

# Coronavirus and Me:

Experiences of children from  
Black, Asian and minority  
ethnic groups in Wales.

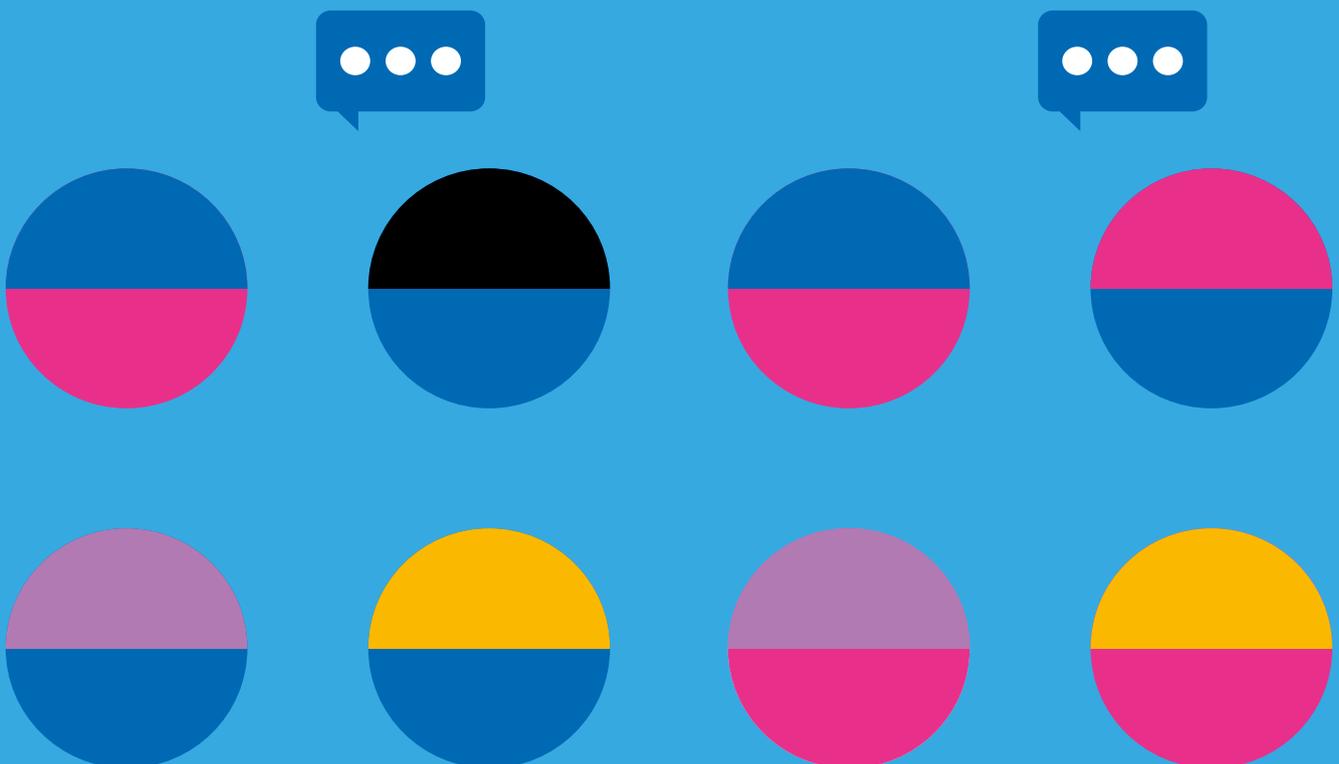


## Introduction

This report includes the experiences of nearly 1500 children from Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups in Wales, which were captured during the height of lockdown in May 2020. Experiences were shared as part of a Wales-wide survey led by the Commissioner which saw nearly 24000 three to eighteen year olds take part. The report shows statistically significant results indicating disproportionately negative experiences for BAME children and young people when compared to White Welsh or British children and young people in Wales.



On 13th May 2020, the 'Coronavirus and Me' survey was launched to find out about the experiences of children and young people in Wales. This survey captured information about the lives of over 23,700 children between the ages of 3-18, and ran for a two-week period during which restrictions to keep communities in Wales safe had been in place for two months.



The Coronavirus and Me survey was a partnership between four organisations:

- **Welsh Government**
- **Children's Commissioner for Wales**
- **Welsh Youth Parliament**
- **Children in Wales**

The Children's Commissioner's office led on all project management with financial independence from Welsh Government and other partners. The Children's Commissioner is the data owner for this project and is responsible for the production of this report.

In early June 2020 we published a report with headline findings from this survey<sup>1</sup>. In that report we committed to further analysis of the findings. One strand of analysis we have undertaken is to explore the impact of the restrictions on everyday life in Wales for children, according to self-declared ethnic group. We are also producing reports on the findings from the survey results from young people aged 15-18, and children and young people who identified as having disabilities.

This report relays the experiences reported to us by 1,496 children and young people aged 7-18 who represent 6.6% of the total survey respondents. While the estimated adult BAME population of Wales is around 5.9%<sup>2</sup>, the most recent school census data<sup>3</sup> indicates that 8.4% of the school

population identified as an ethnic group other than white, so our response rate appears to be below the level of the general school-age population. We address this in our action points at the end of this document.

The original survey was designed as a broad, whole-population survey, and this report comes from a subset of the overall data. The survey questions focused on broad experiences for this reason, and we did not ask directly about the experiences of BAME children and young people in the context of their socioeconomic status, for example; nor did we collect any socioeconomic data in this survey. It is important to read this report in that context.

The analysis for this report has been carried out in-house by the Commissioner's staff.

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1. Children's Commissioner for Wales (2020) Coronavirus and Me. Available at: [https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/FINAL\\_formattedCVRep\\_EN.pdf](https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/FINAL_formattedCVRep_EN.pdf)

2. Welsh Government (2020) Statistical Advice: Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) population in Wales. Available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2020-06/coronavirus-covid-19-and-the-black-asian-and-minority-ethnic-population-154.pdf>

3. Welsh Government (2020) Schools' census results: as at January 2020. Available at: <https://gov.wales/schools-census-results-january-2020>

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## Acknowledgments

We would like to thank Race Council Cymru, the Ethnic Youth Support Team, and Show Racism the Red Card Wales for reviewing and offering their advice on this paper before publication.

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## A note on terminology and statistics:

Respondents to our survey were asked to identify their ethnic group from a list provided. We aimed to keep questions accessible for children and young people as young as 7 by only having a short list, in order to reduce the amount of reading. We trialled this question with children and young people, aiming to balance accessibility with the ability to analyse data according to different protected characteristics. However, we will review the categories we use for future engagement exercises. Specifically, several children and young people who answered as 'Any Other Ethnic Group' self-described as 'mixed heritage' / 'mixed race', as well as several other self-definitions which weren't captured by the options provided. We will consider including this as a discreet category in the future.

Throughout this report, we refer to the term Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic or BAME groups. In the context of this report, BAME is used to refer to those children and young people who identified themselves as Asian Welsh or British, Asian from Another Country, Black Welsh or British, Black from Another Country, or 'Any Other Ethnic Group'. We have not included those children and young people who responded as either 'not sure' or 'prefer not to say' as it was not possible to determine how many of these respondents are from BAME groups. Those who chose 'Any Other Ethnic Group' were given the opportunity to describe their ethnicity themselves.

Chi square tests were conducted on each variable included in this report. Wherever a statistic is labelled 'significant' it has been found to be statistically significant (using p-value <.05). Statistical significance means the difference we are reporting would not have happened by 'chance' or 'coincidence'. Where we have included non-statistically significant findings, this is because we believe there may be value in pursuing these differences in further research.

