

# An evaluation of play parks and multi-purpose play areas

A consultation with children and  
young people in Glasgow



Commissioned by  
Glasgow Housing Association

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**The TASC Agency**  
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<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>1 About the evaluation</b>	3
<b>2 Thanks</b>	4
<b>3 Key messages summary</b>	5
<b>4 Playpark survey totals</b>	8
<b>5 Multipurpose sports area survey totals</b>	12
<b>6 Cleeves Road Park, Nitshill</b>	
a. Play park	15
b. MPSA	19
<b>7 Hartlaw Crescent Park, Cardonald</b>	
a. Play park	25
<b>8 Hillpark Drive Park, Pollokshaws</b>	
a. Play park	31
<b>9 Knightswood Park, Lincoln Avenue</b>	
a. Play park	36
<b>10 Robroyston Park, Quarrywood Road</b>	
a. Play park	42
b. MPSA	48
<b>11 Questions for all primary children</b>	
a. Where do you normally play?	52
b. What is playing?	53
c. Why do children need play parks?	54
<b>12 Appendices</b>	
a. Information leaflets for primary children	55
b. Information leaflets for secondary young people	56
c. Questionnaire for primary children	57
d. Questionnaire for secondary young people	58

# 1. About the evaluation

## 1.1 Background

This report is the result of consultations with 58 children and young people in Glasgow about their local play parks and multi-purpose sports areas (MPSAs) commissioned by Glasgow Housing Association.

Since 2005, in order to enhance local community facilities, provide safe play facilities and improve the local environment, GHA's Regeneration Team has delivered an annual joint Play Area Improvement Programme with GCC Land Services.

GHA and GCC refurbished nine play parks in Glasgow under the Programme in 2006/07. GHA wished to assess the impact of the play areas and as part of this process supported audits of the nine play areas and interviews with LHOs and local residents in six of the areas. GHA also commissioned the TASC Agency to assess the impact of the Programme on local children living in the catchment areas of the improved play areas, working through local primary and secondary schools.

The TASC Agency contacted schools nearest five of the parks and arranged to meet with groups of 6-8 children or young people who know the playparks or MPSAs well. This evaluation is designed to gather qualitative points of view from children and young people on how they use the play areas, what they like or dislike about them, and what they think could be improved.

A total of 44 primary school children and 14 secondary school young people were consulted. We asked primary children to focus on playparks and secondary pupils to focus on MPSAs and social gathering spaces in the park - several participants talked about both playgrounds and MPSAs. The five play areas across the city include Cleeves Road Park, Nitshill; Hartlaw Crescent Park, Cardonald; Hillpark Drive Park, Pollokshaws; Knightswood Park, Lincoln Avenue; and Robroyston Park, Quarrywood Road.

## 1.2 Method

Primary school children were consulted by two TASC researchers at their schools. Children were asked general questions about where they like to play and what they like to do. Then in pairs they drew pictures of the play parks from memory. They were then shown photos of the parks mounted on large posters and were invited to talk about and write down what they like best, what they would like improved or added to the park and what they don't like. To finish their memory posters, the children were then interviewed individually using questionnaires (see Appendix c) and asked to rate how happy they are with the park overall on a scale.

The primary school children were also asked to imagine that the researchers have come from a very far away place and just don't know any children or understand anything about what they do. The researchers asked: What is playing? Why do children need play parks? The purpose of these questions (and the initial questions about where children play and what they like to do) is to help inform play park improvements as well as any planning for new play parks. For example, some children told us that they like to use their imaginations playing with landscape features and that trees for climbing can be as important as play equipment.

Rather than draw the MPSA, several secondary pupils instead talked about their ideal park. They were also invited to talk about or write on beside the MPSA photos on large posters, were given individual questionnaires and asked to rate the park overall.

## 2. Thanks

GHA and TASC would like to thank the pupils and teachers who took part from the following schools:

### **Cleeves Road Park, Nitshill**

St Bernard's Primary  
Hillpark Secondary

### **Hartlaw Crescent Park, Cardonald**

Hillington Primary School

### **Hillpark Drive Park, Pollokshaws**

Tinto Primary

### **Knightswood Park, Lincoln Avenue**

Blairdardie Primary  
St Ninian's Primary

### **Robroyston Park, Quarrywood Road**

Barmulloch Primary  
All Saints' Secondary

We would also like to thank **Glasgow City Council** staff for their support throughout the evaluation process.

### 3. Key messages summary

- **Overall, children are happy with their playparks.** Most children really look forward to getting outside to their local playparks – to meet friends, sit and chat, play and have the freedom to run about. 43% children in the survey said they're "very happy" and 23% said they're "happy" with their playparks.

*I feel really good there.*

- **Children say playparks are important.** Children tell us they need playparks so they can be emotionally, socially and physically happy. At the parks they "have fun", "meet friends" and "get fresh air and exercise". They told us things like "life wouldn't be exciting without them" and that parks are important "so you're not sad and bored."
- **Children like having playparks nearby.** Many children enjoy walking to their local playparks on their own or with friends, but some children would like playparks even closer to where they live.
- **Children like the playpark equipment.** Overall, children are happy with most of the equipment in the playparks. No single piece of equipment stands out as an overall favourite - everyone has different preferences - but spinning discs, tyre swings, climbing frames and flying foxes are popular.

*I like the roundabout cuz it goes fast. I get dizzy on it.*

- **It would be good to have more playpark equipment.** There are many requests for more equipment, particularly when parks get busy and older children bully the younger ones off equipment they want.

*Sometimes I feel bored. There's nothing to do because all the bullies are on all the stuff.*

- **Have natural landscapes available.** Although children want equipment to play on, they also spend time playing imaginatively in natural landscapes – such as playing in wild meadows, making dens and climbing trees. 32% of the children say they play in fields.
- **Most children use the playparks regularly.** 64% of children in this survey say they use their playpark at least once a week, while 32% say they don't use it them very often.

*The tree there, everybody climbs on it – it's not even a bit of equipment.*

- **Supervision would help safety.** Playparks and MPSAs would be used more if children and young people felt safer. Bullying or the threat of violence in these parks is a problem for children. Only 55% of children say they go to parks with an adult, and no young people go with adults. Participants of all ages say adult supervision at playparks and MPSAs would help. 23% of children and 29% of young people say they can feel frightened in their parks.

*I feel safe if I'm with someone older than me.*

- **Broken glass and other rubbish needs to be cleaned up.** Many parks have problems with broken glass and rubbish. Children would like parks to be cleaner and safer.

*There's rubbish that doesn't get cleaned up – every Friday night teenagers break glass.*

- **Children suggest getting schools involved.** There were suggestions to get children involved through schools with cleaning up their local play park; links could be made with eco-schools initiatives.
- **Bicycles need a place to be locked to.** Bicycle theft is a problem and children ask for bicycle racks.
- **Maintain equipment.** Some equipment needs to be maintained more regularly, particularly if it's been vandalised.

*Sometimes the swings and other stuff are broken.*

- **Overall, young people who use Multi-purpose Sports Areas like them.** For the most part, the young people who do use MPSAs say they are happy with them and enjoy using them for both football and basketball.
- **It would be good to have adults organise sports and activities.** Most young people who want to use MPSAs don't go because they don't feel safe. They would like sports to be organised and supervised by adults at MPSAs, particularly football teams. They say when this has happened in the past there has been a good turnout of young people because they feel safe.

*We used to play football when it was organised with adult volunteer coaches. But that stopped. Now we don't feel safe.*

- **Young people would like to feel safer.** Most young people say they don't use their parks very often – this is in part because they like to go into town or to friend's houses instead, but also because they can feel threatened at their local park. There are suggestions for Community Police to patrol areas, for better lighting and for CCTV cameras.

*Unless you're drinking or fighting you feel as if you don't belong there.*

*I would go if it was safer.*

- **Young people would like to use the parks more.** Although most young people don't go to their parks very often, 79% of them say they feel bored when they're there. People talked about how to make more use of the park by having supervised motor bike tracks, refreshment stands and community events like carnivals.

*They could have seasonal events.*

- **The pitch surface of MPSAs can hurt.** Some complain that the sand on the turf can be painful to land on.
- **It would be good to have separate basketball courts.** Some people would like to play basketball while the MPSAs are being used for football (and vice versa).

*I'd go more if there was more to do. It would be good if the basketball court was separate.*

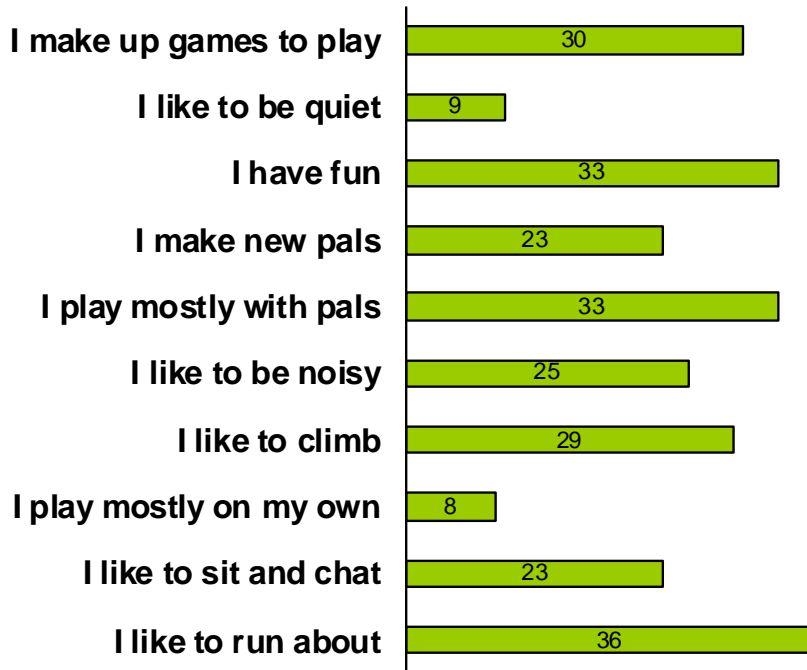
- **Young people would like shelters.** Most young people use parks to socialise, so having shelters from wind and rain and benches to sit on would be good.

*A shelter from the rain and wind would be good.*

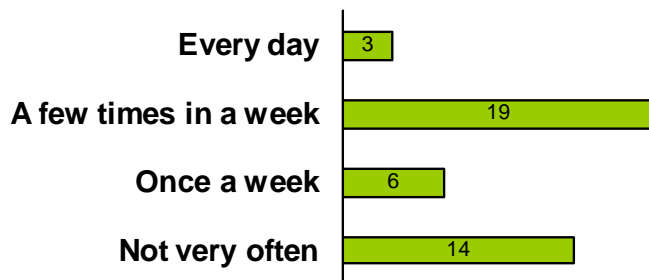
## 4. Playpark survey summary

A total of 44 primary school children answered the following survey questions.

