

Play Sufficiency Assessment

Rosshall Academy



#HearingYoungPeople'sVoices

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Play Sufficiency Assessment: Rosshall 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 Rosshall 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.

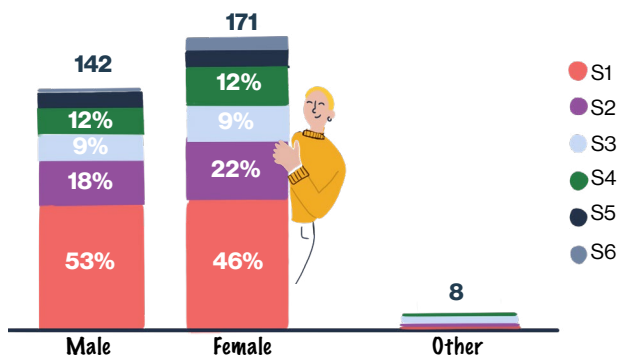


Demographics

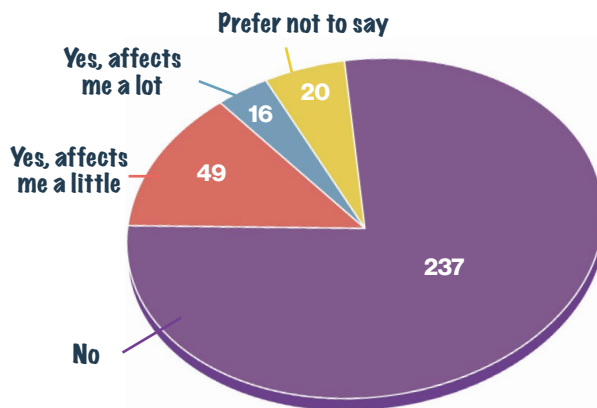
In total 323 pupils across all six year groups took part: a quarter of the young people attending Rosshall Academy.

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



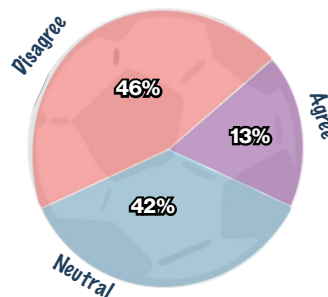
65 pupils (20%) said that their day-to-day lives are affected by a health condition. Those with health conditions will have different needs

What is play

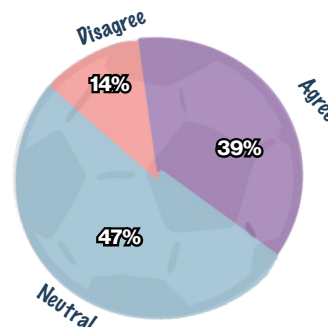
Nearly half of all young people at Rosshall Academy don't feel one way or another about spending time with others or alone. 39% of young people want to spend free-time with others while only 13% want to spend free-time alone.

As pupils get older, they tend to prefer spending time alone slightly more than others. 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 **laughing and hanging out**.

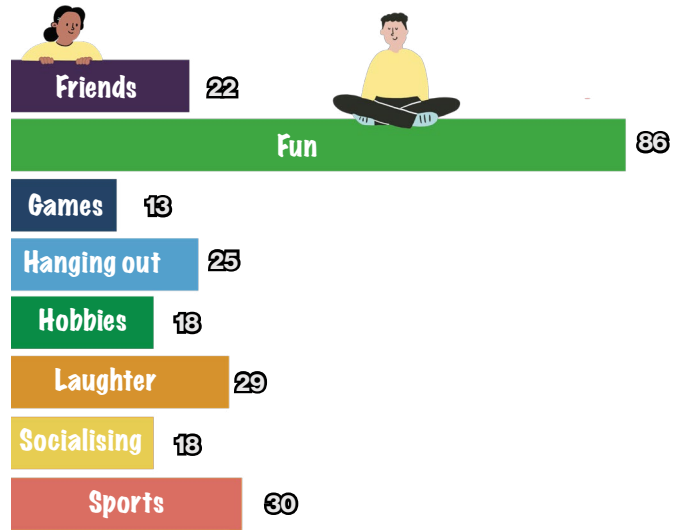
The words young people associate with play are very positive at Rosshall Academy. When talking about play, young people describe it as a chance to **spend time with friends, socialise, and expressing themselves**. It's clear that play is an important opportunity to boost relationships and create an environment 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 Rosshall Academy, the most common affect of play was a feeling of being **happy and relaxed**. There were some responses about how play contributes to a sense of wellbeing, perspective and mental health. Others echoed this and expanded by saying that play is energising and enables them to spend time with others and alone.

