

Play Sufficiency Assessment

Shawlands Academy



#HearingYoungPeople'sVoices

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Play Sufficiency Assessment: Shawlands 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 Shawlands 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.

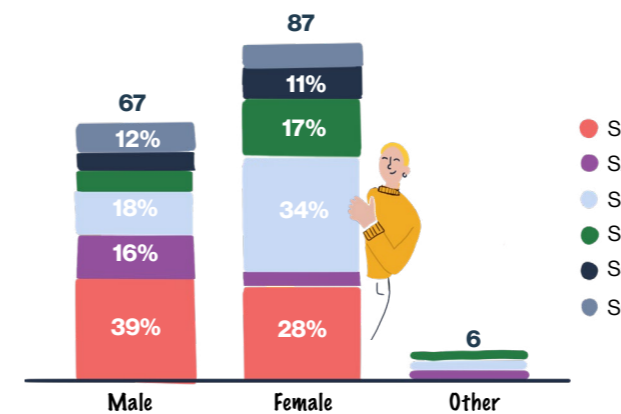
The honesty and contribution of the young people are greatly valued and have proven to be monumental at this stage of the conversation.

Demographics

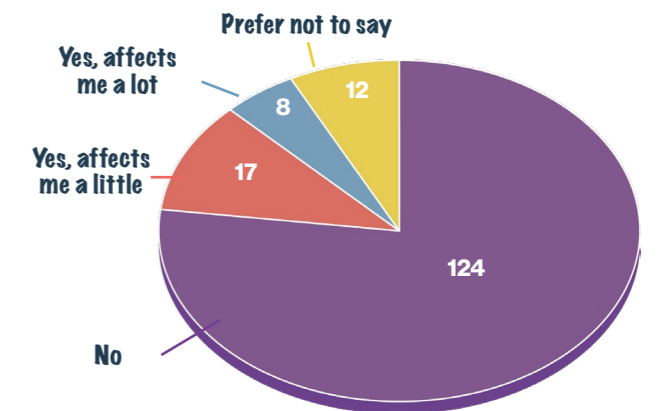
In total 162 pupils across all six year groups took part: a third of the young people attending Shawlands Academy.

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 (15%) said that their day-to-day lives are affected by a health condition. Those with health conditions will have different needs

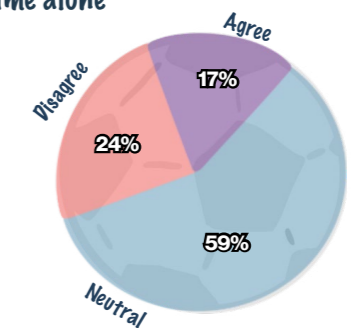
What is play

More than half of all young people at Shawlands Academy don't feel one way or another about spending time with others or alone. Of the remaining pupils, more young people want to spend free-time with others than alone.

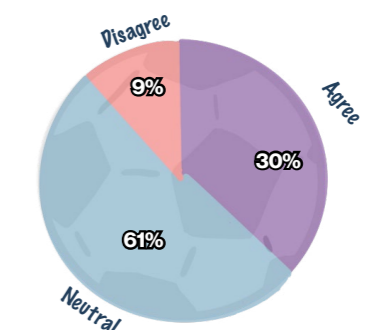
Across S1-6, there isn't much of a difference in preference.

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 hanging out**.

The words young people associate with play are very positive at Shawlands Academy. With words and phrases like **hanging out, laughter, friends and socialising**, it's clear that play is an important opportunity to boost relationships and create an environment that contributes to young people's wellbeing. Many talked about play as an opportunity to play **games and sport**.

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 Shawlands Academy, the most common affect of play was a feeling of being **calm, relaxed and happy**. There were many who said that play helped when needing a **break** from school or other things in their life.

