

YOUR VOICE SUMMARY



EDUCATION & LEARNING SURVEY



Bridgend County
Borough Council
Civic Offices,
Angel Street,
CF31 4WB

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BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES

After a nationwide UK Youth Parliament 'Make Your Mark' ballot in early 2024, two key areas were identified by young people in Bridgend as important to them, these being;

- Health & Wellbeing
- Education and Learning

Bridgend Youth Support (BYS) wanted to find out more about how we could evaluate the effectiveness of these service areas identified as important to young people. The 'Your Voice' survey was developed through collaboration with Bridgend Youth Council (BYC), the Young People's Rights & Participation team and BYS.

After the Health & Wellbeing survey findings from the initial survey in 2004 a follow up survey was carried out on Challenging Bullying in 2025 which was shared with BYS to further inform services. Our 'You Said, We Did!' webpage has been updated to reflect the actions taken from these survey findings.

At the core of our Youth Participation Strategy at BCBC is youth voice and a key element to this is involving young people in the planning, delivery and evaluation of our services. Over 2025/2026 the Young People's Rights & Participation team have further collaborated with Bridgend Youth Council to support the development of Education & Learning services in Bridgend Youth Support.

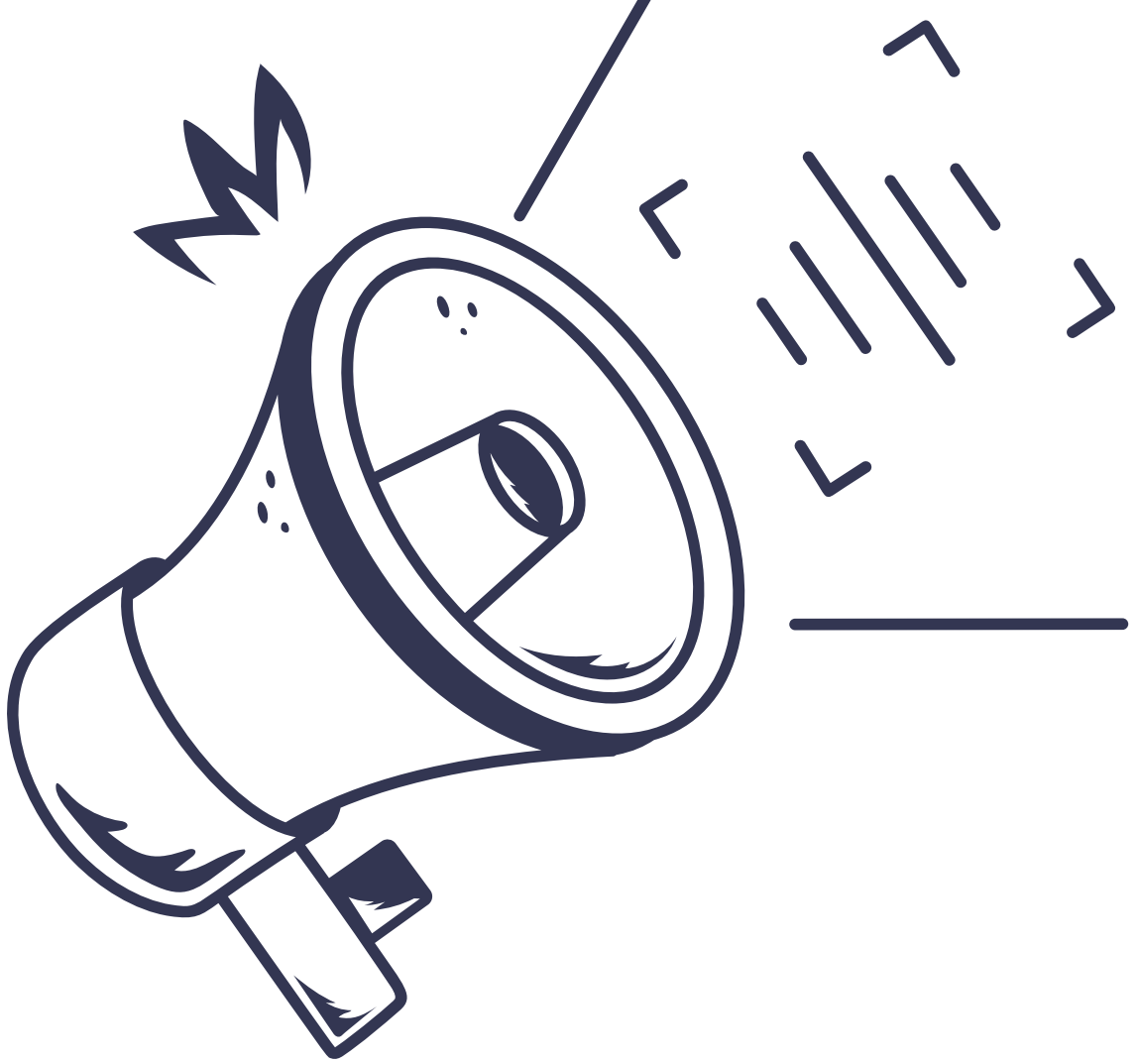


