

# Play Sufficiency Assessment

## All Saints Secondary School



#HearingYoungPeople'sVoices

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# Play Sufficiency Assessment: All Saints Secondary School

## Background

Play is central to young people's enjoyment of life and essential to their physical and emotional well-being and their healthy development.

In May 2023 new regulations came into force which mean that planning authorities must assess the sufficiency of play opportunities in its area for young people. The Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) is intended to provide an overall picture in terms of the current provision and distribution of outdoor play opportunities across the whole of a local authority area.

As part of these new regulations Glasgow City Council has a statutory requirement to engage with young people across the city to understand more around the current opportunities to play, their experiences whilst playing in the city as well as understanding what their current barriers to play are. Key insights will be used to form part of the evidence report for the City Development Plan and will be the start of an ongoing conversation with young people about what it is like to live, learn and play in Glasgow.

## Hearing Young People's Voices

The participation of All Saints Secondary School students in this citywide discussion has made a significant impact, providing invaluable insights that help authorities grasp the current realities and challenges faced in using local spaces. Their input has enriched our understanding of the obstacles hindering play in their community, and has shed light on the additional resources required to support the optimal physical and healthy development of young people.

These reports are now being compared Citywide to get an understanding on equalities and City Development Plans going forward.

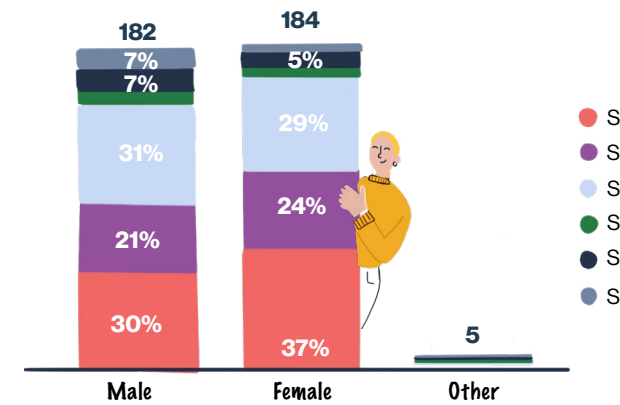
The honesty and contribution of the young people are greatly valued and have proven to be monumental at this stage of the conversation.

## Demographics

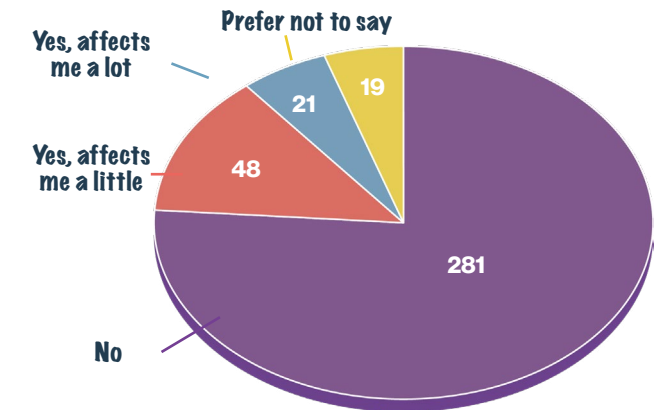
In total 371 pupils across all six year groups took part: a third of the young people attending All Saints Secondary School.

For each school, the link was shared with a key contact who then arranged for this to be rolled out across the school in a way that worked for them

### Young people who answered the survey



Young people who consider themselves to have a health condition or disability affecting their day-to-day life



69 pupils (19%) said that their day-to-day lives are affected by a health condition. Those with health conditions will have different needs

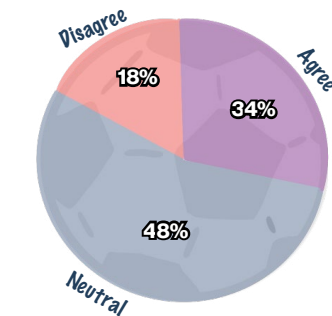
## What is play

Around half of all young people at All Saints Secondary School don't feel one way or another about spending time with others or alone. Of the remaining pupils, more young people want to spend free-time with others than alone.

