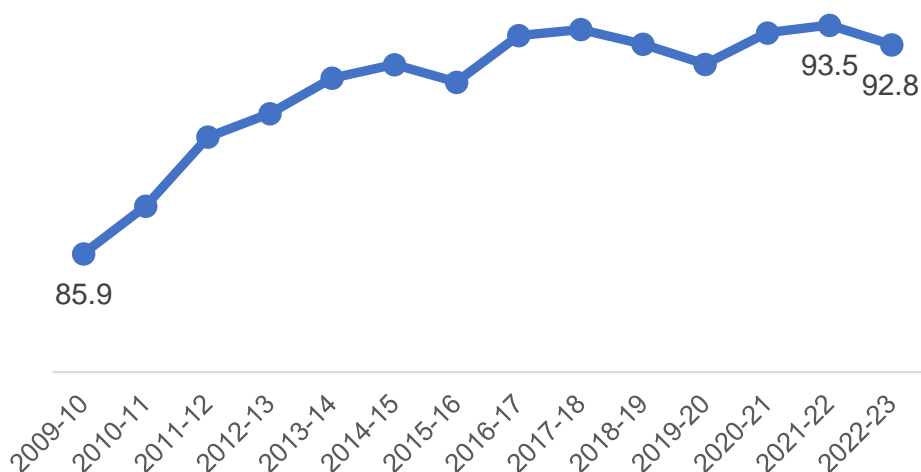


Positive follow-up destinations over time

► 92.8% of 2022-23 school leavers were in a positive destination 9 months after the end of the school year, down from 93.5% in 2021-22.

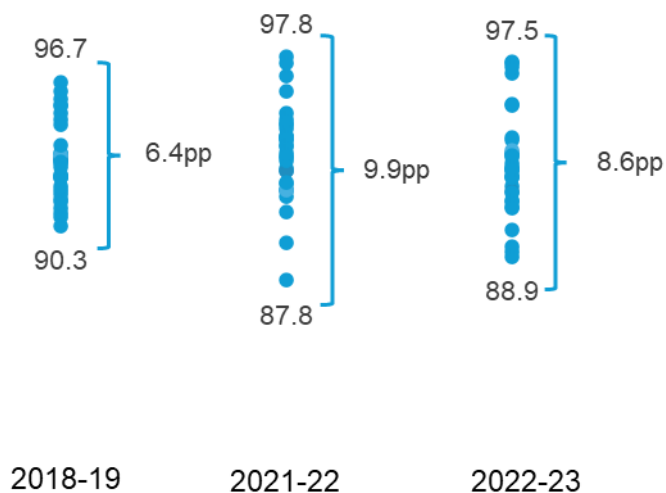
► Over the longer term this has increased from 85.9% in 2009-10 although this increase took place between 2009-10 and 2016-17.



Local authority variation – proportion in positive follow-up destinations

► In 2022-23, the gap between the local authorities with the lowest and highest proportions of school leavers in positive follow-up destinations was 8.6 percentage points (pp)

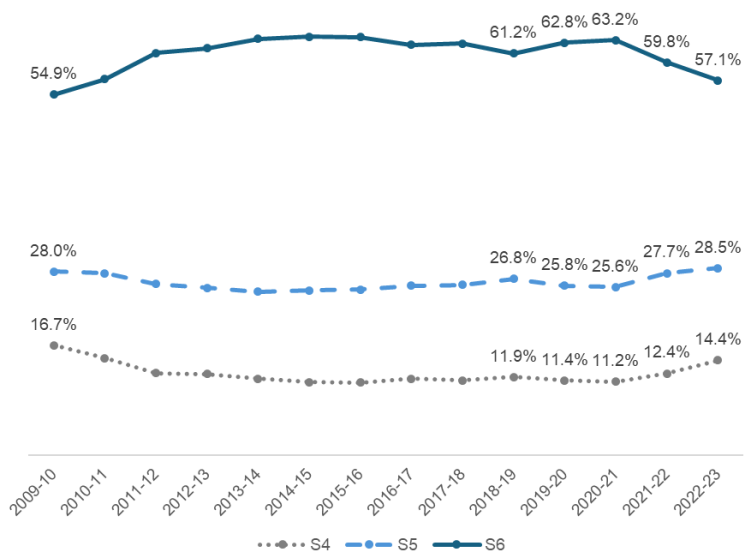
► This is fairly typical of the last few years and compares to 9.9pp in 2021-22 and 6.4pp in 2018-19.



