

Kilkeel Community Audit

Main Report



June 2016

Report commissioned by the
Integrated Education Fund

**Kilkeel and South Down area Community Audit
Polls, Focus Groups, Public Interaction Event, One-to-One Direct Interviews
including commentary and conclusions**

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Introduction

General Background

Area Based Planning was initiated by the Minister of Education in 2011, as a strategic method to develop a sustainable network of schools. The work was initially undertaken by CCMS (Council for Catholic Maintained Schools) and the Northern Ireland (NI) Education Boards. Draft plans were published for primary and post-primary provision in the five Board areas in 2013. The work continues to be carried out by CCMS and the NI Education Authority.

The current opportunity for community consultation within this process is generally limited to an online facility which allows interested stakeholders to submit a response once plans are published. This process does not facilitate community-wide discussion and consideration of the options available within a geographical area, and in particular, does not encourage communities to consider new models of provision, or any which is not currently available in their area.

The Integrated Education Fund (IEF) is an independent charitable trust, established in 1992, to support integrated schools. Having identified a gap in the ABP consultation process, the IEF has been working for the past year to develop a best practice model of consultation to enable whole communities to engage with education planning, and in particular, the Area Based Planning (ABP) process. To this end, the IEF commissioned independent polling company LucidTalk to carry out a 'Community Audit' (CA) in the Kilkeel area. The aim was not only to demonstrate a model of participation, but also to facilitate discussion in the Kilkeel area, to assess local views on education, and to measure parental demand for different types of education.

The IEF delegated this project to ensure that the process remained non-partisan and did not promote integrated education. Funding for the Kilkeel CA was also provided by the Building Change Trust, as part of their Civic Activism Grant Programme which aims to fund new methods of civic engagement in order to facilitate and encourage greater participatory democracy in Northern Ireland. For more information visit civicactivism.buildingchangetrust.org

LucidTalk - Background and Professional Credentials

Lucid Talk is an independent polling and market research company with in-depth experience in the use of polling and general market research for public, private and political organisations.

The Kilkeel CA was commissioned from LucidTalk in September 2015.

LucidTalk is a member of all professional British and Irish polling and market research organisations, including the UK Market Research Society (UK-MRS), the British Polling Council (BPC), AIMRO (Association of Irish Market Research organisations), and ESOMAR (European Society of Market Research organisations). LucidTalk research is carried out to BPC professional standards and has BPC project authentication and approval. All LucidTalk personnel and research teams are trained to and operate to British Polling Council (BPC) professional standards.

LucidTalk – Community Audits: Summary Concept and Structure

A Community Audit (CA) is a set or 'package' of polling and market research products and services designed to give in-depth insight based on discussion and deliberative polling. The structure of a Community Audit can (and should) be designed to meet the particular requirements and objectives of each individual project.

The IEF commissioned LucidTalk to design and implement a CA focussing on education issues and engaging people in Kilkeel and the neighbouring parts of South Down. The work was carried out

between November 2015 and April 2016, by LucidTalk, in partnership with experienced local facilitators, and took place in Kilkeel, and within a 20 mile radius of Kilkeel.

The Community Audit designed by LucidTalk specifically for the Kilkeel and South Down project comprised the following elements:

- **Pre-Audit (CA) poll**
520 participants were asked a range of questions relating to education provision in the Kilkeel and South Down area in order to give an initial representation of opinion. Participants were selected from Kilkeel, and within a 20 mile radius of Kilkeel
- **Focus Groups**
Facilitated group discussion with six groups of 6-15 participants, including residents, community group representatives, business representatives and educationalists
- **Public Interaction Event**
A public meeting including electronic voting, facilitated group discussion, and a question time, with a panel of education professionals, community leaders, and business representatives. The audience consisted of around 45 participants from the local community and included local employers, educational professionals, and community workers.
- **One-to-One Interviews and Small-Group Interviews**
Interviews with education, business and community leaders, discussing the issues addressed during the polling and in the focus groups, to add depth to the qualitative data.
- **Post-Audit (CA) poll**
The pre-CA poll questions were put again to 520 participants in the Kilkeel area, to assess any change in opinion following the audit process.



LucidTalk – Polling Methodology

The project used poll questions agreed with the project partners. All poll questions were agreed to British Polling Council (BPC) and professional market research standards, to ensure neutrality and balance. The projects involved interviewing pre-primary, primary, secondary level school parents, and former parents (18 years+), within a 20 mile radius of Kilkeel, until a random sample of 520 full responses was obtained within the targeted Kilkeel area for both the pre-project and post-project polls.

The pre Community Audit poll-project survey was carried out over a period from the 10th November 2015 to 23rd January 2016, and the post Community Audit poll-project survey was carried out between the 24th March to 18th April 2016. The sample of 520 respondents was selected for each poll to be demographically representative of the residents within a 20 mile radius of Kilkeel. All collated data was analysed, and if applicable, weighted, to ensure the results represented an accurate view of current opinion in the targeted area of Kilkeel and South Down, in line with the gender, age, religion, socio-economic group, population density, and phone status (cellphone only/landline only etc.). Summary poll results are provided in this report - Full demographic structural poll results for both pre and post project polls are detailed in the main project report.

All data results produced are accurate to a margin of error of +/-4% at 95% confidence. LucidTalk would be pleased to answer any questions regarding the methodology and results for this project. For more information please contact LucidTalk directly on: info@lucidtalk.co.uk.

Key Poll Findings

All points relate to the opinion poll results, and are reflective of the average of both the pre- and post-CA polls, unless specified otherwise as a comparison between the two polls.

Consultation Results show that most respondents do not feel they are being adequately consulted on education plans.

Question: *Prior to this current Kilkeel area poll and community audit - have you been consulted about any possible changes regarding education provision, which may occur in your area?*

In both the pre and post CA polls between 95% and 99% said they weren't consulted about education provision in the Kilkeel and South Down area.

Question: *Do you think parents and the community should have a say in what changes should be made to local education provision?*

A substantial majority (more than 77%) expressed the view that parents should have a say in what changes should be made in local education provision.

Distance from Schools: All parts of the Community Audit i.e. polls, focus groups, interviews, etc. produced the view that there is not enough consideration given to proximity of schools and educational services nor to travel to and from these schools and educational services. The majority view was that schools of choice were too far away. Most parents currently live nearer to their child's primary school i.e. one to five miles, than to their child's secondary school which is usually between three and eight miles away.

Distance from Schools - What's Acceptable: Most parents find it acceptable that their child/children's secondary school might be further way than their child's primary school. Most parents think the following distances are the most acceptable: Primary school: 1-3 miles, Secondary school: 5-8 miles.

Educational Factors - What's Important: Across all parts of the Community Audit (polls, focus groups, interviews, etc.) responses were collated about the relative importance of different elements of education in making a 'good school'. The top three factors that emerged were: educational attainment, all-ability provision and an integrated ethos. The current selection process at 11 was criticised by the majority of participants across the CA project, although there was some support for continuous assessment over the age-range 11-14 years.

Preparation for the Job Market: Whether their child's education is preparing them for the jobs market was less certain: a majority (56.7%) said yes, but a significant minority - 42% - did not know or had no opinion.

Support for an Integrated School: There was a noticeable increase in support for the establishment of an integrated school in Kilkeel/South Down between the pre-CA poll and the post-CA poll. The first poll produced a result of 52% support and the second poll 59% support. There were very few 'No' responses this question i.e. nearly everyone answered 'Yes' or 'Don't Know'. Those of the 'Don't Know's qualifying their response said they weren't against the idea of an integrated school, but would like more information. Support for integrated provision was

expressed across all groups but most strongly among females and the higher income groups.

Support for an Irish Medium School: There was an increase in support for the establishment of an Irish medium school between the pre and post CA polls - from 49% to 62%. Support for this was expressed across all groups but again particularly from females and the higher income groups.

Likelihood of Sending Children to an Integrated School: There were significantly more respondents who said they would be likely/very likely to send children to an integrated school (both primary and post-primary) in the post-CA poll, when compared to the pre-CA poll. Those who said they were likely to send their children to an integrated school (primary or post-primary) grew from 20% in the first poll to nearly 50% in the second. This 'increase in likelihood' was represented across all demographic groups, but particularly by females and the higher income groups. There were over 73% 'neutrals' in the pre-project polls and this dropped to less than 45% in the post-project CA polls.

Likelihood of Sending Children to an Irish Medium School: In the later, post-CA poll, 48% said they would be likely to send their child to an Irish medium school. In the pre-CA poll only around 10% said they would be likely to do this.

Communication: Across all aspects of the CA (polls, focus groups, interviews etc.) there was a strong demand from all participants for better communication, and more information about education services and provision in the area.

Full results for both the pre- and post- CA polls are included in the main report, including detailed commentary, and full demographic analyses for each poll question.

Pre-Audit and Post-Audit Polls: Comparative Polling

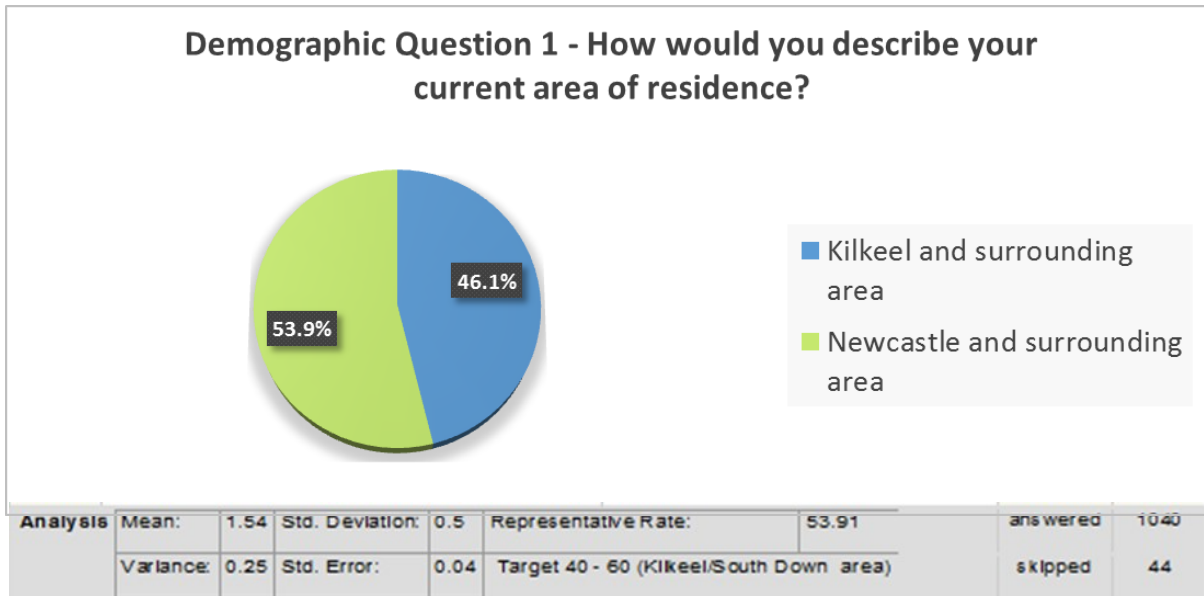
As with all Community Audit (CA) projects LucidTalk carried out both pre-audit polling and post-audit polling. Both of these polls targeted 520 respondents i.e. respondents who provided full answers to all the poll questions. There was 60-75% commonality between the pre-audit and post-audit polls providing a good robust sample of opinion - comparing views before and after the other CA elements i.e. focus groups, direct one-to-one interviews, and a public event.

Poll results represent the post-audit data, except where noted.

Demographic Information:

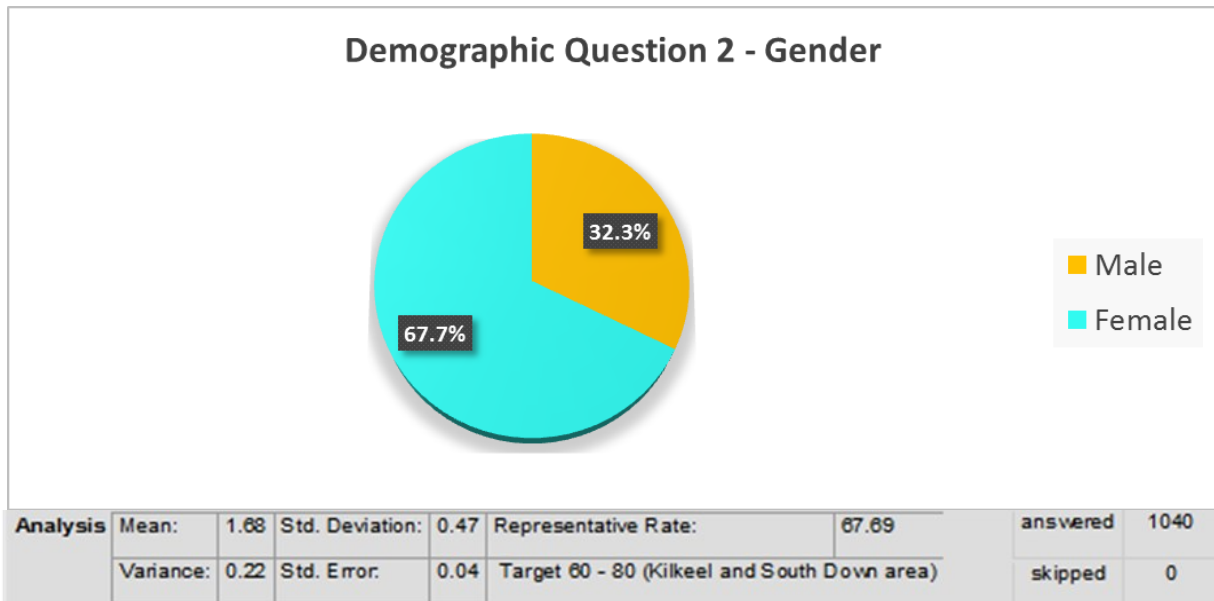
As with all similar projects a balanced sample is always targeted - so we provide statistics to show how each demographic measurement accurately reflects the applicable demographic statistics of the Kilkeel and South Down area.

Demographics: Measurement 1



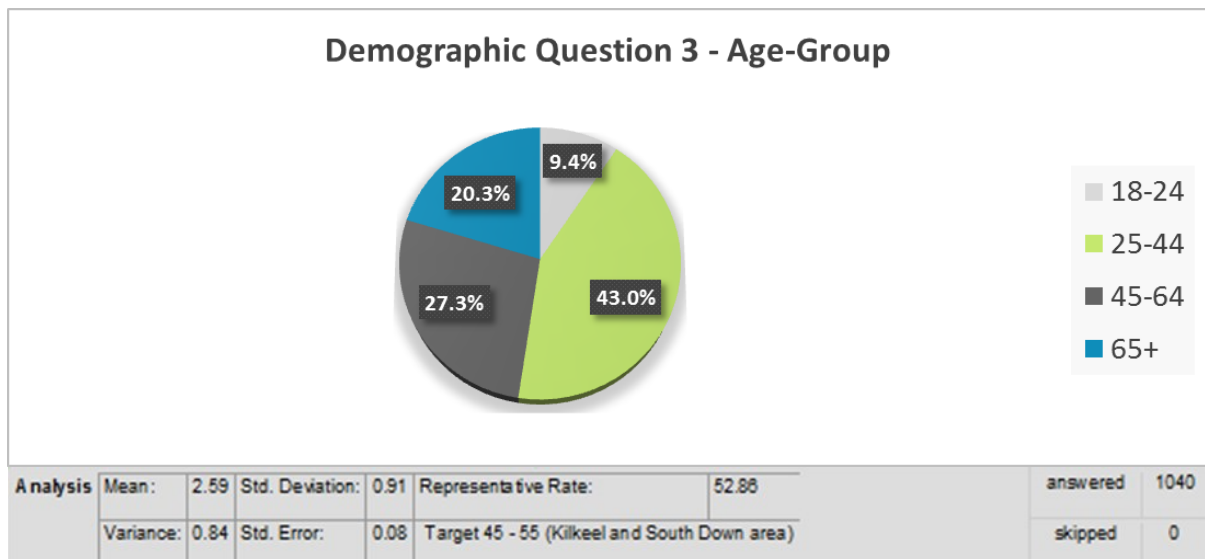
Target 'Representative Rate' is 40 - 60, the above score of 53.9 therefore shows a balanced representative sample of the Kilkeel and South Down area.

Demographics: Measurement 2



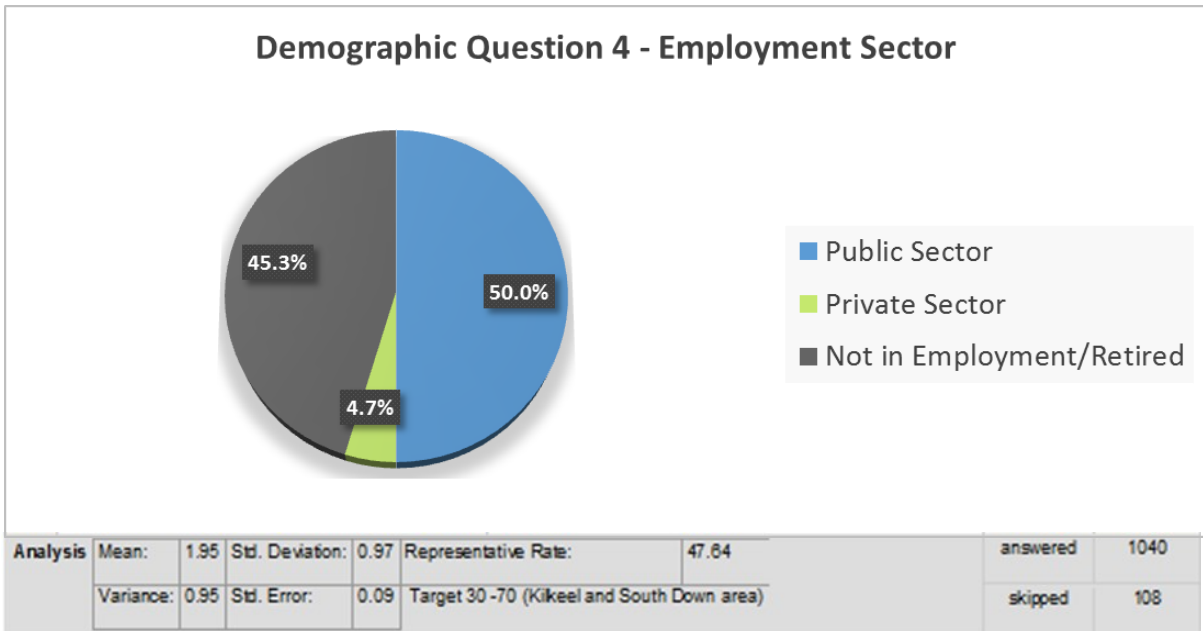
Target 'Representative Rate' is 60 - 80. The 'Representative Rate' of 68 meets this target showing a balanced representative sample of the Kilkeel and South Down area. It is always usual to have a majority of females participating in projects such as Community Audits as they are usually more available during polling periods e.g. late afternoon - early evening.

Demographics: Measurement 3



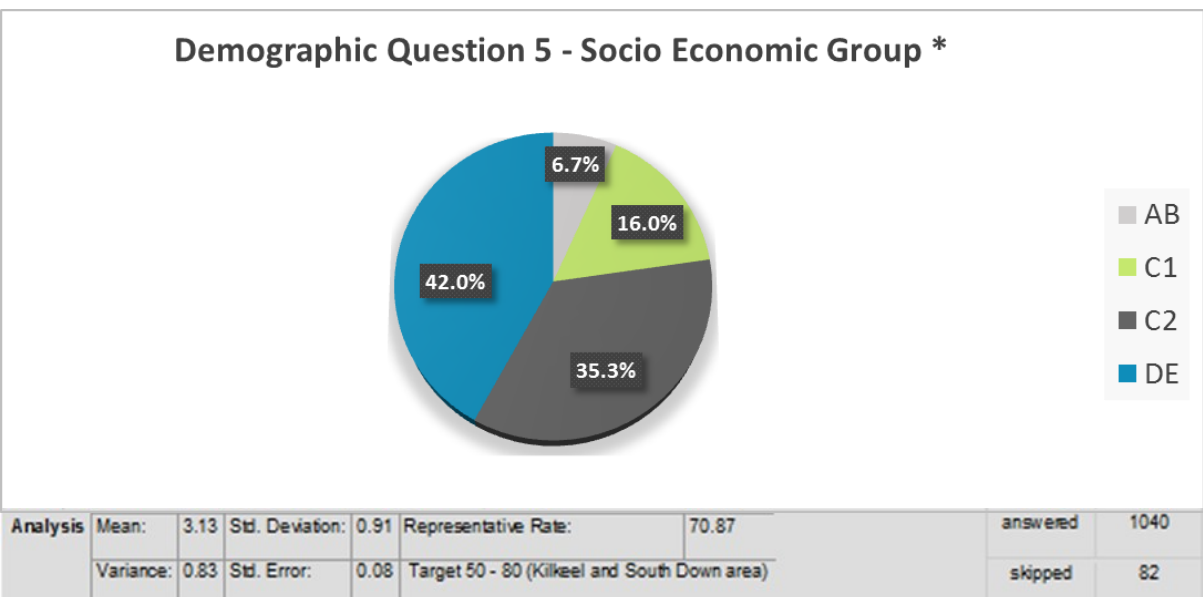
Target 'Representative Rate' is 45 - 55. The 'Representative Rate' of 53 meets this target showing a balanced representative sample of the current age-profile of the Kilkeel and South Down area.

Demographics: Measurement 4



Target 'Representative Rate' is 30 - 70. The 'Representative Rate' of 48 meets this target showing a balanced representative sample of the employment sectors in the Kilkeel and South Down area.

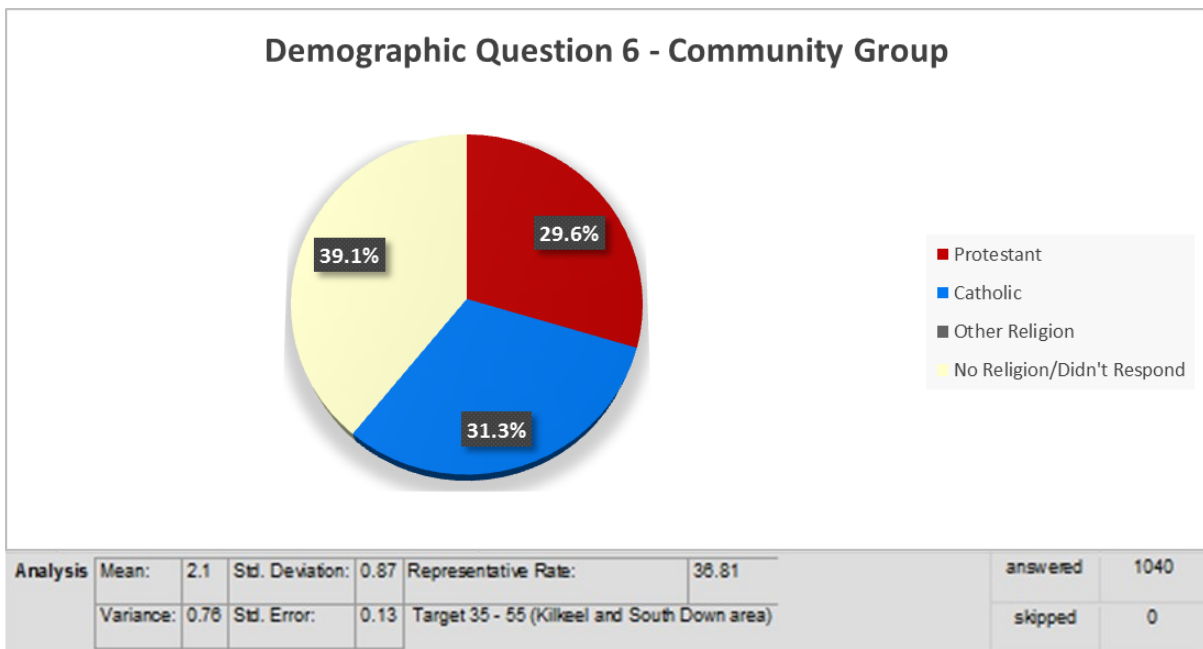
Demographics: Measurement 5



Target 'Representative Rate' is 50 - 80. The 'Representative Rate' of 71 meets this target showing that the above is a representative demographic of the Kilkeel and South Down area, which is an area with a proportionally higher No. of members of the C2, and DE socio-economic groups.

* see Appendix A for explanation of Socio-Economic group classifications as used throughout this report.

