

# What kids think

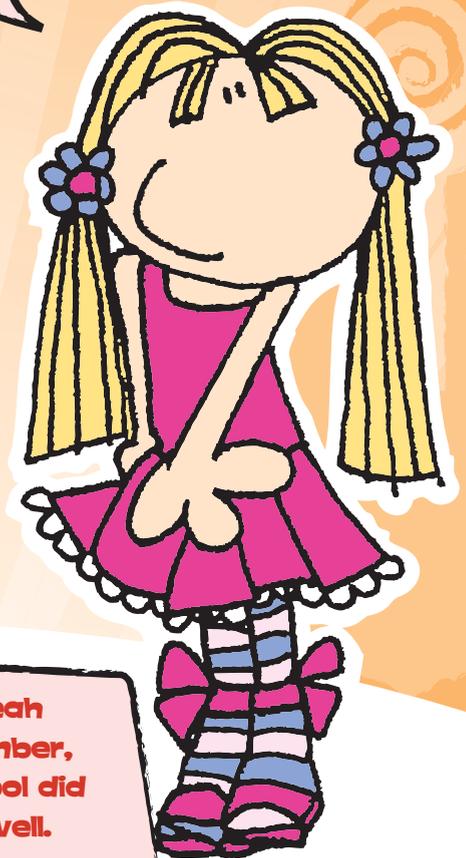
Issue  
**8**  
2015

Results of the 2015  
Kids' Life and Times Survey

What's this Kids' Life and Times thing?

It's a big survey about what P7 children think of school and other things in our lives now that we are nearly at the end of primary school. I think it was organised by the university. We all answered the questions on the computers at our school.

Oh yeah I remember, my school did it as well.



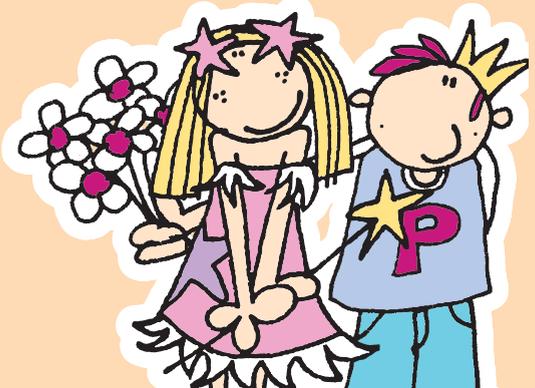
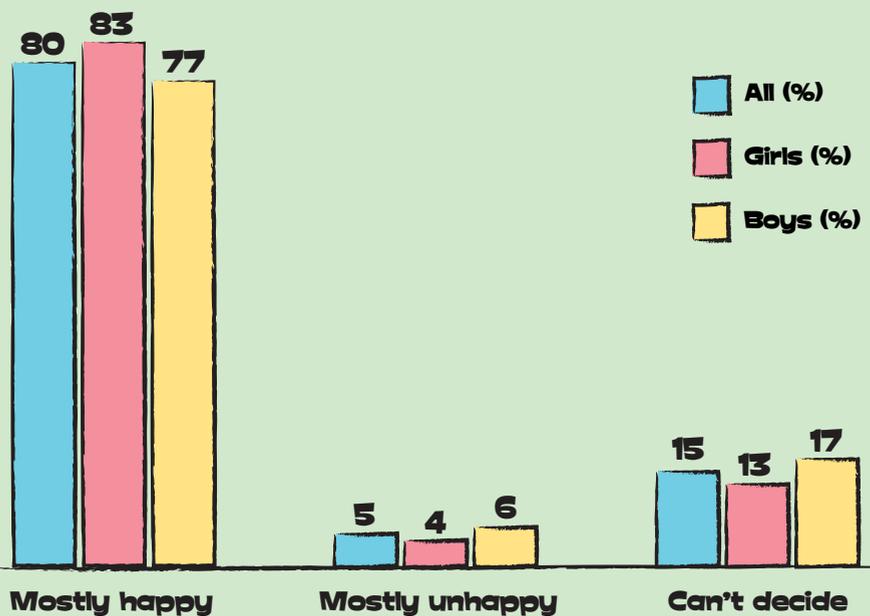
# KLT Survey 2015

Didn't they ask us if we had been happy at school?

Yes, I really liked my school so I was pretty happy. The survey showed that 80% of children said that they were mostly happy at their school. But girls were a bit happier than boys. 83% of girls and 77% of boys said that they had been mostly happy at their school.



Table 1: Have you been mostly happy or mostly unhappy at this school?