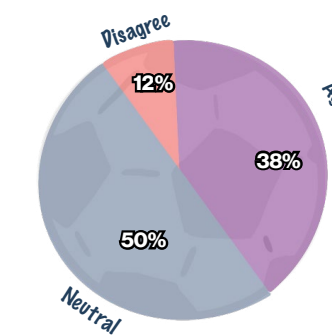
Across S1-6, there isn't much of a difference in preference.

This highlights the need to ensure all ages have a range of options when choosing how to spend their free time.

### How many young people would like to spend their free-time alone



### How many young people would like to spend their free-time with others:





## Why is play important to young people?

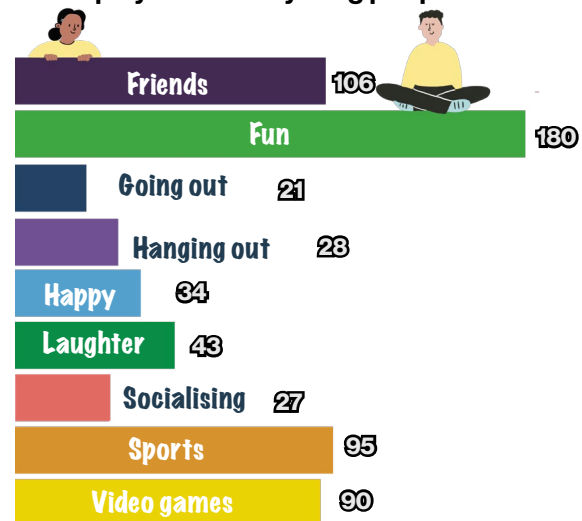
When asked what play means to young people, the most frequent response is **fun** followed by **sport and games**.

The words young people associate with play are very positive at All Saints Secondary School. With words like **happy, relaxed, calm and joy**, it's clear that play is an important opportunity to boost relationships and create an environment that contributes to young people's wellbeing. Some also mentioned the nostalgic elements of play offering an opportunity to reflect on childhood memories.

Understanding what's important in play for young people highlights what we can do to **improve access, space and quality** for places designed for play.

At All Saints Secondary School, the most common affect of play was a feeling of being **calm, relaxed and happy**. There were many who said that play helped when needing a **break** from school or other things in their life.

