



Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru  
Arts Council of Wales



Sbectol Haul, Cwmni'r Frân Wen

# 2017 Children's Omnibus Survey

Report on main findings



Noddir gan  
**Lywodraeth Cymru**  
Sponsored by  
**Welsh Government**

Research Team  
May 2018



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## Introduction

### 1.0 Background

Since 2007 Arts Council of Wales has conducted an annual attendance and participation survey among children and young people. Information on attendance to arts events and participation in artistic activities is collected via a series of questions asked on the Beaufort Research Children's Omnibus Survey each year. A copy of the questionnaire used to collect the information is appended to this report.

This report summarises the findings from the 2017 survey, examining overall levels of attendance at and participation in the arts by children and young people. Demographic and regional variations are explored, a comparison of art-forms is provided, and individual art-form trends are provided in Appendices 1 and 2 to this report.

### 1.1 Methodology

The Beaufort Research Children's Omnibus Survey is conducted three times a year; in spring, summer and autumn. Each wave of the survey involves interviews with approximately 500 children and young people aged 7 to 18 years. Arts Council of Wales sponsors question modules on the April and October questionnaires. Each year of data discussed within the report is an amalgamation of the April and October datasets, representing a combined annual sample size of approximately 1,000 interviewees. In order to achieve a representative sample of 7 to 18 year olds across Wales, quotas are set on the interviews conducted by region, age, gender and Welsh speaking ability, reflective of Census 2011 proportions. The resulting data are also weighted to correct any minor imbalances in the sample, ensuring that it is representative of the Welsh population aged 7 to 18.

Interviews are conducted face to face in the homes of respondents utilising CAPI (Computer Aided Personal Interviewing) technology by Beaufort's team of experienced interviewers. All fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the MRS Code of Conduct and, specifically, following the Guidelines for Conducting Research with Children and Young People.

The survey fieldwork was conducted in April and October – November 2017; 530 interviews were conducted and analysed in the first wave and 502 in the second, giving an unweighted sample of 1,032 7-18 year olds.

## 1.2 Notes on Data Presentation

The data are presented in a series of line and bar charts, which show the percentage of children and young people who have attended or taken part in each of the activities asked about in the survey. The results are also split out by key demographic grouping and region. Where frequency of attendance and participation is presented it refers to a rate of once a year or more often.

It is also worth noting that the regional definitions referred to throughout the report are Arts Council of Wales' definitions of regions. These can be seen below:

Region Name	Definition
North Wales	Wrexham, Flintshire, Denbighshire, Conwy, Anglesey, Gwynedd
South West Wales	Powys, Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Swansea, Neath Port Talbot
South Central Wales	Bridgend, Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Merthyr Tydfil
South East Wales	Torfaen, Monmouthshire, Newport, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent

## 2.0 Executive Summary

### 2.1 Arts Attendance

- Arts attendance among children and young people has increased by 3.6 percentage points with 86.5% attending any of the 9 artforms<sup>1</sup> (including carnivals and street arts) in 2017, up 3.6 percentage points from the previous year.
- Focusing on the 8 consistent artforms asked since the survey began in 2007 (excluding carnivals and street arts), the proportion of 7-18 year olds attending at least once a year or more has increased by 2.5 percentage points to 79.5%
- Children and young people from higher social grades continue to show higher levels of arts attendance in 2017 (89.5% of ABC1s compared with 84.3% of C2DEs). The gap between the two groups has reduced from 2016 and currently stands at 5.2 percentage points, down from 9.4% in the previous year.
- Continuing the established trend, younger children are more likely to attend the arts than older children and young adults. Over 9 in 10 (94.6%) of 7-10 year olds attend compared with 84.9% of 11-15 year olds and 80.2% of 16-18 year olds. However, while 7-10 year olds are the most frequent attenders, levels have decreased by around 1 percentage point year on year from 2015. In contrast to this both the older age groups have reversed the downward trend of attendance experienced in 2016. The attendance levels of 11-15 year olds were up by 6.2 percentage points and 16-18 year olds were up by 5.5 percentage points from the previous year.
- Attendance levels continue to be higher among girls, 89.7%, than boys, 83.4%, in 2017 with the gap between the two increasing slightly from the previous year, from 5.5 percentage points in 2016 to 6.3 percentage points in 2017.
- Regional attendance has seen an upward trend for all regions except the South West region in 2017, reversing the slight decrease these regions experienced in 2016. The South Central region now has the highest level of attendance at 90.1%, this has switched from the South West region in 2016. The South East region has the lowest levels of attendance at 79.5%, however it has increased from 2016 by 3.7 percentage points.

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<sup>1</sup> This figure is based on the 9 consistent artforms which have been included in the survey since 2010

- In 2017 those with some Welsh speaking ability had higher levels of attendance in the arts than non-Welsh speaking children and young people, 89.9% compared to 84.9% of non Welsh speakers. While the non Welsh speakers have had a slightly higher increase over the year, 4.5 percentage points compared to 3.1 percentage points for Welsh speakers, the gap between the two has narrowed slightly from 6.4 percentage points in 2016 to 5 percentage points in 2017.
- Carnivals and street arts were the most popular artform to attend in 2017 with half of all children and young people doing so, (50.9%) once a year or more. Opera and classical music continue to be the least frequently attended artforms with 8.5% and 2.7% of children and young people attending these events.
- The majority of attendances to the arts took place in children and young people's own time; that is, independent of school or college, with three quarters 76.4% of children and young people engaging in this way.

## 2.2 Arts Participation

- Almost 9 in 10 (87.4%) children and young people participated in arts activities once a year or more in 2017. This is the second highest level of participation since 2010.
- More children and young people from ABC1 households participated in the arts in 2017 compared to children and young people from C2DE households, 88.5% compared to 86.5%. The gap between the two groups currently stands at 2 percentage points, this means the gap has narrowed by 6.5 percentage points from the previous year.
- Younger children continue to be the more frequent participators of the arts, with over 90% of 7-15 year olds taking part once a year or more. The highest level of arts participation (once a year or more) is seen among children aged 7-10 (98.4%). Those aged 16-18 are least likely to participate once a year or more, with below average participation rates of 68.7%.
- While girls continue to have higher levels of participation in the arts in 2017, (89.2% compared to boys 85.6%), the gap between the two has reduced over the year from an 8.1 percentage point difference to 3.6 percentage point difference. While boys still have lower levels of participation in the arts than girls there are still over 8 in 10 boys taking part in arts activity once a year or more. Boys participation levels have actually increased slightly from 2016, from 82.3% to 85.6% in the current year.

- All the regions in 2017 had participation levels of 80% or above. The North region had the highest levels of participation at 91.3%, closely followed by the South Central region at 89.6%. The region to have the lowest levels of participation was the South East region at 80.2%, though this has increased from the previous year by 4 percentage points.
- Arts participation for children and young people who speak any Welsh has remained fairly stable (89.9% in 2017 and 90.6% in 2016) and remains slightly higher than non-Welsh speaking children and young people, 85.9% in 2017. Arts participation among non-Welsh speaking children and young people has increased by 2.4 percentage points (from 83.5% in 2016 to 85.9% in 2017).
- The most popular artform for children and young people to take part in was visual arts and crafts in 2017 with 66.2% doing so once a year or more. This was closely followed by creative writing at 62.2%. Half, 50.9%, of all children and young people take part in musical activities once a year or more and have done so for the last three years. Dance remains to be the least popular participatory activity, with less than a quarter (22.0%) of individuals participating.
- The majority of arts participation took place as a result of activities being organised by schools or colleges (69.6%).



## 3.0 Arts Attendance

### Frequency of Attending Arts Events – Methodology

This section of the report focuses on arts attendance. Respondents were asked to indicate how often they attended each of the following nine art forms:

- Plays
- Musicals
- Opera
- Classical Music
- Other Live Music
- Dance Performances
- Art or Craft Galleries or Exhibitions
- Readings, Storytellings and other Literature Events
- Carnivals and Street Arts\*

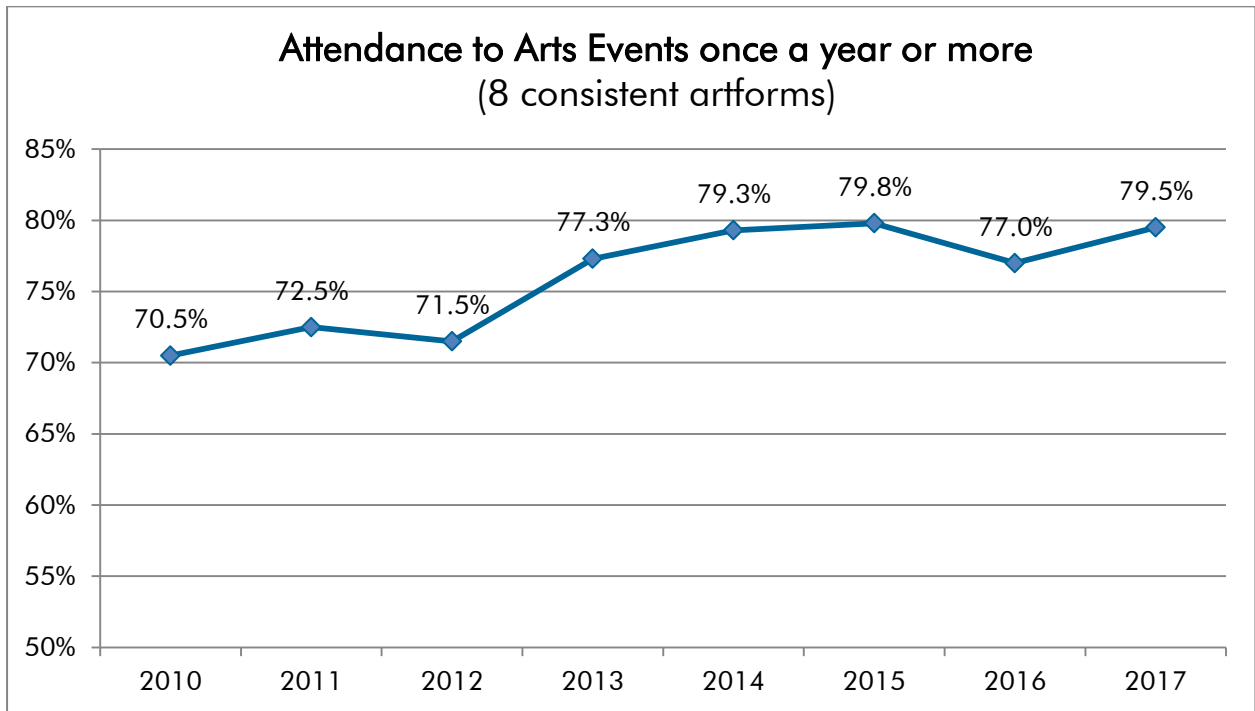
\*Art form added in 2010

This section of the report will summarise overall attendance to arts events, measured by attendance to any art form. Demographic and regional variations in overall attendance will be examined to help understand which children and young people are more likely to attend the arts in Wales. Details of trends for specific art forms can be found in Appendix 1 and 2 to the report.

When considering the overall attendance figures it should be noted that 'Carnivals and Street Arts' was added to the list of art forms in 2010. Overall arts attendance will therefore be examined based on attendance at any of the eight consistent art forms over the last ten years but also based on all nine art forms over the last seven years. When examining demographic trends (section 3.3) comparisons will be based on the full nine art forms over the last three years.

### 3.1 Frequency of Attending Arts Events

Data from the 2017 survey shows 79.5% of children and young people attend at least one art event once a year or more often<sup>2</sup>. This level of attendance represents a 2.5 percentage point increase on last year's figure and brings levels of attendance back up to those of 2014/15 which are the highest over the seven year period. This also reverses the decrease in attendance levels from the previous year.



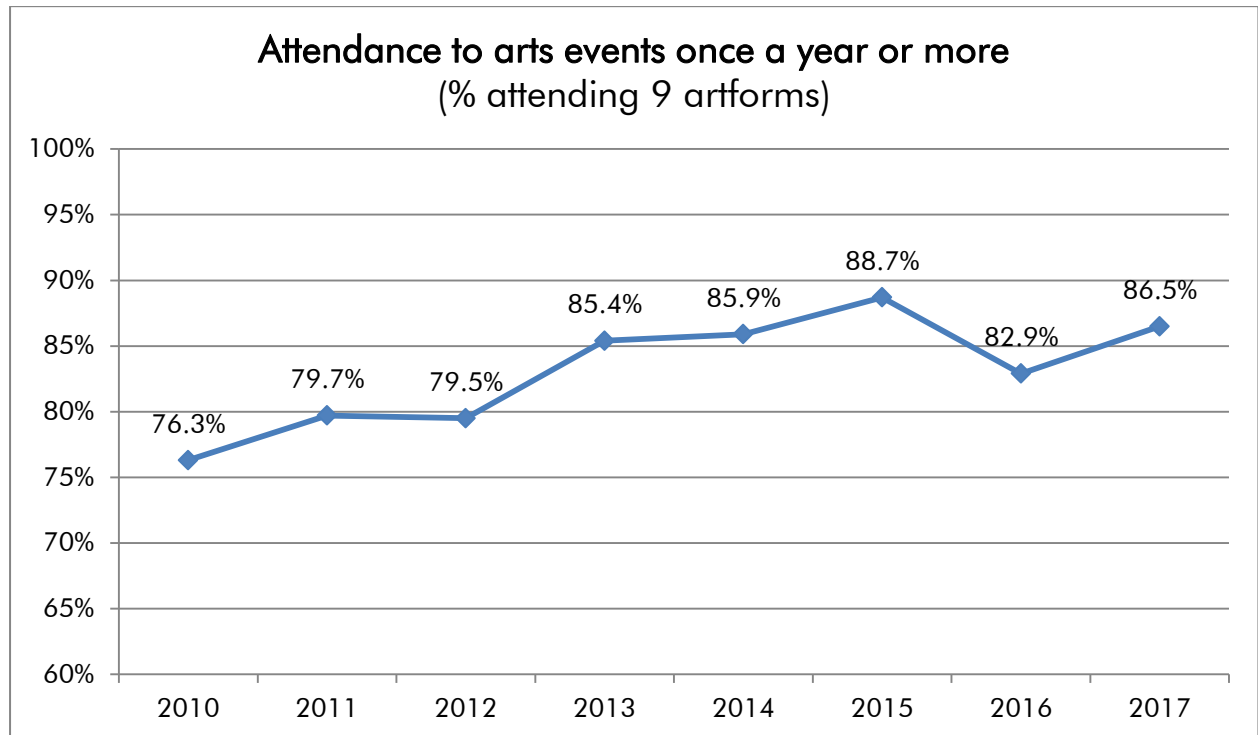
Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per wave)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2007-

2017

<sup>2</sup> This figure is based on only the 8 consistent artforms which does not include carnivals and street arts which was added to the survey in 2010.

If we include Carnivals and Street Arts in the analysis, attendance levels for children and young people in 2017 was 86.5% attending once a year or more; a 3.6 percentage point increase on 2016. As with the pattern of attendance for the 8 consistent artforms, the decrease in attendance recorded in 2016 appears to have been reversed, and brings levels to the second highest in the last seven years.



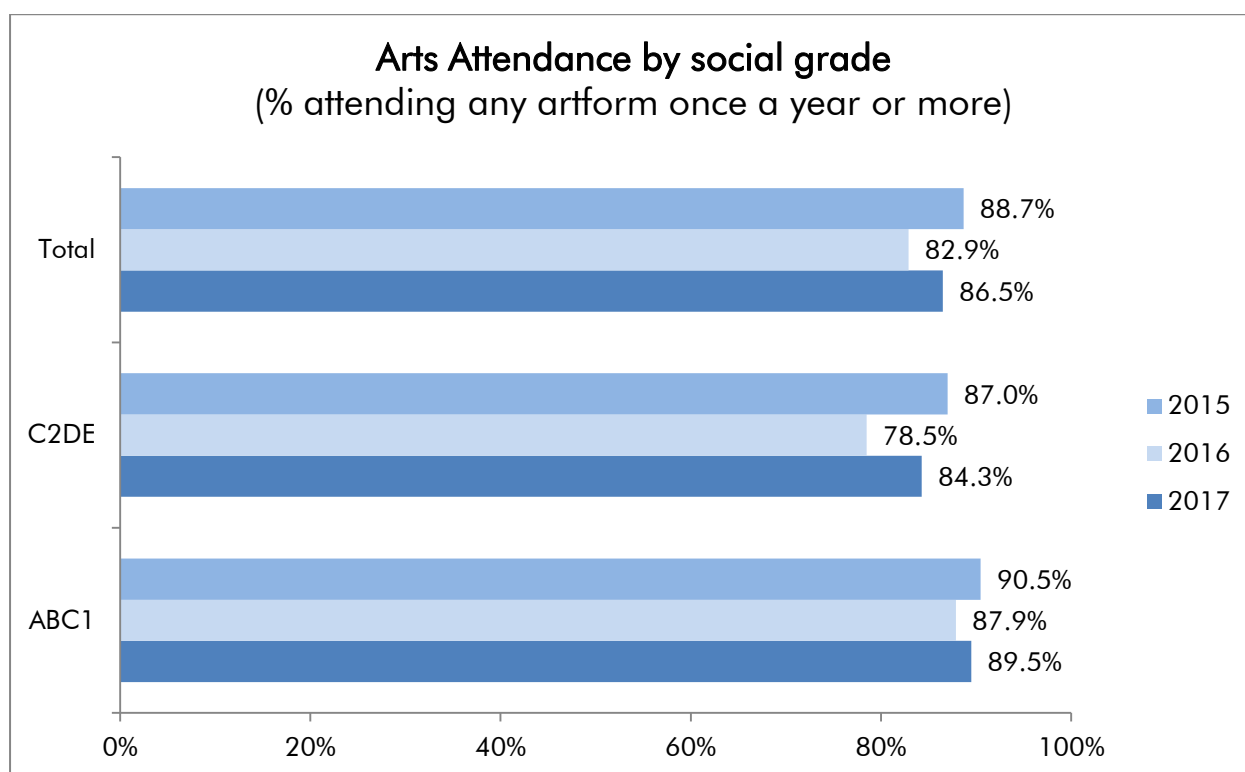
Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per wave)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2010-2017

### 3.2 Attendance by Demographic Grouping

This section of the report looks at the difference in overall arts attendance by demographic group, region and Welsh language ability. Data for 2015, 2016 and 2017 are presented for comparison, and chart the proportion of children and young people in each demographic group who attend one of the nine art forms once a year or more often. Each chart also shows the overall total attendance figures to any of the nine categories over the last three years for comparison.

### 3.3 Attendance by Social Grade



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per wave)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2015-

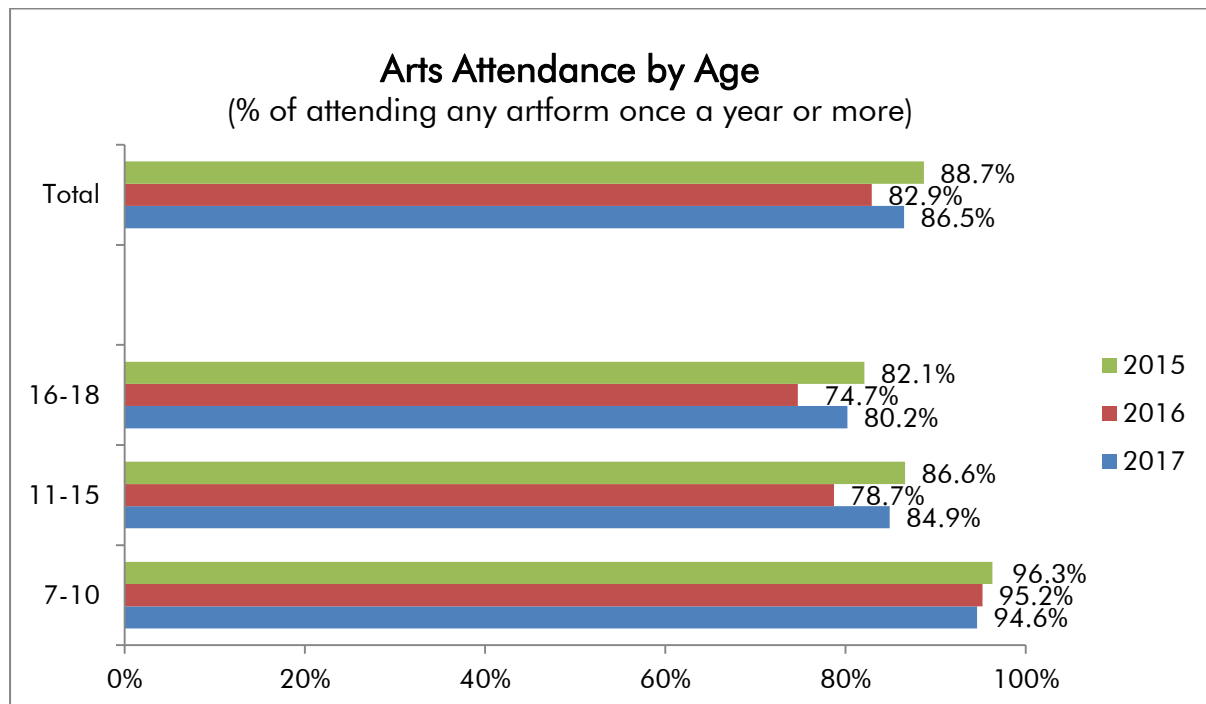
2017

This year's data once again shows higher levels of attendance amongst children and young adults from the higher socio economic groups. 89.5% of those from ABC1 households attend once a year or more, compared to 84.3% of those from C2DE households. Both groups have had an increase in attendance levels; 1.6 percentage points since 2016 for ABC1 households and 5.8 percentage points since 2016 for those living in C2DE households. In addition, 2017 data shows that the gap between the two groups has narrowed at 5.2%, decreasing from 9.4% in the previous year.

### 3.4 Attendance by Age

We continue to see the highest levels of arts attendance amongst the 7-10 age group with attendance levels at 94.6% in 2017. Attendance levels are almost ten percentage points higher (9.7 percentage points) than those for children and young people aged 11-15 (84.9%) and, once again, the lowest attendance levels are amongst children and young people aged 16-18 years at 80.2%.

While the general pattern of attendance to the arts remains the same as previous years, the younger age groups attending more frequently than the older age groups, there have been some slight changes in this pattern within the 2016 and 2017 datasets. 2017 data shows while there has been an upward trend amongst the two older groups. The youngest age group has seen a very small decrease in attendance levels of 1.1 percentage point between 2015 and 2016 and 0.6 percentage points between 2016 and 2017. However this age group continue to be the most frequent attenders of the arts of the three age groups.



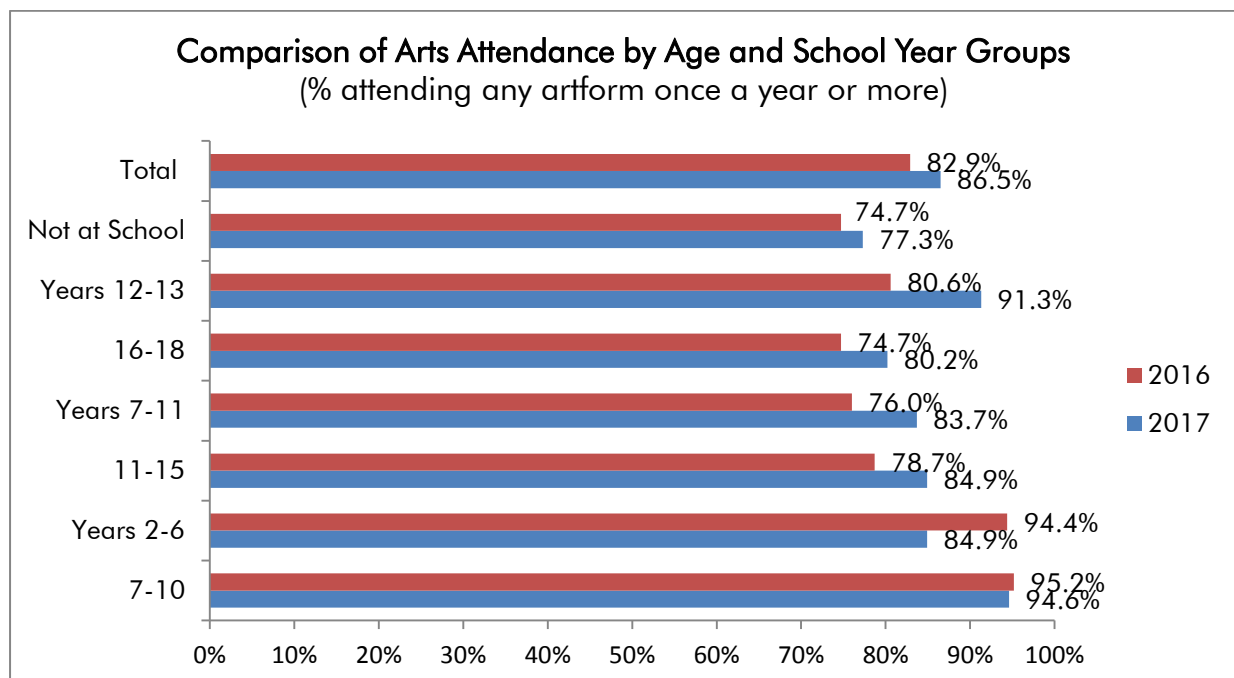
Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per wave)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2015- 2017

It is also interesting to compare attendance by age groups with attendance by school year groups, and it is evident that there is some correlation between the two. In 2017, children in school years 2-6 have almost identical levels of attendance as 7-10 year olds; 94.6% and 94.3% respectively. As 7-10 year olds fall into the school years 2-6 it suggests that the school environment may have some influence on the levels of attendance by children and young people of this age. Similarly the difference in arts attendance between 11-15 year olds and those in school years 7-11, is only 1.2 percentage points this year, suggesting a close correlation here, too.

