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INSIGHT UK



# Young People

There are 8.7 million young people in Britain between the ages of 13 and 24. This means 15 in every 100 people are in this age group.

Who cares for children aged 13 and older?

- Married couples **71%**
- Single parent families **24%**
- Cohabiting couples **5%**

Three in four British boys aged between 16 and 24 live in the parental home. This is true of only three in five young women in this age range.

## RIGHTS and RESPONSIBILITIES

Age	Rights and responsibilities
10	a child can be convicted of a criminal offence if they know they were doing wrong
14	a person is fully responsible for any crime they commit and the police can take fingerprints
16	a person can buy cigarettes • the age of consent for legal sex (including homosexual consent in England, Scotland and Wales; age of consent for homosexual sex in Northern Ireland is 17)
17	a person can drive a car and pilot an aeroplane
18	a person can leave home or marry without parental consent • a person can vote • a person can be tattooed
21	a person can adopt a child

*‘Our parents give us enough freedom. They don’t ask where we’re going when we go out – as long as it’s in the area. But we have to be back by nine.’*

*April (age 14)*

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## EDUCATION

During school terms one in five cars on urban roads at 8.50 a.m. is taking children to school.

Over half of the lessons taught to people under 16 include 30 or less pupils.

'I'm really looking forward to taking a full year off between school and university. I plan to go to Morocco, through the St David's (Africa) Trust. I'll get a chance to learn French and Arabic, do charitable work in orphanages and learn about Moroccan crafts.'

*Tim (age 17)*

Those going into higher education:  
 1985 – one in eight  
 1999 – one in three

**£1,050 maximum in 2000/01 – the contribution expected from full-time students towards their higher education tuition charges.**

'I'm doing a three-year honours degree in Chemistry and Management. It's an unusual combination. There's a great deal to do as well as course work. Tomorrow, I'm taking part in a fancy dress mini-marathon. I think I'll dye my hair green for the day.'

*Tanbir Jasimuddin (age 19)*

## GETTING and SPENDING

Sources of Income:

Age	Average weekly pocket money
11	£3.13
12	£4.42
13	£4.58
14	£6.49
15	£7.44

### The Shopping List

(The Top Five items paid for out of pocket money by 5-16 year olds)

- Ice Cream, Sweets & chocolate
- Mobile Telephone cards
- Magazines and comics
- Music
- Computer games

At 13 young people are allowed by law to work part-time.

The National Minimum Wage for someone between 18 and 21 is £3.20 an hour.

First stop for those leaving school at 16 is probably a Job Centre – a source of advice and a launch pad to training opportunities.

***Unemployment rates among 16- to 25-year-olds are running at almost double the overall rate.***

'I've always liked to tinker with cars, even as a young girl. I got into vocational training and now work with a car testing and servicing firm. People are often surprised to see a girl waving a spanner, but they soon accept it when they see a good job done.'

*Kim (age 19)*

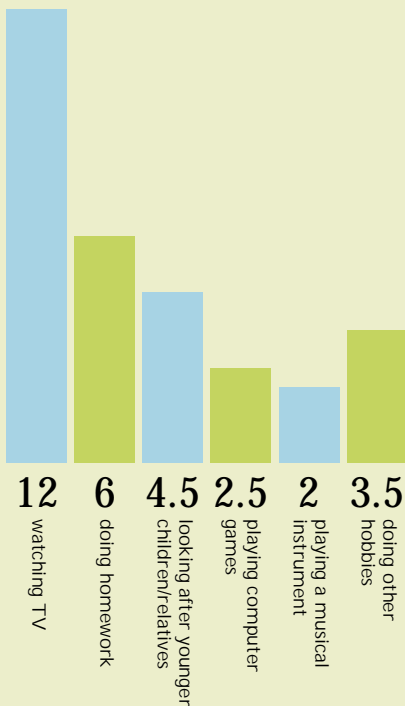


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## ENTERTAINMENTS

One in three British teenagers has a television in their bedroom.

Time spent by young people aged 13 to 16 doing selected activities out of school lessons, 1999 (in hours per week)



Activities away from home in last three months (16- to 24-year-olds)

Pub 82%; meal in fast food restaurant 77%; disco 68%; cinema 65%; library 41%; fun fair 27%; museum 21%; theatre 14%.

## LANGUAGE

Teen-speak	Meaning
Bad	Good
Boyf	Boy friend
To chill	Relax
To ground	A punishment – person not allowed to go out with friends
Rank	Unpleasant or nasty
Wicked	Very good

## PROBLEMS

The number of children looked after by local authorities – 61,000 (1999) – up 11% on 1994.

One in ten calls to Childline – a 24-hour confidential counselling service – concerned problems with bullying.

*65 in every 1,000 women between 15 and 19 in England and Wales fall pregnant each year.*

**‘I want to be a youth worker. Definitely. I’ve had my share of troubles and ran away from home twice. I won’t do it again. I want to help kids like me so they don’t have to go through what I’ve been through. My youth worker has been terrific.’**

*Gemma (age 14)*



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## FITNESS and HEALTH

Over half of boys aged between 16 and 18 have taken intense exercise in five of the last seven days. Three in ten girls of the same age have taken an equal amount of exercise.

People between 16 and 24 have at any time on average one decayed tooth.

Four in ten young men and six in ten young women eat fruit, vegetables or salad daily.

**5% of boys and 9% of girls aged 13 are regular cigarette smokers.**

16% of boys and 14% of girls aged 13 have drunk alcohol in the last week.

*A third of men and one in five women aged between 16 and 24 have taken an illegal drug in the last year.*

## ATTITUDES and OPINIONS

**93% of young people aged 15–24 think they are good citizens.**

Who do young people in the UK respect?

The Winners	The Losers
Parents <b>84%</b>	Clergy <b>23%</b>
Police <b>56%</b>	The Royal Family <b>15%</b>
Teachers <b>55%</b>	Members of Parliament <b>8%</b>

Being a good citizen according to 15- to 24-year-olds:

Respecting others	<b>51%</b>
Looking after the environment	<b>41%</b>
Obeying the law	<b>40%</b>
Being a good parent	<b>26%</b>
Being a good neighbour	<b>22%</b>

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# BRITAIN

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