

Play Sufficiency Assessment

John Paul Academy



#HearingYoungPeople'sVoices

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Play Sufficiency Assessment: John Paul 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 John Paul 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.

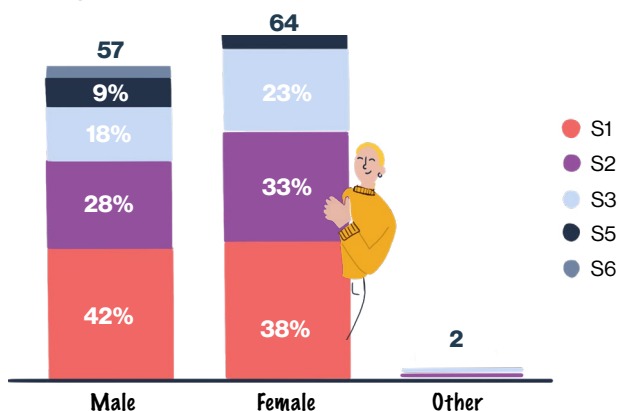


Demographics

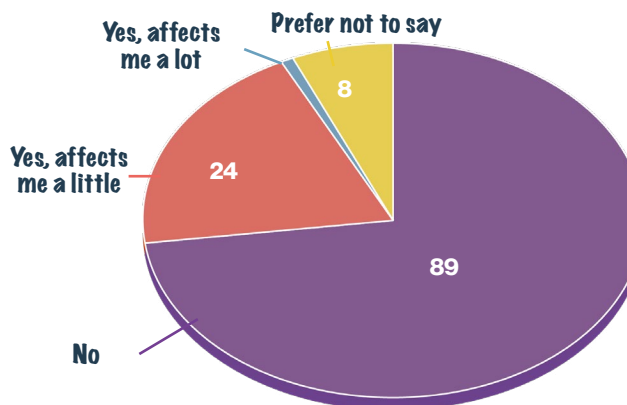
In total 123 pupils across all six year groups took part: over a tenth of the young people attending John Paul Academy.

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



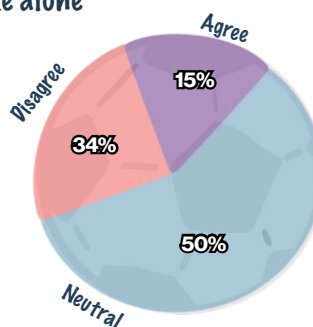
25 pupils (20%) said that their day-to-day lives are affected by a health condition. Those with health conditions will have different needs

What is play

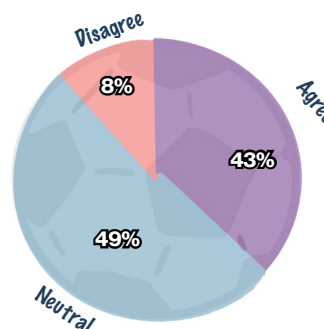
Nearly half of all young people at John Paul Academy don't feel one way or another about spending time with others or alone. 43% of young people want to spend free-time with others while only 15% want to spend free-time alone.

Not all year-groups feel the same way about how they want to spend their time highlighting a need for places to spend time together and alone for all 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?

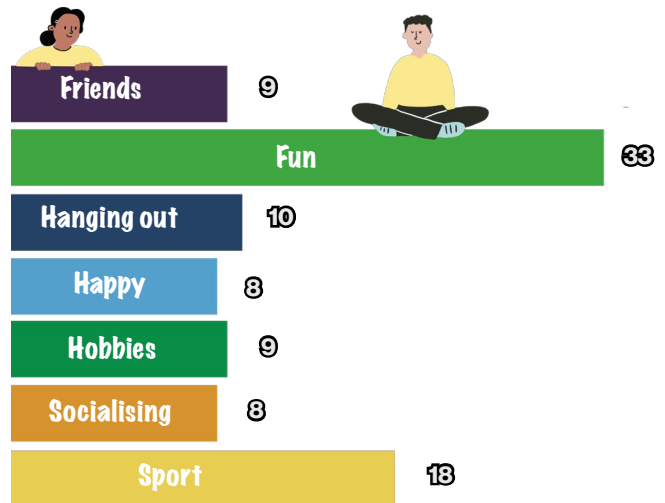
When asked what play means to young people, the most frequent response is **fun** followed by **hanging out and laughing**.