Bridgend Youth Council provides a youth voice platform for young people across the communities of Bridgend. Youth Council Members collaborated with BYS on the topic of Education & Learning to develop questions they felt most pertinent to young people in the area. The survey was offered to young people age 11-25yrs across all secondary schools, directorate service areas and third sector youth clubs with the aim of gaining a wide representation of youth voice across the Borough of Bridgend.

The objective of BYS and BYC was to evaluate what was going well and to identify any gaps in the needs of young people in the area to inform current BYS services. The survey was facilitated online and face to face throughout the spring term of 2026.

The survey consisted of questions on age, stage of education, place of education/ learning and curriculum, teaching styles/methods, additional learning opportunities and preferences for access. The questions also included learning currently accessed outside of school and if places accessed for education & learning were accessible to everyone.





SURVEY RESULTS

The survey received a total of 127 responses. Young people were also given the opportunity to self-report and give additional information so we could further listen to the voices of young people.

Key themes for the self reported sections in this survey are presented in the word clouds and summaries below. These illustrate the most important issues for young people.

BYC will be given the opportunity to listen to and disseminate the findings and will be consulted on their views for next steps.

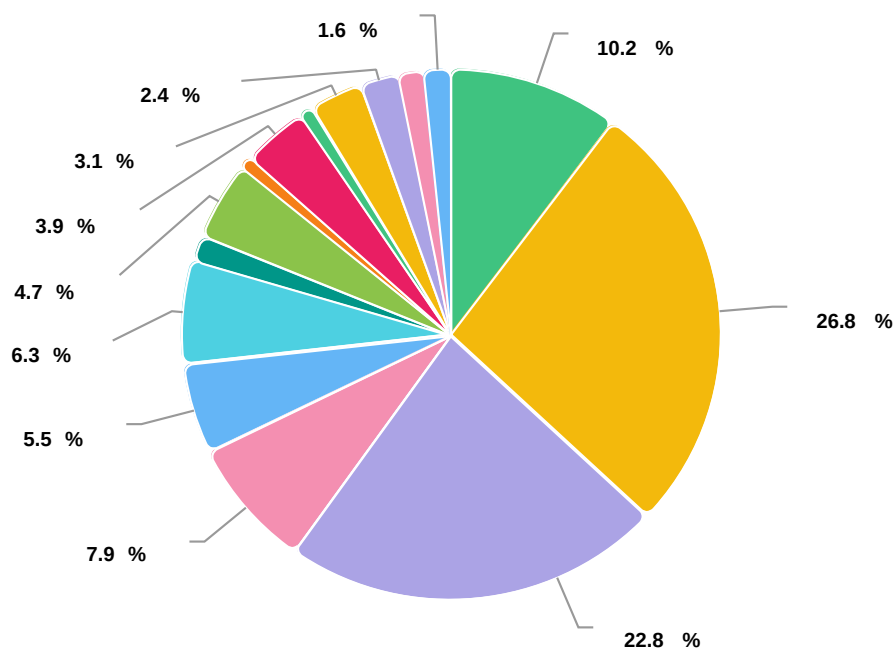


QUESTION 1

WHAT IS YOUR AGE?