### 4.1 What do you do in the playpark?

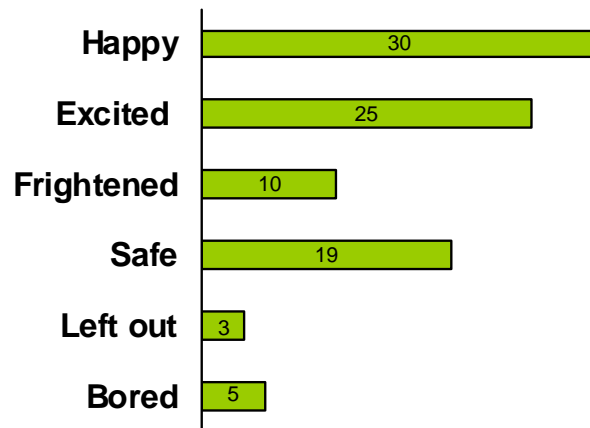


### 4.2 How often do you go to the park?

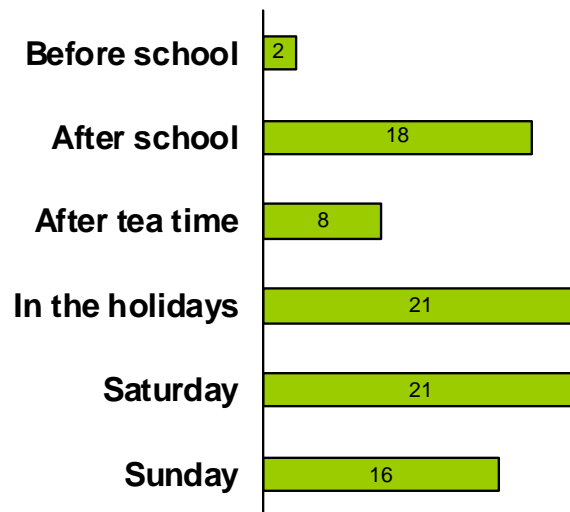




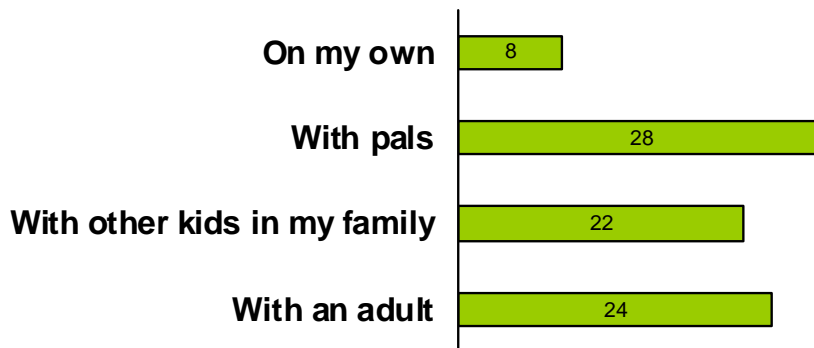
### 4.3 How do you feel in the playpark?



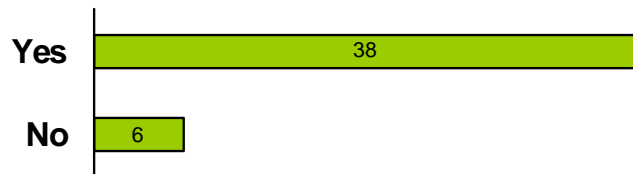
### 4.4 When's a good time to go to the park?



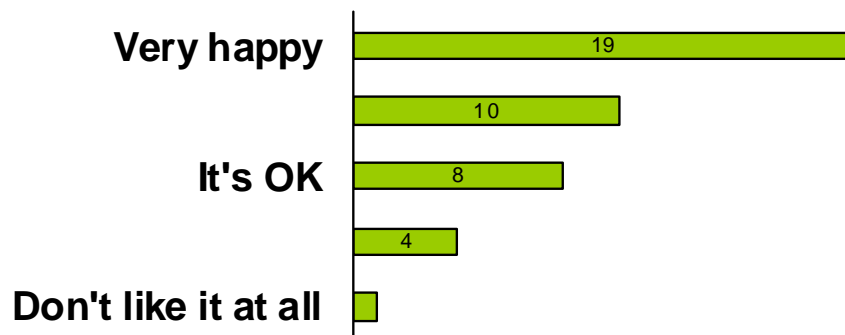
#### 4.5 Who do you go to the park with?



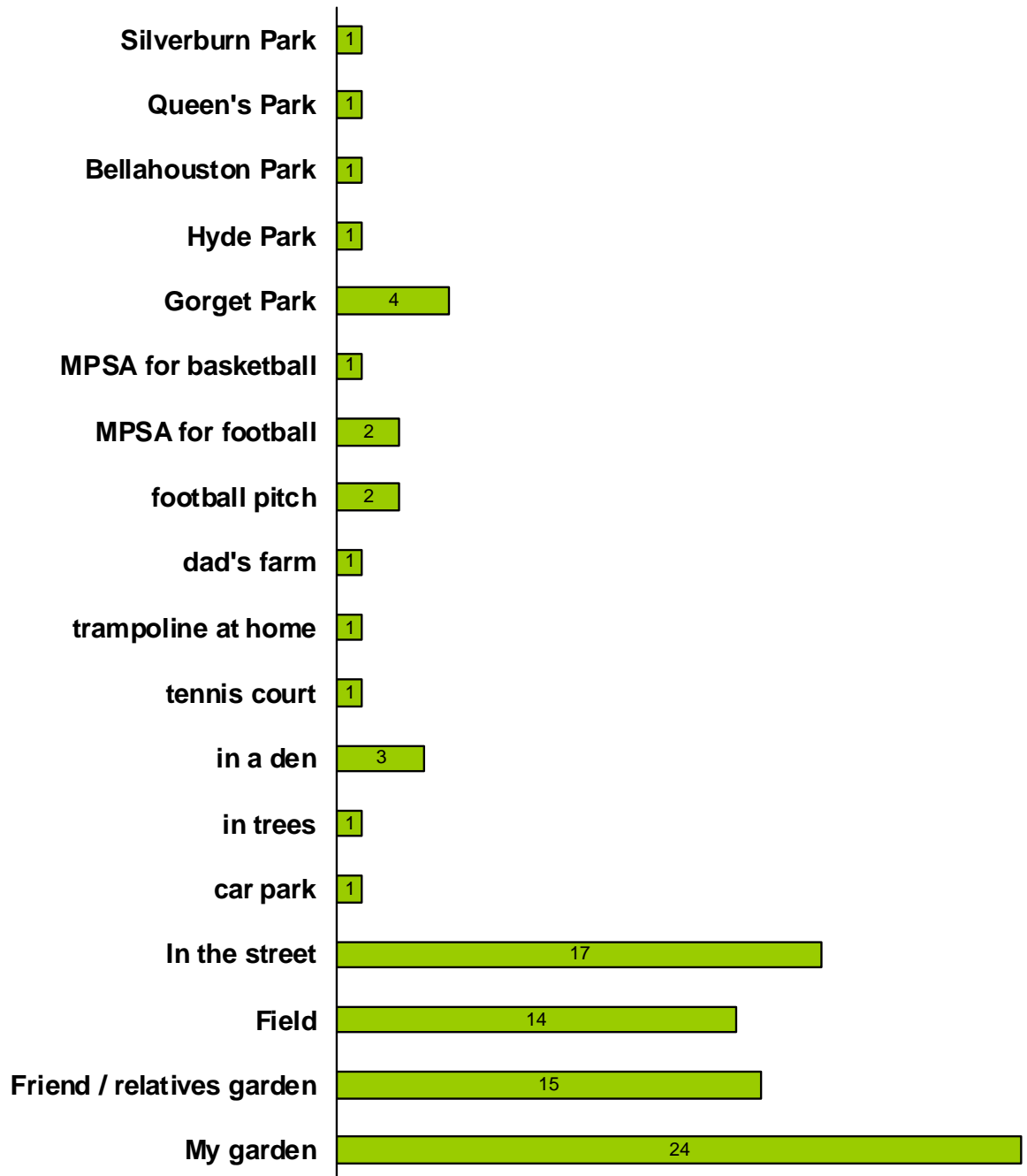
#### 4.6 Do you have a garden at home?



#### 4.7 Overall, how happy are you with the playpark?



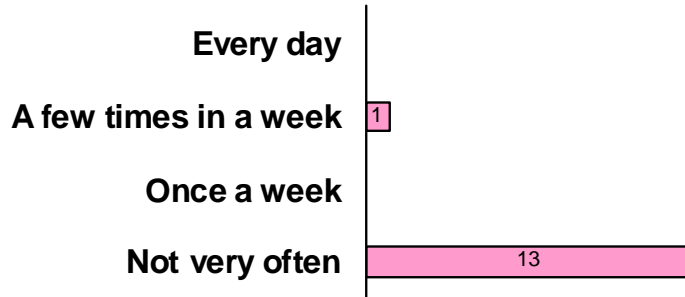
#### 4.8 Where else do you like to play outdoors?



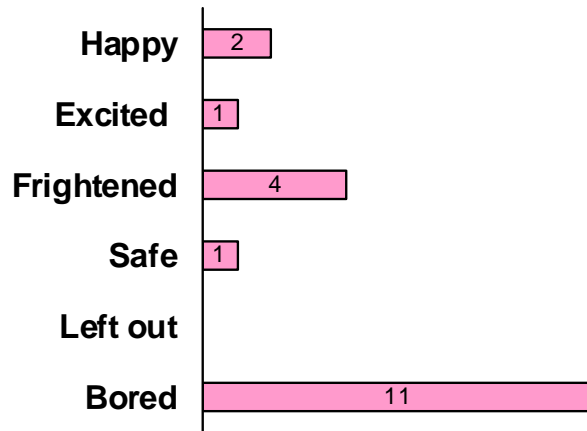
## 5. MPSA survey summary

A total of 14 secondary pupils answered the following survey questions.

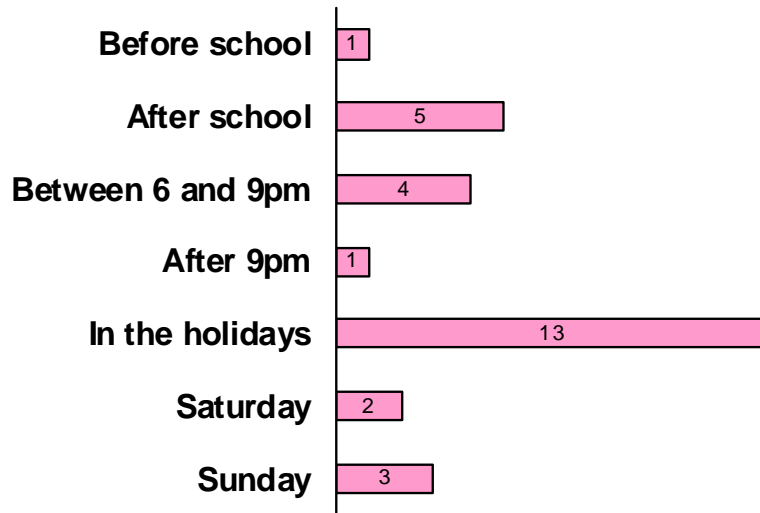
### 5.1 How often do you go to the park?



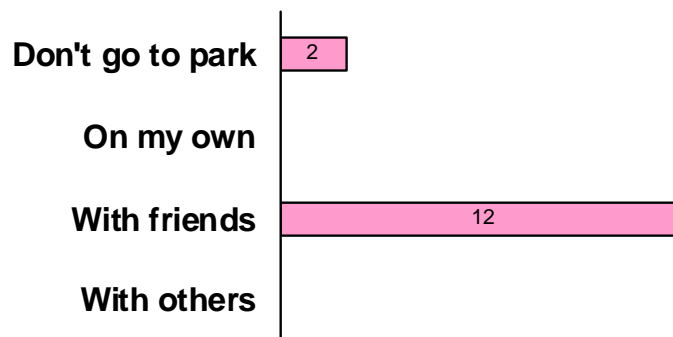
### 5.2 How do you feel in the park?



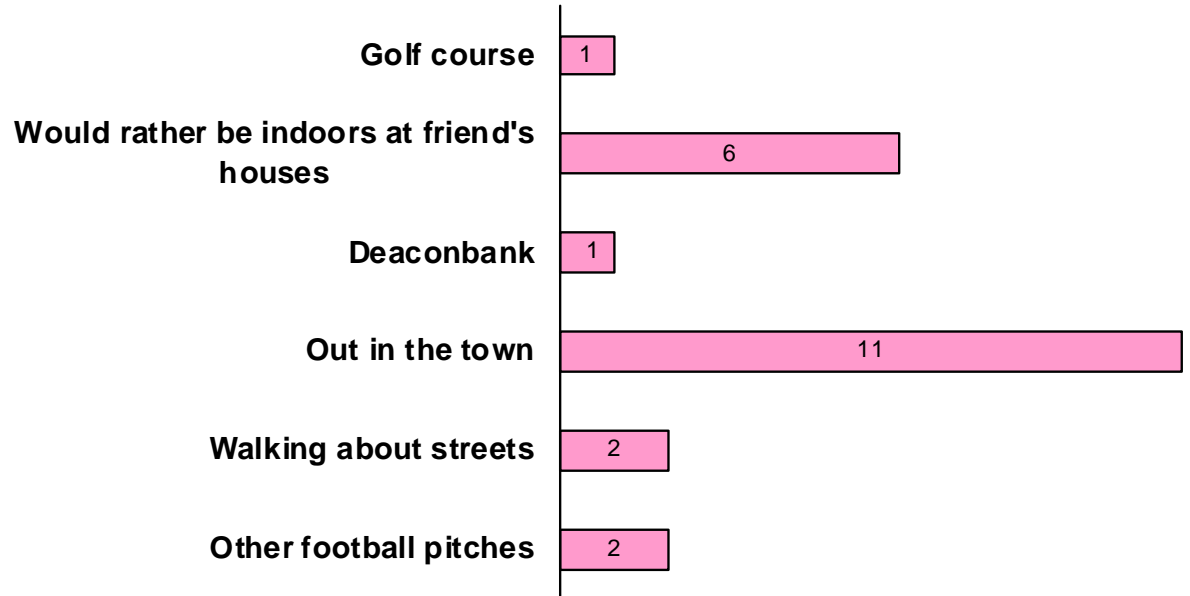
### 5.3 When's a good time to go to the park?



