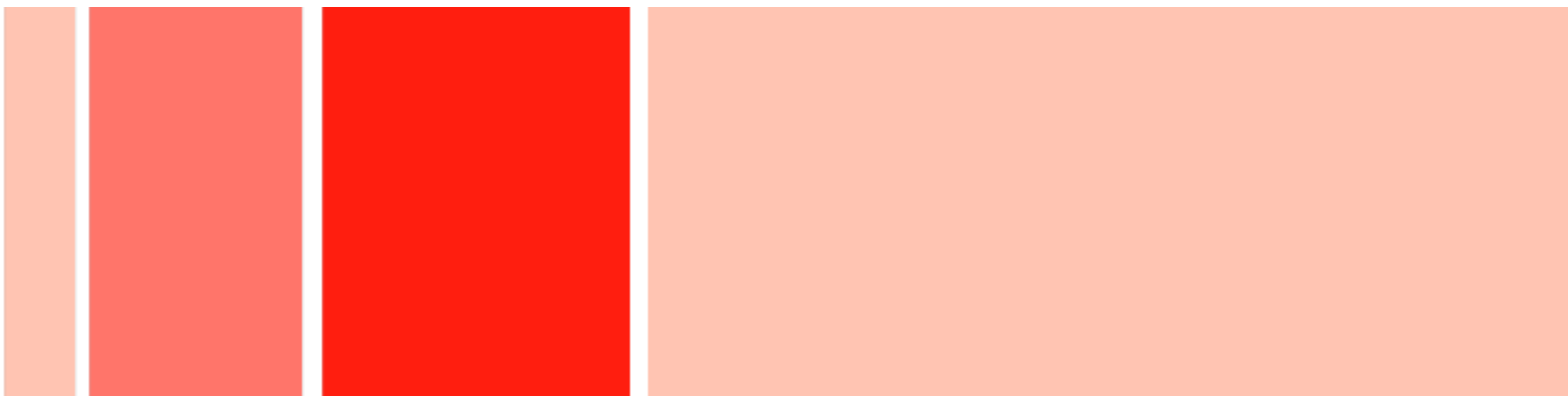


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Children's awareness of physical punishment legislation and children's rights: survey findings October 2024 and March 2025 to April 2025



Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.

This document is also available in Welsh.

Children's awareness of physical punishment legislation and children's rights: survey findings October 2024 and March 2025 to April 2025

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Views expressed in this report are those of the researcher and not necessarily those of the Welsh Government

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background and objectives

1.1 The Children and Young Persons Rights (Wales) Measure 2011 incorporated the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into Welsh law. Section 5 of the Act places a duty on Welsh Ministers to take appropriate steps to promote public knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC and its Optional Protocols. This duty gives effect to article 42 of the UNCRC, that governments should make the convention known to children and their parents.

1.2 As part of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021, governing bodies and head teachers have a duty to promote knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNRPD).

1.3 Human rights education is a cross-cutting theme of the curriculum in Wales, and the principles of a human rights education, informed by the UNCRC and the UNCRPD, are part of the wider requirements settings must consider when designing their curriculum.

1.4 Training is available for educational professionals to assist them in meeting their duty to promote knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNRPD).

1.5 The Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill was introduced to the National Assembly for Wales¹ on 25 March 2019. On 20 March 2020 the Bill received Royal Assent and became the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Act 2020. The Act came into force on 21 March 2022.

¹ As of May 2020 the National Assembly for Wales was renamed Senedd Cymru

1.6 The overarching objective of the Act is to help protect children's rights by prohibiting the use of physical punishment against children, through the removal of the defence of reasonable punishment. This means that the defence is no longer available within the territory of Wales to parents or those acting in loco parentis (acting with parental responsibility), as a defence to a charge of common assault and battery on a child in their care.

1.7 Section 2 of the Act requires Welsh Ministers to promote public awareness of the law change before it came into force in March 2022. The public awareness raising campaign focused on stakeholder engagement, work with specific audiences and promoting and supporting positive parenting through to summer 2021. A multi-media public awareness campaign started in June 2021 with digital advertising, and launched fully in September 2021, six months before commencement and included advertising and public relations. The biggest burst of communications activity took place between January to March 2022, in the immediate run-up to commencement of the law change. Targeted activity with the aim of sustaining awareness of the change in the law and promote alternatives to physical punishment continues.

1.8 In April 2024, the Welsh Government launched Teulu Cymru, a new brand for parents of children age 0 to 18 in Wales. It brings childcare and parenting campaigns under one roof, providing the information parents want from Government all in one place. Ending Physical Punishment messaging continues to be a key area of focus for Teulu Cymru, complemented by practical positive parenting advice and resource signposting.

1.9 To support practitioners in understanding and applying the new law, an e-learning resource has been produced. This equips professionals working with families and children to navigate the changes, ensuring they can confidently inform and support parents, children and young people. Guidance and resources to support practitioners to embed awareness and cascade relevant, positive and empowering information to children and young people about the law has also been developed. The resources were published in October 2024.

1.10 The objective of this research was to provide baseline information on children and young people's awareness of their right to be protected from violence, awareness of the Act and their awareness and knowledge more broadly of children's rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

1.11 The findings from the research will help inform Welsh Government's understanding of the extent to which children and young people are aware and understand the protection they have through the legislation and their broader knowledge of the rights they hold.

1.2 About this report

1.12 The findings outlined in this report are based on research conducted on two waves on the Beaufort Children's Omnibus Survey. Fieldwork for these two waves was undertaken between 7th and 27th October 2024 and between 24th March and 13th April 2025. Each wave of research interviews a representative quota sample of over 400 children and young people aged 7 to 18 who are resident in Wales. Surveys were completed via an online self-completion method using an online panel². Data from the two survey waves has been merged to form one data set to provide an overall sample of 888 children and young people.

1.13 The questionnaire for this survey comprised a series of questions about awareness of children's right to be protected from violence, awareness of the Act and awareness and knowledge more broadly of children's rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Demographic questions were also included as standard in the Children's Omnibus Survey. The questionnaire was available in Welsh or English at the participant's choice and can be found in Annex A of this document.

1.14 Please note percentages in some graphs and tables in this report, where the respondent can choose one answer only, may not add up to 100% and may total 99% or 101% because of rounding to the nearest whole number. For example,

² An online panel is a group of research participants who have signed up to be periodically contacted to complete surveys online.

a graph may show three answers – 40%, 33% and 26% (totalling 99%) when the unrounded percentages may be 40.4%, 33.3% and 26.3% respectively.

