

# Play Sufficiency Assessment

## Notre Dame High School



#HearingYoungPeople'sVoices

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# Play Sufficiency Assessment: Notre Dame High 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.

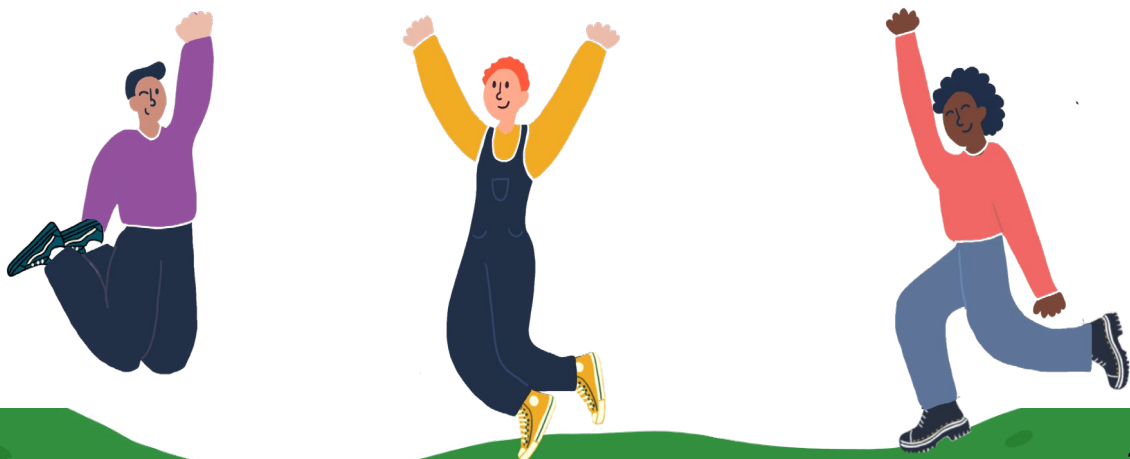
As part of these new regulations Glasgow City Council has a statutory requirement to engage with young people across the city to understand more around the current opportunities to play, their experiences whilst playing in the city as well as understanding what their current barriers to play are. Key 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 Notre Dame High 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.

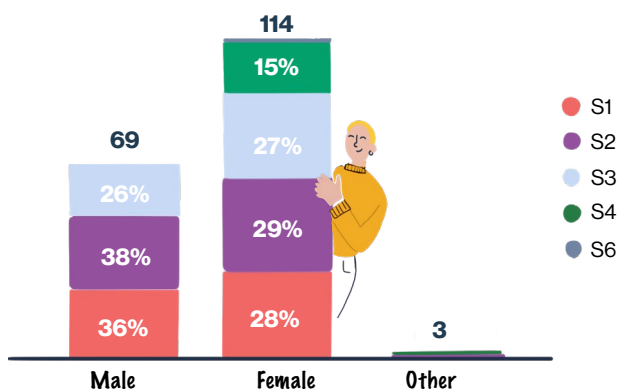


## Demographics

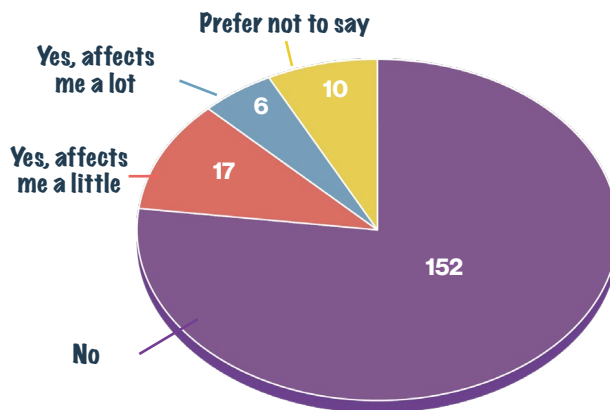
In total 187 pupils across all six year groups took part: a quarter of the young people attending Notre Dame High School.

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



23 pupils (12%) said that their day-to-day lives are affected by a health condition. Those with health conditions will have different needs

## What is play

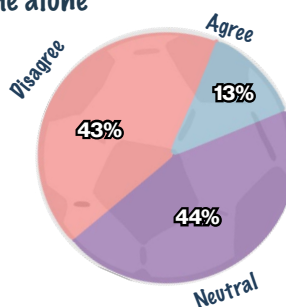
More young people at Notre Dame High School prefer to spend free-time with others than alone.

