



Caithness & North Sutherland Safe Highlanders

September 2019

Evaluation Report



1. INTRODUCTION

The main objective of the Safe Highlanders is to educate children about all aspects of safety in a fun and enjoyable way. This is provided by eight minute sets designed to deliver safety messages to children.

The sets included in 2019 were:

- Fire Scotland - Fire Safety
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency, in partnership with RNLI – Water Safety
- SSEN – Electrical Safety
- Hi-Mats – First Aid
- Police Scotland – Road Safety
- Wipro – Internet Safety
- Caithness Drug & Alcohol Forum – Drug and Alcohol Awareness
- SEPA – Environmental Safety

2. RESEARCH

Primary research was undertaken by means of two questionnaires consisting of ranked, and open-ended questions. Questionnaires were given out to pupils to evaluate the event, and teacher questionnaires evaluated how well they thought the event had run.

Questionnaires were given to class teachers of the 299 pupils at the event; these were returned for 183 pupils, a significant drop on previous years as six schools did not respond.

The questionnaires from the 183 pupils (90 boys/93 girls) were collected, analysed and presented into charts representing the responses for each of the questions. The 12 teacher responses have been presented in tables. There were some questions that were either not answered, or that were answered based on misunderstandings (for example, where the teacher completing the survey was not the person involved in preparations for their school)

3. FINDINGS

The findings found that most of the pupils enjoyed the event, with 93% of pupils finding the event good or very good, this was 96% in 2018. Only 1% said that they did not enjoy it. Pupils found the Drug & Alcohol Awareness set, which was already a popular set, to be even more so this year. The set is now delivered by Caithness Drug & Alcohol Forum, and a large part of the success could be attributed to tasting mocktails, a healthy alternative to alcohol. Many pupils said that they enjoyed this. The Road Safety set still remains popular, as does the Fire & Rescue Service's "Hazard Room" which was introduced in 2018.

Electrical safety was the least popular with many pupils and teachers commenting on the fact that it seemed little more than a video on a laptop that they could watch anywhere. Environment (Flood Safety) also received some comments about interactive activities. It appears that some pupils may have erroneously made similar comments relating to the Coastguard & RNLI water safety set. So next year's feedback questions may need to be clearer in what each set was called.

The majority of teachers found the event well organised and that they had plenty time to get everything in place. They found that the pupils overall highly enjoyed the event.

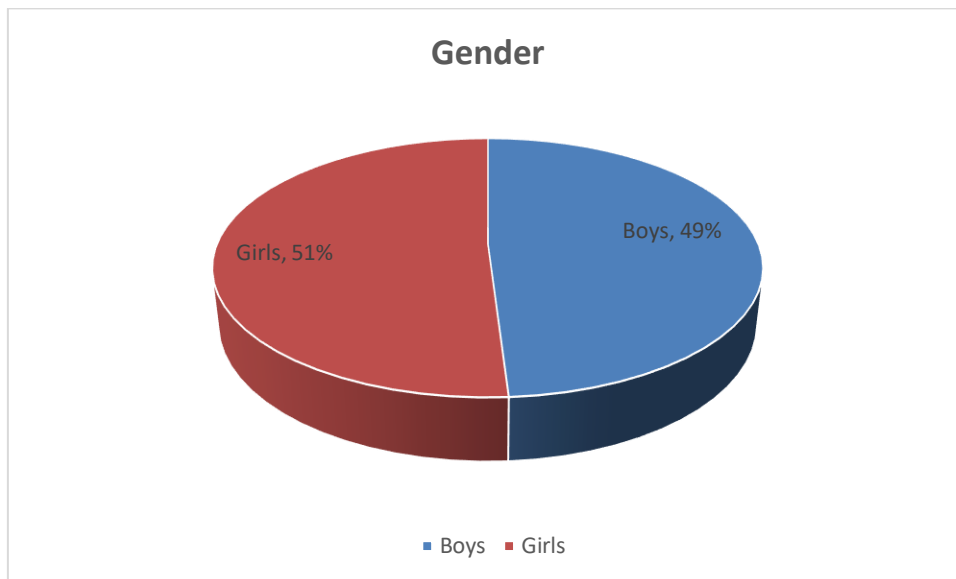
This year, the organising team made efforts to accommodate a wheelchair user at the venue. This entailed moving some upstairs sets to the rear of the building in gazebo shelters and booking a wheelchair accessible coach. This didn't appear to cause any issues on the day, even more fortunate that the weather was good. And whilst it was unfortunate that the school in question did not return any evaluation forms, we were not made aware of any difficulties nor that the pupil felt in any way treated differently to others on the day of their event.

4. CONCLUSION

Overall the Safe Highlander 2019 event has been deemed as a success from pupils and teachers and that it has raised safety awareness amongst the school children who attended. With ongoing development, it can continue to remain an engaging and relevant part of P7 for young people. The drop in responses from schools in the evaluation process is disappointing, as it reduces the data available to partners for improving the event. Moving forward, the introduction of chrome books to pupils should make it possible to complete evaluations electronically, eliminating the need for posting responses.

