

Play Sufficiency Assessment

Eastbank Academy



#HearingYoungPeople'sVoices

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Play Sufficiency Assessment: Eastbank Academy

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 Eastbank Academy 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.

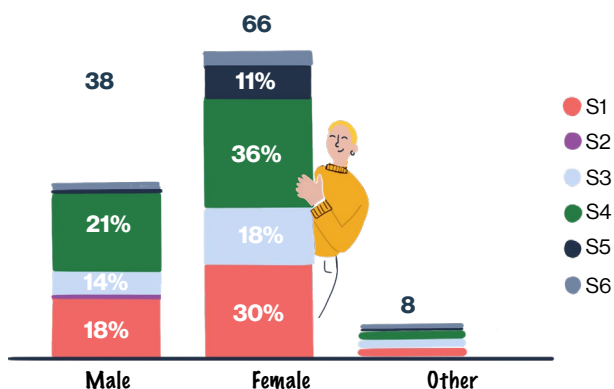


Demographics

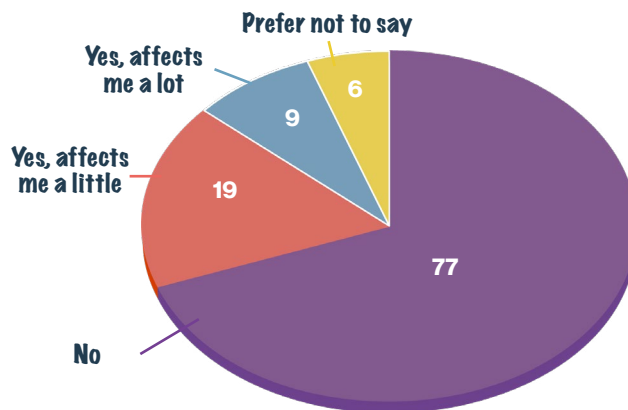
In total 112 pupils across all six year groups took part: around a tenth of the young people attending **Eastbank Academy**.

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



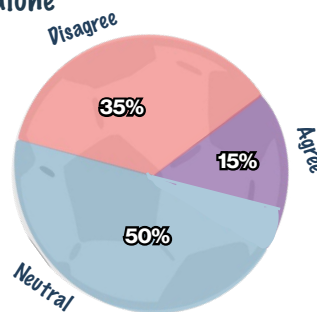
28 pupils (25%) said that their day-to-day lives are affected by a health condition. Those with health conditions will have different needs

What is play

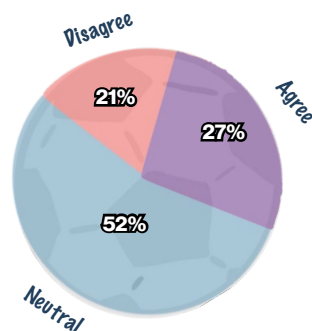
Over half of all young people at Eastbank Academy don't feel one way or another about spending time with others or alone. 27% of young people want to spend free-time with others while only 15% want to spend free-time alone.

There is similarity in preference of how they spend their time throughout each year group. This suggests more quiet spaces to spend time alone would be welcome amongst older year groups.

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?

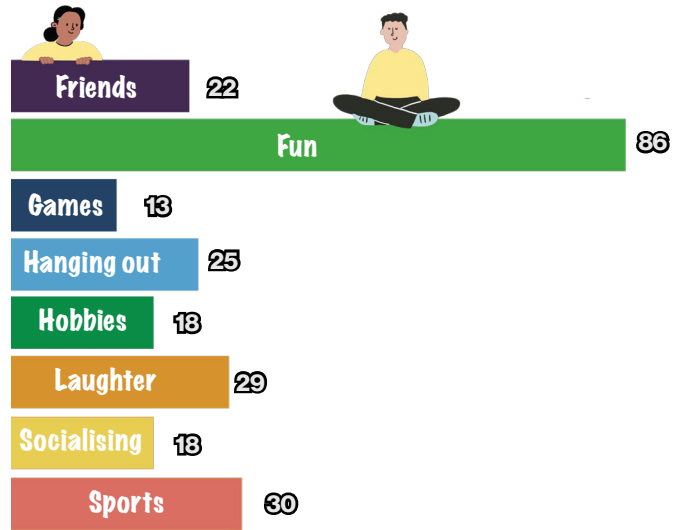
When asked what play means to young people, the most frequent response is **fun** followed by **happy and friends**.

