#WhatsYourTake –
Education
July 2022

The *#WhatsYourTake* online survey is carried out each year to gather young people's views on current issues. This *#WhatsYourTake* survey was open from 10th June until 6th July 2022, and asked questions on the following topics:

- **Children's care and justice -** Imagining the future of children's care and justice
- **Reducing car use -** Working together to reduce car use for a healthier, fairer, greener Scotland
- **Cost of school -** Exploring the possibility of free school meals, school milk and low-cost uniform in secondary schools
- **Tobacco free Scotland** - Reaching for the future – building a Tobacco-free Scotland
- **Education** - Designing the national discussion on education
- **Children's Services** - Children's Services Reform

This report gives an overview of the key findings on the questions relating to Education from the July 2022 *#WhatsYourTake* survey.

Respondent Profile

243 young people took responded to the *#WhatsYourTake* survey in July 2022.

Of these:

- **67.8%** are aged between 12 and 17, **16.7%** are aged 18-20, and **15.5%** are aged 21-25.

- **52.5%** identify as female, **35.3%** identify as male, **8.0%** identify as non-binary, and **3.4%** prefer to use their own term. The remaining respondents preferred not to say.

- **60.2%** are at school, **21.4%** go to university or college, **18.1%** are in full time or part time work, **0.8%** are doing an apprenticeship or other training, and **5.3%** are unemployed. 2.1% are not taking part in any of these activities.

- **81.5%** identify as English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British.

- Respondents came from **28 local authorities**, [our 11 national voluntary organisations](), and various others representing a diverse range of communities of interest and lived experience (including youth voice organisations, student unions, a range of cadets, and various sports clubs).

This report was compiled by Rosy Burgess, SYP Governance and Events Manager – rosy.b@syp.org.uk.

Designing the national discussion on education

The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills announced on 9 March that there will be a national discussion on the future of education in Scotland, and it's vital that the national discussion is designed in a way so that it captures the issues that are important now and in the future for children and young people.

Your views will help the Scottish Government to develop the key topics and questions that a national discussion on the future of education should focus on from the perspective of children and young people.

What are the top 3 themes that you would like to have the opportunity to discuss on the future of education?

The subjects I get taught	64.2%
The way that I learn	61.7%
Importance of wellbeing	58.4%
The role of technology	32.1%
The role of the teacher	24.7%
Where I learn	23.5%
The role of my family / trusted adults	14.0%

How do you most like to feed in your views about things that are important to you?

Through an online survey	78.6%
As part of a group in my class	30.5%
Through a group/club/society	26.7%
Through an adult in school (who might also be my teacher)	25.9%
Through a parent/carer	18.1%
As a pair in my class	16.0%
Through a hand-written survey	14.8%

Please note – this information was gathered through an online survey, and therefore may not accurately reflect the views of young people who did not respond to the survey.

Young people who responded 'other' commented:

- Through being an MSYP
- Speaking about it maybe as a speech or discussion starter.
- Online with friends
- Emailing relevant people, public posts on social media.
- Through workshops and discussion with someone seperate from the school
- Nothing ever changes.
- Supervisor / work colleague
- Online focus groups
- Through an in-person discussion with an MSYP
- Petitioning online

- the above make no difference
- Through uni support services
- Through Social Media
- As an individual who has left the school system but struggled every step as a person previous narrative