

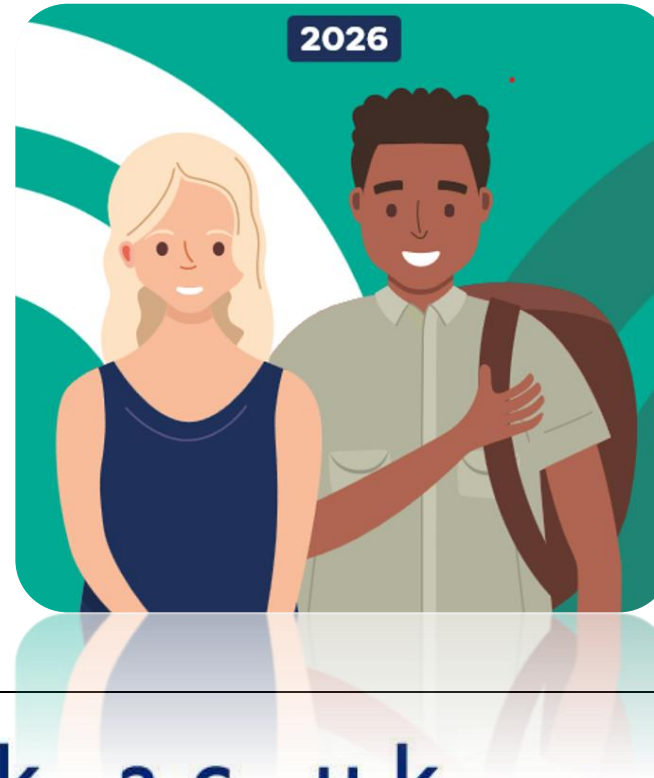
Young Life and Times (YLT) &



Kids' Life and Times (KLT)



- Welcome
- Background to KLT and YLT surveys
- Education
- Social Media
- Selected other findings
- Discussion



YLT 2026

- All young people living in N.I. who receive Child Benefit and celebrated their 16th birthday in the period of Jan–Mar 2026
- Split online survey
- 1,965 completions
- Response rate 32%

www.ark.ac.uk/ylt/2026

KLT 2026

- All P7-aged children in N.I.
- Informed consent from principals/parents/guardians (opt-out) and children (opt-in)
- Online survey completed in school
- 4,250 completions, 153 primary schools took part
- Response rate 17%

www.ark.ac.uk/klt/2026

YLT 2026

- Good Relations
- Attitudes to Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Minority Ethnic Groups
- Gender-based Violence
- Shared Education
- Community Safety
- Social Media
- Voting at 16
- Victims of Crime
- Mental Health
- Environment

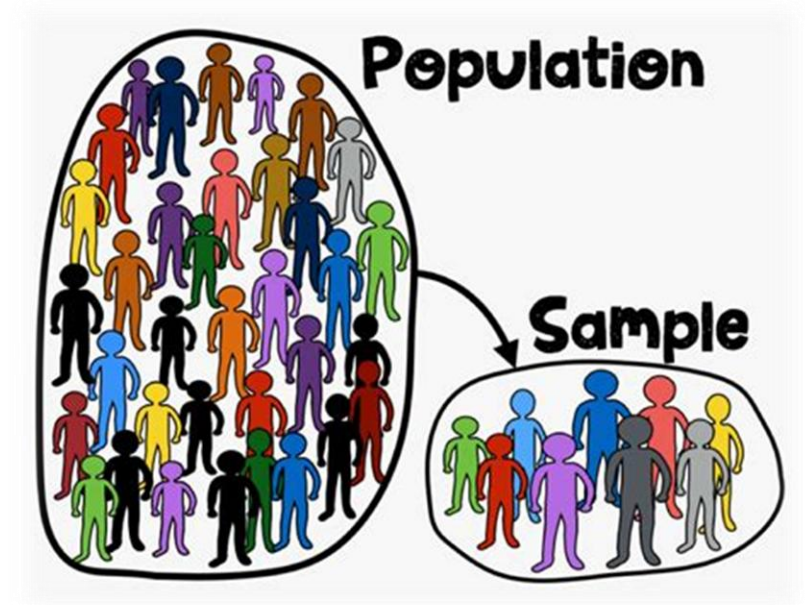
KLT 2026

- Home and Family
- Mental Health
- Shared Education
- Integrated Education
- Social Media



Background

		(%)
Gender	Boy	49
	Girl	49
	Neither/Don't want to say	2
Long term illness	Yes	11
	No	68
	Not sure	21
Where they live	City or Town	48
	Village or in the country	39
	Not sure	13
School type	Catholic Maintained	47
	Controlled	45
	Integrated	8
	Other (including special schools)	1



Background

		(%)
Gender	Male	40
	Female	59
	Other (non-binary, trans, other)	1
Long-term illness	Yes	15
	No	85
School type	Grammar	48
	Secondary	40
	Planned Integrated	8
	Other (including Further Education College)	4
Religion	Catholic	35
	Protestant and other Christian	25
	No religion	39
	Other	2



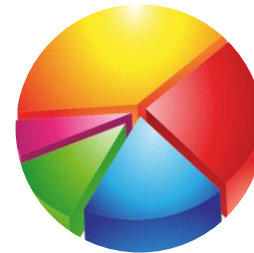
Key findings of the 2026 KLT and YLT surveys



