Child Friendly Nottingham

Survey results
winter/spring 2024-2025

Foreword

On behalf of Child Friendly Nottingham (CFN), I am delighted to present the findings from our first Child Friendly Nottingham Children & Young People's Survey.

The survey is the outcome of a collaboration between members of the CFN Co-operation & Leadership Group. Analysis has been led by Nottingham City Council's Research, Engagement & Consultation Team together with the University of Nottingham's City as Lab.

Over a thousand children and young people answered a wide range of questions. Thank you to everbody who responded, as well as to the teachers, youth & play workers, and other professionals who supported children and young people to participate.

This is the first survey of its kind in the city. In addition to providing insight about the lived experiences of the respondents, we are also learning about what worked well with the survey and what didn't, refining the approach so that we can grow and diversify participation in future iterations.

The findings are not definitive or a judgment. Instead, they represent the voices and opinions of young citizens, set around the themes of the CFN badge priorities: Safe, Education, Health, and Equal & Included.

We challenge you to use the survey findings to improve the lives of children and young people. The issues identified can help you reassess strategies, prompt further investigation, support research, or underpin project bids. Please do share with us how you intend to use the survey findings, together with any suggestions for improvement. You can email us at: child.friendly@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

We aim to run this survey annually, supplemented by focused, thematic questionnaires. We are already planning the next survey for autumn 2025. Alongside the findings presented here, this will begin to provide a strong evidence base for partners, researchers, and policymakers. Most importantly, it will enable us to track our progress and report back to children and young people on how their voices are helping to shape a Child Friendly City.

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Jon Rea

Co-operation & Leadership Group
Child Friendly Nottingham
June 2025

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About the survey

Child Friendly Nottingham (CFN) consulted children and young people living in and around Nottingham between 20 November 2024 and 4 April 2025 via three different surveys: **primary** (ages 7-11), **secondary** (ages 11-16), **further ed/school leaver** (ages 16-18).

The surveys were available in printable and digital versions on the Nottingham City Council Engage Nottingham Hub and the [CFN website](#).

All surveys were anonymous and consent was required. No question was compulsory.

Survey completion numbers:
7-11 survey: 555
11-16 survey: 459
16-18 survey: 108
Total: 1122

Margins of error at 95% confidence rate:
Ages 7-11: 4.09% (based on an estimated population of 17,570)
Ages 11-16: 4.52% (based on an estimated population of 19,140)
Ages 16-18: 9.38% (based on an estimated population of 10,760)

Participant profile

The spread of living location was:
South Nottingham: 30% of respondents
Central Nottingham: 20% of respondents
North Nottingham: 50% of respondents

Over fifty different languages were given in response to the question "At home, what language do you speak most of the time?".

Respondents to the 11-16 and 16-18 surveys were asked "Do you have a long-term health problem or disability that limits your day-to-day activities?". Responses were: No (61%), Yes, limited a little (16%), Yes, limited a lot (4%).

Primary Survey
ages 7-11

School

Are you able to learn at school?

All or most of the time

76%

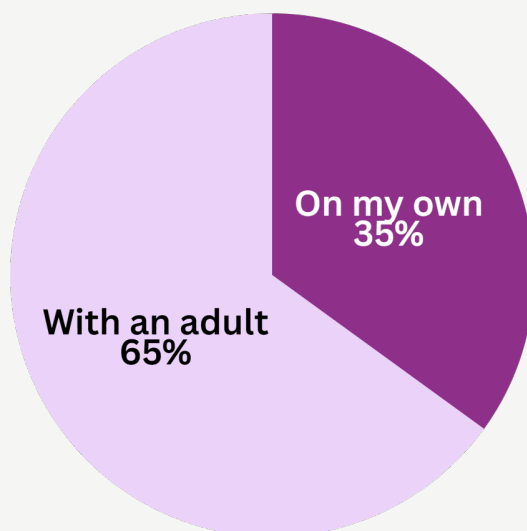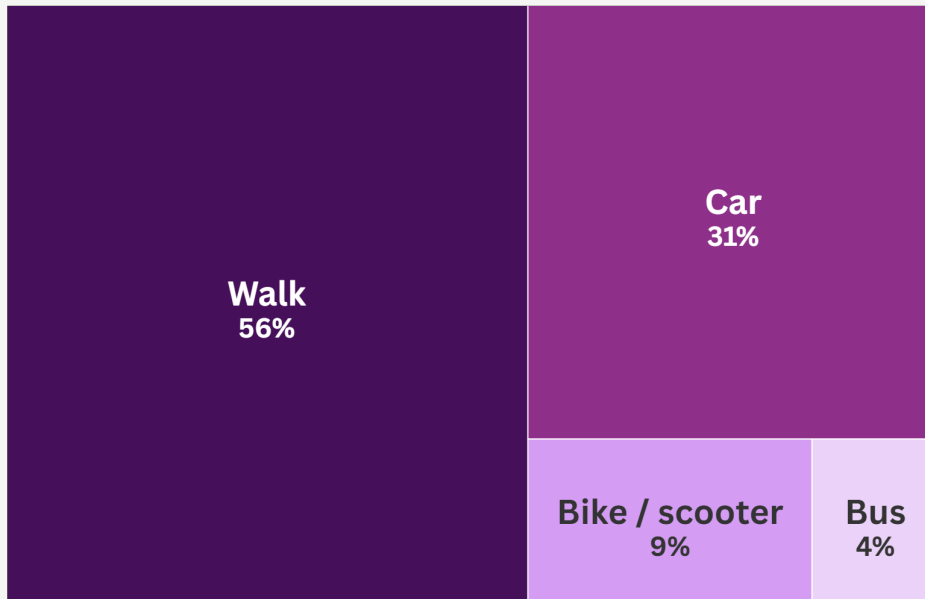Some of the time

20%

I don't want to say

2%

I don't know

1%

None of the time

1%

Normally, do you get to school on your own or with an adult?

On my own
35%

With an adult
65%

How do you get to school?

Walk 56%	**Car** 31%
	Bike / scooter 9% — **Bus** 4%

Is there anything you don't like about your journey to or from school?

No issues / satisfied with journey
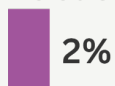44%

Infrastructure & environmental quality*
29%

Safety concerns*
14%

Traffic congestion / journey time
7%

Walking / cycling / scooting difficulties
4%

Public transport crowding
2%

Infrastructure & environmental quality included mentions of: dirty areas, litter, traffic pollution, potholes, dog poo, overgrown trees and bushes

Safety concerns included mentions of: dangerous drivers, unsafe road crossings, walking alone, people making respondents feel uncomfortable
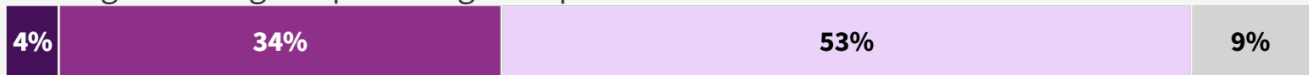
You and your neighbourhood

Do you agree?

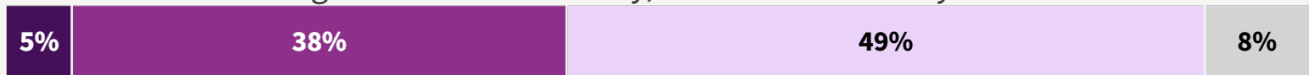■ Disagree ■ Sort of ■ Agree ■ I'm not sure

Nottingham is a friendly place

6%	46%	41%	7%

Nottingham is a good place to grow up

4%	34%	53%	9%

All children in Nottingham are treated fairly, no matter who they are

5%	38%	49%	8%

I have a say in decisions that affect my life

9%	28%	50%	13%

When I need help, I know where to get support

	20%	74%	4%

I understand my rights and know how to talk about them

	26%	64%	7%

I feel safe on the streets near my home

7%	31%	57%	5%
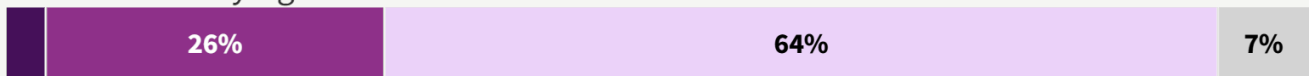
What would make Nottingham better for children?