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Introduction from

# Professor Sally Holland

Children's Commissioner for Wales  
September 2020

In the last few months we have been alerted as a society to barriers faced by Black, Asian and other minority ethnic groups through both the Black Lives Matter movement and the additional negative impact of COVID-19 on BAME people. It's clear that racism, discrimination and disadvantage all play a part in these experiences. This report brings further evidence and should compel us all to take action.

In publishing this report we do not wish to ignore the diversity of BAME children's lives. Like their white peers, BAME children and young people have had a varied experience during lockdown. Our Welsh BAME communities are diverse, and family circumstances will range from high income and high levels of parental education to families who are asylum seekers living on, as one young person in this survey stated, five pounds a day. However, an analysis of the data we have from different ethnic groups in response to our survey highlights that the pandemic has disproportionately negatively affected BAME children overall in a number of ways. This report also highlights differences between different minority ethnic groups.

It is likely that the more negative experiences reported in this report relate to a number of underlying inequalities - disadvantages that are proportionally more common in BAME communities: lower incomes, crowded households, English as a second language, lack of access to green spaces and of course, experiences of discrimination and racism. It should be noted, nonetheless, that many BAME children reported positive experiences of nurture, fun and support from others.

Children and young people shared personal and honest responses to our survey questions, which are featured throughout this report, for example:

**“Online learning requires technology that my family simply can't afford which school normally provides me with. furthermore, the lack of knowledge about how our grades will be awarded, they know kids work harder during Easter break rather than mocks and grades go up by one or even two grades”**

— Child identifying as Asian Welsh or British, 12-18 survey

Some of the findings from this analysis really stand out to me<sup>4</sup> and indicate disproportionately negative experiences for BAME children and young people, when compared to White Welsh or British children and young people who responded to our survey.

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4. These results are all statistically significant (p-value <.05)

### **7-11 year old BAME children were, in comparison to white Welsh or British children:**

- Less likely to say 'I don't need any extra help', and more likely to say they needed more information and support on a range of factors, including on more things to do at home, feeling happy and well, support with school work online, speaking to friends and family online, and feeling safe at home.
- Less likely to say they were playing more, and more likely to say they were actually playing less.
- Less likely to say they were exercising outdoors  
More likely to say the closure of libraries, community centres and not being able to go outside affected their learning.  
More likely to say they were worried about food security for their family.
- More likely to say they wanted more information on Coronavirus, and more likely to say they want more information on the rules on keeping safe.
- Less likely to say they knew how to get support to feel happy and well.
- Less likely to say they felt happy 'most of the time', or safe 'most of the time'.
- More likely to say they wanted more support with their Welsh if they attended English medium schools.

### **12-18 year old BAME children and young people were in comparison to white Welsh or British children:**

- More likely to say that changes to physical activity, exercise, and their ability to leave the house had affected them most; and more likely to say they want help to eat healthy food and stay active, and to think schools should include this in their learning offer.
- Less likely to say they were exercising outdoors.
- More likely to say they were worried about falling behind with their learning, and about how their exam results could be affected.
- More likely to say the closure of libraries has affected their learning.
- More likely to say they were worried about food security for their family.
- More likely to say they want more information on the rules on keeping safe.
- Less likely to say they felt safe 'most of the time'.
- More likely to say they were not getting opportunities to use Welsh (of those attending Welsh medium schools).

**However, there were some responses from BAME children that could be seen as representing more positive experiences<sup>5</sup>.**

### **7-11 year old BAME children were, in comparison to white Welsh or British children:**

- More likely to say they have been cooking as part of keeping a healthy body and mind.
- More likely to say they feel confident or very confident about their education if they identified as Black Welsh or British than White Welsh or British respondents.

### **12-18 year old BAME children and young people were in comparison to white Welsh or British children:**

- More likely to say they have learned new skills during the time of this survey.
- More likely to say they were doing reading and writing during the time of this survey.
- More likely to say they exercise indoors.
- More likely to say they knew how to get help and support from their doctor or mental health team in their area if they identified as Asian from Another Country than White Welsh or British respondents.

**There were a few questions where BAME children had experiences or views that closely matched those of white children. In the following areas children of all ethnic backgrounds had similar results:**

- Similarly likely to say they felt confident or very confident about their school work.
- Similarly likely to say they were 'not worried' about Coronavirus.
- Similarly likely to say they were relaxing more, less or about the same.

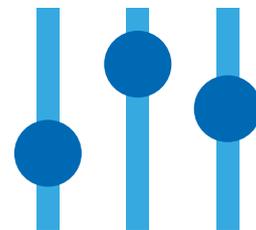
My hope for this report is that it will highlight some of these concerning inequalities, and provide some insight into how different ethnic groups are affected by different issues. This report's conclusion will outline some of my priorities going forward, and some suggested next steps.

This report, and the next steps and priorities for me and the team, have been peer reviewed by representatives of several organisations who work with BAME children and young people in Wales.

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5. These results are all statistically significant (p-value <.05)

# Who responded to the Coronavirus and Me survey?



## Those who answered the age 7-11 survey:

| Ethnic Group (as defined in the question) | % of respondents | Number of respondents | % of 'BAME' groups |
|---|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| White Welsh or British                    | 87%              | 10,350                | -                  |
| White from Another Country                | 2%               | 273                   | -                  |
| Asian Welsh or British                    | 3%               | 311                   | 39%                |
| Asian from Another Country                | 1%               | 115                   | 14%                |
| Black Welsh or British                    | 1%               | 133                   | 17%                |
| Black from Another Country                | 1%               | 61                    | 8%                 |
| Any Other Ethnic Group                    | 2%               | 179                   | 22%                |
| Not Sure                                  | 2%               | 210                   | -                  |
| Prefer Not to Say                         | 2%               | 215                   | -                  |
| <b>Total Respondents</b>                  |                  | <b>11,747</b>         |                    |

## Those who answered the age 12-18 survey:

| Ethnic Group (as defined in the question) | % of respondents | Number of respondents | % of 'BAME' groups |
|---|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| White Welsh or British                    | 89%              | 9,699                 | -                  |
| White from Another Country                | 2%               | 273                   | -                  |
| Asian Welsh or British                    | 3%               | 337                   | 47%                |
| Asian from Another Country                | 1%               | 72                    | 10%                |
| Black Welsh or British                    | 1%               | 113                   | 16%                |
| Black from Another Country                | <1%              | 31                    | 4%                 |
| Any Other Ethnic Group                    | 1%               | 164                   | 23%                |
| Not Sure                                  | 1%               | 130                   | -                  |
| Prefer Not to Say                         | 1%               | 122                   | -                  |
| <b>Total Respondents</b>                  |                  | <b>10,941</b>         |                    |

## Those who answered the Accessible survey:

| Ethnic Group (as defined in the question) | % of respondents | Number of respondents | % of 'BAME' groups |
|---|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| White Welsh or British                    | <b>86%</b>       | <b>574</b>            | -                  |
| White from Another Country                | <b>2%</b>        | <b>12</b>             | -                  |
| Asian Welsh or British                    | <b>1%</b>        | <b>16</b>             | <b>31%</b>         |
| Asian from Another Country                | <b>1%</b>        | <b>6</b>              | <b>12%</b>         |
| Black Welsh or British                    | <b>1%</b>        | <b>4</b>              | <b>8%</b>          |
| Black from Another Country                | <b>1%</b>        | <b>8</b>              | <b>15%</b>         |
| Any Other Ethnic Group                    | <b>3%</b>        | <b>18</b>             | <b>35%</b>         |
| Not Sure                                  | <b>3%</b>        | <b>18</b>             | -                  |
| Prefer Not to Say                         | <b>4%</b>        | <b>28</b>             | -                  |
| <b>Total Respondents</b>                  |                  | <b>666</b>            |                    |

NB: The Accessible survey referred to above is a version of the survey using symbols, designed for children with additional needs or those who preferred to answer an 'easier to read' version of the survey. Due to the low numbers of respondents from ethnic groups other than White Welsh or British responding to the Accessible survey, this report only includes analysis from those responding to the 7-11 and 12-18 surveys. However, all comments submitted by respondents to the Accessible survey have been read and analysed separately.

