

A Good Childhood?

Reflections on 15 years of well-being research



Richard Crellin

Thursday 19th November

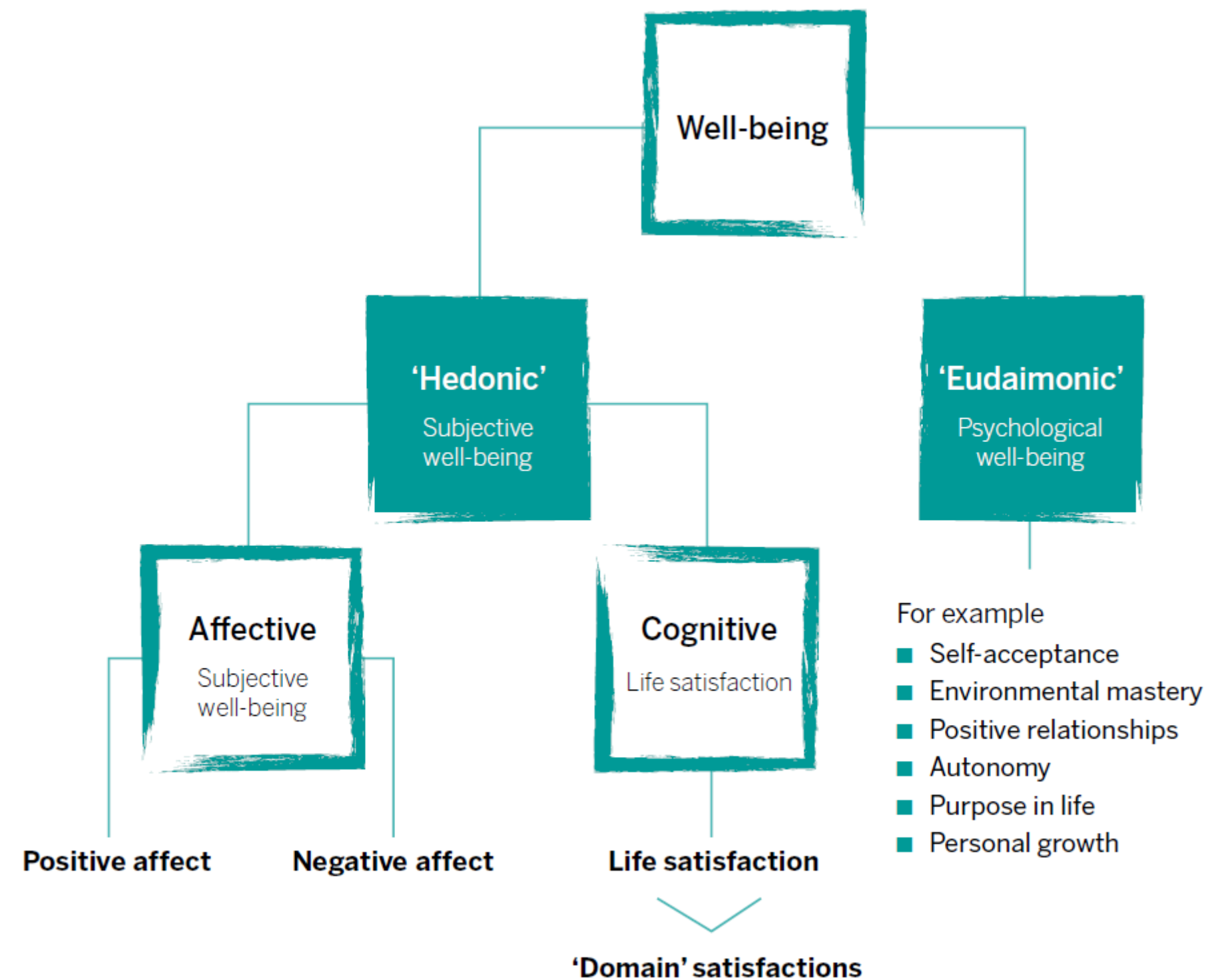
Plan for today

- What do we research?
- The Golden Insights
- The latest trends
- COVID-19
- Looking to the future...



What is Subjective Well-being?

Figure 1: Components of self-reported well-being



The Good Childhood Index



FAMILY



FRIENDS



HOME



HEALTH



TIME USE



MONEY
& THINGS



FUTURE



CHOICE



APPEARANCE



SCHOOL



Golden Insight 1

‘Children’s own self reports of their well-being are the golden standard for measuring, understanding and responding to well-being’

Golden Insight 2

‘Well-being and mental health are related but we learn more by seeing them as distinct concepts as this enables us to explore the tensions between them’

Golden Insight 3

‘Economic deprivation and income are related to well-being but... its complicated. A child-centred view is crucial.’

Golden Insight 4

‘The well-being of children, as a population, changes over time.’

