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**GREATER  
MANCHESTER**

**#BeeWell Greater Manchester  
Headline Findings  
2025/26 Survey Results**

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**Visual Report**



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# INTRODUCTION

#BeeWell is a youth-centred programme seeking to make young people's wellbeing everybody's business. We believe that young people's wellbeing is as important as their academic attainment. Using a co-designed survey, we listen to the voices of as many young people as possible, publish the results privately to schools and publicly by neighbourhood and drive action across society to improve young people's wellbeing.



184,000 surveys received



57,000 young people in Years 7, 8 and 10 in 2025



210 Schools since 2021,  
161 this year.



143,000 young people since 2021. 49% of young people in year groups surveyed.

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**Live Well** everyday support in every neighbourhood



# HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

This report is designed to be a resource to support our partners to share the #BeeWell data.

Individual pages or sub-sections can be used to start conversations with young people about the data, explore what might be driving it and what should be done about it.

If you use this report, we would love to hear from you about how you've shared the survey results and any thoughts on the data!



# HEADLINE FINDINGS

We asked our #BeeWell Youth Steering Group to select their headline findings for this year, and tell us why. Overall, they focused on a theme of belonging and connection, within school, to their local area, other people, and to their futures, all of which impacts young people's wellbeing. You can read more about why they chose these headlines in the boxes in yellow.

Here is what they selected...





# THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT WELLBEING

## WHY WE CHOSE THIS

We wanted to focus on data that shows how important a sense of community is to improve wellbeing and reduce loneliness. It's important for young people to feel like they have someone they can trust and that listens to them, to feel less lonely. Community shapes who we are, and connects to our relationship with school, too. We want to highlight inequalities in the data, for LGBTQ+ young people and across different neighbourhoods.

## KEY FINDINGS FROM THE DATA

38% (just less than 4 in 10) of young people reported feeling lonely at least occasionally.

However, this rises to 67.6% and 71.7% of gay/lesbian and bi/pansexual young people.



55% (approx. 11 in 20) of young people in Years 7, 8 and 10 strongly agreed or agreed that they can trust people in their local area. This ranged from 39% to 70% across Greater Manchester's 65 neighbourhoods

56.3% of young people feel that, away from home or school, there is an adult that listens to them. This declines as young people get older, from 63.6% of Year 7s to 47.7% of Year 10s.



# RELATIONSHIPS AND EXPERIENCES AT SCHOOL

## WHY WE CHOSE THIS

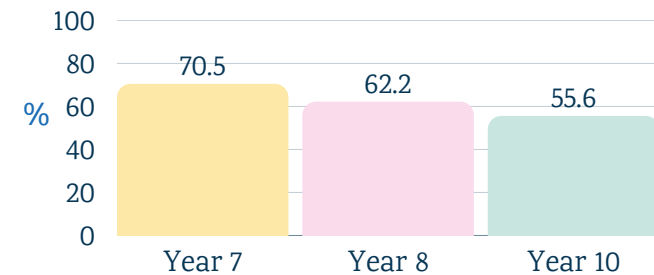
The data shows how important it is for young people to have good relationships with teachers. You spend a lot of time at school, so it's important to feel like you belong. It isn't easy to be a young person, and schools should be supportive, safe places.

Experiences at school can impact your wellbeing, shape how you see your future and how you engage in employment. We want to look at how schools respond to attendance issues and show how important belonging and relationships are in driving it.

## KEY FINDINGS FROM THE DATA

**55.6%** of young people in Year 10 feel like they belong at their school, an increase compared to **51%** of Year 10s last academic year.

More young people feel like they belong in **Year 7 (70.5%)** and **Year 8 (62.2%)**.



Young people are more likely to report strong relationships with school staff when they are younger, with **32% of Year 7s** reporting the highest scores for relationships with staff, compared to **21% of Year 10s**.

Upcoming #BeeWell research overlaying attendance and wellbeing data found that stronger relationships between staff and young people led to better attendance at school. For girls, worsening mental health predicted lower attendance, while higher attendance led to improved school belonging.



# FEELING PREPARED FOR LIFE

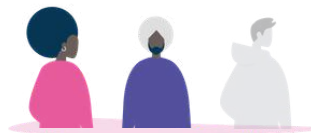
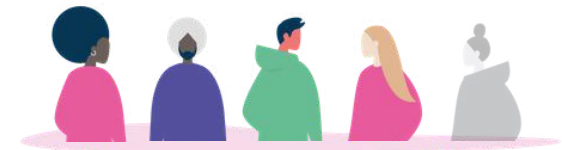
## WHY WE CHOSE THIS

We chose this as we think that most young people feel worried about the future and the jobs available to them, but can feel pressured into following more traditional routes rather than understanding all the options and changing job market around us. We want to look at how careers education is delivered, how it resonates with young people, and encourage more opportunities and experiences to become available for young people across Greater Manchester.

## KEY FINDINGS FROM THE DATA

**80% (4 in 5)** of young people in Year 10 agreed that when they finish their education, they will have the skills and knowledge needed to be prepared for life.

This has increased from **76%** of Year 10s in the 2021 survey,



**66% (2 in 3)** of young people in Year 10 found their careers education useful, which has risen from **58%** in 2021.

The percentage of young people in Year 10 that agree or strongly agree to having hope and optimism for their future continues to steadily increase, rising to **83.9%** this year.



# THRIVING



The **Greater Manchester Strategy** commits to creating the conditions for people to thrive, ensuring **everyday support in every neighbourhood**. Delivered through a network of welcoming and empowering Live Well centres, community spaces and support offers will provide everyday support in every neighbourhood. Spaces will be developed for communities of identity and experience too, for example providing young people with a safe space in their community and a trusted adult to talk to.

The data in this section explores young people's wellbeing and the wellbeing support they access, supporting our understanding of this commitment and guiding action.

