

# 1. How young people experience teaching and learning in school

## 3.2.1 How young people like to learn

"I think teachers should take our opinions on board because as young people, our ideas are often new, relevant and innovative when it comes to things that affect us"

Less than **50%** of students learn best when they read textbooks

## 3.2.2 Experiences of teaching

Agree Disagree

**75%** of students say they learn best through active learning

"Not all students are the same – one size does not fit all"

**30%** say that teachers make learning interesting and fun

## 3.2.3 Communication in the classroom

**76%**

agree some students get more attention than others in the classroom

## 3.2.4 Subjects young people want to change

**1 Maths**

most frequently identified subject for change

**2 Irish**

"Irish should be language-focused, not exam-focused"

**3 English**

Comhairle na nÓg  
Young Voices. Local Issues.

An Roinn Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige  
Department of Children and Youth Affairs

AN RÓINN DEONACHAIS AGUS SCILEANA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS

## Background

'Comhairle na nÓg are local councils for children and young people aged 12-17 that give them a voice on youth issues. The Comhairle na nÓg National Executive is made up of one representative from each of the 31 Comhairlí na nÓg. They work on the recommendations from Dáil na nÓg and make changes for young people in those areas.

## Methodology

The Comhairle na nÓg National Executive developed this survey with help from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, the Department of Education and Skills and a steering committee of education experts and researchers from the School of Education in University College Dublin (UCD).

# 2. Feelings about school

"there should be less emphasis on exams. Students' progress should be individual and not compared to others"

## 3.3.1 Exams

**64%**

of students wish there was more project work when it comes to exams

## 3.3.2 Stress

**78%**

of exam students agree that exams are the biggest source of stress & young people think there is too much emphasis on exams

"More emphasis on a safe learning environment where students can actually give their opinions"

## 3.3.3 Having a say

Less than half of students agree that students have a say in the classroom

# 3. Young people's views on services and facilities in school

## 3.4.1 Satisfaction with support services

Less than half of students are satisfied with the quality of counselling and mental health support

"Have a proper system for mental health and exam stress... the availability of a designated person to discuss and facilitate issues and discussion"

## 3.4.2 IT in school

**66%**

of young people said IT helped them to learn

## November 2014: Comhairle na nÓg Showcase

'Education and school' voted on as the area of young people's lives in which they least had a say. Becomes theme for Dáil na nÓg 2015.

## November 2015: Dáil na nÓg

'What happens in the classroom' voted on as a priority issue to be worked on by the Comhairle na nÓg National Executive.

## January 2016 – September 2017

Comhairle na nÓg National Executive developed a survey to explore how students are taught and how they learn in the classroom.

**3,242**

young people took part in the survey at Comhairle na nÓg AGMs in October and November 2016.

**55%** female **43%** male **2%** other

**43%** were junior cycle students

**57%** were senior cycle students