

# Play Sufficiency Assessment

## Cleveden Secondary School



# Play Sufficiency Assessment: Cleveden 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 Cleveden 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.

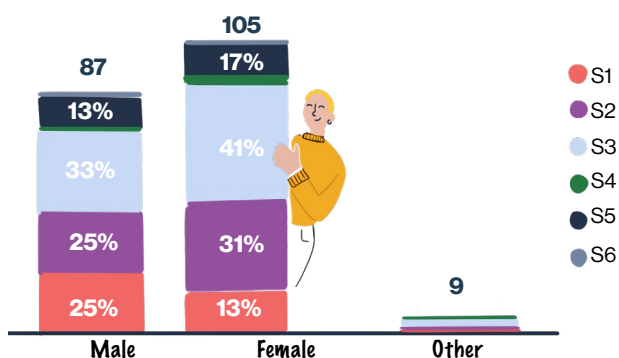


## Demographics

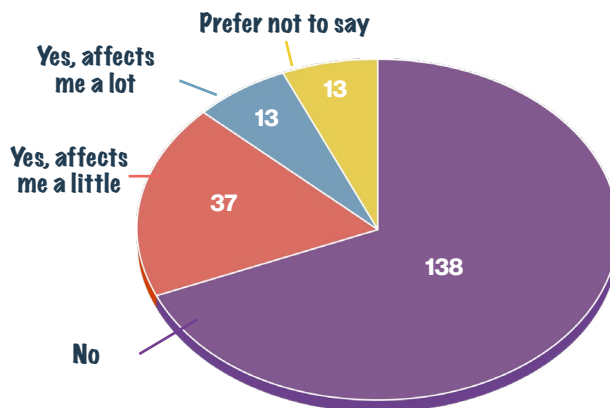
In total 201 pupils across all six year groups took part: a quarter of the young people attending Clevedon Secondary School.

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



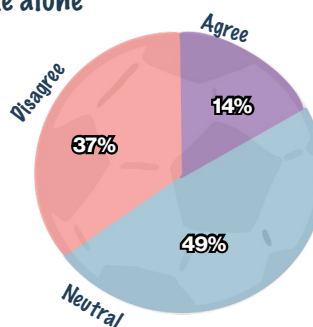
50 pupils (25%) said that their day-to-day lives are affected by a health condition. Those with health conditions will have different needs

## What is play

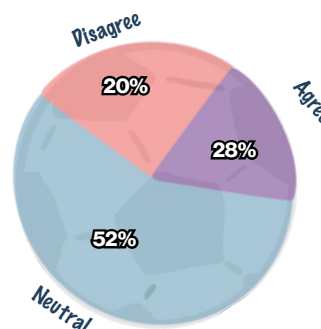
Over half of all young people at Clevedon Secondary School don't feel one way or another about spending time with others or alone. 18% of young people want to spend free-time with others while only 14% want to spend free-time alone.

There is similarity in preference of how they spend their time throughout each year group, with a slight increase in preference among older year group respondents voting slightly higher for spending time alone. This suggests more quiet spaces to spend time alone would be welcome amongst older year groups, yet still ensuring all ages have equal access and options for both ways to express 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?

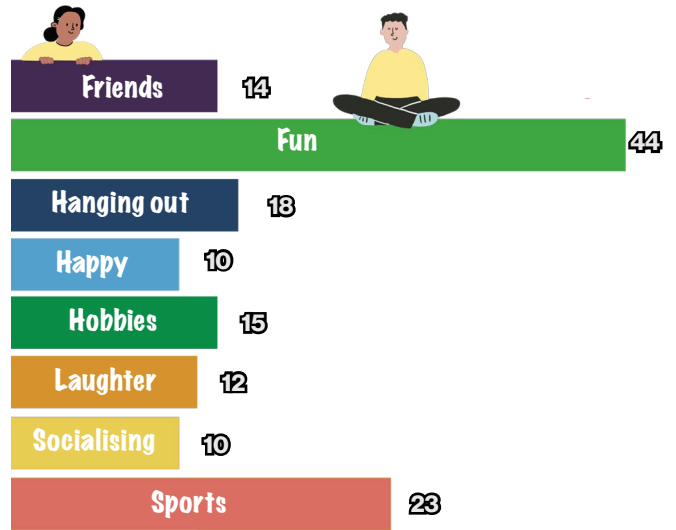
When asked what play means to young people, the most frequent response is **fun** followed by **friends and hanging out**.

