

Useful school lessons

Most lessons in the list are reported to be less 'useful' as pupils get older

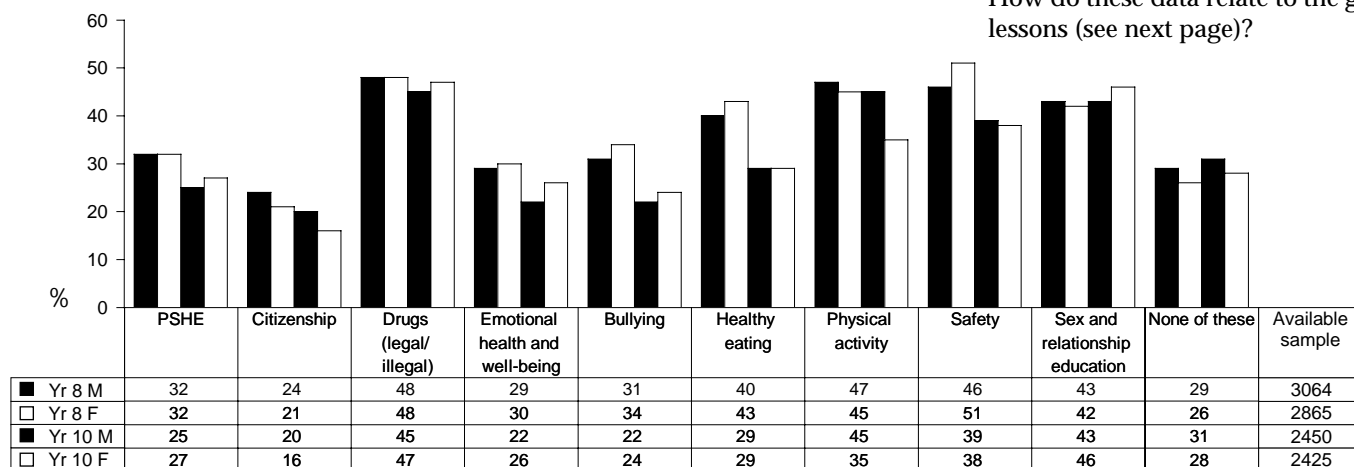
How useful have you found lessons about the following subjects? (63)

Responses to 'quite useful / very useful'

1. Lessons about *Drug education, Safety, Physical Activity* and *Sex and Relationships education* are the most useful for both age groups and genders.
2. Least useful are *PSHE* and *Citizenship* lessons.
3. It is noticeable how 'usefulness' declines with age for all subjects except *Sex and Relationships education*.
4. The *Healthy eating* lessons appear to be less 'useful' as reported by older pupils e.g. 43% of 12-13 year old females find these lessons 'quite useful/very useful', compared with 29% of the 14-15 year old females.

Comments

1. We first asked this question in 1999. The range of lesson options has changed but the 'usefulness' scale has remained. Pupils are asked to 'circle one number for each answer' and each number refers to a scale of 'usefulness'. This scale ranges from *can't remember any, not at all useful, some use, quite useful, to very useful*.
2. The drugs subject is written as 'Drug education (including alcohol and tobacco)' in the current version of the questionnaire.
3. What factors influence the degrees of 'usefulness' reported for each subject?
4. Is it surprising that the reported levels of 'usefulness' decline with age? How do these data relate to the general question about enjoying school lessons (see next page)?



Enjoyable school lessons

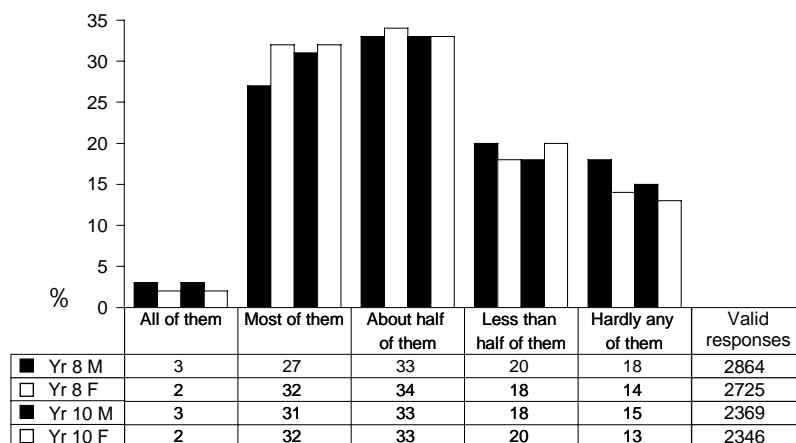
Up to 34% report enjoying 'all' or 'most' school lessons

How many school lessons do you enjoy at school? (9)

1. The majority of 12-15 year olds report enjoying 'most' or 'about half' of their school lessons.
2. Up to 34% report enjoying 'all' or 'most' school lessons.
3. For the majority, the percentages remain similar across gender and age groups. Slightly more females (32%) compared with males, report enjoying 'most' of their lessons.
4. More younger males (38%), compared with females and older males report enjoying 'less than half' or 'hardly any' lessons.

Comments

1. This is the second time we have included this question and it appears early on in the questionnaire (question number 9).
2. The question is about school lessons in general and not subject specific.
3. There appears to be slight difference, as pupils get older, in those reporting 'enjoying' lessons.



We found a positive relationship between pupils enjoying lessons and finding PSHE lessons useful. Those pupils that report enjoying 'all' or 'most' lessons were also more likely to rate the subjects on the list (see previous page) as 'quite useful' or 'very useful'.