2022-23 school leaver cohort

► 14.4% of 2022-23 school leavers were from S4, the highest proportion since 2010-11.

► This represents 7,890 young people, 1,027 more S4 leavers than the previous year

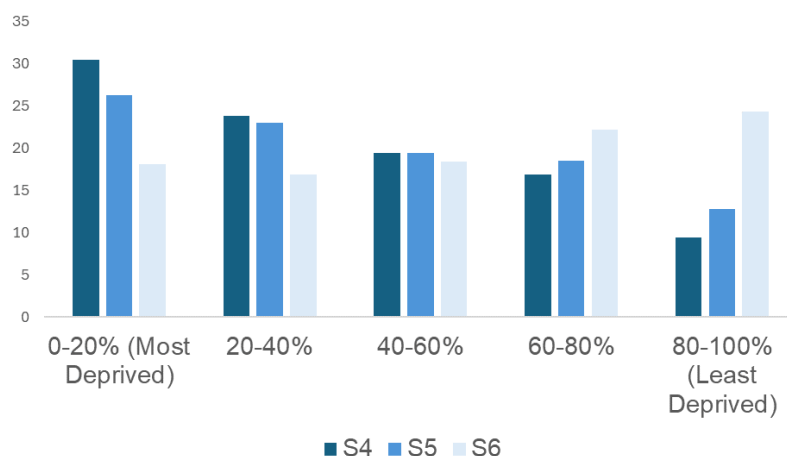
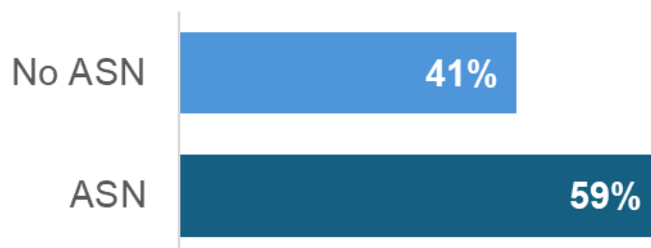
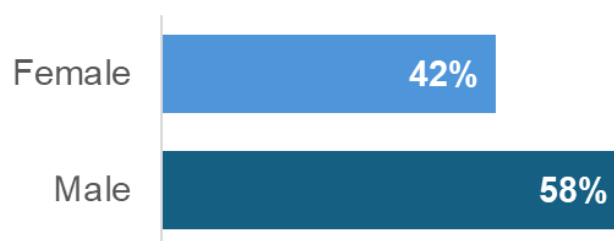


S4 leavers

► Around three-fifths of S4 leavers in 2022-23 were male; this is consistent over time.

