



Experience of culture and the arts by young people in Northern Ireland

Findings from the Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitudes Survey 2016

Triennial publication

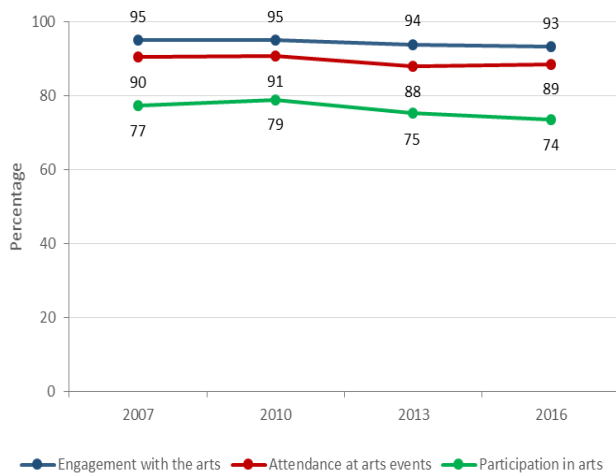
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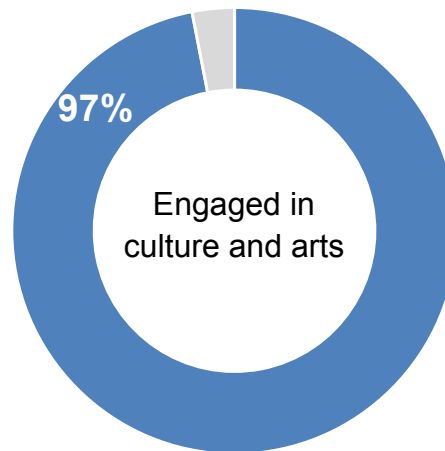
Summary

- Overall, almost all young people (97%) had engaged with culture and the arts at least once within the previous year. This proportion has been consistent over the trend period, 2007 to 2016.
- Just over 9 in every 10 young people had engaged with the arts in the previous year. Girls were more likely to have engaged with the arts than boys, this has also been the case throughout the entire trend period with a higher proportion of girls engaging with the arts than boys from 2007 onwards.
- More than half (54%) of all young people had used the public library service at least once in the last year, this is lower than the proportion who had used the public library service in 2013 (57%).

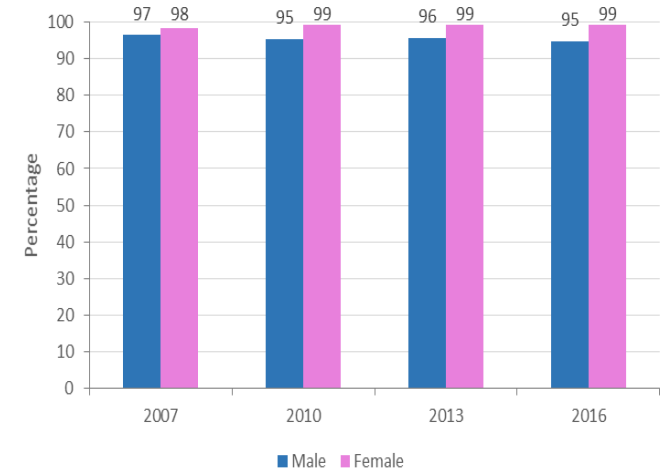
Engagement in the arts Remains consistent from previous year's results



Engagement in culture and arts Remains consistent from previous year's results



Engagement in culture and arts Girls more likely to engage than boys



Just over 9 in every 10 young people had engaged with the arts at least once within the previous year. This is consistent with previous available figures from 2007.

Nearly all young people (97%) had engaged with culture and the arts at least once within the previous year. This is similar to the proportion of young people who engaged in 2013.

Girls were more likely than boys to have engaged in culture and the arts within the previous year (99% and 95% respectively). This trend has been apparent over the previous available years' figures.

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Introduction

The Department for Communities (DfC) is the lead department for arts and creativity, museums, libraries and public records. This bulletin follows a headline bulletin released in May 2017 and brings together information on the experience of the arts, libraries and museums in one document for the first time. This information was previously released in separate reports which are still available for previous years on the [DfC website](#). The publication will be of interest to a wide variety of users but has particular relevance in informing cultural and arts activities as defined in the draft Programme for Government for Northern Ireland 2016-21.

Engagement in culture and arts includes:

- Engagement in the arts (includes both arts participation and arts attendance)
- Usage of the public library service
- Visits to museums and science centres

Further definitions are available in the Definitions and technical notes at the end of the document.

Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitudes Survey

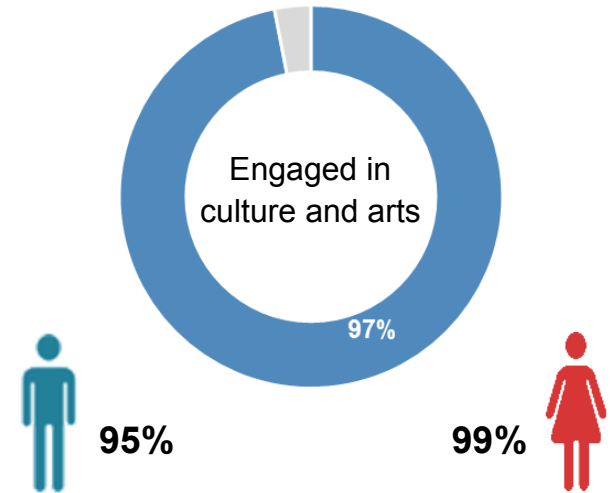
This report presents the findings from the 2016 Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitudes Survey (YPBAS) in relation to engagement with culture and arts in Northern Ireland which are used to inform the development, monitoring and evaluation of policy. More information relating to YPBAS, a triennial school-based survey, including the methodology, definitions and interpretation of the figures can be found in the [definitions and technical notes](#) section. Data tables are available in [Excel](#) and [ODS format](#). The questions that were asked in YPBAS 2016 are available [here](#).

Engagement in culture and arts

Almost all young people (97%) had engaged with culture and the arts at least once within the previous year. This is similar to the proportion of young people who engaged in 2013.

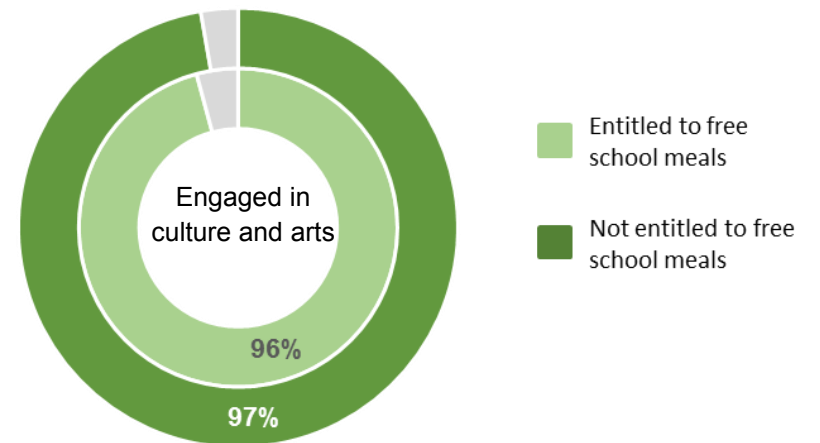
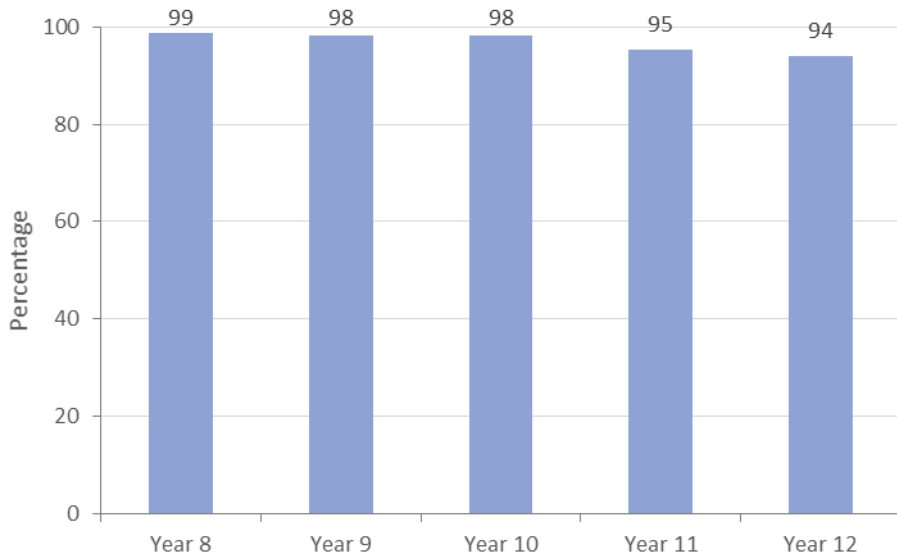
Girls (99%) were more likely to have engaged with activities associated with culture and the arts within the last year compared with boys (95%). The proportions for both sexes are similar to the comparable 2013 figures (Girls: 99%; Boys: 96%).

Religion did not have any bearing on engagement rates with no difference in the proportions of young people from the Protestant and Catholic communities engaging with culture and the arts within the last year (both 97%). Similarly, there was no difference in the culture and arts engagement rates of young people who have a disability and those who do not (both 97%).



The proportions of young people who had engaged with culture and the arts decreased as the School Year Group increased, from nearly all young people in Year 8 (99%) to 94% of young people in Year 12.

Young people who were entitled to free school meals were slightly less likely to have engaged with culture and the arts within the previous year with 96% having engaged, compared with 97% of those who were not entitled to free school meals.