The words young people associate with play are very positive at Cleveden Secondary School. With words and phrases like **hanging out, laughter, friends and socialising**, it's clear that play is an important opportunity to boost relationships and create an environment that contributes to young people's wellbeing. Many talked about play as an opportunity to play **games and sport**.

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 Cleveden 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



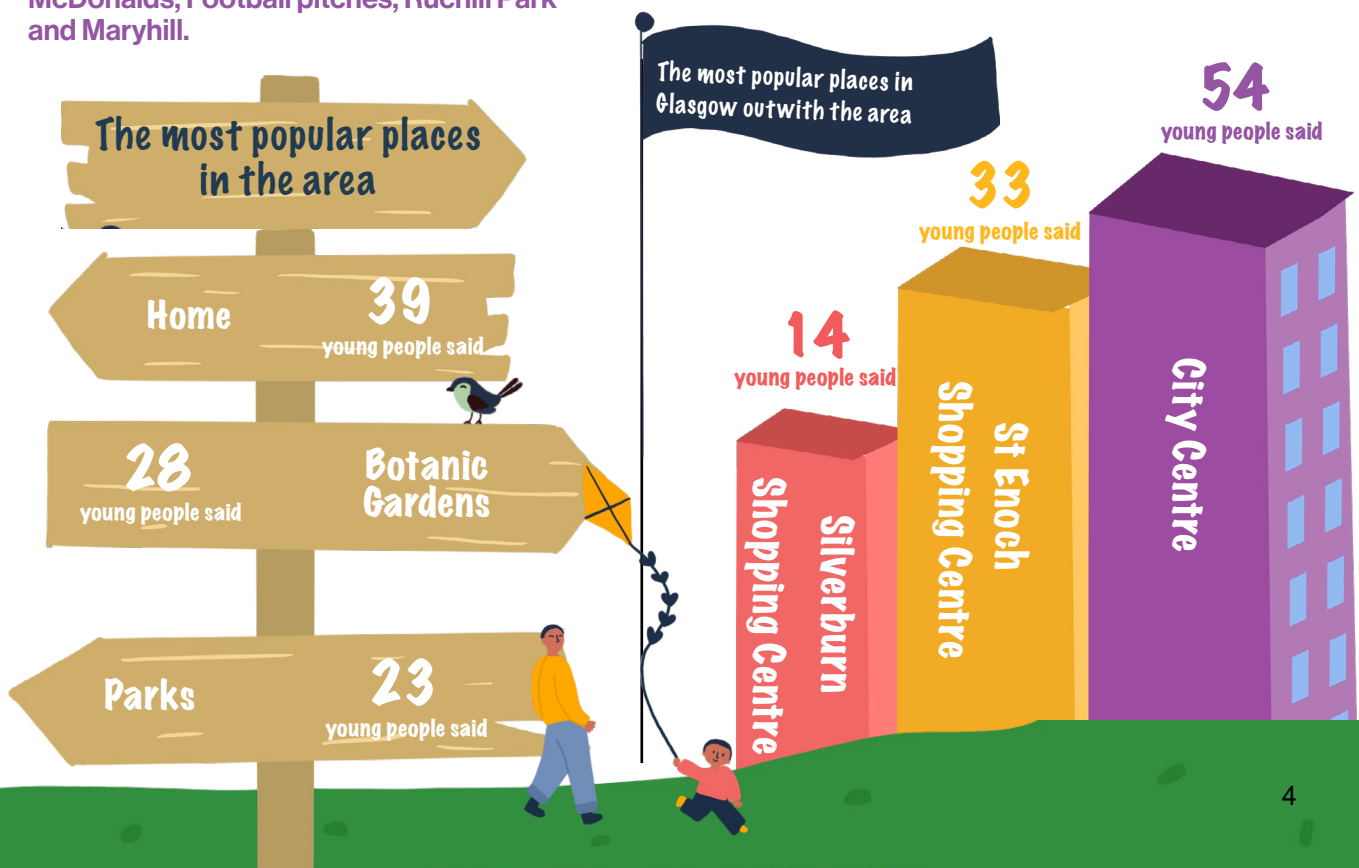
“Play makes me relaxed, I am able to rest and it puts me in a good mood”

