

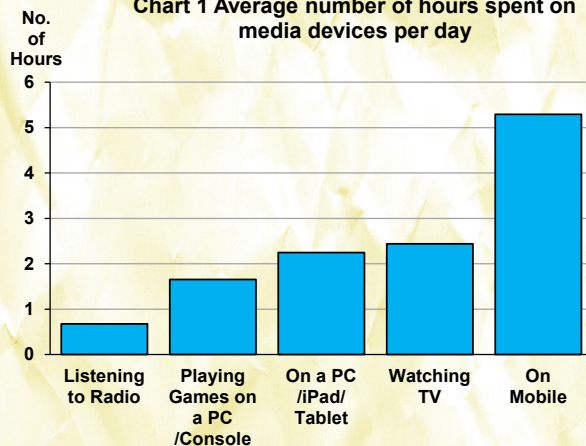


## CensusAtSchool 2017

19<sup>th</sup> October 2017

**Please note: This survey is voluntary. It is not part of a representative sampling process.** Hence, the results of the survey are less reliable in providing inferences about the overall secondary school student population.

**Chart 1 Average number of hours spent on media devices per day**



### Students spend twice as much time on a mobile as they do watching TV

From an estimated 352,000 secondary school students, 3,471 (1.0%) students completed the Phase 16 questionnaire of the CensusAtSchool survey. It was available between September 2016 and August 2017. The Phase 16 questionnaire covered a variety of topics including:

- ◆ UN Sustainable Development Goals
- ◆ the level of recycling in households
- ◆ the weight of school bags.

#### Interesting findings from Phase 16 results:

- ◆ Students spent over one fifth of the day (5.3 hours) on a mobile. *See Chart 1.* Female students reportedly spent over an hour extra on a mobile than males on average. Male students reported that they spent 6 times longer than female students playing games on a PC or games console. *See Chart 2.*
- ◆ In 2016, the vast majority of students (86%) carry their bag on both shoulders. *See Chart 3.* Comparing the data to Phase 12 data, female students show almost no change in how they carry their school bag, however males are now more likely to carry their school bag on two shoulders in 2016 than 2012. *See Chart 4.*
- ◆ A greater proportion of 6th year students (over 50%) responded with a high level of concern in relation to climate change. *See Chart 5.*
- ◆ Irish students ranked the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) “No Hunger” as the most important SDG goal to them. The least important goal was “Partnership For The Goals”. *See Table 1.*
- ◆ Students reported that over three quarters of their families engage in recycling. It is more popular than composting or using renewable energies. *See Chart 6.* Over a third of families engage in recycling alone (35%) and over a third (36%) engage in both recycling and composting. *See Chart 7.*
- ◆ Paper/Cardboard is the most popular item by families as reported by the students. *See Chart 8.*
- ◆ The most popular method of composting is using the brown bin and the most popular source of renewable energy is solar. *See Charts 9 and 10.*
- ◆ Over half of students (54%) reported that climate is the main factor when their family decide on a holiday destination with the cost of the holiday

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Ardee Road  
Dublin 6  
D06 FX5  
Ireland

Skehard Road  
Cork  
T12 X00E  
Ireland

Locall: 1890 313 414 (ROI)  
0870 876 0256 (UK/NI)

Tel: +353-1 498 4000 Tel: +353-21 453 5000  
Fax: +353-1 498 4229 Tel: +353-21 453 5555

Both offices may be contacted through any of these telephone numbers.

CSO on the Web: [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)  
and visit  
[www.censusatschool.ie](http://www.censusatschool.ie)

Director General: Pádraig Dalton

Enquiries:

General queries Information Section, ext 5028  
[information@cso.ie](mailto:information@cso.ie)  
[eolas@cso.ie](mailto:eolas@cso.ie)

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coming a close second (52%). See Chart 11.

- ◆ Students were asked to indicate which colour was their favourite. Both male and female students selected blue as their preferred choice. See Chart 12.
- ◆ Students were asked to indicate what one word described how they felt at that moment. For female students the most popular term was “Tired”. For male students the most popular term was “Happy”. See Chart 13.