The words young people associate with play are very positive at Eastbank Academy. When talking about play, young people describe it as a chance to **socialise, spend time with friends and express themselves**. It's clear that play is an opportunity to boost relationships and create an environment that contributes to young people's wellbeing.

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 Eastbank Academy, the most common affect of play was a feeling of being **calm, relaxed and joy**. Some pupils shared that they believe play gives them a **break**, positive for their **perspective**. Pupils also shared that play gives them an opportunity to **explore and feel content**.

What 'play' means to young people



94 said
Happy

59 said
**Calm/
Relaxed**

32 said
Joy

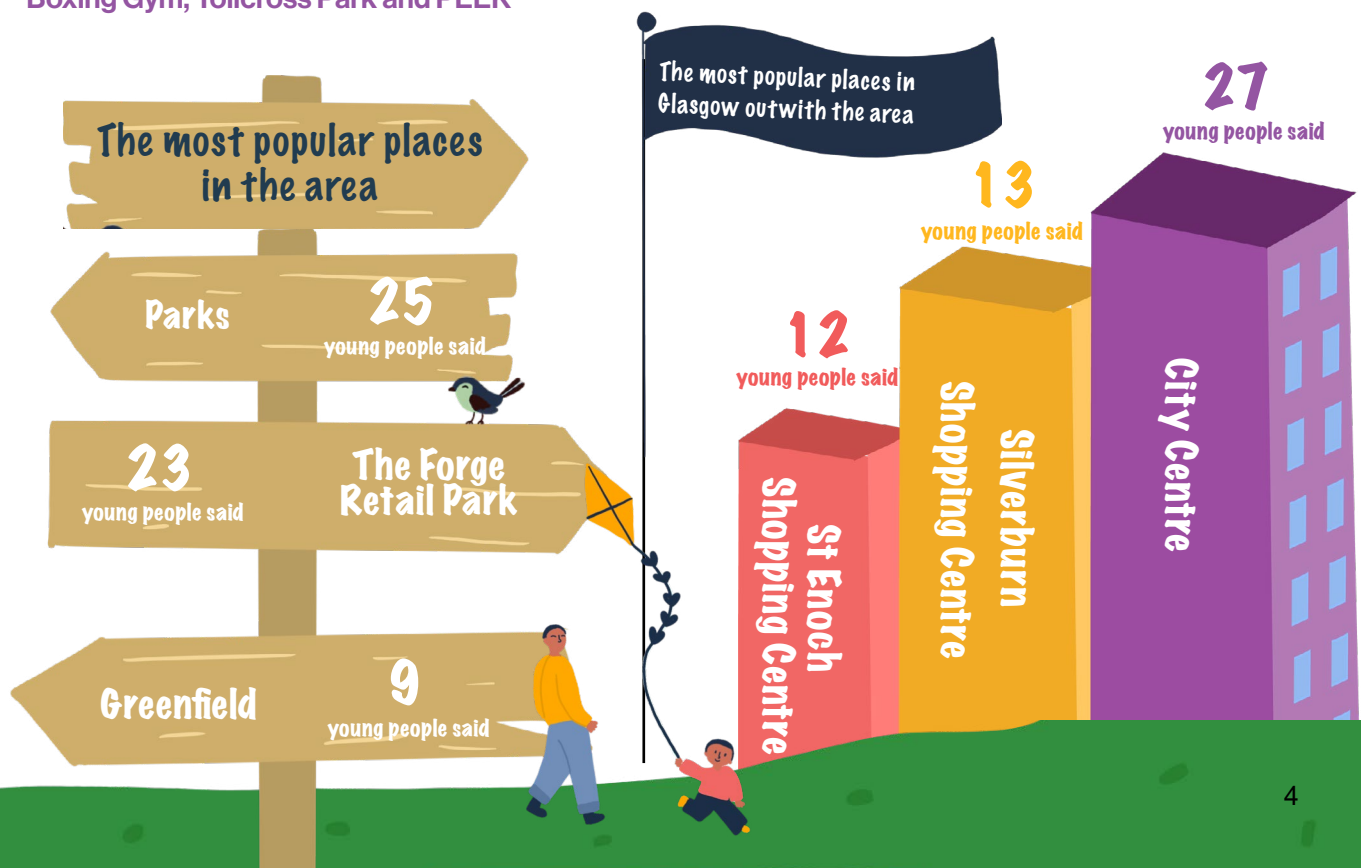
“Play gives me a break. It is about being happy and being relaxed”

