

MAINSTREAM/INDEPENDENT/ECS/COLLEGE

Responses: 7276

Q1. How old are you?

Responses ranged from ages 11 up to 19, the highest responding age group was 13 year olds: 20.8% (1516).

Q2. How do you identify yourself?

Female: 56.5% (4112); male 34.8% (2532); 464 responded in the 'other' categories and 168 'preferred not to say'.

Q3. Which school or college do you attend?

The Saint John Henry Newman Catholic School, Bishop's Hatfield Girls School and Croxley Danes School were the highest responders.

Q4. Where do you live?

19.2% of the surveys were completed by those living in the Stevenage area (1399); 1072 were from Welwyn Hatfield and 1054 from North Herts.

Q5. Do you consider yourself to have special educational needs?

The majority answered no to this question – 86.2% (6269).

Q6. What is your ethnicity?

White British accounted for 61.2% (4455) of young people who completed the survey.

Q7. How are you feeling today?

70.3% of young people said they were good/okay (5113).

Q8. We asked young people during lockdown in 2020 if they were worried about any of the following issues.

With the exception of 8.2 (Uncertainty about exams and course work) where young people said that they were 'a bit worried', the remaining questions all had highest results in the 'not worried' choice.

Q8 cont.

- 8.1 Not being able to go to school/college due to COVID19 sickness/self-isolation
- 8.3 Limits to meeting up with friends
- 8.4 Limits to meeting with my faith community
- 8.5 Limits to meeting up with wider family members
- 8.6 Feeling lonely and isolated from other people
- 8.7 Feeling bored and having nothing to do
- 8.8 Feeling anxious/scared/depressed/angry
- 8.9 Increased tension or arguments with my family
- 8.10 Struggling to make healthy choices around diet, exercise and sleep routines
- 8.11 Struggling to do school or college work at home
- 8.12 Being hungry/not having enough food
- 8.13 Other: this was a free text box and comments were around maintaining and creating new friendships during COVID19; impact of COVID 19 on family and friends; being anxious about being alone; sleeping; eating; coping with online schooling; homework and sitting exams.

Q9. What kind of groups, projects or clubs do you attend?

Sports was selected the most 54.4% (3414) and religious groups the least 5.3% (333). 'Other' activities young people also attend are youth groups, horse/pony clubs, maths and coding clubs, LGBT+ groups and cadets.

Q10. What groups, projects or clubs would you like to see in your local area, that you do not already attend?

Young people could select three answers. As with Q9, sports scored the highest at 36.9% (1871) and religious groups the lowest at 6.2% (312). 'Other' activities young people would like to see were clubs for music; debating; coding & gaming; volunteering and the addition or upgrading of skateboarding parks (Baldock, Hitchin, Stevenage and London Colney were mentioned by name).

Q11. Are you currently concerned about any of the following things and are you concerned for the future about any of these things?

Concerned now:

- Family or friends catching COVID19
- Black Lives Matter
- Violence against girls and young women
- How some boys and men speak to and treat girls and young women

Concerned for the future:

- My education
- Getting a job/my future career
- Money
- Climate change

Not concerned:

- Mental health and emotional wellbeing
- Physical health
- Catching COVID19
- Getting involved with crime
- Being safe on the streets/in the park
- How the police treat me and my friends
- Internet safety
- Relationships with family
- Relationships with friends
- Relationship with boyfriend/girlfriend
- Being bullied
- Communicating with others
- Exploring identity (including LGBT+)
- Body image and appearance

'Other' comments regarding young people's concerns were around being isolated; body image; hate crimes; gender identity; mental wellbeing; male and female sexual harassment.

Q12. Do you feel that there is enough help and support for you and your friends?

69.6% (5064) agreed that there was enough help and support.

Q13. Do you feel like you could access mental health support if you needed it?

71.2% (5179) said they could access mental health support if needed.

Q14. If you needed help and support with a particular issue or challenge, do you know how and where to access this?

70.0% (5094) said they knew where to access help for a particular issue or challenge.

Q15. Who would you most likely go to, to receive help or support for a particular issue? Please select all that apply.

The option with the highest number of responses was parent/carer with 68.0% (4950) and the lowest was Employment/Education Adviser with 3.1% (223). In the free text box for 'Other', the most mentioned were aunt; therapist; cousin and friend.