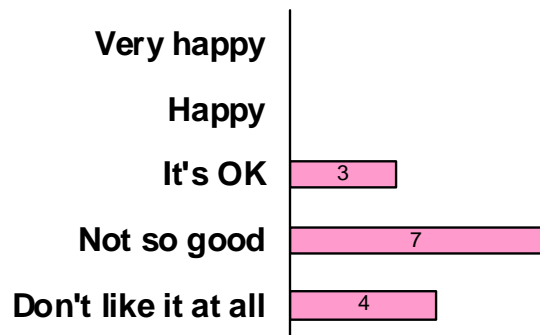
### 5.4 Who do you go to the park with?



### 5.5 Where else outdoors do you spend time with friends?



### 5.6 Overall, how happy are you with the park?



The next five sections report the results from consulting children and young people about individual parks.

## 6. Cleeves Road Park

Cleeves Road Park has a large play park area and an MPSA in Nitshill.



### a. Play park

Who took part:	3 x P3 pupils (7 years old) 5 x P4 pupils (8 years old) 4 boys and 4 girls
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### Summary

- All the children surveyed say they are happy or very happy with this play park, but there are concerns about feeling safe.

*It's good, I like the swings and roundabout.*

*[The equipment] is all good.*

- These young children can feel threatened sometimes – by older children and particularly later in the day.

*I don't think teenagers should be allowed in.*

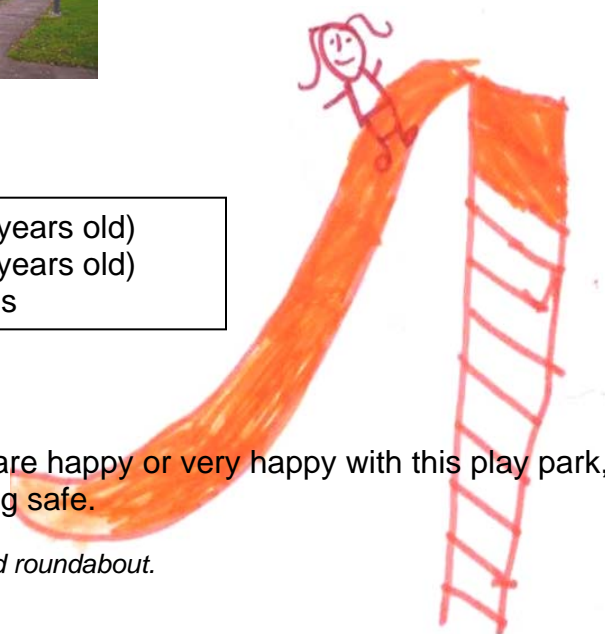
*Sometimes the older ones bring fireworks.*

*I feel frightened sometimes when it's dark, when people you don't know come up to you.*

*Older children go on it and vandalise it.*

*Sometimes kids bully you.*

*Sometimes when it starts to get dark my uncle who takes me gets scared a bit too, people shout and start fires.*



- The favourite things for this group are the spinning disc, the swings and the tyre swing.

*I like the roundabout 'cuz it goes fast. I get dizzy on it.*

- However, there is a concern about the safety of the spinning disc and there is one complaint about the condition of the swings.

*My little cousin split her head open on the flying disc. I don't like it.*

*I don't like the swings because they're old and rusty.*

- One of the 8 year old boys also uses the MPSA for football.

## Survey

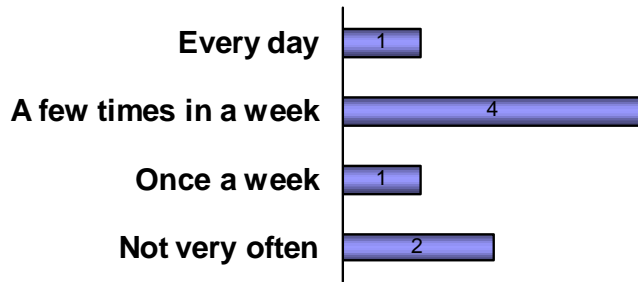
Total respondents: 8

### 6.a.1 What do you do in the playpark?

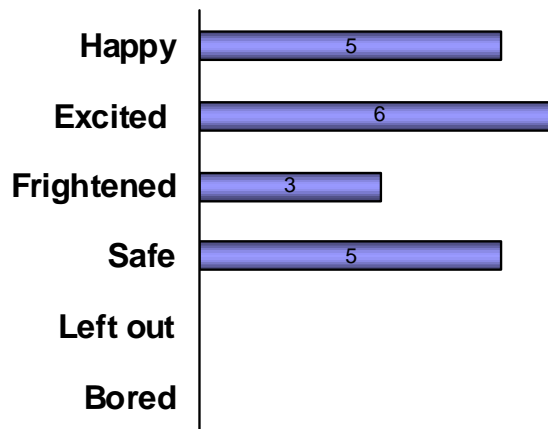




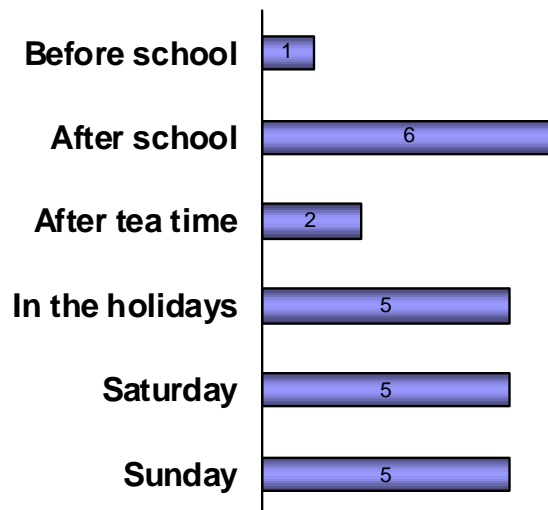
### 6.a.2 How often do you go to the park?



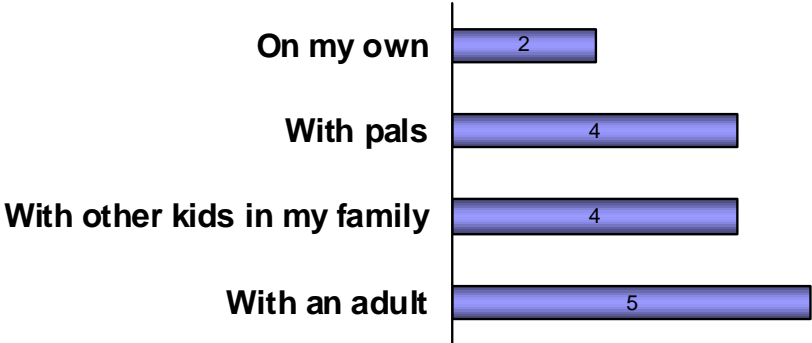
### 6.a.3 How do you feel in the playpark?



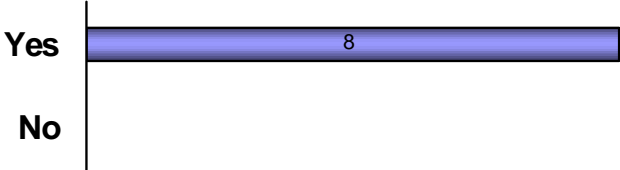
### 6.a.4 When's a good time to go to the park?



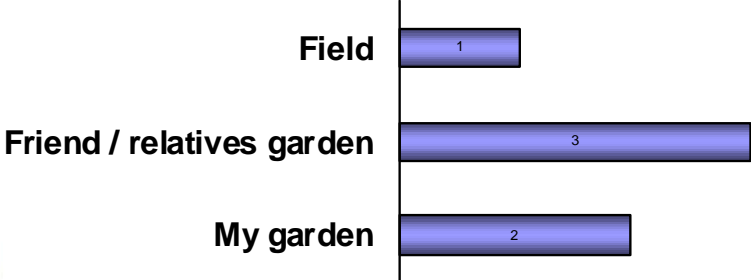
**6.a.5 Who do you go to the park with?**



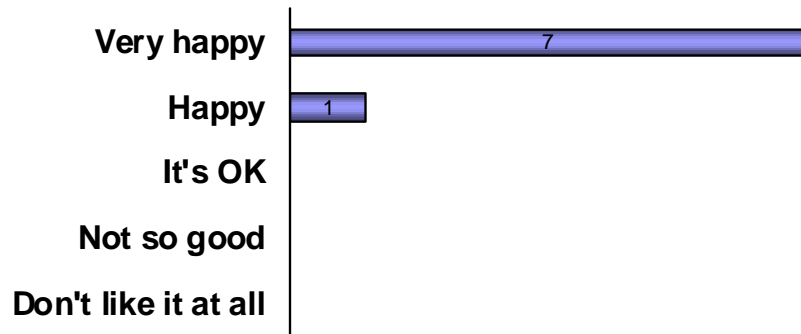
**6.a.6 Do you have a garden at home?**



**6.a.7 Where else do you like to play outdoors?**



### 6.a.8 Overall, how happy are you with the playpark?



## b. Multi-purpose Sports Area

Who took part:	6 x 5 <sup>th</sup> year pupils (2 x 15 yrs old, 2 x 16 yrs old) 4 boys and 2 girls
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### Summary

- Overall, most feel the park and MPSA is either just adequate or “could be better”.

*It's somewhere to go when you're bored.*

- This group doesn't use the MPSA and the park as much as they would like to because they are worried about their safety.

*I would go more if it was safer.*

*No-one plays there. Thugs have fights.*

*It's not safe because of the gangs.*

*We used to play football there – there'd be twenty people and we'd divide ourselves into four teams.*

*Sometimes I feel frightened because of certain people.*

*It's not safe, I feel like I'm being watched or followed.*

*If you walk past they shout stuff at you.*

*The lane is too dark, people are scared to walk down it.*

- They would feel safer if an adult organised and supervised football.

*If they set up teams I'd go more – I don't feel safe there sometimes.*

- They would feel safer if community police patrolled there, if it was lit better and if there were CCTV cameras.

*Lights in the park are not good enough.*

*There aren't any community police.*

- Some feel safer when there are enough people about.

*There's a good atmosphere when there is a lot of people there. A friendly atmosphere.*

- Broken glass and rubbish is a problem for this group.

*Some people go after school but they don't play there, there's broken glass.*

- Despite safety worries, some like to socialise in the park and suggest improvements:

*We'd like benches to sit on.*

*A shelter from the rain and wind would be good.*

- The swings are particularly popular with the girls in this group, partly as it gives them a place to sit and socialise.

*We can hang out with friends there.*

- Socialising and football are the most popular things for this group to do. Playing basketball is the second favourite thing.

*We sit on the swings and talk and chill. And get something to eat from ice cream van.*

- Sometimes the MPSA and park are too busy. Having a separate basketball court would help.

*I'd go more if there was more to do. It would be good if the basketball court was separate.*

*The park itself could be bigger – it gets busy.*

- There are two things people particularly like about the MPSA:

*One of the best things is the metal behind the goals so you don't have to get the ball out.*

*The floodlights are good.*

- The main complaint about the MPSA is the surface:

*It needs a different surface, no sand. I don't like playing on it because it hurts when you fall on it.*

*Artificial turf is better, with rubber underlay.*

- There are other suggestions on how to improve the MPSA:

*It would be good to have a shelter attached to the football pitch, so people waiting can go in it.*

*It would be better if the pitch was bigger.*

*The hoops need nets.*

- Some would like a pitch closer to where they live.

