and therefore they may not feel as safe whereas older children would have settled into the school routine more and so feel safer.

### Going to and from school

Chart 28 – How safe and protected children feel going to and from school- QUANTITATIVE DATA ONLY

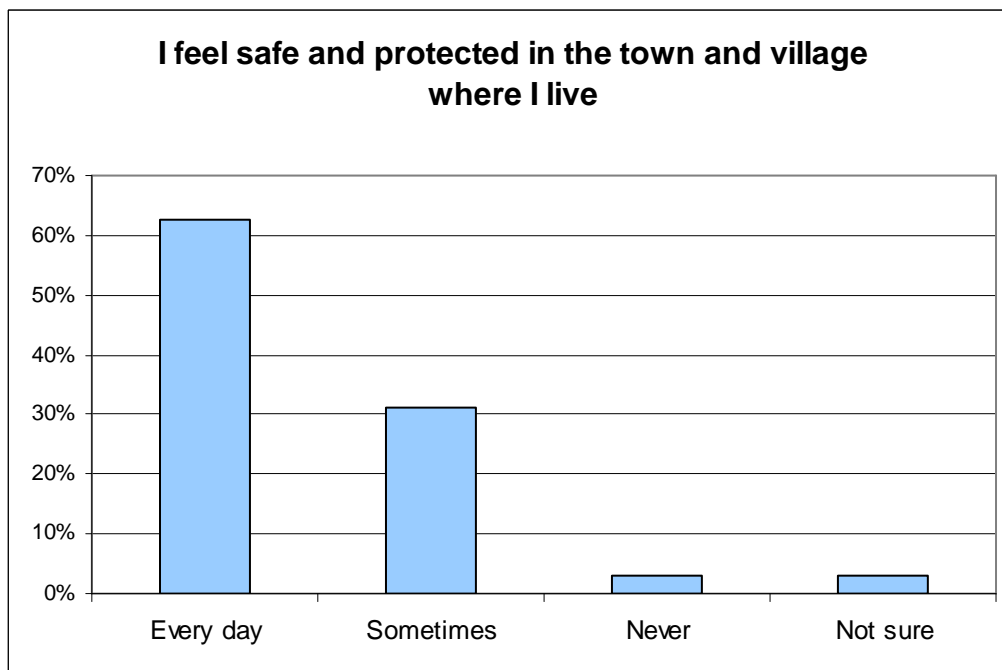


A large proportion (69%) of children feel safe and protected every day when going to and from school with the majority of these being boys. Just under a quarter of children sometimes feel safe and protected, but not always, going to and from school and 3 children reported that they never feel safe in this situation.

Interestingly 8 to 10 year olds (highest age group of Primary School) and 15 to 18 year olds (highest age group of Secondary School) felt less safe and protected every day than the lower age groups of Primary and Secondary School. This may be related to their travel methods as older children in Primary School might walk to school by themselves and older children in Secondary School may use more public transport.

## In the Town and Village where I live

Chart 29 – How safe and protected children feel in the towns and villages where they live -  
QUANTITATIVE DATA ONLY

