

Play Sufficiency Assessment

St Mungo's Academy



#HearingYoungPeople'sVoices

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Play Sufficiency Assessment: St Mungo's 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 St Mungo's 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.

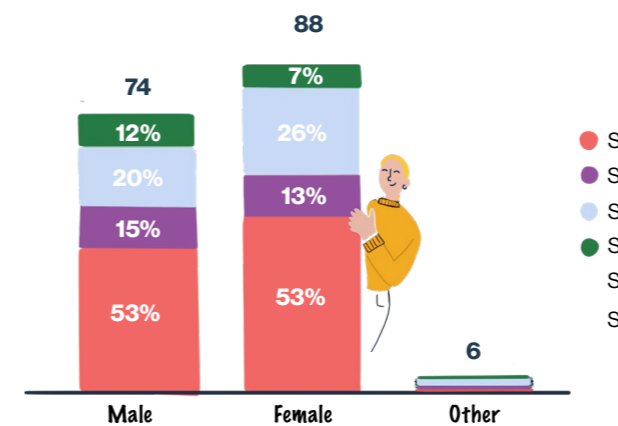
The honesty and contribution of the young people are greatly valued and have proven to be monumental at this stage of the conversation.

Demographics

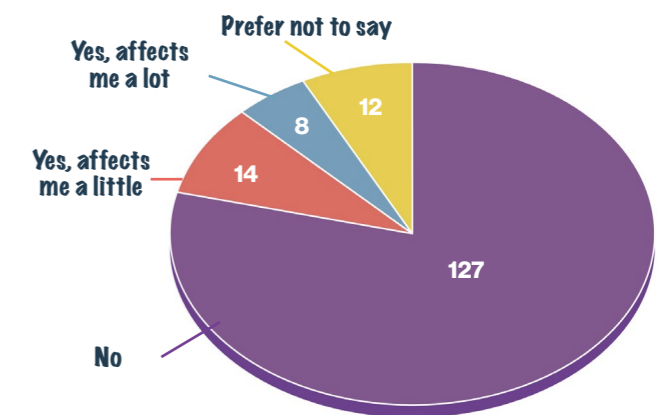
In total 163 pupils across all six year groups took part: a third of the young people attending St Mungo's Academy.

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



22 pupils (14%) said that their day-to-day lives are affected by a health condition. Those with health conditions will have different needs

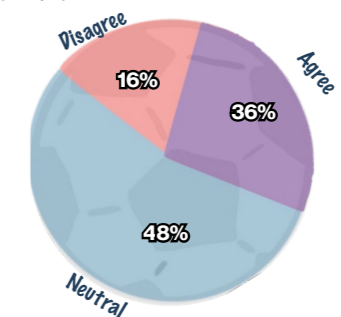
What is play

Nearly half of all young people at St Mungo's 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.

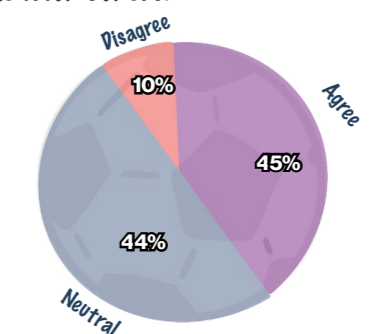
As pupils get older, they tend to prefer spending time alone slightly more.

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 **football** and **hanging out**.

The words young people associate with play are very positive at St Mungo's Academy. With words and phrases like **friends**, **socialising and playing games**, 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 **enjoy time with others**.

