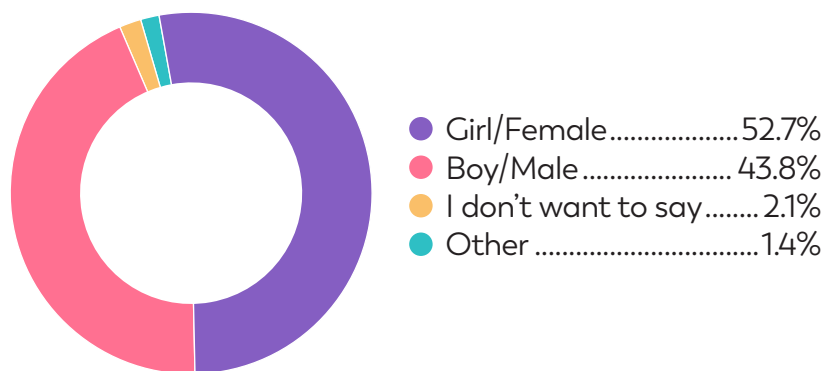# POST-PRIMARY LEARNING EXPERIENCES

DURING THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN, JANUARY TO MARCH 2021

From 1 to 11 June 2021, ETI invited pupils from Year 6 to Year 14 to tell everyone more about what it was like to be a young person learning from January to March 2021, while there was a second lockdown because of COVID-19.

Total Responses

A total of **28,790** year 6 to year 14 pupils from over half (51%) of all primary and post-primary schools in Northern Ireland completed the questionnaires.

- ● Girl/Female 52.7%
- ● Boy/Male 43.8%
- ● I don't want to say 2.1%
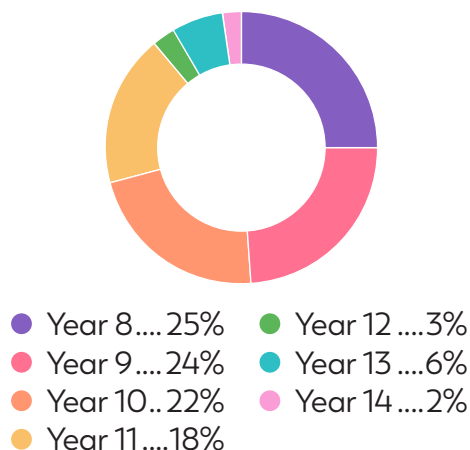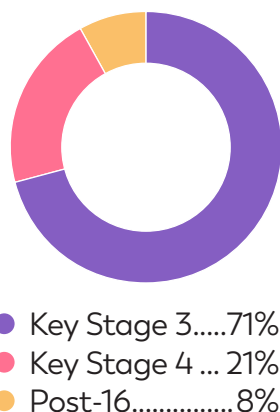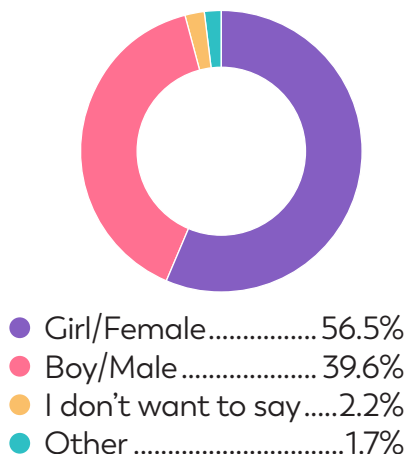- ● Other 1.4%

IN THIS PUBLICATION, A SUMMARY OF YOUR RESPONSES INCLUDE:

- Learning from home or in school – what worked well for you
- Staying safe online
- Getting help, receiving feedback, giving views
- Development of skills
- Physical health and emotional and mental wellbeing

POST-PRIMARY RESPONSES

14,534 pupils from over three-quarters (77%) of post-primary schools completed the questionnaire. Of these, **13,055** (90%) were learning from home all or almost all of the time and 1,479 (10%) were learning in school all or almost all of the time.