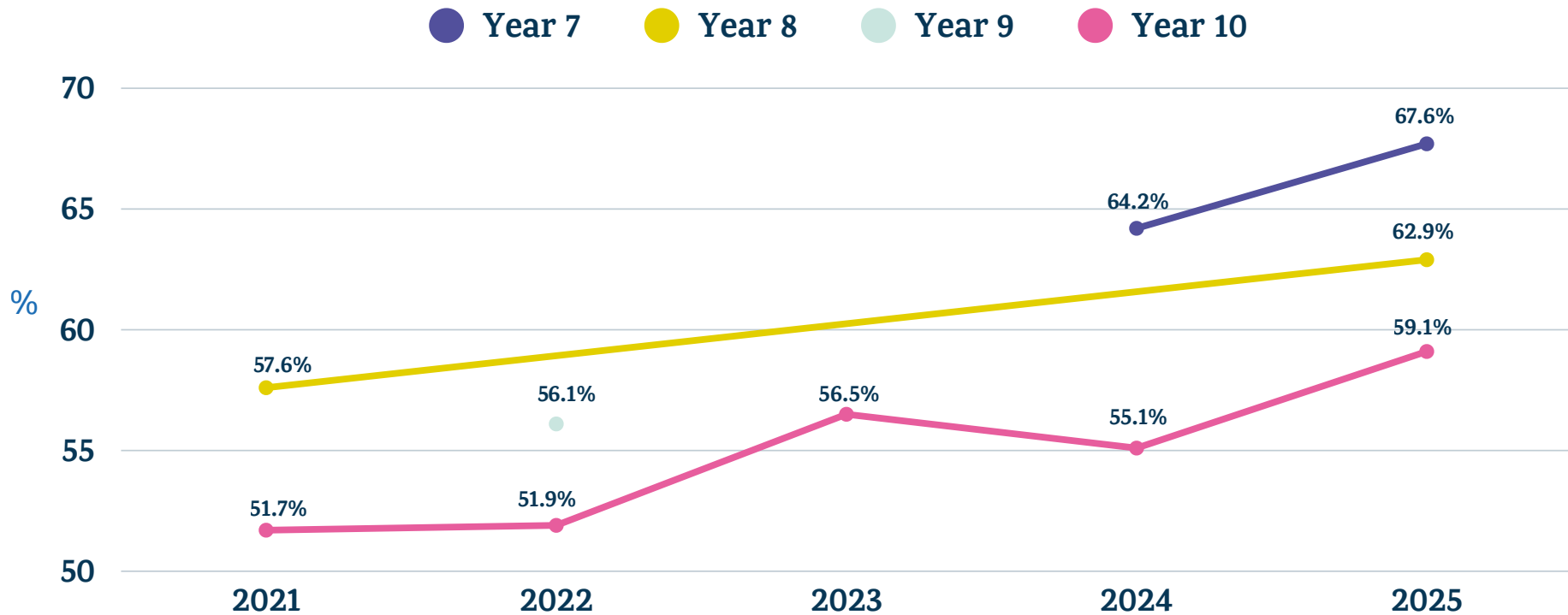


**59.1% (just less than 3 in 5)\*** young people in Year 10 report good or better wellbeing. This has improved from **55.1%** last year, and from **51.7%** since #BeeWell first started surveying (2021/22).



This data is used to measure progress to support young people's wellbeing in the Greater Manchester Strategy.

### ➤ Good wellbeing over time, by year group:

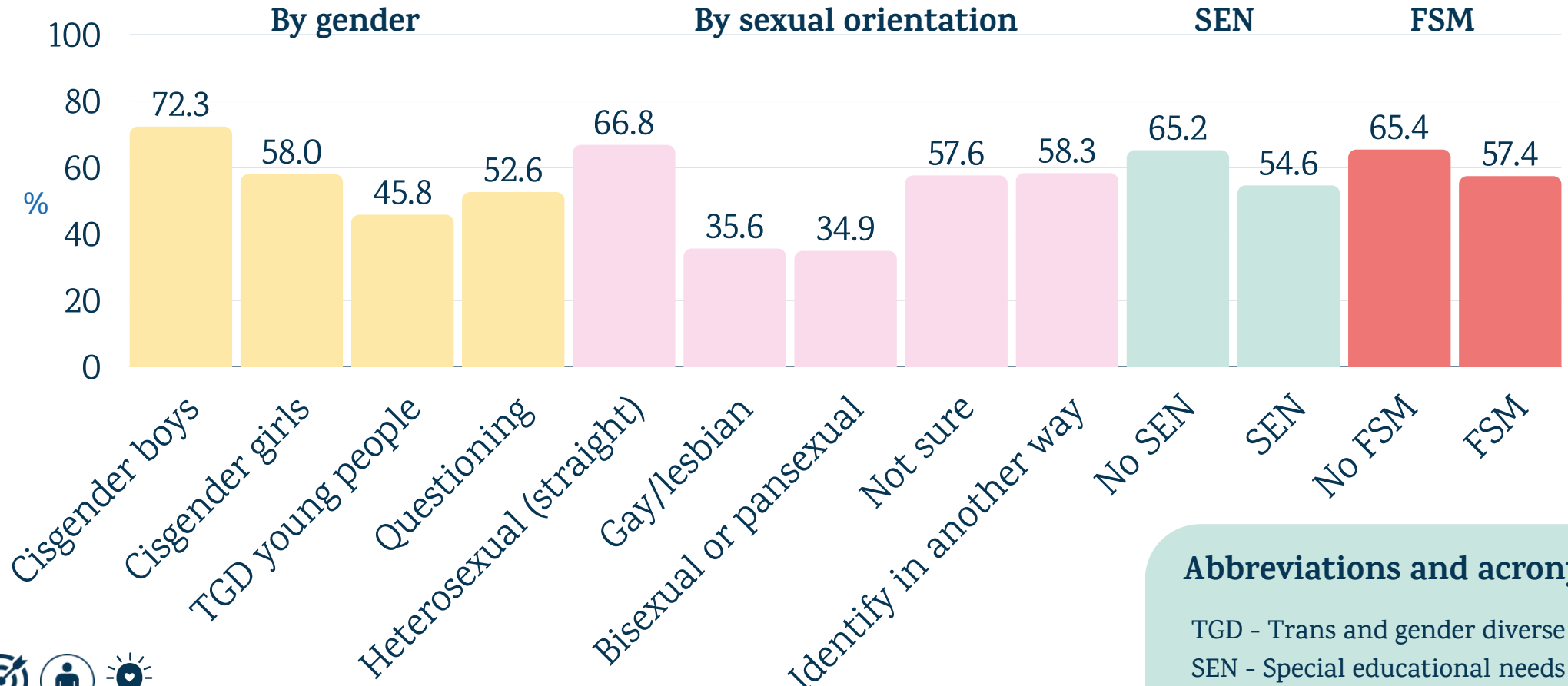


\*Whilst we can be confident in a meaningful positive shift in the percentage of young people reporting good wellbeing, it's important to note that as these figures are comparing different cohorts of young people, a small proportion of the observed improvement may be explained by shifts in the demographic composition of the region over time.



This graph shows examples of the inequalities in young people reporting good or higher psychological wellbeing, according to gender, sexual orientation and other demographics.

For example, the first two yellow bars show that cisgender girls report lower wellbeing than cisgender boys.