335 said **Happy**
 271 said **Calm/Relaxed**
 61 said **Joy**

What 'play' means to young people



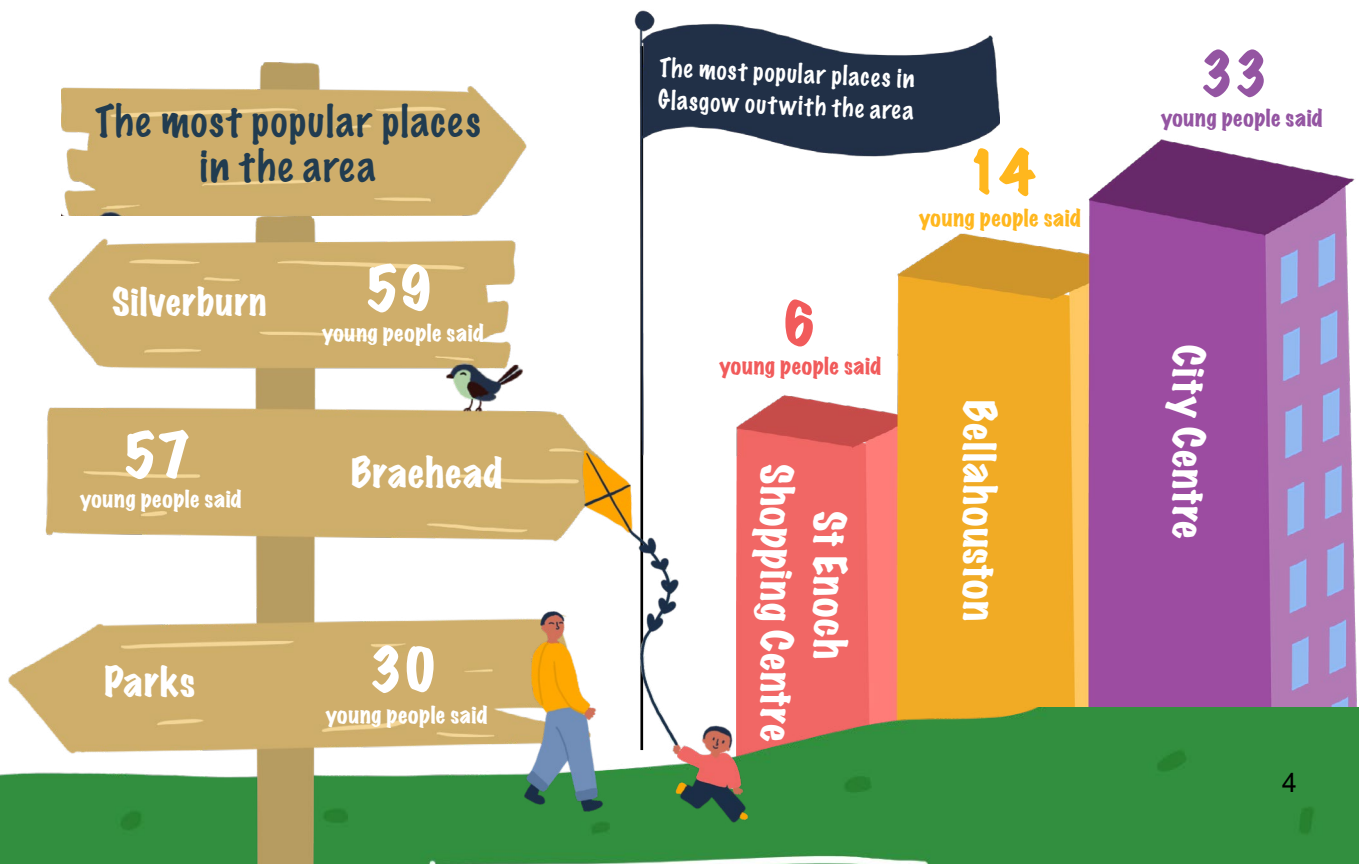
“Play gives me a break from home and takes my mind away from school”

“Play gets rid of stress, distracts me from reality and it's something I enjoy”

Where do young people go?

