

# Play, Rest and Leisure

18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

# Child Rights under the UNCRC

- ▶ All children and young people are entitled to the full complement of rights under the UNCRC, including the right to health, education, and an adequate standard of living
- ▶ The 4 general principles help to interpret the UNCRC, and these are:
  1. Non-discrimination (article 2)
  2. Best interest of the child (article 3)
  3. Right to life survival and development (article 6)
  4. Right to be heard (article 12)

# Right to Play, Rest and Leisure

- ▶ Article 31 recognises the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child
- ▶ It also places a duty on the government to “respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.”

# Key Issues

- ▶ States of Jersey legislation deals with issues relating to leisure and cultural activities. However, we have found the following gaps in SoJ legislation:
- ▶ Neither the Education Law nor the Children Law guarantee the right to rest and play and to engage in leisure and cultural activities.
- ▶ Legislation does not provide comprehensive coverage to ensure that leisure or play facilities used by children are safe.
  - ▶ Policing of Parks (Jersey) Regulations 2005 provide for the regulation of behaviours within parks, ensuring safe places for children; no equivalent SoJ legislation which makes specific provision for the safety of other leisure or play facilities that children may use, e.g. indoor play facilities operated by private sector actors
- ▶ Children's right to play rest and leisure is also not protected by law from the impact of employment
  - ▶ The statutory minimum age for employment is below the recommended minimum working age and may prejudice a child's ability to enjoy their right to play, rest and leisure