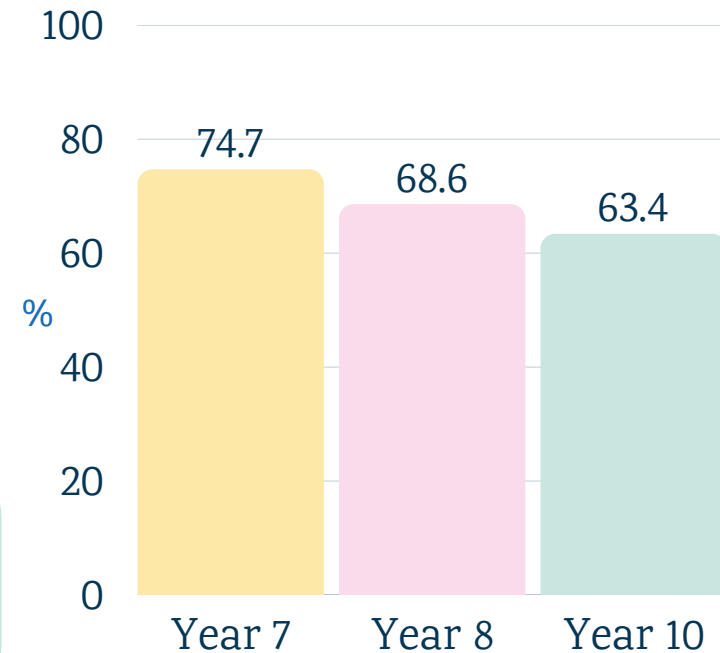
### Abbreviations and acronyms

- TGD - Trans and gender diverse
- SEN - Special educational needs
- FSM - Free school meal eligibility



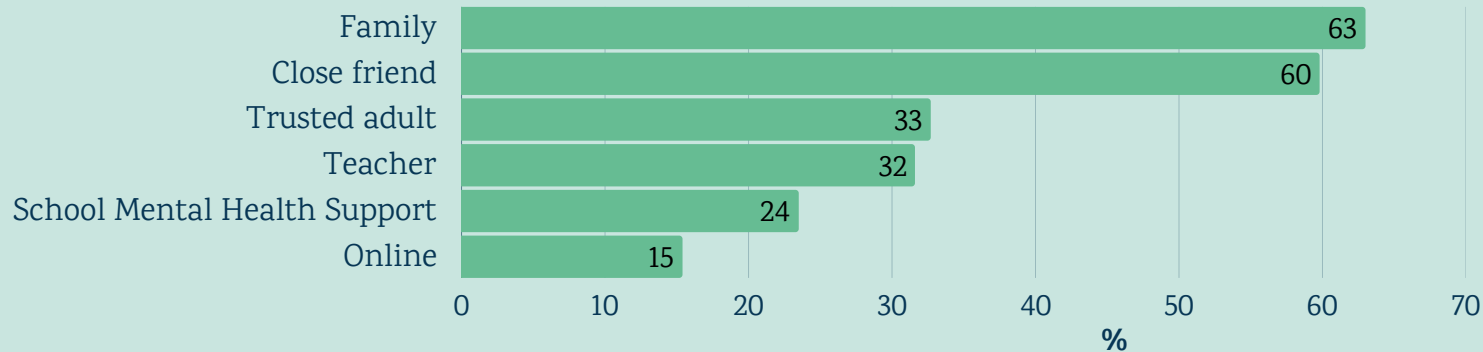
**More young people in Years 7 and 8 agree they have a place to seek support for worries or mental health concerns than young people in Year 10.**

52% of gay/lesbian, 54% of bi/pansexual and 58% of trans and gender diverse young people report the lowest scores for feeling like they have a place to seek support.



**Young people are also asked how often they have had contact with people within school or outside of school about their mental health in the past 12 months.**

The percentage of young people reporting they have spoken to these people 'sometimes' or more:





# HEALTHY

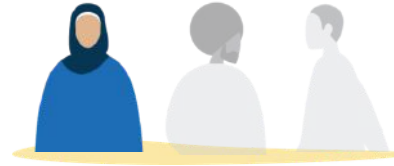


Our **Greater Manchester Strategy** commits to ensuring residents will live a **healthy life for longer** and we will reduce the gap in healthy life years between the richest and poorest communities, helping more residents to become physically active, reduce the percentage of adults and children who are obese and increase access to mental health services.

The data in this section explores young people's health and routines, including nutrition and physical activity, supporting our understanding of this commitment and guiding action.



**1 in 3 (33%)** young people in Year 10 are doing one hour of physical activity per day.



However, girls continue to report lower levels of physical activity, dropping to **1 in 4 (23%)** Year 10 girls, compared to **42%** of Year 10 boys.

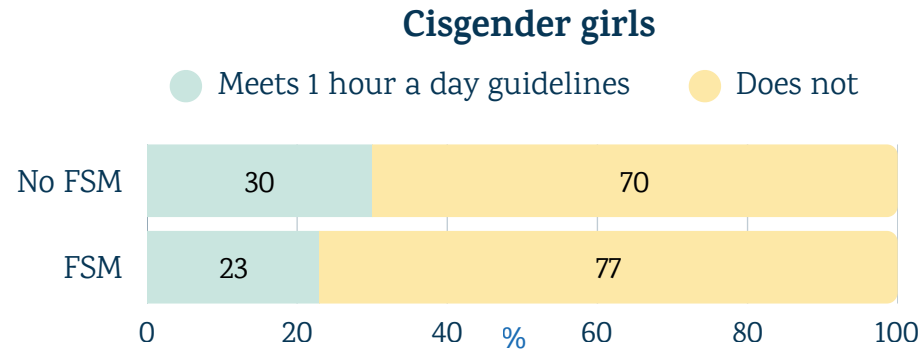


More young people meet the recommended one hour a day in Year 7 (**40%**) and Year 8 (**37%**).

Across neighbourhoods, there is a **27-percentage-point** gap between the neighbourhoods with the most and least young people doing an hour a day of physical activity.

There are also persistent inequalities in the data, by FSM eligibility, SEN support and sexual orientation, including:

Cisgender girls eligible for free school meals are less likely to do one hour of physical activity per day.