“Play means doing what satisfies you. Something you should enjoy, spending time with others”

Where do young people go?

Below are the most popular places in their area. Other places mentioned in the area include: **The Boxing Gym, Tollcross Park and PEEK**

Other local places mentioned outwith their area included: **Braehead, Glasgow Fort, Parkhead, Ibrox, and Shettleston**



Statements on quantity

Over half (54%) young people say there are **only some places** to spend their free-time while 30% feel like there are **lots of places** and 16% feel like there is **nowhere at all** to spend time. With 70% having access to only some or no places, the area may need more good quality places and opportunities to play.

When asked about structured play such as **clubs and activities**, 43% of respondents said that **they go to them**, 39% of respondents said that **they know about them, but do not go**. 58% 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.

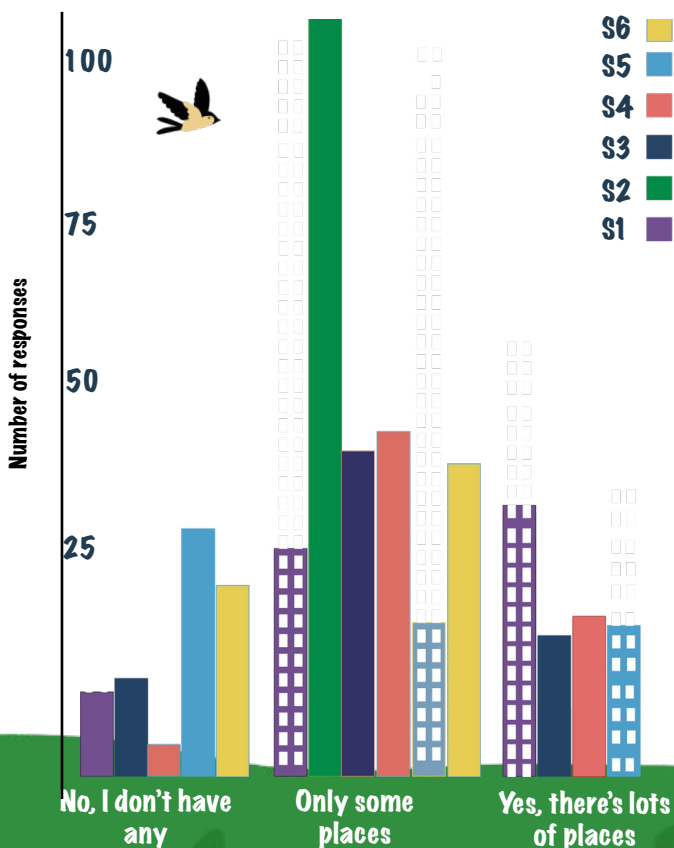
18% of young people at Eastbank Academy said they **don't know about any clubs outside of school**. Older year groups tend to be less likely to go to clubs in general. This could be due to barriers of money for clubs they are interested in, or are there are just no clubs or opportunities that they are interested in or aware of.

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?



Feelings of **not having any spaces at all or limited** is experienced more as the year groups get older, especially in S6. With S1 being more positive that there are lots.

Overall, the younger years, S1-S4 are more optimistic about opportunities and spaces they have in their area.



What makes a good place for young people?