Education



Social Media



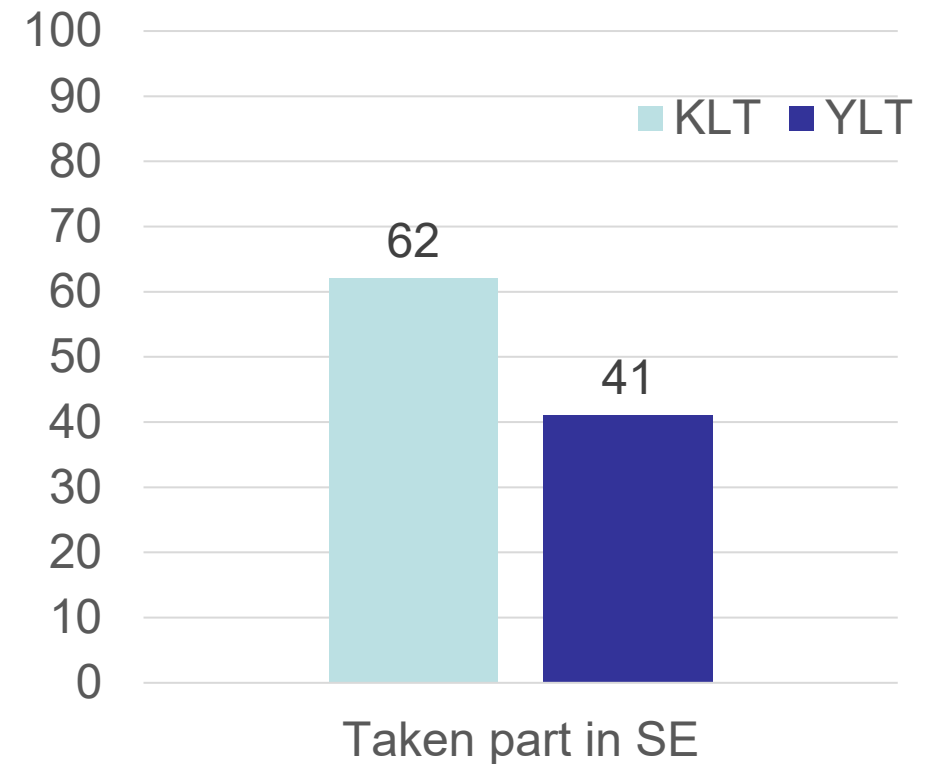
**Some selected
other results**



Education

- **Shared Education (KLT+YLT)**
- **Integrated Education (KLT)**

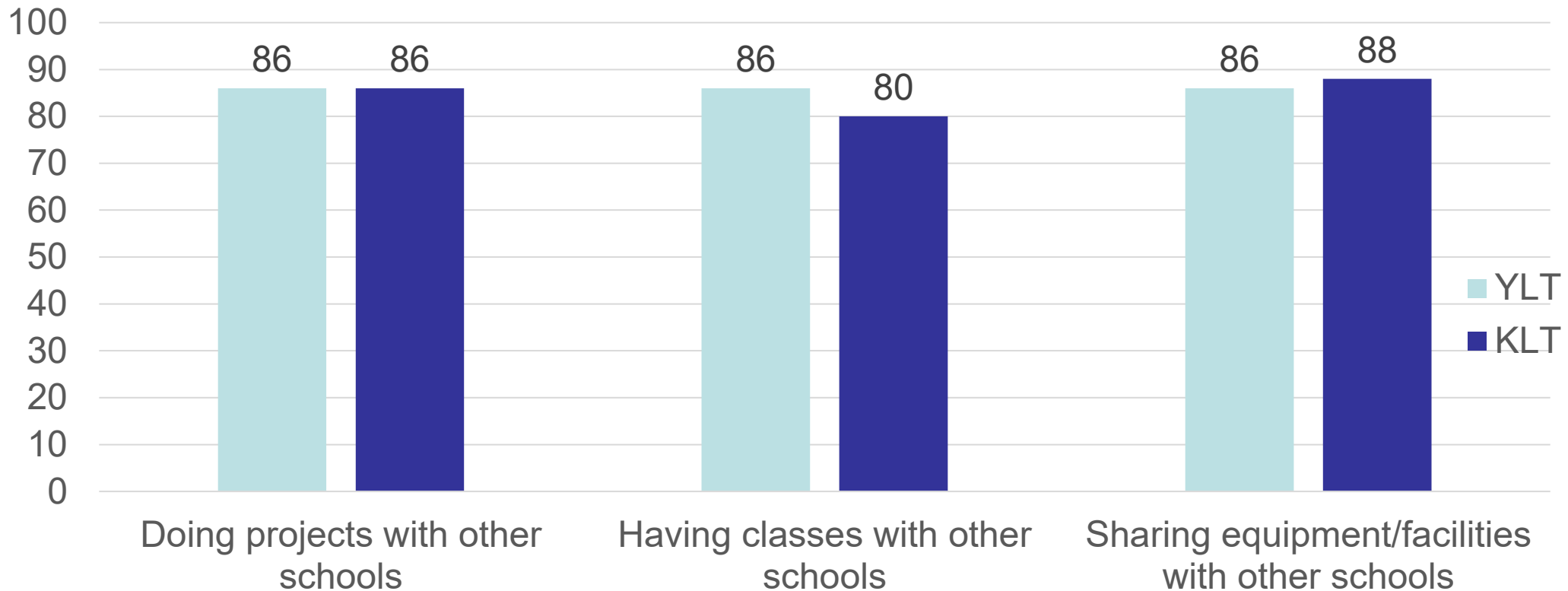
SHARED EDUCATION encourages schools to work together and partner with other schools where the pupils are from a different religious or social backgrounds. Such sharing has to take place on a **REGULAR AND CONTINUED BASIS** over the academic year. It cannot just be a one-off Christmas concert or joint sports day. To count as Shared Education pupils might, for example, have classes or do projects with pupils from another school, or share computers or sports facilities on a regular basis.



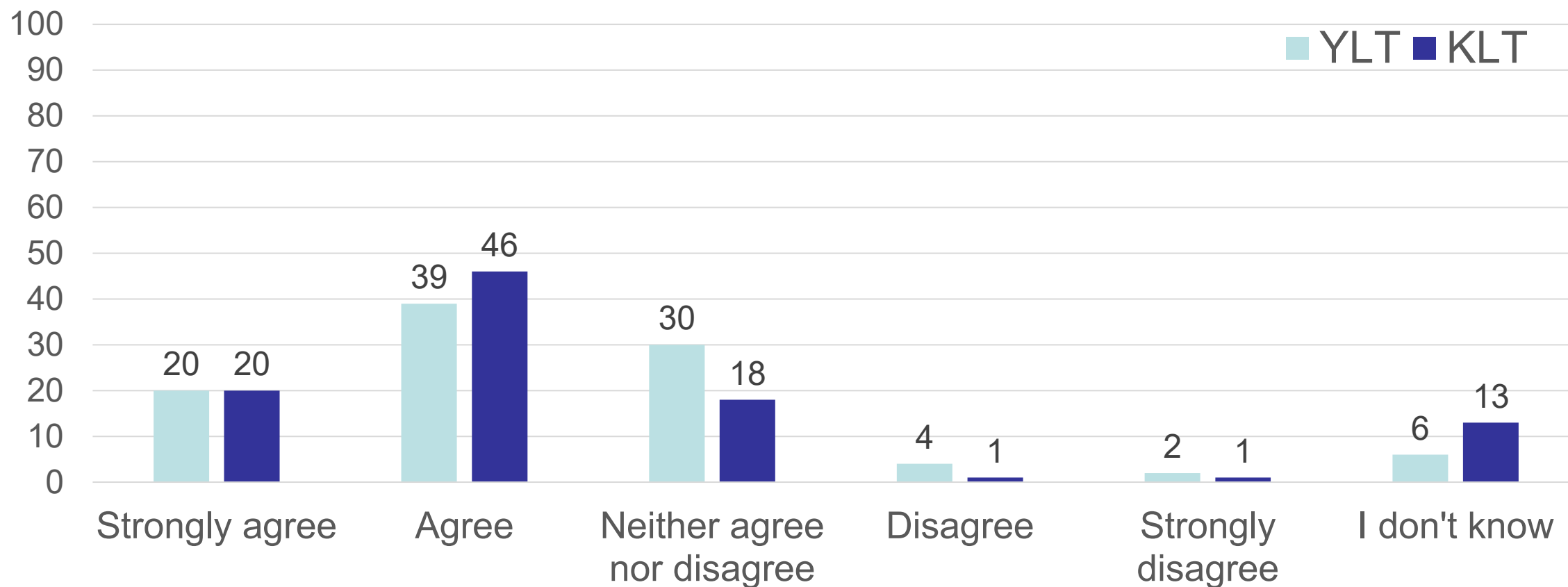
Shared Education activities children & young people took part in

	%	
	YLT	KLT
I have had classes with pupils from other schools	63	59
I have done projects with pupils from other schools	72	67
I have used or shared sports facilities or equipment, like computers with pupils from other schools	52	62
Something else	9	22