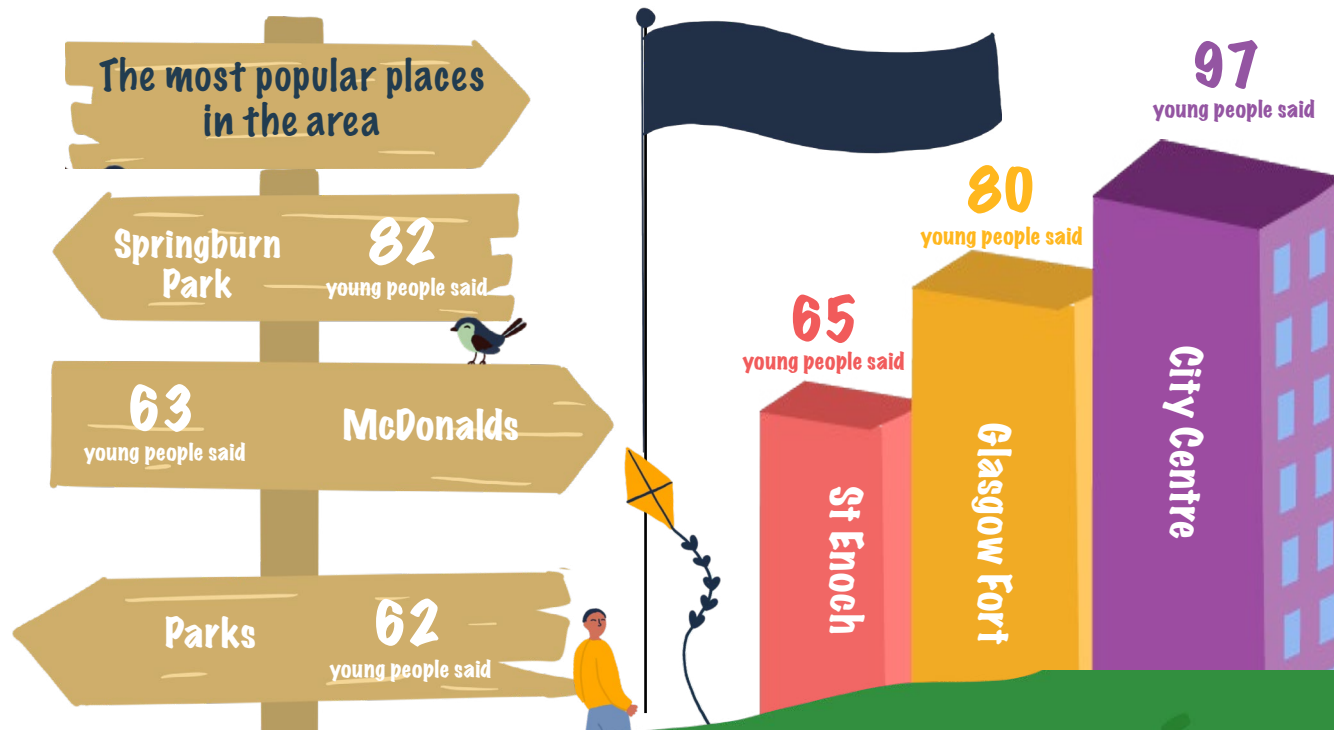
What 'play' means to young people



## Where do young people go?

Below are the most popular places in their area. Other places mentioned in the area include: **their home, friends house, football pitches and Robroyston Park**.

Other places mentioned outwith their area included **Springburn Park, Glasgow Green, Hogganfield Park, Braehead Shopping Centre and The Forge Shopping Centre**



## Statements on quantity

59% of young people say there are **only some places** to spend their free-time outside while 29% say they have lots of places and 13% feel like there is **nowhere at all** to spend time outside.

With 72% having access to only some or no places outside, the area needs more good quality places and opportunities to play.

When asked about structured play such as **clubs and activities**, 47% of respondents said that **they go to them**, 34% of respondents **said that they know about them, but do not go**. 31% of respondents said that you have to pay for activities, so this may be one reason why so many know about activities but don't go. S1 and S5 were more likely to go to clubs than other year groups.

19% of young people responded saying **they don't know of any clubs** outside of school.

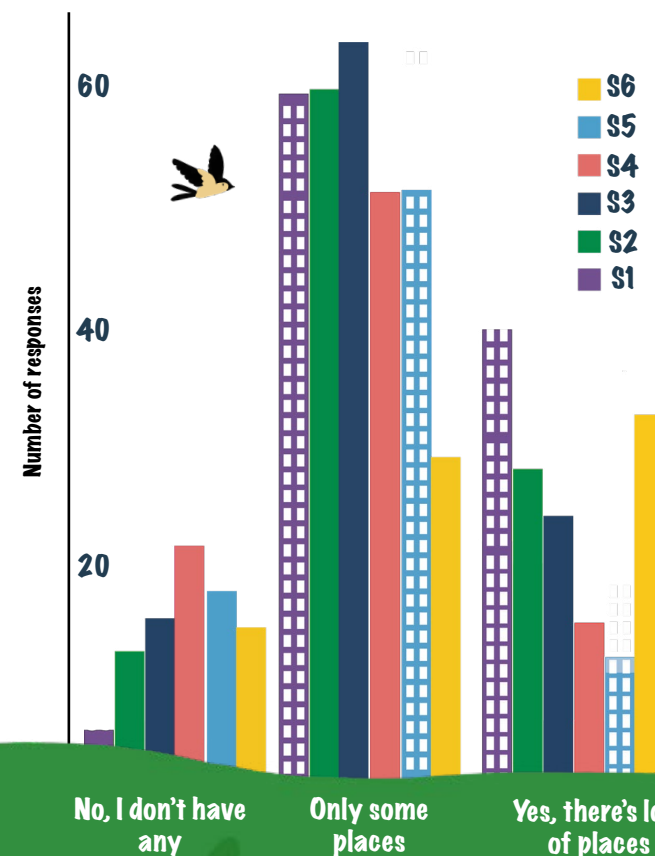
S1 and S3 are more likely to go to clubs while other years tend to vote higher for **not knowing about any clubs** at all

Are there are lots of places for young people to go in their area?



## How it differs between ages

In your local area, are there enough places to spend your time?



S4 and S5 in particular feel like there are not enough spaces for them. S1 and S6 are generally more positive and say there are lots of places for them.