The majority of young people that responded to the survey were 12yrs old at 27%, however 23% of respondents were 13yrs old.

The data findings are therefore predominantly applicable to young people age 12-13yrs old.



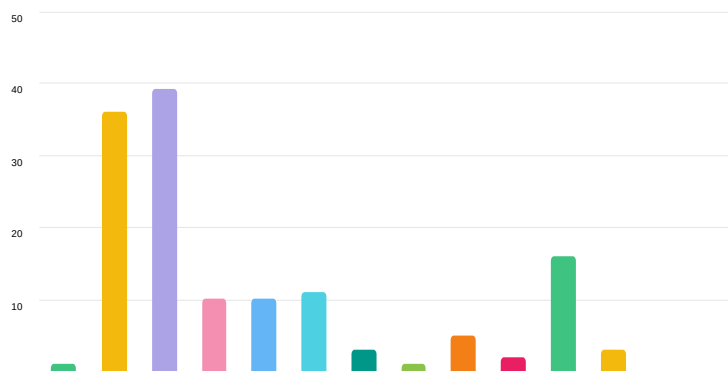
Question options	responses	%
11	13	10.2
12	34	26.8
13	29	22.8
14	10	7.9
15	7	5.5
16	8	6.3
17	2	1.6
18	6	4.7
19	1	0.8
20	5	3.9
21	1	0.8
22	4	3.1
23	3	2.4
24	2	1.6
Prefer not to say	2	1.6

127 responses · 0 skipped
Question type : Dropdown Question

QUESTION 2

WHICH STAGE OF EDUCATION ARE YOU AT?

The majority of young people who took part were in secondary school in either Year 8 at 31% or Year 7 at 28% of respondents. The next highest group of respondents were 'not in education' at 13%.



Question options	responses	%
Other (please specify)	1	0.8
Year 7	36	28.3
Year 8	39	30.7
Year 9	10	7.9
Year 10	10	7.9
Year 11	11	8.7
Year 12	3	2.4
Year 13	1	0.8
Further & Higher Education College	5	3.9
In apprenticeship	2	1.6
Not in education	16	12.6
Prefer not to say	3	2.4
University course	0	0.0
Working and studying	0	0.0

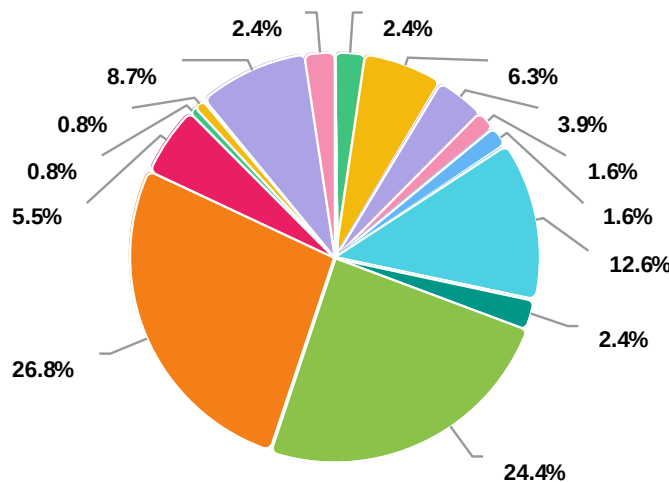
127 responses · 0 skipped

Question type : Checkbox Question

QUESTION 3

PLEASE LET US KNOW WHERE YOU ATTEND EDUCATION & LEARNING

The majority of young people who responded to the survey attended Porthcawl comprehensive school at 27%. The next highest group of respondents attended Pencoed comprehensive school at 24% followed by Cynffig comprehensive school at 13%. Young people not in education made up 9% of respondents.