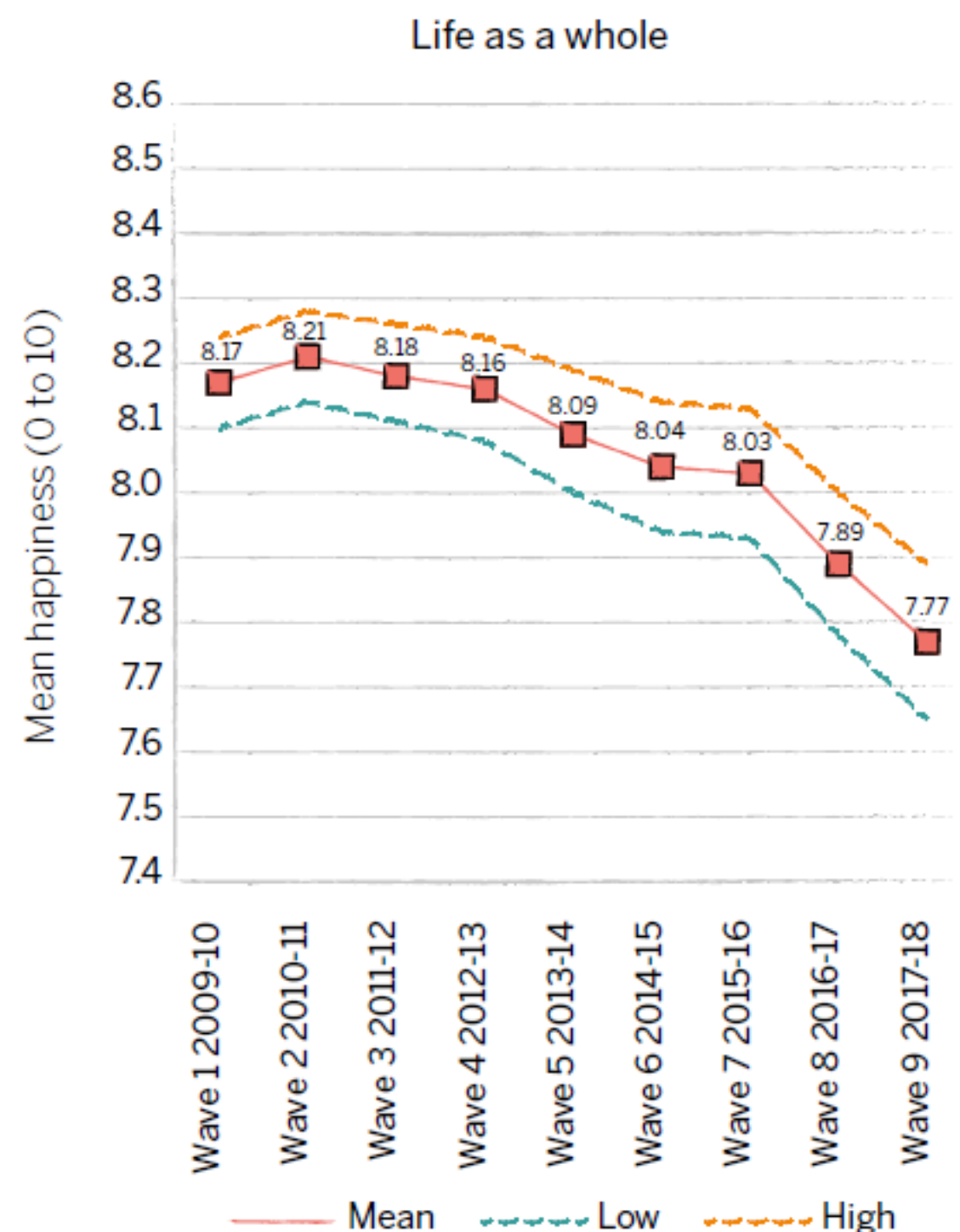
Golden Insight 5

‘Comparative international analysis of well-being provides important insights into drivers of well-being in different countries.’



Latest trends in children's well-being to 2017-18 (Understanding Society)

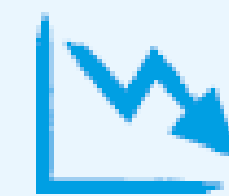
Figure 2: Trends in children's (age 10 to 15) happiness with life as a whole, UK, 2009-10 to 2017-18



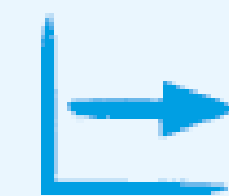
Comparisons between 2009-10 and 2017-18 show:



A significant decrease in happiness with life as a whole and with friends.