1.3 Statistical testing

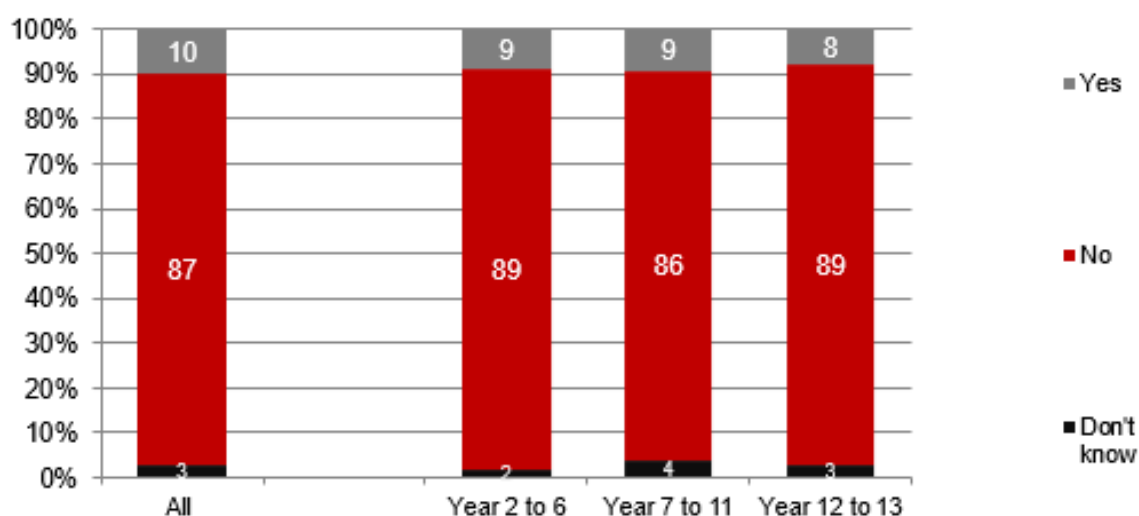
1.15 Throughout this report comparisons are made between different groups of children and young people (for example, those of different school year grouping or gender) to understand if they have varying attitudes or knowledge. The report uses statistical testing to compare results between groups of the population. When a difference between two groups is described as ‘significant’ in this report, this means that the probability of obtaining the finding by chance is less than one in 20 and therefore it can be generalised to the wider population.

2. Awareness of situation around physical punishment of children

2.1 All respondents were asked whether they thought that parents and other care givers were allowed to physically punish children in Wales. The vast majority (87%) of 7 to 18 year olds surveyed correctly believed that this was not allowed. Only 1 in 10 (10%) thought that physical punishment of children by parents / care givers was allowed, whilst 3% were unsure.

2.2 Results were consistent across different school year groupings – year 2 to 6, year 7 to 11 and year 12 to 13. In each of these three groups, most (89%, 86% and 89%) respectively thought that physical punishment of children by parents / care givers was not allowed as shown in Figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1: Opinion on whether parents and other care givers are allowed to physically punish children in Wales, October 2024 and March 2025 to April 2025 (percentage) (all and by school year grouping)



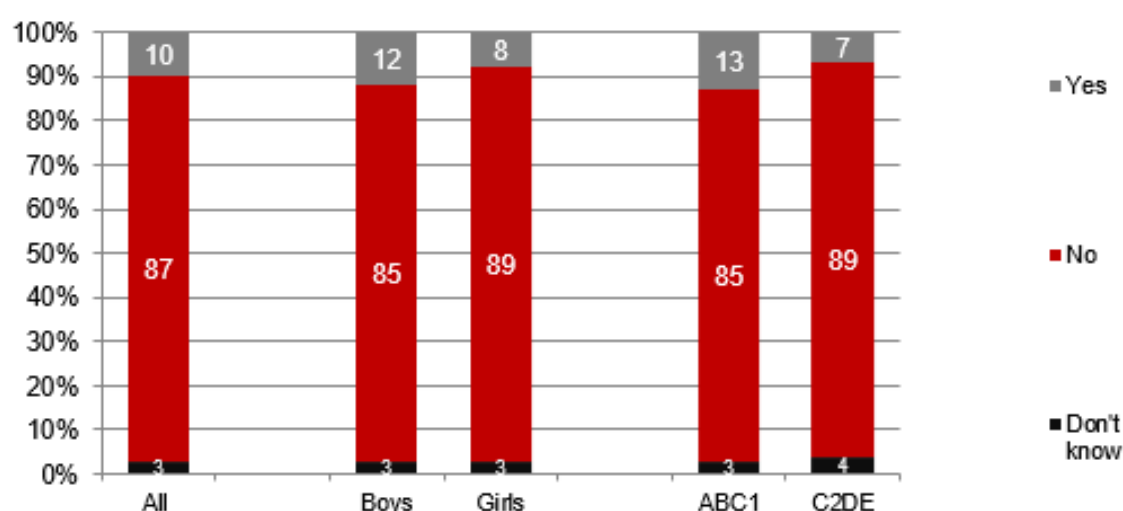
Description of figure 2.1: This graph shows whether or not respondents believe that parents and other care givers are allowed to physically punish children in Wales. Results are shown at the total sample level and by school year grouping.

Base: All (888) year 2 to 6 (268), year 7 to 11 (299), year 12 to 13 (188)

2.3 Figure 2.2 shows findings for the same measure by gender and household social grade, definitions are provided in Annex C. A strong majority in each group

correctly believed that parents and care givers were not allowed to physically punish children in Wales. However, those living in households classified as ABC1 were slightly more likely to believe that physical punishment of children in Wales by their parents / care givers was allowed versus those in C2DE households (13% versus 7%). This difference was statistically significant and therefore the findings can be generalised to the wider population.

