

Coronavirus and Me



Comisiynydd
Plant Cymru
Children's
Commissioner
for Wales

Summary of key findings

Are children worried?

37% of children and young people stated that they were not worried about Coronavirus on the day they completed the survey. A similar number (38%) felt the same level of worry that they had the week before while smaller numbers felt more worried (12%) or less worried (14%)¹.

What are their worries?

Worries include concerns about how long the situation would last and fears that they or those they love will catch the virus. Comments of children who were not worried or were less worried suggest they felt they were being kept safe, daily numbers of deaths were decreasing, children were less affected, or they were avoiding watching too much news.

How are children feeling?

The majority (58%) of children and young people report that they have felt happy most of the time during the crisis and a large majority (84%) report feeling safe most of the time. Young people of secondary age reported more negative feelings than younger children, with 16% feeling sad 'most of the time'. 2% overall report that they have 'not very often' felt safe.

What has impacted them most?

The top three responses from young people (12-18) on which stay at home rules have impacted the most on how they feel are 'not being able to spend time with friends' (72%), 'not being able to visit family members' (59%) and 'school or college closing' (42%).

Are there any benefits?

Many children and young people have commented on positive aspects of the experience of the Coronavirus crisis. For many there has been a pleasure in spending more time with their family, learning new skills and enjoying the outdoors in gardens and during daily exercise. For some, this period has also brought relief from previous social and health pressures such as mental health difficulties or bullying.

¹ Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding up or down of decimal points

Do children know where to get help for their mental health and wellbeing?

The majority report that they know where to get help but only 39% of young people age 12-18 would feel confident seeking school counselling at the current time.

How confident do children feel about learning?

51% of total selected that they feel confident or very confident. 25% of total selected that they lacked confidence, with 10% of this group stating they felt 'not at all confident'. 24% of total selected the neutral option. But 12-18 year olds are reporting worries: only 11% of respondents in this age group stated they did not feel worried about their education, and the most commonly reported concern they had about learning was that they were worried about falling behind (54%).

Are children in touch with their schools?

Respondents overwhelmingly report being contacted by their place of education, with only 1-2% of respondents across the different surveys reporting no contact.

What are barriers to home learning?

Themes emerging from a sample of 2000 comments show that many children would like more contact and support from their school, with additional online provision. There are also specific challenges around access to electronic devices and pressures in the home environment, and other challenges raised by children with additional learning needs.

What do year 6 pupils want?

Year 6 children overwhelmingly want to say goodbye to their primary school (76%) and visit their secondary school before school starts (75%).

How do young people feel about cancelled exams?

Only 17% of young people feel happy that exams have been cancelled. Young people were more likely to feel uncertain (51%) or worried (18%). Young people also report feeling angry (6%) and sad (5%).

Are all children able to use Welsh?

The majority of children in both Welsh-medium and English-medium education are continuing to use Welsh during this period. Some children in Welsh-medium education are not getting any opportunity to use Welsh (8% of 7-11 year olds; 15% of 12-18 year olds). Over a quarter of children in English-medium