36% of young people at Notre Dame High School want to spend their free-time with others while only 13% want to spend free-time alone.

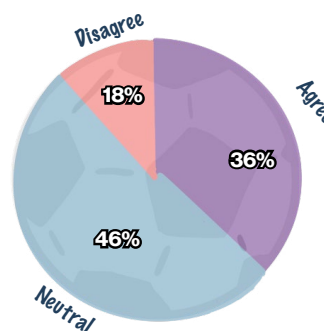
Around half of respondents are neutral about spending time alone or with others.

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 **friends and sport**

The words young people associate with play are very positive at Notre Dame High School. With words and phrases like **spending time with others, socialising and expressing yourself**, it's clear that play is an important opportunity to **build relationships** and create an environment that contributes to young people's **wellbeing**. Many talked about play as an opportunity to play **include others**.

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 Notre Dame High School, the most common affect of play was a feeling of being **relaxed and content**.

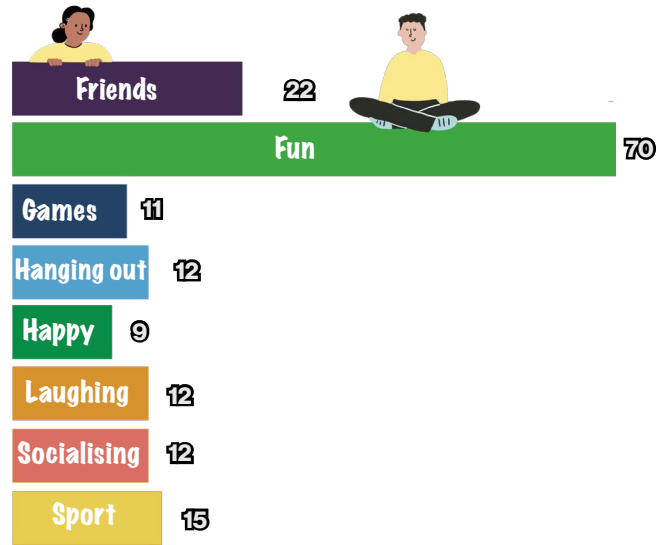
There were many who said that play creates feelings of **contentment and stability** outside of school. For these reasons, every young person should have access to good places to play.

55 said  
**Happy**

67 said  
**Calm/  
Relaxed**

15 said  
**Joy**

### What 'play' means to young people



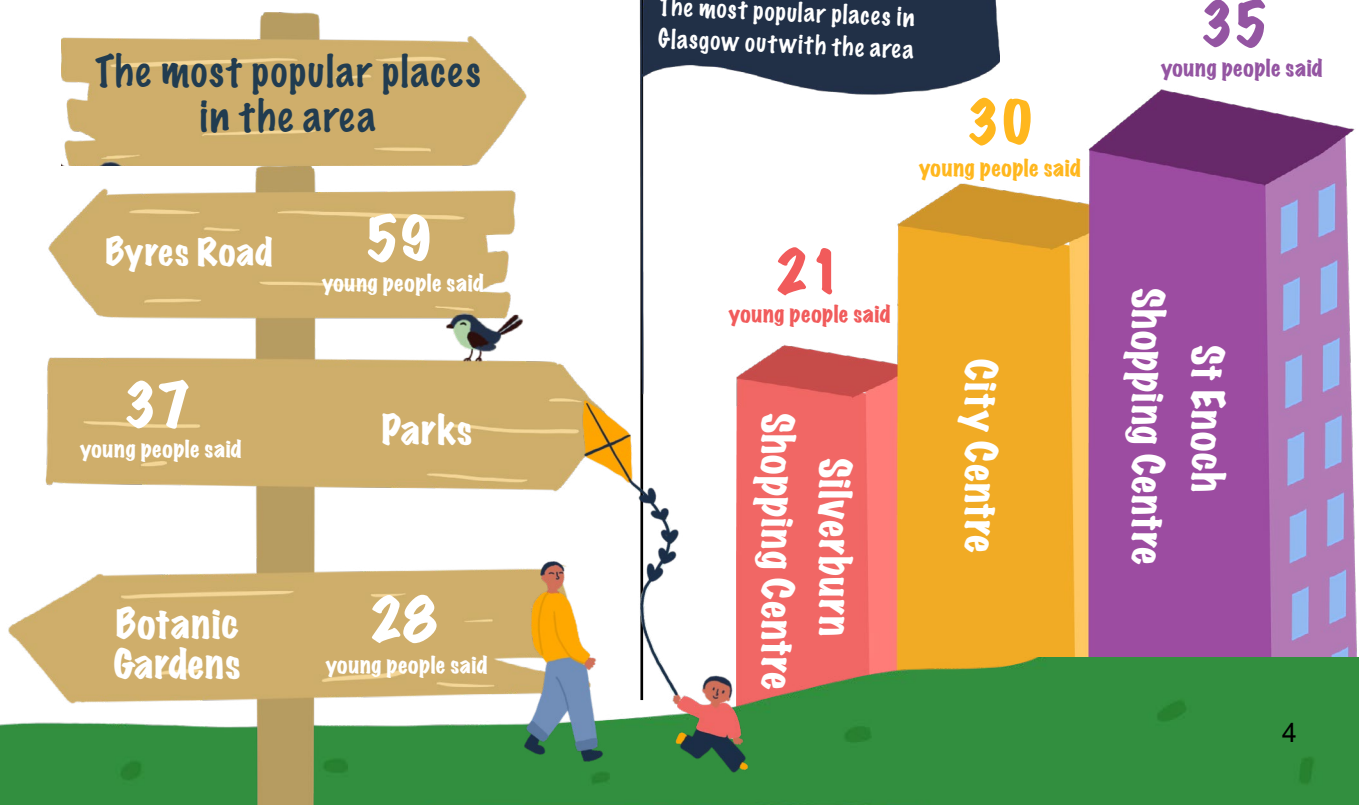
Play offers me a break and makes me feel relaxed