What 'play' means to young people



72 said **Happy**
51 said **Calm/Relaxed**
9 said **Sports**

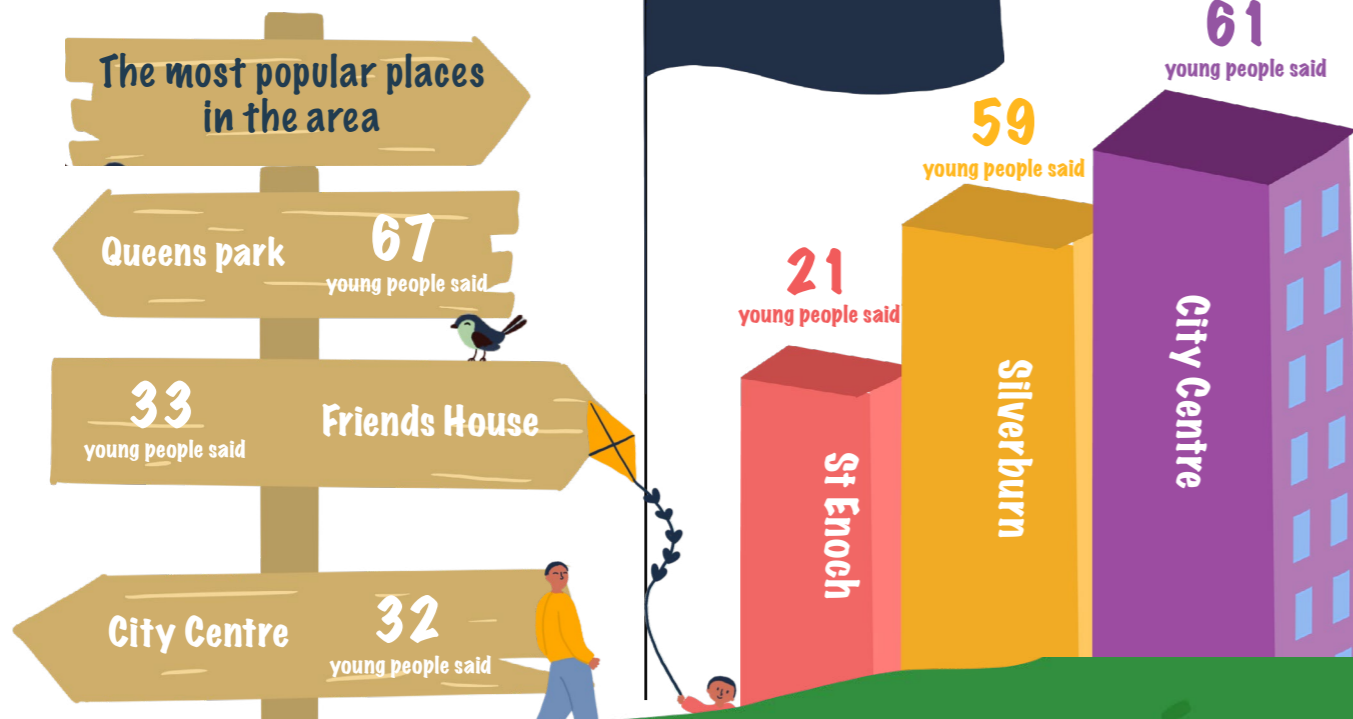
“Play is when you have fun, can let loose with no caring what others think”

“Play is an escape from stress, it makes me active and it makes me feel happy”

Where do young people go?

Below are the most popular places in their area. Other places mentioned in the area include: **Pollok Park, shops, Maxwell Park, Shawlands and Silverburn Shopping Centre**.

Other local places mentioned outwith their area included: **Braehead, shops, Buchanan Galleries, Queens Park and shops**.



Statements on quantity

More than a third (37%) of young people say there are **lots of places** to spend their free-time outside while 54% feel like there are **only some places** and 9% feel like there is **nowhere at all** to spend time outside. With 63% having access to only some or no places outside, the area may need more good quality places and opportunities to play.

All year groups agreed that there are **lots of places to go** in their area, with the strongest agreement coming from S1-2. When asked about structured play such as **clubs and activities**, 48% of respondents said that **they go to them**, 37% of respondents said that they **know about them, but do not go**. 46% 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. S1 and S5 were more likely to go to clubs than other year groups.

15% of young people responded saying they **don't know of any clubs** outside of school.

As 46% say you have to pay to access clubs and activities, this presents an opportunity to increase access to free, enriching activities for young people to increase the uptake of structured play.