(Sum of percentages exceeds 100% because respondents made multiple suggestions.)

Enhanced safety, crime prevention, policing
31%

Less traffic and more road safety
29%

More parks, playgrounds, recreation
27%

Improved cleanliness and environment
25%

More activities, clubs, facilities
25%

Better education and school improvements
14%

Improved community and social behaviour
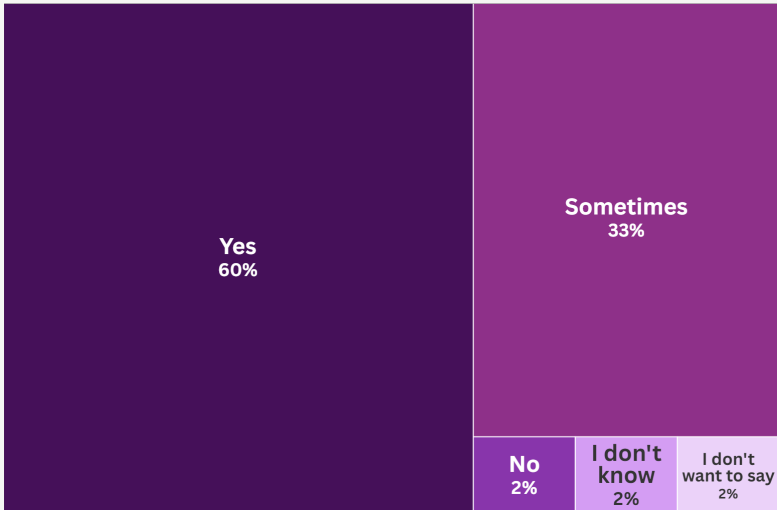**12%**

Better infrastructure and urban development
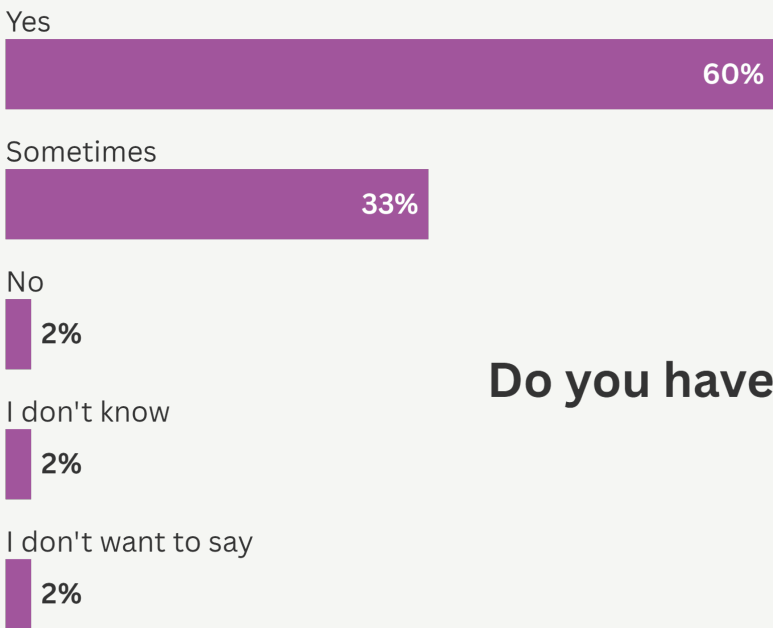**10%**

Improved health and wellbeing
8%

Online

Are you allowed to use the internet at home?

Yes 60%	Sometimes 33%
	No 2% · I don't know 2% · I don't want to say 2%

Do you feel safe using the internet?

Yes
60%

Sometimes
33%

No
2%

I don't know
2%

I don't want to say
2%

Do you have a mobile phone?

Share one	No	Yes
8%	38%	54%
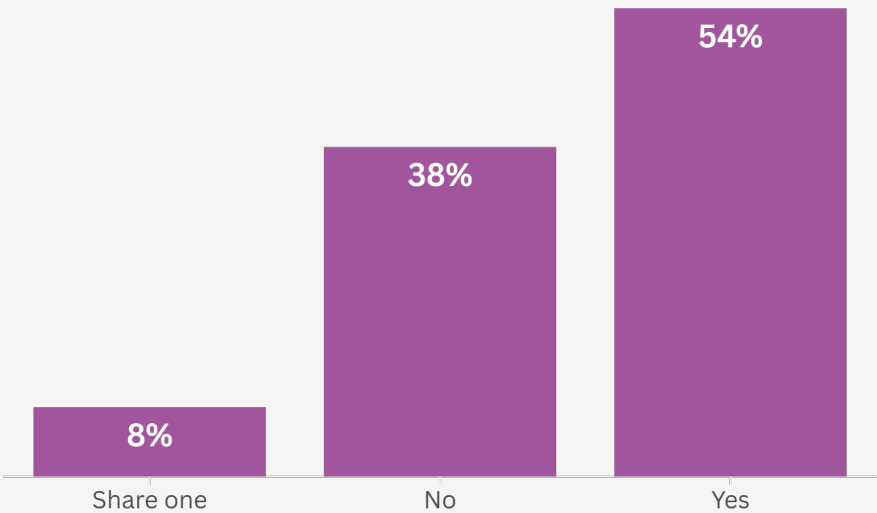
Activities and friends

Do you play with your friends on the weekends or after school?

Never
13%

Often
36%

Sometimes
51%

Can you ride a bike?

Yes, I can ride a bike well

70%
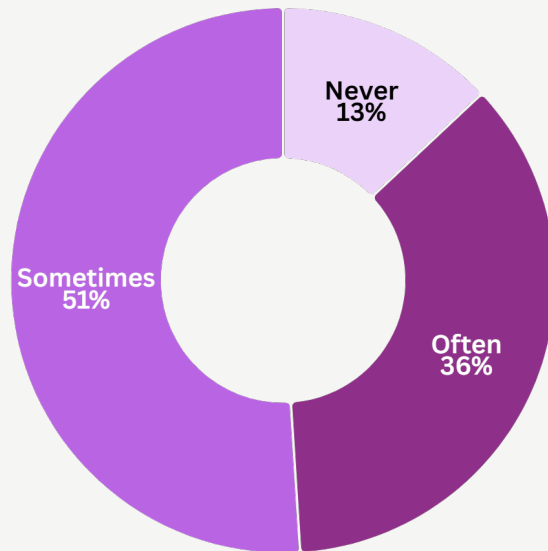
Yes, but not very well
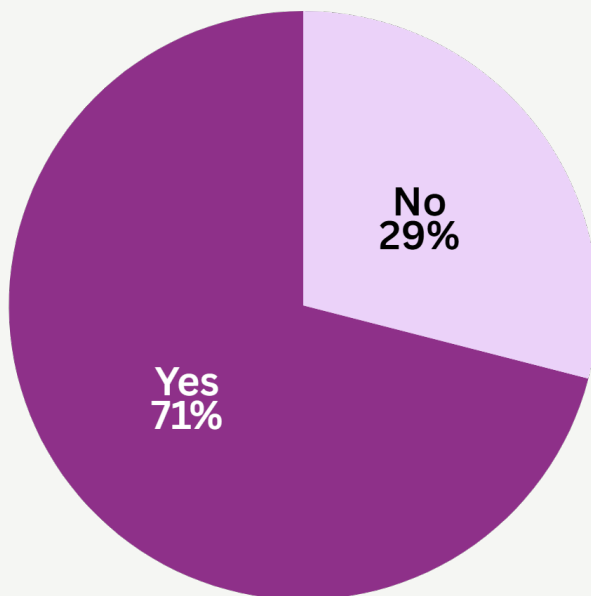
14%

No, but I'd like to learn

10%

No, and I don't want to learn

6%

76% of respondents said there are clean, safe places for playing near their home

26% of respondents said they play with their friends outside after dark

Do you ever go to museums, galleries, theatre shows, or concerts?

No
29%

Yes
71%

Secondary Survey
ages 11-16

Child Friendly Nottingham

School and learning

Are you able to learn at school?