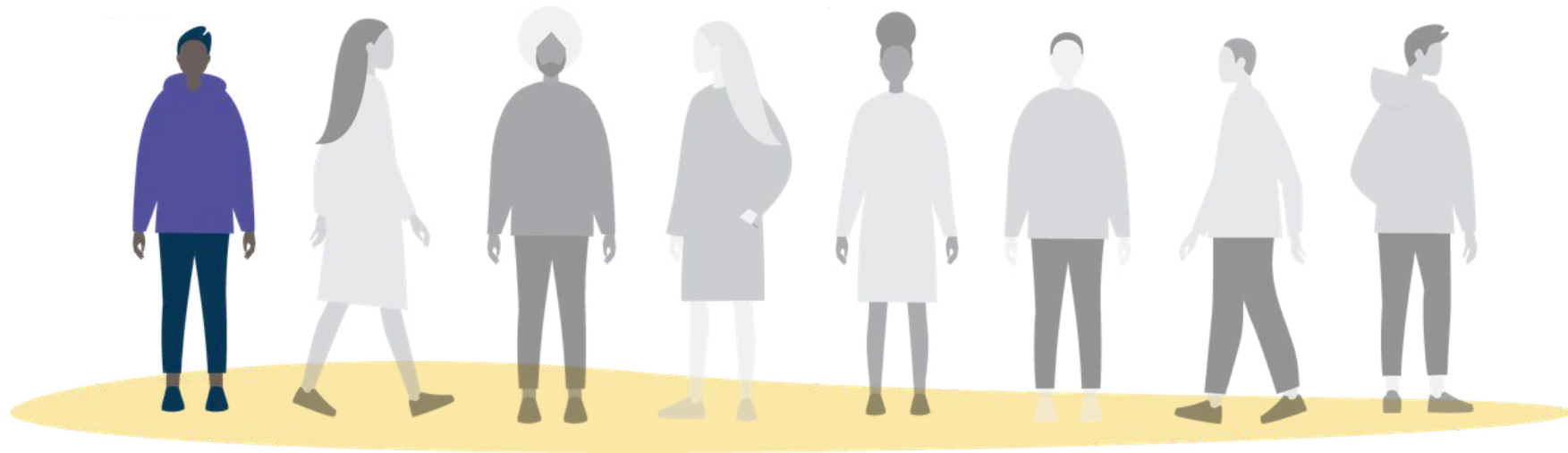
**87%** of young people report having good, very good or excellent physical health.

And, **30%** of cisgender boys with an EHC Plan meet the recommended one hour a day, compared to **46%** of cisgender boys with no SEN and **38%** of cisgender boys with SEN support.

**Abbreviations and acronyms**  
FSM - Free school meal eligibility  
SEN - Special educational needs  
EHC Plan - Education, Health and Care Plan



**1 in 8 (12%)** young people are eating 5 portions of fruit and vegetables per day.



Less young people in Year 10 (10%) eat five portions of fruit and veg than those in Years 7 and 8 (12%).

10% of young people eligible for free school meals eat five portions of fruit and veg, compared to 12% of young people not eligible.



# “The food we bought didn’t last, we didn’t have money to get more.”

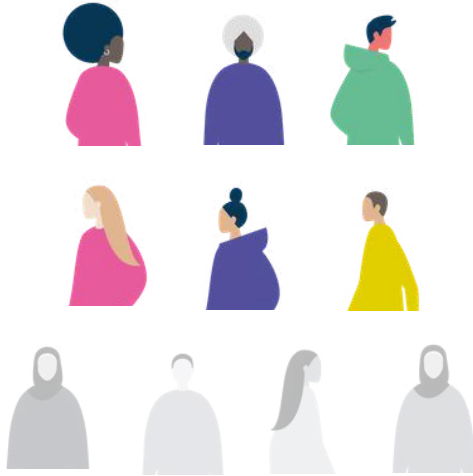


**7 in 10 (73%)** young people said this never/almost never happened in their home.

**1 in 13 (8%)** young people said this happened most days.

Young people eligible for free school meals were more likely to experience this, with 10% reporting this happened most days and 63% answering never/almost never.

Young people with an EHC Plan were more likely to experience this, with 19% reporting this happened most days and 54% answering never/almost never. 13% of young people with SEN support answered that this happened most days, and 64% answered never/almost never.

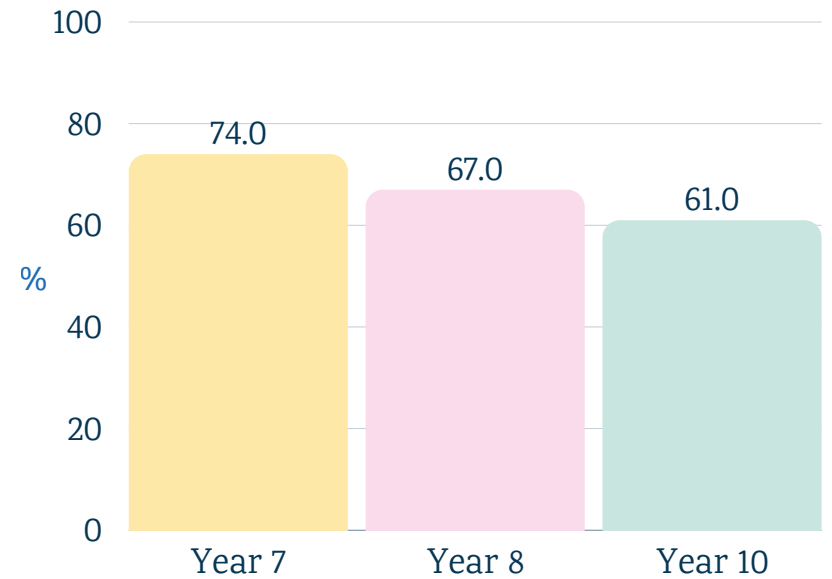
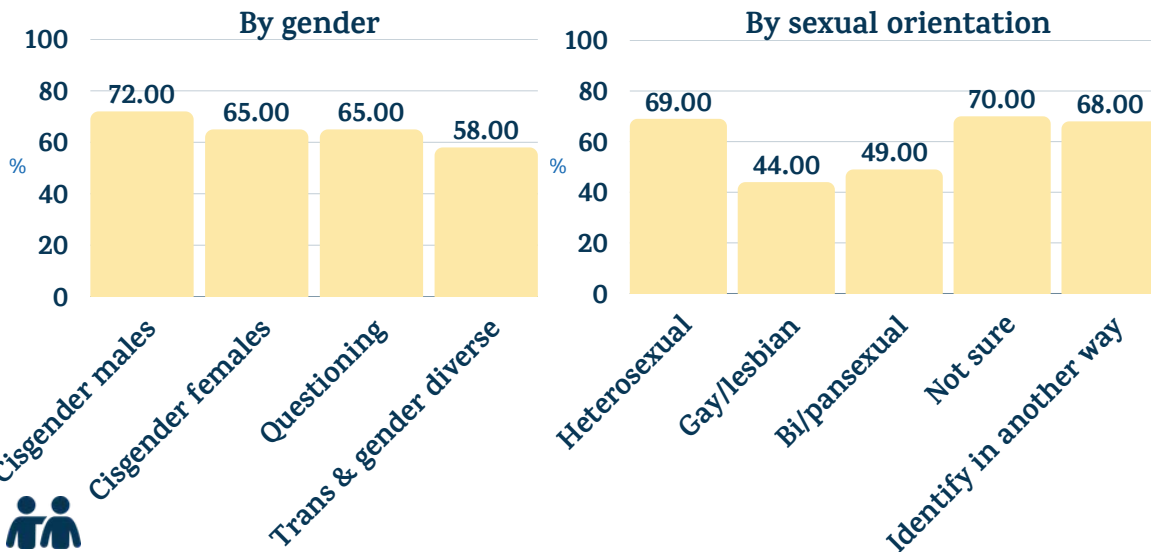


