



## **2014 Online Pupil Survey Summary Report for Gloucestershire County Council**

By  
Pauline Foster

Foster and Brown Research

Unit 9, Cirencester office Park  
Tetbury Road  
Cirencester  
Gloucestershire  
GL7 6JJ

E-mail <mailto:paule@fabresearch.com>

Web address: [www.fabresearchonline.co.uk](http://www.fabresearchonline.co.uk)

Telephone: 01285 700759



Gloucestershire  
COUNTY COUNCIL

# Online Pupil Survey 2014

## Summary Report

Gloucestershire County Council

October 2014



## Background and Scope

In 2006, we conducted the first Online Pupil Survey with 12,000 children and young people in Gloucestershire schools to find out what they really thought about a range of health-related issues using an online questionnaire. The Online Pupils Survey (OPS) has since been repeated, with updated contents every 2 years, the latest being in the spring 2014 with 23,816 children and young people aged 8 to 18. These pupils came from 252 schools, colleges and other settings across Gloucestershire, including **all** secondary schools, the majority of primary schools, special schools and FE colleges and a selection of independent schools. The aim of the OPS is to provide essential information for individual schools and for the County Council and their partners in order to address needs and target resources more effectively for the benefit of all young people across County. The questionnaire was developed following the themes identified in Gloucestershire as key indicators in improving children's lives. It is organised into seven sections: Healthy Eating, Physical Activity & Sleep, Substances, Safety, Pupil Participation & school experience and Relationships and Emotional Well-being.

The technical aspects of the survey was developed using Microsoft technology and links into our Lodeseeker™ online reporting tool which provides a way of filtering and comparing the data dynamically for the Council, the local health authority, schools and pupils easily and quickly through a web browser.

What makes the Gloucestershire survey unique is the huge number of respondents from the majority of schools and colleges in Gloucestershire. The on-line survey is run every 2 years, allowing enough time between data gathering for analysis of results and planning of actions. The power of the OPS data collected since 2006 has been widely recognised and repeating the survey over several years has enabled longitudinal tracking across the a broad segment of the pupil population aged 8 to 18.

GHLL (Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning) was set up to support all educational settings in Gloucestershire to respond to the voice of all young people. [www.ghll.org.uk](http://www.ghll.org.uk)

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## **Purpose and coverage of Online Pupil Survey**

The Online Pupil Survey was commissioned by Gloucestershire County Council and carried out by an independent research company Foster and Brown Research. This was to develop a better understanding of our young people's experiences of life, both inside and outside school.

The aims of the survey are to help schools identify areas for improvement and address particular issues raised by their own pupils and to provide evidence to influence future services provided by the County Council and their partners that improve the health and wellbeing of our young people.

The survey was first carried out in 2006 and has been repeated every 2 years, inviting all schools, including special schools, to take part on a voluntary basis. The questionnaire, which was completed online at school by pupils, was aimed at Year groups 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12. Further Education (FE) colleges were also invited to take part for the first time in 2012 and independent schools in 2014. The 2014 pupil survey, the fifth in Gloucestershire, attracted over 252 schools/FE colleges and other settings and 23,816 pupils completed an online questionnaire. This was the highest response since the survey started eight years ago.

There were three versions of questionnaire designed separately for primary, secondary and Year 12/FE college pupils, plus a special version for children and young people with learning difficulties. The questions covered a wide range of aspects of young people's lives: lifestyles; learning experience; relationships; wellbeing; safety, aspirations and support requirements.

## **Key findings of the Survey**

This summary report provides key headline findings of the survey 2014, which are structured around five key areas that have major policy implications for Gloucestershire County Council and its partners in improving our young people's health, wellbeing and life chances:

1. The extent to which pupils feel safe
2. The extent to which pupils adopt healthy lifestyles
3. Relationships and emotional wellbeing
4. Citizenship and aspirations
5. The effectiveness of care, guidance and support

The opinions and concerns reflected in this survey suggest that the children and young people of Gloucestershire are in the main, typical of young people across the UK when compared to the national data available. The results of the Online Pupil Survey give a broad portrayal of pupil lifestyles across the county, but care should be taken when interpreting individual questions as due to the nature of the survey, there are a tremendous number of variables to take into account.

## Demographics

Key demographics	Number of respondents 2014
Total number of respondents	23,816
Year 4 (aged 8 -9)	4,654
Year 6 (aged 10 -11)	4,956
Year 8 (aged 12 -13)	5,118
Year 10 (aged 13 -14)	5,069
Year 12 (age 16+)	4,014
Male	11,753
Female	11,860
Ethnicity – White British	19,694
Ethnicity – Other	3,245
Eligible for free school meals	2,283
Home district - Cheltenham	4,460
Home district - Cotswolds	3,845
Home district – Forest of Dean	2,740
Home district - Gloucester	5,611
Home district - Stroud	3,973
Home district - Tewkesbury	3,049
School type - Selective	2,283
School type - Comprehensive	9,567
School type – Special School	152
School type - Independent	738
School phase - Primary	9,611
School type - Secondary	10,191
School phase – Year 12/ FE college	4,014