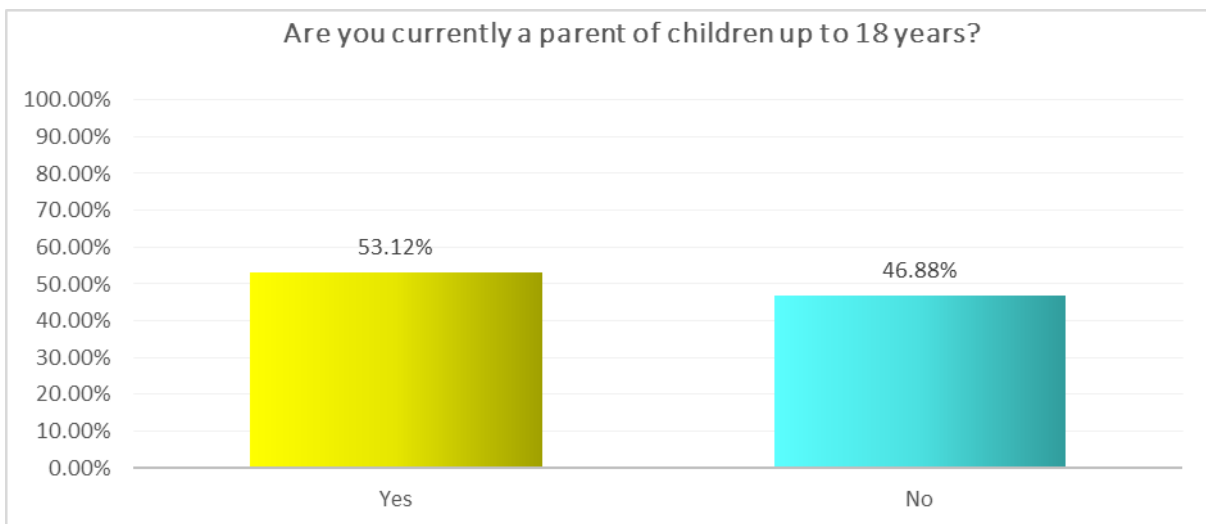
Demographics: Measurement 6



Target 'Representative Rate' is 35 - 55. The 'Representative Rate' of 37 meets this target showing that the above is a representative religious demographic of the Kilkeel and South Down area.

Demographics: Measurement 7 - Are you currently a parent of children up to 18 years?

- Average results both pre-audit and post-audit polls:



NB Those who answered 'No' to this question were mostly either parents who had grown-up children, or young people who were planning to have children in the future.

A supplementary question revealed that parents of all age groups of children were represented.

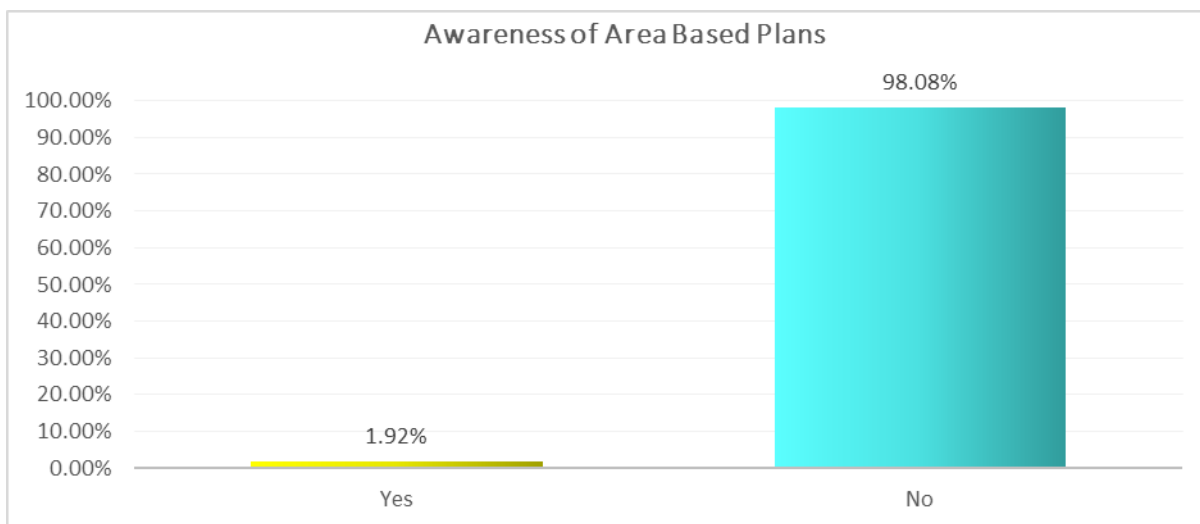
Poll Questions - Full Results

Poll Question 1 - Awareness of Area Based Plans

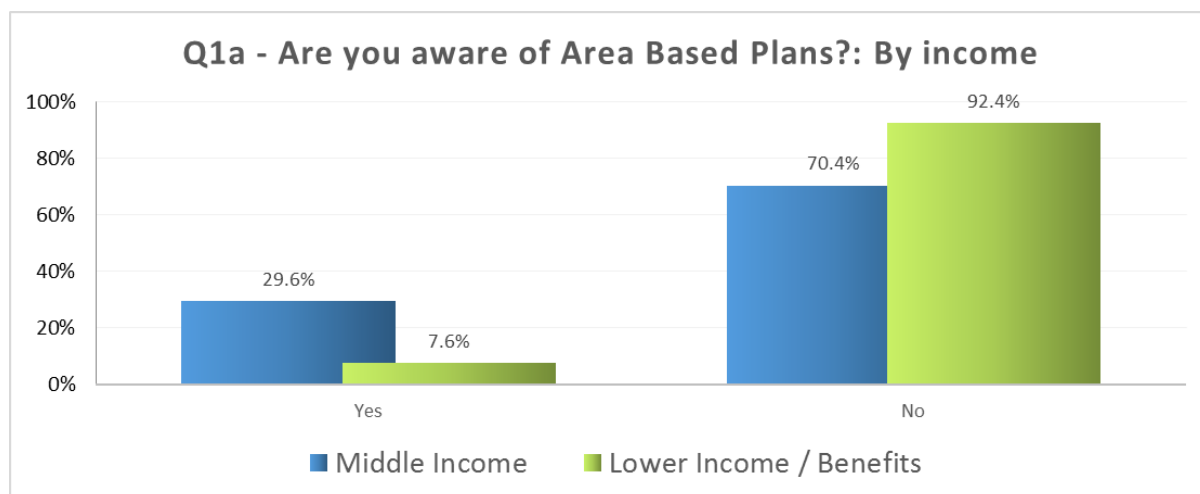
Awareness of Area Based Plans - Full results:

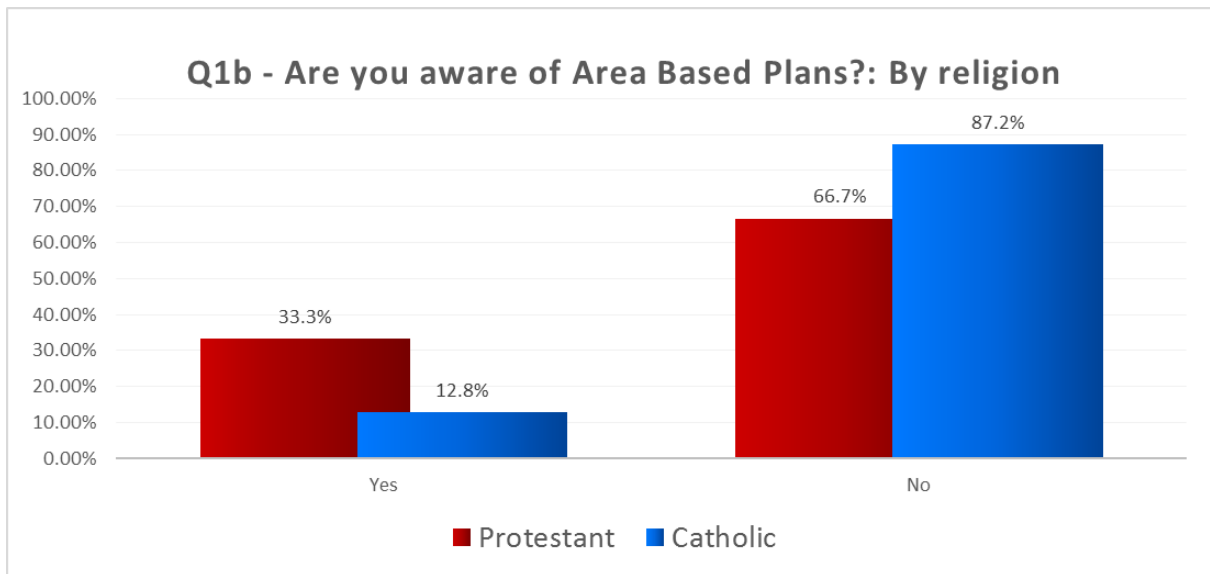
Average of pre and post audit Polls (1,040 respondents)

Following a review of primary and post primary education across Northern Ireland, Area Based Plans have been drawn up for the Kilkeel area. Are you aware that there is an Area Based Plan for education in your area?



Q1: Key analyses and demographic measurements



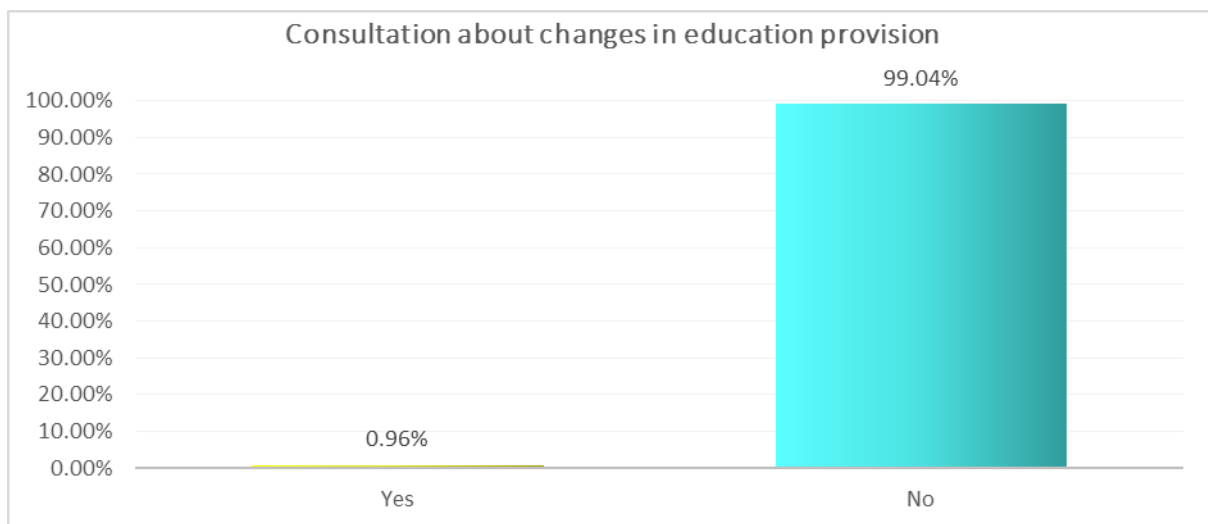


Poll Question 2 - Consultation about changes in education provision

Consultation about education - full results:

Average of pre-audit and post-audit polls

Prior to this current Kilkeel area poll and community audit - Have you been consulted about any possible changes regarding education provision, which may occur in your area?

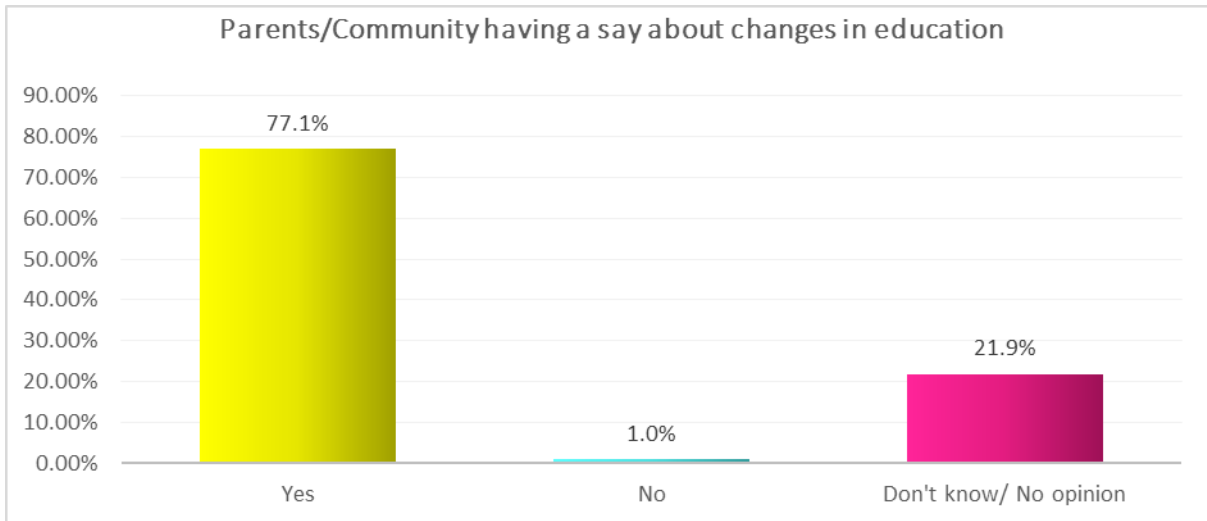


As can be seen the answer to this question was nearly 100% 'No'. demographic analyses are not applicable as all groups answered this question the same way .

Poll Question 3 - Parents/Community having a say about changes in education

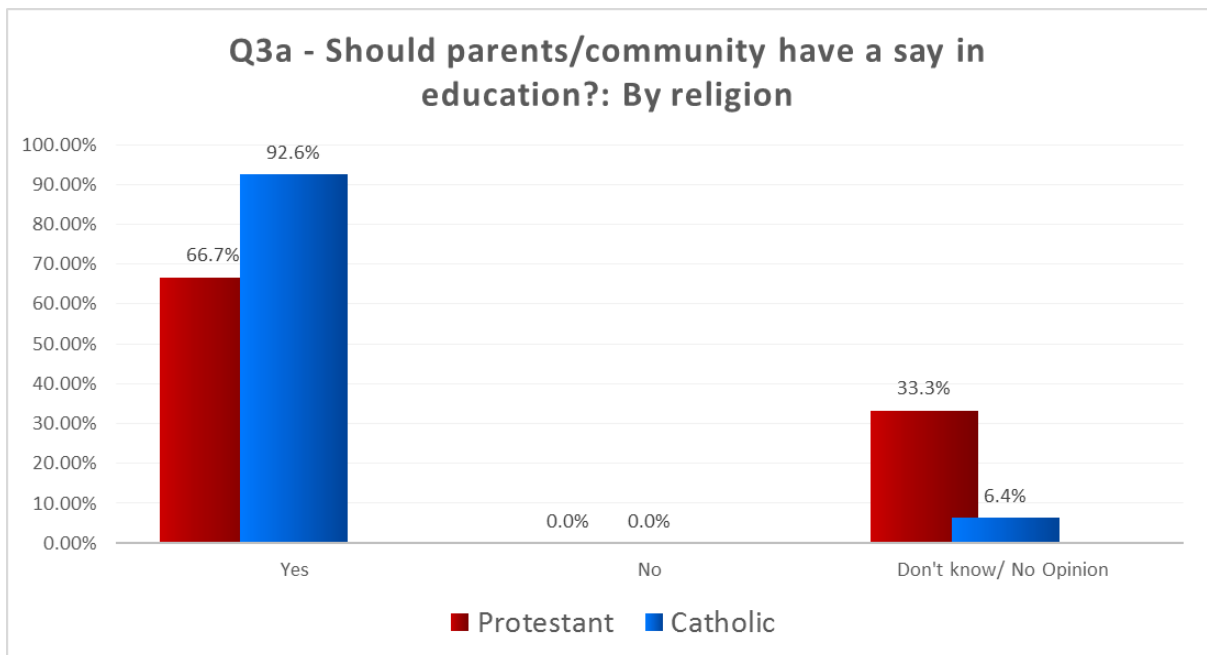
Having a say about changes in education - full results (post-audit poll):

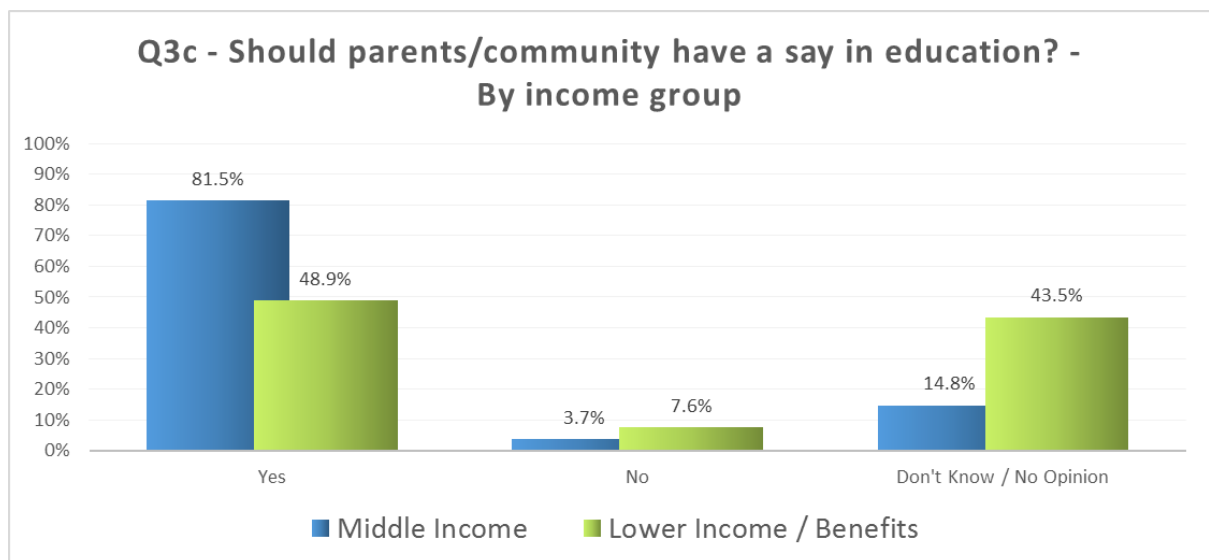
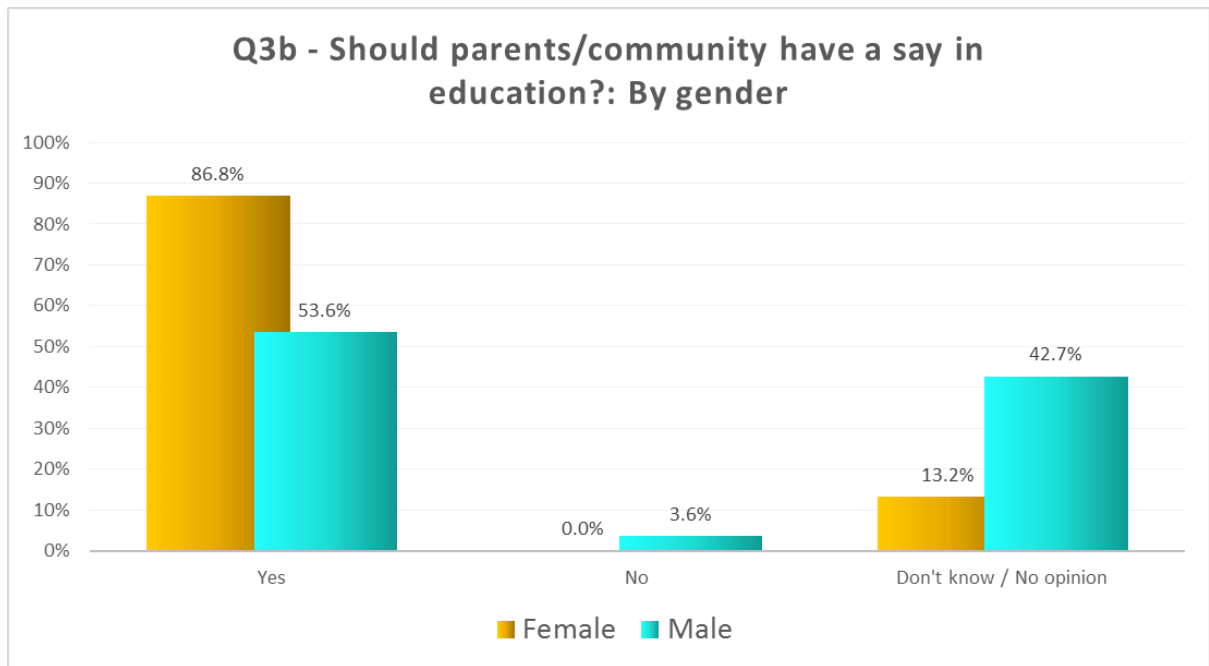
Do you think parents and the community should have a say in what changes should be made to the local education provision?



This reflects the pre-audit poll in agreeing that parents should have a say in what changes should be made in local education provision.

Q3: Key analyses and demographic measurements





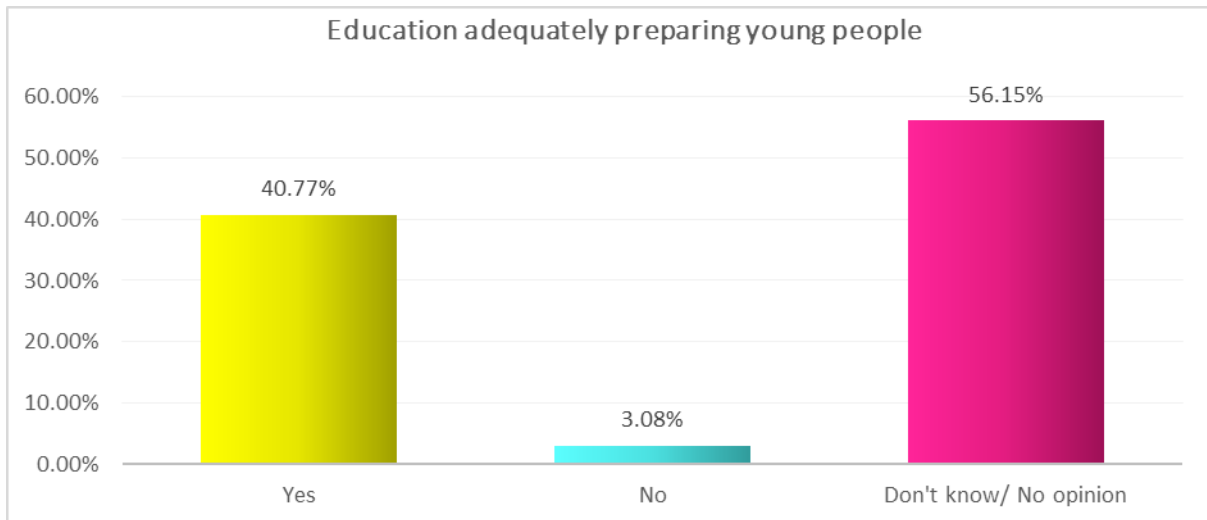
As can be seen, 'Working class' and 'Non-Working' respondents were more unsure about 'having a say' in local education provision, with a lower level of 'Yes' to this question compared to the ABC1 group, and a much higher level of 'Don't Knows' (i.e. within the C2DE group). Plus if we look at the Protestant/Catholics comparison we see that all i.e. everyone is supportive of consultation but the Catholics are more enthusiastic about this with a sizable number of Protestants designating them as 'Don't Know'.