Overall, S1-S3 are more optimistic about places to go and have fun in their area. S4-S5 are generally less positive.





## What makes a good place for young people?

At All Saints Secondary School, there is an even split of those who **feel safe and comfortable** in their spaces and those who don't.

Overall 37% **feel comfortable**, 21% **feel uncomfortable** and the remainder don't feel strongly either way. Of those that feel uncomfortable, some say they feel **overwhelmed** suggesting there might not be enough quiet places.

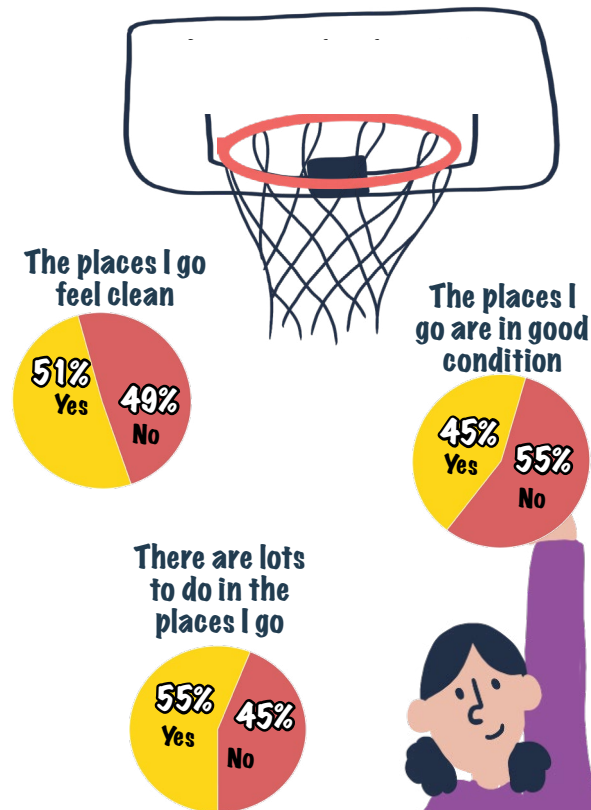
For quality, more than half of respondents **disagree** that their spaces are in **good condition or clean**.

There are some differences in the year groups, S1-S2 tend to vote more positively than other years. S1 also tend to feel more positively about the **activities** that are available in their spaces.

When asking about **activities**, there is a demand for **more things to do** other than sport such as, music and arts.

When asked about equipment, 38% said the equipment they have access to is **good**, which suggests that 62% think access to equipment **could be improved**.

And looking at the quality of equipment: 42% said that it **needed repair**, 35% said it **needed replaced**, 36% feel there is **not enough equipment** and 46% said that the **equipment needs cleaned**. This suggests additional efforts should be prioritised to improve the quality of equipment for young people.



### Scoring how comfortable they felt out of 10

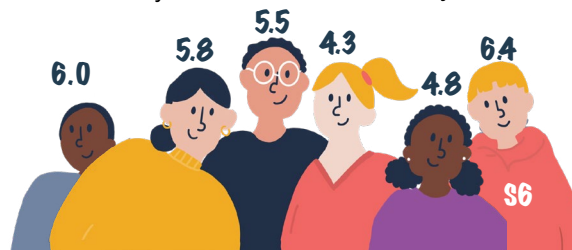
1= feel very unsafe 10= feel very safe



Scored on average just over 5

### Scoring how safe they felt out of 10

1= feel very unsafe 10= feel very safe



Scored on average just over 5

### What is the equipment like in the spaces that you go to?

46% said **Needs cleaned**

42% said **Needs repaired**

38% said **It seems fine to me**



## What makes a place feel unsafe?

When asked what makes a place feel unsafe or uncomfortable, the responses consisted of 3 main themes: **people, condition of the space and the time of day**.