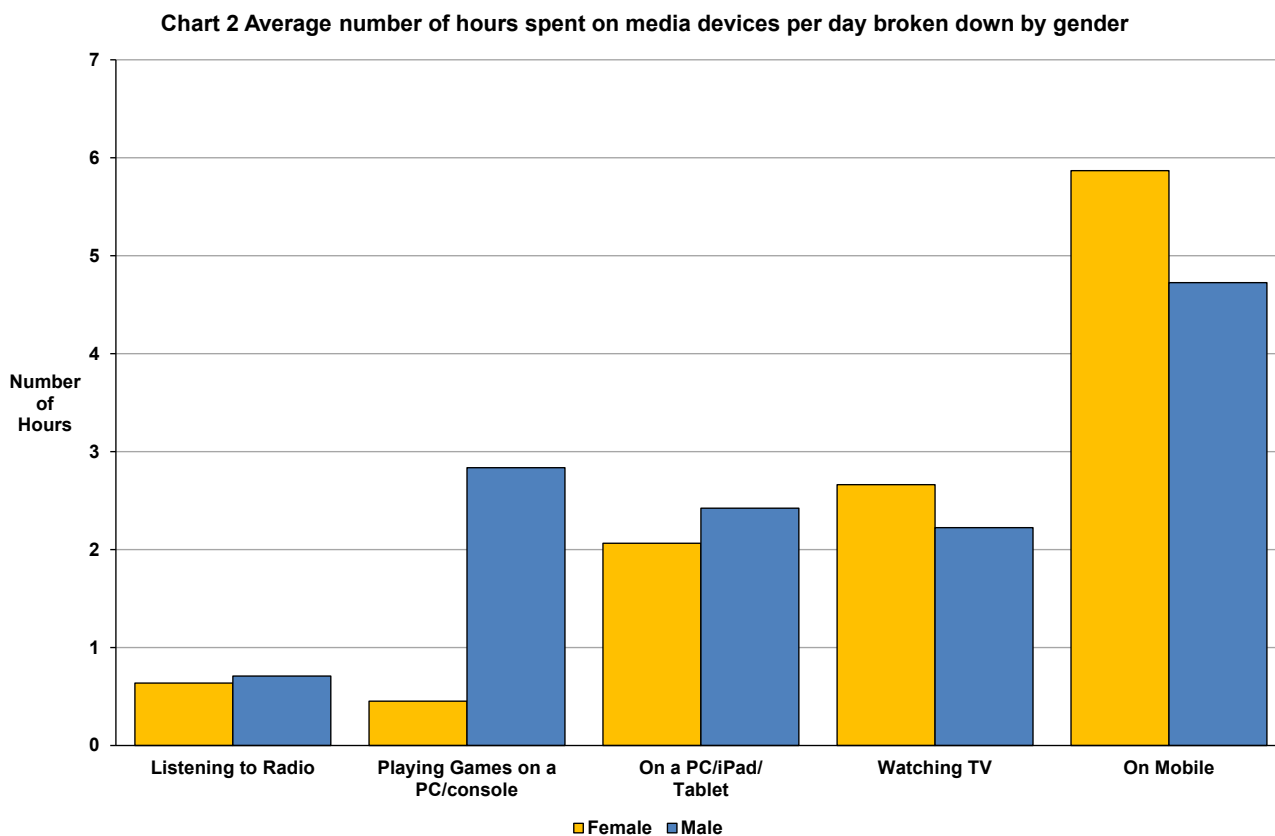
**Background information**

CensusAtSchool is a non-profit making international project. It is funded by organisations interested in promoting good use of statistics, mathematics and data handling. Ireland became involved in CensusAtSchool in 2009. Four Irish bodies are collaborating in this project:

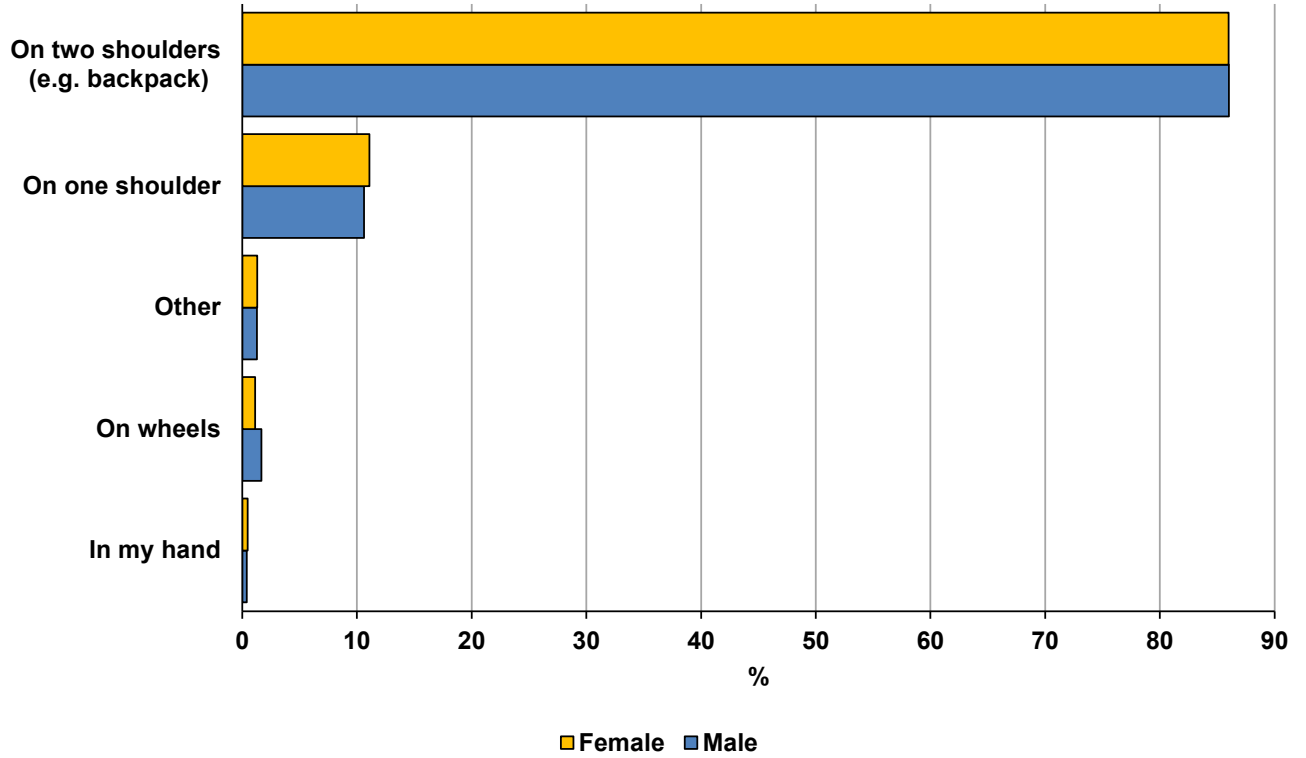
- ◆ the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST)
- ◆ the CSO
- ◆ Project Maths
- ◆ the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA).

The Irish website, [www.censusatschool.ie](http://www.censusatschool.ie), has been in place since 2009.

