

Rotherham School

Survey, 2025

Summary of findings for Health and Wellbeing Board

This is a joint piece of work between Performance & Quality, Children and Young People's Services, and Public Health.

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Acknowledgements

We would like to express our thanks to all the head teachers and staff at schools who coordinated the completion of the School Student Survey for 2025.

In 2025, all 16 secondary schools in Rotherham participated in the survey along with 1 pupil referral unit, and students who are elective home educated. This is the second year in which all 16 secondary schools have participated in the survey, after 2024. Schools participating in the survey gave their commitment to enable students to participate in the survey to have their voices be heard and to share their views on health, well-being, and safety in Rotherham and their local communities.

A small number of students said the school they attended was Swinton Lock, however this is an activity centre. It is unclear which school these students attended as a result.

We would like to thank the 4,602 students who participated and shared their views by participating in this year's survey:

- Year 7 – 2,519
- Year 10 – 2,083

The school numbers on roll taken from the spring census 2025 are below:

- Year 7 – 3,724
- Year 10 – 3,650

As such, the survey had a 62.4% participation rate, consistent with the participation rate of the 2024 survey of 62.7%.

Background information

This report summarises the findings from the 2025 Rotherham School Student Survey for Year 7 and Year 10 pupils.

The survey was open to all students in Year 7 (ages 11 to 12) and Year 10 (ages 14 to 15) at secondary schools, pupil referral units, and those who are elective home educated.

The School Student Survey allows opportunity for young people in Rotherham to have their say about their health and wellbeing, and the things that impact on their lives; and it gives the council and their partners an insight into the experiences of children and young people living in the borough.

Responses to the survey provide important feedback to partners in relation to the services they provide to young people and are a rich source of information, which they can use to measure and monitor performance against their targets and objectives.

Schools receive an individual school report from the survey to assist them in gauging how well they are meeting their own health and wellbeing objectives, and to help shape their PSHE curriculum. This is considered outstanding practice and provides evidence in relation to Ofsted grade descriptors.

Information about the completion of the School Student Survey and the content of the survey are shared with parents and carers, and they are given the opportunity to ask their respective school any questions about the survey. Schools are encouraged to share their results with students, parents, and carers.

All questions, with the exception of several demographic questions, were made optional, enabling young people to opt out if they felt the question was not relevant to them. This follows from several questions being made optional in the 2024 survey. Therefore, please note, it is possible that total number of responses for each question will not always equal the total number of participants. Two sets of proportions will be shown in these results – the proportion of respondents who answered out of the total respondents, and the proportion of respondents who answered out of the total participants.

Where possible, the survey analyses trend data from previous surveys (including 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023 and 2024 – please note the survey was not undertaken in 2020 and 2021). However, the number of total participants differ due to questions being optional and as such, it is not possible to assess trends for all questions.

For the 2024 survey, there were additional updates to a number of questions to align with the National Health Behaviours in School Children (HBSC) survey 2021-22. This

is to allow for comparison of Rotherham data to national data, which may alter how the results compare to previous years. It should be noted that, as the most recent version of the national survey was completed in 2021-22, the gap in time may impact the comparisons with Rotherham data.

In the 2024 iteration of this survey, a system error meant students were not provided with all intended answer choices for six questions. For example, where they should have been provided five answer choices from 'Strongly Agree' to 'Strongly Disagree' they were only provided three choices from 'Agree' to 'Disagree'. This was fixed in this year's survey.

Skip logic has also been added, meaning that if a student answered 'no' to a particular question, they were not asked further questions about it. For instance, if a student was asked 'have you ever drunk alcohol?' and they answered 'no', they were not asked further questions about experiences with alcohol.

Colours within charts are done so that green means 'better' and red means 'worse'.

Rotherham context

0-19 Population

Where possible, data is representative of the 0-19 population, however select information is only available below the age of 24.

The 2023 mid-year (30 June) estimates of population showed there are 63,673 0-19-year-olds living in Rotherham of which 30,919 are female and 32,754 are male.

Age Group	Female	Male	All Persons	Total in the age group as a proportion of 0 - 19 population (%)
Aged 4 years and under	7,185	7,708	14,893	23.4%
Aged 5 to 9 years	7,992	8,244	16,236	25.5%
Aged 10 to 15 years	8,362	8,696	17,058	26.8%
Aged 16 to 19 years	7,380	8,106	15,486	24.3%
Total 0 to 19 years	30,919	32,754	63,673	23.4% (of total population)

Table 1: 0-19 population in Rotherham by age group and gender.

There are 29,914 single-family households with dependent children in Rotherham. The household composition of all families with dependent children are shown in table 2, below.

Household Composition	Number of Families
Single family household: Married or civil partnership couple: Dependent children	14,150
Single family household: Cohabiting couple family: With dependent children	7,151
Single family household: Lone parent family: With dependent children	8,613
Multiple-family household: With dependent children	2,401

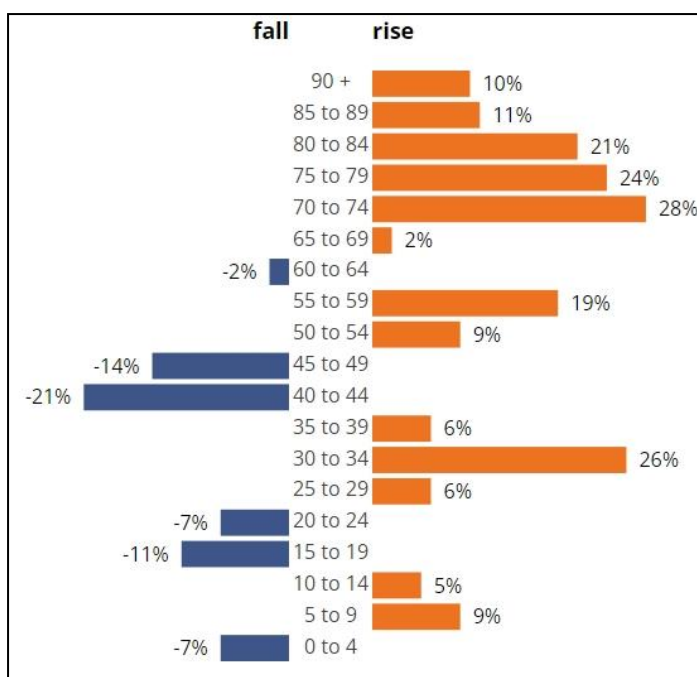
Table 2: Number of families in Rotherham by household composition.

More than 1 in 4 (28.8%) of the single-family households listed above are with a lone parent. This is close to the national rate of 2021-22 where 27.0% of single-family households with dependent children are with a lone parent.

Change in population

Overall, the size of the 0 to 19 population in Rotherham has decreased from the 2011 Census. In 2021, there were approximately 700 fewer people in this age group (61,600 in 2021 compared to 62,300 in 2011). However, the age groups of those aged 5 to 9 and 10 to 14 have seen an overall increase.

The figure below shows the population difference across all age groups in Rotherham. The population size has increased by 3.3%, from around 257,300 in 2011 to 265,800 in 2021. Projections from the Office to National Statistics (ONS) suggest the 0-19 population will increase to 63,673 in 2031.



Rotherham School Student Survey Demographics

Academic Year

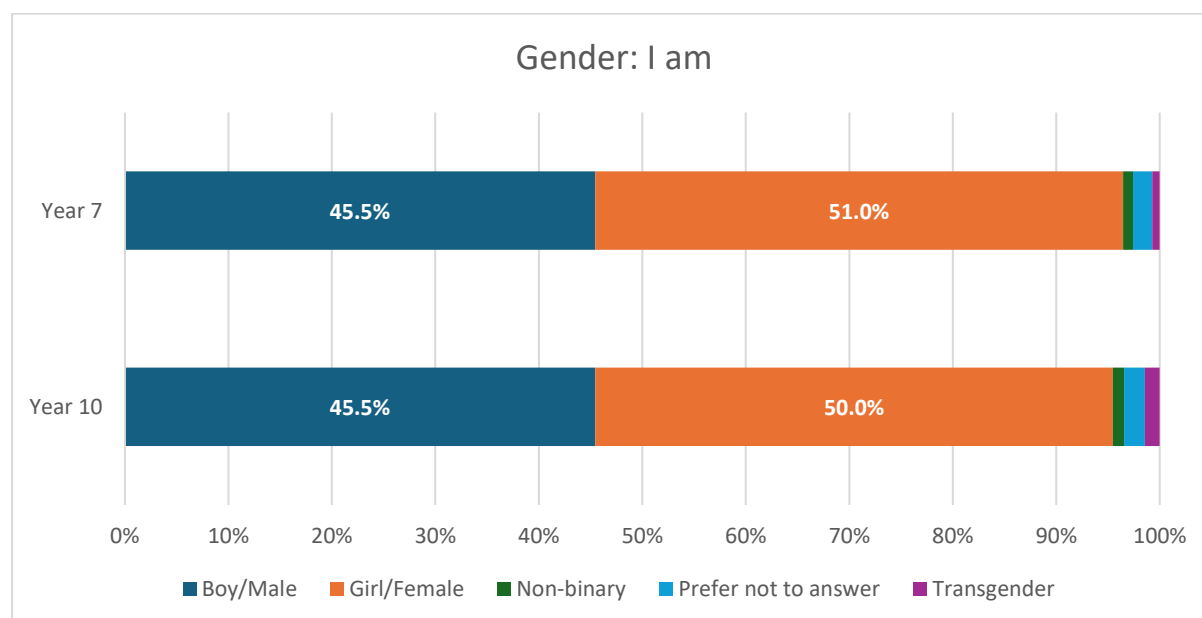
Out of the registered school population of 7,374 for those eligible, a total of 4,602 students completed the 2025 survey. By academic year, 2,519 (67.6%) of the 3,724 students in Year 7 and 2,083 (57.1%) of the 3,650 students in Year 10 participated in the 2025 survey. This is a 62.4% participation rate for the school survey, consistent with the participation rate of 62.7% in 2024.

Gender

Overall, 50.6% of respondents identified as female, 45.5% identified as male, 1.0% identified as transgender, 1.0% identified as non-binary, and 1.9% preferred not to answer.

In the Year 7 cohort, 1,285 (51.0%) participants identified as female, 1,145 (45.5%) identified as male, 24 (1.0%) identified as non-binary, 18 (0.7%) identified as transgender, and 47 (1.9%) preferred not to answer.

In the Year 10 cohort, 1,042 (50.0%) participants identified as female, 947 (45.5%) identified as male, 22 (1.1%) identified as non-binary, 30 (1.4%) identified as transgender, and 42 (2.0%) preferred not to answer.



Ethnicity

Altogether, 3,434 (75%) students stated they were White British. This is an increase from 72-73% of students for the previous surveys most recently (2022-2024).

A total of 993 (22%) described themselves as other ethnic groups, a decrease from 25% in 2024. 175 (4%) chose not to provide their ethnicity. Ethnicity proportions of students who responded are detailed in table 3, below.

How would you describe your ethnicity?	Proportion of participants	Ethnicity of the under 24 population in Rotherham (2021 census)	Ethnicity of total population in Rotherham (2021 census)
White British	74.6%	82.4%	88.3%
Pakistani	6.8%	6.1%	3.8%
Prefer not to answer	3.8%		
Other White Background	3.3%	2.3%	2.2%
African	2.4%	1.1%	0.8%
Other Mixed Background	2.1%	0.6%	0.3%
White and Asian	1.3%	1.2%	0.5%
Other Asian Background	0.9%	1%	0.7%
Indian	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%
White and Black Caribbean	0.7%	1%	0.4%
Gypsy/Roma	0.6%	0.5%	0.3%
Arab	0.5%	0.5%	0.3%
White and Black African	0.5%	0.6%	0.2%
Chinese	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%
Other Black Background	0.4%	0.4%	0.2%
Bangladeshi	0.2%	0.1%	0.05%
Caribbean	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
Traveller of Irish Heritage	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%

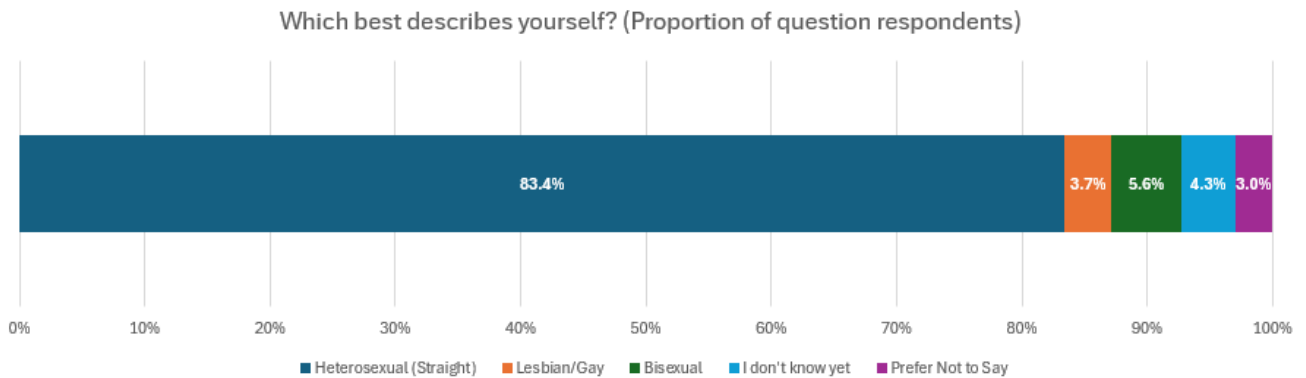
Table 3: Proportion of participants by ethnic group in the 2025 School Survey, compared with 2021 Census results.

Sexuality

Only Year 10 students were asked about their sexuality, in contrast to previous survey years where both year groups were asked. A total of 2,062 students responded, 99.0% of total participants in Year 10:

- 1,720 (83.4%) respondents described themselves as heterosexual,
- 150 (7.3%) respondents preferred not to answer (62) or did not yet know (88)

- 115 (5.6%) respondents as bisexual,
- 77 (3.7%) respondents described themselves as lesbian or gay.

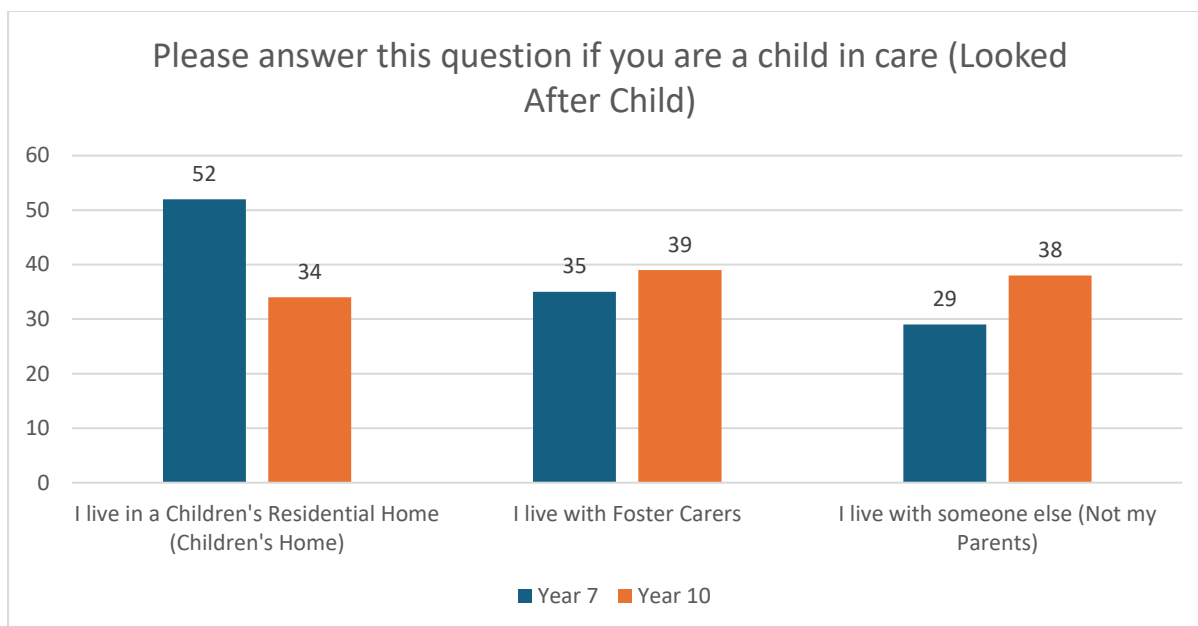


Similar results are seen globally in the Ipsos LGBT+ Pride 2021 Global Survey, where it was reported that on average 11% of people identified as a sexuality other than heterosexual, excluding those who said I don't know/Prefer not to say. This included lesbian/gay/homosexual, bisexual, pansexual/omnisexual and asexual. The global average was 9%.

Children in Care

227 children stated they either live in a Children's Residential Home, with someone else (not their parents), or with Foster Carers; 116 in Year 7 and 111 in Year 10. This equates to 4.9% of the 4,602 participants, a slight decrease from 5.7% of participants in 2024.

Comparatively, Children in Care Data from Insight (internal RMBC system) shows 128 Children in Care from Years 7 and 10. In the survey, 86 students reported living in a Children's Residential home, 67 with someone else (not their parents), and 74 with Foster Carers.



Looked After Children Data from Insight July 2025	
Year 7 Ages 11/12	Year 10 Ages 14/15
56 Children in Care	72 Children in Care

Background

Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE)

PHSE a statutory requirement for all state funded secondary schools in the UK to deliver relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education. National guidance states that the following topics are expected to be taught:

- families;
- respectful relationships (including friendships);
- online and media;
- being safe;
- intimate and sexual relationships (including sexual health);
- the laws around sex, relationships and young people;
- mental wellbeing;

- internet harms and safety;
- physical health and fitness;
- healthy eating; drugs, alcohol and tobacco;
- health and prevention;
- basic first aid;
- and the changing adolescent body.¹

There are currently no standardised frameworks or programmes of study for state-funded secondary school's provision of PSHE education.² While some schools in Rotherham outline their PSHE curriculum, it is unclear how different schools teach certain subjects, especially when taking into account religious influence, parental pressure, external providers, or teacher and student availability.

The Government funds the PSHE Association to offer support for PSHE delivery, but there is freedom for schools to decide how best to deliver the content to avoid duplication in other subjects and to best meet the needs of their students. It is expected that RSE and health education content is taught across statutory subjects (for example, through the sciences, computing, PE, etc.) and may also be covered in dedicated PSHE lessons, assemblies, full day sessions, or tutor time to support and supplement statutory content. However, the frequency of PSHE and RSE lessons varies from school to school and from year to year; this can range from 30 minutes a week, to one 100-minute lesson a fortnight, to two lessons weekly.