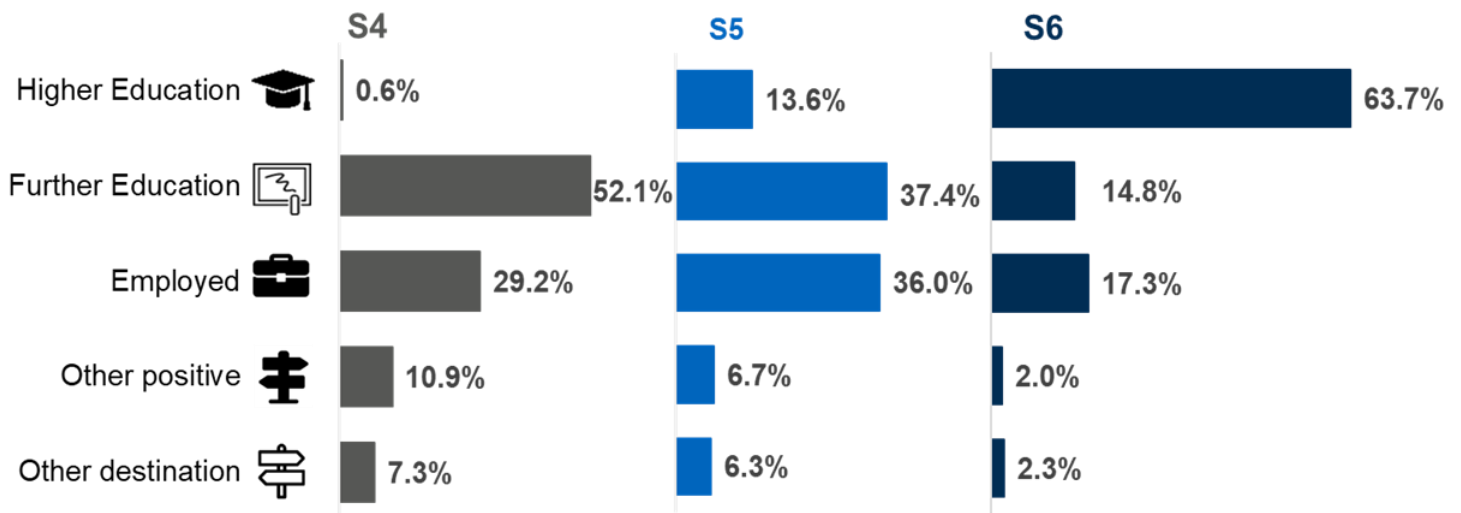
► Around 60% of S4 school leavers had an ASN, compared to 49% of S5 leavers and 34% of S6 leavers.

► School leavers from S4 (and S5) are more likely to be from the most deprived areas of Scotland than the least deprived.



Source: Summary statistics for attainment and initial leaver destinations, no. 6: 2024 edition