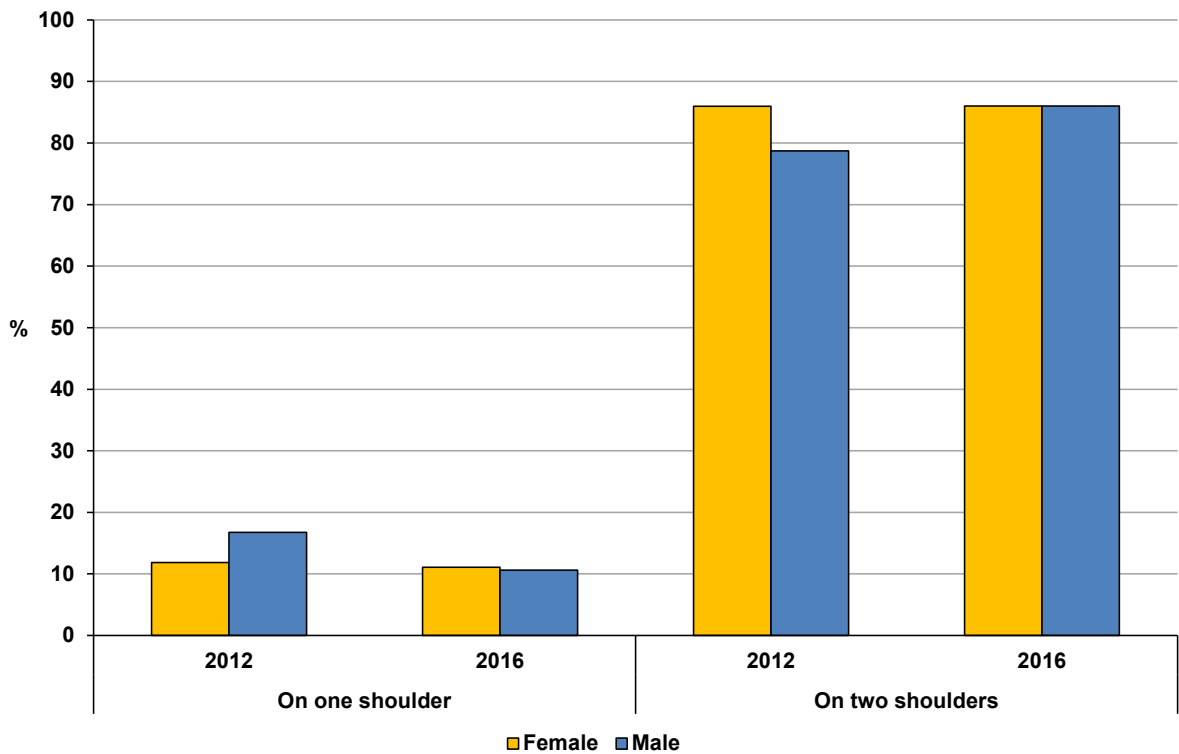
*For more information, contact Helen McGrath at 021 453 5108 or Eoin McCuirc 021 453 5504.*



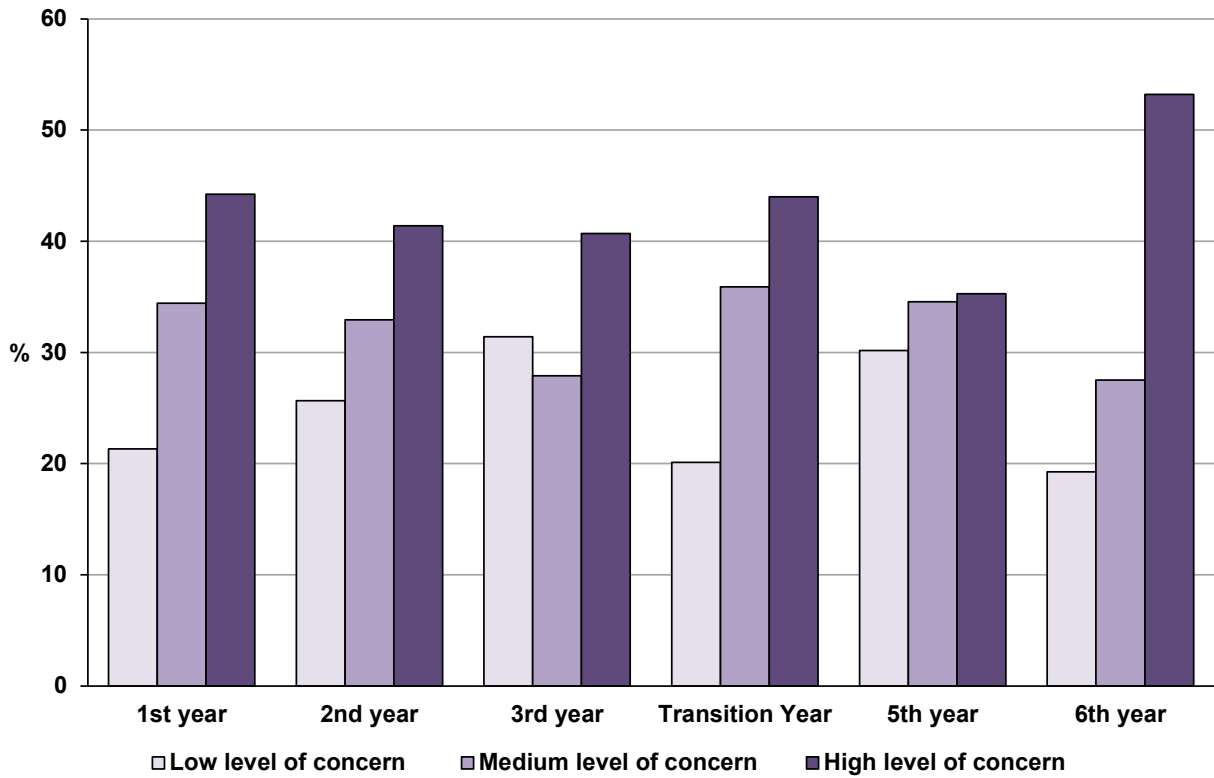
**Chart 3 How do you carry your school bag?**