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

Other local places mentioned outwith their area included: **Ibrox, Football, and Shawlands**.




Statements on quantity

Around half (52%) of young people at Rosshall Academy say there are **only some places** to spend their free-time while 37% feel like there are **lots of places** and 11% feel like there is **nowhere at all** to spend time. With 63% 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**, 45% of respondents said that **they go to them**, 34% 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 many know about activities but don't go. 21% of young people responded saying they **don't know of any clubs outside of school**.

S1 and S5 were most likely to go to clubs. Generally, older year groups tend to be less likely to know about clubs while S2-3 are more likely know about clubs but not go. This suggests there's an opportunity to increase awareness about clubs for older year groups.

A large proportion of S3 and S6 respondents say **they know about clubs but don't go**. This could be due to the cost of activities, time, a lack of opportunities or other reasons.. 

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



“ I would like Penilee Park to be more modern and the community centre have more things on. I would also new things in Penilee park as it's boring ”

“ Cardonald and Bellahouston should have more places for teenagers ”

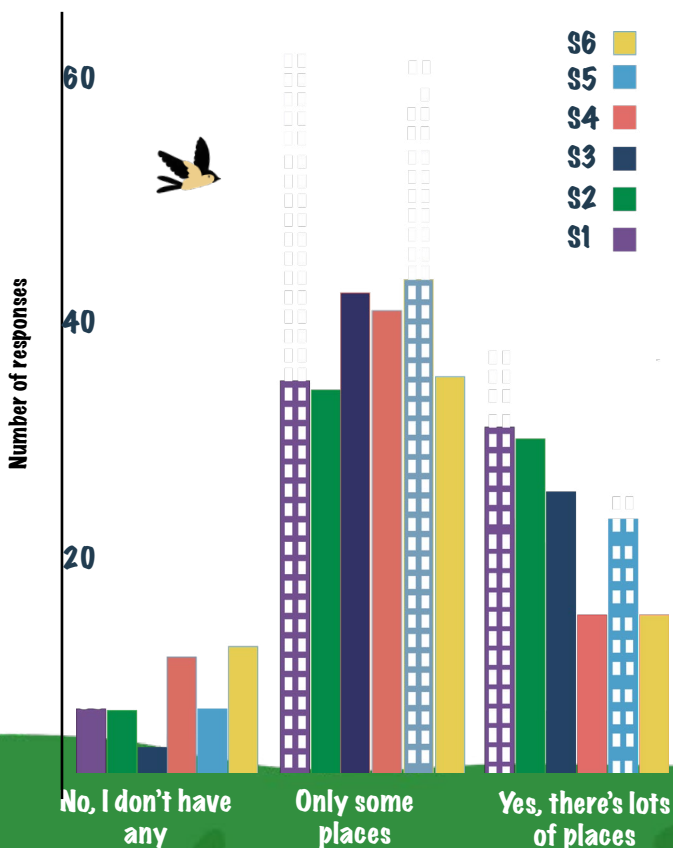
“ The swings are dangerous you keep banging into each other ”

How it differs between ages

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

Older pupils in particular feel like there are **not enough spaces** for them.

S1-2 are generally more positive and say there are **lots of places** for them. Overall, S1-S3 are more optimistic about places to go and have **fun** in their area.



“ Everywhere is so dirty, unclean and run down. Make more space for us to hang out which doesn't cost money and is time consuming. Such as activities that are not £50 each! ”

“ I'd like some play parks specifically for teenagers because we still enjoy playing in them but other kids being there makes us feel like we don't belong there ”

What makes a good place for young people?

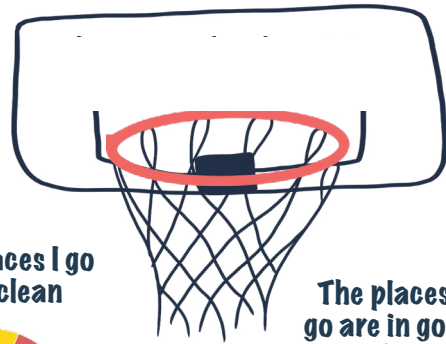
At Rosshall Academy, roughly half of respondents say that their spaces are **clean** and in **good condition**. Generally older year groups tend to be less satisfied with the condition of their spaces.