Question options	responses	%
Other (please specify)	3	2.4
Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School	8	6.3
Brynteg Comprehensive School	5	3.9
Bryntirion Comprehensive School	2	1.6
Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen	2	1.6
Cynffig Comprehensive School	16	12.6
Maesteg Comprehensive School	3	2.4
Pencoed Comprehensive School	31	24.4
Porthcawl Comprehensive School	34	26.8
Bridgend College (Bridgend Campus)	7	5.5
Bridgend College (Pencoed Campus)	1	0.8
Ysgol Bryn Castell	1	0.8
Not in education	11	8.7
Prefer not to say	3	2.4
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd	0	0.0
Heronbridge School	0	0.0
The Bridge Alternative Provision School	0	0.0

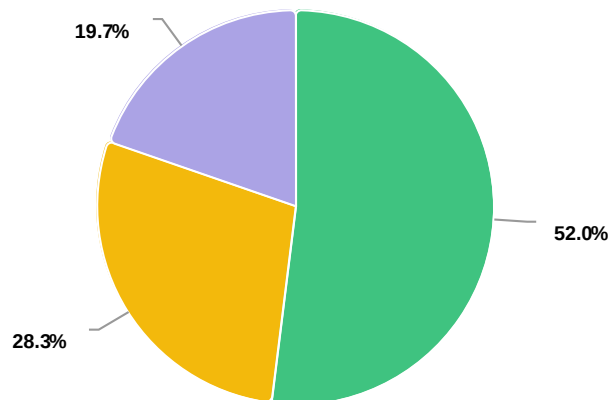
127 responses · 0 skipped



QUESTION 4

DO YOU THINK THERE COULD BE IMPROVEMENTS ON THE CURRENT CURRICULUM?

Approximately half of young people felt there could be improvements on the current curriculum at 52% of respondents saying 'Yes'. 28% of young people however answered 'No' to this question whilst 20% preferred not to answer.



Question options	responses	%
● Yes	66	52.0
● No	36	28.3
● Prefer not to say	25	19.7

127 responses 0 skipped

QUESTION 5

WHAT DO YOU THINK NEEDS IMPROVING?

We had 61 responses to this question. The word cloud below illustrates the key priority areas that young people felt needed improving: life skills, teachers, rules, more support, mental health, sports, free time, lunch, real world learning and interactive learning.



QUESTION 6

WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT TEACHING STYLES/ METHODS?

We had 103 responses to this question. The summary below presents key points on what young people would change about teaching styles/ methods and how they would like to see these changes.

Making learning more engaging

- You told us : Through games, practical activities, outdoor learning, videos and interactive teaching.

Improving teacher-student relationships

- You told us: By reducing shouting, showing kindness and respect and offering more support.

Using technology effectively

- You told us: Chromebooks and digital resources were popular suggestions, while opinions on AI were mixed.

Personalising learning

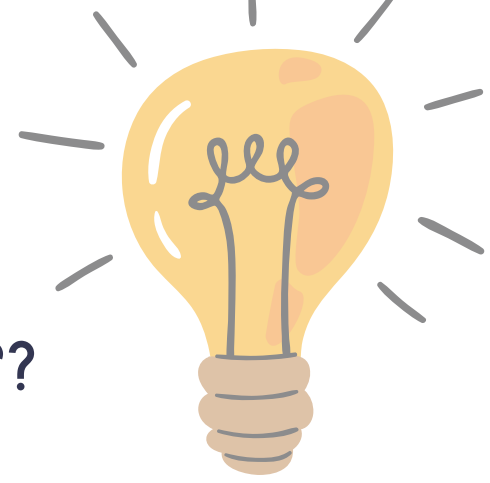
- You told us: To utilise more one-to-one help, inclusive teaching, smaller classes, and consideration for neurodiverse learners.

Reducing unnecessary stress

- You told us: To allow more preparation time, fewer detentions, more breaks, and a calmer classroom environment.

QUESTION 7

WHAT AREAS WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE OFFERED MORE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?



Young people were presented with a list of learning opportunities to choose from. They were also given the option to give additional suggestions in a self reported follow up section.

The results from Question 7 reveal:

The majority of young people would like more work experience days at 36% of responses.

Young people also told us they would like more learning opportunities in life skills and sign language both at 32% whilst 31% wanted more learning opportunities in finances & budgeting.