**61% (6 in 10) of young people in Year 10 report getting enough sleep to feel awake and concentrate throughout the school day.**

**69% of young people eligible for free school meals reported getting sufficient sleep, compared to 64% of those not eligible for free school meals.**

**This is higher for young people in Years 7 and 8:**

**There are also inequalities by gender and sexual orientation:**





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# SAFER AND STRONGER

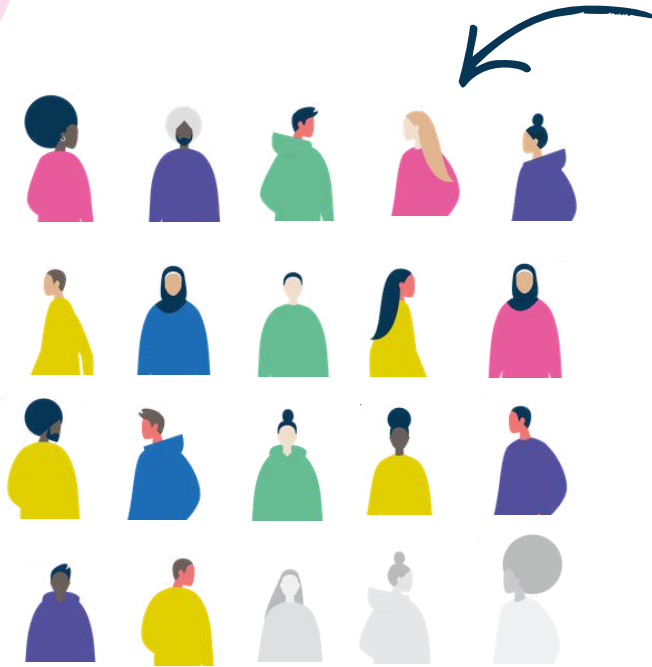


Our **Greater Manchester Strategy** commits to building strong communities where people feel safe on their streets, and by 2030, at least 95% of our residents will report feeling safe.

The data in this section explores young people's feelings of safety, trusted adults and places to go in their local area, supporting our understanding of this commitment and guiding action.

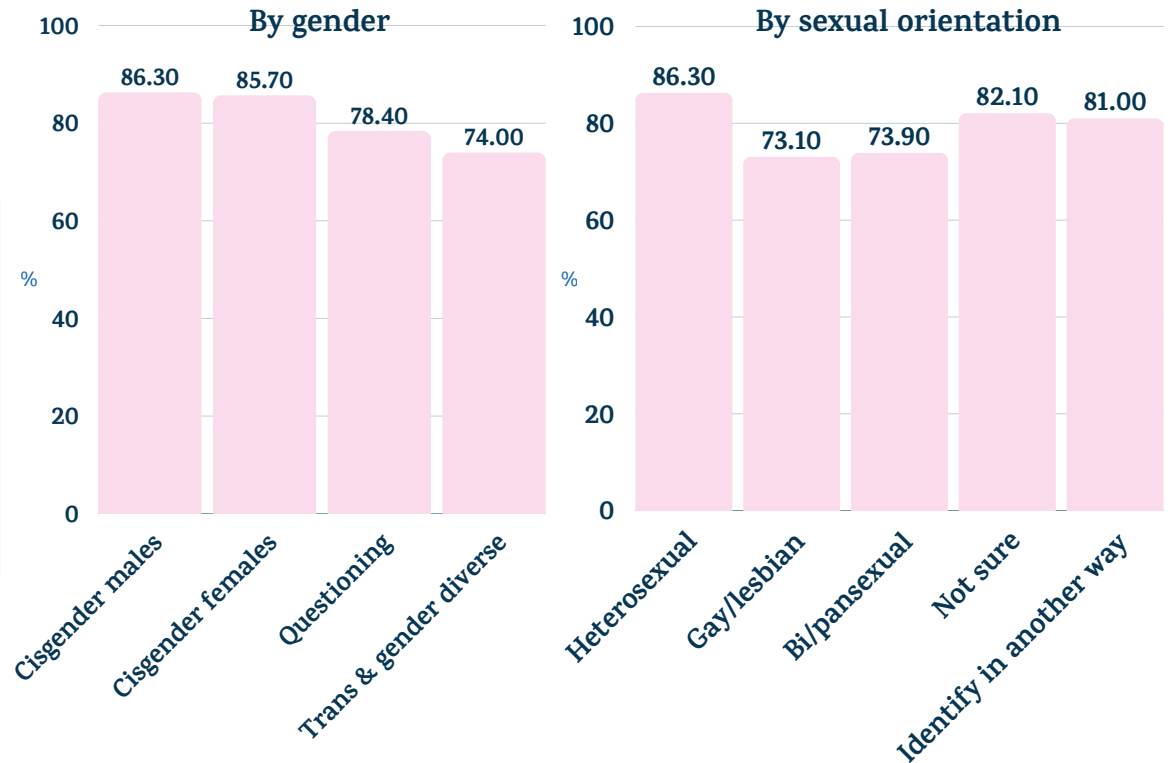


**85%** (17 in 20) of young people report feeling safe in their local area (within 5 minutes' walking distance of their home), which is a slight increase from 2024 (83%).



LGBTQ+ young people are less likely to report that they feel safe in their local area:

This ranges from 73% to 98% across Greater Manchester's 65 neighbourhoods, producing a 25 percentage-point gap between the lowest and highest scoring neighbourhoods.



#BEE WELL



**63%** (just over 6 in 10) of young people in Year 10 strongly agreed or agreed that they have good places to go in their local area.

This declines as young people get older, as **74.2%** of young people in Year 8 and **79.4%** of young people in Year 10 said they had good places to go.

This ranges between 42% and 77.2% of young people in Year 10 reporting they have good places in the different neighbourhoods of Greater Manchester.

This gap is larger than in most (all but one) previous years that #BeeWell has surveyed.

Gay/lesbian and bi/pansexual young people are least likely to think they have good places to go in their local area (56.1 and 61.1%).