Figure 2.2: Opinion on whether parents and other care givers are allowed to physically punish children in Wales, October 2024 and March 2025 to April 2025 (percentage) (all and by gender and social grade)



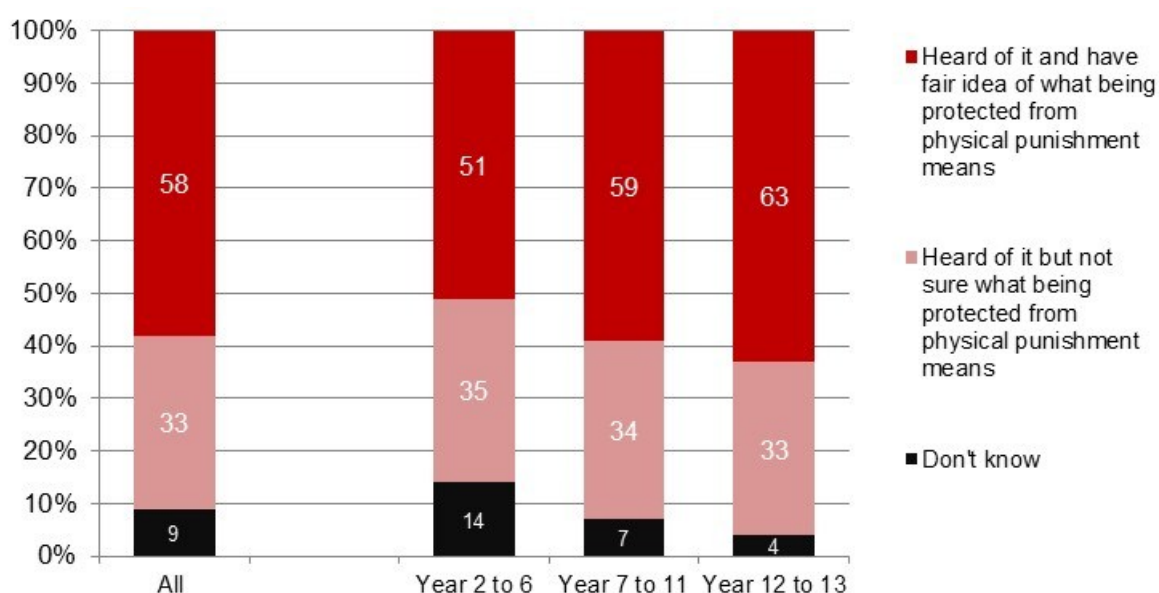
Description of figure 2.2: This graph shows whether or not respondents believe that parents and other care givers are allowed to physically punish children in Wales. Results are shown at the total sample and by boys and girls and by social grade of the household - ABC1 or C2DE.

Base: all (888) boys (383), girls (409), ABC1s (493), C2DEs (301)

2.4 Those who believed that physical punishment of children by parents and care givers was not allowed were asked to rate the extent of their knowledge on 'being protected from being physically punished by their parents and other care givers'. As shown in figure 2.3, around 6 in 10 (58%) had heard of it and had a fair idea of what it meant. A third (33%) had heard of it but were not sure what being protected from physical punishment meant and around 1 in 10 (9%) were unsure of the extent of their knowledge.

2.5 There were some differences on this measure by school year grouping (Figure 2.3). Those in the youngest grouping, year 2 to 6 were less likely to say they had a fair idea of what being protected from physical punishment meant (51% versus 59% for year 7 to 11 and 63% for year 12 to 13) and more likely to say they were unsure about their level of knowledge (14% versus 7% versus 4% respectively). These differences were statistically significant and therefore the findings can be generalised to the wider population.

Figure 2.3: Extent of knowledge of what being protected from physical punishment means, October 2024 and March 2025 to April 2025 (percentage) (all and by school year grouping)

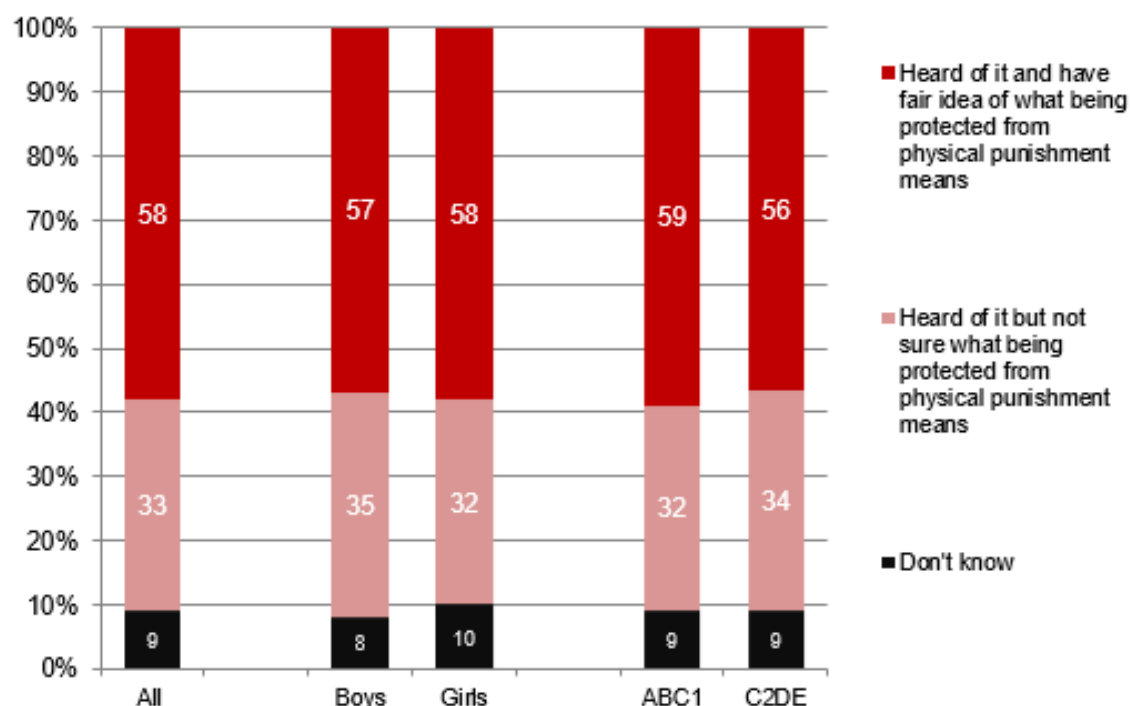


Description of figure 2.3: This graph shows the extent of claimed knowledge of what being protected from physical punishment means. Results are shown at the total sample level and by school year grouping.