## Number of respondents in past online pupil surveys

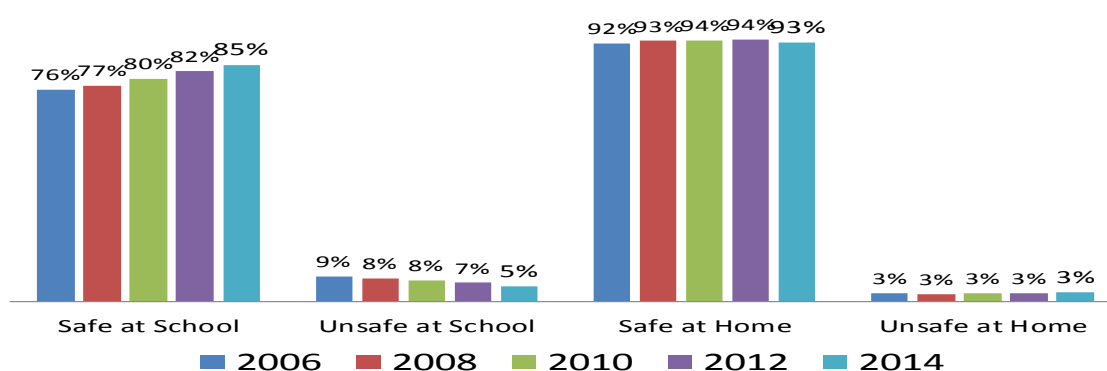
OPS 2014	OPS 2012	OPS 2010	OPS 2008	OPS 2006
23,816	20,486	18,872	17,801	12,208

## 1. The extent to which pupils feel Safe

### Feeling safe at school, at home

- 1.1 Results from the pupil survey suggest that the majority of pupils in Gloucestershire felt safe or very safe at school and at home, with 93% feeling safe at home (3% reported feeling unsafe) and 85% feeling safe at school (5% reported feeling unsafe).
- 1.2 The proportion of all pupils feeling safe or very safe at school rose in the past 6 years to 2014, with improvements at school particularly noticeable, compared to the home data which has remained fairly static.

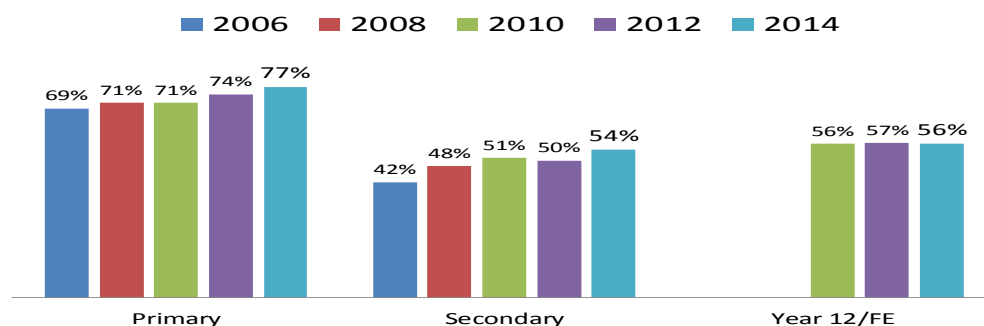
% of pupils who feel safe or unsafe at home and school



### Bullying

- 1.3 Between 2006 and 2014 there was an overall increase in the proportions of pupils who felt their school/ college had dealt with bullying quite or extremely well.

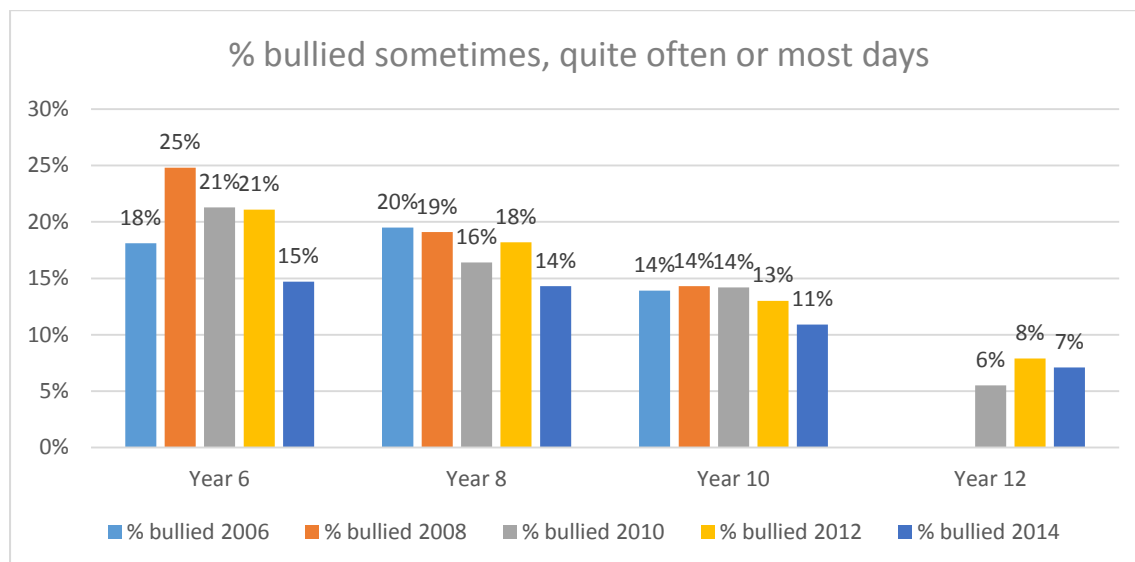
% of pupils who felt their school deals extremely or quite well with bullying



- 1.4 13% of secondary pupils report being bullied (sometimes, quite often or most days). This has decreased from 16% in 2012 and 17% from 2006.

