

Play Sufficiency Assessment

Hillpark Secondary School



#HearingYoungPeople'sVoices

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Play Sufficiency Assessment: Hillpark 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 Hillpark 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.

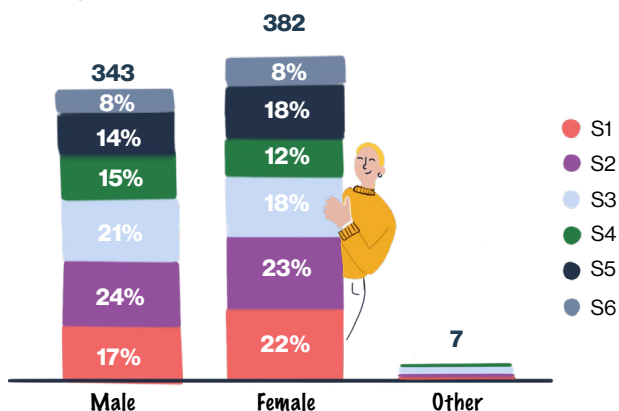


Demographics

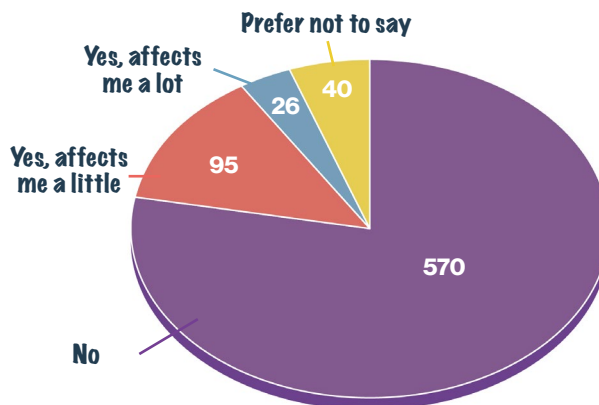
In total 733 pupils across all six year groups took part: around two thirds of the young people attending **Hillpark Secondary School**.

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



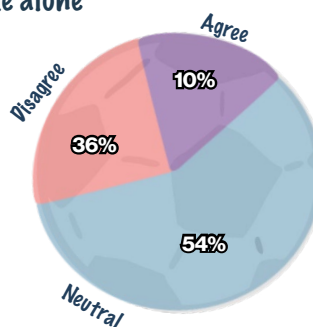
37 pupils (20%) said that their day-to-day lives are affected by a health condition. Those with health conditions will have different needs

What is play

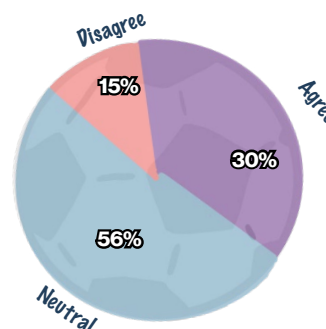
Over half of all young people at Hillpark Secondary School don't feel one way or another about spending time with others or alone. 30% of young people want to spend free-time with others while only 10% want to spend free-time alone.

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 **hanging out and friends**.

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

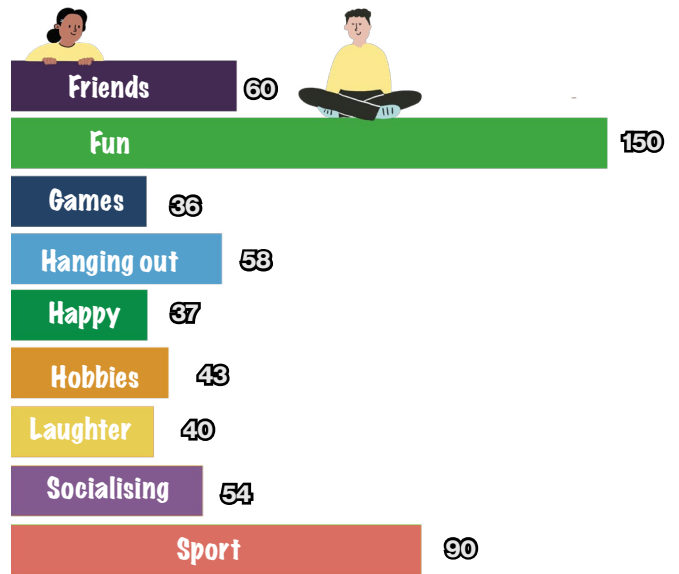
Understanding what's important in play for young people highlights what we can do to **improve access, space and quality** for places designed for play.