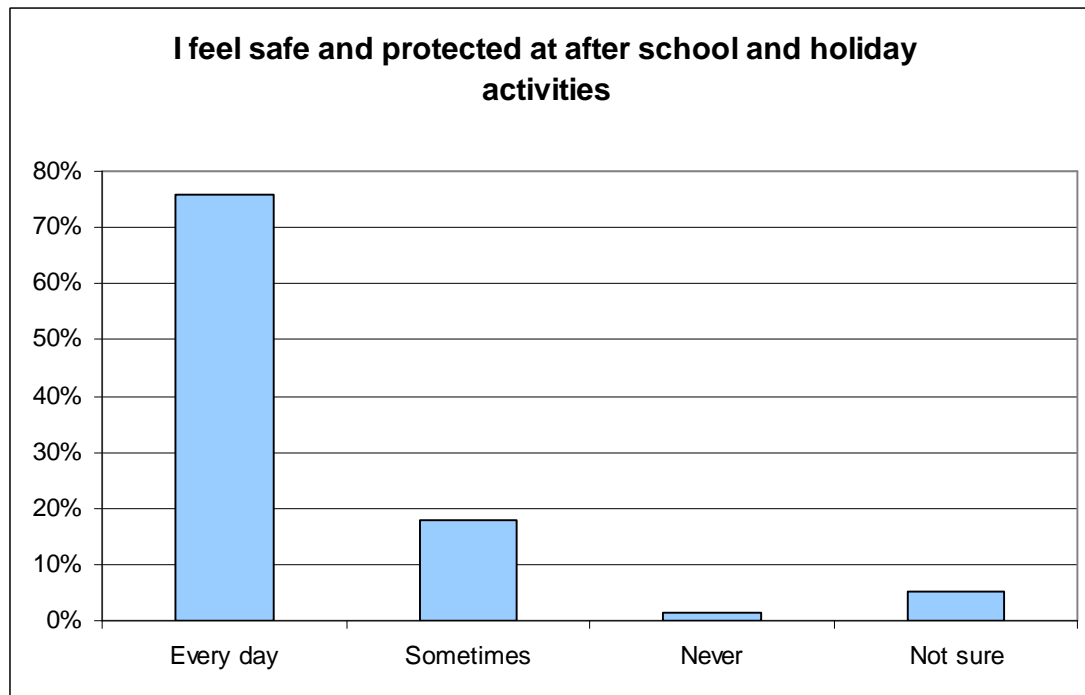


Just under two thirds of children reported that they felt safe and protected every day in the town and village where they live. This is the place where children feel least safe and protected out of the situations they were asked to comment on. This may be related to the people and environment being more unknown and less structured than at home, school or at an activity with familiar people and surroundings and supervised activities.

More boys than girls reported feeling safe and protected everyday and more girls than boys reported sometimes feeling safe and protected but not always.

## At after school and holiday activities

Chart 30 – How safe and protected children feel at after school and holiday activities - QUANTITATIVE DATA ONLY

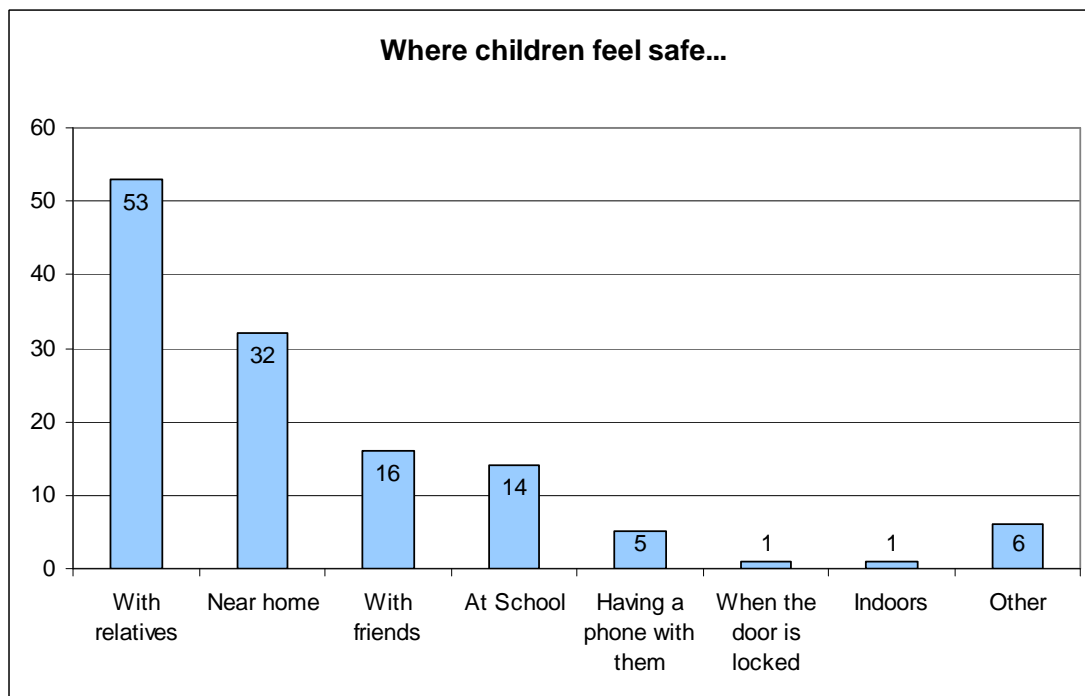


Just over three quarters of children reported that they felt safe and protected at after school activities with the majority of these being boys.