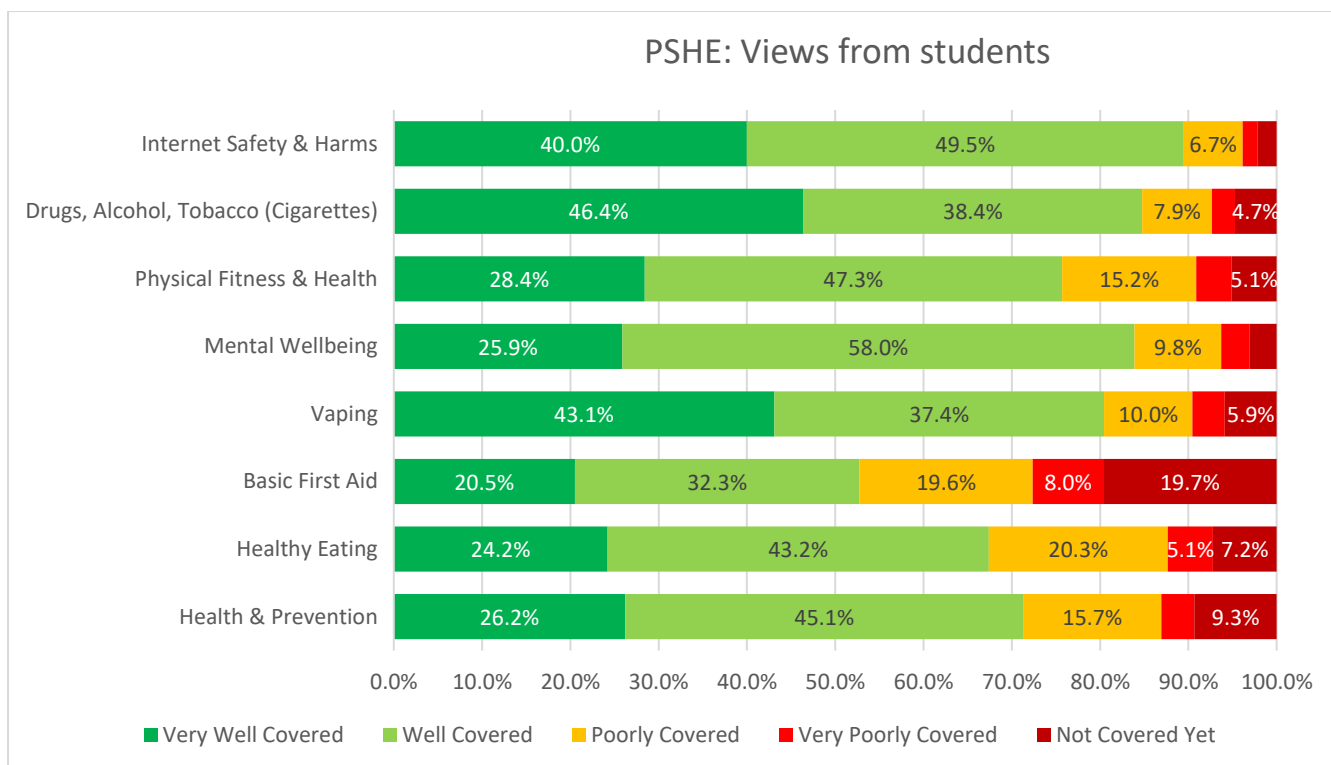
It is also important to note that while RSE is compulsory, parents have the right to withdraw their child from sex education topics.³

Students were asked how well they thought Personal, Social, Health and Economic topics have been covered in school. A different number of students responded to each subject, ranging from 4,229 to 4,287 (91.9-93.2% of the total participants).

¹ [Relationships and Sex Education \(RSE\) \(Secondary\) - GOV.UK](#)

² [Personal, social, health and economic \(PSHE\) education - GOV.UK](#)

³ [Introduction to requirements - GOV.UK](#)



- 83.9% (3,578) of respondents (4,265) felt mental wellbeing was well covered or very well covered. Overall, this was 77.7% of all participants in 2025.
- 89.5% (3,836) of respondents (4,287) felt internet safety and harms was well covered or very well covered. Overall, this was 83.4% of all participants in 2025.
- 75.7% (3,229) of respondents (4,266) felt physical fitness & health was well covered or very well covered. Overall, this was 70.2% of all participants in 2025.
- 67.4% (2,864) of respondents (4,249) felt healthy eating was well covered or very well covered. Overall, this was 62.2% of all participants in 2025.
- 84.8% (3,626) of respondents (4,277) felt the topics of Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco (Cigarettes) were well covered or very well covered. Overall, this was 78.8% of all participants in 2025.
- 80.5% (3,431) of respondents (4,264) felt vaping was well covered or very well covered. Overall, this was 74.6% of all participants in 2025.

- 71.3% (3,015) of respondents (4,229) felt health & prevention was well covered or very well covered. Overall, this was 65.5% of all participants in 2025.
- 52.8% (2,249) of respondents (4,262) felt basic first aid was well covered or very well covered. Overall, this was 48.9% of all participants in 2025.

Across the eight subjects, on average 76% of respondents felt that PSHE topics were well covered, compared with 66% nationally as of 2021-22. Basic First Aid had the lowest proportion of respondents saying the subject was well covered, by 52.8% students compared with 51% nationally.

A higher proportion of Year 7 respondents than those in Year 10 reported to the eight subjects being 'Well Covered' or 'Very Well Covered' – 78.6% compared to 72.4% of respondents.

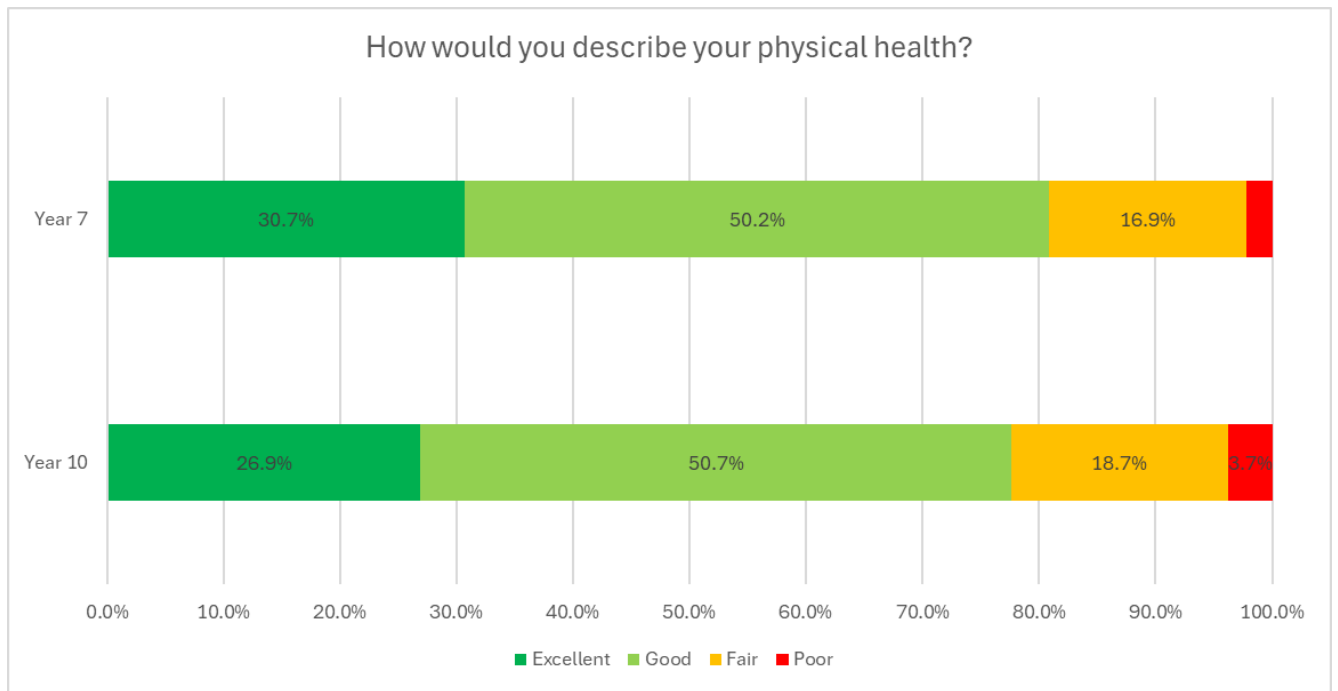
Physical health

Description of physical health

Students were asked 'How would you describe your physical health?' Overall, 4,320 students responded, 93.9% of total participants:

- 29.0% (1,251) of respondents described their physical health as 'excellent' (27.2% of total participants).
- 50.4% (2,178) of respondents described their physical health as 'good' (47.3% of total participants).
- 17.7% (765) of respondents described their physical health as 'fair' (16.6% of total participants).
- 2.9% (128) of respondents described their physical health as 'poor' (2.7% of total participants).

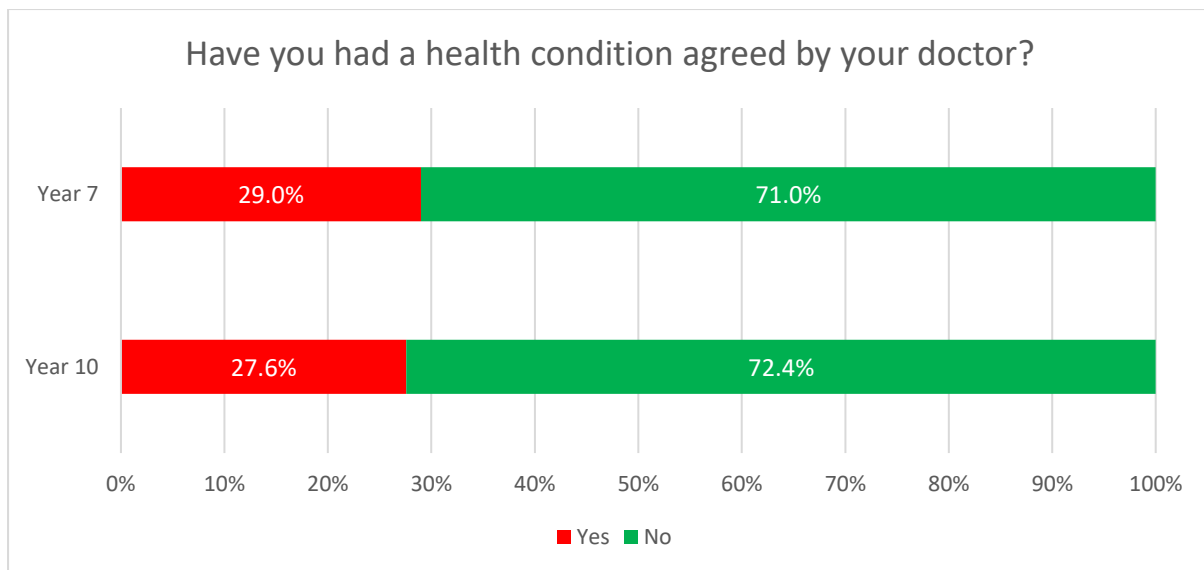
A higher proportion of Year 10 respondents rated their physical health as 'fair' or 'poor' compared to Year 7 respondents (22.4% for Year 10 and 19.1% for Year 7). This equates to 21.3% and 17.8% of total participants respectively.



Health conditions

Students were asked, 'Have you had a health condition agreed by your doctor – these may include diabetes, asthma, allergies, epilepsy etc.' 4,249 students responded (92.3% of the total participants).

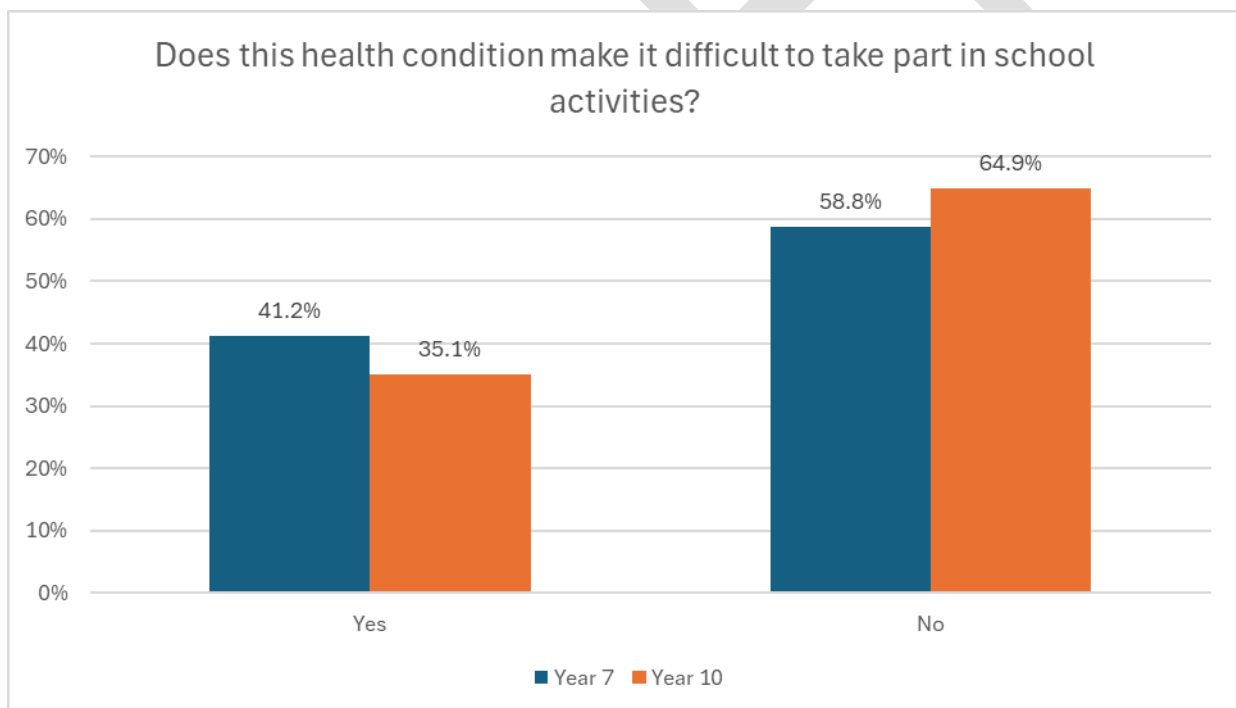
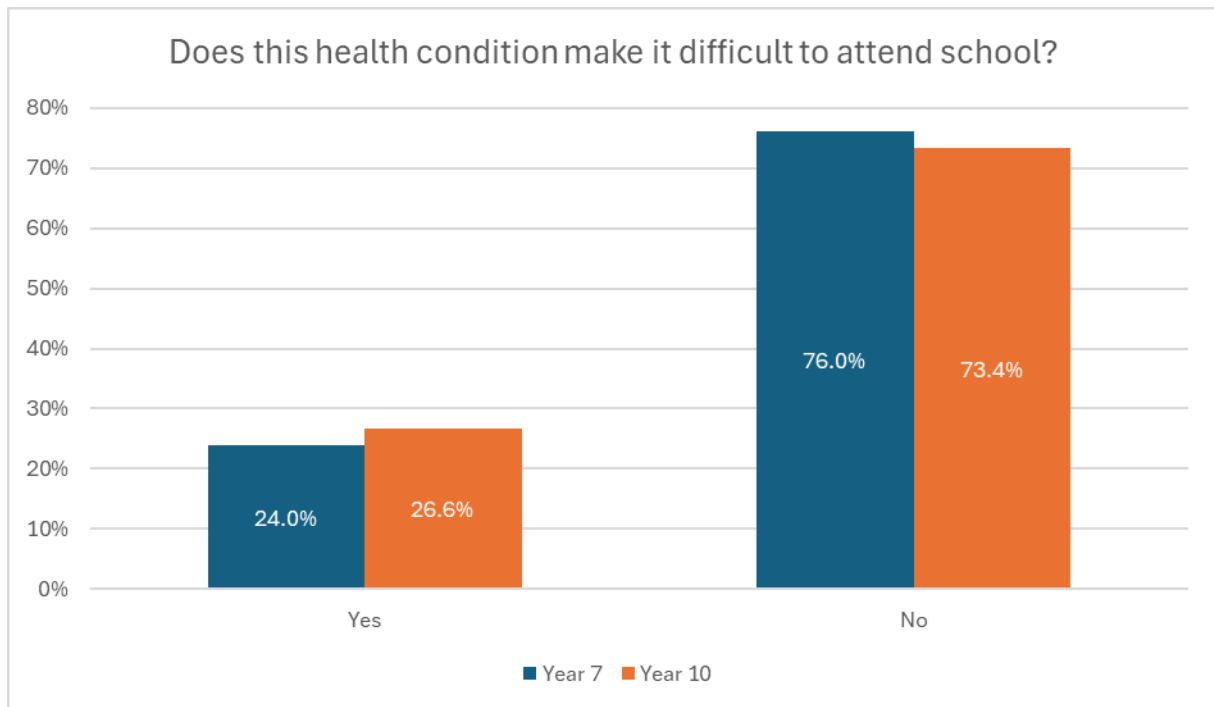
- 28.3% (1,204) respondents said they had a diagnosed health condition (26.2% of total participants).
- 71.7% (3,045) of respondents said 'no' (66.2% of total participants).
- This equates to 666 students in Year 7 and 538 students in Year 10.



Students were then asked, 'Does this health condition make it difficult to attend school and/or take part in school activities?' They were able to answer separately for school attendance and for activities/participation. 1,209 students responded about the impact of their health condition on their school attendance, 5 more people than the number who said they had a health condition (26.3% of total participants). Meanwhile, 1,210 students responded about the impact of their health condition on participating in school activities. 1,169 students responded to both questions (25.4% of total participants):

- 304 (25.1%) respondents said their health condition impacts their school attendance (6.6% of total participants).
- A substantially larger proportion of respondents said their health condition impacts their participation in school activities (38.5%, 466, equating to 10.1% of total participants).

The proportion of girls who reported their health condition impacts their attendance at school was 27.4% and was 21.5% for boys.



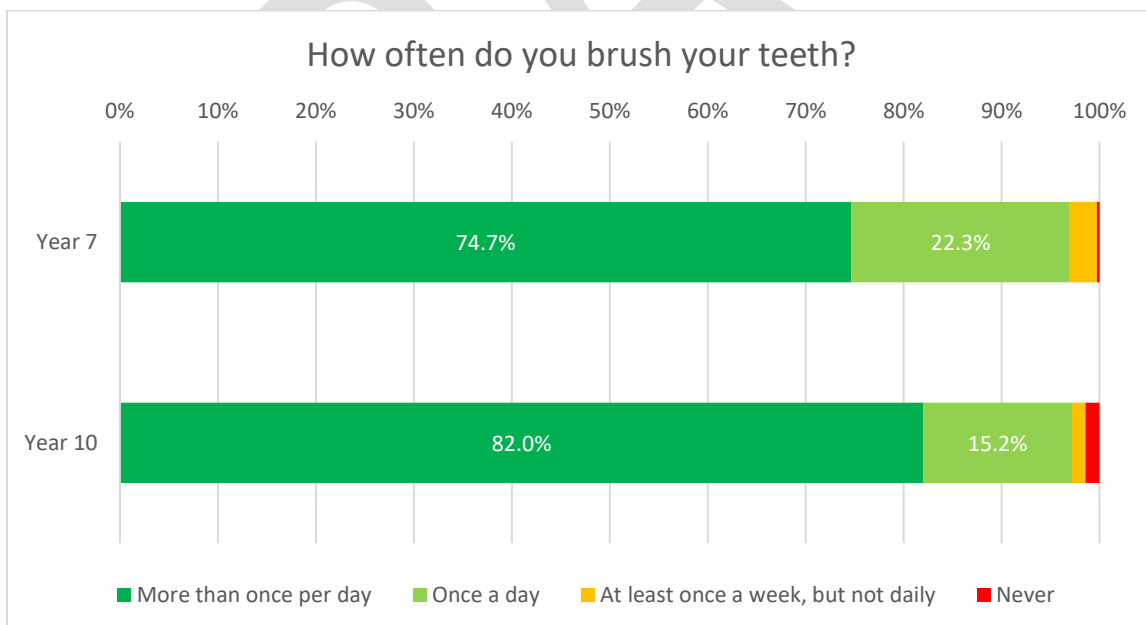
Oral Health

When asked about whether they had been to a dentist in the last 12 months, 93.2% of total participants responded.

- 89.6% (3,845) of respondents reported that they had been to a dentist within the last 12 months (83.5% of total participants)
- There was little difference between older and younger students; 90.3% (2099) of Year 7 respondents said they 88.9% (1746) of those in Year 10 (83.3% and 83.8% of total participants respectively).

92.8% (4,269) of total participants responded when asked how often they brushed their teeth.

- Overall, 78.0% (3,331) of respondents reported that they brush their teeth more than once a day (72.4% of total survey participants).
- By academic year, a higher proportion of older students said they brush their teeth more than once a day:
 - 74.7% (1,730) of Year 7 respondents said they had compared to 82.0% (1,601) of those in Year 10 (68.7% and 76.9% of total participants respectively).
- 125 (2.9%) respondents reported they do not brush their teeth on a daily basis (2.7% of total participants).



By gender:

- 71.5% (1389) of boys who responded and 84.9% (1839) of girls who responded in Rotherham reported brushing their teeth more than once a day.

- Of total participants, this equates to 66.4% of boys and 79.0% of girls in Rotherham in 2025.