The biggest difference occurs between 16-18 year olds and those in school years 12-13. Here there is a difference of 11.1 percentage points, with 80.2% of 16-18 year olds reporting attending an arts event once a year or more often, compared to 91.3% of those in school years 12-13. Not only is there a higher proportion of 16-18 year olds who are still in school attending the arts, but this has increased by just over ten percentage points in the period of just one year. There has also been an increase in arts attendance of 16-18 year olds of 5.5 percentage points between 2016 and 2017. This data seems to suggest that 16-18 year olds are more likely to attend arts events if they are still in school.

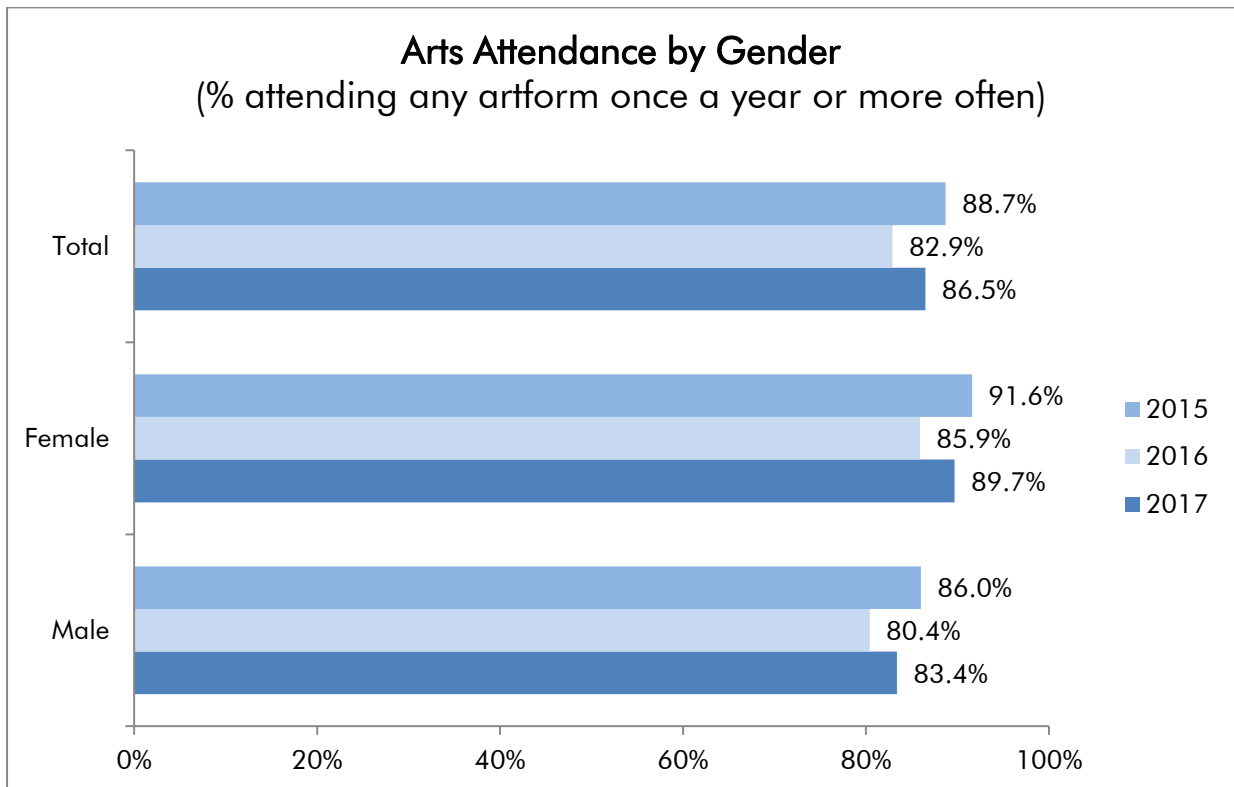
Of those children and young people not attending school, over three quarters, (77.3%) attended the arts once a year or more in 2017, up from 74.7% the previous year.



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per wave)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2016-2017

### 3.5 Attendance by Gender



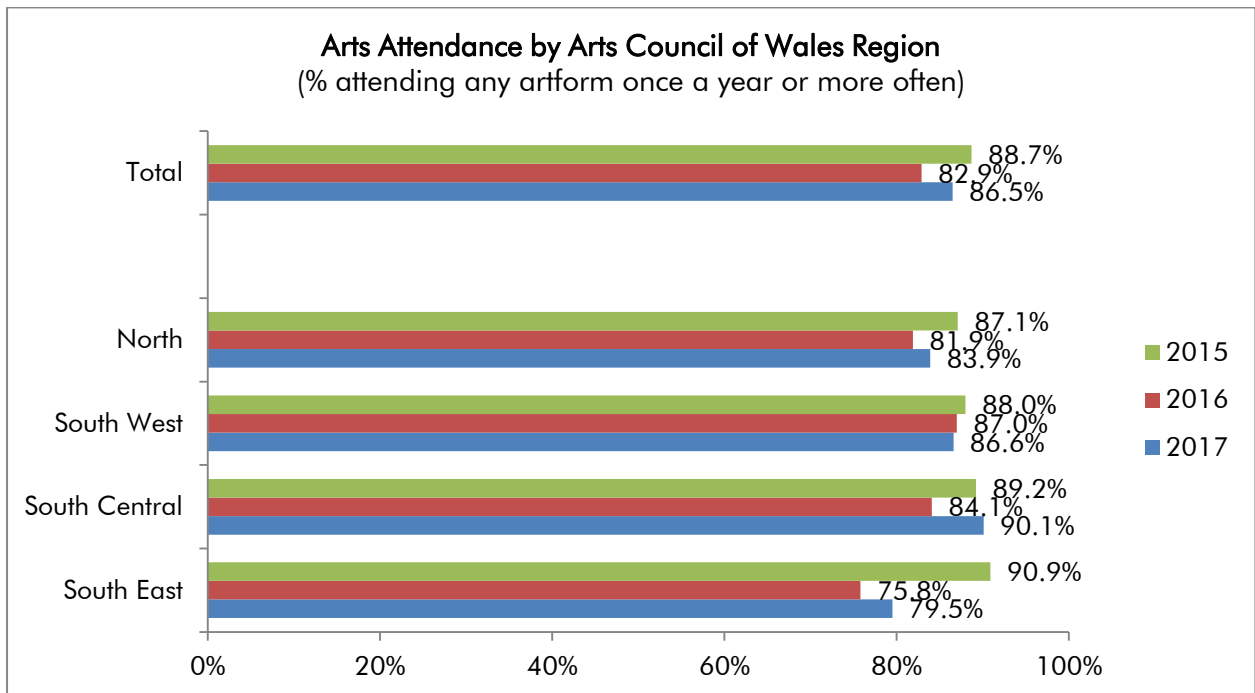
Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per wave)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2015-2017

Continuing the long established trend, a higher proportion of girls attended the arts than boys in 2017 (89.7% of girls compared with 83.4% of boys). The 2017 data shows there is a gender gap of 6.3 percentage points. This gap has increased from the previous two years when there was a 5.5/5.6 percentage point difference.

In addition, attendance levels have increased from the previous year for both genders; 3.0 percentage points for boys and 3.8 percentage points for girls.

### 3.6 Attendance by Region



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per wave)  
2017

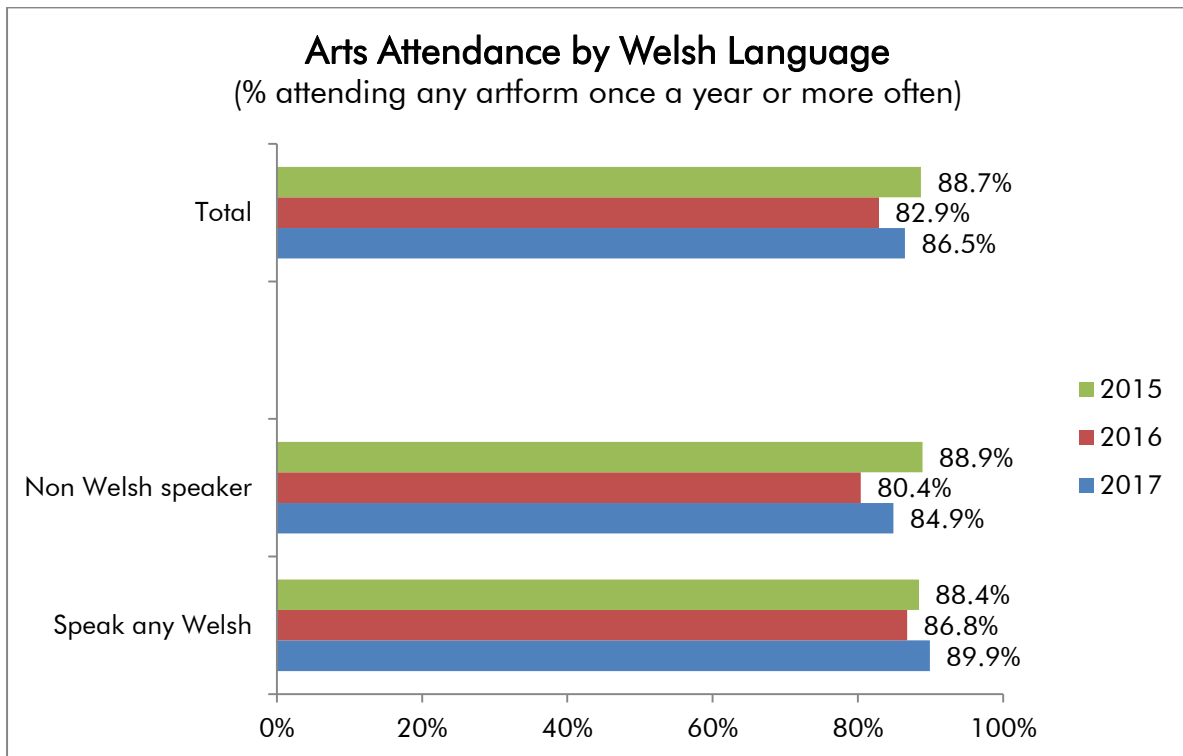
Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2015-2017

The 2017 data appears to show a reverse in the downward trend for attendance from 2016 for all regions apart from the South West region. The region with the highest levels of attendance in 2017 was South Central at 90.1%. This differs to the previous year when the South West region had the highest levels at 86.6%. The South East region had the lowest levels of attendance in 2017 at 79.5%, although this had increased from the previous year by 3.7 percentage points. However this is still much lower than the very high attendance levels of 90.9% this region experienced in 2015.

For the North region there has been an increase of two percentage points from 81.9% in 2016 to 83.9% in 2017.



### 3.7 Attendance by Welsh Language

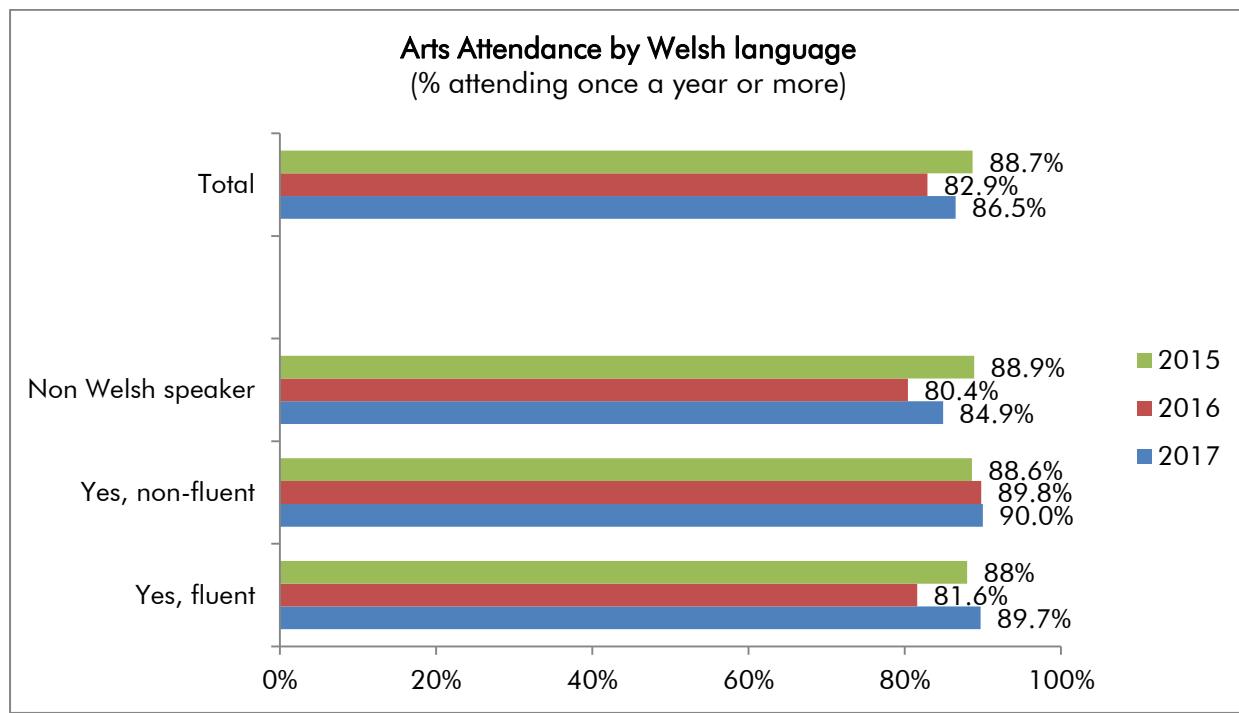


Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per wave)

Source: Children’s Omnibus Survey 2015-2017

As in previous years, in 2017 those who have some level of Welsh ability attend the arts with a higher frequency than those with no Welsh speaking ability, 89.9% compared to 84.9%. For both groups there has been an increase but more so for the non Welsh speakers with an increase of 4.5 percentage points compared to 3.1 percentage points for the Welsh speakers. However the Welsh speakers continue to have an above average attendance.

Focusing on the correlation between Welsh language ability and arts attendance in more detail, those who speak some level of Welsh, but are not fluent, have above average levels of attendance at 90%, as do those who are fluent at 89.7%. However the non Welsh speaking group have below average attendance of 84.9%.

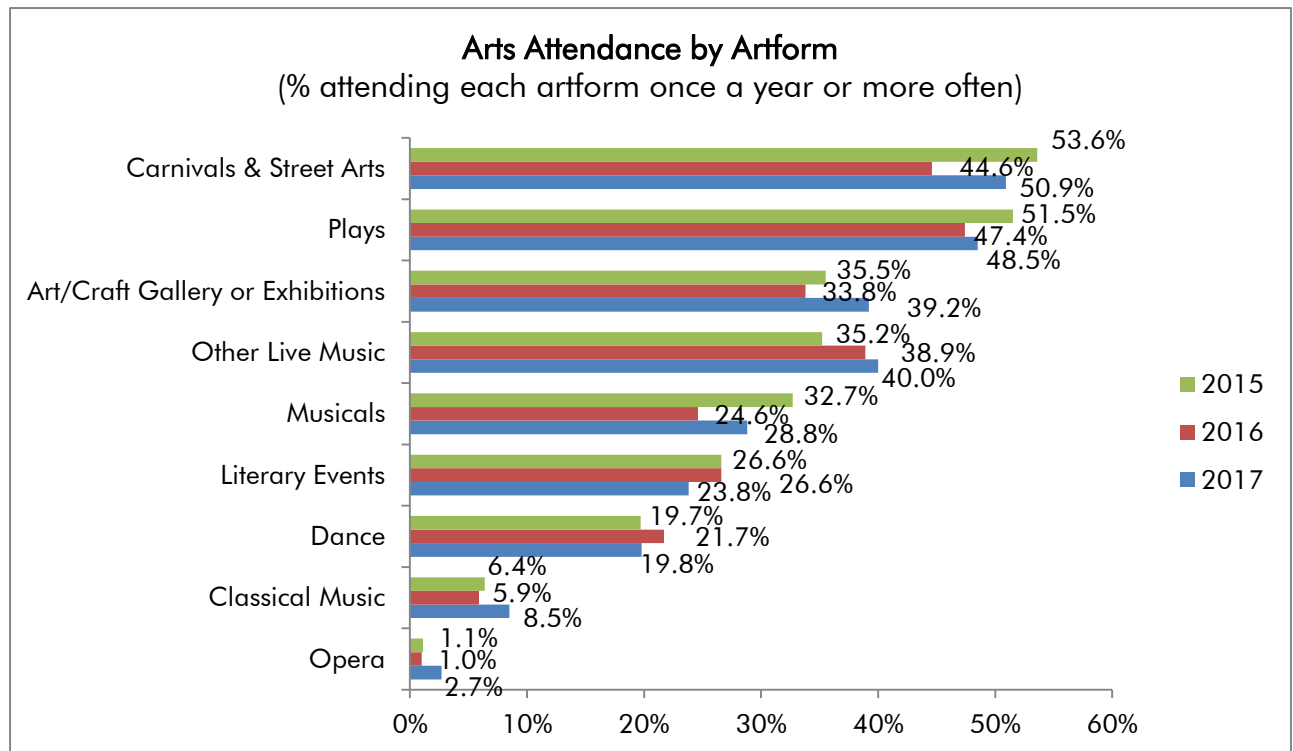


Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per wave)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2015-2017

### 3.8 Summary of Arts Attendance by Art form

The following graph shows the proportion of children and young people who attend each art form once a year or more often. The graph shows the most recent findings from the 2017 survey, attendance figures from the 2016 and 2015 surveys for comparison.



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per wave)  
2017

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2015-

The 2017 Children's Omnibus survey shows that carnivals and street arts is once again the most popular artform for children and young people to attend with half, (50.9%) doing so once a year or more. This is an increase of 6.3 percentage points which reverses the decrease of the previous year. Plays continues to be the second most popular artform to attend with 48.5% of children and young people doing so in 2017. This has remained constant from the previous year when 47.4% attended.

The artforms with the lowest levels of attendance continue to be opera with only 2.7% of children and young people attending, (though this is an increase from the previous two years when around only 1% attended,) and classical music which had an attendance level of 8.5%. Whilst this is still one of the less frequently attended artforms, it has seen a slight increase, 2.6 percentage points, from 2016 when 5.9% of children and young people attended this artform.

In terms of artforms in the middle range, there was an increase from 2016 for attendance levels to exhibitions of arts and crafts. This had increased by 5.4 percentage points to 39.2% in 2017 which means attendance levels are at their highest for the three year period.

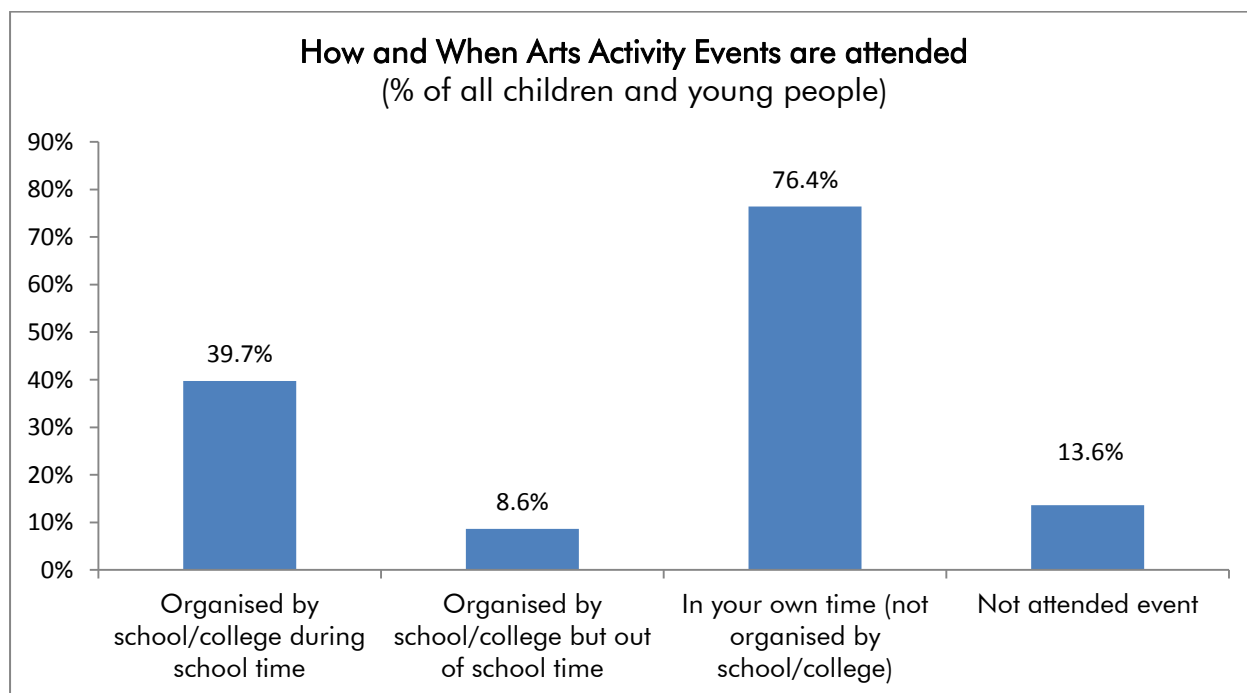
Other live music events have also experienced a gradual increase in attendance levels over the three years, from 35.2% in 2015 to 40% in 2017.

Attendance levels to musicals has increased from the previous year to 28.8%, up by 4.2 percentage points in 2017, though still not up to the same levels of 2015 when 32.7% of children and young people attended.

Finally, attendance to dance events in 2017 is at the same level as 2015 with 19.8% attending, a slight decrease from the previous year when 21.7% attended.

### 3.9 How and when the arts are attended?

The majority of attendance to arts events by children and young people in 2017 was during their own time (not organised by school or college); 76.4%. A further 39.7% was carried out in school/college and during school time, and 8.6% was organised by school/college but out of school time. These figures do not add up to 100% as the base is all children and young people, and so they could have attended more than one art-form in more than one way. 13.6% of children and young people did not attend an art event during the year.



