



Child survey methodology, results and analyses

Oakhill STC

May 2026

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Child survey methodology

A confidential survey of children is carried out at all establishments holding children each year. A self-completion questionnaire is offered to every child resident in the establishment on the day of the survey. The questionnaire consists of structured questions covering the child's 'journey' from admission to release together with demographic and background questions which enables comparison of responses from different sub-groups (numbers permitting). There are also a few open questions which provide opportunities for children to express in their own words what they find most positive and negative about the centre.

The current questionnaire has been in use since October 2018 (revised in April 2023) and is also used to support inspections and reviews of progress at YOIs holding children. The questionnaire was developed in consultation with HMIP and Ofsted inspectors. Draft questions were tested with children in both STCs and YOIs and their input and feedback was invaluable in improving the relevance and accessibility of questions.

Distributing and collecting questionnaires

HMI Prisons researchers distributed and collected the questionnaires in person. So that children could give their informed consent to participate, the purpose of the survey and the inspection was explained.

Children were made aware that participation in the survey was voluntary. We also explained that while they did not need to put their name on the questionnaire, individual respondents could be identified via a numbering system which is only accessible to the inspection team. This was so that any child protection and safeguarding concerns could be followed up (see section below for further information).

Children who agreed to participate in the survey were provided with a sealable envelope for their completed questionnaire and told when researchers would return to collect it.

Child protection and safeguarding

All completed questionnaires were checked by researchers for potential child protection and safeguarding issues on the day of the survey. Any concerns were followed up by inspectors and passed on to establishment staff if necessary.

Survey responses

At the time of the survey on 6 May 2026 the population at Oakhill STC was 43. Using the approach described above, questionnaires were distributed to 43 children. We received a total of 40 completed questionnaires, a response rate of 93%.

Child survey results and analyses

Over the following pages we present the full survey results followed by numerous comparative analyses for Oakhill STC. For the comparator analyses, where relevant, each question was reformulated using the Chi-square test (or Fisher's exact test if there are fewer than five expected counts in a cell) into a binary 'yes/no' format and affirmative responses compared. Missing responses have been excluded from all analyses and for some questions, responses from a sub-group of the sample are reported (as indicated in the data).

Responses from Oakhill STC 2026 compared with those from other HMI Prisons surveys

These analyses are carried out on summary data from all survey questions.

- Survey responses from Oakhill STC in May 2026 compared with survey responses from Oakhill STC in June 2025.
- Survey responses from Oakhill STC in May 2026 compared with the most recent survey responses from all other establishments holding children conducted since April 2025 (four establishments).

Comparisons between self-reported sub-populations of children within Oakhill STC 2026

These analyses are carried out on summary data from selected survey questions only.

- Responses of children on remand or waiting to be sentenced are compared with children who are sentenced.
- Responses of children from ethnic minority groups compared with those of white children.
- Responses of Muslim children compared with those of non-Muslim children.
- Responses of children who reported that they had a disability compared to those who did not.
- Responses of children who reported that they had been in local authority care compared with those who did not.

Please note that we only carry out within-prison comparator analysis where there is a minimum of 10 responses which must also represent at least 10% of the total response.

In the comparator analyses, statistically significant differences are indicated by shading. The probability threshold (i.e. p-value) is set at 0.01 which means that there is a 1% likelihood the statistically significant difference between the two groups is due to chance. Results that are significantly more positive are indicated by green shading and results that are significantly more negative are indicated by blue shading. Orange shading has been used to show a statistically significant difference in demographic or other background details. If there is no shading, any difference between the two results is not statistically

significant and may have occurred by chance. Grey shading indicates that there are no valid comparative data for that question.

Filtered questions are indented and preceded by an explanation in italics of how the filter has been applied. In the comparator analyses, percentages for filtered questions refer to the number of respondents filtered to that question. For all other questions, percentages refer to the total number of valid responses to the question.

Background information**Q1.1 What wing, unit or houseblock do you live on?**

Ash 1	8 (20%)
Ash 2	4 (10%)
Ash 3	5 (13%)
Oak 1	2 (5%)
Oak 2	3 (8%)
Willow 1	7 (18%)
Willow 3	6 (15%)
Willow 4	5 (13%)

Q1.2 How old are you?

12	13	14	15	16	17	18 or over
0	13	2	9	15	10	4
(0%)	(0%)	(5%)	(23%)	(38%)	(25%)	(10%)

Q1.3 What is your gender?

