



Scotland's Commissioner
for Children & Young People

**aRIGHT
blether**
What's important to you?

What's your
RIGHT
brilliant
thing?

**What Children and
Young People Told Us**

April 2012

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SUMMARY

A RIGHT Brilliant Thing contributed to the **Create** strand of *A RIGHT Blether*

1,886

RIGHT Brilliant Things were identified by participants

1,234 submissions

to A RIGHT Brilliant Thing were received

39% of RIGHT Brilliant Things related to

Activities

25% of RIGHT Brilliant Things related to

Relationships

18% of Right Brilliant Things related to

Identity and Culture

2/3 of **Activity** themed RIGHT Brilliant Things related to

Sports, Arts, and Technology activities

70% relationship themed submissions from

primary school aged children were about **family relationships**

46% relationship themed submissions from

secondary school aged children were about **family relationships**

Sports were the **second largest** subcategory of RIGHT Brilliant Things overall

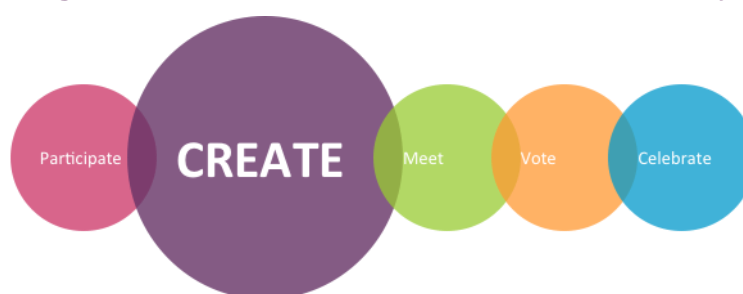
Family Relationships were the **largest** subcategory of Right Brilliant Things overall

INTRODUCTION

In 2010, Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People (the Commissioner) carried out *A RIGHT Blether*, a national consultation to identify what is important in the lives of children and young people in Scotland.ⁱ *A RIGHT Blether* involved five strands of activity: Participate, Create, Meet, Vote and Celebrate.

A RIGHT Brilliant Thing, the topic of this report, was the key activity within the Create strand. Through this participatory activity, children and young people from across Scotland were invited to tell the Commissioner about the brilliant things in their world.

Figure 1: *A RIGHT Blether's* five strands of activity

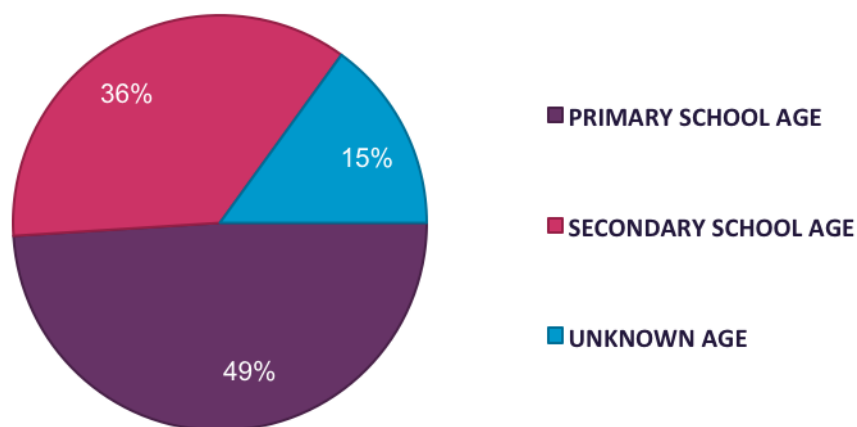


About the participants

Children and young people from across Scotland, and of varied ages participated in *A RIGHT Brilliant Thing*. Submissions were received from individuals, schools, youth organisations, youth councils and colleges from at least 21 of the 32 local authority areas.ⁱⁱ (See *Appendix 2 Participation by Local Authority* for more information).

Participants included primary school aged, and secondary school aged children and young people. Half of all submissions were from primary school aged children, and just over one third were from secondary school aged children and young people (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: Submissions by age of participants



About the submissions

Overall, the Commissioner received 1,234ⁱⁱⁱ submissions to *A RIGHT Brilliant Thing*. Within these submissions 1,886 Brilliant Things were identified.

Children and young people were free to describe or display their Brilliant Things in whatever format they liked. They chose to work in groups, in pairs and individually, presenting their Brilliant Things in a variety of creative ways as illustrated by Figure 3 below.^{iv}

Figure 3: Type of *Right Brilliant Thing* submissions



About this report

This report presents a summary of what children and young people told us is brilliant in their lives.

In order to make sense of the large number of responses, we divided all 1,886 RIGHT Brilliant Things into eight key themes¹:

- Theme 1: **ACTIVITIES**
- Theme 2: **RELATIONSHIPS**
- Theme 3: **IDENTITY AND CULTURE**
- Theme 4: **SCHOOLS AND LEARNING**
- Theme 5: **PETS**
- Theme 6: **OTHER BRILLIANT THINGS**
- Theme 7: **ABILITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**
- Theme 8: **SUPPORTING OTHERS**

So, for example, within these key themes, Image 1 was placed within the Relationship theme.