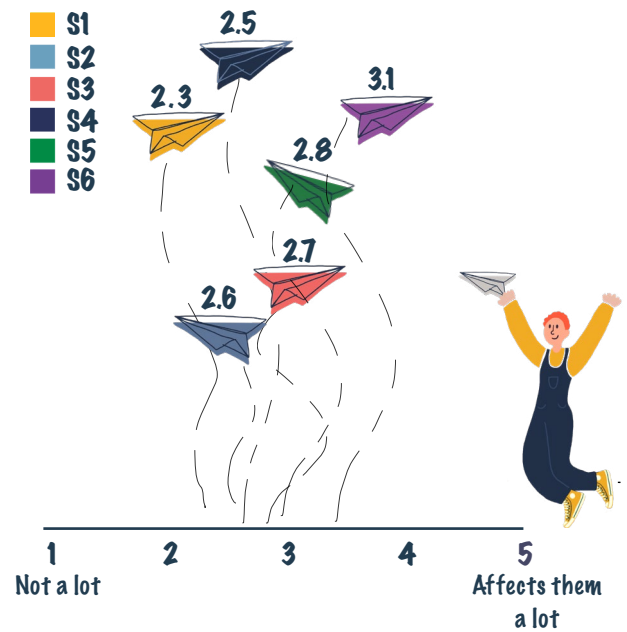
At All Saints Secondary School, pupils generally agreed that they felt **safe and comfortable** in the places they use. 21% of young people reported feeling **unsafe**, with 36% feeling **safe** and the remainder didn't feel strongly either way. Other people in young people's spaces makes them feel **less safe** and tends to be more of a problem for older year groups.

For many, **broken and damaged places** create a lot of discomfort and there is a popular demand for **better lighting**, especially in **Springburn Park**.

Some said that Robroyston feels derelict and would like **more things to do in the area**. **Robroyston Park** came up often as an area that need immediate attention around **cleaning and repair** in order to make it feel safe to use. There was also a more general demand for places to relax and hang out with friends.

Scoring how other people in the spaces affect them out of 5

Average scoring per year



"I feel unsafe and uncomfortable during the night when I see weird people and drunk people"

"I feel unsafe in Springburn Park after night because there isn't many lights"

"I would like Robroyston park to have more lights so we can play for longer. More bins and equipment fixed in the play park"

## Travelling to places for young people

93% of respondents said that the places in their area are easy to get to.

When asked about getting around, **walking** was the most frequent response suggesting that for many young people they have places to go within walking distance. **Public transport** came second as a way of getting around while **getting a lift** came third.

Just under half of pupils said they **get a lift** to access the spaces they go to. Nearly as many also said they use **public transport**. As the reliance on lifts and public transport is quite high, it suggests there are few alternative options in the area.

Only 39 young people **cycle** to the places they play. 9 **scoot or skate** and 28 **don't go anywhere** to play.



## Barriers towards play

When asked what barriers young people from All Saints Secondary School feel they have that stops them from playing, **homework** was voted highest.

Feeling like they don't have time was voted second highest, followed by **lack of spaces**, then **societal expectations** and **other people** were joint fourth.

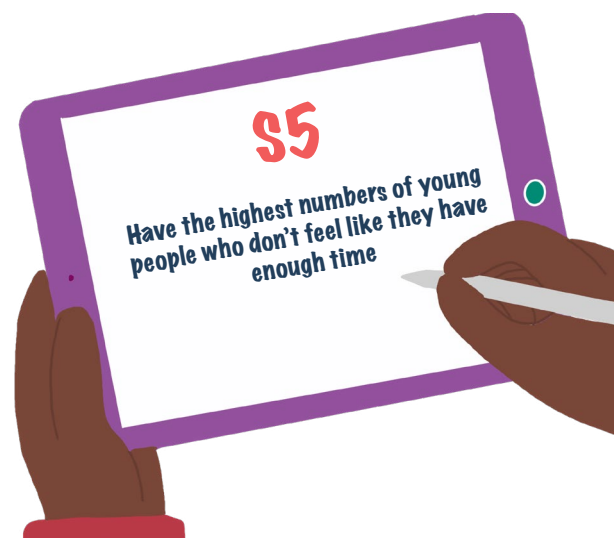
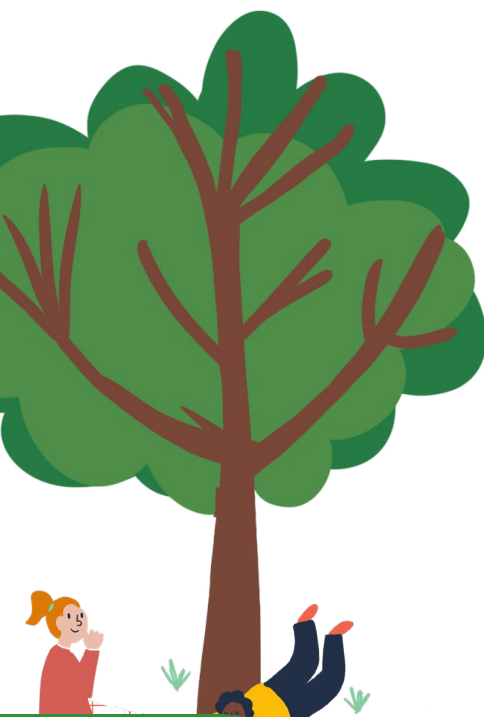
S5-6 tend to vote more frequently for **money** as a barrier to play suggesting that there's a lack of free activities for their age-group.