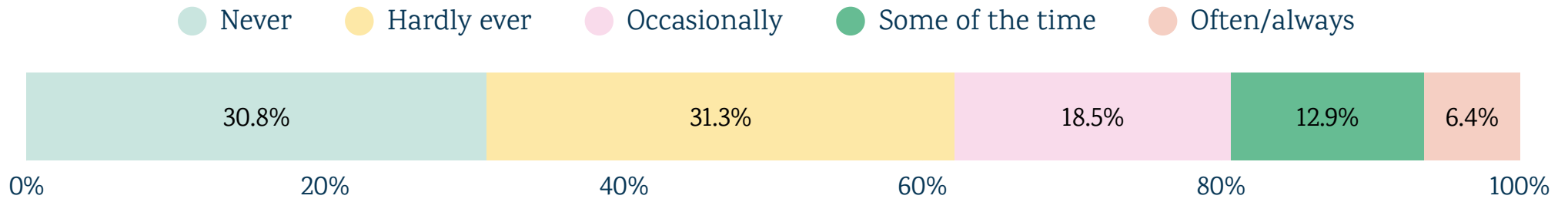
Trans and gender diverse young people are also less likely, at 64.7% agreeing they have good places to go.



**38%** (just less than 4 in 10) of young people reported feeling lonely at least occasionally.



“How often do you feel lonely?” Greater Manchester average (Years 7, 8 and 10):

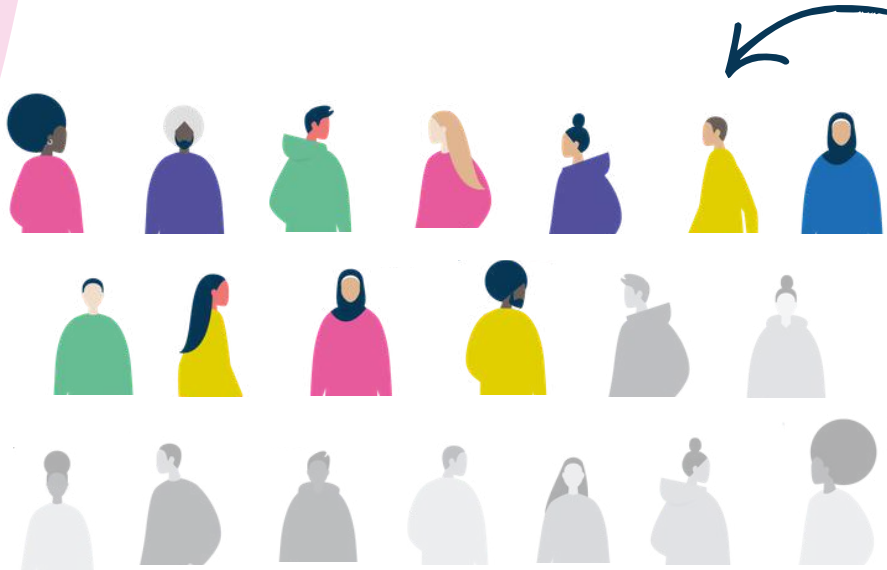


However, this has improved over time, as the percentage of young people in Year 10 reporting they feel lonely at least occasionally has dropped from **48% in 2021** to **41% in 2025**.

71.7% of bi/pansexual and 67.6% of gay/lesbian young people report feeling lonely at least occasionally.

27.9% of cisgender boys report feeling lonely at least occasionally, rising to 44.3% of young people questioning their gender, 45.5% of cisgender girls and 51.8% of trans and gender diverse young people.

The difference between neighbourhoods is 22 percentage-points, with the gap closing compared to previous years.



**55%** (approx. 11 in 20) of young people in Years 7, 8 and 10 strongly agreed or agreed that they can trust people in their local area. For young people in Year 10, this falls to **47.6%**.

This ranges from 39% to 70% across Greater Manchester's 65 neighbourhoods.

47.7% of young people eligible for free school meals feel they can trust people in their local area, compared to 56.6% of those not eligible.

Gay/lesbian (37.7%), bi/pansexual (38.3%) and trans and gender diverse (44.5%) young people report the lowest scores for trusting people in their local area.

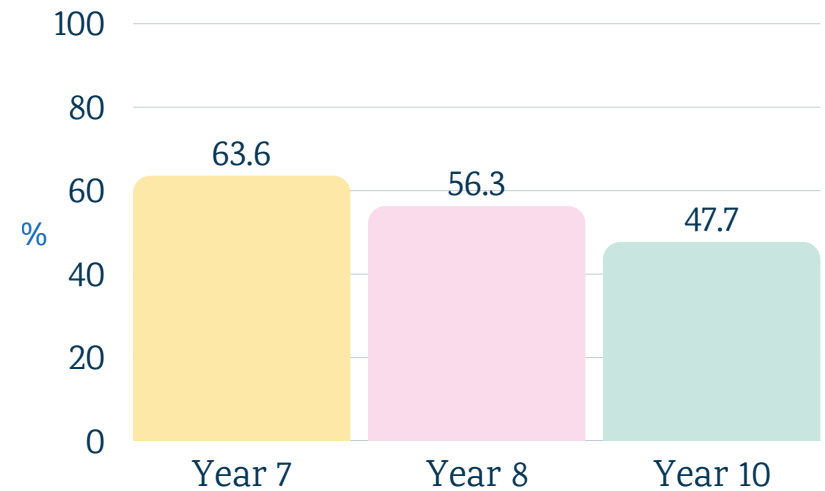


Inequalities are evident in this data, too, as at home, at school and away from both, trans and gender diverse, gay/lesbian and bi/pansexual young people are less likely to feel like someone listens to them.

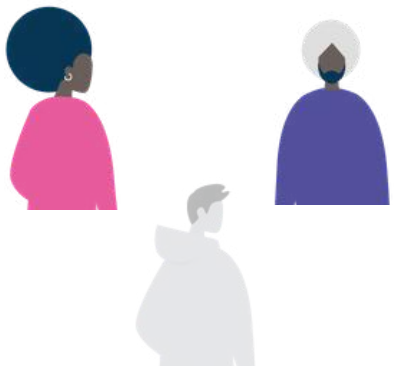
Cisgender boys are more likely to feel heard than cisgender girls.

**56.3%** of young people feel that, away from home or school, there is an adult that listens to them.

**This declines as young people get older:**



**76%** of young people feel like there is an adult that listens to them **at home**, and **60%** feel that there is an adult that listens to them **at school**. Similar to the above, this declines as young people get older.

