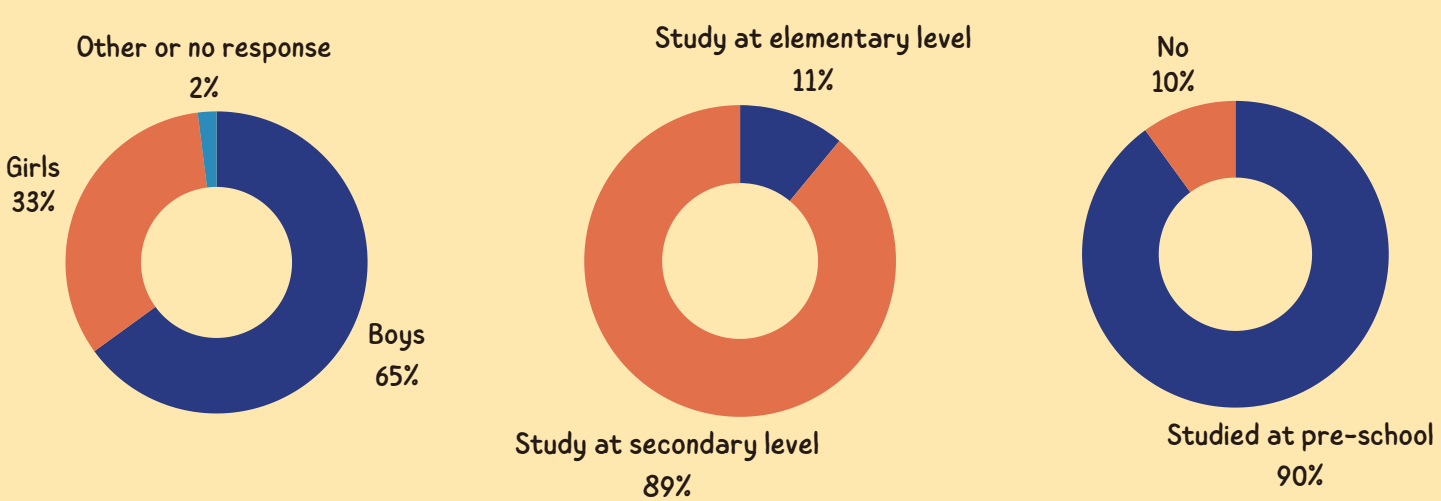# What children in Northern-Ireland said about access to free public pre-primary and secondary education?
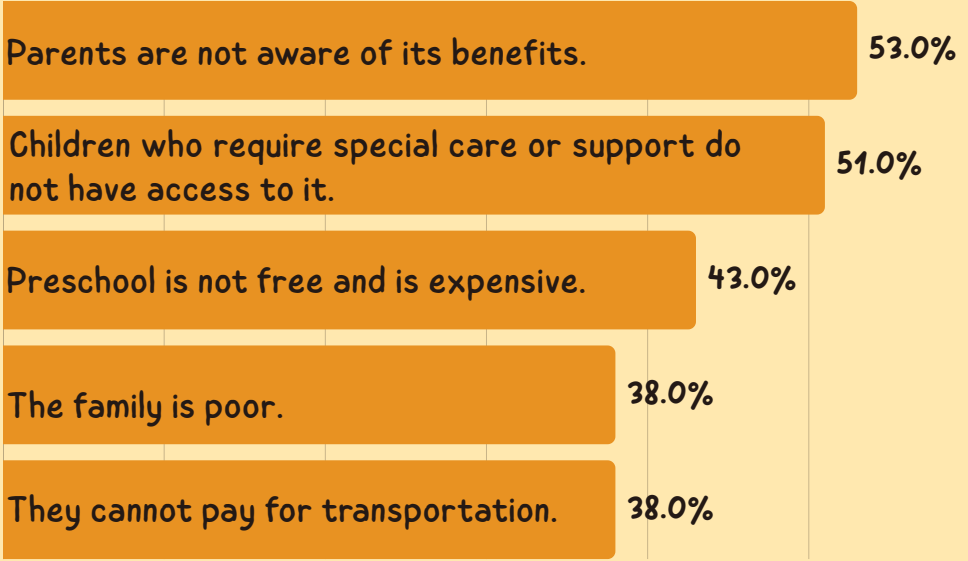
What we know about the children who filled out the survey?