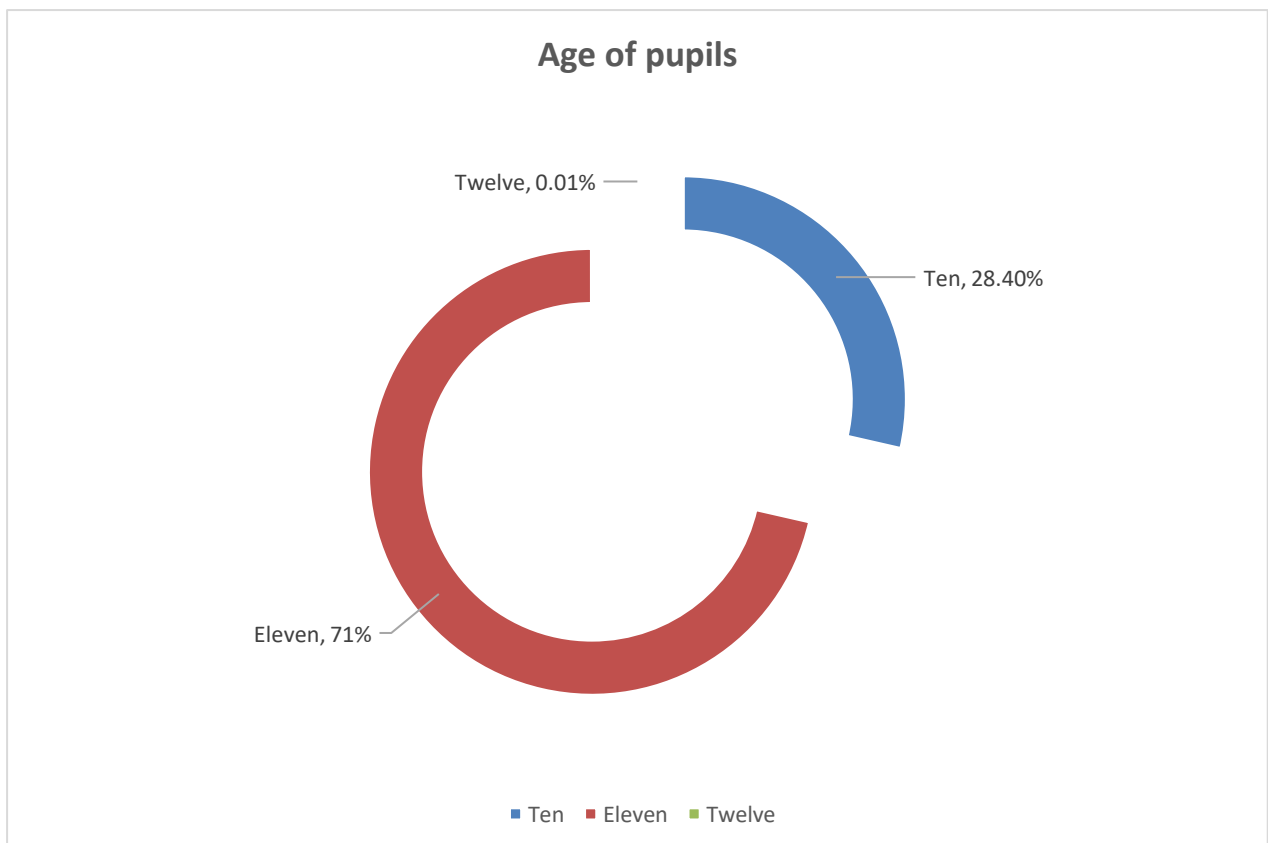
GENDER

The gender split a slight increase of girls on the previous 2 years; 51% vs 49% boys.