Image 1: My family makes my life Brilliant. Scotland should support all families to make their lives Brilliant too.

¹ For examples of Brilliant Things under each theme see Appendix 2.

Where possible, Brilliant Things were then further divided into subcategories within the themes. Within the Relationship theme, for example, there are four subcategories: Family; Friends, Romantic; and Other relationships.

This report explores each theme in turn. It outlines the proportion of RIGHT Brilliant Things within each theme and, where relevant, within the themes' subcategories. It also highlights any notable differences between submissions from primary school aged children and secondary school aged children and young people.

Some key words used in this report

Submissions	The pieces of work in which children and young people described their RIGHT Brilliant Things
RIGHT Brilliant Things	The things that children and young people identified as brilliant in their lives. Also written as 'Brilliant Things'.
Themes	The top level grouping used to categorise Brilliant Things
Subcategories	The second level grouping used to further categorise Brilliant Things within the Themes.

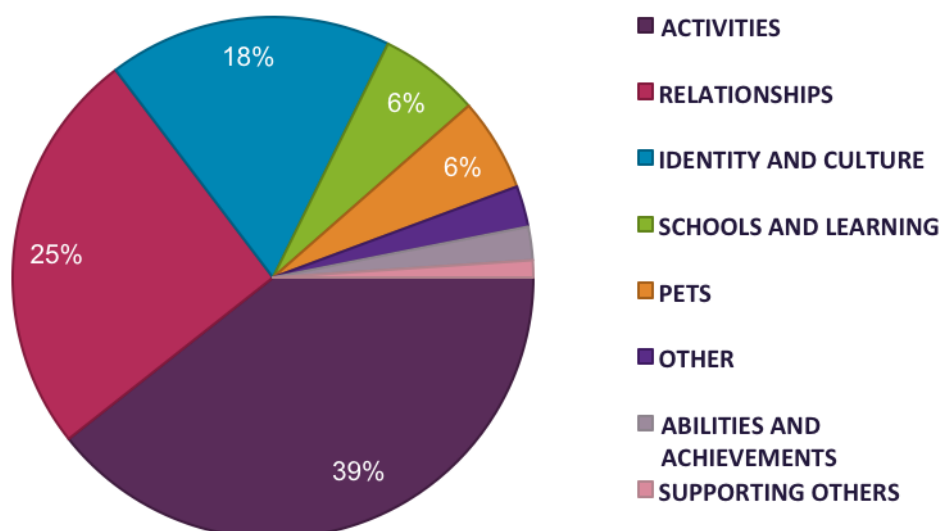
RIGHT BRILLIANT THINGS BY THEME

All themes and subcategories

Having divided the RIGHT Brilliant Things into themes, we counted the number of Brilliant Things within each theme.

Three themes dominated, sharing more than 80% of all Brilliant Things: Activities; Relationships; and Identity and Culture (see Figure 4).

Figure 4: Proportion of RIGHT Brilliant Things by theme

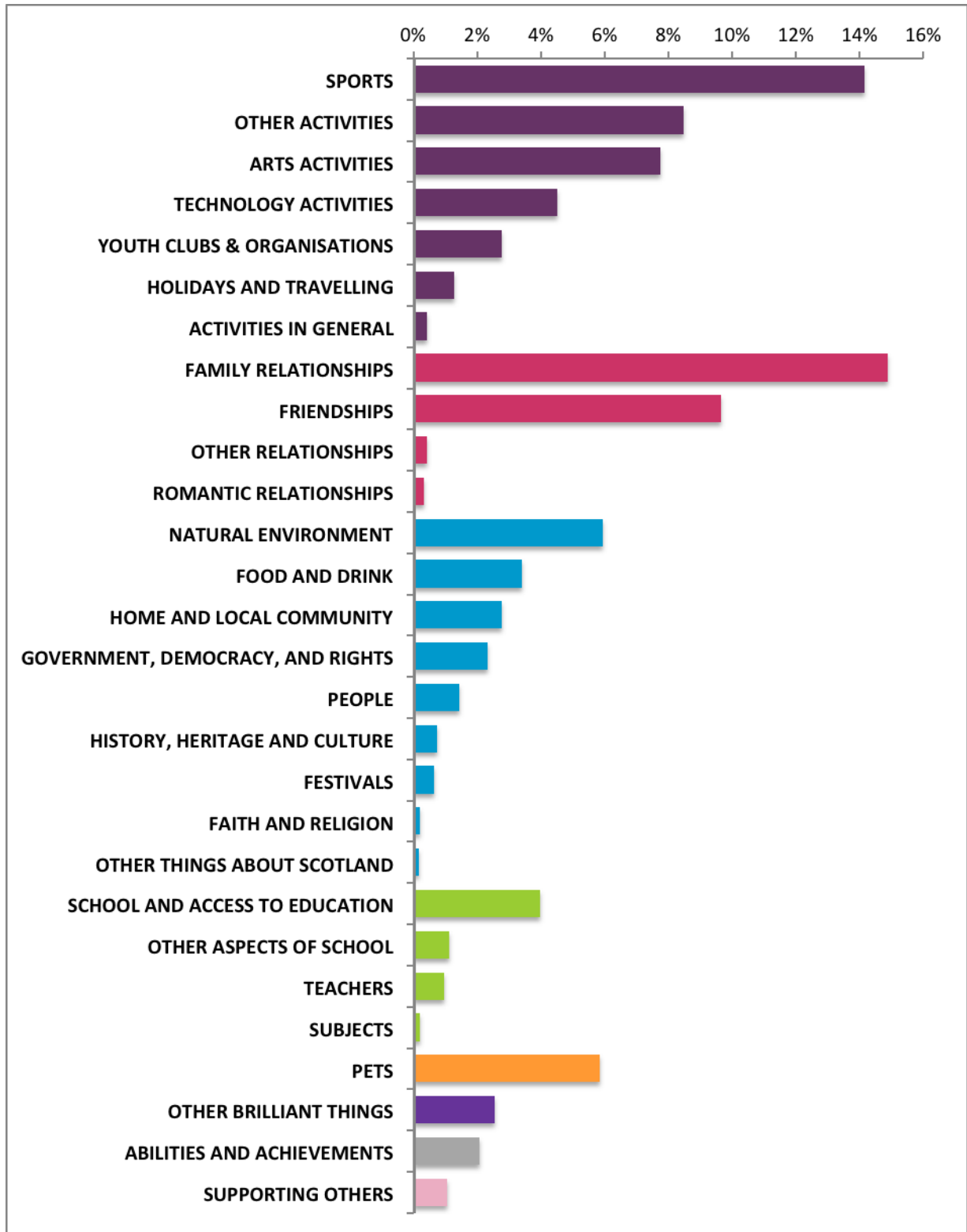
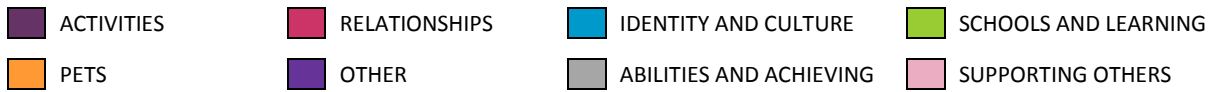


