

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The central area is white, providing a clean space for the text.

Protection from Violence

17th September 2020

Child Rights and Protection from Violence

- ▶ All children and young people are entitled to the full complement of rights under the UNCRC, including the right to health, education, play, 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)

Protection from Violence

- ▶ Article 19 of the UNCRC makes it clear that children and young people have the basic human right to dignity, and to be protected from violence
- ▶ This includes “all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child”
- ▶ The government has a responsibility to establish:
 - ▶ social programmes to provide necessary support for the child and family
 - ▶ forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation,
 - ▶ treatment and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment

Protection from Violence

- ▶ Article 33 of the UNCRC says that children and young people have a right to be protected from harmful drugs, including through education about their effects.
- ▶ Article 34 places a duty on governments to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.
- ▶ Article 36 protects the child against all other forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspects of the child's welfare.
- ▶ Article 37 protects children from torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. This includes a child's right not to be unlawfully deprived of their liberty
- ▶ Article 39 also places a duty on the state to take all appropriate measures to promote physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of a child victim of any form of neglect or abuse
- ▶ Article 40 recognizes the right of every child alleged as, accused of, or recognized as having infringed the penal law to be treated in a manner consistent with the promotion of the child's sense of dignity

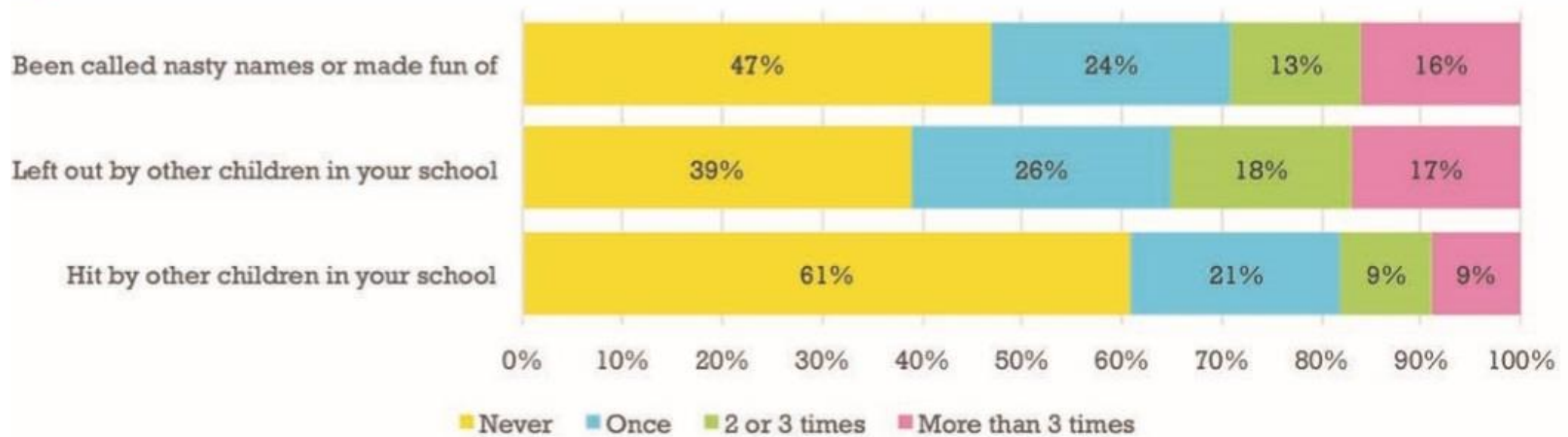
Key Issues

- ▶ The Children Law does not specify which relevant authorities (other than police or Ministers) are empowered, or have responsibility, to take action to protect children
- ▶ The Children Law does not include a general requirement on the Minister (or any authority) to take action to promote the welfare of all children in Jersey.
- ▶ The Children Law does not impose a duty on the Minister to take action to promote the best interests of all children in Jersey.
- ▶ Statutory protection against harm or neglect inflicted by care-givers does not extend to children aged 16/17

Key Issues

- ▶ Children have told us about the prevalence of drugs in Jersey
- ▶ There are over 3,500 children living in a household where domestic violence or abuse is present, this equates to 6 children in a typical class of 25
- ▶ Lack of affordable housing or qualifications are an extreme barrier, trapping families within situations of abuse
- ▶ In our island wide survey in 2018, bullying was highlighted by children aged 11-17:
 - ▶ 25% of young people had been hit by other children at least once in the last month
 - ▶ 49% of young people had been left out by other children in their school at least once in the last month
 - ▶ 52% of young people had been called nasty names or made fun of at least once in the last month
- ▶ This means 125 young people said that they had regularly been the victims of physical violence in school in the last 4 weeks.

Figure 13: Experiences of being bullied in school (ages 7-11):



Impact of Covid-19

- ▶ There has been an increase in reports of domestic abuse, with 15% more cases compared to last year
- ▶ There was an increase in 36% of cases reported in April 2020 compared to April 2019
- ▶ School closures could lead to fewer referrals due to lack of time spent with children and families
- ▶ In a survey exploring the impact of covid-19, one young person expressed they were “worried about people in abusive households with no escape”
- ▶ Others spoke of concern over relationships at home, including parental ‘anger’ or ‘temper’

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?