Initial destinations: 3 months after leaving school



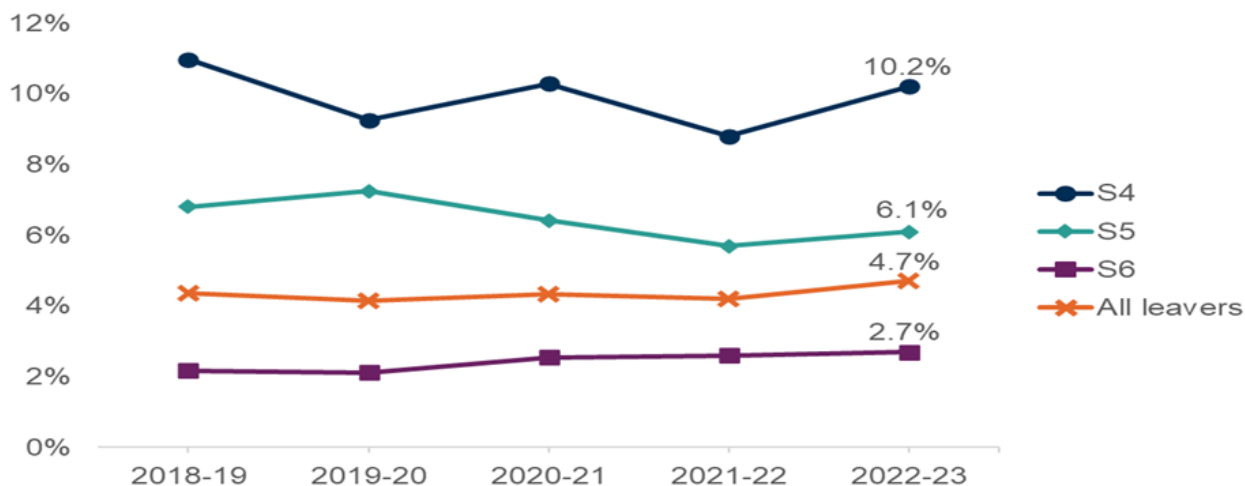
92.7% of S4 leavers

93.7% of S5 leavers

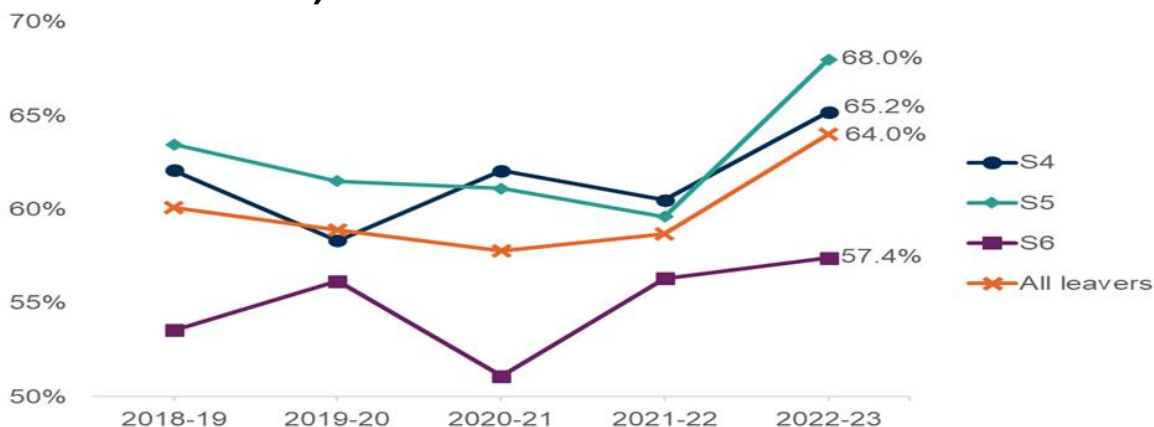
97.7% of S6 leavers

► go into to a positive initial destination

Follow up destinations: 9 months after leaving school



► S4 leavers are more likely to move from a positive initial destination into another follow-up destination (typically unemployment (10.4% in 2022-23))



► 65% of S4 leavers in 'other' initial destination stayed in 'other' destination

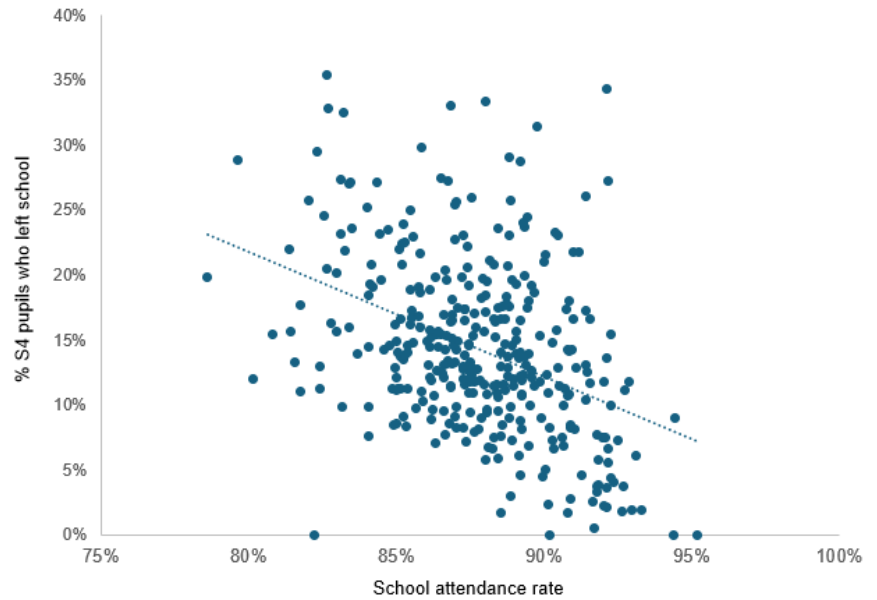
Source: Summary statistics for attainment and initial leaver destinations, no. 6: 2024 edition; Summary statistics for Follow-Up Leaver Destinations, No. 6: 2024 Edition