Base: All 7-18 year olds: 1,032

Source: Children's Omnibus survey 2017

## 4.0 Arts Participation

### 4.1 Frequency of Participation in Artistic Activities – Methodology

Respondents were asked to recall their participation in the arts by indicating how often they took part in each of these seven activities:

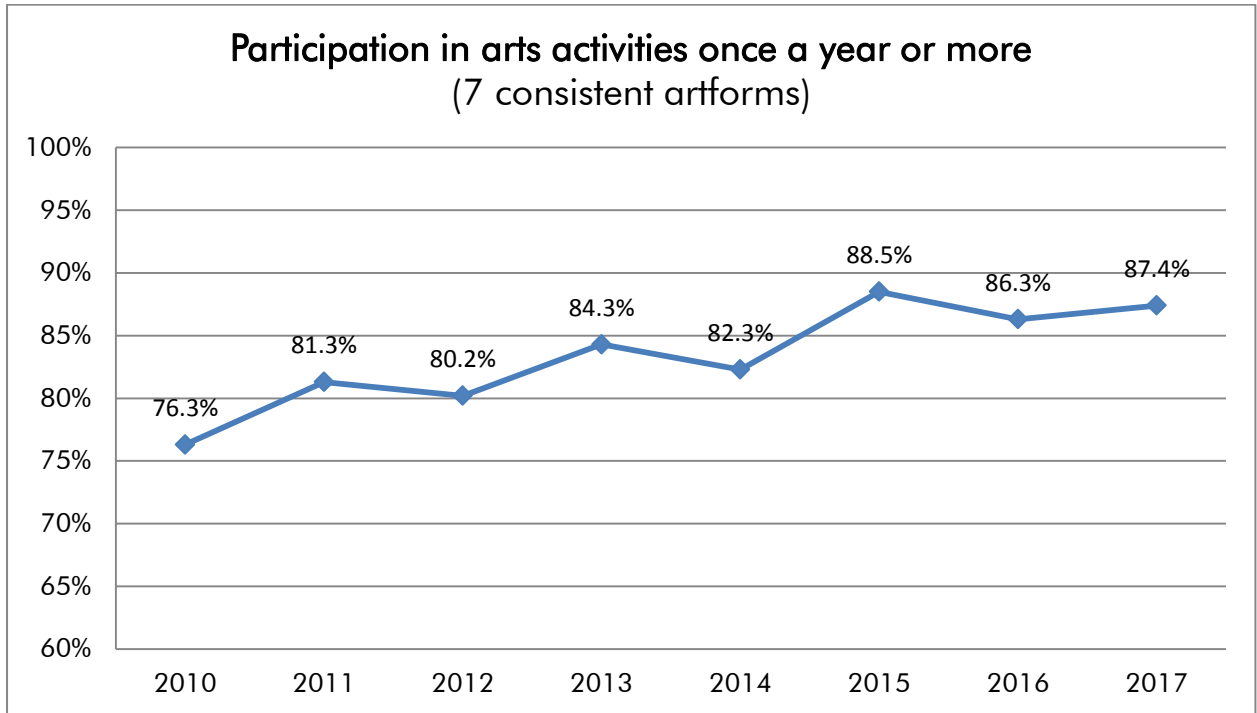
- Music activities
- Drama or theatrical activity
- Dance activity
- Film and video making or photography
- Visual arts and crafts
- Digital arts
- Creative writing

This section of the report will summarise overall participation in any of these artistic activities by, amongst other factors, demographic group, region and Welsh language ability. Details of participatory trends within specific art forms can be found in Appendix 2 to this report.

It should be noted that, up until 2009, the survey asked about 'media arts' as opposed to 'digital arts', which was introduced in 2010. Whilst broadly examining a similar type of activity, media arts was defined as website design and working with your PC, whereas digital arts are more clearly defined as follows: creating and making arts using digital technology e.g. uploading, creating or remixing arts-related content (e.g. on YouTube, Flickr, etc.). The latter tends to record lower levels of participation (as it is more closely defined) and this needs to be taken into consideration when comparing nine-year trend data.

## 4.2 Frequency of Participation in Arts Activities

In 2017, 87.4% of children and young people took part in arts activities once a year or more; a slight increase of 1.1 percentage points from the previous year.



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per wave)

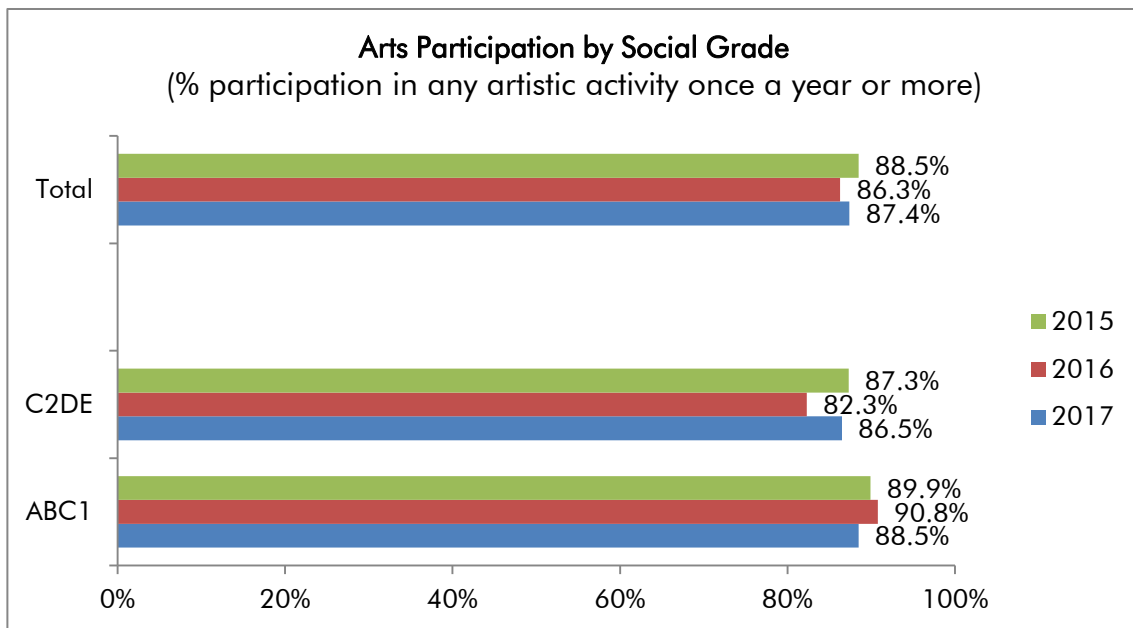
Source: Children's Omnibus survey 2010-2017

Since 2010, whilst participation rates have fluctuated, there has only been one year when the rate has dipped below 80%. In 2010 the rate of participation amongst children and young people was 76.3%. Since 2010, the level of participation has slowly continued to increase with a very slight decrease in the last two years of 1.1 percentage points.

### 4.3 Participation by Demographic Grouping

This section examines the difference in overall arts participation by demographic group, region and Welsh language ability. Data for 2015, 2016 and 2017 are presented for comparison, and chart the proportion of children and young people in each demographic group that participate in an arts activity once a year or more often.

### 4.4 Participation by Social Grade



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per wave)

Source: Children’s Omnibus survey 2015-2017

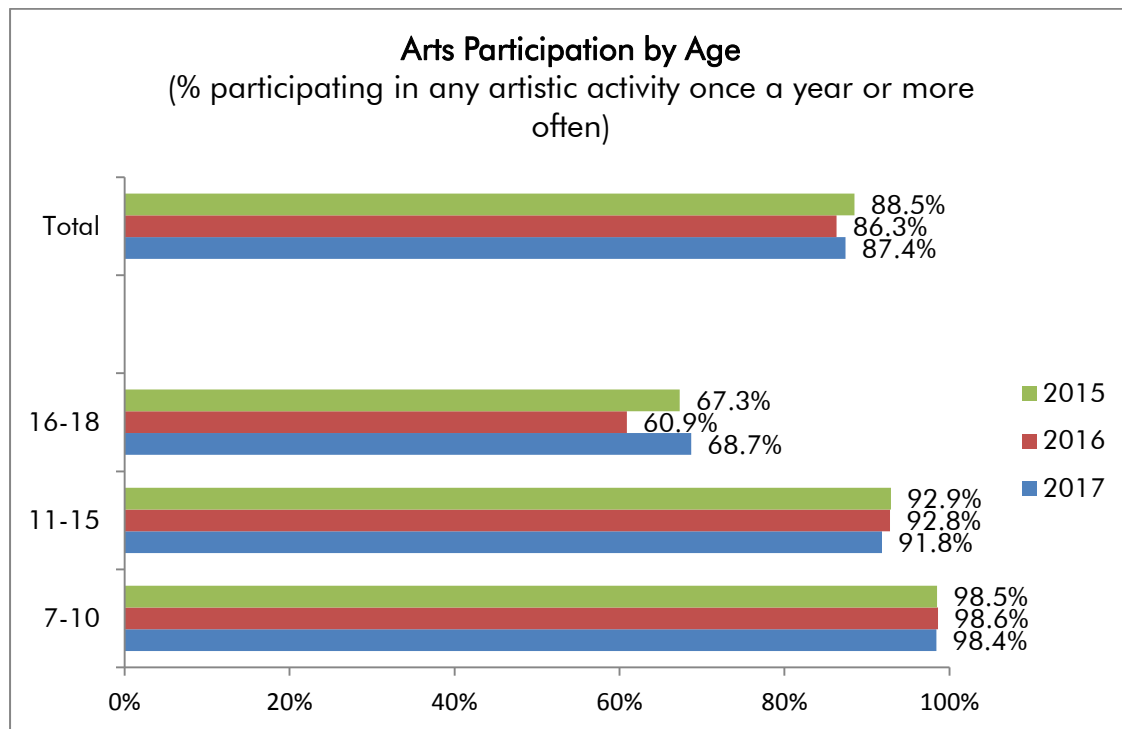
The 2017 Children’s Omnibus shows that those in the higher social grades continue to participate more so than those in the lower social grades. 88.5% of those in group ABC1 had a higher level of participation than those in C2DE of whom 86.5% took part in arts activities once a year or more.

While the higher social grades are more frequent participators in the arts, the gap between the two groups is declining, with a gap of 2 percentage points compared to 8.5 percentage points in 2016. The lower social grades have actually experienced an increase of 4.2 percentage points in 2017, while the higher socio economic grades have had a small decrease of 2.3 percentage points.

## 4.5 Participation by Age

Participation in the arts by age group follows a similar pattern to arts attendance in 2017, with the younger age groups having higher rates of participation compared with older age groups; 98.4% among 7-10 year olds and 91.8% among 11-15 year olds.

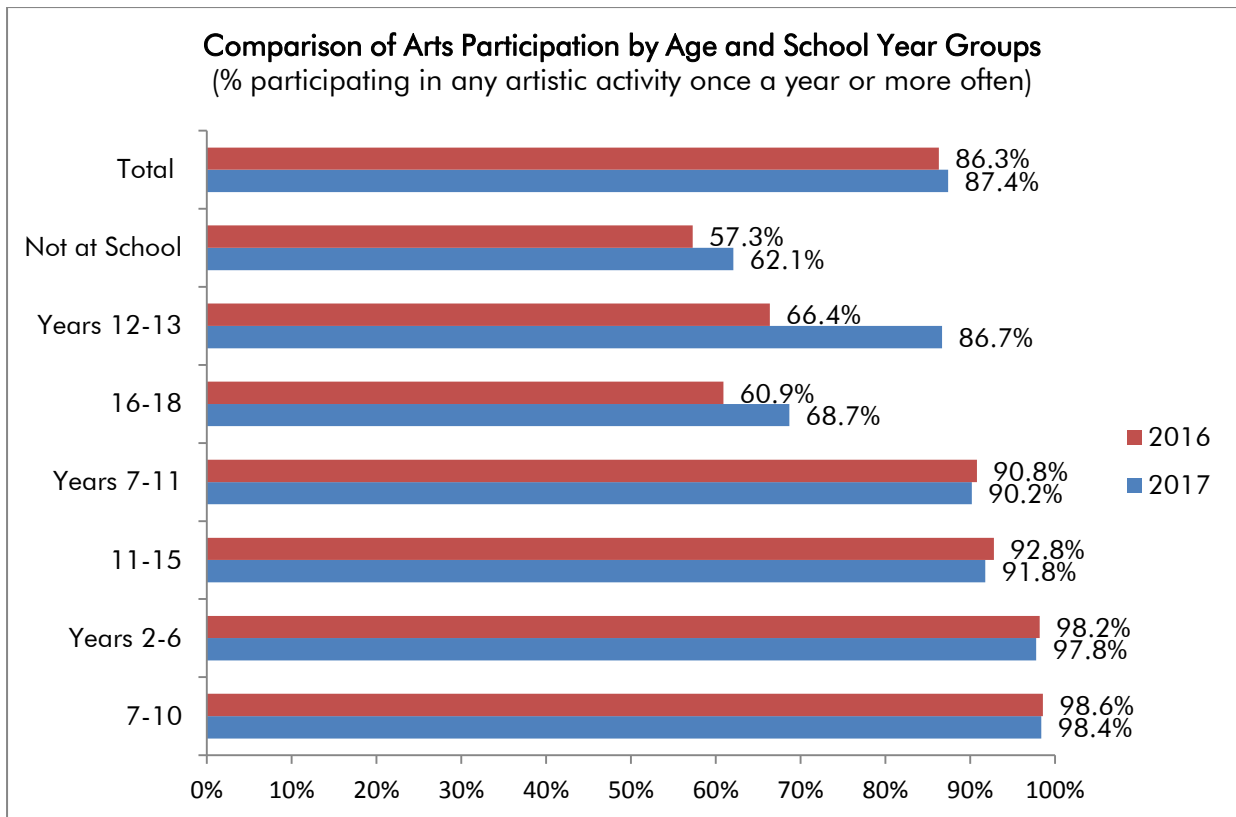
The difference between attendance and participation in terms of age becomes more apparent when looking at the 16-18 year olds. Whilst attendance rates see a gradual decline as respondents get older, there is a more marked drop-off in participation between the 7-15 year olds and the 16-18 year olds. At least 90% of 7-15 year olds are participating once a year or more frequently, so above average, whilst only 68.7% of those aged 16-18 take part in the arts once a year or more, falling below the average for participation in general.



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per wave)

Source: Children's Omnibus survey 2015-2017





Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per wave)  
2017

Source: Children's Omnibus survey 2016-2017

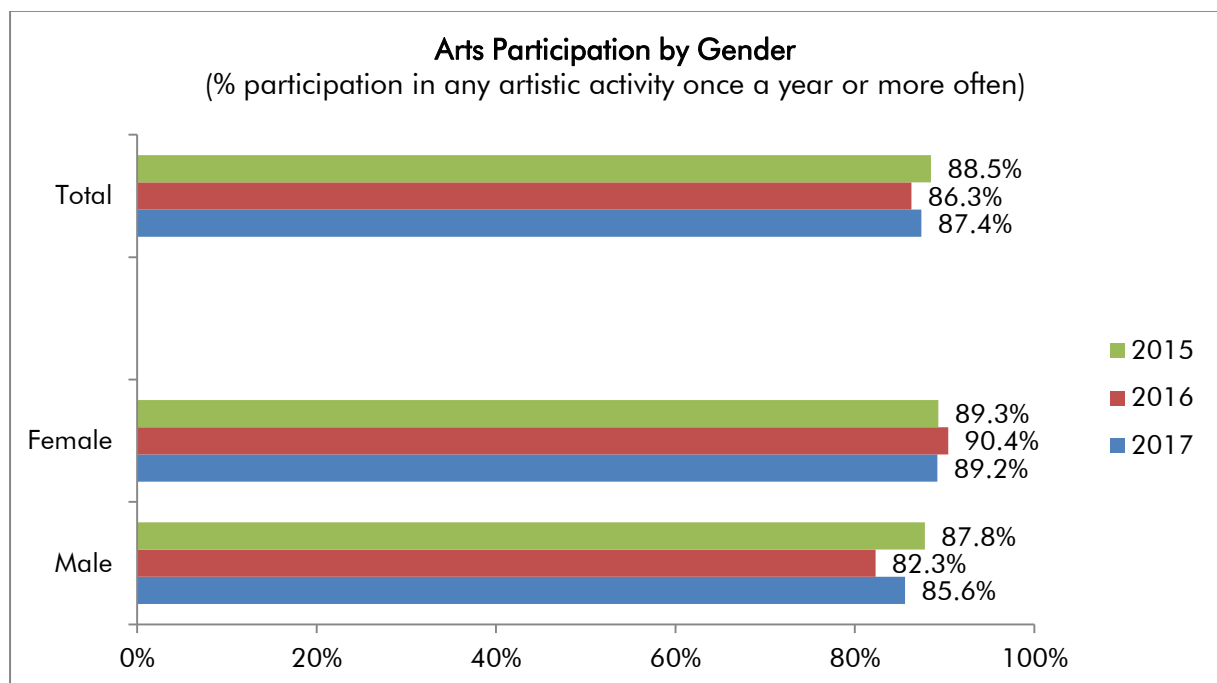
As with attendance to the arts among children and young people, it is evident that there is overlap between age and school year group, suggesting that the school/college environment may be underpinning levels of participation by children and young people. There are almost identical proportions of 7-10 year olds taking part in the arts as there are in school years 2-6. This is also true of 11-15 year olds and those in school years 7-11. Some of those in the oldest age group will no longer be in an education setting and seem to have lower levels of participation than those who still attend school; 68.7% of all 16-18 year olds compared to 86.7%, of those in school years 12-13, a difference of 18 percentage points, this has increased from the previous year when there was only a 5.5 percentage point difference between the two groups.

During 2017, 62.1% of those not in school take part in the arts once a year or more.

## 4.6 Participation by Gender

Participation in the arts still continues to differ between boys and girls, with higher levels of participation by girls, 89.2% taking part once a year or more compared to 85.6% of boys. However the gap in participation levels between boys and girls has narrowed from the previous year, to a 3.6 percentage point difference compared to an 8.1 percentage point difference in 2016.

While there has been a very small decrease in levels of participation by girls, down by just over 1 percentage point, boys' participation levels have actually increased by 3.3 percentage points. This brings them closer to the participation rates they experienced in 2015.



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per wave)  
2017

Source: Children's Omnibus survey 2015-2017

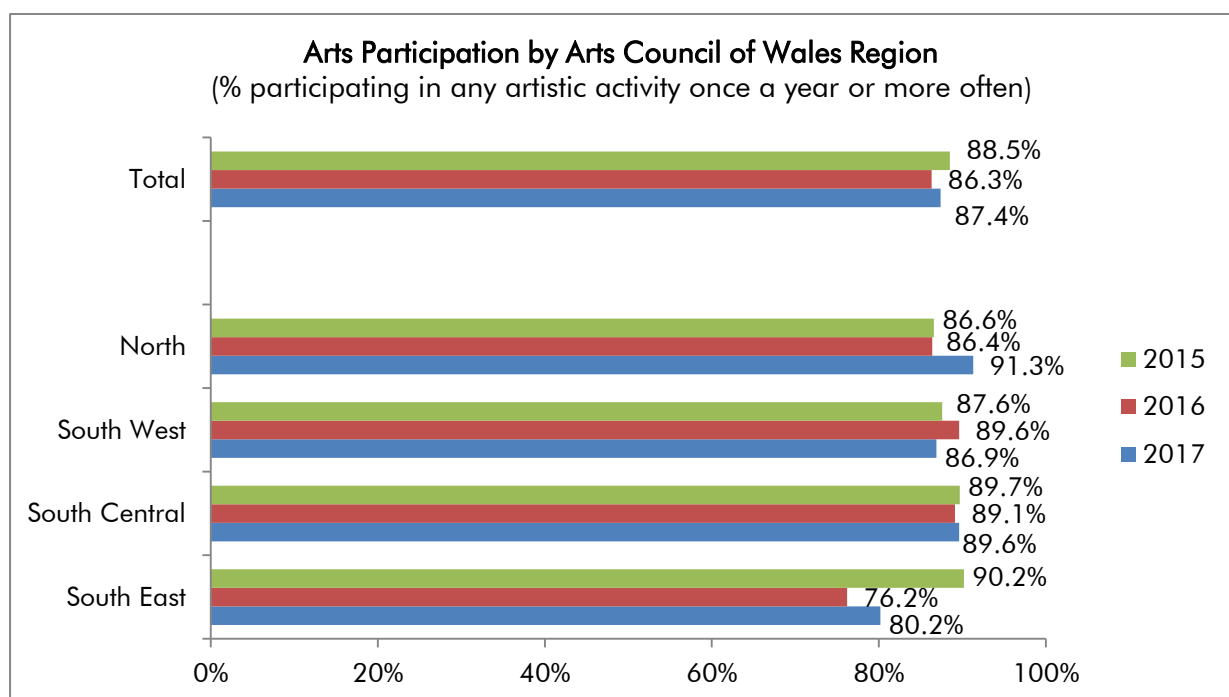
## 4.7 Participation by Region

In 2017 the region with the highest level of participation in the arts by children and young people was the North region with 91.3%, closely followed by the South Central region at 89.6%. The region with the lowest levels of participation was the South East region with levels of 80%.

Looking at the separate regions in more detail, the north region while having similar levels of participation in 2015 and 2016 of around 86%, increased up to its the highest levels of activity in 2017 at 91.3%

The South West region while experiencing a slight increase in 2016 of 89.6% has decreased to just under the levels of 2015 at 86.9%. Levels of participation in the South Central region have stayed at a constant of 89% over the three year period. The South East region had the highest level of participation in 2015 at 90.2%. This then decreased to 76.2% in 2016 and then increased again in 2017 to 80.2%, though remaining 10 percentage points lower than its high of 2015.

The highest and lowest levels of activity have changed from the previous year with the South West and South Central region having the highest participation in 2016, while in 2017 this has switched to the North. The lowest levels of participation have remained in the South East region (80.2%) which is the same pattern as the previous year.



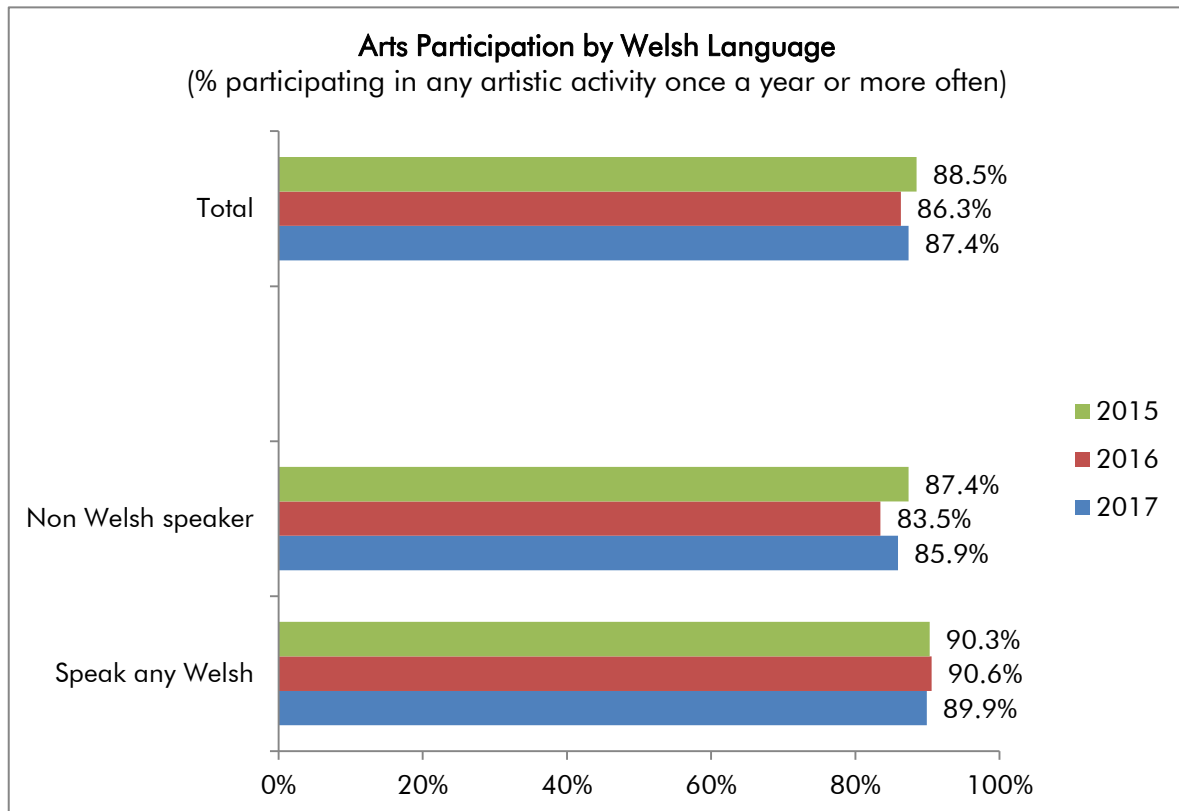
Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per wave)  
 2017

Source: Children's Omnibus survey 2015-2017

## 4.8 Participation by Welsh Language

As in previous years those who are able to speak Welsh have slightly higher rates of participation in the arts than those who speak no Welsh, 89.9% of Welsh speakers in 2017 compared to 85.9% of non-Welsh speakers.