4,168 participants responded when asked if they had experienced toothache or other problems with their teeth in the last 12 months (90.6% of total participants):

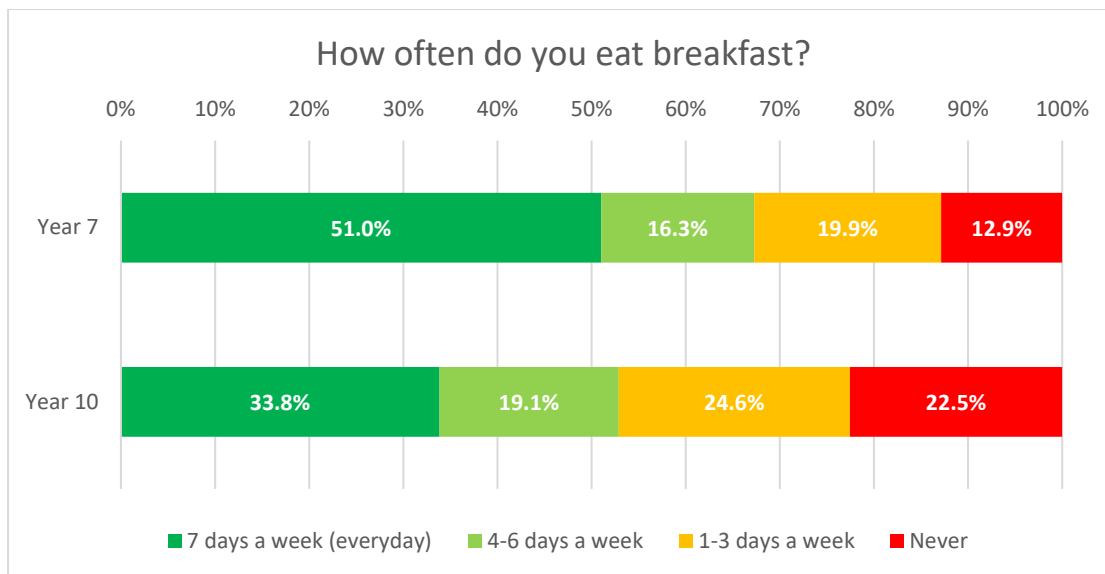
- 1,160 (27.8%) respondents said they had (25.2% of total participants)
- A similar proportion of boys who responded reported having toothache or other problems to girls – 27.5% and 27.8% of respondents.

Eating Habits

Students were asked about their eating habits, including how often they ate breakfast and how many times per week they ate specific types of food and beverages.

4,109 students reported how often they eat breakfast during the week, 89.3% of total respondents:

- 43.1% (1,771) of respondents reported that they eat breakfast 7 days a week (38.5% of total participants).
- 17.5% (721) of respondents reported they eat 4-6 days a week (15.7% of total participants).
- 22.0% (905) reporting they eat breakfast 1-3 days a week (19.7% of total participants).
- 17.3% (712) of students reported that they never eat breakfast (15.5% of total participants).



By gender:

- A higher proportion of girls than boys who responded said they never eat breakfast; 20.4% (427) of girls compared to 12.4% (227) of boys:
 - Of total participants, this equates to 18.4% of girls and 10.9% of boys.
- A higher proportion of boys than girls who responded said they eat breakfast every day; 52.0% (961) of boys compared to 35.9% (754) of girls:

Food Consumption

Students were asked about their food consumption across a number of categories.

The top results are seen below:

- 1,978 (46.9%) respondents reported eating fruit and vegetables more than once a day (22.2% of total participants).
- 1,737 (41.6%) respondents reported eating meat at least once a day (37.7% of total participants).
- 1,220 (30.9%) respondents reported eating fish less than once per week, and 1,016 (25.7%) reporting that they never eat fish (24.3% and 22.1% of total participants).

- 1,344 (32.0%) respondents reported eating food high in fat and sugary snacks such as cakes and chocolates at least once per day (29.2% of total participants).
- 1,227 (29.3%) respondents reported eating foods high in salt such as crisps and ready meals 2-4 days per week (26.7% of total participants).
- 2,411 (58.3%) respondents reported eating takeaway meals less than once per week or never (52.4% of total participants).

Fizzy drinks

Students were asked about their drink consumptions over a week. Survey responses can be seen in the figure below. Please note that last year, this question only had three drink categories: high energy drinks, regular sugary drinks and sugar-free drinks. This has changed this year to include water and remove the phrase fizzy from the categories.

- Water – 3,903 students responded (84.8% of total participants):
 - 3,127 (80.1%) respondents said they never drink water (67.9% of total participants).
 - 114 (2.9%) respondents said they never drink water (2.5% of total participants).
- Sugar-free drinks such as Coke Zero and other zero sugar drinks – 4,162 students responded (90.4% of total participants):
 - 597 (14.3%) respondents said they drink sugar-free drinks at least once a day (13.0% of total participants).
- Drinks that contain sugar, such as regular Coke, Pepsi, or Dr. Pepper – 4,212 students responded (91.5% of total participants):
 - 542 (12.9%) respondents said they drink drinks that contain sugar at least once a day (11.8% of total participants).

High-energy drinks

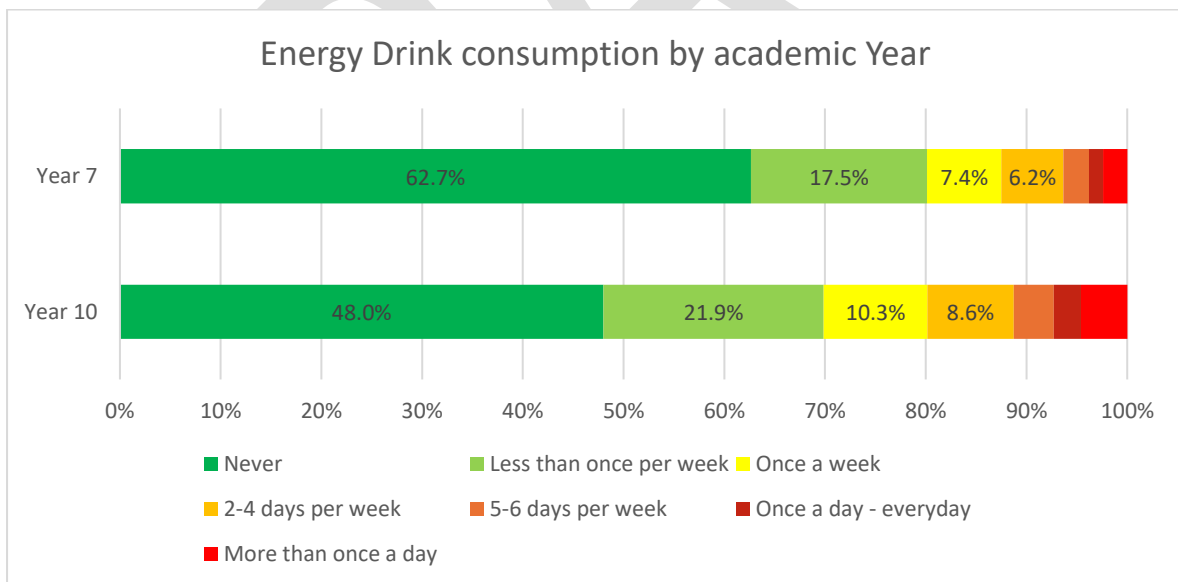
Students were asked about high-energy drink consumption, with 4,073 students responding (88.5% of total respondents). The figure below shows the high-energy drink consumption by academic year.

- 2,364 (56.0%) respondents said they never drink high energy drinks (51.4% of total participants)

- 1,191 (28.2%) drink one or less high energy drinks per week (25.9% of total participants)
- 307 (7.3%) drink high energy drinks per 2-4 days per week (6.7% of total participants),
- 135 (3.2%) drink high energy drinks per 5-6 days per week (2.9% of total participants),
- 228 (5.4%) drink high energy drinks at least once per day (5.0% of total participants),

Older students were more likely to drink energy drink than younger students, and more regularly:

- 62.7% of Year 7 respondents reported they never drink energy drinks, compared to 48.0% of Year 10 respondents (57.0% and 44.6% of total participants respectively).
- 3.8% of Year 7 respondents reported drinking energy drinks at least once a day, compared to 7.3% of Year 10 respondents (3.5% and 6.8% of total participants respectively).



Physical Activity and Body Image

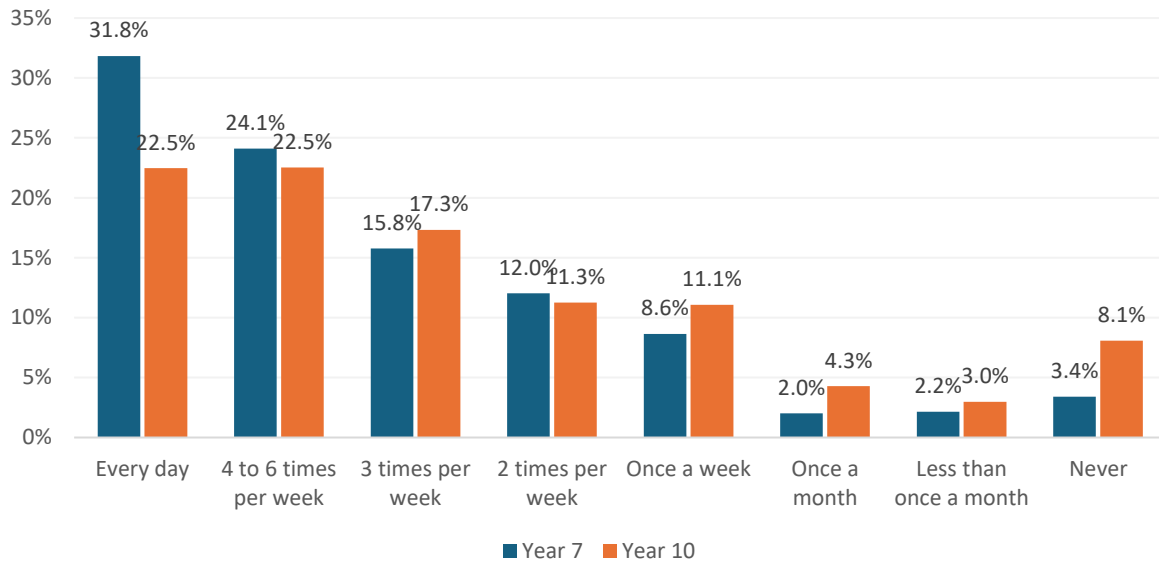
Physical Activity

Students were asked how often they exercise in their free time. 4,186 students responded, 90.9% of total participants.

The results are listed below and shown in the figure below:

- 232 (5.5%) respondents said they never take part in physical activity (5.0% of total participants)
- 106 (2.5%) respondents said they exercise less than once a month (2.3% of total participants)
- 128 (3.2%) respondents said they exercise once a month (2.8% of total participants)
- 408 (9.7%) respondents said they exercise once a week (8.9% of total participants)
- 489 (11.7%) respondents said they exercise 2 times per week (10.6% of total participants)
- 690 (16.5%) respondents said they exercise 3 times per week (15.0% of total participants)
- 979 (23.4%) respondents said they exercise 4 to 6 times per week (21.3% of total participants)
- 1,153 (27.6%) respondents said they exercise every day (25.1% of total participants)

How often do you exercise in your free time?



Active Travel

Students were asked how they travel to and from school. 4,176 students responded, 90.7% of total participants.

- 2,014 (48.2%) respondents said they walk (43.8% of total participants).
- 1,340 (32.1%) respondents said they travel by car (29.1% of total participants).
- 745 (17.8%) respondents said they take the bus (16.2% of total participants).
- 43 (1.0%) respondents said they cycle (0.9% of total participants).
- 15 (0.4%) respondents said they use an electric scooter (0.3% of total participants).
- 11 (0.3%) respondents said they take a train or tram (0.2% of total participants).
- 8 (0.2%) respondents said they use a manual scooter (0.2% of total participants).

Body Image

Students were given statements to answer to around how feel about their body. For all statements, a higher proportion of girls than boys disagreed with positive

statements about their body image and agreed with negative statements about their body image.

In total, 4,165 participants responded to the statement “I am comfortable with my body” (90.5% of total participants).

Students were also asked if they had taken action to change the shape of their body during last 12 months. 4,095 people responded to the question (89.0% of total respondents). 2,118 (51.7%) respondents stated that they had (46.0% of total participants).

The most common changes reported were related to physical activity (exercise, gym/working out, and walking) reported by around 1 in 3 respondents (33.2%). Generic weight change was mentioned by around 1 in 4 respondents (25.8%) and changes to eating habits reported by around 1 in 10 (11.1%).

Sexual Health

Questions on sexual health are only asked to Year 10 students except the school topics question.

The first question aims to assess how well covered sexual health topics are on the school curriculum. The topic of Safe Relationships includes Anti-Bullying, Hate-Crime, Healthy Relationships, Respect, Consent in a Relationship, Relationship Abuse. The number of respondents for each topic ranged between 3,941 and 4,067 (85.6-88.4% of total participants).

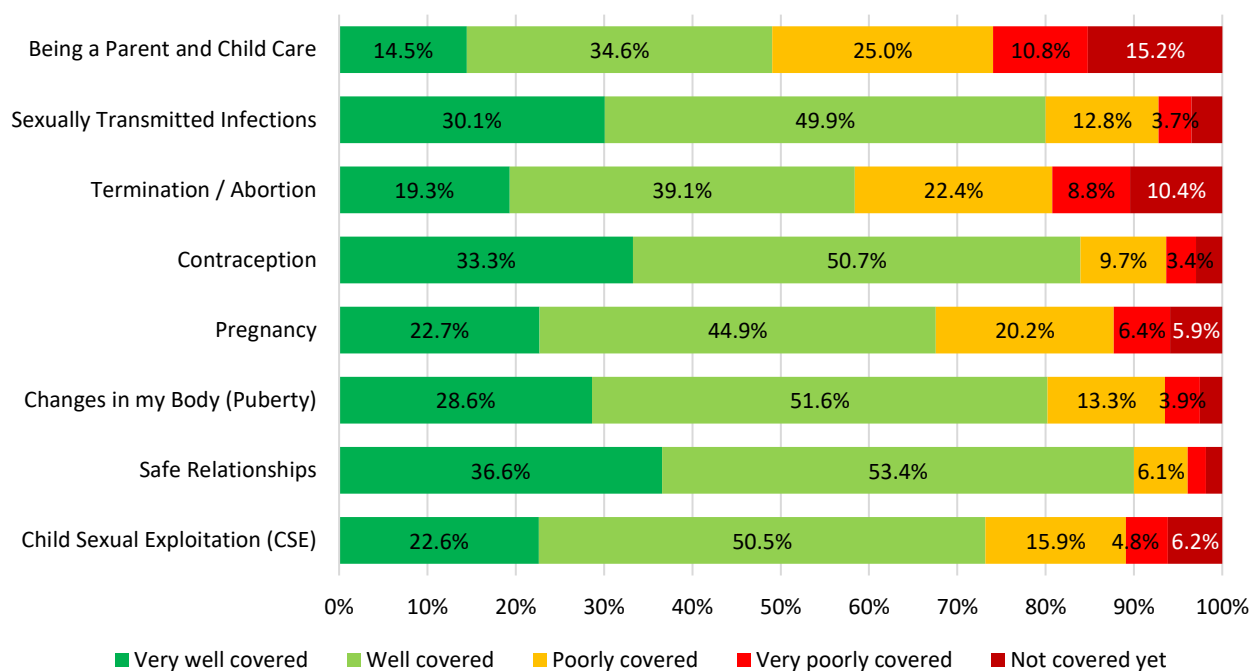
- Being a Parent and Child Care – 1,701 (42.3%) respondents reported this was very well covered or well covered:
 - Overall, this was 37.0% of all participants in 2025.
- Changes in my Body (Puberty) – 3,469 (85.3%) respondents reported this was very well covered or well covered:
 - Overall, this was 75.4% of all participants in 2025.
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) – 2,665 (65.8%) respondents reported this was very well covered or well covered:
 - Overall, this was 57.9% of all participants in 2025.

- Contraception – 2,065 (52.4%) respondents reported this was very well covered or well covered:
 - Overall, this was 44.9% of all participants in 2025.
- Pregnancy – 2,406 (59.6%) respondents reported this was very well covered or well covered:
 - Overall, this was 52.3% of all participants in 2025.
- Safe Relationships – 3,652 (90.0%) respondents reported this was very well covered or well covered:
 - Overall, this was 79.4% of all participants in 2025.
- Sexually Transmitted Infections – 1,987 (49.2%) respondents reported this was very well covered or well covered:
 - Overall, this was 43.2% of all participants in 2025.
- Termination / Abortion – 1,576 (39.2%) respondents reported this was very well covered or well covered:
 - Overall, this was 34.2% of all participants in 2025.

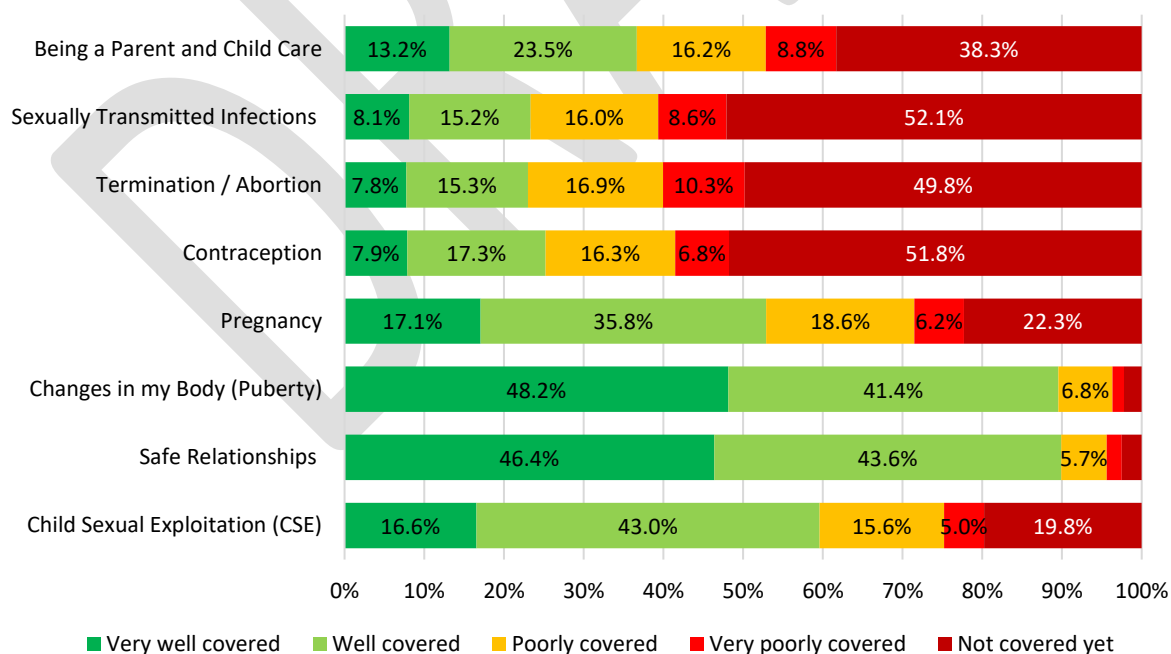
In Year 10, the responses show that the most well covered topics are safe relationships, contraception, puberty and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). The least well covered topic is Being a Parent and Child Care, with 15.2% of respondents not being taught about it and another 35.7% saying this topic was been poorly or very poorly covered (13.3% and 31.4% of total participants).

In Year 7, the best covered topics are safe relationships and puberty, and the least well covered topics are contraception, abortion and STIs. It is worth noting that some of these topics are not on the Year 7 curriculum currently so students would not be expected to have good coverage of these topics yet.

Year 10 respondents - In school, how well do you feel the following topics have been covered?