S4 leavers and school attendance rates

► There is a moderate correlation between whole school attendance and S4 leaving rates.

► The relationship is stronger for urban schools than rural schools.

Each dot represents one secondary school



S5 winter leavers - pupils who turn 16 between Oct-Feb in S5 and choose to leave school

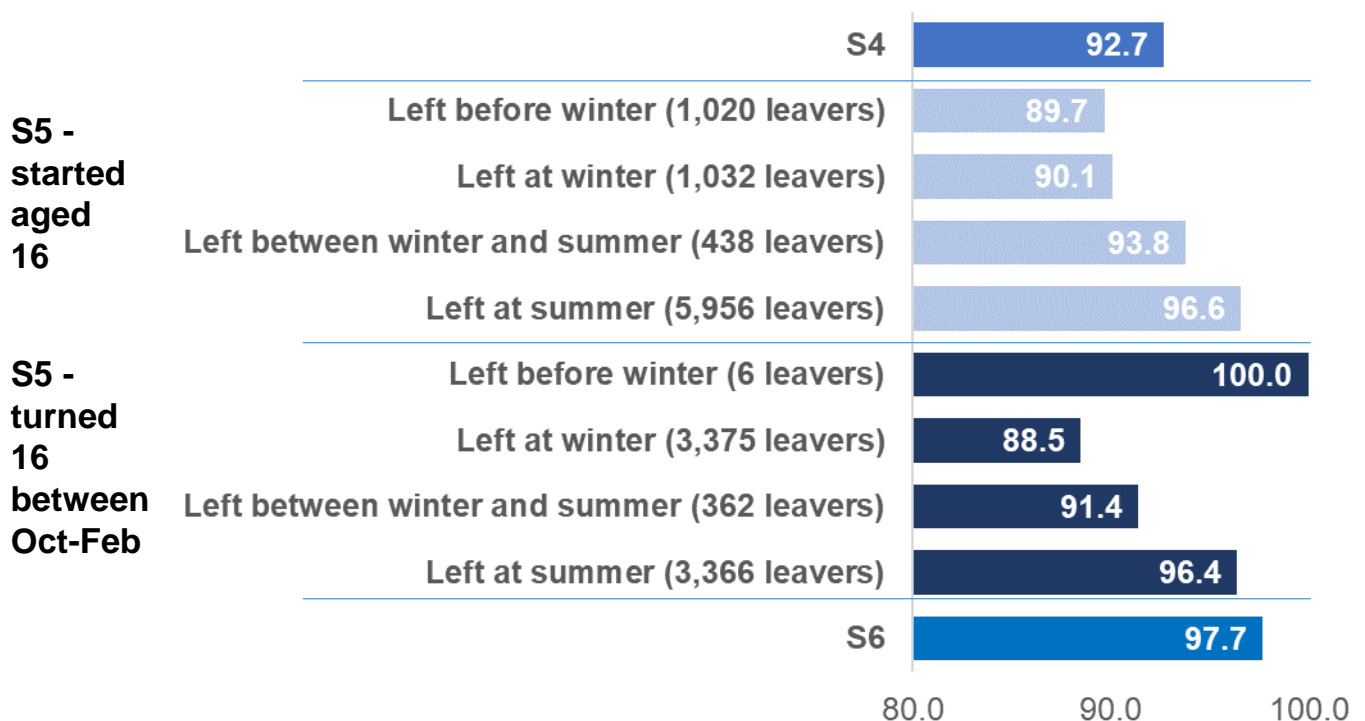
► **Just over half of S5 school leavers were 16 at the start of S5.**