“Play involves hanging out, laughing, exploring and going outside”

## Where do young people go?

Below are the most popular places in their area. Other places mentioned in the area include: **McDonalds, Football pitches, Ruchill Park and Maryhill**.

Other local places mentioned outwith their area included: **Glasgow Green, Braehead, Clydebank and Springburn**.



## Statements on quantity

Over half (59%) of young people say there are **lots of places** to spend their free-time outside while 30% feel like there are **only some places** and 11% feel like there is **nowhere at all** to spend time outside. With 70% having access to only some or no places outside, the area may need more good quality places and opportunities to play.

When asked about structured play such as **clubs and activities**, 50% of respondents said that **they go to them**, 35% of respondents said that they **know about them, but do not go**. 57% of respondents said that you **have to pay** for activities, so this may be one reason why many know about activities but don't go. 15% of young people responded saying they **don't know of any clubs** outside of school.

The older the year groups get, the more likely that they know about clubs **but do not go**. This could be due to costs of activities, time or they feel there are no opportunities they feel they want to go to.

There is disparity between the year groups of those that know about clubs available and those that **do not**. For example, S5 and S2 voted higher for not knowing about any clubs compared the other years. This highlights a potential opportunity to improve **awareness and information** about clubs outside of school to older year groups.



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



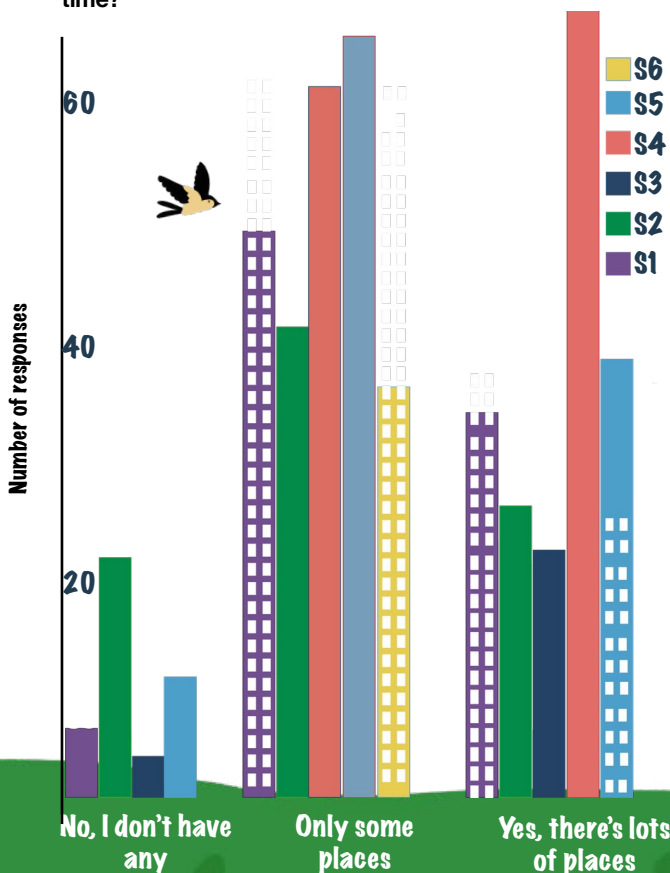
"I would like to see more modern art or funky museums like illusions or just fun activities for young people"