Poll Question 4 - Education adequately preparing young people

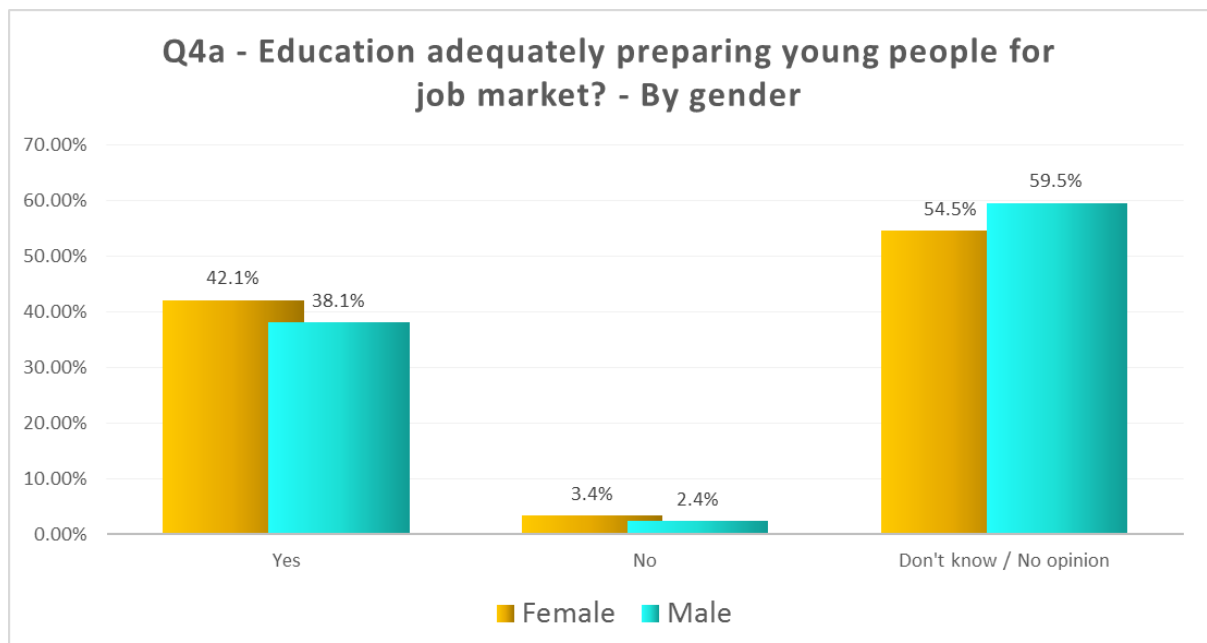
Education preparing young people - full results

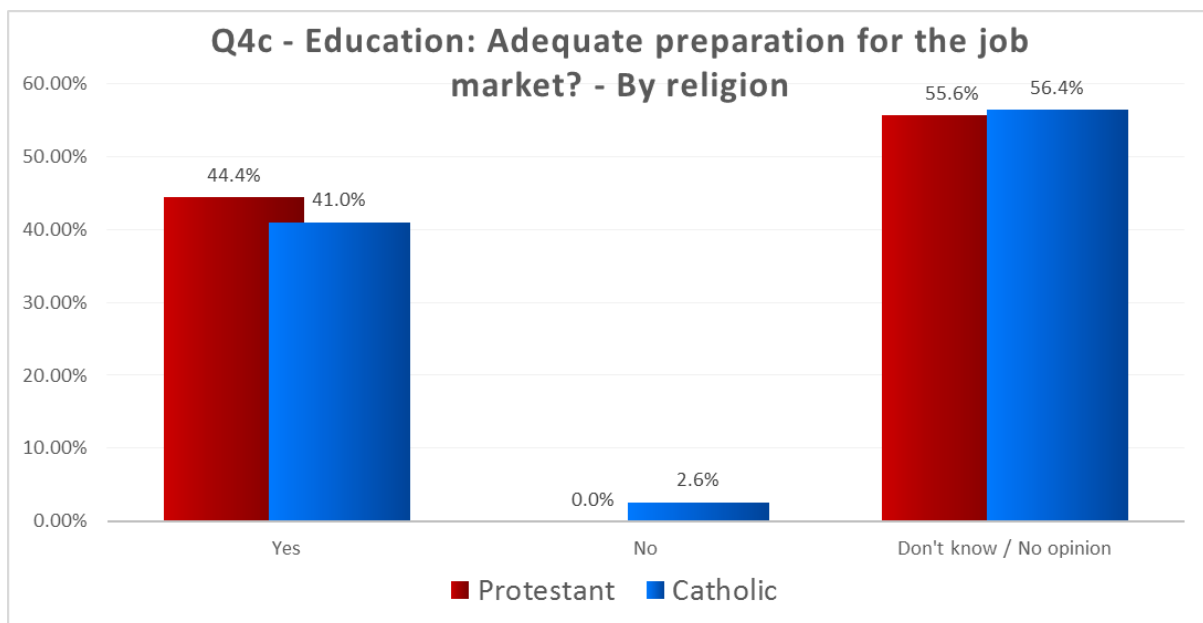
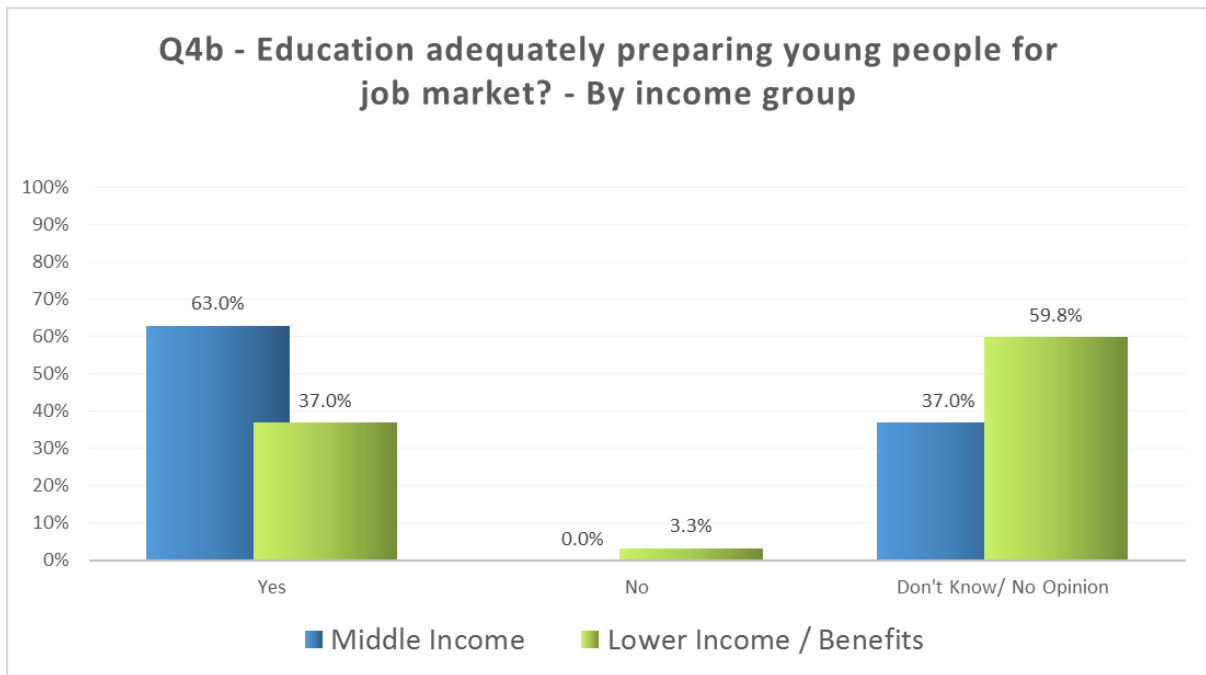
Do you think that current education provision in Kilkeel is adequately preparing young people for the job market?

Q4: Total results - Average of pre and post audit polls



Q4: Key analyses and demographic measurements





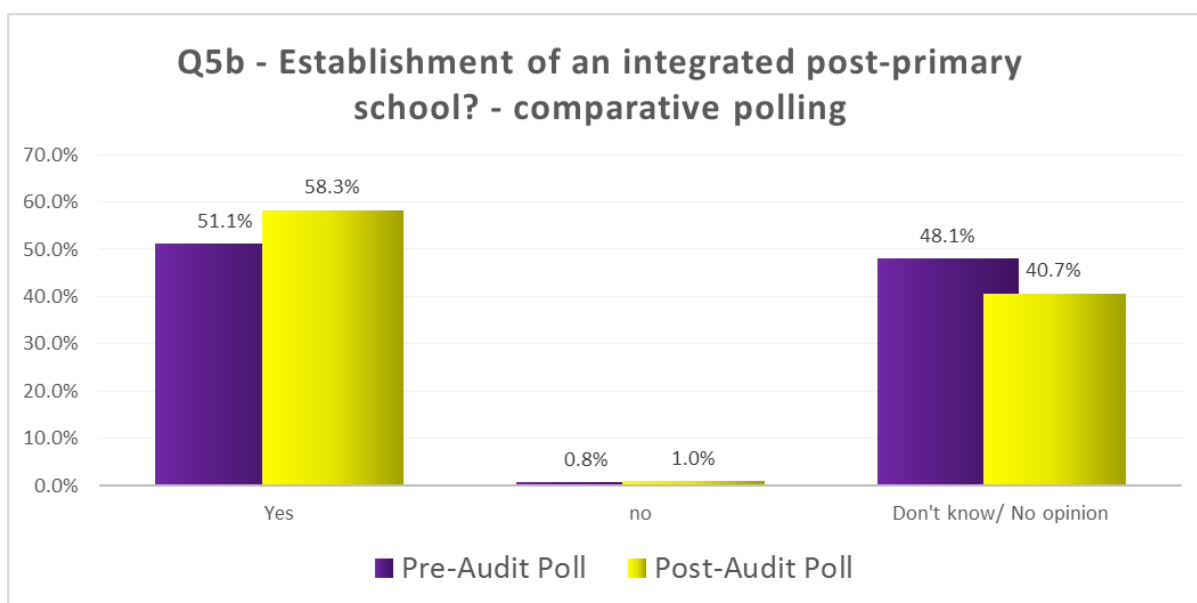
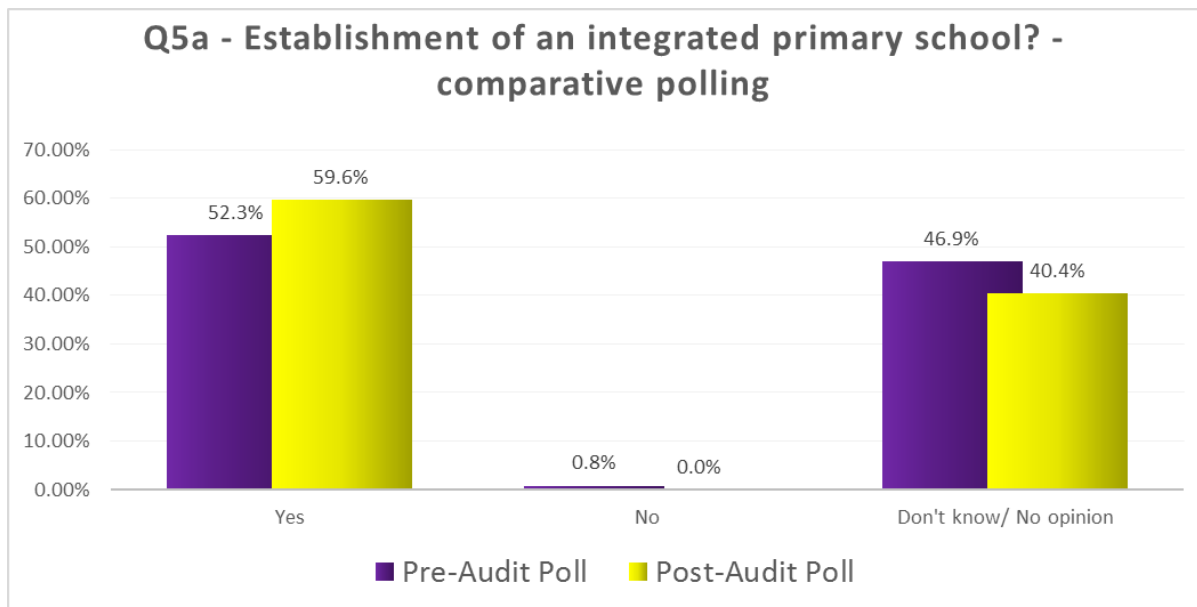
A lot of people commented that they didn't feel qualified to answer this question, as they felt it was a question for educational professionals.

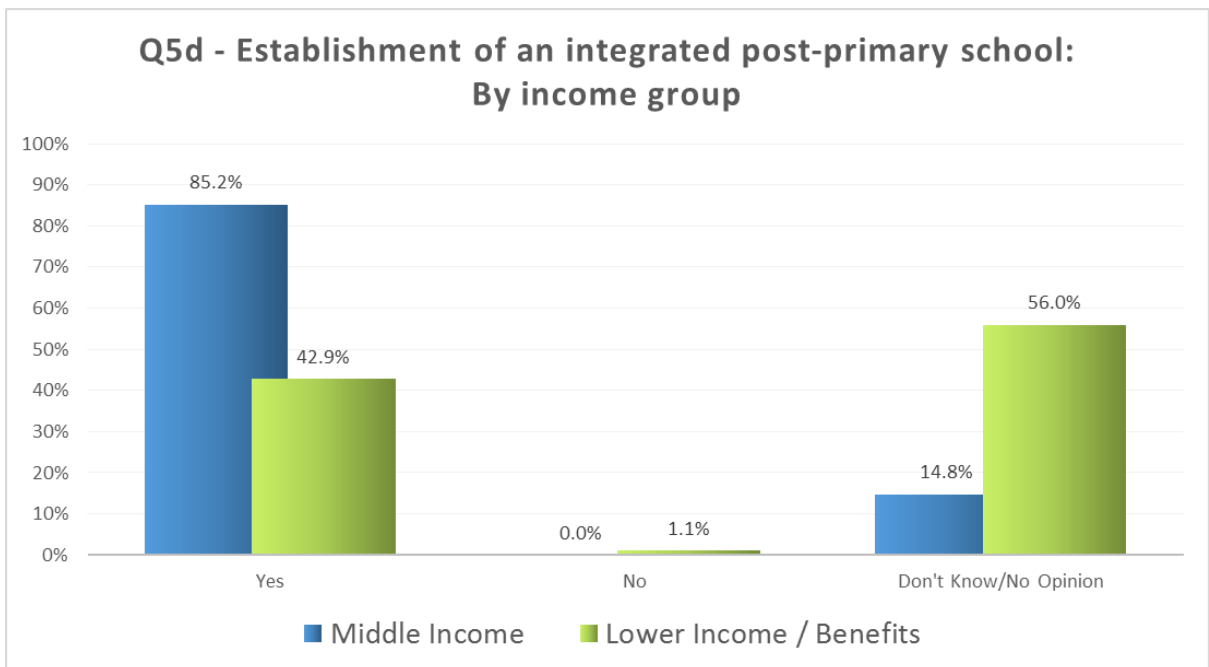
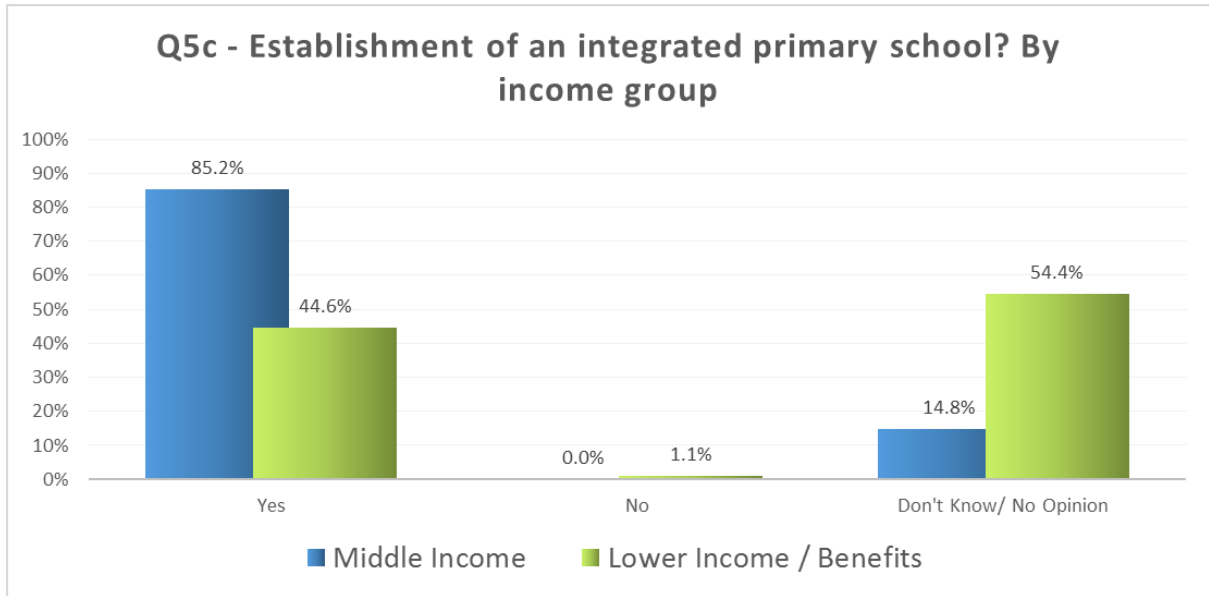
Poll Question 5 - Integrated schools in Kilkeel

Integrated primary and post-primary schools in Kilkeel - Full results (comparative polling):

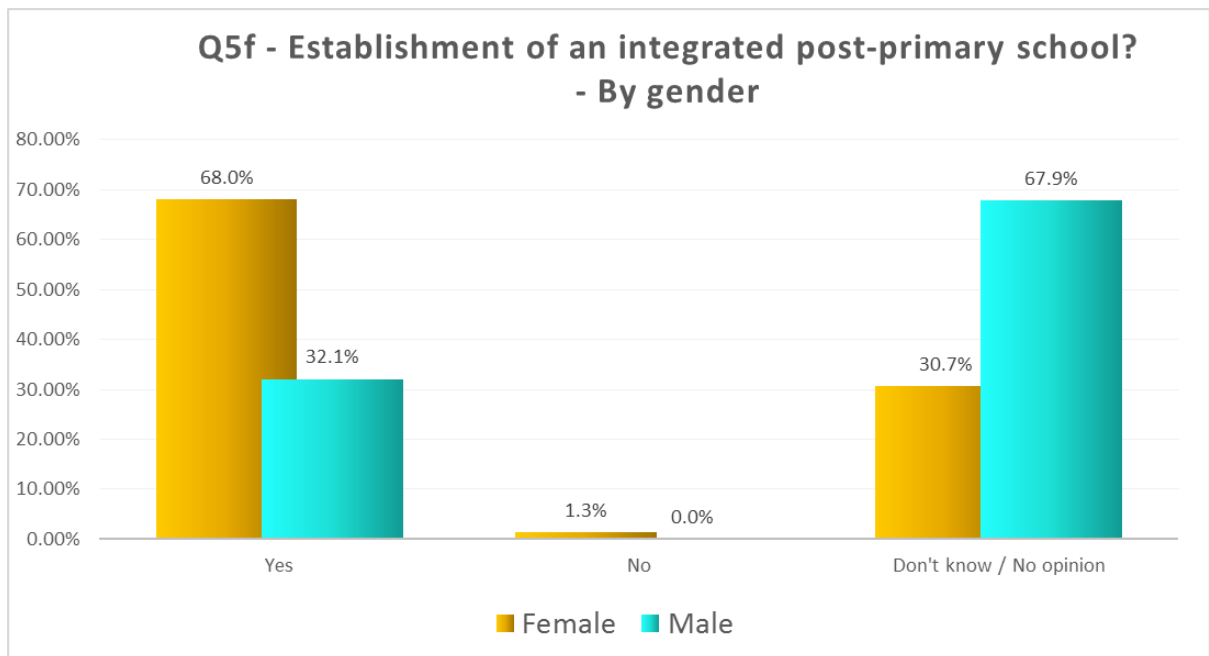
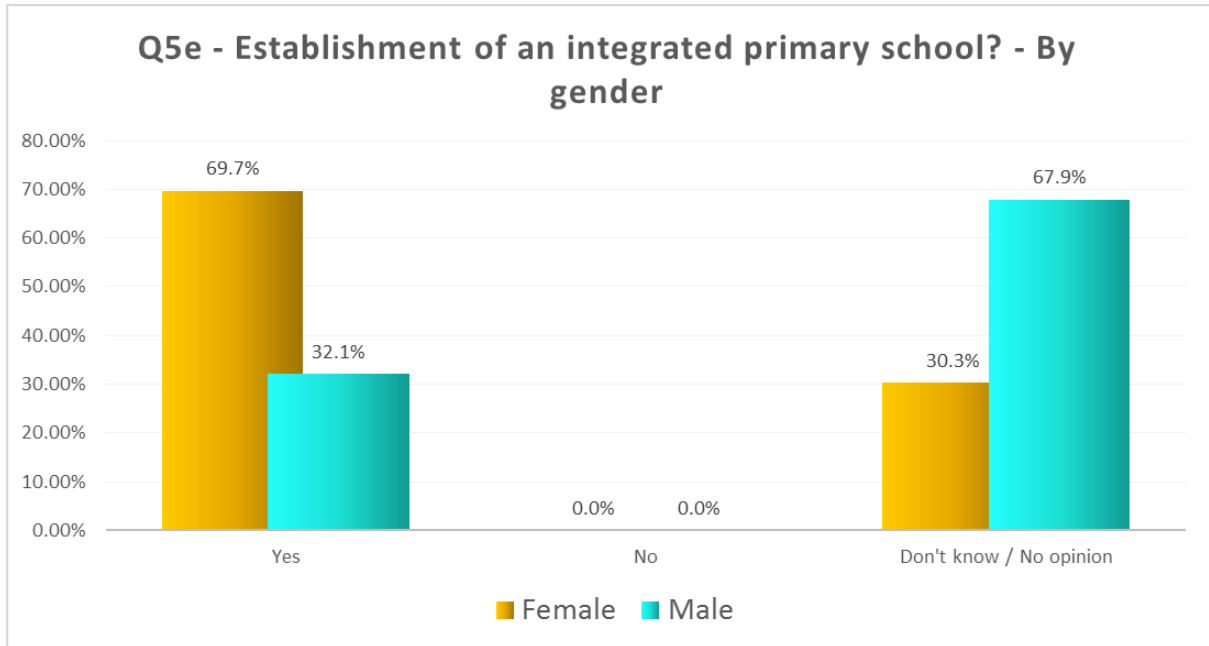
There is currently both Catholic Maintained and Controlled provision in your area but no primary or post-primary integrated or Irish medium post-primary provision. As such, would you support the establishment of an integrated primary school, and/or integrated post-primary school, in your area - which teaches all faiths and none?

Q5: Key analyses and demographic measurements





Note that the middle incomes are very supportive, with the lower-income socio-economic groups more in the 'Don't Know/No Opinion' territory.

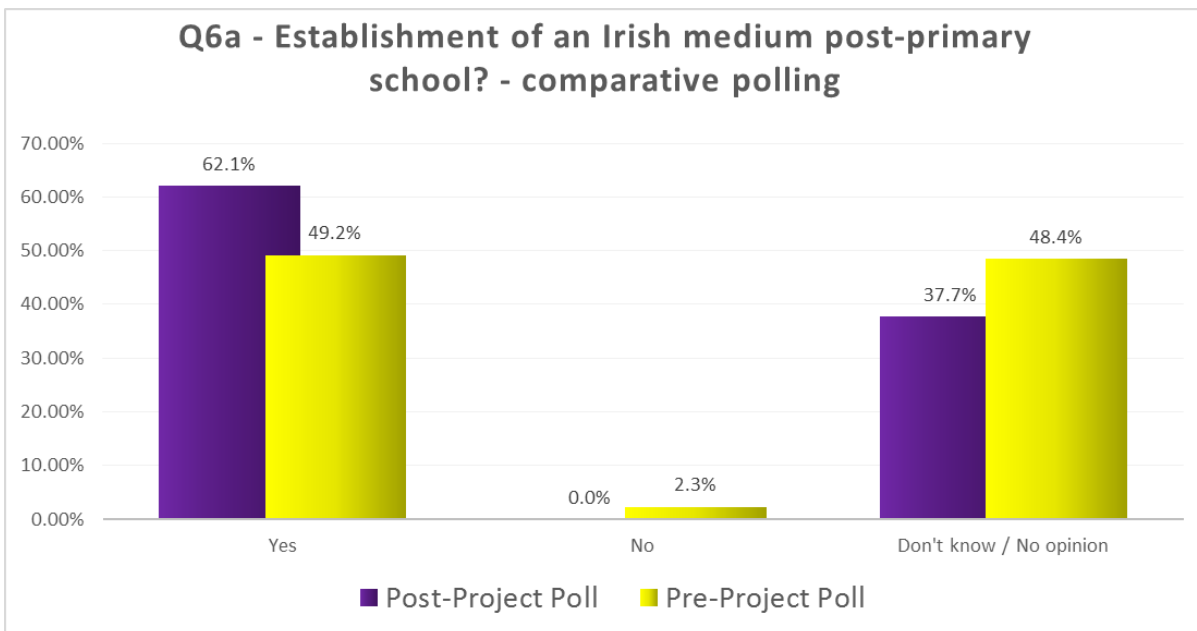


As can be seen above, females are much more supportive of the establishment of integrated schools in the Kilkeel area - both primary and post-primary. The religious demographic analyses didn't show any appreciable difference from the main results for this question. However the focus group research showed that slightly more Catholics would support an integrated school in Kilkeel, i.e. in proportion to Protestants. A higher level of Protestants were nervous about 'change'.