At Hillpark Secondary School, 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 **sense of purpose and responsibility**.

Pupils also shared that play makes them feel **content** outwith school to unwind and boost their **productivity**.



What 'play' means to young people



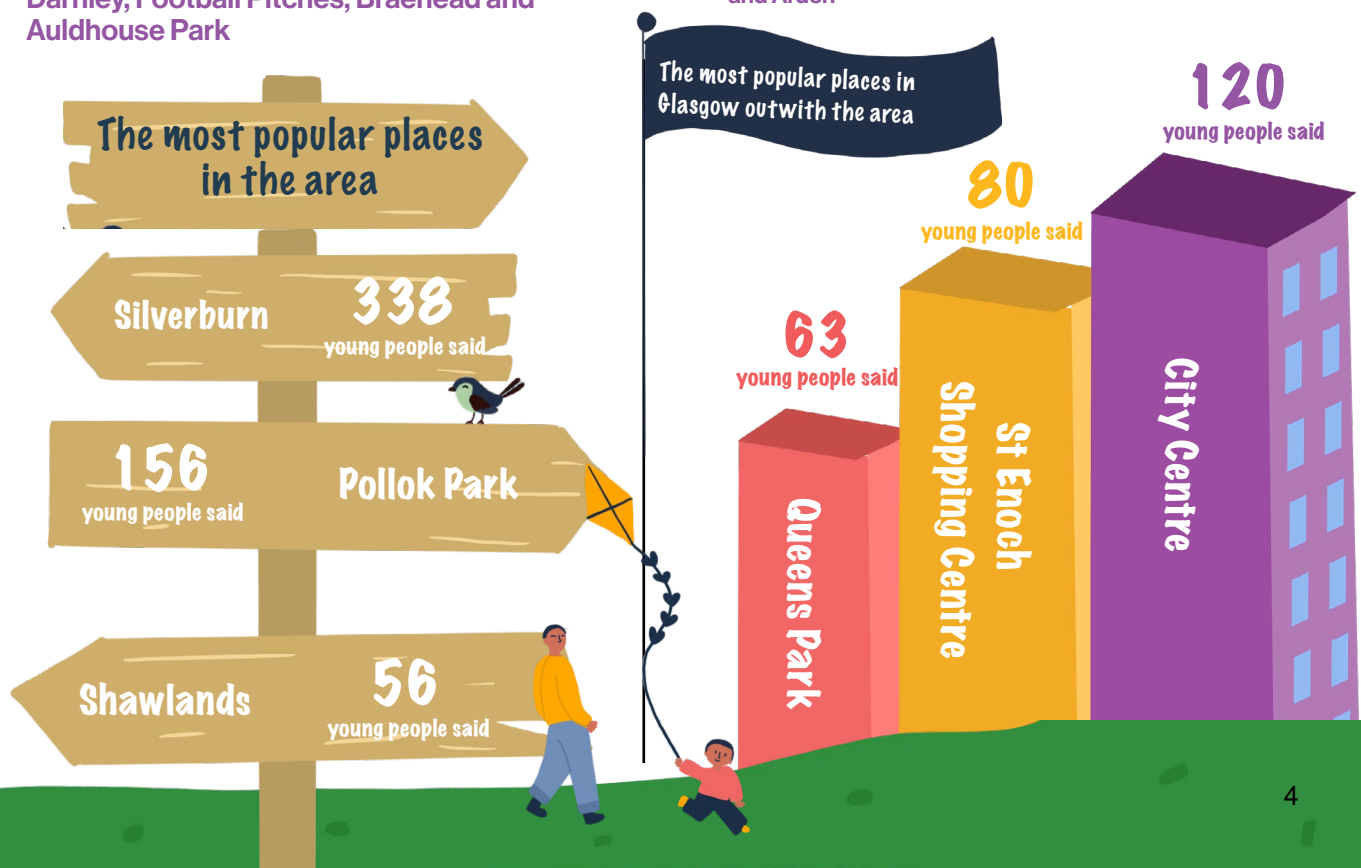
“Play for me means laughing, having fun, relaxing and having no worries about anything”

“Helps me be happy and feel relaxed. It allows me to express myself”

Where do young people go?