The affects of play is good. It makes me happy, and good. But we need more places

## Where do young people go?

Below are the most popular places in their area. Other places mentioned in the area include: **Kelvingrove Park, Kelvingrove, Partick, Gaelic Park and Anderston**

Other local places mentioned outwith their area included: **Braehead, Glasgow Green, Clydebank, Victoria Park, and Buchanan Gallaries**



## Statements on quantity

Over half (52%) of young people say there are **only some places** to spend their free-time outside while 30% feel like there are **lots of places** and 15% feel like there is **nowhere at all** to spend time outside. With 67% 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**, 54% of respondents said that **they go to them**, 33% of respondents said that they **know about them, but do not go**. 68% 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.

14% of young people responded saying they **don't know of any clubs** outside of school. Older year groups tend to be less likely to know about clubs compared to younger years. This suggests there's an opportunity to increase awareness about clubs for older year groups.

S2-3 were more likely to go to clubs than those in S1 and S4.



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



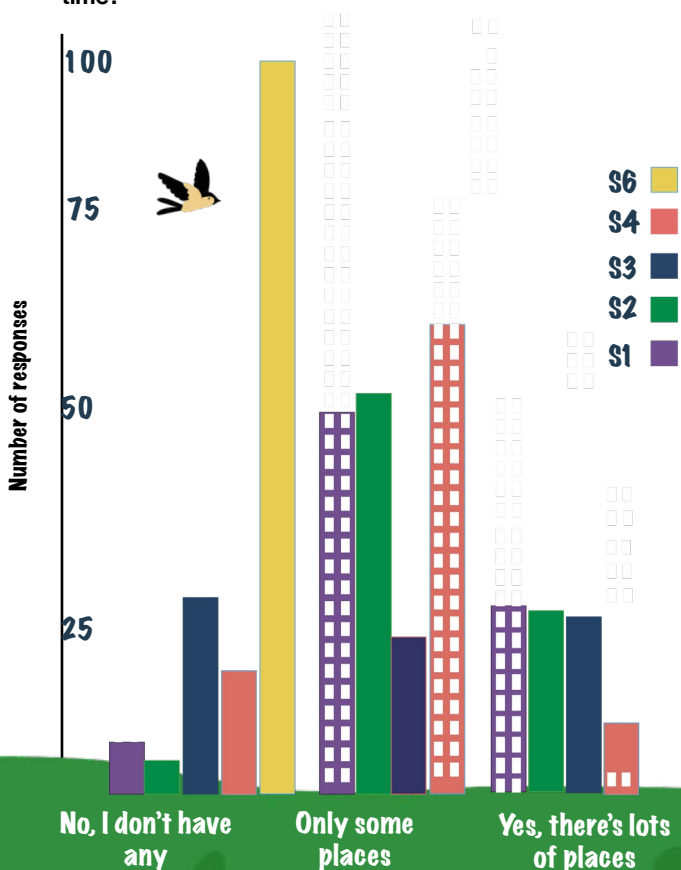
“ Maybe clean up the parks and equipment, and make more things for people to go to ”