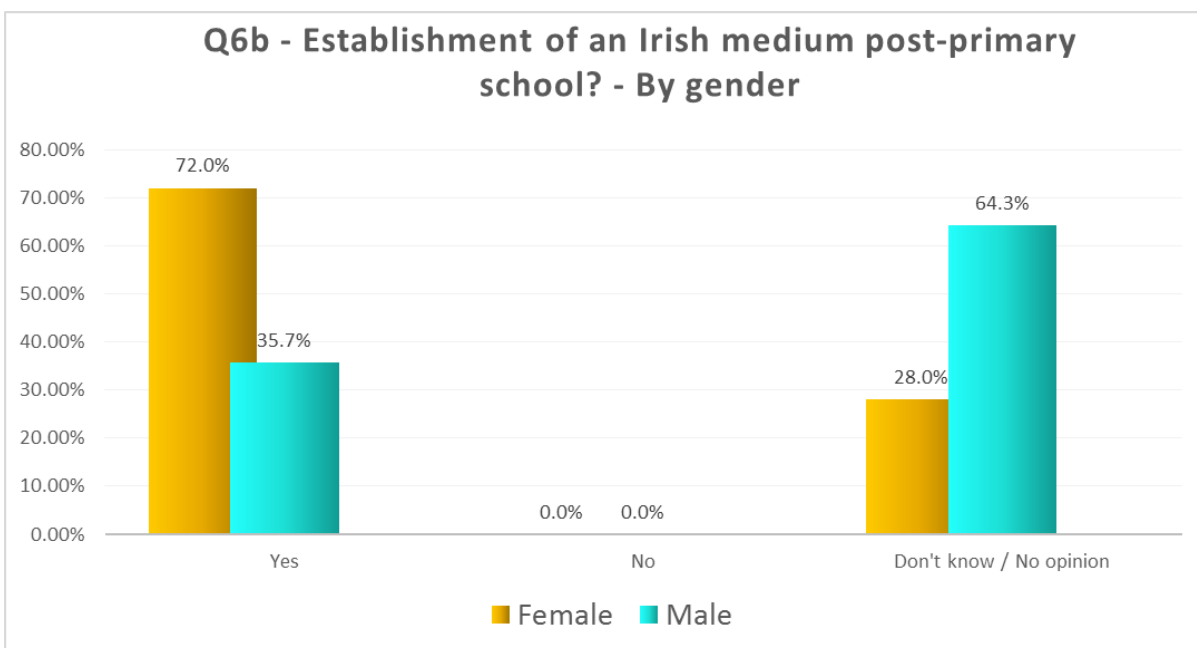
Poll Question 6 - Irish medium school in Kilkeel
 Irish medium school in Kilkeel - Full results (comparative polling):

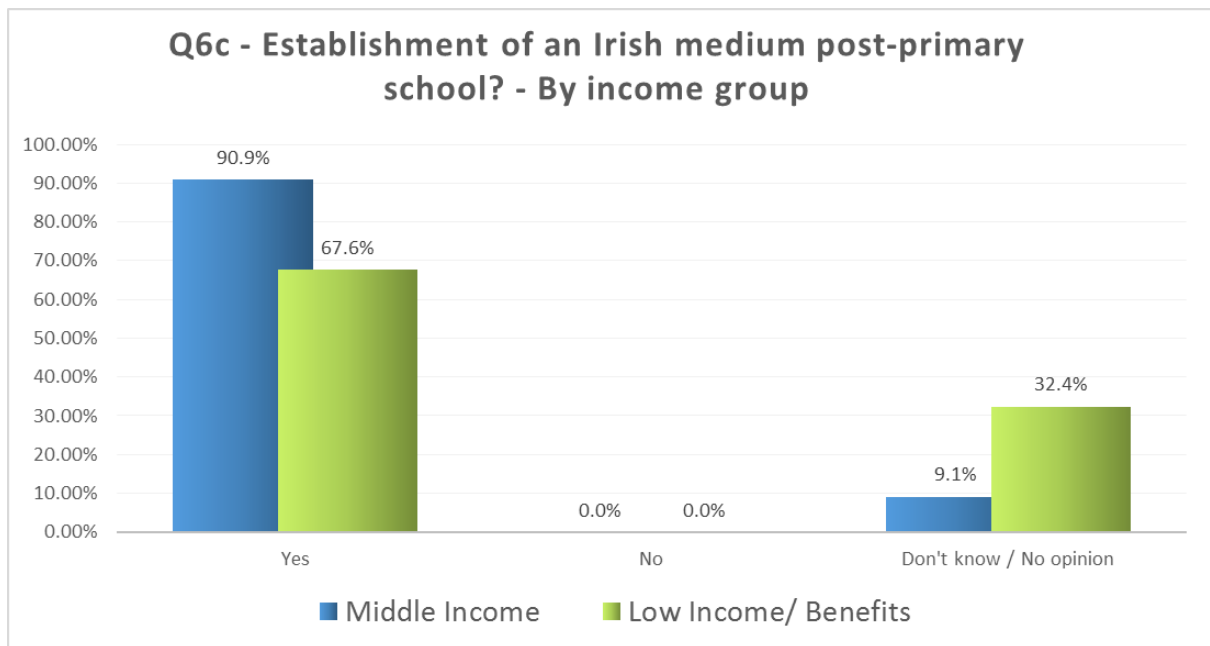
Would you support the establishment of an Irish medium post-primary school in your area?

Q6: Key analyses and demographic measurements



These results show a 12 percentage point increase in the support in the second poll. Females were much more supportive of the establishment of an Irish medium post-primary school in Kilkeel. It wasn't that males are against this idea, but a much higher proportion of males were 'Don't Know' compared to females.



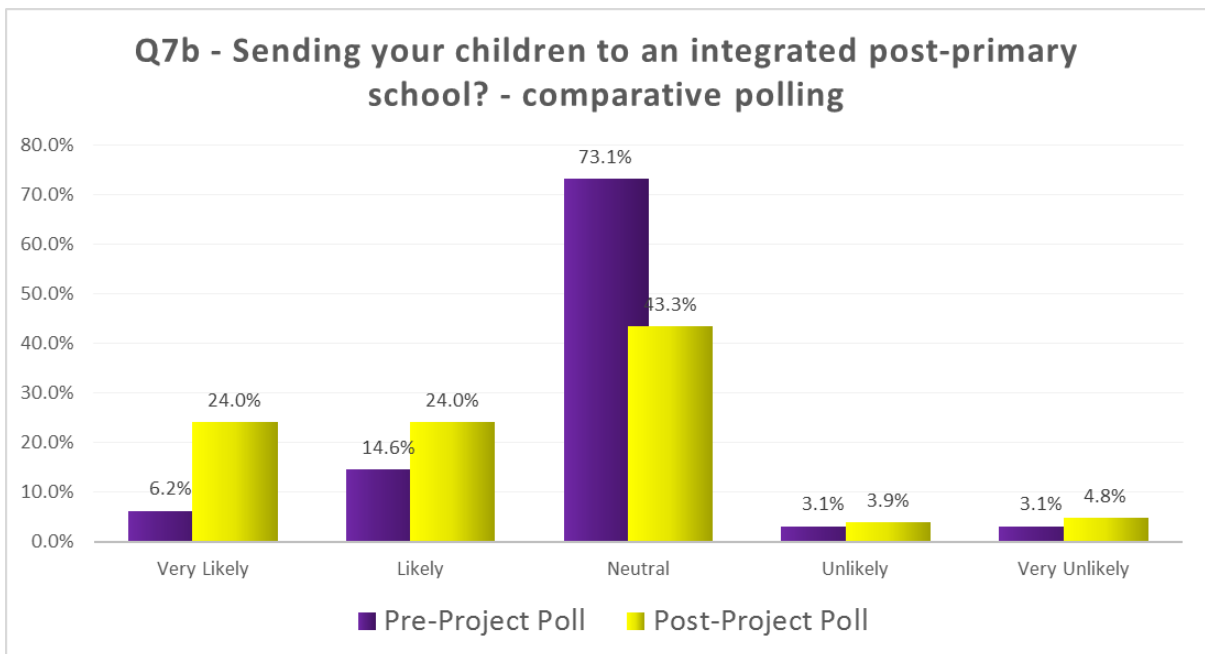
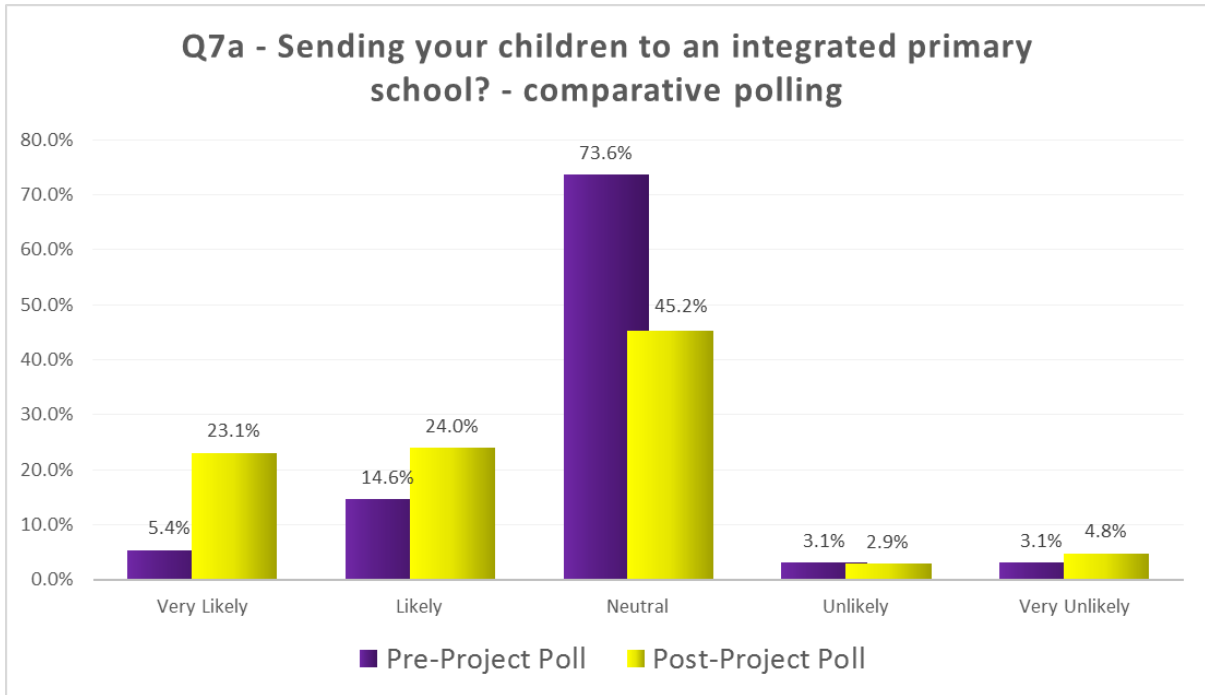


As can be seen the middle income groups are much more supportive of the establishment of an Irish medium school in Kilkeel than the lower socio-economic groups. The lower income groups are also supportive i.e. 68%, but have a higher level of 'Don't Knows' i.e. nearly 1 in 3.

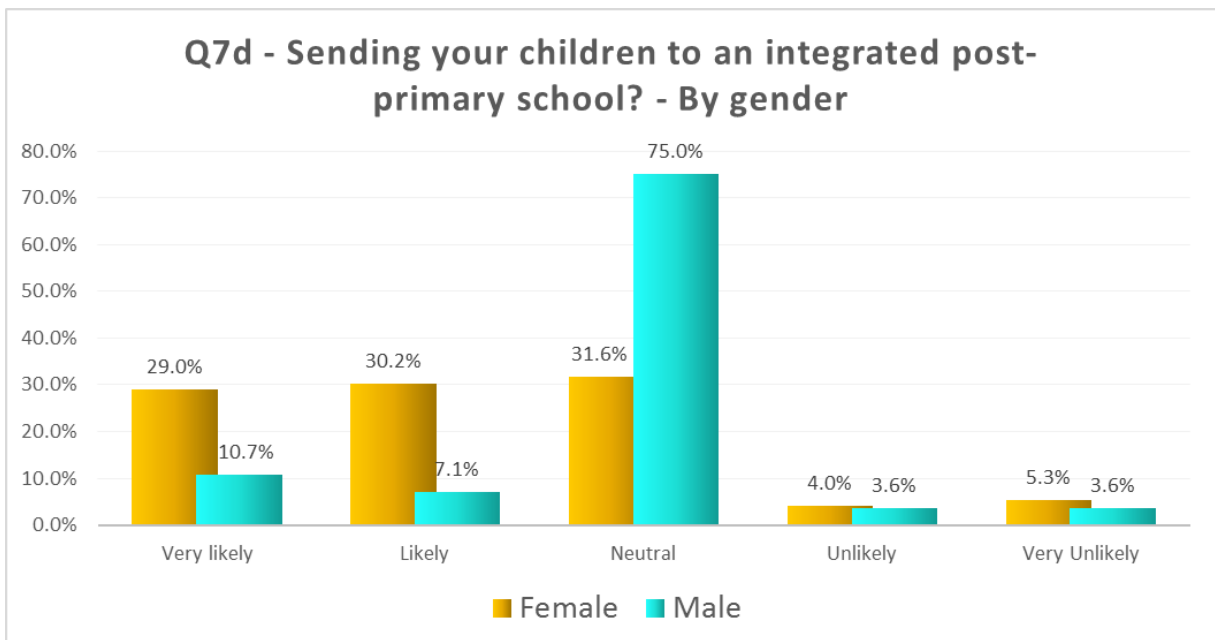
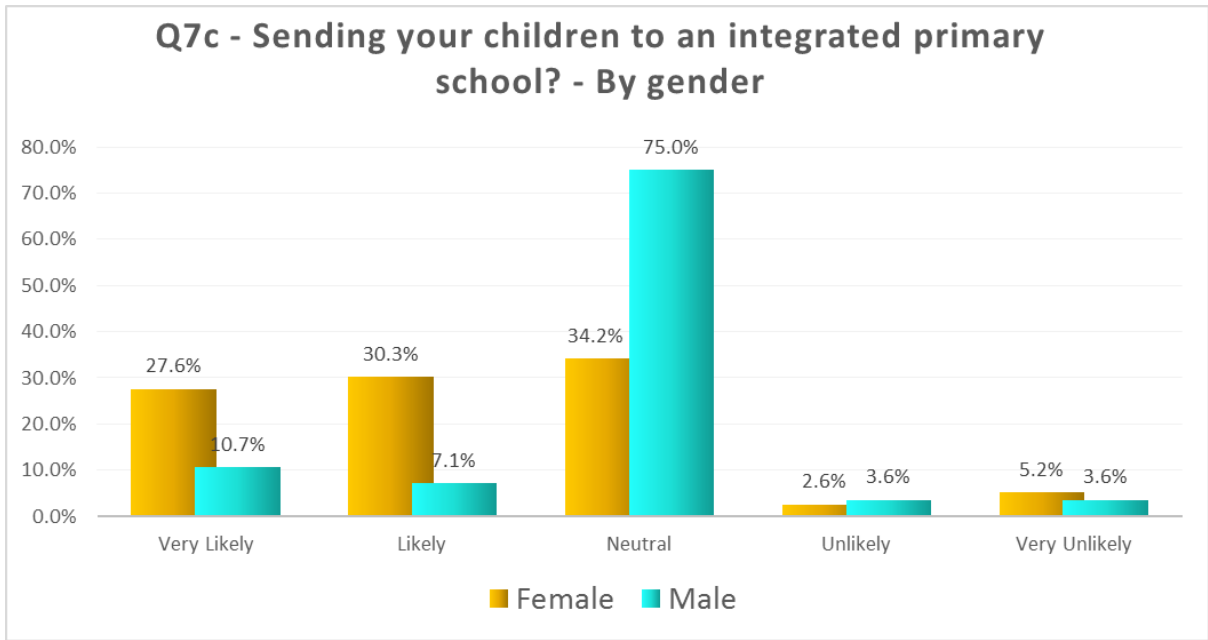
Poll Question 7 - Likelihood of sending your children to an integrated school
Sending your children to an integrated school in Kilkeel? - Full results (comparative polling):

If you have primary or post-primary aged children, how likely would you be to consider sending them to a new integrated primary or post-primary school, which teaches children of all faiths and none?

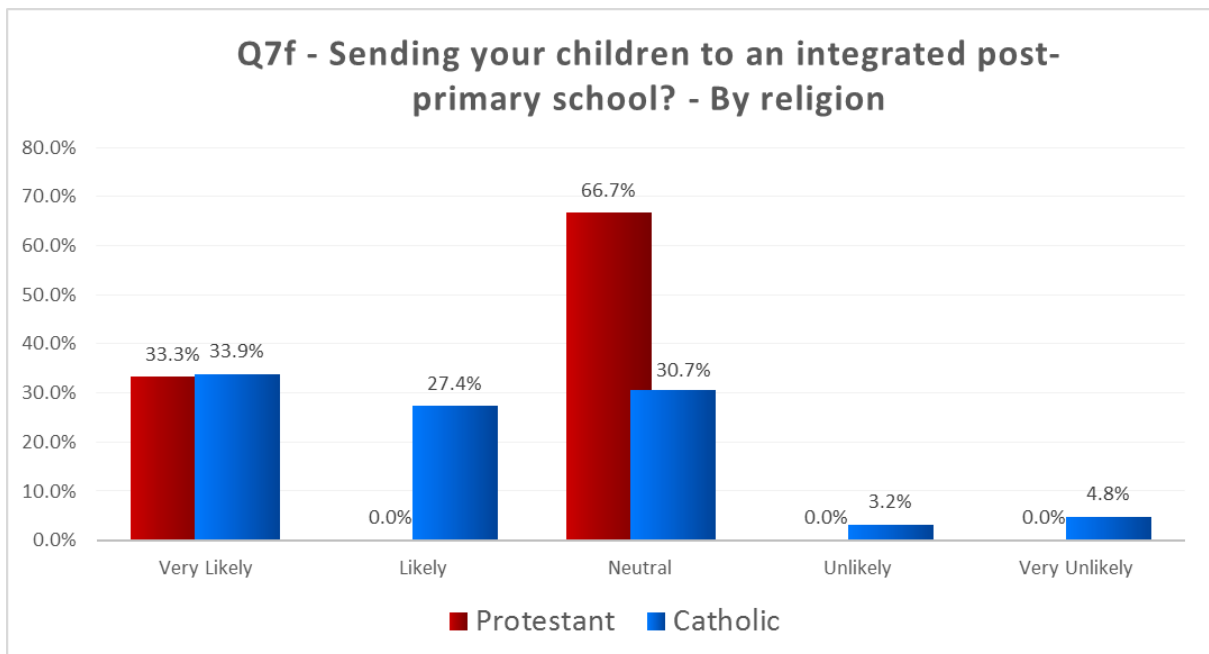
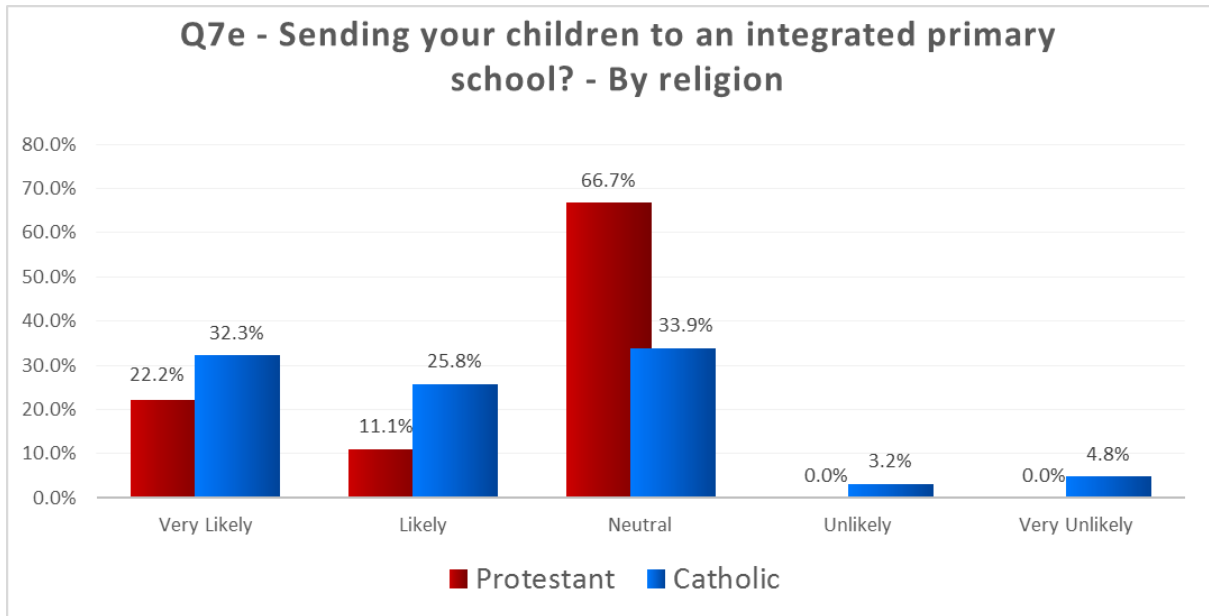
Q7: Key analyses and demographic measurements



These results show a major reduction in those voting 'Neutral', and significant growth in support for both primary and post-primary integrated provision, following the audit process.

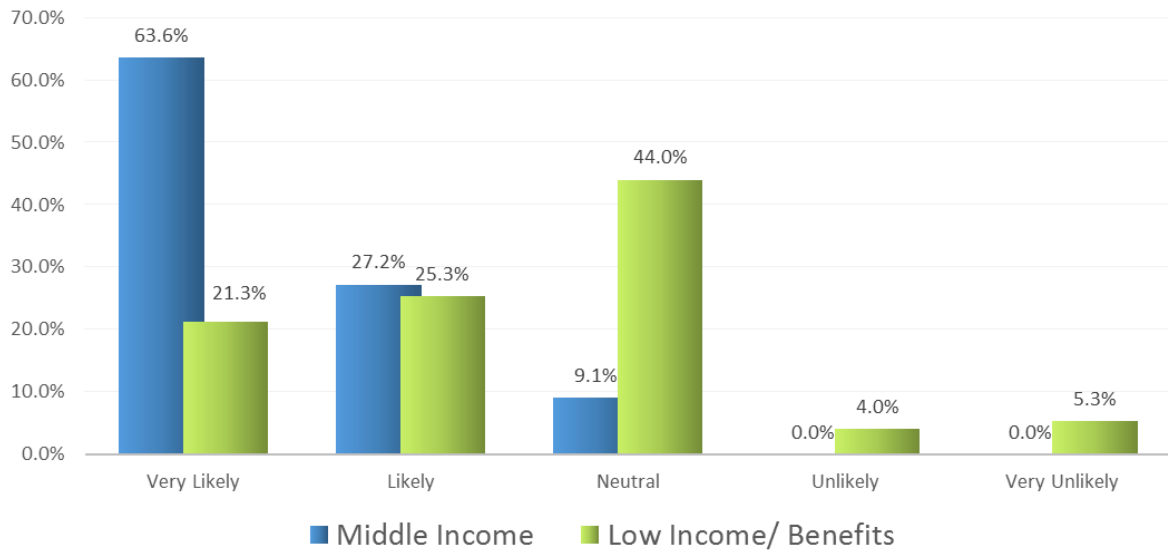


Again this shows that females are much more enthusiastic about the concept of both integrated primary, and post-primary provision in Kilkeel. There is a very high level of 'Neutrals' among males.

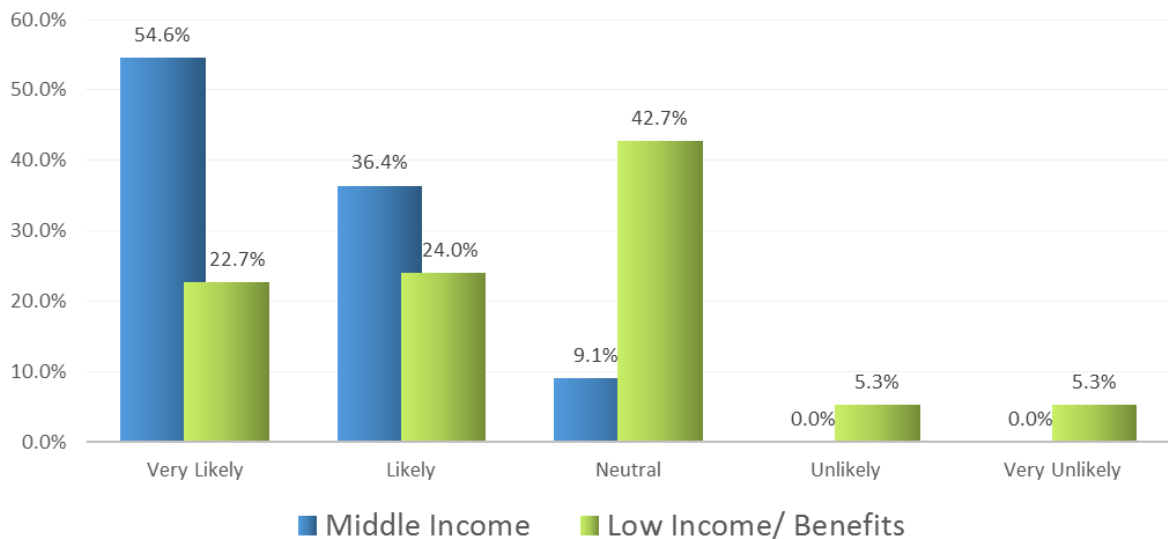


Again this shows that Catholics are more enthusiastic about the possibility of sending their children to integrated schools in Killeel. Protestants have a much higher level of 'Neutrals'.

Q7g - Sending your children to an integrated primary school? - By income group



Q7h - Sending your children to an integrated post-primary school? - By income group



Poll Question 8 - Why wouldn't you send your children to an integrated school in Kilkeel?

If you responded 'Unlikely', and/or 'Very Unlikely', to the previous question(s), is there any specific reason for not sending your child to an integrated primary or post-primary school, which teaches all faiths and none?

