

A summary of the views of children and young people on their vision for Ireland
Achoimre ar thuairimí leanaí agus daoine óga ar a bhfís d'Éirinn

The Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG) conducted consultations with children aged 8–12 and young people aged 13–18 on the theme 'Imagining Our Future', as part of the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme. 215 children and young people from around Ireland took part in the consultations during 2015. In selecting children and young people for the consultations, DCYA worked with the Irish Primary Principals Network, Comhairle na nÓg, and organisations that represent seldom-heard children and young people.

Chuaigh an Roinn Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige (RLGÓ) agus an Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta (REOG) i gcomhairle le leanaí idir 8 mbliana agus 12 bhliain d'aois agus daoine óga idir 13 bliana agus 18 mbliana d'aois faoin téama 'Ár dTodhchaí a Shamhlú' mar chuid d'Éire 2016: Clár Comórtha Céad Bliain. Ghlac 215 páiste agus duine óg as gach cearn d'Éirinn páirt sa chomhairliúchán le linn 2015. Agus iad ag roghnú leanaí agus daoine óga le haghaidh na gcomhairliúcháin, d'oibrigh RLGÓ le Líonra Príomhoidí Bunscoile na hÉireann, Comhairle na nÓg, agus eagraíochtaí a dhéanann ionadaíocht do leanaí agus daoine óga nach fhaigheann éisteacht i gcónaí.



At the consultations, the children and young people were asked to discuss the things they like about Ireland, the things they dislike, and the things they would like to change. They also gave their views on how to commemorate the children who died in the 1916 Rising. They were informed that their views would be compiled in a report presented to the President and representatives of Government at today's event.

Creative and age-appropriate consultation methods were used so that the children and young people could freely discuss their views. At the end of each consultation, they voted on their top likes, dislikes and changes.

Sna comhairliúcháin, iarradh ar na leanaí agus na daoine óga plé a dhéanamh ar na rudaí is maith leo faoi Éirinn, na rudaí nach maith leo, agus na rudaí ar mhaith leo a athrú. Thug siad a dtuairimí freisin faoin mbealach leis na leanaí a fuair bás le linn Éirí Amach 1916 a thabhairt chun cuimhne. Cuireadh in iúl dóibh go gcuirfí a dtuairimí san áireamh i dtuarascáil a thabharfar don Uachtarán agus d'ionadaithe Rialtais ag ócáid an lae inniu.

Baineadh úsáid as modhanna comhairliúcháin a bhí cruthaithe agus oiriúnach d'aois na rannpháirtithe ionas go mbeadh na leanaí agus na daoine óga in ann a gcuid dearcthaí a phlé go hoscailte. Ag deireadh gach comhairliúcháin, vótáil siad do na rudaí is mó a thaitin leo, nár thaitin leo, agus a ba mhaith leo a athrú.



Top issues from the consultations

In discussing what they like about Ireland, both the children and the young people spoke of their pride and love for Ireland – its beauty, language, history, culture, sports, dancing and the warmth of its people. Both age groups like the inclusivity and the sense of community that they experience living in Ireland. The younger children also like that Ireland is a free and equal country with a green environment.

On the things they dislike about Ireland, younger children spoke about drugs, alcohol abuse, smoking, racism, suicide, bullying and toxic waste. The stereotypical image of Ireland abroad was also a top dislike.

Teenagers most frequently disliked aspects of the education system, including the Leaving Certificate points system and exam pressure. They also strongly disliked the negative stereotyping of teenagers, discrimination, inequality, homophobia and bullying. They spoke about the poor supports for mental health and called for an end to the level of suicide.

Na príomhcheisteanna a tháinig chun cinn

Le linn dóibh na rudaí is maith leo faoi Éirinn a phlé, luaigh na leanaí agus na daoine óga araon an bród agus grá atá acu d'Éirinn – a háilleacht, teanga, stair, cultúr, spóirt, damhsa agus suáilceas na ndaoine. Is maith leis an dá ghrúpa an uileghabhálacht agus meon pobail atá tugtha faoi deara acu in Éirinn. Is maith leis na páistí óga freisin gur tír shaor chomhionann í Éire, le timpeallacht ghlas.