“On Liddensdale road and Scalpay Street there is overgrown bits of lands. They should use these spaces for the public, like a park”

“The parks in my area - I wanna see them cleaned and better equipment for kids 13-16 that are likely to hang about the parks.”

“I would like there to be places for music and art, and more places for young people to go to. Not just sport places.”



## Nature & Seasons

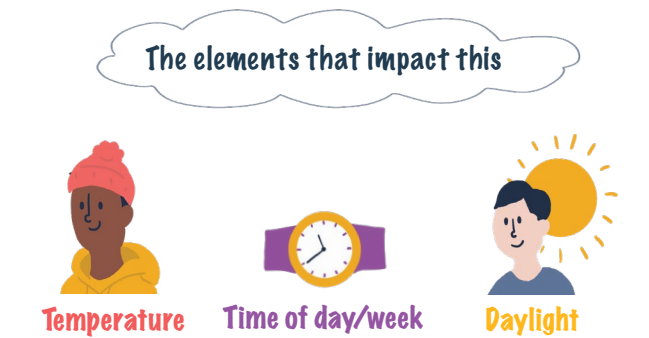
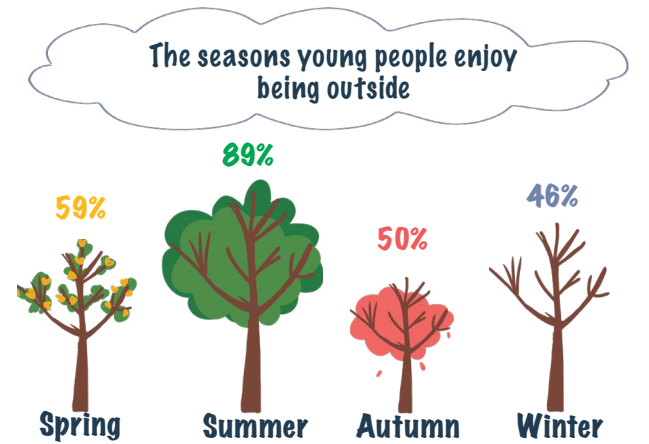
44% of respondents said that **nature is very important** to them while 44% say they **do not mind** and 12% say they **do not care at all**.

Many said more greenery and things to do in Springburn would make the **area more fun and interesting**. This highlights the importance of ensuring there are plenty of opportunities for young people to connect to nature.

When it comes to spending time outdoors, **weather** has the largest impact. The **time** is also a big factor, whether it's summer or winter plays a big part in young people's decision to go outside.

**Summer** is the favourite season to spend time outside. Next is **Spring**, then **Autumn** and then **Winter**. This highlights the need to ensure there is **space** and **light** for young people across all seasons of the year.

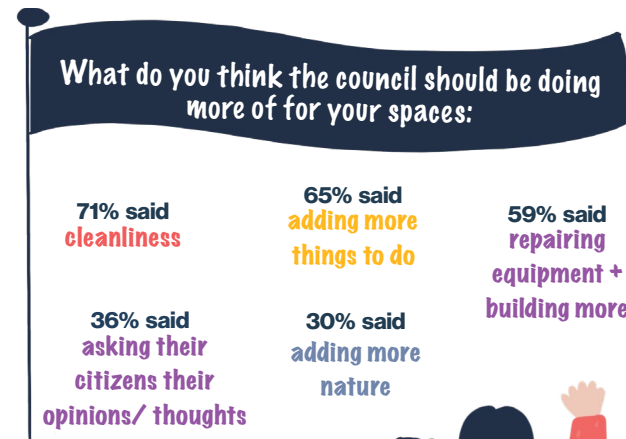
Winter was called out as a significant barrier indicating that the area need access to places to play even in the colder months.