# Where do the children and young people that responded come from?

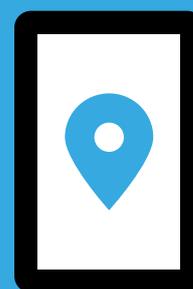


**Children and young people responding to our survey from BAME groups were proportionately more likely to live in the big city areas of Cardiff, Swansea and Newport than White British or Welsh children and young people.**

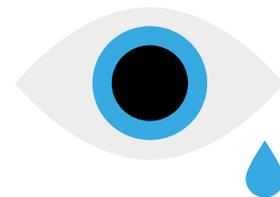
- Among 7-11 year olds, BAME respondents were significantly more likely than White Welsh or British respondents to live in Cardiff (49%, n= 361, compared to 14%, n=1361) or Newport (12%, n=92, compared to 5%, n=525). 63% (n=67) of those identifying as Asian from Another Country and 54% (n=30) of those identifying as Black from Another Country said they live in Cardiff.
- Among 12-18 year olds, BAME respondents were significantly more likely than White Welsh or British respondents to live in Cardiff (38%, n=252, compared to 14%, n=1282), Swansea (15%, n=96, compared to 11%, n=972) or Newport (10%, n=68, compared to 5%, n=465). 57% (n=59) of those identifying as Black Welsh or British and 50% (n=14) of those identifying as Black from Another Country said they live in Cardiff.
- BAME respondents who responded to the Accessible survey were significantly more likely to say they live in Cardiff (42%, n=22) compared to White Welsh or British respondents to the Accessible survey (14%, n=77).

All of the responses to our survey came from May/June 2020 and the analysis that follows reflects how children and young people felt at that time. It should be noted that the significant national lockdown measures and school closures were in place at the time the survey took place.

**Like all of the children and young people who completed our survey, BAME respondents had mixed views in terms of concerns around Coronavirus.**



# Feelings about Coronavirus – Are you worried about Coronavirus?



**While there was no significant difference across the age groups between BAME respondents overall and White Welsh or British respondents, some BAME groups were significantly more or significantly less worried about Coronavirus than White Welsh or British respondents.**

- Those identifying as Asian from Another Country were significantly less likely to say they were 'not worried' about Coronavirus compared to White Welsh or British respondents (26%, n=30), among the 7-11 age group. Although not statistically significant in comparison with White Welsh or British respondents, they were also less likely to say they were 'not worried' (31%, n=22) among 12-18 year olds. Overall, 37% (n=291) of 7-11 year old BAME respondents, and 37% (n=263) of 12-18 year olds said they were not worried. 38% (n=3857) of 7-11 year olds, and 35% (n=3381) of 12-18 year old White Welsh or British respondents said this.
- Black Welsh or British (48%, n=54) respondents were significantly more likely to say they were not worried compared to White Welsh or British respondents among 12-18 year olds.
- Although not statistically significant, Any Other Ethnic Group (44%, n=78) and Black Welsh or British (43%, n=56) respondents were more likely to say they were not worried among 7-11 year olds.

Like all of the children and young people who completed our survey, BAME respondents had mixed views in terms of concerns around Coronavirus. These were some positive experiences which were shared with us, as well some children and young people saying they felt 'used to' the situation:

**"I have my family to protect me and since I'm in lockdown I am washing my hands all the time and I know me and my family will be okay".**

— Child identifying as Black Welsh or British, 7-11 survey

**"My mam looks after me and I live on a site with my cousins"**

— Child identifying as Any Other Ethnic Group, 12-18 survey

**"It's a continuous situation, I'm used to it now, the strangeness only hits me sometimes. I know we'll find something to solve it"**

— Child identifying as Asian Welsh or British, 12-18 survey

However, other children and young people shared their fears about the virus, the possible infection of family members, missing friends, and concerns over being stuck at home:

**"because this disease that spreads across the world spreads more and more each day."**

— Child identifying as Black from Another Country, 7-11 survey

**“When I sit down to listen to the news with my mom it scary hearing how people are dying from the virus and knowing that schools in England are going reopen makes it more scary because I think we are going to be going to school too. I feel for my mom and teachers in case I catch it and pass it to my mom who have a poor health.”**

— Child identifying as Black from Another Country, 7-11 survey

**“I have really missed school and my friends, however I don’t want to return to school until it is safe, my grandparents usually take me to school every day and collect me and it isn’t safe for them to do this, as my father is Jamaican and at high risk and my grandmother is diabetic and my other grandparents are fit but over 70.”**

— Child identifying as Any Other Ethnic Group, 7-11 survey

**“I feel really depressed and feel like I am becoming crazy sometimes. I don’t get to hear people talk often and I am usually by myself (that’s why I am filling this survey). I miss my friends so much and I want to see them. I miss talking and listening to them. I hate hearing my dad’s loud voice and him talking to his friends and complaining about us all the time. we don’t do anything wrong. I want to leave the house as soon as I can but I can’t and there is nowhere to go.”**

— Child identifying as Asian Welsh or British, 12-18 survey

**Black Welsh or British (48%, n=54) respondents were significantly more likely to say they were not worried compared to White Welsh or British respondents among 12 - 18 year olds.**

# Feelings during Coronavirus



**7-11 year old BAME children were significantly less likely to say they felt happy 'most of the time'. 7-11 BAME children were also significantly less likely to say they felt safe 'most of the time', although the difference was relatively small (4%).**

**12-18 year old BAME children were significantly less likely to say they felt safe 'most of the time'.**

- Among 7-11 year olds, BAME respondents were significantly less likely than White Welsh or British respondents to say they were happy 'most of the time' (60%, n= 419, compared to 67%, n=6333) and significantly less likely to say they felt safe 'most of the time' (87%, n= 630 compared to 91%, n=8680), although the percentage point difference is relatively small on the question of safety among 7-11 year olds.
- Asian Welsh or British respondents aged 7-11 were the least likely group to say they felt happy most of the time (55%, n=151).
- Among 12-18 year olds, there was no significant difference in relation to feeling most of the time happy, worried or sad (1 percentage point or less difference). BAME respondents were significantly less likely to say they felt safe 'most of the time' (73%, n=489) compared to 79% (n=7350) of White Welsh or British respondents. Asian Welsh or British respondents were least likely to say they felt safe 'most of the time' (70%, n=225).

Children and young people shared some of the positives of the situation in terms of having more time with family and more time to relax:

**"Life is calmer and more relaxed - spending time playing and with family - my mum is working from home instead of being in work all the time"**

— Child identifying as Black Welsh or British, 7-11 survey

**"I've learned to be humble, thankful for what I have and I'm growing to love myself more each day."**

— Child identifying as Black Welsh or British, 12-18 survey

**"I spend more time with my family during Ramadan and I'm able to work at my own pace."**

— Child identifying as Asian Welsh or British, 12-18 survey.