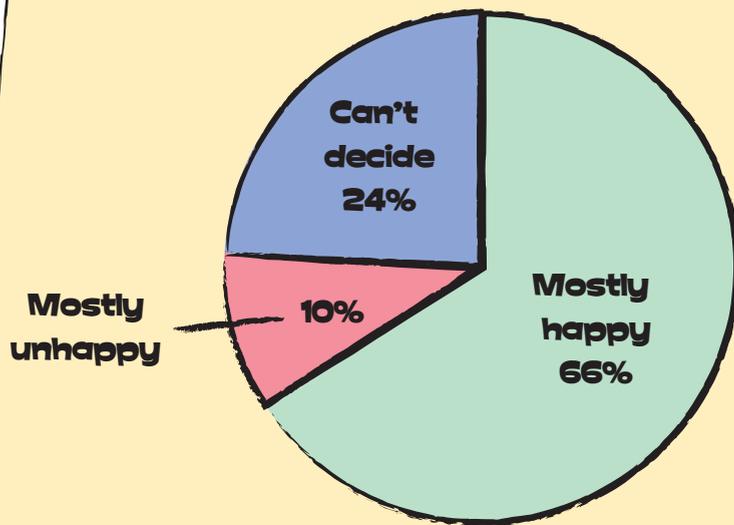


**Well I didn't really know what to put down for that question. I mean I didn't hate school but I didn't love it either.**



Were you bullied? Although 22% of children said they had been physically bullied 'a lot or a little' in the past 2 months, those who had been bullied were way more likely than everyone else to say that they had been unhappy at their school (10%) or who couldn't decide (24%).

**Figure 1:** Bullied physically in past 2 months by whether happy or unhappy at school



**That's terrible for those kids; it makes me feel really sad. But no, it wasn't bullying with me - I was just always in trouble for something. I don't really know why.**



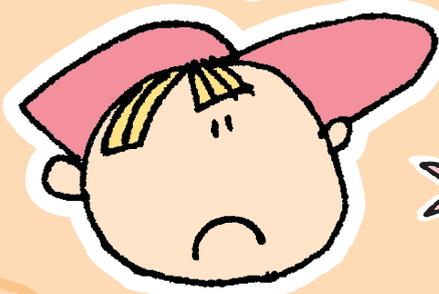
What did you do?



**Well last week the teacher said I was cheeky! She told me that I needed a haircut and when I told her that I was allergic to scissors she got a bit cross. Then when I offered to use electric clippers and just shave the whole lot off she got really mad. I think she's a bit stressed to be honest.**



Hmm... I think I can see why!





Did you answer those questions in the survey about how some schools help children to cope with stress? You know the question about whether your school does something like Take Ten and Steady Eddy?



**Oh was that what it was about!!! I thought it was going to be a maths question. You know like, Take ten Eddies and if eight of them play football how many go swimming?**



NO! These are like classes that help children deal to with stress and A Safe Place is somewhere that you can go if you need to calm down. About a fifth of children said they had something like this in their school. But even if schools didn't have these schemes, teachers were still trying to help kids with tips about dealing with stress. 40% of children said that their teacher taught them how to breathe deeply before doing something important.



**You mean like dive underwater?**



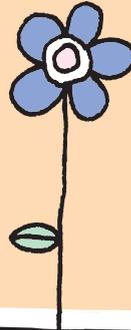
NO you idiot! Before doing anything important that was going to make someone feel nervous. 56% of the children also said that they knew how to go to a place in their imagination where they felt safe and 57% said they could get less stressed by imagining happy thoughts.



**That's just what my teacher needs! Maybe I should suggest it to her?**



Maybe your teacher is stressed because YOU are a bit annoying AND you look like one of those dogs with hair so long you can't see its face.





**I like it like this because I can feel the wind in my hair when I'm running!**



Hey did you answer all those questions about exercise and sport? They were so cool. You know it really annoys me when adults complain that children do nothing except sit in front of a TV or some other technology. The survey showed that 97% of children said that they enjoyed PE classes and 94% said that they enjoyed sport outside school. About three quarters did sports in a club or other organised activity outside school. About half walked or cycled to school and 57% did at least 60 mins of sport or exercise 4 or more times a week.



**Does playing FIFA count?**



NO, they were asking us about real exercise not virtual sport!







Does everybody do that?