Base: Those who think parents / care givers are not allowed to physically punish children - all (794) year 2 to 6 (245), year 7 to 11 (268), year 12 to 13 (170)

2.6 Knowledge of what being protected from physical punishment by parent and care givers means showed fewer differences between boys and girls and social grade groupings as shown in figure 2.4.

Figure 2.4: Extent of knowledge of what being protected from physical punishment means, October 2024 and March 2025 to April 2025 (percentage) (all and by gender and social grade)



Description of figure 2.4: This graph shows the extent of claimed knowledge of what being protected from physical punishment means. Results are shown at the total sample level and by boys and girls and by social grade of the household - ABC1 or C2DE.

Base: Those who think parents / care givers are not allowed to physically punish children - all (794) boys (383), girls (409), ABC1 (493), C2DE (301)

2.7 Overall, those who had heard something about children being protected from physical punishment by their parent or other care givers were most likely to find this out from teachers or school council (57% had heard about it in this way) and parents (51%). The two other main sources of information on this were social media (31%) and TV advert (26%). Full results are shown in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1: Where did you find out about children being protected from being physically punished by their parents or other care givers? October 2024 and March 2025 to April 2025 - All

Response	Percentage of respondents (Number of respondents)
Teacher or School Council	57 (n.412)
Parents	51 (n.373)
Social media	31 (n.222)
TV advert	26 (n.188)
Radio advert	8 (n.59)
Children's Commissioner for Wales	7 (n.52)
Cymru Ifanc / Young Wales	6 (n.45)
Youth Worker	6 (n.44)
Local Youth Forum or Youth Council	6 (n.40)
Other responses reported by less than 5% of respondents	
Don't know	
Meic Cymru	

Base: Those who have heard something about children being protected from being physically punished by their parents or other care givers (724)

(a) Table may add up to more than 100% as respondents were able to give more than one answer

(b) Other responses are presented alphabetically

2.8 Findings on sources of information by school year grouping can be found in Table 2.2. Whilst all school year groupings have the same top four sources of information, there were some differences on the extent of mention of each of these most notably:

- older school year groupings – year 12 to 13 and year 7 to 11 - were less likely to find out information from their parents than the youngest school year group – year 2 to 6 (46% versus 52% versus 63%, respectively)

- the oldest school year group – year 12 to 13 were more likely to find out information via social media (46% versus 21% for year 2 to 6 and 26% for year 7 to 11)

2.9 The above differences were statistically significant and therefore the findings can be generalised to the wider population.

Table 2.2: Where did you find out about children being protected from being physically punished by their parents or other care givers? October 2024 and March 2025 to April 2025 – By school year, percentage of respondents (number of respondents)

Response	Year 2 to 6	Year 7 to 11	Year 12 to 13
Teacher or School Council	63 (n.142)	57 (n.160)	55 (n.73)
Parents	63 (n.141)	52 (n.144)	46 (n.62)
Social media	21 (n.48)	26 (n.73)	46 (n.62)
TV advert	21 (n.46)	27 (n.77)	26 (n.35)
Radio advert	6 (n.14)	8 (n.21)	9 (n.12)
Children's Commissioner for Wales	7 (n.15)	6 (n.16)	10 (n.14)
Cymru Ifanc / Young Wales	<5	9 (n.24)	10 (n.13)
Youth Worker	<5	5 (n.14)	8 (n.10)
Local Youth Forum or Youth Council	<5	6 (n.16)	8 (n.11)

Base: Those who have heard something about children being protected from being physically punished by their parents or other care givers - year 2 to 6 (209), year 7 to 11 (251), year 12 to 13 (163)

(a) Table may add up to more than 100% as respondents were able to give more than one answer

2.10 Differences in sources of information about being protected from being physically punished by their parents or other care givers among boys and girls and different social grade groupings were less apparent than for school year groupings. The biggest differences were:

- boys were more likely to find out information from the TV advert than girls – 29% versus 23%

- those living in households classified as ABC1s were more likely to find out information from the Children's Commissioner than those in C2DE classified households – 11% vs 3%

2.11 These differences were statistically significant and therefore the findings can be generalised to the wider population.

Table 2.3: Where did you find out about children being protected from being physically punished by their parents or other care givers? October 2024 and March 2025 to April 2025 – By gender and household social grade

Response	Boys	Girls	ABC1	C2DE
Teacher or School Council	58 (n.214)	55 (n.197)	59 (n.213)	55 (n.199)
Parents	52 (n.193)	50 (n.178)	53 (n.191)	50 (n.182)
Social media	32 (n.117)	30 (n.105)	33 (n.120)	28 (n.103)
TV advert	29 (n.107)	23 (n.80)	26 (n.93)	26 (n.95)
Radio advert	11 (n.40)	5 (n.19)	10 (n.37)	6 (n.21)
Children's Commissioner for Wales	9 (n.33)	5 (n.19)	11 (n.39)	<5
Cymru Ifanc / Young Wales	7 (n.25)	6 (n.20)	8 (n.31)	<5
Youth Worker	7 (n.25)	5 (n.19)	5 (n.19)	7 (n.25)
Local Youth Forum or Youth Council	7 (n.25)	<5	7 (n.25)	<5

Base: Those who have heard something about children being protected from being physically punished by their parents or other care givers - boys (351), girls (371), ABC1 (451), C2DE (273)

(a) Table may add up to more than 100% as respondents were able to give more than one answer

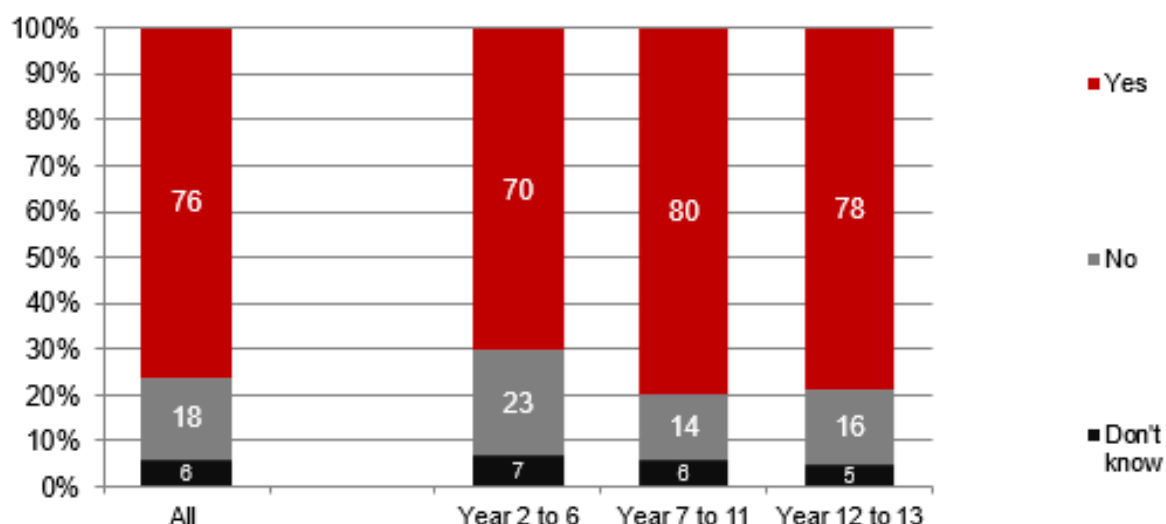
3. Awareness of legislation around physical punishment of children