I measc na rudaí nach dtaitníonn leo i dtaca le hÉirinn, labhair na leanaí níos óige faoi dhrugaí, mí-úsáid alcóil, toitíní, ciníochas, féinmharú, bulaíocht agus dramhaíl nimhiúil. Bhí íomhá steiréitipiciúil na hÉireann thar lear ar na rudaí ba mhó nár thaitin leo freisin.

Ar na nithe ba mhó a raibh déagóirí mí-shásta leo, bhí gnéithe den chóras oideachais, lena n-áirítear córas pointí na hArdteistiméireachta agus brú na scrúduithe. Chomh maith leis sin, bhí siad go mór in aghaidh steiréitíopáil dhiúltach de dhéagóirí, leithcheal, neamh-chomhionannas, homafóibe agus bulaíocht. Labhair siad faoin easpa tacaíochtaí do mheabharshláinte agus d'iarr siad go gcuirfí deireadh leis an leibhéal féinmharaithe.

The top things that both children and young people want the government to change include homelessness and poverty. Younger children also voted for the need to do something about racism, bullying, obesity and smoking. Teenagers are very unhappy with the Leaving Certificate points system, which was described as putting pressure on young people and forcing them to make career choices at a very young age. They also spoke of the need for the government to address the lack of facilities for physical and mental health.

Below are quotes on the top likes and top changes voted by children and young people who took part in the consultations.

Ar na rudaí is mó atá leanaí agus daoine óga ag iarraidh ar an rialtas a athrú tá easpa dídine agus an bhochtaineacht. Vótáil na leanaí níos óige freisin go ndéanfaí rud éigin faoi chiníochas, bulaíocht, otracht agus caitheamh tobac. Tá déagóirí an-mhíshásta le córas pointí na hArdteistiméireachta. Dúirt siad go gcuireann sé brú ar dhaoine óga agus go dtugann sé orthu cinntí a dhéanamh faoina ngairm ag aois an-óg. Luaigh siad freisin gur gá don rialtas aghaidh a thabhairt ar an easpa áiseanna don tsláinte fhisiciúil agus mheabhrach.

Seo thíos roinnt tuairimí faoi na rudaí is mó is maith leis na leanaí agus na daoine óga a ghlac páirt sa chomhairliúchán, agus na rudaí is mó a ba mhaith leo a athrú.



'We like that all children in Ireland can go to school.'

'Is maith linn gur féidir le gach leanbh in Éirinn freastal ar an scoil.'

'We love that our culture is very strong.'

'Tá lúcháir orainn go bhfuil cultúr láidir againn.'

WHAT WE LIKE ABOUT IRELAND - QUOTES FROM 8-12 YEAR-OLDS

NA NITHE IS MAITH LINN FAOI ÉIRINN
- TUAIRIMÍ Ó PHÁISTÍ IDIR 8-12 BHLIAIN D'AOIS



'In 100 years we have come from so little to a 1st world country that has achieved amazing things.'

'Le 100 bliain anuas d'athraigh muid ó thír a bhí ar an mbeagán go tír de chuid an chéad domhain, a bhfuil go leor leor bainte amach aici.'

'Ireland is safe from war.'

'In Éirinn táimid slán ó chogadh.'

'The air is fresh and safe to breathe. We have a green environment.'

'Tá an t-aer glan agus sácháilte. Tá timpeallacht ghlas againn.'

'We are the first country to vote for gay marriage.'

'Is muid an chéad tír a vótáil ar son phósadh comhghnéis.'

'Everyone is friendly.'

'Tá daoine cairdiúil.'

'Old, empty houses should be fixed up — could be used to help homeless people.'

'Ba chóir seantithe atá folamh a dheisiú — d'fhéadfaí iad a úsáid chun cabhrú le daoine gan dí-dean.'

'I'd like to change obesity in Ireland — there should be less computers and internet and more getting active.'

