



Reaching and Keeping Early Secondary



the world of 11-14's



When you were 13...



1. What was your favourite TV show?
2. What was your favourite room in the house?
3. What were your worst and best subjects at school?
4. What did you do on an average Saturday night?
5. What got you into trouble with your parents?
6. What was your hairstyle?
7. What was your favourite band/group/artist?
8. Who was your best friend and why?
9. Were you ever in trouble with the police? If so, why?
10. Who was your first date, and why did you go out with them?
11. What was your greatest dream?
12. What were you most afraid of?
13. Did you smoke or drink? Why (not)?
14. What did you think of yourself?





The RAKES survey

Reason...

Method...



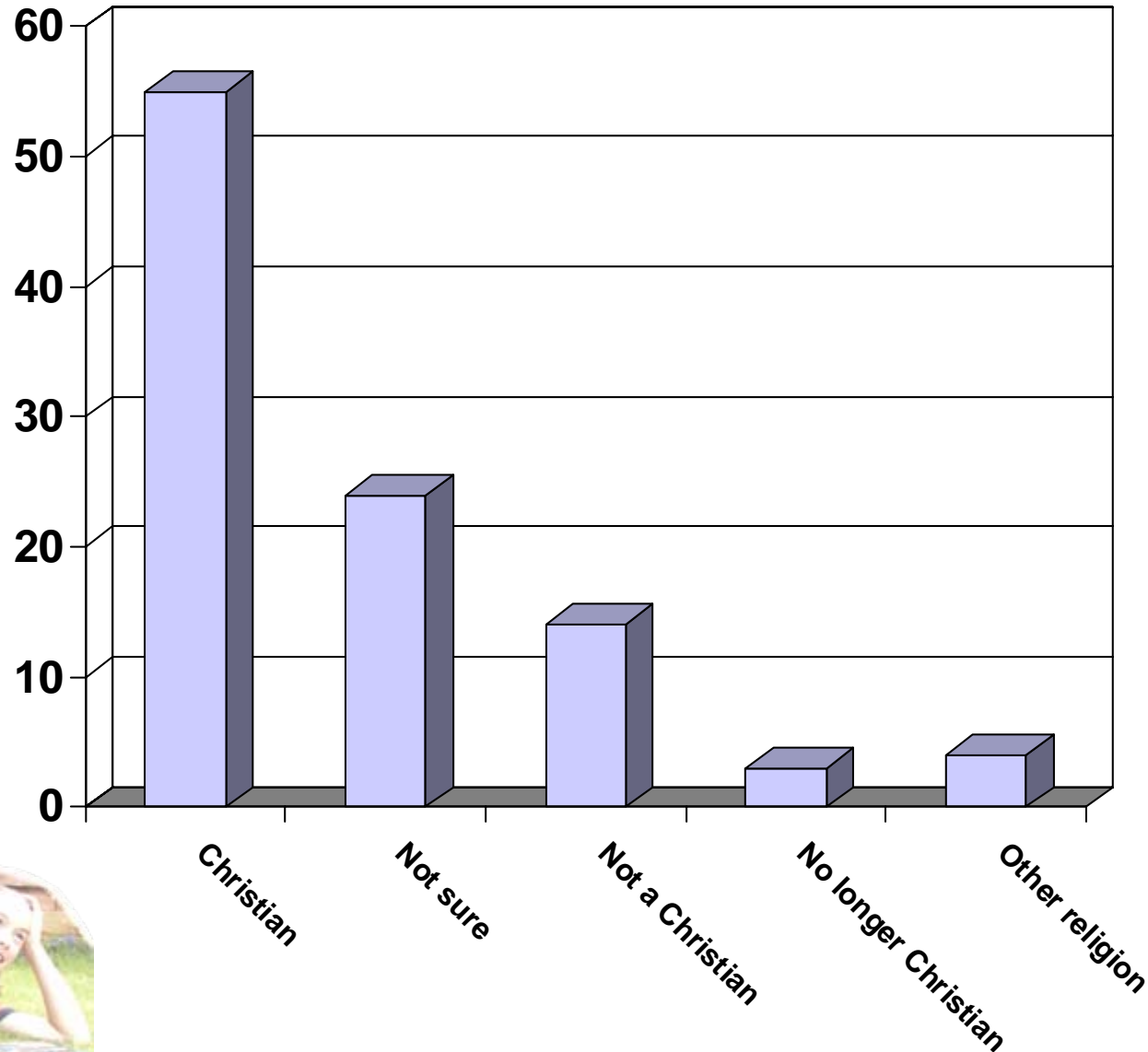