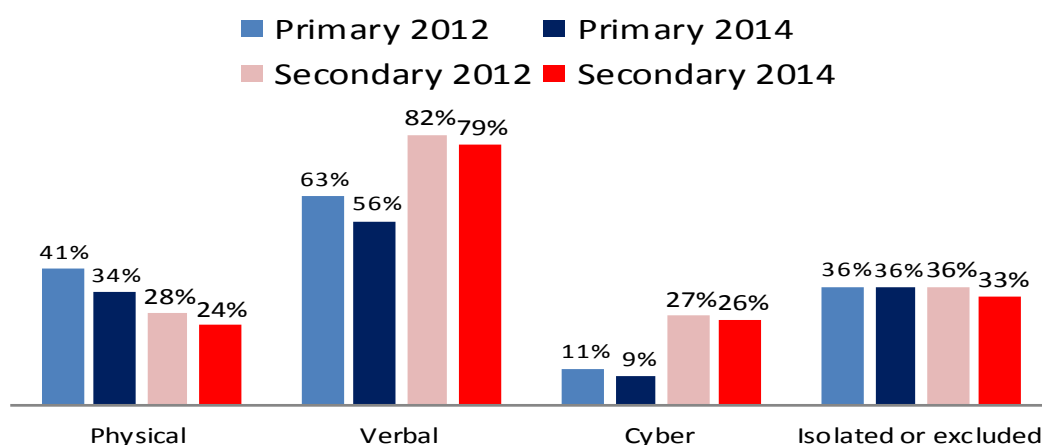
### 1.5 Reported bullying decreases as pupils get older.

% Pupils seriously bullied in the last year	Year 6	Year 8	Year 10	Year 12
Bullied sometimes, quite often and most days	15% (21% 2012)	14% (18% 2012)	11% (13% 2012)	7% (8% in 2012)



- 1.6 For the pupils who reported they were bullied, verbal bullying continued to be reported as the most common form of bullying in all age groups, accounting for 79% of all occurrences. Physical bullying was the lowest form of reported bullying (24%). Cyber bullying has remained at a similar level to 2012 (26%) and has reduced slightly overall.

% forms of bullying reported by pupils who said they were bullied in 2012 & 2014





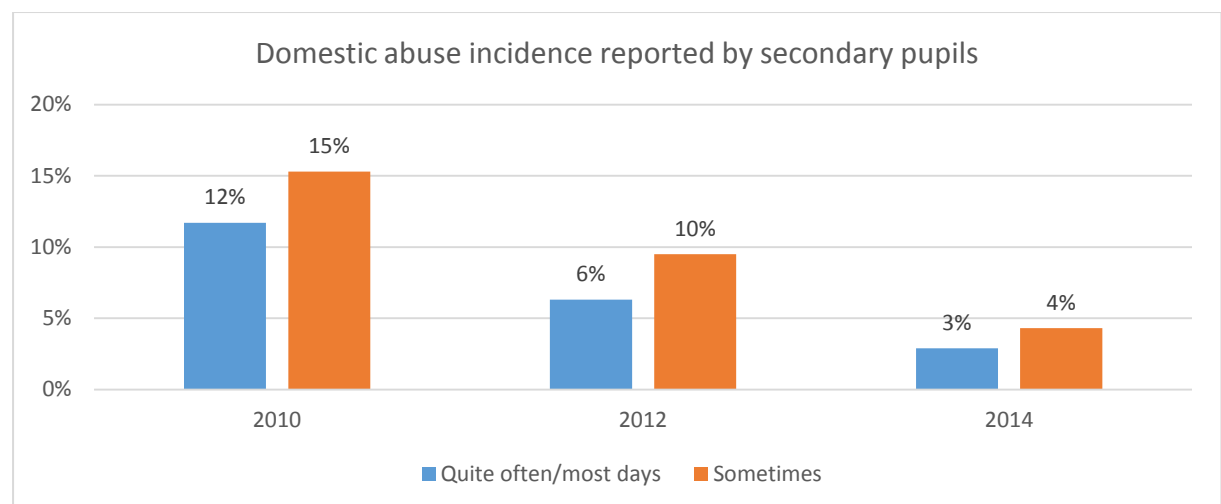
## Domestic Abuse

- 1.7 The percentage of secondary pupils who have reported witnessing or being victims of domestic abuse or violence most days or quite often had halved from 12% in 2010 to 6% (2012), halved again to 3% in 2014.