All or most of the time

76%

Some of the time

20%

I don't want to say
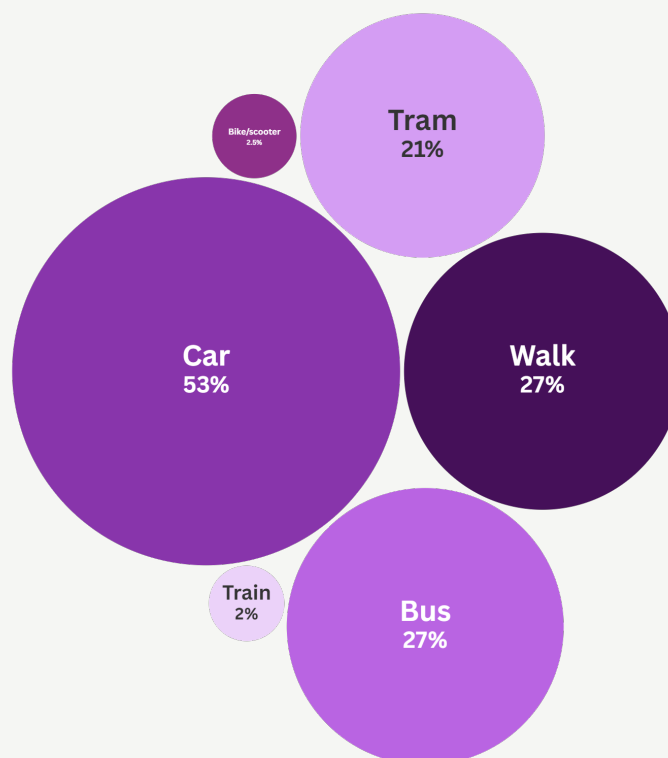
2%

I don't know

1%

None of the time

1%

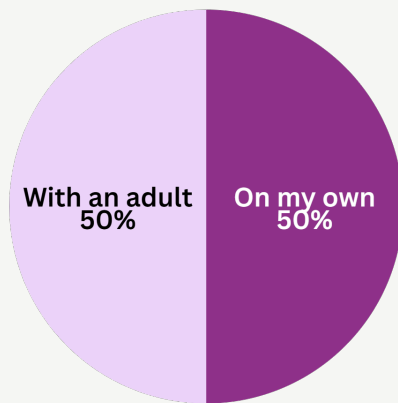## How do you get to school?

(Sum of percentages exceeds 100% because some respondents mentioned multiple modes of transport.)

Bike/scooter
2.9%

Tram
21%

Car
53%

Walk
27%

Train
2%

Bus
27%

Normally, do you get to school on your own or accompanied by an adult?

With an adult 50%

On my own 50%

Is there anything you don't like about your journey to or from school?

(Sum of percentages exceeds 100% because some respondents listed multiple issues.)

No issues / satisfied with journey
47%

Traffic congestion / journey time
22%

Infrastructure & environmental quality*
19%

Safety concerns*
17%

Public transport reliability and frequency
13%

Public transport crowding
7%

Walking difficulties
3%

Weather and cold
3%

Infrastructure & environmental quality included mentions of: litter, dirty pavements, overgrown vegetation, e-bikes and scooters blocking paths, traffic pollution, dilapidated buildings

Safety concerns included mentions of: drug addicts, vaping on public transport, homeless people, creepy people, unsafe roads

You and your neighbourhood

Which three items are most important to you?

(Sum of percentages exceeds 100% because respondents each selected three options.)

Family
26%

Feeling safe and secure
15%

Education and learning
14%

Being healthy
13%

Access to services that are friendly for young people
12%

Feeling you can grow, explore and follow your interests
8%

Access to parks, nature and clean air
6%

Feeling you belong
4%

Feeling equal and included
3%

Taking part in your local community
1%

Do you agree?

■ Disagree ■ Sort of ▢ Agree

I feel good about my future

| 5% | 32% | 63% |

Nottingham is a good place to grow up

| 17% | 42% | 41% |

I know how to get information and support for keeping my mind and body healthy

| 5% | 20% | 75% |

I feel safe on the streets near my home

| 18% | 36% | 46% |

Does anything make you feel unsafe in the streets near your home?

(Sum of percentages exceeds 100% because some respondents listed multiple concerns.)

No issues / I feel safe

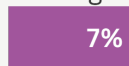**37%**

Crime concerns

21%

Intimidating individuals

13%

Antisocial behaviour

11%

General sense of unease

9%

Litter and pollution

9%

Poor lighting

7%

Gangs

5%

Traffic and road safety

5%

Lack of police presence

1%

Racism and discrimination

1%

Why do you go into the city centre?

(Sum of percentages exceeds 100% because some respondents listed multiple reasons.)

Shopping
66%

Entertainment and leisure
38%

Socialising with friends
33%

Cafes and restaurants
21%

Spend time with family
21%

School or education
15%

Commuting / using public transport
11%

Appointments and errands
6%

Exercise and wellbeing
3%

71% of respondents said they visit Nottingham city centre

How would you like to share your ideas for making Nottingham better for young people?

I'm not interested in sharing my views and ideas
36%

Questionnaires
31%

Social media
15%

Meetings or group discussions
12%

Email
6%

What is the one thing you would most like to see change for children and young people living in Nottingham?

(Sum of percentages exceeds 100% because some respondents made more than one suggestion.)

Safety and crime reduction
36%

More activities and recreation
18%

Better behaviour and social cohesion
17%

Better education and job opportunities
13%

Improved health and wellbeing
12%

More affordability
8%

Better environment and cleanliness
8%

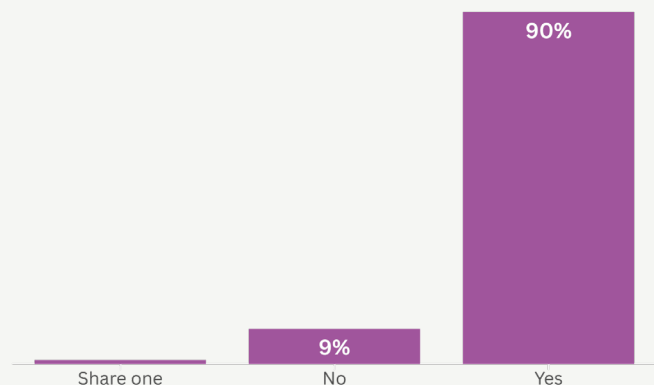Improvements to transport and infrastructure
8%

More equality and rights
5%

Youth voice and engagement
3%

Online

Do you have a mobile phone?

90%

9%

Share one | No | Yes

Are you allowed to use the internet at home?

Yes, whenever I want
76%

Sometimes
21%

No
2%

We don't have internet at home
1%

Do you feel safe using the internet?

Yes
64%

Sometimes
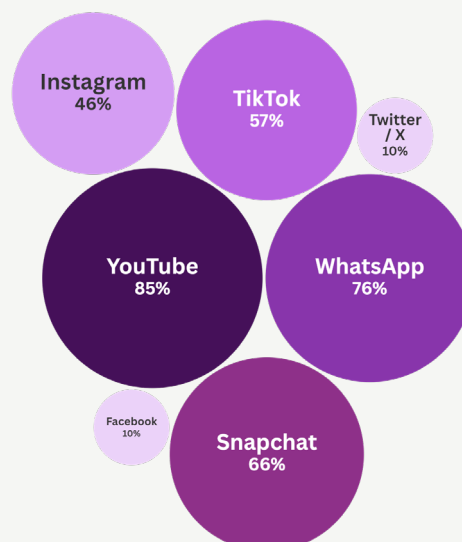26%

I don't know
6%

I don't want to say
3%

No
1%

Do you use any of these social media platforms?

(Sum of percentages exceeds 100% because most respondents listed multiple platforms.)

Instagram 46%

TikTok 57%

Twitter / X 10%

YouTube 85%

WhatsApp 76%

Facebook 10%

Snapchat 66%

What makes you feel safe online?

(Sum of percentages exceeds 100% because some respondents listed multiple reasons.)