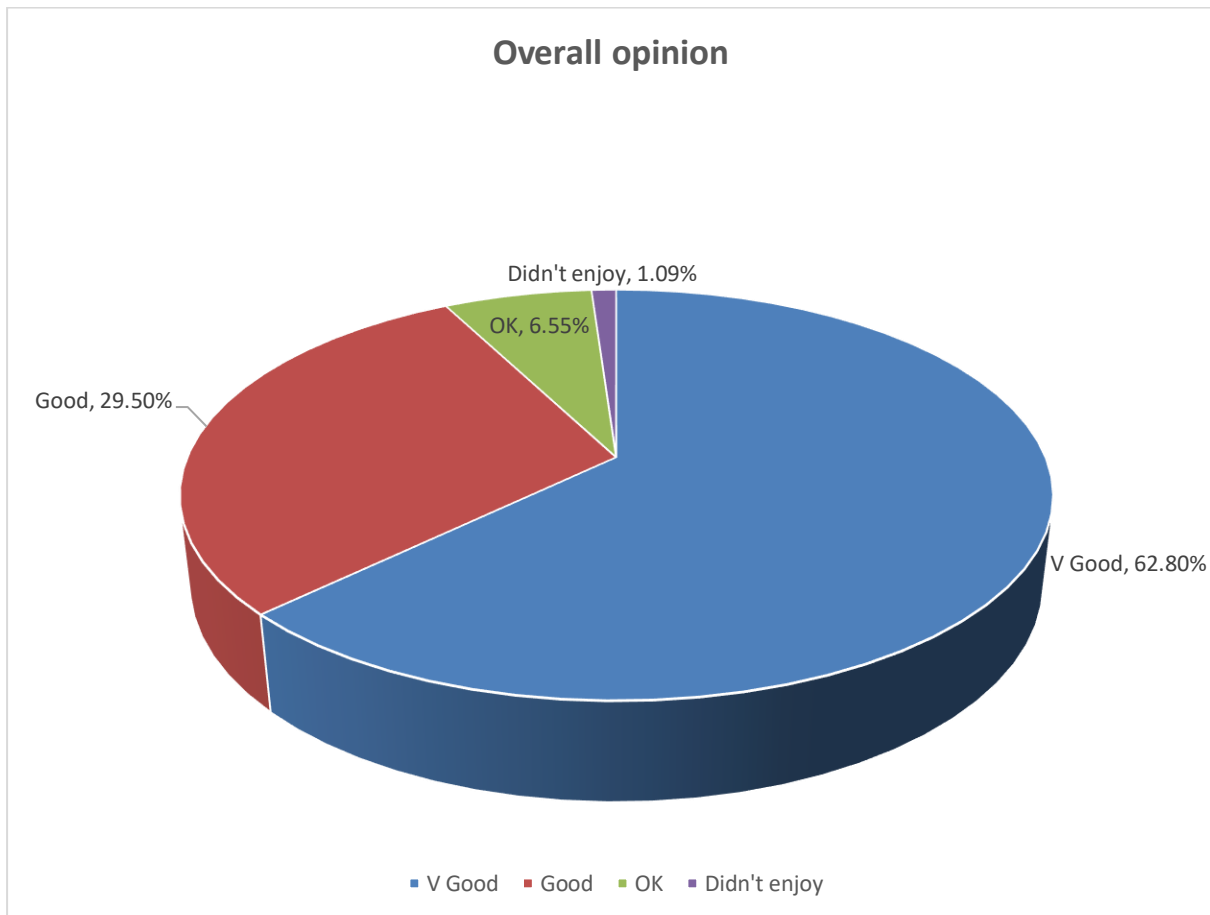
AGE OF PUPILS

As expected for P7, most pupils were aged 11.