## Where children feel safe

Children in the face to face consultation were asking where they felt safe.

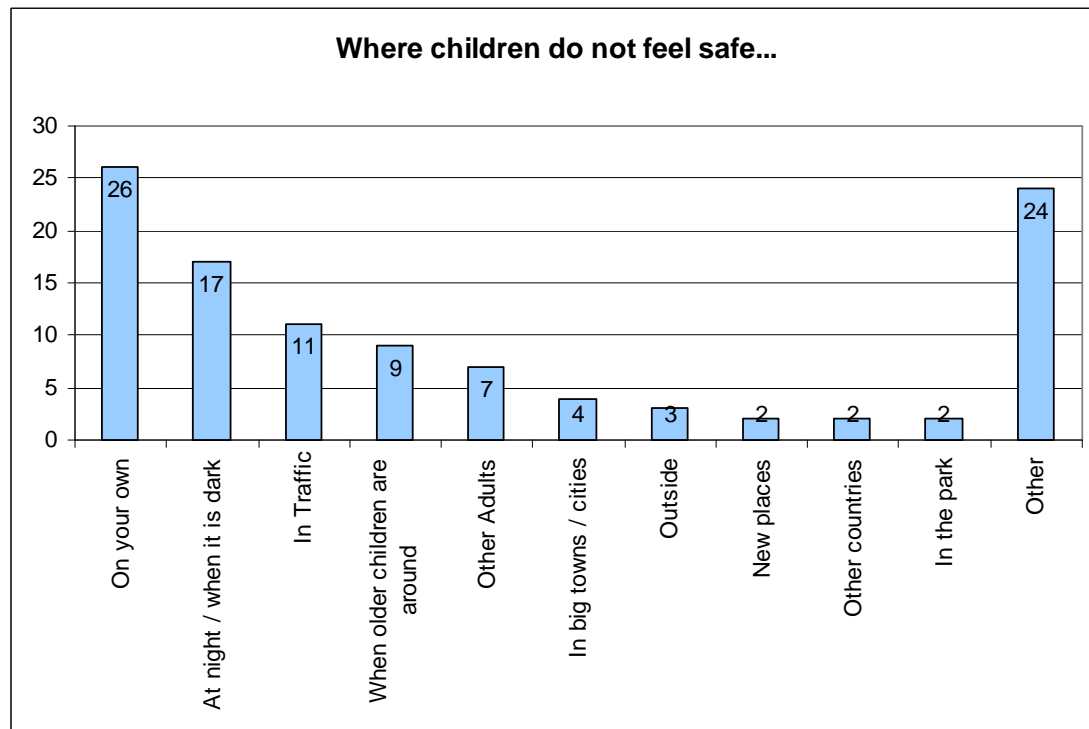
Chart 31 – Where children feel safe – QUALITATIVE DATA ONLY



The majority of children reported that they felt safe with relatives. This is with parents ‘when I’m with mum’ or ‘when dad is with me’ or siblings or with grandparents. 32 children reported that they felt safe ‘when I’m playing near my house because everyone can see me’. A small number of children also reported that they felt safe ‘because I always have my phone near me’.