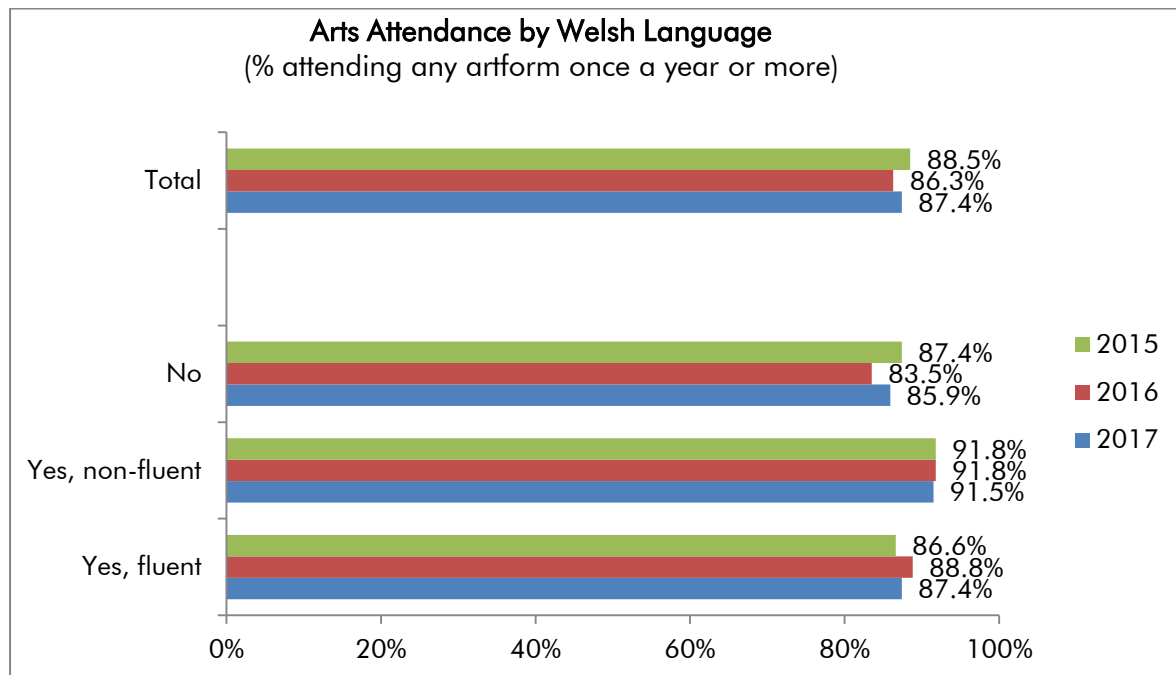
While Welsh speakers have a slightly higher level of participation in the arts, the level of activity among this group has remained relatively stable at around 90% over the three year period. However, the non-Welsh speakers have seen an increase in activity from the previous year of 2.4 percentage points from 83.5% to 85.9% reversing the decrease of the previous reporting period. This has also once again narrowed the gap between the two groups from 7.1 percentage points in 2016 to 4 percentage points in 2017.



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per wave)  
2017

Source: Children's Omnibus survey 2015-2017

Focusing on the Welsh language data in more detail, there are slightly higher levels of participation among children and young people who speak some Welsh but are not fluent, compared to those who are fluent in Welsh. The proportion of those who speak Welsh but are not fluent has remained constant at 91% since 2015. Of those who are fluent in Welsh their participation levels are within the range of 86.6% to 88.8%.

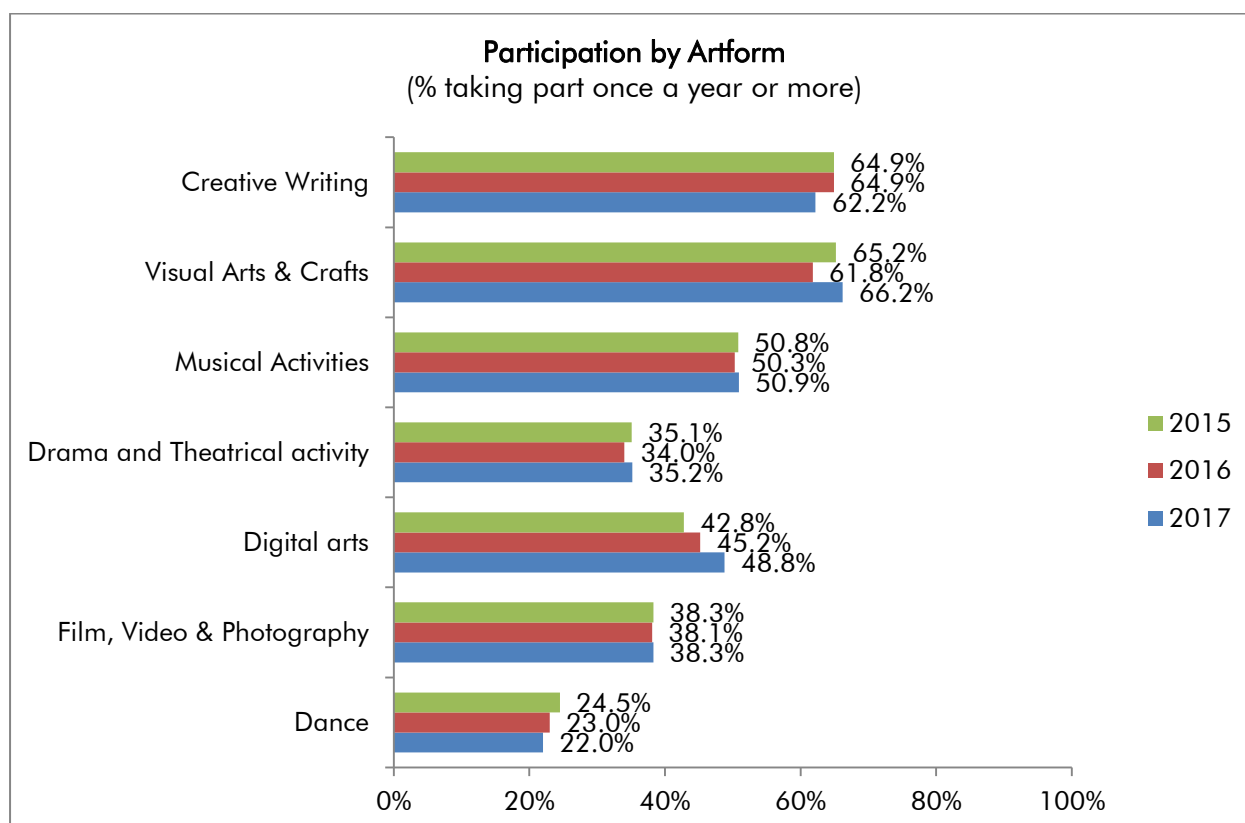


Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per wave)

Source: Children's Omnibus survey 2015-2017

## 4.9 Summary of Arts Participation by Artistic Activity

The graph below shows the proportion of children and young people in Wales who participate in each arts activity once a year or more often. It shows the most recent findings from the 2017 survey, along with findings from the previous two years, for comparison.



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per wave)

Source: Children's Omnibus survey 2015-2017

The artform with the highest participation levels was visual arts and crafts with 66.2% of children and young people taking part. This has increased from the previous year by 4.4 percentage points, and brings it back up to just above the levels for 2015 which were 65.2%.

Creative writing was the second most popular artform with 62.2% of children and young people taking part in 2017. This has fallen slightly from the previous two years when 64.9% participated in this activity in both 2015 and 2016.

In terms of the least popular artform for children and young people to participate in, this continues to be dance with just under a quarter doing so in 2017, 22%. This has fallen year on year by 1 percentage point in the three year period.

Half of children and young people have taken part in musical activities in 2017, and this has remained the same since 2015.

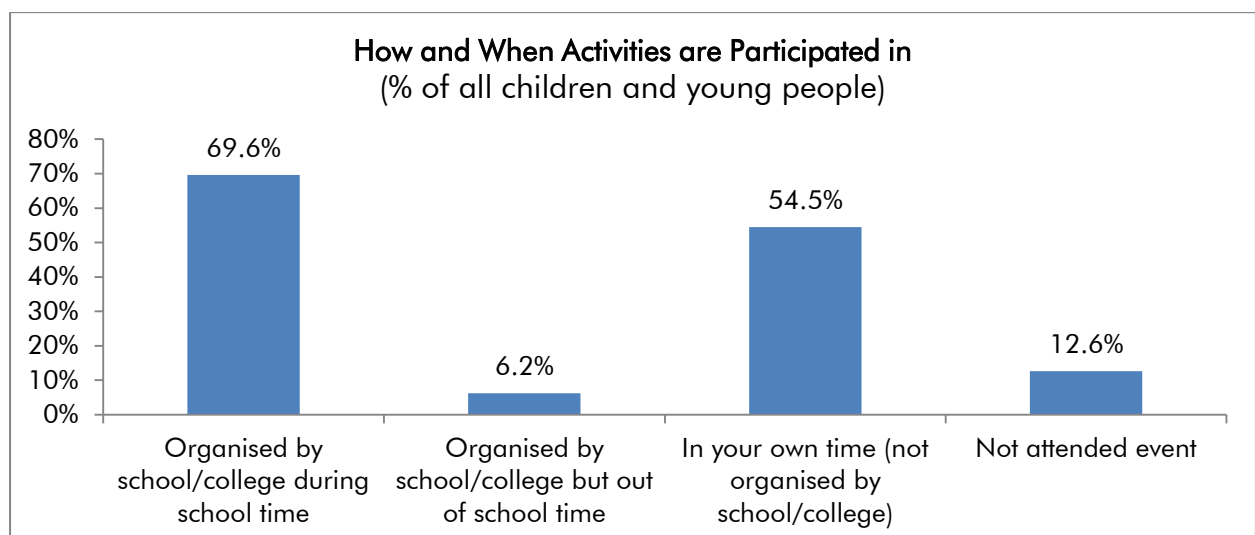
Digital arts have seen a year on year increase from 42.8% in 2015 to 45.2% in 2016 to 48.8% in 2017.

Drama and theatrical activity and film, video and photography are two artforms where levels of participation have remained level over the three year period. Drama and theatrical activity had levels of 35.1% in 2017, up by 1 percentage point from the previous year, while film, video and photography has remained at 38% over the three years.

#### 4.10 How and When Arts Activities are participated in

During 2017, in contrast to attendance at arts events, most arts participation occurs as a result of an activity organised through school/college and during school/college time, with 69.6% taking part in the arts this way. This is followed by taking part in activities in one's own time and organised outside the school/college setting, which involves 54.5% of those taking part in an activity once a year or more. 12.6% had not taken part in any activity and only 6.2% had taken part in an activity organised by their school/college but out of school/college time.

These figures do not add up to 100% as the base for each bar is all children and young people, who could have participated in more than one art-form in more than one way.



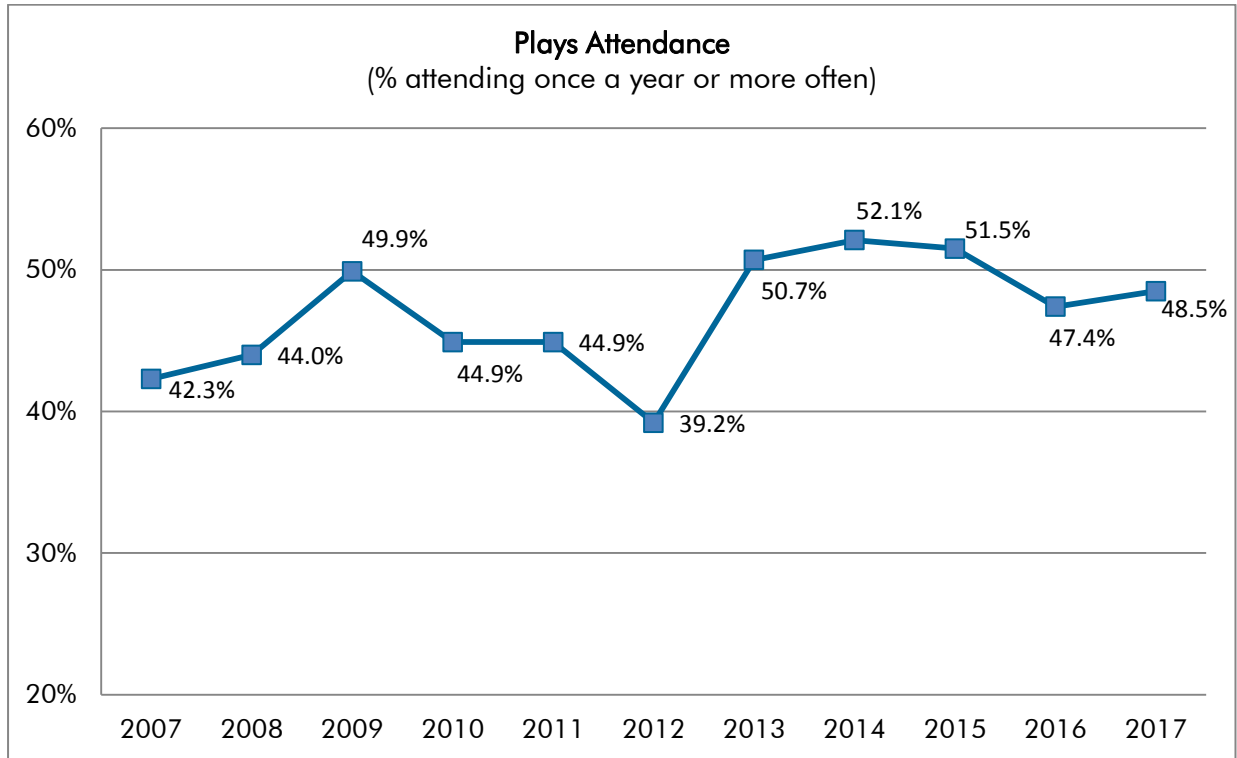
Base: All 7-18 year olds: 1,032

Source: Children's Omnibus survey 2017

## Appendix 1: Arts Attendance by Art Form

### Plays

Figure 1: Trend in attendance to plays, 2007-2017

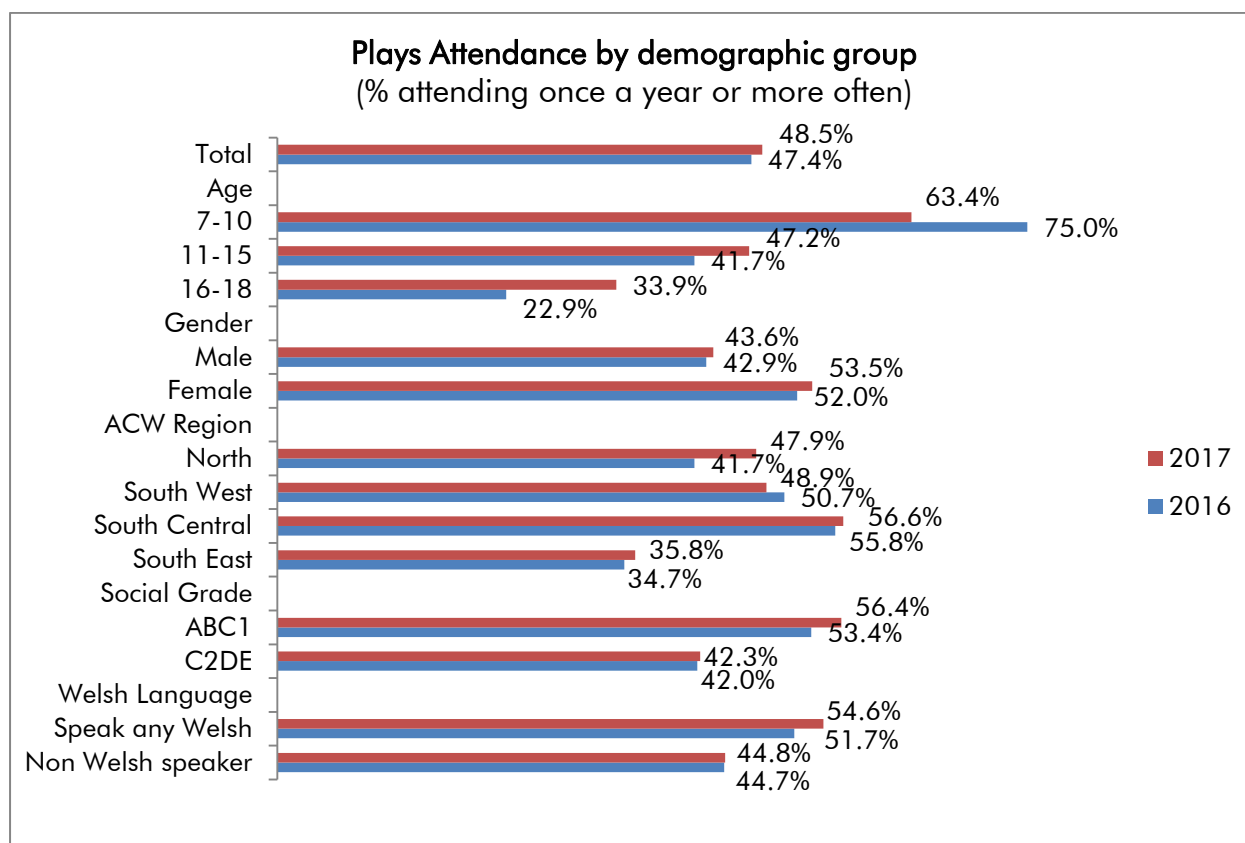


Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2007-2017



Figure 2: Attendance to plays by key demographics, 2016-2017



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2016-2017

Table 1: How and when Plays are attended

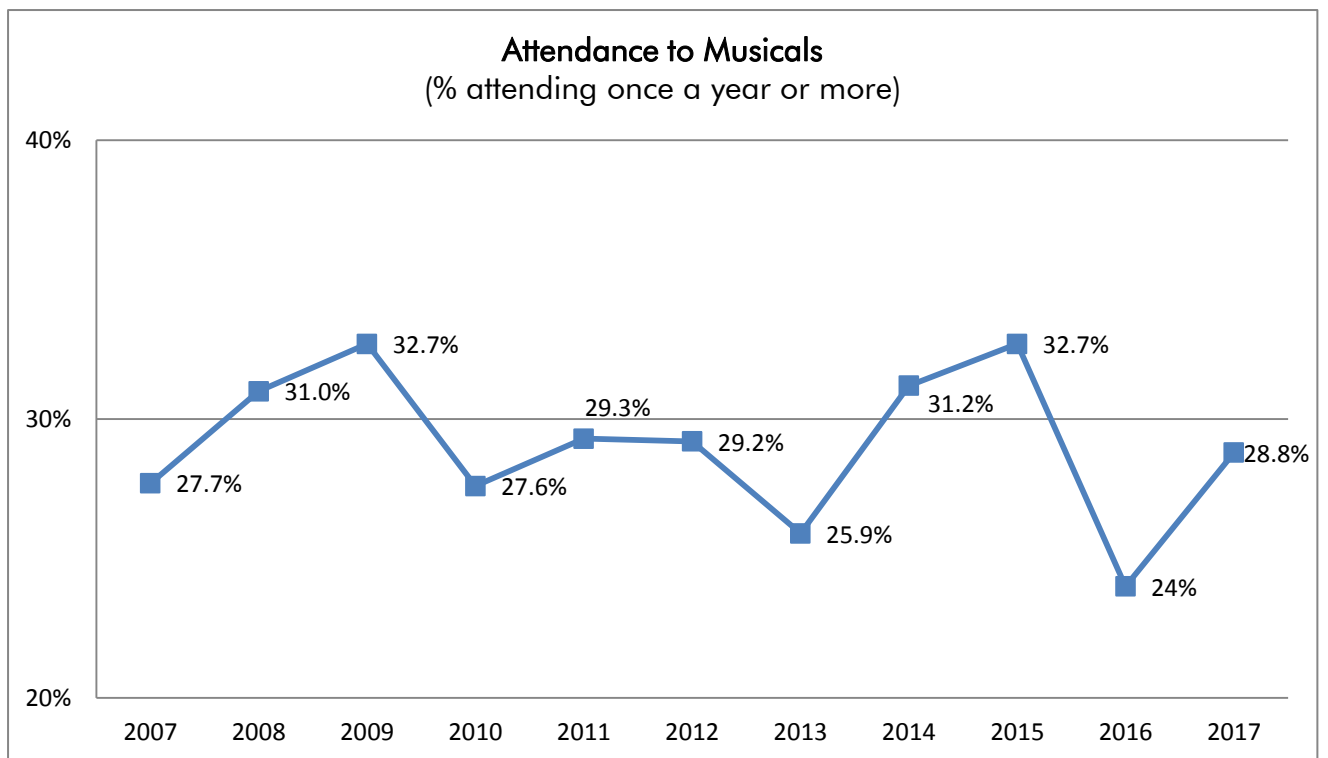
	Organised by school/college during school time	Organised by school/college but out of school time	In their own time (not organised by school/college)
2016	53.8%	8.3%	37.7%
2017	49.6%	5.7%	43.8%

Base: Those attending plays once a year or more often  
(484 in 2016 and 500 in 2017)

Source: Children's Omnibus 2016 and 2017

## Musicals

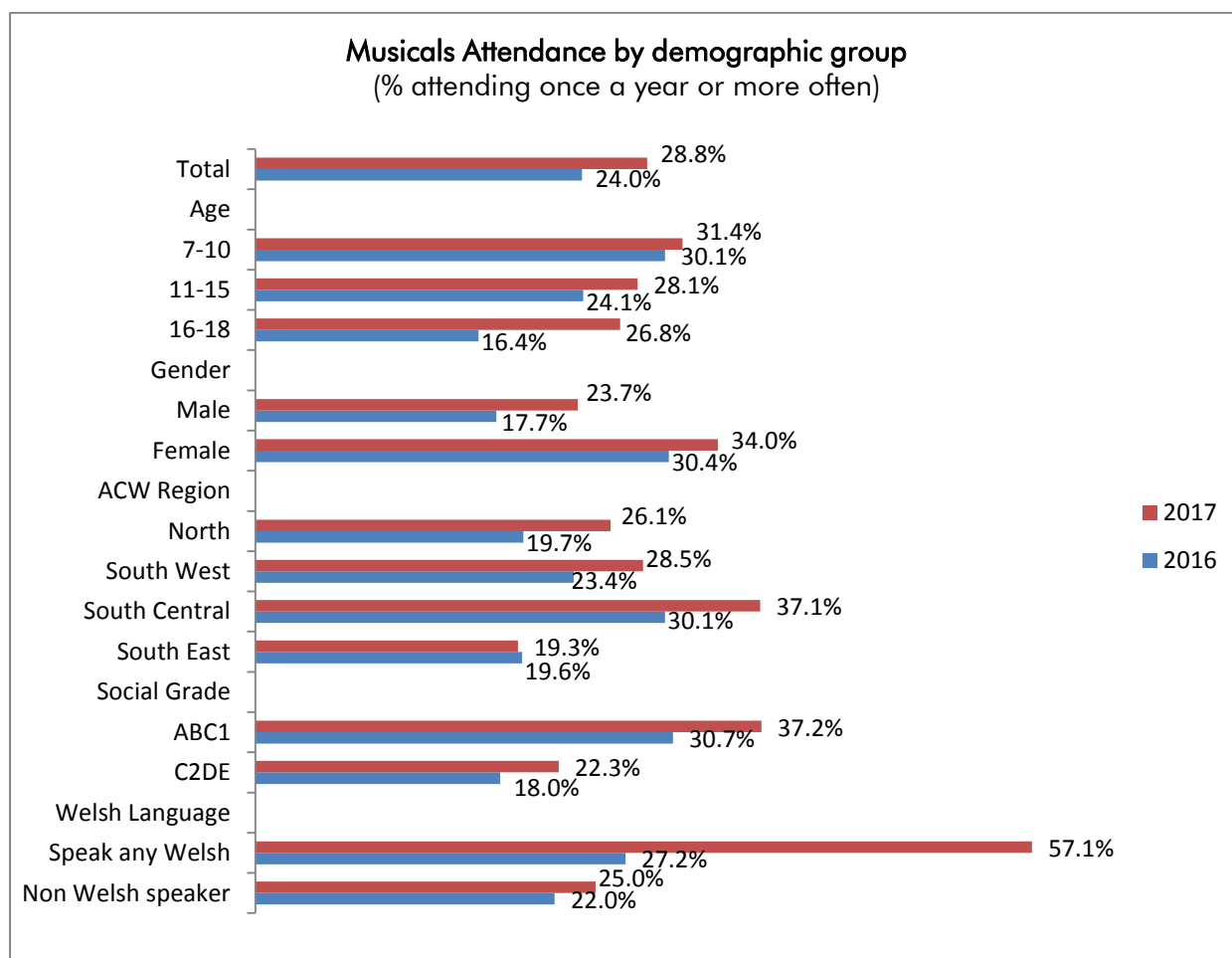
Figure 3: Trend in attendance to musicals, 2007-2017