Points frequently made, by five or more respondents, in both the audit polls:

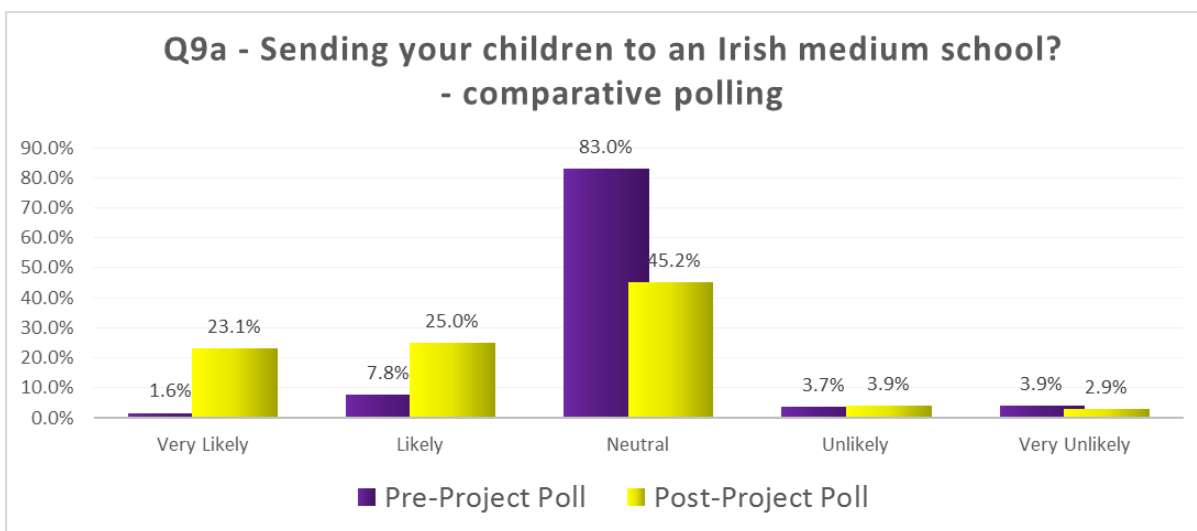
- Not really up to knowledge on this area
- Don't understand it - too much jargon
- Don't understand the difference between integrated and shared education
- Wouldn't like to switch schools at this stage

Poll Question 9 - Likelihood of sending your children to an Irish medium school

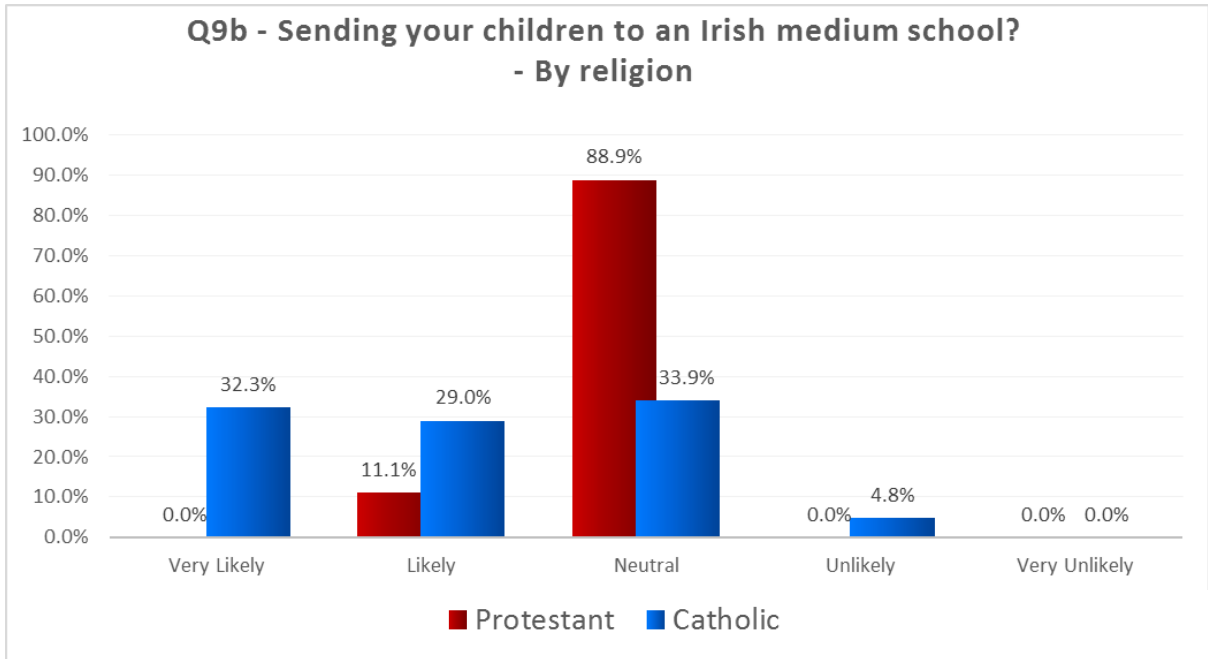
Sending your children to an Irish medium school in Kilkeel? - Full results (comparative polling):

If you have children of school age, how likely would you be to consider sending them to a new Irish medium post-primary school?

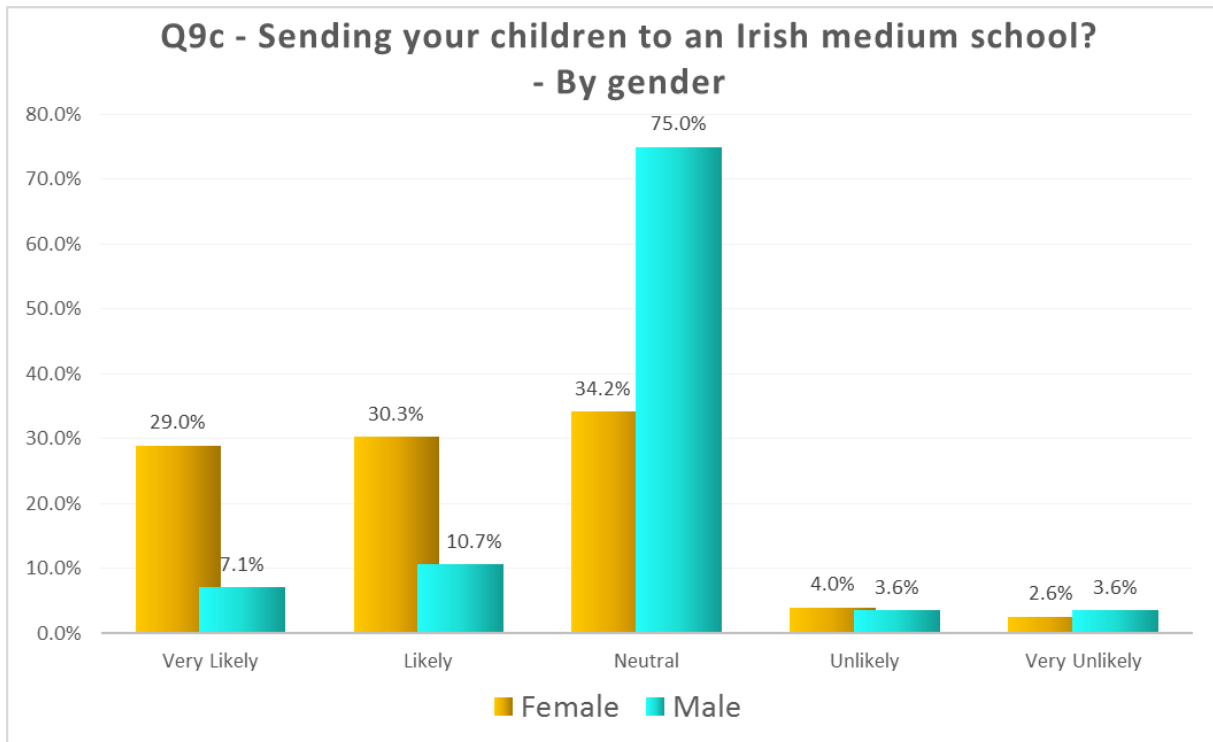
Q9: Key analyses and demographic measurements



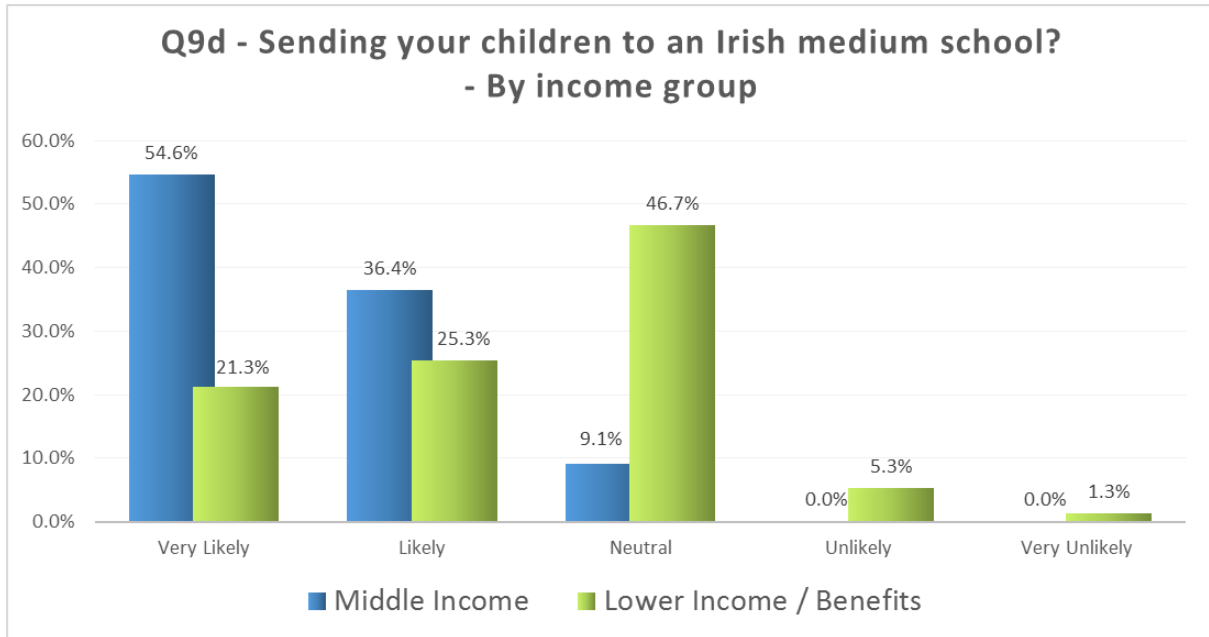
As through much of the project, we see a significant difference between the two polls. The first poll has a much higher number of 'Neutrals', which drops significantly in the second poll, with a big rise in the number saying it would be likely/very likely that they would send their children to an Irish medium school in Kilkeel.



Not surprisingly Catholics are much more supportive of the concept of a post-primary Irish medium school. Protestants are not against but are overwhelmingly 'Don't Know' on this issue.



This shows that females are much more enthusiastic about the concept of Irish medium post-primary provision in Killeel. There is a very high level of 'Neutrals' among males. These results are



We see the pattern that has been shown in previous questions when analysed by income group. Middle income groups are more supportive of the idea of new schools whether integrated and/or Irish medium when compared with Lower Income groups. The latter group tends more towards 'Neutral'.

Poll Question 10 - One thing you would change about Kilkeel education provision

If there is one thing you would change about the education provision in Kilkeel what would it be?

The overwhelming response was a call for more information about education in the area.

Focus Groups

Six focus groups, of between 8-15 people, lasting around three hours, were carried out as part of the audit, between November 2015 and March 2016. The groups involved e-polling followed by facilitated discussion on six education themes, and were carried out with a number of local community groups. The attendees included parents and non-parents, and gave a balanced representation of the Killeel and South Down communities in general.

Below is an outline of the electronic polling (e-polling) results from each of the focus groups, followed by a summary of the comments made during discussion.

For all the qualitative data, collated as part of the focus groups, one-to-one direct interviews, small group interviews, and the public interaction meeting, the following guidelines apply: for each activity, general themes, in line with the focus groups and polling, were introduced, and allowed to develop naturally through conversation. All comments made by participants were recorded, and collated afterwards.

Focus Groups - E-Polling

The LucidTalk e-polling system allows instant, anonymous audience polling at events (e.g. focus groups, interest groups, and large public events). The LucidTalk system uses compact hand-held devices.

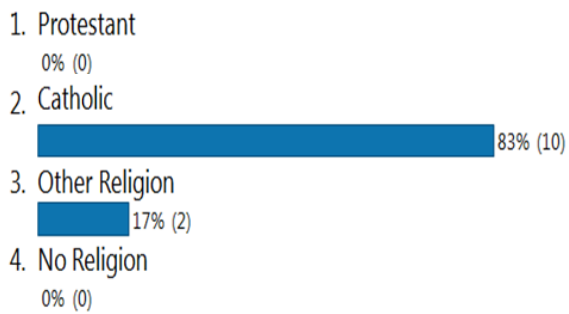
In the case of this project all e-polling results were presented back to the participants to encourage further discussion. Demographic analyses were carried out by gender, school attended, religion etc. These demographic analyses were not shown to the audiences but some are shown below.

Focus Groups - Summary Report and Conclusions

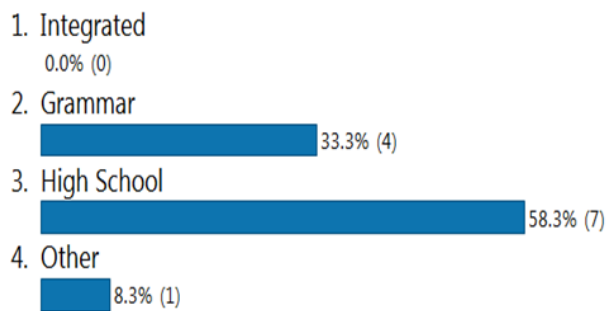
Focus Group No. 1: total attendance 12



Focus Group 1: Demographic Poll - Gender



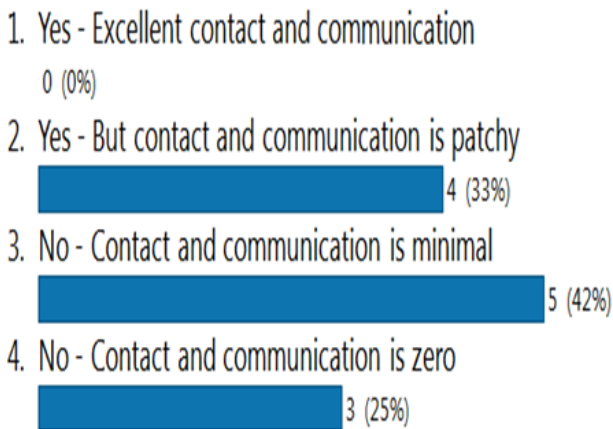
Focus Group 1: Demographic Poll - Religion



Focus Group 1: Demographic Poll - School Attended

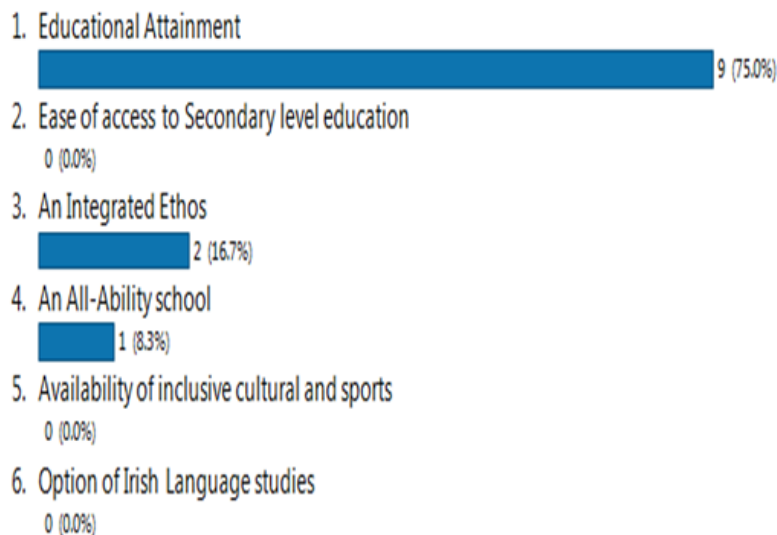
Main E-Poll results - Focus Group 1:

Do you think you as parents and the Kilkeel Community, are consulted enough by the education communities regarding Educational Services in the Kilkeel area?

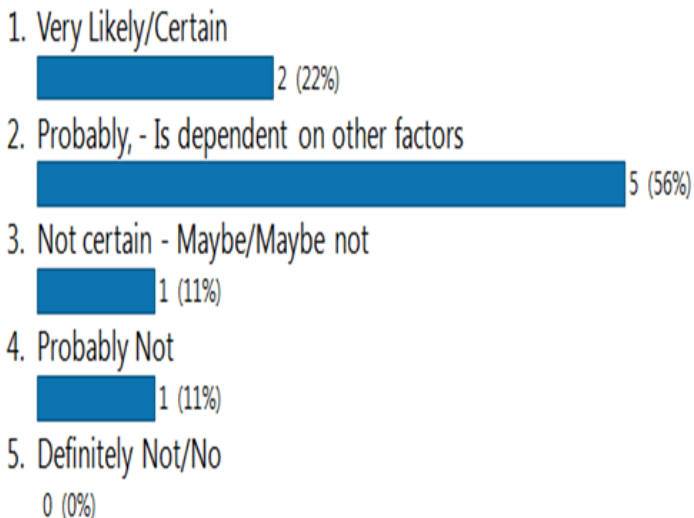


As can be seen, all of this focus group's attendees viewed communication about educational services as poor. Communication is viewed as 'patchy' at best and then by only 33% of attendees. In terms of the second question, and as per usual i.e. with other focus groups, the vast majority rated educational attainment as most important. Demographic analyses showed no specific patterns except that those with post-primary school children said there was less communication at the post-primary level than at pre-primary or primary level.

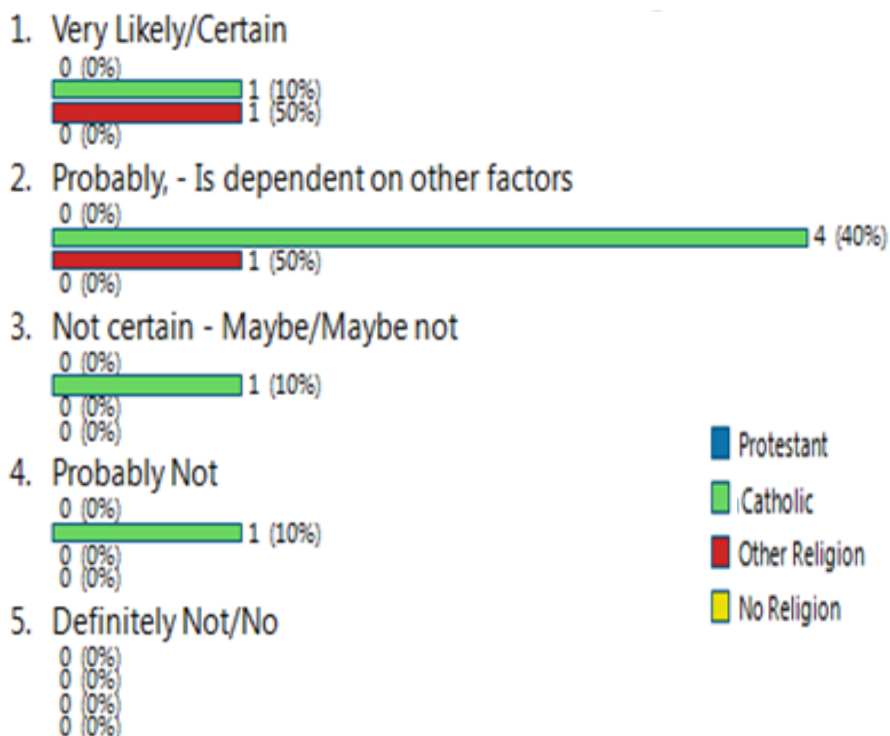
As Parents what do you think is the most important factor in terms of considering primary level education for your children?



If you had the option how likely is it that you would send your children to an all-ability, primary or post-primary integrated school in Killeel?

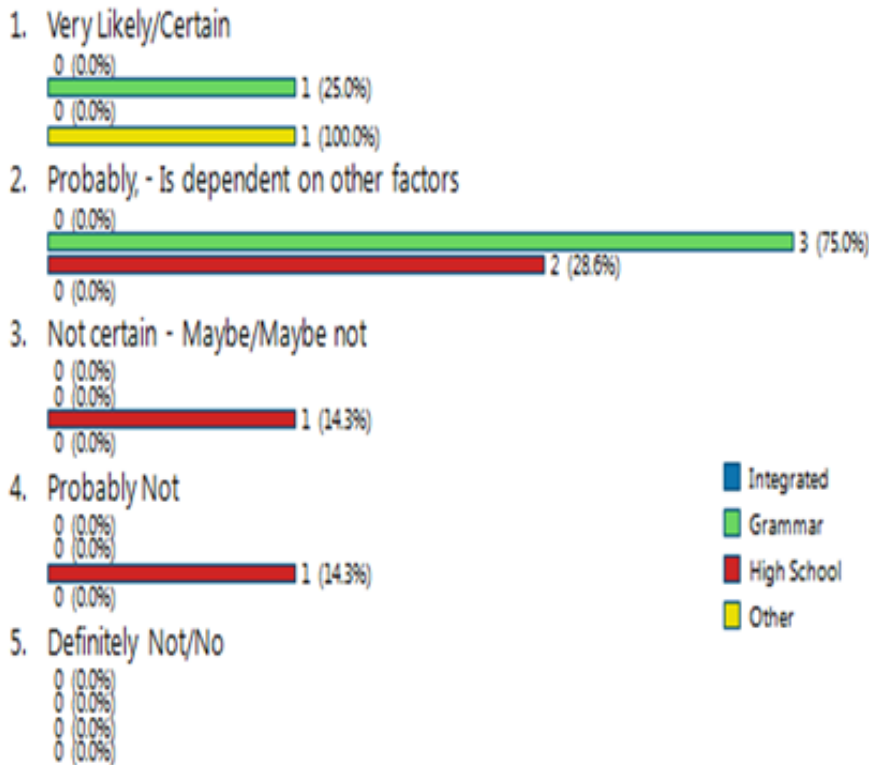


Your children to a Killeel Integrated School—By Religious Group

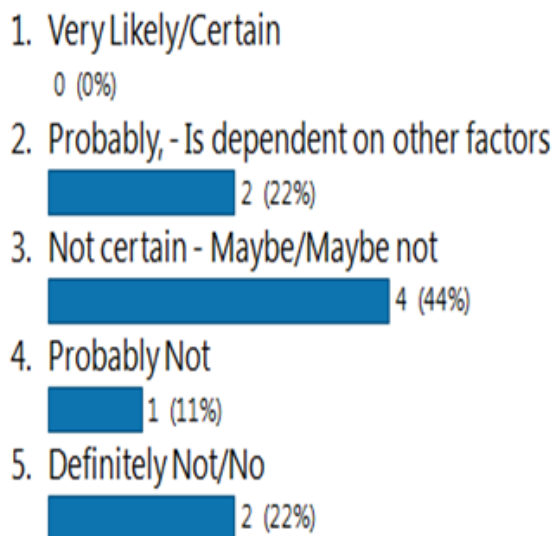


As can be seen, 78% of this focus group said it would be likely, or very likely, that they would send their children to an integrated school should one be available in Killeel. The upper graph show the minority of this focus group who described themselves as 'Other Religion' are more enthusiastic about sending their children to an integrated school in Killeel that the other focus group attendees. Most Catholics were also supportive but 20% were 'Not Certain' or 'Probably Not'.

Your children to a Kilkeel Integrated School—By School Group



If you had the option how likely is it that you would send your children to an Irish Medium school in the Kilkeel area?



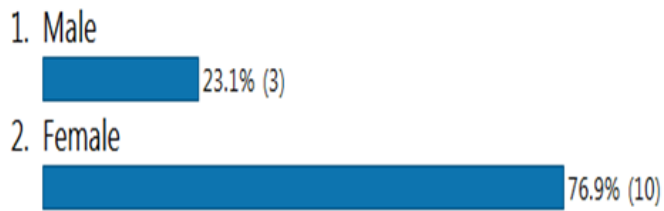
Those who attended a high school, are less likely to send their children to an integrated school. The e-poll vote on the lower slide shows the same question regarding the establishment of an Irish medium school in the Kilkeel area - as can be seen this produced a less supportive response with only 22% saying 'Probably' (but dependent on other factors), and the rest i.e. 77% 'Not Certain' to 'Definitely Not'.

Summary of general discussion - Focus Group 1:

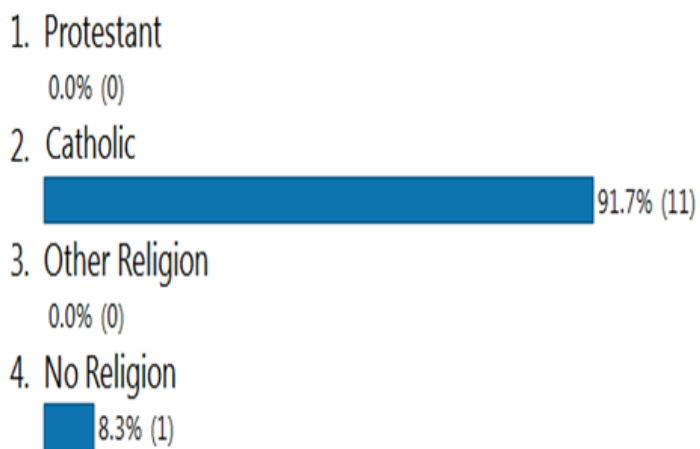
Points made, by 5 or more respondents:

- Transport is a particular issue for children with special educational needs
- Only the children of the parents who can afford to pay for tutors are doing well. This is not fair. Schools prepare differently for the test.
- Parents need to be kept more informed about the educational services for their children
- Already good sharing taking place in Kilkeel between sectors.
- Need wider subjects at GCSE.
- Too many post-primary schools in Kilkeel, in maintained sector.
- More engagement with community (churches, local companies etc.) required.
- More inclusion. An all-ability integrated school, with good facilities.