We then further divided the Brilliant Things into 28 subcategories^v (see figure 5, p7).

Here, two subcategories were clearly dominant: around one in seven RIGHT Brilliant Things referred to Family Relationships; and a similar proportion referred to Sports.

Figure 5: Proportion of RIGHT Brilliant Things by subcategory

Themes key

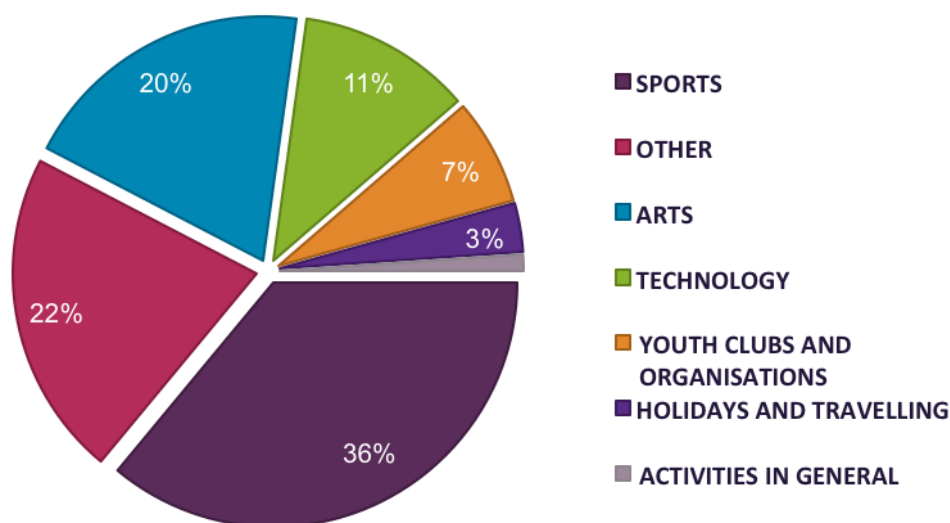


Theme 1: Activities

The Activities theme encompassed nearly 40% of all RIGHT Brilliant Things, the largest proportion of any of the themes.

This theme included seven subcategories (see figure 6).

Figure 6: Activity themed RIGHT Brilliant Things by subcategory



Sports, Arts and Technology were the three most mentioned subcategories. These are explored further below.

SPORTS

Sports were the most mentioned Activity, accounting for more than one third of Right Brilliant Things in this theme. Children and young people identified a wide range of sport as their Brilliant Thing, including football, gymnastics, golf, swimming, martial arts.



Image 2: Football



Image 3: Gymnastics is flipping good fun

ARTS

One in five Brilliant Things related to Arts, for example drawing, singing, dancing, drama and playing an instrument.

There was some difference between the age groups for this subcategory. Within submissions from secondary school aged children and young people, one quarter of Activity themed Brilliant Things related to Arts. Within submissions from primary school aged children the proportion of Arts Brilliant Things was smaller at approximately one in seven.



Image 4: Right Brilliant Thing Art!



Image 5: My Brilliant Thing is street dance. It is important because when I'm lonely I just do it.

TECHNOLOGY

Technology activities, such as game consoles, mobile phones and mp3 players, were another popular subcategory of Brilliant Things.