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2007-2017

Figure 4: Attendance to musicals by key demographics, 2016-2017



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2016-20

Table 2: How and when Musicals are attended

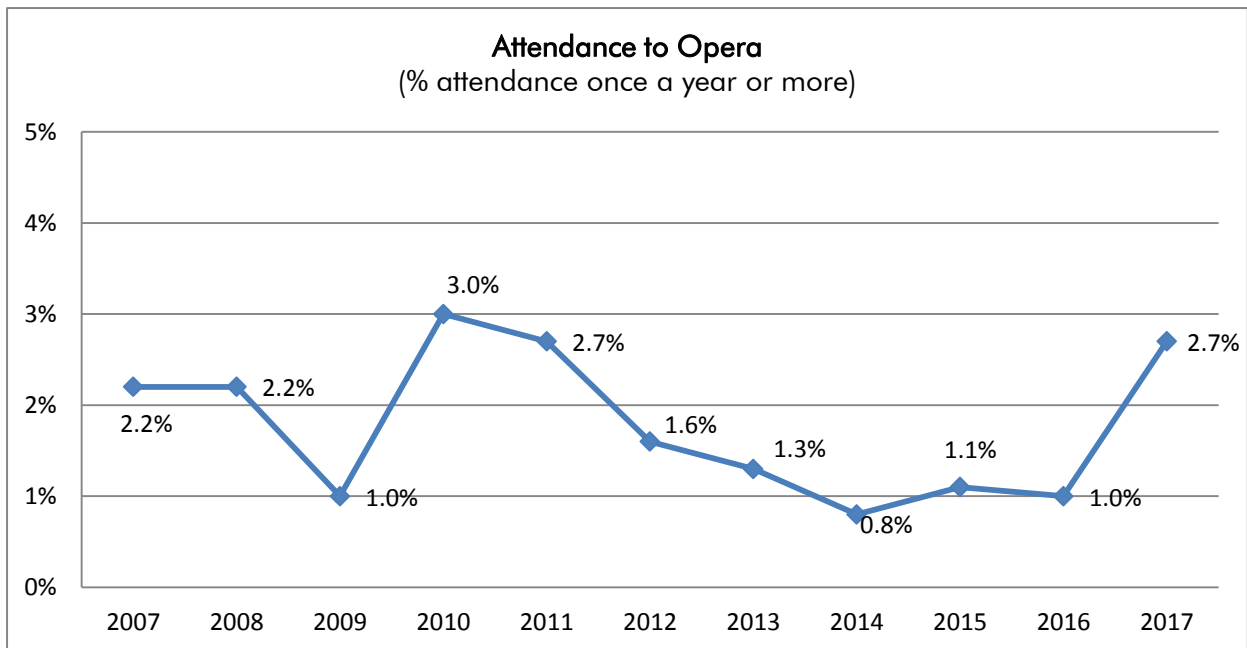
	Organised by school/college during school time	Organised by school/college but out of school time	In their own time (not organised by school/college)
2016	34.0%	7.4%	58.6%
2017	28.9%	6.6%	62.9%

Base: Those attending musicals once a year or more often  
(245 in 2016 and 297 in 2017)

Source: Children's Omnibus 2016 and 2017

## Opera

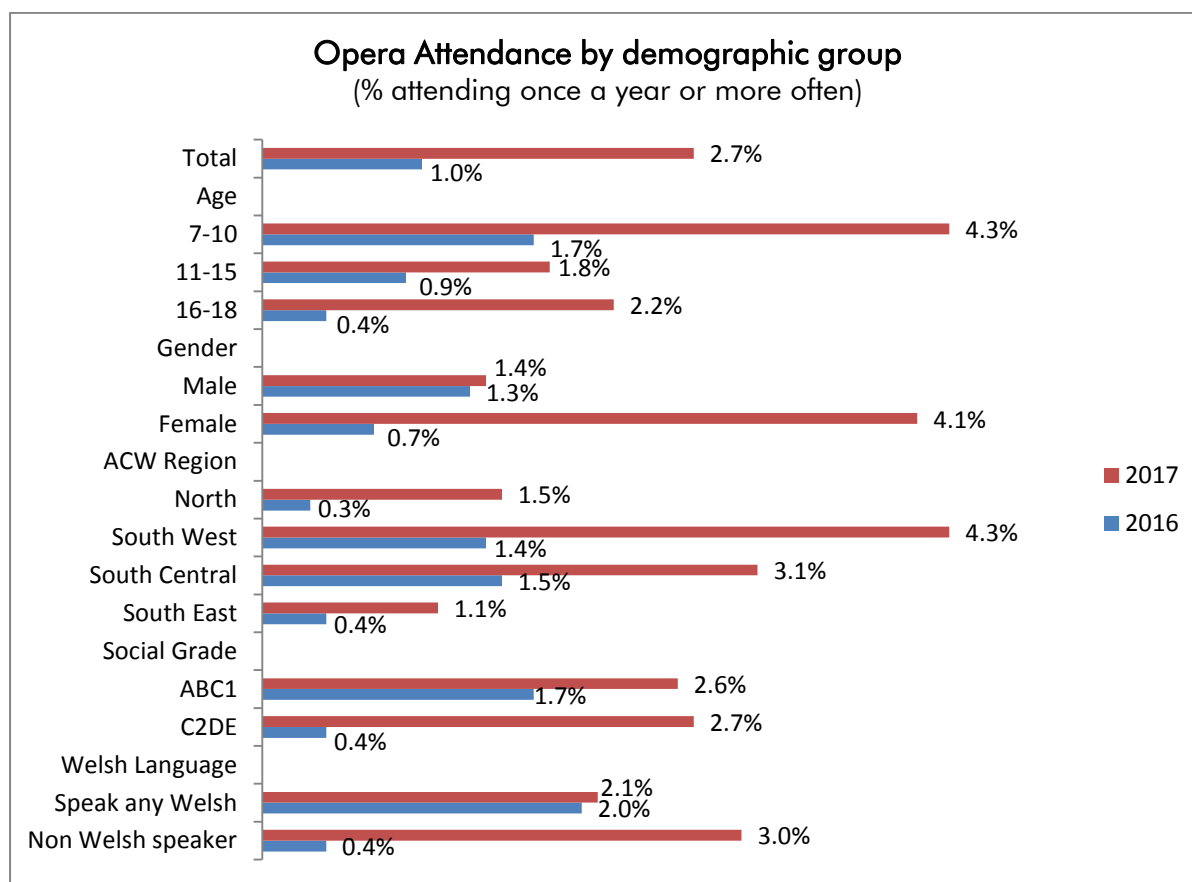
Figure 5: Trend in attendance to opera, 2007-2017



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2007-2017

Figure 6: Attendance to opera by key demographics, 2016-2017



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2016-2017

Table 3: How and when Operas are attended  
(please note the sample size is small for this artform)

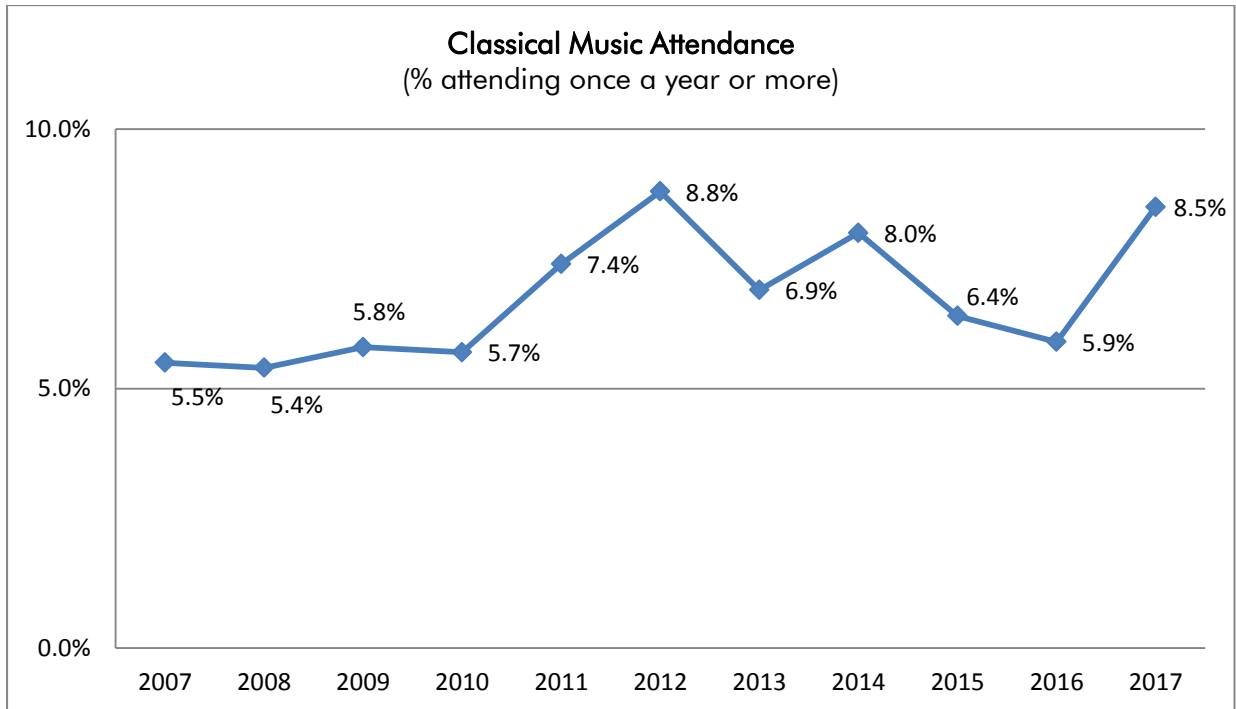
	Organised by school/college during school time	Organised by school/college but out of school time	In their own time (not organised by school/college)
2016	47.3%	21.8%	31.0%
2017	20.6%	3.0%	71.1%

Base: Those attending operas once a year or more often  
(10 in 2016 and 28 in 2017)

Source: Children's Omnibus 2016 and 2017

## Classical Music Concerts

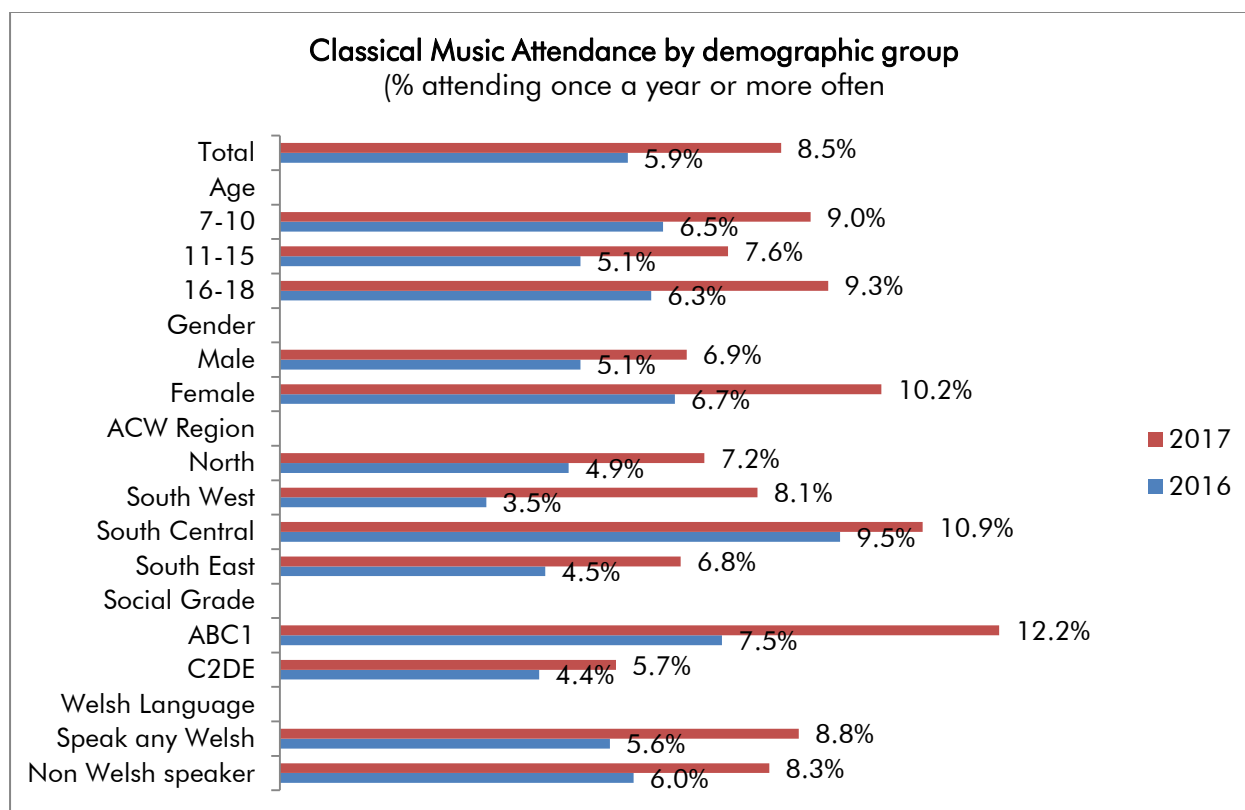
Figure 7: Trend in attendance to classical music concerts, 2007-2017



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2007-2017

Figure 8: Attendance to classical music concerts by key demographics, 2016-2017



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2016-2017

Table 4: How and when classical music concerts are attended (please note the sample size is small for this artform)

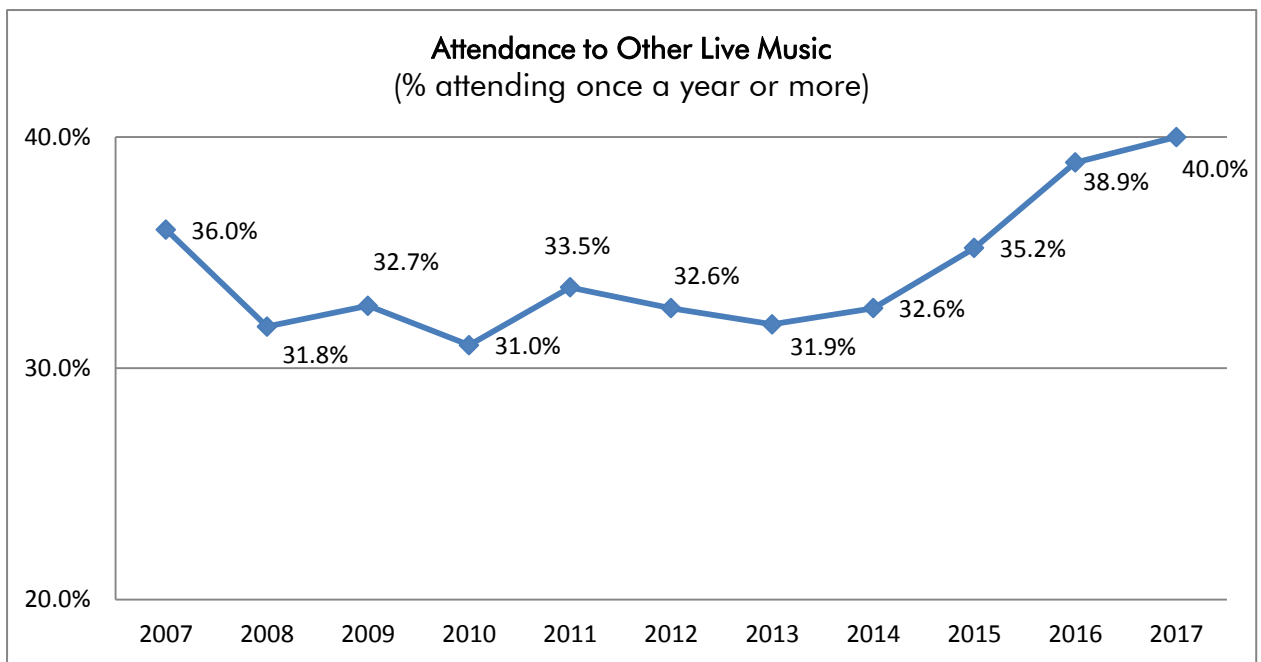
	Organised by school/college during school time	Organised by school/college but out of school time	In their own time (not organised by school/college)
2016	38.0%	1.0%	58.9%
2017	33.0%	7.3%	59.3%

Base: Those attending classical music concerts once a year or more often (60 in 2016 and 88 in 2017)

Source: Children's Omnibus 2016 and 2017

## Other Live Music

Figure 9: Trend in attendance to other live music, 2007-2017

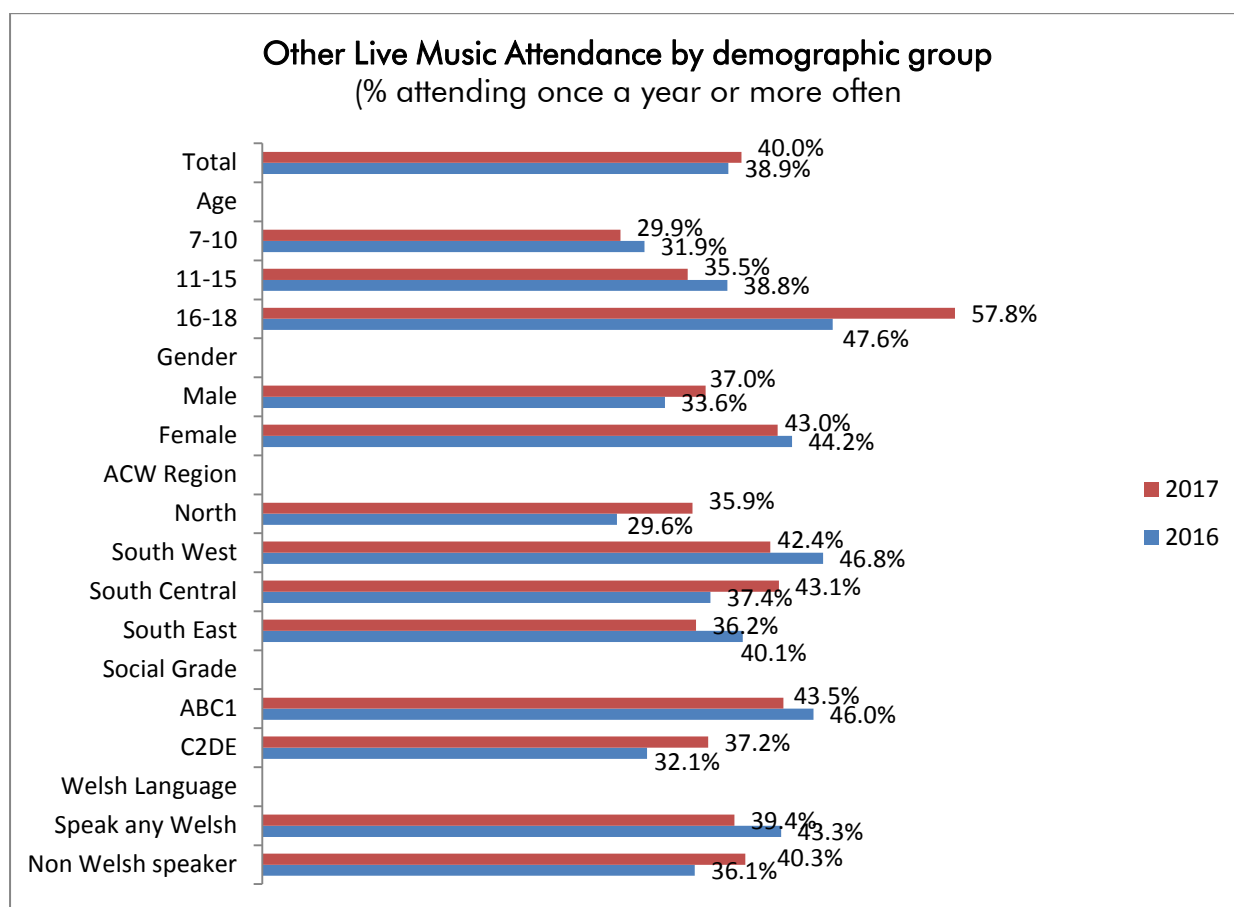


Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2007-2017



Figure 10: Attendance to Other Live Music events by key demographics, 2016-17



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2016-2017

Table 5: How and when other live music events are attended (please note the sample size is small for this artform)

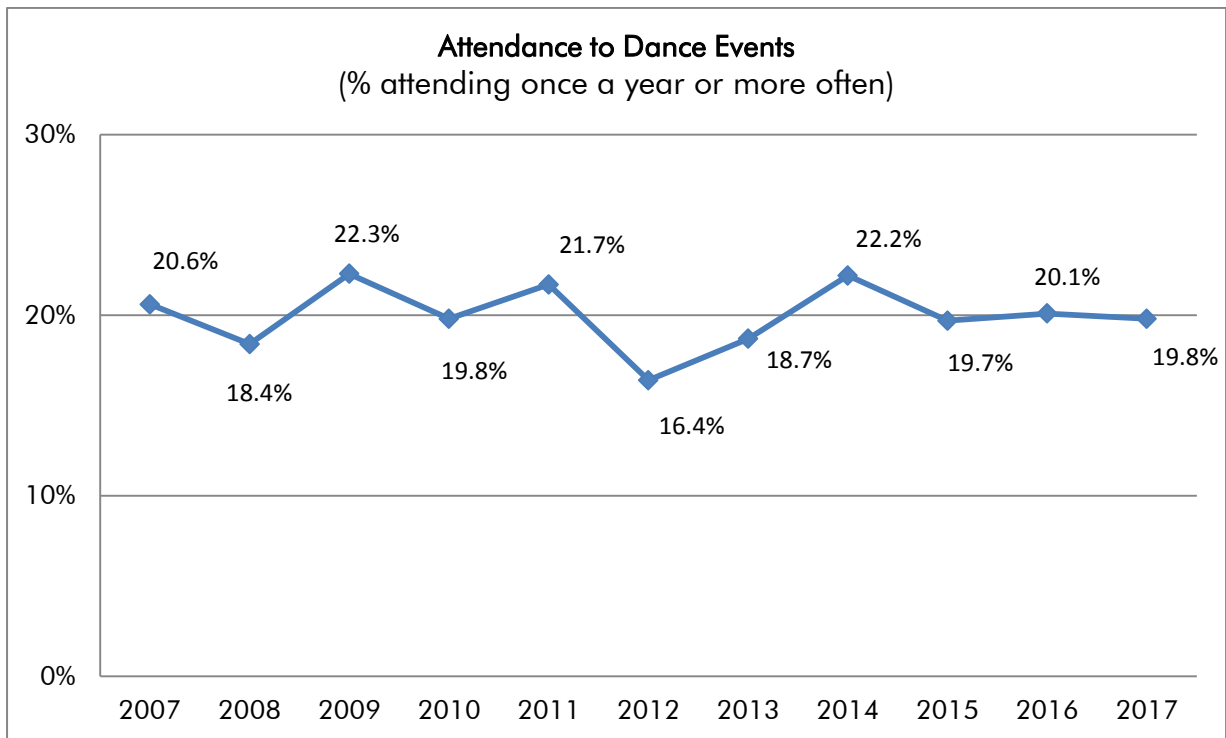
	Organised by school/college during school time	Organised by school/college but out of school time	In their own time (not organised by school/college)
2016	12.0%	2.8%	85.1%
2017	6.3%	2.2%	91.0%

Base: Those attending other live music events once a year or more often (397 in 2016 and 412 in 2017)