**No most people walk around with their hands in their pockets chatting to each other. The one screaming is just me.**



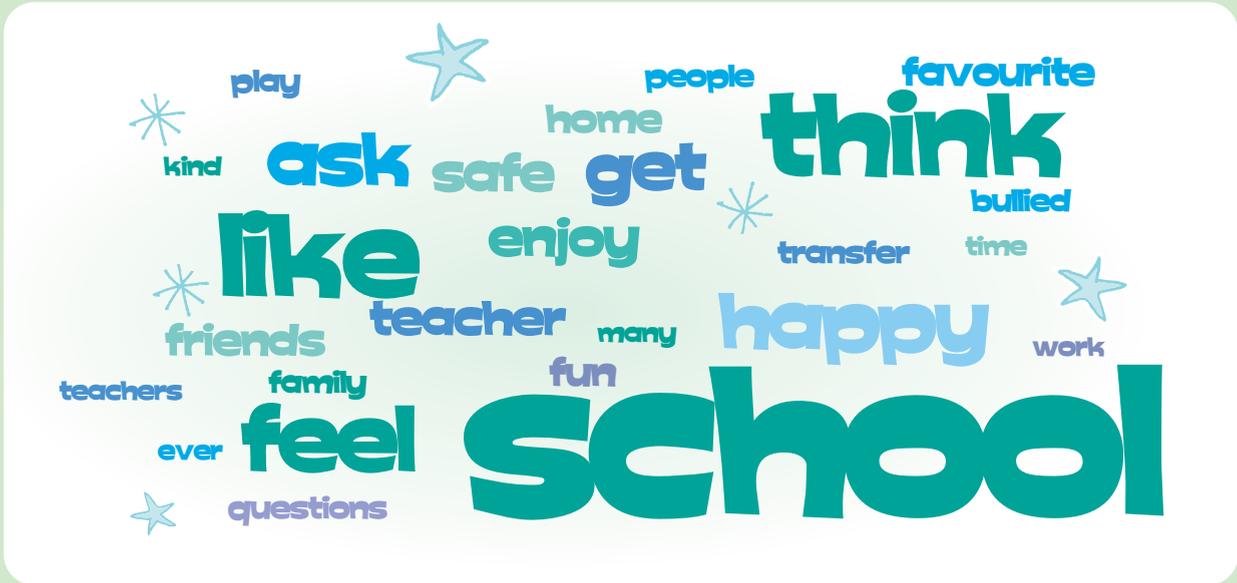
I see.



**What else was on the survey?**



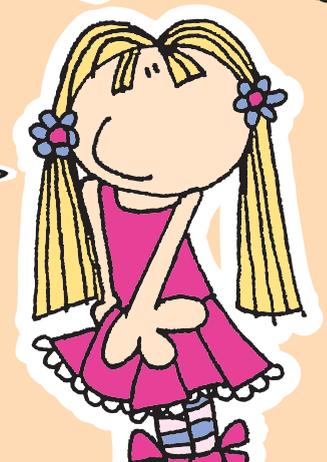
Well they asked us what we thought should be on next year's survey and you can tell from the word picture that things about school are really really important to children because so many kids used that word.



**I feel so sorry for your teacher!**

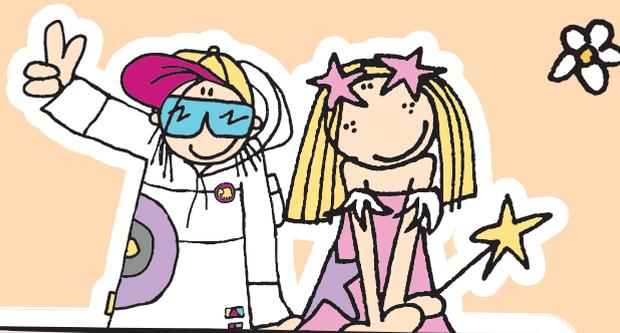


**I think they should ask about our families. My family is always giving me a hard time and calling me wacky. You can see that loads of children taking part in the survey mentioned family! Look, it's right there just above the e in feel! That's probably way more important than school for most children.**





# KLT Survey 2015



**Kids' Life and Times** is an annual online survey of P7 children in Northern Ireland carried out in school. In 2015, 5194 children participated.

The Kids' Life and Times survey is a joint initiative between Queen's University Belfast and the Ulster University and aims to provide an independent source of information on what children think about the social issues of the day.

Check the web site for more information on the survey findings ([www.ark.ac.uk/klt](http://www.ark.ac.uk/klt)) or call the Kids' Life and Times team on 028 9097 5962 with any queries.

In collaboration with Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University

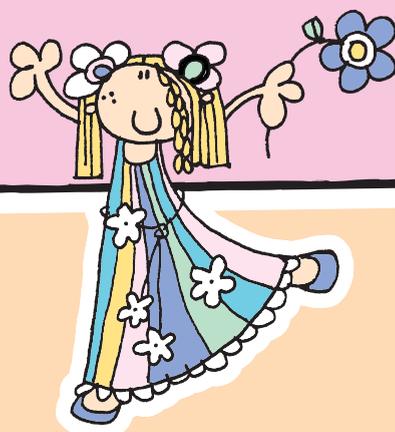
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