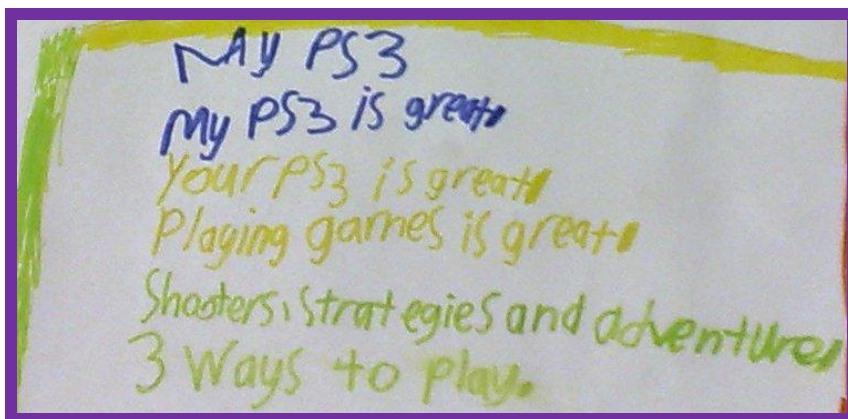


Image 6: My PS3. My PS3 is great. Your PS3 is great. Playing games is great. Shooters, strategies and adventures. 3 ways to play.

Again there was slight variation between the age groups. Within submissions from secondary school aged children and young people, 8% of Activity themed Brilliant Things related to technology. This figure was nearly double (14%) within submissions from primary school aged children.

Theme 2: Relationships

One quarter of all RIGHT Brilliant Things referred to relationships.

There was a clear difference between types of relationships mentioned by the younger and older age groups (see Figure 7). Relationships mentioned by secondary school aged children and young people included an even mix of friendships and family relationship and also saw the introduction of romantic relationships. In comparison, nearly three quarters of all Relationship Brilliant Things mentioned by primary school aged children were family relationships.

Figure 7: Relationship subcategories by age group

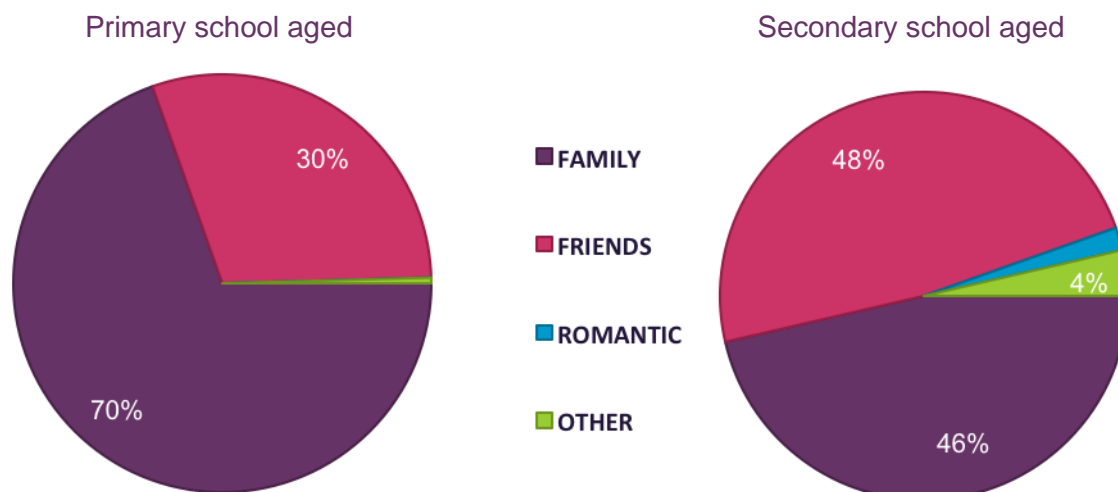


Image 7: A loving family



Image 8: My Brilliant Thing is my Mummy. It is important because she looks after me and makes me healthy.

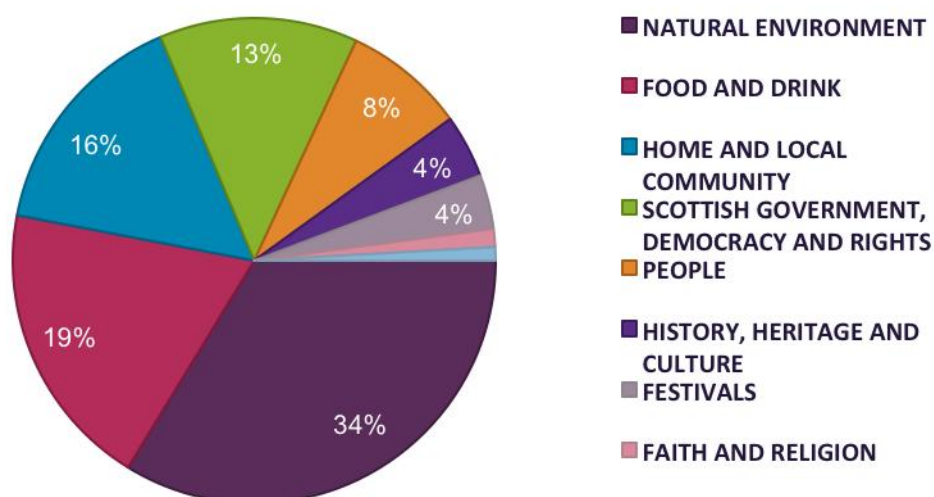


Image 9: Friends!! x

Theme 3: Identity and Culture

Identity and Culture Brilliant Things were divided into a further eight subcategories.