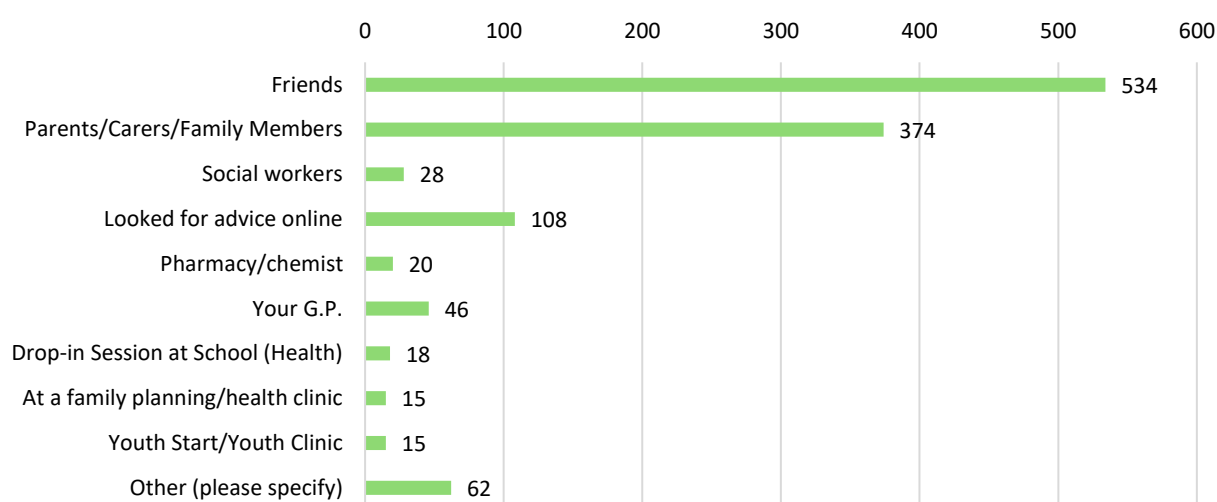
Year 7 respondents - In school, how well do you feel the following topics have been covered?



Year 10 students were then asked if they have ever asked for sexual health advice and if so, who from. 1,666 students answered this question, 80.0% of total Year 10 participants.

- 988 responded that they have not needed to ask for any sexual health advice (59.3% of respondents, 47.4% of total participants).
- The most popular people/places to ask for advice is from friends and family, with many students asking more than one source.
 - Friends – 534 (32.1%) respondents, 25.6% of total participants.
 - Family (Parents/Carers/Family Members) – 374 (22.5%) respondents, 18.0% of total participants.

Have you ever asked for sexual health or relationship advice from any of the following?



Mental Wellbeing

How would you describe your mental health?

Students were asked how they would describe their mental health on a scale of 'Excellent' to 'Poor'. 4,011 students responded, 87.2% of total participants.

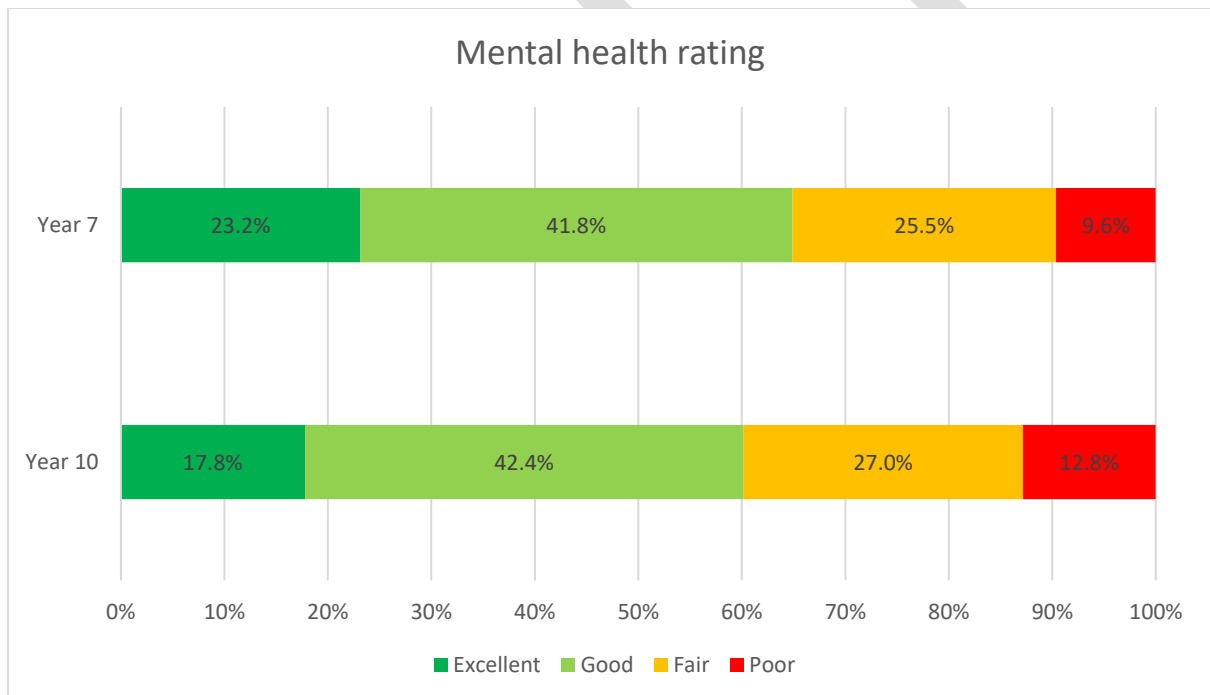
Overall:

- 62.8% of respondents rated their mental health as either good or excellent (2,513, 54.6% of total participants).

- 37.2% of respondents rated their mental health as either fair or poor (2,513, 54.6% of total participants).
 - 11.1% of respondents rated their mental health as poor (443, 9.6% of total participants).

By academic year:

- Year 7
 - 64.9% of Year 7 respondents rated their mental health as either good or excellent (56.5% of total participants).
- Year 10
 - 60.2% of respondents in Year 10 rated their mental health as good or excellent (52.3% of total participants).



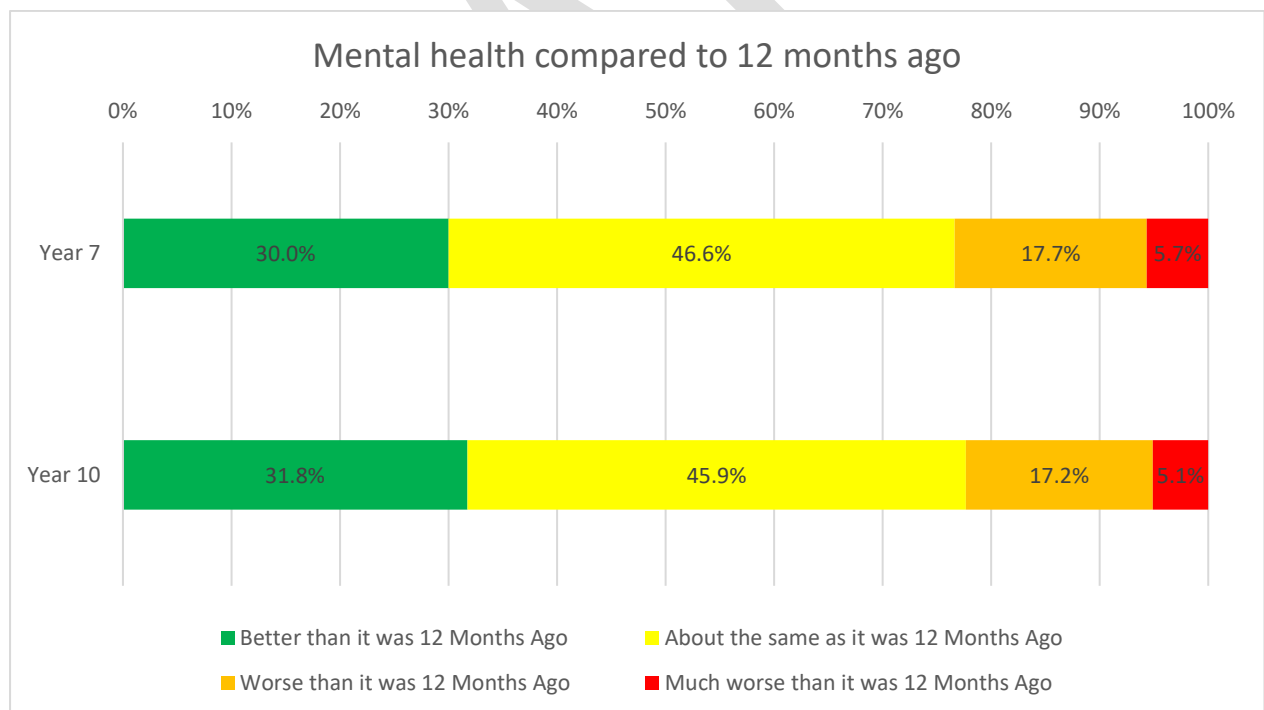
Change in Mental Health Over the Last 12 Months

When asked about the change in their mental health over the past 12 months, 4,026 students responded (87.5% of total participants).

- 1,240 (30.8%) respondents said their mental health was better than it was 12 months ago (26.9% of total participants).

- 1,864 (46.3%) respondents said their mental health was about the same as it was 12 months ago (40.5% of total participants).
- 922 (22.9%) respondents said their mental health was worse or much worse than it was 12 months ago (20.0% of total participants).
 - 702 said it was worse.
 - 218 said it was much worse.

There was relatively little difference between older and younger respondents. These results indicate that younger and older students share similar support needs and reinforce the importance of accessible and age-appropriate mental health support across both year groups.



Alongside having a higher proportion who described their mental health as being 'fair' or 'poor', a substantially higher proportion of girls who responded to the question about a change in their mental health said that it had gotten worse or much worse in the last 12 months than boys (28.2% compared to 15.2%). Of total

participants, this equates to 24.7% of girls and 13.4% of boys. Additionally, a higher proportion of respondents with a diagnosed health condition said their mental health had gotten worse or much worse in the last 12 months than boys (26.0% compared to 22.9%). Of total participants, this equates to 24.4% of those with a health condition and 20.0% of all participants.

Strategies Used to Support Mental Health

Students were asked to select what support strategies they used for their mental health and were able to select multiple activities. There was a low response rate to this question, with only 1,247 students responding (27.1% of participants).

- A substantial proportion of respondents said they used physical activities:
 - 819 (65.7%) respondents reported to being active and starting a new activity (17.8% of total participants).
 - 476 (38.2%) respondents reported to trying a new sport (10.3% of total participants).
 - 279 (22.4%) respondents reported to trying a new sport (6.1% of total participants).
 - 117 (9.4%) of respondents reported to doing yoga or meditating (2.5% of total participants).
- A number of respondents said they had talked to people they knew or made contact with professionals:
 - 636 (51.0%) respondents reported to setting aside time to talk with family and/or friends (13.8% of total participants).
 - 442 (35.4%) respondents reported to talking with staff at school (9.6% of total participants).
 - 265 (21.3%) respondents reported they had made contact with professional support (5.8% of total participants).
- A number of respondents said they took part in creative activities:
 - 453 (36.3%) respondents reported to learning a new skill (9.8% of total participants).
 - 340 (27.3%) respondents reported to reading books they like (7.4% of total participants).
 - 104 (8.3%) respondents reported to taking part in a local event, such as the Children Capital of Culture (2.3% of total participants).

- A number of respondents said they engaged in routines, sought information, or volunteered:
 - 461 (37.0%) respondents reported to setting a daily routine for themselves (10.0% of total participants).
 - 285 (22.9%) respondents reported to using information on social media, 239 (19.2%) searched for information on the internet, and 192 (15.4%) used apps for advice (6.2%, 5.2% and 4.2% of total participants respectively).
 - 98 (7.9%) respondents reported to volunteering in their local community (2.1% of total participants).
 - 74 (5.9%) respondents reported to reading self-help books (1.6% of total participants).

By academic year:

- Year 7:
 - A higher proportion of Year 7 respondents were more likely than those in Year 10 to engage in active and creative coping strategies, such as trying new sports and learning new skills.
 - The most reported strategies were physical activity and social support, indicating a strong preference for informal methods of coping.
- Year 10
 - A higher proportion of Year 10 respondents reported engagement with school staff and professional support compared to Year 7. However, informal strategies—particularly physical activity and social support—remained dominant.

Strategy to support MH	Total %	Year 7	Year 10
Being active - Started a new activity e.g. Riding a bike, walking etc	65.7%	71.6%	56.9%
Set aside time to talk with family and/or friends	51.0%	53.8%	46.9%
Tried a new sport	38.2%	49.9%	20.8%
Set myself a daily routine	37.0%	40.9%	31.1%
Learned a new skill	36.3%	47.5%	19.8%
Talked with staff at school	35.4%	34.9%	36.3%
Read books I like	27.3%	30.2%	23.0%
Used information on social media	22.9%	24.3%	20.8%

Signed up to the gym or exercise group	22.4%	20.8%	24.8%
Made contact - with professional support (GP, Mental Health Service, Voluntary Support)	21.3%	16.2%	28.7%
Searched for information on the internet	19.2%	22.0%	15.0%
Used Apps for support advice	15.4%	14.7%	16.4%
Meditation or Yoga	9.4%	10.9%	7.2%
Took part in a local event (Children Capital of Culture, Rotherham Show etc.)	8.3%	11.0%	4.4%
Given my time - volunteered in the local community	7.9%	8.4%	7.0%
Read self-help books	5.9%	7.1%	4.2%
Other - Please say if you did something different	24.8%	31.2%	15.2%

Of the students that responded to the question about strategies to support their mental health, 309 students responded 'other' (24.8% of respondents). Of the 309 students that responded 'other', 283 responses could be analysed. This equates to 22.7% of respondents.

Themes included:

- Hobbies – 145 respondents
 - This including physical activities, such as exercise, sports and walking.
 - This also included creative activities, including writing, drawing and singing.
 - Listening to music.
 - Physical activity – 73 respondents
 - Group activities such as dancing and football.
 - Solo activities, primarily exercise and going to the gym.
 - Creative activities – 39 respondents
 - This included group activities, such as dancing, singing and acting.
 - Respondents also talking about activities they did on their own, such as baking, writing and drawing.
- Family and friends – 58 respondents.
 - Friends were mentioned more often than family; friends were mentioned 42 times, whilst family was mentioned 20 times.
- General self-soothing techniques – 38 respondents
 - Including sleeping, writing about feelings and spending time with pets.
- Support from professionals – 36 respondents

- This was primarily therapy and counselling.

What Support is Most Important for Improving Mental Health?

Across both year groups, safe spaces to chat were identified as the most valued form of support. 3,704 students responded, 80.5% of total participants:

- 1,229 (33.2%) respondents said safe spaces to be able to chat with other young people either in person or online were most important (26.7% of total participants).
- 507 (13.7%) respondents said online support was most important (11.0% of total participants).
- 444 (12.0%) respondents said their school sharing information of where support can be accessed was most important (9.6% of total participants).
- 350 (9.4%) respondents said a wellbeing guide for young people was most important (7.6% of total participants).
- 140 (3.8%) respondents said more information being available on social media was most important (3.0% of total participants).
- 82 (2.2%) respondents said telephone support was most important (1.8% of total participants).
- 74 (2.0%) respondents said online lessons or programmes on TV was most important (1.6% of total participants).

These preferences are consistent with 2024 findings, which highlighted a continued preference for informal and peer-based support among younger students.

872 students responded 'other', 23.5% of respondents. However, this decreased to 826 students when excluding participants who said that they were not lonely 'most of the time' or 'always', misunderstood the question or gave an inappropriate response. This equates to 22.3% of respondents. Themes included:

- Talking to others - 249 respondents
 - Several respondents specified the importance of this being someone that they trusted.
- Family - 222 respondents
- Friends - 151 respondents

- Therapy or counselling - 80 respondents
 - Several mentioned they wanted this in a face-to-face setting.
 - Some wanted this support to be in school, whilst some said they wanted it out of school.
- Benefits of physical activities and sports - 68 respondents
 - This included group sports like football or going to the gym.
 - It also included going outside and going for a walk, such as walking the dog.
 - Several respondents specified doing these activities with others or on their own.
- The need for support from their school or issues with school that needed to be addressed - 50 respondents
 - This included taking actions to prevent bullying or check on students' mental health.
 - People expressed a desire to talk to teachers or a trained counsellor.
 - 15 of these mentioned issues with school, including wanting less pressure on them
- A small number of students talked about their mental health being bad, such as crying.
- A small number of students mentioned explicitly the need for a safe space, including a safe environment in which to talk about their feelings.
- 62 respondents said they didn't know.

What support do you think is most important for improving mental health?	Total %	Year 7 %	Year 10 %
Safe spaces to be able to chat with other young people either in person or online	33.2%	33.1%	33.3%
Online support	13.7%	12.2%	15.5%
School sharing information of where support can be accessed	12.0%	12.7%	11.1%
A Wellbeing Guide for Young People	9.4%	9.8%	9.0%
More information available on social media	3.8%	2.3%	5.6%
Telephone support	2.2%	2.3%	2.1%
Online lessons or programmes on TV	2.0%	1.7%	2.3%
Other - Please add any ideas you may have on how to support young people with their mental health	23.7%	25.8%	21.0%

What support would you like to see more of?

This was a free-text question, allowing respondents to say what support they would like to see more of in their own words. Overall, 2,346 students responded to this question, 50.1% of total participants.

Excluding responses who said "nothing" or that they didn't know resulted in 1635 responses (35.5% of total participants).

- Mental Health Support – 544 respondents
- One-to-One and Trusted Conversations – 354 respondents
- Support in school – 323 respondents
- Physical Health and Activities – 250 respondents
- Peer and Family Support – 202 respondents
- Online and Anonymous Support – 149 respondents
- Safe Spaces and Environment – 96 respondents
- Education and Life Skills – 79 respondents
- Bullying – 33 respondents
- Other – 518 respondents

Awareness and Use of Mental Health Support

Students were asked a range of questions about mental health support, and the number of respondents for all but one of the questions ranged from 3,869-3,915 respondents (84.1-85.1% of total participants). For the question 'If you have had contact with With Me In Mind, would you recommend this service to a friend?', 3,542 students responded (77.0% of total participants).

Participants were asked several questions about the service With Me In Mind, a mental health support team that supports children and young people aged 5 to 19. While general awareness was moderate, actual usage and understanding of access routes remained low, reinforcing the need for better promotion and clearer pathways to support:

- 1,950 (49.8%) respondents said they had heard of the service (42.4% of total participants).

- 1,200 (30.8%) respondents said they knew how to access the service (26.1% of total participants).
- 471 (12.1%) respondents said they knew how to access the service (10.2% of total participants).
- 548 (14.1%) respondents said they had joined in an activity supported by With Me In Mind (11.9% of total participants).
- 925 (26.1%) respondents said would recommend With Me In Mind to a friend (20.1% of total participants).

Participation in 'With Me in Mind' activities is slightly higher among Year 7 respondents, suggesting stronger engagement at younger ages.

Students were also asked if they knew who the Mental Health Lead at their school was. Schools have a Mental Health Lead, who is responsible for developing and overseeing the school's approach to mental health and wellbeing.⁴ 1,389 (35.9%) respondents said they knew who their Mental Health Lead was at their school (30.2% of all participants in 2025).