“ I'd like indoor places for teens to go study to sit like couches and tables like the uni hub but for teens with green places ”

“ The spaces that we can go to are either old and need repaired or are unbelievably busy and crowded. I think we need more spaces especially on school grounds ”

## 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. With S1-2 being more positive that there are lots.



“ Parks are a bit boring and are really dirty but they could be fun if they cleaned and changed them ”

“ Too many people in places. There is no private place, no protection from weather, not comfortable or exciting. Boring for teens / no-where to be alone with friends ”

# What makes a good place for young people?

At Notre Dame High School, just under half of respondents say that their spaces are **not clean**. S1 are more positive about cleanliness in their spaces than other years. Generally older year groups tend to be less satisfied with the condition and cleanliness of their spaces.

Younger years tend to say there's **lots to do in their spaces** while S2-6 are much more likely to disagree.

In young people's spaces 48% **feel comfortable**, 20% **feel uncomfortable** and the remainder don't feel strongly either way.

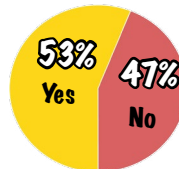
When asked about equipment: 35% said the equipment they have access to **seems fine**; 35% think that it **needs repaired**; 30% think it **needs replaced**; 39% say **there is not enough**; and 51% say it **needs cleaned**.

Given only 35% are happy with the amount of equipment they have access to, this indicates more equipment could be provided in the spaces around Notre Dame High School.

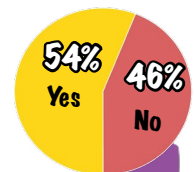
From a range of responses, we learned that the lack of places, the condition and cleanliness of equipment and poorly maintained places makes places feel uncomfortable.



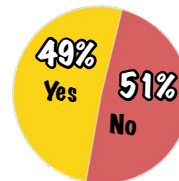
The places I go feel clean



The places I go are in good condition



There are lots to do in the places I go



“ There isn't any equipment to use and the equipment at my school doesn't even work ”

“ More greenery and more challenging equipment would make the parks more interesting for kids of my age. ”

## Scoring how comfortable they felt out of 10

1= feel very unsafe      10= feel very safe



Scored on average just over 6

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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?

51% said **Needs cleaned**

39% said **There isn't enough**

35% said **Needs repaired**



## What makes a place feel unsafe?

At Notre Dame High School just under half of the pupils **felt safe** and **comfortable** in the places they use.

14% of young people reported feeling **unsafe**, with 46% feeling **safe** and the remainder don't feel strongly either way.

When asked what makes a place feel unsafe or uncomfortable, the responses consisted of 4 main themes: **other people**, **lack of spaces and time of day**.

One of the biggest concerns around safety is **other people**, especially in overcrowded places as others can pose a threat or even harm others. This highlights the need for more quiet, dedicated places for young people.

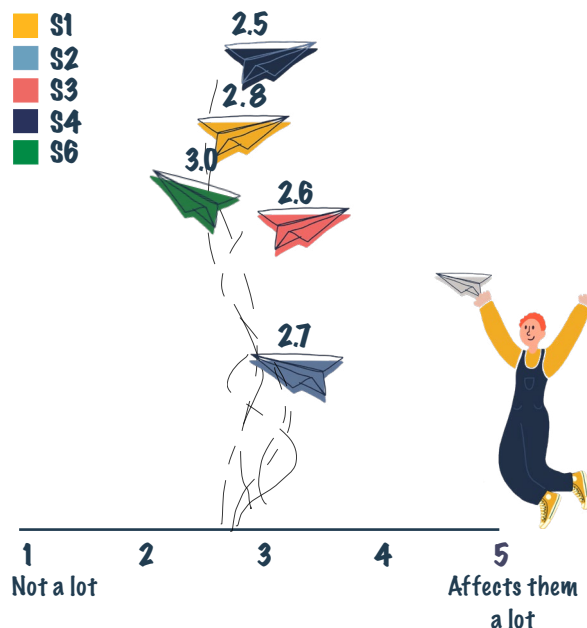
The time of day and places with **broken or no lights** were also highlighted as an issue, meaning they avoid being outside during dark hours, **especially parks** or the **canal**. This suggests that in **Winter** seasons, the pupils have a shortened window of play outside in spaces due to lack of light.

