

The Good Childhood Report 2022

Now in its eleventh year, The Children's Society's Good Childhood Report is the longest standing report on the well-being of children in the UK.

This year's report looks at the most up to date trends for six aspects of young people's well-being, and puts a spotlight on their experiences of school.



Children's well-being has declined

Children's (aged 10 to 15) average score for happiness with 'life as a whole' was significantly lower in 2019-20 than a decade ago.¹

Happiness with friends, appearance and school were on average also significantly lower.

There was no significant difference for family or schoolwork.



85%

of parents and carers

said that they were either 'very' or 'quite' concerned about the impact of the cost of living on their household over the next 12 months.²



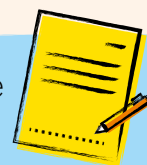
1 in 7

children were unhappy with school.²

In 2022, more children were

unhappy about school

than any other domain within our Good Childhood Index.



On average, children were **most happy with how safe they feel in school** and **least happy with how much they are listened to.**

¹ These results come from Understanding Society, a survey that follows the same families year on year. The changes shown compare the results of the most recent survey (2019-20) with the first survey (2009-10).

² The Children's Society's household survey, wave 21, May to June 2022, 10- to 17-year-olds and a parent or carer, United Kingdom. Weighted data. Excludes missing responses (including 'prefer not to say').

'I don't think they actually listen to what the students say. They just have them [opportunities to speak] to say they have them.'

Developing
wider skills

Safety

'They won't care if you're going through stuff or anything. They'll still expect you to do all the work you're given to a good standard.'

Expectations

Schoolwork

Relationships
with staff

Fairness Behaviour

Children's
experiences
of school

Support within school

'If you didn't get enough sleep because of something going on at home or whatever - if you go in and it's a really good teacher, it helps.'

Recommendations to improve children's well-being and life chances

1. Understanding children's well-being:

The Government must implement annual measurement of children's well-being on a national scale, with the data linked to the National Pupil Database. This will monitor current and future issues affecting children's well-being to improve local and national decision making.

2. Prevention and early intervention:

In schools, there needs to be a faster roll out of Mental Health Support Teams, closer working with parents, and more support for teachers in spotting early issues to respond to pupil's needs – providing better

outcomes for children. Not every child feels able to seek help at school. We want to see youth-designed early support hubs in every community where young people can drop-in when they first feel they are struggling.

3. Cost of living support:

A permanent boost to welfare support is needed to protect children from the cost of living crisis, including a significant increase in child benefit payments and extending free school meals to all children whose parents or guardians get Universal Credit (1.5 million children).



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Report 2022.

To learn more, get in touch
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