## What do they need from their spaces

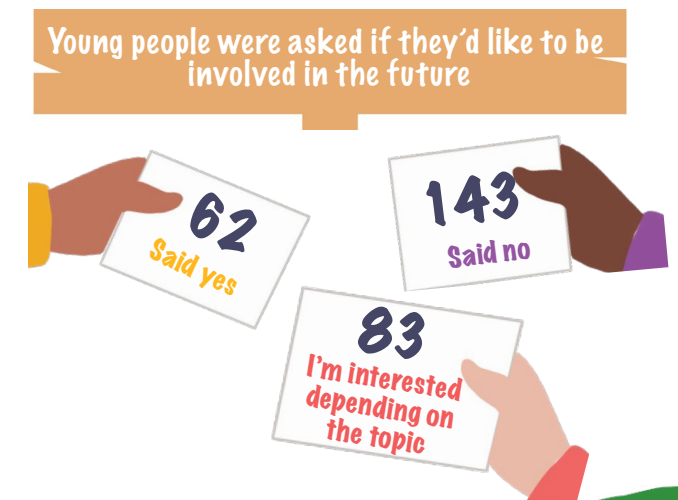
When asked what young people want more of, most asked for **cleaner places** followed by **more places to go for people my age and more places to eat**. 33% said **more security** would make their spaces more fun to be in. 27% said **more green spaces** would make their community more fun to engage with.

When asked what changes would make the area more fun, 40% said **repairing the equipment** that's already there. 43% said adding **more security** would make the places more fun, and **cleaning** was voted for more than anything else.



Young people were also keen to be **consulted** on improvements in their area. Nearly half of the young people who took part said that they would be open to being involved in discussions in the future, with a decent proportion saying it would depend on the topic.

This reinforces that public bodies should embed a flexible approach when considering engaging with young people. They may not always wish to participate but when they do they should have a right to shape decisions about their spaces and their future.