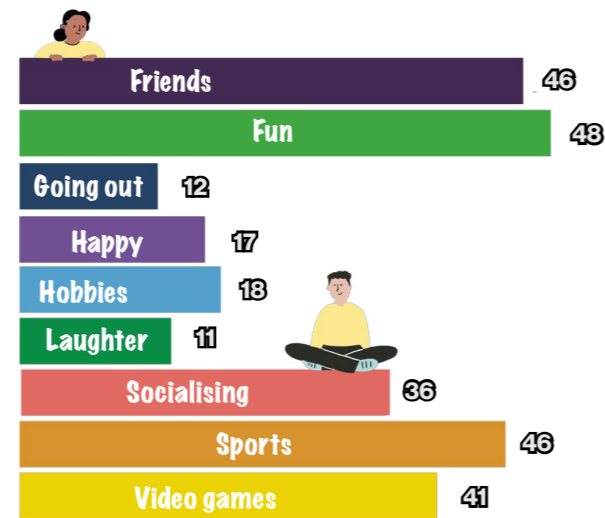
Understanding what's important in play for young people highlights what we can do to **improve access, space and quality** for places designed for play.

At St Mungo's Academy, the most common affect of play was a feeling of being **calm, relaxed and joyful**.

There were many who said that play helped when needing a **break** from school or other things in life.

82 said **Happy** 56 said **Calm/Relaxed** 20 said **Active**

What 'play' means to young people



“Play makes me calm, I feel good about myself and it lets me express myself”

“Play involves going out with friends, going to the park and spending time with family”

Statements on quantity

Nearly half (45%) of young people say there are **only some places** to spend their free-time while 46% feel like there are **lots of places** and 9% feel like there is **nowhere at all** to spend time. With 55% 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**, 48% of respondents said that **they go to them**, 35% of respondents said that **they know about them, but do not go**. 26% 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 S4 are more likely to know about clubs but not go while S3 were more likely to attend clubs than any other year group.

17% of young people responded saying they **don't know of any clubs** outside of school. Young people at St Mungo's are more likely to be aware of free clubs than paid ones which is a good sign that free clubs are shared widely.

As S2 and S4 attend fewer clubs than other years, there is an opportunity to find activities that appeal to these year groups specifically.



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



“I would like a football pitch in Dennistoun”

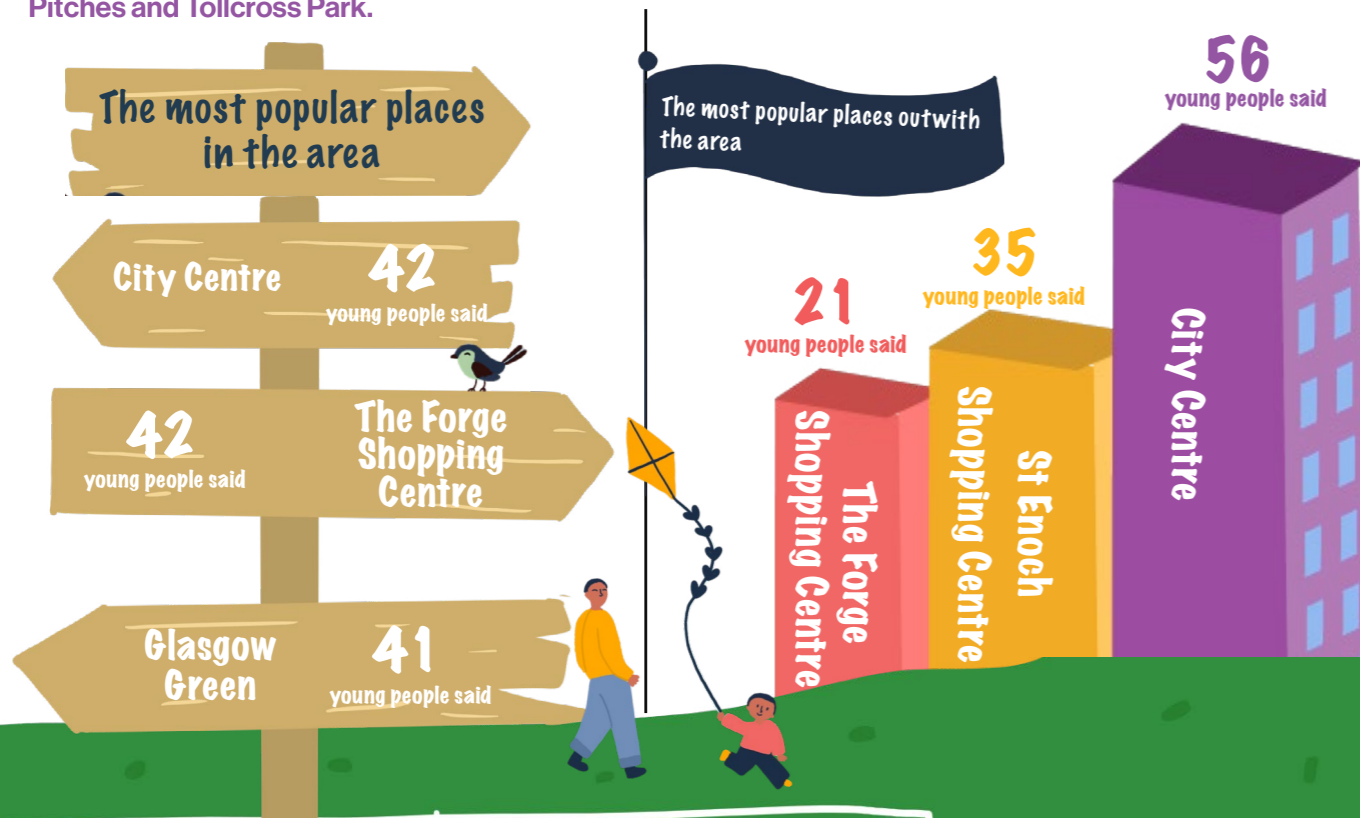
“Glasgow green has so much space for more stuff”