### Where children do not feel safe

Chart 32 – Places where children do not feel safe

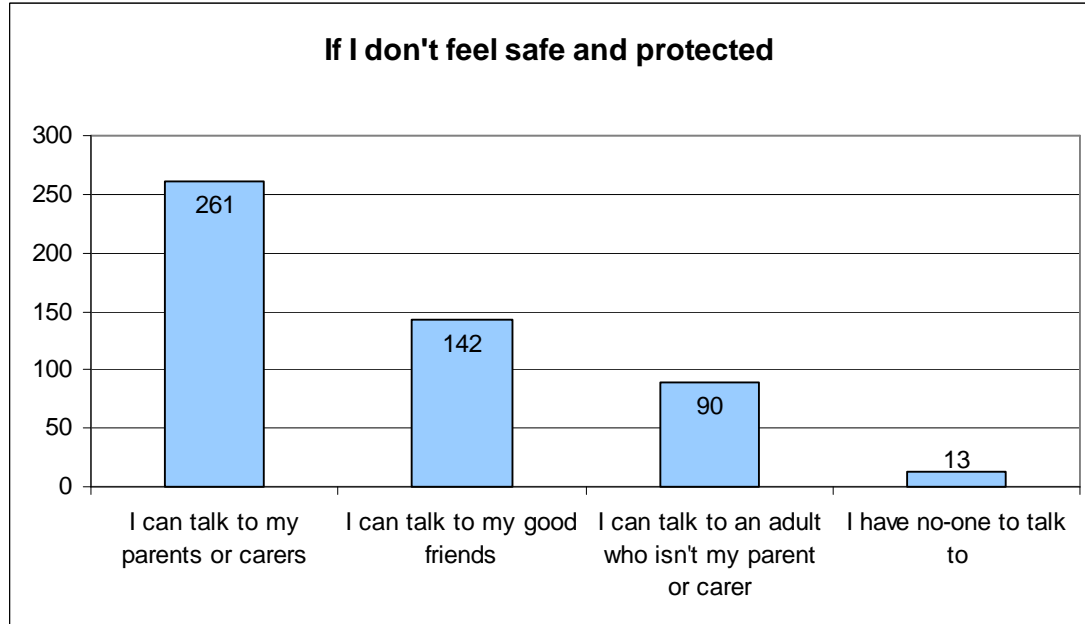


The majority of children reported that they did not feel safe when they were on their own. One child reported that ‘I don’t like being on my own, when I can’t here anyone as I think I have been left alone and everybody has gone’. 17 children reported that they did not feel safe at night or when it was dark as they were ‘scared’. 11 children reported that they did not feel safe in traffic. One comment included ‘The traffic, the cars go so fast, there is a hidden corner and a slope near us and lots of taxis zooming round’. Others included being scared about specific things e.g. spiders, and the media. One child reports ‘The news and papers make me scared about going out with out my mum’.

## Who children can talk to

Children were asked about who they can talk to if they didn't feel safe or if they had a problem.