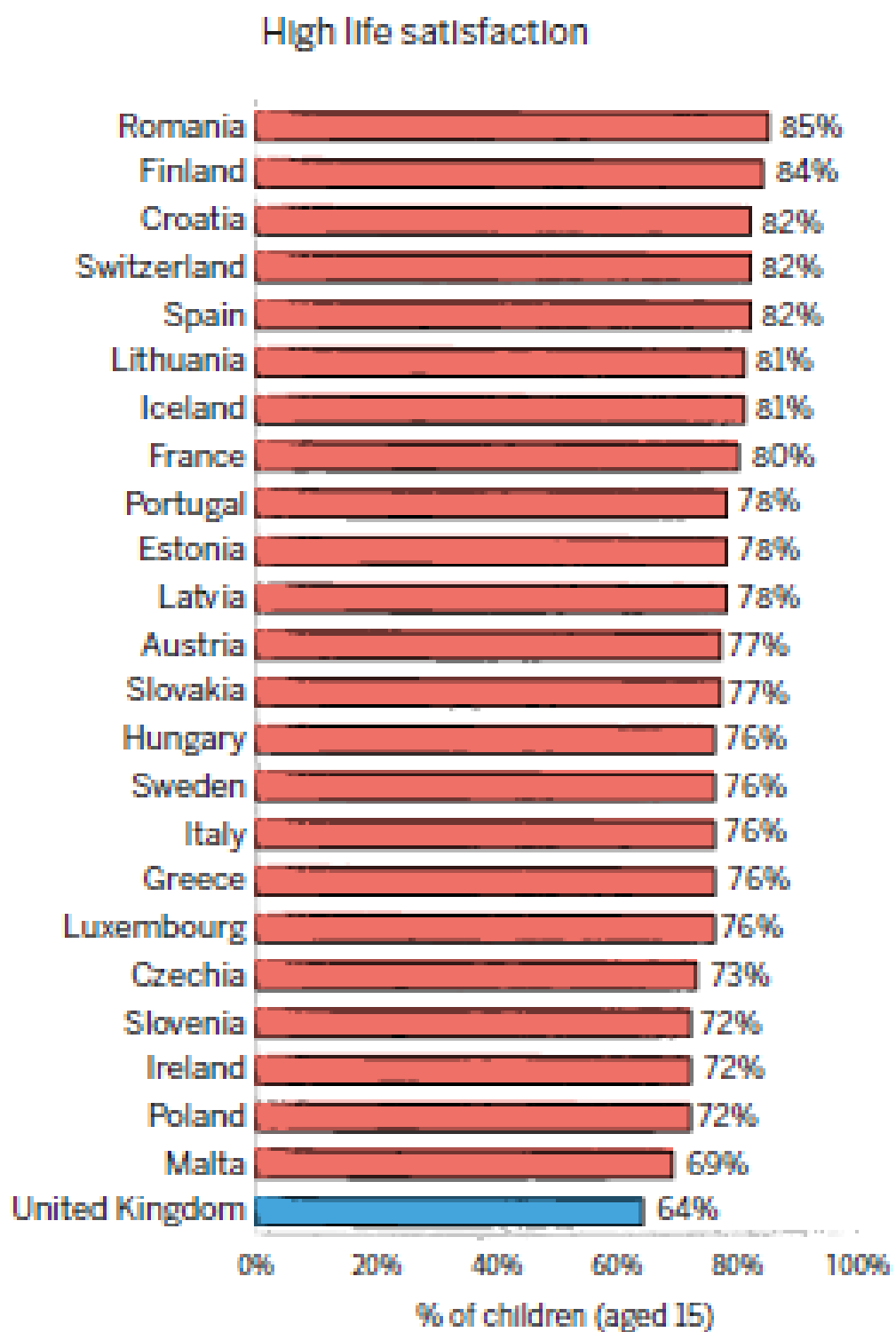
A sustained dip in happiness with school (the mean score was similar to that reported last year).