- ● Girl/Female 56.5%
- ● Boy/Male 39.6%
- ● I don't want to say 2.2%
- ● Other 1.7%

- ● Key Stage 3 ..... 71%
- ● Key Stage 4 ... 21%
- ● Post-16 .... 8%

- ● Year 8 .... 25%
- ● Year 9 .... 24%
- ● Year 10 .. 22%
- ● Year 11 .... 18%
- ● Year 12 .... 3%
- ● Year 13 .... 6%
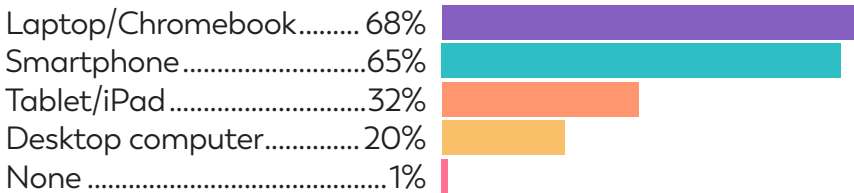- ● Year 14 .... 2%

ENJOYMENT OF LEARNING

Four in five pupils (79%) enjoyed learning all, most or some of the time during the lockdown.

One in five pupils (21%) enjoyed learning hardly ever or not at all.

DIGITAL DEVICES USED TO COMPLETE SCHOOL WORK

Multiple devices were used by you to complete school work from home and in school.

Laptop/Chromebook......... 68%
Smartphone..........................65%
Tablet/iPad............................32%
Desktop computer..............20%
None 1%

At home, 2% used an Xbox/PlayStation/Nintendo Switch and 1% used a Smart TV. In school, 2% used smartboards.

INTERNET/Wi-Fi reliability at home

When learning from home, 49% of you had very reliable internet/Wi-Fi for completing school work.

43% of you had intermittent (patchy) internet/ Wi-Fi for completing school work from home.

8% of you had very poor internet/Wi-Fi at home.

ROUTINE FOR COMPLETING SCHOOL WORK FROM HOME

Three in five pupils (60%) had the same routine every day or most days when learning from home during the lockdown.
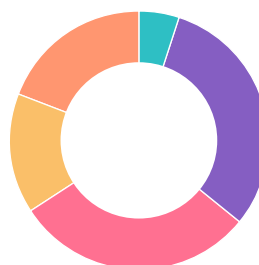
One in five pupils (20%) had the same routine every day.

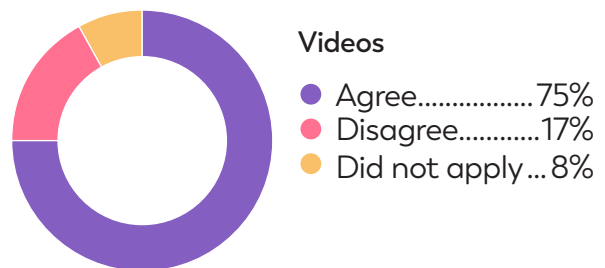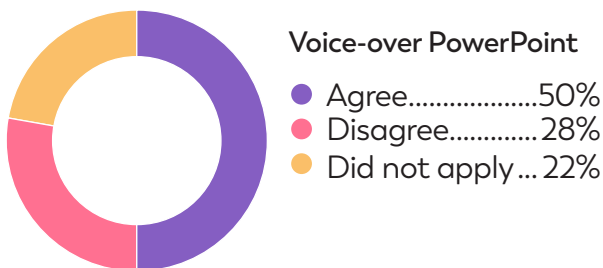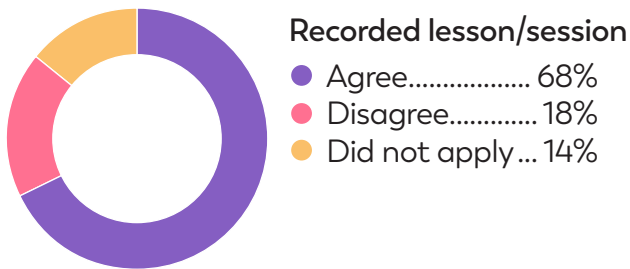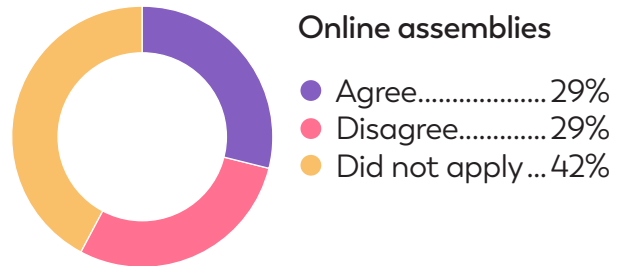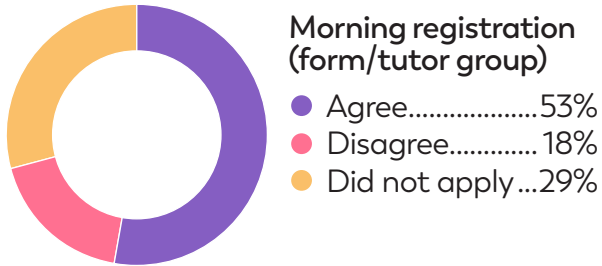Nearly one in five pupils (18%) didn't have a routine any day.