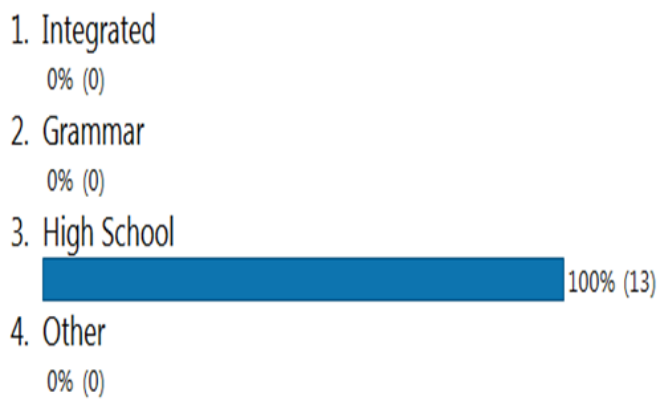
Focus Group No. 2: total attendance 13 (held within 1 mile of Kilkeel):



Focus Group 2: Demographic Poll - Gender



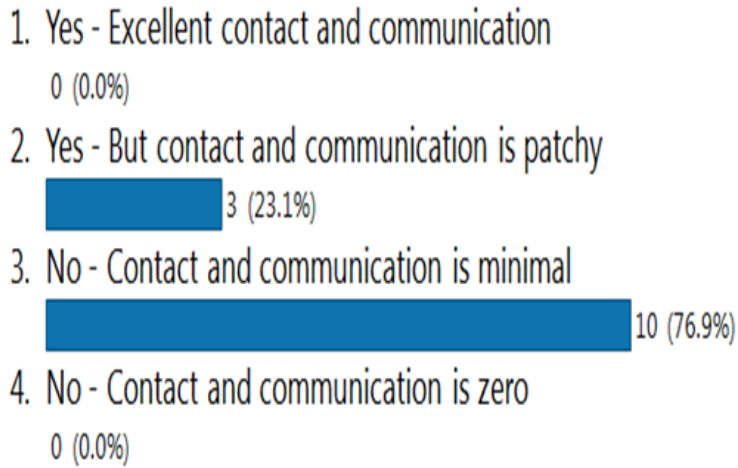
Focus Group 2: Demographic Poll - Religion



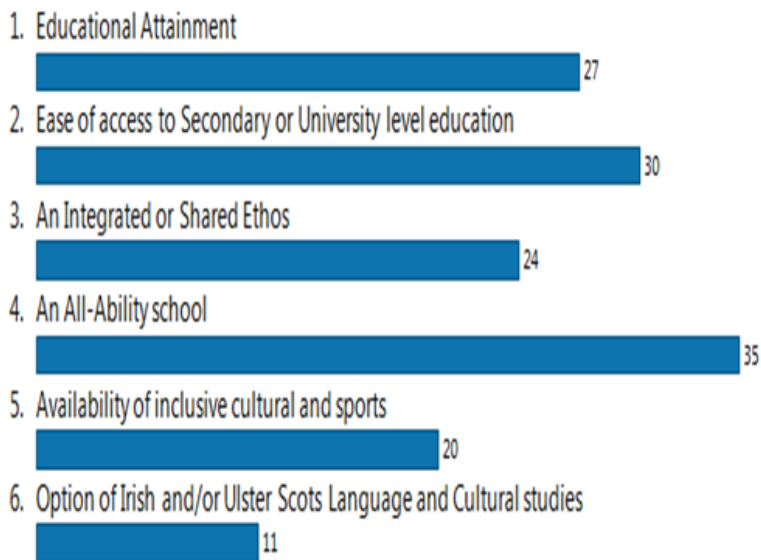
Focus Group 2: Demographic Poll - School Attended

Main E-Poll results- Focus Group 2:

Do you think you as parents and the Kilkeel Community, are consulted enough by the education communities regarding Educational Services in the Kilkeel area?



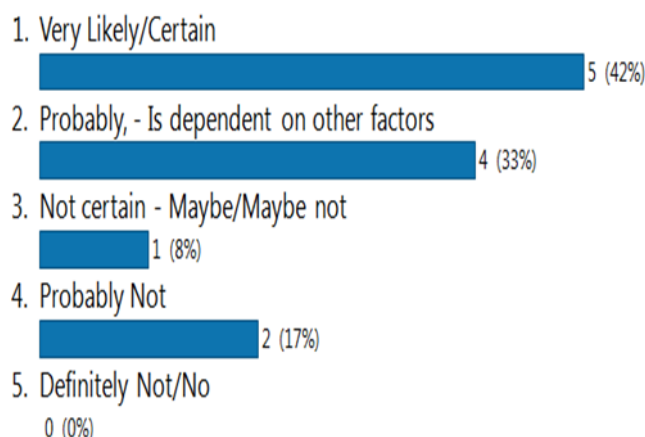
As Parents what do you think is the most important factor in terms of considering primary or secondary level education for your children?



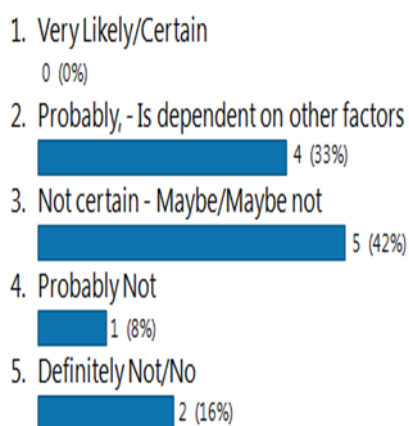
Weighted Results: 1st Choice = 6 Points, 2nd Choice = 5 Points...

The majority of participants say communication about educational policy in their area is poor. In terms of the upper graphic it can be seen that these focus group participants (mostly from the Catholic community) prioritise 'all-ability schools' compared with majority Protestant focus groups who usually prioritise educational attainment.

If you had the option how likely is it that you would send your children to an all-ability, Primary or Post-Primary Integrated school in Kilkeel?



If you had the option how likely is it that you would send your children to an Irish medium school in the Kilkeel area?



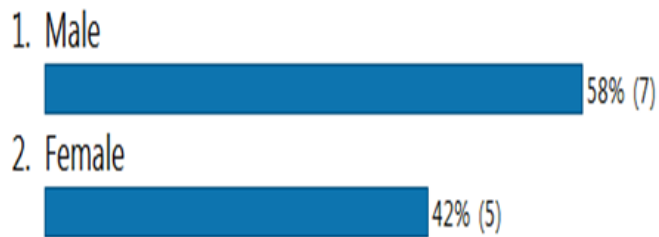
While there is some support for an Irish medium school, it appears to be less convincing than that for an integrated school. 75% of participants in this focus group said they were either very likely, or probable, to send their children to an integrated school, with support mainly coming from those who identified themselves as Catholic.

Summary of general discussion - Focus Group 2:

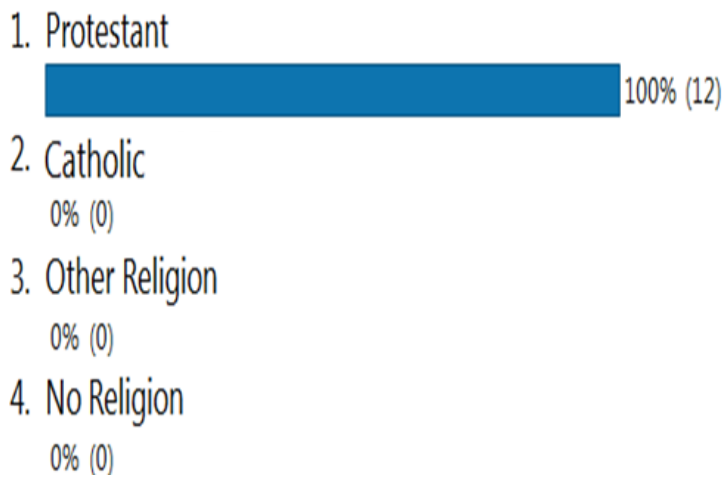
Points made, by 5 or more respondents:

- I don't agree with the 11+ this can put children under extra pressure and this is unfair as they are too young. Age is a key consideration.
- More sharing needed in Kilkeel.
- Government should introduce more funding for teenage apprenticeships.
- No Irish medium post-primary school.
- Lack of A-Level provision, and post-GCSE training centres.
- Addressing social skills should be an important priority
- Important to have good Nursery schools to give children a 'fast start' in their education.

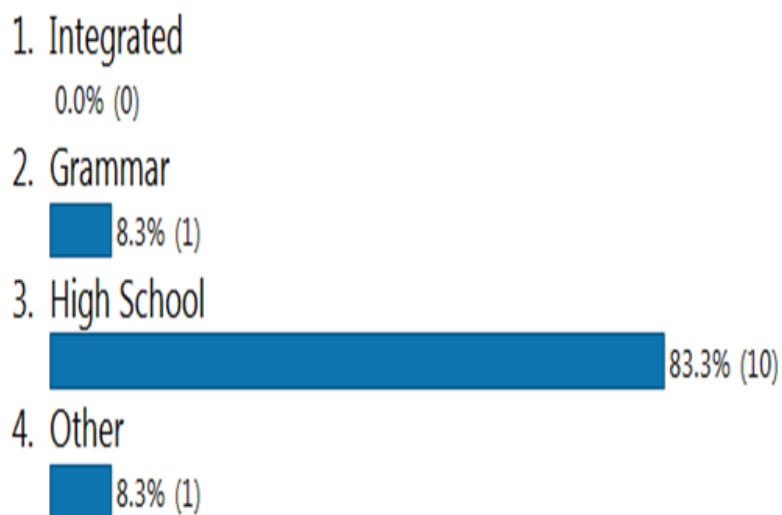
Focus Group No. 3: total attendance 12 (central Kilkeel area):



Focus Group 2: Demographic Poll - Gender



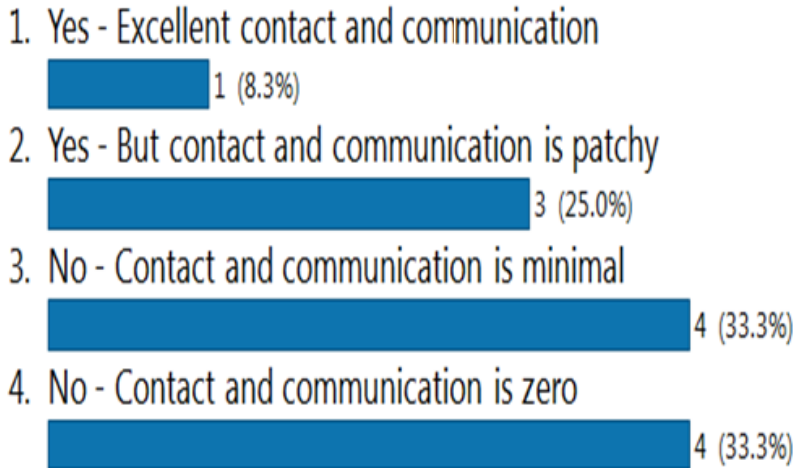
Focus Group 2: Demographic Poll - Religion



Focus Group 2: Demographic Poll - School Attended

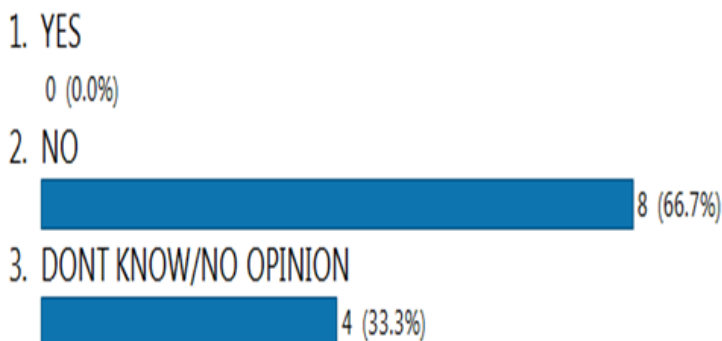
Main E-Poll results - Focus Group 3:

Do you think you as parents and the Kilkeel Community, are consulted enough by the education communities regarding Educational Services in the Kilkeel area?



Background: There is currently both Catholic Maintained and Controlled provision in your area but no primary or post primary Integrated or Irish Medium post primary provision.

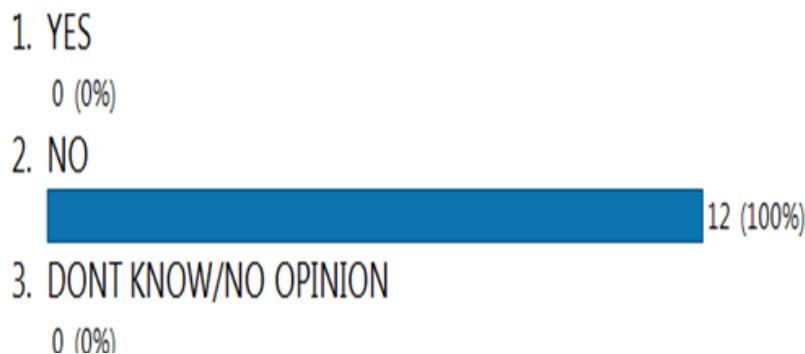
As such, would you support the establishment of an integrated primary school and/or Integrated post=primary school, in your area which teaches all faiths and none?



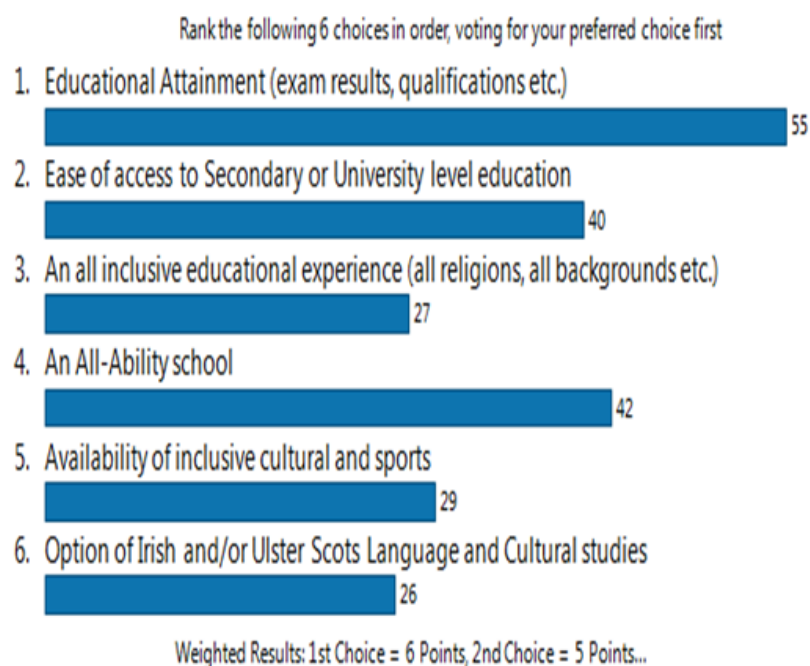
In terms of the upper graphic this follows all the usual patterns - most focus group participants think communication about education is not good. In terms of the lower graphic, there was little or no support among group participants for the establishment of an integrated school in Kilkeel.

Background: There is currently both Catholic Maintained and Controlled provision in your area but no primary or post primary Integrated or Irish Medium post primary provision.

Would you support the establishment of an Irish Medium School, in your area?

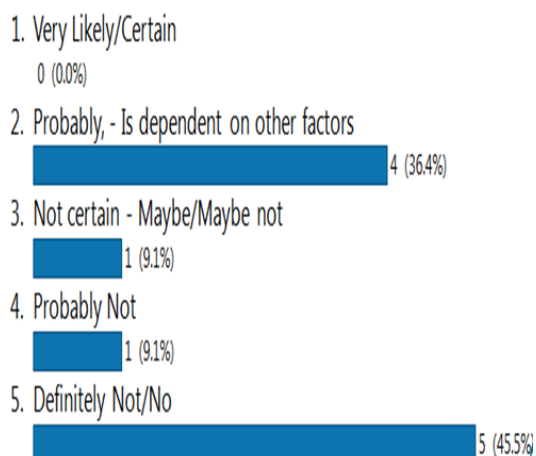


As Parents what do you think is the most important factor in terms of considering primary or secondary level education for your children?

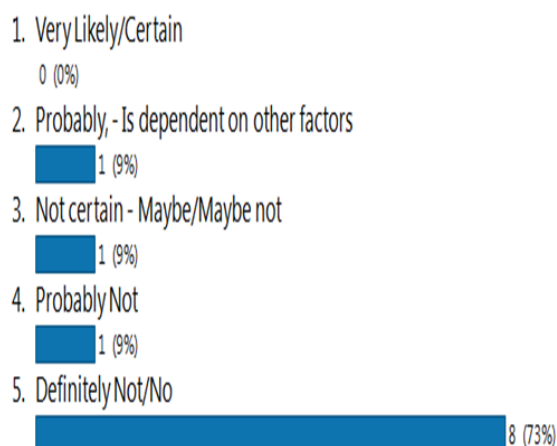


In terms of the upper graphic this answer is not surprising considering the make-up of this focus group, i.e. 100% Protestant, producing an overwhelming 'No' to an Irish medium school in Kilkeel. Regarding the lower graphic we see that this group views educational attainment as the top priority when considering primary or secondary level education for their children.

If you had the option how likely is it that you would send your children to an all-ability, primary or post-primary integrated school in Kilkeel?



If you had the option how likely is it that you would send your children to an Irish medium school in the Kilkeel area?



Whilst some participants in this group would be supportive of an integrated school in Kilkeel, nearly 1 in 2 in the group are not supportive of this concept, expressing views that this change could lead to school mergers, job losses etc. There is/was a general nervousness among Protestant participants in all focus groups about 'change' in terms of educational services in the Kilkeel area.

Summary of general discussion - Focus Group 3:

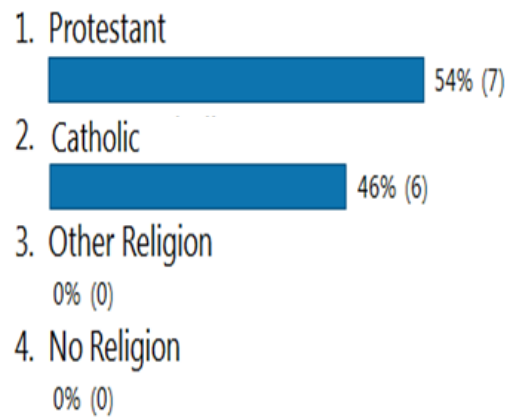
Points made, by 5 or more respondents

- Children should be educated in the local school, especially for nursery and primary school.
- Free transport should be available for all children.
- Children need more careers and vocational options, work experience, and practical skills taught in school, including money management.
- Kilkeel is a small community, mostly Protestant, in a mostly Catholic area, and we want to keep our identity - and this applies to school.
- Integrated school could work in Kilkeel but it may take time e.g. 5 to 10 years.
- More 16+ provision.

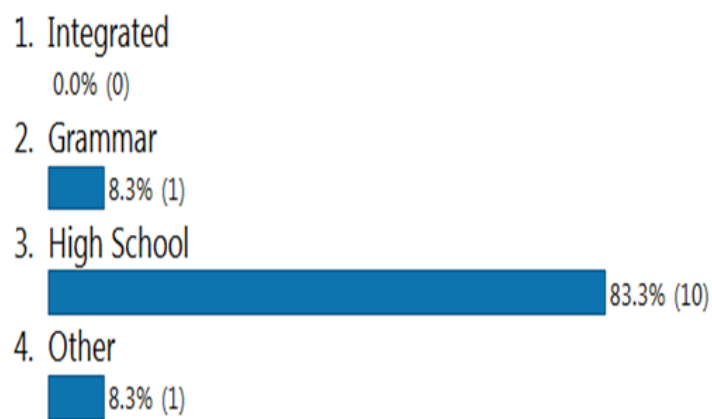
Focus Group No. 4: total attendance 13 (central Killeel area)



Focus Group 4: Demographic Poll - Gender



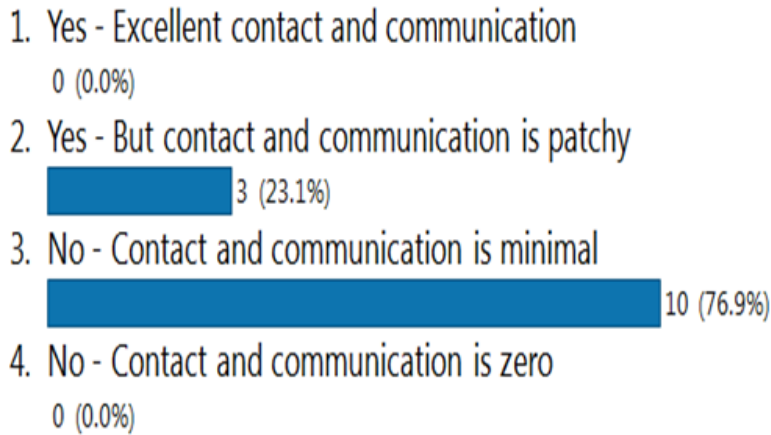
Focus Group 4: Demographic Poll - Religion



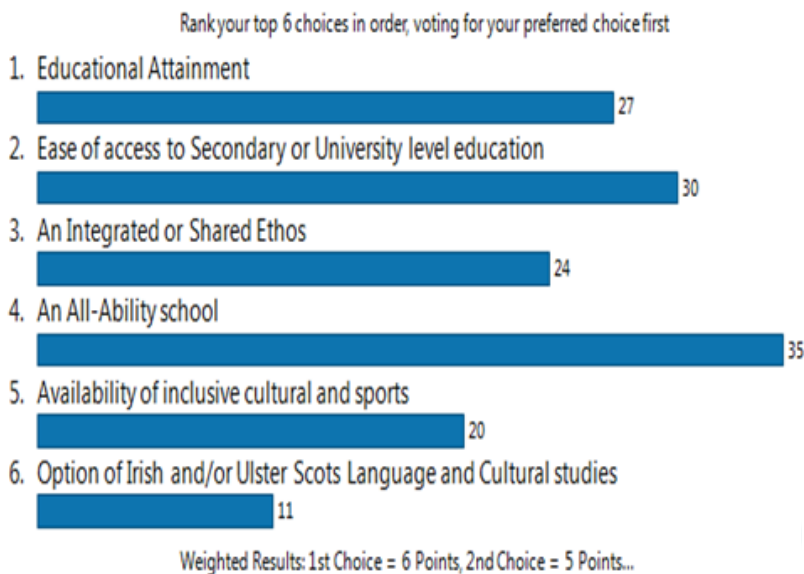
Focus Group 4: Demographic Poll - School Attended

Main E-Poll results - Focus Group 4:

Do you think you as parents and the Kilkeel Community, are consulted enough by the education communities regarding Educational Services in the Kilkeel area?

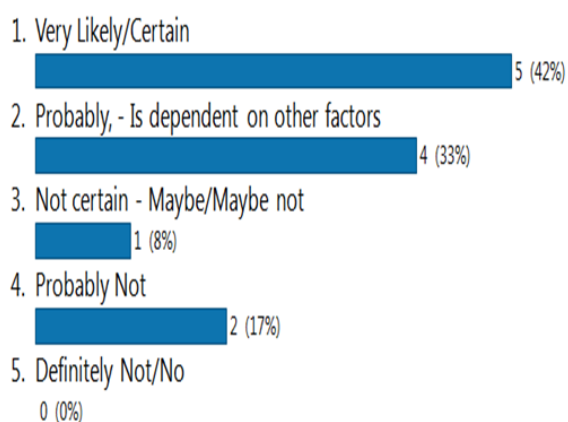


As Parents what do you think is the most important factor in terms of considering primary or secondary level education for your children?

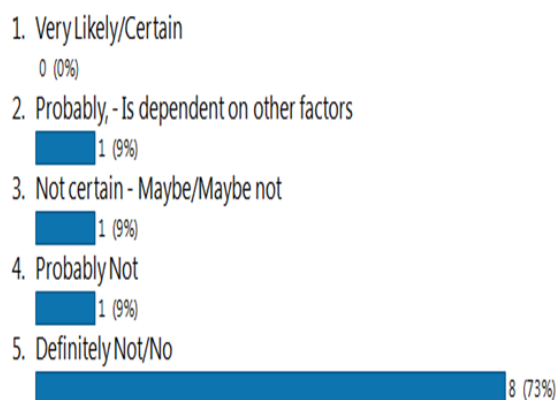


Regarding the upper graphic, this follows the pattern of the other focus groups and polls - most participants think communication about education is not good in their area. In terms of the lower graphic it is noteworthy that an all-ability school comes through as the most important issue in a mixed religion focus group.

If you had the option how likely is it that you would send your children to an all-ability, primary or post-primary Integrated school in Kilkeel?



If you had the option how likely is it that you would send your children to an Irish medium school in the Kilkeel area?



Perhaps because this was a mixed religion group, the results for this question were more positive in terms of likelihood of participants sending their children to an integrated school in Kilkeel. As shown in the left-hand-graphic above 75% (i.e. 3/4) of the focus group participants would probably, or very likely, send their children to an integrated school in Kilkeel if one was available.

There was not much support for an Irish medium school in the Kilkeel area, with 73% answering 'Definitely Not'.

Summary of general discussion - Focus Group 4:

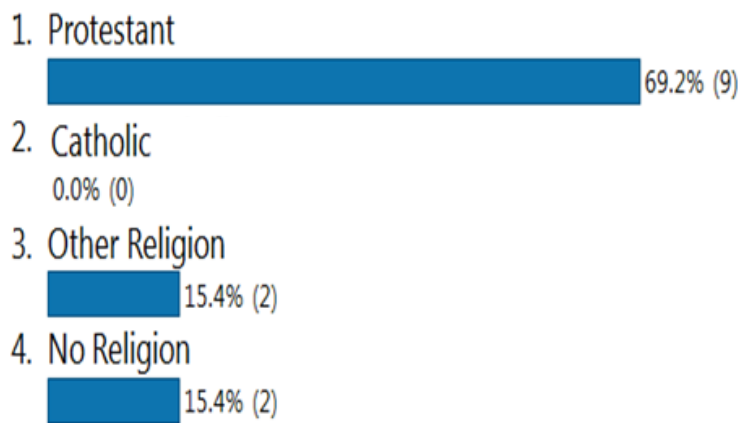
Points made, by 5 or more respondents,

- Important to have easy, accessible, local schools: especially nursery and primary school.
- Even if we wanted to send our children to an Integrated school, the nearest Integrated school is too far away.
- Children should have an ongoing assessment during primary school instead of 11+/ transfer test/. The transfer test causes division in communities.
- St Louis and St Columban's, should join and pool resources. Too much overlap with falling numbers.
- Lack of jobs in the Kilkeel area, too many young people leave the area.
- Also need better careers advice - too much emphasis on academic achievement, and academic careers advice.
- Need more up-to-date facilities e.g. computer labs etc..