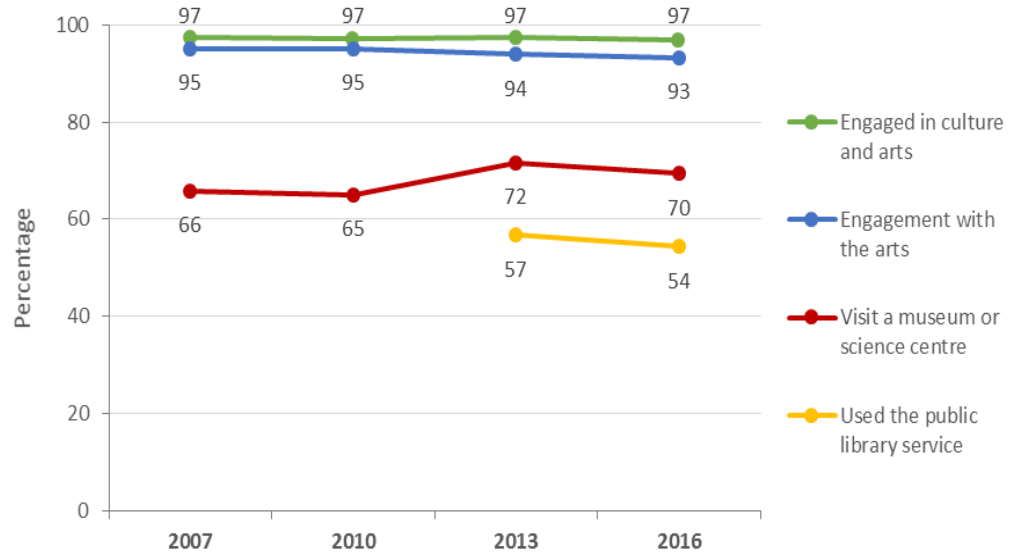
Trends

Culture and arts engagement

Nearly all young people (97%) engaged in activities associated with culture and the arts, a proportion consistent with previous years' results.

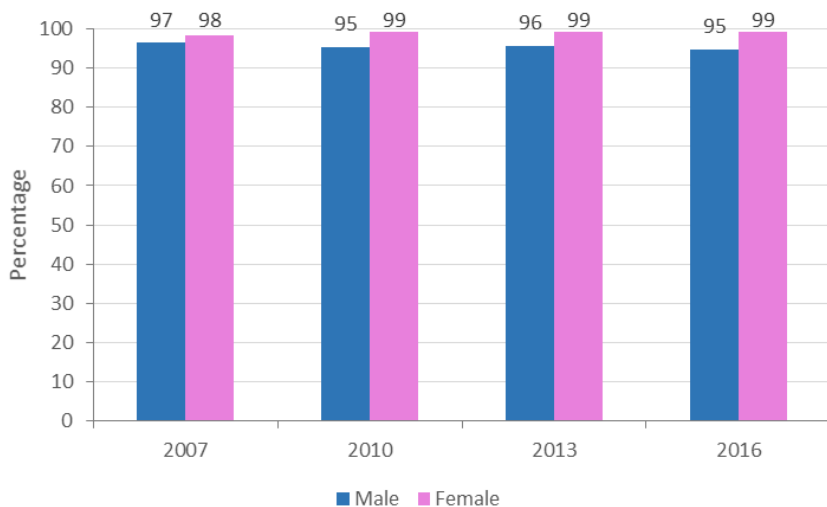
Engagement with the arts among young people in the previous year (93%) has also remained consistent with the 2013 survey (94%), however is a decrease on the earliest available results (95%).

Both visits to museums and science centres (70%) and use of the public library service (54%) by young people in the last year have decreased from the 2013 survey (72% and 57% respectively). However the longer term trend in visits to museums and science centres has seen an overall increase since 2007 (66%). The libraries question on the YPBAS was revised in 2013 to include the wider range of services in libraries, so results prior to 2013 cannot be compared.



Gender

Girls were more likely to have engaged in culture and the arts within the previous year than boys (99% and 95% respectively). This trend has remained consistent over the previous available years' figures.



Free school meal entitlement

Young people who are entitled to free school meals (96%) were less likely to have engaged in culture and the arts over the previous year than those who are not entitled to free school meals (97%). This trend is evident in both the 2013 and 2010 surveys, however there was no significant difference between the engagement rates of those entitled to free school meals and those not entitled in 2007.

	2016	2013	2010	2007
Entitled to free school meals	96%	95%	96%	96%
Not entitled to free school meals	97%	98%	97%	98%

Arts

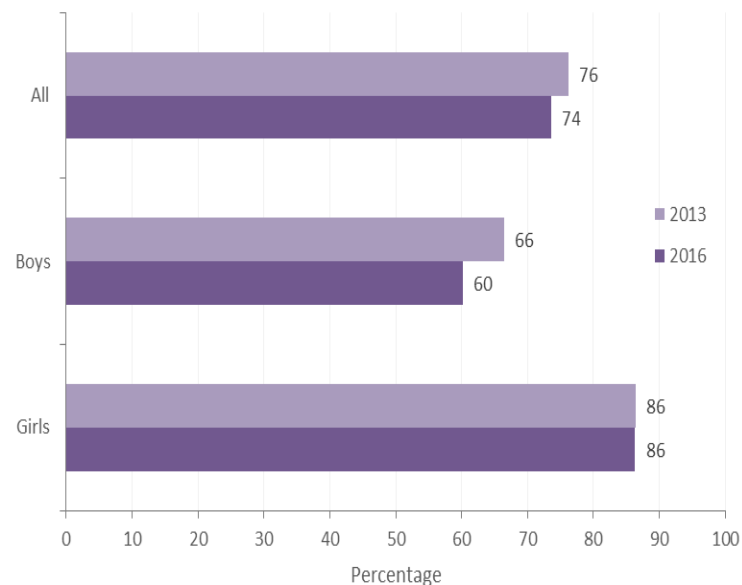
Participation in arts activities

In 2016, just under three-quarters of young people (74%) participated in arts activities. This is lower than the 76% of young people who participated in the arts in 2013. In comparison with 2013, there was a decrease in 2016 in participation among boys; young people from the Protestant Community; young people who do not have a disability and young people who are not entitled to free school meals.

In 2016, more girls than boys participated in arts activities (86% and 60% respectively). The proportion of young people who participated in arts activities reduced as the School Year Group of pupils increased, with 84% of those in Year 8 participating in the arts compared to 65% of those in Year 12. Similar proportions of Catholic pupils and Protestant pupils participated in arts activities (both 74%).

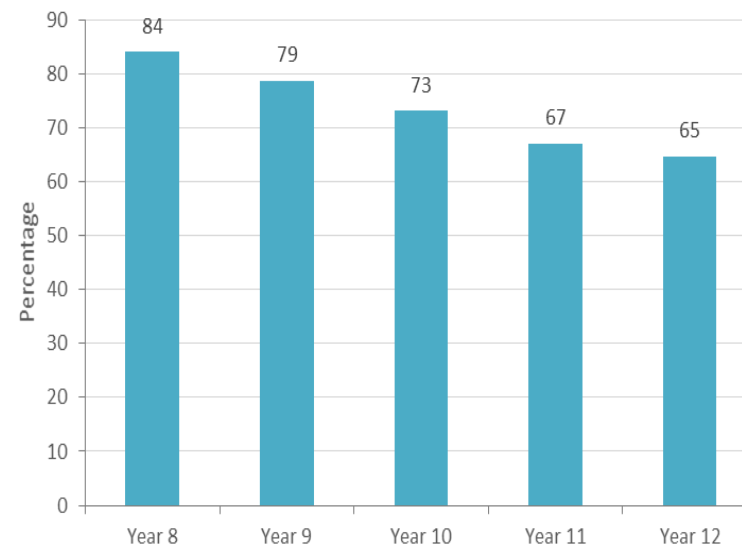
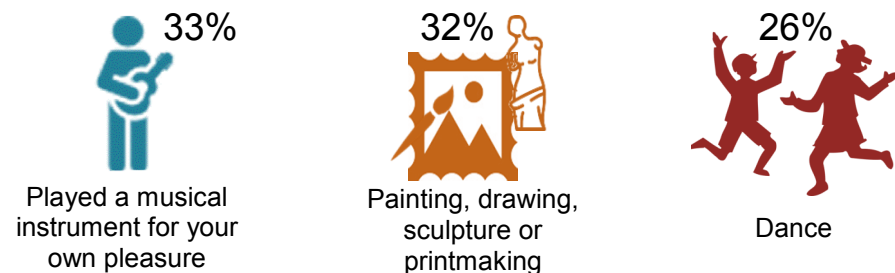
Participation rates among those who have a disability are higher than those who do not have a disability (83% and 72% respectively). It should be noted that YPBAS continues to be carried out in mainstream schools and therefore will not be representative of all young people with a disability. Year-on-year comparisons by group, however, are valid.

Concerning free school meal entitlement, there was no difference in the proportion of pupils who participated in arts activities and were entitled and those who were not entitled (72% and 74% respectively).



Types of arts activities

The three most popular arts activities of young people in the previous year, were “Played a musical instrument for your own pleasure” (33%), “Painting, drawing, sculpture or printmaking” (32%), and “Dance” (26%). These were the same top three arts activities as in 2013 albeit in a slightly different order.



Arts

Attendance at arts events

In 2016, 89% of young people attended an arts event, a similar figure to the 88% of young people who attended in 2013. Since 2013, arts attendance has remained constant for young people across all groups.

In 2016, girls (94%) were more likely than boys (83%) to have attended the arts. Analysis by School Year Group shows a decline in arts attendance between Year 10 and Year 11 (90% and 86% respectively).

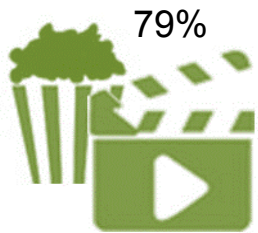
Similar proportions of Catholic and Protestant pupils attended an arts event (both 89%). There was also no difference between the proportions of young people who have and do not have a disability in relation to arts attendance in 2016.

However, pupils entitled to free school meals (86%) were less likely to attend an arts event than pupils not entitled to free school meals (90%).

When young people who only attend a cinema are excluded from the analysis attendance at arts events reduces to 70%. It is worth noting, however, that particularly for young people going to the cinema is a key part of their social inclusion activities.

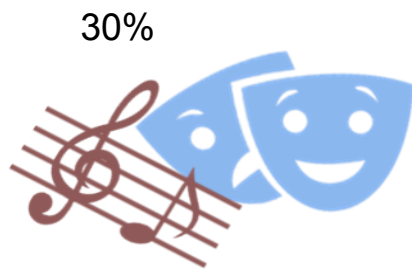
Types of arts events

The most popular arts events attended by young people in the last year were cinema (79%), pantomime or musical (30%) and museums (27%). These remain the same most popular arts events from 2013.