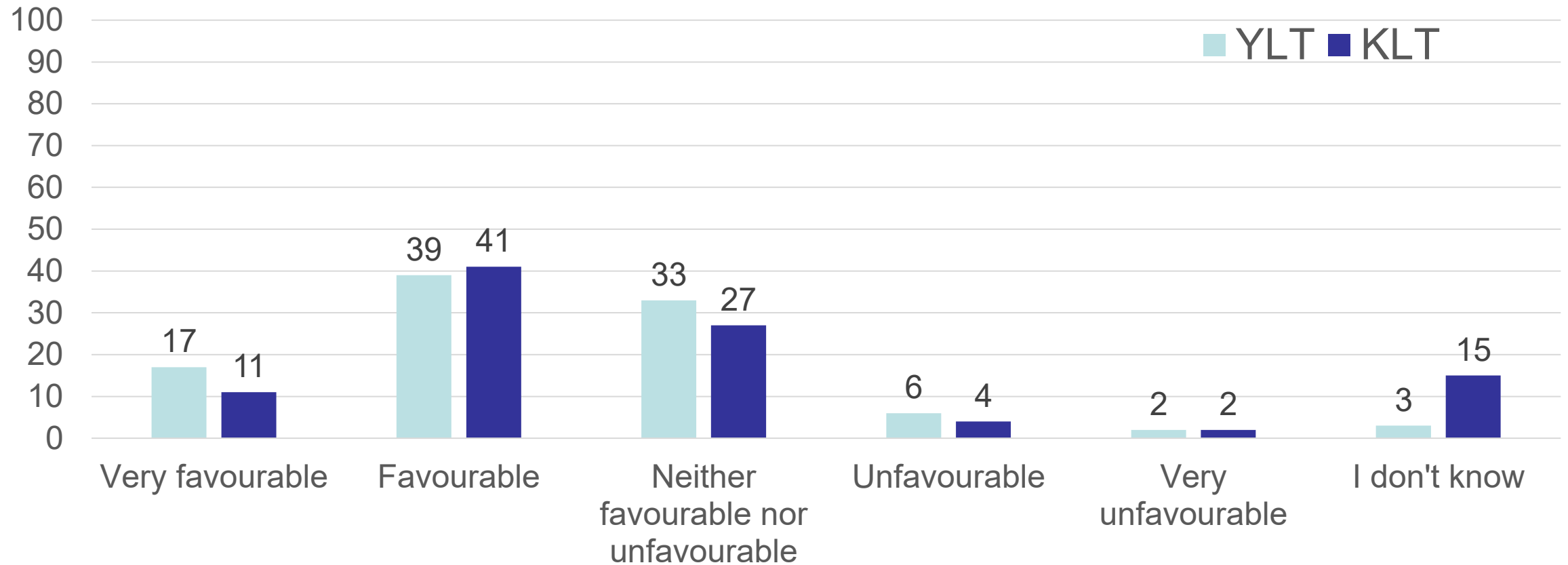
Respondents saying they liked these activities 'a little' or 'a lot' (%)



I am better able to respect the view of others as a result of taking part in SE (%)



How respondents felt overall about Shared Education (%)



Respondents saying they made close friends with pupils from other schools since taking part in Shared Education (%)

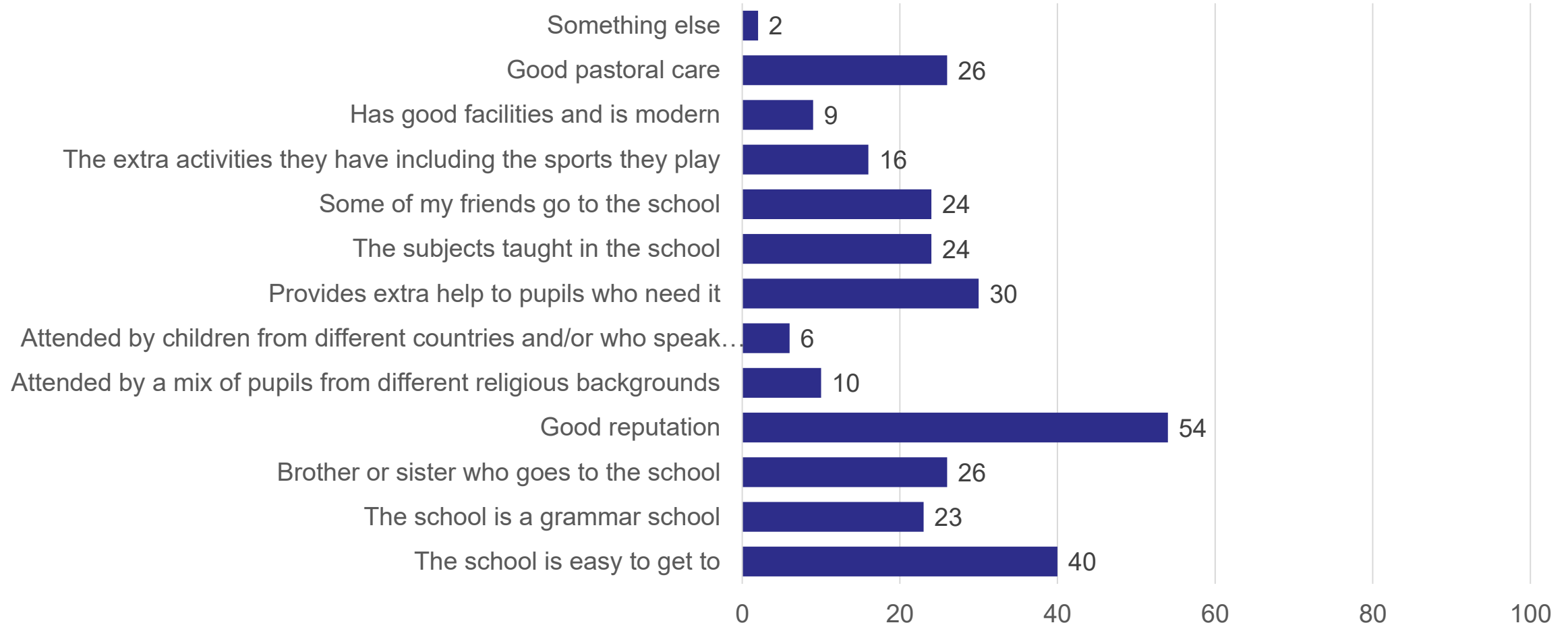
	%
KLT	42
YLT	23

Would you like to take part in Shared Education in future? (%)