The Sample



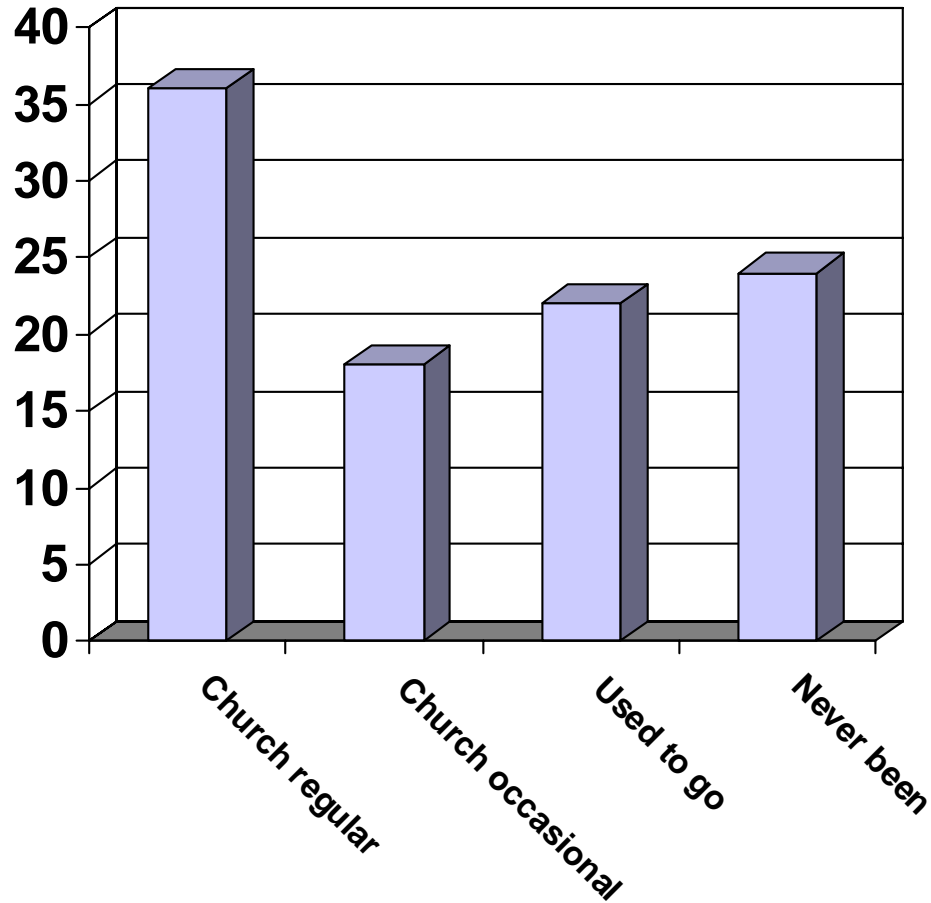
- Those who were still in Church
- Those who had been in church but left
- Those who had never gone to Church
- Those who attended Christian events or youth clubs but who didn't go to Church regularly
- 2,172 forms returned!



The Sample



The Sample



Church Attendance



Setting the Scene



- 2 churches in 5 in England have no children's or youth work
 - In 1979 1,400,000 under 15s went to church
 - In 1989 1,200,000 under 15s went to church
 - In 1998 720,000 under 15s went to church
- That = 1,000 under 15s a week leaving church in the 1990s



Setting the Scene



In 1991 there were 9,150,000
under 15s in England

In 2001 there were 9,440,000
under 15s in England

That is an increase of 300,000.