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



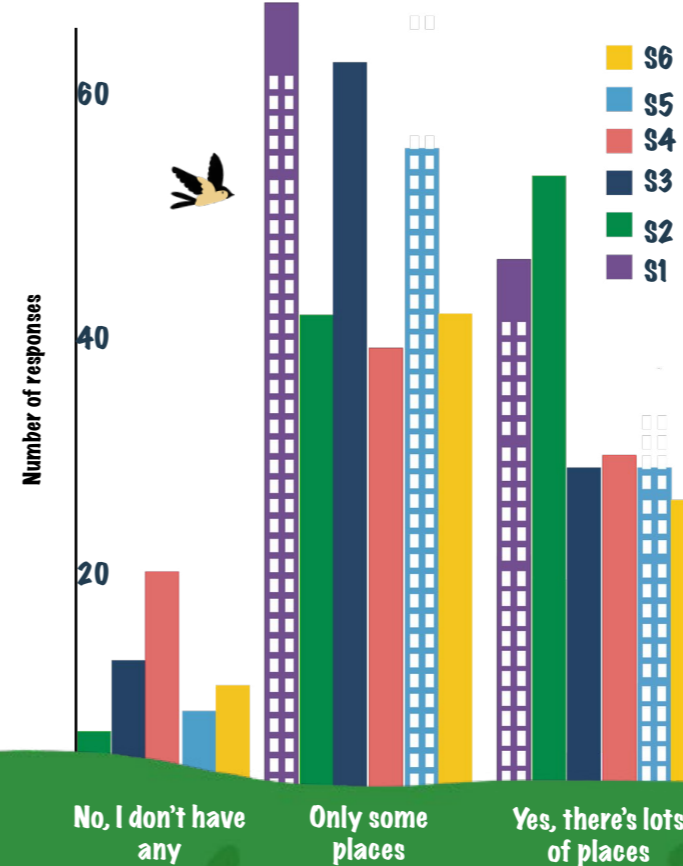
“I would like better and more affordable places to eat and play sports”

“There are too many people at one singular place or park”

“In Darnley there is a skatepark and a kids park. We could replace the skatepark with a basketball court since nobody really uses it and its run down”

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. 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.

“Play lets me take a break and freedom from stress and gives me a sense of community”

“When it's later, I don't like to stay in the city centre”

“Make the places safe and more fun places for young people to go”

What makes a good place for young people?

At Shawlands Academy, there is an even split between those who think that local places to play are in a good condition and those who do not.

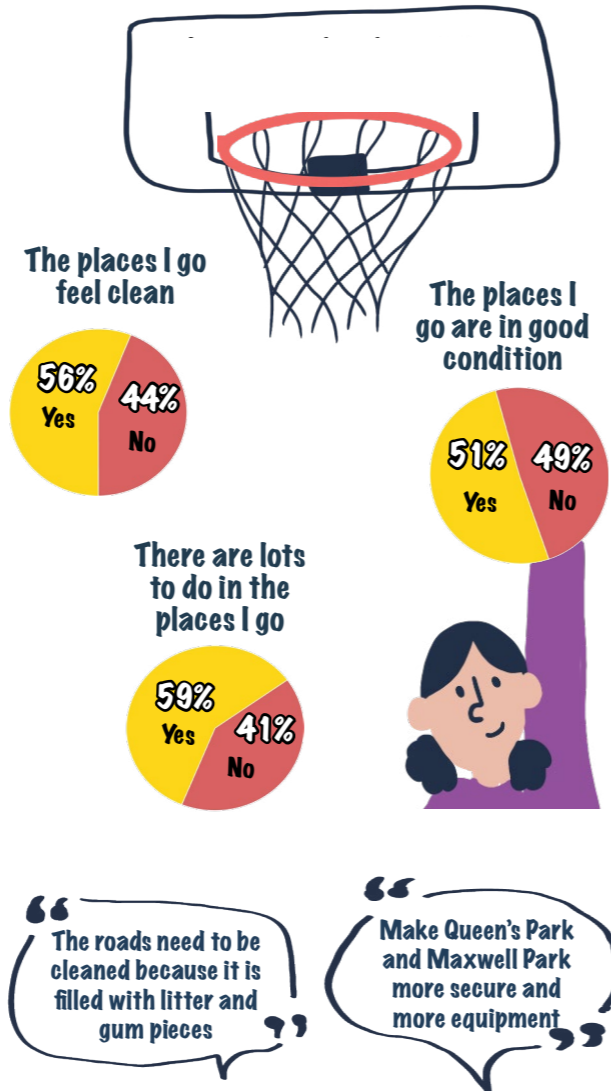
There are some differences in the year groups. S1 tend to think places they spend time are in a **good condition, clean and comfortable**. Whereas S3 tend to be more likely to say their spaces are in a **poor condition** and are split on whether they are clean. There is a general trend that as the year-groups get older, they tend to think places are less clean.