	%	
	KLT	YLT
Yes	33	29
No	23	26
Don't know	44	45

Includes only those who have not taken part in the SE in the past

Most important aspects when choosing a post-primary school

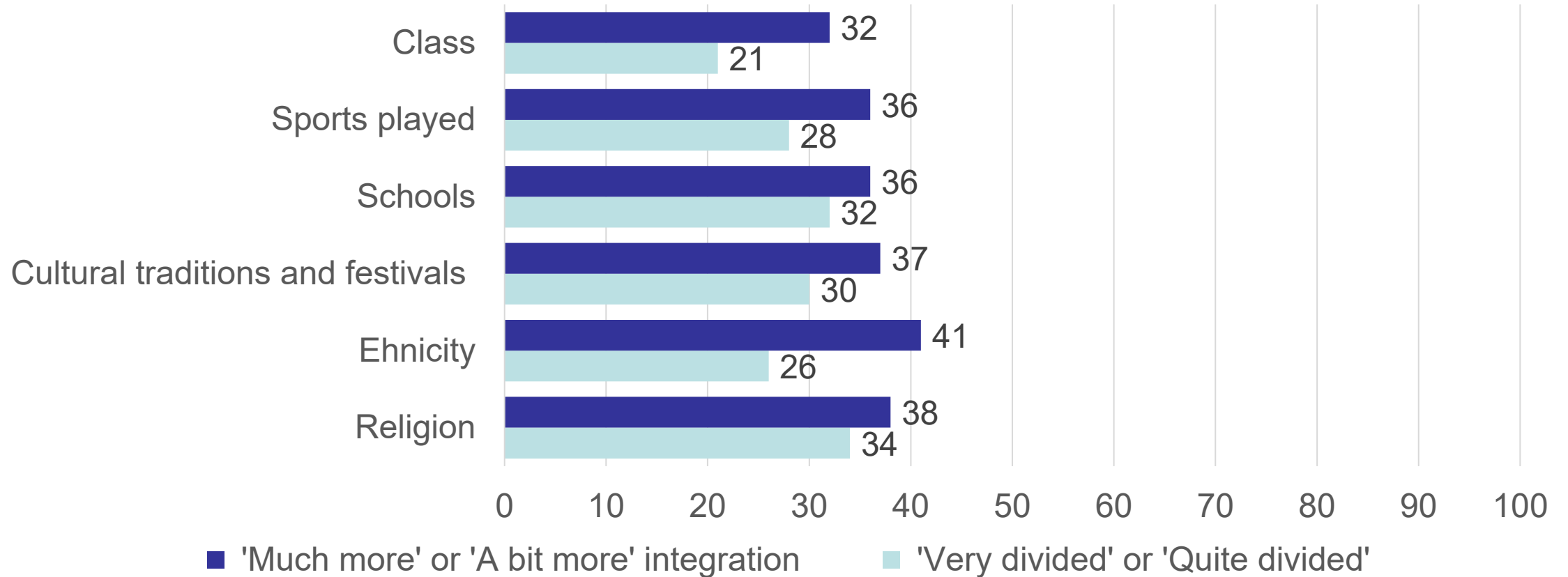


Integration

How welcome would new pupils be made in your school if they had a different...?

	%					
	Religion		Ethnicity		Class	
	By others	By you	By others	By you	By others	By you
Very welcome	71	81	71	82	70	80
A bit welcome	20	14	20	13	18	12
Not at all welcome	2	2	2	1	2	1
Don't know	7	5	7	4	10	7

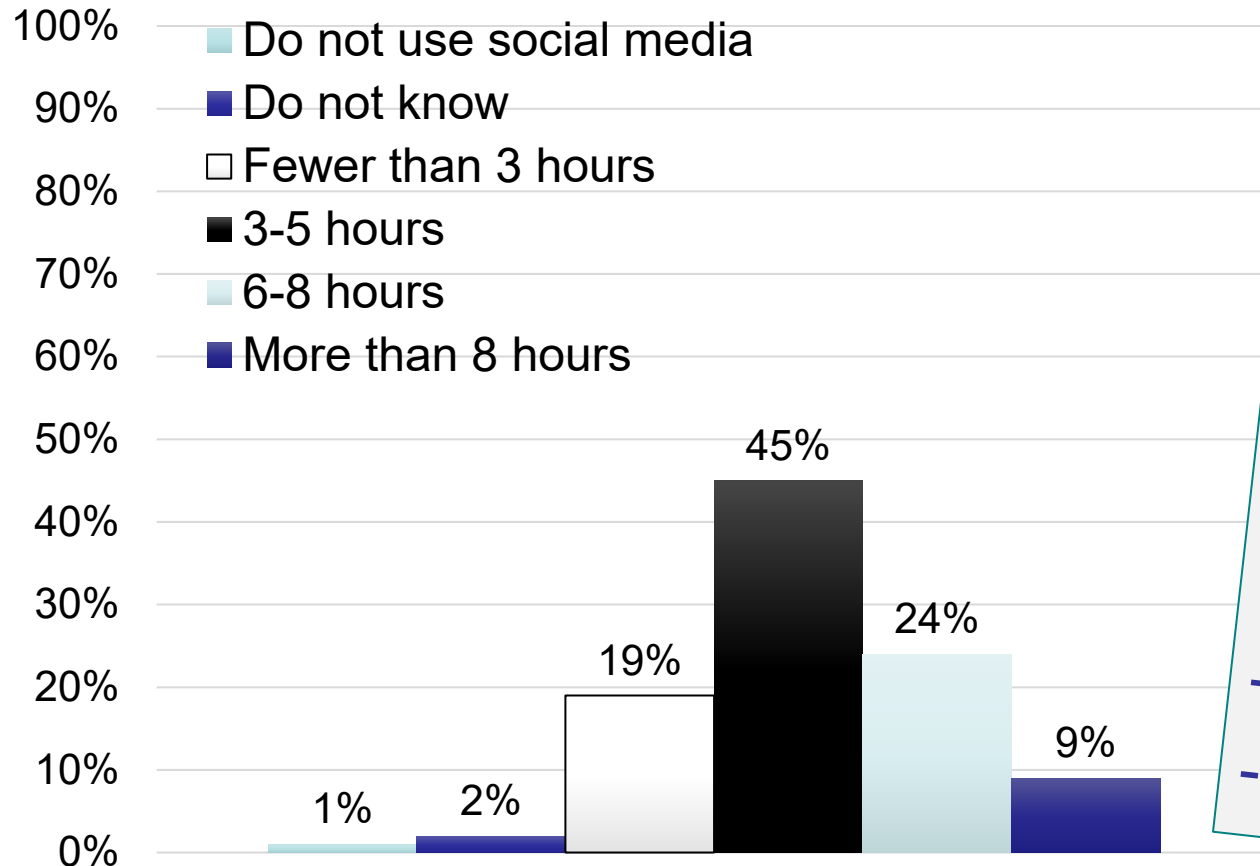
How divided is NI, and how much more integration should there be in terms of...?



Social Media



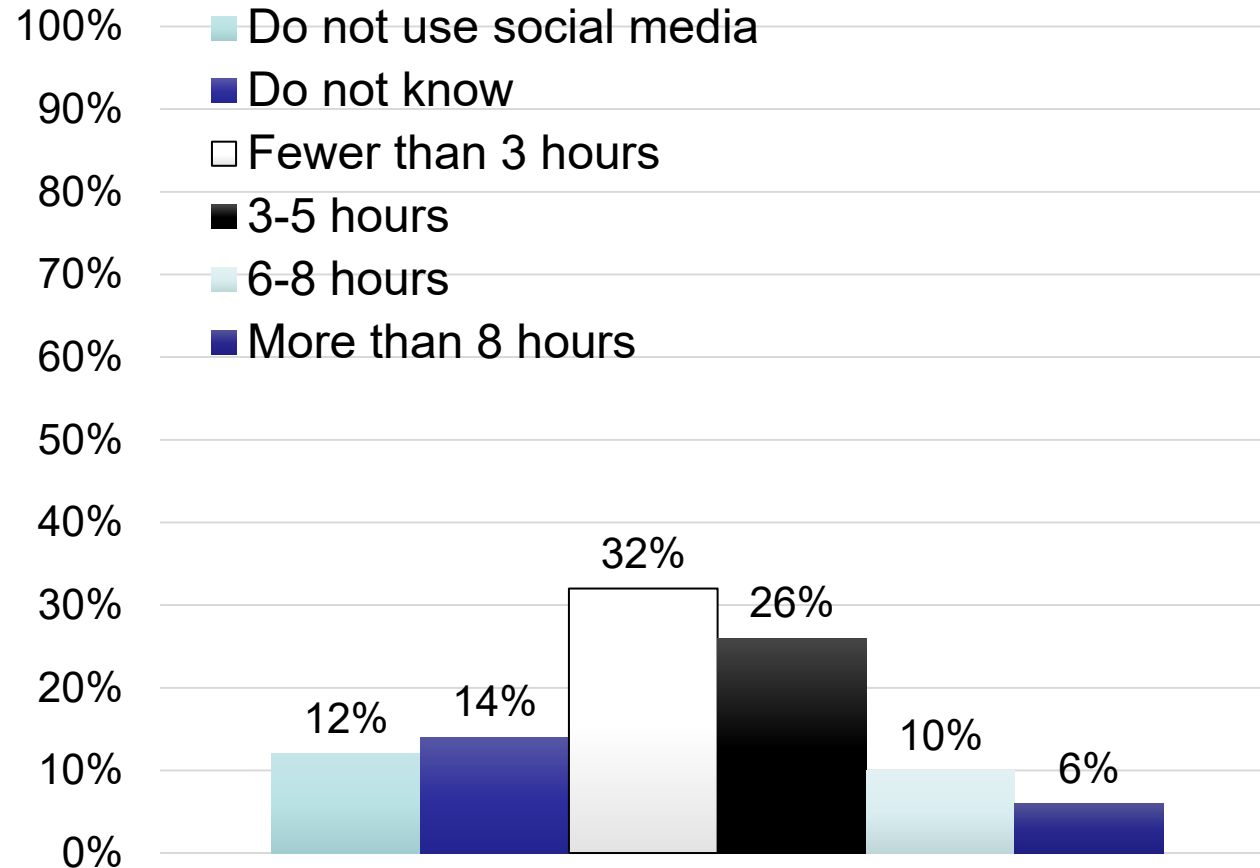
Time spent on social media on an average day