"I would like to be close to a neighbourhood or like a better park. Closer spaces that are for kids ages 11-15"

"I would like cleaner places, bigger club spaces, more places for sports and play and more places to eat at"

## How it differs between ages

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



S2 in particular feel like there are **not enough spaces** for them, whereas, in contrast S1 are more positive that there are lots.

Feelings of **not having any spaces** at all or **limited** is experienced more as the year groups get older.



"I would add more things to do for people to do my age (I'm 16 turning 17), I'd suggest adding more activities, shops and places to do things."

"Park's nearby could use better equipment and replace some"

## What makes a good place for young people?

At Cleveden Secondary School, over under half of respondents say that their spaces are **not clean**, while it is nearly an even split of opinions that **spaces are in good condition or not**. Generally older year groups tend to be less satisfied with the condition and cleanliness of their spaces.

There is an even split in opinion between the respondents that there's **lots to do in their spaces**. Generally, S1 respondents say they have more to do with S2 and older in more disagreement that there are **sufficient opportunities**. This suggests there could be more opportunities to play catered to older pupils.

In young people's spaces, 33% **feel comfortable**, 20% **feel uncomfortable** and the remainder don't feel strongly either way. This is very **low**, highlighting the efforts which need done by authorities to lessen the **negative experiences**. Feeling comfortable among the year groups was pretty **inconsistent** among the year groups overall, with S1 having the most positive experiences.

When asked about equipment: 34% said the equipment they have access to **seems fine**; 41% think that it **needs repaired**; 32% think it **needs replaced**; 22% say there is **not enough**; and 50% say it **needs cleaned**. Given only 34% are happy with the amount of equipment they have access to, this indicates more equipment could be provided in the spaces for Cleveden Secondary School pupils.

Dirty spaces with lots of litter and broken/rusty **equipment** were repeatedly highlighted as a cause making people feel **uncomfortable**.

### 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

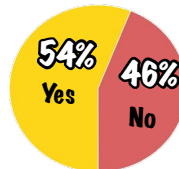
1= feel very unsafe      10= feel very safe



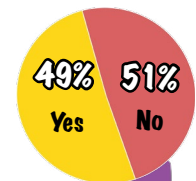
Scored on average just over 5



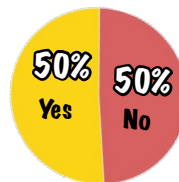
The places I go feel clean



The places I go are in good condition



There are lots to do in the places I go



"I would like the nearby parks to be fixed and add more/better equipment"

"In Maryhill/Ruchill it is very messy and there's always litter all over the grounds"

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

50% said **Needs cleaned**

41% said **Needs repaired**

34% said **It seems fine to me**



## What makes a place feel unsafe?

At Cleveden Secondary School pupils generally agreed that they **felt safe** and **comfortable** in the places they use.

21% of young people reported feeling **unsafe**, with 33% feeling **safe** and the remainder didn't feel strongly either way. There is disparity between each year group on feelings of safety in spaces.