- The majority (71%) completed S5. This group had the highest S5 leaver positive destination rate of 96.6%

► **Just under half of S5 school leavers turned 16 between October and February and were therefore eligible to leave in the winter.**

- Around half of this group did leave at winter. This group (which left school as soon as possible) had the lowest S5 leaver positive destination rate of 88.5%

- The other half of this group completed S5 and had a high positive destination rate of 96.4%



S4 school leaving plans

► Around 80% of 14 year olds said they wanted to stay on at school/college when they turned 16 (2019/20).

Rates lowest for:

- boys (72.5%)
- disabled young people (73.6%)
- more deprived young people (76%)

► 27% of S4 leavers left **before** their anticipated leaving date in 2022/23.

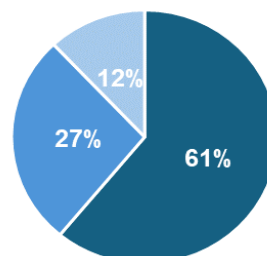
Lower than previous years:

2021/22 - 33%

2020/21 - 31%

Source: Skills Development Scotland, Pupils Voice Research, 2023.

Based on 947 pupils



- Left around anticipated leaving date
- Left before anticipated leaving date
- Did not provide anticipated leaving date

S4 pupils - factors affecting the decision to stay or leave

	S4 leavers	Stayers
Hobbies and interests	39%	49%
Parents/ carers	35%	44%
Need to earn money	38%	35%
Job/ career opportunity available to me	29%	25%
Career advisers	28%	14%
Guidance teachers	23%	13%
Qualifications achieved in school	11%	34%

Source: Skills Development Scotland, Pupils Voice Research, 2023

Based on 290 S4 leavers and 657 S4 leavers; respondents could choose up to 5 factors

► Top factors influencing a decision to leave school are Hobbies and Interests, parents/carers and a need to earn money.

► Similar factors related to staying at school with the addition of qualifications achieved at school.

Post school aspirations

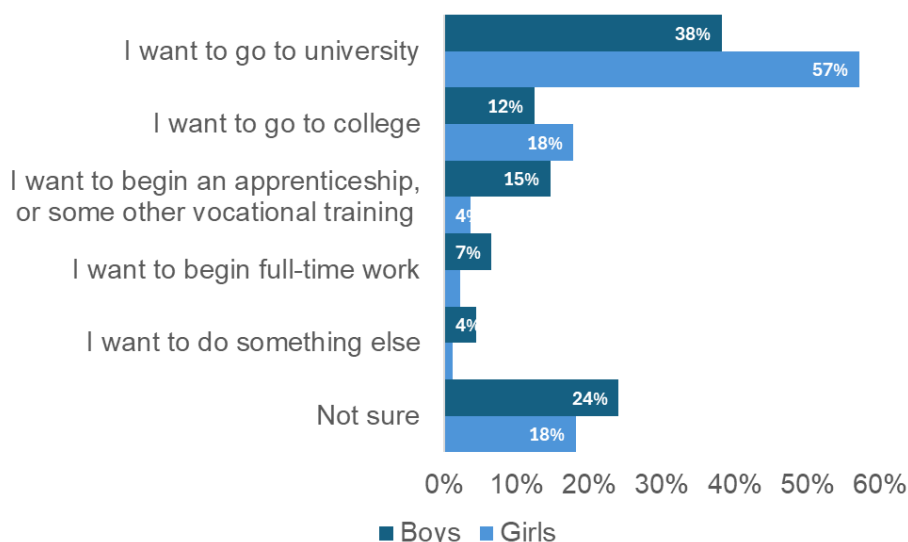
► More girls than boys said they saw themselves:

- going to university or college after school

► More boys than girls said they saw themselves:

- starting an apprentice, other vocational training or full-time work after school

► More boys than girls said they weren't sure what they wanted to do upon leaving school.