Overall 39% **feel comfortable**, 15% **feel uncomfortable** and the remainder don't feel strongly either way.

The perception of the range of available activities in young people's places is mixed. S1, S2 and S6 are **quite positive** while S3-5 are **undecided** as to whether there are enough things to do.

When asked about equipment, 39% said the equipment they have access to is **good**, which suggests that 61% think access to equipment **could be improved**.

And looking at the quality of equipment: 23% said that it **needed repair**, 23% said it **needed replaced**, 29% feel there is **not enough equipment** and 38% said that the **equipment needs cleaned**. This suggests additional efforts should be prioritised to improve the quality of equipment for young people.



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?

39% said
It seems fine to me

38% said
Needs cleaned

29% said
There isn't enough



What makes a place feel unsafe?

At Shawlands Academy pupils generally agreed that they **felt safe and comfortable** in the places they use. 7% of young people reported feeling **unsafe**, with 38% feeling safe and the remainder didn't feel strongly either way.

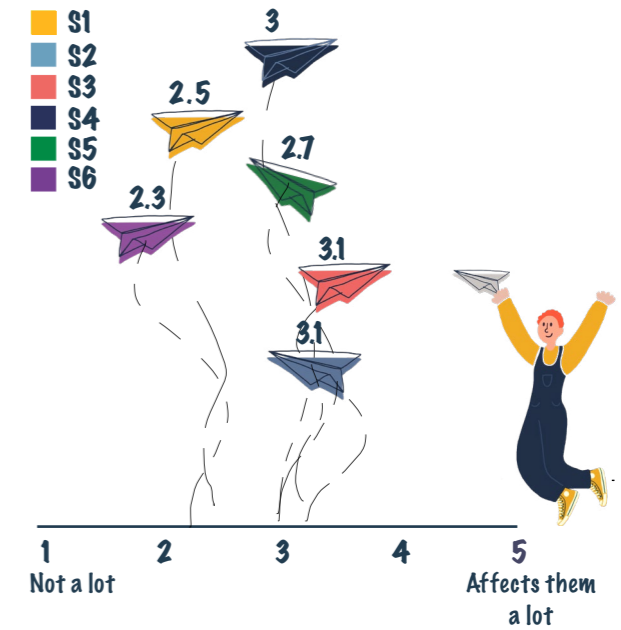
Feelings of safety decrease a little in older year groups. When asked what makes a place feel unsafe or uncomfortable, the responses consisted of 3 main themes: **people, lighting and the condition of spaces**. One of the biggest concerns around safety is **night** and the **lack of lighting**. There is a significant number of young people asking for more lighting so they feel safe when it gets dark.

Many young people are made to feel unsafe because of **antisocial behaviour** and **alcohol and drug consumption** in their area. **Queens Park** at night was called out as a place and time when young people feel particularly unsafe. **Govanhill** is also mentioned as one of the pupil's least favourite places.

There were many responses asking for **more communication** about what safe places and activities are available for young people in the area.

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

Average scoring per year



“I would like Langside Hall be accessible to those in the community. Especially as in the winter the park isn't always possible because of weather.”