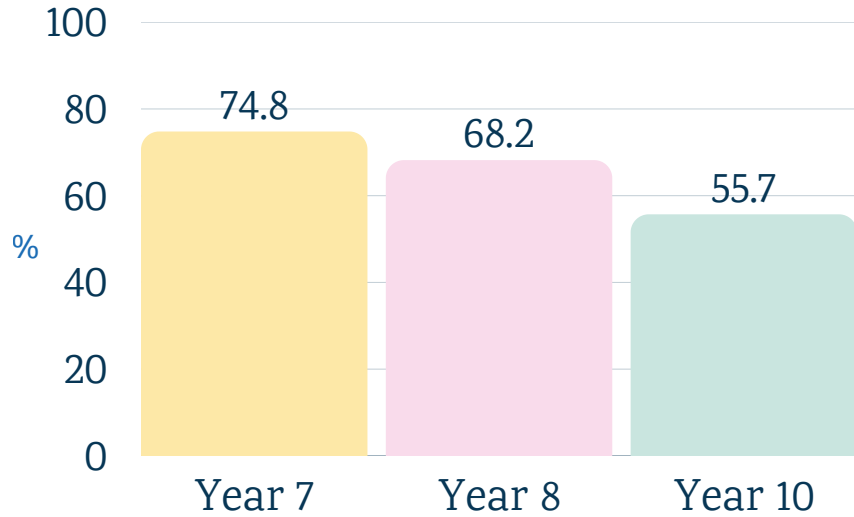


**67%** (just over 2 in 3) of young people report frequent (monthly or more) engagement in six or more arts, culture and entertainment activities. This differs by year group:

The most popular activities amongst all year groups are listening to music (89%), watching TV or films (88%), doing sport, exercise or other physical activity (86%) and gaming (82%).

The least popular activities are going to the cinema or theatre (28%) and going to youth clubs (29%).

Gay/lesbian young people are least likely to participate in six or more activities a month (58.3%).



There was also a 16-percentage-point gap between the lowest and highest scoring neighbourhoods across 65 boroughs in Greater Manchester.



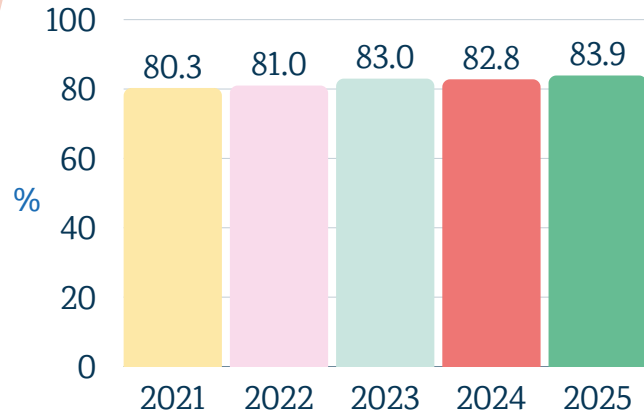
# SUCCESSFUL



Our **Greater Manchester Strategy** commits to: creating a clear line of sight to high-quality jobs, improving attendance and attainment for disadvantaged young people.

The data in this section explores young people's feelings about their future and experiences at school, supporting our understanding of this commitment and guiding action.

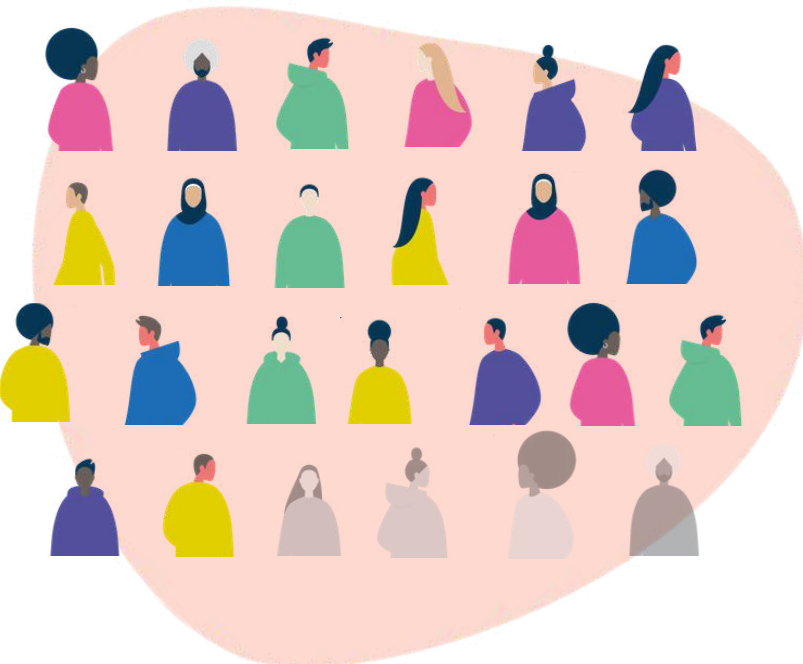




The percentage of young people in Year 10 that agree or strongly agree to having hope and optimism for their future continues to steadily increase.

There is a 14 percentage-point gap between the highest and lowest scoring neighbourhoods of Greater Manchester for hope and optimism, which has narrowed from 21% points in 2021.

83.9% is equal to approximately 21 out of 25 young people.

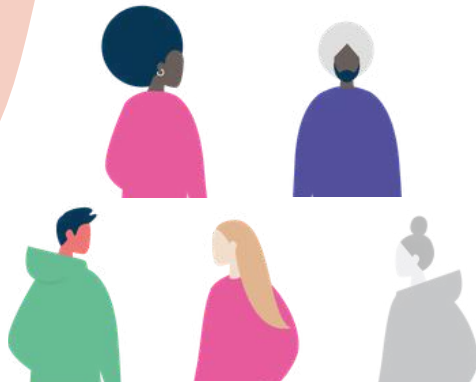


Across all year groups, just 73.4% of trans and gender diverse young people, 67.8% of bi/pansexual and 63.2% of gay/lesbian young people agreed that they have hope and optimism for their future.

And, young people with SEN are less likely to feel hope and optimism for their future. 82.3% of young people with SEN across all year groups agreed, compared to 87.4% of young people with no SEN.