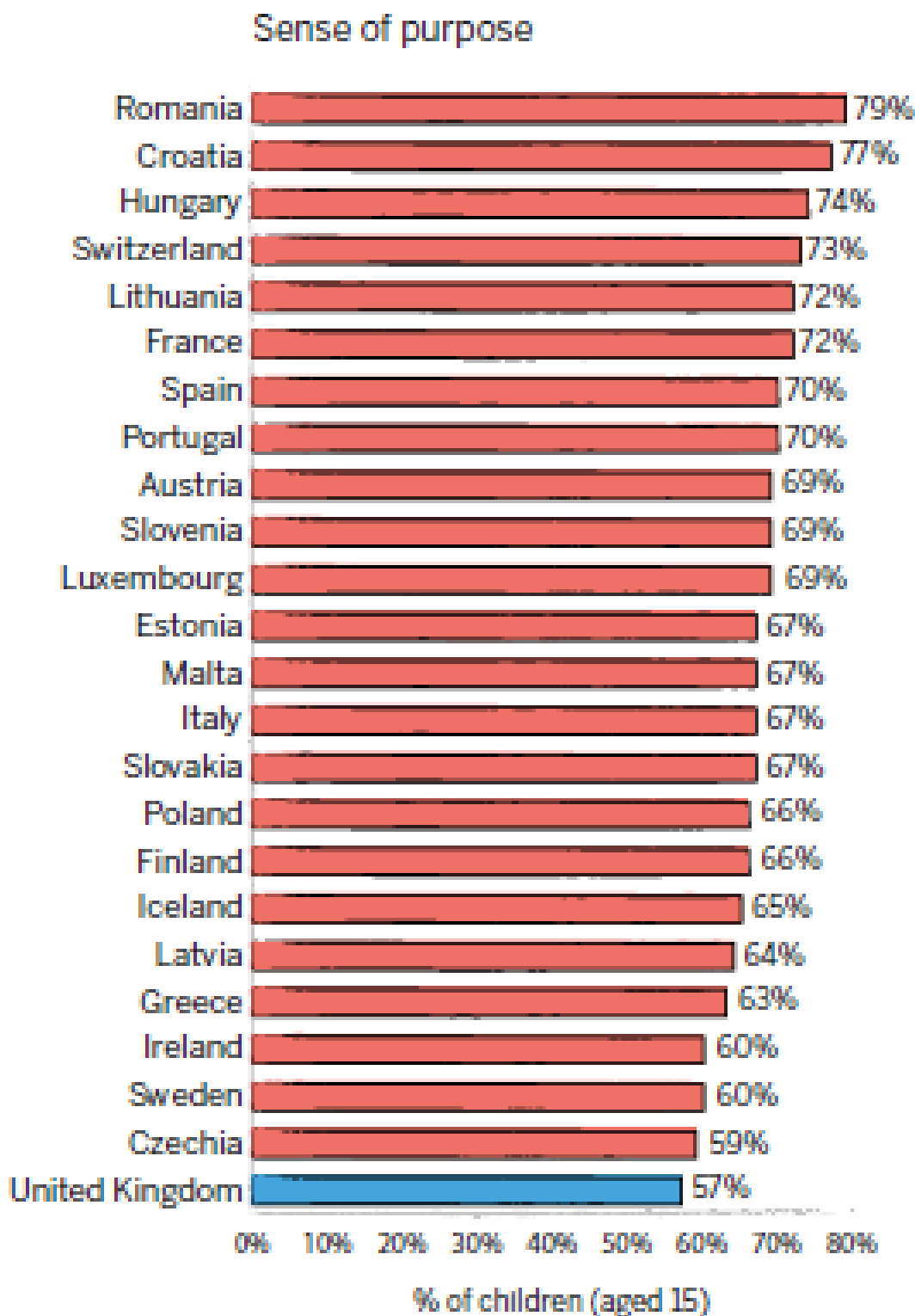
No significant change for happiness with family or schoolwork.



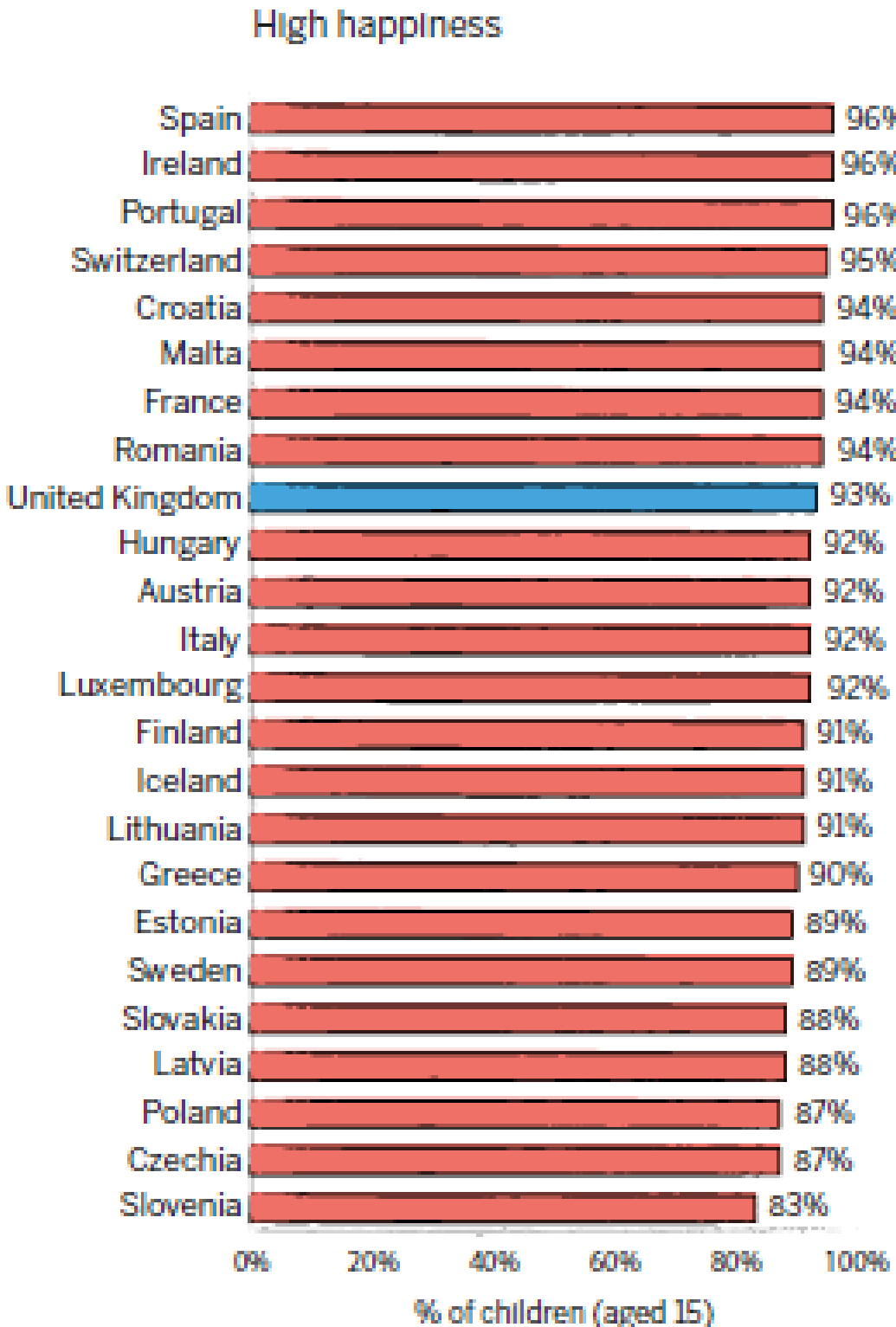
Happiness with appearance was significantly lower than when the survey began.