The next most popular areas for more learning opportunities were crime & safety at 29% and mental health (basic coping strategies) at 28% of responses.

Jobs, economy & benefits came in closely next at 27% with PE sports and music at 26% of responses.

In addition 23% of young people told us they would like more learning opportunities in art.



QUESTION 7

Continued...



Your Voice - Education & Learning Survey : Survey Report for 01 January 2026 to 27 May 2026

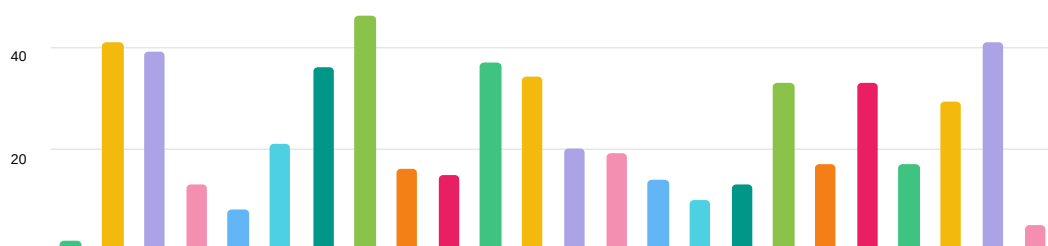
Question options	responses	%
Trade (ie Hairdressing, Construction - you can specify below)	17	13.4
Music	33	26.0
Social skills	17	13.4
Art	29	22.8
Life skills	41	32.3
Prefer not to say	5	3.9

127 responses - 0 skipped

Question type : Checkbox Question

Question options	responses	%
Other (please specify)	2	1.6
Sign Language	41	32.3
Finances and Budgeting	39	30.7
PSHE (Personal Social Health & Economic)	13	10.2
Online Safety (eg. fraud, making online friends sensibly)	8	6.3
Drug and Alcohol Awareness	21	16.5
Mental Health (basic coping strategies)	36	28.3
Work Experience Days	46	36.2
Current News in the World	16	12.6
Rights, Equalities Democracy	15	11.8
Crime & Safety	37	29.1
Jobs, Economy, Benefits	34	26.8
Climate & Environment	20	15.7
Culture, Media, Sport	19	15.0
Transport	14	11.0
Youth Work	10	7.9
Business Studies	13	10.2
PE / Sports	33	26.0

60



QUESTION 8

WE OFFERED YOUNG PEOPLE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE US MORE SUGGESTIONS ON THE AREAS THEY WOULD LIKE MORE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.

A total of 41 young people responded. The summary below presents the key priority areas where young people would like more learning opportunities with specific suggestions from young people.

1. More life skills

Young people told us they want more learning that prepares them for adulthood, including money, tax, employment and everyday life.

2. Greater career exploration

Young people told us they were interested in construction, law, crime investigation, hair and beauty, childcare, opportunities to meet professionals and gain work experience.

3. More sport and physical activity

Young people told they would like more opportunities in football, basketball and to have additional PE lessons.

4. Broader curriculum choices

Young people requested more opportunities in drama, performing arts, musical theatre, politics and environmental education.

5. More practical and technology-based learning

Young people also requested greater use of Chromebooks, internet skills and creative, hands-on learning.

QUESTION 9

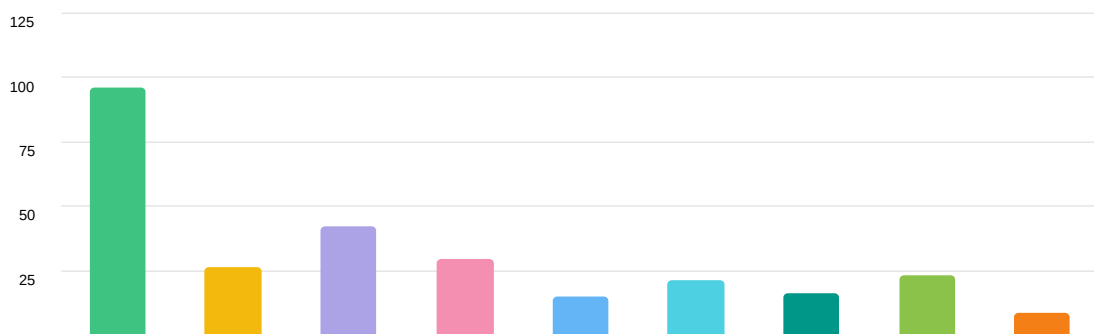
WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO ACCESS THESE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

76% of young people told us they would like to access these learning opportunities in school.