16-year-olds who spend more time on social media are more likely to...

- Be female, same-sex attracted, non-binary;
- Come from not well-off backgrounds;
- Live **not** with both parents;
- Attend non-Grammar schools
- Live in urban settings

Time spent on social media on an average day



P7 children who spend more time on social media are more likely to...

- Be male, 'other' gender;
- Come from less affluent backgrounds;
- Have a disability or long-term illness;
- Live in urban settings

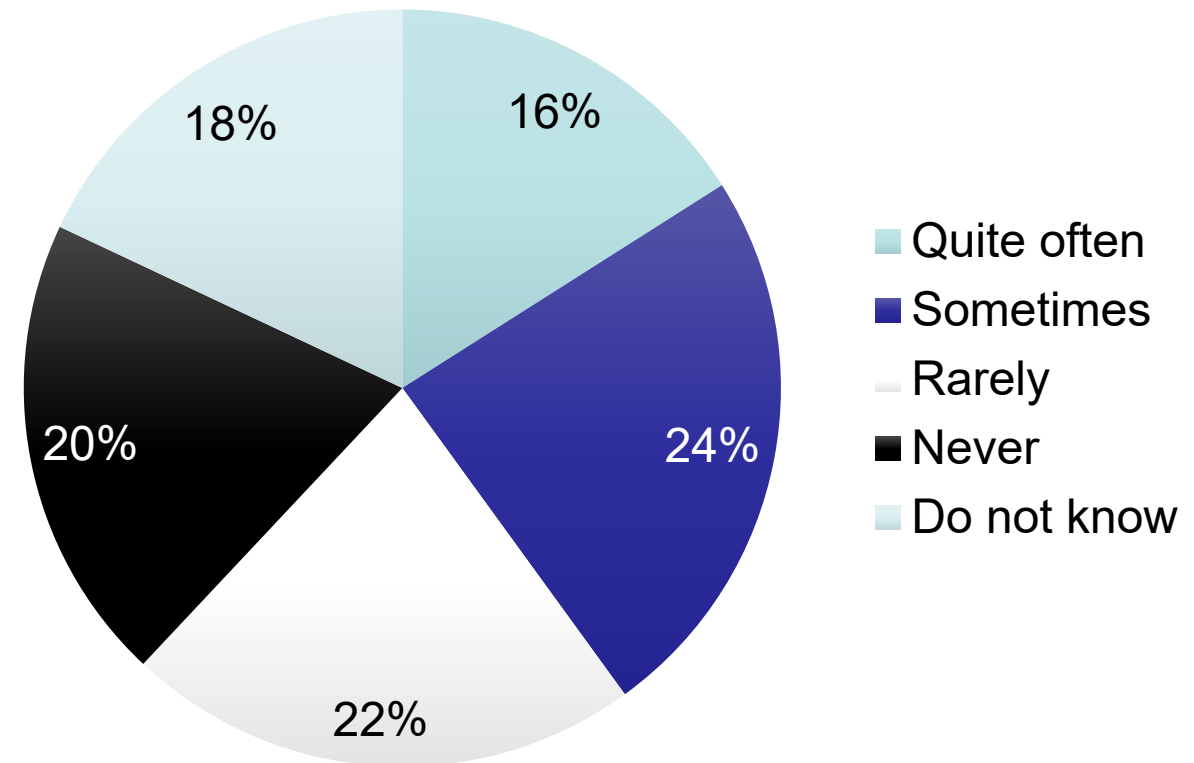
Harmful behaviours experienced

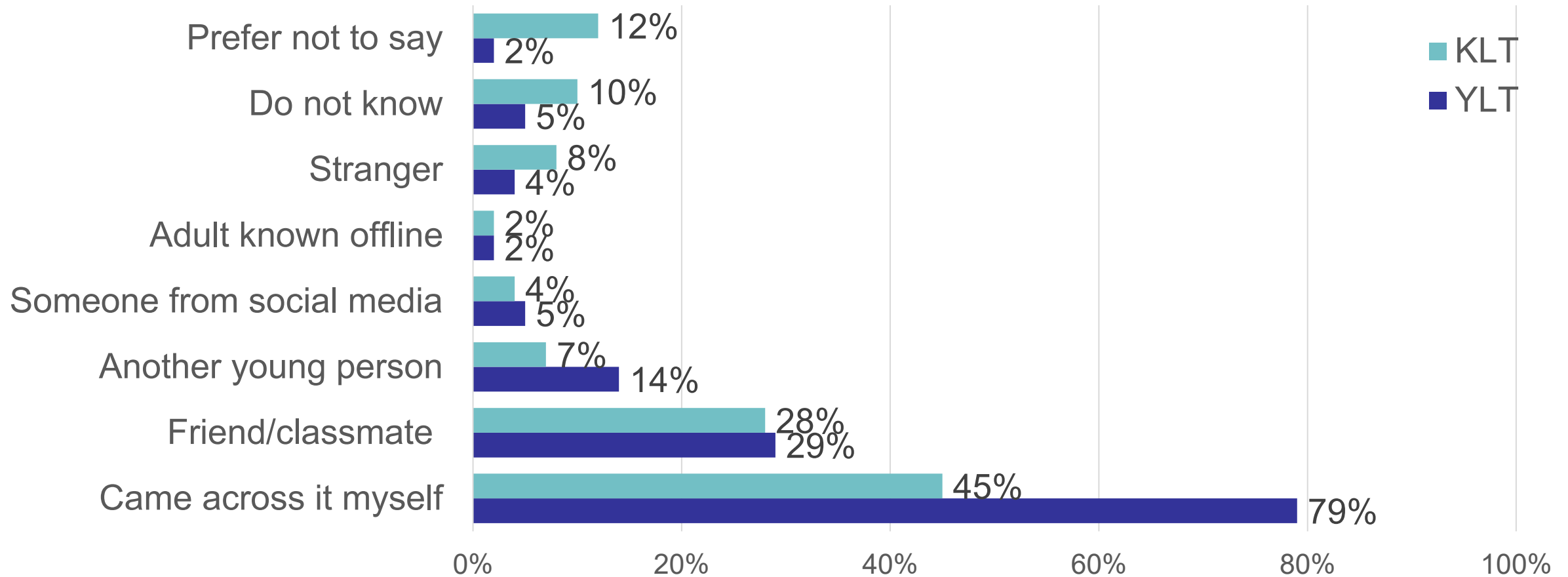
Someone posting/sharing material which you found offensive, indecent or obscene	24%
Someone sharing your information, photos, videos with others without your consent	16%
People deliberately being dishonest to you to obtain a financial/personal benefit or cause you to lose something	16%
Someone stalking your activities	14%
Someone posting/sharing material motivated by hostility/dislike towards your race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender	12%
Someone attempting to build a relationship with you to try to manipulate you	10%
Offers to buy or sell illegal or stolen goods	10%
Someone posting/sharing threatening, intimidation or harassing material about or towards you	8%
Blackmail	7%
Someone using your information on social media to hack into your accounts	6%
Someone using your information on social media to steal your identity	4%
I have not experienced any of these behaviours	55%