Half the respondents say there's **lots to do in their spaces** while the other half disagree. Generally, younger year groups say they have more to do than the older pupils suggesting there could be more opportunities to play catered to older pupils.

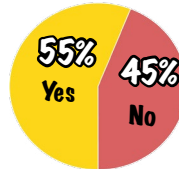
In young people's spaces, 21% **feel comfortable**, 44% **feel uncomfortable** and the remainder don't feel strongly either way. On the whole, young people at Rosshall Academy feel **safe and comfortable**.

When asked about equipment: 37% said the equipment they have access to **seems fine**; 34% think that it **needs repaired**; 23% think it **needs replaced**; 31% say **there is not enough**; and 37% say it **needs cleaned**.

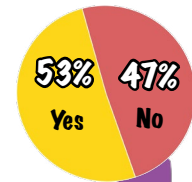
Given only 37% are happy with the equipment they have access to, this indicates higher quality equipment could be provided around Rosshall Academy.



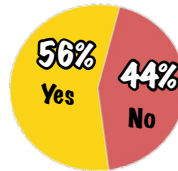
The places I go feel clean



The places I go are in good condition



There are lots to do in the places I go

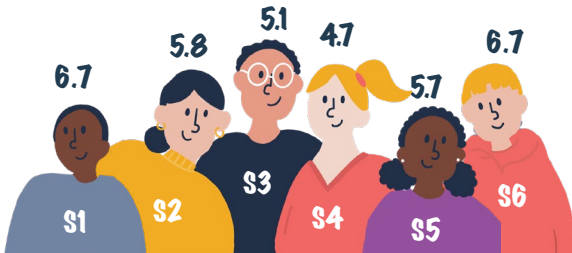


“Please repair equipment and a resurface of football pitches around Pollok”

“The park by Crookston castle always has the big swing burnt off and there's always lots of neds and scary people”

Scoring how comfortable they felt out of 10

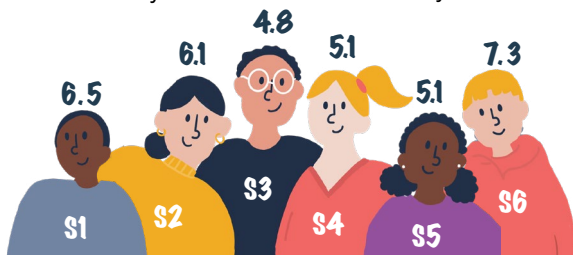
1= feel very unsafe 10= feel very safe



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?

37% said **Needs cleaned**

37% said **It seems fine to me**

34% said **Needs repaired**



What makes a place feel unsafe?

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**, **equipment quality**, **daylight and the environment**.

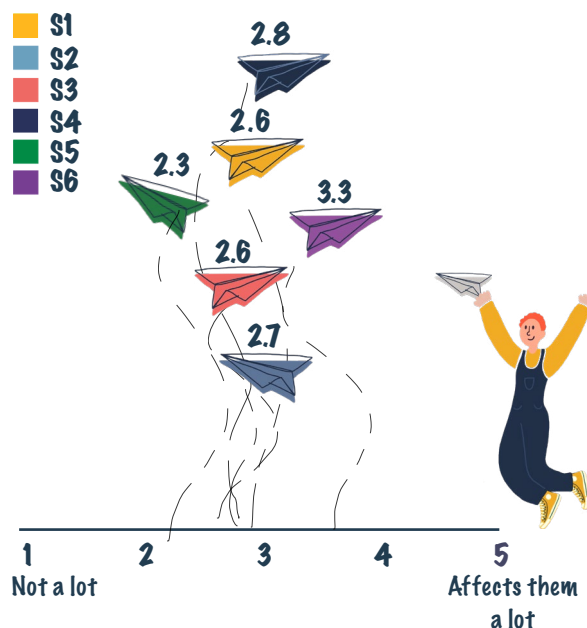
One of the biggest concerns around safety is **other people**, especially in overcrowded places highlighting the need for more quiet places for young people.

Night and places with **broken or no lights** were also highlighted as an issue.

There were also many requests to clean local parks. Pollok Park, Bellahouston Park and Rosshall Park were all called out as places that needed cleaned and maintained.