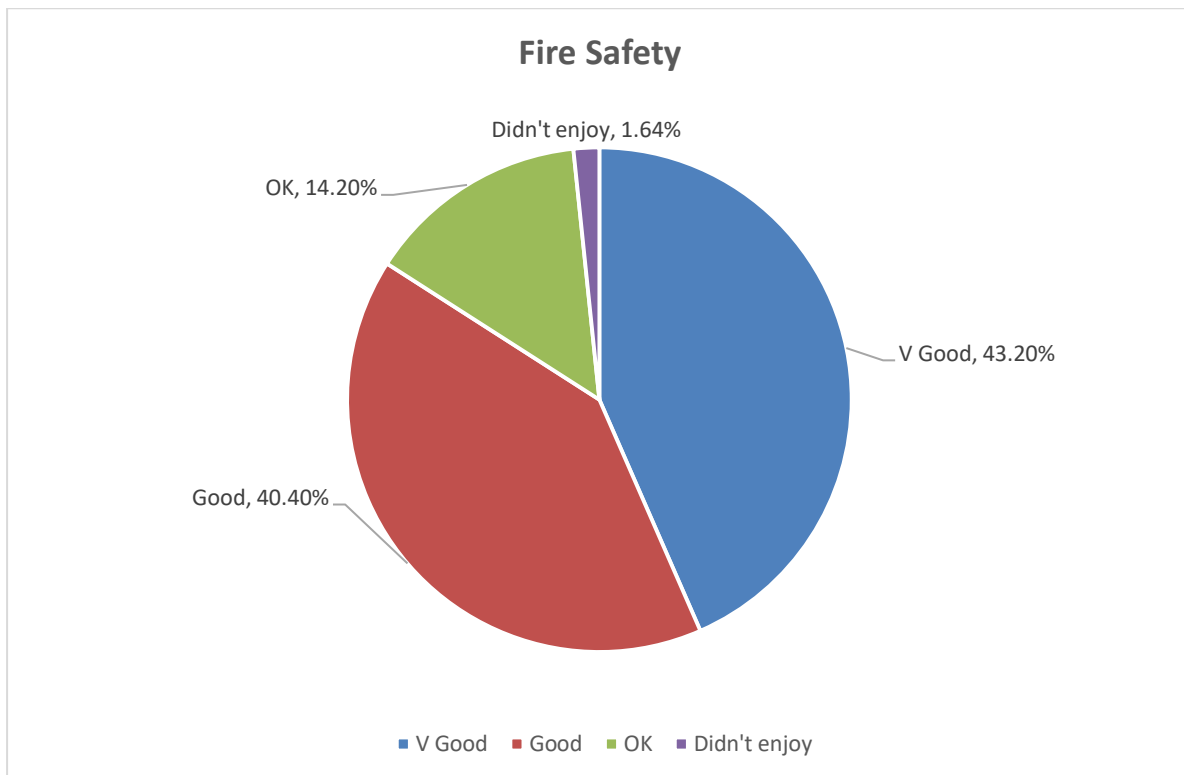


OVERALL EVENT

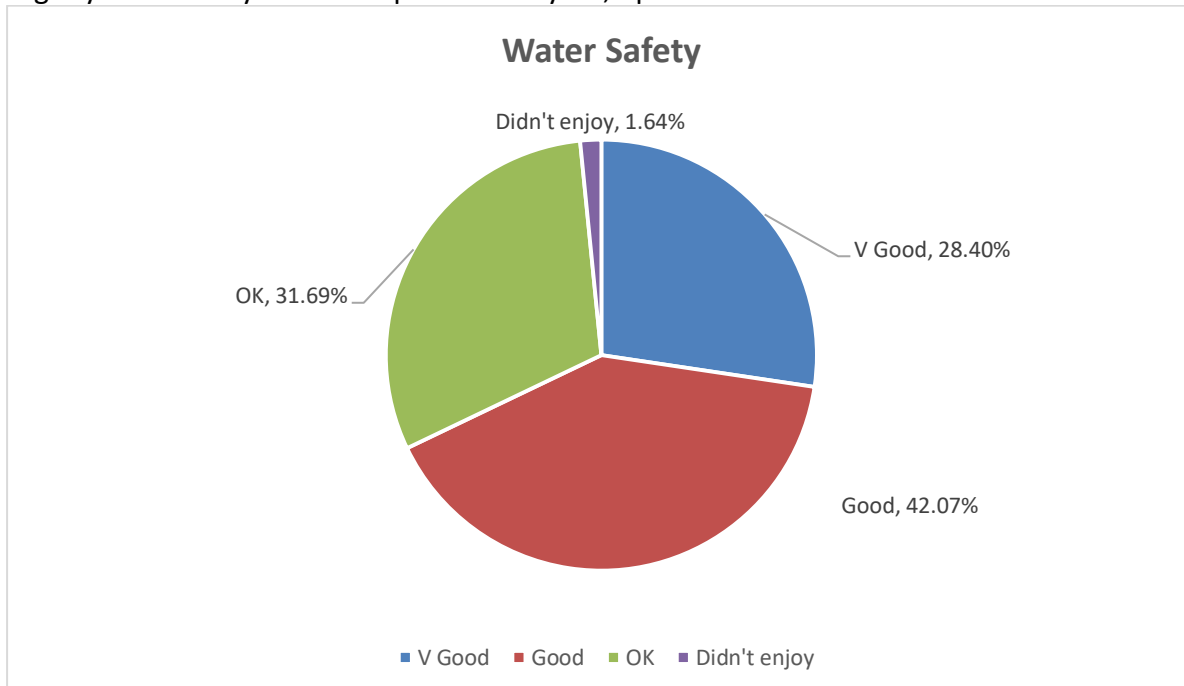
As can be seen from the chart below, 62.8% of pupils thought the event was “Very Good.” Only 6.5% thought that it was ok, (4% in 2018) and 1% did not enjoy it (2 pupils). It is therefore clear that most pupils enjoyed the event.