Safe online behaviours
36%

Knowledge and awareness
27%

Platform safety features
18%

Positive online environments
16%

Security tools and technology
16%

Privacy settings / anonymity
12%

Parental controls
10%

Limiting exposure
9%

Having a support network
9%

Control and agency over data
3%

Mentioned in the context of what makes respondents feel **unsafe** online were: bullying, harassment, threats, nasty comments, discrimination, toxic behaviours, scammers, hackers, fake profiles, blackmail, gaslighting, weird adverts, fake news, triggering content, AI misuse, spam emails, data theft, being added to weird chats, group chat arguments.

Activities, friends, well-being, and free time

In a typical week, how often do you get together with friends in person outside of school?

Less often than once a week
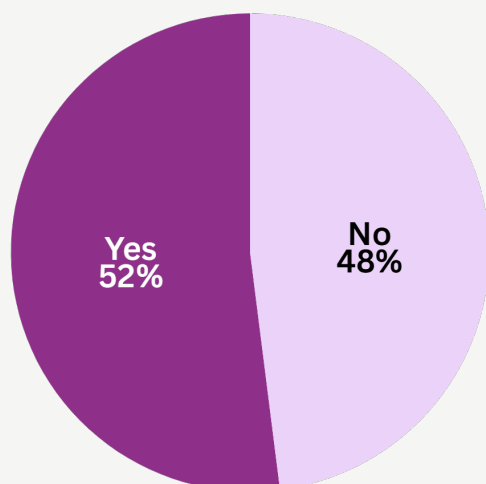**29%**

About once a week
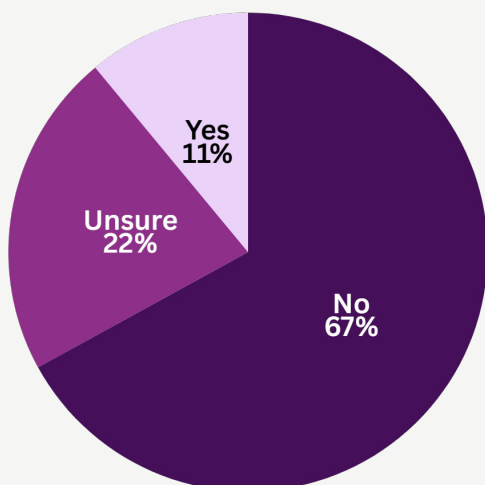**28%**

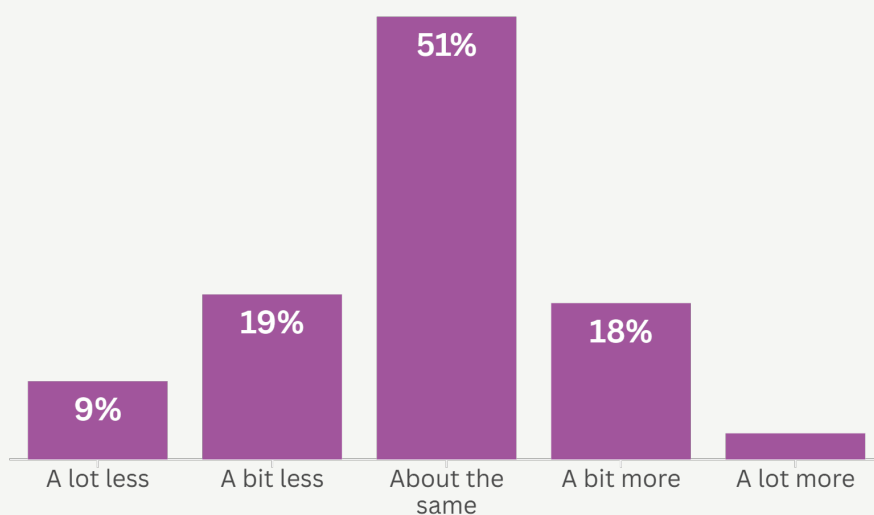Several times a week
25%

Every day or almost every day
14%

Never
4%

Do you ever play or hang out with your friends after dark?

Yes
52%

No
48%

Do you ever go to a Youth Centre or Activity Centre?

No
67%

Unsure
22%

Yes
11%

How much money do you have to spend on yourself compared to your friends?

A lot less	A bit less	About the same	A bit more	A lot more
9%	19%	51%	18%	

Can you ride a bike?

Yes, I can ride a bike well
70%

Yes, but not very well
17%

No, but I'd like to
9%

No, and I don't want to
4%

Do you ever go to museums, galleries, theatre shows, or concerts?

Sometimes
49%

Hardly ever
26%

Never
16%

Often
9%
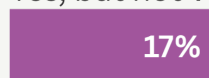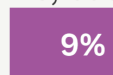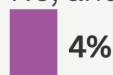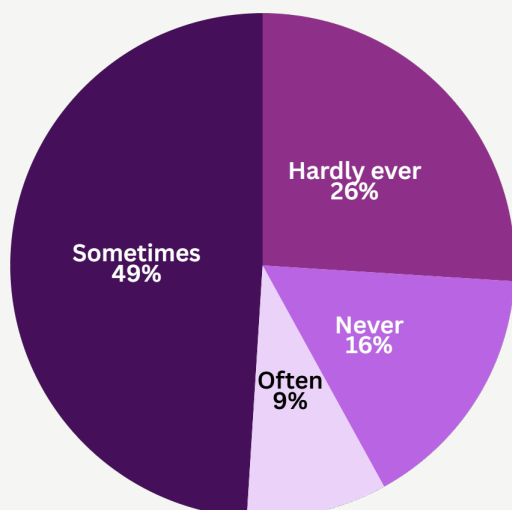
If not, why not?

Lack of interest

50%

Lack of time

30%

Accessibility or travel issues

17%

Parents don't allow it

14%

Too expensive

13%

Prefer other activities

11%

Personal reasons (anxiety, introversion, laziness)

6%

Poor quality of offering

6%

Do you agree?

■ Disagree ■ Sort of ■ Agree

There are places in my community where I can connect with nature*

7%	33%	60%

Nottingham is doing the right things to tackle climate change

16%	51%	33%

I have safe spaces to go with my friends (other than school or home)

20%	41%	39%

There are good, affordable activities for me to join*

16%	33%	51%

There clean, safe places for me to play or hang out near where I live

19%	40%	41%

Streets and footpaths are well lit at night-time in my community

23%	41%	36%

*Actual question texts were:
- There are places in my community where I can connect with nature (for example parks, gardens, nature trails)
- There are good, affordable activities for me to join (like sports and other clubs)
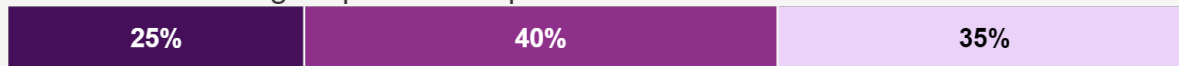
Do you agree?

■ Disagree ■ Sort of ■ Agree

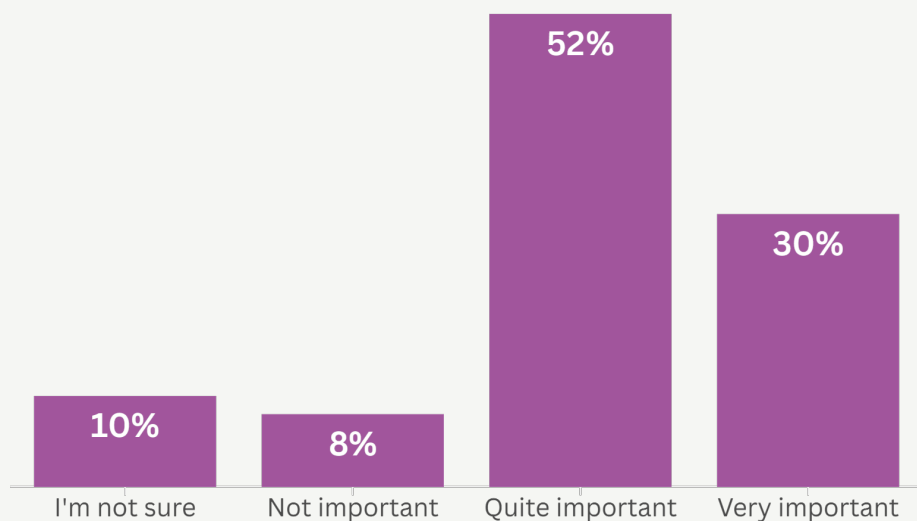Public transport gets me where I need to go

6%	22%	72%

I feel safe travelling on public transport

25%	40%	35%

Public transport is affordable

27%	38%	35%

How important is climate change to you?