Children and young people also shared their anxieties:

**“Anxiety through roof.”**

— Child identifying as Black Welsh or British, 7-11 survey

**“It hasn’t been easy for me as an only child living with my mom. I missed my friends from my place of worship and school and hope things will go back to normal soon.”**

— Child identifying as Black from Another Country, 7-11 survey

Others gave more mixed views:

**“I can have my own schedule for school and break more often. Before lockdown I did lots of sports activities but now I have more ‘me’ time but it does have an impact on my physical wellbeing. Also my older sister arranges a zoom family quiz night each week which is fun.”**

— Child identifying as Black Welsh or British, 12-18 survey

**“I’ve learned to be humble, thankful for what I have and I’m growing to love myself more each day.”**

— Child identifying as Black Welsh or British, 12 - 18 survey



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# Needing extra help



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**Among 7-11 year olds, children and young people from BAME groups were significantly more likely to report that they need extra help across a range of issues (detailed below). Among 12-18 year olds, BAME children and young people were significantly more likely to say they would like more information on rules to keep them safe.**

- Among 7-11 year olds, BAME respondents were significantly less likely to say 'I don't need any extra help' – 26% (n= 205) of BAME respondents said this compared to 38% (n=3850) of White Welsh or British respondents. After White Welsh or British respondents, Black Welsh or British (36%, n=48) respondents were most likely to say this, although the difference was not statistically significant. Asian Welsh or British children and young people were least likely to say they didn't need any extra help (19%, n=58), although again this difference was not statistically significant.
- There was no significant difference between BAME and White Welsh or British 12-18 year olds respondents on saying they don't need extra help.
- BAME groups were more likely to say they needed help on all options provided (as detailed below), compared to White Welsh or British respondents, across age ranges. Not all of these comparisons were statistically significant, however.
- BAME respondents were significantly more likely than White Welsh or British respondents to say they would like more information on Coronavirus among 7-11 year olds (25%, n= 195, compared to 16%, n=1629), and on rules to keep them safe across the age range (24%, n=190, compared to 15%, n=1542, among 7-11 year olds; 16%, n=117, compared to 12%, n=1106, among 12-18 year olds)
- Among suggestions for help set out in the survey, BAME respondents aged 7-11 were significantly more likely than White Welsh or British respondents to say they needed more information on things to do at home (31%, n= 247, compared to 26%, n=2646); support to speak to friends and family online (21%, n= 168, compared to 18%, n=1780); support to help you feel happy and well (22%, n= 175, compared to 17%, n=1779); support to go online to do school work (22%, n= 171, compared to 15%, n=1494); help to make sure you feel safe at home (19%, n= 147, compared to 12%, n=1200); and help to make sure your family has enough food (19%, n= 154, compared to 11%, n=1150).
- 7-11 year old respondents identifying as Asian from another country (23%, n= 27) and Black from Another Country (23%, n=14) were most likely to say they needed extra help to make sure they feel safe at home, compared with 12% (n=1200) of White Welsh or British.

# Food Security



**BAME respondents were significantly more likely to say they needed help making sure their family has enough food, across age groups. Some minority ethnic groups were more likely to report indications of food insecurity than other groups. Although some of the numbers in these specific ethnic groups are small, we have included these findings here, as food security is such a fundamental need and human right, and not something we would want any of our children and young people to be worried about.**

- BAME respondents were significantly more likely than White Welsh or British respondents to feel they need help making sure their family has enough food, across age groups. Among 7-11 year olds, 19% (n=154) of BAME respondents said this. Those identifying as Black from Another Country (26%, n=16) or Asian Welsh or British (22%, n=67) were the most likely respondents to say this. 12% (n=86) of BAME 12-18 year olds said this, compared to 8% (n=802) of White Welsh or British respondents. Respondents identifying as Black from Another Country were most likely (23%, n=7), although numbers are small here.
- Although not statistically significant, 12-18 year old BAME respondents (34%, n=61) respondents were more likely to say it would help them to receive healthy food boxes at home compared to 27% (n=557) of White Welsh or British respondents said the same. Black from Another Country respondents (56%, n=5) were the most likely to say they need healthy food boxes. Again, numbers are very small and should be regarded with caution.
- Among 12-18 year olds, BAME respondents (13%, n=91) were significantly more likely to say changes to how they and their family do their food shopping had had the most impact on them at this time, compared to White Welsh British respondents (7%, n=700). Those identifying as Asian from Another Country (24%, n=17) and Black from Another Country (20%, n=6) respondents were most likely to say this.

**Although some of the numbers in these specific ethnic groups are small, we have included these findings in here, as food security is such a fundamental need and human right, and not something we would want any of our children and young people to be worried about.**

# Keeping a healthy body and healthy mind



**12-18 year old respondents were significantly more likely to say they had been affected most by not being able to leave the house, and changes to physical activity and exercise. BAME respondents were significantly less likely to say they had been exercising outdoors, across the age groups. However, BAME respondents were significantly more likely to say they have been reading and writing (among 12-18 year olds), and cooking (among 7-11 year olds), during lockdown.**

**BAME respondents were significantly less likely to say they were staying in touch with friends and family, across the age ranges, as part of keeping a healthy body and healthy mind. However, it is important to say that the large majority of BAME respondents were still saying that they were keeping in touch with friends and family.**

- 12-18 year old BAME respondents (30%, n=215) were significantly more likely to say being able to leave the house less had the most impact on how they felt than White Welsh or British (22%, n=2162) respondents.
- 12-18 year old BAME respondents were significantly more likely to say changes to physical activity and exercise had affected them the most (27%, n=191) compared to White Welsh or British (19%, n=1833) respondents.
- White Welsh or British respondents were more likely to say they were doing activities to keep a healthy body and mind across almost every option given to them in the survey, among the 7-11 age group. These include outdoor exercise and activities, cooking healthy food, and playing in the home. The picture is more mixed in the 12-18 age group. However, there is a large gap between White Welsh or British and BAME respondents when it comes to outdoor exercise and speaking with friends (as detailed below).
- BAME respondents were significantly less likely to say they have been exercising outdoors across age groups. 54% (n=390) of BAME 12-18 year olds respondent said they exercised outdoors, compared to 73% (n=7028) of White Welsh British respondents. Of BAME 7-11 year olds, 69% (n=549) said they exercised outdoors, compared to 89% (n=9153) of White Welsh or British respondents. White Welsh or British respondents were twice as likely to say they have been doing outdoor exercise compared to respondents identifying as those identifying as Black from Another Country (89%, n=9153, compared to 44%, n=27) among 7-11 year olds, and this finding was statistically significant. However, 12-18 year old BAME respondents were significantly more likely to say they were exercising indoors (55%, n= 393, compared to 50%, n=4822). The difference between BAME and White Welsh British respondents among 7-11 year olds was not significant (59%, n=468, compared to 60%, n=6118).
- BAME respondents in the 12-18 age group were significantly more likely to say they were doing reading and writing (47%, n=333, compared to 40%, n=3824) and more, although not statistically significantly, likely to say that they do school work (67%, n=479, compared to 65%, n=6269) to keep a healthy body and healthy mind than White Welsh or British respondents. Those identifying as Asian from Another Country were most likely to say they do both of these activities (reading and writing 58%, n=41; doing schoolwork 75%, n=53), although this is not statistically significant.