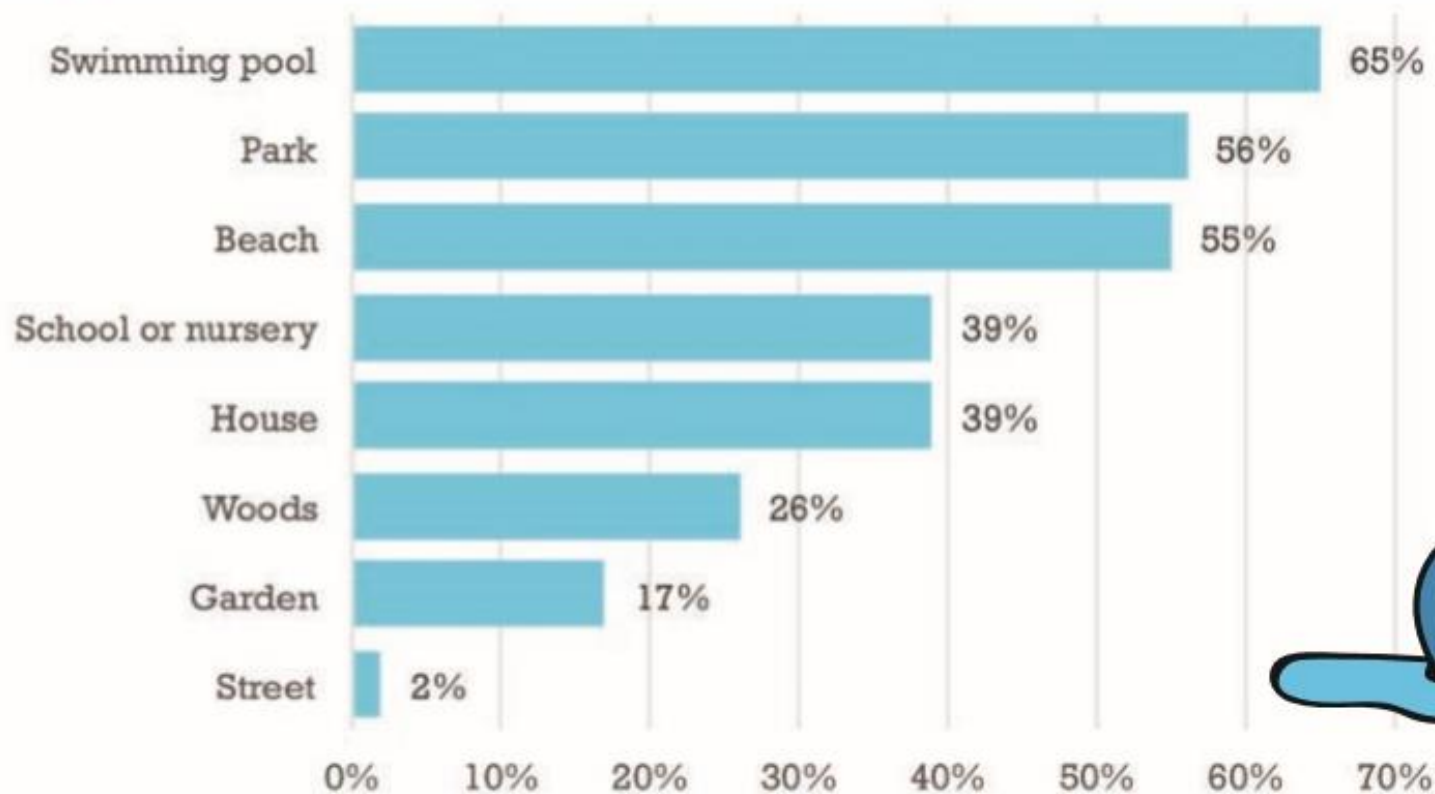
# Culture, Heritage and the Arts

- ▶ A review of the status of culture heritage and the arts in Jersey in 2018 identified a low level of investment in culture, heritage and the arts and reported that 1 in 3 young people say that arts and culture are essential to their lives.
- ▶ The document only mentions 'children' on 4 occasions, but does recognise the importance of culture and the arts to young people. However, none of the recommendations in the report refer specifically to children, and there is no evidence of progress towards achieving its recommendations.
- ▶ The report makes no reference to the rights contained in UNCRC Article 31 in relation support for arts and culture in Jersey

## Ages 3-7

Children aged 3-7 years old were asked to pick their 3 favourite places to play in Jersey from a list of 8 different options. Each option was supported by a photograph of a local place. The majority of children (65%) chose a swimming pool as their favourite place to play, with parks coming in as the second favourite (56%).

**Figure 15: Children's favourite places to play (ages 3-7 years):**



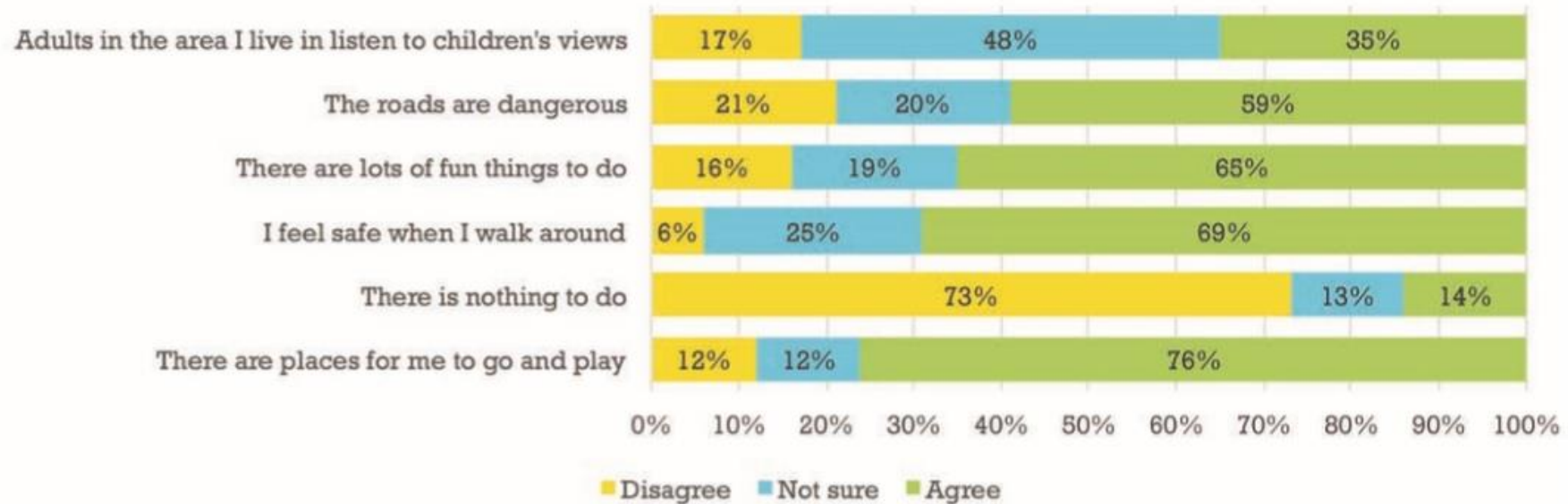
65% of 3-7 year olds said the swimming pool was their favourite place to play