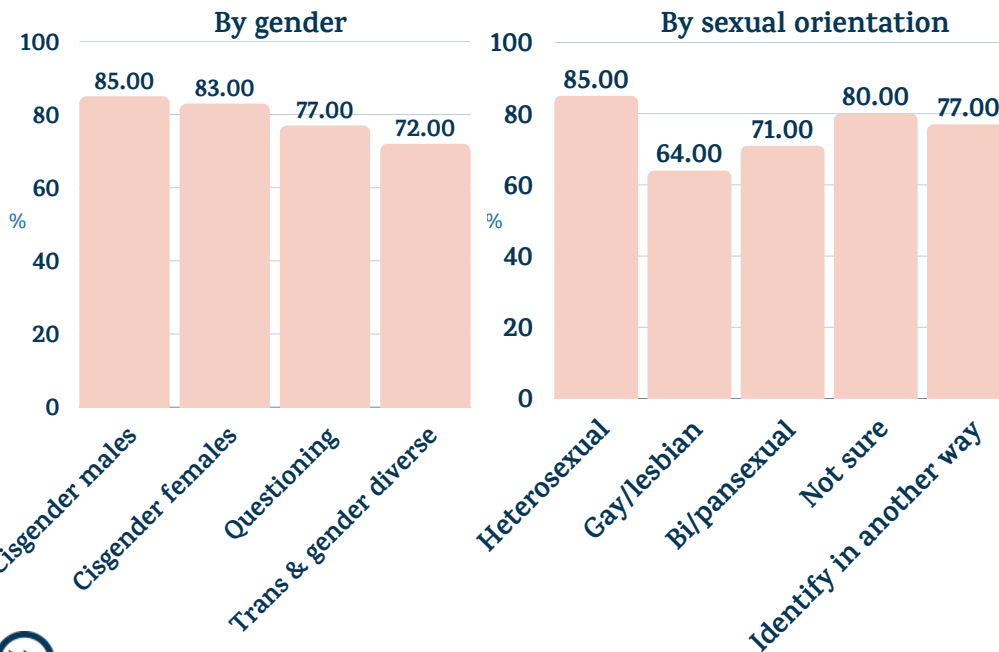


#BEE WELL



**80% (4 in 5)** of young people in Year 10 strongly agreed or agreed that when they finish their education, they will have the skills and knowledge needed to be prepared for life. This has increased from **76%** in 2021 survey.

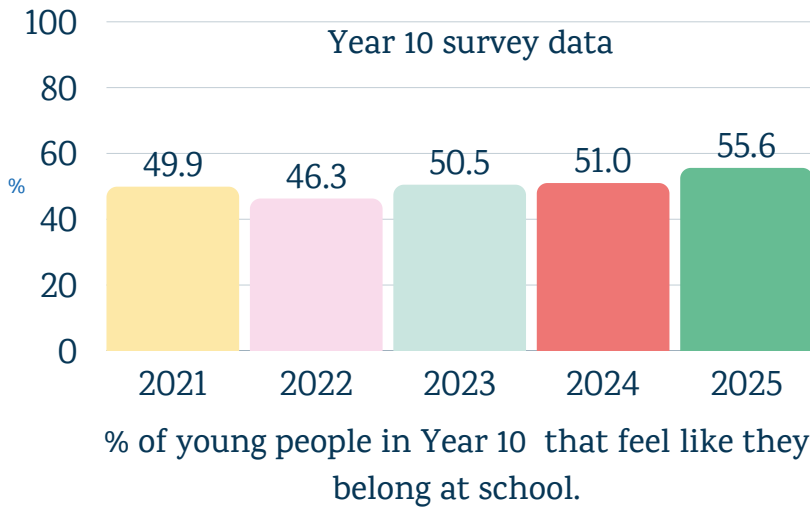
Gay and lesbian young people were least likely to agree they would have the skills and knowledge needed to be prepared for life.



**82%** of young people report that they have received careers education (in the 12 months up until taking part in the survey).

**66%** (just less than 2 in 3) of young people found their careers education useful, which has risen from **58%** in 2021.





**55.6% of young people feel like they belong at their school, an increase compared to 51% of Year 10s last academic year.**

## More young people feel like they belong at school in Year 7 (70.5%) and Year 8 (62.2%).

For example, in a group of 20, this would equal...



14 out of 20 Year 7s feeling like they belong.



12 out of 20 Year 8s feeling like they belong.



11 out of 20 Year 10s feeling like they belong.

Only **34.1%** of gay/lesbian and **37.4%** of bi/pansexual young people feel like they belong at school. Cisgender boys are most likely to feel like they belong (**69.7%**), compared to **59.6%** of girls, **46.7%** of trans and gender diverse young people and **55.7%** of young people questioning their gender.

Young people are also more likely to report stronger relationships with school staff when they are younger.



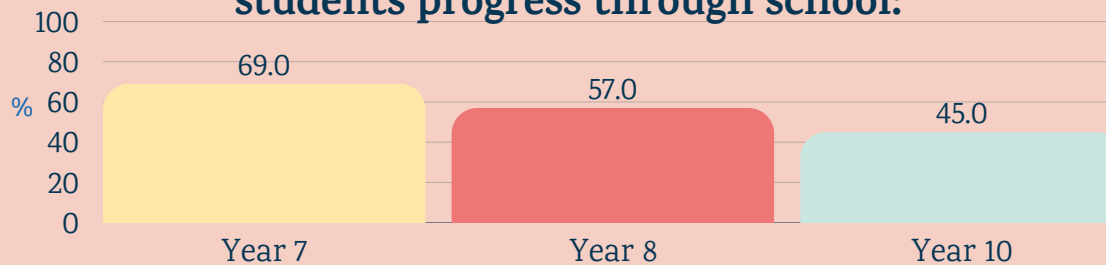


## HAPPINESS WITH ATTAINMENT



**57%** (just less than 3 in 5) of students overall in Greater Manchester reported being happy with their educational attainment.

Satisfaction with school work declines significantly as students progress through school:

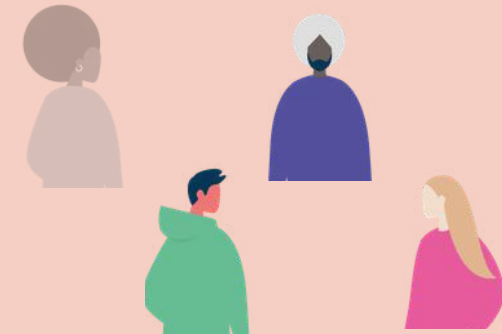


Only 39% of gay/lesbian young people and 43% of bi/pansexual young people report being happy with their attainment, compared to 59% of their heterosexual peers.

Significant gaps also exist for young people with SEN (46% compared to 59% for those without SEN) and those eligible for FSM (49% compared to 60% for those not eligible).

## SCHOOL PRESSURE

Across Years 7, 8 and 10, **21%** (just over 1 in 4) of young people feel a lot of pressure because of the amount of schoolwork they have to do.



Young people feel more under pressure due to their school work as they get older, rising to **25%** of Year 10s that feel 'a lot' of pressure.



#BEE WELL



# Thanks for reading!

Please get in touch with any questions.



Email

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Instagram

[BeeWellUK](https://www.instagram.com/BeeWellUK)



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[#BeeWell](https://www.linkedin.com/company/BeeWell)