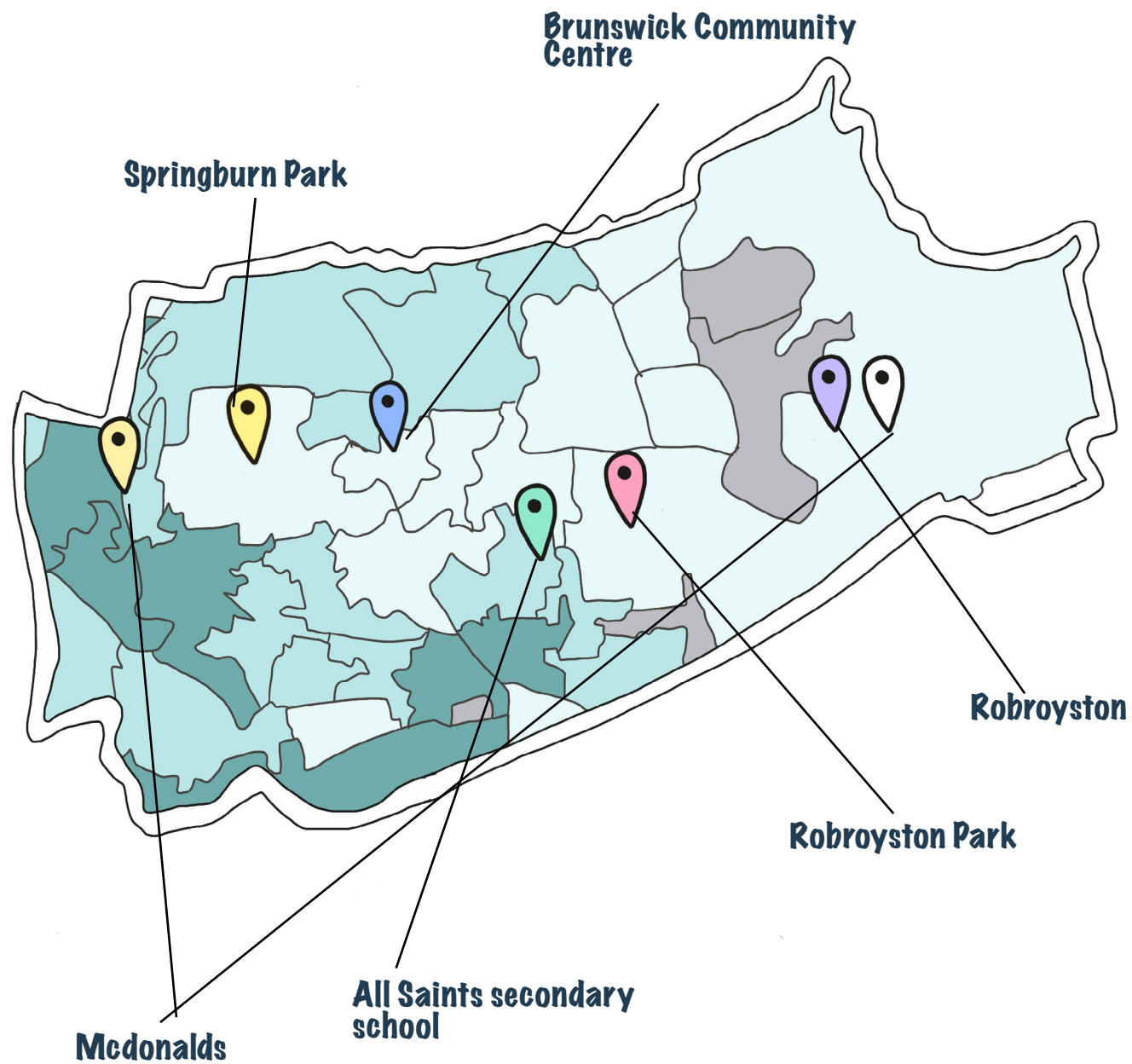
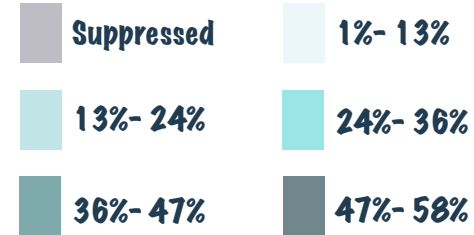




## Child Poverty Data

This map is taken from Glasgow City Council's child poverty dashboard, and contains levels of relative child poverty across the city. It shows that a lot of the more popular places young people go are in areas where there is a lower rate of child poverty in Springburn/ Robroyston.

Percentage of child poverty



## Conclusion

Overall, we got responses from 41% of the young people at All Saints Secondary School. It is clear that young people have a wide range of valuable contributions that could help us improve spaces for young people and the communities which they help build.

Access to **safe, warm places** with a **mix of activities** has been clearly identified as a major contributor to young people's wellbeing and physical health.

Many of the places identified as good places to spend time in their area are informal spaces like **Springburn Park** and **Robroyston Park**. This shows the importance of maintaining and improving green spaces around All Saints Secondary School.

19% don't know of any clubs in the area. Many young people are missing out on chances to grow and express themselves outside of school.



Also, only a few of the clubs in the area are free to attend showing that money could also be a barrier for young people at All Saints Secondary School.

The majority of children at All Saints Secondary School say there are **only some spaces** that they can go to in suggesting more places could be provided for young people in the area.

Generally young people felt safe and comfortable in the spaces that they go to. However when discussing what made them feel unsafe **other people** in the spaces were the main concern. This would suggest that they would prefer more spaces designated solely for them to spend time.



The biggest barriers to play were **homework** and having a **lack of time** but many in older age-groups also said that **money** can heavily impact how they spend their free time.

As for the places that are available, poorly maintained places were highlighted as a common issue for young people and it was suggested that the council **repair equipment and clean up spaces** as a way to improve them.



For most, **travelling to places** is not an issue and there are plenty of places to spend time despite some places not always being of the highest quality.

With this rich, wide-ranging input, we now have a much clearer picture of what young people look for in a place that is **safe, accessible and of a good quality**. We've also learned how much we can learn from talking to young people, **learning from their ideas** and building a nuanced picture of our neighbourhoods and how they're used.

From this, we now have a range of clear recommendations and All Saints Secondary School has developed a mature dialogue and set of ideas that can help inform better places for play.

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