**Chart 4 Comparison between the most popular methods of carrying a school bag in 2012 and 2016**



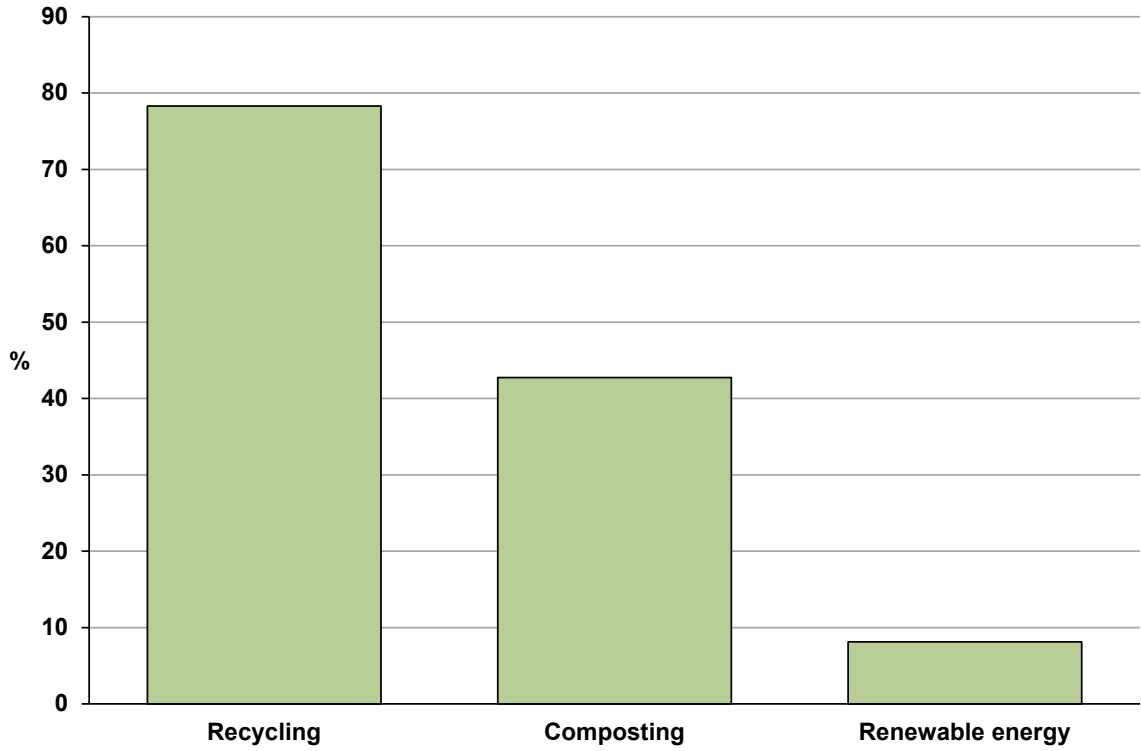
**Chart 5 How concerned are you about Climate Change?**



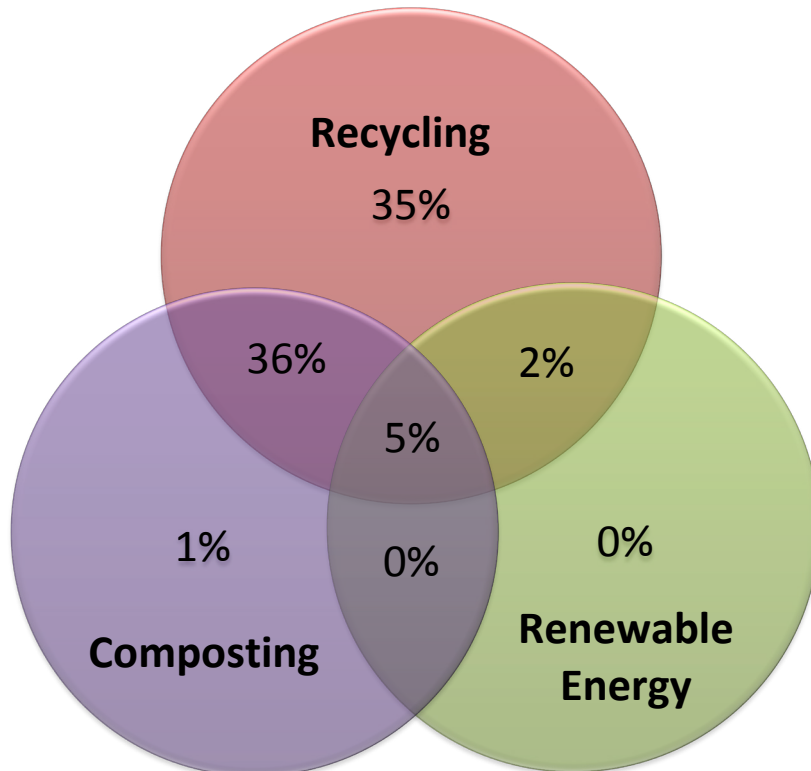
**Table 1 UN Sustainable Development Goals ranked by students and displayed in order of most important**

UN Sustainable Development Goal	Rank
No Hunger	1
Good Health	2
No Poverty	3
Clean Water & Sanitation	4
Peace & Justice	5
Quality Education	6
Gender & Equality	7
Good Jobs & Economic Growth	8
Climate Action	9
Renewable Energy	10
Life On Land	11
Sustainable Cities & Communities	12
Reduce Inequalities	13
Responsible Consumption	14
Life Below Water	15
Innovation & Infrastructure	16
Partnerships For The Goals	17