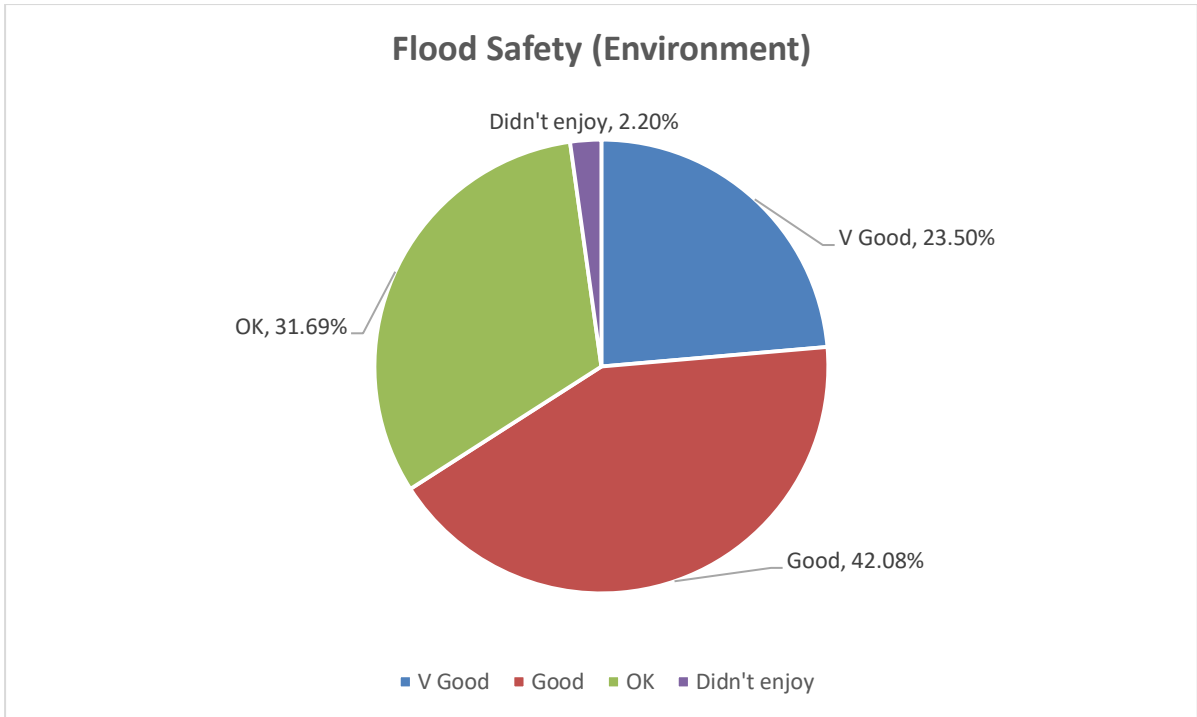
THE SETS



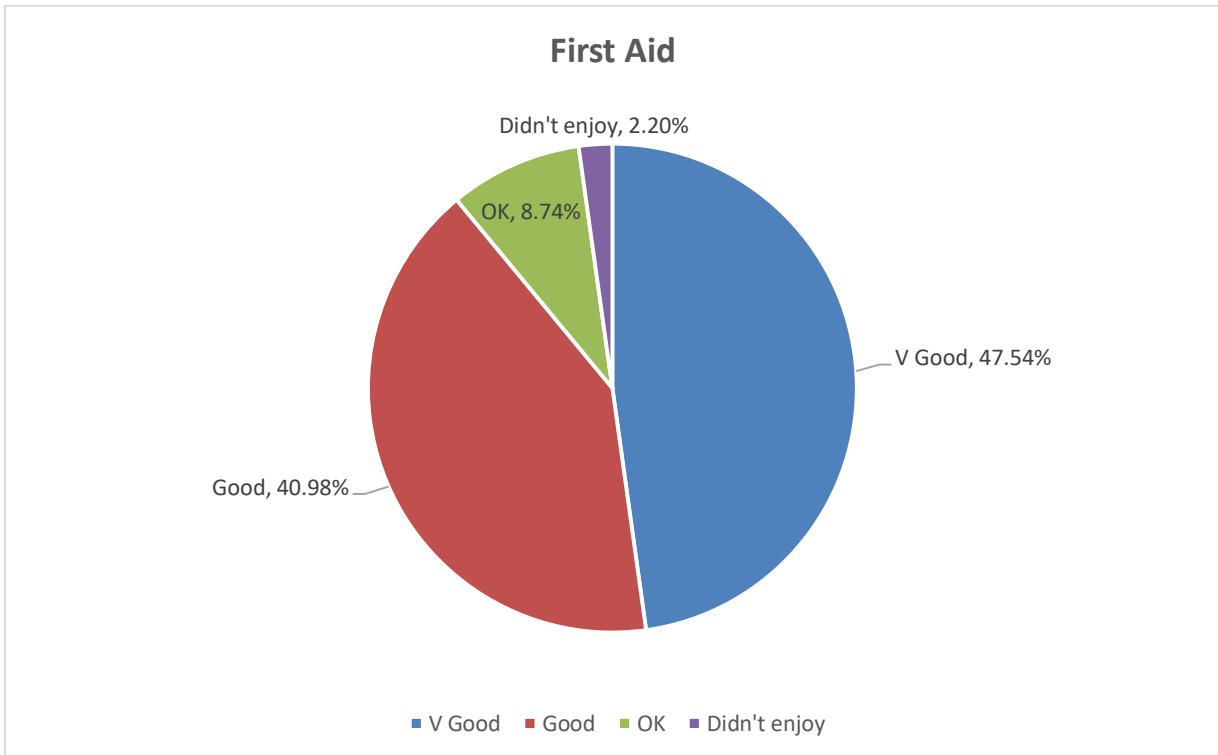
The Hazard Room created for Fire Safety in 2018 continues to be popular. It received slightly more "Very Good" responses this year, up 4%.