By 2011 there will be 8,830,000, down 6%.



Attitudes and Values



- Tweenagers trust their parents (89% do) and other family members (71%) (p21)
 - no other group is trusted by more than 60% ...
 - but they can't explain why they trust them! (p20)
- They are much more likely to trust people they know personally. (p21)



Attitudes and Values



- Their trust in other people has to be constantly reinforced by good experiences. (p20)
- Those who are 'no longer' Christian have the lowest levels of trust in others. (p27)
- They get less honest as they grow older, and those who have stopped going to church are much less likely to be honest. (p141)



The importance of home...



Table 2.11 Churchgoing habits of parents and Tweenager's churchgoing

Parental churchgoing frequently.	Tweenager's churchgoing %				Total (100%)
	I go regularly	I go occasionally	I used to go but don't now	I have never been	
They have always gone regularly	83	9	6	2	534
They go occasionally	15	37	27	21	346
They have never gone	6	10	23	61	238
They used to go regularly but they don't go now	11	20	49	20	224
One goes to church but the other does not	56	24	17	3	225
They have recently started going to church	54	21	13	12	24
Overall	36	18	22	24	1,591



The importance of home...



Table 2.8: What home is by religious commitment

Religious commitment	I feel secure and loved %	Sometimes I feel loved %	Trying to love each other %	Would rather be elsewhere %	Comfortable, but not close %
I am a Christian	65	19	8	4	4
Not sure if Christian	55	28	9	4	4
No longer a Christian	43	38	9	4	6
Never been a Christian	50	30	7	8	5
Belong another religion	56	27	8	4	5
Overall %	59	24	9	4	4



The Family Summary



- Tweenagers follow their parents' example of churchgoing (p38,113)
 - 5 in 6 who regularly attend church have parents who regularly attend
 - If parents go irregularly, so do their children.
- Grandparents are an important part of the family:
 - 3% of Tweenagers first went to church with a grandparent (p117)
 - some stop attending when a grandparent dies (p113)
 - grandparents are key confidants when a divorce occurs. (p29)



The importance of friends...



Activity	I do it:					I don't do it %
	School years	Total %	On my own %	With friends %	With other people %	
Listen to music	Up to 7	96	69	22	5	4
	8 or over	98	66	29	3	2
Do homework	Up to 7	97	80	7	10	3
	8 or over	94	86	6	2	6
Hang around with friends	Up to 7	92	5	84	3	8
	8 or over	97	3	92	3	3
Watch videos/DVDs	Up to 7	93	28	42	23	7
	8 or over	94	23	59	12	6
Go to the cinema	Up to 7	93	3	64	26	7
	8 or over	95	1	85	9	5



The importance of friends...



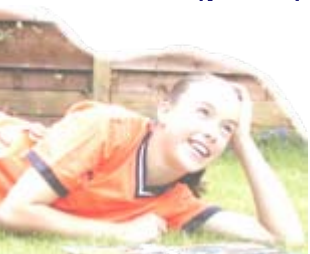
Play team sport	Up to 7	86	3	59	24	14
	8 or over	81	2	56	23	19
Read books and comics	Up to 7	91	84	6	1	9
	8 or over	77	73	3	1	23
Skate/rollerblade/cycle	Up to 7	90	23	54	13	10
	8 or over	78	19	52	7	22
Disco/nightclub	Up to 7	60	2	52	6	40
	8 or over	72	1	64	7	28
Youth/church club	Up to 7	52	6	33	13	48
	8 or over	52	3	42	7	45
Church activities	Up to 7	55	6	27	22	45
	8 or over	46	3	29	14	54
Spend time with boy or girlfriend	Up to 7	33	17	14	2	67
	8 or over	54	29	22	3	46



Friends...