Category	Value
I'm not sure	10%
Not important	8%
Quite important	52%
Very important	30%

How happy did you feel yesterday (with 1 being not happy at all and 10 being completely happy)?

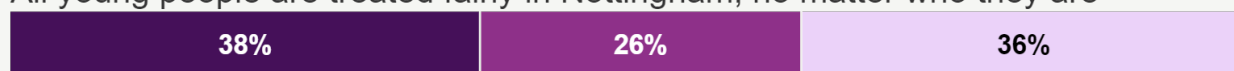| Rating	Value
1	1.33%
2	2.33%
3	3.33%
4	4.33%
5	7.67%
6	11.33%
7	21%
8	20%
9	10%
10	15.33%

Equality and inclusion in Nottingham

Do you agree?

■ Disagree ■ Sort of ■ Agree

All young people are treated fairly in Nottingham, no matter who they are

| 38% | 26% | 36% |

People who are different are welcome in Nottingham

| 15% | 39% | 46% |

All young people in Nottingham have the same opportunities

| 42% | 37% | 21% |

Nottingham is a friendly place

| 20% | 40% | 40% |

I can contribute my ideas on new buildings and spaces in my community*

| 43% | 37% | 20% |

I feel welcome and that I belong in Nottingham

| 10% | 41% | 49% |

Young people are represented in positive ways in Nottingham

| 13% | 48% | 39% |

It is easy for me to make a complaint about services I use*

| 29% | 36% | 35% |

When I need help, I know where to get support

| 22% | 31% | 47% |

*Actual question texts were:
- When there are new buildings or spaces designed in my community (like housing, community spaces, public art, shopping areas), there are ways for me to have in say in what those buildings and spaces look and feel like
- It is easy for me to make a complaint about services I use (such as doctors, health care, youth/sport clubs, libraries, school, or mental health services)

Do you agree?

■ Disagree ■ Sort of ■ Agree

I understand my rights and know how to talk about them

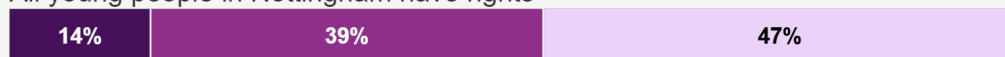| 10%	39%	51%

My rights are understood and respected at school

11%	30%	59%

My rights are understood and respected at home

4%	15%	81%

All young people in Nottingham have rights

14%	39%	47%

What things have helped you learn about your rights?

(Sum of percentages exceeds 100% because some respondents listed multiple sources.)

School lessons / assemblies
68%
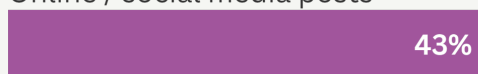
Online / social media posts
43%

Family / home discussions
37%

Posters
20%

Ambassadors / youth representatives
9%
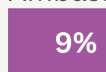
Community events / activities
8%

None of the above
5%

Only 33% of respondents said they had heard of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Further Education/ School Leaver Survey

ages 16-18

School / college / work

Are you able to learn and progress in your studies/work?

All or most of the time

64%

Some of the time

31%

None of the time

2.5%

I don't know

2.5%

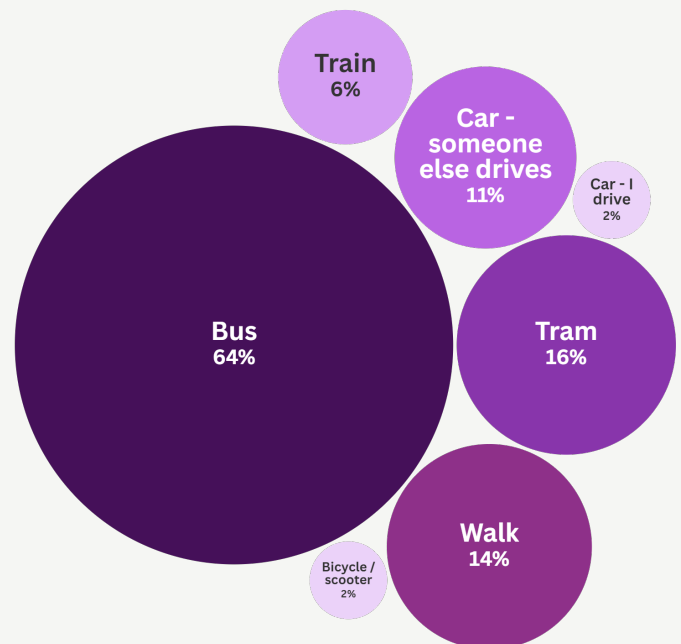## How do you typically get to school / college / work?

(Sum of percentages exceeds 100% because some respondents mentioned multiple modes of transport.)

Train
6%

Car - someone else drives
11%

Car - I drive
2%

Bus
64%

Tram
16%

Bicycle / scooter
2%

Walk
14%

Normally, do you get to school / college / work on your own or accompanied by an adult?

With an adult
7%

On my own
93%
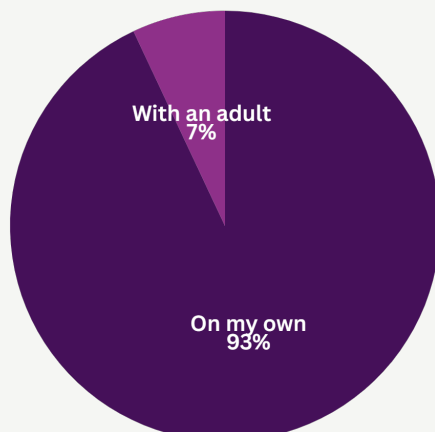
Is there anything you don't like about your journey to or from school / college / work?

(Sum of percentages exceeds 100% because some respondents listed multiple issues.)

Public transport reliability and frequency

30%

Traffic congestion / journey time

30%

No issues / satisfied with journey

27%

Safety concerns

22%

Infrastructure & environmental quality

10%

Public transport crowding

10%

Public transport cost

5%

Walking difficulties

4%

Timing and scheduling

4%

You and your neighbourhood

Which three items are most important to you?

(Sum of percentages exceeds 100% because respondents each selected three options.)

Family
21%

Feeling safe and secure
20%

Access to services that are friendly for young people
18%

Education and learning
16%

Feeling you can grow, explore and follow your interests
15%

Feeling you belong
7%

Access to parks, nature and clean air
7%

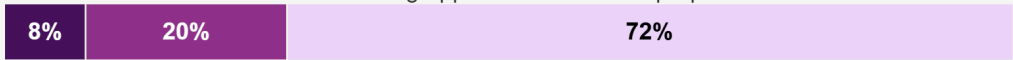Being healthy
6%

Feeling equal and included
4%

Taking part in your local community
1%

Do you agree?

■ Disagree ■ Sort of ■ Agree

I have access to educational or training opportunities that will prepare me for a successful life*

| 8% | 20% | 72% |

I feel good about my future

| 16% | 46% | 38% |

Nottingham is a good place to grow up

| 36% | 34% | 30% |

I know how to get information and support for keeping my mind and body healthy

| 11% | 23% | 66% |

I feel safe on the streets near my home

| 23% | 35% | 42% |

*Actual question text was:
- In Nottingham, I have access to education or training opportunities that will prpeare me for a successful life

Does anything make you feel unsafe in the streets near your home?

(Sum of percentages exceeds 100% because some respondents listed multiple concerns.)