79%

Cinema



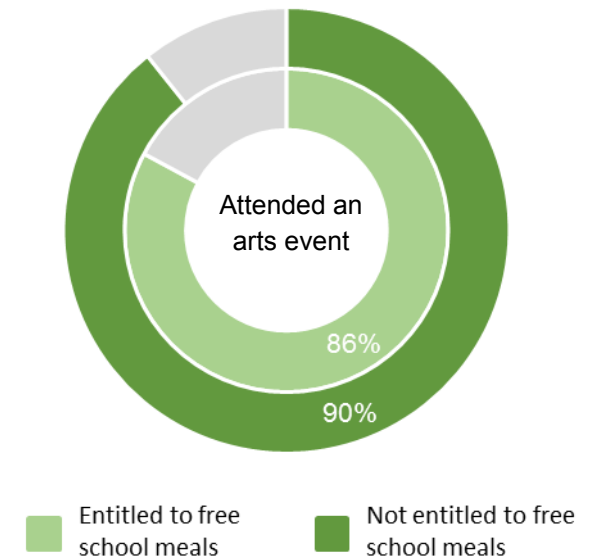
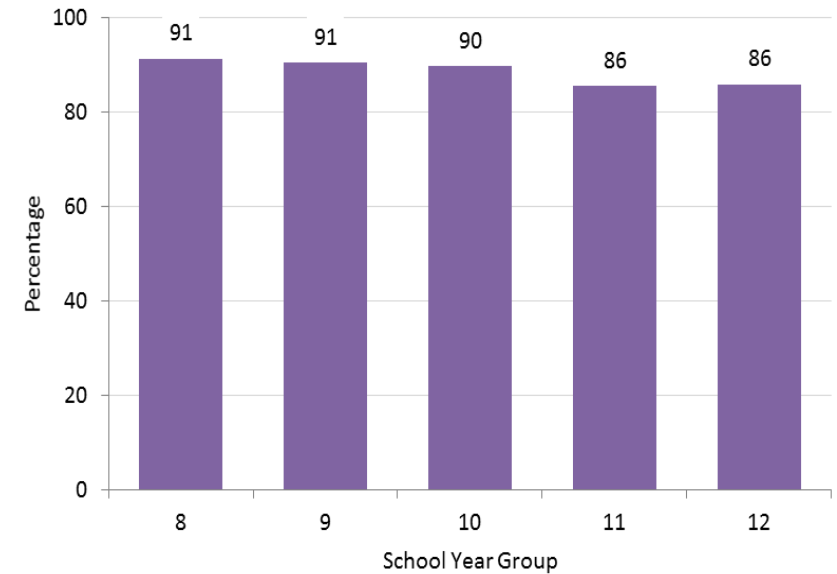
30%

Pantomime



27%

Museums



Arts

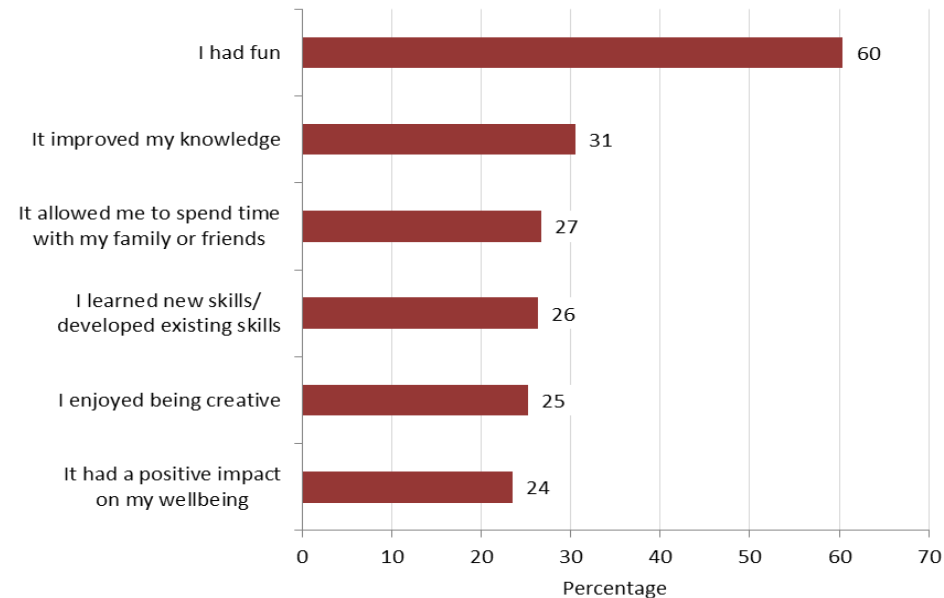
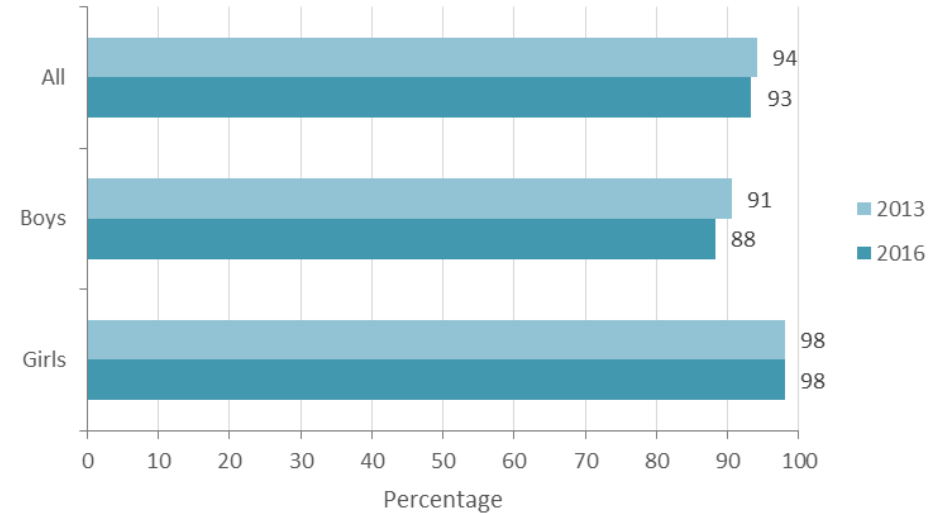
Engagement in the arts

In 2016, 93% of young people engaged with the arts in the last year, a similar proportion to the number of young people who engaged with the arts in 2013 (94%). Since 2013, arts engagement rates remained similar for all groups apart from boys who saw their engagement rates decrease.

In 2016, nearly all girls (98%) engaged with the arts compared with 88% of boys. When looking at year group, engagement rates were lower for pupils in Year 12 than for pupils in Year 8 (91% and 96% respectively).

Similar proportions of Catholic and Protestant pupils engaged with the arts. However young people who have a disability were more likely to engage with the arts than those who do not have a disability (96% and 93% respectively).

Pupils entitled to free school meals (92%) were less likely to have engaged with the arts over the last year than those not entitled to free school meals (94%).



Benefits to engaging in the arts

Six out of every ten young people (60%) who had engaged in the arts cited having fun as a benefit.

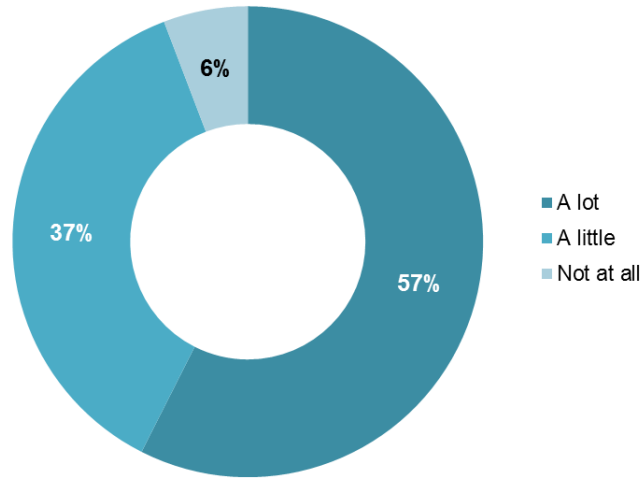
Just under a third cited improving their knowledge (31%), and around a quarter cited spending time with family or friends (27%), learning new skills/developing existing skills (26%), enjoying being creative (25%) and having a positive impact on their wellbeing (24%) as benefits to engaging in the arts. These reasons were similar to the benefits cited by young people in 2013, albeit in a different order.

More than one in every ten young people (12%) felt that they “did not feel any benefits” from engaging in the arts.

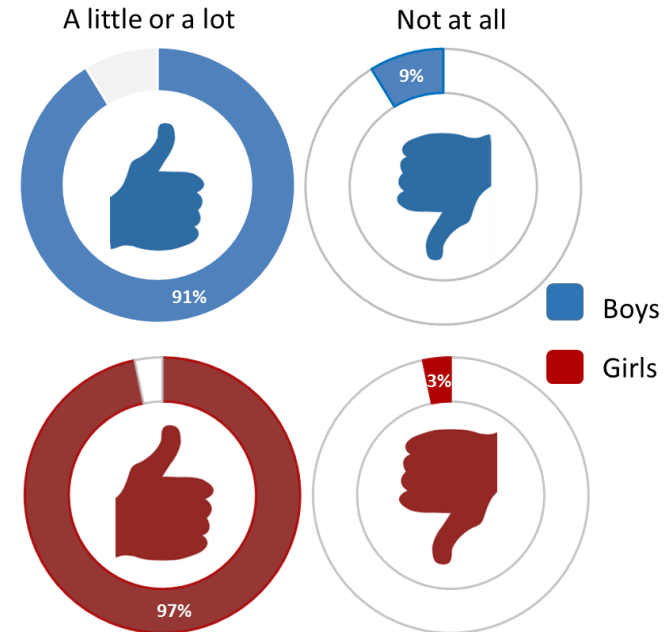
Arts

Enjoyment of the arts

For those who attended an arts event, the majority of young people enjoyed the last event they attended either a lot or a little (94%). Just over one in twenty (6%) said they did not enjoy the arts event at all.



Boys (9%) were more likely to have not enjoyed an arts event than girls (3%).



Encourage attendance to the arts

Under one fifth (16%) of all young people, whether they attended or not, said that nothing would encourage them to attend arts events or activities as they were just not interested in attending.

However around a third of all young people stated that lower costs (34%), having someone to go with (33%) and having venues closer to where they live (32%) would encourage them to attend, or attend more, arts events or activities.