At Eastbank Academy, two thirds of respondents say that their spaces are **not clean**, and over two thirds say their spaces are **not in a good condition**. This is **very high** across both statements, highlighting key efforts need taken to improve experiences and outlooks on spaces.

Over half of the respondents disagree that there's **lots to do** in their spaces. Generally, only S1 respondents were in more agreement overall, but only by a small amount. This suggests there could be more opportunities to play catered all ages for the pupils.

In young people's spaces, 36% **feel comfortable**, 32% **feel uncomfortable** and the remainder don't feel strongly either way. Feeling comfortable among the year groups was pretty **consistent** among the year groups overall. This is a fairly **large proportion** of young people from Eastbank Academy feeling uncomfortable within the spaces they use.

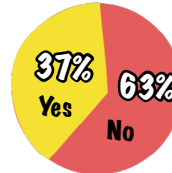
When asked about equipment: 39% said the equipment they have access to **seems fine**; 28% think that it **needs repaired**; 21% think it **needs replaced**; 22% say **there is not enough**; and 37% say it **needs cleaned**.

Given only 35% are happy with the amount of equipment they have access to, this indicates more equipment could be provided at Eastbank Academy.

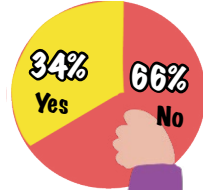
Broken equipment and overall cleanliness were repeatedly highlighted as a cause making people feel uncomfortable.



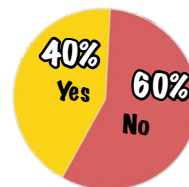
The places I go feel clean



The places I go are in good condition



There are lots to do in the places I go



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?

52% said **Needs cleaned**

39% said **Needs repaired**

35% said **It seems fine to me**



What makes a place feel unsafe?

At Eastbank Academy just under half of the pupils **felt safe and comfortable** in the places they use. This is pretty low across both statements, highlighting additional efforts which need made to improve young people's experiences

35% of young people reported feeling **unsafe**, with 27% feeling **safe** and the remainder didn't feel strongly either way. Feelings of safety in spaces **decrease** slightly in older year groups. 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**, especially in overcrowded places, feeling that people could pose a threat or even harm them, highlighting the need for more quiet, monitored and dedicated places for young people.

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.

Specific places mentioned that make the young people feel uncomfortable or unsafe is around **Shettleston Road, Greenfield Park, Tollcross Park and Parkhead**

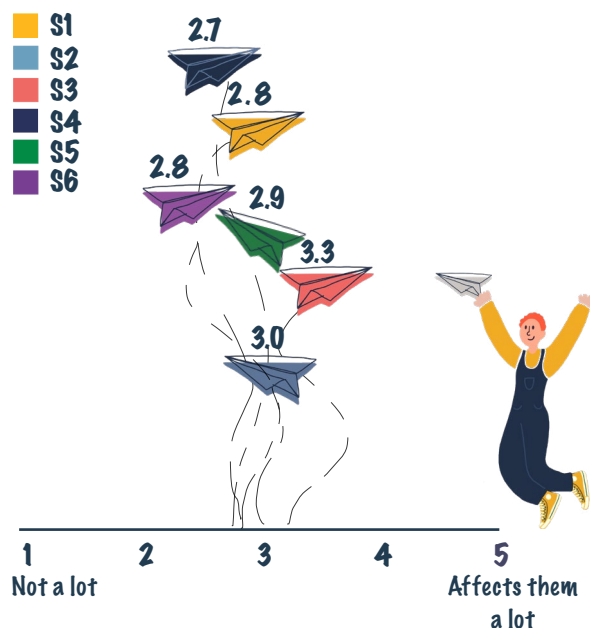
"I feel unsafe when walking alone in a park or even just walking home from being out if its late in case I get kidnapped"

"I feel uncomfortable with some of the people that are in spaces"

"I don't feel safe in Greenfield park and Tollcross Park as there is a lot of rubbish and broken glass on the floor."

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

Average scoring per year



Travelling to places for young people

92% 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. This might suggest there's no alternative option or that it's a preference in the area.