Kooth Awareness and Usage

Students were asked about their awareness of and use of Kooth, an anonymous, online mental health platform for young people. 3,872 people responded when asked if they had heard of Kooth, and 3,841 people responded when asked if they had ever used Kooth (84.1% and 83.5% of total participants):

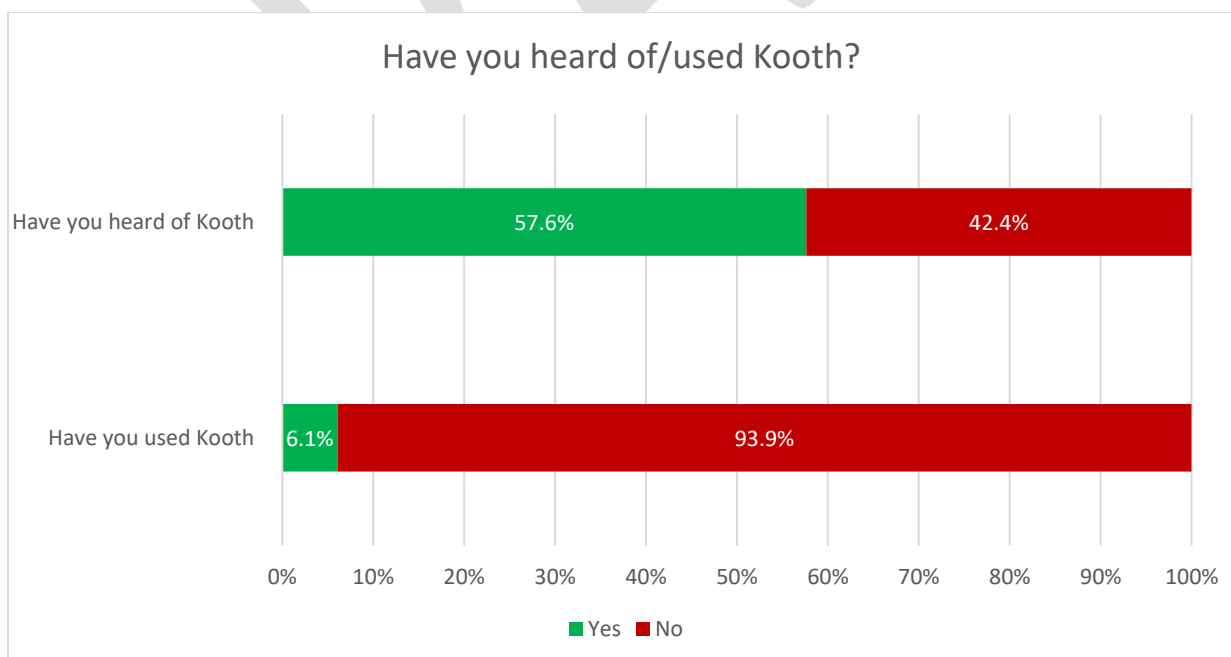
- 2,232 (57.6%) respondents said they had heard of Kooth
 - This an increase from 51.7% of respondents in 2024.
 - This equates to 48.5% of all participants in 2025.
- 234 (6.1%) respondents said they used Kooth
 - This equates to 5.1% of total participants.

Awareness of Kooth, the online mental health support platform, has increased slightly since 2024, however actual usage remains low across both year groups,

⁴ [Promoting and supporting mental health and wellbeing in schools and colleges - GOV.UK](#)

indicating a gap between awareness and meaningful engagement. By academic year:

- Awareness of Kooth
 - A substantially higher proportion of older students were aware of Kooth than younger students.
 - 49.5% of Year 7 respondents said they had heard of Kooth (41.7% of total participants).
 - 67.5% of Year 10 respondents said they had heard of Kooth (56.7% of total participants).
- Usage of Kooth
 - A substantially higher proportion of older students reported using Kooth than younger students.
 - 4.0% of Year 7 respondents reported using Kooth (3.3% of total participants).
 - 8.6% of Year 10 respondents reported using Kooth (7.2% of total respondents).



Participants were then asked 'If you have used Kooth - what did you think about the service? Has it helped you?'

690 students responded to this question, 15.0% of total participants. However, this decreased to 182 students when including only participants who had said 'yes' to whether they had used the service. Another four responses were excluded as they were non-responses, such as NA, resulting in 178 responses. This equates to 4.0% of total participants. Of these:

- 77 respondents were positive (43.3%)
- 24 respondents were neutral (13.5%)
- 77 respondents were negative (43.3%).

Feelings of Loneliness in the Last 12 Months

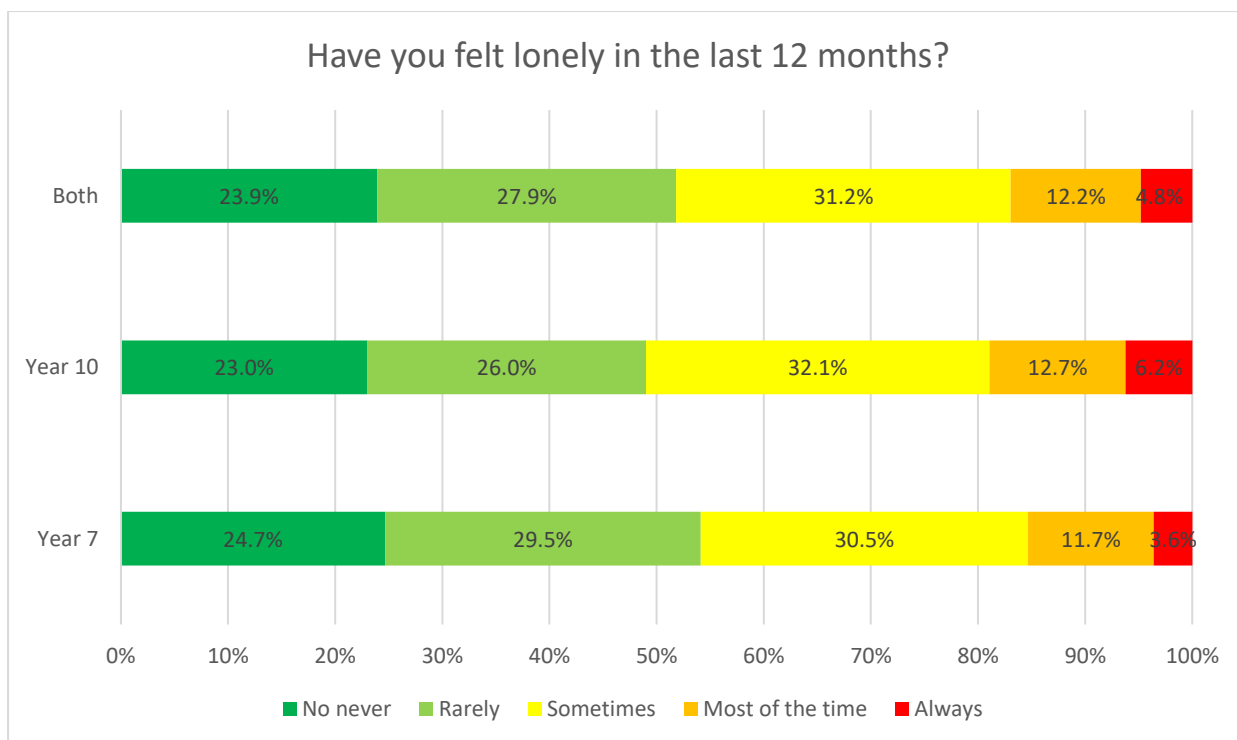
Loneliness remains a significant emotional wellbeing concern among students.

When asked if they had felt lonely in the last 12 months, 3,930 students responded (85.4% of total participants).

- 16.9% (666) of respondents reported feeling lonely most of the time or always within the last 12 months (14.5% of total participants):
- 31.2%% (1,227) of respondents reported feeling sometimes within the last 12 months (26.7% of total participants).
- 27.9% (1,097) of respondents reported rarely feeling lonely within the last 12 months (23.8% of total participants).
- 23.9% (940) of respondents reported never feeling lonely within the last 12 months (20.4% of total participants).

By academic year:

- In Year 7, 15.3% of respondents reported feeling lonely either most of the time or always.
 - This equates to 13.2% of participants.
- In Year 10, 18.9% of respondents reported feeling lonely either most of the time or always.
 - This equates to 16.0% of participants.



A substantially higher proportion of girls who responded to the question about a change in their mental health said that it had gotten worse or much worse in the last 12 months than boys (22.7% compared to 8.6%). Of total participants, this equates to 19.5% of girls and 7.4% of boys. Additionally, a higher proportion of respondents with a diagnosed health condition said their mental health had gotten worse or much worse in the last 12 months than boys (26.0% compared to 22.9%). Of total participants, this equates to 24.4% of those with a health condition and 20.0% of all participants.

Participants were then asked, 'If you have responded 'most of the time' or 'always', what would help when you are feeling lonely?'. 614 students responded to this question, 15.6% of the respondents. However, this decreased to 481 students when excluding participants who said that they were not lonely 'most of the time' or 'always', misunderstood the question or gave an inappropriate response. This equates to 12.2% of the respondents.

- 295 respondents said it helped to be around other people, or that it would help to be around other people more often.
- 142 respondents mentioned being with their friends.

- 102 respondents mentioned having someone to talk to:
 - This included talking to someone about their feelings, but also simply being able to talk to another person.
- 60 respondents said doing something helped them:
 - This included activities with others, such as playing games at home and sports such as football.
 - This also included activities for people to do alone, such as reading, listening to music and going for a walk.
- 46 respondents mentioned being with their family.
 - Many specified this was a friend who they are comfortable around.
- 39 respondents said they didn't know what would help when they were feeling lonely.
- 20 said being with their pet(s) helped.
- 23 people mentioned doing something creative.
- 10 people mentioned physical activities

A number of respondents misunderstood the question and expanded on how they feel lonely and why. People who responded this way said they often felt left out or excluded by others.

Hopes when leaving school

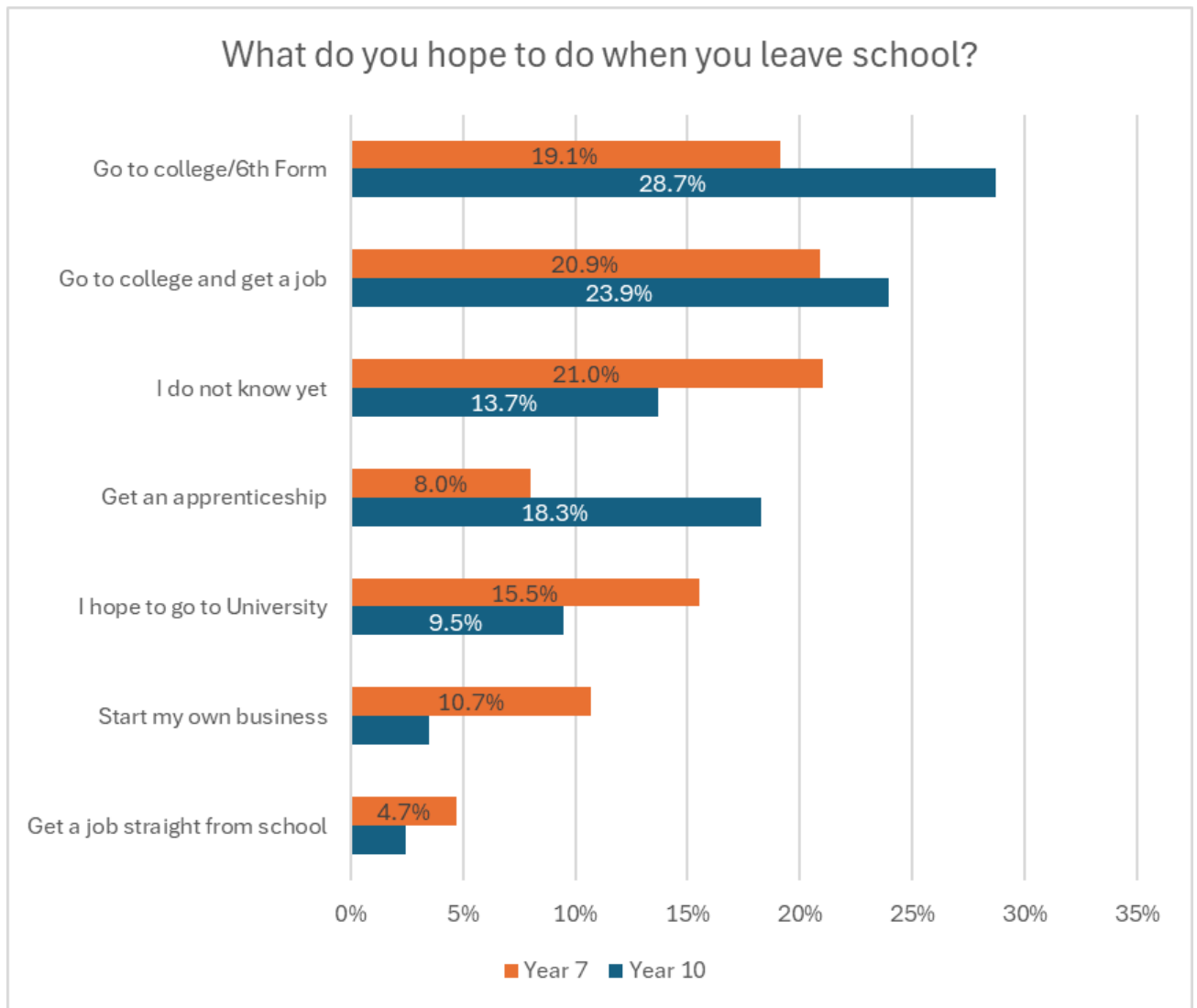
Participants were asked about their hopes when leaving school at the end of Year 11. The option 'Go to college and then university' in previous surveys has been replaced by the options 'Go to college/sixth form' and 'I hope to go to university'. 3,945 students responded to this question (85.7% of total participants):

- 45.8% (1,706) of respondents said they wanted to go to college or sixth form, or to go to college and get a job (37.1% of total participants):
 - 23.5% (876) of respondents said they wanted to go to college or sixth form (19.0% of total participants).
 - 22.3% (830) of respondents said they wanted to go to college and get a job (18.0% of total participants).
- 17.6% (657) of respondents said they didn't know what they wanted to do yet (14.3% of total participants).

- 12.8% (475) of respondents said they wanted to get an apprenticeship (10.3% of total participants).
- 12.7% (474) of respondents said they wanted to go to university (10.3% of total participants).
- 7.4% (275) of respondents said they wanted to start their own business (6.0% of total participants).
- 3.7% (137) of respondents said they wanted to get a job straight from school (3.0% of total participants).

12.3% (484) of respondents responded 'Other' and were able to provide a free-text response (10.5% of total participants). 226 respondents provided 'Other' as a response in addition to selecting one of the options, whilst 221 respondents who answered 'Other' only.

- However, this decreases to 442 when excluding non-responses (442 is 11.2% of respondents)
- Several participants said they wanted to do multiple things – for instance, specifying the job they wanted to do as well as going to college or university.
- The responses have been themed to provide an indication of how people responded. Of those who responded other:
 - 128 respondents said they wanted to go to college/university.
 - 99 respondents said they wanted to go to college.
 - 108 respondents said they wanted to go be a professional sportsperson, most commonly a footballer.
 - 44 respondents said they wanted to start their own business.
 - 33 respondents said they wanted to do a practical job - hairdressing, nail technician, plumbing, electrician.
 - 28 respondents said they wanted to do an apprenticeship.
 - 20 respondents said they wanted to go into the armed forces, most commonly the army.



Young Carers

Students were asked if they ever have to do any extra work around their home because someone is disabled or sick or 'can't do things', to establish whether they were a young carer. 3,765 students responded, 81.8% of total participants:

- 760 students said yes (20.2% of respondents, 16.5% of total participants).
- A higher proportion of younger students reported to being young carers than older students:
 - In Year 7, 23.5% of respondents said 'yes' (19.5% of total participants).
 - In Year 10, 16.1% of respondents said 'yes' (13.1% of total participants).

A greater number of participants responded to all other questions related to young carers, suggesting that the wording of the question about whether people were carers or not did not represent the experiences of everyone with caring responsibilities. Some students may have caring responsibilities outside the home, such as taking siblings to school, filling out forms or calling organisations on behalf of someone else in the house, which they may not have identified with the question.

Students were asked whether caring for someone affects their school day. 835 students responded, 18.1% of total participants, and 75 more students than the number reporting to being carers in the initial question. 248 reported an impact on their school day as a result of caring responsibilities.

Students were asked if they had heard of a service in Rotherham that supported young carers. 840 students responded, 18.3% of total participants, and 80 more students than the number reporting to being carers in the initial question. 200 respondents had heard of a service in Rotherham supporting young carers.

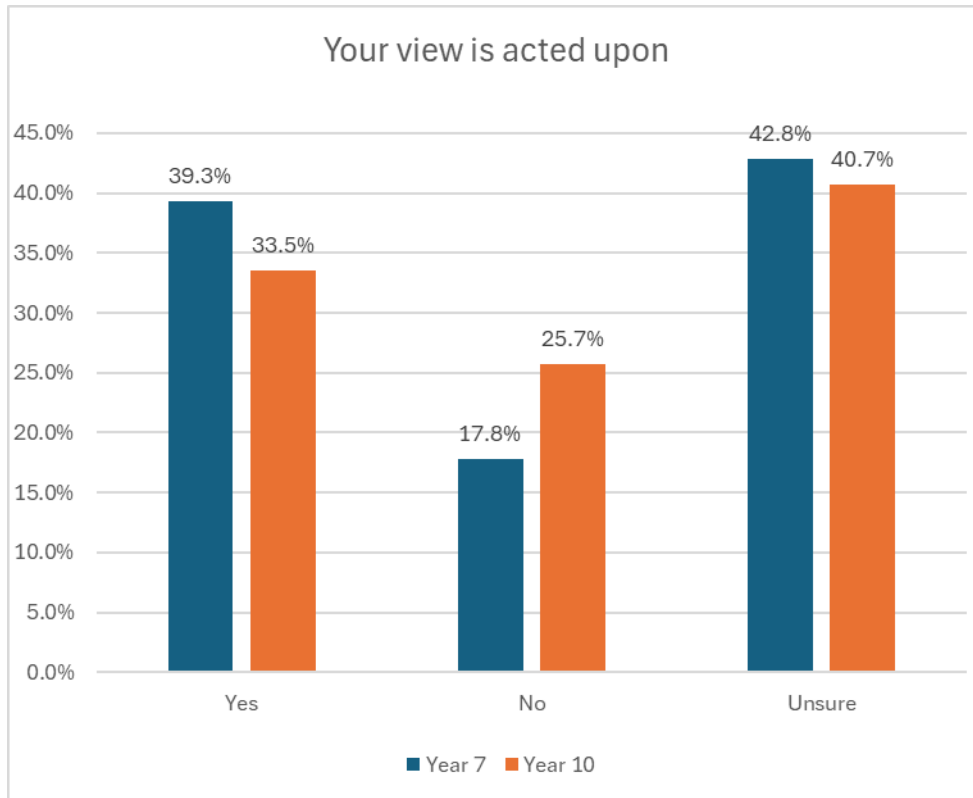
Students were then asked if they would make contact with a service if they felt they needed to. 832 students responded, 18.1% of total participants, and 72 more students than the number reporting to being carers in the initial question.

- Just under a third of respondents saying that they would (32.8%, 273, 5.9% of total participants).
- Respondents were just as likely to say they didn't know if they would (32.9%, 274), or that they would not (34.3%, 285) – 6.0% and 6.2% of total participants.
- Younger students were more likely to say they would make contact with a service if they felt they needed to (37.1% of Year 7 respondents compared to 25.4% of those in Year 10).

Views and Voice

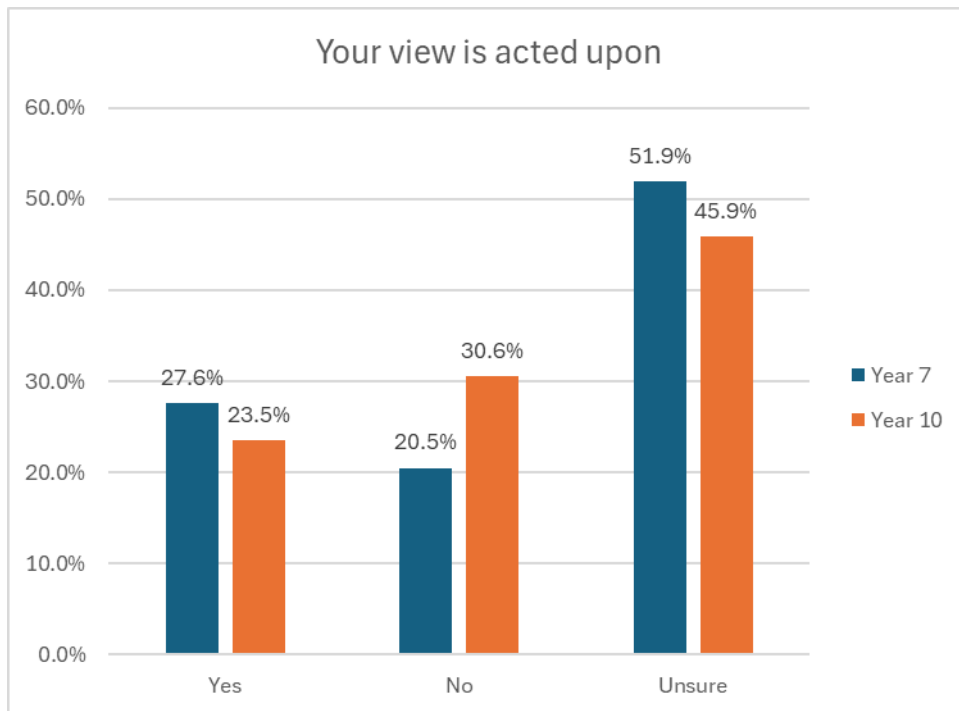
Students were asked to respond to the statement 'Your view and your voice is listened to and taken seriously'. 3,809 participants responded, 82.8% of total participants:

- The largest proportion of respondents were unsure (1,595, 41.9% of respondents and 34.7% total participants participants).
- 1,399 (36.7%) respondents said yes (30.4% of total participants).
- 815 (21.4%) respondents said no (17.7% of total participants).