Arts

Arts tuition

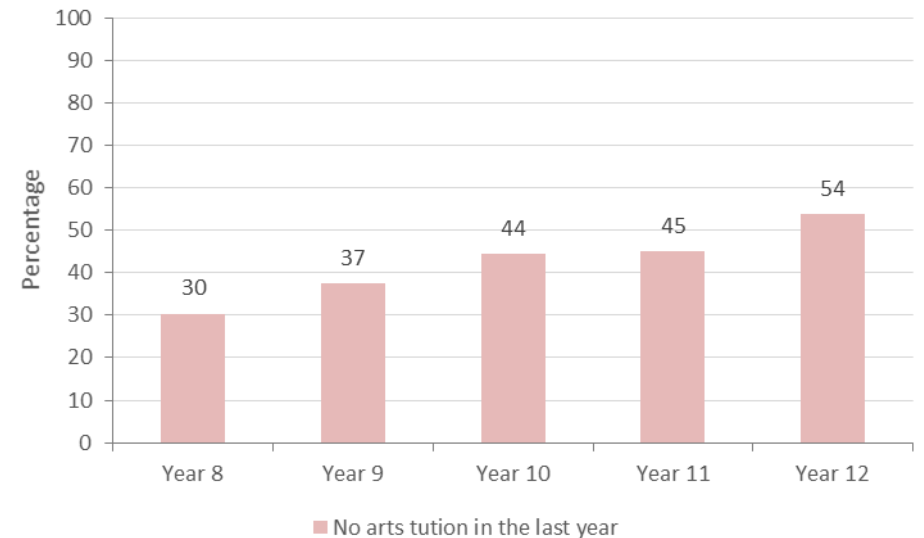
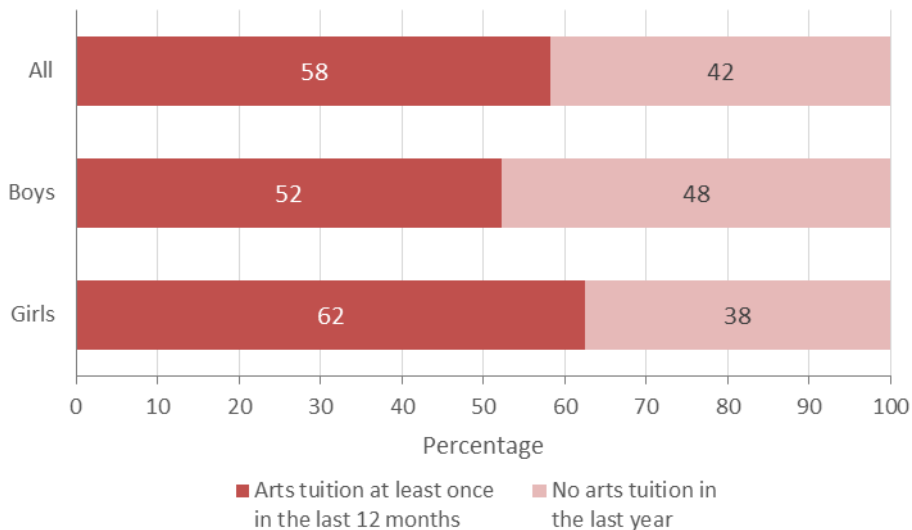
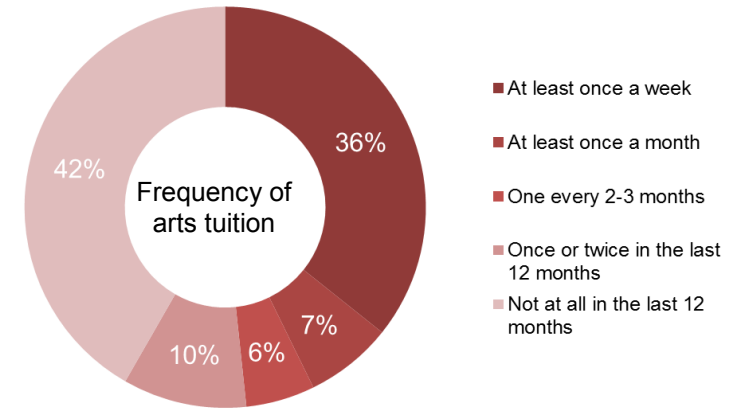
Young people who had participated in an arts activity were asked how often, if at all, they have received tuition from an instructor (other than their teacher during normal lessons) to help improve their performance in any art activity. Just over two in every five have not had any arts tuition in the last year (42%). More than a third of young people who participated (36%) have had tuition at least once a week.

Seven per cent of young people have had arts tuition at least once a month, 6% had tuition once every 2-3 months and 10% have had tuition once or twice in the last year.

Girls were more likely to have had arts tuition than boys, and in particular to have the tuition at least once a week. Year group was also a factor in relation to arts tuition with 70% of pupils in Year 8 having had arts tuition at least once in the last year compared to 46% of pupils in Year 12.

Young people who are entitled to free school meals were less likely to have received arts tuition at least once in the past year than those who are not entitled (54% and 60% respectively).

There was no difference in relation to arts tuition in regards religion or disability.



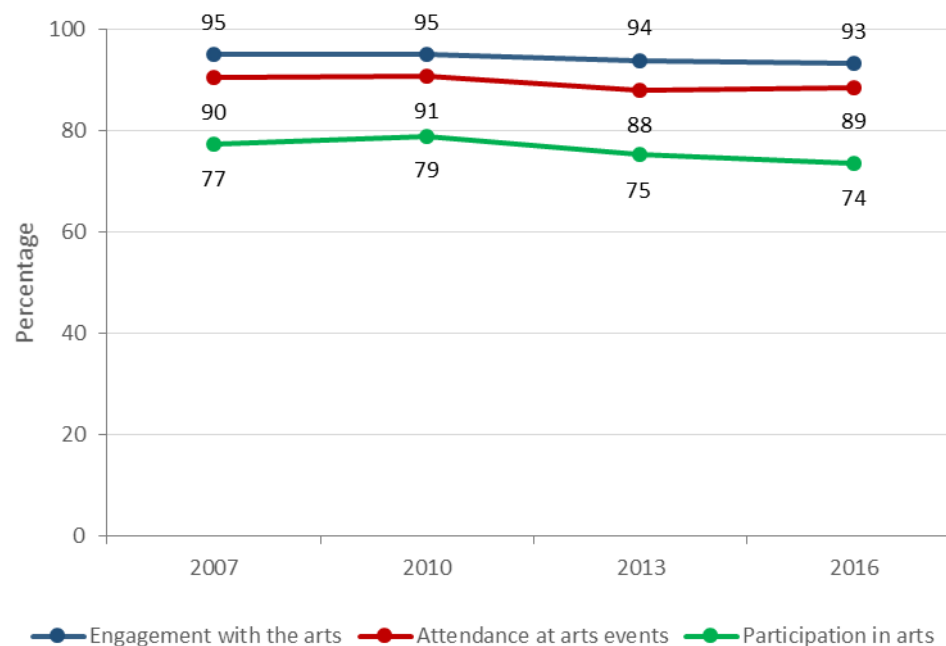
Trends

Engagement with the arts

Just over 9 in every 10 young people (93%) had engaged with the arts at least once within the previous year. This is consistent with the 2013 figure, although the proportion who engaged had been greater in 2007 at 95%.

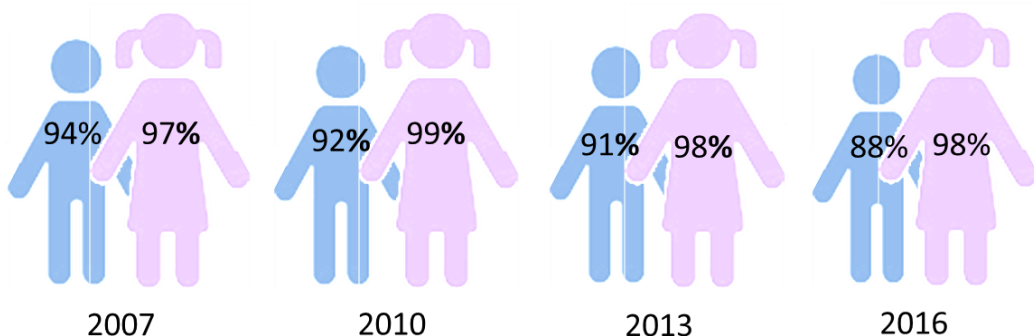
Engagement with the arts is comprised of arts attendance and arts participation figures. There was no difference in the proportion of young people who attended an arts event over the previous year when compared to the results in 2013 (89% and 88% respectively). However, attendance rates had been higher in previous years, 2007 and 2010.

The proportions of young people who have participated in the arts has seen a consistent decline from 2010 when 79% of those participated at least once within the previous year compared to 74% in 2016.



Gender

Girls were more likely to have engaged with the arts within the previous year (98%) than boys (88%). This has also been the case throughout the entire trend period with a higher proportion of girls engaging with the arts than boys from 2007 onwards.



Year group

Engagement with the arts is also related to year group, with young people in Year 12 less likely to have engaged with the arts within the previous year than those in Year 8 (91% and 96% respectively). This trend is also seen across previous survey results from 2010 onwards.

A similar trend is also seen when looking at the proportions of young people who attend arts events at least once within the year prior to survey. From 2010 onwards proportionally more pupils in Year 8 attend arts events than those in Year 12.

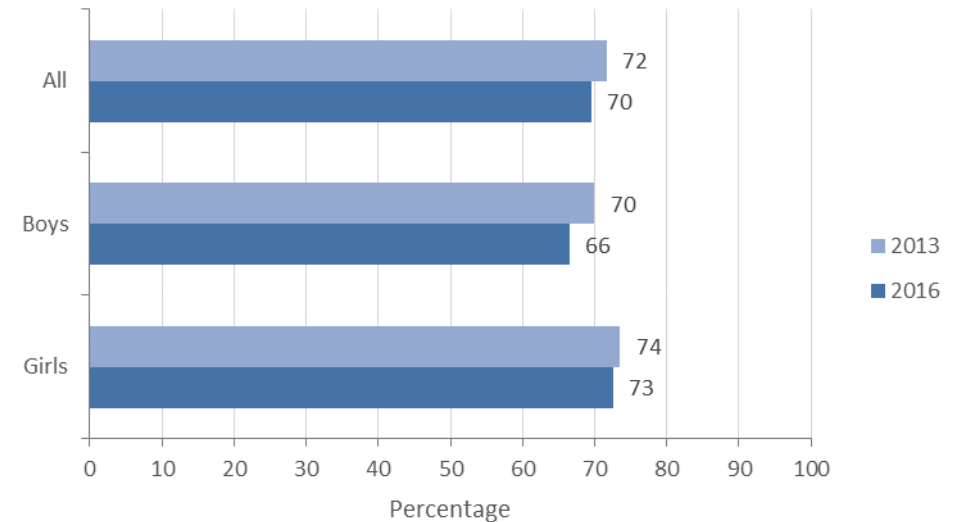
Concerning participation in arts activities the difference in proportions between pupils in Year 8 and pupils in Year 12 shows a similar trend, with consistently fewer young people in Year 12 participating within the year prior to the survey than those in Year 8. This is evident in the results from 2007 onwards.