The words young people associate with play are very positive at John Paul Academy. When talking about play, young people describe it as a chance to **go to new places and have a good time**. A couple of respondents described how play had changed to what it was when they were younger highlighting a need for versatile spaces for children of all ages. Many also described the **importance of spending time with family and developing relationships**.

It's clear that play is an opportunity to boost relationships and create an environment that contributes to young people's wellbeing.

At John Paul Academy, the most common affect of play was a feeling of being **happy, relaxed and joyful**.

What 'play' means to young people



42 said

Happy

41 said

Calm/
Relaxed

15 said

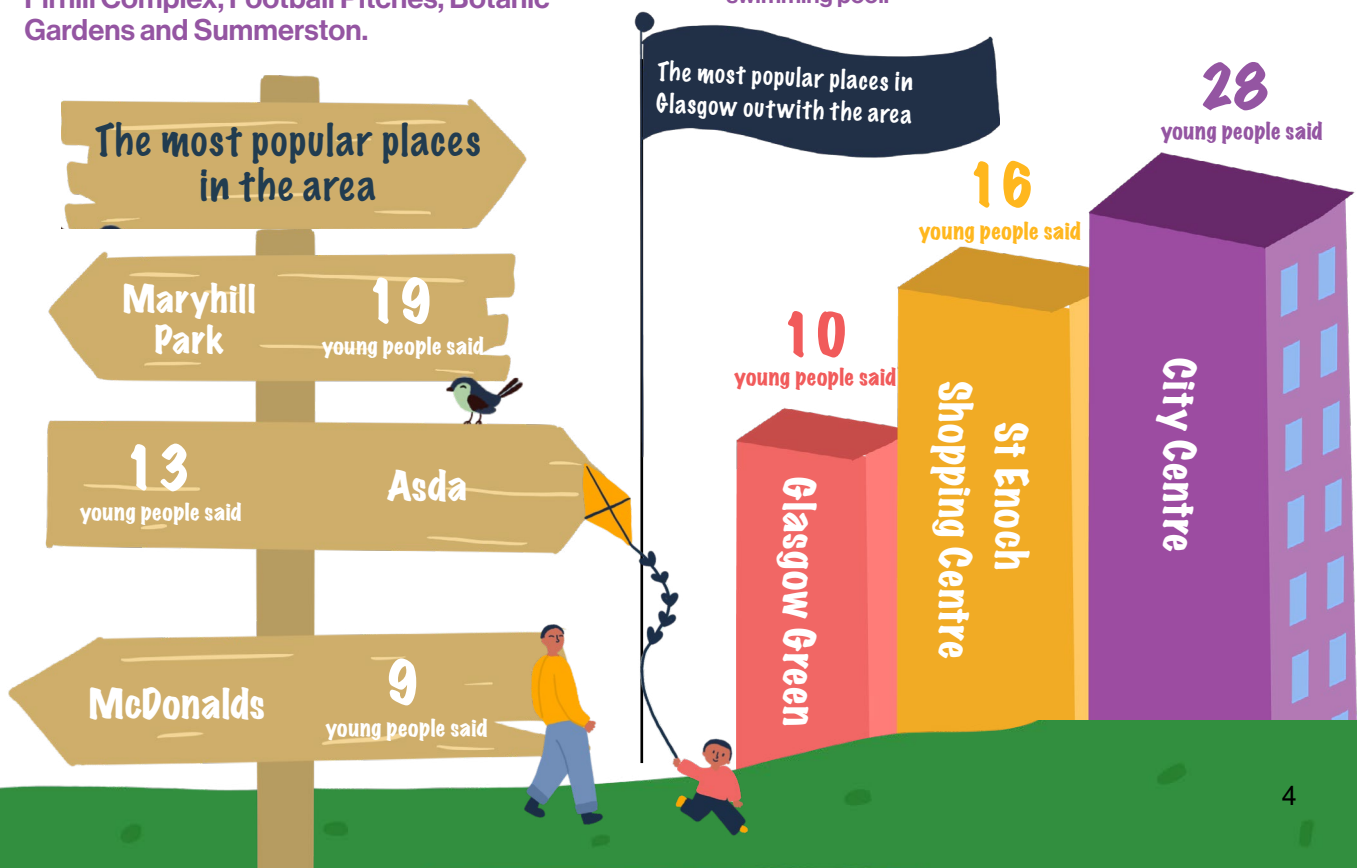
Sports



Where do young people go?

Below are the most popular places in their area. Other places mentioned in the area include: **Firhill Complex, Football Pitches, Botanic Gardens and Summerston**.

Other local places mentioned outwith their area included: **Maryhill, Milton, Summerston, Kelvingrove Park and Maryhill swimming pool**.



Statements on quantity

54% young people say there are **only some places** to spend their free-time while 39% feel like there are **lots of places** and 7% feel like there is **nowhere at all** to spend time. With 61% 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**, 65% of respondents said that **they go to them**, 28% 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.