*It's too far for me. We'd like a pitch at Deaconess Bank. Just a grass pitch would be good.*

*South Park needs a football pitch as well.*

## Survey

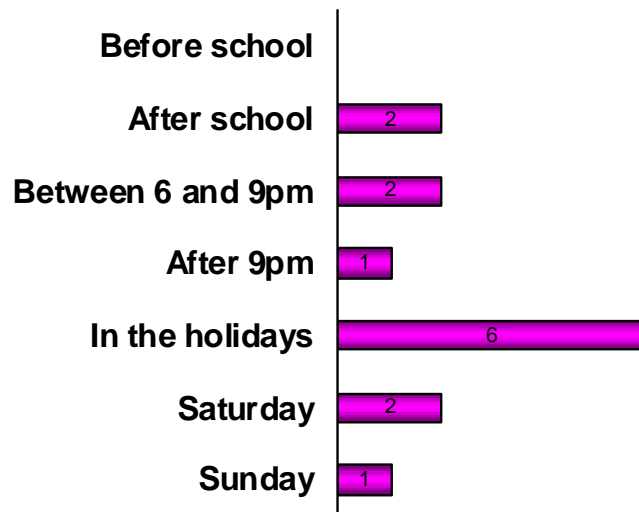
Total respondents: 6



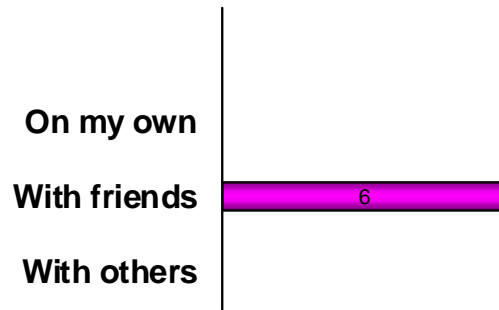
### 6.b.2 How do you feel in the park?



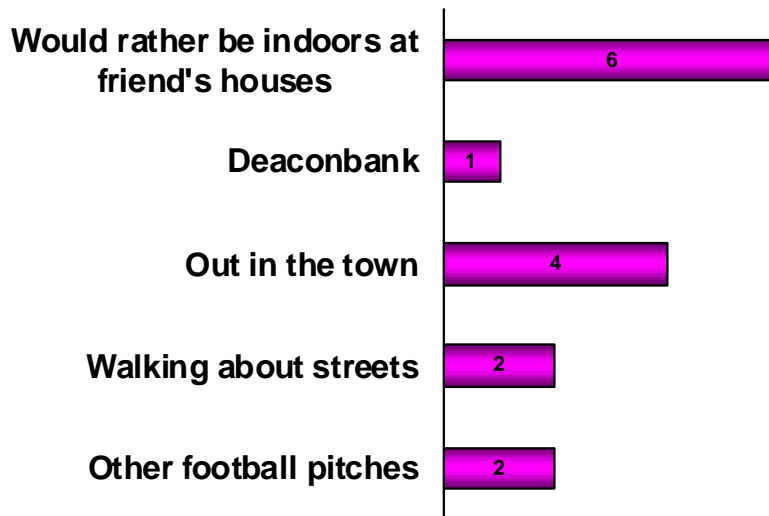
### 6.b.3 When's a good time to go to the park?



**6.b.4 Who do you go to the park with?**



**6.b.5 Where else outdoors do you spend time with friends?**



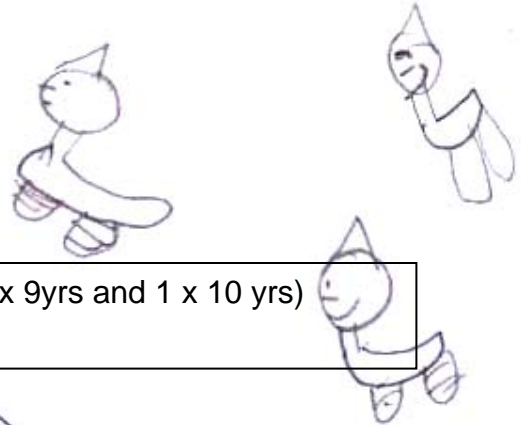
### 6.b.6 Overall, how happy are you with the park?





## 7. Hartlaw Crescent Park

Hartlaw Crescent Park has a playpark down a steep hill in Cardonald.



### a. Play park

Who took part:	7 x P5 pupils (1 x 8yrs, 5 x 9yrs and 1 x 10 yrs) 3 boys and 4 girls
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### Summary

- One of the main issues is the lack of safe and easy access down the very steep hill for people with bicycles and pushchairs.

*People go straight down the grass hill on their bikes. Lots of have crashed and flipped off their bikes and got hurt.*

*It would be good to have a ramp to take your bike down into the park – there's only stairs. Prams need it too.*

- In general, most children in this group enjoy going to the park. Five out of the seven surveyed say they feel happy there and four say they feel excited.

*I feel really good there.*

*I enjoy it.*

- But they don't always feel safe.

*Once somebody was hurting someone.*

*Sometimes I'm afraid when neds come up.*

*I feel a bit worried there.*

*I feel unsafe.*

*I feel safe if I'm with someone older than me.*

- There are worries about rubbish being dangerous.

*I've found needles there.*

*There was glass everywhere.*

- Children would like the place to be cleaner – it can stop them using equipment.

*The spinny thing had eggshells and glass in it.*

*After bon-fire night no-one has cleaned it up.*

*There's rubbish that doesn't get cleaned up – every Friday night the teenagers break glass.*

- There are suggestions on how to keep it cleaner.

*The school could clean up – we could get permission forms.*

*More bins.*

*Dustbin cleaners should come pick up the litter and glass.*

- There was mention of the need to be eco-friendly

*I'd like recycle bins there.*

- Children would like the equipment to be maintained more.

*The tire swing is loose and the chain hits you in the face.*

*The trampoline is wrecked – all the side bits are all ripped.*

- This park has problems with vandalism.

*I like the trampoline, but I hurt my shin - because the neds took the cushions and ripped the Astroturf.*

*The trampoline sometimes breaks through when 10 people, like teenagers, go on it.*

*Teenagers unbolted a bouncy thing I used to play on.*

*The rocking horse was gone.*

*The teenagers light fires.*

- There was discussion about how to reduce vandalism. There was discussion about how the park is not visible from nearby houses and the group made some suggestions:

*The teenagers don't go on the climbing frame because of the CCTV.*

*We want CCTV in the playpark – the camera that’s nearby is too far away.*

*There could be gates to lock after 7 o’clock.*

- People would like benches in the park.
- Every piece of equipment is favoured by at least one person, but the climbing frame is popular with many.

*I can do flips on the climbing frame.*

- Two children say they miss the ‘thing with 2 seats that spins’ that isn’t there any more.
- The group spoke about how they like to climb a tree there.

*The tree there, everybody climbs up on it – it’s not even a bit of equipment.*

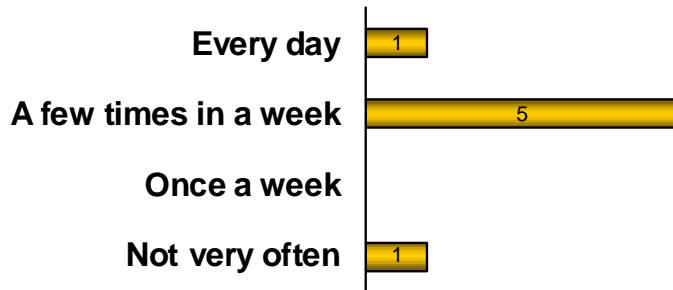
## Survey

Total respondents: 7

### 7.a.1 What do you do in the playpark?



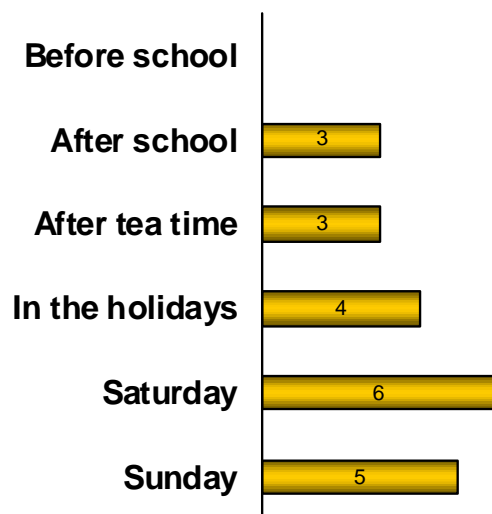
### 7.a.2 How often do you go to the park?



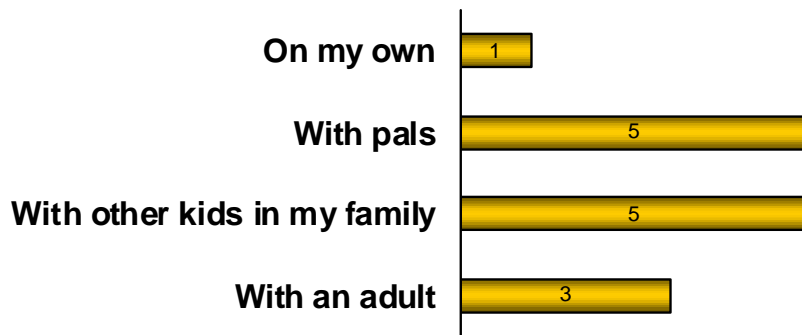
### 7.a.3 How do you feel in the playpark?



### 7.a.4 When's a good time to go to the park?



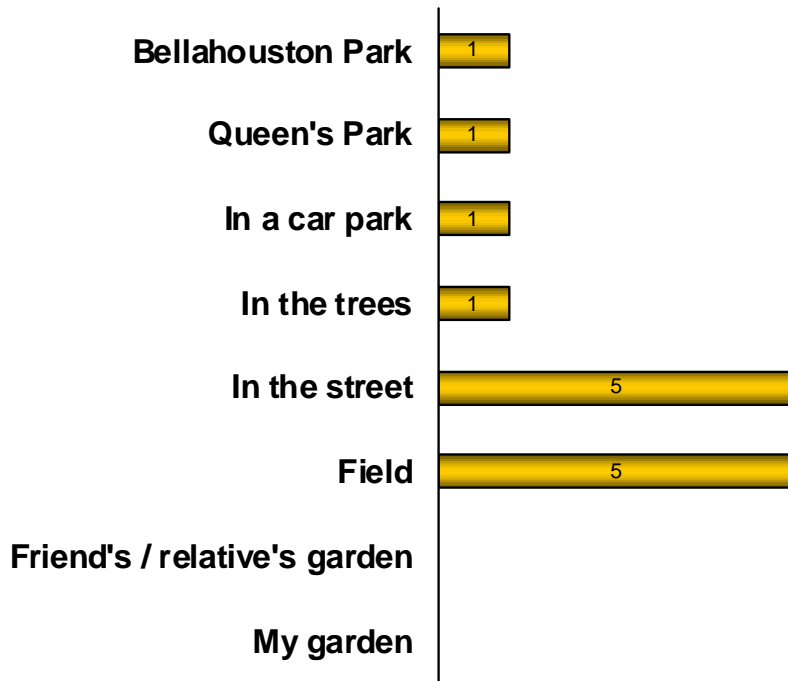
### 7.a.5 Who do you go to the park with?



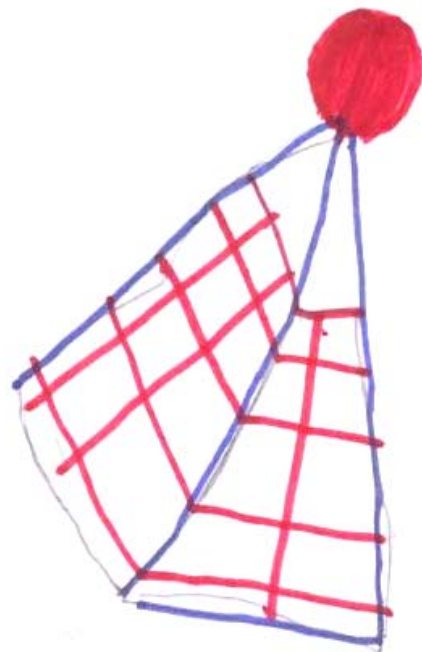
### 7.a.6 Do you have a garden at home?



