

# Joseph Swan School Gateshead

**This research was carried out by students as part of  
The Influence and Participation of Children and  
Young People in their Learning (IPiL) project**

# What did we want to find out?

**We wanted to find out how much say children and young people have in their education.**

# What we did...

**We wanted to find out how much say children and young people have in their education and what they thought about an area of teaching and learning.**

**We spent some time as a group learning about all of the things that effected how we learn in class. We learnt how to be a researcher by looking at different questionnaires.**

**We decided to focus on behaviour in lessons and developed an action plan to find out what the students in our school thought about this.**

**We got together and planned our questions and put them into a questionnaire using open and closed questions.**

**We wanted to get the opinions of different year groups so we asked students from year 7, 8,9 and 10.**

**We gave out 120 questionnaires and had 81 responses.**

**We collected our results in the form of a table, looking at individual year groups, then at the whole picture. We compared them with each other.**

# The Table

Question	YES	NO	Comments
1) What year group are you in?			
2)	17%	85%	Influence of friends, peer pressure
3)			Fun lessons, group work, games, discussion, sitting with friends, whole class lessons e.g, circle times, DVD's, other students behaviour is important, teachers listening.
4)	29%	71%	
5)			Sent home, ring parents, exclusion, clearer punishments
6)			Should be allowed to chew as it helps concentration and prevents it going under tables, headphones should be allowed when working quietly. Current rules work well.
7)	95%	5%	Good education, job prospects
8)			Music, less writing, free time at the end if work is completed, working outside classroom environment.
9)	50%	50%	Depends on the teacher, attitudes of teacher, how they treat the students.
10)			Change teachers, no copying out, music, laptops and computer access, teachers listening.

# How we collected our data...

**We put 120 questionnaires including open and closed questions.**

**Years 7,8,9 and 10 completed these questionnaires... 81 were handed back in.**

# What we did to make sure our research was ethical...

**We gave clear instructions.**

**We explained what the research was about.**

# What we found out overall...

## Summary of findings

**The majority of people don't misbehave in lessons, but this varies from year to year, being worse in year 9 and then year 8. Most students blame their friends and peer pressure.**

**Behaviour is better in lessons when students find them fun and enjoyable, many saying group work and discussions, games and D.V.D's all help. In year 10 they commented on listening to music and learning interesting topics.**

**The majority of students feel the school sanctions don't work, this percentage increases as students go through the school. Contacting home and clearer punishments were identified as things that would stop people misbehaving.**

**The majority of students want to learn and they state the importance of a good education and job prospects.**

**Half of the students asked said their behaviour varied from lesson to lesson.**

**What we would change next time...**

**We would ask more people.**

**What worked well for us...**

**We worked well as a team.**

**What we would change next time...**

**We would like to meet more frequently.**

# What other research could we do as result of what we found out...

- We could do interviews.
- We could ask teachers their opinions.
- Talk to the SMT (Senior Management Team), and governors.