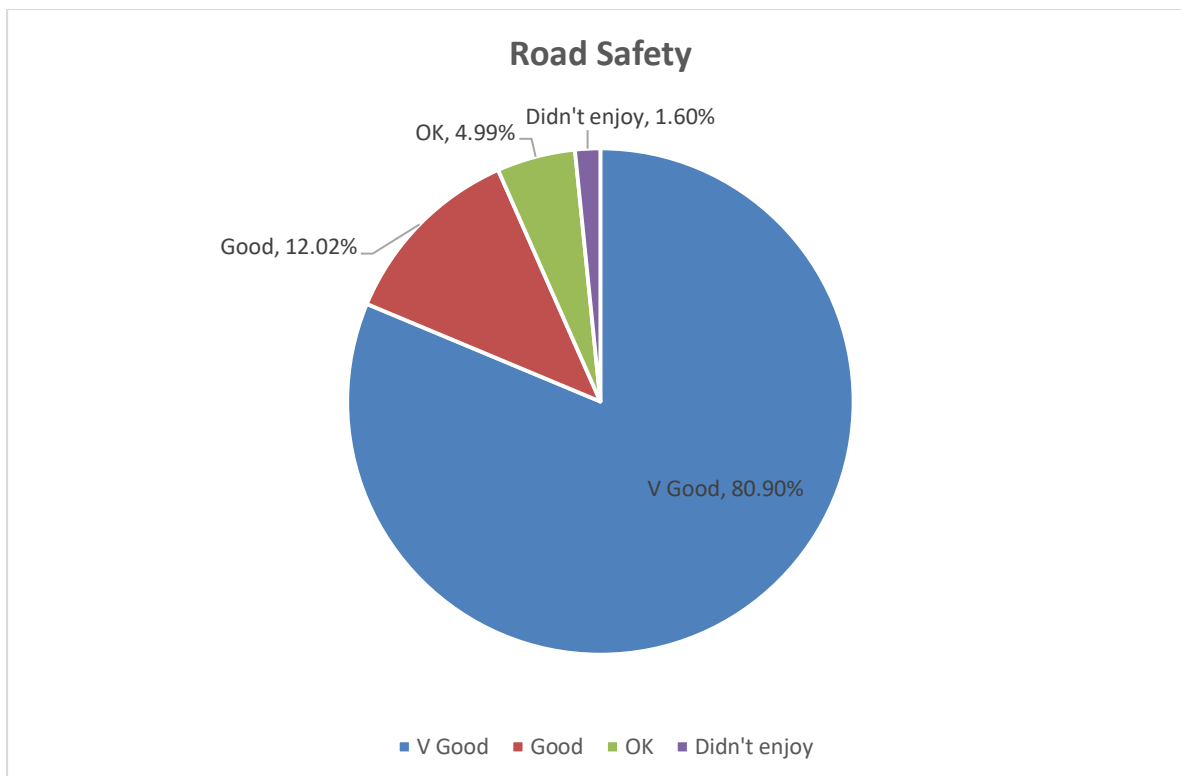
The set this year included an interactive session on how to stay afloat in water by the RNLI. Number of OK responses increased from 16% to 25%, however this may be due to pupils confusing it with Flood safety in the survey (from comments).



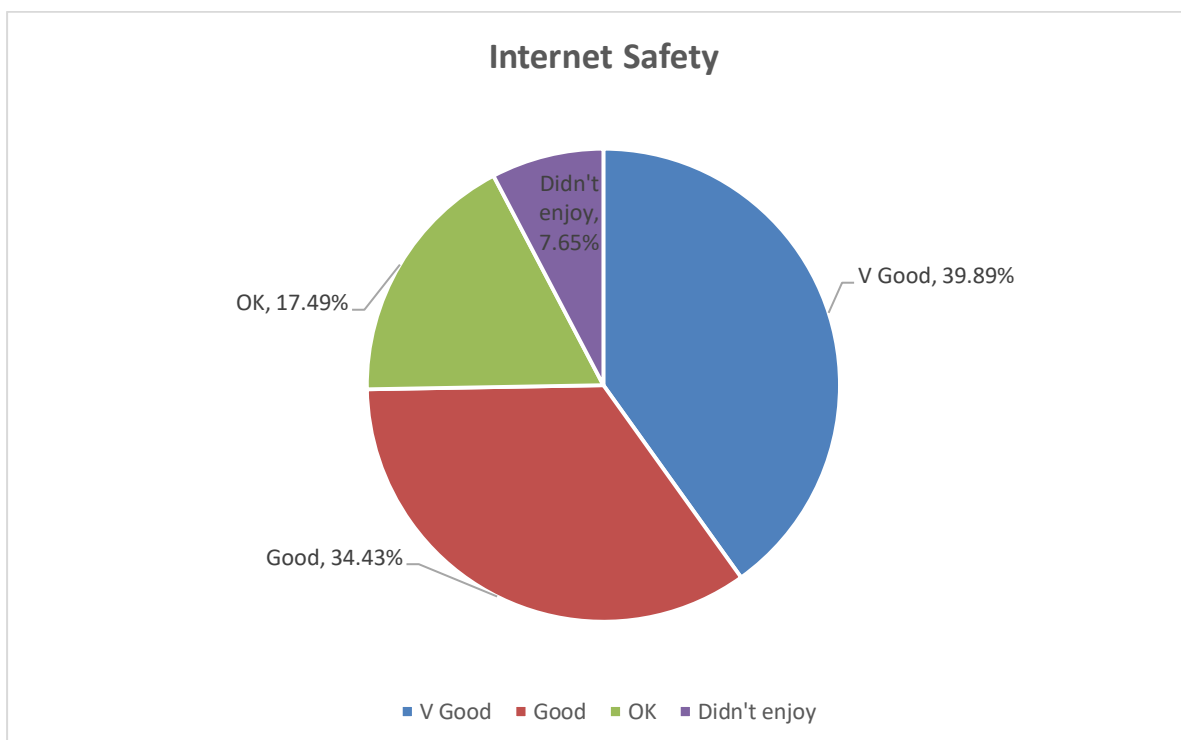
As with last year, some pupils felt that Flood Safety could have been a little bit more exciting.