No issues / I feel safe
54%

Crime concerns
20%

Intimidating individuals
18%

Gangs
9%

Traffic and road safety
5%

Infrastructure and environmental quality
5%

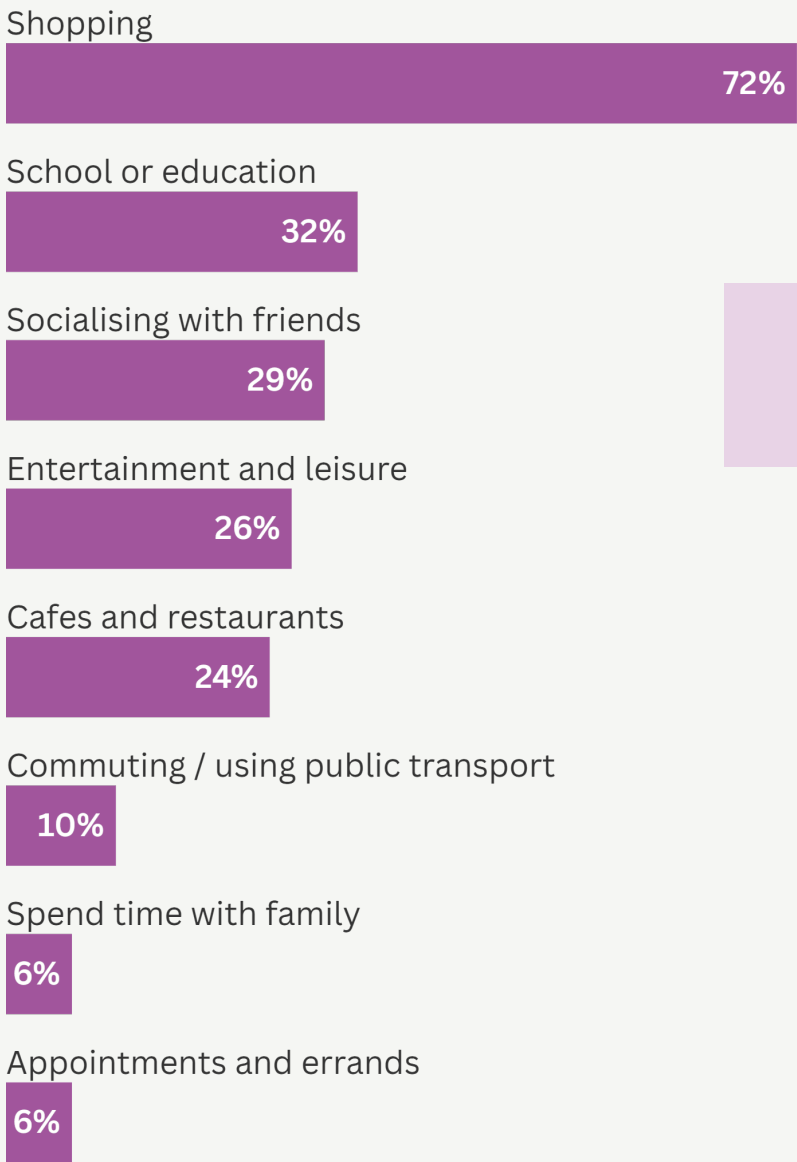Lack of police presence
4%

Poor lighting and dark areas
4%

Why do you go into the city centre?

(Sum of percentages exceeds 100% because some respondents listed multiple reasons.)

Shopping
72%

School or education
32%

Socialising with friends
29%

Entertainment and leisure
26%

Cafes and restaurants
24%

Commuting / using public transport
10%

Spend time with family
6%

Appointments and errands
6%

71% of respondents said they visit Nottingham city centre

How would you like to share your ideas for making Nottingham better for young people?

I'm not interested in sharing my views and ideas
34%

Questionnaires
26%

Social media
22%

Meetings or group discussions
15%

Email
4%
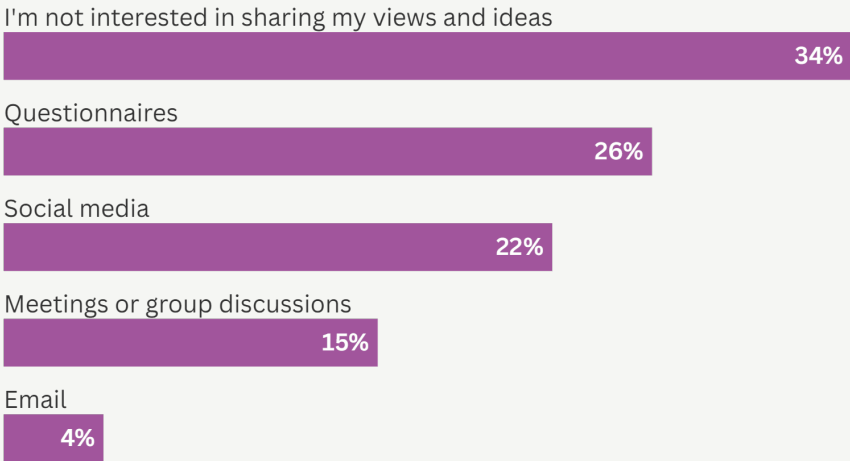
What is the one thing you would most like to see change for children and young people living in Nottingham?

(Sum of percentages exceeds 100% because some respondents made more than one suggestion.)

Safety and crime reduction
53%

More activities and recreation
25%

Better education and job opportunities
23%

Improved health and wellbeing
23%

Better behaviour and social cohesion
15%

More affordability
10%

Better environment, cleanliness, green spaces
7%

Urban development and more shops
4%

Promotion of equality and rights
2%

Online

Do you have a mobile phone?

No	Share one	Yes
		99%

Do you have access to the internet at home?
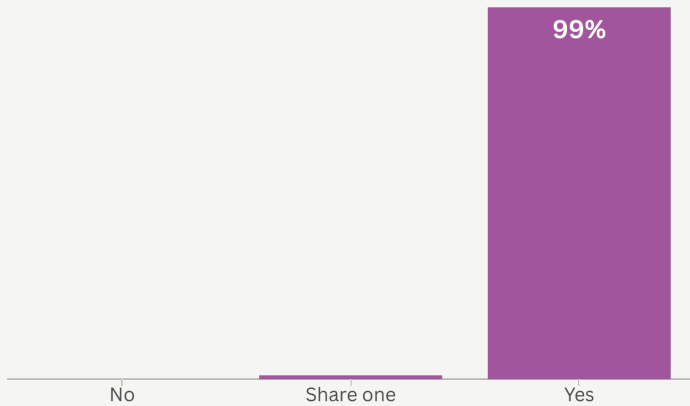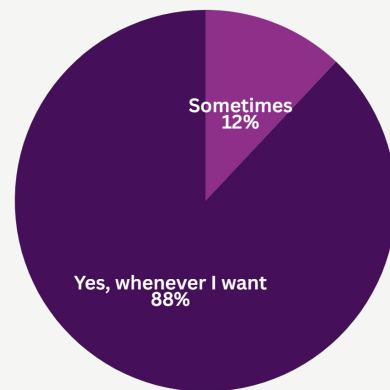
Sometimes
12%

Yes, whenever I want
88%

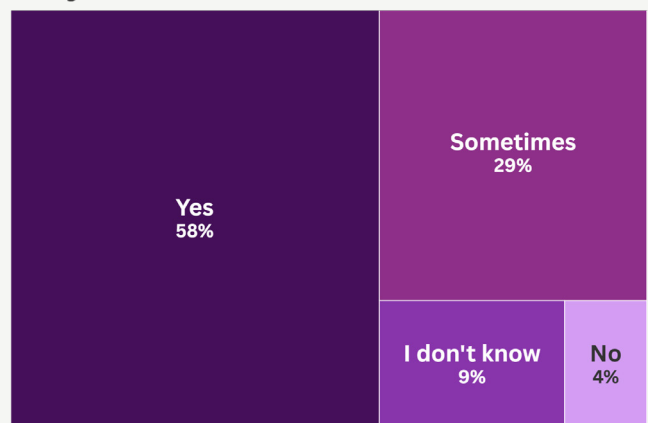## Do you use any of these social media platforms?

(Sum of percentages exceeds 100% because most respondents listed multiple platforms.)