7 young people **cycle** to the places they play. 2 **scoot or skate** and 7 **don't go anywhere** to play.



Barriers towards play

When asked what barriers young people from Eastbank Academy feel they have that stops them from playing, **homework** was voted highest. This was distributed fairly evenly among all year groups, with an ever so slight decrease felt with S4 respondents.

Feeling like they don't have time was voted second highest, followed by **other people in their spaces**, then **money** was fourth. Overall, money is the largest barrier for S6 respondents.

Feelings that they do not have enough time to play is felt more and more as the year groups get older.

Although we have already learnt that over half of pupils felt they have limited spaces to play. When discussing barriers, this was not voted within top 3. This suggests that it is not a barrier of how many spaces they have as a priority, but more the **other barriers and condition** of the spaces themselves.

Top 3 barriers to enjoying free time



“ People and bad language written on the equipment get in the way with me playing ”

“ All of Glasgow parks need better lighting and more security ”



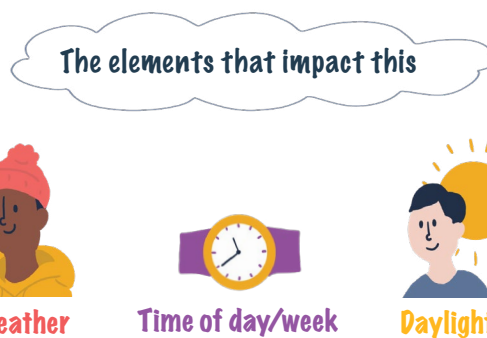
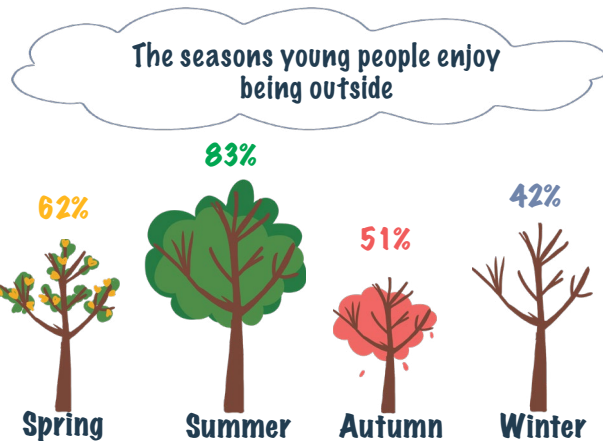
Nature & Seasons

48% of respondents said that **nature is very important** to them while 35% say they **do not mind** and 17% say they **do not care at all**.

43% 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 Eastbank Academy 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.



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 shops** was second highest voted, followed with adding **more places to eat** and **spaces for their age**. 44% said **repairing the equipment** that's already there. 42% said adding **more security** would make the places more fun and 38% said **more places for sport** would make their area more fun. 34% said that more spaces for music/arts would make their community more fun to engage with.

When asked what young people want more of, the pupils said **building and adding more to do**, as well as **cleaning, repairing and maintaining spaces** better and adding more **free space for sport**. Just under half 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:



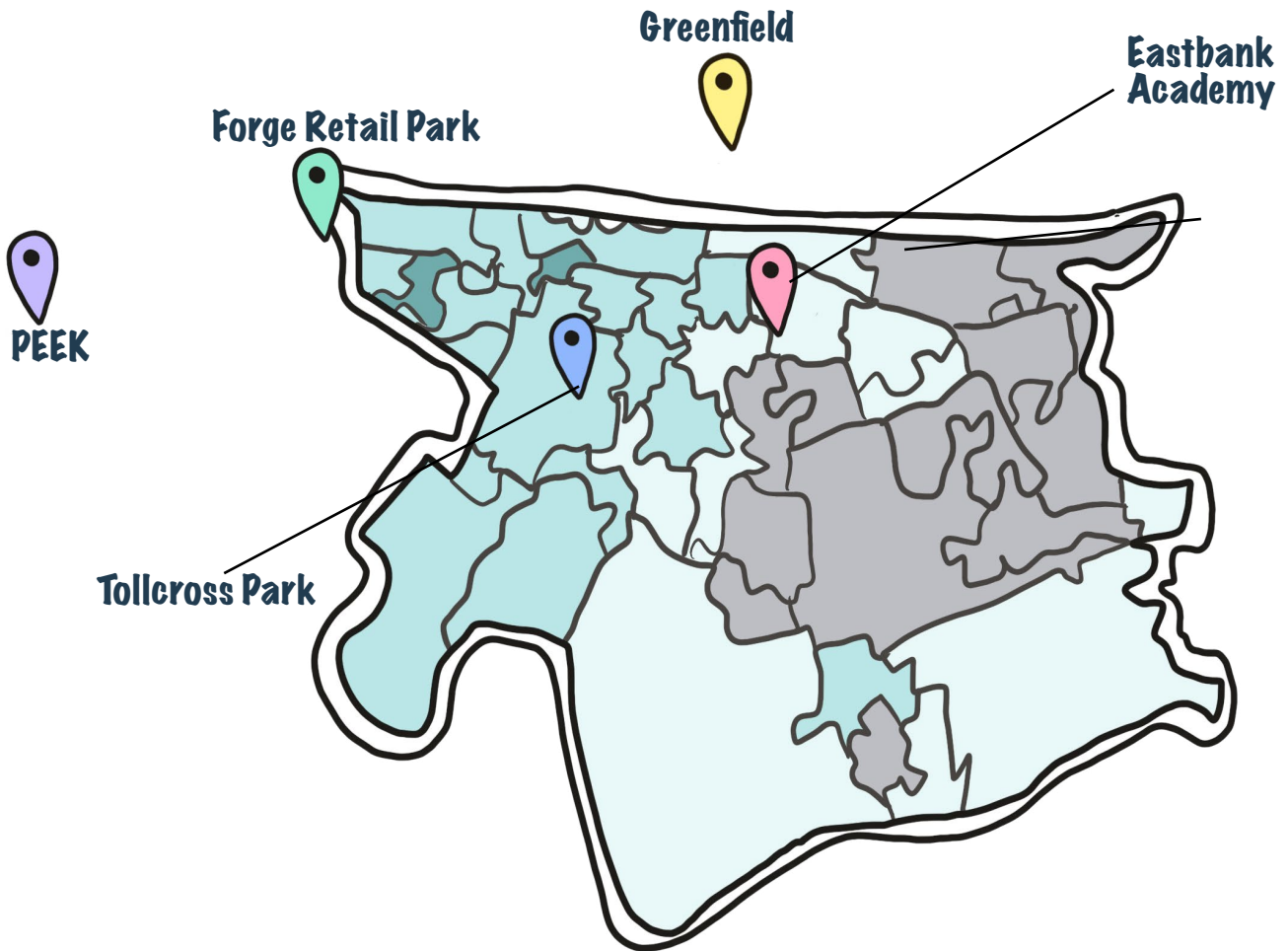
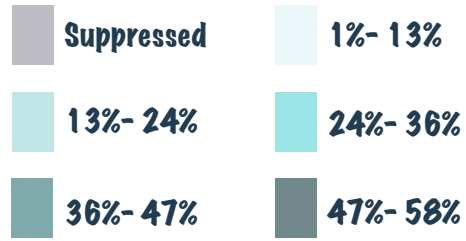
Young people were asked if they'd like to be involved in the future



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 Newlands / Auldburn.

Percentage of child poverty



Conclusion

Overall, we got responses from 11% of the young people at Eastbank Academy. 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 **Parks, The Forge Retail Park and Greenfield**. This shows the importance of maintaining and improving both green spaces and public places for young people around Eastbank Academy.

18% of young people at Eastbank Academy **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.



58% of pupils are put off by **having to pay to attend clubs** showing that money could also be a barrier for young people at Eastbank Academy.

54% of children at Eastbank Academy say there are **only some spaces** that they can go to 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** was the main concern. This would suggest that around Eastbank Academy, 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 **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 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 Eastbank Academy has developed a mature dialogue and set of ideas that can help inform better places for play.

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