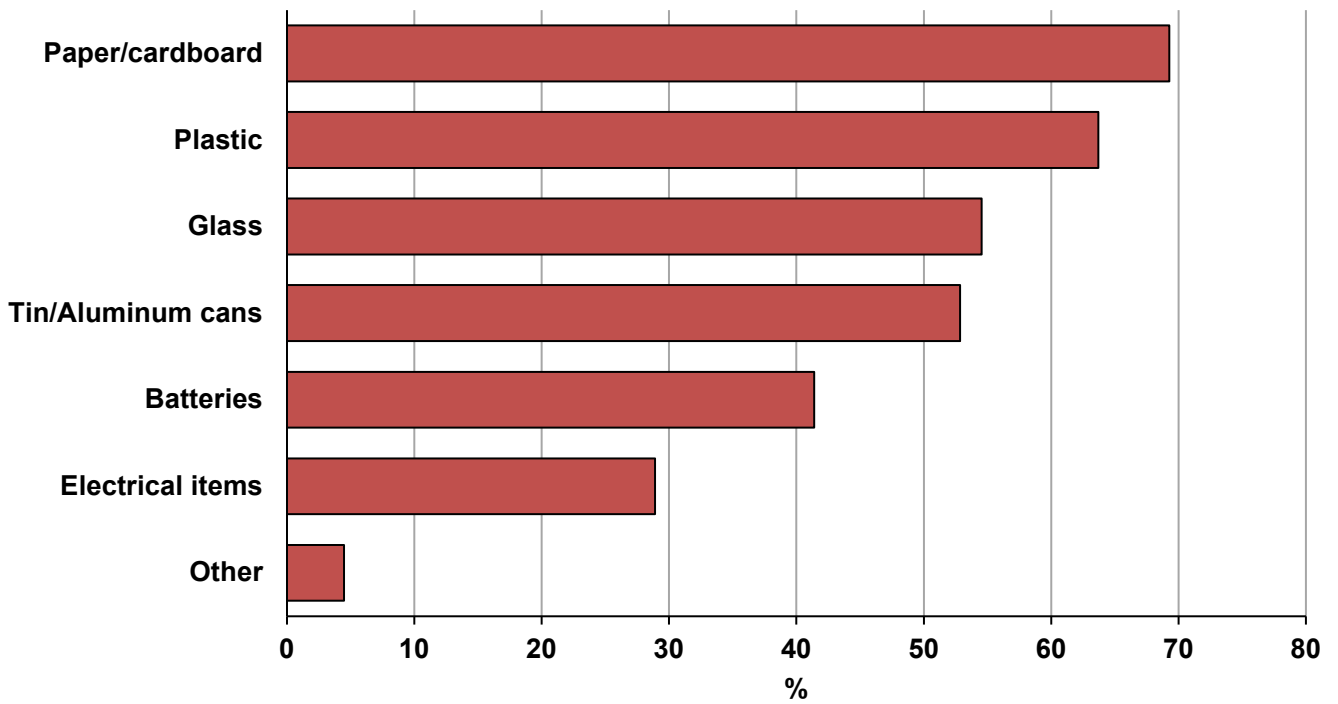
**Chart 6 Does your family engage in recycling, composting or use renewable energy?**



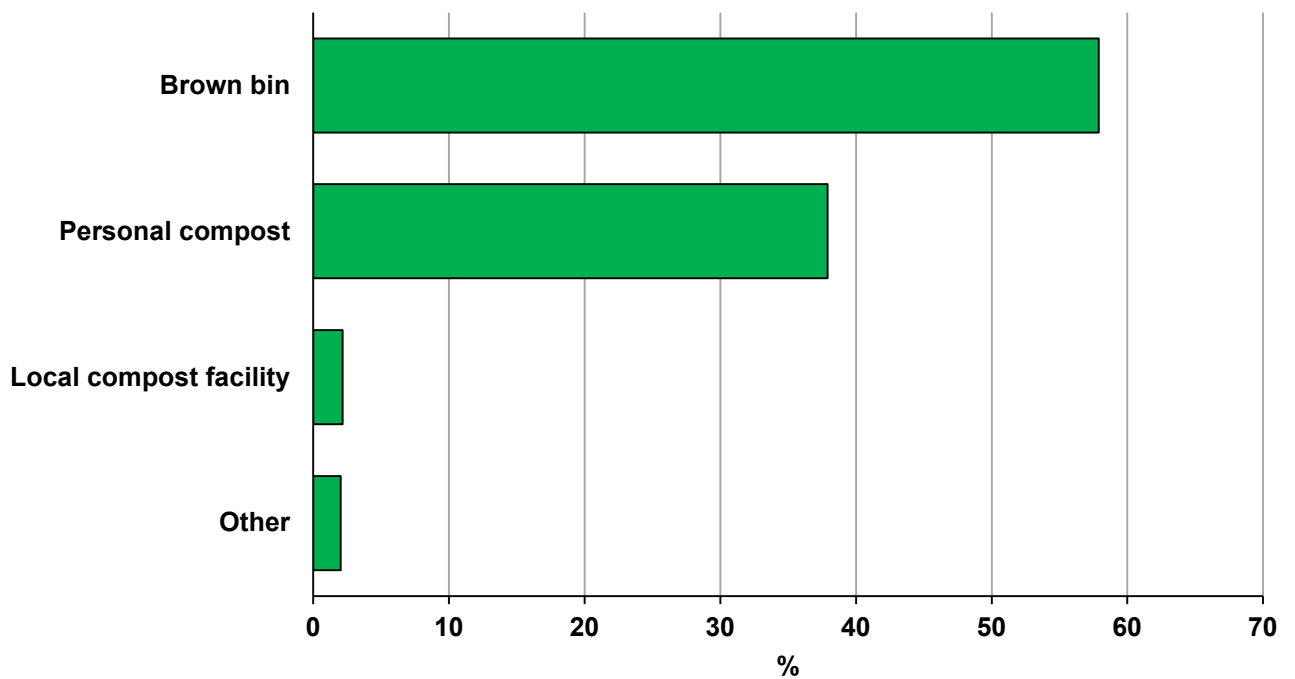
**Chart 7 Venn diagram showing the overlap of environmentally friendly practices engaged by families of students**