3.1 After being questioned on their general understanding around physical punishment of children, respondents were then asked, specifically, if they were aware that there was a law in place that prevented all physical punishment of children by parents and other care givers.

3.2 Around three-quarters (76%) reported that they were aware that this law was in place. Around 1 in 5 (18%) had not heard of this law and 6% were unsure.

3.3 Older school year groups – both year 7 to 11 and year 12 to 13 – were more likely to be aware of the law than those in year 2 to 6. (80% and 78% versus 70%, respectively). These differences were statistically significant and therefore the findings can be generalised to the wider population.

Figure 3.1: Awareness of law that makes it illegal to physically punish children in Wales, October 2024 and March 2025 to April 2025 (percentage) (all and by school year grouping)

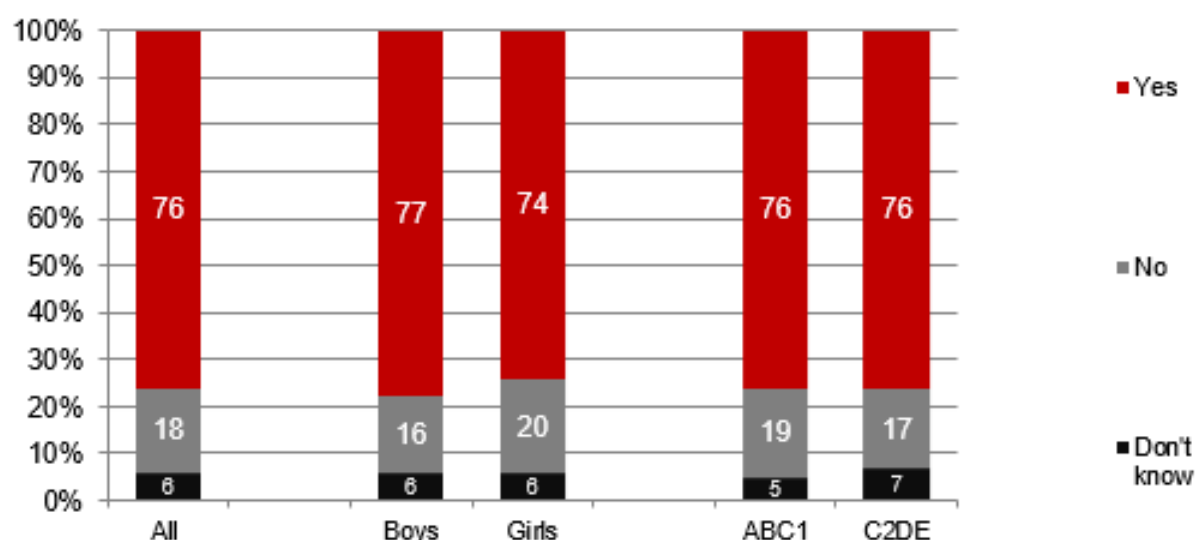


Description of figure 3.1: This graph shows whether or not respondents were aware of the law that makes it illegal to physically punish children in Wales. Results are shown at the total sample level and by school year grouping.

Base: All (888), year 2 to 6 (268), year 7 to 11 (299), year 12 to 13 (188)

3.4 Among boys and girls and different household social grade groupings such differences were not apparent as shown in figure 3.2.

Figure 3.2: Awareness of law that makes it illegal to physically punish children in Wales, October 2024 and March 2025 to April 2025 (percentage) (All and by gender and social grade)



Description of figure 3.2: This graph shows whether or not respondents were aware of the law that makes it illegal to physically punish children in Wales. Results are shown at the total sample level and by boys and girls and by social grade of the household - ABC1 or C2DE.

Base: all (888) boys (383), girls (409), ABC1s (493), C2DEs (301)

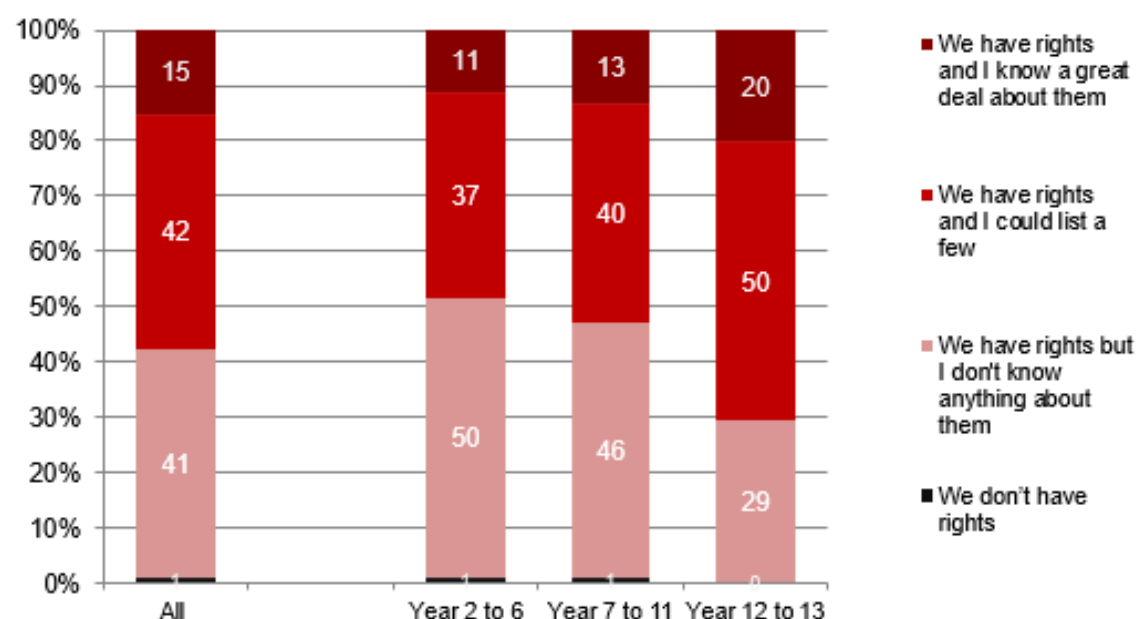
4. Knowledge of rights of children and young people