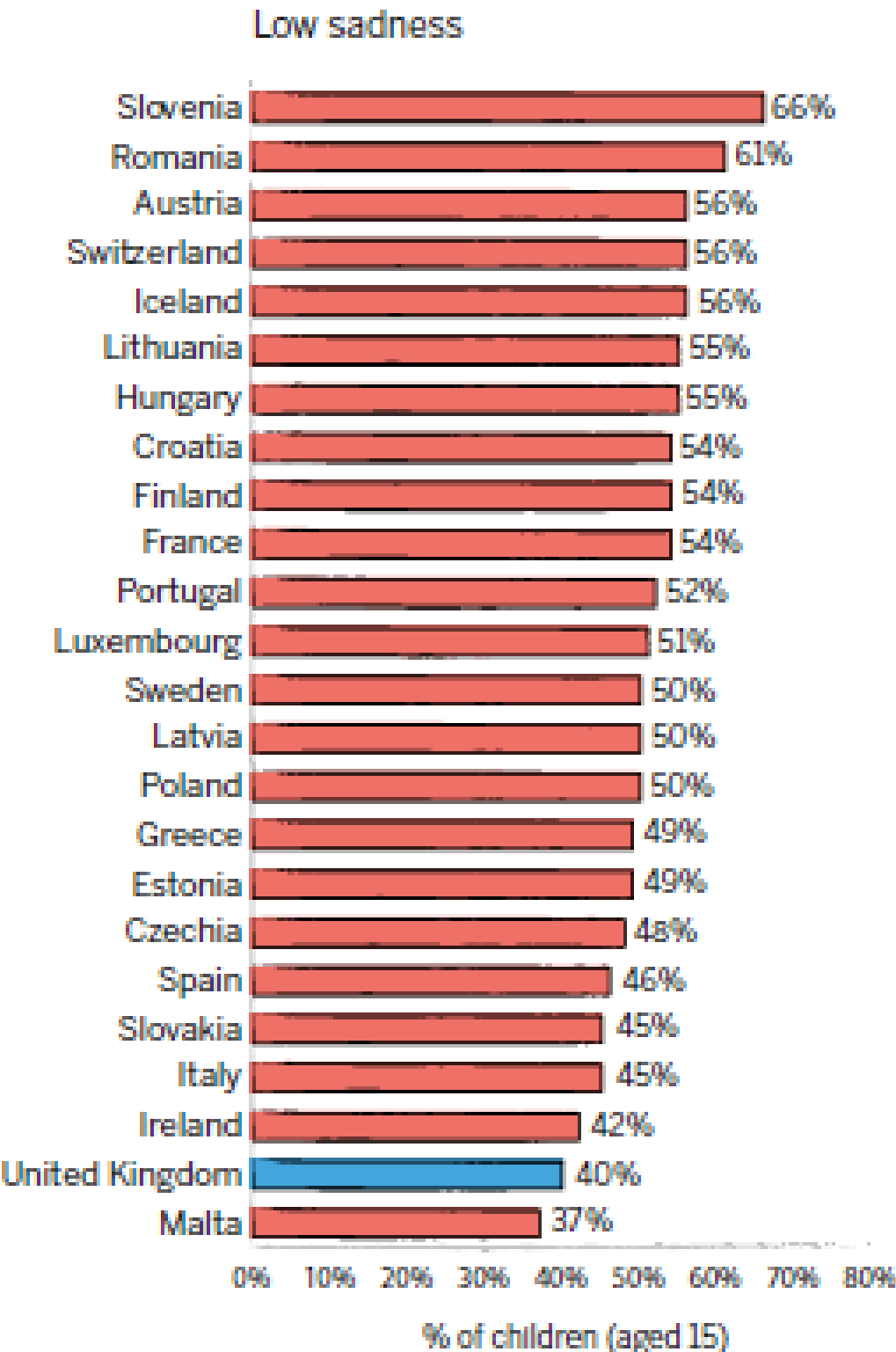
Source: PISA, 2018. Weighted data. 'High life satisfaction' is defined as a score greater than five out of 10 on a 0 to 10 scale.