Figure 8: Identity and culture themed Right Brilliant Things by subcategory



One third of all Brilliant things in this theme referred to Scotland's natural environment, including scenery, wildlife, and the weather. Food and Drink - for example Iron Bru, shortbread and haggis - accounted for one in five Brilliant Things within this theme.

There were a few notable differences between the age groups within this theme. A greater proportion of Brilliant Things relating to Government, Democracy and Rights were identified in submissions from primary school aged children (28%) than in submissions from secondary school aged children and young people (8%).



Image 10: When we vote we can really make the difference because we can mention our opinion.

Similarly, more Brilliant Things relating to Home and Local Community were identified in submissions from the younger group (23%) compared to submissions from the older group (12%).

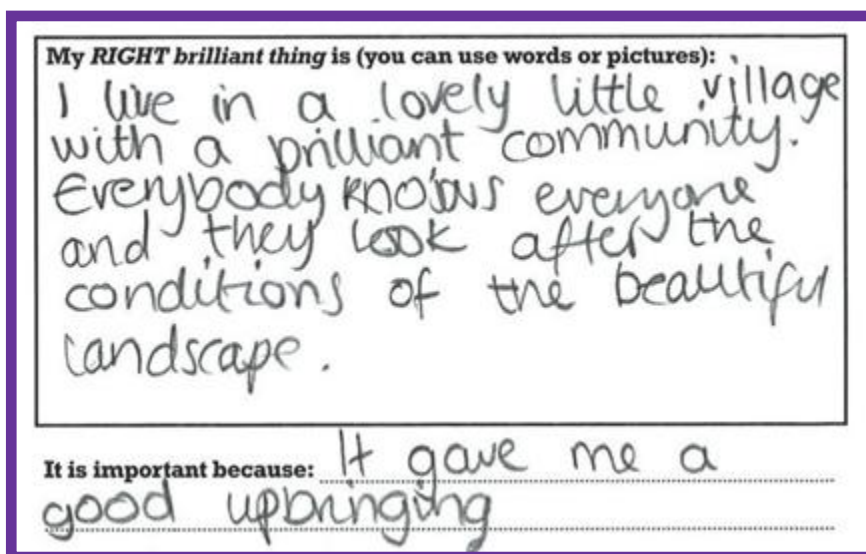


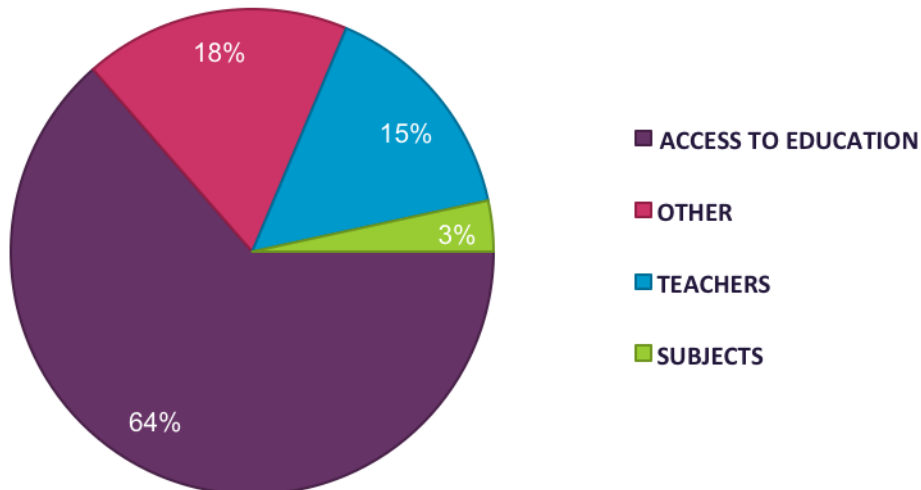
Image 11: I live in a lovely little village with a brilliant community. Everybody knows everyone and they look after the conditions of the beautiful landscape. It is important because it gave me a good upbringing.

Finally, within submissions from secondary school aged children and young people, more than one third of Identity and Culture themed Brilliant Things mentioned the natural environment. This natural environment subcategory was slightly less prominent within submissions from primary school aged children, accounting for one quarter of Identity and Culture Brilliant Things.

Theme 4: Schools and Learning

Schools and Learning themed Brilliant Things were divided into a further four subcategories.

Figure 9: Schools and Learning Right Brilliant Things by subcategory



The most significant subcategory within this theme was Access to Education, with two thirds of Schools and Learning themed Brilliant Things referring to, for example, having equal access to schooling, free university education, and learning new things at school.