FEELING CONNECTED TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Over one-third (36%) of pupils responding agreed or strongly agreed about feeling connected to their school community during lockdown, but nearly one-half (45%) disagreed or strongly disagreed.
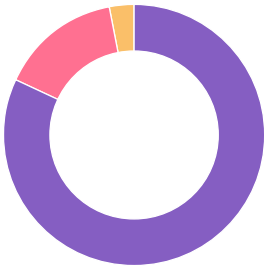
Strongly agree 5%
Agree............................31%
Disagree.....................30%
Strongly disagree 15%
Don't know 19%

LEARNING FROM HOME OR IN SCHOOL - WHAT WORKED WELL FOR YOU

Morning registration (form/tutor group)
- Agree..................53%
- Disagree............ 18%
- Did not apply...29%

Online assemblies
- Agree.................. 29%
- Disagree............ 29%
- Did not apply ... 42%

Recorded lesson/session
- Agree................. 68%
- Disagree............ 18%
- Did not apply ... 14%

Live lesson/session
- Agree................72%
- Disagree...........19%
- Did not apply...9%

Voice-over PowerPoint
- Agree..................50%
- Disagree............28%
- Did not apply ... 22%

Videos
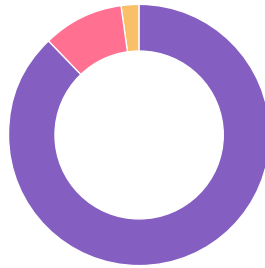- Agree................75%
- Disagree............17%
- Did not apply ... 8%

LEARNING FROM HOME OR IN SCHOOL - MORE OF WHAT WORKED WELL FOR YOU

Completing online tasks using digital resources/programmes
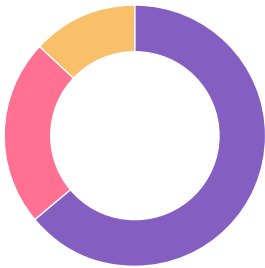- Agree.................82%
- Disagree............15%
- Did not apply ... 3%

Uploaded notes/work
- Agree................88%
- Disagree...........10%
- Did not apply ...2%
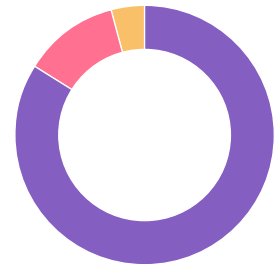
Writing in exercise books/ worksheets/booklets
- Agree............... 84%
- Disagree............12%
- Did not apply ...4%