- Tweenagers prefer to do things with friends rather than alone. (p77f)
 - Top spare time activities with friends are (p81):
 - hanging around with them (boys 93%, girls 97%)
 - going to the cinema (boys 73%, girls 81%)
 - playing team sports (boys 64%, girls 52%)
 - going to discos/nightclubs (boys 50%, girls 67%)
 - Top spare time activities alone, other than homework are (p78):
 - listening to music (67%)
 - reading books and comics (77%)
 - playing computer/electronic games (59%)
- Keeping in touch with friends is more important to girls than boys (p67):
 - more of them own a mobile phone (67%, boys 58%)
 - and more are likely to use e-mail (72% to 62%). (p69)
- 'Church activities' is at the bottom of the list of what they like to do! (p78)



Academic differences...



Table 6.1: Experience of church by school grades mostly received

	Mostly A's %	Mostly B's %	Mostly C's %	Mostly D's - F's %	Over - all	Male %	Female %
Go to church regularly	46	28	24	21	36	32	39
Go to church occasionally	18	19	17	29	18	20	17
No longer go to church	19	25	25	26	22	19	24
Have never been to church	17	28	35	25	24	29	19
Total which = 100%	626	942	235	35	2,019	935	1,084

this Table shows that those going to church regularly are likely to have the higher grades at school, whereas those going occasionally or not at all had lower grades¹. Young women were more likely to be at church regularly or no longer, young men occasionally or never



How they saw Themselves



Table 9.1: How Tweenagers saw themselves

Trait	%	Trait	%	Trait	%	Trait	%
1) Friendly	82	10) Sporty	52	19) Moody	28	28) Peaceful	15
2) Happy	67	11) Playful	49	20) Shy	27	29=) Angry	14
3) Funny	64	12) Well-behaved	48	21) Unusual	26	29=) Rude	14
4) Caring	63	13) Mature	45	22=) Annoying	24	31) Scared	11
5=) Helpful	57	14) Noisy	43	22=) Ordinary	24	32) Perfect	10
5=) Reliable	57	15) Messy	41	24) Leader	23	33) Slow	9
5=) Talkative	57	16=) Daring	36	25) Quiet	21	34=) Self-centred	7
9) Hard working	56	16=) Lazy	36	26=) Bossy	20	34=) Unforgiving	7
9) Thoughtful	54	18) Forgetful	35	26=) Fussy	20	36) Bully	3



Gender differences...



In 13 of these 14, the young women scored higher than the young men. The only trait which the men were higher than the women was sporty. In all the rest, the women saw themselves in a more positive light. This concerned traits like being friendly, caring, helpful, reliable, talkative, hard-working, thoughtful, well-behaved and mature... However the women also saw themselves as more moody, bossy, fussy and scared.

If this pattern is typical... it is no wonder that girls outperform boys. Their internal image is totally different.



Gender differences...



There were two traits where the gender difference was especially noticeable: caring and talkative. Over three quarters, 76% of the women described themselves as caring, where only half, 50% of the men did so.

Two thirds, 68% of the women said they were talkative, but just under half, 46%, of the men.”



Tweenagers and Churchgoing



“No one laughs in church.”

Tweenager at Focus Group.