Source: Children's Omnibus 2016 and 2017

## Dance

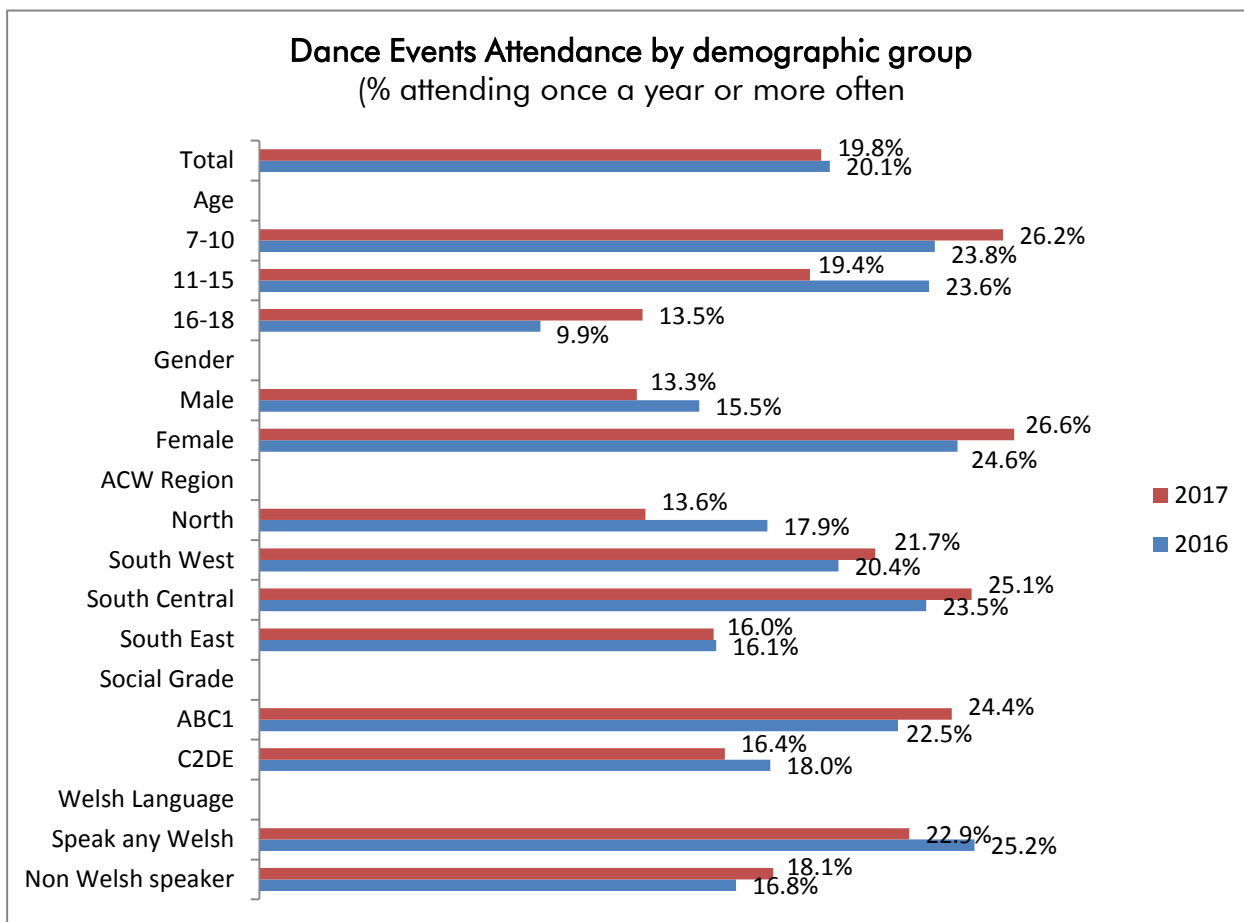
Figure 11: Trend in attendance to dance, 2007-2017



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2016-2017

Figure 12: Attendance to dance by key demographics, 2016-2017



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2007-2017

Table 6: How and when Dance events are attended (please note the sample size is small for this artform)

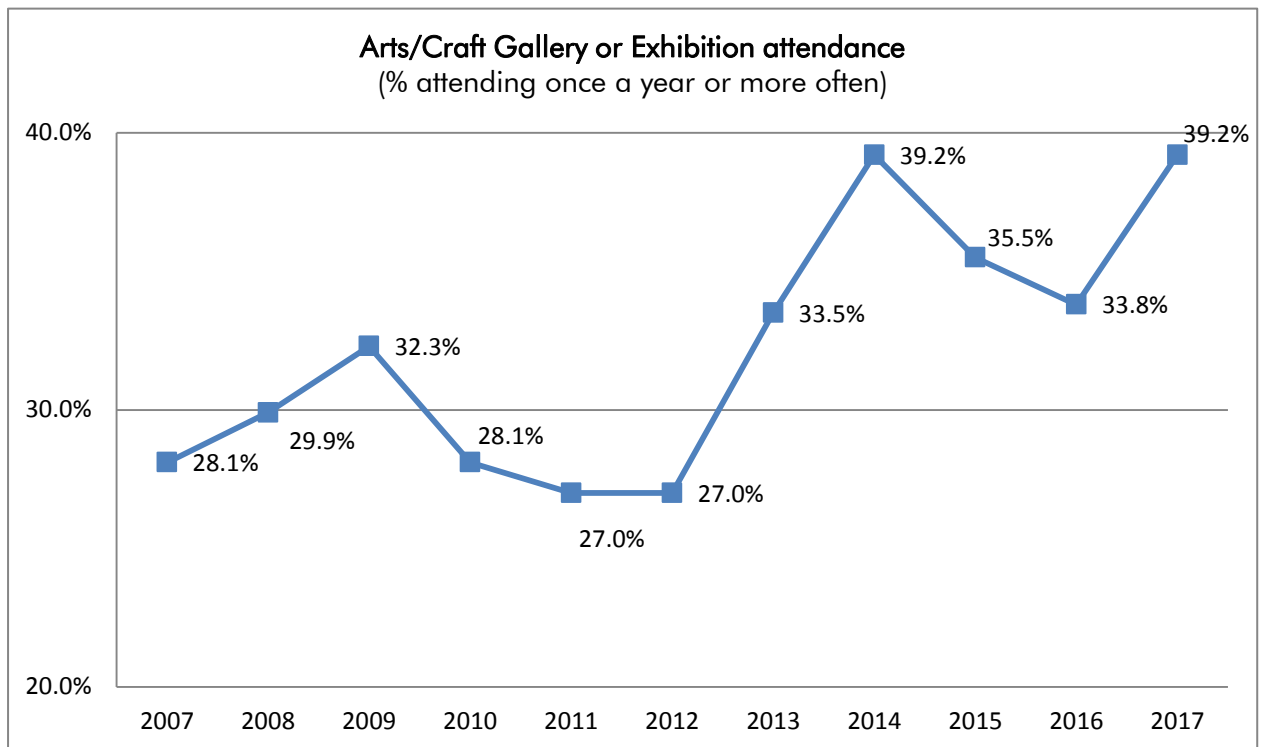
	Organised by school/college during school time	Organised by school/college but out of school time	In their own time (not organised by school/college)
2016	29.6%	5.5%	64.7%
2017	25.9%	5.1%	68.6%

Base: Those attending dance events once a year or more often (205 in 2016 and in 205 2017)

Source: Children's Omnibus 2016 and 2017

## Art or Craft Galleries or Exhibitions

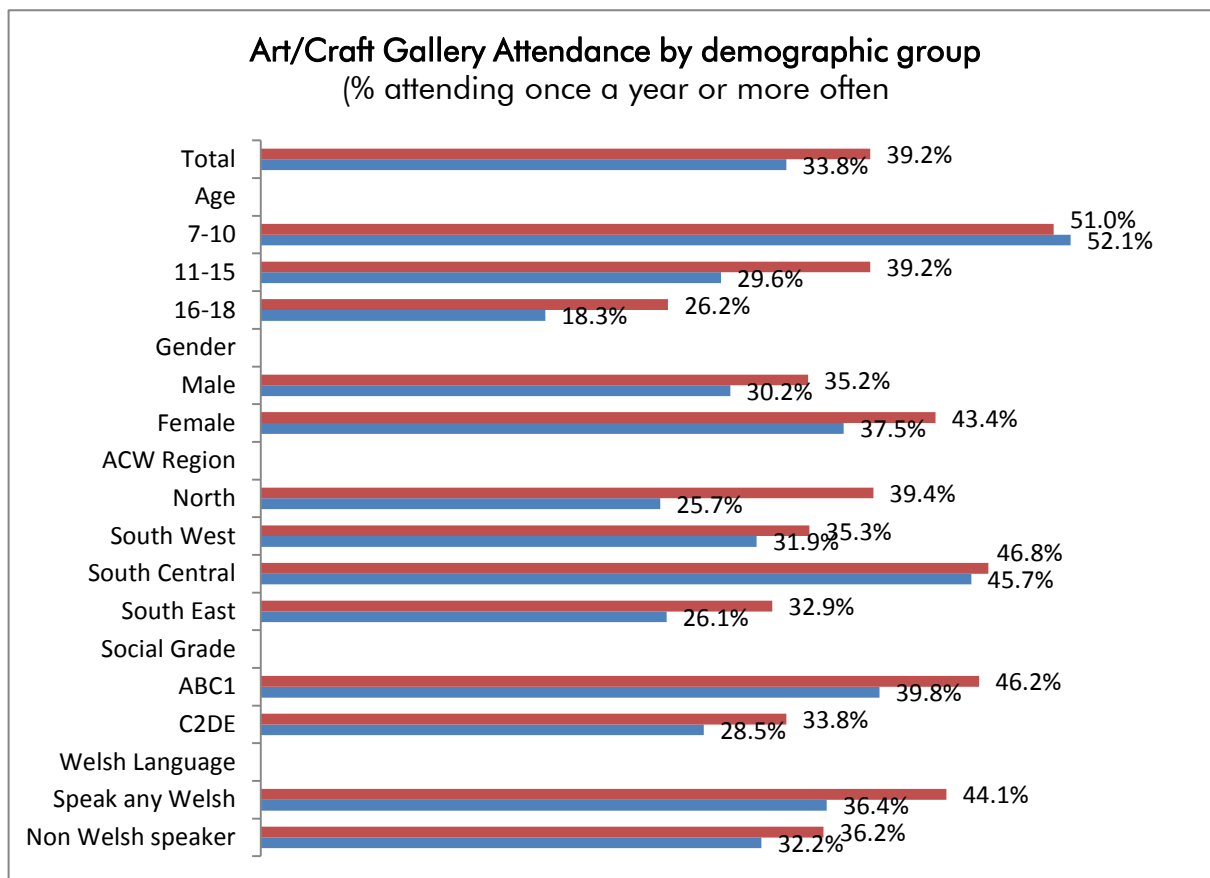
Figure 13: Trend in attendance to art or craft galleries or exhibitions, 2007-2017



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2007-2017

Figure 14: Attendance to art or craft galleries or exhibitions by key demographics, 2016-2017



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2016-2017

Table 7: How and when art or craft galleries or exhibitions are attended

	Organised by school/college during school time	Organised by school/college but out of school time	In their own time (not organised by school/college)
2016	32.4%	5.2%	64.8%
2017	27.4%	4.6%	67.4%

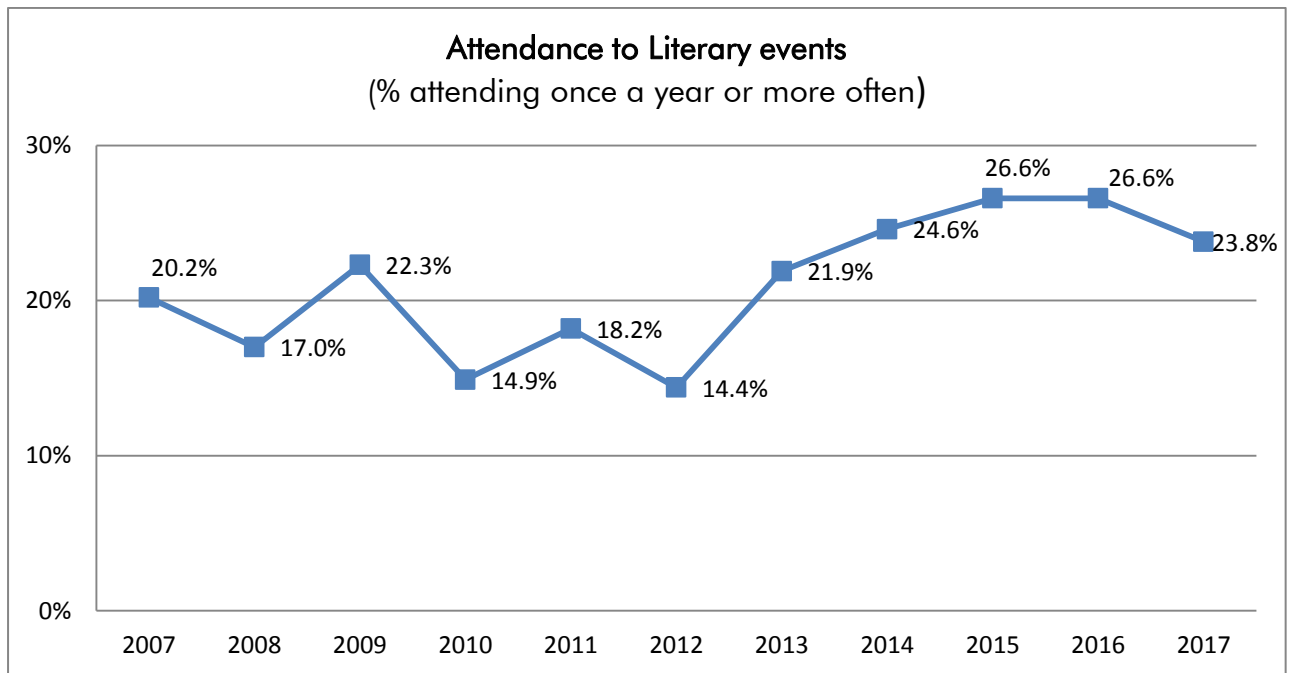
Base: Those attending art and craft events once a year or more often

(345 in 2016 and 404 in 2017)

Source: Children's Omnibus 2016 and 2017

## Readings, Storytelling or other literary events

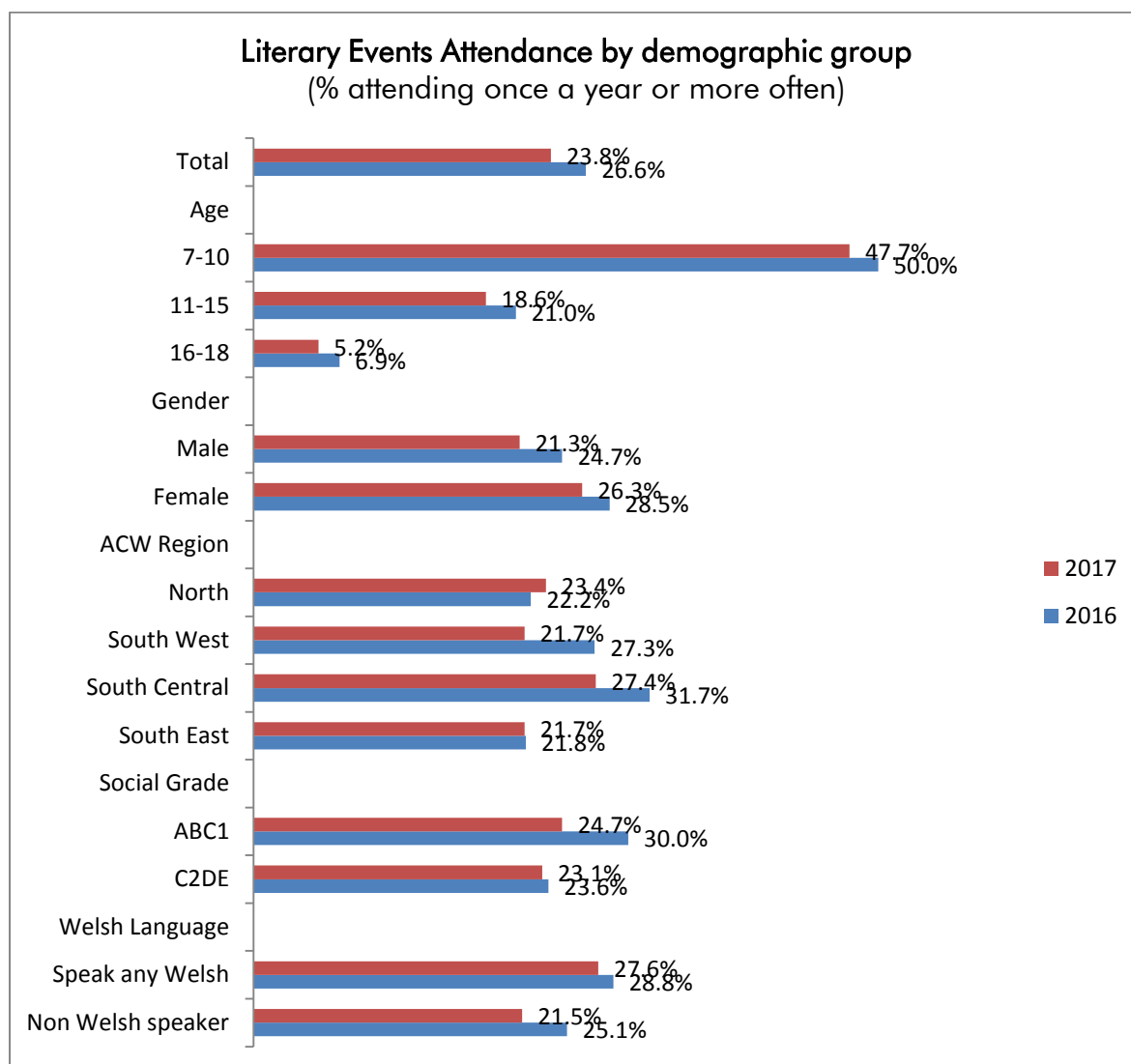
Figure 15: Trend in attendance to literary events, 2007-2017



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2007-2017

Figure 16: Attendance to literary events by key demographics, 2016-2017



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2016-2017

Table 8: How and when readings, storytellings or literary events are attended

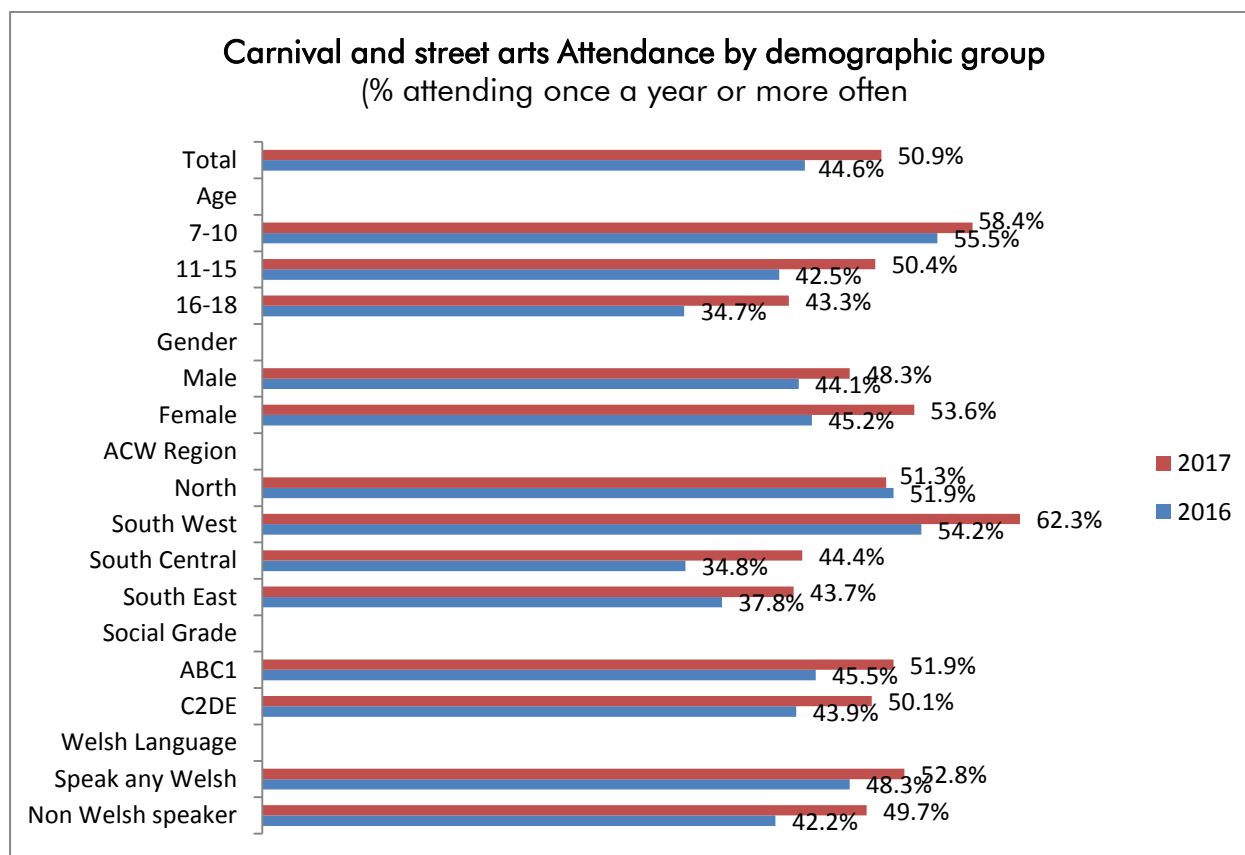
	Organised by school/college during school time	Organised by school/college but out of school time	In their own time (not organised by school/college)
2016	71.4%	4.2%	24.0%
2017	57.5%	8.3%	33.5%

Base: Those attending readings, storytellings or literary events once a year or more often (271 in 2016 and 245 in 2017)

Source: Children's Omnibus 2016 and 2017

## Carnivals and street arts

Figure 17: Attendance to Carnivals and Street Arts by key demographics, 2016-17



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2016-2017

Table 9: How and when carnivals and street arts are attended

	Organised by school/college during school time	Organised by school/college but out of school time	In their own time (not organised by school/college)
2016	3.6%	1.2%	94.9%
2017	1.8%	1.0%	95.9%

Base: Those attending carnivals and street arts once a year or more often (456 in 2016 and 525 in 2017)

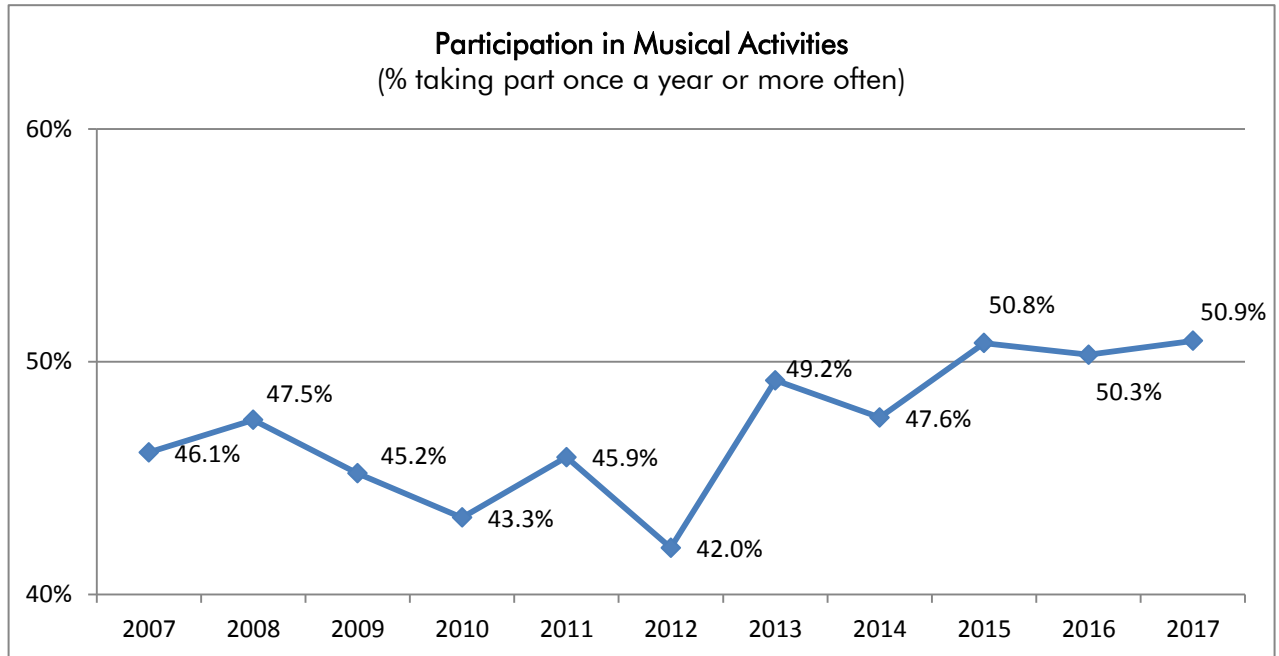
Source: Children's Omnibus 2016 and 2017