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

Average scoring per year



“ I feel unsafe mainly in parks because of the people that hang out there ”

“ I feel unsafe at night time because its to dark and the street lights aren't working ”

“ I feel unsafe in spaces that are easily accessible to creepy people and not enough light in public areas ”

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.

21 young people **cycle** to the places they play. 9 **scoot or skate** and 15 **don't go anywhere** to play.



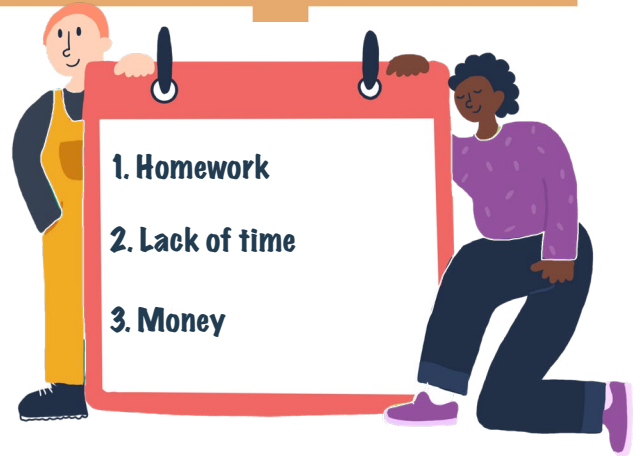
Barriers towards play

When asked what barriers young people from Rosshall 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 **money**, then **other people in their spaces societal expectations** were joint fourth.

Older pupils are more likely to feel like they don't have **time or money** to play. As half of young people at Rosshall Academy think they have some places to go, it suggests that **personal barriers and the condition and safety** of places is more of a barrier than the number of places available.

Top 3 barriers to enjoying free time



“ There needs to be park and football pitch cleaning and fixing the equipment and cleaning the graffiti off it ”

“ There needs to be new lights and repaired equipment, everywhere ”



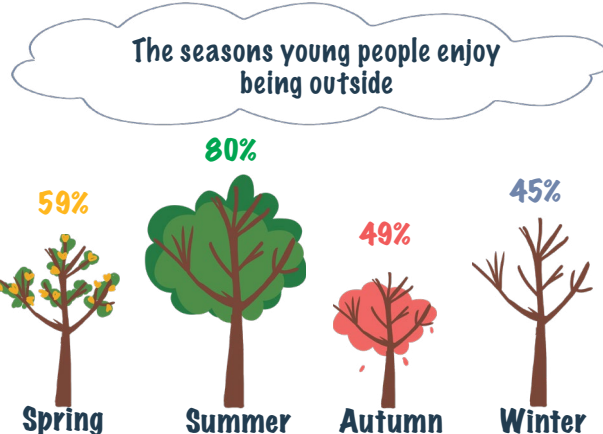
Nature & Seasons

40% of respondents said that **nature is very important** to them while 47% say they **do not mind** and 13% say they **do not care at all**.

30% of respondents said that adding **more green spaces** would make the area more **fun and exciting**.

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**. 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

Cleaning places was asked for more than **any other improvement to the places around Rosshall Academy**.

More shops and amenities came second as a request and nearly half of all respondents asked for **equipment to be repaired**.

When asked what changes would make the area more fun: 26% said **more spaces for music and arts**; 32% said **add more security**; and 33% said **more places for sport** would make their area more fun. Places for football and basketball were asked for in particular.

44% 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**

55% said **adding more things to do**

48% said **repairing equipment + building more**

37% said **asking their citizens their opinions/ thoughts**

42% said **adding more nature**

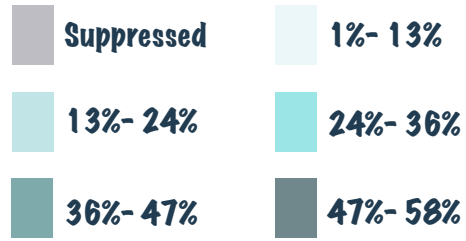
Young people were asked if they'd like to be involved in the future