- 7-11 year old BAME respondents were significantly less likely to say they were cooking healthy food (45%, n=357) than White Welsh or British respondents (55%, n=5603).
- However, among 7-11 year olds who chose the 'Other' option when asked what they have been doing to keep a healthy body and mind, BAME respondents were significantly more likely to say they have been cooking than White Welsh or British respondents (21%, n=10, compared to 8%, n=42).
- White Welsh or British respondents were significantly more likely than BAME respondents to say they speak with friends and family to help them keep a healthy body and mind, across the age ranges. For those saying that they speak with friends, this difference was 72% (n=7370) compared to 56%, n=449, among 7-11 year olds; and 70%, n=6763, compared to 61%, n=438, among 12-18 year olds. For those saying they speak with family, the difference was significant across the age ranges: 83%, n=8461, compared to 74%, n=592, among 7-11 year olds; and 67%, n=6437, compared to 63%, n=448, among 12-18 year olds.
- Across age ranges, White Welsh or British respondents were more likely than other groups to stay in touch with family or friends using every option we gave in the survey: video calling, phone calls, texts and social media. White Welsh British respondents were significantly more likely to use video calling than BAME respondents (89%, n=9077, compared to 78%, n=620, among 7-11 year olds; and 78%, n=7553, compared to 70%, n=501, among 12-18 year olds).
- BAME respondents were significantly less likely to say they have been learning new skills than White Welsh or British respondents, among the 7-11 age group (38%, n=300, compared to 42%, n=4291), but were significantly more likely to say this than White Welsh or British respondents in the 12-18 age group (32%, n=228, compared to 26%, n=2470). Indeed, every ethnic group was more likely than Welsh White or British respondents to say this. 12-18 year old respondents identifying as Asian from Another Country (41%, n=29) were most likely to say this, and the difference was statistically significant compared to White Welsh or British respondents.
- Among 7-11 year olds who were asked if there are good things about staying home because of Coronavirus, BAME respondents were significantly less likely to say spending time with family than White Welsh or British respondents (45%, n=290, compared to 53%, n=4243). However, among 12-18 year olds BAME respondents were slightly more likely to say this (34%, n=154) compared to 32% (n=1982), although this is not a statistically significant result.

**BAME respondents in the 12 - 18 age group were significantly more likely to say they were doing reading and writing (47%, n=333, compared to 40%, n= 3824) and more, although not statistically significant, likely to say that they do school work (67%, n=479, compared to 65%, n=6269) to keep a healthy body and healthy mind than White Welsh or British respondents.**

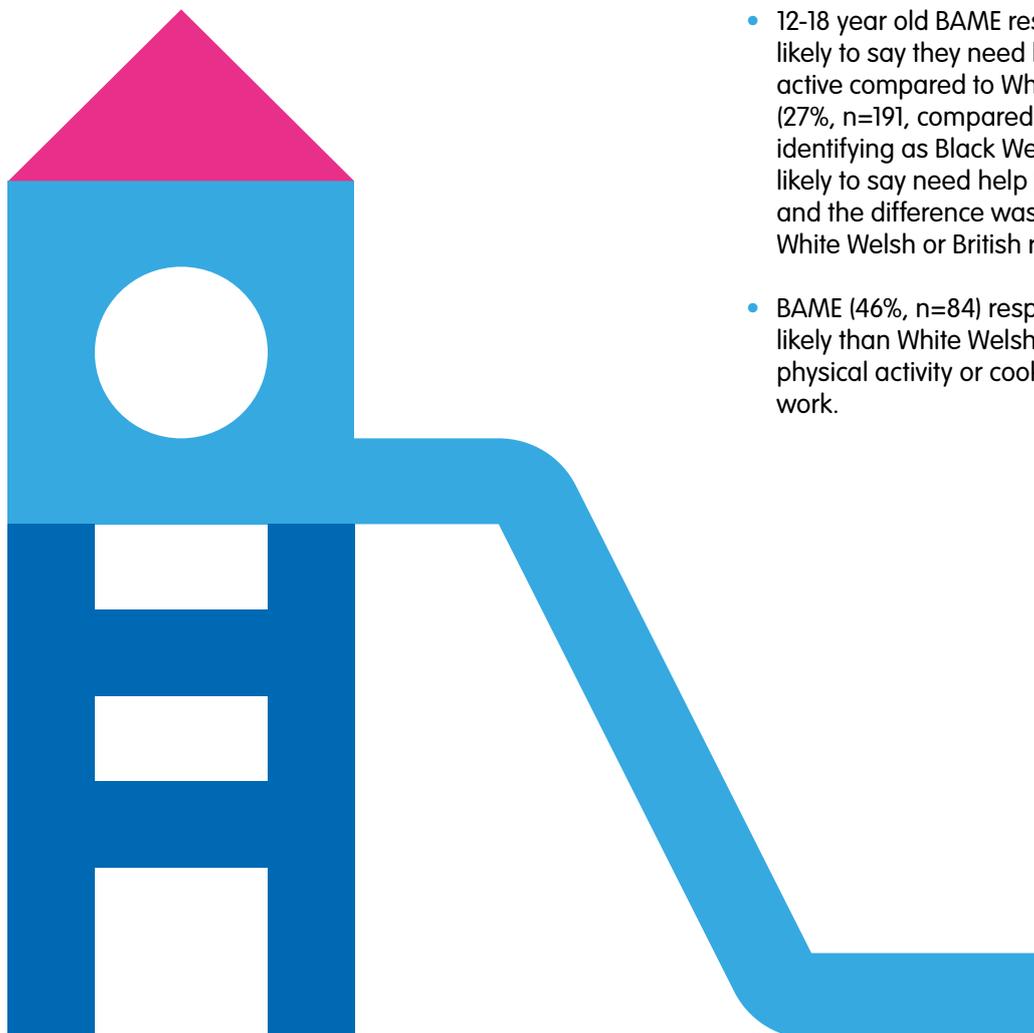


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# Keeping active and healthy

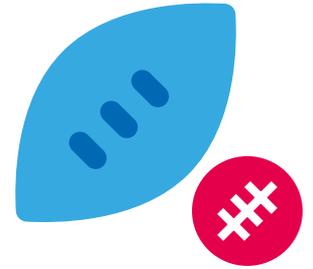
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**BAME children and young people were significantly more likely to say they would like help to eat healthy food and stay active, and they were significantly more likely to say physical activity and cooking should be included as school work while home learning. These questions were only asked in the survey for 12-18 year olds.**



- 12-18 year old BAME respondents were significantly more likely to say they need help to eat healthy food and staying active compared to White Welsh or British respondents (27%, n=191, compared to 22%, n=2115). Respondents identifying as Black Welsh or British (31%, n=34) were most likely to say need help to eat healthy food and stay active, and the difference was statistically significant compared to White Welsh or British respondents.
- BAME (46%, n=84) respondents were significantly more likely than White Welsh or British (35%, n=708) to say physical activity or cooking should be included as school work.

# Relaxing and playing during social distancing



**BAME 7-11 year olds were significantly less likely to say they were playing more often than before, and significantly more likely to say they were actually playing less than before.**

**BAME and White Welsh or British 12-18 year old respondents did not have significantly different responses in our survey when asked whether they were relaxing more or less, but White Welsh or British respondents were significantly more likely to say they were relaxing through exercise or other physical activity, or talking to friends online.**

- Among 7-11 year olds, White Welsh or British respondents were significantly more likely to say they were playing more often (54%, n=5493) than BAME respondents (45%, n=360). Just 39% (n=52) of Black Welsh or British respondents and 36% (n=41) of Asian from Another Country respondents said they were playing more often, and this difference was statistically significant.
- Among 7-11 year olds, BAME respondents were significantly more likely to say they were actually playing less than White Welsh or British respondents (27%, n=213, compared to 23%, n=2387). Black Welsh or British respondents were significantly more likely than White Welsh or British respondents to say they were playing about the same as before (31%, n=41, compared to 23%, n=2331).
- Among 12-18 year olds, there was no significant difference between BAME and White Welsh or British respondents who said they were relaxing more, less or about the same during this period.
- 12-18 year old White Welsh or British respondents were significantly more likely to say they were relaxing through exercise or other physical activity than BAME respondents (60%, n=5824, compared to 55%, n=395), and talking to friends online (75%, n=7250, compared to 69%, n=492). The least likely respondents to say this identified as Black from Another Country (45%, n=14).

Children and young people told us how they have been relaxing, playing, and keeping a healthy body and mind:

**“I get to communicate with my family more often and I help out when gardening with my parents.”**

— Child identifying as Asian Welsh or British, 12-18 survey

**“I have a lot more freetime or playtime which I spend reading a good book or gardening or cycling. I have picked up my cycling again.”**

— Child identifying as Asian Welsh or British, 7-11 survey.