However, the wording of the question was changed in 2014:

2010 and 2012: *Have you ever seen, heard or been a victim of domestic abuse or violence?*

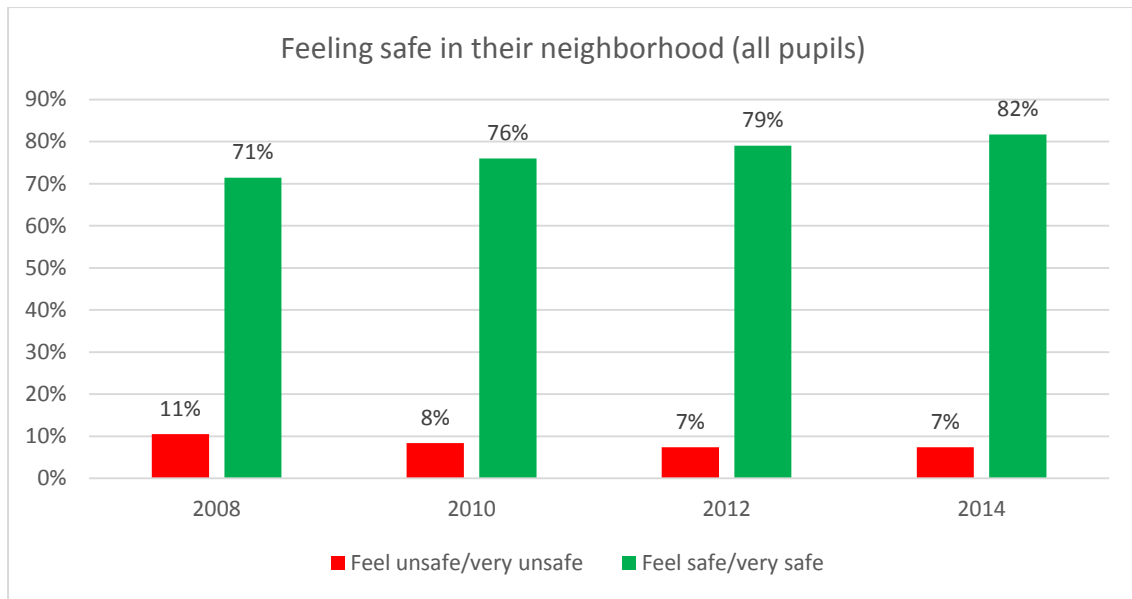
2014: *Have you or anyone in your immediate family ever been a victim of domestic abuse or violence?*



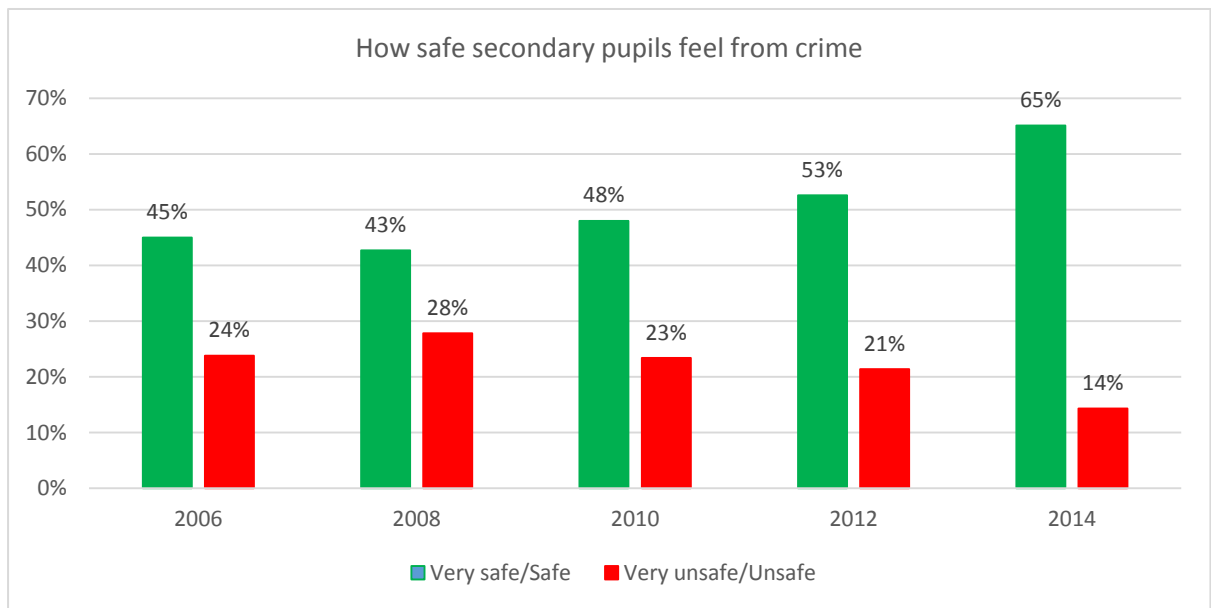
- 1.7 The percentage of secondary pupils who have reported being victims of abuse from a boyfriend or girlfriend most days also had halved from 5% in 2012 to 3% in 2014. A total of 101 pupils (52% boys) said they have been a victim of abuse from a partner on 2014 and 13% reported the abuse was still happening.