17% of young people at John Paul Academy said they **don't know about any clubs outside of school**.

S5 are less likely to go to clubs than S1. This suggests there's an opportunity to increase awareness about clubs for S5s and older year groups.

S3-5 are more likely to say they don't know about any clubs at all. This re-emphasises the need for better communication about free structured play for older year-groups.



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



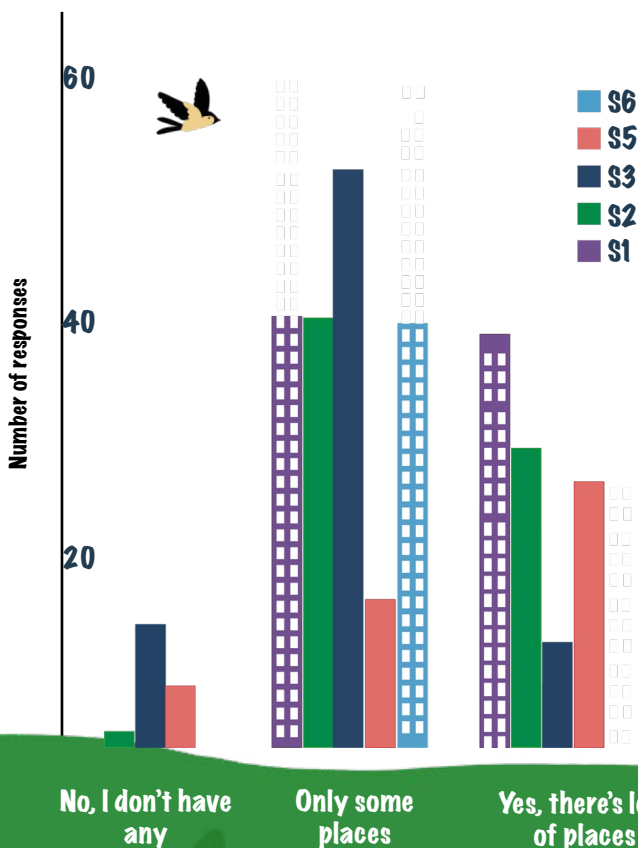
“There needs to be new equipment in parks, football pitches updated and places to workout outdoors”

“Everything in Milton, Summerston and Cadder has all fell apart or there is nothing there”

“Possibly change the parks in Maryhill as they are all decayed and need replaced and repaired. This could gather a bigger crowd and make the place become more lively”

How it differs between ages

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



S3 in particular feel like there are **not enough spaces** for them. S1 AND S5 are generally more positive and say there are **lots of places** for them. Overall, S1-S2 are **more optimistic** about places to go and have fun in their area.