“Bellgrove hotel needs demolished and the area around needs to be kept clean more often”

Where do young people go?

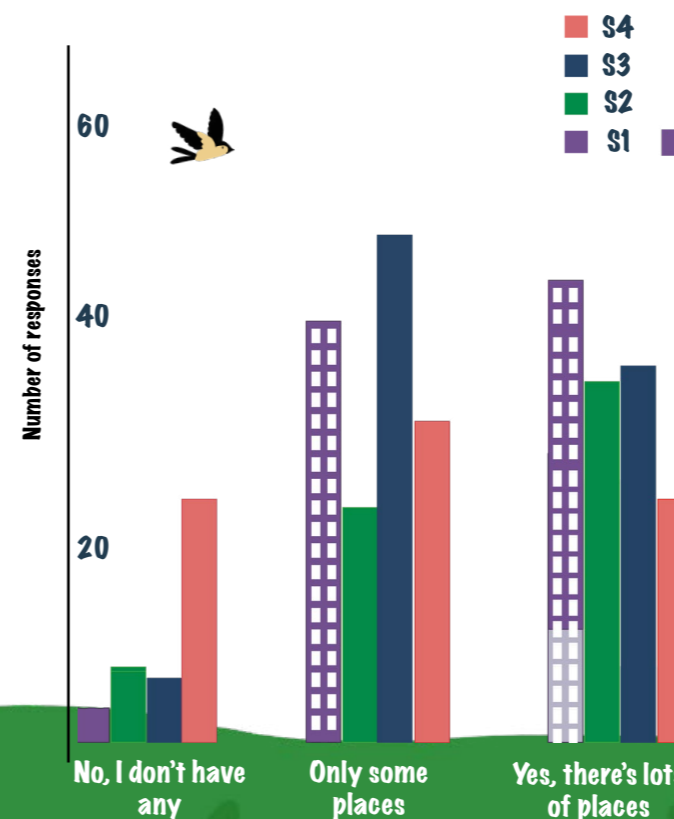
Below are the most popular places in their area. Other places mentioned in the area include: **their home, parks, Crownpoint, Shops, Football Pitches and Tollcross Park**.

Other mentioned outwith their area included: **Glasgow Green, Glasgow Fort, Kelvingrove Park, home and parks**.



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-S2 are more optimistic about places to go and have fun in their area.

“I would want places to be cleaner and different places for different age groups”

“Areas are not clean and it is only limited to small children”

What makes a good place for young people?

At St Mungo's Academy, over half of respondents say that their spaces are in a **good condition** and **are clean**, while 40% disagree and think they're not in a **good condition**.