Students were asked to whether they felt that their view was acted upon. 3,809 participants responded, 82.8% of total participants:

- The largest proportion of respondents were unsure (1,847, 49.2% of respondents and 40.1% total participants participants).
- A similar number of respondents said they felt their voice was acted upon to the number that felt it was not:
 - 968 (25.8%) respondents said yes (21.0% of total participants).
 - 942 (25.1%) respondents said no (20.5% of total participants).



Community Safety & Belonging and Town Safety

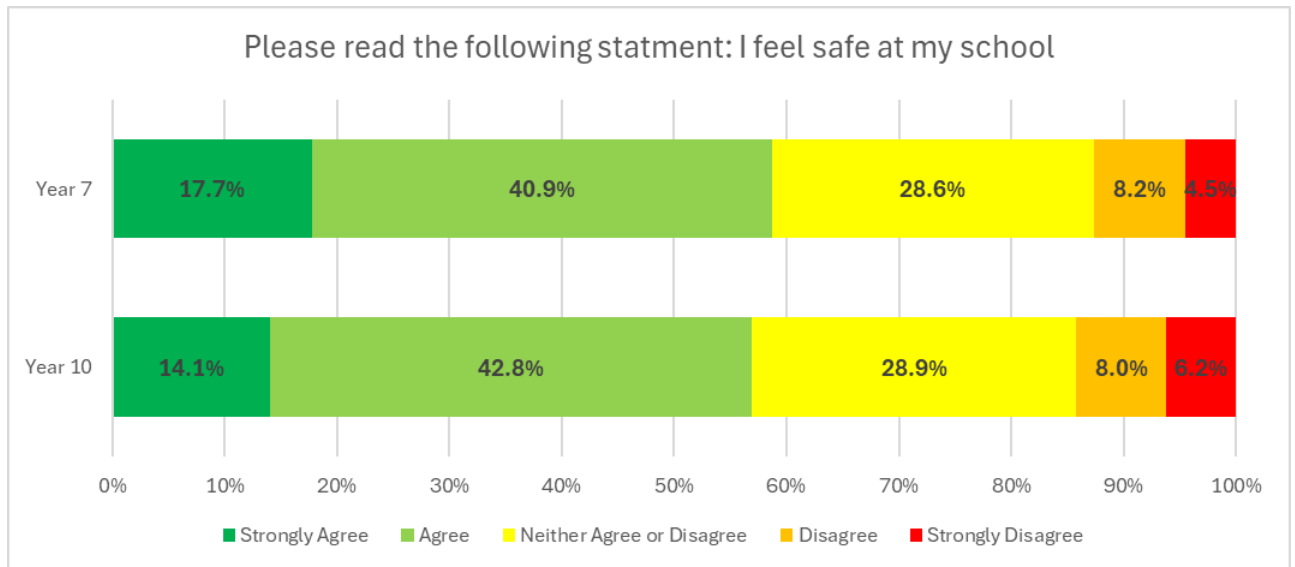
School perceptions

Students were asked about how they felt about the following statements: 'I feel safe at my school' and 'I feel like I belong at my school'.

3,852 students responded to the prompt 'I feel safe at my school' (83.7% of total participants). 57.9% (2,229) of respondents said they feel safe at their school (48.4% of total participants). This was also very similar to the national proportion of 58% as of 2021-22:

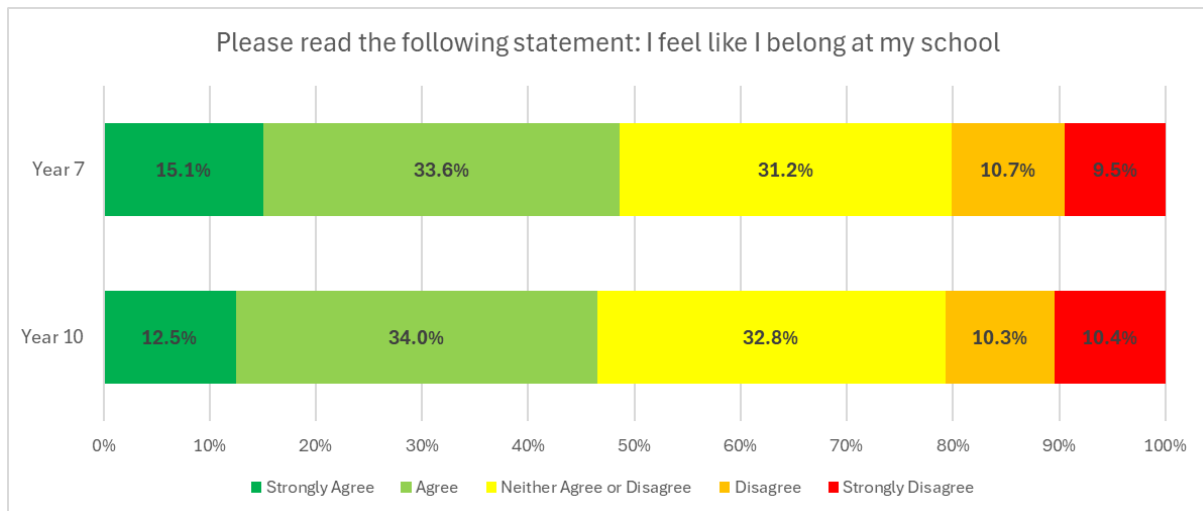
- 16.1% (620) of respondents said they 'Strongly Agree' (13.5% of total participants).
- 41.8% (1,609) of respondents said they 'Agree' (35% of total participants).
- 28.8% (1,108) of respondents said they 'Neither Agree or Disagree' (24.1% of total participants).
- 8.1% (313) of respondents said they 'Disagree' (6.8% of total participants).
- 5.2% (202) of respondents said they 'Strongly Disagree' (4.1% of total participants).

- 57.9% (2,229) of respondents said they feel safe at their school (48.4% of total participants).



3,826 students responded to the prompt 'I feel like I belong at my school' (83.1% of total participants). 47.7% (1,824) of respondents said they feel like they belong at their school (39.6% of total participants).

- 13.9% (532) of respondents said they 'Strongly Agree' (11.6% of total participants).
- 33.8% (1292) of respondents said they 'Agree' (28.1% of total participants).
- 31.9% (1221) of respondents said they 'Neither Agree or Disagree' (26.5% of total participants).
- 10.5% (103) of respondents said they 'Disagree' (8.8% of total participants).
- 9.9% (378) of respondents said they 'Strongly Disagree' (8.2% of total participants).



Neighbourhood belonging

Students were asked to answer statements about where they live to get a sense of neighbourhood belonging. A different number of students responded to each statement, ranging from 3,626 to 3,661 (78.8-79.6% of the total participants).

Overall:

- 55.8% (2,031) of respondents felt they could trust people in the area they lived (44.1% of total participants).
- 69.1% (2,518) of respondents felt they could ask for help from their neighbours (54.7% of total participants).
- 68.9% (2,522) of respondents felt safe in the area they lived (54.8% of total participants).
- 63.8% (2,325) of respondents said it was safe for younger children to play outside during the day (50.5% of total participants).
- 68.9% (2,523) of respondents said there were good places to spend their free time (54.8% of total participants).

A new statement was added to the 2025 survey, 'Some people cannot be trusted in the area where I live'. Overall, just over half (50.7%, 1,835) of the respondents said some people in the areas they lived could not be trusted (40.0% of total participants). Year 10 respondents were more likely than Year 7 respondents to feel that some people in their areas could not be trusted (54.9% compared to 47.0%).

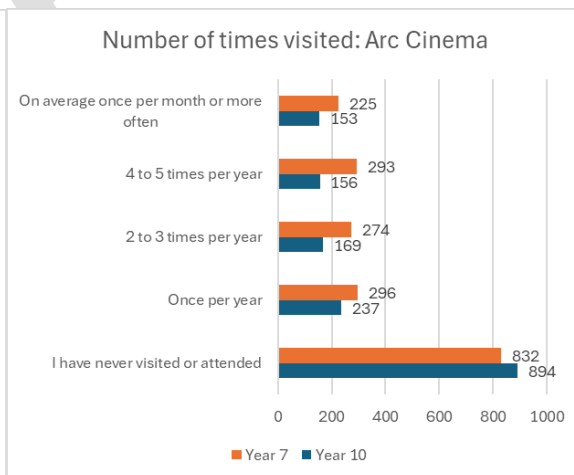
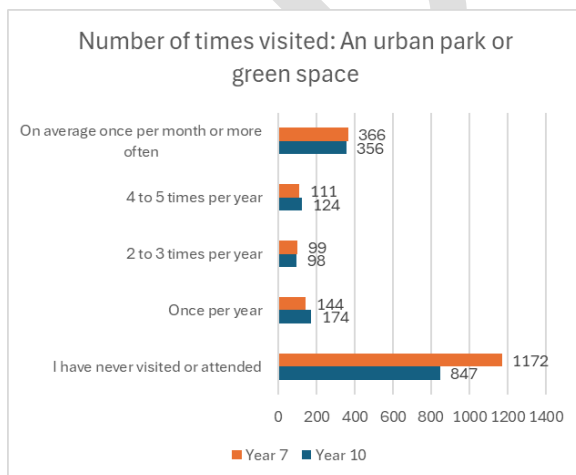
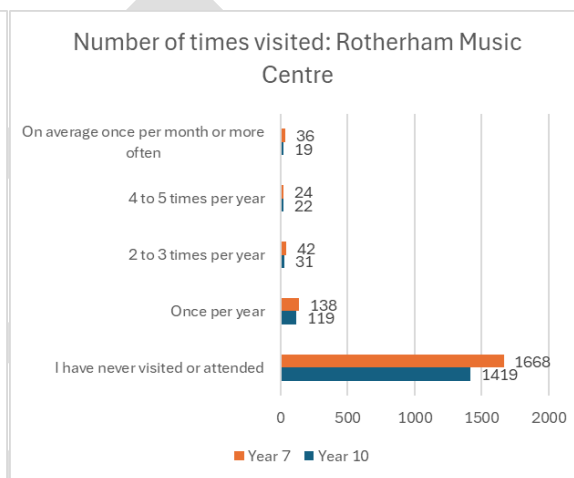
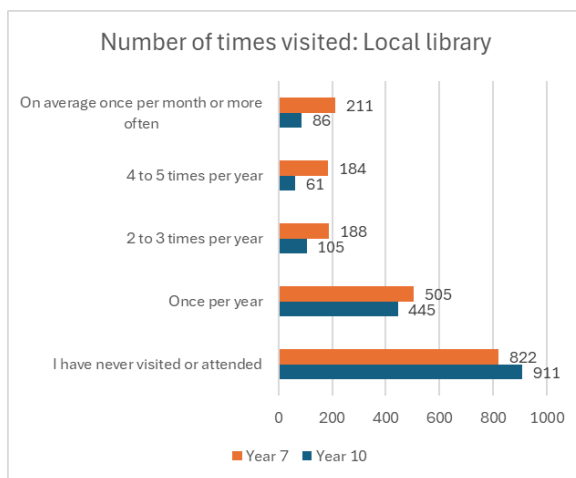
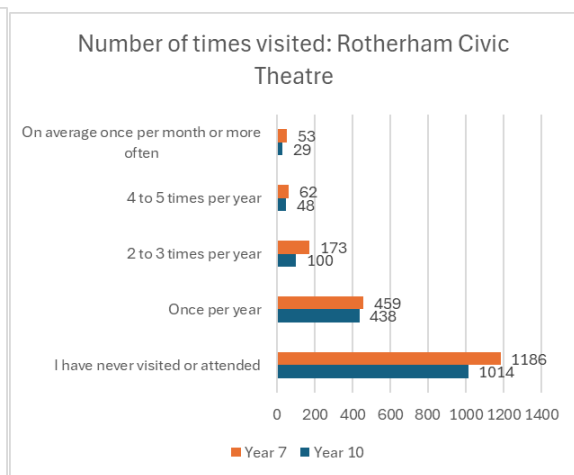
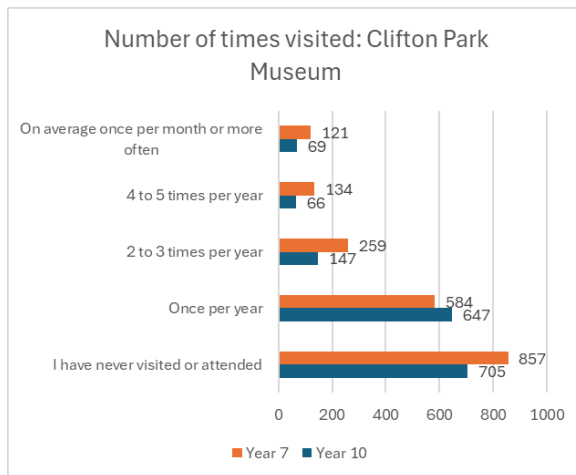
Local Culture

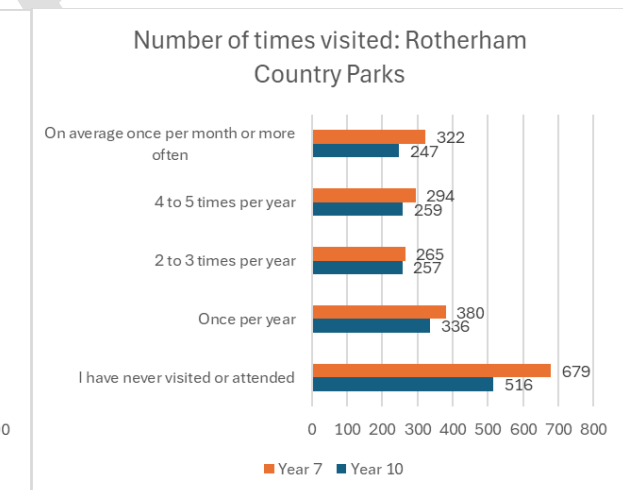
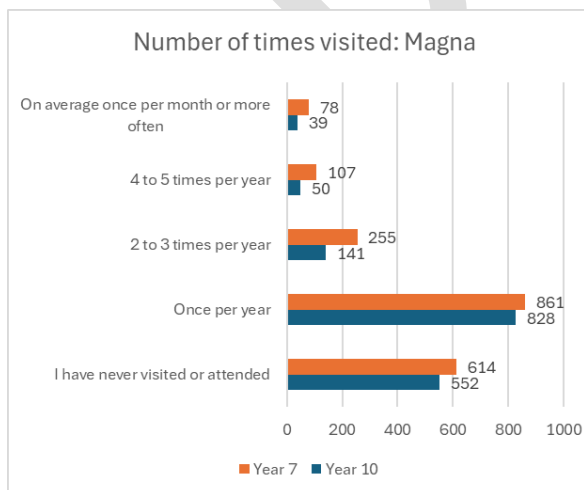
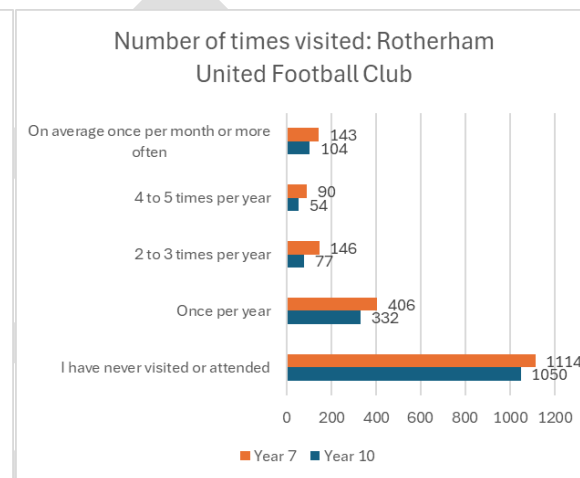
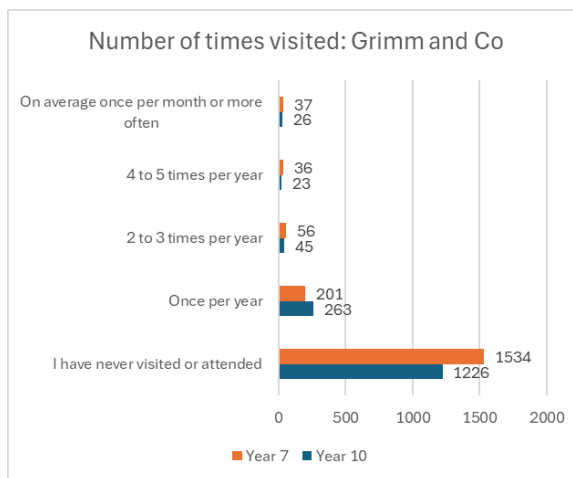
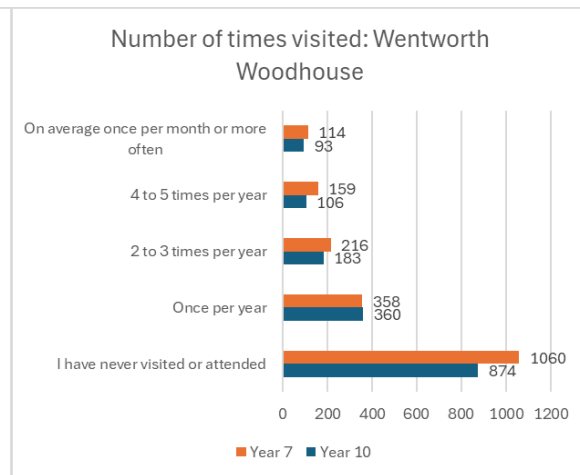
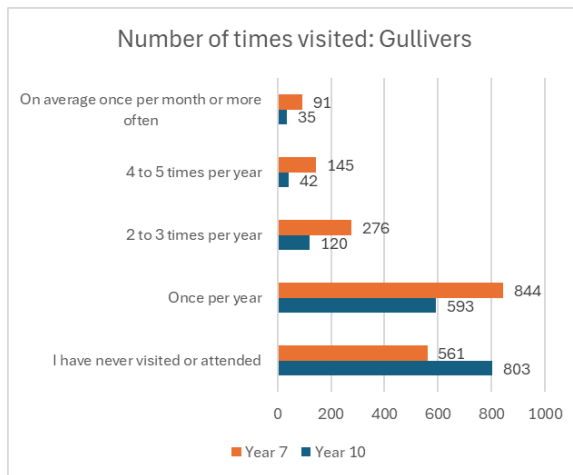
Places visited

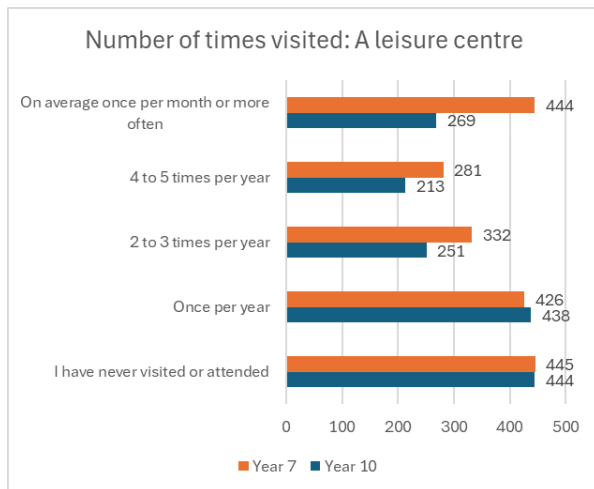
Students were asked how often they visited locations in Rotherham including a library, a leisure centre, a park, Clifton Park Museum, the theatre, and events such as the Christmas light switch on and the Rotherham show.