Using textbooks
- Agree.................64%
- Disagree............ 23%
- Did not apply ...13%
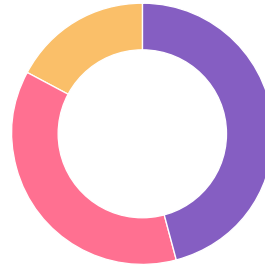
A planner or timetable to help me plan my learning
- Agree.................46%
- Disagree............ 37%
- Did not apply ...17%
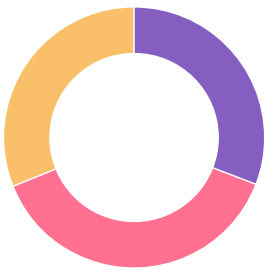
Opportunities to work in pairs/groups with other pupils
- Agree.................. 31%
- Disagree............ 38%
- Did not apply ...31%
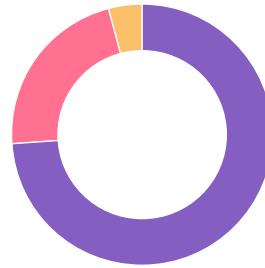
Learning on my own, for example researching tasks teachers gave me
- Agree................74%
- Disagree...........22%
- Did not apply ...4%

DIFFICULTY COMPLETING SCHOOL WORK FROM HOME

Three-quarters of you (75%) told us that you had difficulty some, most or all of the time completing school work from home during the lockdown.
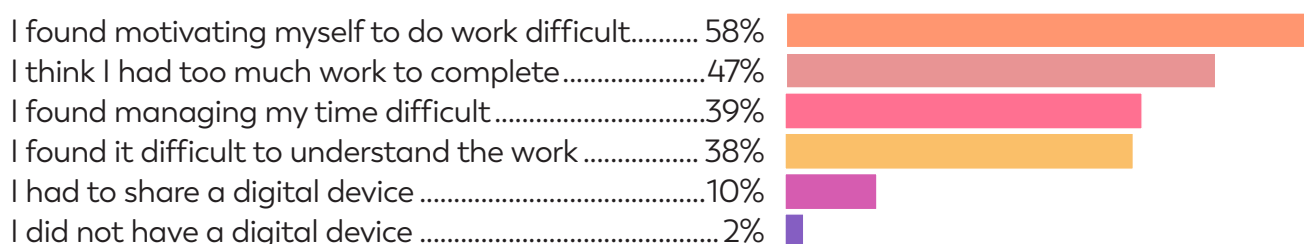
One-quarter (25%) of you told us that you hardly ever had or never had difficulty completing your school work from home during the lockdown.

Difficulty completing school work from home

- Some of the time.................53%
- Most of the time..................16%
- All of the time 6%
- Hardly ever or not at all...25%
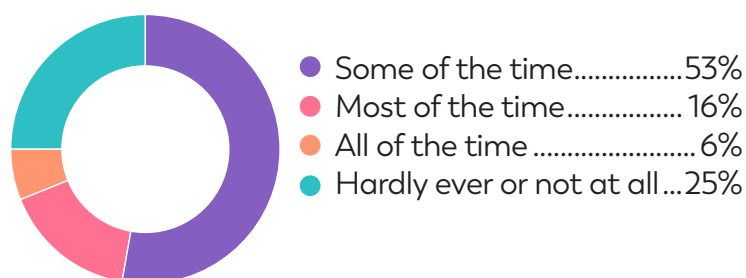
The most common reasons why you found it difficult to complete school work were motivating yourself and having too much work to complete.
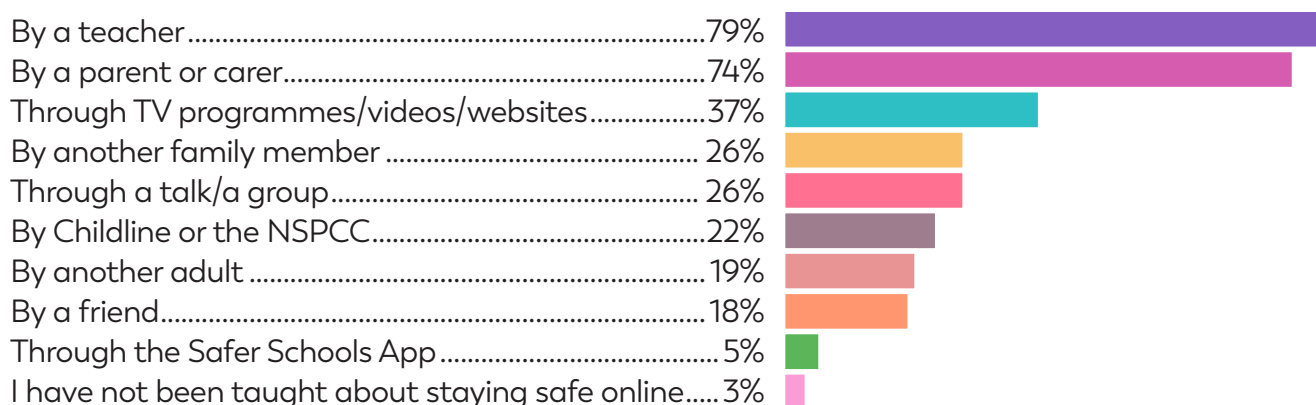
Reasons for difficulty completing school work from home or in school