Male	38 (95%)
Female	1 (3%)
Non-binary	1 (3%)
Other	0 (0%)

Q1.4 What is your ethnic group?

White - English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British	9 (23%)
White - Irish	0 (0%)
White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller	1 (3%)
White - any other White background	4 (10%)
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	2 (5%)
Mixed - White and Black African	4 (10%)
Mixed - White and Asian	1 (3%)
Mixed - any other Mixed ethnic background	5 (13%)
Asian/ Asian British - Indian	0 (0%)
Asian/ Asian British - Pakistani	1 (3%)
Asian/ Asian British - Bangladeshi	0 (0%)
Asian/ Asian British - Chinese	0 (0%)
Asian - any other Asian background	0 (0%)
Black/ Black British - Caribbean	1 (3%)
Black/ Black British - African	5 (13%)
Black - any other Black/ African/ Caribbean background	1 (3%)
Arab	2 (5%)
Any other ethnic group	4 (10%)

Q1.5 Do you have any children?

Yes	3 (8%)
No	37 (93%)

Q1.6 Are you from a traveller community (e.g. Gypsy, Roma, Irish Traveller)?

Yes	4 (10%)
No	36 (90%)

Q1.7 Have you ever been in local authority care (e.g. lived with foster parents or in a children's home, or had a social worker)?

Yes 22 (55%)
No..... 18 (45%)

Q1.8 Are you serving a sentence?

Yes 20 (50%)
No - on remand or waiting to be sentenced..... 20 (50%)

Arrival and induction

Q2.1 When you were searched in reception/admissions, was this done in a respectful way?

Yes 34 (85%)
No..... 0 (0%)
Don't remember..... 6 (15%)
I wasn't searched..... 0 (0%)

Q2.2 Overall, how were you treated in reception/admissions?

Well 33 (83%)
Badly 0 (0%)
Don't remember..... 7 (18%)

Q2.3 When you first arrived here did staff help you with any problems or worries you had?

Yes 24 (60%)
No..... 3 (8%)
Don't remember..... 4 (10%)
I didn't have any problems or worries 9 (23%)

Q2.4 Did you feel safe on your first night here?

Yes 34 (85%)
No..... 4 (10%)
Don't remember..... 2 (5%)

Q2.5 In your first few days were you told everything you needed to know about life here?

Yes 26 (68%)
No..... 12 (32%)

Living conditions

Q3.1 How comfortable is the temperature of your room?

Too cold..... 8 (21%)
About right 14 (36%)
Too hot 17 (44%)

Q3.2 Can you shower every day?

Yes 39 (98%)
No..... 1 (3%)
Don't know..... 0 (0%)

- Q3.3 Do you normally have enough clean, suitable clothes for the week?**
 Yes 39 (98%)
 No..... 1 (3%)
 Don't know..... 0 (0%)
- Q3.4 Do you have clean sheets every week?**
 Yes 35 (88%)
 No..... 5 (13%)
 Don't know..... 0 (0%)
- Q3.5 Can you get your stored property if you need it?**
 Yes 24 (65%)
 No..... 4 (11%)
 Don't know..... 9 (24%)
- Q3.6 Is it normally quiet enough for you to relax or sleep at night?**
 Yes 27 (69%)
 No..... 12 (31%)
 Don't know..... 0 (0%)
- Q3.7 Do you usually spend more than 2 hours out of your room on weekdays?**
 Yes 37 (95%)
 No..... 2 (5%)
 Don't know..... 0 (0%)
- Q3.8 Do you usually spend more than 2 hours out of your room on Saturdays and Sundays?**
 Yes 36 (92%)
 No..... 2 (5%)
 Don't know..... 1 (3%)

Food and canteen

- Q4.1 What is the food like here?**
 Very good 0 (0%)
 Quite good 6 (16%)
 Quite bad..... 24 (63%)
 Very bad..... 8 (21%)
- Q4.2 Do you get enough to eat at mealtimes?**
 Always 6 (15%)
 Most of the time 14 (36%)
 Some of the time 14 (36%)
 Never..... 5 (13%)
- Q4.3 Does the shop sell the things that you need?**
 Yes 15 (39%)
 No..... 16 (42%)
 Don't know..... 7 (18%)