Source: PISA, 2018. Weighted data. The percentages refer to children who agreed or strongly agreed that they had a sense of purpose.



Source: PISA, 2018. Weighted data. 'High happiness' is defined as feeling 'always' or 'often' happy.



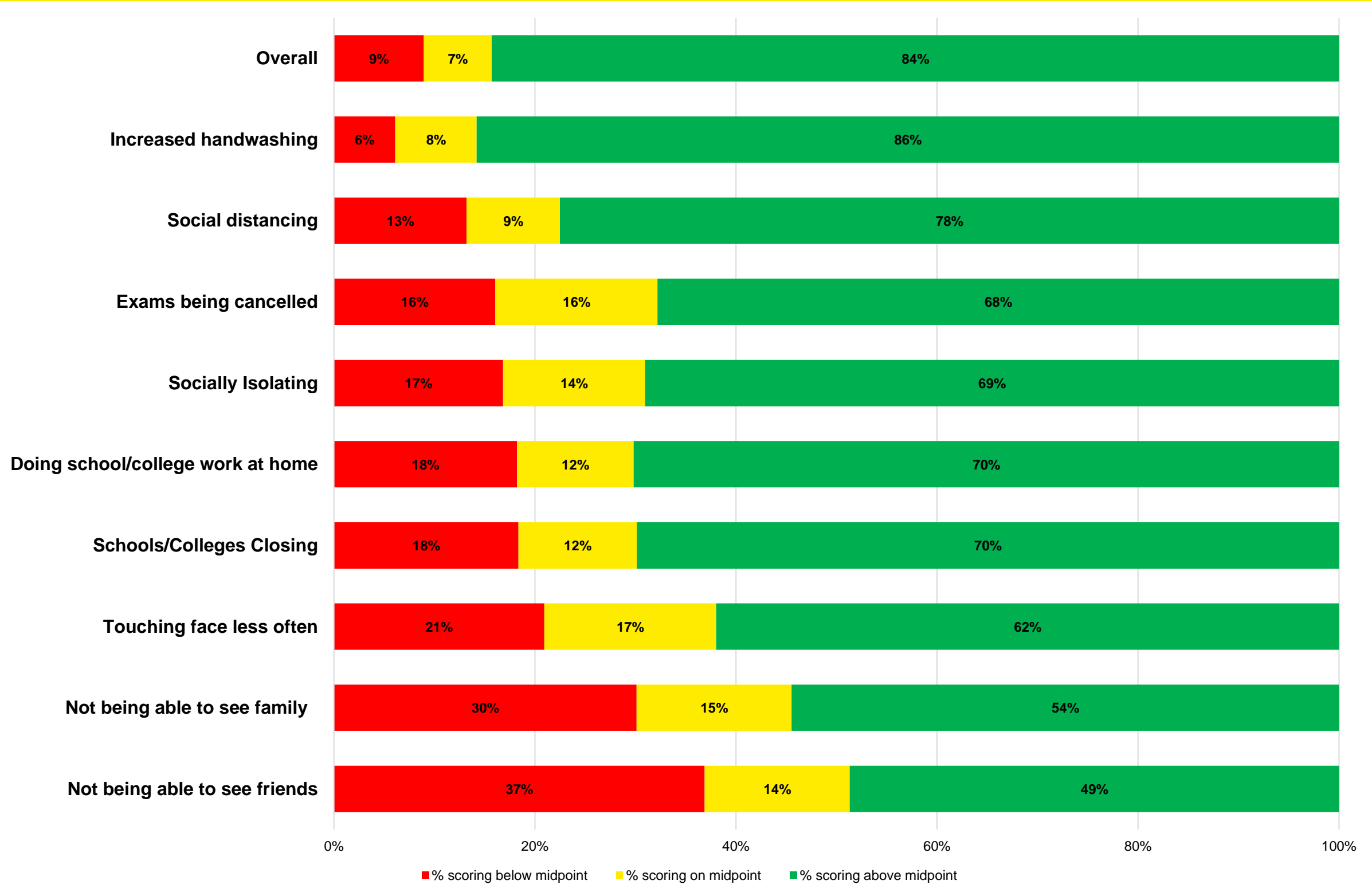
Source: PISA, 2018. Weighted data. 'Low sadness' is defined as feeling 'never' or 'sometimes' sad.