**The City Centre, Alexandra Park and Anniesland** were called out as spaces where they feel particularly unsafe.

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

Average scoring per year

- S1
- S2
- S3
- S4
- S6



“ I think places in my area in Winter when it is darker feel much less safe. I think graffiti and lighting is a huge issue and the equipment is in a poor condition. ”

“ The place near me is filled with glass bottles on the floor. I feel unsafe at night time when I go there. ”

“ I don't feel safe being out late at night because of dangerous people. ”

## Travelling to places for young people

89% 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.

Around a quarter 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.

15 young people **cycle** to the places they play. 12 **scoot or skate** and 17 **don't go anywhere** to play.



## Barriers towards play

When asked what barriers young people from Notre Dame High 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 in their spaces** are joint fourth.

In general older pupils tend to say they have more barriers to play but some, like **not having enough time**, are particularly noticeable for older pupils.

### Top 3 barriers to enjoying free time



“The park near my house needs changed, the swing is broken but it's a really fun swing that can't be used now”

“I feel unsafe in Kelvingrove at night because there are no lights to see anything”





## Nature & Seasons

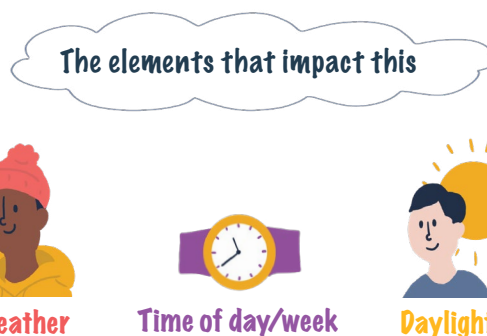
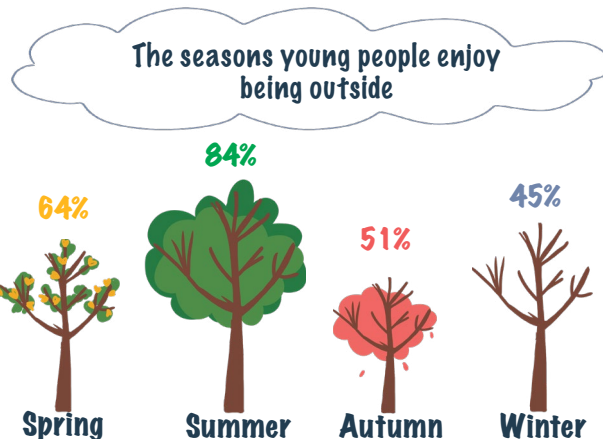
59% of respondents said that **nature is very important** to them while 35% say they **do not mind** and 6% say they **do not care at all**.

47% said more green spaces would make the **area 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 Notre Dame High School pupils that 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**, young people said **cleaning the spaces was most important**. Adding **more spaces for people their age** was voted second highest, followed by adding **more places for sport**.

To make the area more fun: 44% said **repairing the equipment** that's already there. 36% said adding **more security** 38% said they'd like **more places for music and art**; and 49% said they'd like **more places to eat and shop**.

More indoor and outdoor spaces for sport and improvements in parks around school and the City Centre were common requests.

Just over 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:



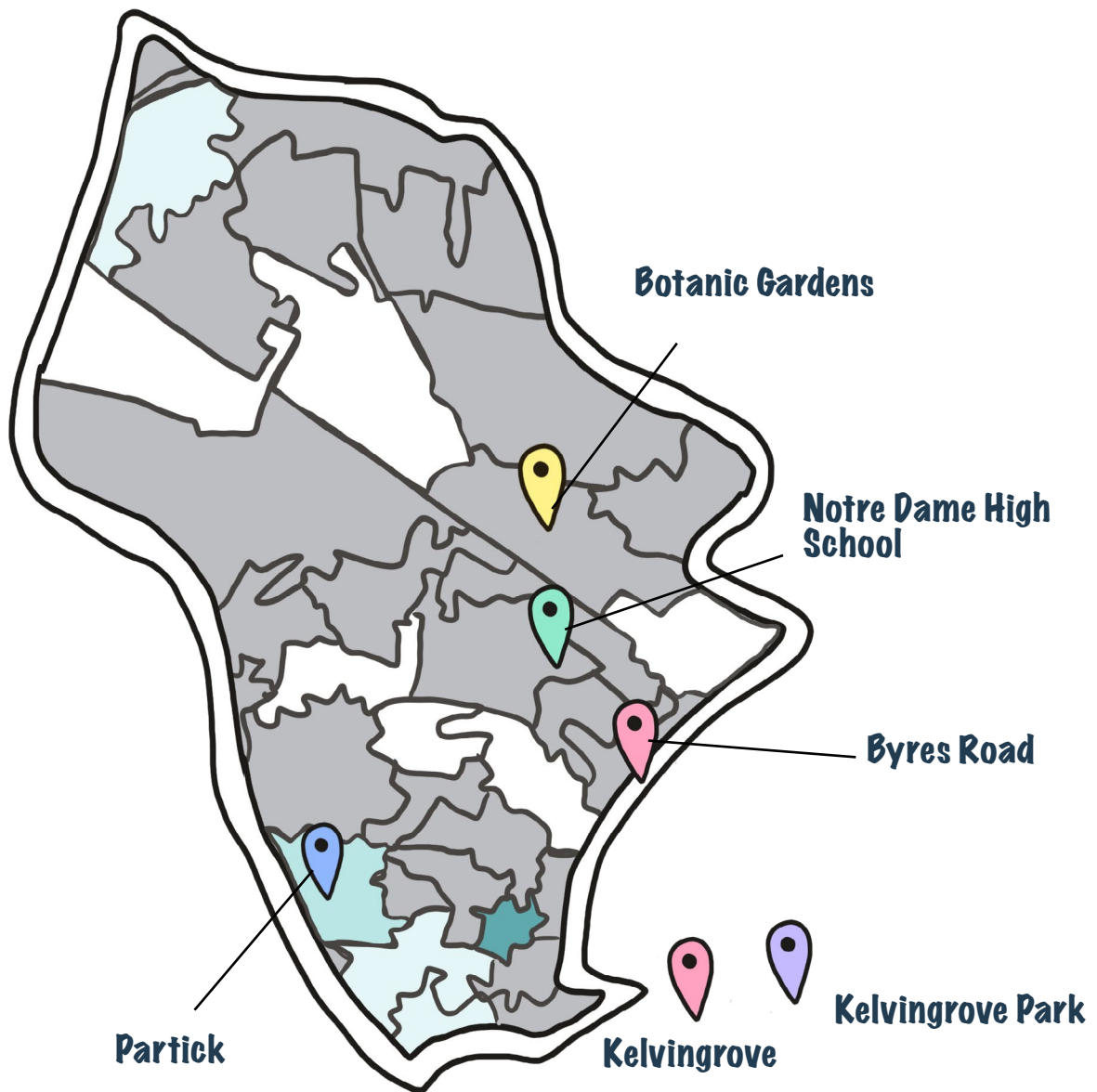
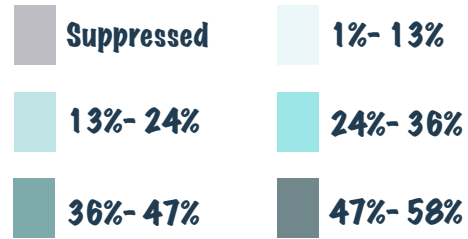
### Young people were asked if they'd like to be involved in the future



## 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 Drumchapel / Anniesland.

Percentage of child poverty



## Conclusion

Overall, we got responses from 24% of the young people at Notre Dame High 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 various green spaces such as **Kelvingrove Park, Partick and Byres Road**. This shows the importance of maintaining and improving both green spaces and public places for young people around Notre Dame High School.

14% of young people at Notre Dame High 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.



68% of pupils are put off by **having to pay to attend clubs** showing that money could also be a barrier for young people at Notre Dame High School.

52% of young people say there are **only some spaces** that they can go to suggesting more places could be provided.

Generally young people feel safe and comfortable in the spaces that they go to. When discussing what made them feel unsafe, **other people** was the main concern. This would suggest that around Notre Dame High 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 young people also said that a **lack of 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 Notre Dame High School has developed a mature dialogue and set of ideas that can help inform better play areas in the area.

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