

KEKS Youth service questionnaire

Explanations to the questions

Hi!

Your youth service is a member of KEKS, a network of youth services that work together in order to improve youth work, for example through carrying out this Youth service questionnaire.

In 2017, almost 6000 young people from 150 youth services answered the questionnaire!

The idea is that you as a young person will discuss the results, which will come in December, together with your youth workers, and together with them make proposals in order to make the youth service even better.

These explanations to the questions are for you to understand what we mean by them and why we ask them.

Sometimes it can be difficult to answer because your answer might vary depending on the situation or the staff working, if that's the case - then answer as you think it is on an "average". You also have the opportunity to write your own comment at the end of the questionnaire if you want to add something.

By youth service we mean for example a youth centre or a youth house. Some youth services might also be open during school hours. However, this questionnaire is only about how you perceive activities that take place after school hours. Please ask the staff if you feel unsure!

If you have questions or thoughts about this, please talk to your youth worker. You are also welcome to read on our website www.keks.se or write to us at info@keks.se.

Thank you for taking the time to answer the questionnaire!



1. How often do you visit your youth service on a regular week?

Your answer should apply to after school hours. If you visit the youth service different amounts of hours different weeks, then answer how often you visit on average.

The following six questions are about how things are at your youth service.

1. If someone is trying to make things unpleasant for others, youth workers will stop it.

The staff should prevent people from being unpleasant or making trouble. If there are no people who are acting in a bad way, it may be difficult to know how the staff would act - then you can either respond as you think they would act or respond, "I don't know".

2. I feel safe/secure when I am there.

Safe/secure means that you do not feel worried that something will happen that may cause you to be sad or feeling bad at your youth service.

3. The atmosphere is good when I am there.

Good atmosphere means that everyone visiting your youth service is nice to one another and that you don't have to worry about someone being unpleasant. It also means that there are no groups that bother each other at the youth service, but that everyone is getting along.

4. It feels like I am part of a community when I am there.

To feel part of a community means feeling connected to others, not feeling outside, feeling lonely or having no one to hang out with.

5. I feel that I can be myself when I am there.

To be yourself means that you don't feel you need to be in a different way or to express other things than you do when you are alone. It also means that you feel respected for the person you are, regardless of age, gender, background, sexual orientation or disabilities.

6. The same rules apply regardless of which youth workers are present.

This means that the youth service has clear rules and the youth workers acts in the same way if someone violates the rules - it does not matter who works that particular day.

Here are five questions about the facilities of the youth service, the opening-hours and the activities.

1. At my youth service, one can engage in various activities without disturbing each other.

This means that there is room and opportunity to do different things at the same time without disturbing each other.

2. At my youth service, there is good decoration.

Good **interior** decoration means that chairs, sofas, lamps, tables etc. work well and are good.

3. At my youth service, there is functioning equipment.

This means that, for example, music equipment, sports equipment, handicraft material, etc. are not broken and / or very worn or not working.

4. My youth service is open the hours when I most want to visit it.

We would like to know if the youth service adjusts its times according to the young people's needs and wishes.

5. At my youth service there are activities/things to do that I think it is fun to participate in.

"Things that are fun to participate in" mean that there is usually something you like to do. Of course, one should be able to just "hang out", but it is good if you can also choose to participate in or arrange an activity.

Here are four questions on how you perceive the way the youth workers treat you.

1. The youth workers think it is positive that I come to the youth service.

We would like to know if you feel that the youth workers appreciate that you come to the youth service and if they show this to you.

2. The youth workers use to talk to me about how I am/feel.

We would like to know if the youth workers use to talk to you and are interested in how you are/feel.

3. The youth workers encourage me to come up with ideas and suggestions.

We would like to know if the youth workers encourage you to come up with ideas and suggestions about what to do at the youth service.

4. I have confidence in the youth workers.

To feel confidence in someone means you trust the person and that you feel that the person will do his/her best to be fair to you.

Here are five questions about participation.

1. Have you filled out any project/group questionnaires this year?

Young people who participate in different groups can also fill in our special project/group questionnaire. For example, a group can be a girls group or a film group meeting once a week or two young people who organize a LAN* at the youth service. [*Local Area Network – computer gaming]

2. The youth workers encourage me to take responsibility for activities.

By taking responsibility for various activities, we mean, for example, arranging a tournament one evening or arranging something bigger together, such as a festival.