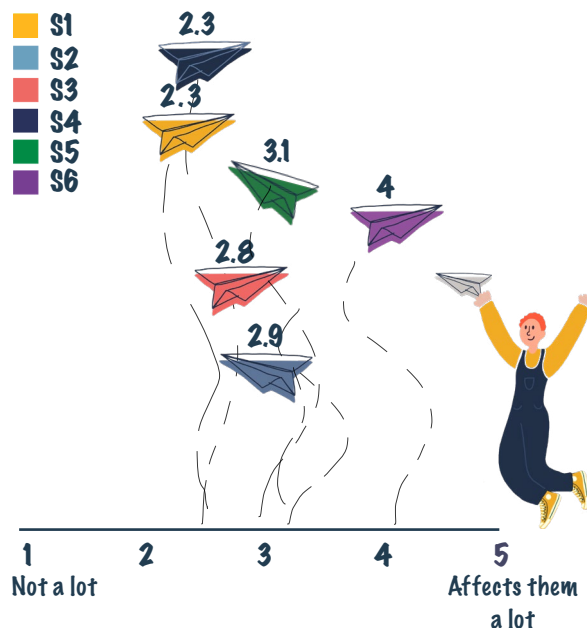
When asked what makes a place feel unsafe or uncomfortable, the responses consisted of 3 main themes: **other people, time of day and the environment**.

One of the biggest concerns around safety is **other people**, feeling that people could pose a threat or even harm them. Some young people shared that they feel the spaces have too many people in them. This indicates that there are maybe not enough spaces they feel they can go highlighting the need for more quiet, dedicated places for young people. Possilpark was a place called out that makes the young people feel **unsafe** at night due to other people there.

The time of day and places with **broken or no lights** were also highlighted as an issue, meaning they avoid being outside during dark hours, **especially parks**. This suggests that within **Winter** seasons, the pupils have a **shortened window** of play outside in spaces due to lack of light. Ruchill Park at night was a place which was mentioned a few times where young people feel unsafe.

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

Average scoring per year



“I would like to see changes in the parks, (Westercommon Road) they're dark and gloomy. Replace the park and add more lighting to them.”

“I would like more lights at Ruchill Park and cleaning like (litter, glass, etc)”

“Conditions that the space is in and also the area makes me feel uncomfortable and unsafe”

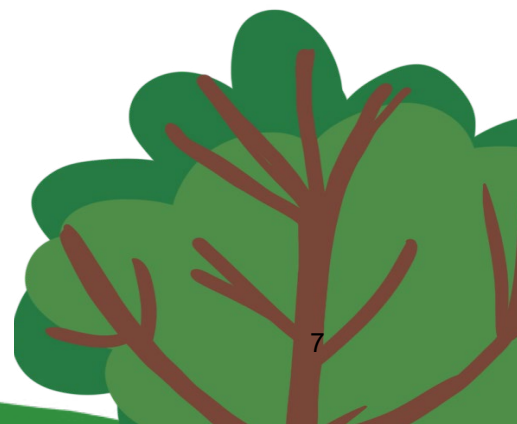
## Travelling to places for young people

95% 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 are relying on getting a lift to get around. This might suggest there's no alternative option or that it's a preference in the area.

23 young people **cycle** to the places they play, 7 **scoot or skate** and 15 **don't go anywhere** to play.



## Barriers towards play

When asked what barriers young people from Clevedon Secondary School feel they have that stops them from playing, **homework** was voted highest. This was evenly distributed among all year groups.

**Feeling like they don't have time** was voted second highest, followed by **money**, and **other people in their spaces** were joint third, and **societal expectations and lack of places to go** were joint fourth.

Feeling like they don't have time to play becomes more common in older year groups **S5-S6**, which could be due to a number of reasons.

Older pupils are more likely to feel like other people in spaces are a **barrier** to them compared to younger year groups.

Young people shared ideas around barriers they felt in terms of **cleanliness**, asking for more **cleaning of spaces, streets and green spaces** such as Maryhill Park

### Top 3 barriers to enjoying free time



“ A lot of the equipment is broken, rusty and sharp as bits of it are broken. ”

“ I feel uncomfortable in general in the outdoors because of the people and fear of being judged ”

“ Not enough lights, walking home after school especially during winter times it gets too dark, so there should be enough lights ”