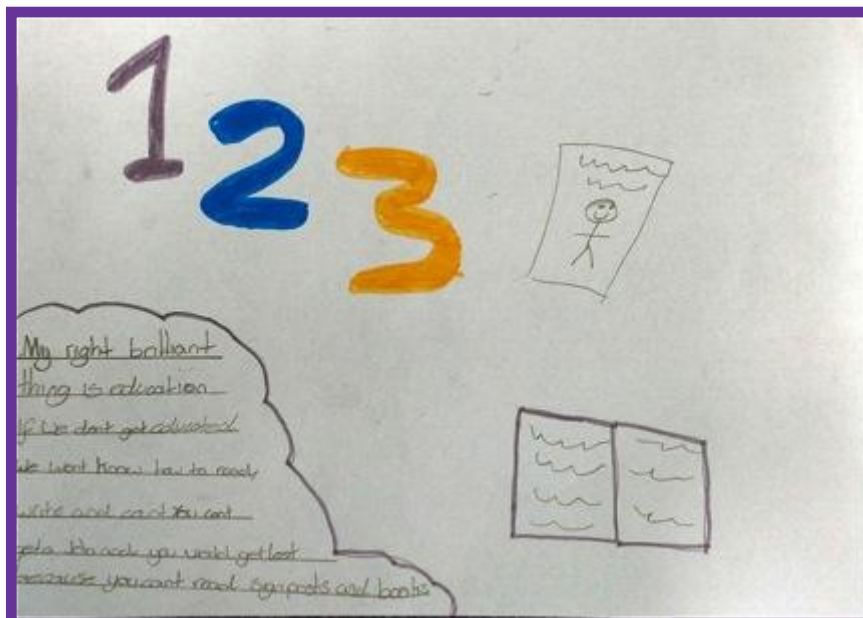


Image 12: My right brilliant thing is education. If we don't get educated we won't know how to read, write and count. You can't get a job and you would get lost because you can't read signposts and books.

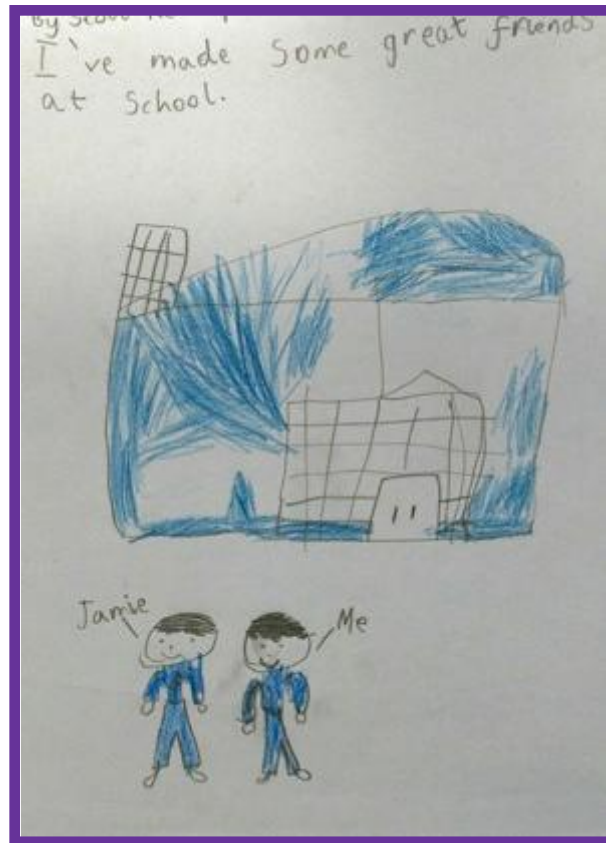


Image13: I've made some great friends at school.

Theme 5: Pets

6% of all Right Brilliant Things referred to Pets.

There was a small variation between the age groups for this theme. Within submissions from primary school aged children, 9% of Brilliant Things related to Pets, compared to only 3% within submissions from secondary school aged children and young people.