Museums and science centres

Visited a museum or science centre

Seven in every ten (70%) young people had visited a museum or science centre within the last year, a lower proportion than in 2013 (72%). A higher proportion of girls had visited a museum or science centre compared to boys (73% and 66% respectively).

The proportions of young people who had visited a museum or science centre within the last year decreased with year group with 80% of those in Year 8 compared to 56% of those in Year 12. Nearly three quarters (72%) of young people from the Protestant community had visited a museum or science centre within the last year, which was higher than the two thirds (67%) of young people from the Catholic community.

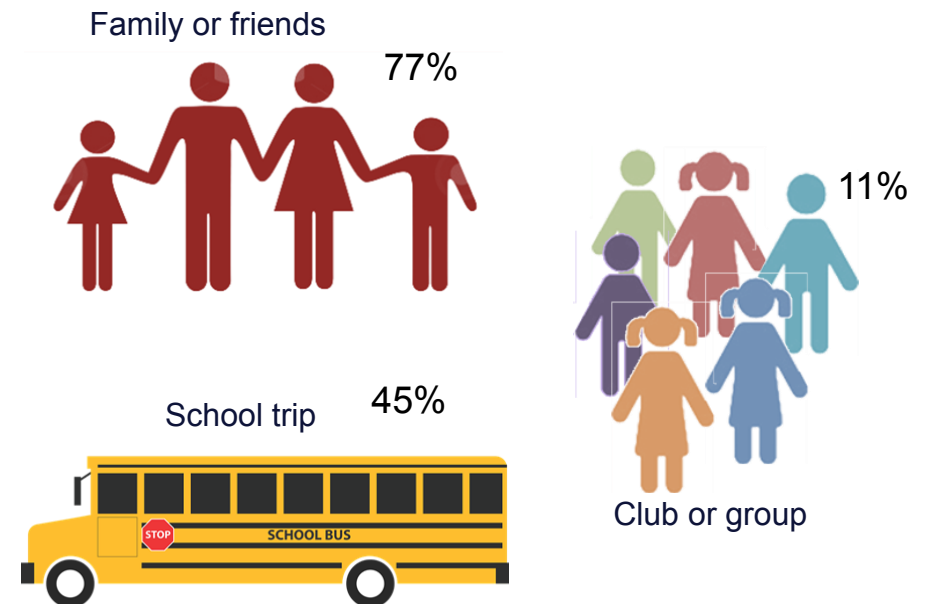


Disability did not have any bearing on visits to museums or science centres for young people, with similar proportions of those young people who have a disability (68%) and those who do not have a disability (70%) visiting a museum or science centre within the last year. Young people who are entitled to free school meals were less likely to have visited a museum or science centre within the last year with under two-thirds (63%) having visited, compared to nearly three quarters (72%) of those who were not entitled to free school meals.

Who you visited a museum or science centre with

The majority of young people who had been to a museum or science centre within the last year (77%) stated that they had gone with family or friends. Nearly half (45%) stated that they had gone on a school trip, with 11% stating they had been with a club or group (e.g. youth club).

Those who were entitled to free school meals were less likely to have gone with family or friends (68%) compared with those not entitled to free school meals (80%). A higher proportion of those who were entitled to free school meals had visited a museum or science centre as part of a school trip or with a club or group.



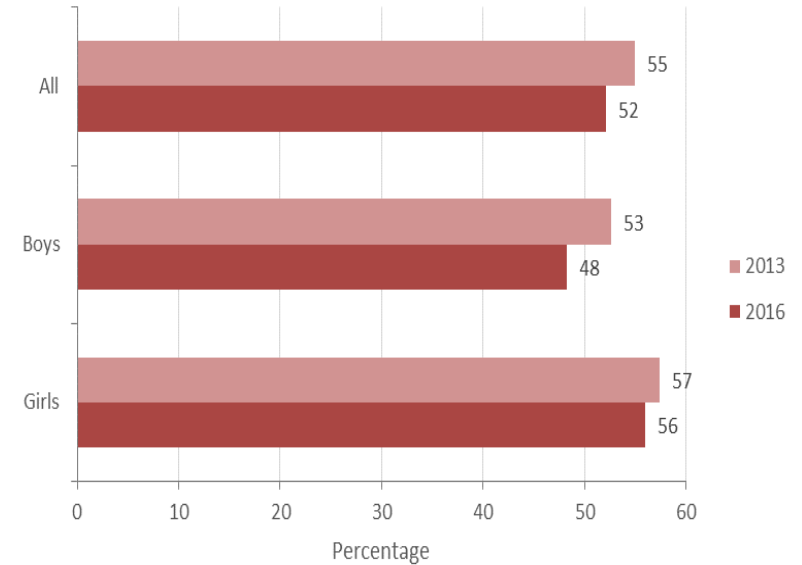
Museums and science centres

Visited a National Museums Northern Ireland museum

National Museums Northern Ireland (NMNI) has three museums across Northern Ireland, the Ulster Museum with free entry and two paid museums, the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum and the Ulster American Folk Park. Just over half of the young people surveyed (52%) had been to a NMNI museum within the last year, a lower proportion compared with the 55% that visited a NMNI museum in 2013. Girls were more likely (56%) than boys (48%) to have visited a NMNI museum within the last year.

Young people from the Protestant community were more likely to have visited a NMNI museum within the last year (57%), compared to those from the Catholic community (48%). The proportions of young people who had visited a NMNI museum within the last year decreased as year group increased from 60% of those in Year 8 to 43% of those in Year 12.

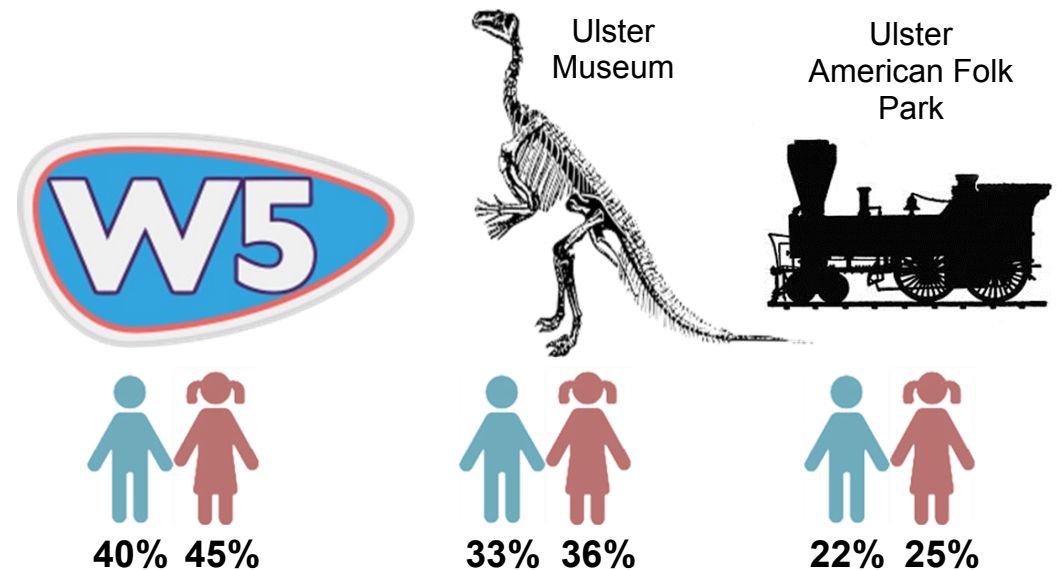
Disability did not have any bearing on visits to NMNI museums for young people, with similar proportions of those young people who have a disability (52%) and those who do not have a disability (53%) visiting a NMNI museum within the last year. Young people who are entitled to free school meals were less likely to have visited a NMNI museum in the year prior to the survey, with just under half (46%) having visited, compared to 54% of those were not entitled to free school meals.



Museums and science centres visited

The most popular museum or science centre was W5, with over two-fifths (43%) of the young people surveyed having visited in the year prior to survey. Thirty-four per cent of young people had visited the Ulster Museum with just over one-fifth visiting the Ulster American Folk Park (23%) and the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum (22%) in the year prior to the survey.

Considering gender, a higher proportion of girls visited W5 (45%), the Ulster Museum (36%) and the Ulster American Folk Park (25%) in the year prior to survey, compared with boys (40%; 33% and 22% respectively).



Museums and science centres

Trends in visits to museums and science centres

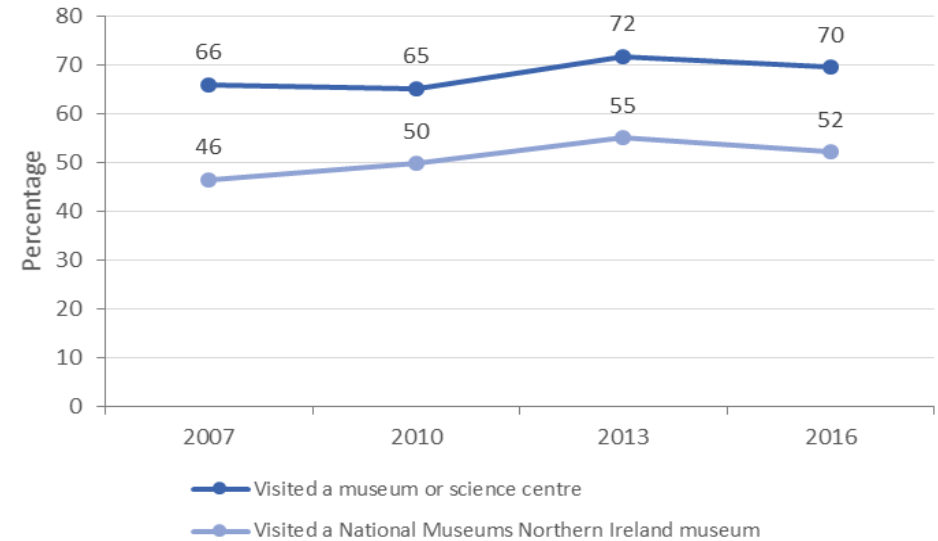
A lower proportion of young people visited a museum or science centre in the year prior to the 2016 survey (70%) compared to the year prior to the 2013 survey (72%). This is in contrast to the increase in the proportion of young people visiting a museum or science centre from 2010 (65%) to 2013.

Looking in more detail at overall visits to museums or science centres, there was little change among most of the demographic groups analysed. The exceptions were with boys, pupils in Year 12, young people from the Protestant community and those who were not entitled to free school meals. With these demographic groups there was a significant decrease in the proportion visiting in the year prior to the 2016 survey.