**7.a.7 Where else do you like to play outdoors?**

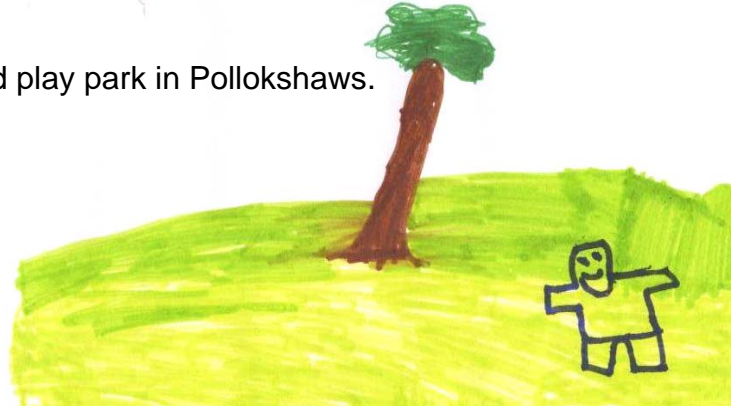


**7.a.8 Overall, how happy are you with the playpark?**



## 8. Hillpark Drive Park

Hillpark Drive Park has a small enclosed play park in Pollokshaws.



### a. Play park

Who took part:	6 x P4 pupils (6 x 8yrs old) 5 boys and 1 girl
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#### Summary

- The most popular things are the climbing frame, followed by the spinning blue 'cactus' and the spinning 'honeypot' cup.
- These children would like a park that's bigger with more things.

*I think it's quite boring, it should be bigger and funner.*

*Sometimes the equipment's not that good.*

*I'd like a bigger park.*

- One way to make the park better would be to improve the green space.

*Cut the grass more and take out weeds.*

*We play football on the bit of grass.*

*Have more plants.*

- The group suggested things they'd like to have in the playpark:

- trampolines
- chutes
- ropes
- hammocks
- more monkey bars
- more things to spin on
- rope climbing
- chains you can climb across on
- better / more swings

*A flag on top of the monkey bars - a made up one for the kids.*

*A football pitch.*

*A basketball net.*

*More fun things in that kids would like. Like a tunnel you can climb in to take you into the park.*

- Sometimes there's a lot of rubbish

*There could be bigger bins. More bins.*

- Vandalism is a problem

*Change the benches (they're spray painted and rusted)*

*Sometimes the swings and other stuff are broken. Or the swings are tangled up.*

*Get rid of vandalising. Put a CCTV camera there.*

- Bicycle theft can be a problem there

*There should be bike racks so they don't get nicked.*

- These young children can feel unsafe and threatened and be bullied by older ones.

*There's lots of neds, they have glass bottles and knives. They nudge past you.*

*Sometimes it feels unsafe - people annoy me and get me, people in high school.*

*It's not so safe.*

## Survey

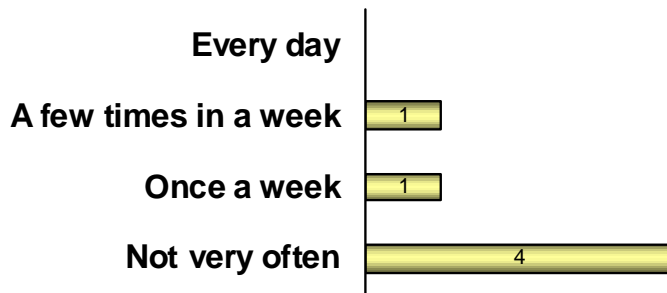
Total respondents: 6

### 8.a.1 What do you do in the playpark?

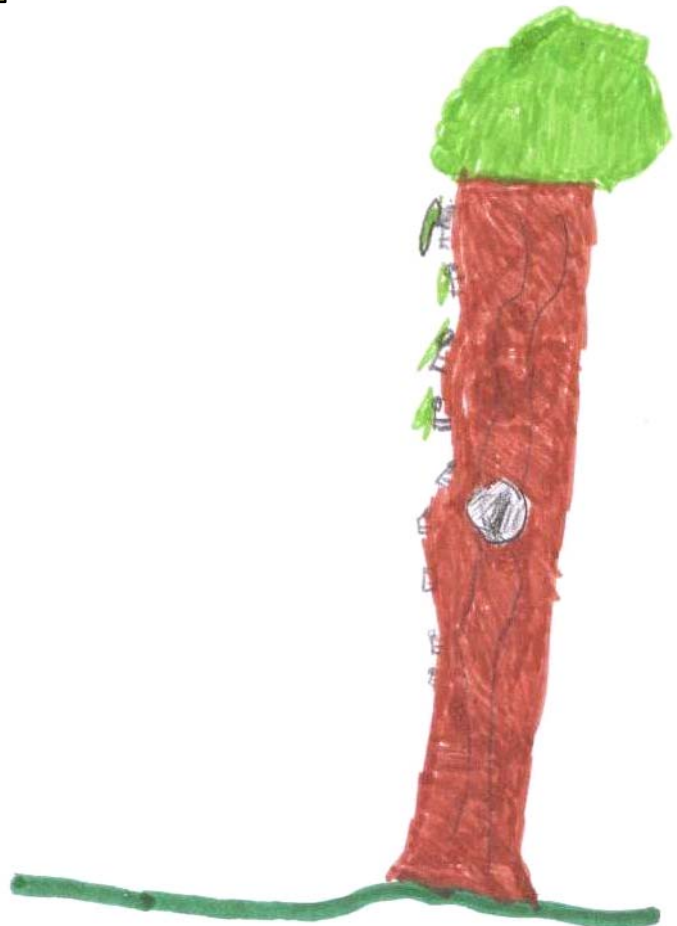




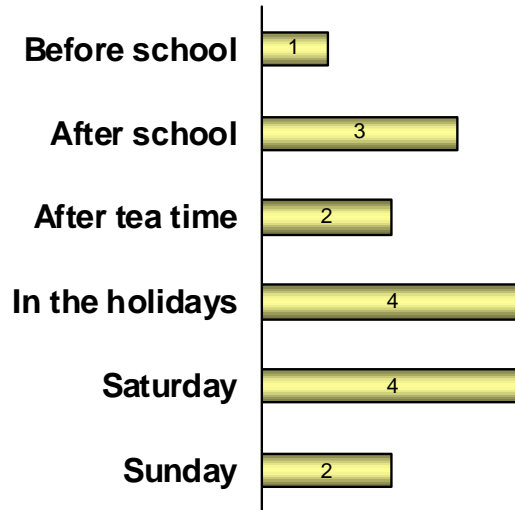
### 8.a.2 How often do you go to the park?



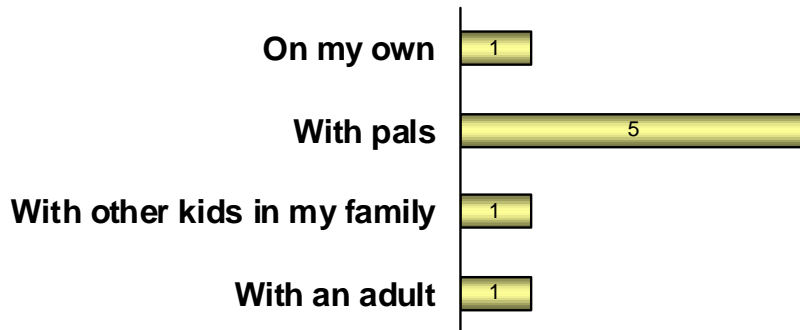
### 8.a.3 How do you feel in the playpark?



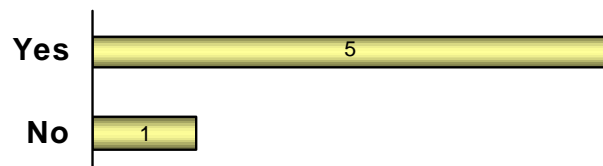
#### 8.a.4 When's a good time to go to the park?



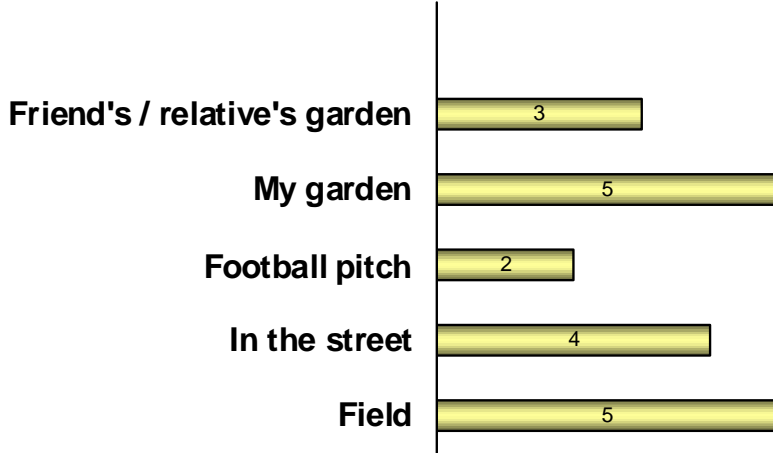
#### 8.a.5 Who do you go to the park with?



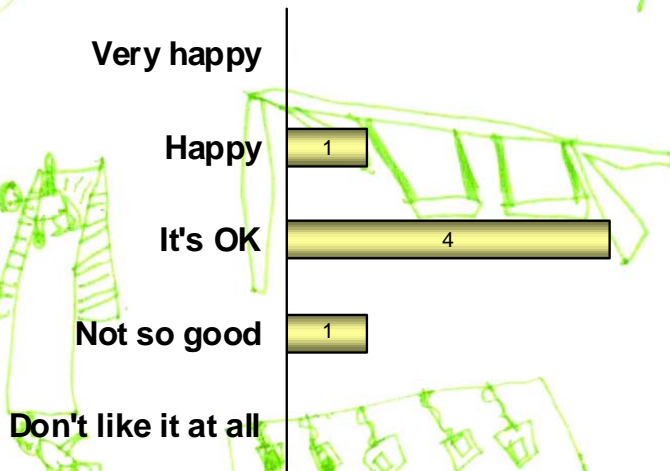
#### 8.a.6 Do you have a garden at home?



**8.a.7 Where else do you like to play outdoors?**



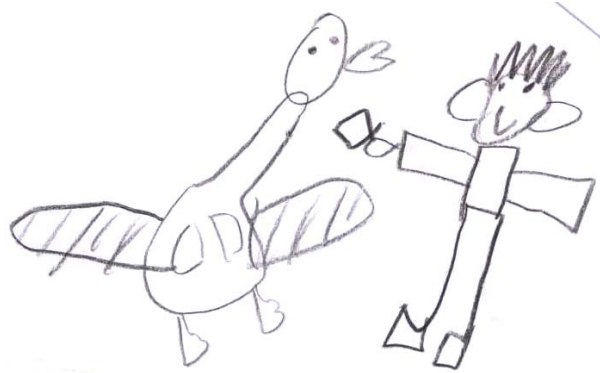
**8.a.8 Overall, how happy are you with the playpark?**



Bill Park

## 9. Knightswood Park

Knightswood Park has a medium sized enclosed play park near a pond.



### a. Play park

Who took part:	3 x P3 pupils (2 x 6 yrs old, 1 x 7 yrs old) 10 x P4 pupils (3 x 7 yrs old, 7 x 8 yrs old) 7 boys and 6 girls
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### Summary

- Ten out of the thirteen children surveyed say they are happy or very happy with this playpark.

*I feel very happy there.*

*I feel very excited.*

- The spinning disc is very popular but there are worries about how safe it is. Also having a conventional roundabout might be better for some children.

*If big children push it when you're on it it can be dangerous.*

*The spinning disc is very exciting.*

*I think they should have bars around the spinning disc. You can fall off.*

*It wouldn't be as exciting if it had bars around it though.*

*I don't feel safe on the spinning disc. They need bars on it to hang on to.*

- The skateboard structure was popular for some, but recognised as not being safe.