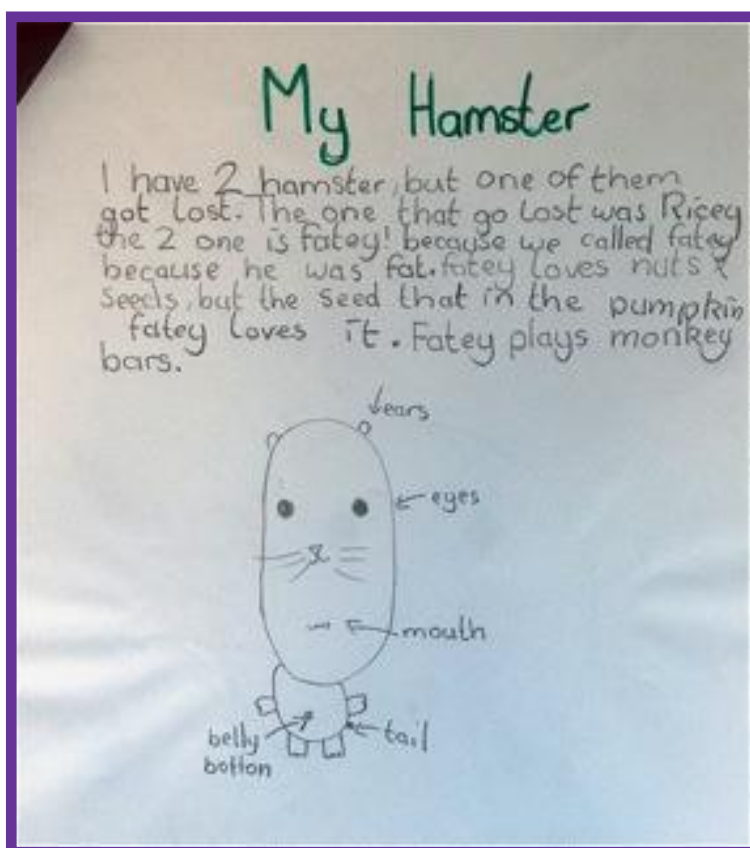


Image 14: My Hamster. I have 2 hamster, but one of them got lost. The one that go lost was Ricey the 2 one is Fatey! Because we called Fatey because he was fat. Fatey loves nuts, seeds, but the seed that in the pumpkin Fatey loves it. Fatey plays monkey bars.

Themes 6, 7 and 8

Themes 6 (Other Brilliant Things), 7 (Abilities and Achievements), and 8 (Supporting Others) accounted for 6% of all Brilliant Things.

3% of all Brilliant Things were categorised as Other Brilliant Things, and included things such as money, the dentist, and 'my thumbs'.

2% of all Brilliant Things related to Abilities and Achievements, for example academic achievements, and particular talents (see Image 15, below).

Finally, 1% of all Brilliant Things fell into the Supporting Others theme. This included Brilliant Things such as caring for others, and being involved in the community.



Image 15: My Brilliant Thing is my imagination. It is important because I want to be a game maker.

FINAL COMMENTS

As part of the project *A RIGHT Brilliant Thing* the Commissioner received 1,234 submissions from around the country detailing 1,886 RIGHT Brilliant Things.

This report has presented an overview of what children and young people in Scotland told us was brilliant in their lives. By categorising Brilliant Things into themes and subcategories it has provided a useful snapshot of the huge variety of Brilliant Things identified, whether they be favourite activities such as sports and arts, important relationships such as those with their family and friends, or things related to culture and identity.

ⁱ For more information on *A Right Blether* please see <http://www.sccyp.org.uk/what-were-doing/a-right-blether>

ⁱⁱ 3% of submissions were from unknown areas

ⁱⁱⁱ To be included in this analysis, submissions had to meet two criteria: the work was by children and young people; and it could be clearly interpreted. Of the submissions received 60 did not meet this criteria and were therefore not included in this report.

^{iv} Many of the submissions received were displayed in an interactive exhibition at the MacRobert Centre at Stirling University between 10 February and 10 March 2011.

^v Four of the Themes (Pets, Other Brilliant Things, Abilities and Achievements, and Supporting Others) have no subcategories.

APPENDIX 1 PARTICIPATION BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

KEY: Proportion of Submissions, Categorised

0.1% to 1%
 2% to 5%
 6% to 15%
 16% to 30%
 Unknown²

LOCAL AUTHORITY	SUBMISSIONS		BRILLIANT THINGS ³	
	NO.	%	NO.	%
Aberdeen City	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Aberdeenshire	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Angus	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Argyll & Bute	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Clackmannanshire	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Dumfries & Galloway	69	6%	87	5%
Dundee City	13	1%	23	1%
East Ayrshire	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
East Dunbartonshire	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
East Lothian	16	1%	19	1%
East Renfrewshire	372	30%	625	33%
Edinburgh City	14	1%	10	0.5%
Falkirk	2	0.2%	8	0.4%
Fife	69	6%	113	6%
Glasgow City	14	1%	43	2%
Highland	132	11%	204	11%
Inverclyde	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Midlothian	10	0.8%	11	0.6%
Moray	1	0.1%	4	0.2%
North Ayrshire	288	23%	413	22%
North Lanarkshire	51	4%	45	2%
Orkney Islands	1	0.1%	3	0.2%
Perth & Kinross	1	0.1%	12	0.6%
Renfrewshire	1	0.1%	6	0.3%
Scottish Borders	42	3%	51	3%
Shetland Islands	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
South Ayrshire	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
South Lanarkshire	29	2%	91	5%
Stirling	23	2%	17	0.9%
West Dunbartonshire	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
West Lothian	46	4%	55	3%
Western Isles	1	0.1%	15	0.8%
Others (Area Not Known)	39	3%	31	2%
Totals	1234	100%	1886	100%

² The number of submissions is marked as 'unknown' for 11 local authorities. This is because some submissions (3%, n=39) did not indicate which local authority participants were from. Therefore, it is not possible to know whether the number of submissions from these 11 local authorities was zero, or a proportion of the 39 submissions from unspecified local authorities.

³ The number of Brilliant Things is often higher than the corresponding number of submissions because participants were free to mention more than one Brilliant Thing per submission. The number of Brilliant Things may be lower than the number of submissions if the same participants made more than one submission mentioning the same Brilliant Things, in which case the Brilliant Things have only been counted once.