“There needs to be more stuff to do that's actually good in Milton”

“In Ruchill park I would like too see more stuff and no litter”

What makes a good place for young people?

At John Paul Academy, young people generally feel their spaces are **safe and comfortable**.

In young people's spaces, 48% **feel comfortable**, 14% **feel uncomfortable** and the remainder don't feel strongly either way. Older year groups are more likely to say they feel less comfortable in their spaces.

Over half of respondents say that their spaces are **not clean and are not in a good condition**. Generally older year groups tend to be less satisfied with the condition of their spaces while S1 are an outlier and tend to be more likely to say their spaces are clean and in a good condition.

For younger pupils (S1-2), they say **there's lots to do in their places**. However, S3 strongly disagree that there are enough things to do suggesting older year-groups need access to better options in their area.

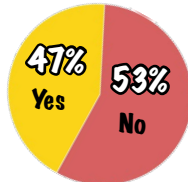
When asked about equipment: 36% said the equipment they have access to **seems fine**; 33% think that it **needs repaired**; 26% think it **needs replaced**; 23% say **there is not enough**; and 33% say it **needs cleaned**.

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

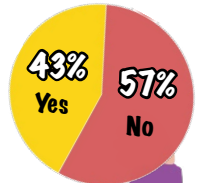
These figures highlight a need for better equipment and cleaner places for young people.



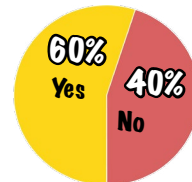
The places I go feel clean



The places I go are in good condition

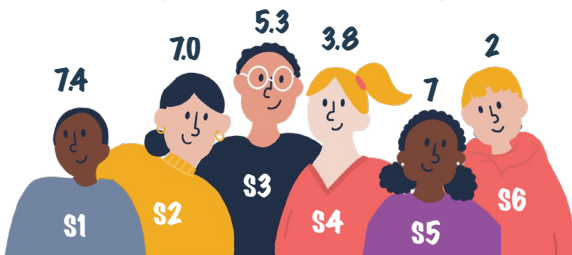


There are lots to do in the places I go



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?

36% said
It seems fine to me

33% said
Needs repaired

33% said
Needs cleaned



What makes a place feel unsafe?

At John Paul Academy 42% of the pupils **felt safe**, 12% **felt unsafe** and the remainder didn't feel strongly either way. As young people join older year groups, they tend to **feel less safe**.

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

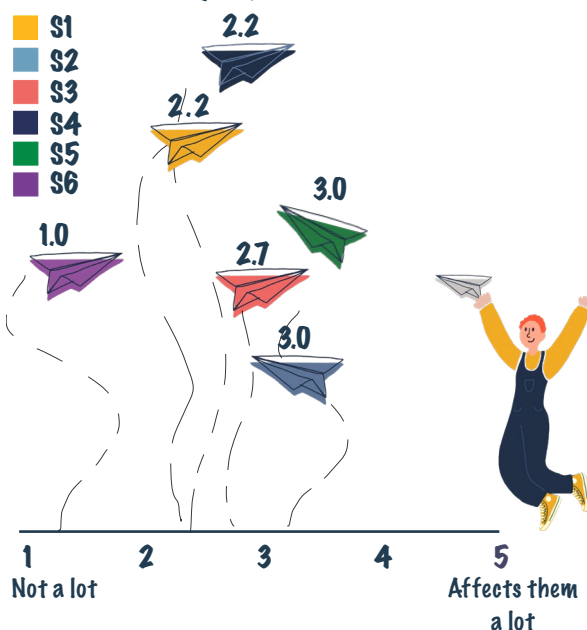
One of the biggest concerns around safety is **other people**, especially in overcrowded places highlighting the need for more quiet places for young people.