- Clifton Park Museum
 - 2,027 respondents (56.5%) said they visited once per year or more often.
 - This equates to 44.0% of total participants.
- Rotherham Civic Theatre
 - 1,362 respondents (38.2%) said they visited once per year or more often.
 - This equates to 29.6% of total participants.
- Local library
 - 1,785 respondents (50.7%) said they visited once per year or more often.
 - This equates to 38.8% of total participants.
- Rotherham Music Centre
 - 431 respondents (12.3%) said they visited once per year or more often.
 - This equates to 9.4% of total participants.
- Urban park or green space
 - 1,472 respondents (42.2%) said they visited once per year or more often.
 - This equates to 32.0% of total participants.
- Arc Cinema
 - 1,803 respondents (51.1%) said they visited once per year or more often.
 - This equates to 39.2% of total participants.
- Gulliver's

- 2,146 respondents (61.1%%) said they visited once per year or more often.
- This equates to 46.6% of total participants.
- Wentworth Woodhouse
 - 1,589 respondents (45.1%) said they visited once per year or more often.
 - This equates to 34.5% of total participants.
- Grimm and Co
 - 687 (19.9%) respondents said they visited once per year or more often.
 - This equates to 14.9% of total participants.
- Rotherham United Football Club
 - 1,352 respondents (38.5%) said they visited once per year or more often.
 - This equates to 29.4% of total participants.
- Magna
 - 2,359 respondents (66.9%) said they visited once per year or more often.
 - This equates to 51.2% of total participants.
- Rotherham Country Park (Thrybergh; Rother Valley; Ulley; Waleswood Campsite)
 - 2,360 respondents (66.4%) said they visited once per year or more often.
 - This equates to 51.2% of total participants.
- A leisure centre
 - 2,654 respondents (74.9%) said they visited once per year or more often.
 - This equates to 57.7% of total participants.

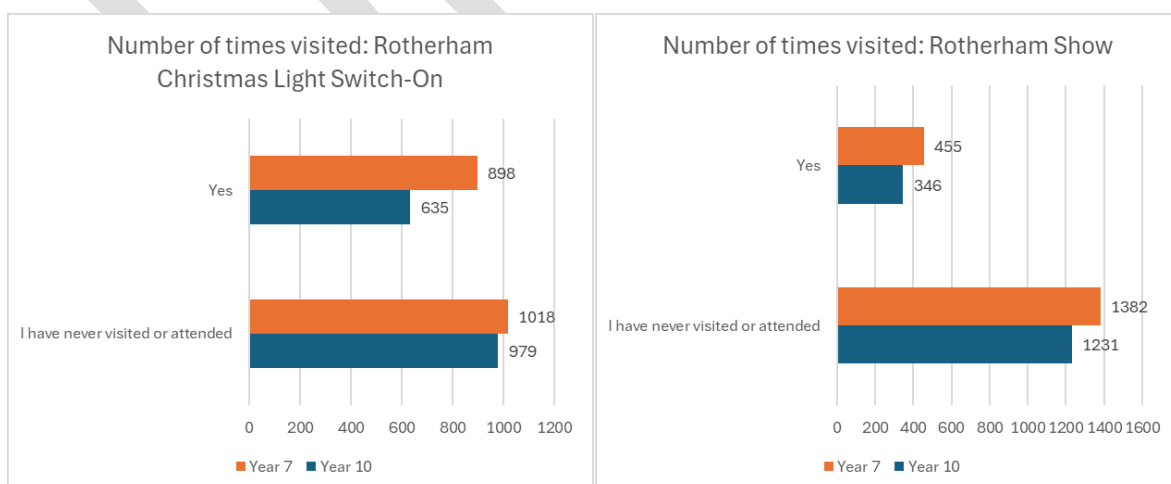






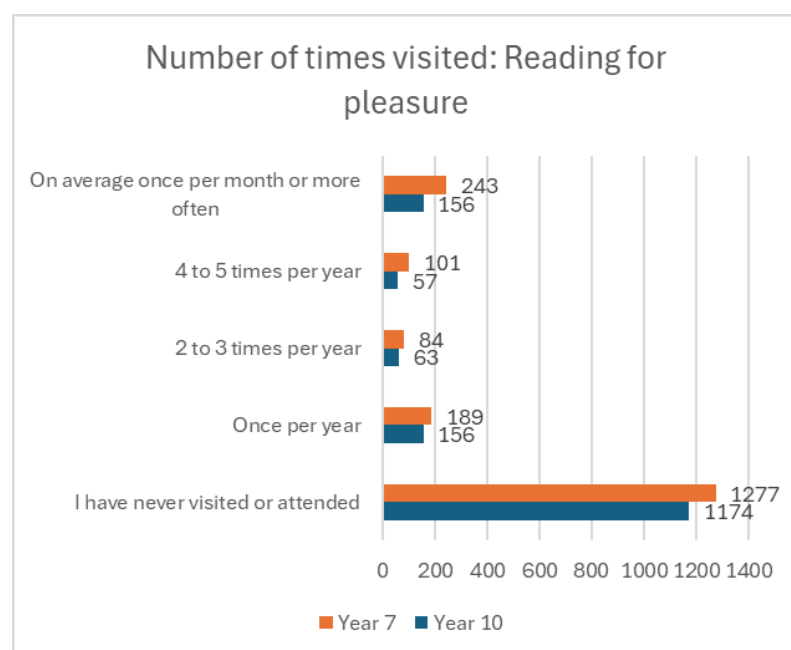
There were two annual events asked about, so these have been presented together. As these are annual events, any affirmative answers have been grouped together as 'Yes':

- Rotherham Christmas Lights Switch On
 - 1,533 respondents (43.4%) said they visited once per year or more often.
 - This equates to 33.3% of total participants.
- Rotherham Show
 - 801 respondents (23.5%) said they visited once per year or more often.
 - This equates to 17.4% of total participants.



Students were also asked about how often they read for pleasure, as opposed to reading as part of school curriculum. However, as this was phrased as 'Reading for Pleasure' in a set of questions about specific places or events, it is possible the respondents did not realise this was simply about the activity of reading for pleasure.

1,049 respondents (30.0%) said that they read for pleasure, equating to 22.8% of total participants.



Perceptions of safety in the community

Feelings of safety before and after dark:

Participants were asked about how safe they felt in their local neighbourhoods during the daytime and after dark. A different number of students responded to each time period; however, this was a very similar proportion of participants. 3,523 students responded when asked how safe they feel during the daytime, whilst 3,498 responded about how safe they feel after dark (76.6% and 76.0% respectively).

The majority of respondents reported to feeling very safe in their local neighbourhood during the daytime:

- 2,488 respondents (70.6%) feel very safe during the daytime (equates to 51.4% of total participants in 2025).

- 957 respondents (27.2%) feel safe sometimes during the daytime (and equating to 20.8% of total participants in 2025).
- 108 respondents (2.2%) never feel safe during the daytime (equating to 1.7% of total participants in 2025).

After dark, respondents were far less likely to feel very safe in their local neighbourhood, and more likely to feel safe sometimes:

- 934 respondents (26.7%) feel very safe after dark (equates to 20.3% of total participants in 2025).
- 1,973 respondents (56.4%) feel safe sometimes after dark (equating to 42.9% of total participants in 2025).
- 591 respondents (16.9%) never feel safe after dark (equating to 12.8% of total participants in 2025).

Feeling safe in different areas

Students were asked how safe they feel in the town centre, local shops, parks and recreational areas, travelling on local buses/trains, and on the way to/from school.

3,494 students responded about safety in the town centre, although 271 said they had not visited. Excluding these, 3,223 students responded (70.0% of total participants). Of those who said they had been to the town centre:

- The majority of respondents felt safe sometimes (61.9%, 1994 respondents, equating to 43.3% of total participants).

What to do when feeling unsafe

3,470 students responded when asked what they would do if they felt unsafe or scared in town (75.4% of total participants).

- 66.6% (2,312) of respondents said they would ring a family member or friend (50.2% of total participants).
- 7.2% (251) of respondents said they were unsure what they should do if I felt unsafe or scared (5.5% of total participants).

- 6.5% (227) of respondents said they would go into a shop and ask for help (4.9% of total participants).
- 6.3% (220) of respondents said they would ring the police (4.8% of total participants).
- Respondents were least likely to say they would ask someone on the street for help (57, 1.6% of respondents). Overall, this was 1.2% of total participants.
- 11.6% (403) of respondents selected the 'Other' option (8.8% of total participants).

Open water swimming

Students were assessed about their experience of open water swimming and responses are detailed below.

When asked if they had ever swum in open water before, 3,484 students responded (75.7% of total participants). This question didn't differentiate between facilitated and well-managed open-water swimming activities, such as at Manvers and Thrybergh, and unsupervised open-water swimming.

- 1,456 (41.8%) respondents said they had swum in open water before, such as lakes and reservoirs (31.6% of total participants).
- Year 10 respondents (48.7%) were more likely than Year 7 respondents (36.0%) to say they had swum in open water before (37.0% and 27.2% of total participants respectively).

Following this, participants were asked, if they had swum in open water before, were they fully aware of the risks involved when they did?

- 2,423 students responded to this question, more than the number of students who said they had swum in open water before (52.7% compared to 31.6% of total participants). Either more students had swam in open water than those who answered initially, or students who hadn't swum in open water before misinterpreted the question.
- 1,979 (62.7%) respondents said they were aware of the risks involved when they went open water swimming (43.0% of total participants).

- 444 (14.1%) respondents said they were not aware of the risks involved when they went open water swimming (9.6% of total participants).
- Year 10 respondents (64.8%) were slightly more likely than Year 7 respondents (60.9%) to say they were aware of the risks involved when they went open water swimming (44.9% and 41.4% of total participants respectively).

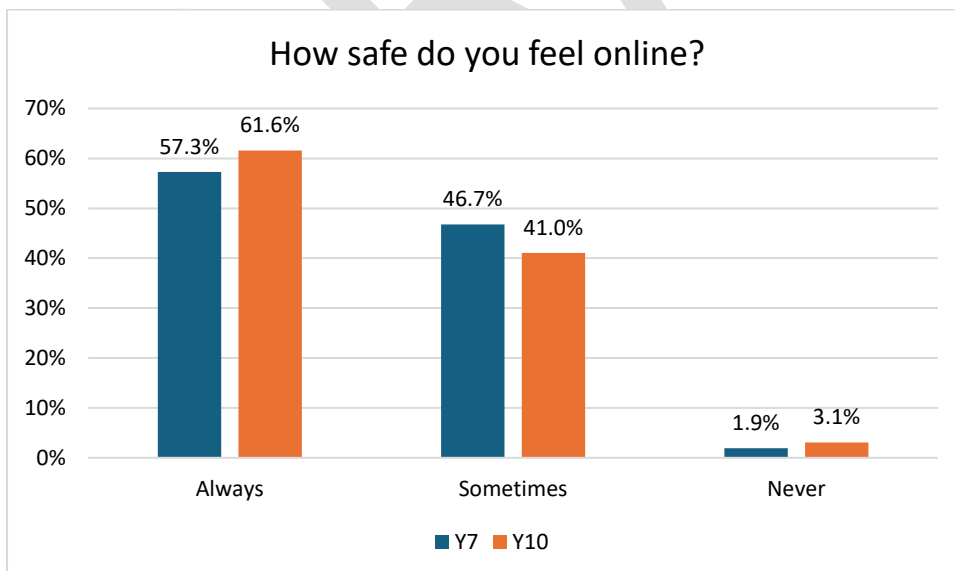
When asked if they would know how to rescue someone safely in open water, 3432 students responded (74.6% of total participants).

- 2,202 (63.8%) respondents said they would know how to rescue someone in open water safely (47.8% of total participants).

Online Safety

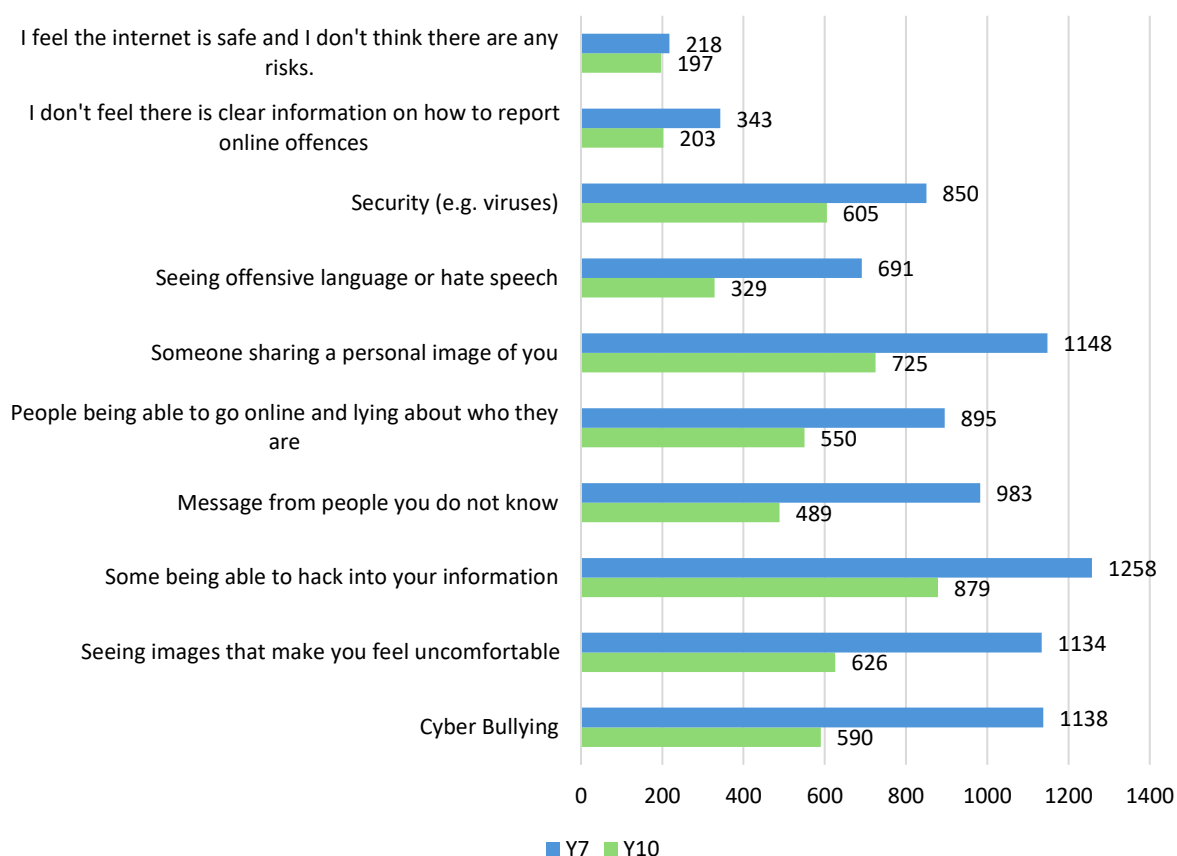
Students were asked how safe they feel online, with 3,458 students responding (75.1% of total participants).

Year 10 respondents were slightly more likely to feel safe online compared to Year 7 respondents. A total of 84 students across both year groups answered that they never feel safe online (2.4% of respondents, 1.8% of total participants).



Students were then asked a follow-up question to assess what kinds of things make them feel unsafe online. 3,190 students answered this question (1,398 in Year 10 and 1,792 in Year 7) and the top answers were hacking, sharing of personal images and cyber bullying.

Please choose the things that you feel are risks and could make you unsafe online?

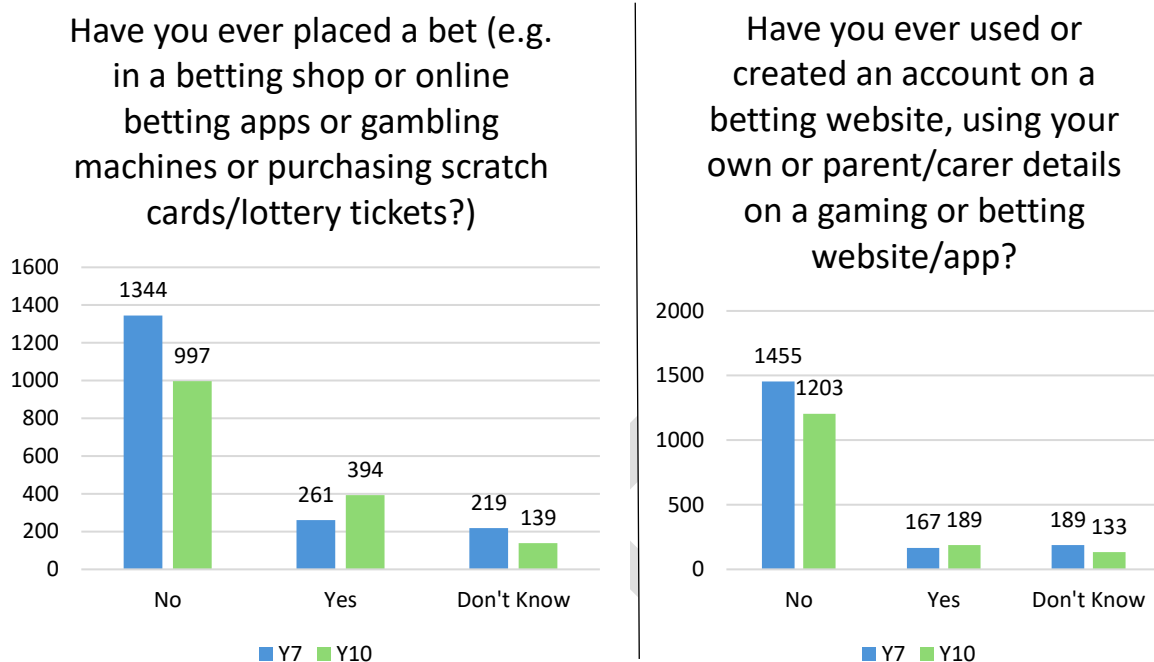


Gambling

Students were asked about gambling and online purchases. The first question in this section asked, separately, how many students have placed a bet; used or created a betting account; or bought in-app purchases on games. The number of respondents ranged from 3,326-3354 respondents (72.3-72.9% of total participants):

- 655 (19.5%) respondents answered that they have placed a bet (14.2% of total participants):

- 356 (10.7%) respondents answered that they have either used or created a betting account (7.7% of total participants):

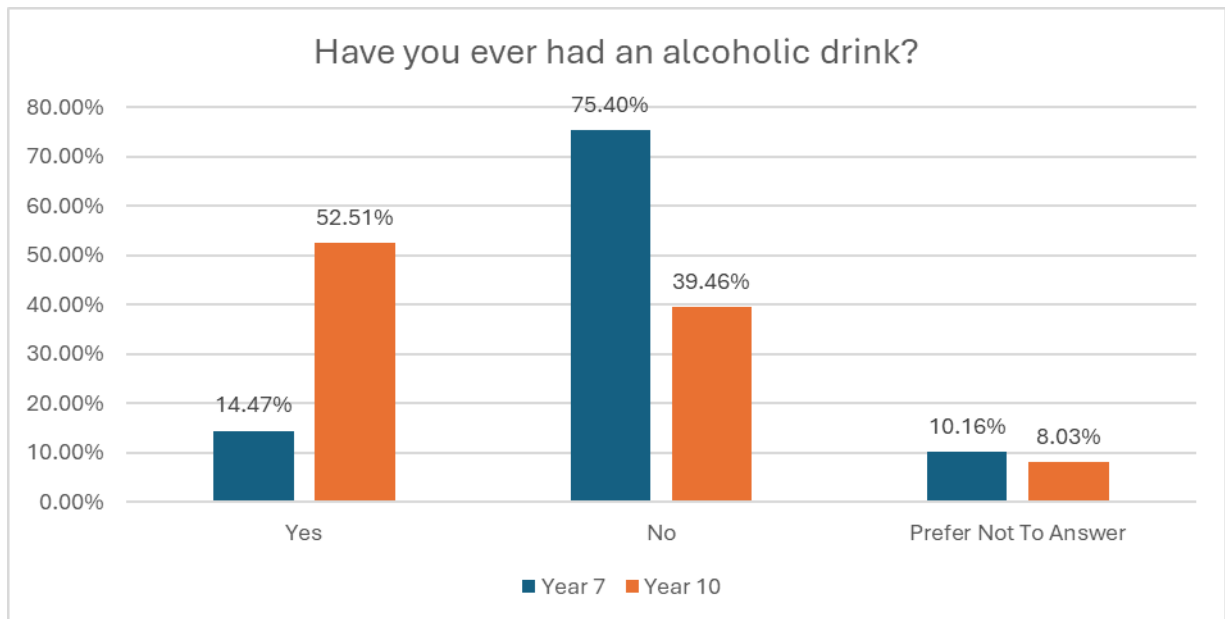


Alcohol, Substance Misuse, Smoking and Vaping

Alcohol

Students were first asked 'Have you ever had an alcoholic drink?' There is a note to say this must be a whole drink not just a small sip of someone else's. 3,387 students responded, 73.6% of total participants:

- Overall:
 - 31.9% (1,082) of respondents said they have had an alcoholic drink – 23.5% of total participants.
 - 9.2% (311) of respondents said they would prefer not to answer – 6.8% of total participants.
 - All other respondents said they had never had an alcoholic drink, making up the majority of respondents – 1,994 students, 58.9% of respondents., 43.3% of participants.