## Crime

- 1.8 7% of pupils report feeling unsafe being (or playing) outside in their neighbourhood (outside near their house), the majority 82% feel safe or very safe. This continues the increasing trend in perceived safety overall.



1.9 The percentage of pupils (secondary and year 12/FE) who feel safe from crime has increased from 51% in 2012 to 67% in 2014.

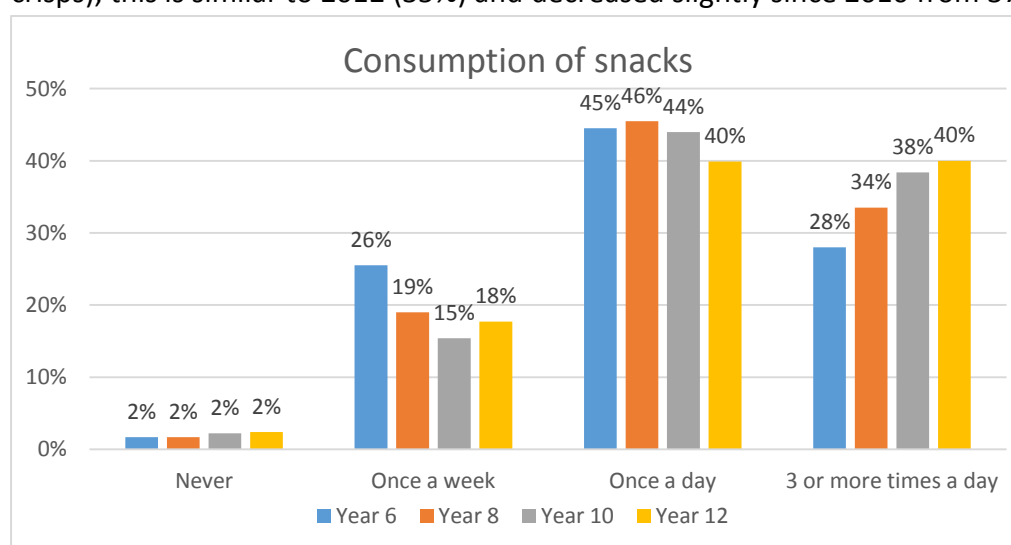


## 2. The extent to which pupils adopt healthy lifestyles

### Healthy eating

2.1 The survey found that the 76% of pupils ate breakfast regularly every morning or usually every morning) in 2014; this is similar to 2012 (74%) and 2010 (75%). The number of pupils who eat breakfast declines as pupils get older. Girls consistently eat breakfast less frequently than boys. Only 64% of girls in Year 10 usually eat breakfast compared to 89% in Year 4. At secondary school, 17% of boys report never or not often eating their breakfast, compared to 30% of girls.

2.2 34% of pupils report having 3 or more snacks every day (e.g. sweets, chocolate, biscuits and crisps), this is similar to 2012 (35%) and decreased slightly since 2010 from 37%.



2.3 Nearly 15% of secondary pupils drink fizzy drinks (not including carbonated water) 3 or more times a day and 25% drink them once a day. 15% of secondary pupils drink energy drinks (such as Red Bull, Monster, NOS, Rockstar etc.) at least once a day.

2.4 In 2014, 87% of pupils in the survey said that the food provided at home enabled them to eat healthily usually or most of the time, this is similar to 2012 (86%) and has risen from 82% in 2006. The patterns persisted across all age groups.

## Physical activity

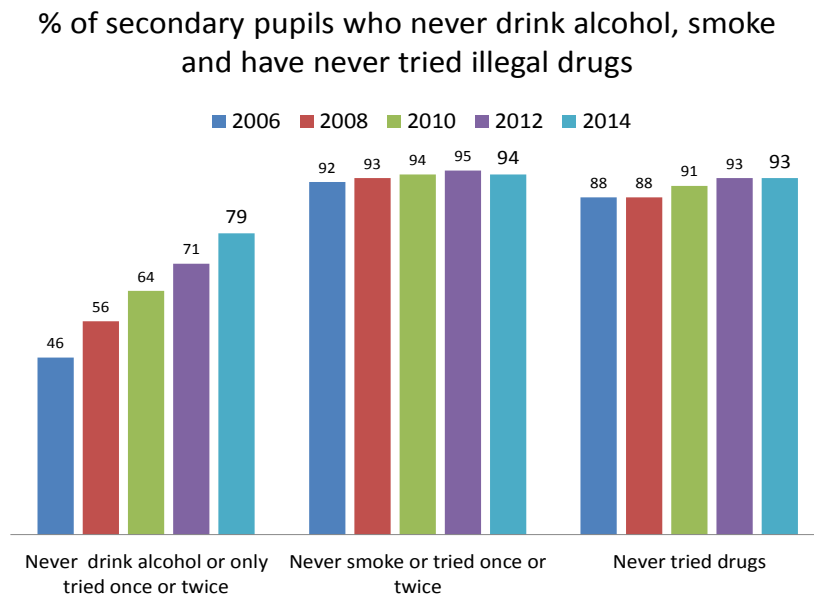
- 2.5 75% of pupils in the county had at least 4 hours of physical activity (including play) each week and the proportion has remained at a similar level since the survey began 6 years ago. 80% of pupils in secondary schools took part in physical activity for at least 4 hours a week, compared to 74% of primary pupils.
- 2.6 The survey found that in primary and secondary phases, the proportion of girls doing at least 4 hours of physical activity (70%) each week was lower than boys (80%). This drops to 50% of girls and 73% of boys in year 12/FE.
- 2.7 82% of pupils felt they did enough exercise to keep them healthy (78% of girls and 86% of boys).
- 2.8 32% of girls said there was something that would help them do more exercise compared to 26% of boys.