**“I have more time to do the things like relax, play games, exercise, draw, read, cook, learn and spend time with family”**

— Child identifying as Any Other Ethnic Group, 12-18 survey

**“Me and my Mum have been making a lot of pastries like cinnamon buns.”**

— Child identifying as Asian from Another Country, 7-11 survey

**“Wedi cael gwneud mwy o celf a coginio nag arfer.” (‘have been able to do more art and cooking than usual’).**

—Child identifying as Any Other Ethnic Group, 7-11 survey

**“I am able to gather a sense of mindfulness and awareness of myself - in terms of what I want to do in the future, slowing down and just being given the opportunity now to carefully think things through on my life and reflect”**

— Child identifying as Asian from Another Country, 12-18 survey

Children and young people also shared with us how the restrictions affected their ability to keep a healthy body and mind, and how limited space or living in over-crowded housing had made this harder:

**“Can’t do as much sports as I would like”**

— Child identifying as Any Other Ethnic Group, 12-18 survey

**“We try to play football in our tiny garden”**

—Child identifying as Asian Welsh or British, 7-11 survey

**“because we live in a house with 3 rooms but have a family of 7 and its really cramped and we could easily spread a virus if we had one and we have a baby sister she is one years old and I’m scared for her because she is only one years old she is very young.”**

— Child identifying as Any Other Ethnic Group, 7-11 survey

**“I would like parks and libraries to be open and to meet up with my friends and family.”**

— Child identifying as Asian Welsh or British, 7-11 survey

**“Pressure from both family life and school emails, whereas before quarantine there was a divide and order.”**

— Child identifying as Asian Welsh or British, 12-18 survey

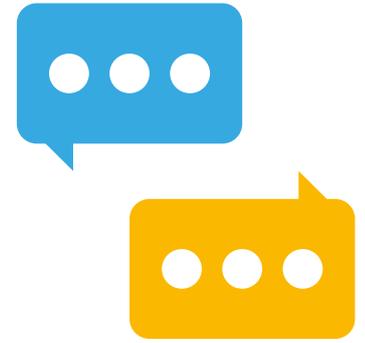
**“I think that lots of people suffering because of the virus via poverty lack of support for the elderly is making me upset. I am stressed due to my family situation as my parents suffer from mental health issues and so does myself (anxiety and depression). sometimes it becomes stressful and my mums medicine isn’t enough to calm her down. there is no abuse, it just makes everyone worried. I also miss my friends.”**

— Child identifying as Asian Welsh or British, 12-18 survey

**“I am able to gather a sense of mindfulness and awareness of myself - in terms of what I want to do in the future, slowing down and just being given the opportunity now to carefully think things through on my life and reflect”**

— Child identifying as Asian from Another Country, 12-18 survey

# Getting support to feel happy and well



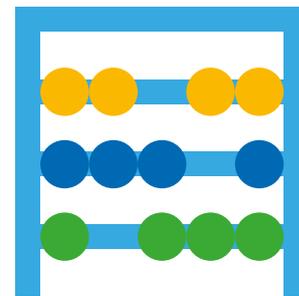
**7-11 year old White Welsh or British children were significantly more likely to say they knew how to get help if they need support to feel happy and well than the average of BAME respondents, but Black Welsh or British respondents were as likely as White Welsh or British to say this.**

**Among 12-18 year olds, BAME respondents were significantly less likely to say they knew how to get help through friends and family. However, Asian from Another Country respondents were significantly more likely to say they knew how to get help through their doctor or a local mental health team.**

- Among 7-11 year olds, White Welsh or British (78%, n=7909), were significantly more likely than BAME respondents (73%, n=574) to say they knew how to get help if they need support to feel happy and well. Black Welsh or British respondents were equally as likely as White Welsh or British respondents (78%, n=100) to say they knew how to get help. Respondents identifying as Black from Another Country were least likely (70%, n=43) to say that they knew how to get help.
- Among 12-18 year olds, BAME respondents were significantly less likely to say they knew how to get emotional and mental health support from friends and family (79%, n=538, compared to 83%, n=7649). Respondents identifying as Black Welsh or British (76%, n=79) and Black from Another Country (76%, n=22) were least likely to say this.
- Among 12-18 year olds, Asian from Another Country respondents were significantly more likely than White Welsh or British respondents to say they knew how to get help their doctor (69%, n=45, compared to 52%, n=5200) or a mental health team in their area (59%, n=38, compared to 43%, n=4238).
- Among 12-18 year olds, those identifying as Any Other Ethnic Group were significantly less likely than White Welsh or British respondents to say they were confident getting help from a doctor (43%, n=63, compared to 52%, n=5200).

**Among 12 - 18 year olds, BAME respondents were significantly less likely to say they knew how to get emotional and mental health support from friends and family (79%, n=538, compared to 83%, n=7649).**

# Education



We asked how confident the children and young people felt about their learning during lockdown. Please note this survey was live during May when educational settings were closed to most children.

There was no significant difference between BAME and White Welsh or British children or young people feeling confident or very confident about their education, across the age ranges. However, 7-11 year old Black Welsh or British respondents were significantly more likely to say they felt confident or very confident about their education than White Welsh or British respondents.

- There was no significant difference between BAME or White Welsh or British respondents saying they felt either confident or very confident about their education across age groups (38%, n=229, compared to 39%, n=3189, among 12-18 year olds; 63%, n=441, compared to 63%, n=5573, among 7-11 year olds).
- 7-11 year old Black Welsh or British respondents were significantly more likely to say they feel confident or very confident about their education (73%, n=86) than White Welsh or British respondents (63%, n=5573).
- Of those respondents who said that they were in year 6, BAME respondents were significantly less likely to say they will need support visiting their secondary school before school starts (65%, n=139, compared to 77%, n=1837), talking about worries with their Year 6 teacher before going to secondary school (32%, n=69 compared to 40%, n=963), and receiving information through the post (28%, n=59, compared to 36%, n=858). BAME respondents were more likely to say they will need support talking to older pupils in their secondary school (32%, n=68 compared to 28%, n=669), although this was not statistically significant.

**There was no significant difference between BAME or White Welsh or British respondents saying they felt either confident or very confident about their education across age groups.**

# Worries about education

## (12-18 survey only)

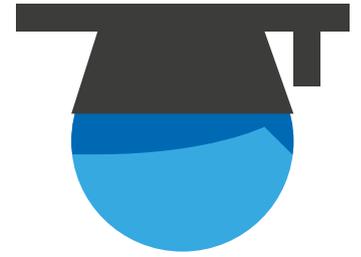


These questions around specific worries relating to education were only put to 12-18 year old respondents. BAME respondents were significantly more likely to say they were worried about getting behind with their learning, worried about starting a new school year or new school in September, that they didn't feel motivated to do school work, and that school or college closure had had the biggest impact on their learning. BAME respondents were also significantly more likely to say they were worried about how this time could affect their exam results.

- BAME respondents were significantly more likely to say that school or college closing had the most impact on how they feel than White Welsh or British respondents (51%, n=363, compared to 41%, n=3966).
- BAME respondents were significantly more likely to say they were worried (59%, n=421) than White Welsh or British respondents (53%, n=5122) about falling behind with learning. The group who were most likely to say this were those identifying as Any Other Ethnic Group (66%, n=108).
- BAME respondents were significantly more likely to say they were worried (57%, n=407) than Welsh White British respondents (51%, n=4906) about how this time could affect exam results. Respondents identifying as Asian from Another Country (64%, n=46) and Asian Welsh or British (61%, n=204) were most likely to be worried about this.
- Although not a statistically significant result, when asked why they felt the way they do about exams, BAME respondents were more likely to say they were worried about what grade they will get and how that will be decided than White Welsh or British respondents (17%, n=39, compared to 14%, n=453).
- BAME respondents were significantly more likely to say don't feel motivated to do school work at home (50%, n=353) compared to White Welsh or British respondents (47%, n=4539).
- BAME respondents were significantly more likely to say (35%, n=249) they were worried about starting a new school year or a new school in September compared to White Welsh or British (29%, n=2772).
- BAME respondents were overall similarly likely to say they don't understand the school work sent to them (25%, n=180, compared to 26%, n=2535, of White Welsh and British respondents). Although not statistically significant, those identifying as Asian from Another Country (31%, n=22) and Black Welsh or British (30%, n=34) were more likely to say this than White Welsh or British.