Q16. Please use the box below to tell us how we can improve access to help and support for young people.

Some examples were – greater advertising of services and resources in schools/shops/town centres; smartphone app; more online support; interactive assemblies and more ads on social media.

Q17. Do you know where to get advice and information that will help you decide what to do when you leave school/college?

63.6% (4624) said yes, they knew where to get advice and information.

Q18. Where do you go for help and support regarding education, employment and training?

The highest result was parent/carer with 71.6% (5047). 'Other' comments were: siblings; family members; UCAS and Unifrog websites.

Q19. Do you think young people would benefit from information about any of the following?

All of the options rated highly, however young people selected 'jobs' as their top answer 68.0% (4567). The majority of those who left comments in the 'other' free text box mentioned help in managing finances, careers and mental health.

Q20. If there is anything else you want to tell us about how we can improve help, support and services for young people across Hertfordshire, please use the box below
Some comments were:

- Add more youth volunteering opportunities for children 11-15 so they can develop more skills.
- By improving the availability to get information and the reliability of the information about mental health, jobs, education, help with LGBT+/gender identity and sexuality.
- Education about life skills such as cooking, travelling, banking, staying safe out at night, password security, pollution.
- Get people from all careers into visit schools like the RAF, Mi6, other teachers, government.
- Having better access to everything, whether that's mental health support or support for our future.
- I generally think Hertfordshire is a safe place to grow up, but I do feel that we could benefit more from talks in schools about bullying, future careers, county lines etc.
- If there was a newspaper or newsletter that came out monthly with relevant news, activities and scheduled events coming up in the next month. There could be some way of us young people to get involved with helping to write this and making activities to put in it.
- Make the youth centres more public as most people aren't aware of them, make them more attractive to go to and at times when people will be able to attend.
- People coming into schools and telling young people on how to stay safe on the streets, because I am worried about being on my own in the dark.
- Please try to improve ways of talking to people about mental health, not doctors, somewhere you can go without parents for those whose parents are unaware of things like anxiety and believe it is a disability.
- I just want to say thank you, sometimes all I need is to be able to express my feeling without the fear of judgement. And even answering this survey has taken some weight of my shoulders. That's all - thank you 😊

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Responses: 378

Q1. How old are you?

Responses ranged from ages 11 up to 25, the highest responding age group was 13 year olds: 17.7% (67).

Q2. Which school or college do you attend?

The highest responding schools were recorded under 'other': Goffs-Churchgate Academy (56) and Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School and (38).

Q3. Where do you live?

17.7% of the surveys were completed by those living in the Broxbourne area (67); 62 were from Welwyn Hatfield and 54 from Stevenage.

Q4. Do you consider yourself to have a disability and/or learning difficulty?

The majority answered yes to this question – 60.8% (226).

Q5. If you answer 'yes' to Q4, please tell us about your disability and/or learning difficulty.

The most commonly responses were autism, ADHD, ASD, dyslexia and hearing problems/deafness.

Q6. Which of these activities do you attend?

Sports was selected the most 34.6% (129) and religious groups the least 2.1% (8).

Q7. Please list three issues in your life that are most important to you.

Family and friendships were mentioned mostly along with school work, mental health and anxiety.

Q8. Do you think you have enough help for those listed above?

41.8% (148) answered 'yes' to this question and 94 said they 'didn't know'.

Q9. If you needed help, who would you ask?

68 young people responded with school/college, 66 with family and 57 with friends.

Q10. Is there anything you think you need from the services and people that support you?

Some comments were:

- Guidance and information for now and my future. What job can I do? Where do I live? I want to be as independent as possible.
- I feel like there are a lack of services for 18-25 age group that aren't focused on specific things.
- Make sure to keep connected with different schools and students in the most effective ways possible.
- Support from employers, understanding and job opportunities for people with autism.
- More understanding of what it's like being deaf in a hearing world.
- To be listened too and to be heard. To have the support we need and don't have to fight for it. We need help making an opportunity to make friends and for our peers to accept us for who we are.
- I think all teachers should have better training on SEN, not just the ones in that department.
- Just understanding that autistic people need a bit more support sometimes.