Chart 33 – Who children can talk to if they do not feel safe and protected

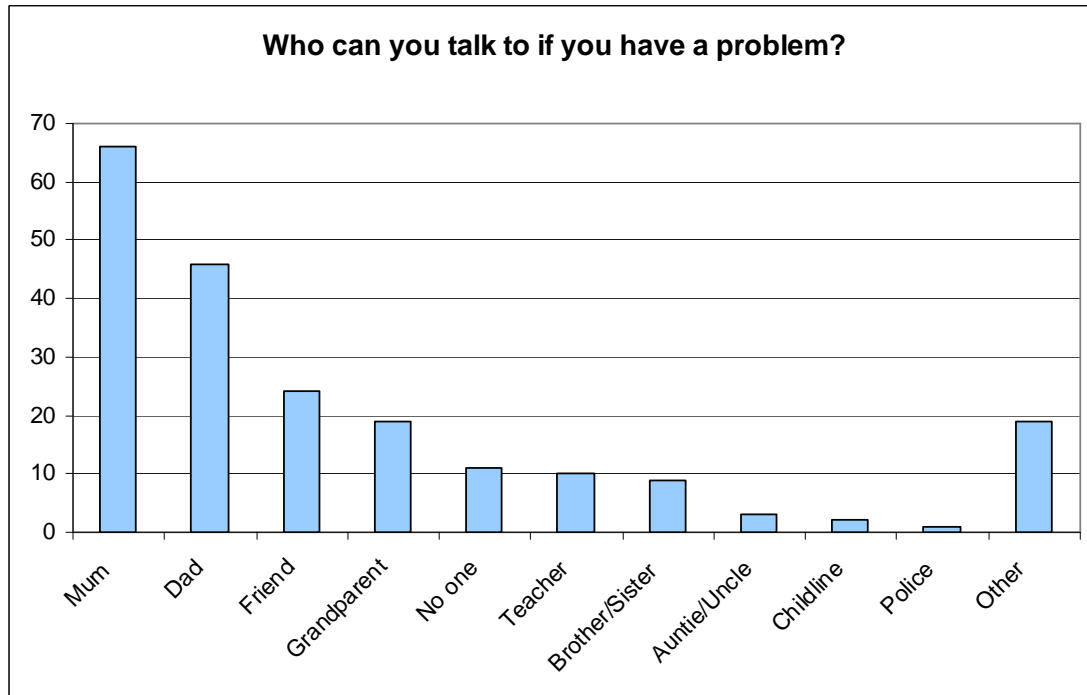


A large proportion of children, 261, reported that they can talk to their parents and carers if they didn't feel safe and protected. 142 children reported that they could talk to a good friend and 90 children reported that they could talk to an adult who isn't their parent or carer. Only 13 children reported that they had no one to talk to.

There were little differences between boys and girls responses and between age groups.

However it seems that older children are least likely to talk to an adult who is not their parent or carer if they did not feel safe and protected.

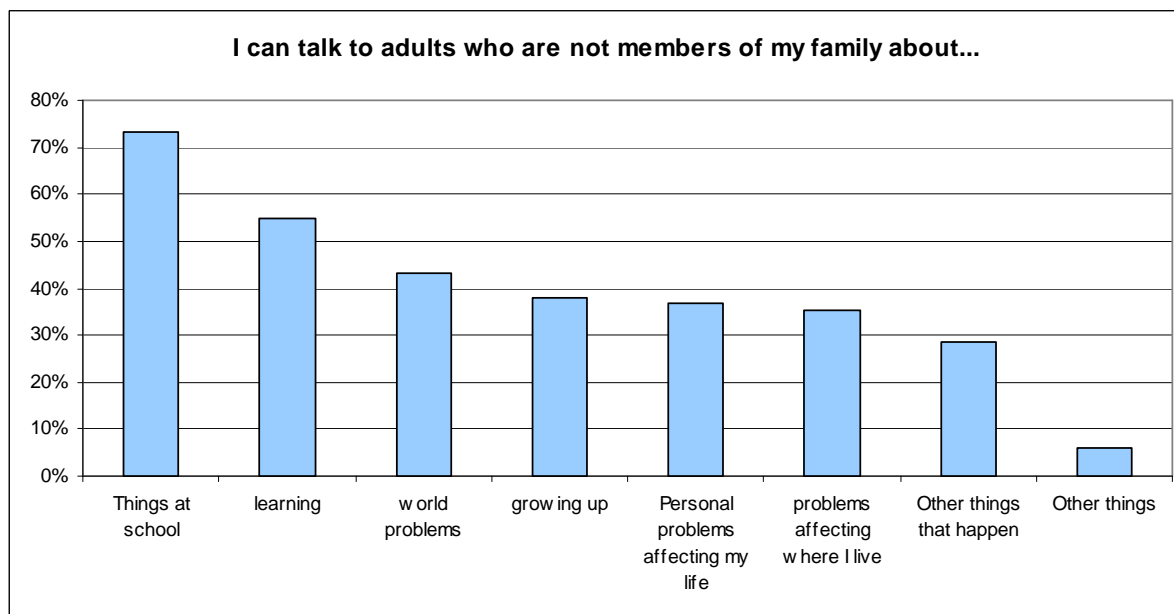
Chart 34 – Who children can talk to if they have a problem- QUALITATIVE DATA ONLY



When broken down into specific people as commented on in the face to face consultation we can see that children would rather talk to their mum than their dad with one child stating that they would talk to 'my mum, my dad tries to toughen me up'. On the other hand another child reported that they 'would rather talk to my dad, he is more sensitive'. The next group of people that children are most likely to talk to are their friends. Slightly less felt able to talk to a grandparent. Children also reported that they would also 'tell a friend who is the same age as they would understand better'. Others reported that they would not tell anyone and that 'I would sort it out myself'. Ten children felt they could talk to their teacher and a similar number their brother or sister. A small number of children said they would speak to 'Childline' or the police. Others mainly included talking to their pets or other specific people.

Children who responded to the questionnaire were asked about whether they have the chance to tell adults, who were not family, feelings about different aspects of their life.

Chart 35 – Subjects that children can talk to adults who are not members of their family about - QUANTITATIVE DATA ONLY



Over a third of children who responded felt able to talk to adults who are not members of their family about aspects of their life that may be causing some concern. The most comfortable topic was talking about things at school.