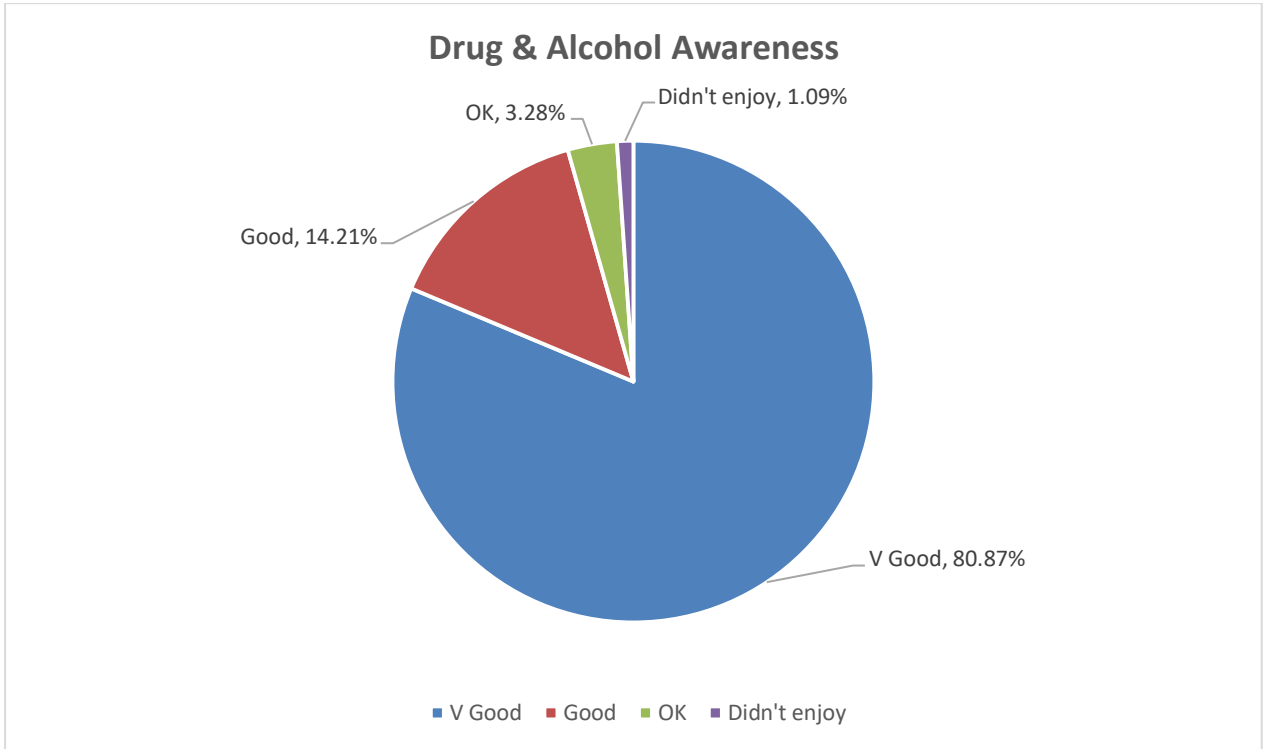
As with the last two years, 88% of respondents felt First Aid was Good or Very Good. The criticism of time allowance appears to most affect this set.



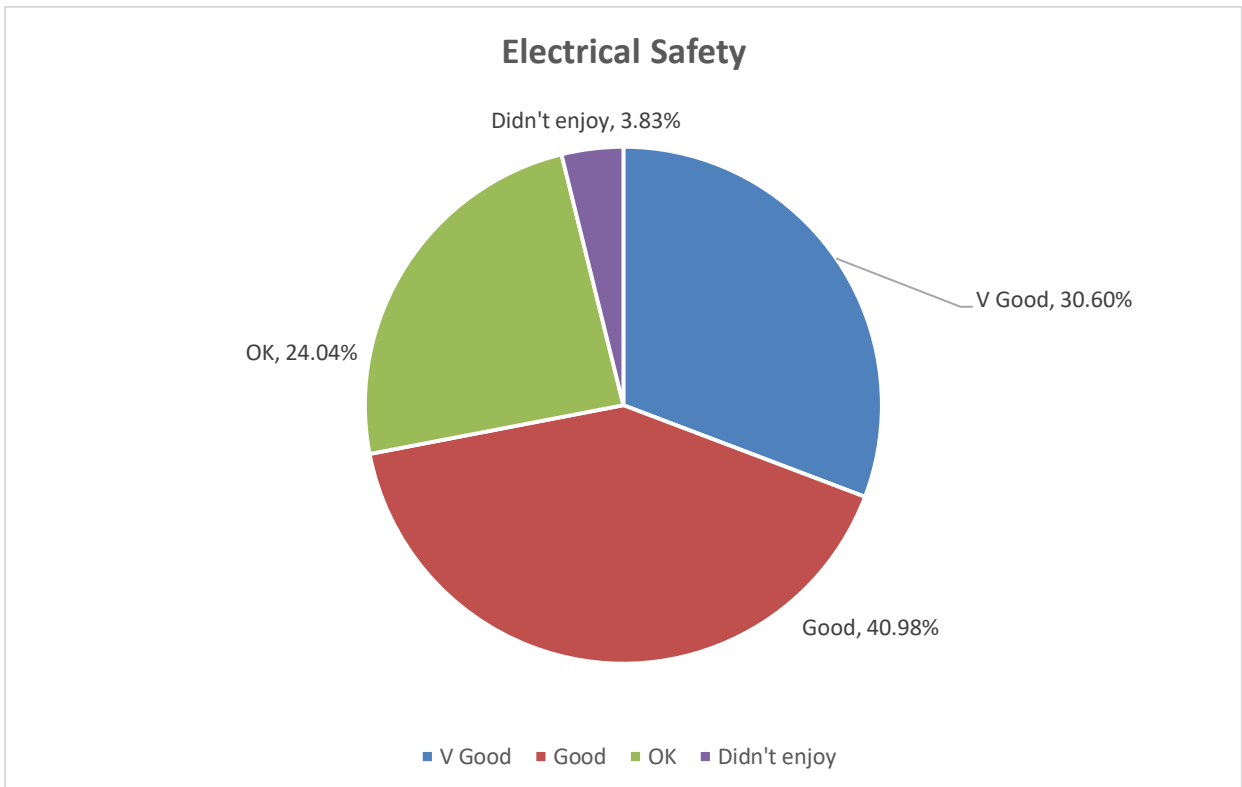
Road Safety was the most popular set with 93% rating it Good or Very Good – only slightly less than last year, despite a lower impact speed of 20mph being used. (Due to reduced speed limits in parts of town). Some pupils said they would like to have seen both impact speeds.