The next most popular place for accessing these opportunities was online (modules, lessons) at 33%. This was followed by youth clubs at 23% of responses.

Young people also told us they would like to access learning opportunities at home at 20.5%, in 1-1 support at 18% and 16.5 % of young people told us they would like to access these opportunities in a group.

13% of young people told us they would like to access these learning opportunities on their own whilst 11% felt they wanted to access these over the school holidays. 6% preferred not to say.



Question options	responses	%
● School	96	75.6
● Home	26	20.5
● Online (modules, lessons)	42	33.1
● Youth clubs	29	22.8
● In school holidays	14	11.0
● In a group	21	16.5
● On your own	16	12.6
● 1-1 Support	23	18.1
● Prefer not to say	8	6.3

127 responses · 0 skipped

Question type : Checkbox Question

QUESTION 10

WHAT EDUCATION & LEARNING DO YOU CURRENTLY ACCESS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL?

We had 90 responses to this question. The illustration below highlights what and where young people are currently accessing education & learning outside of school.

Q10. What Education and Learning do you currently access outside of school?

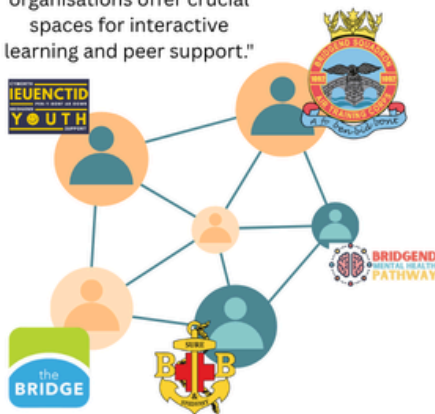
"Learning through the screen – Young people are heavily using global social media and self-directed digital platforms to learn new skills independently."



"Active and outdoor learning – Sports, local parks, and physical activities are a massive source of connection and development outside the classroom."



"Community connections – Local youth provisions and structured youth organisations offer crucial spaces for interactive learning and peer support."



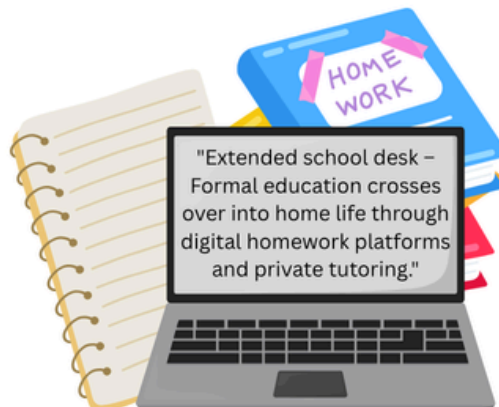
"Creative expression – Performance and visual arts provide vital space for local youth to build confidence and specialised talents."



"The Participation Gap – A significant volume of responses simply said 'Nothing' or 'None', highlighting a major group of young people who do not navigate formal or structured learning outside school hours."



"Extended school desk – Formal education crosses over into home life through digital homework platforms and private tutoring."