## Ages 7-11

Children aged 7-11 were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with statements about their local area. The majority of children (76%) said that there were places for them to go and play, and 69% of children said that they feel safe when they walk around. Road safety was an issue, with 59% of children saying that the roads are dangerous in their local area. Adults listening to children's views was also an area of concern, with only 35% of children agreeing with this statement.

**Figure 16: Children's views of their local area (ages 7-11):**



# Key Issues

- ▶ Children were asked how their local area could be made a better place for children in our island-wide survey. A key theme for children aged 7-11 was to have more things to do for children and young people and more places to play:
  - ▶ “We could have more places for children to meet with their friends and other children without their parents there but where they are still safe and still have responsible adults to make sure they are alright.”
  - ▶ “I think there should be more to do for children on this island, especially my age, something that doesn’t cost a lot. I would also love it if more children lived in my area or I got to know the children who live in my area better.”
  - ▶ “More parks and play areas for children aged 8 years+. A community Centre where kids can meet everyday and play - weekly disco’s. Jersey can be a very lonely place if you don’t live on a cul de sac.”
  - ▶ “It could have parks nearby for children to play on and also it could be more kid-friendly (Bigger pavements, clean walls, slower cars ect).”



# Being Involved in Decision Making

- ▶ The majority of children (58%) said that they are never asked for their views about what happens and 24% said that they are hardly ever asked for their views
- ▶ 59% of children said that when they are asked for their views, they never hear the outcome
- ▶ Almost half of children (47%) thought that their views would make no difference or very little difference to what happens in their local area

# Young People aged 11-18

- ▶ In terms of there being places to go and things to do in their local area:
  - ▶ 45% agreed that there were places for them to go, but only 19% agreed that there were fun things to do.
  - ▶ Only 14% of young people felt that adults in their local area listen to young people's views.
- ▶ Young people told us they wanted more places to go and more things to do that weren't expensive, but that were specifically aimed at teenagers.
  - ▶ "More healthy fun activities for 11+ like trampolining, all year ice skating and roller skating, another activity centre similar to creepy valley nearer town."
  - ▶ "Free gym memberships as I feel self conscious and want to change the way I look and get into shape but it's too expensive even at active. More outdoor activity's that aren't mega expensive. More communal areas that are safe."

# Impact of Covid-19

- ▶ In a survey that explored the impact of Covid-19 on children and young people, 85% said they had something fun to do
- ▶ This was mostly made up of technology; arts and crafts and toys
- ▶ Exercise also featured in over 450 responses, including trampolining, going to the beach, dancing or swimming
- ▶ When asked 'do you get physical exercise', 56% said everyday, 38% said sometimes and 6% said no
- ▶ The percentage of young people who answered every day was highest amongst the youngest age group: 67% of 5-7 year olds vs 39% for 16+

# Discussion Questions

Do these issues mirror what you're hearing?

Are there other issues that you are aware of?

Have you noticed any emerging patterns recently?

Do you have any data or reports you could signpost us to?