## Nature & Seasons

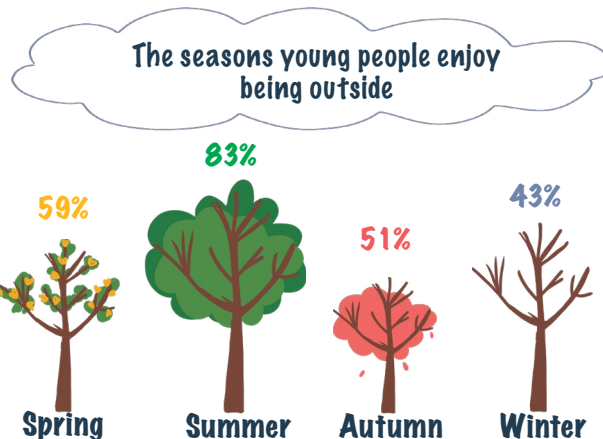
56% of respondents said that **nature is very important** to them while 33% say they **do not mind** and 10% say they **do not care at all**.

38% of respondents said that adding more green spaces would make their community more fun and interesting to engage with

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

This highlights an opportunity to provide spaces for Hillpark Secondary School pupils feel they can use regardless of the weather

**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.



### The elements that impact this



## What do they need from their spaces

When asked what changes would make the area more fun, **cleaning the spaces was the highest voted response**.

Adding more **places to eat** was second highest voted, followed with adding **more shops and spaces for their age**. 46% said **repairing the equipment** that's already there. 38% said adding **more security** would make the places more fun and half (51%) of respondents said **more places for their age** generally would make their area more fun.

When asked what young people want more of, the pupils shared a lot of ideas around Ruchill Park, specifically asking for it to be made **more secure and better maintenance** to the

space. Pupils also shared ideas around adding more space for sport pitches, and more creative art facilities.

Over a third of the young people who took part said that they want to be involved in discussions in the future. Some said 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.