## Appendix 2: Arts Participation by Artistic Activity

### Music Activities

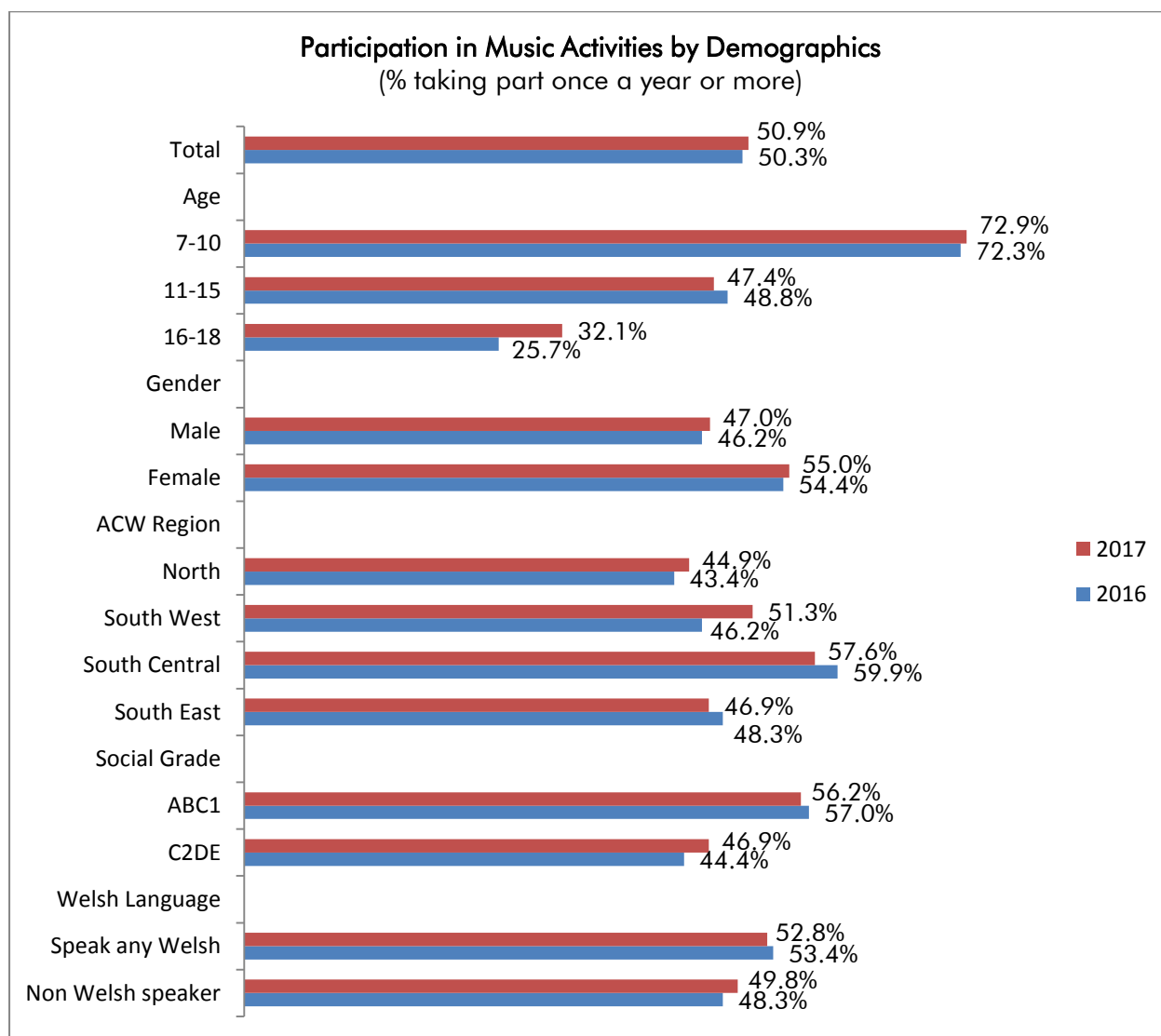
Figure 1: Trend in participation in music activities, 2007-2017



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2007-2017

Figure 2: Participation in music activities by key demographics, 2016-17



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children’s Omnibus Survey 2016-2017

Table 1: How and when music activities are participated in

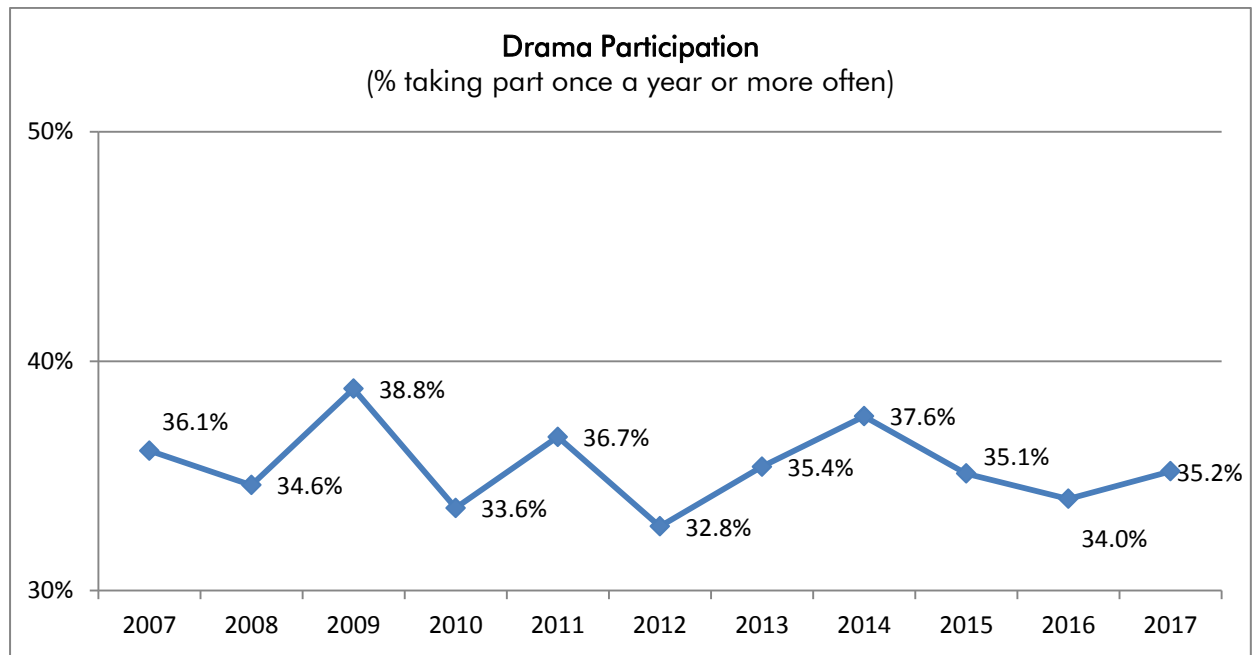
	Organised by school/college during school time	Organised by school/college but out of school time	In their own time (not organised by school/college)
2016	62.5%	4.2%	33.2%
2017	54.7%	4.3%	40.9%

Base: Those participating in music activities once a year or more often (513 in 2016 and 526 in 2017)

Source: Children’s Omnibus 2016 and 2017

## Drama or Theatrical Activities

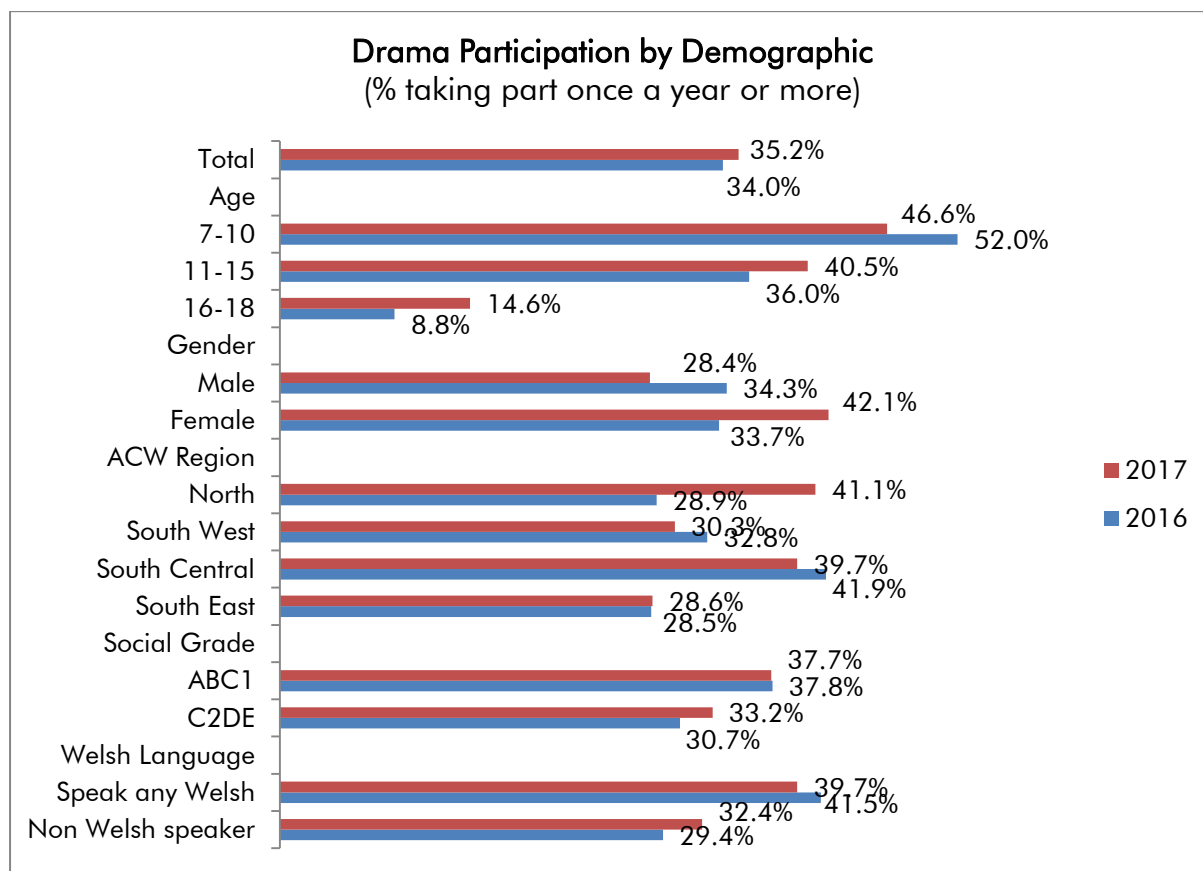
Figure 3: Trend in participation in drama or theatrical activities, 2007-2017



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2007-2017

Figure 4: Participation in drama or theatrical activities by key demographics, 2016-2017



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children’s Omnibus Survey 2016-2017

Table 2: How and when drama or theatrical activities are participated in

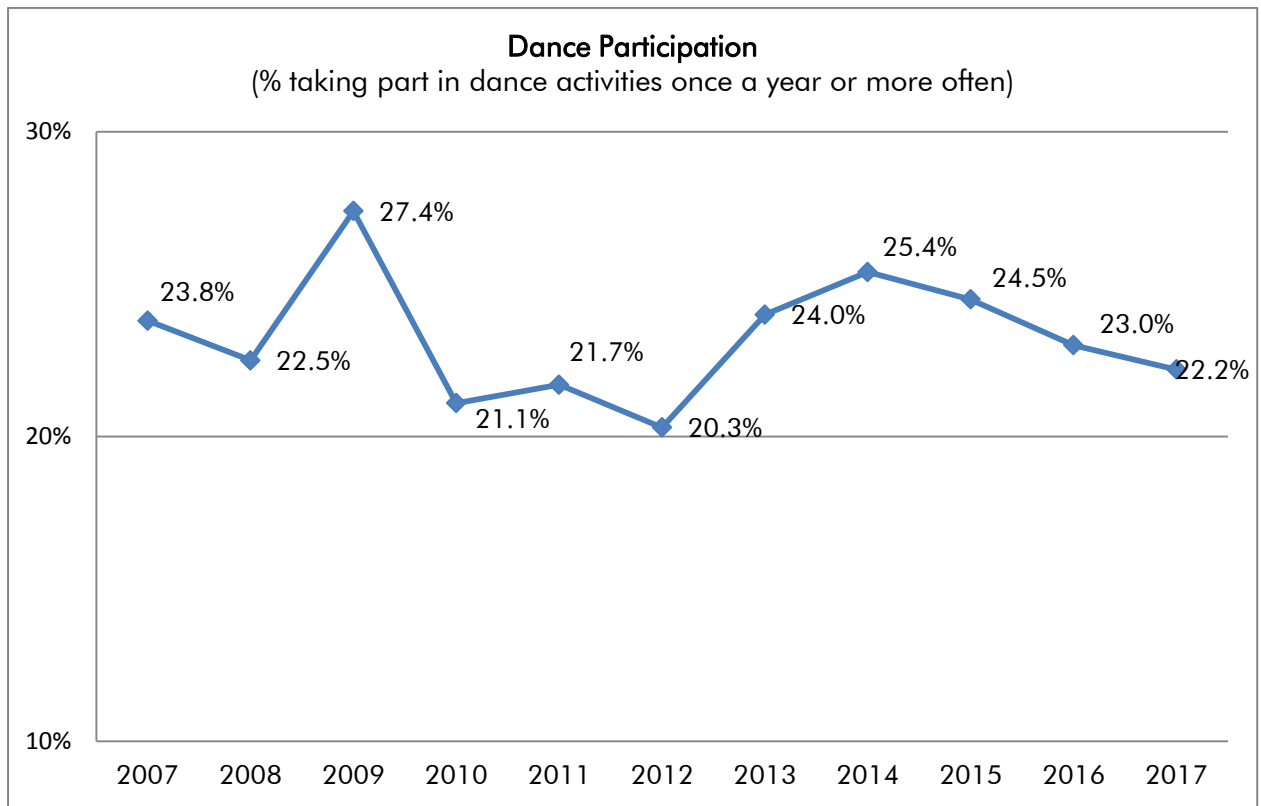
	Organised by school/college during school time	Organised by school/college but out of school time	In their own time (not organised by school/college)
2016	48.1%	5.9%	45.5%
2017	48.2%	4.7%	47.1%

Base: Those participating in drama or theatrical activities once a year or more often (348 in 2016 and 363 in 2017)

Source: Children’s Omnibus 2016 and 2017

## Dance Activities

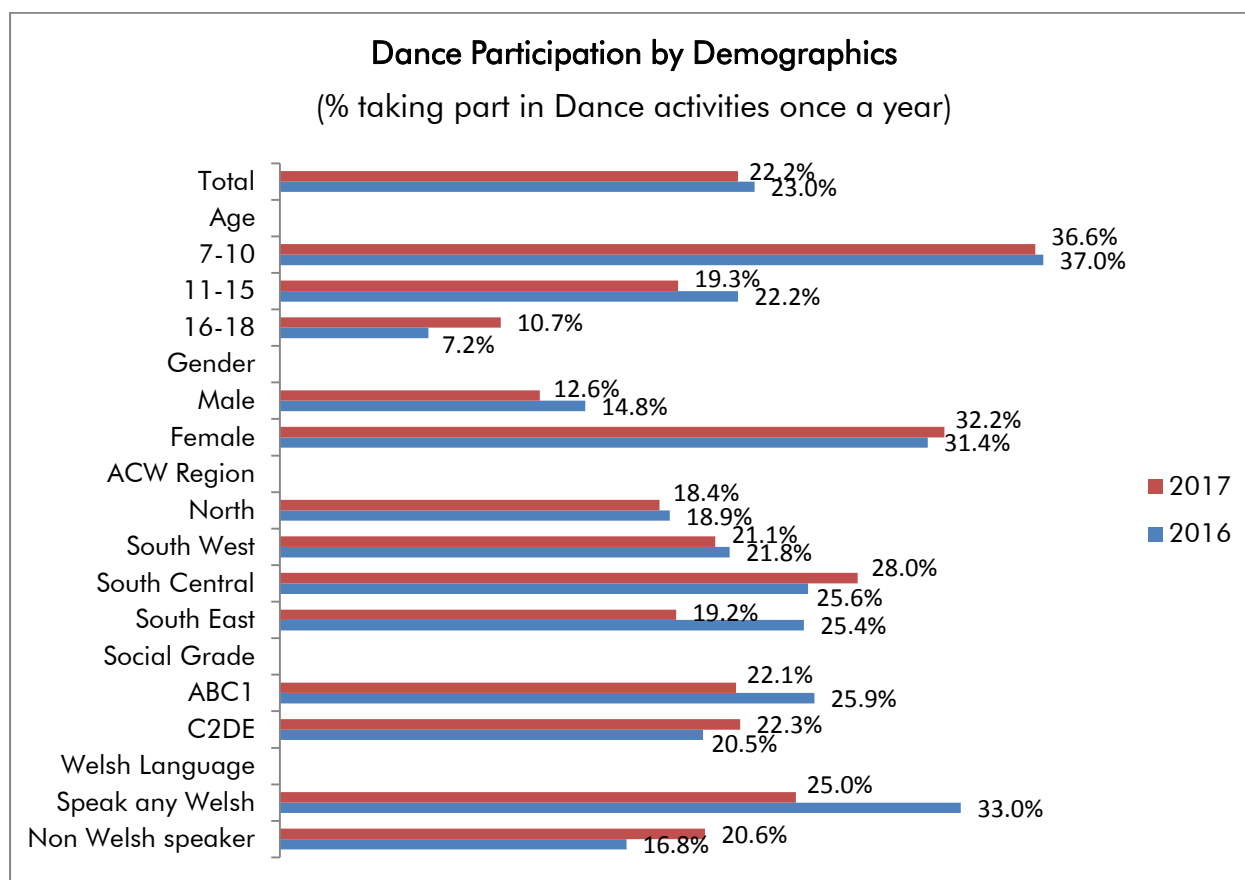
Figure 5: Trend in participation in dance activities, 2007-2017



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2016-2017

Figure 6: Participation in dance activities by key demographics, 2016-2017



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2016-2017

Table 3: How and when dance activities are participated in

	Organised by school/college during school time	Organised by school/college but out of school time	In their own time (not organised by school/college)
2016	48.1%	5.9%	45.5%
2017	48.2%	4.7%	47.1%

Base: Those participating in dance activities once a year or more often (235 in 2016 and 229 in 2017)

Source: Children's Omnibus 2016 and 2017

## Film and Video Making or Photography

Figure 7: Trend in participation in film and video making or photography, 2007-2017

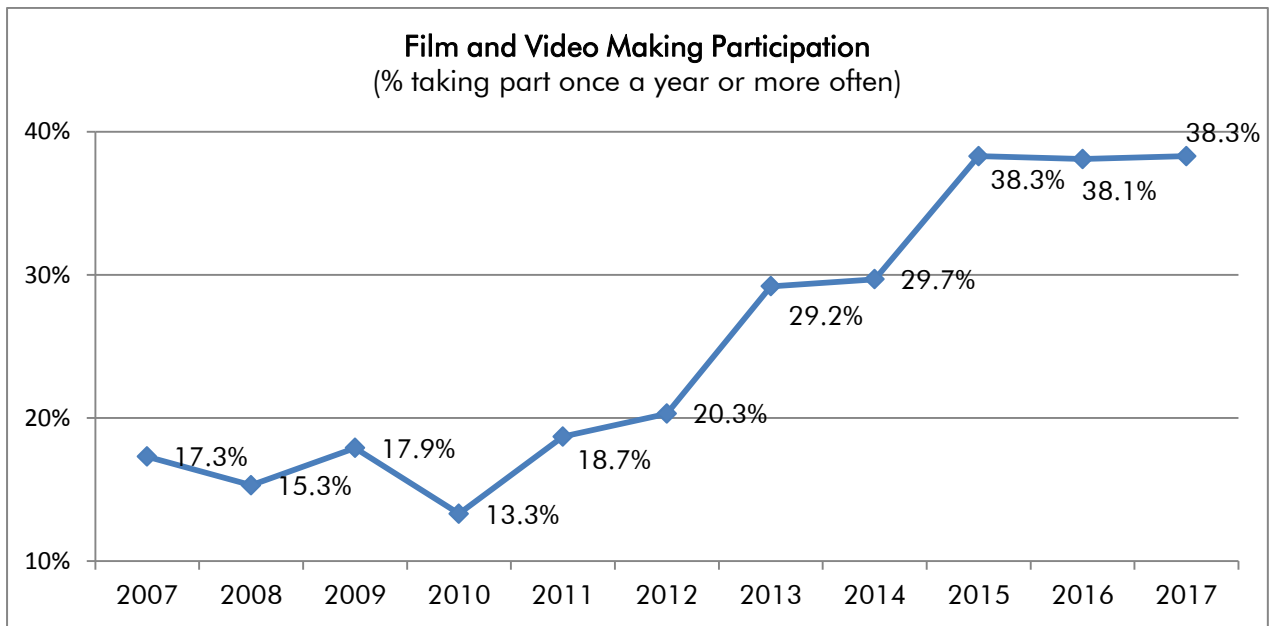
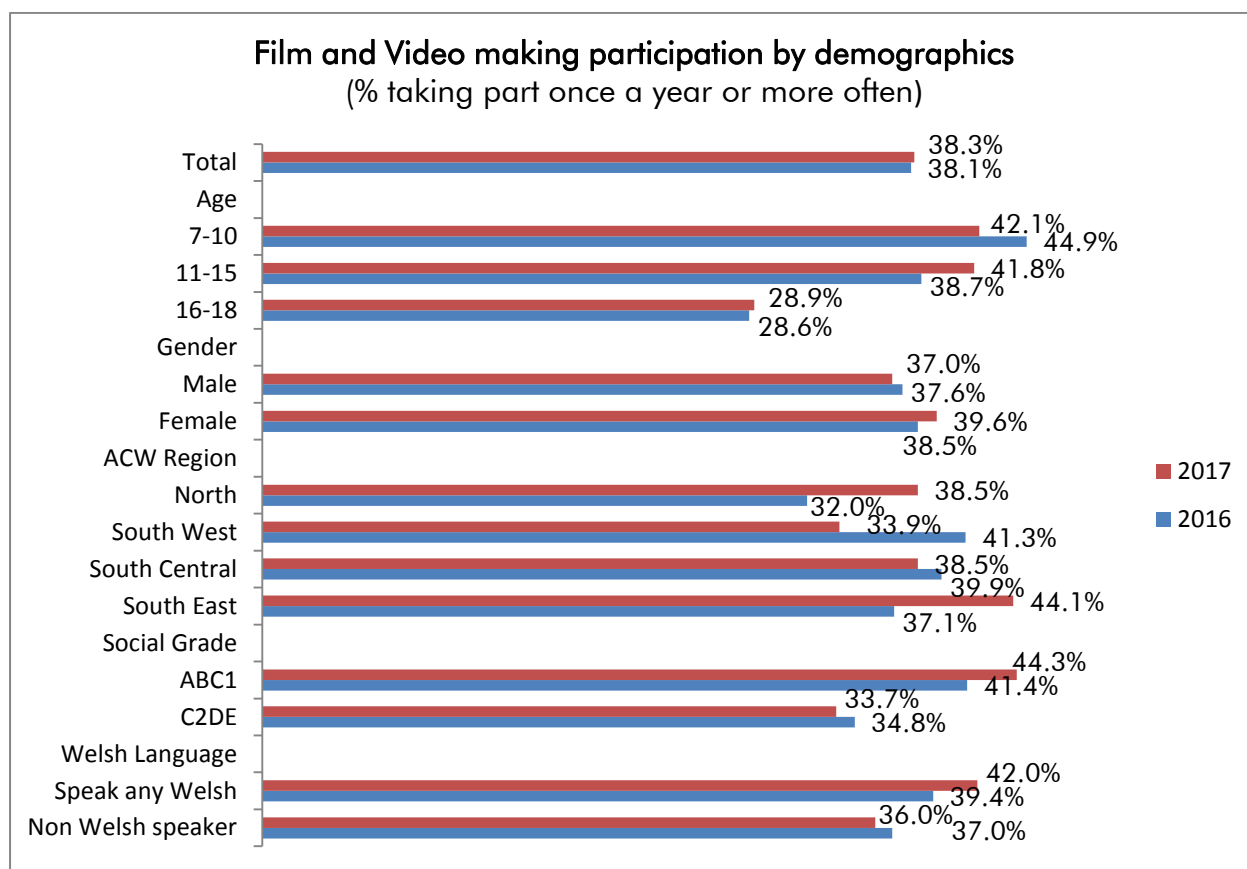


Figure 8: Participation in Film & Video making or photography, by key demographics, 2016-17



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2016-2017

Table 4: How and when film, video making or photography activities are participated in

	Organised by school/college during school time	Organised by school/college but out of school time	In their own time (not organised by school/college)
2016	39.3%	0.9%	59.0%
2017	35.9%	2.6%	61.3%