*The skateboard bit was taken off – it was too dangerous, someone fell and busted their head.*

*I'd like the skateboard bit back again. I liked it, it got me used to skateboarding.*

- Some of the equipment is popular with children of all ages.

*The bouncy springaroos aren't just for little ones. Big ones like us like them too.*

*It's a good park for everyone, especially teenagers.*

- Bullying can be a problem.

*Sometimes I feel bored. There's nothing to do because all the bullies are on all the stuff.*

*I feel frightened sometimes cuz people bully me.*

*There are bad boys there.*

- Vandalism can be a problem.

*Teenagers break glass and drink beer.*

- The climbing frame is the most popular piece of equipment for this group, followed by the spinning disc and the spinning cup.

- Children like to use equipment for imaginative games.

*You can pretend the (raised platform area) is a pirate ship. Or a hideout.*

*I can do anything with my imagination.*

- There is a suggestion for a bigger slide.

- One person suggests having a shelter from the rain.

- Parents and carers need to watch young children around the pond.

*My little brother fell in the pond. Mum just caught him by the hair and pulled him out.*

*Swans have bitten people.*

# Survey

Total respondents: 13

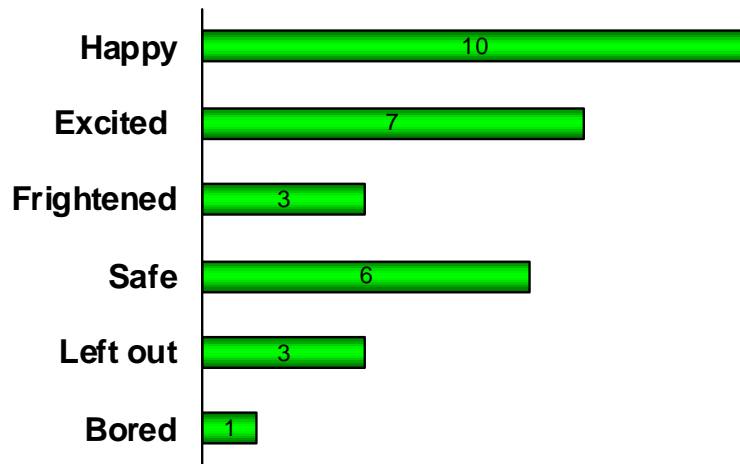
## 9.a.1 What do you do in the playpark?



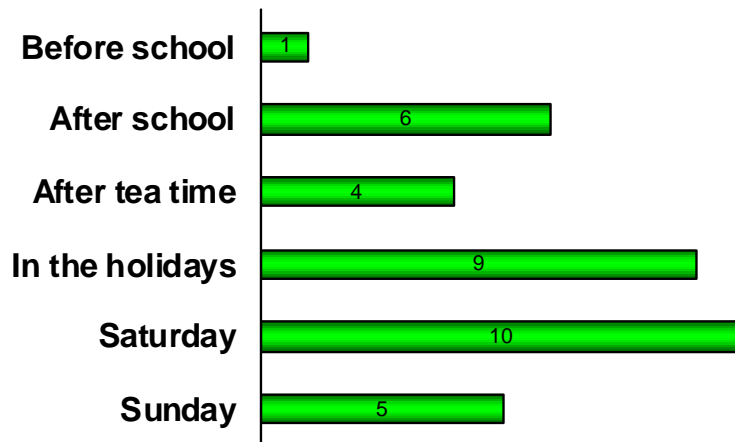
## 9.a.2 How often do you go to the park?



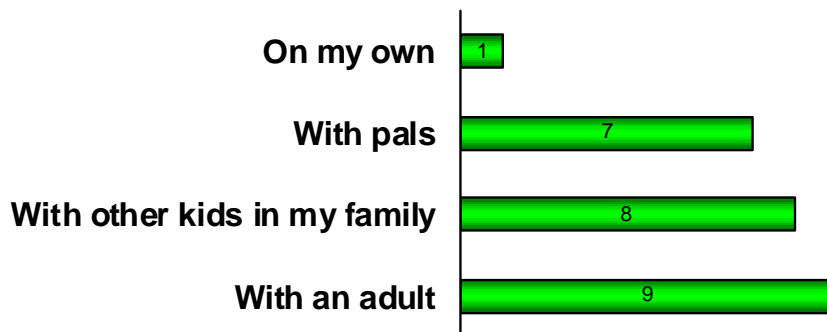
### 9.a.3 How do you feel in the playpark?



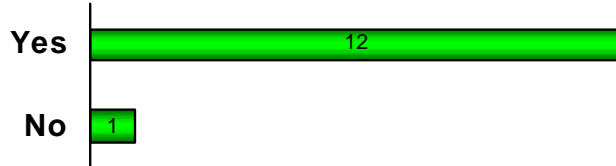
### 9.a.4 When's a good time to go to the park?



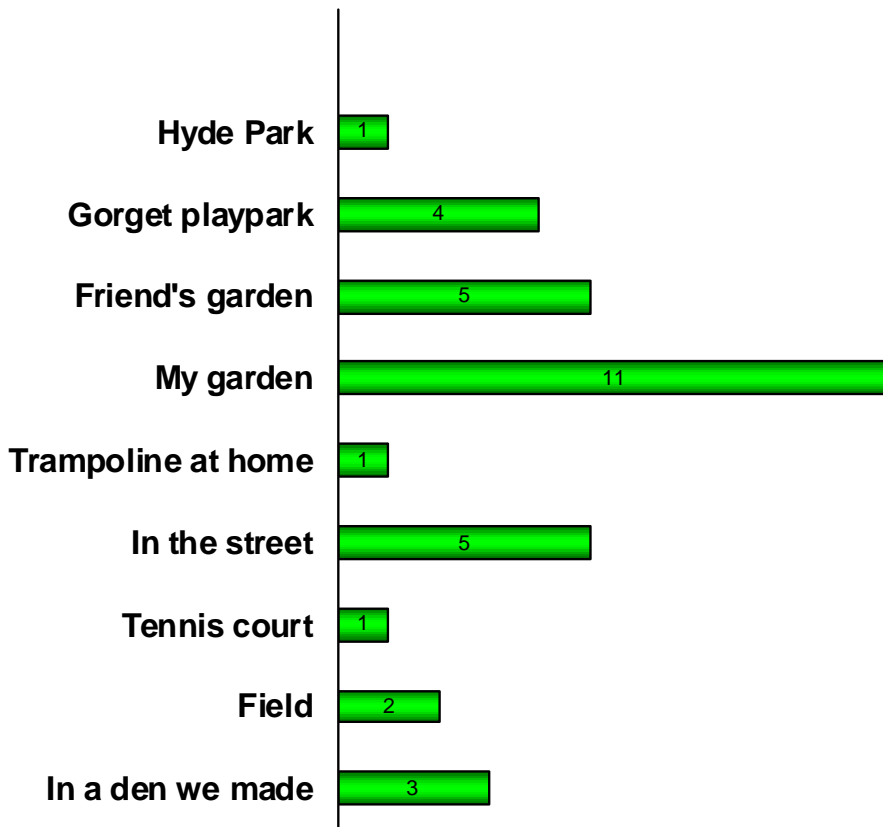
### 9.a.5 Who do you go to the park with?



### 9.a.6 Do you have a garden at home?



### 9.a.7 Where else do you like to play outdoors?



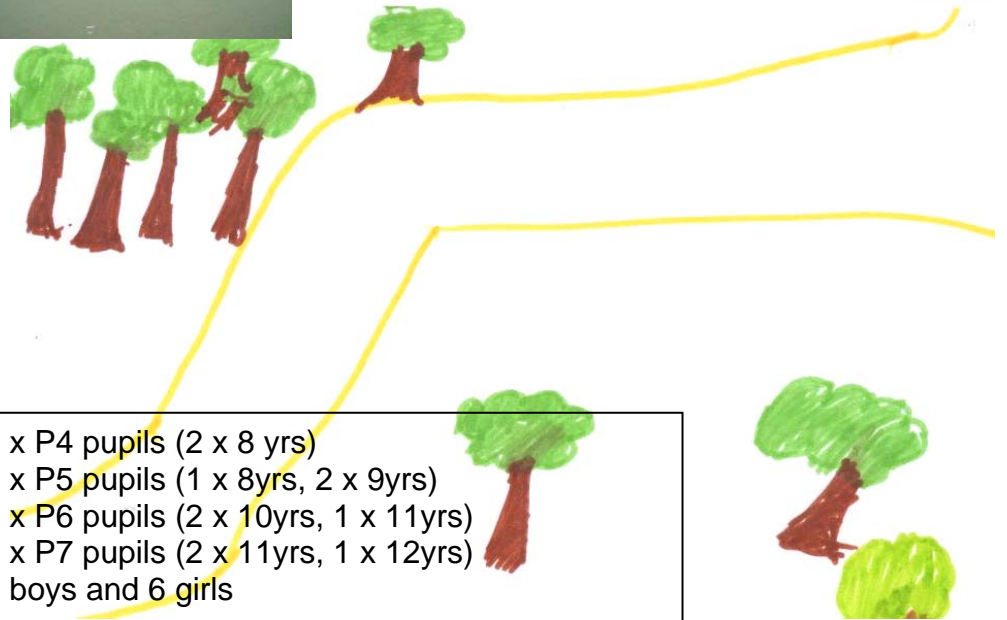


9.a.8 Overall, how happy are you with the playpark?



## 10. Robroyston Park

Robroyston Park has a play park and MPSA off Quarrywood Road, set in a large park with open fields and woods.



### a. Play park

Who took part:	2 x P4 pupils (2 x 8 yrs) 3 x P5 pupils (1 x 8yrs, 2 x 9yrs) 2 x P6 pupils (2 x 10yrs, 1 x 11yrs) 3 x P7 pupils (2 x 11yrs, 1 x 12yrs) 4 boys and 6 girls
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### Summary

- Nine out of the ten children surveyed say they are happy or very happy with the park.

*I feel excellent there.*

- The biggest problem is bullying from older ones, often because there isn't enough equipment and the younger ones are told to get off.

*All the bigger ones tell you to get off. You can't get on what you want. We need a lot more stuff.*

*The big ones threaten you so they can get on stuff.*

*I don't feel scared, but just annoyed - the big ones tell you to get off.*

*Sometimes big ones are bullying - but there's some big girls that tell them to stop it.*

- The group suggests how make the park better so there's less bullying and fighting over the equipment.

*Have 2 or 3 of things.*

*More police watching.*

*More swings – people steal them from you.*

*Make the playpark bigger.*

*Put more stuff in. Like another climbing frame.*

*More benches.*

- This group is also thinking about the needs of younger children – particularly as some go to the park with younger siblings or cousins:

*Put in a baby park and an older kids park.*

*A sandbox for the smaller ones.*

*More things for the smaller ones.*

- There are two other suggestions for adding things to the playpark:

*A big roundabout for 10 people.*

*Games like hopscotch on the ground.*

- The two most popular things are the flying fox and the tyre swing. Some of the children also mentioned they like the spinning blue 'cactus', the climbing frame and the swings.

*The springaroos are for babies, but some of us older ones still like them.*

- Lights would help:

*They should have lights. It's dark at 5 o'clock.*

- Vandalism can be a problem as well:

*They set fires on the ground mats.*

- Bicycle theft is a problem:

*It needs bike racks. People steal bikes and scooters.*

- There is a request that "benches be away from the bins because of bees and wasps."