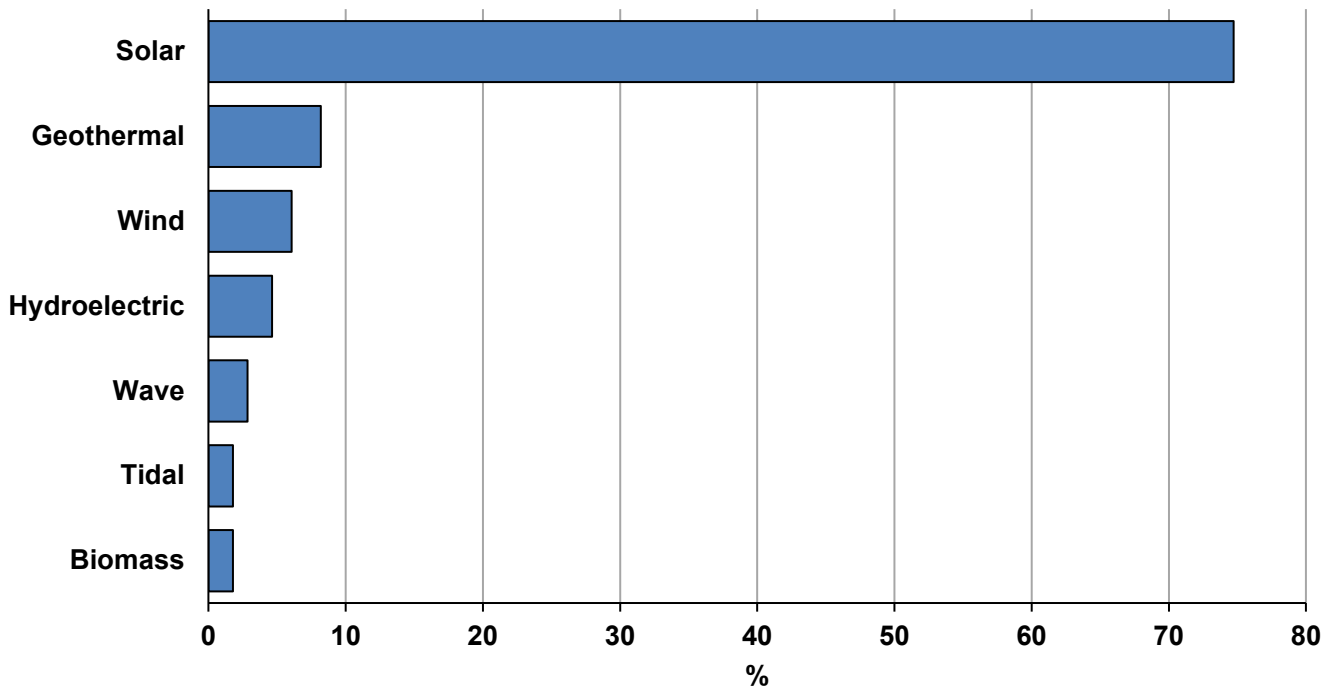
**Chart 8 What does your family recycle?**



**Chart 9 What composting method does your family use?**



**Chart 10 What renewable energy source does your family use?**



**Chart 11 What factors determine your family's choice of holiday destination?**

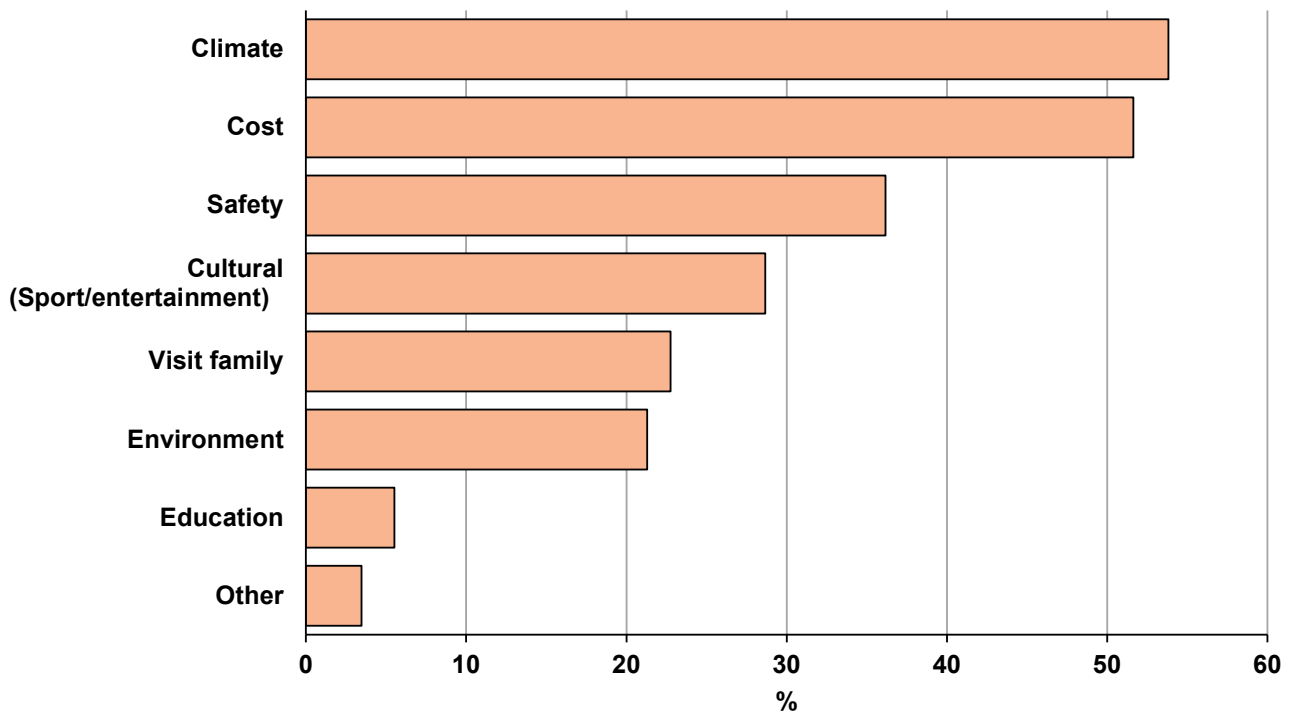


Chart 12 Top five colours selected by students and the percentage of whom selected it