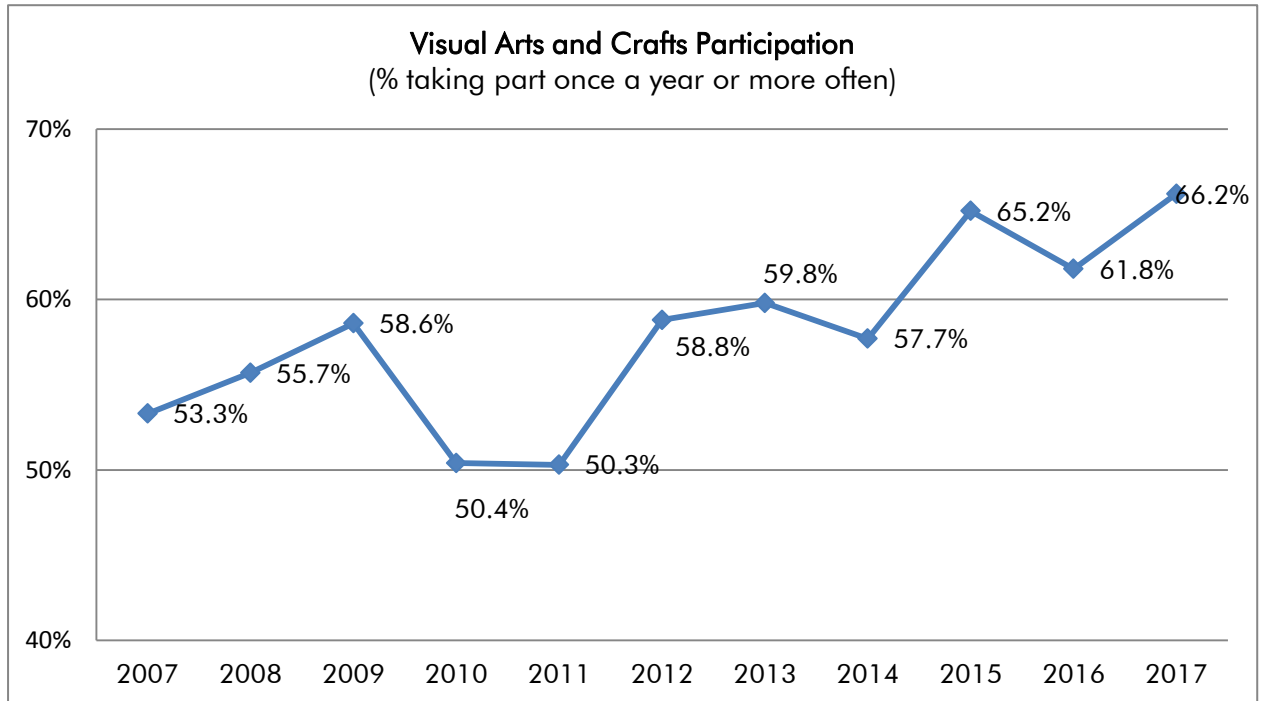
Base: Those participating in film, video making or photography activities once a year or more often (389 in 2016 and 395 in 2017)

Source: Children's Omnibus 2016 and 2017



## Visual Arts and Crafts Activities

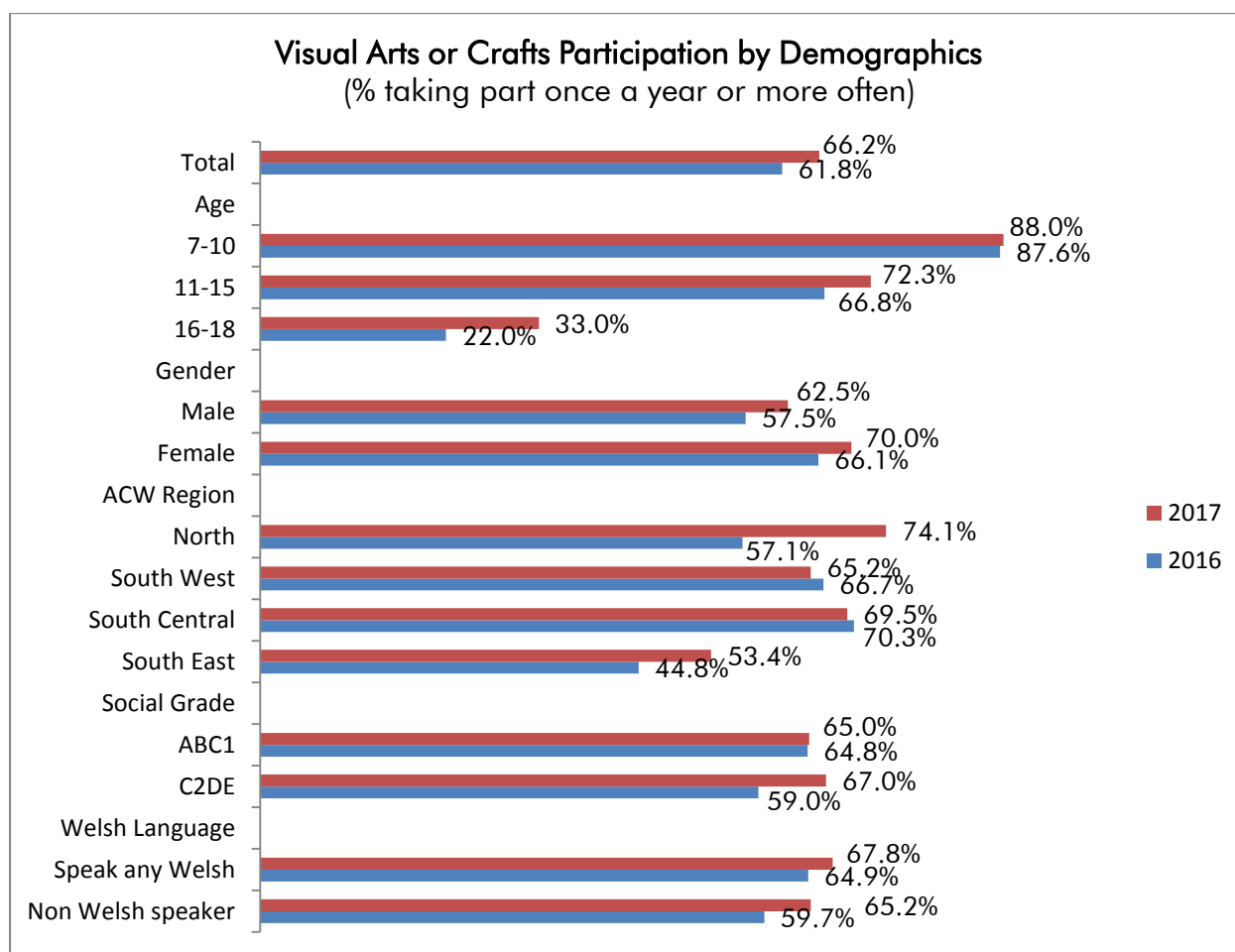
Figure 9: Trend in participation in visual arts and crafts activities, 2007-2017



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2007-2017

Figure 10: Participation in visual arts and crafts activities by key demographics, 2016-2017



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2016-2017

Table 5: How and when visual arts and crafts activities are participated in

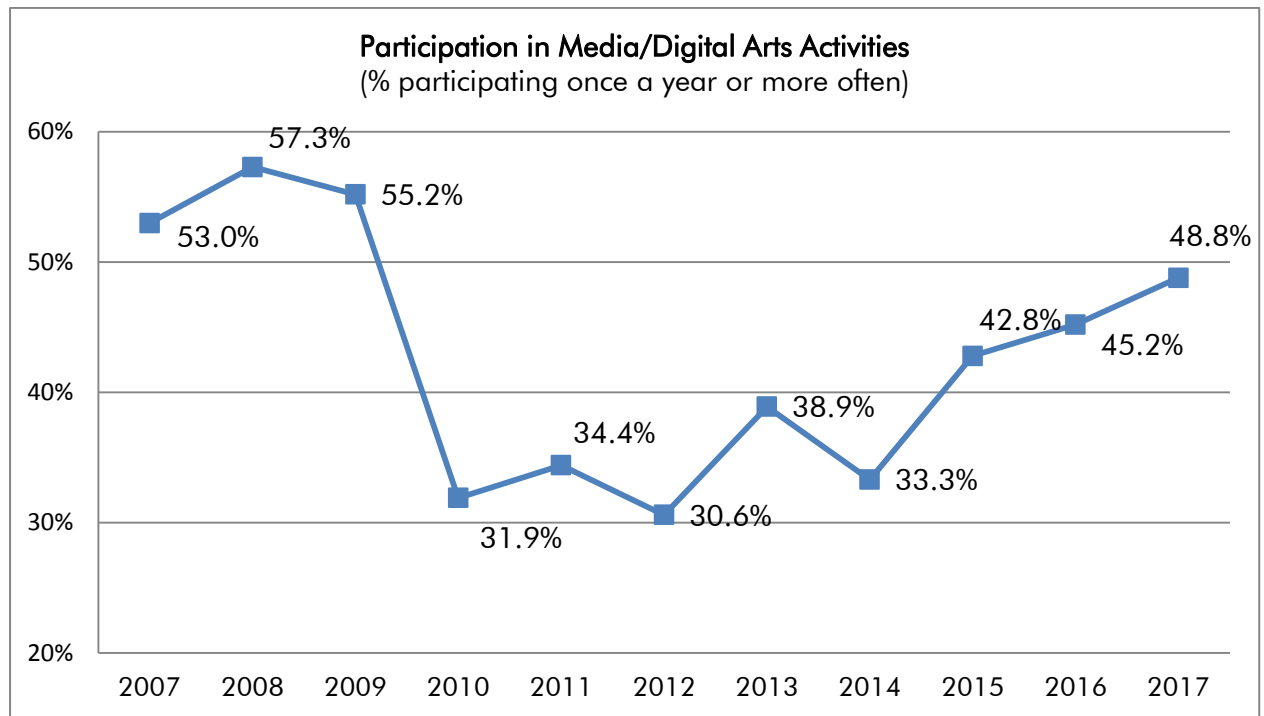
	Organised by school/college during school time	Organised by school/college but out of school time	In their own time (not organised by school/college)
2016	67.9%	2.3%	29.5%
2017	55.0%	1.9%	42.9%

Base: Those participating in visual arts and crafts activities once a year or more often (631 in 2016 and 683 in 2017)

Source: Children's Omnibus 2016 and 2017

## Digital Arts Activities

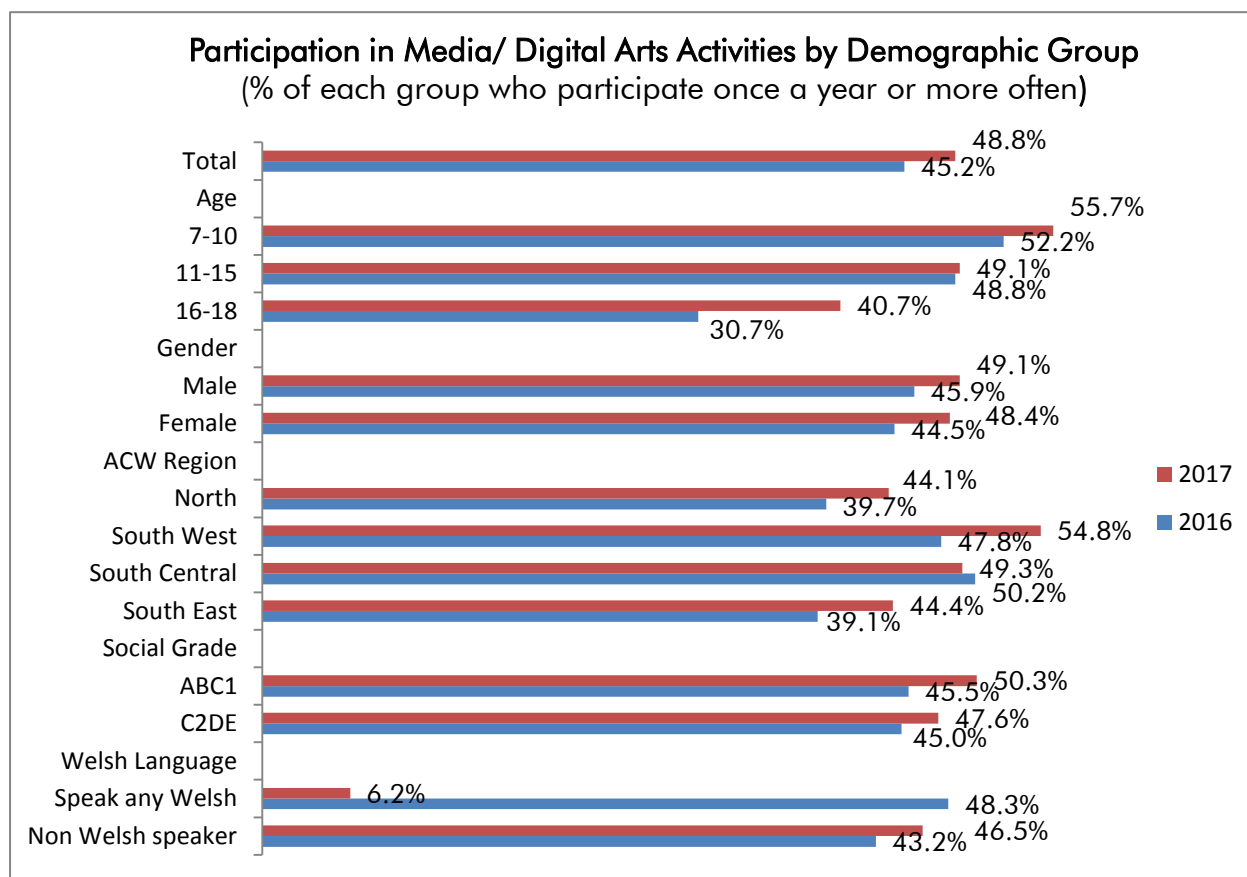
Figure 11: Trend in participation in digital arts activities, 2007-2017



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2007-2017

Figure 12: Participation in digital arts activities by key demographics, 2016-2017



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2016-2017

Table 6: How and when media/digital arts activities are participated in

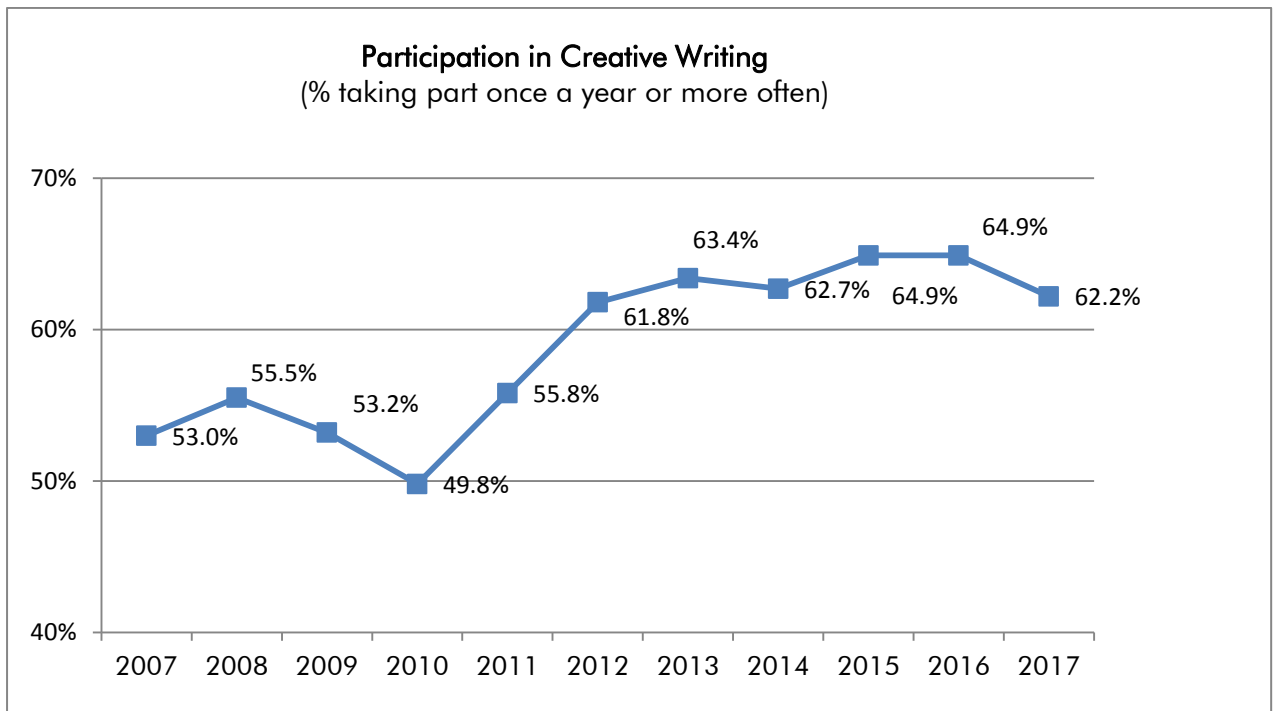
	Organised by school/college during school time	Organised by school/college but out of school time	In their own time (not organised by school/college)
2016	49.4%	2.2%	48.3%
2017	45.9%	2.4%	51.6%

Base: Those participating in media/digital arts activities once a year or more often (462 in 2016 and 503 in 2017)

Source: Children's Omnibus 2016 and 2017

## Creative Writing Activities

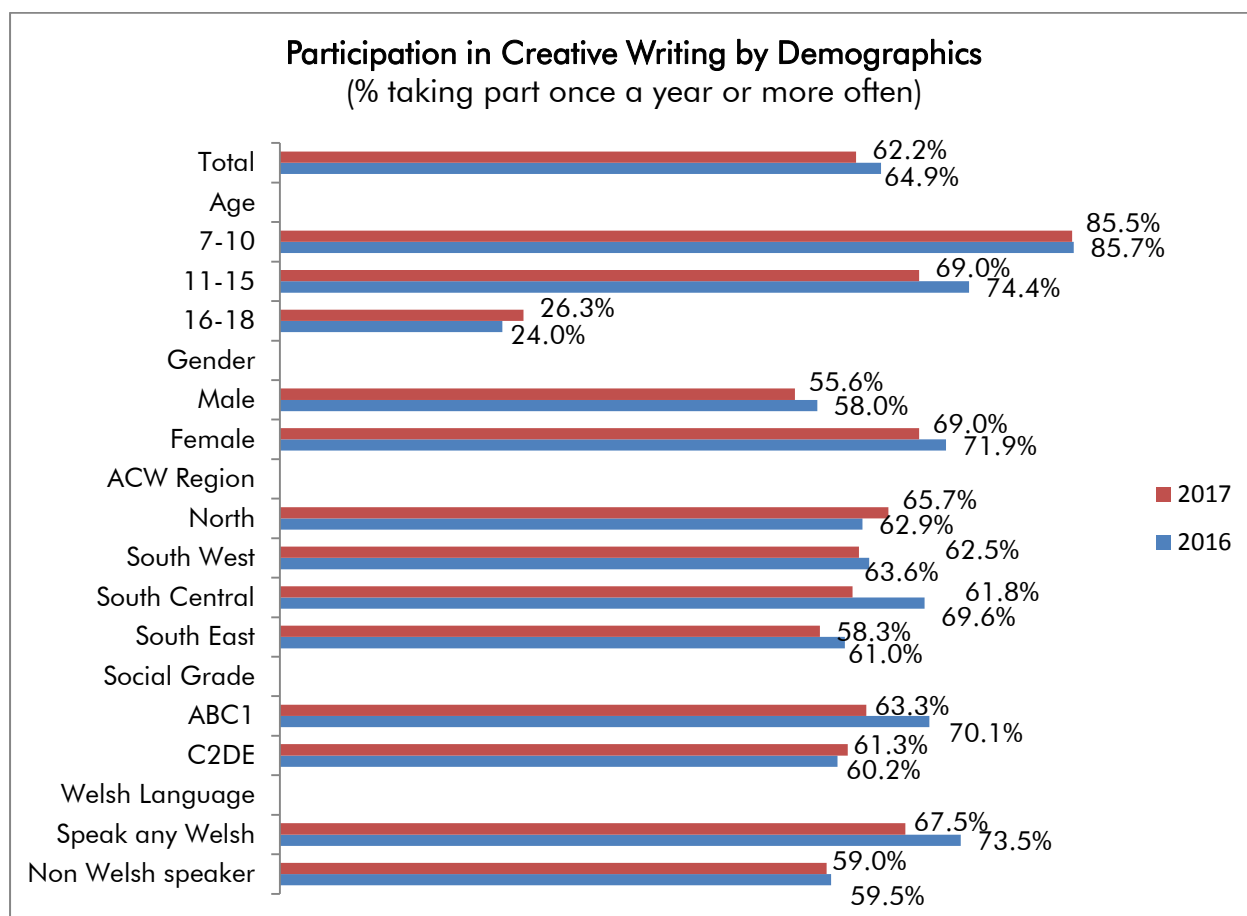
Figure 13: Trend in participation in creative writing activities, 2007-2017



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2016-2017

Figure 14: Participation in creative writing activities by key demographics, 2016-2017



Base: All 7-18 year olds (at least 1,000 per year)

Source: Children's Omnibus Survey 2016-2017

Table 7: How and when creative writing activities are participated in

	Organised by school/college during school time	Organised by school/college but out of school time	In their own time (not organised by school/college)
2016	80.5%	2.3%	17.1%
2017	78.0%	1.9%	19.8%

Base: Those participating in creative writing activities once a year or more often (662 in 2016 and 642 in 2017)

Source: Children's Omnibus 2016 and 2017

## Appendix 3: Social Grade Definitions

The population can be divided into six socio-economic groups or social grades, which are based on the occupation of the Chief Income Earner in the household. Everyone in the household has the same social grade as the Chief Income Earner. To aid analysis, the first three grades and the last three grades are often grouped together into ABC1s and C2DEs which are seen as equating to the 'Middle Classes' and the 'Working Classes':

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>A</b> "Upper Middle Class" - Higher managerial, administrative, professional e.g. Chief Executive, Company Director, Senior Civil Servant, Doctor, Judge, Barrister, Executive Accountant</p> <p><b>B</b> "Middle Class" - Senior and intermediate managerial, administrative, professional e.g. Secondary School Teacher, Librarian, Computer Programmer, Probation Officer, Social Worker</p> <p><b>C1</b> "Lower Middle Class" - Supervisory, clerical, junior managerial e.g. Clerical/Office Workers, Shop Floor Supervisor, Bank Clerk, Sales Person, Student</p> | } | <p><b>ABC1s</b> – professional, qualified and non-manual occupations</p>                        |
| <p><b>C2</b> "Skilled Working Class" - Skilled manual workers e.g. Electrician, Carpenter, Fire Fighter, Foreman</p> <p><b>D</b> "Working Class" - Semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers e.g. Shop Worker, Assembly Line Worker, Refuse Collector, Messenger, Bar Staff</p> <p><b>E</b> Those wholly reliant on state benefits including the long-term unemployed and pensioners without private pensions. Casual labourers</p>   | } | <p><b>C2DEs</b> – skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers and non-working people</p> |

## Appendix 4: 2017 Survey Questionnaire

### Arts Council of Wales Final Questions –2017 Children’s Omnibus

SHOW CARD

**Q1 How often do you go to each of the activities that I read out?**

So firstly, how often do you

Go to Plays

- .....Several times a week
- .....Once a week
- .....2 or 3 times a month
- .....Once a month
- .....Once every 2 to 3 months
- .....2 or 3 times a year
- .....Once a year
- .....Less often
- .....Never

REPEAT FOR:

- Go to Musicals
- Go to Opera
- Go to Classical Music concerts
- Go to Other Live music
- Go to Dance performances
- Go to Art or Craft galleries or exhibitions
- Go to Readings, Storytellings or other Literature events
- Go to Carnivals and Street arts

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SHOW CARD

**Q2 When you last went to a play (ask for each activity attended at least once a year in Q1) was it:**

- organised by school/college during school time
- organised by school/college but out of school time
- in your own time (not organised by school / college)

REPEAT FOR ALL ACTIVITIES ATTENDED ONCE A YEAR OR MORE OFTEN



SHOW CARD

**Q3 And how often do you take part in each of the activities that I read out?**

So firstly, how often do you

Take part in musical activities (such as singing or playing an instrument)

- .....Several times a week
- .....Once a week
- .....2 or 3 times a month
- .....Once a month
- .....Once every 2 to 3 months
- .....2 or 3 times a year
- .....Once a year
- .....Less often
- .....Never

REPEAT FOR:

- Take part in drama or theatrical activity (e.g. acting, directing, technical work)
- Take part in dance activity (not disco/clubbing)
- Take part in film and video making or photography
- Take part in visual arts or crafts (e.g. painting, textiles)
- Take part in digital arts (creating and making arts using digital technology e.g. uploading, creating or remixing arts related content on, for example, YouTube, Flickr, etc.)
- Take part in creative writing (e.g. poetry or stories)

\*\*\*\*\*

SHOW CARD

**Q4 When you last took part in musical activity (ask for each activity taken part in at least once a year in Q3) was it:**

- in school/college during school time
- in school/college but out of school time
- in your own time (not in school / college)

REPEAT FOR ALL ACTIVITIES TAKEN PART IN ONCE A YEAR OR MORE OFTEN