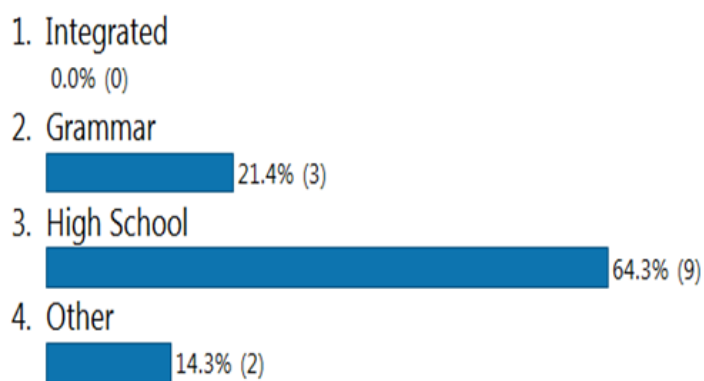
Focus Group No. 5: total attendance 13 (central Killeel area - 18-30 year-olds)



Focus Group : Demographic Poll - Gender



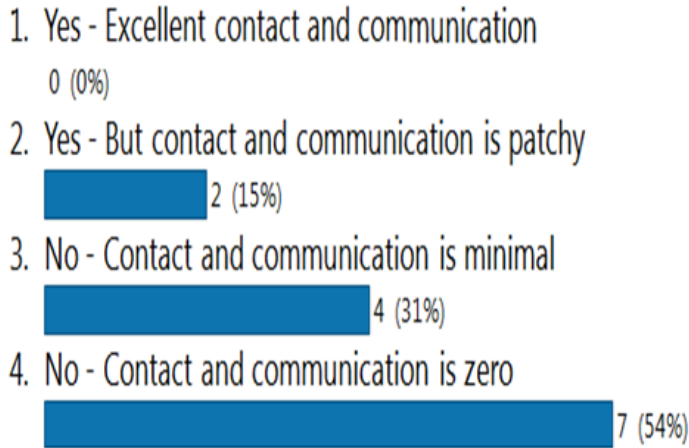
Focus Group 5: Demographic Poll - Religion



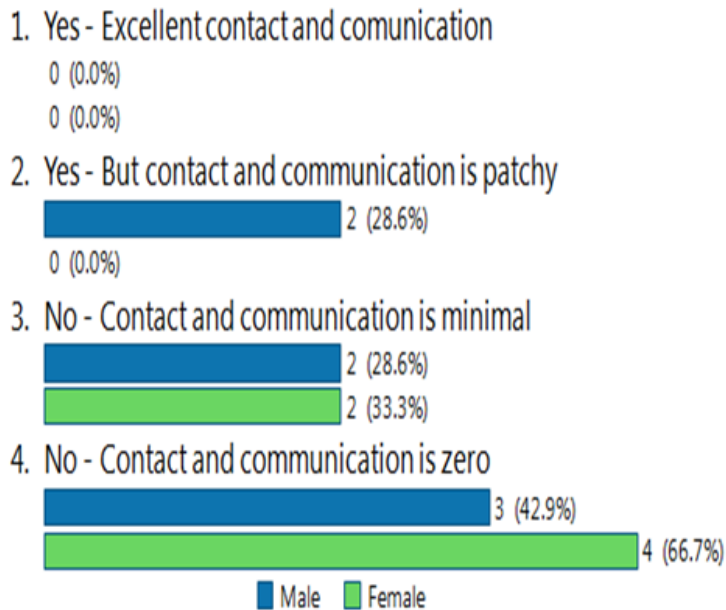
Focus Group 4: Demographic Poll - School Attended

Main E-Poll results - Focus Group 5:

Do you think you as parents and the Kilkeel Community, are consulted enough by the education communities regarding Educational Services in the Kilkeel area?



Kilkeel Education Focus Group - Educational Services Commission - by Gender



The upper graphic shows the total results for the focus group regarding communication about education in the Kilkeel area. Again the vast majority think communication regarding education issues is poor. The lower graphic shows that the females in the focus group were more negative about communication than the males.

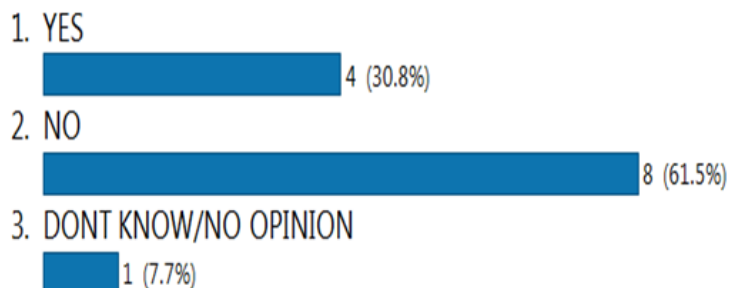
Background: There is currently both Catholic Maintained and Controlled provision in your area but no primary or post primary Integrated or Irish medium post primary provision.

Would you support the establishment of an integrated primary school and/or integrated post-primary school, in your area?



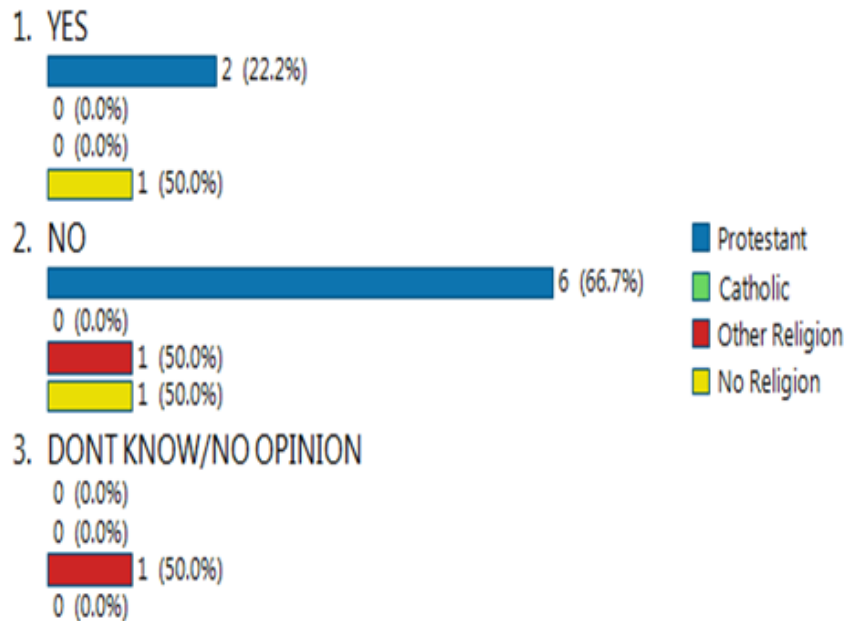
Background: There is currently both Catholic Maintained and Controlled provision in your area but no primary or post primary Integrated or Irish medium post primary provision.

Would you support the establishment of an Irish Medium School in your area?



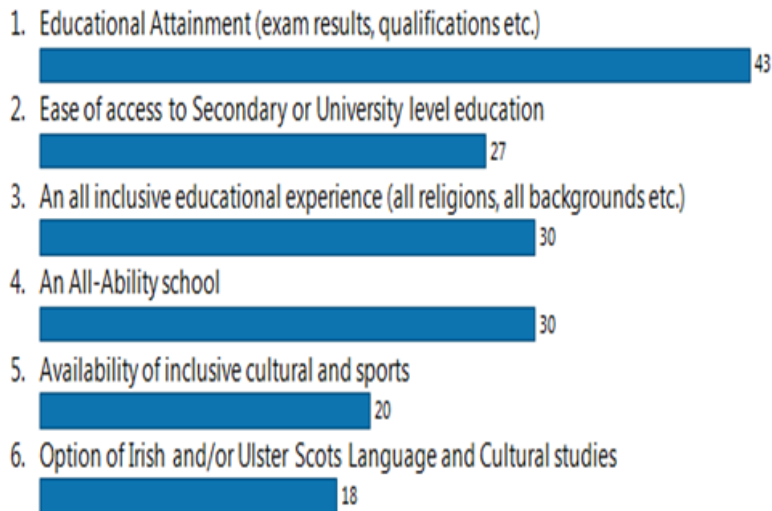
Following the pattern of results from previous focus groups regarding this question there is strong support for the establishment of an Integrated school in Kilkeel, with 79% of participants saying they would support the establishment of an integrated school in Kilkeel. As can be seen from the lower graphic there is less support for the establishment of an Irish medium school in Kilkeel.

Your view of the establishment of an Irish medium School in your area - By Religious Group



As parents what do you think is the most important factor in terms of considering primary or secondary level education for your children?

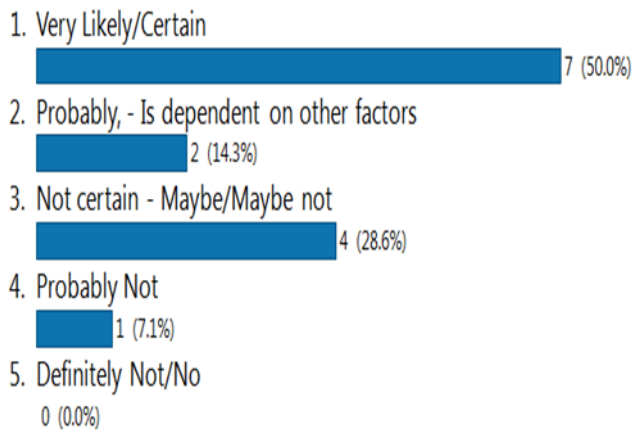
Rank the following 6 choices in order, voting for your preferred choice first



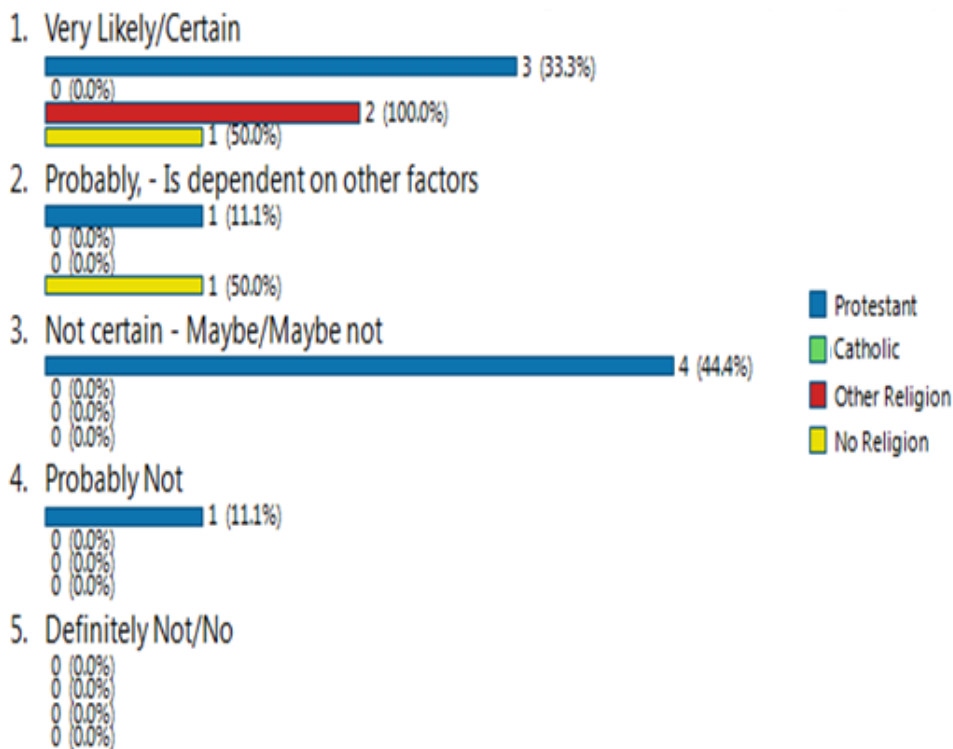
Weighted Results: 1st Choice = 6 Points, 2nd Choice = 5 Points...

Regarding the Irish medium school question, we see that Protestants are most opposed with 'Other Religion' and 'No Religion' neutral on the issue. In terms of the upper graphic, and following all previous research patterns, when Protestants make up most of a research group then educational attainment tends to be given priority.

If you had the option how likely is it that you would send your children to an all-ability, primary or post-primary integrated school in Kilkeel?

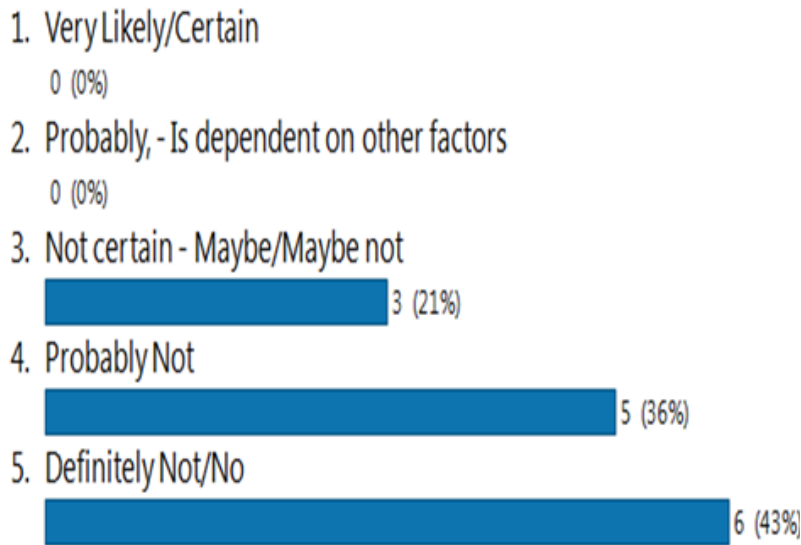


Kilkeel Education Focus Group - Your Children to a Kilkeel Integrated School - By Religious group



The upper graphic shows the results for the question relating to the support of an integrated school in Kilkeel. As can be seen, 64% responded 'very likely' or 'probably' regarding sending their children to an integrated school in Kilkeel should one be available. As can be seen from the lower graphic Protestants are more uncertain on the issue as to whether to send their children to an integrated school - with those who designated as 'Other Religion' and 'No Religion' more supportive.

If you had the option how likely is it that you would send your children to an Irish medium school in the Kilkeel area?



Not surprisingly as this was a largely Protestant focus group the support for an Irish medium school was not there.

Summary of general discussion - Focus Group 5:

Points made by 5 or more respondents:

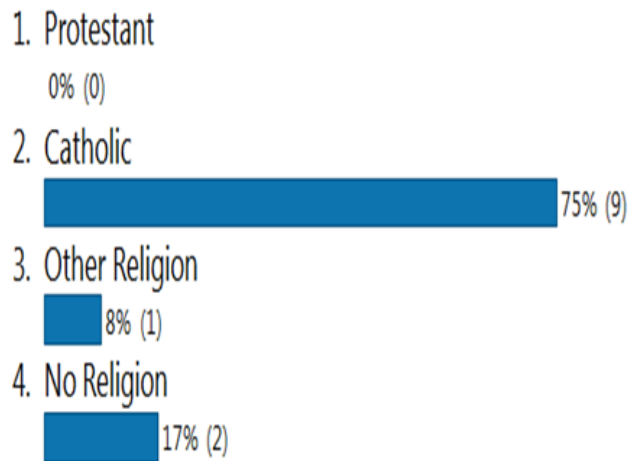
- Children should be educated in the local school, especially for nursery and primary school.
- There is currently too much travelling out of Kilkeel for education.
- 11+, and the confusion over transfer tests is causing a lot of worry and distress.
- Support for shared education, to allow more mixing of children, and to share facilities and subjects.
- There is too much unhealthy competition between St Columban's and St Louis - they should co-operate more, if they don't want to merge.
- Children need more careers and vocational options, work experience, and practical skills taught in school, including money management.
- Need more funding for one-to-one support and extended schools programmes.
- Better connections with wider society:
 - Local businesses etc.
 - Cultural links also, including creative arts, sports.

Focus Group No. 6: total attendance 12 (Kilkeel feeder area 18-30 year olds)

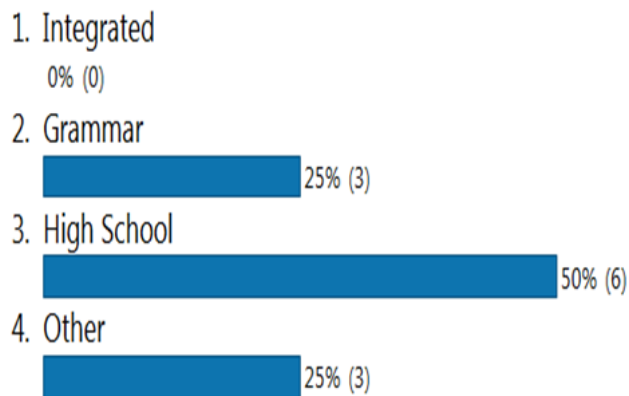
Demographic poll results - Focus Group 6:



Focus Group 4: Demographic Poll - Gender



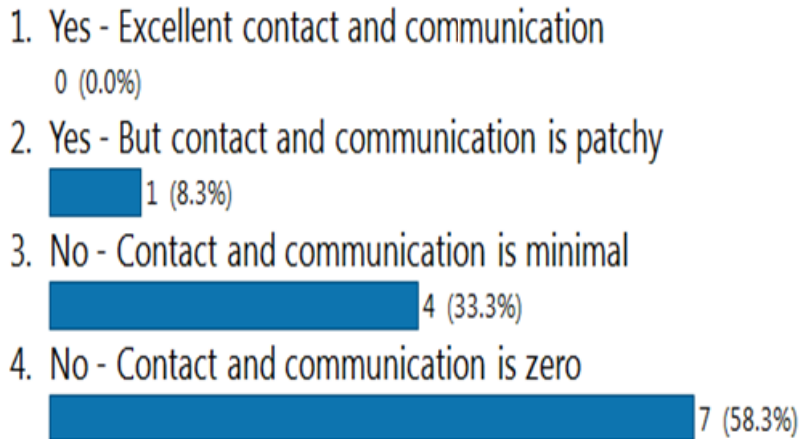
Focus Group 4: Demographic Poll - Religion



Focus Group 4: Demographic Poll - School Attended

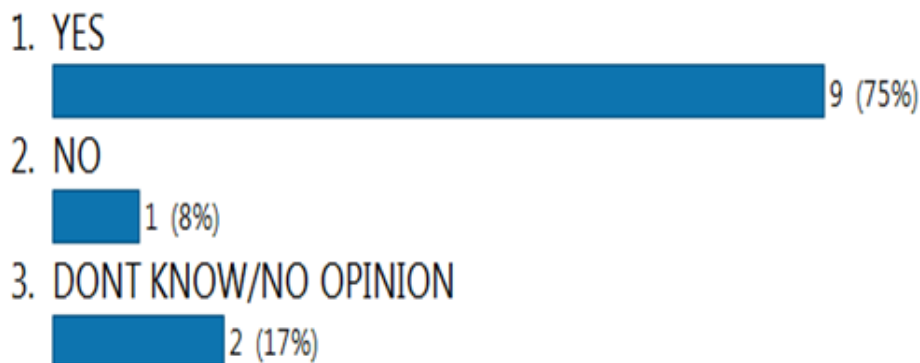
Main E-Poll results - Focus Group 6:

Do you think you as parents and the Kilkeel Community, are consulted enough by the education communities regarding Educational Services in the Kilkeel area?



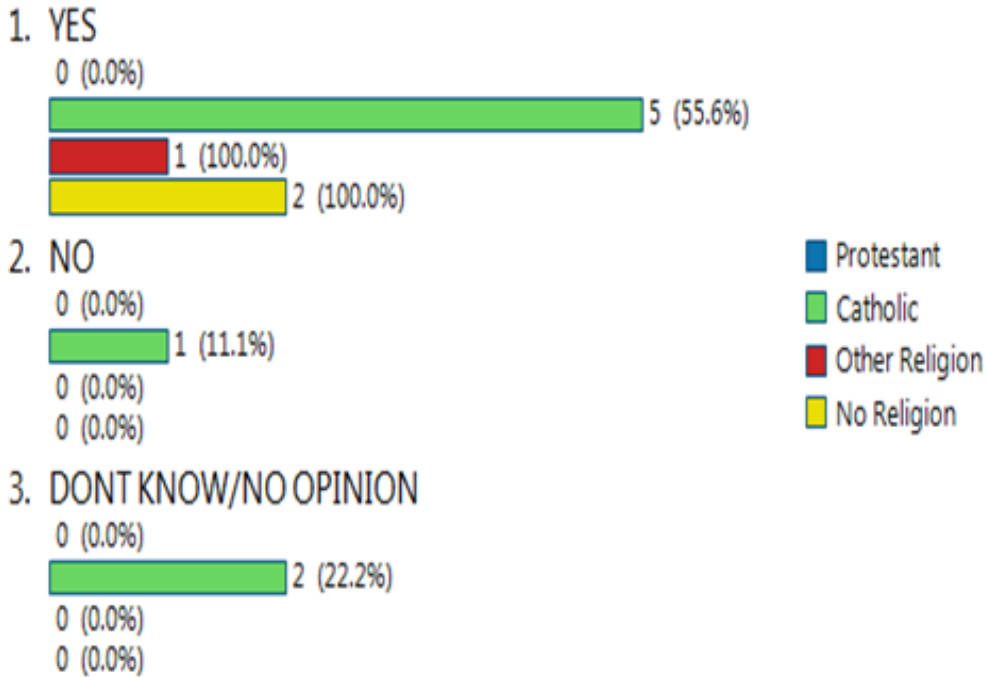
Background: There is currently both Catholic Maintained and Controlled provision in your area but no primary or post primary integrated or Irish medium post primary provision.

Would you support the establishment of an integrated primary school and/or integrated post-primary school, in your area?



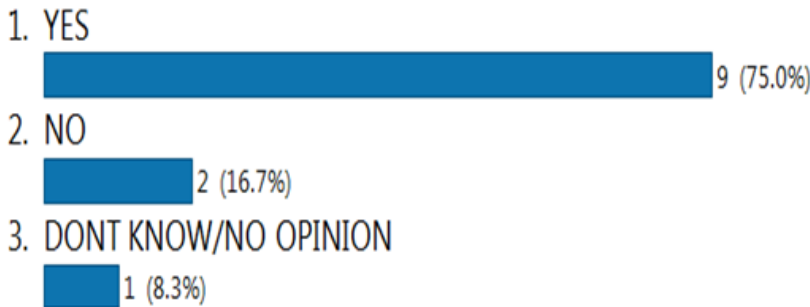
As with all previous focus groups the general view is that communication about education in the Kilkeel community is poor. In terms of the lower graphic there is good support in this focus group for the establishment of an integrated school in Kilkeel.

Your view of establishment of integrated School - by Religious Group



Background: There is currently both Catholic Maintained and Controlled provision in your area but no primary or post-primary integrated or Irish medium post-primary provision.

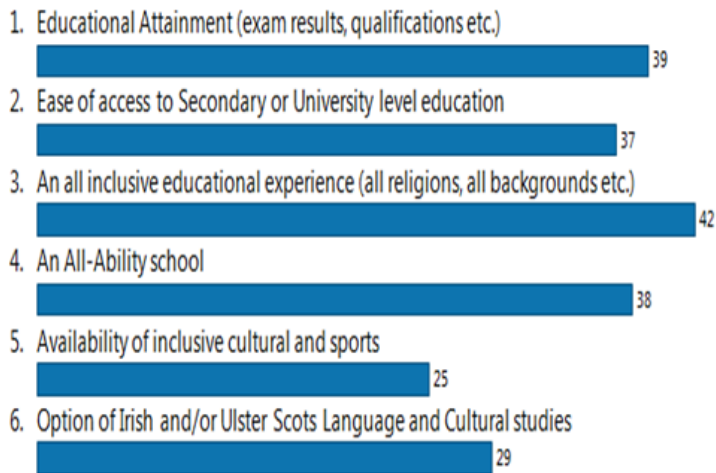
Would you support the establishment of an Irish medium school in your area?



Note that the 'Other Religion' & 'No Religion' fully supported an integrated school in Kilkeel, with Catholics supportive, but with one third of Catholics either unsure or not supportive. As would be expected from a majority Catholic focus group there was good support for an Irish medium school in Kilkeel. As these results show, there is equal support for the establishment of an integrated and Irish medium school.