4.1 Nearly all (99%) of children and young people questioned as part of the survey were aware that they had rights. However, the level of knowledge of these rights varied. Around two-fifths (42%) were aware they had rights but didn't know anything about them. A similar proportion (41%) were aware of them and claimed they could list a few and a smaller number (15%) claimed to know a great deal about them.

4.2 Level of knowledge of rights varied by school year grouping – with reported knowledge of rights increased with school year age grouping. For example, 48% of those in year 2 to 6 claimed to be able to list a few rights (37%) or knew a great deal about them (11%). The equivalent proportions among year 7 to 11 and among year 12 to 13 were 53%, with 40% able to list a few and 70%, with 50% able to list a few respectively.

4.3 These differences by school year grouping were statistically significant and therefore the findings can be generalised to the wider population.

Figure 4.1: Knowledge of the rights of children and young people in Wales, October 2024 and March 2025 to April 2025 (percentage) (all and by school year)



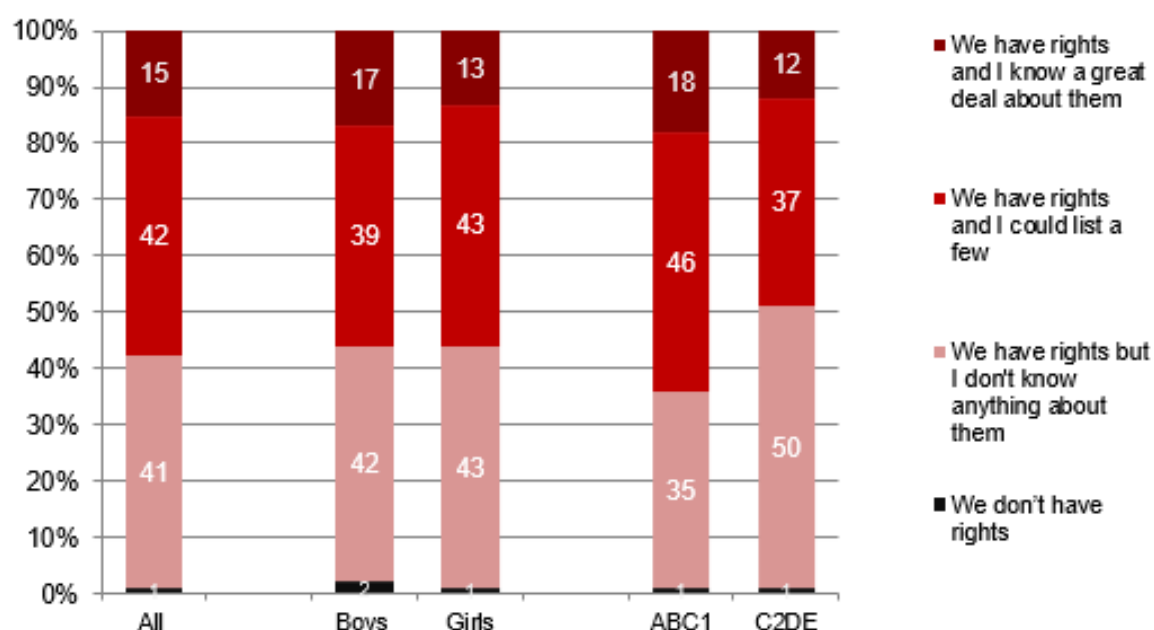
Description of figure 4.1: This graph shows the extent of respondent's knowledge of the rights of children and young people in Wales. Results are shown at the total sample level and by school year grouping.

Base: all (888) year 2 to 6 (268), year 7 to 11 (299), year 12 to 13 (188)

4.4 Differences were also found when examining findings by household social grade. Those living in ABC1 households reported higher levels of knowledge of rights than their counterparts in C2DE households. As shown in figure 4.2, 64% of those in ABC1 households claimed they could list a few rights or knew a great deal about them compared to 49% who stated this in C2DE households. These differences were statistically significant and therefore the findings can be generalised to the wider population.

4.5 Knowledge of rights among boys and girls were at similar levels.

Figure 4.2: Knowledge of the rights of children and young people in Wales, October 2024 and March 2025 to April 2025 (percentage) (all and by gender and social grade)



Description of figure 4.2: This graph shows the extent of respondent's knowledge of the rights of children and young people in Wales. Results are shown at the total sample level and by boys and girls and by social grade of the household - ABC1 or C2DE.