### What do you think the council should be doing more of for your spaces:

72% said **cleanliness**

58% said **adding more things to do**

50% said **repairing equipment + building more**

38% said **asking their citizens their opinions/ thoughts**

46% said **adding more nature**

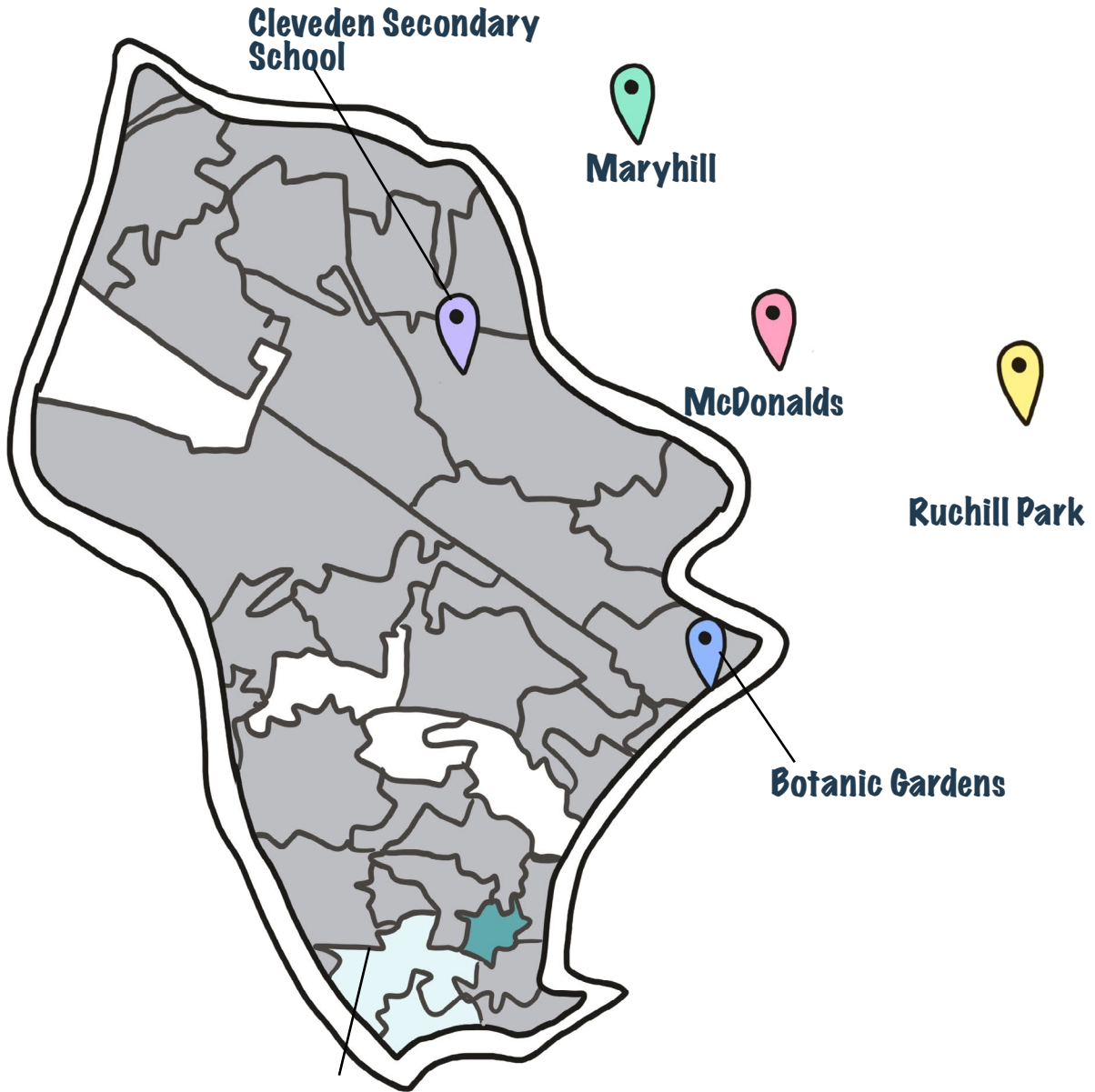
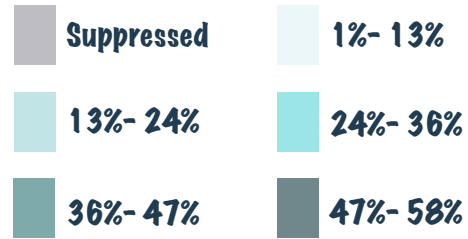
### Young people were asked if they'd like to be involved in the future



## 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 Partick East/ Kelvindale

Percentage of child poverty



## Conclusion

Overall, we got responses from 24% of the young people at Cleveden 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, clean 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 **Botanic Gardens, Parks and City Centre**. This shows the importance of maintaining and improving both green spaces and public places for young people around Cleveden Secondary School.

15% of young people at Cleveden Secondary School **don't know of any clubs** outside of school. Many young people are missing out on chances to grow and express themselves outside of school.



57% of pupils are put off by **having to pay to attend clubs** showing that money could also be a barrier for young people at Cleveden Secondary School.

59% of children at Cleveden Secondary School say there are **only some spaces** that they can go to suggesting more places could be provided for young people in the area.

On average, only around half of the young people felt safe and comfortable in the spaces that they go to. However when discussing what made them feel unsafe, **other people** was the main concern. This would suggest that around Cleveden Secondary School, there could be more safe places



designated specifically for young people especially when it's dark or days are short.

The biggest barriers to play were **homework and having a lack of time** but many also said that **money and other people in their spaces** 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 Cleveden Secondary School has developed a mature dialogue and set of ideas that can help inform better play areas in the area.

**Centre for Civic Innovation**

Glasgow City Council  
The Wedge, Office 7  
1066 Barrhead Road  
Glasgow G53 5AB

 cciglasgow.org

 @CCIGlasgow

 @cciglasgow