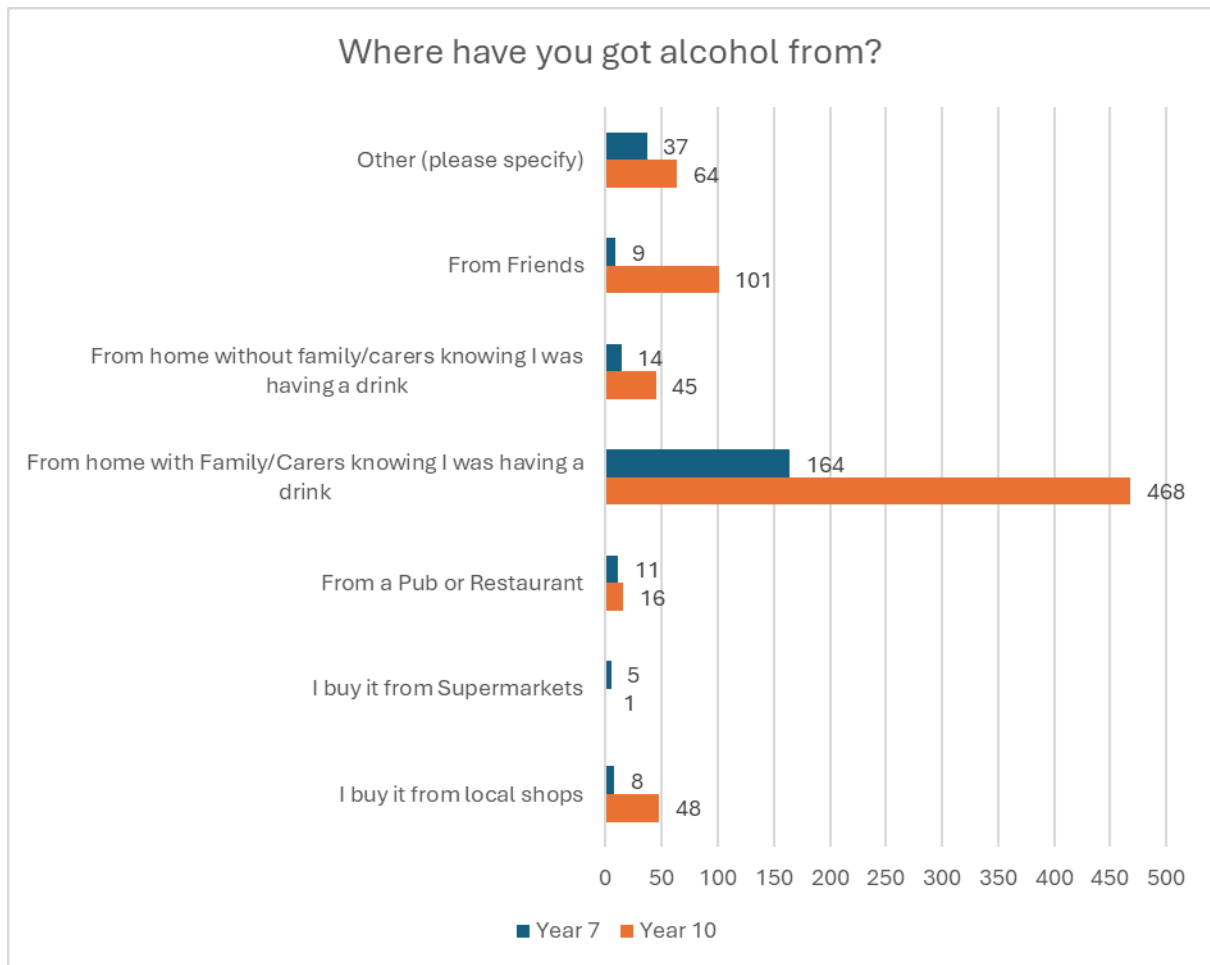


A further question was then asked to see how many times students have drunk alcohol both in the last 30 days and in the last year. Only the students who answered yes to having had an alcoholic drink were asked this question. 1,035 students responded, 22.5% of participants – the majority of respondents (744, 71.8%) were in Year 10, as many more Year 10 respondents said they had had an alcoholic drink before:

- Across both year groups, 865 respondents said they had drunk alcohol in the last Year – 83.6% of respondents, 18.8% of total participants.
- 677 Year 10 students said they had drunk alcohol within the last Year:
- 188 Year 7 students said they had drunk alcohol within the last Year:



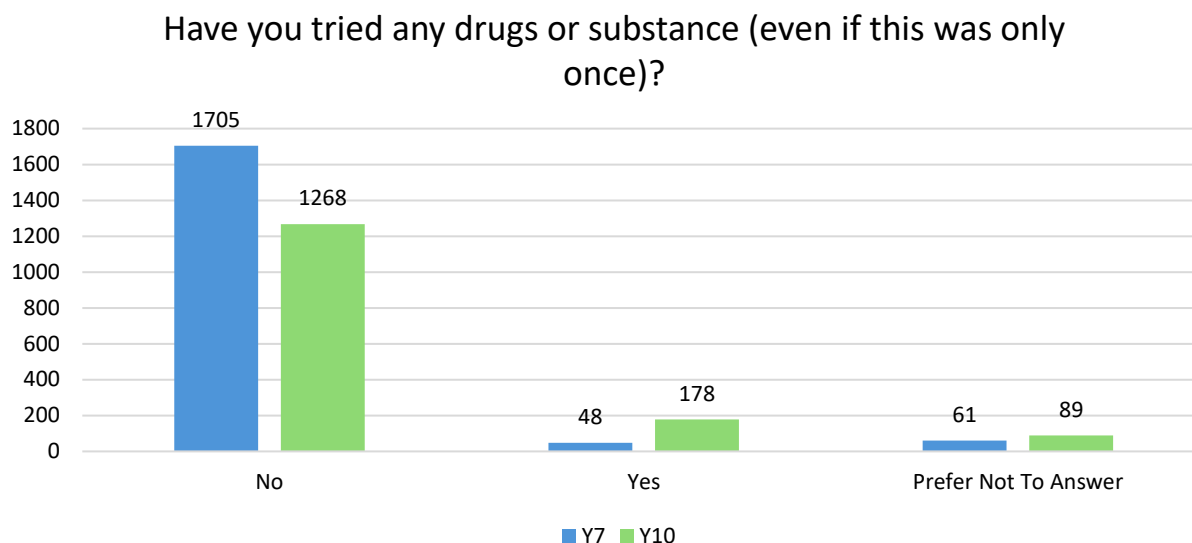
Students who responded to having drank alcohol were also asked where they got alcohol from. 991 students responded:



Substance Use

Initially, students were asked if they have ever tried drugs. 3,349 students answered this question (72.7% of the total participants).

- 2,973 respondents said they had never tried drugs before.
- 226 respondents said they had tried drugs before.
- 150 respondents said they preferred not to answer.



Students were then asked specifically about cannabis use, as this is typically the most common substance used by both adults and young people:

- Similarly to drug use, responses reporting cannabis use were significantly higher in Year 10 students compared to Year 7 respondents.
 - In the last Year, 117 Year 10s and 6 Year 7 respondents reported using cannabis.
 - In the last 30 days, 71 Year 10s and 5 Year 7 respondents reported using cannabis.

Finally, students were asked if they had ever been asked to store drugs, can easily obtain drugs and if they know where to buy drugs locally. Skip logic was active for this final question, and the total number of respondents were 183 in Year 10 and 62 in Year 7

All three of these situations asked within this question were more likely in Year 10 students compared to Year 7 students.

- 112 Year 10 students and 16 Year 7 students think that is it easy to obtain drugs locally.
- 97 Year 10 students and 16 Year 7 students said they know where to buy drugs locally.

- 44 Year 10 students and 8 Year 7 said they had been asked to sell or store drugs for someone.

Smoking

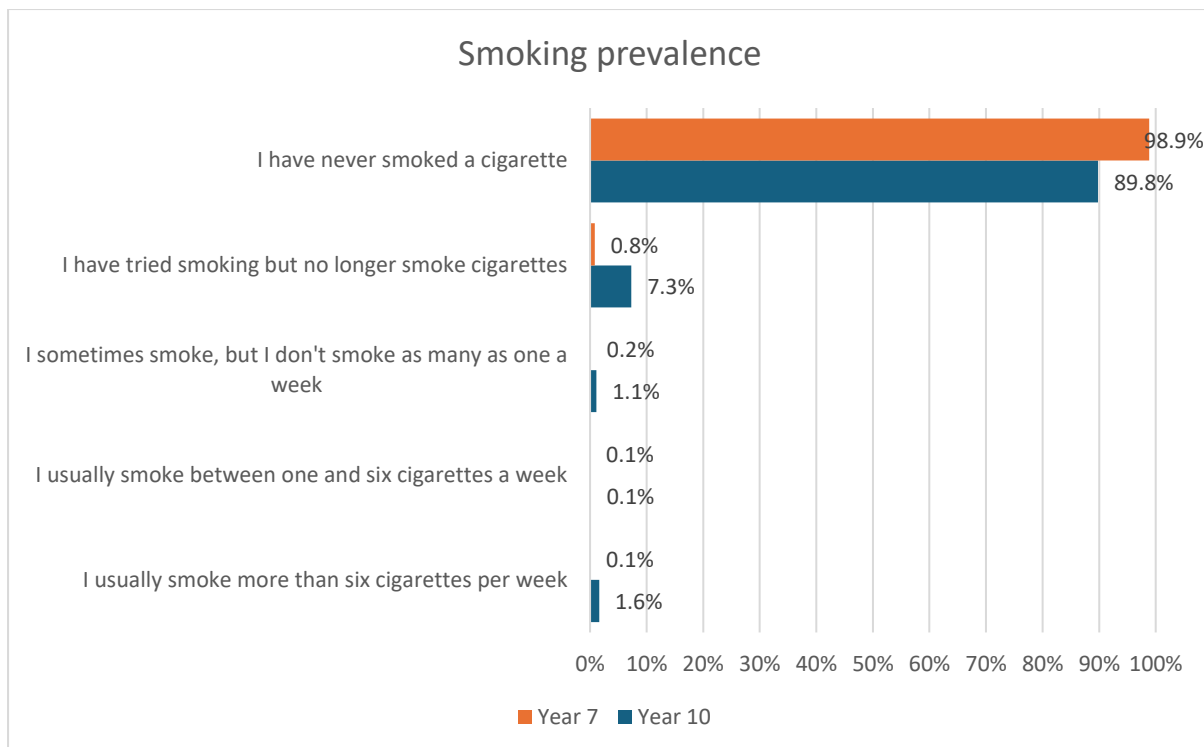
In total, 3,262 students responded to which statement best describes their smoking habits (70.9% of total participants).

Overall:

- 3,090 (94.7%) respondents reported they have never smoked a cigarette (67.1% of total participants).
- 124 (3.8%) respondents reported having tried smoking but no longer smoke cigarettes (2.7% of total participants).
- 48 (1.5%) respondents reported smoking at least some of the time or more (1.0% of total participants).

In Year 7, 1,752 (98.9% of respondents, 69.5% of total participants) students reported they have never smoked a cigarette, 15 (less than 1% of both respondents and total participants) students reported having tried smoking but no longer smoke cigarettes. 5 students reported to smoking at least some of the time or more.

In Year 10, 1,338 (89.8% of respondents, 64.2% of total participants) students reported they have never smoked a cigarette, 109 (7.3% of respondents, 5.2% of total participants) students have tried smoking but no longer smoke cigarettes, 43 (2.9% of respondents, 2.1% of total participants) students reported smoking at least some of the time or more.



Only students that had reported to smoking before were asked how regularly they have smoked cigarettes in both the last 30 days and in the last year. 124 students responded when asked about the previous 30 days and 119 responded when asked about the last year (2.7% and 2.6% of total participants respectively).

When asked about their smoking habits in the last 30 days:

- 84 respondents reported never smoking within the last 30 days
- 15 respondents reported smoking 1 to 9 days within the last 30 days
- 23 respondents reported smoking on 30 or more days
 - All respondents who reported this were in Year 10.
- No Year 7 respondents reported regular smoking in the last 30 days.

When asked about their smoking habits in the last year:

- 82 respondents reported never smoking
- 8 respondents reported smoking on 1 to 5 days
- 8 respondents reported smoking on between 5 and 29 days
- 21 respondents reported smoking on 30 or more days.
 - All respondents who reported this were in Year 10.

111 students responded to the question about smoking and vaping habits of the people they live with:

- 45 (40.5%) respondents did not live with anyone who smokes or vapes (1.0% of total participants).
- 15 (13.5%) respondents lived with someone who smokes (0.3% of total participants).
- 21 (18.9%) of respondents lived with someone at home who vapes (0.5% of total participants).
- 30 (27.0%) of respondents lived with someone who smokes and vapes (0.7% of total participants).

Respondents who smoked were asked where they obtain their cigarettes from, 65 students answered this question (1.4% of total participants):

- 14 reported buying their cigarettes from local shops
- 4 reported buying their cigarettes from local supermarkets
- 5 reported getting their cigarettes from a family member
- 11 reported getting them from friends
- 31 chose 'other'

Vaping

Students were asked which statement about their vaping habits best described them, 3,272 responded (71.1% of total participants):

Overall:

- 2,565 (78.4%) respondents reported they have never tried vaping (55.7% of total participants)
- 423 (12.9%) respondents reported having tried vaping but only once or twice and no longer use them (9.2% of total participants)

- 99 (3.0%) respondents reported vaping sometimes but not once a week (2.2% of total participants)
- 167 (5.1%) respondents reported vaping regularly, once a week or more (3.6% of total participants)

In Year 7:

- 1579 (90%) respondents reported they have never tried vaping (63% of total participants)
- 146 (8%) respondents reported having tried vaping but only once or twice and no longer use them (6% of total participants)
- 19 (1.1%) respondents reported vaping sometimes but not once a week (1% of total participants)
- 22 (1.2%) respondents reported vaping regularly, once a week or more (0.9% of total participants)

In Year 10:

- 986 (66.3%) respondents reported they have never tried vaping (47.3% of total participants)
- 277 (18.6%) respondents reported having tried vaping but only once or twice and no longer use them (13.3% of total participants)
- 80 (5.4%) respondents reported vaping sometimes but not once a week (3.8% of total participants)
- 145 (9.7%) respondents reported vaping regularly, once a week or more (7% of total participants)

Students were asked how pressured they feel by their friends to vape, where 0 was not pressured at all at 10 was extremely pressured. 2,186 students answered this question.

The majority of respondents reported little to no pressure to vape - with a score of 0-1 (34.6% of total participants).

- 94 of respondents felt extremely pressured to vape (score 10).

Students were asked to choose which option best describes why they vape; 324 students answered this question (7.0% of total participants). The majority of respondents (261, 80.6%) were in Year 10, as many more Year 10 respondents said they had had tried a vape before:

- 19 respondents reported they vaped to stop smoking
- 40 respondents reported they vaped and no longer smoking cigarettes
- 26 respondents reported they vaped and smoked cigarettes
- 237 respondents reported they vaped but have never smoked cigarettes

Students were asked about the frequency which they have used vapes within the last 30 days and last year. Vaping on at least three days in the last 30 days is defined as 'regular use'.

683 students answered the question about their vaping habits in the last 30 days (14.8% of total participants):

- 394 respondents reported never vaping
- 71 respondents reported vaping on 1 to 2 days
- 27 respondents reported vaping on 3 to 5 days
- 23 respondents reported vaping on 6 to 9 days
- 18 respondents reported vaping on 10 to 19 days
- 17 respondents reported vaping on 20 to 29 days
- 133 respondents reported vaping on 30 or more days

662 students answered the question about their vaping habits in the last year (14.4% of total participants):

- 238 respondents reported never vaping
- 134 respondents reported vaping on 1 to 2 days
- 35 respondents reported vaping on 3 to 5 days

- 29 respondents reported vaping on 6 to 9 days
- 19 respondents reported vaping on 10 to 19 days
- 20 respondents reported vaping on 20 to 29 days
- 178 respondents reported vaping on 30 or more days

Students were asked where they get their vapes from; 475 students answered this question (10.3% of total participants):

- 144 reported getting them from friends
- 84 respondents reported buying their vapes from local shops
- 47 reported getting their vapes from a family member
- 6 reported buying their vapes from local supermarkets
- 71 chose 'other'

Student Opinions on Health Behaviours

After the behavioural questions, students were asked their opinions on students of their age vaping, smoking, drinking and using substances. A different number of students responded to each statement, ranging from 3,240 to 3,249 (70.4-70.5% of the total participants).

Overall:

- 620 respondents said it was ok for people their age to drink enough alcohol to get drunk
- 427 respondents said it was ok for people their age to vape
- 141 respondents said it was ok for people their age to use cannabis
- 109 respondents said it was ok for people their age to smoke cigarettes
- 101 respondents said it was ok for people their age to use any other drugs

Bullying

3,256 students responded to the question around if they had been bullied in the last 6 months (70.7% of the total participants).

1,297 students said they have been bullied in the last 6 months (39.8% of respondents, 28.2% of total participants):

- 688 (21.1%) respondents said they have been bullied once or twice in the last 6 months (15% of total participants).
- 216 (6.6%) respondents said they have been bullied 3 to 5 times in the last 6 months (4.7% of total participants).
- 52 (1.6%) respondents said they have been bullied about once a month in the last 6 months (1.1% of total participants).
- 150 (4.6%) respondents said they have been bullied about once a week in the last 6 months (3.3% of total participants).
- 191 (5.9%) respondents said they have been bullied about once a week in the last 6 months (4.2% of total participants).

Of those who were bullied, there were a mix of responses to the type of bullying experienced:

- 'being called names' (992)
- being ignored by others (856),
- having lies or false rumours spread about them (764),
- being left out of things or excluded from groups on purpose (731).
- Nearly a third of students who said they were bullied in the past 6 months said this included being 'hit, kicked, punched or locked indoors' (368)
- Although less common forms of bullying, a number of students said they had experienced racist, queerphobic and/or sexualised bullying.

When asked if they reported the bullying, 94.3% of the 1,297 respondents who said they have been bullied in the last 6 months responded (1,223, 26.6% of the total participants):

- Just over half of the respondents said they had reported the bullying they had experienced.

Hate crime

Students were asked about their experiences with and knowledge of hate crime:

- 495 respondents (15.7%) have experienced hate crime (10.8% of total participants).
- 2,412 respondents (76.2%) know what hate crime is (52.4% of total participants).
- 1,473 respondents (46.7%) know how to report hate crime (32.0% of total participants).

Next steps

These findings should be used in conjunction with the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). The results of this survey will be published on the JSNA website, here> [Homepage – Rotherham Data Hub](#).