How did children cope?

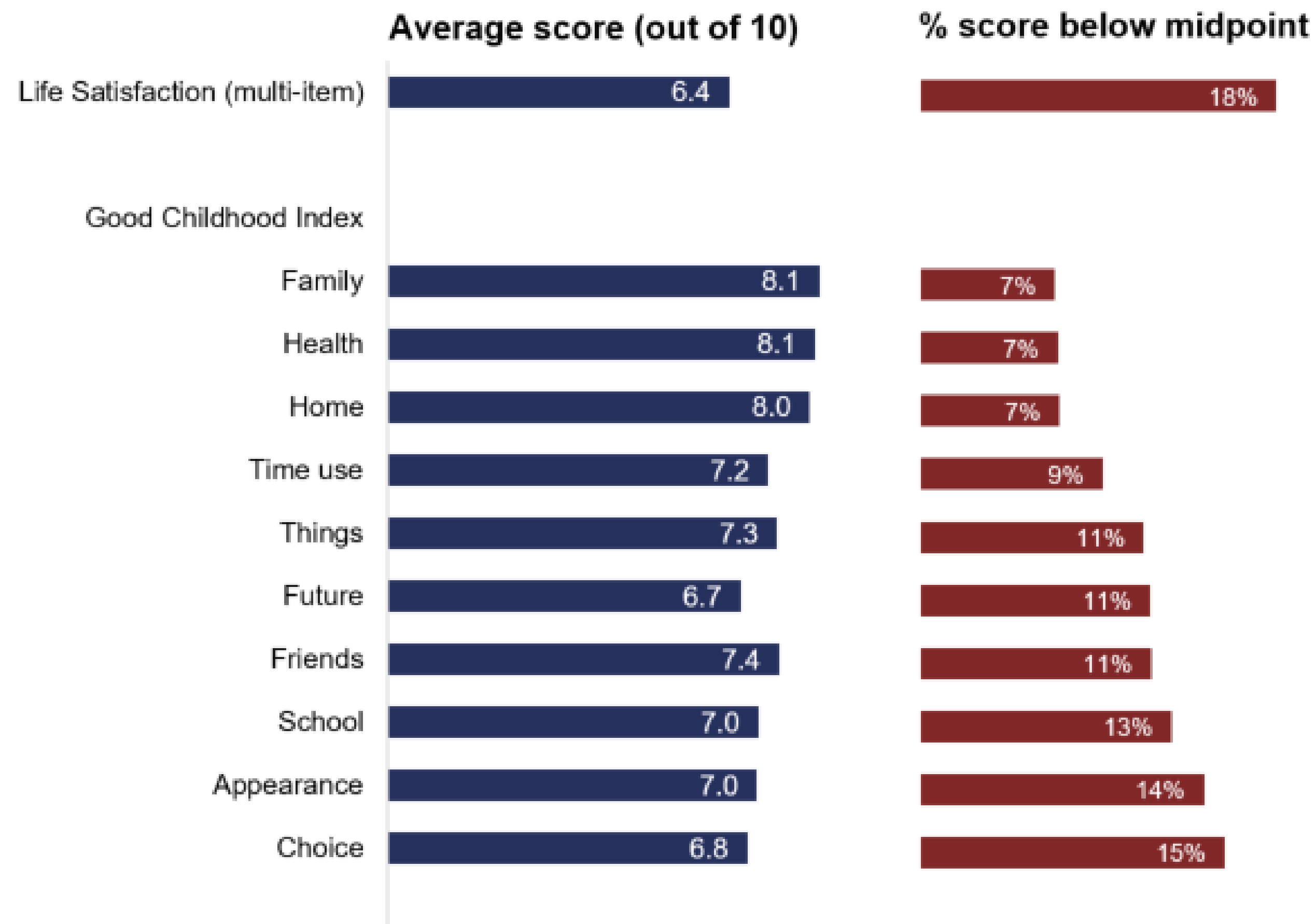
Children were asked: *How well do you think you have coped with the following changes that the government put in place because of Coronavirus? (on a scale 0 to 10)*

Figure 4: Extent to which children (aged 10 to 17) feel they are coping with Coronavirus changes



Note: The above proportions exclude those who responded 'prefer not to say'. As a result the N's vary slightly between items (weighted Ns range from 1,615 for exam cancellations to 1,730 for coping overall and hand washing).

Good Childhood Index 2020





Looking to the future...

“By 2030 we will have overturned the damaging decline in children’s well-being, setting a path for long lasting growth”

First steps...

- National data on children's well-being
- Well-being as the outcome
- Re-visiting the index
- Understanding the inequalities
- Understanding how the index is used

Questions?