Harmful behaviours experienced

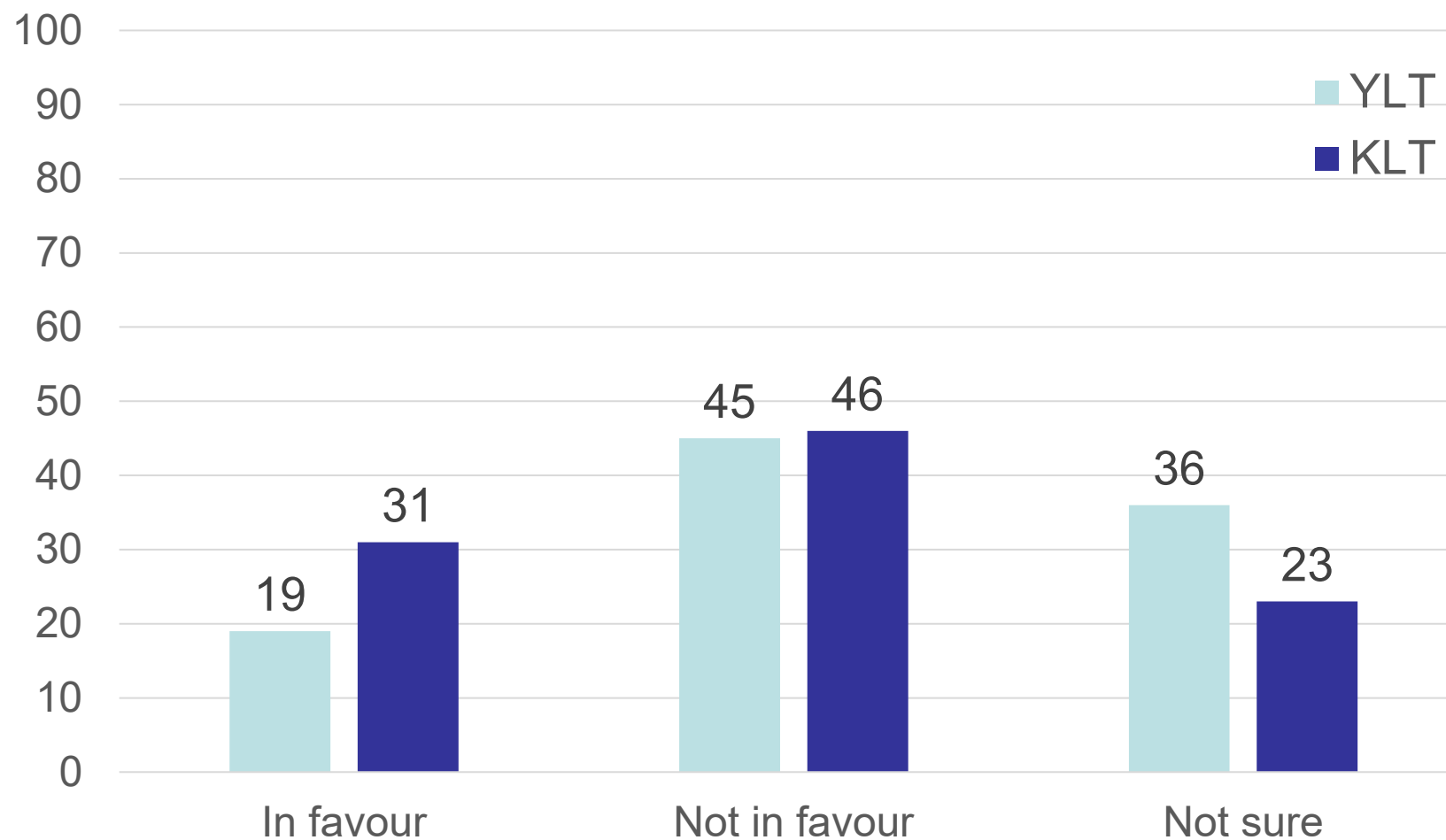
- Females more likely to be exposed to harmful behaviours on social media than males, e.g.:
- Females (27%) more likely to have been posted offensive, obscene or indecent content than males (18%)
- Females (16%) more likely to have experienced stalking than males (11%)

Respondents saying they were exposed to material designed to radicalise





Should access to Social Media be restricted for those under 16 years of age?



Arguments for and against restrictions

In favour

- Exposure to harmful content
- Addictive nature
- Negative impact on attention span
- Negative influence on mental health
- Keeps people safe
- Protects vulnerable people from being exploited
- Reduces screen time
- Improves in-person socialisation skills

Against

- Communication and connection
- Escape and expression
- Education and employability
- Distrust of government and organisations
- Freedom and rights
- Parental responsibility
- Victimises the victim
- More action required by social media companies
- Not solving the problem
- Not that harmful

Arguments for and against restrictions

In favour

- Exposure to harmful content
- Addictive nature
- Negative impact on behaviour and cognitions
- Negative influence on mental health
- Keeps people safe
- Avoid predators
- **Reduces screen time**
- Improves in-person socialisation skills and playing outside

Against

- **Entertainment**
- Safety and security
- Communication and connection
- Escape and expression
- Education and employability
- Freedom and rights
- Parental responsibility
- More action required by social media companies
- Not solving the problem
- Not that harmful



- **Voting at 16**
- **Good relations & safety in the community**
- **Ending violence against women and girls**
- **Young people's experiences of crime**

Lowering the voting age to 16

In favour of lowering the voting age?

	%
I am in favour of this	40
I am not in favour of this	32
I don't know	28

If young people in NI were receiving comprehensive civic and political education in school...

	%
I would be more in favour	57
I would be less in favour	3
My view would not change	23
I don't know	17

Would you personally vote?