There are some differences in the year groups. S4 are more likely to think spaces are **not in a good condition**.

In young people's spaces, 46% **feel comfortable**, 21% **feel uncomfortable** and the remainder don't feel strongly either way.

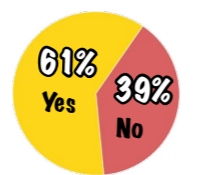
66% of young people think there's **lots to do in their spaces**, however many mentioned problems around dog walkers failing to clean up after their dog, **broken glass and rubbish** creating a less safe environment.

When asked about equipment St Mungo's pupils were given several options to choose from: 43% said the equipment they have access to **seems fine**; 33% think that it **needs repaired**; 17% think it **needs replaced**; 28% say there is not enough; and 43% say it **needs cleaned**.

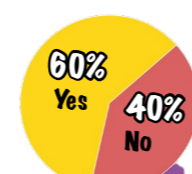
This suggests additional efforts should be prioritised to improve the quality of equipment for young people.



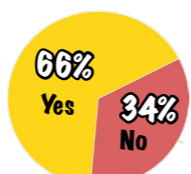
The places I go feel clean



The places I go are in good condition



There are lots to do in the places I go



“Clean the local parks, as well as streets which you go through everyday.”

“Add more spaces for young people to develop their interests and socialise with new equipment.”

“Clean up the parks because they have so much litter everywhere”

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?

43% said **Needs cleaned**

43% said **It seems fine to me**

33% said **Needs repaired**



What makes a place feel unsafe?

At St Mungo's Academy most pupils **felt safe and comfortable** in the places they use. 18% of young people reported feeling **unsafe**, with 46% 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: **night-time, people and noise**. The City Centre was repeatedly mentioned as a place that makes young people feel unsafe.

One of the biggest concerns around safety is **night** and the **lack of lighting**. Greenfield Park was highlighted as a specific place that needs more lighting, Duke Street was called out as a place that has too much **litter and cleanliness** is highlighted as a general problem in the area. Glasgow Green was called out as a place where young people could see the potential for far more activities for young people than are there currently.

Pupils from St Mungo's shared a wide variety of ideas to improve the area and they could see the potential in what's already there. Taking these ideas as the beginning of a dialogue will help improve the area for everyone and create an enriching place for young people and adults in the area.

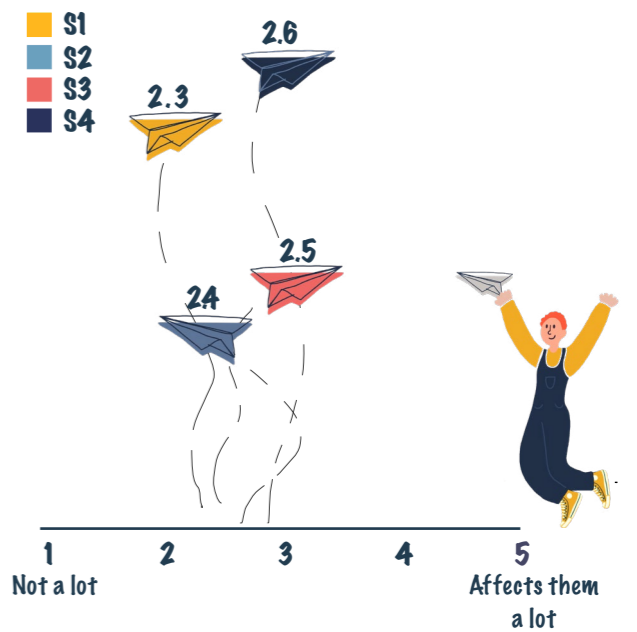
“Places with a lot of noise usually make me feel uncomfortable”

“In the City Centre/town there are parts in it I can't go to because a lot of bad things happen there”

“It makes me feel uncomfortable when I'm out in the dark with my pals”