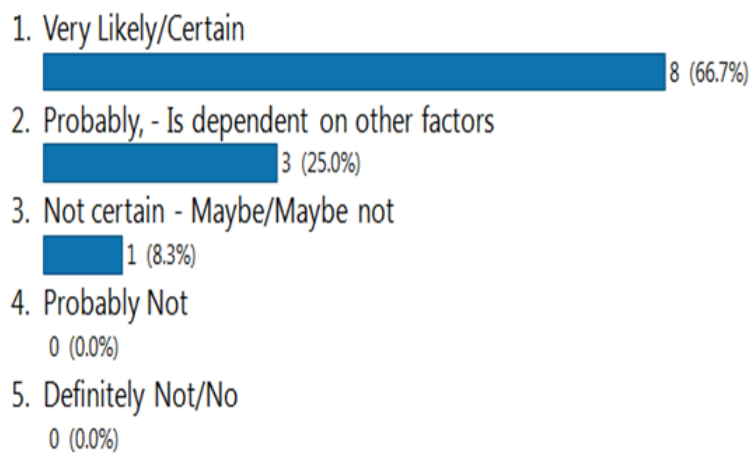
As parents what do you think is the most important factor in terms of considering primary or secondary level education for your children?

Rank the following 6 choices in order, voting for your preferred choice first



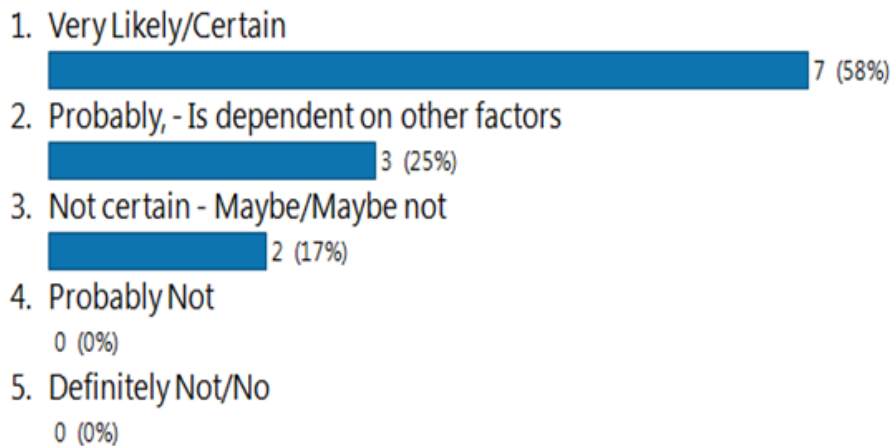
Weighted Results: 1st Choice = 6 Points, 2nd Choice = 5 Points...

If you had the option how likely is it that you would send your children to an all-ability, primary or post-primary integrated school in Kilkeel?



Typically for a majority Catholic focus group - 'All Ability' and 'All Inclusive' scored highly as did 'Educational Attainment'. This confirms previous research patterns in this project. In terms of the lower graphic, results follow all previous patterns for majority Catholic focus groups - good support for integrated schools. There was good support for the establishment of an integrated school, and it seems from groups 5 and 6 and that young people would send their children to an integrated school in Kilkeel if one were available.

If you had the option how likely is it that you would send your children to an Irish medium school in the Kilkeel area?



In terms of support for an Irish medium school we see that 83% would probably, or very likely send their children to an Irish medium school in the Kilkeel area if one was available. This follows all previous patterns for majority Catholic focus groups.

Summary of general discussion - Focus Group 6:

Points made by 5 or more respondents:

- Education authorities should consider how travel to and from school affects families and children. We would send our children to an integrated school, but the nearest integrated schools are too far away for us to support the school travel etc.
- Gap in provision for SEN pupils, need a SEN unit within the primary schools.
- Need to address health concerns, link in with GPs. Not enough support in schools for health issues.
- The transfer test system is a disgrace. Only the children of the parents who can afford to pay for tutors are doing well. Not fair. Too much pressure on the children.
- Too many post-primary schools in Kilkeel, in Maintained sector. They should merge - there's an awful lot of wasted resources.
- Local community leaders, and local church leaders should be more involved in local schools and local education.
- Local companies should be asked into the schools more - they aren't involved enough at the moment.
- 16+ age-group education services in the Kilkeel and South Down area could be improved. Lots of young people have to leave the area.

Focus Groups - Comments Summary

There was consistency in the comments made across the six focus groups, which are summarised below, for each of the six themes discussed.

Theme 1: Transport:

- Children should be educated in the local school, especially for nursery and primary school.
- Free transport should be available for all children.
- Transport is a particular issue for children with special educational needs
- Integrated schools too far away.
- Currently too much travelling out of Kilkeel for education.

Theme 2: Selection:

- I don't agree with the 11+ this can put children under extra pressure and this is unfair as they are too young.
- Only the children of the parents who can afford to pay for tutors are doing well. This is not fair. Schools prepare differently for the test.
- Should be some kind of selection
- Children should have an ongoing assessment during primary school instead of 11+/ transfer test

Theme 3: Shared education:

- Support for shared education, to allow more mixing of children, and to share facilities and subjects.
- Already good sharing taking place in Kilkeel between sectors.
- More sharing needed in Kilkeel.
- Some support moving all schools to the one campus. Others want schools to retain their separate identities.
- Mention of St Louis and St Columban's, support for the schools joining.

Theme 4: Preparation for employment:

- Children need more careers and vocational options, work experience, and practical skills taught in school, including money management.
- Government should introduce more funding for teenage apprenticeships.
- Need wider subjects at GCSE

Theme 5: Gaps in Education:

- Gap in provision for SEN pupils, need a SEN unit within the primary schools.
- Need more funding for one-to-one support and extended schools programmes.
- No Irish medium post-primary school.
- Lack of A-level provision, and post-GCSE training centres.
- Too many post-primary schools in Kilkeel, in Maintained sector.
- More engagement with community — churches, local companies etc.
- Lack of jobs in the Kilkeel area, too many young people leave the area. Also need better careers advice.
- Need more up to date facilities.
- Need to address health concerns, link in with GPs.

Theme 6: Vision for future education:

- More inclusion. An all ability integrated school, with good facilities
- Better connections with wider society: local businesses, cultural links, creative arts, sports etc.
- Addressing social skills
- More 16+ provision

Public Interaction Event

This event took place on the 22nd March 2016, in the Kilmorey Arms Hotel, Killeel. The objective of the 'public interaction event' was to attract a wide representative audience from the target area, Killeel and South Down. The event was advertised locally and 45 members of the local community attended including teachers, community representatives, business leaders and parents.

The event agenda involved e-polling, facilitated group discussion on two themes identified during the audit process, followed by question time with a panel of education, business and community representatives.

The panellists were:

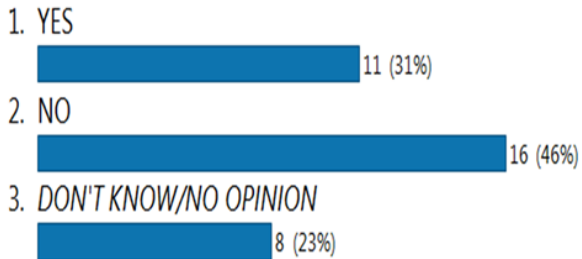
- Gregory Butler (Education Authority)
- Mairead Maguire (Education Authority)
- Pamela Houston (Killeel Development Association)
- Sarah Jane Carvill (Princes Trust)
- Charlotte Elliot (Asda)

A representative from CCMS was in attendance, but chose not to sit on the panel.

The agenda for the event is attached as Appendix 2.

Public Interaction Event. Initial Polling. Theme 1: Current Education Provision in Kilkeel

Do you think that current education provision in Kilkeel is adequately preparing young people for the job market

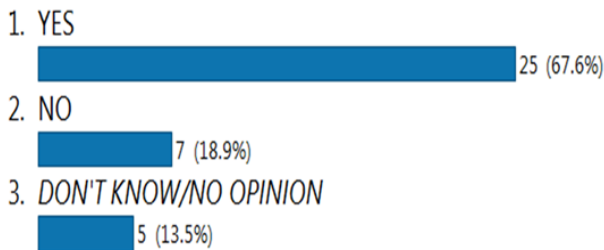


Could more be done to adequately prepare young people in the Kilkeel and South Down area for the workforce?



The left-hand graphic shows that nearly 1 in 2 don't think the Kilkeel education system is adequately preparing young people for the job market. The right-hand graphic shows that an overwhelming 95% thought that more could be done to prepare young people for the job market in the Kilkeel and South Down area.

Do you see gaps currently, in terms of education provision in the Kilkeel and South Down area?



The above graphic shows that a sizeable majority of the audience i.e. 68% thought there were gaps.

Public Interaction Event. Panel questions on Theme 1

The panellists were: Gregory Butler (Education authority), Mairead Maguire (Education authority), Pamela Houston (Kilkeel Development Association), Sarah Jane Carvill (Princes Trust), Charlotte Elliot (Asda). A representative from CCMS was in attendance, but chose not to sit on the panel.

Comments made by panel participants - based on questions put by Facilitator:

Facilitator Question: Could more be done to adequately prepare young people for the workplace? 94.7% of participants said 'yes'. What do you think?

- Not surprised at this response from participants, but is it fully the role and responsibility of education to do this?
- Need to consider the expectations that communities have for education, and how this has changed over time.
- Education system has a job in keeping up with the expectations of its role.
- This figure reflects what we see when they engage with young people, many finding it hard to secure employment.

Facilitator Question: The panel was asked about the skills that employers look for in young people

- Employers look for basic skills, not always qualifications.
- Look at positive attitude, ability to arrive on time; hire for attitude and train for skills.
- How could schools assist employers in this? - They could help in raising the profile of part time jobs, and improve the attitude towards retail jobs, as these can teach a lot of skills.
- Employers look for soft skills, which are more of an issue with young people.
- Ability to communicate, interview, interpersonal skills, answering phones is a major issue.
- Along with timekeeping and positive attitude.

Facilitator Question: Panel response to results on whether parents should be consulted on education planning - electronic voting showed strong support from those in the room for more inclusion

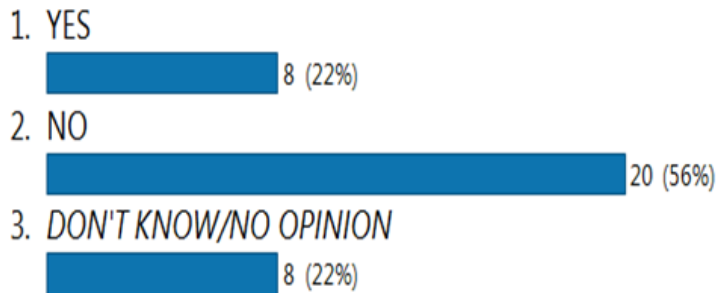
- The Education Authority is looking to involve parents and other sectors more in education planning, possibly through methods/events like this one.
- Want to get the sectoral bodies involved in discussion,
- We need to look at ways that the sectors can work together on this, and increase sharing across schools.

Facilitator Question: The polling suggests that there is interest in the Kilkeel and South Down area for integrated education. Is this something that the EA/DE is aware of, looking at?

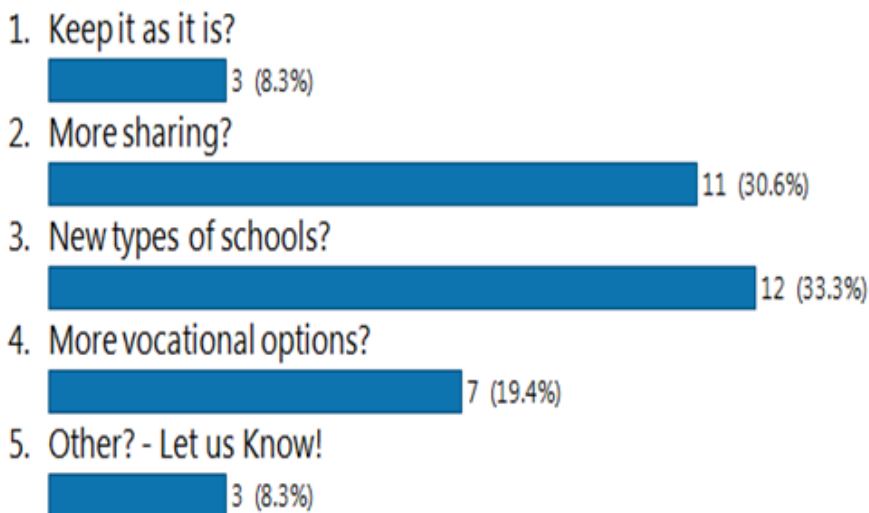
- The Department of Education has a duty to facilitate integrated education, which they have fulfilled in the south eastern region.
- The South Eastern region has more integrated provision than any other region.
- The education authorities will only make these changes e.g. starting new integrated schools, or supporting transformation, if it is truly needed and demanded in an area.
- More evidence is needed of demand than one event which raises the issue and then gets support for it.

Public Interaction Event. Initial Polling. Theme 2: Vision for Education provision in Kilkeel

Are the current Kilkeel and South Down education structures/schools currently working for the community?



What type of education provision would you like to see in Kilkeel and wider South Down?



As can be seen a majority i.e. 56% thought the current Kilkeel and South Down education structures/schools were not currently working for the community with 22% saying 'Yes' to this question. Regarding the question 'What type of education provision would you like to see in Kilkeel and South Down?'. 'new types of schools' came top at closely followed by 'More sharing' 19%.

Only 8% of the Public interaction Event participants wanted to keep the current education provision in the Kilkeel and South Down area as it is.

Public Interaction Event. Panel questions on Theme 2

Comments made by panel participants - based on questions put by Facilitator:

Facilitator Question: Do you think Kilkeel doesn't have enough to offer young people to work here?

- There is a shortage of high end jobs, but there are still opportunities, especially in engineering, with B/E Aerospace.
- The lack of public transport and the geographical isolation of Kilkeel is more of an issue.
- It is not always easy to commute elsewhere for work, and so people will move away.
- Likely that new opportunities will develop in tourism, media etc.
- There is a need for more graduate opportunities; too many young people are moving to Australia.

Facilitator Question: How can Kilkeel get fair access to the education budget? Our schools are being left behind.

- CCMS is currently looking at the funding for St Louis, which is located on a very old site, with high maintenance costs. Local trustees hope that it will receive more funding soon, but this has not yet been decided (representative from CCMS).
- Department of Education funding policy means that equal funding is given to all schools, and there is no way for this to be altered by EA-they are not able to increase the funding for an individual school. This is likely to get even harder with the funding cuts.

Facilitator Question: Academic selection is reinforcing divides in our community. Is there not a better way to do this? Panel asked personally whether they support selection.

- It seems to work for some, but it should be a personal and parental choice.
- For some children it can do more harm than good.
- If there is going to be assessment at 10, 11, 12 years of age, then it should be done over a 2-4 year time period of continuous assessment.

Facilitator Question: Is it proposed to close St Columban's college? If this is proposed, will consultation be properly carried out with parents and staff?

- If a change will be made to the Maintained provision, then CCMS will need to carry out the consultation and report it back to Education Authority.
- There are ongoing discussions taking place about the maintained provision in the area, but if changes are made, full consultation will be carried out and it will be open and transparent, and it will involve parents. (CCMS representative)

Facilitator Question: Is there work being done with local community leaders to address local divisions and education issues?

- Things have moved on in the area, and work is going on under the radar which has helped with this.
- There is a lot of good work being done between community leaders to address the issues, including the Good Relations Forum.
- There is also more opportunities to work with businesses to address and work through some of these issues.

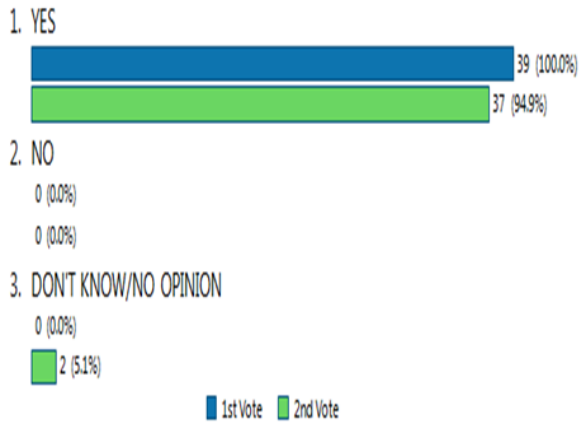
Facilitator Question: Children in this area are not getting the SEN support they need, particularly autism. Is the Education Authority (EA) and the Department of Education (DE) going to do more to address these needs, such as opening a Special School in this area?

- The Education Authority (EA) is looking at this provision issue at the moment. Improvements have been made in recent years, and there is now more provision, but the issue has not been solved yet.
- The option of a Special School is not on the cards for this area at the moment, but this can be raised by parents.
- The EA doesn't feel that a special school is the right direction to take at the moment, as centralised provision doesn't always meet the need effectively.
- Intend to keep provision local where possible, by developing SEN units within schools, to provide for children with additional needs.

Key E-Polling Results - Public Interaction Meeting

A number of additional polling questions were asked both at the start and end of the public event, in order to assess whether the facilitated discussion and question time had led to a change in opinion for any participants. The compared results are outlined below.

Do you think parents and the community should have a say in what changes should be made to the local education provision? Before vs after.



One-to-One and Small Group Interviews

Introduction

The one-to-one and small group interviews were used in the Community Audit to add qualitative depth to the results gathered through the polling, focus groups and public interaction event. They were carried out between January and March 2016, in parallel with the other aspects of the Community Audit.

Direct One-to-One and Small Group Interviews

Five one-to-one interviews were carried out with educational professionals, business leaders, and community leaders in the Kilkeel area. Two 'small group' interviews were carried out, each with 2-3 participants. Participants included teachers from nursery, primary and post-primary schools, parents, business leaders and community leaders.

As in other elements of the project, general themes, in line with the focus groups and polling were introduced, and allowed to develop naturally through conversation and discussion.

All comments made by participants were recorded, and then grouped and categorised as follows:

3 = Similar comment was made up to 3 times by different participants,

5 = Similar comment was made 4 or 5 times by different participants,

6 = Similar comment was made 6 times or more by different participants.

DC = direct comments from individual participants.

Theme 1: Area Based Planning

Interviewees were asked if they were aware of the plans drawn up for education in the Kilkeel area, if they had been consulted, and if they had any opinion on the planning process and decisions.

While some were aware of the plans, most had not had an opportunity to engage in the process. Responses included:

- Community and business leaders had heard of the education plan, however none had been consulted about it too much. (5)
- Parents in particular had not heard of the plans, or been asked to contribute, and had concerns about the implications. This included those actively involved in education. (6)
- Information needs to be better communicated to schools, parents and communities. (5)
- Schools often have difficulty engaging with parents, as they do not attend school meetings etc, to be given the information. (3)
- It is also difficult to get a representative view from parents. (3)
- There is an Area Based Plan for the Mourne Area from the CCMS. This plan was originally unacceptable and subsequent input from the stakeholders resulted in a more comprehensive plan that would ensure continued Catholic education provision. There are continuing issues with the reluctance of the grammar sector to come on board. (3)
- All the children in Mourne are entitled to have a post primary education within their own community in facilities that are state of the art 21st century. (5)

Theme 2: Consultation

Interviewees were asked if they had been consulted on proposed changes to education provision in Kilkeel, and whether they thought parents should have a say in education provision.

Responses included:

- Parents must make their views known. (3)
- Most people in an area, and definitely parents, must have a say in the educational services after all it is their children it effects. (5) DC
- No, I feel we are not given any actual information around education from the schools or the education authority. (3) DC
- Even with basic important information about free school meals for working parents, I didn't receive any information on this, and was paying for meals for a full 8 years, when in fact I was entitled to help with this. DC

Theme 3: Travel to and from schools

Interviewees discussed their opinions on school transport, and the difficulties faced by rural communities.

Responses included:

- Education provision should be within Mourne and linked to Southern Regional College. There is not enough done to assist transport for children to and from schools. DC
- In an ideal world all children should in this day and age have their education on their doorstep - especially for younger children. However this is not always the case but there should be plans, policies, budgets etc. in place to ensure each town's children have, or will have, such facilities. (3)
- No community has anything until they have a good education structure /facility for their own children - never mind shops, community centres, etc . (5)
- The closest post-primary Irish language school is in Castlewellan 18 miles away - this is too far. It would be good if St Columbans would develop an Irish Medium Unit. (5)
- For secondary aged schools when the children travel further they benefit from a wider network friends, and wider facilities at what should be better equipped secondary schools. (5)

Theme 4: Preparing young people for the job market

Interviewees were asked if the current provision was adequately preparing young people for the job market, and what improvements could be made.

Responses included:

- Secondary schools are doing a lot more than the grammar schools to provide vocational options and skills based careers for my children, and I have children at both types of school. (5)
- They should do more to try and keep the children in jobs locally instead of them emigrating. Local jobs tend to be low paid. (5)
- Kilkeel and South Down has very few employment opportunities, schools could do more to establish links with careers. Schools should have 'job councils' with representatives of business and industry. (6)
- It should be noted that it's not the job of schools to provide jobs, or even to train young people for the workforce. Schools should provide life skills to young people, to teach them how to think etc. (3)

Theme 5: Current Provision

Interviewees were asked if they felt there were gaps in current provision, particularly in terms of Irish Medium and integrated schools.

Responses included:

- I do not believe that there is a sufficient population in Killeel and South Down to develop these options i.e. an integrated and/or Irish medium school. (6)
- There are too many schools, so an integrated school is needed. It would cut down on duplication of resources. (6)
- The problem with integrated schools, and I've been told Irish medium and other so-called 'minority type' schools as well - they are usually too far away, and too hard to get at. (6)
- I think children should be mixing with other children from different backgrounds from early ages. People should have more choice of the type of school they want for their children. (6)

Theme 6: What changes would you make to current education provision in Killeel?

Interviewees were asked to identify any changes they would make over the next 5-10 years in Killeel in terms of education provision:

Responses included:

- The transfer test needs reviewed urgently. (5)
- Need to address educational under-achievement for those from deprived backgrounds. (5)
- Pre-school provision needs reviewed and better co-ordinated. (5)
- Killeel not ready for an integrated school yet, but it is progressing. (5)
- More needs to be done outside schools, by churches and youth groups, schools need to engage with local communities. (3)

Conclusions

These are drawn from all stages of the community audit

- There is great dissatisfaction with the level of communication and consultation regarding education provision and proposed education changes in the Kilkeel and South Down area.
- Careers advice and vocational training are viewed as weak areas.
- There is a widespread view among parents that transport to and from schools is not given a high enough priority in terms of planning for schools, and other educational services. This is particularly true at primary level.
- There is good support for the establishment of an integrated school in the Kilkeel/South Down area, with some, but less support, for the establishment of an Irish medium school, although some commented that the area may not yet be ready for these.
- There was a widespread view that more could be done for young people entering the job market i.e. 16-19 year-olds - in terms of business to school links, vocational training, and developing job opportunities locally.
- There was a majority consensus that the selection process at 11, and 11+, requires an immediate agreement and solution. The majority were against selection at 11, but supported some form of continuous assessment between the ages of 11 and 14.
- A majority thought that there wasn't enough vocational training, careers advice, and general preparation for the world of work at current schools in Kilkeel and South Down.

The IEF believes that an Area Based Planning process for education provides an opportunity for the Minister to ensure parental choice is at the very heart of the education system. This, however, would depend on a mechanism which reflects real parental demand rather than one which is rooted solely in the existing institutional or sectoral structures. The CA mechanism employed in this research project uses quantitative research alongside qualitative engagement and evaluation to enable input from all sections of a community. The aim was to develop best practice for community engagement and representation of local views in the area plans. The project will be fully and independently evaluated and refinements to the CA framework made accordingly.

The CA process explored in the Kilkeel and South Down area, whilst representing a work in progress, demonstrated that current consultation exercises have left ordinary people feeling left behind. Many were unaware of plans for education in their area. Whilst the ABP consultation on post-primary provision amassed more than 1500 contributions in the former Newry and Mourne area, it asked for responses to a particular set of proposals and therefore it is not surprising that the majority of responses from Kilkeel focussed on a particular plan (relating to a merger of Maintained schools in Kilkeel).

The Community Audit pilot also revealed an appetite locally for engagement and discussion and strong support for community involvement in decisions relating to education planning.

Such a mechanism, once refined and finalised, would help narrow the gap between a planning process based in the demands of sectoral interests and the aspirations of the community.

Appendices

Appendix A

Socio-Economic Group Classification

- These definitions are taken from the international Socio-Economic classifications as originally defined by the UK National Readership Survey (NRS) and now maintained by the UK Market Research Society (MRS). The definitions are shown as follows:

Grade	Social class	Chief income earner's occupation
A	Upper middle class	Higher managerial, administrative or professional
B	Middle class	Intermediate managerial, administrative or professional
C1	Lower middle class	Supervisory or clerical and junior managerial, administrative or professional
C2	Skilled working class	Skilled manual workers
D	Working class	Semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers
E	Non Working/ on Benefits	Casual or lowest grade workers, pensioners, and others who depend on the welfare state for their income.

The grades are often grouped into ABC1 and C2DE (as they are for this project); these are taken to equate to middle class and working class, respectively. Only around 2% of the UK population is identified as upper class, and this group is not included in the classification scheme.

Appendix B

Public Interaction Event (Kilmorey Arms Hotel, Kilkeel - 22nd March 2016)

Time	Agenda
6.30	Registration and Drinks
7.00	Welcome and introduction
7.15	Pre-poll
7.30	Topic 1 group discussion
7.50	Groups write questions for panel
8.05	Topic 2 Group discussion
8.30	Q&A with panel, written questions and questions from the floor
8.50	Post poll
9.00	Summary and closing

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