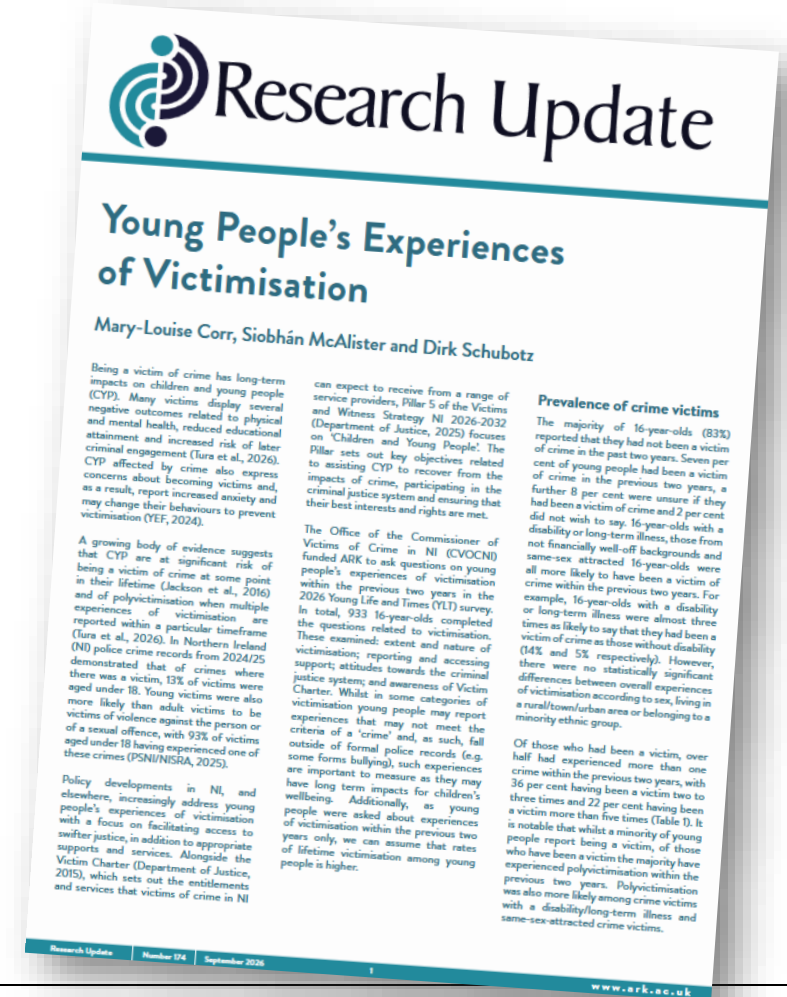
	%
I would definitely vote	31
I would probably vote	34
I would probably not vote	20
I would definitely not vote	7
I don't know	9



16-year olds' experiences of crime

Questions included

- Prevalence of crime and frequency of crime experiences
- Types of crime experienced
- Attitudes to the criminal justice system
- Knowledge of the Victims Charter



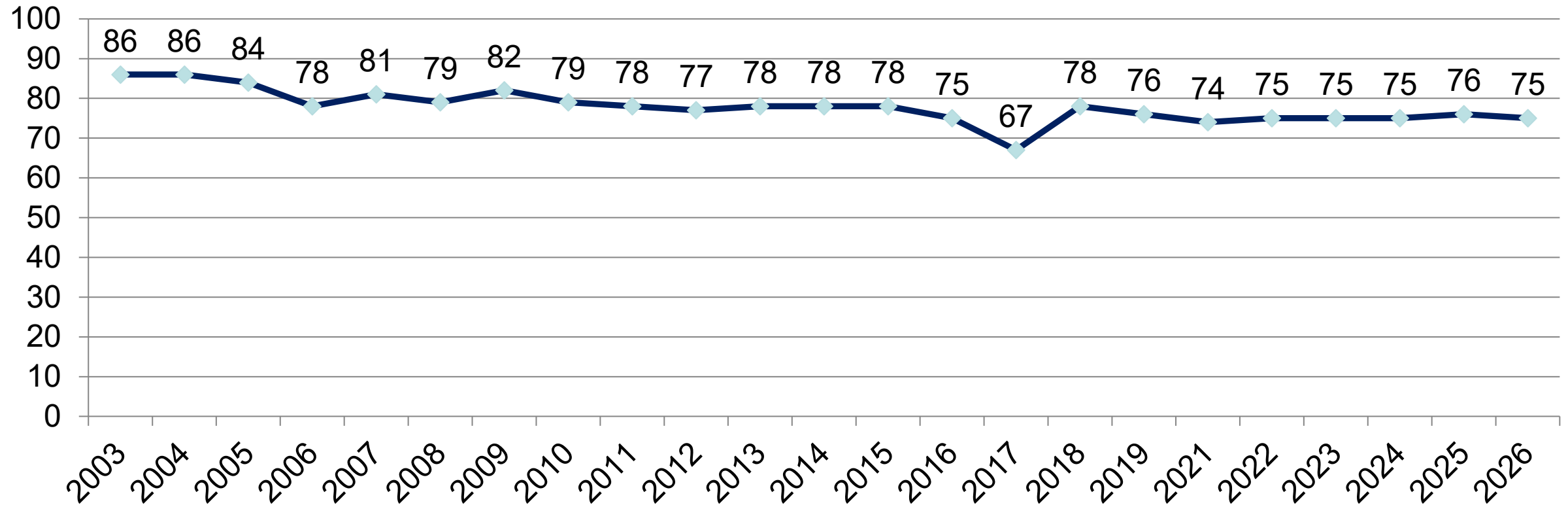
Key Findings

- 83% of respondents had not experienced any crime in the previous 2 years
- Young people with disabilities, same-sex attracted young people and those from not well-off backgrounds were more likely to have been a victim of crime
- Only 1 in 5 believe the criminal justice system in NI is effective
- Reporting of crimes to the police is low

	%
Bullying or harassment, including cyber-bullying	35
Financial crimes, such as fraud	4
Hate crime (such racism or sectarianism or homophobia)	20
In-person sexual offences (such as sexual assault, stalking, upskirting etc.)	21
Online sexual abuse (sextortion or other exploitation)	7
Theft/burglary	5
Physical Violence	19
Criminal damage	6
Domestic Abuse	4
Coercive control / psychological-emotional abuse	8
Something else	4
I prefer not to say	8
I don't think I have been a victim of a crime	24