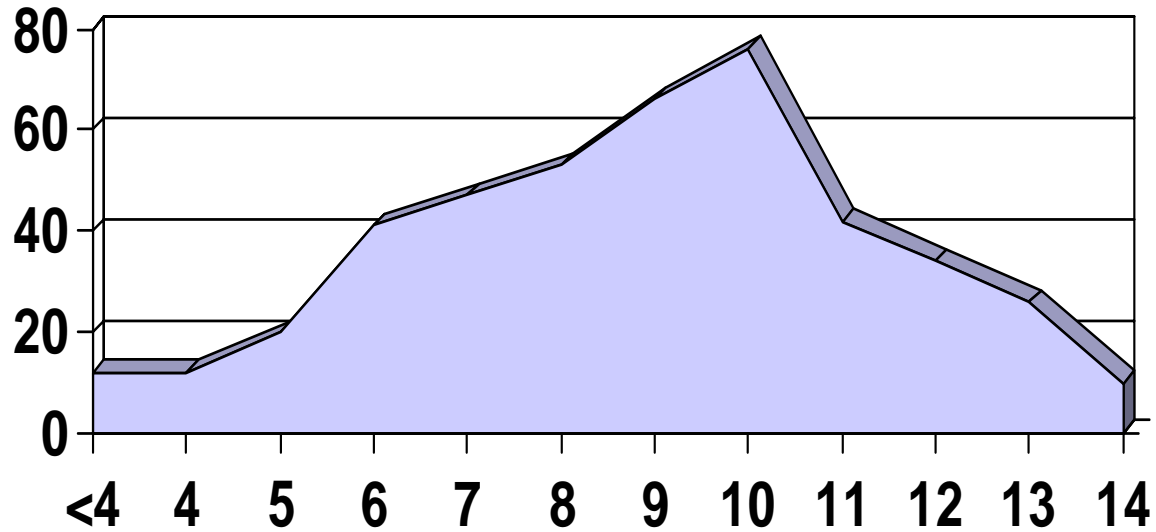
Tweenagers and Churchgoing



- Most Tweenagers in effect stop going to Sunday School, rather than stop going to church. (p192)
- A quarter of Tweenagers who say they are Christians never go to church. (p26)
- 17% of those who go to church-based activities never attend Sunday services.
- Tweenagers who go to church enjoy it (64%), which is a higher percentage than their non-churchgoing friends think (42%). (p117,118)
- Churchgoers' thoughts on why their friends don't go (p106):
 - 87% think it is boring
 - 73% think going to church isn't cool
 - 67% can't be bothered
 - 64% say their friends don't believe in God
 - 63% have other things to do on Sunday.