APPENDIX 2 CATEGORY EXAMPLES

THEME	SUBCATEGORY NAME	EXAMPLES
ACTIVITIES	Sports	Football, gymnastics, golf, swimming
	Other activities	Shopping, hanging out with friends
	Arts activities	Drawing, singing, dancing, drama, playing an instrument
	Technology activities	Games consoles, mobile phones, mp3 players
	Youth clubs & organisations	Brownies, Scouts, young carers
	Holidays and travelling	Holidays and travelling
	Activities in general	Having something to do, activities
RELATIONSHIPS	Family relationships	Family members
	Friendships	Friends
	Other relationships	Children and young people
	Romantic	Boyfriend, girlfriend
IDENTITY AND CULTURE	Natural environment	Scenery, the weather, places
	Food and drink	Iron Bru, shortbread, haggis
	Home and local community	My community, my house
	Government, democracy, and rights	Devolved government, having rights
	People	Mary Queen of Scots, 'the people'
	History, heritage and culture	Scottish pride, inventions
	Festivals	Belladrum
	Faith and religion	Faith and Religion
SCHOOLS AND LEARNING	Other things about Scotland	Gaelic
	School and access to education	Equal access to education, free university education, learning new things at school
	Other aspects of school	Seeing friends at school, opportunities at school
	Teachers	Teachers
PETS	Subjects	Maths, free writing
	Pets, animals	
OTHER BRILLIANT THINGS		Thumbs, money, moon and sun, dentist, Friday
ABILITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS		Particular talents, job related achievements, academic achievements
SUPPORTING OTHERS		Caring for others, being involved in the community

APPENDIX 3 THEME DATA TABLES

Table 1: Number of Right Brilliant Things by age group

	No.	%
PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE	926	49%
SECONDARY SCHOOL AGE	673	36%
UNKNOWN AGE	287	15%
TOTAL	1886	100%

Table 2: Number of Right Brilliant Things by Theme

	All		Primary aged		Secondary Aged	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Theme 1: ACTIVITIES	742	39%	395	43%	270	40%
Theme 2: RELATIONSHIPS	477	25%	230	25%	166	25%
Theme 3: IDENTITY AND CULTURE	332	18%	106	11%	129	19%
Theme 4: SCHOOLS AND LEARNING	118	6%	64	7%	42	6%
Theme 5: PETS	110	6%	83	9%	19	3%
Theme 5: OTHER	48	3%	30	3%	13	2%
Theme 7: ABILITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS	39	2%	13	1%	19	3%
Theme 8: SUPPORTING OTHERS	20	1%	5	1%	15	2%
TOTAL	1886	100%	926	100%	673	100%

APPENDIX 4 SUBCATEGORY DATA TABLES⁴

Table 3: Number of Activity themed Right Brilliant Things by subcategory

Theme 1: ACTIVITIES	All		Primary aged		Secondary Aged	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
SPORTS	267	36%	145	37%	100	37%
OTHER	160	22%	90	23%	46	17%
ARTS	146	20%	60	15%	68	25%
TECHNOLOGY	85	11%	56	14%	22	8%
YOUTH CLUBS AND ORGS.	52	7%	22	5%	28	11%
HOLIDAYS AND TRAVELLING	24	3%	19	5%	3	1%
ACTIVITIES IN GENERAL	8	1%	3	1%	3	1%
TOTAL	742	100%	395	100%	270	100%

Table 4: Number of Relationship themed Right Brilliant Things by subcategory

Theme 2: RELATIONSHIPS	All		Primary aged		Secondary Aged	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS	281	59%	160	70%	77	46%
FRIENDSHIPS	182	38%	69	30%	80	48%
OTHER RELATIONSHIPS	8	2%	1	0%	6	4%
GIRLFRIENDS/BOYFRIENDS	6	1%	0	0%	3	1%
TOTAL	477	100%	230	100%	166	100%

Table 5: Number of Identity and Culture themed Right Brilliant Things by subcategory

Theme 3: IDENTITY AND CULTURE	All		Primary aged		Secondary Aged	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	112	34%	26	24%	46	36%
FOOD AND DRINK	64	19%	18	17%	27	21%
HOME AND LOCAL COMMUNITY	52	16%	24	23%	15	12%
GOVERNMENT AND RIGHTS	44	13%	30	28%	11	8%
PEOPLE	27	8%	2	2%	12	9%
HISTORY, HERITAGE AND CULTURE	14	4%	3	3%	6	5%
FESTIVALS	12	4%	0	0%	9	7%
FAITH AND RELIGION	4	1%	3	3%	1	1%
OTHER THINGS ABOUT SCOTLAND	3	1%	0	0%	2	1%
TOTAL	332	100%	106	100%	129	100%

Table 6: Number of School and Learning themed Right Brilliant Things by subcategory

Theme 4: SCHOOL AND LEARNING	All		Primary aged		Secondary Aged	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
ACCESS TO EDUCATION	75	64%	40	62%	24	57%
OTHER	21	18%	12	19%	9	21%
TEACHERS	18	15%	10	16%	7	17%
SUBJECTS	4	3%	2	3%	2	5%
TOTAL	118	100%	64	100%	42	100%

⁴ Themes 5, 6, 7 and 8 have no subcategories so are not included here. For data on these themes, please refer to Table 2 (Appendix 3).

**a RIGHT
blether**
What's important to you?

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