- And two maintenance requests:

*Make the mud into grass.*

*Someone to pick up rubbish.*

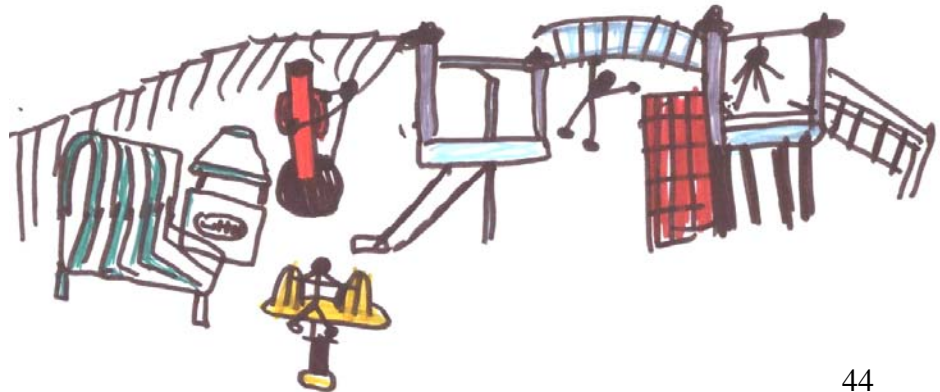
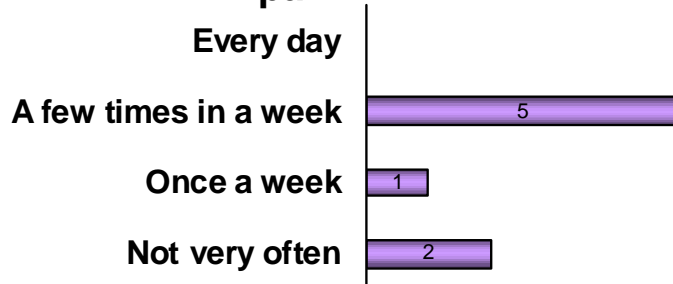
## Survey

Total respondents: 10

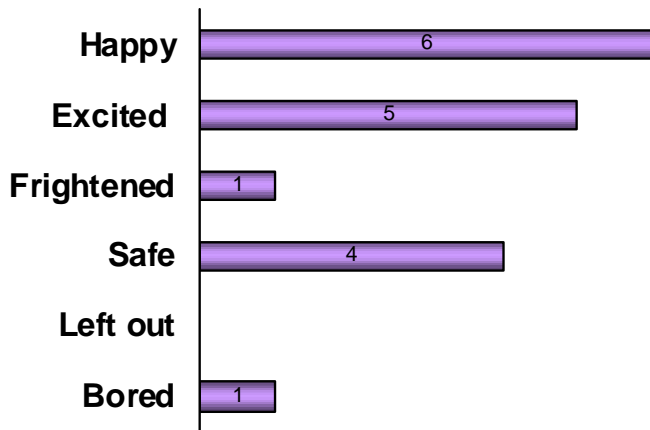
### 10.a.1 What do you do in the playpark?



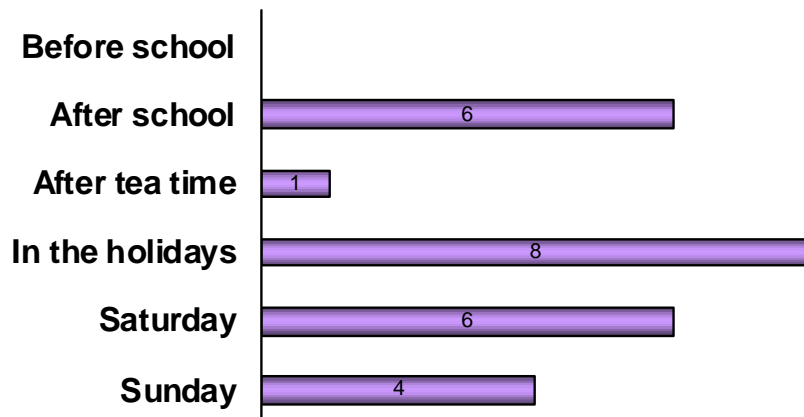
### 10.a.2 How often do you go to the park?



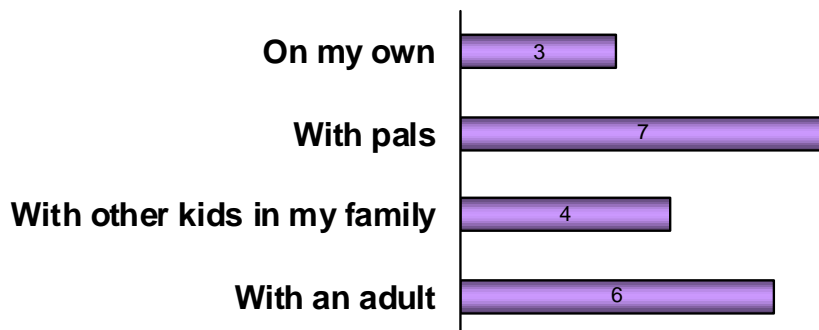
### 10.a.3 How do you feel in the playpark?



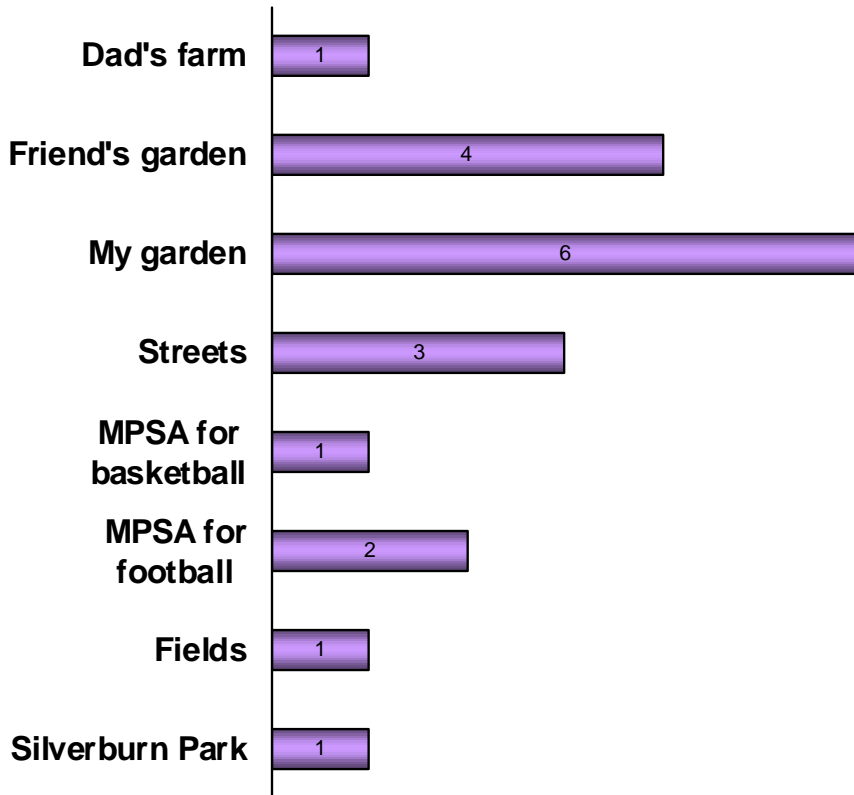
### 10.a.4 When's a good time to go to the park?



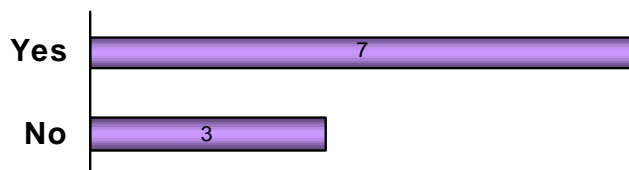
### 10.a.5 Who do you go to the park with?



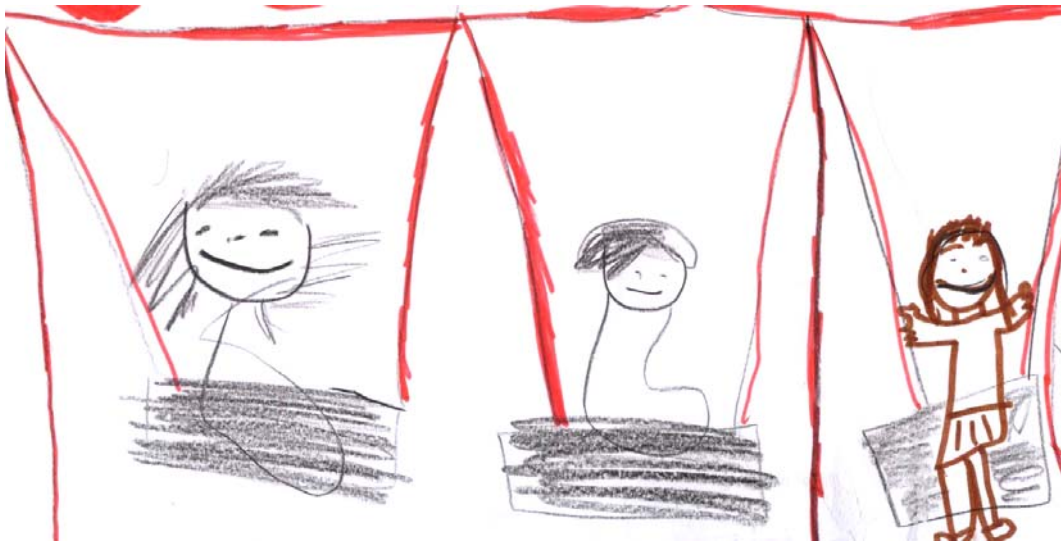
### 10.a.6 Where else do you like to play outdoors?



### 10.a.7 Do you have a garden at home?



**10.a.8 Overall, how happy are you with the playpark?**



## b. Multi-purpose Sports Area

Who took part:	8 x S6 pupils (5 x 16 yrs, 3 x 17 yrs) 5 boys and 3 girls
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### Summary

- All of the pupils said they're at an age when they much prefer to stay indoors, either in their house or over at friend's houses.
- Four people like to play football there and everyone in the group would like to use the park more. But it is underused by them primarily because they don't feel safe there:

*Unless you're drinking or fighting you feel as if you don't belong there.*

*We used to play football there but now there's gang fights. You could get attacked.*

*My 13 year old brother plays there all the time, but he's not even thinking about gang fights, it's not a worry for him, but it is for our age. Now I won't go.*

*There's just daftes there at night.*

*People would play in it at night if it was safe. It needs supervision from police or wardens.*

*The polis used to sit there at night.*

*There are no community wardens here.*

*I pass by that park and just get abuse. A warden would make it safer.*

*I walk by it and see people sitting there drinking, I'd never stop.*

*People just use it for boozin.*

*Neds just hang out there.*

*My 11 year old sister wouldn't come here because of trouble.*

- It would help to have adult supervision for the football

*We used to play football when it was organised with adult volunteer coaches. But that stopped. Now we don't feel safe.*

- Four of the group say hanging with friends is what they like to do most in the park and four say their favourite thing to do is play football. Some also mention playing basketball, going for a walk, jogging and riding the flying fox.
- More lights in the park would be good.

*When you walk up the back there's trees and no lights, so I don't go there, you cannae see.*



- Vandalism can be a problem

*There was benches but they get spraypainted and removed.*

- There is a suggestion to make the landscape better in that part of the park.
- People talked about the lack of local facilities.

*When it gets wet it would be good to have somewhere indoors to go.*

*There's no direct link to Springburn Leisure Centre. It would take an hour to walk there.*

- There was enthusiasm from most of the group, including the girls, about their idea of a motorbike track in the park.

*They could have a motorbike track at the back where it's just wasteland.*

*I had a bike but had to sell it cuz there's no where nearby. The nearest is Hamilton.*

*It would be good if you could rent bikes from a van.*

*It would be good to be supervised.*

- The group would also like the park to be used more for community gatherings.