Just under three quarters of children can talk to adults that are not members of their family about things at school. Slightly less, just over a half of children can talk to adults about learning.

Slightly less children and young people, between a third and a half, felt able to talk to adults who are not members of their family about world problems, growing up, personal problems affecting their lives and problems affecting where they live.

More girls than boys could talk to adults about things at school, learning, world problems, growing up and problems affecting her life. More boys than girls could talk to adults about other things.

Other things that children could talk to adults who were not members of their family about included:

- What they did on holiday or at the weekend
- Where they were living
- Activities at school
- Personal experiences

## Summary

A total of 485 children were consulted across Devon either through completing a questionnaire (171) or through face to face discussions (314). There was a good cross-section of age groups, approximately a third of children in each of the age groups 3 to 7 years, 8 to 10 years and 11 to 18 years. Slightly more boys than girls took part in the consultation.

Children were asked about their travel arrangements to and from school or childcare setting. A similar number of children either walk or travel by car with slightly more girls than boys travelling by car and more boys than girls travelling by bike. Older children were less likely to travel by car than younger children.

In discussion with children about their childcare arrangement after school, it was apparent that these arrangements are often very complex. For some children they varied from day to day whilst others they were more consistent. Across all age groups the most common arrangement after school was for children and young people to be at home with their parent or carer. Children from the age of 8 years, and this increased with age, were much more likely to be either cared for outside of the home which could include being at a friends home or at an after school club or school activity. Increasing independence of secondary age young people is demonstrated by the proportions of this age group spending time outside of their home hanging out with friends (50%) but also either looking after themselves at home (17-19%) or looking after a younger sibling (4-7%).

In terms of activities children currently do after school, outdoor play, activities and games' were most popular (76) followed by watching television / video games and playing games with friends. Boys tended to prefer outside activities or playing computer games whilst girls preferred more indoor activities such as arts and crafts. These activities were also some of the things they enjoyed best about their childcare. Being with friends is very important to children and young people to making an activity fun. However, importantly many children felt their lives were too busy; they wanted more time to chill out. On the other hand some children and young people reported they wanted more after school activities.

The types of care children experience during the school holiday time corresponds closely to after school care with parent or carers being the principal carer. However grandparents and other relatives are an important source of care during the school holidays. A large proportion of children hang out with their friends, particularly the older children and young people.

When asked about what they would change about what they do in the holidays, children would like more clubs to go to, more activities and ideas of things to do. The main barrier to accessing their chosen provision is cost, 40% or the children mentioned this.

Children were asked about how 'safe and protected they feel. A high proportion, over 80%, feel safe and protected every day at home. Slightly less, particularly boys feel safe and protected at school whilst slightly more girls than boys felt safe going to and from school. Children felt less safe in the town and village where they live and also when they were on their own or when it is dark. A number of children did not feel safe in traffic.

Nearly all children said they could talk to their parent if they didn't feel safe and protected. Slightly less children said they could talk to their good friends and a good number could talk to an adult who is not their parent or carer. A very small number of children and young people reported they had no one to talk to.

Children felt most comfortable about talking to adults who are not members of their family about things at school and learning. Over a third of children and young people could also talk about other issues which may be of concern to them, for example growing up, personal and other problems affecting their life.

# What do you do out of school?

Thank you for agreeing to fill in this questionnaire. Your answers will help to improve things for you, and for other children and young people in Devon.

We are interested in what children and young people think about:

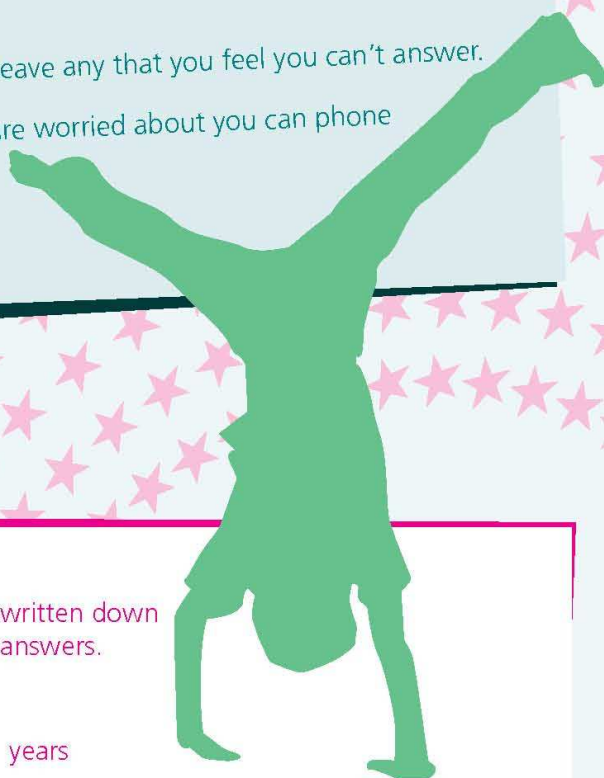
- what happens after school and in the school holidays
- what you like to do after school and in the school holidays
- feeling safe and protected.

**What you think is important to us, and there are no right or wrong answers.**

Your answers to this survey are private - we will not know your name and no-one will know who said what. Your answers will be added to all of the others from your school and from other schools in Devon.

Please try and answer all the questions, but you can leave any that you feel you can't answer.

If you want to talk to someone about anything you are worried about you can phone ChildLine on **0800 11 11**. This is a free phone call.



## Part 1 About you

Please remember that your name is not written down and no one at your school will see your answers.

**Question 1** How old are you?  years

**Question 2** Are you a boy or girl?

**Question 3** What is the name of your town or village?

What is your postcode? (if you know it)

**Question 4** Which school do you go to?

## Part 2

### About what happens after school

This part asks what happens to you after you finish school

**Question 1** How do you get home after school on most days?  
Please tick all that are true for you

walk

by bike

on the school bus

by public transport (bus, train)

by car

another way

**Question 2** In term time, what do you do after school and who looks after you?  
Please tick all that are true for you

**After school I am:**

at home with my parents or carers

at home and someone comes to look after me

at my grandparents home

at another other relative's home - for example  
an aunt or uncle, older brother or older sister

at a friend's home

at home looking after myself

at home looking after younger people in my family

hanging out with my friends

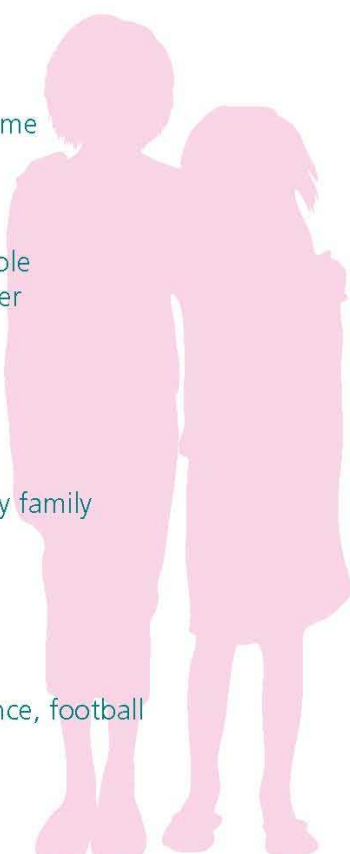
at my childminder's home

at a school activity – for example chess, dance, football

at an after school club

at a youth club

somewhere else (please tell us where this is)





**Question 3** If you could choose someone to look after you after school, who would it be?

**Question 4** If you could choose where you could go after school, where would it be?



**Question 5** This question is about what you do after school and what makes it fun.

**What do you do after school?**

Please tick all that are true for you. You can tick as many as you like.

- |                                   |                          |                            |                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Play games with friends           | <input type="checkbox"/> | Watch TV                   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Talk to friends                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Play computer games        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Play indoor board games           | <input type="checkbox"/> | Play team sports           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Art and craft activities          | <input type="checkbox"/> | Drama                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Listen to music                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Make music                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Play outdoor activities and games | <input type="checkbox"/> | Play indoor physical games | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Anything else (please tell us about it)

What makes it fun? Is there anything special that makes it most fun? Please tell us about it.



**Question 6** If you could change anything about what you do after school what would it be? Please tick all that are true for you. You can tick as many as you like.