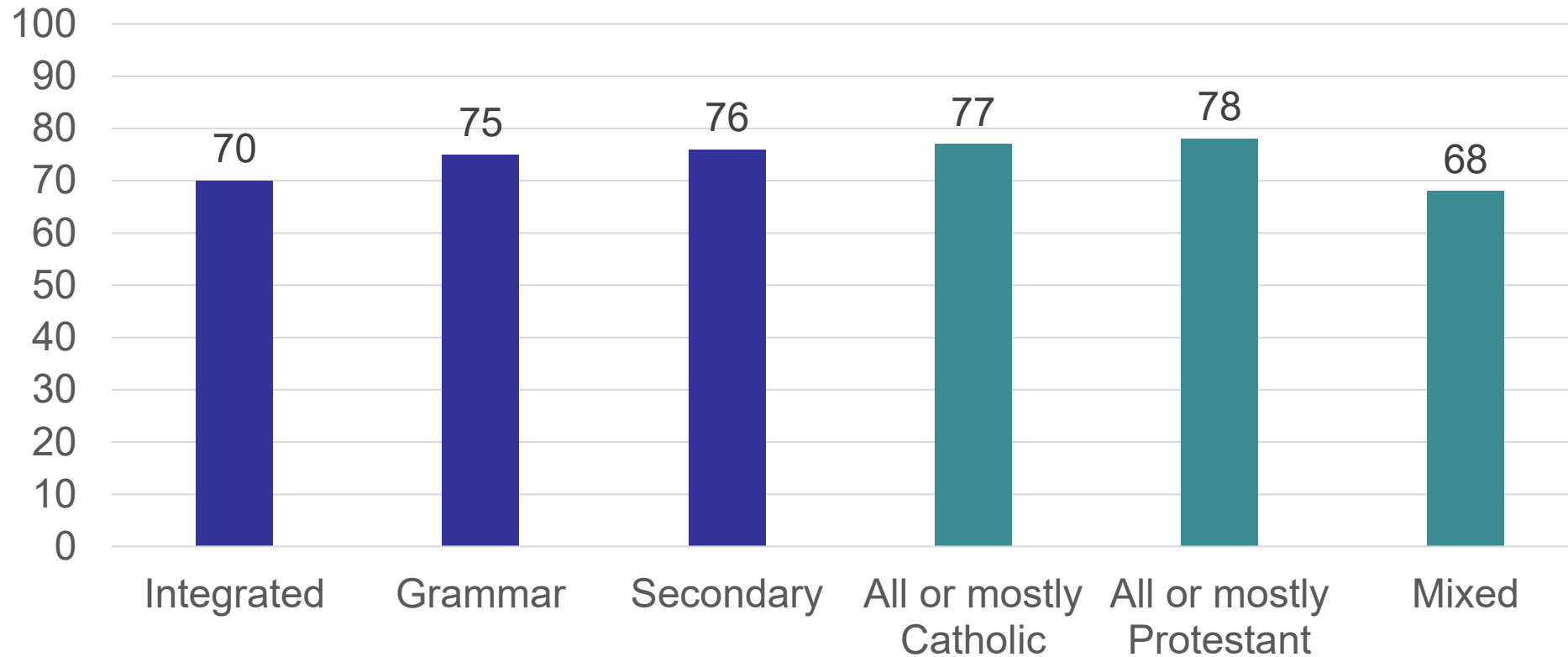
Good Relations: Perceptions

YLT respondents saying religion will always make a difference to how people feel about each other in Northern Ireland (%)

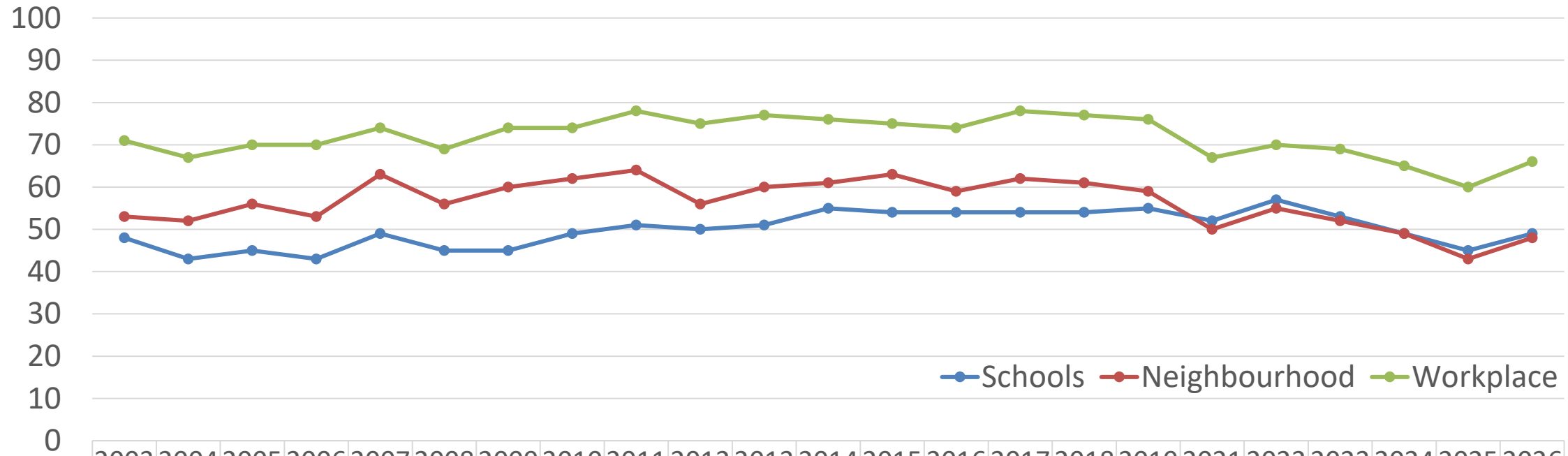


Good Relations: Perceptions

Respondents saying religion will always make a difference to how people feel about each other in Northern Ireland. By school type attended (%)



YLT respondents saying they prefer mixed-religion environments (%)



Minority ethnic groups

Refugees positively contribute to our society

	%		
	Catholic	Protestant	No religion
Strongly agree	8	3	14
Agree	27	18	25
Neither agree nor disagree	35	34	34
Disagree	13	17	10
Strongly disagree	5	14	7
I don't know	12	14	9

Minority ethnic groups

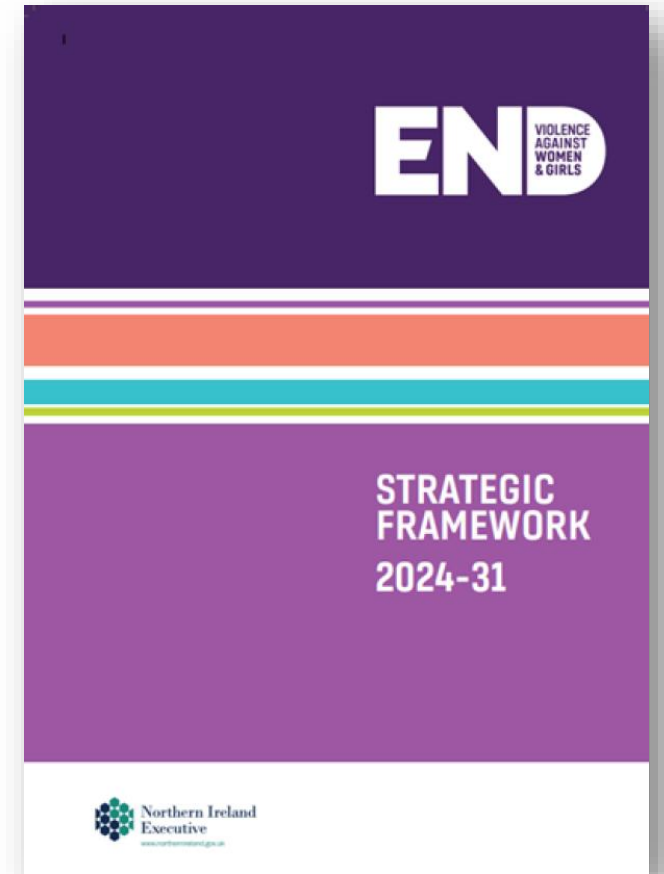
I would like more opportunities to meet asylum seekers

	%		
	Catholic	Protestant	No religion
Strongly agree	11	7	14
Agree	26	19	25
Neither agree nor disagree	32	30	33
Disagree	14	17	10
Strongly disagree	8	18	8
I don't know	9	9	10

Gender-based Violence

Have you personally experienced any of the following in the last year?

	%		
	Male	Female	All
Physical violence	9	6	7
Sexual violence	2	12	8
Psychological violence	10	21	17
Online violence	10	17	14
None of these	77	61	67



- Planning of 2027 YLT & KLT surveys underway
- Social Media follow-up project – event in December
- Research Updates on 16-year-olds' experiences of crime (YLT) and on integrated education (KLT)
- KLT & YLT Research summary fliers; KLT school reports
- For further output: (www.ark.ac.uk/publications/)
- For any information on the surveys please contact:

YLT -	Dirk Schubotz	d.schubotz@qub.ac.uk
KLT –	Erin Early	e.early@ulster.ac.uk
YLT & KLT –	Jonny Hanson	j.hanson@qub.ac.uk
- Keep up-to-date on our website and Social Media



Young Life and Times (YLT) &



Kids' Life and Times (KLT)