I found motivating myself to do work difficult...........	58%
I think I had too much work to complete....................	47%
I found managing my time difficult.............................	39%
I found it difficult to understand the work	38%
I had to share a digital device	10%
I did not have a digital device	2%

At home, 28% had problems with the internet/Wi-Fi, 18% did not have a quiet place to work and 6% did not have equipment/resources needed.
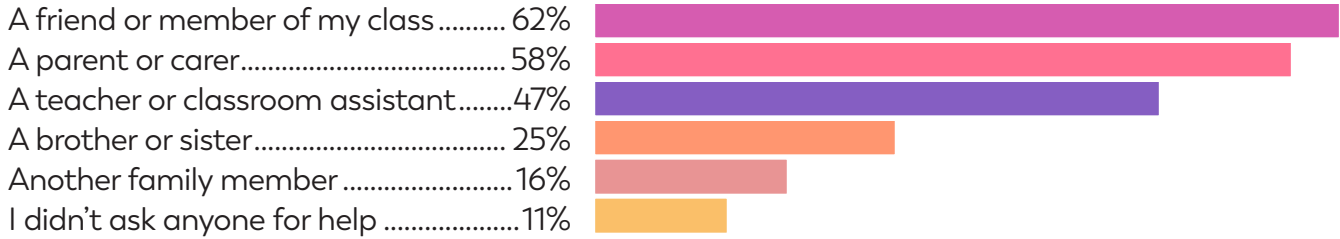
STAYING SAFE ONLINE

The most common ways you have been taught about staying safe online is by a teacher, parent or carer.

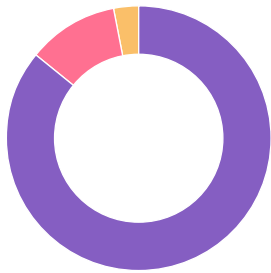|	
By a teacher..	79%
By a parent or carer..	74%
Through TV programmes/videos/websites..................	37%
By another family member	26%
Through a talk/a group...	26%
By Childline or the NSPCC...	22%
By another adult	19%
By a friend...	18%
Through the Safer Schools App	5%
I have not been taught about staying safe online.....	3%

Getting help, receiving feedback, giving views

62% of pupils asked a friend or a member of the class for help with school work when learning from home, if needed.
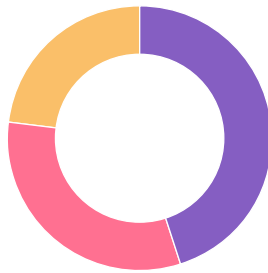
Help with school work if needed

A friend or member of my class	62%
A parent or carer	58%
A teacher or classroom assistant	47%
A brother or sister	25%
Another family member	16%
I didn't ask anyone for help	11%

Receiving feedback: Form(s) of feedback about my work I found useful

Written comments
- Agree.............. 86%
- Disagree........... 11%
- Did not apply ... 3%