3. I have been to meetings where I have taken part in decisions regarding our youth service.

Such a meeting may be an open meeting in a youth centre where everyone is welcome, or a meeting in a local youth council at the youth service. The important thing is that it is young people, and not the youth workers, that decides. (Although the youth workers may have taken part and said what they think.)

4. I have been involved in planning one or more activities.

We wonder if you have taken part in discussing how to implement the activities, decide on cost etc. for the activity to become as you intended. Of course, you might have received help from staff.

5. I have participated and taken responsibility when one or more activities have been implemented.

Taking responsibility means that you yourself or together with a friend had a task that you performed yourselves and the outcome depended on your acting. For example, maybe you have worked in the cafe, been a DJ's or taken care of a tournament (for example as a judge, writing the protocol etc.).

At last, a few questions about you.

These questions are included because it is important to us that everyone feels good and gets a fair treatment regardless of gender, background, age, school results or disabilities. Unfortunately, this is not always the case and that's why we ask those questions in order to know the situation at your youth service. If there are differences we want to know, so we can do something about it! That's why we ask the following questions about you.

1. Gender?

We would like to know if we reach young people of different gender and if all young people have the same opportunities and gets the same treatment at the youth service regardless of sex, gender identity and gender expressions. That is, if you are treated differently because of how others perceive your gender or how you choose to define yourself and express yourself. If you feel inconvenient to answer this question, you can choose the option "I don't want to answer".

2. Is one or both of your parents born outside Ireland?

We would like to know if we reach young people with different background and if all young people have the same opportunities and gets the same treatment at the youth service regardless of background.

3. Age and occupation?

We would like to know if we reach young people of different age and different occupation. This is to know if all young people have the same opportunities and gets the same treatment at the youth service no matter how old they are.

4. Do you have at least a passing grade in mathematics and English?

We would like to know if everyone is welcome and appreciated for whom they are and have the same opportunities and gets the same treatment no matter how they perform in school.

5. Do you have some kind of disability?

We would like to know if we reach young people with disabilities. With disability we mean, for example, hearing impairment, sitting in a wheelchair, having ADHD or dyslexia. It is important for us to know if all young people have the same opportunities and gets the same treatment at the youth service, regardless of whether they have a disability or not.

6. Do you feel that you have been treated unfairly at your youth service?

"Unfairly treated" can mean different things for different people, the most important is your own experience. You should of course answer no, if you have not been treated unfairly.

- Your gender or gender stereotypes – If you feel that you have been treated unfairly because of how others view or perceive your gender or how you have chosen to define yourself or express yourself.
- Your age – If you feel that you have been treated unfairly because of your age.
- Your ethnic background – If you find that you have been treated unfairly because of where you come from, your culture and your traditions.
- Your religion – If you feel that you have been treated unfairly because of your beliefs, for example, because you are Muslim or Christian.
- Your sexual orientation – If you feel that you have been treated unfairly because of the gender of the people you fall in love with, or are attracted to. If you fall in love with people of the same gender you are for example gay, if you fall in love with someone with another gender you are for example heterosexual, or bisexual if you could fall in love with people no matter what gender they have.
- Disability – If you experience unfair treatment because of, for example, hearing impairment, sitting in a wheelchair, having ADHD or dyslexia.
- Other reasons or bullying – If you feel that you have been treated unfairly for any reason other than those we written above or if you have been bullied.

7. Are you a member of any association, e.g. practicing football or other sports, theatre, dance, or something similar?

We would like to know if we reach young people who are members in any associations. By association we mean, for example, sports associations, cultural associations, political associations or gaming associations.

8. Have you been in difficulties or had problems that have put you in contact with social services or the police in the last six months?

We would like to know if we reach young people who have or have had difficulties. For example, it may have been about personal problems or alcohol / drugs, threats, violence or other crimes. We ask this question to find out if all young people have the same opportunities and gets the same treatment at the youth service, regardless of their situation in life in general.

9. If you think about your feelings and ask yourself “How do you feel” – What would you answer?

Some young people feel bad, stressed or worried because of their home situation, school situation or for other reasons. We want all young people to participate and feel safe no matter how they feel. By asking this question we will know if this is the case.

We hope the explanations have been helpful!

If you have suggestions on how we can improve the questionnaire, or if you are wondering about something, please send an email to info@keks.se.