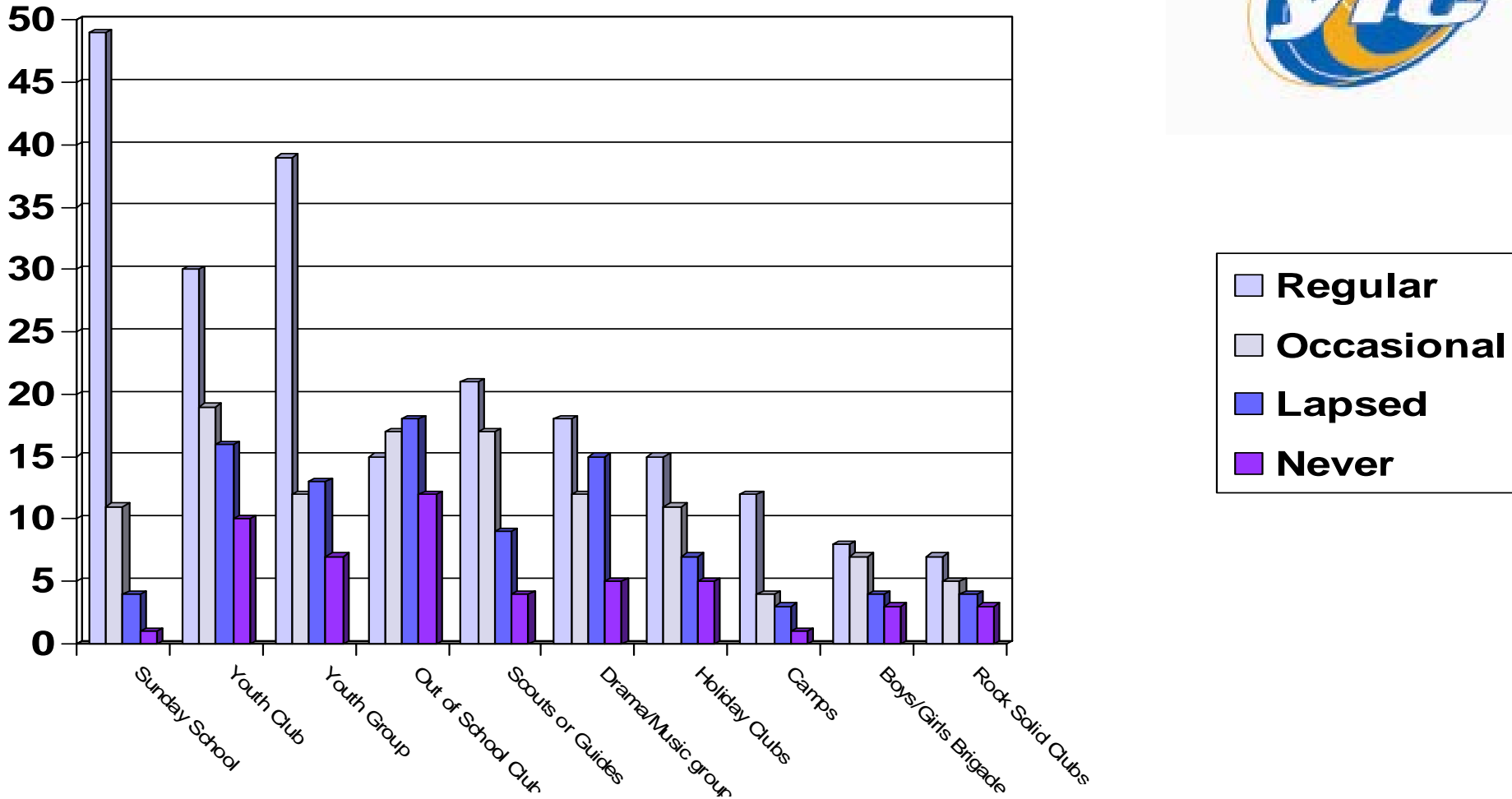
Tweenagers and Churchgoing



**Age at which
Tweenagers stopped
attending Church**



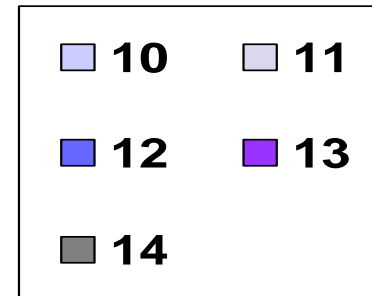
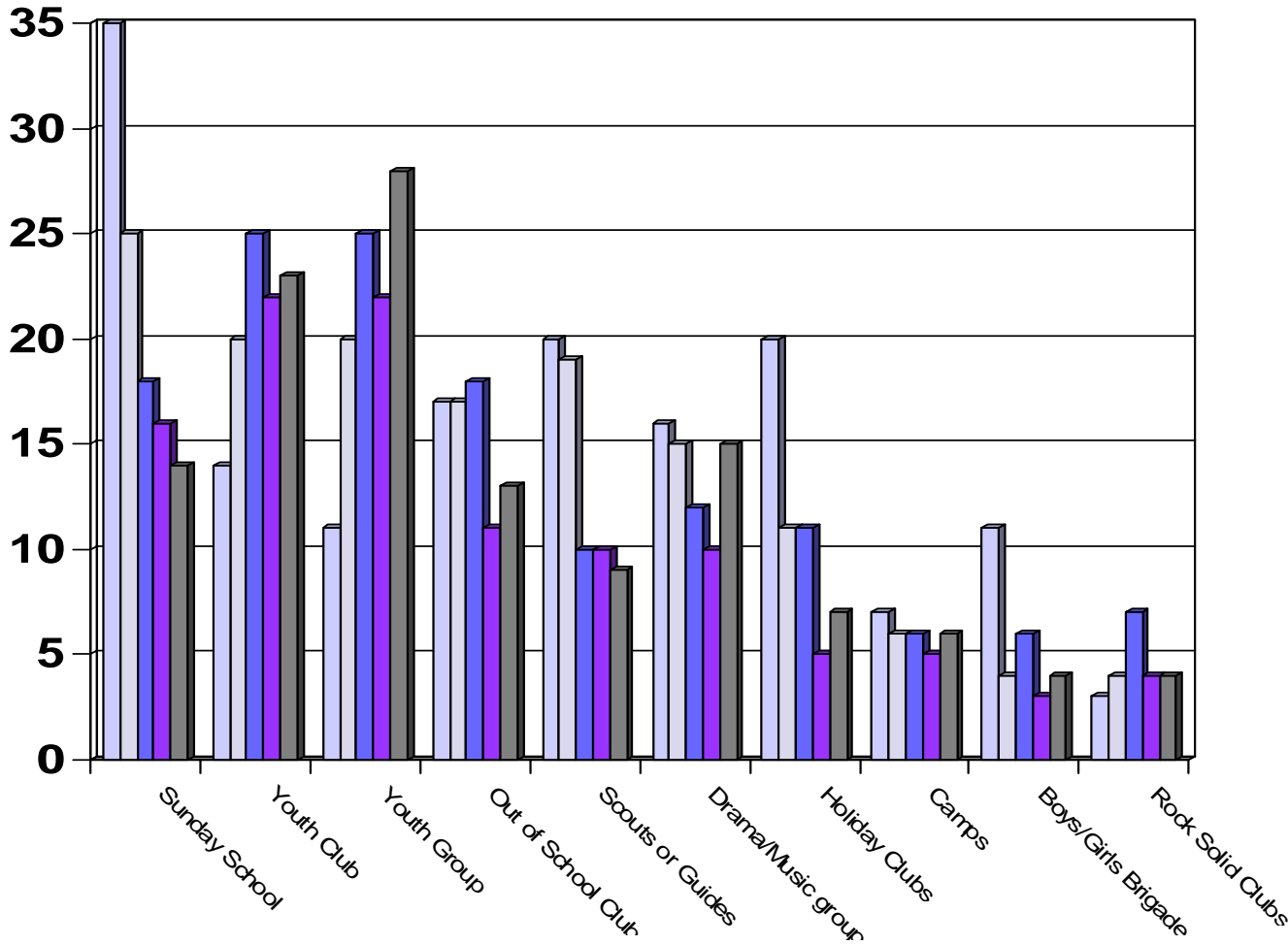
Mid Week Activities



Percentage attending week night activities by church attendance



Mid Week Activities



Percentage attending week night activities by age



Tweenagers and Churchgoing



- Women tend to go to church more than men and girls go more than boys. (p7)
- Most Tweenagers who leave church do so when they are 12 or 13, but it is when they are between 7 and 10 that many decide to leave as soon as they can.



What Tweenagers believe



- What they believe in
 - 73% of Tweenagers believe in heaven. (p160)
 - 72% believe in God
 - 67% believe in Jesus
 - 50% believe in hell
 - 43% believe in the Devil
- 3 in 5 Tweenagers think about whether or not God exists. (p165)
 - 62% think of God as Creator
 - 61% as Father
 - 56% as Friend
 - 68% think Jesus Christ was the Son of God, 11% that he never existed. (p167)
 - 28% believe in re-incarnation, 19% that everyone goes to heaven. (p169)