- |   |                          |                              |                          |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| I wouldn't change anything              | <input type="checkbox"/> | More art and crafts to do    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| More equipment to play with             | <input type="checkbox"/> | More ideas of things to do   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| More computer games                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Watch more TV                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Better behaviour                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | More time to chill out       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| More physical activities to do          | <input type="checkbox"/> | More time to talk to friends | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| More drama                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | More board games             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Anything else (please tell us about it) | <input type="text"/>     |                              |                          |

**Part 3 About what happens in the school holidays**

**Question 1** In the school holidays, what do you do and who looks after you most of the time? Please tick all that are true for you. You can tick as many as you like.

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Parents or carers                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Grandparents  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other relative, such as aunt, sister or brother         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Friends' parents  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Stay at home and look after myself                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Stay at home and look after younger people in my family | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hang out with my friends                                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Go to a childminder                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Go to a sports club, such as football or tennis         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Go to a youth club summer activity                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Go to a holiday play scheme                             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Anything else (please tell us about it)                 | <input type="text"/>     |



**Question 2** If you had a choice, how would you like to spend your holiday time?  
Please tick all that are true for you. You can tick as many as you like.

Doing sports, such as football, basketball, tennis and rounders

Doing water and adventure sports, such as canoeing, wind surfing, caving and abseiling

Doing drama, dance, film making or making music

Going away to visit family or on holiday

Going on day trips, for example to the beach and theme parks

Doing indoor activities, such as watching TV, playing on computers or reading

Going to a youth club or doing organised holiday activities

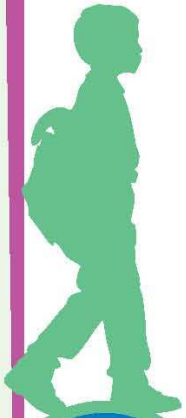
Doing outside activities, such as going to the park, making dens, riding your bike and skate boarding etc

Hanging out with friends

Anything else (please tell us about it)

**Question 3** If you had the choice, how would you like to spend your school holiday time?

**Question 4** Are there any reasons why you can't do any of these things? Please tick all that are true for you. You can tick as many as you like.



- |                                    |                          |   |                          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Nothing stops me                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cost too much money                     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Can't get there                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | No-one to go with                       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I worry about going to a new place | <input type="checkbox"/> | I worry about who might be there        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Not enough time                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not old enough to go                    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Too far away                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | Don't know where these things happen    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Not allowed                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Anything else (please tell us about it) |                          |

**Part 4**

**About you feeling safe and protected**

These questions are about you feeling safe and protected and who you can talk to.

**Question 1** How safe and protected do you feel? Please tick one box on each line.

I feel safe and protected...	Every day	Sometimes	Never	Not sure
when I'm at home	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
when I'm at school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
going to and from school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
in the town and village where I live	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
at after school and holiday activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Is there anywhere else you don't feel safe and protected?

**Question 2** Please tick all that are true for you. You can tick as many as you like.

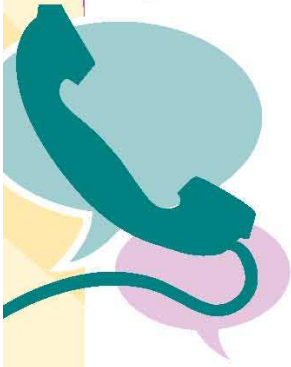
**If I don't feel safe and protected...**

I can talk to my parents or carers

I can talk to my good friends

I can talk to an adult who isn't my parent or carer

I have no-one to talk to



**Question 3** Do you have the chance to tell adults who are not your family your feelings about the things listed below?

Please tick all that are true for you. You can tick as many as you like.

**I can talk to adults who are not members of my family about...**

personal problems affecting my life

things at school

growing up

learning

problems affecting where I live

world problems

other things that happen

Other things (please tell us about them)



**Thank you for completing this questionnaire**

If you have a worry you can't cope with, don't bottle it up. It can help if you can talk to someone in your family, a carer, one of your friends or maybe a teacher or youth worker. Or you can call ChildLine. This is a free helpline for children and young people in the UK. You can call ChildLine on **0800 11 11** at any time to talk about any problem.

**Submit**