Trends in visits to NMNI museums

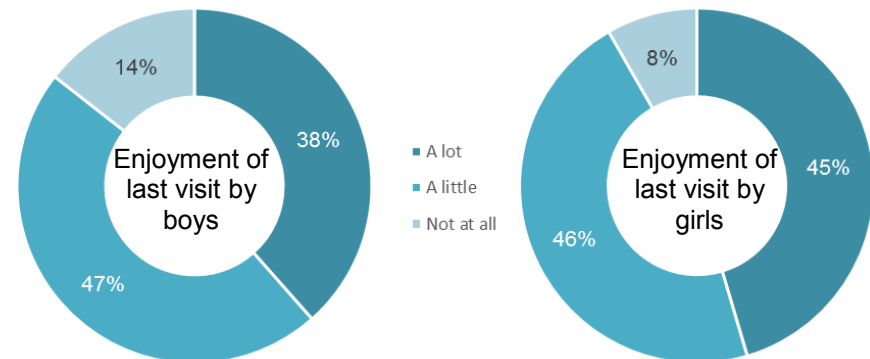
When visits to only NMNI museums are considered, the picture is similar. There was a decrease in the proportions of young people visiting in a NMNI museum in the year prior to the 2016 survey (52%), compared to the year prior to the 2013 survey (55%).

This again is in contrast to the increase previously seen between the 2010 survey (50%) and the 2013 survey. This decrease is reflected amongst boys, pupils in Year 8, young people from the Protestant community and those not entitled to free school meals. All other demographic groups showed no change from the 2013 survey.



Levels of enjoyment when last visited a museum or science centre

Just over two fifths (42%) of young people who had visited a museum within the last year enjoyed their visit a lot. A greater proportion of young girls (45%) than young boys (38%) stated that they had enjoyed their visit a lot. While 11% of young people responded that they did not enjoy their last visit at all, boys (14%) were more likely to state this than girls (8%).



Museums and science centres

Benefits experienced from visiting a museum or science centre

Just over 7 out of every 10 (72%) young people stated that visiting a museum or science centre had improved their knowledge, while over half (57%) said that they “had fun” when visiting.

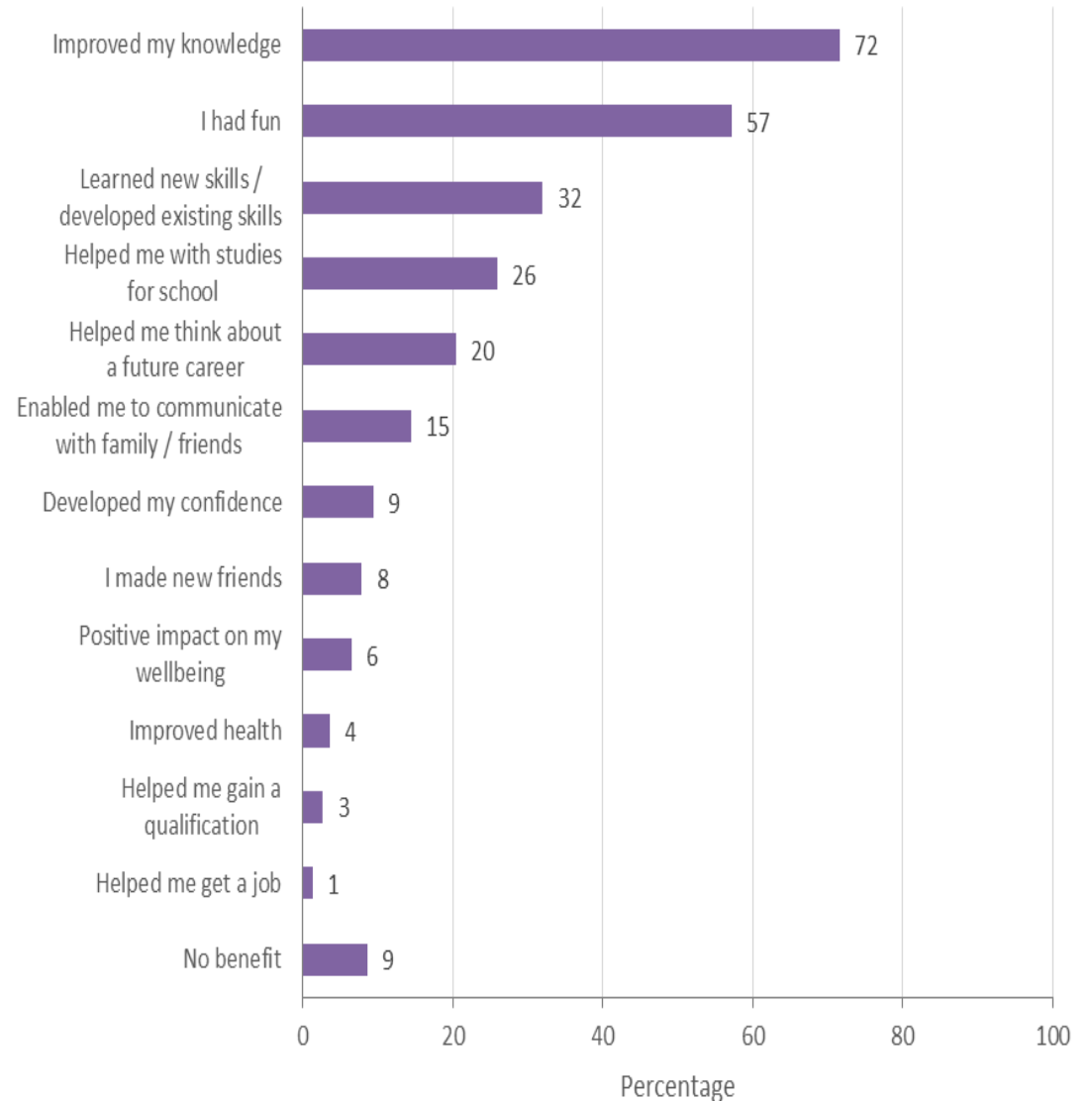
Other benefits experienced by young people who had visited a museum or science centre at least once within the previous year include: “Learn new skills / developed existing skills” (32%), “Helped me with studies for school” (26%) and “Helped me think about a future career” (20%).

Just under one tenth (9%) of young people who had visited a museum or science centre stated that they had experienced “No benefit” as a result.

Visited a museum and school

Just under one in ten (9%) young people stated that a museum had visited their class within the last 12 months.

In addition, nearly half of young people (45%) who had been to a museum or science centre within the last year had taken part in an activity relating to something they were studying at school whilst there.



Museums and science centres

Factors that would encourage visits to a museum or science centre

Nearly half of all young people surveyed (46%) stated that they would be encouraged to visit a museum, or visit more often, if there was an exhibition they were particularly interested in.

Around two fifths of young people said that if museums were closer to where they live (40%) or if they had more time (36%) would encourage them to visit a museum at all or more often. Nearly a third (31%) stated that “More activities, especially for people my age” whilst around a quarter cited “If I had someone to go with” (25%) and “Cheaper admission prices” (24%) as factors that would encourage them to visit a museum.

Gender

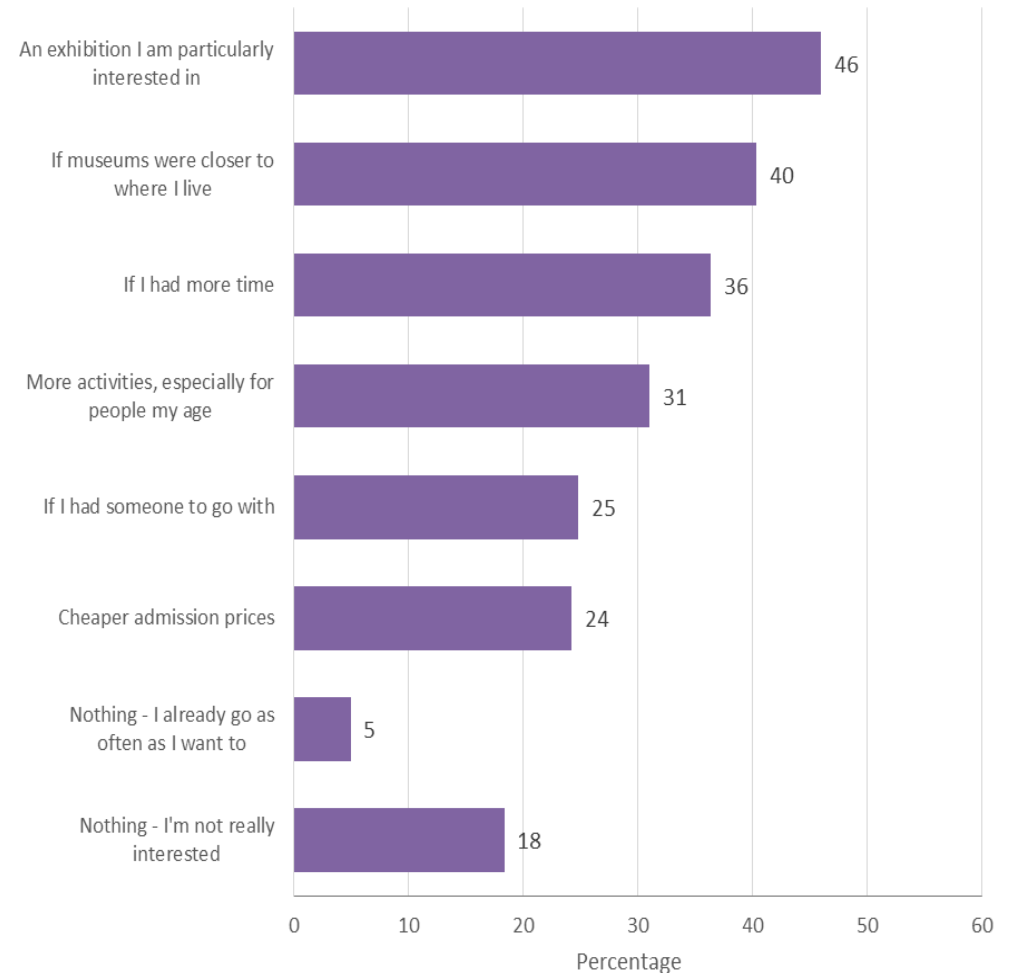
There were some differences in the proportions of girls and boys stating factors that would encourage them to visit a museum. Girls were more likely than boys to state that “If museums were closer to where I live” (46%), “If I had more time” (42%) or “More activities, especially for people my age” (37%) as reasons that would encourage them to visit.

On the other hand, boys were more likely to state that nothing would encourage them to visit a museum as they already go as often as they want (7%) compared to girls (3%) or that they are not really interested (23%) compared to girls (14%).