YouTube
57%

Instagram
64%

Facebook
32%

Snapchat
79%

TikTok
77%

Twitter / X
20%

Whatsapp
74%

Do you feel safe online?

Yes
58%

Sometimes
29%

I don't know
9%

No
4%
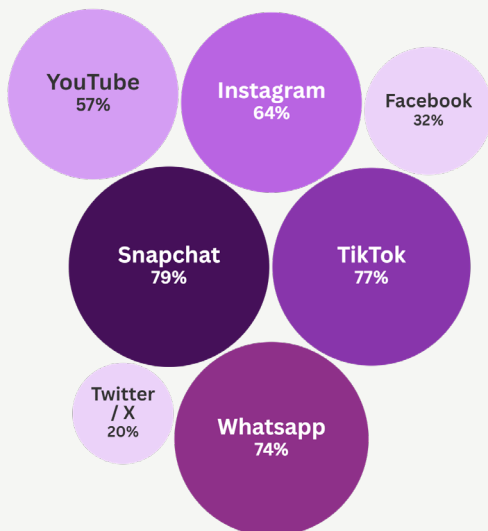
What makes you feel safe online?

(Sum of percentages exceeds 100% because some respondents listed multiple reasons.)

Adopting safe online behaviour
36%

Knowledge and awareness
29%

Privacy settings / anonymity
25%

Positive online environments
20%

Security tools and technology
16%

Platform safety features
15%

Lack of negative experiences
13%

Limiting exposure
13%

Having a support network
5%

Parental controls
4%

Mentioned in the context of what makes respondents feel **unsafe** online were: trolls, racists, hate speech, bullying, threats, discrimination, scams, stalking, racist press, inappropiate content, violence, pop-ups, hacking, data theft, sketchy emails, sketchy websites.

Activities, friends, well-being, and free time

In a typical week, how often do you get together with friends in person outside of school or work?

Less often than once a week
29%

About once a week
27%
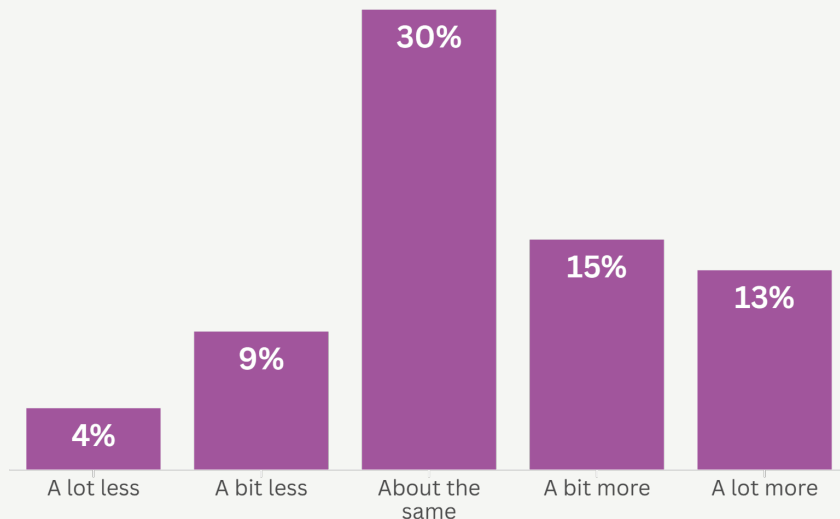
Every day or almost every day
23%

Never
12%

Several times a week
9%

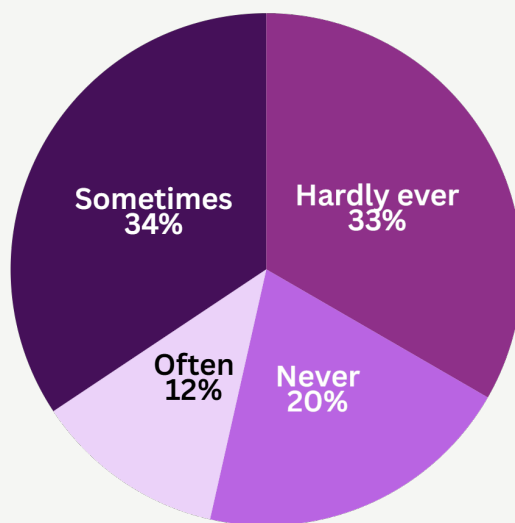**How much money do you have to spend on yourself compared to your friends?**

(Note that 29% answered "Not sure" or "Prefer not to say".)

A lot less	A bit less	About the same	A bit more	A lot more
4%	9%	30%	15%	13%

Do you go to museums, galleries, theatre shows, or concerts?

Sometimes 34%

Hardly ever 33%

Often 12%

Never 20%

If not, why not?

Lack of interest

44%

Too expensive

44%

Lack of time

37%

Accessibility or travel issues

17%

Personal reasons*

15%

Poor quality of offering

9%

Prefer other activities

9%

*Personal reasons included anxiety, introversion, laziness, dislike of loud environments

Do you agree?

■ Disagree ■ Sort of ☐ Agree

There are places in my community where I can connect with nature*

| 12% | 29% | 59% |

Nottingham is doing the right things to tackle climate change

| 30% | 43% | 27% |

I have safe spaces to go with my friends (other than school or home)

| 26% | 34% | 40% |

There are good, affordable activities for me to join*

| 23% | 41% | 36% |

There clean, safe places for me to play or hang out near where I live
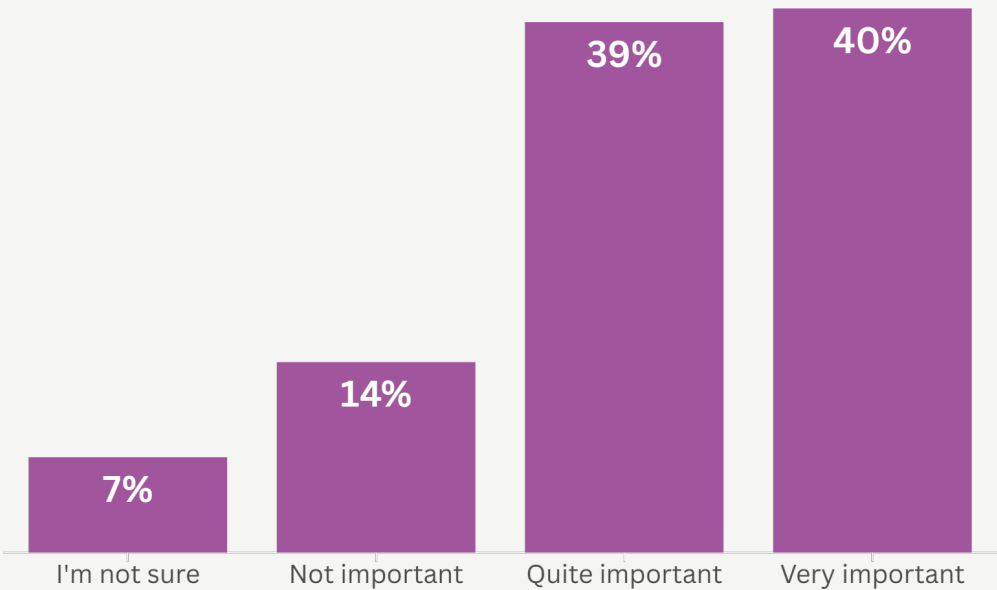
| 31% | 36% | 33% |