'Ba mhaith liom dá bhfeabhsófaí otracht in Éirinn — ba chóir go mbeadh ní os lú riomhairí agus idirlín ann agus ní os mó aclaíochta.'

WHAT WE WANT TO CHANGE ABOUT IRELAND - QUOTES FROM 8-12 YEAR-OLDS

RUDAÍ AR MIAN LINN A ATHRÚ IN ÉIRINN
- TUAIRIMÍ Ó PHÁISTÍ IDIR 8-12 BHLIAIN D'AOIS



'I'd like to change smoking — there should be certain outside places where people can smoke because it can KILL! Not everybody likes smelling your smoke!'

'Ba mhaith liom dá bhfeabhsófaí caitheamh tobac — ba chóir go mbeadh áiteanna áirithe amuigh faoin spéir inar féidir le daoine tobac a chaitheamh mar is féidir leis daoine a MHRÚ! Ní maith le gach duine boladh do thoitíní!'

'Stop poverty and homelessness by creating more jobs for people with no college education.'

'Cuir deireadh le bochtaineacht agus easpa di dine trí tuilleadh poist a chruthú do dhaoine gan oideachas trí ú leibhéal.'



'We like Comhairle na nÓg and organisations involving young people in events that affect them, where our voices are appreciated and listened to.'

'Is maith linn Comhairle na nÓg agus eagraíochtaí a thugann deis do dhaoine óga bheith páirteach in imeachtaí a bhaineann leo, áit a n-éistear lenár dtuairimí.'

WHAT WE LIKE ABOUT IRELAND - QUOTES FROM 13-18 YEAR-OLDS NA NITHE IS MAITH LINN FAOI ÉIRINN - TUAIRIMÍ Ó DHÉAGÓIRÍ IDIR 13-18 MBLIANA D'AOIS

'We are proud that we have our own unique language and culture - accents; Gaeltacht; Irish dancing; Irish music/bands/sports and GAA; agriculture; humour; foclóir; people; arts; literature; games.'

'Is cúis bróid dúinn é go bhfuil ár dteanga agus cultúr uathúil féin againn - tuineanna cainte; an Ghaeltacht; damhsa Gaelach; ceol/bannaí ceoil/spóirt Ghaelacha agus CLG; talmhaíocht; greann; na daoine; na healaíona; litríocht; cluichí.'



'We like our democracy and that young people have a voice in Ireland.'

'Is maith linn go bhfuil daonlathas againn agus go bhfuil guth ag daoine óga in Éirinn.'

'There is too much focus on the academic, and the points system puts too much pressure on young people, and CAO choices are made very young.'

'Tá barraíocht fócais ar chúrsaí acadúla, agus cuireann córas na bpointí barraíocht brú ar dhaoine óga, agus déantar cinntí faoin CAO ag aois an-óg.'

WHAT WE WANT TO CHANGE ABOUT IRELAND - QUOTES FROM 13-18 YEAR-OLDS

RUDAÍ IS MIAN LINN A ATHRÚ IN ÉIRINN - TUAIRIMÍ Ó DHÉAGÓIRÍ IDIR 13-18 MBLIANA D'AOIS

'Poverty and homelessness need to be addressed.'

'Ní mór aghaidh a thabhairt ar an mbochtaineacht agus easpa dídine.'

'More DARE opportunities (Disability Access Route to Education) are needed.'

'Tá gá le tuilleadh deiseanna DARE (Bealach Rochtana ar Oideachas do Dhaoine faoi Mhíchumas).'

'Mental illness needs to be treated like a physical illness. There should be free facilities, free treatments and free counselling.'

'Ní mór caitheamh le meabhairghalar ar nós tinnis fhisiciúil. Ba cheart go mbeadh áiseanna, cóireáil agus comhairleoireacht shaor in aisce ar fáil.'

The full report can be read at
Tá an tuarascáil iomlán ar fáil ag

www.dcyi.ie/documents/Publications/3687-DCYA_Ireland2016_consultation_report_LR.pdf