Email
- Agree.................45%
- Disagree.............32%
- Did not apply ...23%
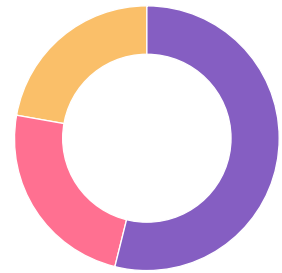
Audio (spoken) feedback/voice message on written work
- Agree:.................54%
- Disagree.............24%
- Did not apply ...22%
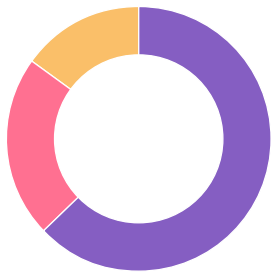
Feedback during a lesson/session
- Agree.............. 63%
- Disagree........... 22%
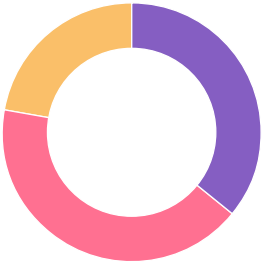- Did not apply ...15%
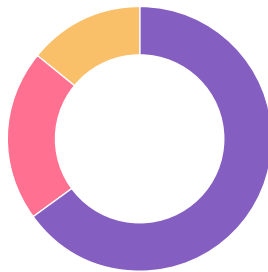
Online quizzes
- Agree.................65%
- Disagree.............21%
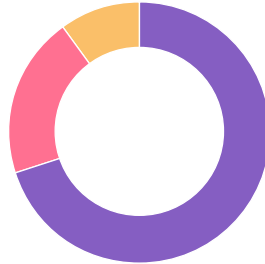- Did not apply ... 14%

Giving views
Three-quarters of pupils responding (75%) told us that teachers provided opportunities to give views about what worked well when learning during the lockdown.

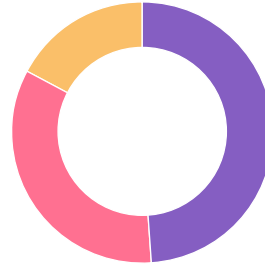# DEVELOPMENT OF SKILLS DURING THE LOCKDOWN

I improved my communication skills.

- Agree..............36%
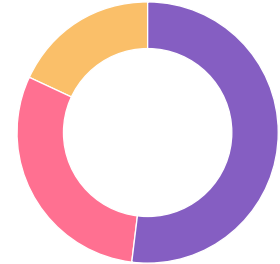- Disagree.........42%
- Don't know ...22%

I improved my ICT skills.

- Agree..............70%
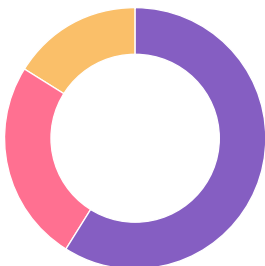- Disagree........20%
- Don't know ...10%

I improved my creative skills.

- Agree..............49%
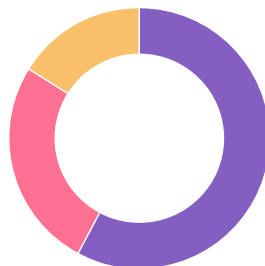- Disagree........34%
- Don't know ...17%

I improved my decision-making skills.

- Agree..............52%
- Disagree........30%
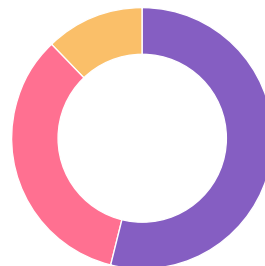- Don't know ...18%

I improved my managing information skills.

- Agree..............59%
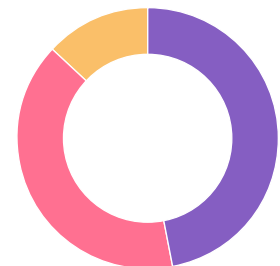- Disagree........25%
- Don't know ...16%

I improved my problem-solving skills.

- Agree..............58%
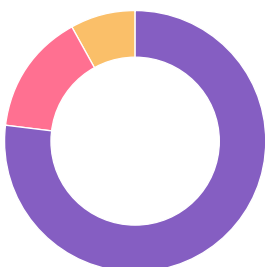- Disagree........26%
- Don't know ...16%

I improved my organisational skills.