Streets and footpaths are well lit at night-time in my community

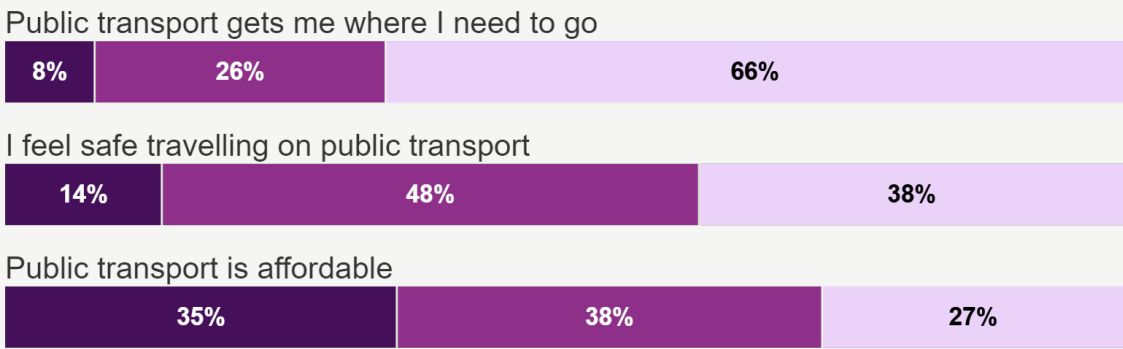| 37% | 34% | 29% |

*Actual question texts were:
- There are places in my community where I can connect with nature (for example parks, gardens, nature trails)
- There are good, affordable activities for me to join (like sports and other clubs)
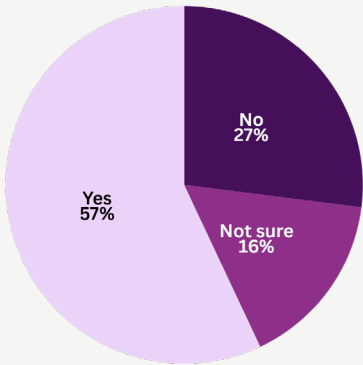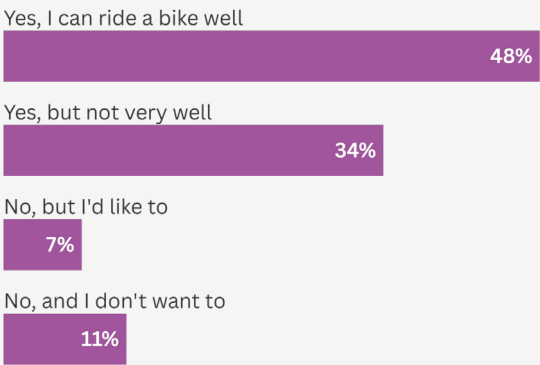
How important is climate change to you?

I'm not sure	Not important	Quite important	Very important
7%	14%	39%	40%

Do you agree?

■ Disagree ■ Sort of ■ Agree

Public transport gets me where I need to go

8%	26%	66%

I feel safe travelling on public transport

14%	48%	38%

Public transport is affordable

35%	38%	27%

If you could vote from age 16, would you?

No 27%
Not sure 16%
Yes 57%

Can you ride a bike?

Yes, I can ride a bike well
48%

Yes, but not very well
34%

No, but I'd like to
7%

No, and I don't want to
11%

How happy did you feel yesterday (with 1 being not happy at all and 10 being completely happy)?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7%	2%	15%	9%	12%	7%	17%	15%	9%	7%

Equality and inclusion in Nottingham

Do you agree?

■ Disagree ■ Sort of ☐ Agree

All young people are treated fairly in Nottingham, no matter who they are

| 45% | 29% | 26% |

People who are different are welcome in Nottingham

| 21% | 36% | 43% |

All young people in Nottingham have the same opportunities

| 53% | 25% | 22% |

Nottingham is a friendly place

| 33% | 40% | 27% |

I can contribute my ideas on new buildings and spaces in my community*

| 40% | 30% | 30% |

I feel welcome and that I belong in Nottingham

| 25% | 36% | 39% |

Young people are represented in positive ways in Nottingham

| 38% | 33% | 29% |

It is easy for me to make a complaint about services I use*
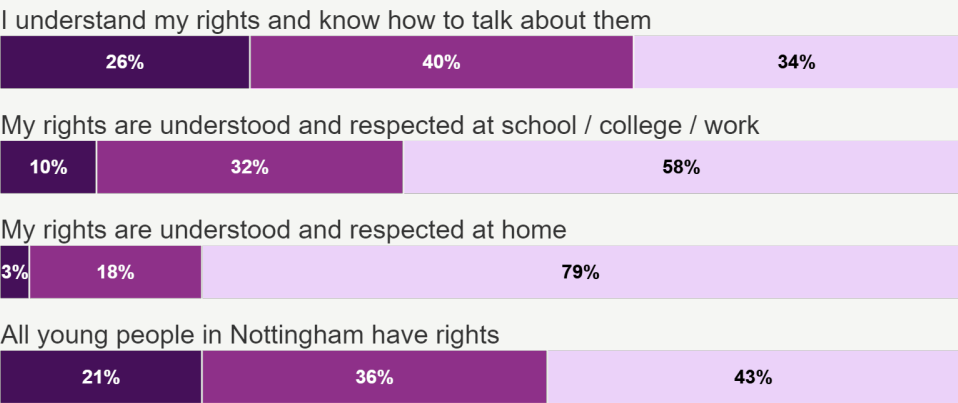
| 41% | 27% | 32% |

When I need help, I know where to get support

| 27% | 34% | 39% |

*Actual question texts were:
- When there are new buildings or spaces designed in my community (like housing, community spaces, public art, shopping areas), there are ways for me to have in say in what those buildings and spaces look and feel like
- It is easy for me to make a complaint about services I use (such as doctors, health care, youth/sport clubs, libraries, school, or mental health services)
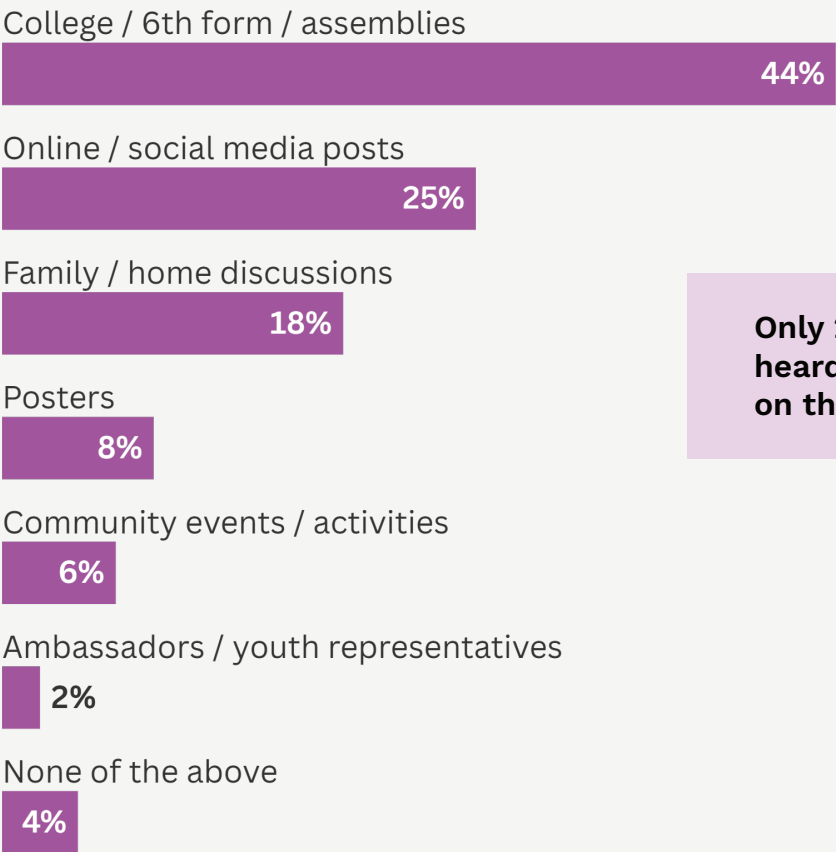
42

Do you agree?

■ Disagree ■ Sort of ☐ Agree

I understand my rights and know how to talk about them

| 26% | 40% | 34% |

My rights are understood and respected at school / college / work

| 10% | 32% | 58% |

My rights are understood and respected at home

| 3% | 18% | 79% |

All young people in Nottingham have rights

| 21% | 36% | 43% |

What things have helped you learn about your rights?

(Sum of percentages exceeds 100% because some respondents listed multiple sources.)

College / 6th form / assemblies
44%

Online / social media posts
25%

Family / home discussions
18%

Posters
8%

Community events / activities
6%

Ambassadors / youth representatives
2%

None of the above
4%

Only 29% of respondents said they had heard of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Child Friendly Nottingham

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