139 children replied to the survey. Most of them were 13, 14 and 15 years old.
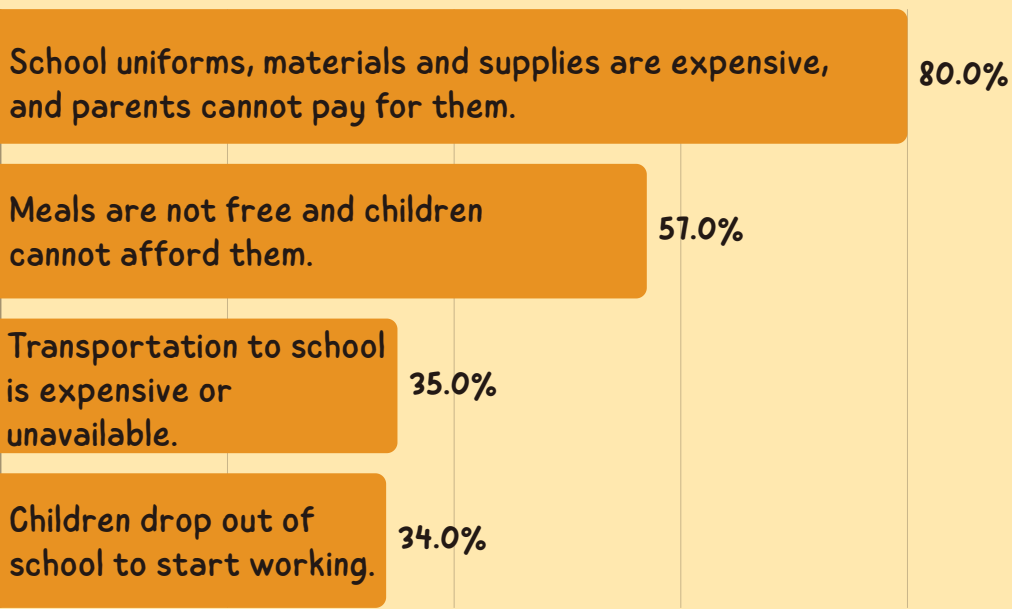
Chart 1:
- Other or no response 2%
- Girls 33%
- Boys 65%

Chart 2:
- Study at elementary level 11%
- Study at secondary level 89%

Chart 3:
- No 10%
- Studied at pre-school 90%

What did they say in their replies?

What makes it difficult for children to attend pre-primary school?

Parents are not aware of its benefits.	53.0%
Children who require special care or support do not have access to it.	51.0%
Preschool is not free and is expensive.	43.0%
The family is poor.	38.0%
They cannot pay for transportation.	38.0%

What makes it difficult for children to attend secondary school?

School uniforms, materials and supplies are expensive, and parents cannot pay for them.	80.0%
Meals are not free and children cannot afford them.	57.0%
Transportation to school is expensive or unavailable.	35.0%
Children drop out of school to start working.	34.0%

If children can go to free public preschool,

they develop their social and communication skills. **81%**

their parents or older siblings don't have to stay at home with them. **70%**

they learn through play. **59%**

their brain develop better. **56%**

If children can go to free public secondary school,

they have more chance to find a decent job and earn their living. **86%**

they will be more prepared for adult life, and they will be able to create a better life for themselves and for their own children. **74%**

they have the chance to continue their studies at university. **73%**

they will not be sent to work to support their family. **40%**

In Northern-Ireland, schooling is compulsory for children between the age of 4 and 16, while 2 years at pre-school and 13 years at primary and secondary education is free.

What children in Northern-Ireland said about access to free public pre-primary and secondary education?

CONTINUE ▶

Do some children have a harder time or greater challenges attending public pre-primary and secondary school than other children?

No 46%

Yes 54%

Who are these children?

- Children with disabilities
- Children with health conditions including mental health issues
- Children who might face harassment because of situation of their parents
- Children from the LGBTIQ community
- Pregnant girls or young mothers
- Migrant children
- Children from religious minorities

What should governments do to make sure that all children can attend public pre-primary and public secondary education for free?

✓ To provide high quality free education in all regions and areas by building public schools and making online education available (76%)

✓ To provide free school meals, textbooks, uniforms (69%)

✓ To encourage parents to send their children to school, particularly families from vulnerable communities (47%)

✓ To adapt the school environment to be inclusive and offer integrated or alternative learning methods for those who need it (40%)

✓ To provide mental health services for children at schools (38%)

GOVERNMENT OFFICE

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