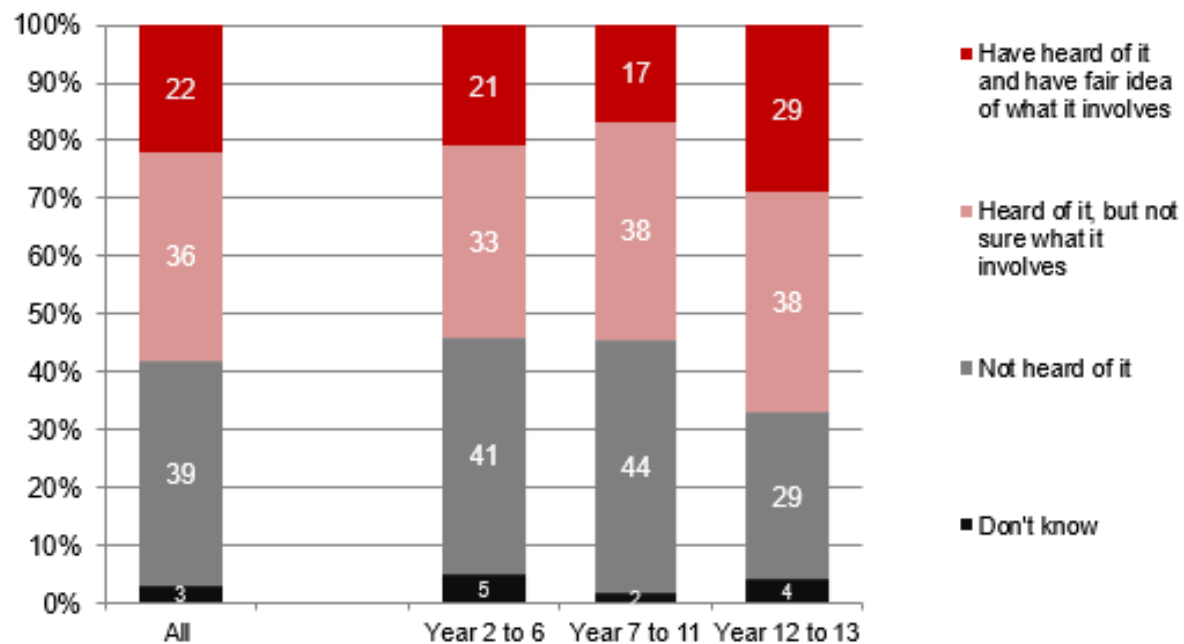
Base: all (888) boys (383), girls (409), ABC1s (493), C2DEs (301)

4.6 When questioned specifically about awareness and knowledge of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) around 6 in 10 (58%) children and young people reported being aware of it – a majority (36%) of this group, whilst having heard of it, were unsure what it involved whereas 22% reported having a fair idea of what rights it involved. Around 4 in 10 (39%) had not heard of the UNCRC.

4.7 Those in school year 12 to 13 were more likely to be aware of UNCRC than younger school year groupings – around two-thirds (67%) were aware of it compared with just over half for both year 7 to 11 (55%) and year 2 to 6 (54%). The older school year group were also most likely to have a higher level of knowledge of the UNCRC – 29% of year 12 to 13s reported having a fair idea of the rights involved compared with 17% and 21% respectively among year 7 to 11 and year 2 to 6.

These differences were statistically significant and therefore the findings can be generalised to the wider population.

Figure 4.3: Knowledge of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), October 2024 and March 2025 to April 2025 (percentage) (all and by school year)

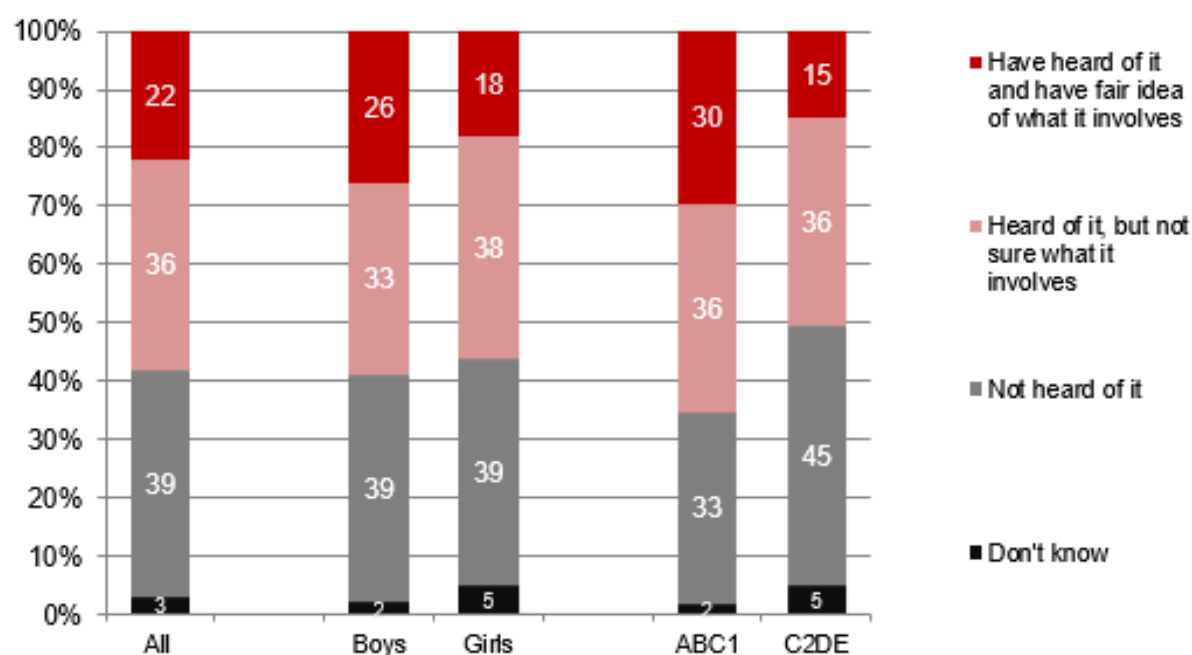


Description of figure 4.3: This graph shows the extent of respondent's knowledge of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Results are shown at the total sample level and by school year grouping.

Base: all (888) year 2 to 6 (268), year 7 to 11 (299), year 12 to 13 (188)

4.8 Similar differences were recorded by social grade grouping – those in ABC1 households being more likely to be aware and have knowledge of the UNCRC relative to those in C2DE households as shown in figure 4.4. Differences in terms of awareness were less apparent by gender but boys were more likely than girls to state that they had a fair idea of the rights it involves. These differences were statistically significant and therefore the findings can be generalised to the wider population.

Figure 4.4: Knowledge of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), October 2024 and March 2025 to April 2025 (percentage) (all and by gender and social grade)



Description of figure 4.4: This graph shows the extent of respondent's knowledge of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Results are shown at the total sample level and by boys and girls and by social grade of the household - ABC1 or C2DE.

Base: all (888) boys (383), girls (409), ABC1s (493), C2DEs (301)

5. Conclusions

5.1 The vast majority (87%) of children and young people aged 7 to 18 surveyed were aware that they are protected from physical punishment from parents or care givers. This strong majority was consistent among boys and girls, different school year grouping and those living in ABC1 and C2DE households.

5.2 When further questioned about how much they knew about what being protected from physical punishment means, around 6 in 10 thought they had a fair idea, but the remainder, around 4 in 10 reported to being unsure what it meant. Younger children in year 2 to 6 were less knowledgeable than older school year groups.