Free school meal entitlement

Around a quarter of young people who were entitled to free school meals said “Nothing – I’m not really interested” (24%) when asked what would encourage them to visit a museum more often, a higher proportion than those who were not entitled to free school meals (17%).

In contrast, higher proportions of young people who were not entitled to free school meals cited “An exhibition I am particularly interested in” (48% v 38%), “If museums were closer to where I live” (42% v 37%) or “More information about what is on” (19% v 15%) as reasons that would encourage them to visit.



Libraries

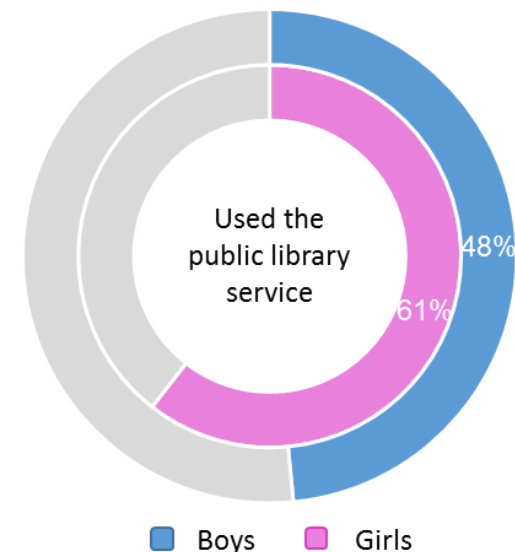
Use of the public library service

More than half (54%) of all young people had used the public library service at least once in the last year, this is lower than the proportion who had used the public library service in 2013 (57%).

Girls were more likely to have used the service than boys (61% and 48% respectively).

Usage of the public library service decreased with year group, with pupils in Year 12 (36%) less likely to have used the service within the previous year compared with pupils in Year 8 (75%).

There were no differences in usage of the public library service by religion, whether a young person has a disability or whether they are entitled to free school meals.

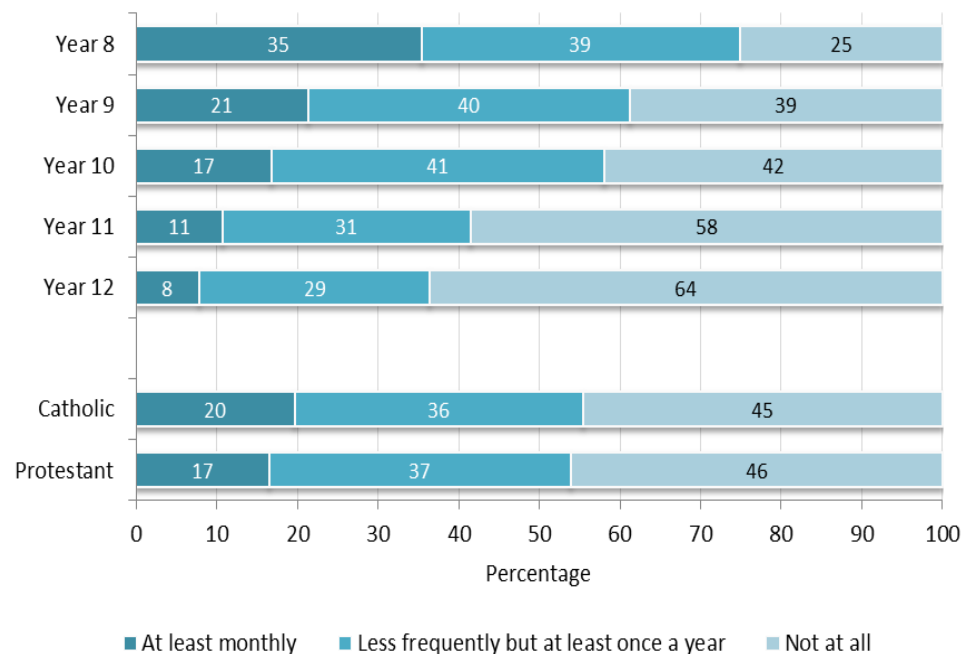


Frequency of use of the public library service

Less than a fifth (18%) of young people used the public library service at least monthly.

As with usage in the last year, girls (21%) were more likely to use the public library service at least monthly than boys (16%). Similarly, analysis by year group shows that pupils in Year 8 were more likely to have used the public library service at least monthly than other year groups.

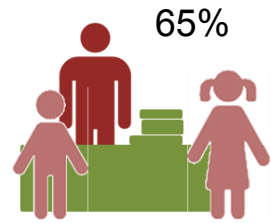
While there are no differences in the annual usage of the public library service by religion, disability and entitlement to free school meals, analysis on the frequency of usage did show a difference. A fifth of Catholic young people (20%) used the public library service at least monthly, a higher proportion than Protestant young people (17%).



Libraries

Reasons for using the public library service

When asked why they used the public library service, the response most frequently cited by young people was 'To borrow/bring back or renew books' (65%). More than a third of young people (38%) had used the public library service 'To do homework or study', while around a quarter had used it 'To read books, comics or magazines' (26%) and 'To look up information' (24%).



65%

To borrow/bring back or renew books



38%

To do homework or study



26%

To read books, comics or magazines



24%

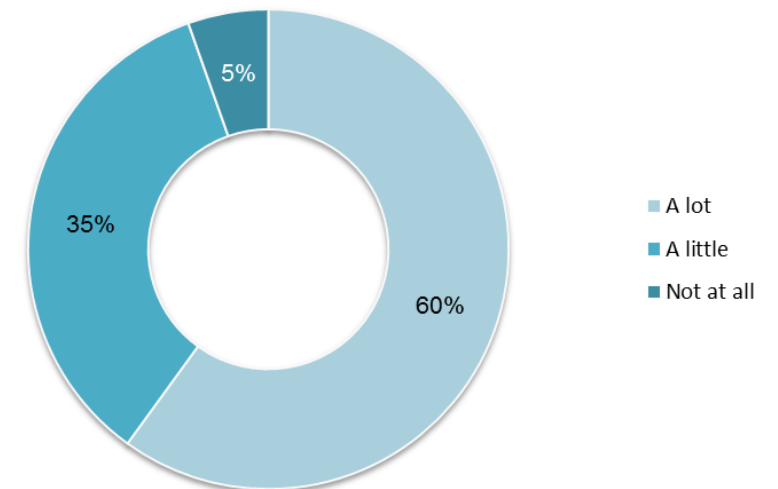
To look up information

Enjoyment of last visit to a public library

Only 5% of young people who had used the public library service had not enjoyed their last visit. In contrast six out of every ten young people (60%) had enjoyed their last visit a lot, with just over a third (35%) enjoying it a little.

Girls were more likely to enjoy their last visit to the library a lot than boys (69% and 49% respectively).

While pupils who were entitled to free school meals (55%) were less likely than those who were not entitled to free school meals (61%) to enjoy their last visit to a public library a lot.



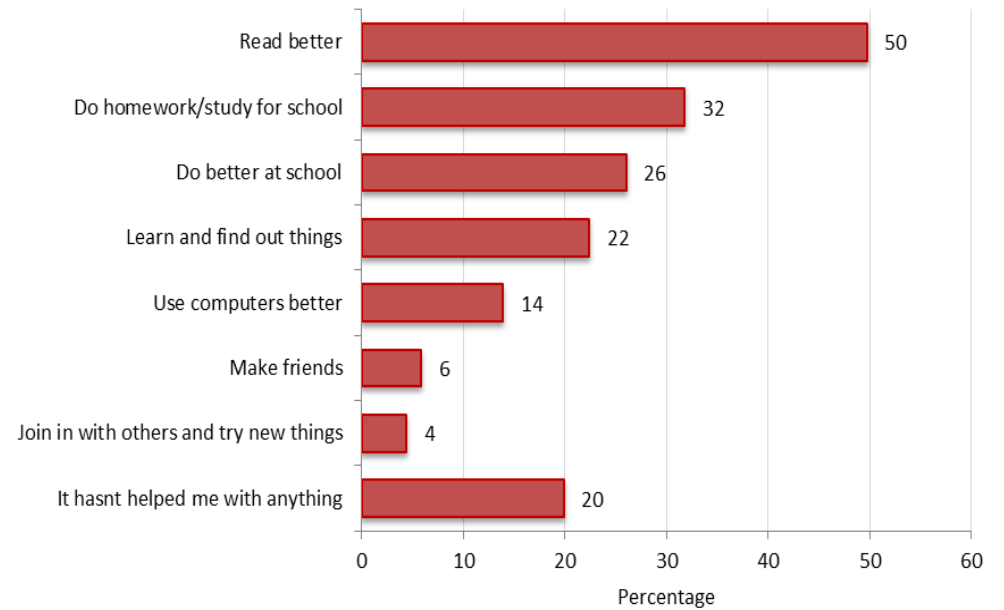
Libraries

Benefits of using the public library service

Half of young people surveyed (50%) felt that using the public library service had allowed them to 'Read better'.

Nearly a third of young people said their usage had allowed them to do homework or study for school (32%), while around a quarter cited that their usage of the public library service had allowed them to 'do better at school' (26%) and 'learn and find out things' (22%).

In contrast, a fifth of young people (20%) felt that using the public library service had not helped them with anything.



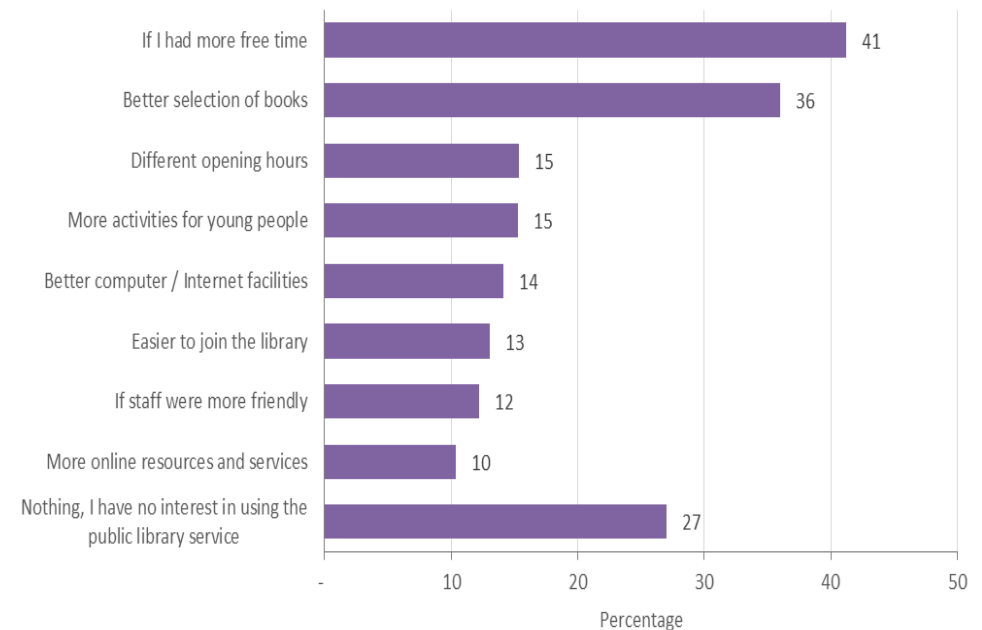
Reasons to encourage use of the public library service

All young people, both library users and non-users, were asked what would encourage them to use the public library service.