Night and places with **broken or no lights** were also highlighted as an issue. Castlemilk Woodpath was called out as a place that felt dangerous as it was too dark at night.

Given 58% didn't vote for feeling safe, it suggests that more places could be made available for young people that prioritise creating safe places for young people..

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

Average scoring per year



“Sometimes the people make me feel uncomfortable when they argue, fight or when they're unnecessarily loud”

“When I went to Firhill Complex for football, a bit of the gate was broken”

“I feel uncomfortable walking around Maryhill”

Travelling to places for young people

98% 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 over half of young people 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.

11 young people **cycle** to the places they play. 2 **scoot or skate** and 12 **don't go anywhere** to play.



Barriers towards play

When asked what barriers young people from John Paul Academy 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, **societal expectations**, and then **other people in their spaces**

Older pupils are more likely to feel like they don't have time to play and S3 were most likely to see **societal expectations** as a barrier. For S2, people in their spaces was more of a barrier than for other year-groups.

Top 3 barriers to enjoying free time



“Maryhill Park is constantly being littered and the people hanging about ruin the areas. There are constantly vapes and bottles on the floor ruining the green spaces”

“There isn't that many bins and there's dog litter everywhere and just in general litter and there should be more lights added in Maryhill because it's to dark”

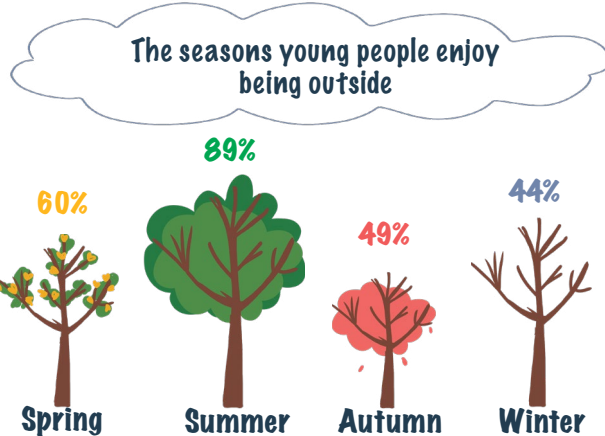


Nature & Seasons

43% of respondents said that **nature is very important** to them while 40% say they **do not mind** and 17% 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.

Summer is the favourite season to spend time outside. Next is **Spring**, then **Autumn** and then **Winter**. 34% of respondents said more green spaces would make their area more fun and exciting. 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, 39% said **repairing the equipment that's already there**. 22% said **adding more security** would make the places more fun. **Maryhill was repeatedly called out as an area that needs improvements**.

When asked what young people want more of, most asked for **cleaner places** followed by **more shops and places to eat**, then **more places for people my age**. Some of the places mentioned included sport pitches and places for creative arts.

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:



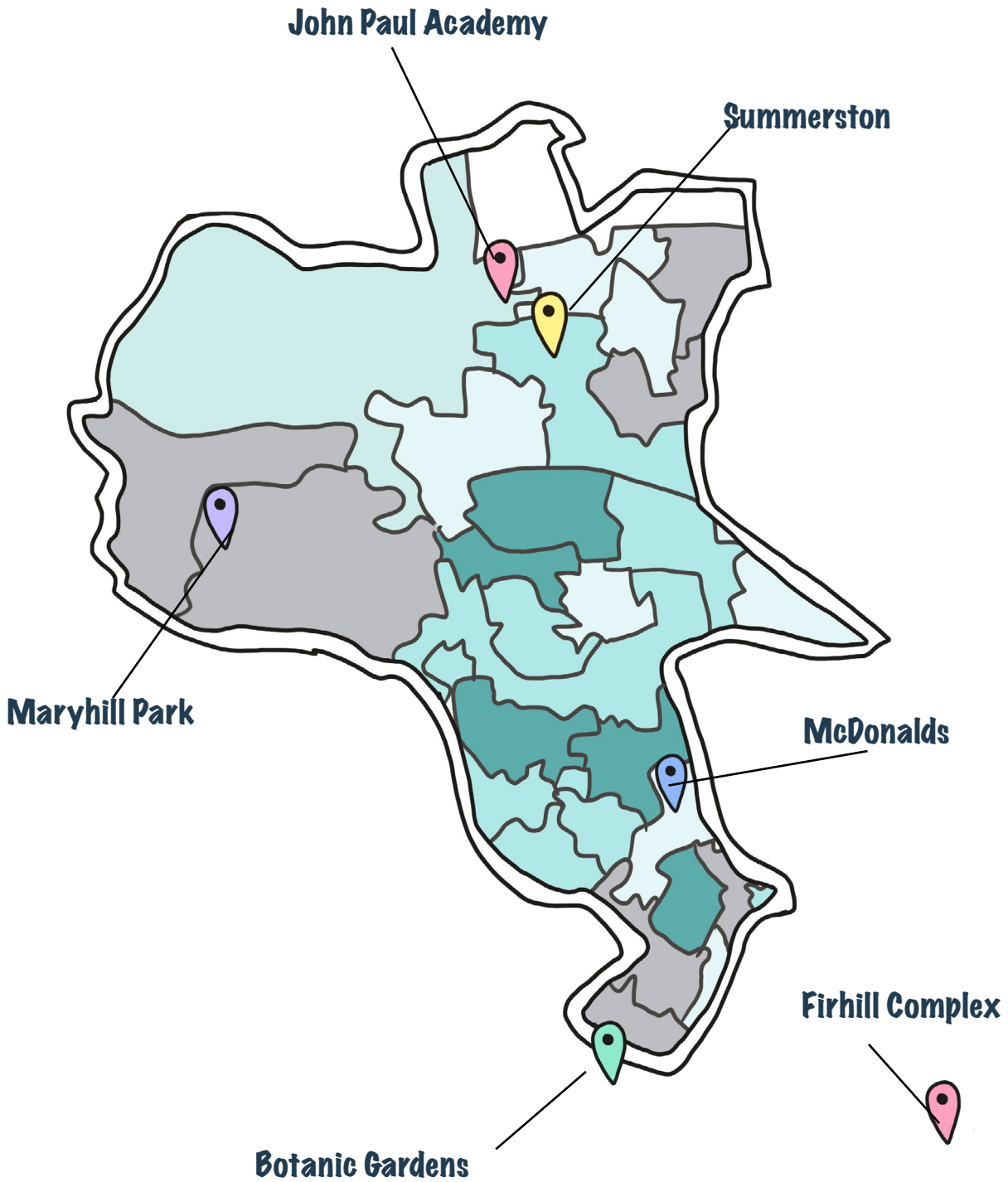
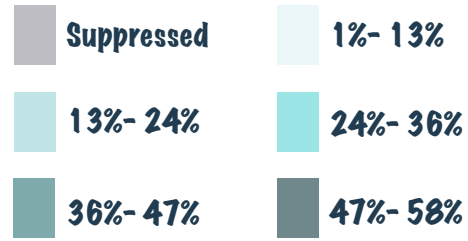
Young people were asked if they'd like to be involved in the future



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 Maryhill.

Percentage of child poverty



Conclusion

Overall, we got responses from 13% of the young people at John Paul 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 **Maryhill Park, Botanic Gardens and Asda**. This shows the importance of maintaining and improving green spaces around John Paul Academy.

17% of young people at John Paul 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 John Paul Academy.

54% of children at John Paul 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 highlights a need for safe, well-lit, warm places for young people to spend time.



The biggest barriers to play were **homework and having a lack of time**. S3 in particular felt that **societal expectations** were also a significant barrier to spending time playing with others.



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 John Paul Academy has developed a mature dialogue and set of ideas that can help inform better places for play.

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