A word cloud showing the comments by pupils of suggestions to help them do more exercise (n=2,579)

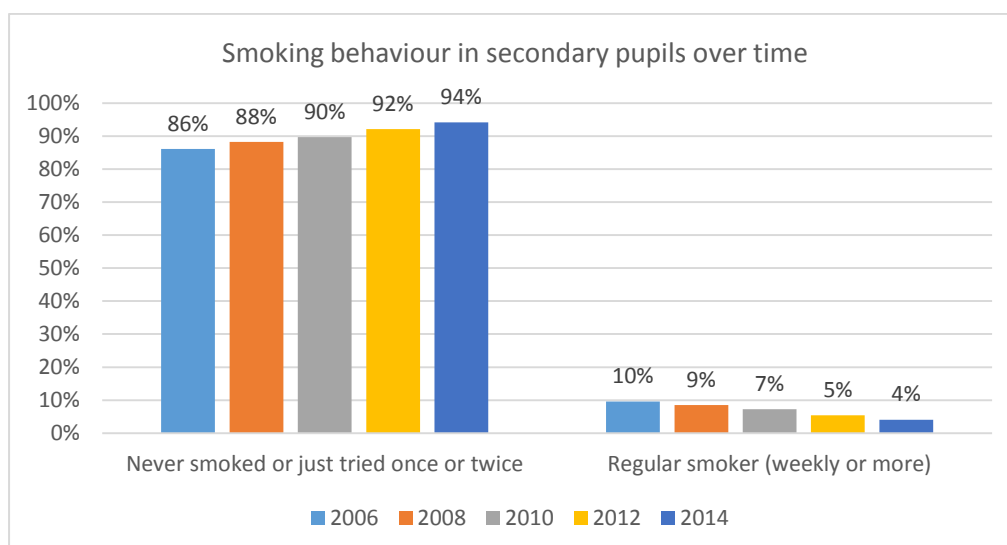


## Drinking, smoking and taking illegal drugs

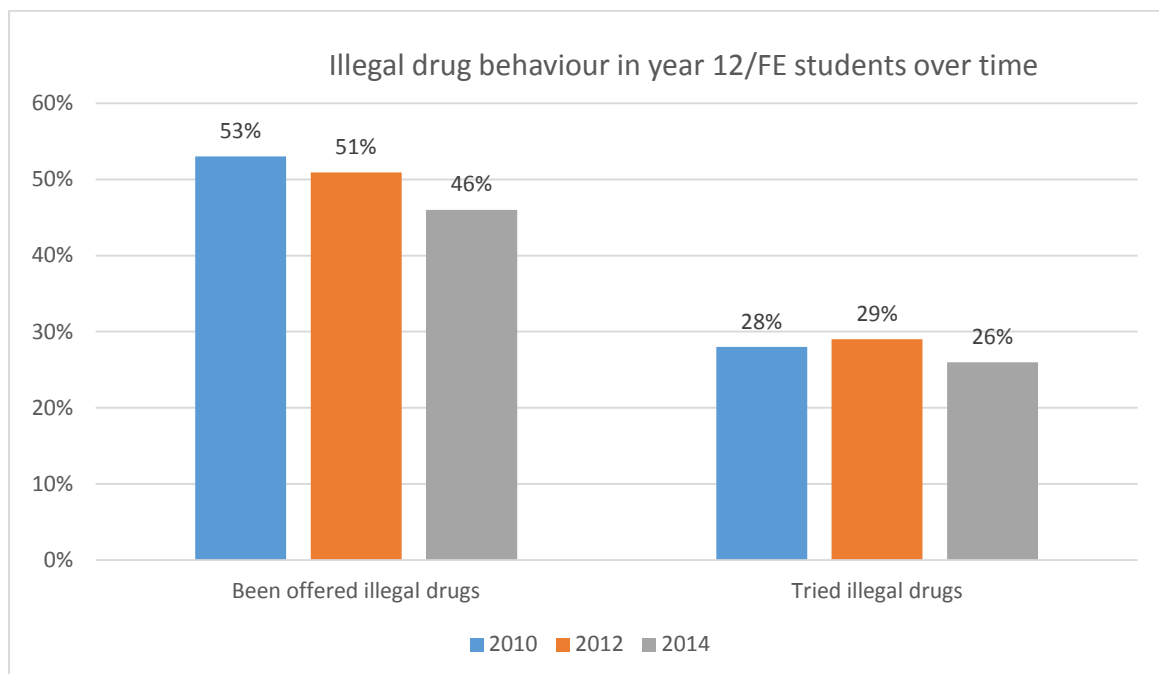
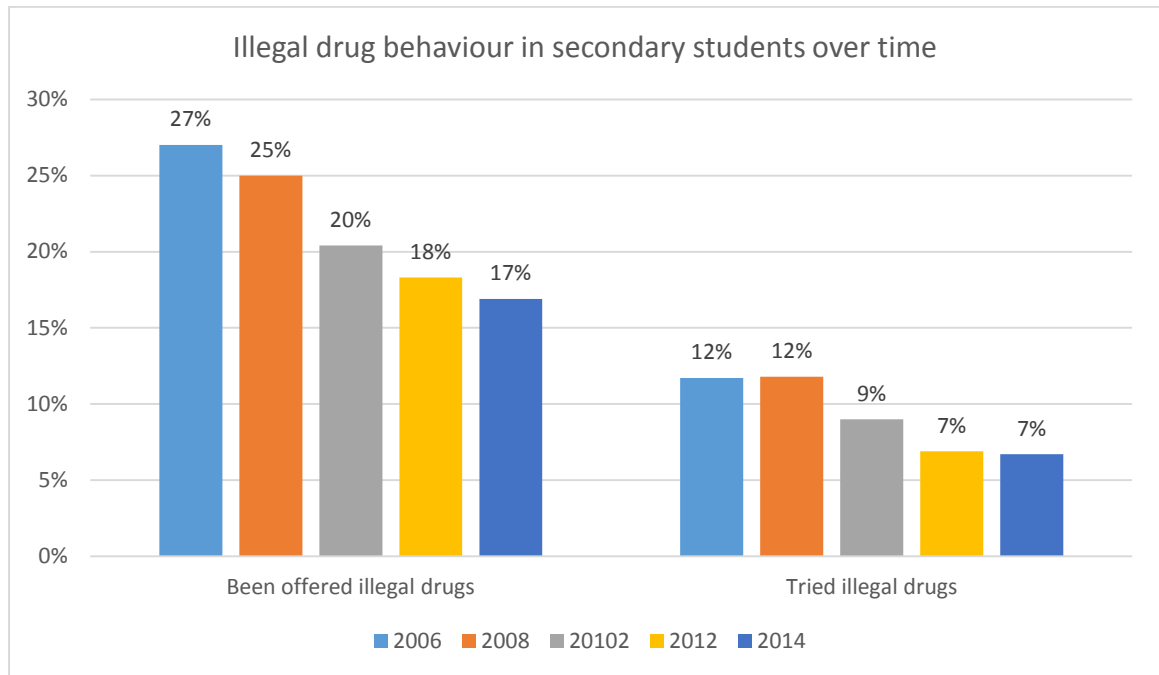
- 2.9 79% of secondary pupils in the county reported either having never drunk alcohol or only tried alcohol once or twice. This has increased from 46% in 2006. There was an 8% point increase since 2012.



- 2.10 The percentage of secondary pupils reporting getting drunk regularly (weekly and daily) is the same as the 2012 level of 4%, this was a decrease from 7% in 2010.
- 2.11 Nearly 9 in 10 pupils (88%) have never smoked or only tried it once or twice. 86% of secondary pupils reported they have never smoked or only tried once or twice