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Localised data

Appendix D

Figure 35*: Children’s (aged 11 to 16)a mean well-being scores (on a scale of 0 to 10) by Local Authority, England, Academic year 2018-19**

		Life Satisfaction (0 to 10)	Happy yesterday (0 to 10)	Feel life is worthwhile (0 to 10)
Overall		6.5	6.4	6.6
	Weighted N	2,857,832	2,862,546	2,851,310
	Unweighted N	57,730	57,835	57,583
East				
	Bedford	6.3	6.0	6.3
	Cambridgeshire	6.9	6.8	7.0

Source: Sport England (2020) Active Lives Children and Young People Survey 2018-19 LA data set. Weighted data.

Notes:

a – Please note that there may not be full year group coverage in each LA.

b – The figure presented for happiness yesterday will differ to those in the main Active Lives Report as they are for School Years 7-11 only (the figures in the Active Lives Report are for Years 3-11).

^ indicates that the unweighted base is less than 150.

All data presented are estimates from the Active Lives Children and Young People Survey for pupils from year 7 to 11 (i.e. aged 11 to 16).

*****For the full table, please see accompanying excel file on The Good Childhood Report 2020 webpage.**

Supporting commissioning

1st October

Children's Society publishes Good Childhood Inquiry findings



By **Kenny Lomas** | **@KendrickLomarr**
Local Democracy Reporter



Inquiry shines spotlight on the issues impacting St Helens children's wellbeing



0 comment

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Latest daily

In our services

Change in Overall Happiness and Life Satisfaction (10 Scale)

5.42

Average of Happiness with life as a whole before

6.49

Average of Happiness with life as a whole after

1.07

Average change of happiness with life as a whole

5.06

Average of Life satisfaction before (10 scale)

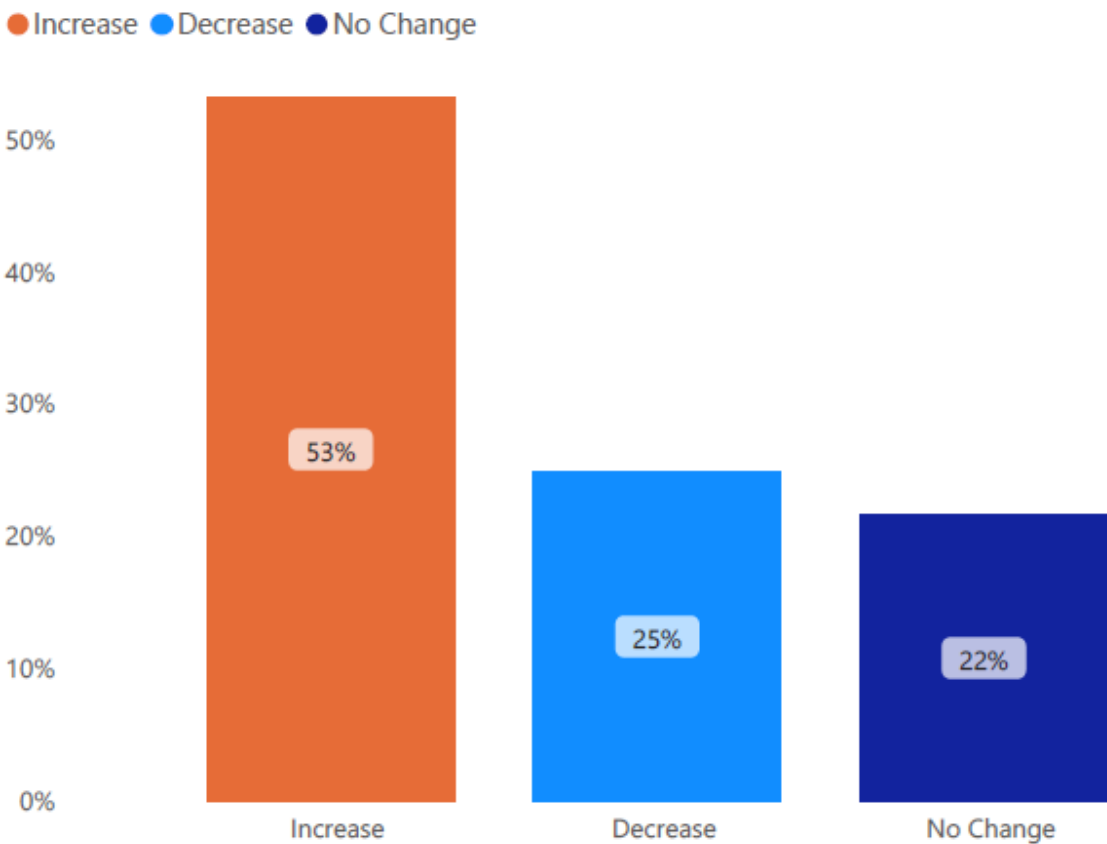
6.56

Average score of Life satisfaction after working with us

1.19

Average difference in improvement of Life satisfaction

Happiness with life as a whole Distance Travelled



Life Satisfaction (10 scale) Distance Travelled