Below are the most popular places in their area. Other places mentioned in the area include: **Darnley, Football Pitches, Braehead and Auldhouse Park**

Other local places mentioned outwith their area included: **Braehead Shopping Centre, Dams to Darnley, Kings Park and Arden**



Statements on quantity

Over half (57%) young people say there are **only some places** to spend their free-time while 34% feel like there are **lots of places** and 9% feel like there is **nowhere at all** to spend time. With 66% 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**, 42% of respondents said that **they go to them**, 39% of respondents said that **they know about them, but do not go**. 67% 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.

19% of young people at Hillpark Secondary School said they **don't know about any clubs outside of school**. Older year groups tend to be less likely to know about clubs while S1-4 are more likely to go to clubs in general. This suggests there's an opportunity to increase awareness about clubs for older year groups.

A large proportion of S3 and S6 responders said 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.

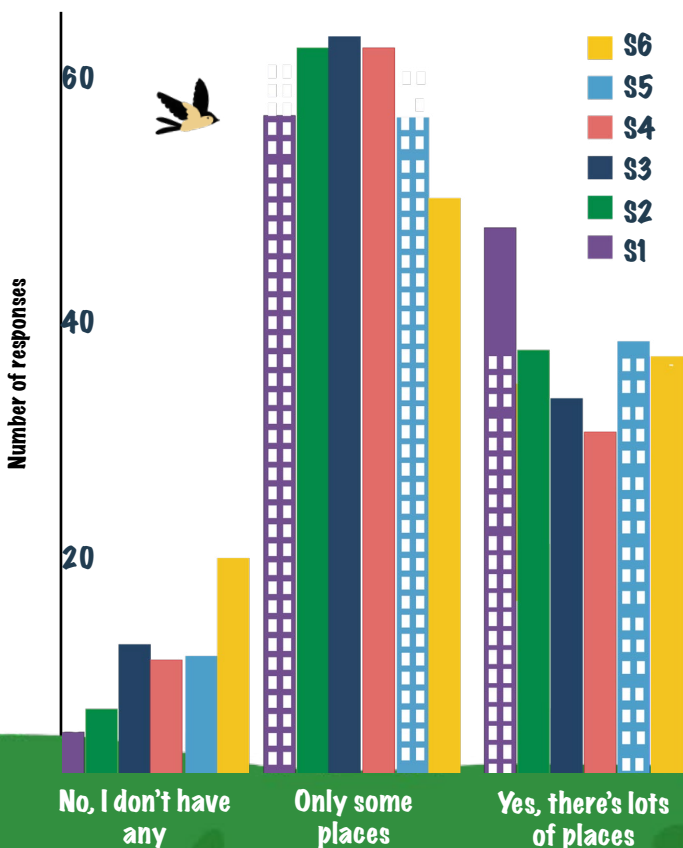


Are there are lots of places for young people to go in their area?



How it differs between ages

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



S4 in particular feel like there are **not enough spaces for them**. S6 responders have the largest contrasting split of opinion with some feeling they have none and others feeling they have some or lots.

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



What makes a good place for young people?

At Hillpark Secondary School, over half of respondents say that their spaces are **not clean**, while just under half say their spaces are **not in a good condition**. Generally older year groups tend to be less satisfied with the condition of their spaces.

Just under half of the respondents disagree that there's **lots to do in their spaces**. Generally, S1 and S5 respondents say they have more to do with S6 disagreeing the most overall. This suggests there could be more opportunities to play catered to older pupils.

In young people's spaces, 46% **feel comfortable**, 15% **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, with a slight decrease from S2 respondents.

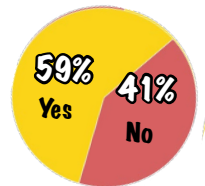
When asked about equipment: 39% said the equipment they have access to **seems fine**; 28% think that it **needs repaired**; 21% think it **needs replaced**; 22% say **there is not enough**; and 37% say it **needs cleaned**.