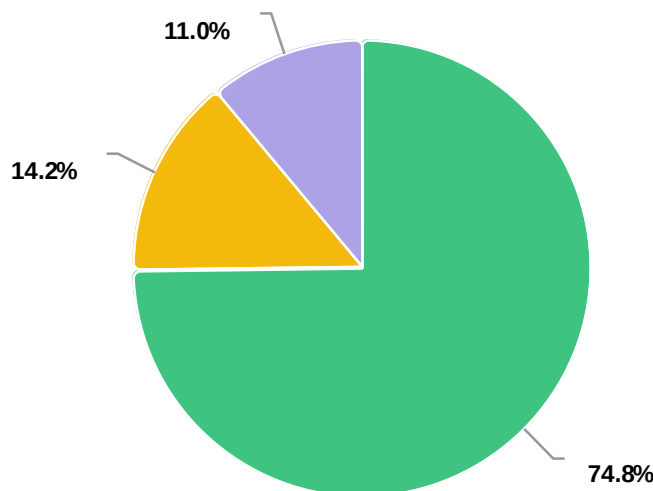
QUESTION 11

DO YOU FEEL YOUR PLACE OF EDUCATION & LEARNING IS ACCESSIBLE TO ALL?

The majority of young people at 75% felt that their place of education or learning was accessible to all.

14% felt their place of education & learning was not accessible to all. 11% preferred not to answer.

Young people were also offered an optional self report section to further expand on suggestions for improvements (Q12).



Question options	responses	%
● Yes	95	74.8
● No	18	14.2
● Prefer not to say	14	11.0

127 responses - 0 skipped

Question type : Radio Button Question

QUESTION 12

WHAT DO YOU THINK CAN BE IMPROVED?

We had 77 responses from young people for this question. The illustration below highlights the suggestions from young people for improvements.

Q12: What could be improved?

THE STUDENT BLUEPRINT FOR CHANGE

Hallways and Doors - Physical Accessibility



- “5 minutes between lessons is not long for people on crutches as well as wheelchair users.”
- “Accessible classrooms are few and far between due to floor obstructions and table placement.”
- “We need more slopes for disabled users.”

The Classrooms - Teaching & Tools



- “Change actual schoolwork so everyone understands (use dyslexic fonts).”
- “More interactive, direct, and fun lessons.”
- “More Chromebook access for homework and research.”
- “Teachers need to give clearer instructions and stop shouting.”

The Canteen - Time Lost



- “Fix the lunch queues—they take up our entire break and lunch time.”
- “Stop the pushing and shoving in the dinner lines.”
- “Make breaks longer.”

The Support Hub - Wellbeing & Stress

OPPORTUNITY



- “We need a better understanding of mental health and less stress for GCSEs.”
- “Try harder to connect with students who are having a hard time.”
- “Bring in employers to show off future opportunities.”

The School Gates - Culture & Safety



- “Make a safer environment: educate people on bullying, harassment, sexism, and racism.”
- “Vaping is still a prominent issue that needs to be addressed.”
- “Stop the phone ban.”

The Toilets

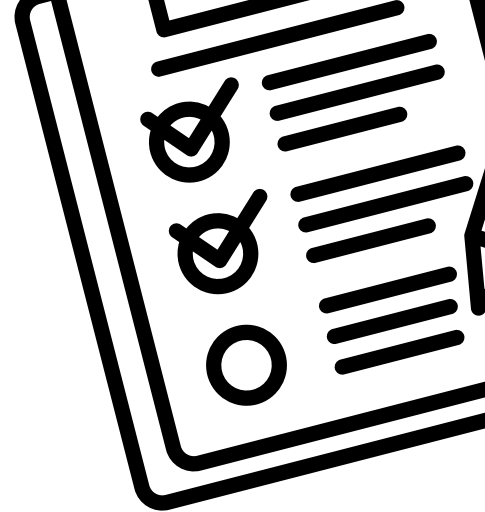


- “Fix the toilet situations—too many people go in just to destroy them.”





FINAL NOTE



Over the summer term 2026 the Young People's Rights & Participation team at Bridgend Youth Support delivered a BYS 'Raise your Voice' ballot across all secondary schools, colleges and youth clubs within BCBC.

The results of the ballot determined the priority topics for the next survey that will further shape our Your Voice project as: Health & Wellbeing and Culture, Media & Sport.

Our 'You Said, We Did!' webpage will continue to be updated with the actions taken by Bridgend Youth Support to reflect the findings of the Your Voice project.



NEED HELP?

Scan this QR code for a range of information & services to support you with Mental Health & Wellbeing, Challenging Bullying and Education & Learning.