Health and well-being

Q5.1	How easy or difficult is it to see the following health staff?		
		Easy	Difficult Don't know
	Doctor	16 (41%)	13 (33%) 10 (26%)
	Nurse	25 (64%)	10 (26%) 4 (10%)
	Dentist	17 (44%)	16 (41%) 6 (15%)
	Mental health workers	27 (69%)	6 (15%) 6 (15%)
Q5.2	Do you have any health problems (including mental health problems)?		
	Yes		11 (30%)
	No.....		26 (70%)
Q5.3	Have you been helped with your health problems since you've been here?		
	Yes		9 (24%)
	No.....		2 (5%)
	Don't have any health problems		26 (70%)
Q5.4	Do you have a disability? This includes any physical, mental or learning needs that affect your day-to-day life.		
	Yes		14 (37%)
	No.....		24 (63%)
Q5.5	If you have a disability, are you getting the support you need?		
	Yes		6 (17%)
	No.....		5 (14%)
	Don't have a disability.....		24 (69%)
Q5.6	Did you have an alcohol problem when you came here?		
	Yes		5 (13%)
	No.....		33 (87%)
Q5.7	Did you have a drug problem when you came here?		
	Yes		12 (32%)
	No.....		26 (68%)
Q5.8	Have you been helped with your drug or alcohol problem since you've been here?		
	Yes		10 (26%)
	No.....		4 (10%)
	Did not have a drug or alcohol problem.....		25 (64%)
Q5.9	Can you spend time outside in the fresh air most days (not counting time spent going to and from activities)?		
	Yes		27 (69%)
	No.....		10 (26%)
	Don't know.....		2 (5%)
Q5.10	How often do you go to the gym or play sports?		
	More than once a week		31 (82%)
	About once a week.....		2 (5%)
	Less than once a week.....		4 (11%)
	Never.....		1 (3%)

Complaints**Q6.1 Do you know how to make a complaint?**

Yes 36 (92%)
 No..... 3 (8%)

Q6.2 If you have made any complaints here, please answer the questions below:

	Yes	No	Not made a complaint
Were your complaints usually dealt with fairly?	18 (47%)	8 (21%)	12 (32%)
Were your complaints usually dealt with within 7 days?	19 (49%)	8 (21%)	12 (31%)

Q6.3 Have you ever felt too scared to make a complaint?

Yes 2 (5%)
 No..... 31 (82%)
 Never wanted to make a complaint 5 (13%)

Safety and security**Q7.1 Have you ever felt unsafe here?**

Yes 12 (31%)
 No..... 27 (69%)

Q7.2 Do you feel unsafe now?

Yes 2 (5%)
 No..... 37 (95%)

Q7.4 Is your emergency call bell or intercom normally answered within 5 minutes?

Yes 33 (85%)
 No..... 3 (8%)
 Don't know..... 3 (8%)

Q7.5 Have other young people here ever done any of the following to you?

Verbal abuse 15 (39%)
 Threats or intimidation 11 (29%)
 Physical assault..... 18 (47%)
 Sexual assault..... 0 (0%)
 Being forced to assault another young person 2 (5%)
 Theft of canteen or property 4 (11%)
 Other bullying or victimisation..... 2 (5%)
 Young people here have not done any of these things to me... 14 (37%)

Q7.6 If you were being bullied/victimised by other young people here, would you report it?

Yes 17 (46%)
 No..... 20 (54%)

- Q7.7 Have staff here ever done any of the following to you?**
- | | |
|--|----------|
| Verbal abuse | 6 (16%) |
| Threats or intimidation | 5 (14%) |
| Physical assault..... | 3 (8%) |
| Sexual assault..... | 0 (0%) |
| Theft of canteen or property | 1 (3%) |
| Other bullying or victimisation..... | 1 (3%) |
| Staff here have not done any of these things to me | 29 (78%) |
- Q7.8 If you were being bullied/victimised by staff here, would you report it?**
- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| Yes | 29 (78%) |
| No..... | 8 (22%) |