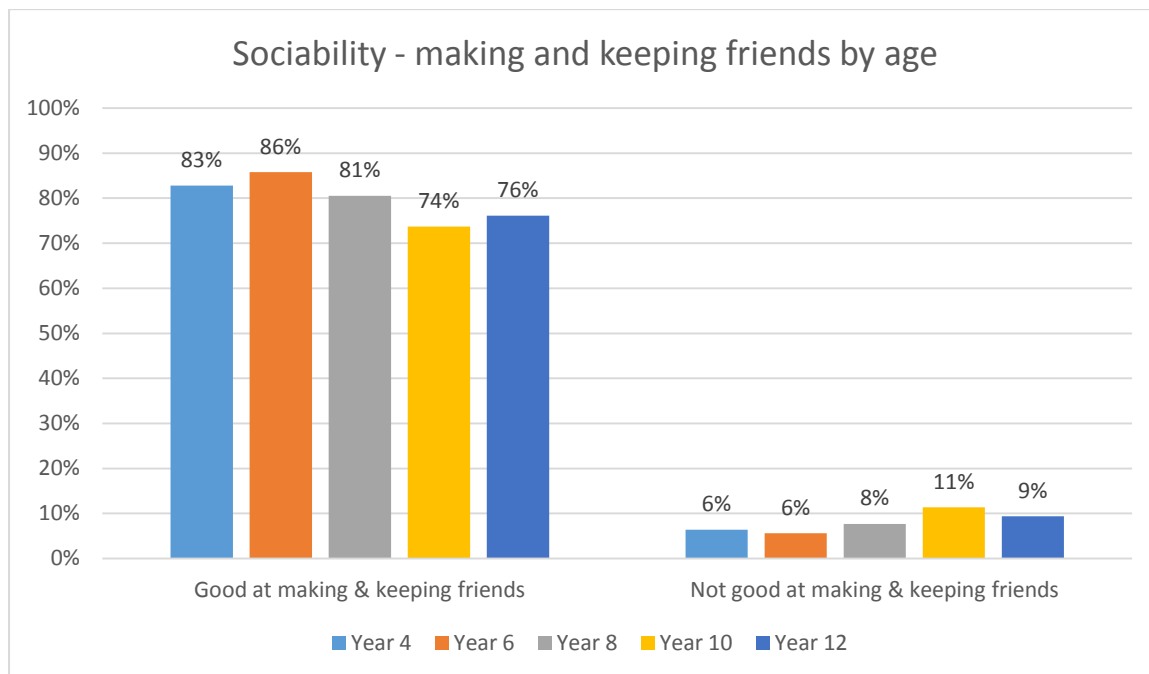


2.12 There was a similar trend with regards to illegal drugs in the secondary phase where more than 93% said they had never tried illegal drugs. There has also been a decrease in year 12/FE despite the increase in FE students in the survey this year.



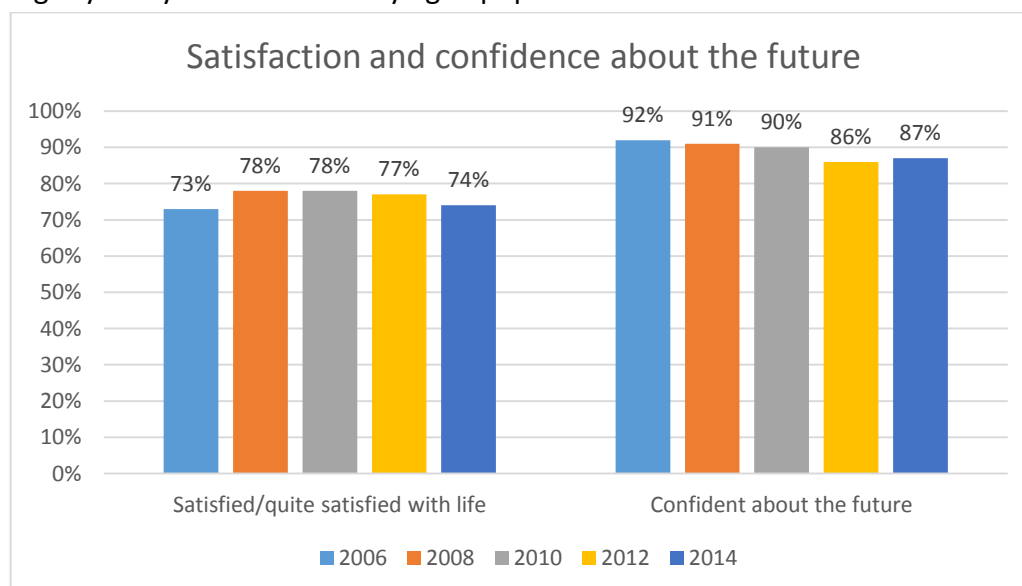
### 3 Relationships and emotional wellbeing

- 3.1 76% of pupils said they were good at making and keeping friends. 8% said they were not good.



- 3.2 82% of primary pupils reported they had at least 2 good friends, only 0.8% felt they had no good friends.

- 3.3 Overall, 74% pupils in the 2014 survey said that they were satisfied or quite satisfied with their life; this is a decrease in recent years. Confidence about the future has increased slightly this year for secondary aged pupils.



- 3.4 89% of pupils said they are proud of what they have achieved in their life.



- 3.5 In 2014 we asked years 8, 10 and 12+ pupils about self-harm. 4.5% responded that they had self-harmed weekly or daily. Cutting was the most frequently cited method.

#### 4. Citizenship and aspirations

- 4.1 Less than half (41%) of pupils felt that the school council and pupils make a difference at their school or college, 59% of primary and only 22% of secondary felt this was the case. 30% of pupils did not know.
- 4.2 85% of year 12 (+16 years old) expect to continue in education or training next year. This is the same level as found in 2012.

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## 5. The effectiveness of care, support and guidance

Part of the Online Pupil Survey was to gather views from our young people on the support and guidance that they had obtained or sought on areas that mattered to them. The findings are important for schools and all agencies to review how effective the care and support is that they currently provide to our young people, and to help identify areas where improvements are needed in the future.

- 5.1 Secondary pupils and year 12 young people were asked who they were most likely to go to for further help and advice about contraception/ not getting pregnant or preventing STI's. As pupils got older, friends became the main people they would go to for further help or advice about sex and relationships. Parents, siblings and other family members also remained key sources of guidance for older pupils.

### Summary

*The Gloucestershire Online Pupil Survey is funded by Gloucestershire County Council, and facilitated by the Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning Team, on behalf of Gloucestershire's Children's Partnership in partnership with local schools, colleges, independents, alternative provision and other local agencies. We initially developed the survey with Gloucestershire County Council and health partners in 2005 and the full survey was run in 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012 and most recently in the spring term of 2014 with schools, colleges and other educational settings across Gloucestershire. It is run as on-going partnership project, envisaged to be run every 2 years following a cohort of children from year 4 to year 12.*