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

Average scoring per year



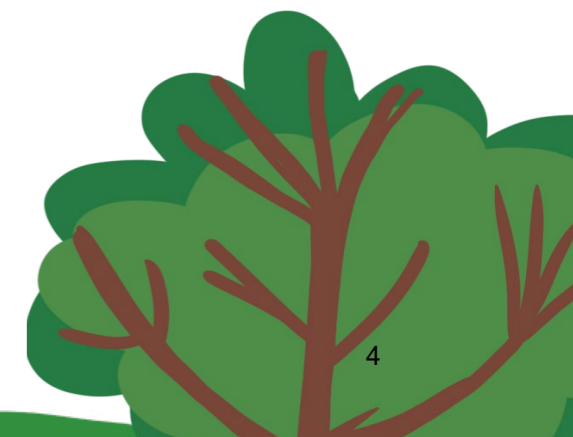
Travelling to places for young people

94% of respondents said that the places in their area are **easy to get to**. However, pupils from S1 and S3 disagreed that places were 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 said they **get a lift** to the places they like. This suggests there are few alternative options or that it's a preference in the area.

Only 13 young people **cycle** to the places they play. 9 **scoot or skate** and 11 **don't go anywhere** to play.



Barriers towards play

When asked what barriers young people from St Mungo's 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 **societal expectations**, then **money** and **other people** were joint fourth.

Other people in young people's places is voted for more in older age-groups, while societal expectations is voted more frequently by those in S2.

Top 3 barriers to enjoying free time



"I just don't like most of the people that hang out there, they make it unsafe and dirty"

"It is usually scary at night and there are dangerous people at this time. My parents don't let me socialise with my friends at these times"

"Lots of youths standing around can be scary"

Nature & Seasons

44% of respondents said that **nature is very important** to them while 46% say they do not mind and 10% say they do not care at all.

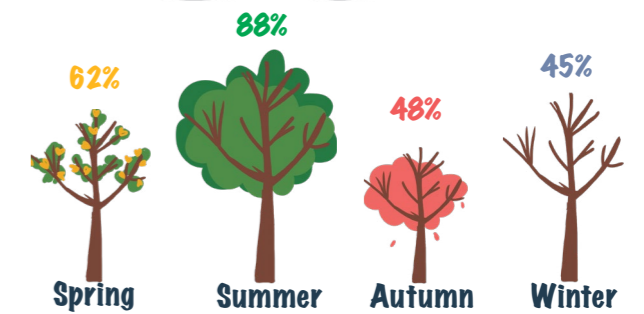
36% said more green spaces would make the **area more fun and interesting**. This highlights the importance of ensuring there are plenty of opportunities for young people to connect to nature.

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 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.

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

The seasons young people enjoy being outside



The elements that impact this



What do they need from their spaces

When asked what young people want more of, most asked for **cleaner places** followed by **more places for people my age**, then **more shops and places to eat**. 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, 41% said **repairing the equipment** that's already there. 32% said adding **more security** would make the places more fun and 41% said **more places for sport** would make their area more fun.

Young people at St Mungo's Academy want cleaner, better maintained places while also being included in planning decisions around buildings and green spaces in their area.

A quarter of 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:



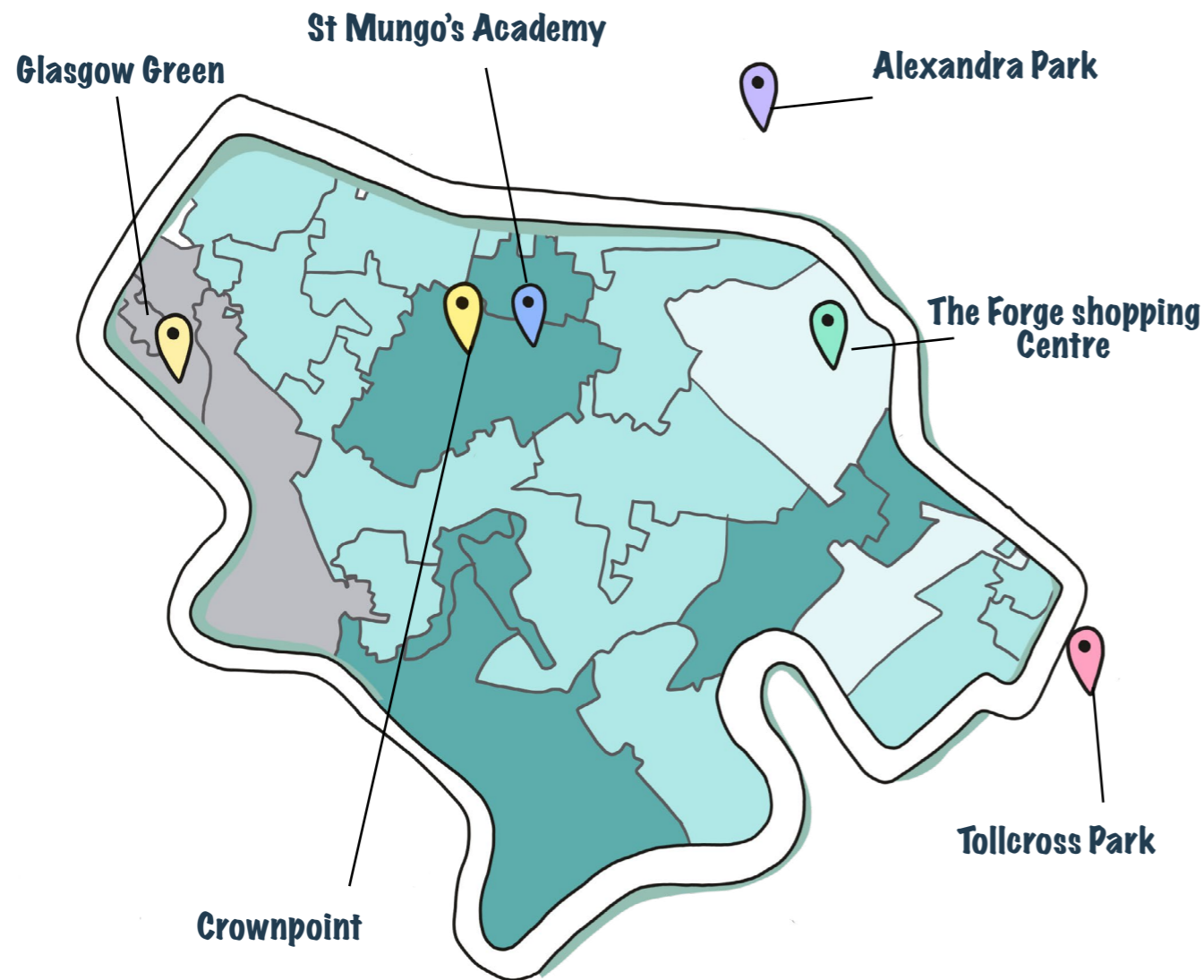
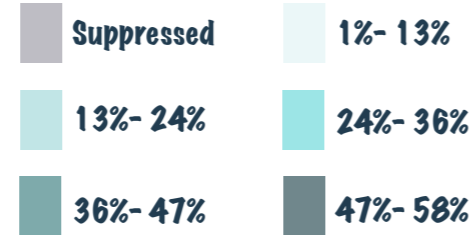
Young people were asked if they'd like to be involved in the future



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 Calton

Percentage of child poverty



Conclusion

Overall, we got responses from 16% of the young people at St Mungo's 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 **The Forge** and **Glasgow Green**. This shows the importance of maintaining and improving both green spaces and public places for young people around St Mungo's Academy.

17% of young people at St Mungo's Academy **don't know of any clubs** in the area. Many young people are missing out on chances to grow and express themselves outside of school.



26% of pupils are put off by **having to pay to attend clubs** showing that money could also be a barrier for young people at St Mungo's Academy.

Nearly half of children at St Mungo's Academy say there are **only some spaces** that they can go to suggesting more places could be provided for young people in the area.

The biggest barriers to play were **homework** and having a **lack of time** but many also said that 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 St Mungo's Academy has developed a mature dialogue and set of ideas that can help inform better places for play.

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