Behaviour management

- Q8.1 Do the rewards or incentives for good behaviour encourage you to behave well?**
- | | |
|------------------|----------|
| Yes | 20 (53%) |
| No..... | 16 (42%) |
| Don't know | 2 (5%) |
- Q8.2 Do you think the system of rewards or incentives is fair?**
- | | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Yes | 17 (45%) |
| No..... | 17 (45%) |
| Don't know..... | 4 (11%) |
- Q8.3 Do staff usually let you know when your behaviour is good?**
- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| Yes | 27 (73%) |
| No..... | 10 (27%) |
- Q8.4 If you get in trouble, do staff usually explain what you have done wrong?**
- | | |
|--|----------|
| Yes | 26 (70%) |
| No..... | 8 (22%) |
| Not applicable (never been in trouble here)..... | 3 (8%) |
- Q8.5 If you have been restrained (e.g. MMPR) since you have been here, did a member of staff come and talk to you about it afterwards?**
- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Yes | 21 (55%) |
| No..... | 3 (8%) |
| Don't remember..... | 0 (0%) |
| Not been restrained here..... | 14 (37%) |
- Q8.6 Since you have been here, have you ever been kept locked up and stopped from mixing with other young people as a punishment?**
- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| Yes | 16 (43%) |
| No..... | 21 (57%) |

Staff

- Q9.1 Do you feel cared for by most staff here?**
- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| Yes | 27 (71%) |
| No..... | 11 (29%) |

Q9.2 Do most staff here treat you with respect?

Yes	33 (89%)
No.....	4 (11%)

Q9.3 If you had a problem, are there any staff here you could turn to for help?

Yes	27 (73%)
No.....	10 (27%)

Faith

Q10.1 What is your religion?

No religion	7 (18%)
Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, and other branches of Christianity).....	18 (47%)
Buddhist	0 (0%)
Hindu	0 (0%)
Jewish	1 (3%)
Muslim	12 (32%)
Sikh	0 (0%)
Other	0 (0%)

Q10.2 Are your religious beliefs respected here?

Yes	29 (78%)
No.....	1 (3%)
Don't know.....	0 (0%)
Not applicable (no religion).....	7 (19%)

Q10.3 Are you able to speak to a Chaplain of your faith in private, if you want to?

Yes	27 (71%)
No.....	1 (3%)
Don't know.....	3 (8%)
Not applicable (no religion).....	7 (18%)

Keeping in touch with family and friends

Q11.1 Has anyone here helped you to keep in touch with your family and friends?

Yes	31 (84%)
No.....	6 (16%)

Q11.2 How easy or difficult is it for your family and friends to get here?

Very easy	2 (5%)
Quite easy	13 (34%)
Quite difficult.....	15 (39%)
Very difficult.....	3 (8%)
Don't know.....	5 (13%)

Q11.3 How often do you have visits from family or friends?

More than once a week	0 (0%)
About once a week.....	15 (41%)
Less than once a week.....	18 (49%)
Not applicable (haven't had any visits)	4 (11%)

Q11.4 How often do you have secure video calls with family or friends?

More than once a week	1 (3%)
About once a week.....	8 (21%)
Less than once a week.....	13 (34%)
Not applicable (not had any secure video calls)	16 (42%)

Education and training**Q12.1 Are you doing any of the following activities at the moment?**

Education	34 (89%)
Training for a job (vocational training)	8 (21%)
Paid work.....	7 (18%)
Interventions (e.g. offending behaviour programmes)	9 (24%)
None of these	3 (8%)

Q12.2 Do staff encourage you to attend education, training or work?

Yes	37 (97%)
No.....	1 (3%)

Q12.3 Have you learned anything here that will help you when you are released (e.g. education or skills)?

Yes	30 (81%)
No.....	7 (19%)

Preparing to move on**Q13.1 Is there a plan that you discuss in meetings with your YOT worker which sets out what you need to work on while you are here (e.g. your targets or objectives)?**

Yes	23 (61%)
No.....	9 (24%)
Don't know.....	6 (16%)

Q13.2 Do you understand what you need to do to achieve your objectives or targets?

Yes	23 (61%)
No.....	0 (0%)
Don't know what my objectives or targets are	15 (39%)

Q13.3 Are staff here supporting you to achieve your objectives or targets?

Yes	17 (46%)
No.....	5 (14%)
Don't know what my objectives or targets are	15 (41%)

Q13.4 Is anybody here helping you to prepare for when you leave?

Yes	18 (49%)
No.....	19 (51%)

Q13.5 Have you had a say in what will happen to you when you leave here?

Yes	15 (43%)
No.....	20 (57%)

Final questions about this STC

- Q14.1 Do you think your experiences here have made you more or less likely to offend in the future?
- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| More likely to offend | 4 (10%) |
| Less likely to offend..... | 29 (74%) |
| Made no difference..... | 6 (15%) |