“Make the places safe and more fun places for young people to go”

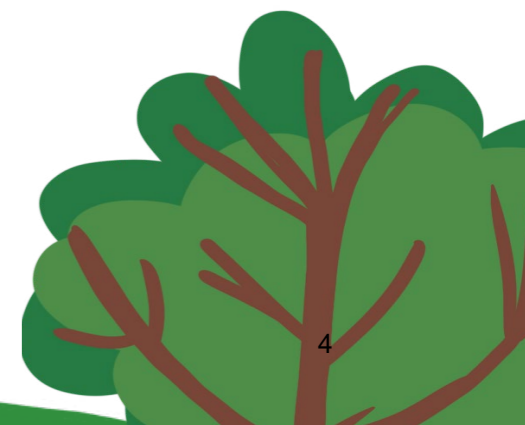
“In places like Crosshill/Govanhill I always make sure to check my surroundings constantly at night”

Travelling to places for young people

94% 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 third of pupils said they **get a lift** to access the spaces they go to. This is a significant number, suggesting there are few alternative options or it that it's a preference in the area.

Only 14 young people **cycle** to the places they play. 4 **scoot or skate** and 9 **don't go anywhere** to play.



Barriers towards play

When asked what barriers young people from Shawlands Academy feel they have that stops them from playing, **homework** was voted highest. This was evenly distributed among all year groups.

Feeling like they don't have time was voted second highest, followed by **money**, then **societal expectations** and **other people** were joint fourth.

In contrast to earlier answers, **lack of places** to play was not highlighted as a significant barrier. This suggests that the number of places to play isn't a barrier on its own but the **quality and condition of the places** is.



A barrier for me is not the equipment, more like the people.

I would say I feel comfortable in spaces that I know off by heart otherwise I might feel a little uncomfortable if I don't know it like at all.

There are little places we can go in the winter due to weather, as it gets dark early

Nature & Seasons

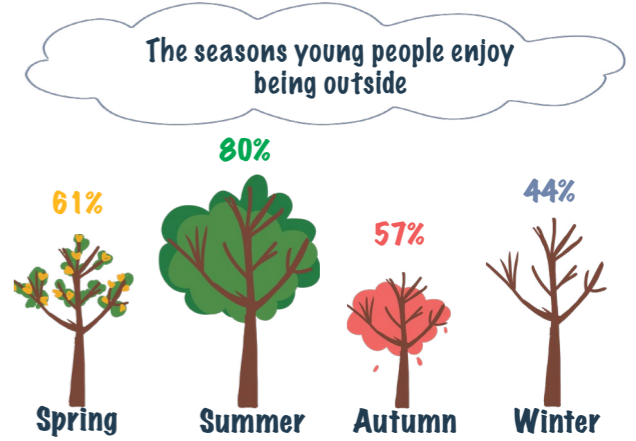
59% of respondents said that **nature is very important** to them while 39% say they **do not mind** and 2% say they **do not care at all**.

39% said more green spaces would make the **area more fun and interesting**. This highlights the importance of ensuring there are plenty of opportunities for young people to connect to nature.

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.

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.

Winter was called out as a significant barrier indicating that the area need access to places to play even in the colder months.



The elements that impact this



What do they need from their spaces

When asked what young people want more of, most asked for **more places to play** followed by **more places to eat** and **more places for people my age**. Some of the places mentioned included **basketball pitches** and **places to play in the parks**.

When asked what changes would make the area more fun, 40% said **repairing the equipment** that's already there. 43% said adding **more security** would make the places more fun. **Cleaning** was voted for more than anything else.

Adding more nature was also popular but from the detailed responses, we think this requires further investigation as the

detailed responses suggest adapting the existing spaces rather than creating new ones.

Nearly half of the young people who took part said that they would be open to being involved in discussions in the future, with a decent proportion saying 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:



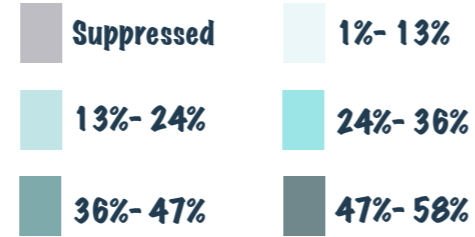
Young people were asked if they'd like to be involved in the future