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# Changes affecting learning for children who attend school or college



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**BAME children and young people were significantly more likely to say the closure of libraries has affected their learning, across age ranges. 7-11 year olds were significantly more likely to say the closure of community centres and not being able to go outside affected their learning.**

- BAME respondents were significantly more likely to say the closure of libraries was affecting their learning, across age ranges. Among 7-11 year olds, 35% (n=230) of BAME respondents said this, compared to 18% (n=1445) of White Welsh British respondents. 47%, (n=45) of Asian from Another Country and 42% (n=23) of Black from Another Country respondents aged 7-11 said this. Among 12-18 year olds, 22% (n=87) of BAME respondents said this compared to 8% (n=411) of White Welsh or British respondents. 40% (n=17) of Asian from Another Country, and 35% (n=6) of Black from Another Country respondents aged 12-18 said this.
- 7-11 year old BAME respondents were also significantly more likely than White Welsh or British respondents to say the closure of community centres has affected their learning. 22% (n=143) of BAME respondents and 25% (n=56) of White from Another Country respondents stated this, compared to 13% (n=1051) of White Welsh or British. 40% (n=22) of Black from Another Country respondents said this.
- 7-11 year old BAME groups were significantly more likely (68%, n=449) than White Welsh or British respondents (56%, n=4593) to say not being able to go outside as much has affected their learning.

shared with us some of the difficulties of doing school work at home and anxieties over exam performance:

**“I want to get the best grade I can to make my parents happy especially my mum who has work, so hard for us. I won’t be able to get grades that make her happy.”**

— Child identifying as Asian Welsh or British, 12-18 survey

**“Home Learning is difficult when your parents are essential workers and/or don’t speak English very well. I need to take care of my little sister all day and explain the worksheets her teachers have sent to her and It’s difficult to do all this while sharing one device for all of us.”**

— Asian Welsh or British, 12-18 survey.

When it comes to education, children and young people

**“I think that we have been robbed from the opportunity to show our potential, our grades will be determined by other people which is very unfair and uncertain. My university place is resting on these grades, my entire life is based on these grades and it’s not even depended on me. It is very scary.”**

— Child identifying as Asian Welsh or British, 12-18 survey

**“I am just worried for my exam results because I don’t think I done well in mock exams and I was feeling motivated to pass in my exams.”**

— Child identifying as Asian Welsh or British, 12-18 survey

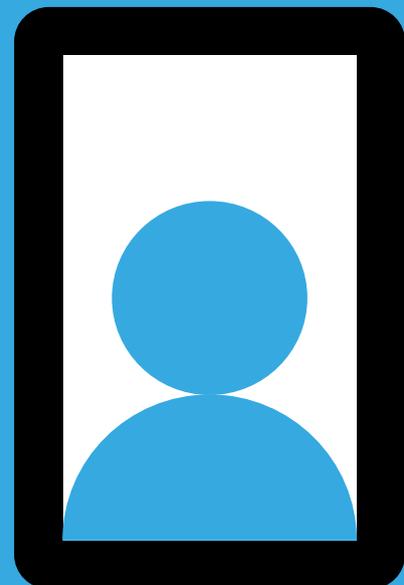
Children and young people shared with us some of their concerns about access to the equipment and support from school they need:

**“School is harder than normal, but I understand because normally our teachers help us a lot, and when they try to help us through texting it doesn’t make much sense.”**

— Child identifying as Asian Welsh or British, 7-11 survey

**“I am not happy because I can’t see my friends anymore and my mum couldn’t get me a new tablet since my own got broken and she could not buy me new tablet as we are an asylum seekers and only live on £5 per day but I share with my little brother which is not fun at all.”**

— Child identifying as Any Other Ethnic Group, 12-18 survey



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# Learning Welsh



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**7-11 year old BAME respondents usually learning in English were significantly more likely to say they wanted more support with their Welsh. However, BAME respondents usually learning in English were significantly less likely to say they weren't getting any opportunities to use Welsh.**

**7-11 year old BAME respondents who usually learn in Welsh were significantly more likely to say they were not getting opportunities to use Welsh.**

**Overall, 12-18 year old BAME respondents were significantly more likely to say they weren't getting any opportunities to use Welsh.**

- Among 7-11 year olds attending Welsh medium schools, significantly more (15%, n=10) of BAME respondents said they were not getting opportunities to use Welsh, compared to White Welsh or British (8%, n=214) respondents. Although the numbers are small, this was statistically significant.
- Among 7-11 year olds attending English medium schools, significantly more (14%, n=77) of BAME respondents said they wanted more support with their Welsh than White Welsh or British (10%, n=573).
- However, 7-11 year old BAME respondents usually learning in English were actually significantly less likely (26%, n=140) to say they weren't getting any opportunities to use Welsh than White Welsh or British (32%, n=1805).
- Among 12-18 year olds, there was no significant difference between BAME and White Welsh or British respondents in terms of wanting more support, but there was a significant difference between BAME respondents (28%, n= 132) who usually learnt in either Welsh or English and White Welsh or British respondents (22%, n= 1635) who said they weren't getting any opportunities to use Welsh.

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# Summary of key related rights from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

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**The UNCRC consists of 54 Articles, which set out the human rights of all children across the world. Welsh Ministers have a duty to pay due regard to children's rights under the UNCRC (in line with the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011).**

I am concerned that the findings within this report highlight several areas where BAME children and young people's access to their rights was not equal to their White Welsh or British counterparts:

- The right for the Convention to apply to every child without discrimination (article 2) – there are several areas of children's lives where children identifying as one of the BAME groups told us they were having more negative experiences than White Welsh or British children during the period within which this survey took place.
- The right for every child to access reliable information from a variety of sources (article 17) – BAME respondents were more likely to say that they would like more information on Coronavirus, rules on how to keep safe, and on things to do while at home.
- The right for every child to be protected from violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment (article 19) – it is concerning that BAME respondents were more likely to say they did not feel safe at home, and were more likely to say they need help staying safe at home.
- The right for every child to have the best possible health (article 24), including access to nutritious food, and the right to an adequate standard of living (article 27) - BAME respondents were less likely to say that they knew how to get help for their mental health and wellbeing, and more likely to say they need help with having enough food for their family, and to need help keeping physically active and eating healthily.
- The right to an education which allows every child to reach their full potential (article 29) – BAME respondents were more likely to say they were worried about falling behind on their learning, how changes would affect their exam grades and how they would be decided. They were also more likely to say closures of school or college and places to study in the community had affected them negatively, and were more likely to say they needed help to do school work online.
- The right to rest and leisure, play and recreational activities (Article 31) – BAME respondents were more likely to say changes to physical activity, exercise, and their ability to leave the house had affected them most, and were less likely to say that they exercise outdoors to keep a healthy body and mind. BAME respondents were less likely to say they were playing more often during the period in which the survey took place.

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# Summary of key duties of Welsh Government and others

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## In Wales, Welsh Ministers have a duty to pay due regard to children's rights under the UNCRC (in line with the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011).