- Agree..............54%
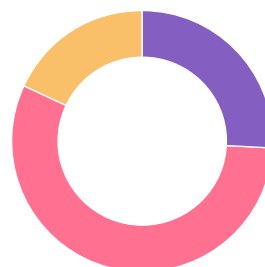- Disagree........34%
- Don't know ...12%

I improved my time management skills.

- Agree..............47%
- Disagree........40%
- Don't know ...13%

I improved my skills of working on my own/ independently.

- Agree..............77%
- Disagree........15%
- Don't know 8%

I improved my skills of working with others.

- Agree..............26%
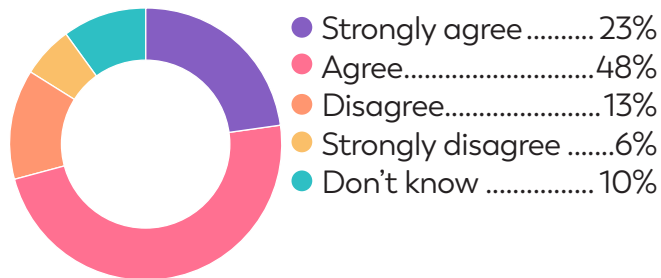- Disagree........56%
- Don't know ...18%

PHYSICAL HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL WELLBEING

Learning from home, 70% of you strongly agreed or agreed that you looked after your physical health and 53% of you strongly agreed or agreed that you looked after your emotional and mental wellbeing.
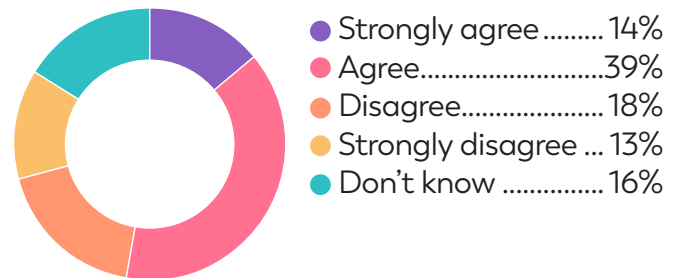
19% of you disagreed or strongly disagreed that you looked after your physical health when learning from home.

31% of you disagreed or strongly disagreed that you looked after your emotional and mental wellbeing when learning from home.
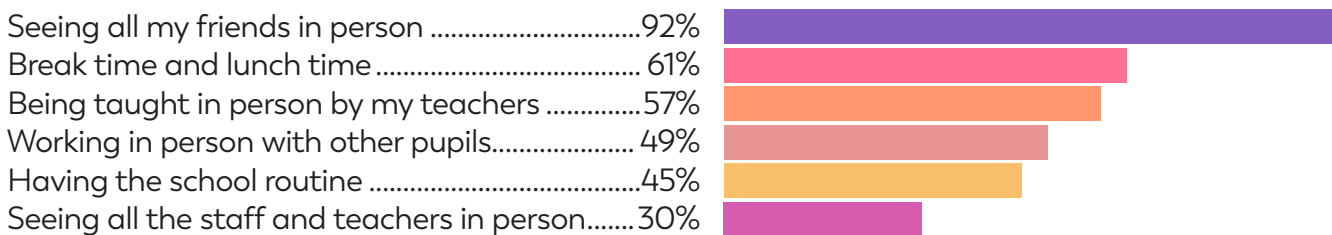
Physical health

- Strongly agree 23%
- Agree 48%
- Disagree 13%
- Strongly disagree 6%
- Don't know 10%

Emotional and mental wellbeing

- Strongly agree 14%
- Agree 39%
- Disagree 18%
- Strongly disagree ... 13%
- Don't know 16%

ENJOYING BEING BACK IN SCHOOL

You told us what you have enjoyed most about being back in school is seeing all your friends in person, break time and lunch time and being taught in person by your teachers.

Enjoying being back at school

Seeing all my friends in person	92%
Break time and lunch time	61%
Being taught in person by my teachers	57%
Working in person with other pupils	49%
Having the school routine	45%
Seeing all the staff and teachers in person	30%

AND FINALLY...

Thanks from ETI to all the pupils who answered the questionnaire. The answers will help everyone who is interested in education to reflect on what works well and what is important for learners when learning happens remotely and online.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI)

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