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 Pollokshields

Percentage of child poverty



Hogganfield Park

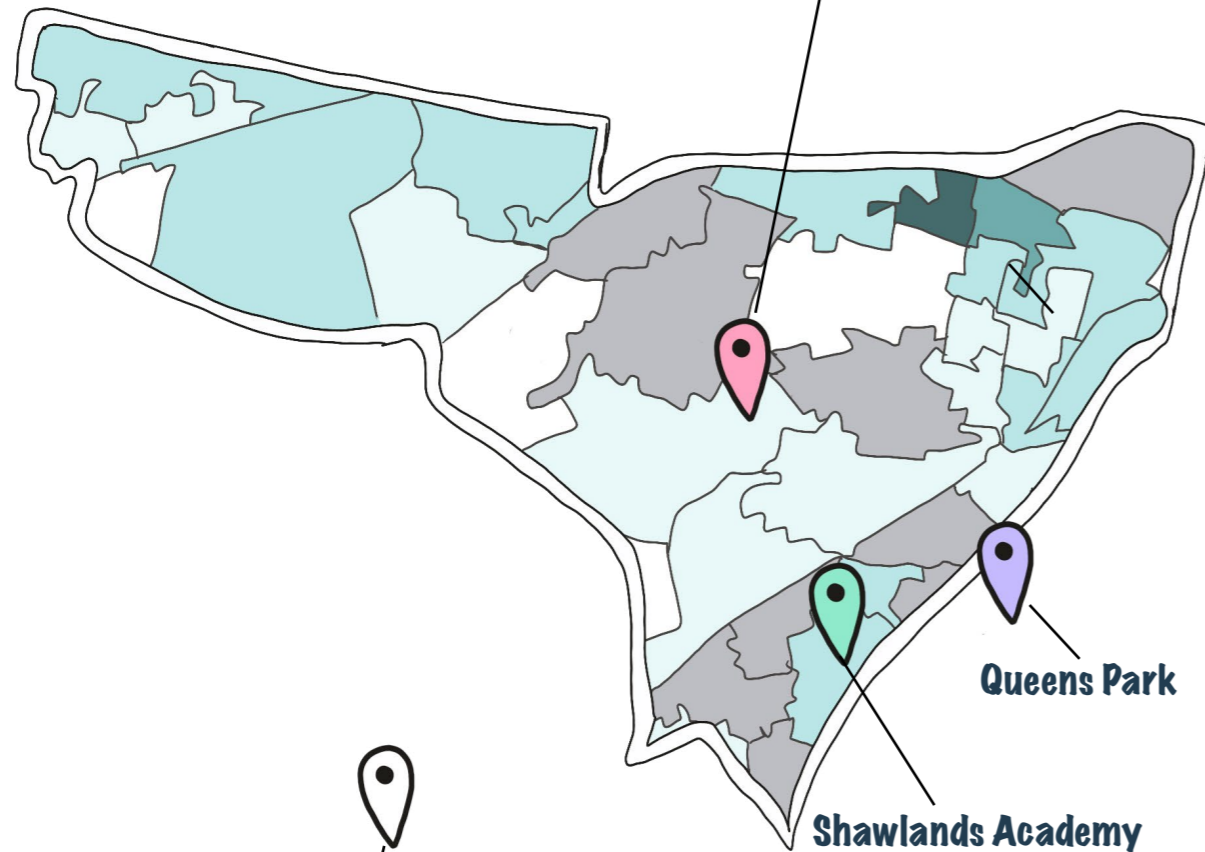
Maxwell Park

Queens Park

Shawlands Academy

Pollok Park

Silverburn



Conclusion

Overall, we got responses from 11% of the young people at Shawlands 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, warm 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 Queens Park, Maxwell Park and Pollok Park, this reflects the fact that there is a lot of green space around Shawlands Academy.

15% of Young people also highlighted a lack of awareness of the different clubs that are available to them meaning that many are missing out on opportunities.



Also, only a few of the clubs in the area are free to attend showing that money could also be a barrier to the young people at Shawlands Academy.

The majority of children at Shawlands Academy feel that they have enough spaces that they can go to in their area, however this isn't reflected as well by those in S4.

Generally young people felt safe and comfortable in the spaces that they go to. However when discussing what made them feel unsafe other people in the spaces were the main concern. This would suggested that they would prefer more spaces designated solely for them to spend time.



The biggest barriers to play were homework and having a lack of time but many young people also said that the weather 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.



Another way that young people requested that the spaces they visit are improved is to add additional lighting so that these spaces can be used safely at night time.

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 Shawlands Academy has developed a mature dialogue and set of ideas that can help inform better play areas in the area.

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