Under the Equality Act 2010, public sector bodies in Wales are required to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic (which includes people defined by their race, colour, and nationality, ethnic or national origins) and those who do not, and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

While children and young people in general appear to be less vulnerable to the effects of Coronavirus, we know that BAME groups across Britain are disproportionately affected by it, with BAME groups up to twice as likely to die as the White British majority<sup>6</sup>, BAME children and young people are more likely to have family members affected by Coronavirus, and are more likely to have been bereaved. Although children and young people themselves appear to be unlikely to suffer severe symptoms from Coronavirus, a recent UK study<sup>7</sup> suggests that those suffering acute respiratory problems from Coronavirus infection are significantly more likely to be of non-white ethnicity.

In response to the fact that BAME people are more likely to contract and die from Coronavirus, the First Minister established a Covid-19 BAME Advisory Group in April 2020. The socioeconomic sub-group of this Advisory group reported<sup>8</sup> in June 2020. This report outlines the socioeconomic factors which lead to increased vulnerability to the virus, including disparities

between and within BAME groups in terms of education, and the effect of the pandemic on access to support for home schooling, poverty, housing overcrowding, environment, health and social care, the need for protection for violence and abuse, the financial burden and restrictions of asylum seeking and having refugee status, and structural and systemic racism and disadvantage.

The report makes a series of recommendations for Welsh Government which include the continuation of the development of a Race Equality Plan for Wales; better promotion of Welsh Government's Continuity of Learning Plan to BAME families and young people to try to reduce the potential for widening of attainment gaps in education; directing local authorities to provide laptops or iPads and internet access to socially disadvantaged BAME pupils to try to tackle digital exclusion; and working with BAME women's organisations to protect and support BAME women and children who are unsafe in their homes.

During the pandemic there was also the world-wide phenomenon of an upsurge in the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement following the police killing of George Floyd in the USA. The BLM movement is equally relevant to and important to Wales, and Welsh policy makers and public services should regard the findings in this report as providing further evidence of the need for action.

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6. The Institute for Fiscal Studies (2020) Are Some Ethnic Groups More Vulnerable to COVID-19 than Others? Available at: <https://www.ifs.org.uk/inequality/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Are-some-ethnic-groups-more-vulnerable-to-COVID-19-than-others-V2-IFS-Briefing-Note.pdf>

7. Swann et al. (2020) Clinical characteristics of children and young people admitted to hospital with covid-19 in United Kingdom: prospective multicentre observational cohort study. *British Medical Journal*, BMJ2020;370:m3249. Available at: <https://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/370/bmj.m3249.full.pdf>

8. Welsh Government (2020) Report of the BAME Covid-19 socioeconomic sub-group of the First Minister's BAME Covid-19 Advisory Group. Available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-06/first-ministers-bame-covid-19-advisory-group-report-of-the-socioeconomic-subgroup.pdf>

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# Commissioner's priorities / recommended next steps

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All of these steps will require our policy makers and public services to ensure that they have effective means to listen to and involve BAME children and their families in finding solutions to these issues. We will also do this as an organisation.

**Food security:** One of the most concerning findings in this analysis was that BAME children and young people were more likely to say they were worried about their family having enough food. No child in Wales should be worried about their family having enough food. Welsh Government should consider the results of this survey, but they also need to hear from BAME children and young people directly about any difficulties that were faced in accessing the replacements for school meals and food parcels that were available during the crisis, and ensure that this is equally accessible for all families.

Children's Rights Impact Assessments, which should include consideration of potential differential impacts on children of different ethnic backgrounds, should be undertaken on all matters affecting children and their families, and should inform decision making before action is taken so that gaps in provision for BAME children and young people can be identified and addressed. We will continue to push for a comprehensive Child Poverty Delivery Plan for Wales, which recognises the underlying inequalities experienced by BAME families, as this finding exposes a disparity in terms of access to this most basic human need.

**Keeping healthy and active:** BAME children and young people were less likely to say they were playing more, that they were exercising outdoors, and said they wanted more help with eating healthy food and keeping active. BAME children and young people were more likely to say that play, physical activity and healthy eating needs to be part of the online learning experience. I urge schools to ensure that when schools include physical activity and healthy eating in any future home learning

activities they should consider that some of their BAME pupils may need extra support to take part. According to the Child Measurement Programme, certain ethnic groups of children are more likely than others to be obese<sup>9</sup>, and Welsh Government needs to ensure they properly understand the needs of specific ethnic groups, and that these are addressed in the Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales Delivery Plan. We will also consider what we can do to work with schools and other organisations to make sure BAME children and young people are effectively targeted when promoting physical health and wellbeing.

**Safety at home:** BAME children and young people were less likely to say that they felt safe at home, and were more likely to say they wanted help feeling safe at home. We will work with children and young people through our follow-up workshops to better understand these findings, and to share those findings with relevant agencies. We will also engage with organisations working with BAME families to better understand the specific experiences of BAME children and young people.

**Mental health and emotional wellbeing:** BAME children and young people were less likely to say they knew how to get support for their mental health and emotional wellbeing among 7-11 year olds. 12-18 year olds were significantly less likely to say they knew how to get this support through their friends and family. Visibility and availability of mental health support has long been a concern for the Commissioner. We will work with children and young people to see how services, including our own, can better advertise how to access support. We will draw this report to the attention of relevant agencies, including the voluntary sector.

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9. Public Health Wales (2019) Child Measurement Programme for Wales 2017/18. Available at: <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/888/CMP%20report%20%28Eng%29.pdf>

**Education and access to technology:** BAME children and young people were more likely to be worried about their education when learning from home. BAME children and young people want more support to do school work online, and they were more likely to say they need places like libraries and community centres to be able to do their school work. As the First Minister's BAME Advisory Group recommend, much more must be done to ensure BAME children and young people have access to the resources they need for the education, including digital resources. All children require access to reliable broadband and technology and we must ensure this is the case. Local authorities need to act to make sure all children and young people have safe access to libraries and community centres, as BAME children and young people tell us their learning is disproportionately affected by this. Individual schools and local authorities should be able to demonstrate how they are offering resources to tackle digital exclusion – we should be able to support every family either through home-based equipment or through local community facilities. We will write to every local authority in Wales to ask how they plan to ensure every child and young person has access to the technology they need to participate fully in their education.

BAME children and young people were more likely to be worried about the exam grading process after exams were cancelled. Much more must be done to tackle the pervasive inequalities in our education system. We will work with children and young people through our workshops to better understand their concerns about exam grading.

We will share these findings with the relevant agencies, including the Welsh Government review of the exam grading process.

We welcome the Welsh Government work, led by Professor Charlotte Williams that will recommend how to diversify and de-colonise the new curriculum. As part of this we hope that developing a more diverse teaching workforce will be considered.

**Better access to information:** Particular ethnic groups of children and young people were more likely to be worried than others about Coronavirus. BAME children and young people wanted more information on what to do at home, and more information on Coronavirus and keeping safe. We will work with children and young people through our follow-up workshops to find out how they think that important information should be shared with them, and share these findings with relevant agencies.

Evaluating our own use of these survey results, and considerations for future surveys - We will commit to undertaking an evaluation of how we use these survey results, and the impact they have.

As mentioned earlier, we will consider the ethnicity categories we use in future surveys, and consider how we can improve the response rate of BAME children and young people as compared to school-age population.

As an organisation we are committed to making concrete changes to how we work as a response to the Black Lives Matters movement and the results of this survey reinforce this need. We are receiving advice from specialist and expert organisations on how to do this meaningfully.

**Finally, we will be holding Welsh Government to account on the findings of this survey.** We will be writing to Welsh Government to ask them how they will use these findings to influence their work in addressing the inequalities outlined in this report. We will discuss their response with the Deputy First Minister, who is leading the work the government is undertaking on how to embed equalities into Welsh law and policies.