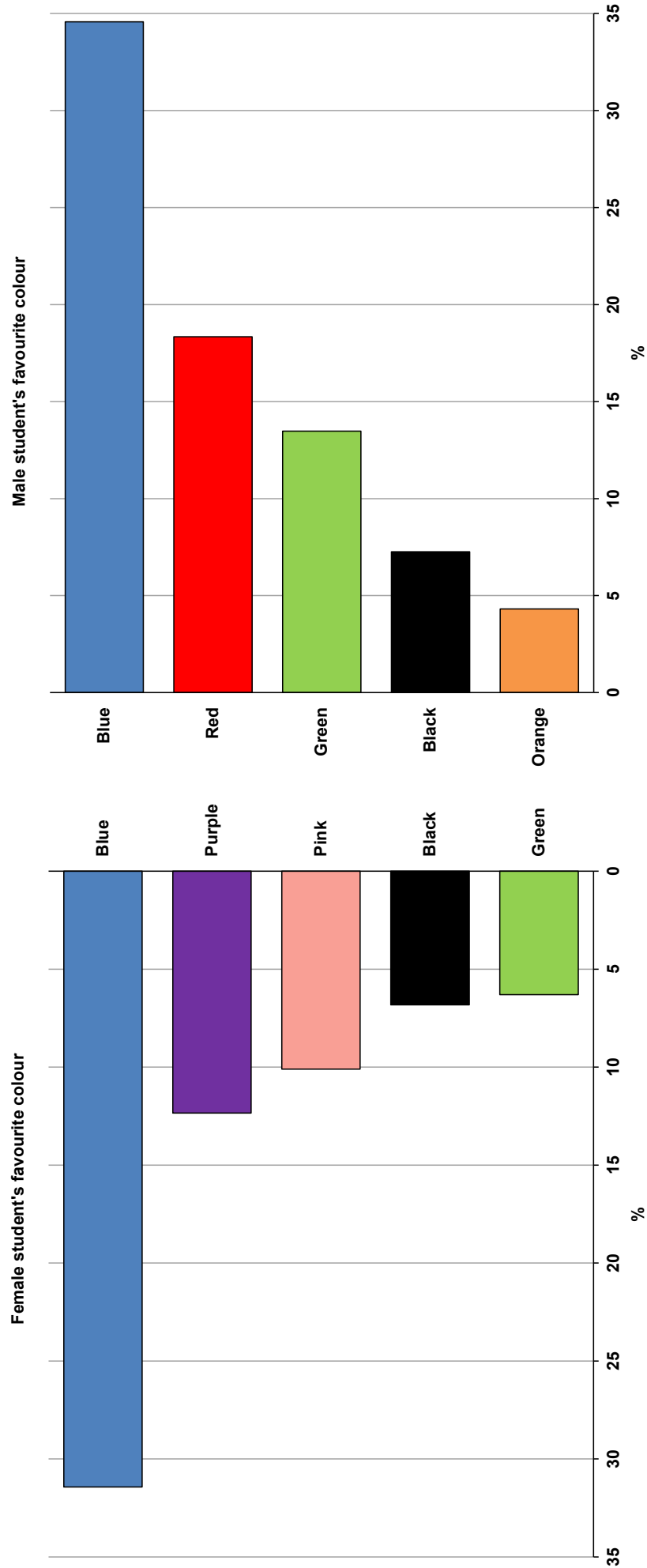
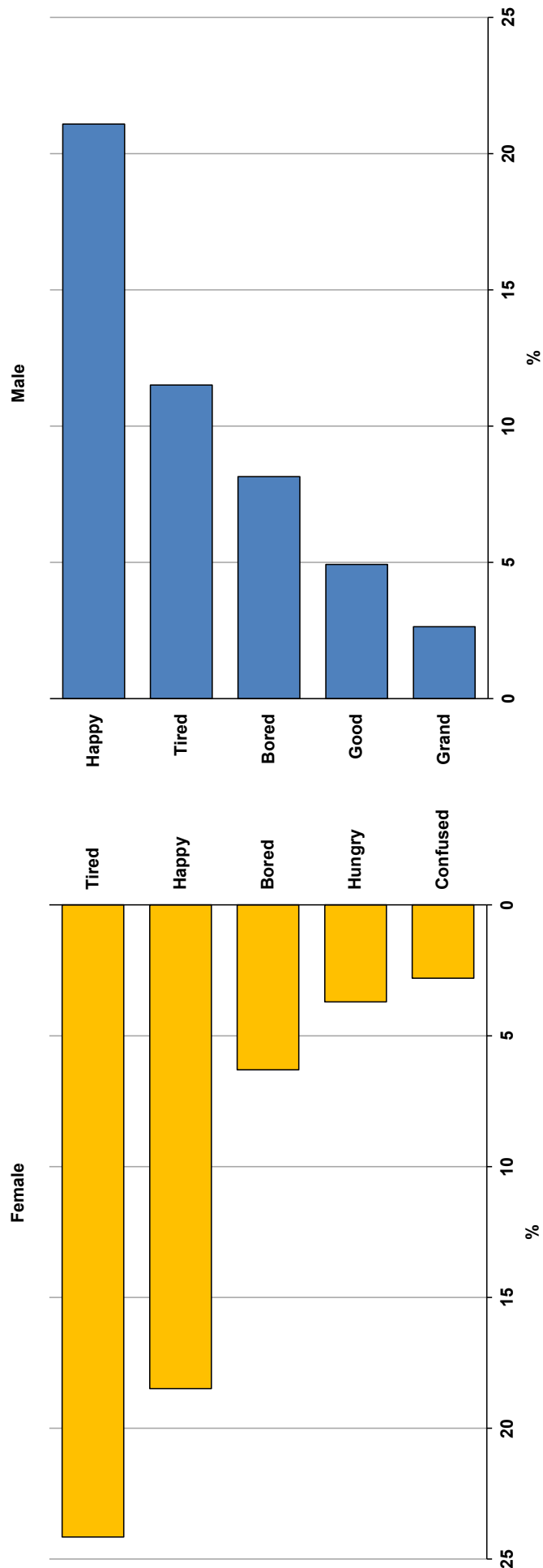




Chart 13 Top five feelings selected by students and the percentage of whom selected it



## Background Notes

### About CensusAtSchools

The Royal Statistical Centre for Statistical Education (RSSCSE) started the CensusAtSchool project in 2000 in conjunction with the Office of National Statistics (ONS) in the UK. The project, originally a one-off, was linked to the UK population census of 2001. It has now developed into a dynamic, on-going and exciting initiative running in a number of countries.