The most frequently cited response, by four out of every ten young people (41%) was 'If I had more free time'.

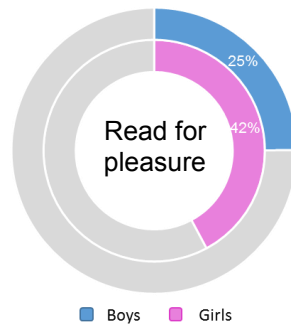
Over a third (36%) of young people stated that a 'better selection of books' would encourage them to use the public library service, while similar proportions of young people (15%) cited 'different opening hours' and 'more activities for young people' as factors that would encourage them.

However, 27% of young people stated that nothing would encourage them to use the public library service as they have no interest in doing so.

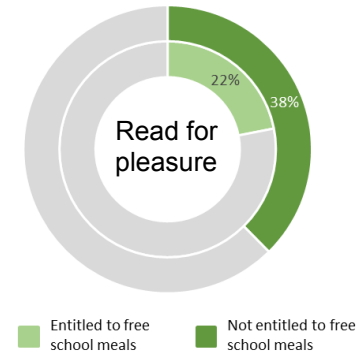


Reading for pleasure

Over a third (34%) young people said that they had read for pleasure in the last year, greater than the proportion who read for pleasure in the year prior to the survey in 2013 (30%). Girls were more likely than boys to have done this (42% and 25% respectively) which is similar to the difference in groups in 2013 (girls; 40%, boys; 21%).

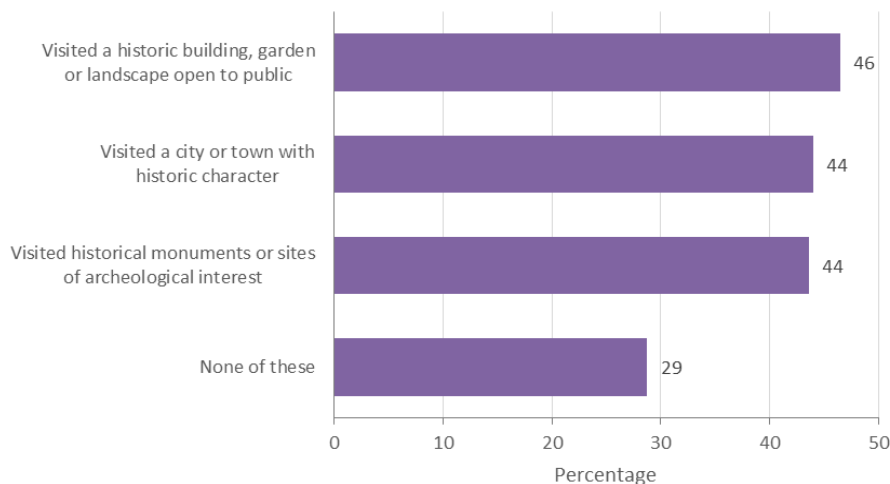


Analysis by year group revealed no differences in the proportions who read for pleasure, however a higher proportion of Protestant young people read for pleasure than Catholic young people (37% and 32% respectively). Reading for pleasure was more prevalent among young people not entitled to free school meals (38%) than young people who were entitled to free school meals (22%).



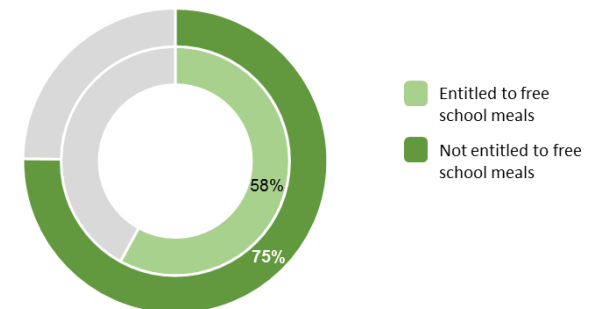
Historic environment

Just over seven out of ten young (71%) people had visited a historic building, garden, monument or city/town with historic character over the 12 months prior to the 2016 survey.



More Protestant young people (74%) than Catholic young people (69%) had visited a historic building, garden, monument or city/town with historic character over the last year.

Pupils who were entitled to free school meals were less likely to have visited a historic building, garden, monument or city/town with historic character than those who were not entitled (58% and 75% respectively).



Definitions and technical notes

Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitudes Survey

The Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics and research Agency was commissioned by a consortium of government departments and public bodies to design, conduct and report on a study of the behaviour and attitudes of young people in Northern Ireland. The Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitudes Survey (YPBAS) is a school-based survey carried out among year groups 8 - 12 and covers a wide range of topics relevant to the lives of young people today. The main aim of the YPBAS is to gain an insight into, and understanding of, their behaviour and lifestyle. It also aims to influence various government policies and practices relating to young people and to facilitate access to research findings and expertise.

Questionnaire

Two versions of the questionnaire were used to accommodate demand for topics on the 2016 survey. The content and structure of each questionnaire was agreed in consultation with clients. Schools were randomly assigned one version of the questionnaire. A copy of the DfC questions can be accessed at:

[DfC Questions on the Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitudes Survey 2016](#)

Sample and response rate

A stratified random sample of 182 schools was selected from a list of all post-primary schools in Northern Ireland and 73 of these participated, resulting in a response rate of 40%. One class in each of the five year groups (years 8-12) was then randomly selected to take part in the study. A total of 3,790 pupils were surveyed using Version A (response rate 85%) and 3041 pupils using Version B of the questionnaire (response rate 83%). DfC's questions on engagement of culture, arts and leisure were included in Version A.

Engaged in culture and arts - Have done at least one of the following in the 12 months prior to the YPBAS:

- Engaged in the arts
- Used the public library service
- Visited a museum or science centre

Arts engagement – Either participated in arts activities or attended arts events in the 12 months prior to the YPBAS.

Arts participation – Participated in at least one of the following arts activities in the 12 months prior to the YPBAS:

- Danced (any kind, not for fitness)
- Sang (not karaoke) or played a musical instrument to an audience, including rehearsed for a performance
- Played a musical instrument for own pleasure
- Written music in your free time
- Performed in or rehearsed for a play/drama/pantomime/musical/opera
- Painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture in your free time (not including schoolwork or homework)
- Photography or made films/videos as an artistic activity (not including family or holiday photos, films or videos)
- Any sort of crafts such as textiles, wood, pottery or jewellery making
- Read for pleasure (not including school books, newspapers, magazines or comics)
- Helped to organise or run a musical/festival/pantomime or any show of any kind
- Used a computer to create original artworks or animation

Arts attendance – Attended at least one of the following arts events in the 12 months prior to the YPBAS:

- Film at a cinema or other venue
- Circus or carnival
- Pantomime or musical
- An arts festival or community festival
- Play or drama at a theatre or other venue
- Opera
- Rock or pop music performance
- Folk, or traditional music performance
- Classical or jazz performance
- Other live music performance or concert
- Ballet
- Irish dance performance
- Other live dance event
- Poetry reading or storytelling/anything to do with books/writing
- Any type of event including art/photography/sculpture/video/electronic arts/crafts
- Street art (such as in parks, busking)
- A museum

Visited a museum or science centre – Visited one of the following museums or science centres in the 12 months prior to the YPBAS:

- Ulster American Folk Park
- Ulster Folk & Transport Museum
- Ulster Museum
- W5, Odyssey Centre
- Armagh Observatory & Planetarium
- Other museum in Northern Ireland

Visited a National Museum – Visited one of the following museums in the 12 months prior to the YPBAS:

- Ulster Museum
- Ulster Folk & Transport Museum
- Ulster American Folk Park

Used the public library service – Used the public library service at least once in the 12 months prior to the YPBAS, e.g. visited a public library or mobile library; used the Libraries NI website; attended a library event outside a library. Public library does NOT include school, college, or university libraries. A library event outside a library is an event run by Libraries NI which has taken place in a venue other than a library.

Historic environment—Visited any of the following places in the 12 months prior to the YPBAS:

- Visited a historic building, garden or landscape open to the public (e.g. A National Trust House, a historic town hall, a museum in an old building, or an event in a historic house or its grounds).
- Visited historical monuments or sites of archaeological interest (Castles, ruins and forts).
- Visited a city or town with historic character (a town with lots of old buildings).

Statistical significance in this report

The result presented in this report are based on data which has been weighted by year group, gender and religion in order to reflect the composition of the Northern Ireland post-primary population. Since a three stage sample design was used: schools, classes and pupils, the required assumption of random sampling was not met for significance testing. Standard errors were calculated for some of the variables in the survey using a formula for complex samples. However, when these were compared with standard errors calculated using the formula for random samples there was little difference (see [Technical Report](#)). As a result, tests of statistical significance in this bulletin have been carried out using the formula for random samples.

Any statements in this report regarding differences between groups such as different years and whether young people are entitled to free school meals, are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. This means that we can be 95% confident that the differences between groups are actual differences and have not just arisen by chance. Both the base numbers and the sizes of the percentages have an effect on statistical significance. Therefore on occasion, a difference between two groups may be statistically significant while the same difference in percentage points between two other groups may not be statistically significant. The reason for this is because the larger the base numbers or the closer the percentages are to 0 or 100, the smaller the standard errors. This leads to increased precision of the estimates which increases the likelihood that the difference between the proportions is actually significant and did not just arise by chance.

Other notes

The following should be noted when interpreting figures and tables:

- Percentages less than 0.5% are denoted by '0' and where there are no responses, they are denoted by '-'.
- Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
- Percentages may not add to 100% for questions where multiple responses are allowed.
- Detailed tabulations are not provided where the number of respondents is too small to allow meaningful analysis.
- The base number of responses to each question, which is shown in each table, is the unweighted count. The base may vary due to some respondents not answering certain questions.