5.3 Children and young people report finding out about being protected from physical punishment, principally, at their school (from their teacher or school council) or from their parents. The other two main sources of information were social media and TV advert. There is some variation on this between school year groupings, with the eldest school year grouping (year 12 to 13) more likely to find information via social media and less likely from their parents relative to the younger school year groupings.

5.4 Around three-quarters (76%) of children and young people were aware that there is a law in place that prevents physical punishment of children by parents and other care givers. This is slightly lower than the proportion who believed parents and other care givers were not allowed to physically punish children (87%) when asked about this without reference to legislation being in place.

5.5 Nearly all (99%) children and young people questioned as part of the survey were aware that they had rights, although the extent of knowledge of these rights was mixed. Around 4 in 10 children and young people, whilst being aware that rights existed, reported that they didn't know anything about them. This knowledge varied by age with older school year grouping reporting higher levels of knowledge than younger groupings.

5.6 Around 6 in 10 children and young people were aware of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), although a majority of this group were unsure of what it involved. The oldest school year grouping, year 12 to 13, were most likely to be aware of UNCRC.

Annex A – Survey questionnaire

The next few questions will ask you what you know about the physical punishment of children. There are lots of types of physical punishment. It can mean smacking, hitting, slapping and shaking, but there are other types too. There are no right or wrong answers.

1. Do you think parents and other care givers are allowed to physically punish children in Wales?

Yes

No

Don't know

[If responded 'yes' to Question 1, route through to Question 4

If responded 'no' or 'don't know', route through to Questions 2 and 3]

2. How much do you know about children being protected from being physically punished by their parents or other care givers?

Heard of it and have a fair idea of what being protected from physical punishment means

Heard of it, but not sure what being protected from physical punishment means

Don't know

[if responded, 'heard of it and have a fair idea of what being protected from physical punishment means' or 'heard of it, but not sure what being protected from physical punishment means' in Question 2, route through to Question 3]

3. Where did you find out about children being protected from being physically punished by their parents or other care givers?

Parents

Teacher or School Council
Local Youth Forum or Youth Council
Youth Worker
Children's Commissioner for Wales
Cymru Ifanc / Young Wales
Meic Cymru
TV advert
Radio advert
Social media
Other
Don't know

4. Have you heard about the law in Wales that means that all physical punishment of children is illegal, including by parents, or other care givers?

Yes

No

Don't know

The next few questions will ask you what you know about children and young people's rights overall

5. Which statement below best describes what you know about the rights of children and young people living in Wales?

We don't have rights

We have rights, but I don't know anything about them

We have rights, and I could list a few

We have rights, and I know a great deal about them

6. We'd like to find out how informed people feel about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. There are no right or wrong answers. How

much have you previously heard about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child?

Heard of it and have a fair idea of the rights it involves

Heard of it, but not sure what rights it involves

Not heard of it

Don't know

Annex B – Research Method

A1.1 This research was conducted via the Beaufort Children's Omnibus Survey. Omnibus surveys are a well-established method of conducting market and social research. As their name implies, they enable a group of users to share the same survey vehicle, achieving the benefit of lower costs.

A1.2 The Children's Omnibus sample is designed to be representative of children and young people aged 7 to 18 resident in Wales. Surveys are undertaken online using the Cint online panel exchange platform. Respondents aged 16 to 18 are contacted directly via the panel. Respondents aged 7 to 16 are contacted via their parents / guardians (who are members of the panel) and permission is sought for them to complete the survey.

A1.3 The Cint platform and its products comply with various codes of conduct and guidelines such as [European Society for Opinion and Market Research \(ESOMAR\)](#) and [Market Research Society \(MRS\) standards](#). Cint also complies with [ISO 20252](#). Multiple data quality checks are built into the Cint system including GEO IP check and CAPTCHA at registration, unique respondent identification and fraudulent behaviour checks. In addition, Beaufort builds in its own quality control questions and measures within the survey and excludes respondents who fail these checks.

A1.4 The survey was subject to interlocking demographic quota controls of age within gender. A further separate quota control was set on social grade and interviews were undertaken with residents of every local authority in Wales.

A1.5 At the analysis stage, the data is weighted by age group within gender as well as social grade and local authority grouping to give each cell its correct incidence within the Wales total derived from the results of the 2021 Census. Figures in this report are presented to the nearest whole percentage.

Proportional quota sampling

A1.6 When survey data are tested for statistical significance, an assumption is made that the achieved sample represents a random sample of the relevant population. However, as the Children's Omnibus Survey uses proportional quota sampling (not random sampling), genuine statistical significance cannot, strictly speaking, be established. Therefore, when a difference between two sub-groups is described as being 'significant' in this report, this refers to a pseudo-statistically significant difference at the 95% confidence level. This means that, if the survey did use a random sample, the probability of obtaining the finding by chance would be less than one in 20.

Chi-square analysis

A1.7 The chi-square test has been used in the analysis to determine whether an observed relationship between two or more categorical variables in the sample is likely to reflect a genuine association in the population (i.e. children and young people aged 7 to 18 resident in Wales).

Annex C – Definition of social grades

This annex provides a definition of the [social grade classification](#) used in the analysis.

Social grade ABC1

A

High managerial, administrative or professional

B

Intermediate managerial, administrative or professional

C1

Supervisory, clerical and junior managerial, administrative or professional

Social grade C2DE

C2

Skilled manual workers

D

Semi and unskilled manual workers

E

State pensioners, casual or lowest grade workers, unemployed with state benefits only

Annex D – Sub-sample sizes

Table A1.1, below, shows the number of respondents for each sub-sample used in the analysis. The numbers of respondents are given for the unweighted and weighted samples.

Table A1.1: Sub-group sample sizes, October 2024 and March 2025 to April 2025

Sub-sample	Unweighted sample	Weighted sample
Gender³		
Male	440	455
Female	446	431
School Year grouping⁴		
Year 2 to 6	268	287
Year 7 to 11	299	331
Year 12 to 13	188	152
Social grade		
ABC1	564	456
C2DE	324	432

³ Male and Female total adds up to 886. There were also 3 respondents who answered 'other' or 'prefer not to say'

⁴ School year grouping adds up to 755. There were also 128 respondents who were not currently at school – i.e. either in higher education or not in education at all. There were 3 respondents who answered 'prefer not to say'