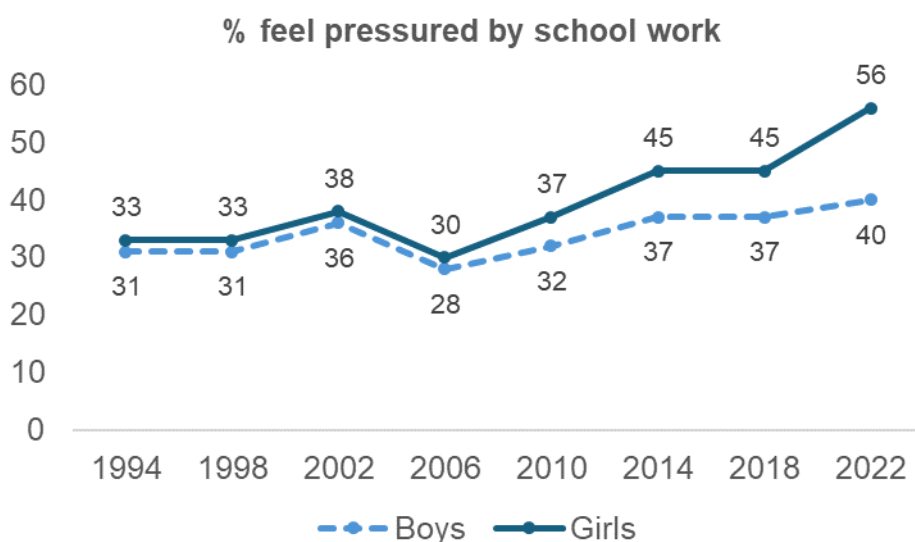
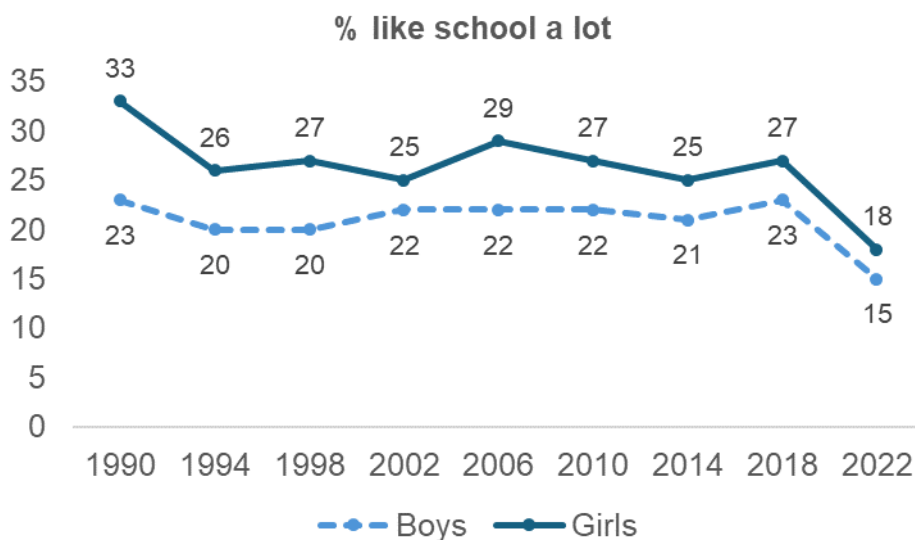


Source: Growing up in Scotland, 2019/20, based on 2,588 14 year olds.

Feelings about school

► Proportion of pupils that report that they 'like school a lot' dropped in 2022

► Proportion of pupils that report that they 'feel pressured by school work' increased in 2022, particularly for girls



Source: Health Behaviour in School-aged Children, 2022. P7, S2 and S4 pupils.