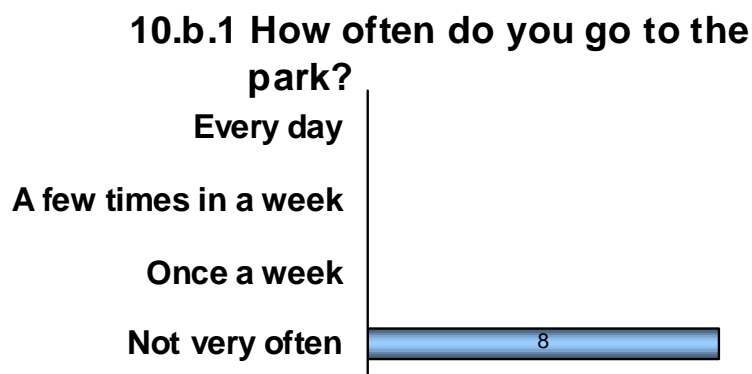
*They could have seasonal events. I went to a National Skate Day at a park and it was great. It was really popular.*

*Carnivals there would be good.*

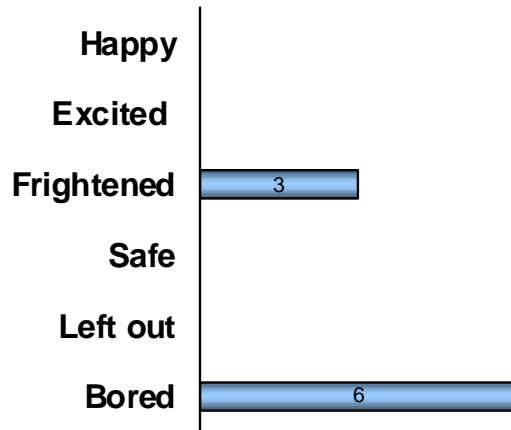
*Refreshment stands would be good.*

## Survey

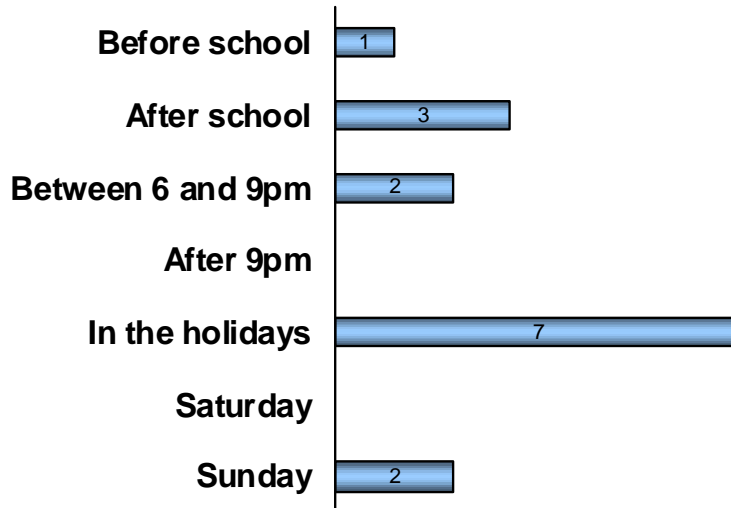
Total respondents: 8



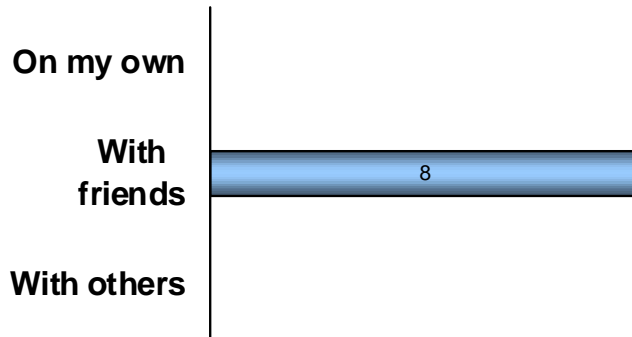
### 10.b.2 How do you feel in the park?



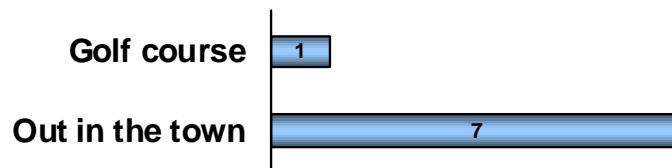
### 10.b.3 When's a good time to go to the park?



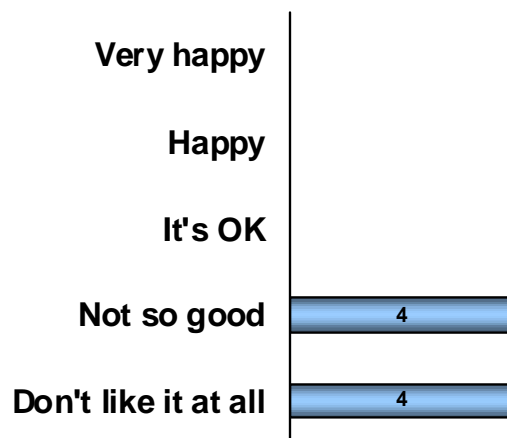
**10.b.4 Who do you go to the park with?**



**10.b.5 Where else outdoors do you spend time with friends?**



**10.b.6 Overall, how happy are you with the park?**



# 11. Questions for all primary children

All children were asked the following questions about play.

## a. Where do you normally play?

To help planners think about building new playparks or improve existing ones, we asked all the primary aged children this question.

### **I play in my garden or a friend's garden**

Children play sports like football, basketball, baseball and cricket. They play on trampolines and sometimes they make dens.

*In my den - we use old sheets and old wood. We planned it out on paper.*

*There's wooden sculptures I play with.*

*I play with the dog*

### **I play in the park**

Many children go to parks without an adult, but will go with friends or often with younger siblings or cousins.

They play sports like football, basketball, tennis and rugby at parks but mostly like to just have the space to run around. They use the playgrounds and play games like hide and seek.

### **I play inside at home**

Inside, the children in this consultation like watching TV or DVDs and playing video games.

*I like having a catnap*

*I play with my lizard*

### **In the street**

Many of the children we interviewed play out in the streets together. They play games like tig, dodge ball, hide and seek and football. They also ride their bikes, go skating or just walk around.

*We like people chasing us.*

### **I play in the fields**

There's also a lot of children who enjoy using wilder, uncultivated land. They play games like tag but they are also happy to invent games and play with the natural landscape features. Some get together with friends to build dens from found materials.

*There's a big hole we jump across.*

*We play in an old barn.*

*I play with wood in the water tunnel.*

*I took some nails and wood and built a den.*

### **I play on the school grounds**

Not many children talked about going to their school grounds to play, but the ones who go there use them for football pitches and basketball courts.

### **I go ice skating**

We didn't directly ask anyone if they use leisure facilities like swimming pools or ice rinks, so this might be a reason only one person in the consultation talked about going to an ice rink.

## **b. What is playing?**

Again, to help planners think about building new playparks or improve existing ones, we asked all the primary aged children to imagine that we have come from a very far away place and just don't know any children or understand anything about what they do, and then asked them "What is playing?" and "Why do children need play parks?"

The children told us that playing means things like having fun, being creative, moving about and being a bit wild.

*It's running around with friends.*

*Using your imagination.*

*Making up games.*

*Rolling in the mud.*

*Going mental.*

### **c. Why do children need play parks?**

Most told us that play parks are needed for children to have fun, but also very important for them is that it's a place where they can go and socialise – to meet friends or cousins there.

*Life wouldn't be exciting without them.*

*So you can go off your head.*

*To make more friends.*

*To meet your friends.*

Some want playparks simply because it gives them something to do.

*So you're not sad and bored.*

A few others think playparks are important to get them outside.

*To be outside on a sunny day.*

*To get fresh air and exercise.*

*So we're not sitting in the house all day.*

Many children in the consultation go to playparks without a parent or carer, so there is awareness that playparks can be used to occupy children while parents stay home.

*To not bother parents.*

Although there was much talk about playparks helping keep people emotionally healthy (having fun, etc), few children talked about playparks being needed for physical health.

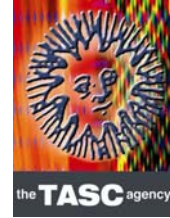
*To be healthy*

*It's good exercise.*



## Appendix a.

This is an invitation for children to tell us what they think about their local **play park**.



### **What this is about**

We've been asked to find out the opinions of children like you who use play parks in their neighbourhoods.

### **What we'd like to talk about**

We'd like to find out what you think about your play park - you can also tell us anything you would like to change or improve there.

### **What are we asking you to do?**

We'd like to meet with you and a few other children in your class, we'll meet at school. We'll talk to you about the play park near you and write down your answers so you can see them on a big poster.

### **What we'll do with what you tell us**

Your name won't be used in the report we write, all your details will be kept confidential. After interviewing lots of other children about different play parks, we will write a report. We will suggest ways that Glasgow Housing Association and Glasgow Council can improve the parks for everyone and keep them in good shape.

### **Who are we?**

We are called TASC. We are an independent agency which does a lot of work finding out what children and young people think about where they live and things they can do. If you or your parent/carer have any questions before we meet please do get in touch, we're happy to talk to you.

### **Scott Simpson or Colin Morrison**

Telephone: **0131 555 3527**

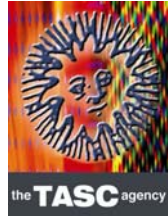
Email: [scott@tascagency.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:scott@tascagency.eclipse.co.uk)



We are doing this work for the Glasgow Housing Association and Glasgow City Council

## Appendix b.

This is an invitation for young people to tell us what they think about their local **multi-purpose sports areas.**



### **What this is about**

We've been asked to find out the opinions of young people like you who use multi-purpose sports areas in their neighbourhoods.

### **What we'd like to talk about**

We'd like to find out what you think about the local multi-purpose sports area - you can also tell us anything you would like to change or improve there.

### **What are we asking you to do?**

We'd like to meet with you and a few other young people in a small group for about 1 ½ hours. We will meet you at school or in a local club. We'll ask you some questions about the multi-purpose sports area near you and write down your answers so you can see them on a big poster.

### **What we'll do with what you tell us**

Your name won't be used in the report we write, all your details will be kept confidential. After interviewing lots of other young people about different multi-sports areas we will write a report. We will suggest ways that Glasgow Housing Association and Glasgow Council can improve the parks/sports areas for everyone and keep them in good shape.

### **To say thanks**

To say thanks for your time we will give you a **£10 voucher**.

### **Who are we?**

We are called TASC. We are an independent agency who do a lot of work finding out what young people think about where they live and things they can do. If you have any questions before we meet please do get in touch, we're happy to talk to you.

### **Scott Simpson or Colin Morrison**

telephone: **0131 555 3527**

email: [scott@tascagency.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:scott@tascagency.eclipse.co.uk)



We are doing this work for the Glasgow Housing Association and Glasgow City Council



### Appendix c. Under 12s Questionnaire

<p>1. Playpark name: _____</p> <p>2. Boy / Girl</p> <p>3. Age _____</p> <p>4. What do you do in the playpark?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> I like to run about</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> I like to sit and chat</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> I play mostly on my own</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> I like to climb</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> I like to be noisy</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> I play mostly with pals</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> I make new pals</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> I have fun</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> I like to be quiet</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> I make up games to play</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> I play with a special person: <b>who?</b> _____</li></ul> <p>5. How often do you go to the park?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Every day</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> A few times in a week</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Once a week</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Not very often</li></ul> <p>6. Do you play on the equipment in the park?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – what's the best bit? _____ _____ _____</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> No – why not? _____ _____</li></ul>	<p>7. Which of these words say how you feel when you are playing at the park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Happy</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Excited</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Frightened</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Safe</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Left out</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Bored</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Any words of your own to say how you feel? _____ _____ _____</li></ul> <p>8. When's a good time to go to the park? (answer as many as you like)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Before school</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> After school</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> After tea time</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> In the holidays</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Saturday</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Sunday</li></ul> <p>9. Who do you go to the park with?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> On my own</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> With pals</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> With other kids in my family</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> With an adult</li></ul> <p>10. Do you have a garden at home?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> No</li></ul> <p>11. Where else do you like to play (that's outdoors)? _____ _____</p>
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## Appendix d. Over 12s Questionnaire

<p>1. Playpark name: _____</p> <p>2. Male / Female</p> <p>3. Age _____</p> <p>4. What are the top 3 things you like to do most in the park?</p> <p><b>1.</b></p> <p><b>2.</b></p> <p><b>3.</b></p> <p>5. How often do you go to the park?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Every day</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A few times in a week</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Once a week</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not very often</p> <p>6. Do you play on the equipment in the park? What do you think about the facilities there?</p> <p>a. Overall?</p> <p>b. Best?</p> <p>c. Anything not good enough?</p>	<p>7. Which of these words say how you feel when you are playing at the park:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Happy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Excited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Frightened</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Safe</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Left out</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bored</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Any words of your own to say how you feel? _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>8. When's a good time to go to the park? (answer as many as you like)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Before school</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> After school</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Between 6pm and 9pm</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> After 9pm</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In the holidays</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Saturday</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sunday</p> <p>9. Who do you go to the park with?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> On my own</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> With friends</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> With others: _____</p> <p>11. Where else outdoors do you like to spend time with friends?</p>
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