Given only 39% are happy with the amount of equipment they have access to, this indicates more equipment could be provided at Hillpark Secondary School.

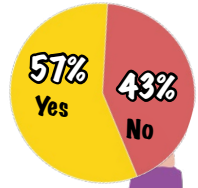
Broken glass, broken equipment and overall cleanliness were repeatedly highlighted as a cause making people feel uncomfortable.



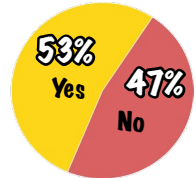
The places I go feel clean



The places I go are in good condition



There are lots to do in the places I go

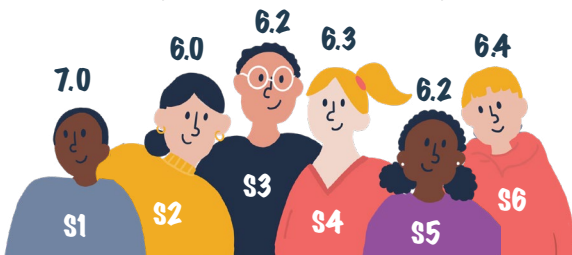


"In Arden Park, there needs to be maintenance on fences and equipment, cleaning up of glass etc."

"In Rouken Glen, during the winter, there isn't enough lights in the evening. It makes it very unnerving"

Scoring how comfortable they felt out of 10

1= feel very unsafe 10= feel very safe



Scored on average just over 6

Scoring how safe they felt out of 10

1= feel very unsafe 10= feel very safe



Scored on average just over 6

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

39% said

It seems fine to me

37% said

Needs cleaned

28% said

Needs repaired



What makes a place feel unsafe?

At Hillpark Secondary School just under half of pupils felt safe and comfortable in the places they use.

14% of young people reported feeling unsafe, with 43% feeling safe and the remainder didn't feel strongly either way. Feelings of safety in spaces are roughly similar between the year groups, with a slighter higher sense of safety from S1 respondents.

When asked what makes a place feel unsafe or uncomfortable, the responses consisted of 4 main themes: other people, time of day, equipment 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, 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. Arden Park at night was a place which was mentioned a few times where young people feel unsafe

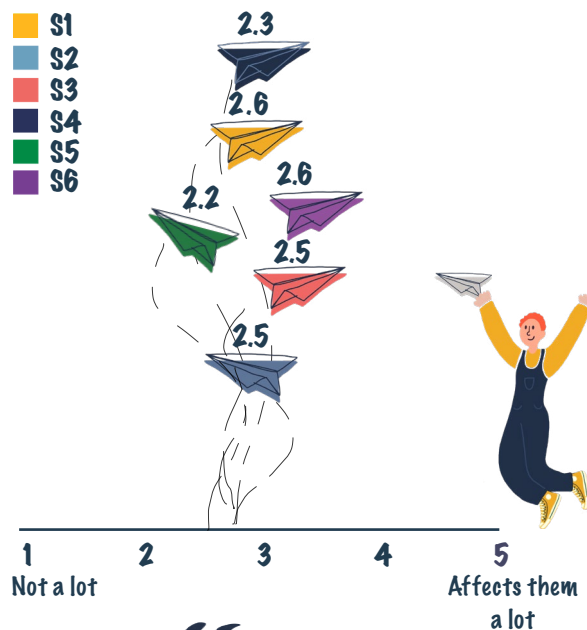
Several pupils mentioned that public transport at night can make them feel unsafe, especially when there are less buses running.

Unclean, littered and under-maintained greenery can make young people feel uncomfortable in their spaces - as well as old and broken equipment. Specific places mentioned that make the young people feel uncomfortable is around Silverburn Shopping Centre and parks due to other people.

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

Average scoring per year

- S1
- S2
- S3
- S4
- S5
- S6



1 Not a lot 2 3 4 5 Affects them a lot

“Linn park doesn't have enough light to walk back in the dark”

“The playground on Kennishead road is covered in broken glass and graffiti.”