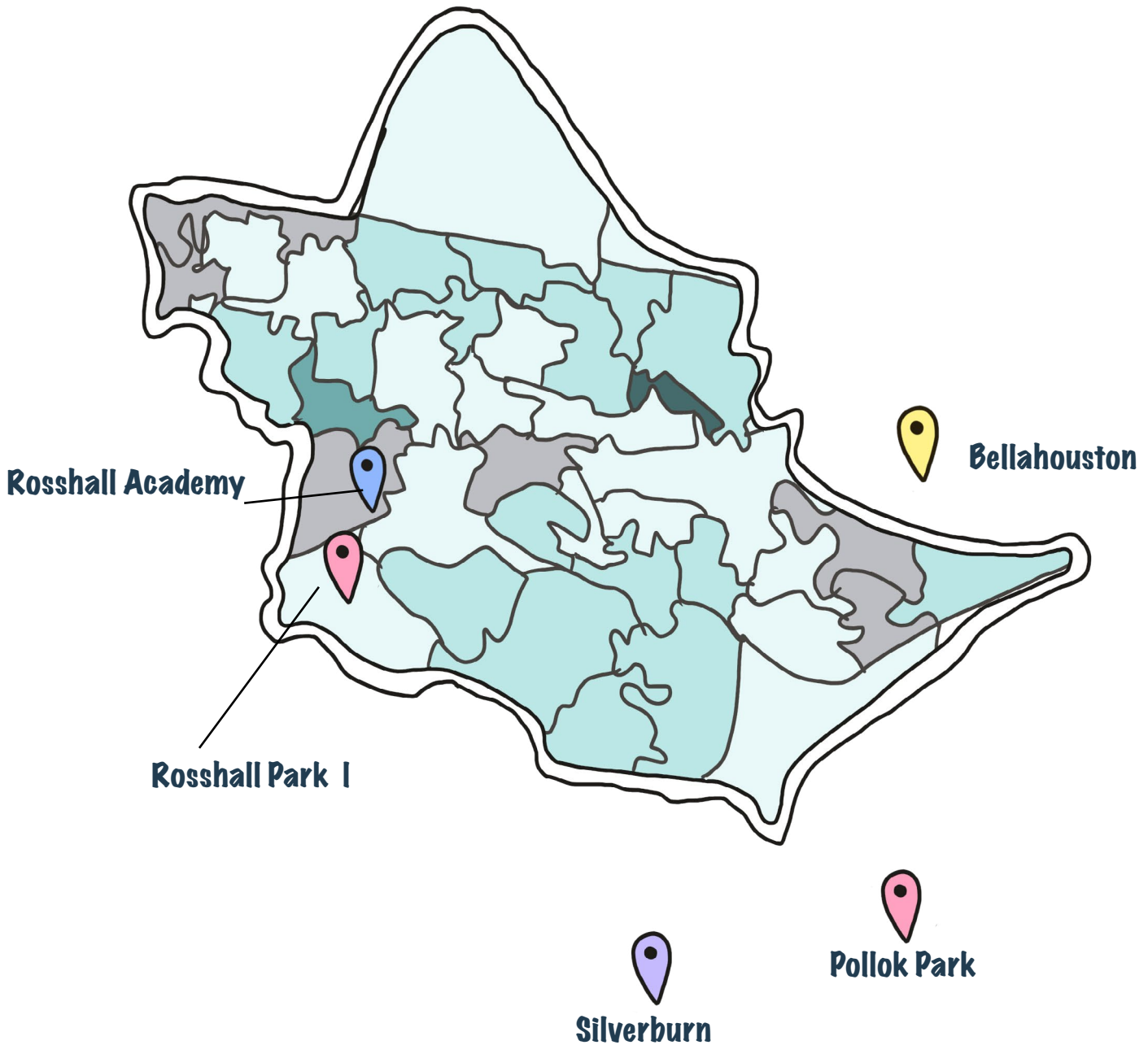
Child Poverty Data

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 Newlands/ Auldburn.

Percentage of child poverty




Breahead



Conclusion

Overall, we got responses from 26% of the young people at Rosshall 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 **Pollok Park, Football Pitches and Rosshall Park**. This shows the importance of maintaining and improving both green spaces and public places for young people around Rosshall Academy.

21% of young people at Rosshall 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.



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 Rosshall Academy.

52% of children at Rosshall 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 Rosshall 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 and societal expectations** 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 Rosshall Academy has developed a mature dialogue and set of ideas that can help inform better play areas in the area.

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