What Tweenagers believe

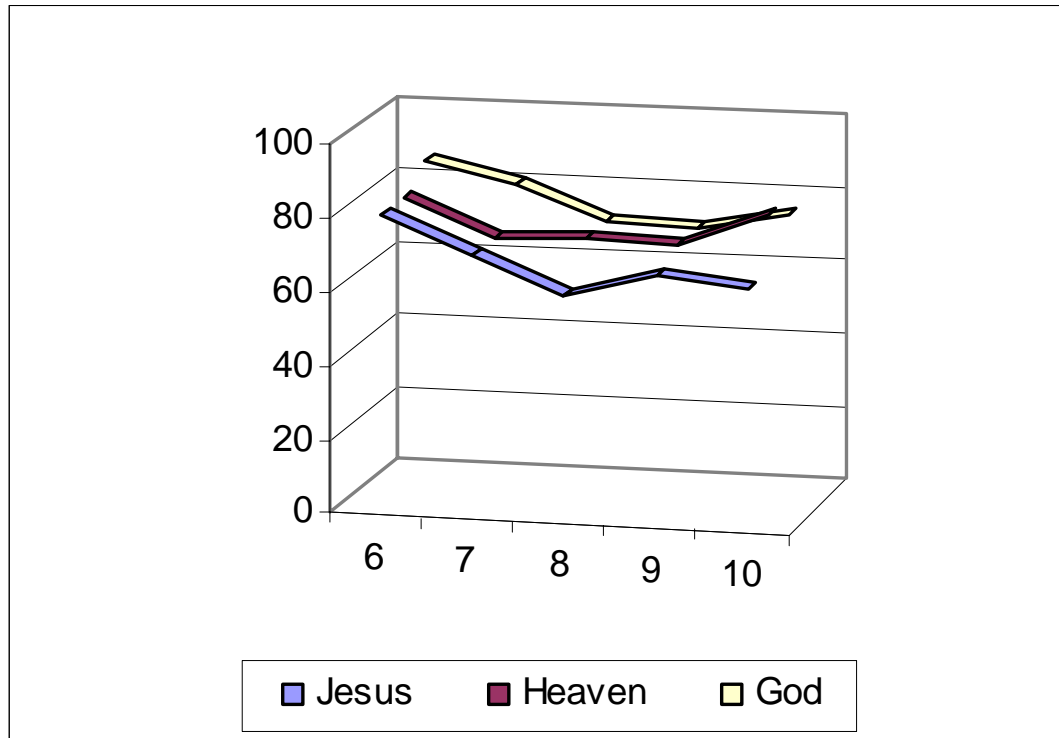


- Over half think being baptised or christened makes you a Christian, nearly a third that being born in a Christian family does. (p171)
- Just over half think that Christianity is relevant to them, almost four-fifths of those who were sure they were Christians. (p174)





Age 13 a low point...



The importance of fun



“Fun is a core value of this age group. ‘Fun’ cropped up again and again in the questionnaire results... yet Church is not perceived as fun, and when asked what they would change to make church more attractive to young people their age, ‘Make it more fun’ was a suggestion which met with approval.



The importance of fun



In another research project, an elderly Sunday School teacher observed that this generation of children don't want to be good, they want to be happy. For older generations of churchgoers.. Church being fun is a difficult concept.”



So what?



So what do you think the implications of this research are for us? Discuss...



Implications for ministry...



- 1) **Recognise the family context – and nurture families in faith**
- 2) **Build a community of peers.**
- 3) **Recognise and reach the absent.**
- 4) **Recognise different male / female needs.**
- 5) **Work amongst children / employ children's workers.**



Implications for ministry...



- 6) **Build Christian values in young people for the future**
- 7) **Make fun a core value**



‘The school we’d like is...



- A beautiful school
- A comfortable school
- A safe school
- A listening school
- A flexible school
- A relevant school
- A respectful school
- A school without walls
- A school for everybody.’

“Is that how they might describe the church they would like”



Willow Creek Values



- Young people are involved in life changing small groups
- Young people are developing spiritual disciplines
- Young people have ownership in their ministry
- Core YP have identified their spiritual gifts and are using them
- Healthy and committed adult volunteers are involved in authentic community



Willow (2)



- The ministry's target audience is understood and connected with
- The vision, mission and strategy is clear
- The ministry is intentionally kept on course
- The ministry is doing the best it can with what God has given them
- Adult volunteers will model what they are asking of their YP



Willow (3)



- Core YP have a burden for their lost friends and a plan for reaching them
- The ministry is teaching God's word to seekers, believers and leaders
- The ministry has intentional programs for seekers, believers and leaders