“At night just walking anywhere, no matter how close I am to home, it makes me feel worried”

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 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.

59 pupils cycle to get around. 20 scoot or skate and 47 don't go anywhere to play.



Barriers towards play

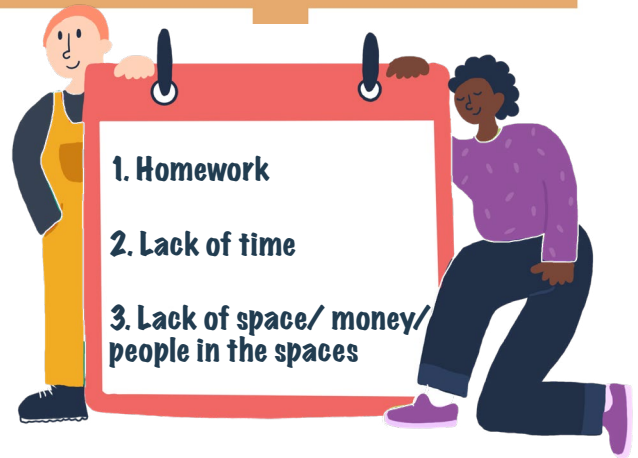
When asked what barriers young people from Hillpark Secondary School feel they have that stops them from playing, **homework** was voted highest. This was distributed fairly evenly among all year groups, with an ever so slight increase felt with S4 respondents.

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

There is more of a contrast of money being a barrier among S6 respondents, some feeling strongly one way or the other, highlighting potential inequality.

Older pupils are more likely to feel like they don't have time to play. Societal expectations and other people in the spaces are less of a barrier overall for S5 respondents.

Top 3 barriers to enjoying free time



“The struggles I face when going out is it's too loud, there's too much traffic and not enough trees”

“A lot of the time people influence whether I go somewhere often, especially myself. I usually don't like going out unless I have a friend with me”

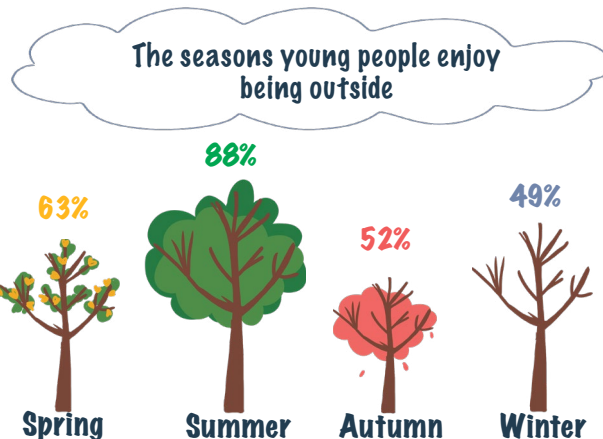


Nature & Seasons

46% of respondents said that **nature is very important** to them while 45% say they **do not mind** and 9% say they **do not care at all**.

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 shops** was second highest voted, followed with adding **more places to eat and spaces for their age**.

42% said **repairing the equipment** that's already there. 30% said adding **more security** would make the places more fun and 35% said **more places for sport** would make their area more fun.

When asked what young people want more of, the pupils said **building and adding more to do**, as well as **repair existing**

equipment and spaces. Some of the places mentioned included Silverburn Shopping Centre as a space for young people, and adding more **free space for sport**.

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:



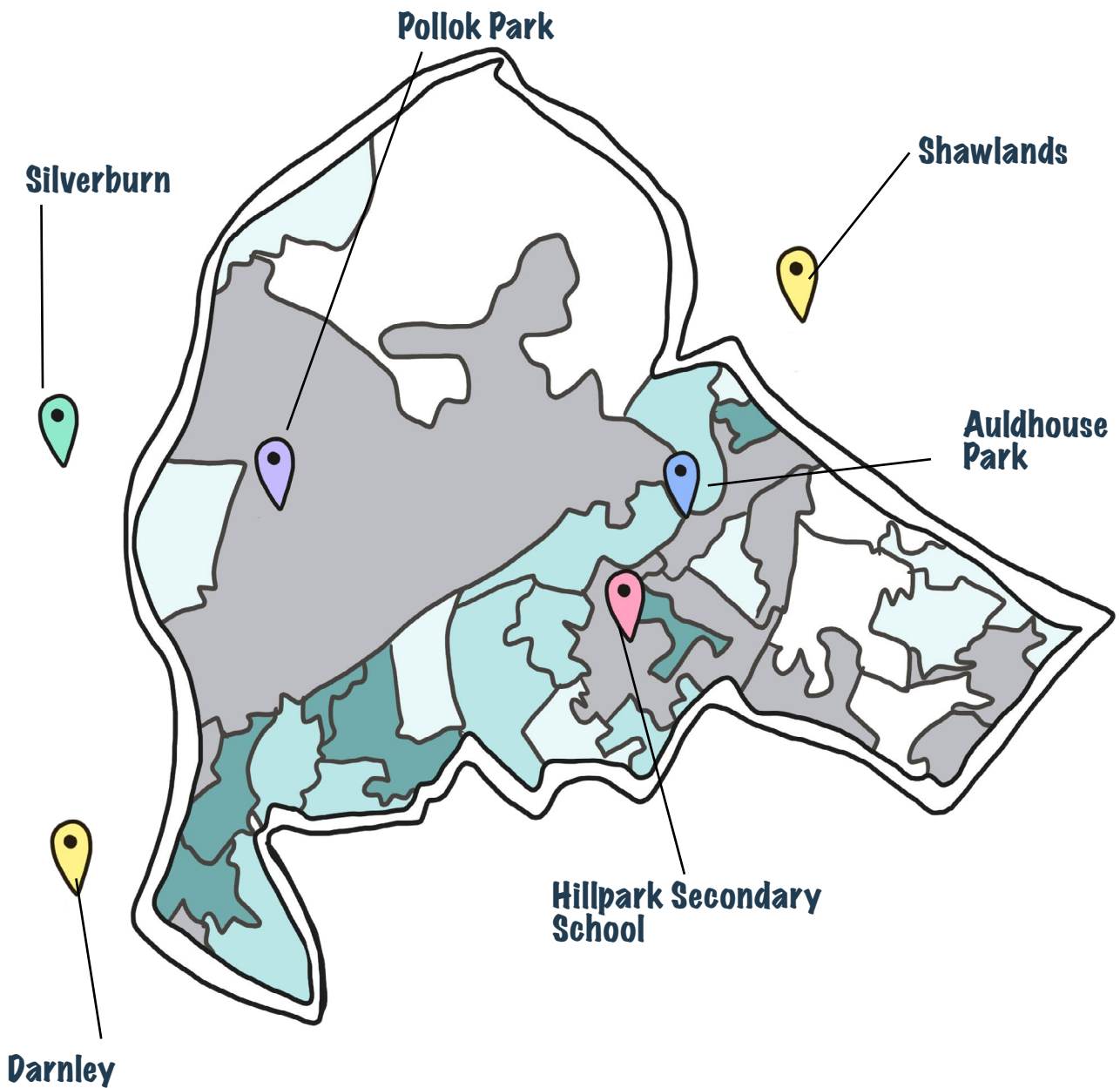
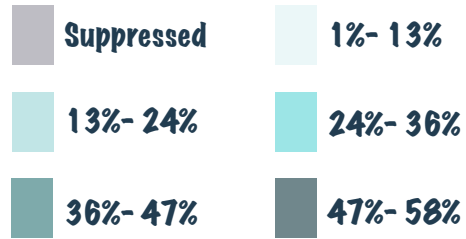
Young people were asked if they'd like to be involved in the future



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 64% of the young people at Hillpark 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 **Darnley, Football Pitches, Braehead and Auldhouse Park**. This shows the importance of maintaining and improving both green spaces and public places for young people around Hillpark Secondary School.

19% of young people at Hillpark 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.



67% of pupils are put off by **having to pay to attend clubs** showing that money could also be a barrier for young people at Hillpark Secondary School.

57% of children at Hillpark 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.

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 Hillpark 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 a **lack of places to go and other people in young people's 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 Hillpark Secondary School has developed a mature dialogue and set of ideas that can help inform better places for play.

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