Further information can be found here:

USA <http://ww2.amstat.org/censusatschool/index.cfm>

Canada <http://www.censusatschool.ca/>

Australia <http://www.abs.gov.au/censusatschool>

New Zealand <http://new.censusatschool.org.nz/explore/>

UK <http://www.censusatschool.com/>

Japan <http://census.ism.ac.jp/cas/>

### Sample

3,471 secondary school attendees from 124 secondary schools completed the Phase 16 questionnaire of the CensusAtSchool survey between September 2016 and August 2017. Because the survey is voluntary and not part of a representative sampling process, the results of the survey are less reliable in providing inferences about the overall secondary school student population.

### Questionnaire

The CensusAtSchool Phase 16 questionnaire and more results from the survey can be found on the CensusAtSchool website at <http://www.censusatschool.ie/en/take-part/questionnaires>

A data tool for examining international CensusAtSchool data can be found:

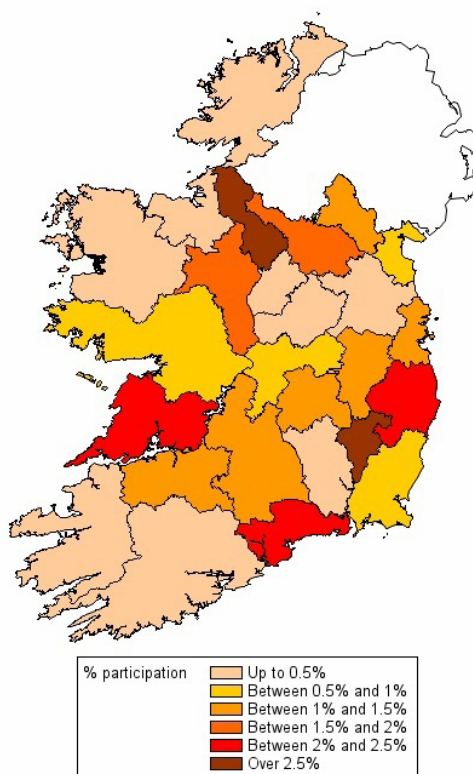
<http://censusatschool.com/getmydata.php>

<http://new.censusatschool.org.nz/explore/>

It can be further explored using the facilities inbuilt in the inZight site operated by Statistics New Zealand.

<https://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~wild/inZight/index.php>

**Map 1. Student participation in CensusAtSchool Phase 16 questionnaire classified by county location of school**



**Note:** The map only includes survey responses when the roll number on the questionnaire response matched a school roll number provided by the Department of Education and Skills.



### CensusAtSchool 2016/2017 Questionnaire

**1. Are you:**  
 Female     Male

**2. a) Please state your present age in completed years.**  
 years

**2. b) What year are you in at school?**  
 Year  e.g. 5<sup>th</sup> Year

**3. In what county do you live?**

**4. In what country were you born?**

**5. Complete the following measurements. (Answer to nearest tenth of a cm)**

Height (without shoes) .....cm  
 Span of the hand you write with .....cm  
 Vertical reach .....cm  
 Length of right foot .....cm  
 Circumference of right wrist .....cm

**6. a) What is the weight of your school bag today? (Answer to one decimal place)**  
 School bag weight .....kg

**6. b) How do you carry your school bag? (Select one answer)**

In my hand  
 On wheels  
 On two shoulders (e.g. backpack)  
 On one shoulder  
 Other (please specify) .....

**7. In the last 7 days how many minutes per day did you spend at the following activities?**

Watching TV programmes .....mins  
 Listening to radio programmes .....mins  
 On a mobile phone .....mins  
 Playing games on a PC/Games console .....mins  
 On your PC/iPad/Tablet .....mins

**8. a) Are you aware of the sustainable development goals?**  
 Yes     No

**8. b) When are the sustainable development goals set to be delivered? (Select one answer)**

2017     2025     2035  
 2020     2030     2040

**9. Rank the sustainable development goals. (1 being most important and 17 least important to you)**

Sustainable cities & communities  
 Life below water  
 Responsible consumption  
 No hunger  
 Life on land  
 Good jobs & economic growth  
 Good health  
 Climate action  
 Innovation & infrastructure  
 Gender equality  
 Peace & Justice  
 Quality Education  
 Renewable energy  
 Reduced inequalities  
 Clean water & sanitation  
 No poverty  
 Partnerships for the goals

**10. a) How concerned are you about Climate Change?**  
 Not at all Very much

**10. b) Have you changed any of your own behaviour to address climate change?**  
 Yes     No  
 If yes, how?

**11. a) Does your household recycle?**  
 Yes     No  
 If yes, what does your household recycle?

Paper/Cardboard     Glass  
 Tin cans/Aluminium Foil     Plastic  
 Electrical Items     Batteries  
 Other  
 (please specify) .....

**11. b) How does your household recycle? You may tick more than one.**

Collection System     Bring Banks  
 Through school     Through shops  
 Through charity  
 Other  
 (please specify) .....

**12. Does your family compost organic waste material?**  
 Yes     No  
 If yes how does your family compost?  
 Personal compost  
 Brown bin  
 Local compost facility  
 Other  
 (please specify) .....

**13. a) How do you primarily heat your home?**

Gas     Electricity  
 Oil     Wood  
 Other  
 (please specify) .....

**13. b) Does your household generate their own renewable energy?**  
 Yes     No  
 If yes, please specify the source?

Solar     Hydroelectric  
 Wind     Tidal  
 Wave     Geothermal  
 Biomass

**14. Which European country has the highest rate of recycling?**

**15. What factors determine your family's choice of holiday destination? You may tick more than one.**

Climate     Environment  
 Safety     Educational  
 Cost     Visit family  
 Cultural (Sport/entertainment)  
 Other  
 (please specify)

**16. How much sterling do you receive for €300 in the following scenarios?**

i) The day of the Brexit referendum? (Exchange Rate: 1.00EUR = 0.7639 GBP)

ii) A month later 23/07/2016? (Exchange Rate: 1.00 EUR = 0.8374 GBP)

**17. a) What is your favourite colour?**

**17. b) What one word describes how you are feeling right now?**