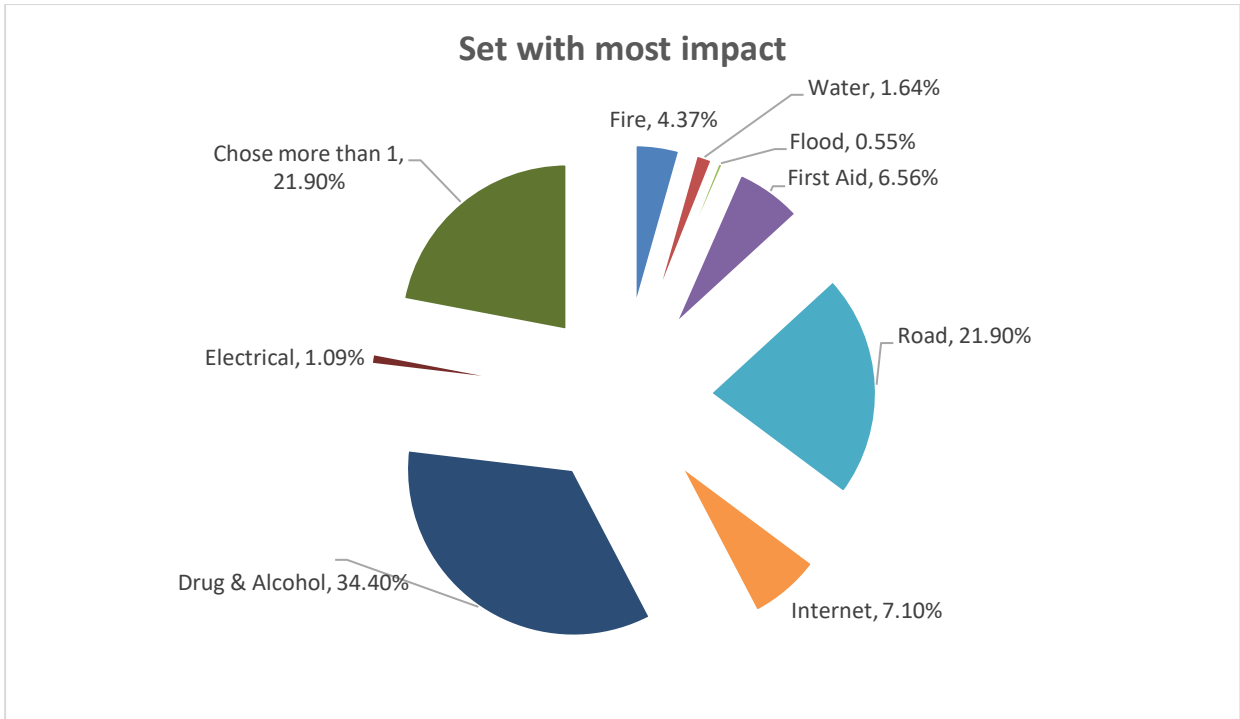
Delivery of the Internet Safety set has moved to Wipro. 74% of pupils thought it was either good or very good, slightly down on last year. As with last year, some pupils felt it could be more interactive.



Drug & Alcohol awareness is now being delivered by Caithness Drug & Alcohol Forum. Pupils enjoyed trying alcohol free mocktails, as can be seen by the number of pupils rating the set as “very good” – equalling Road Safety and surpassing it on “good.”

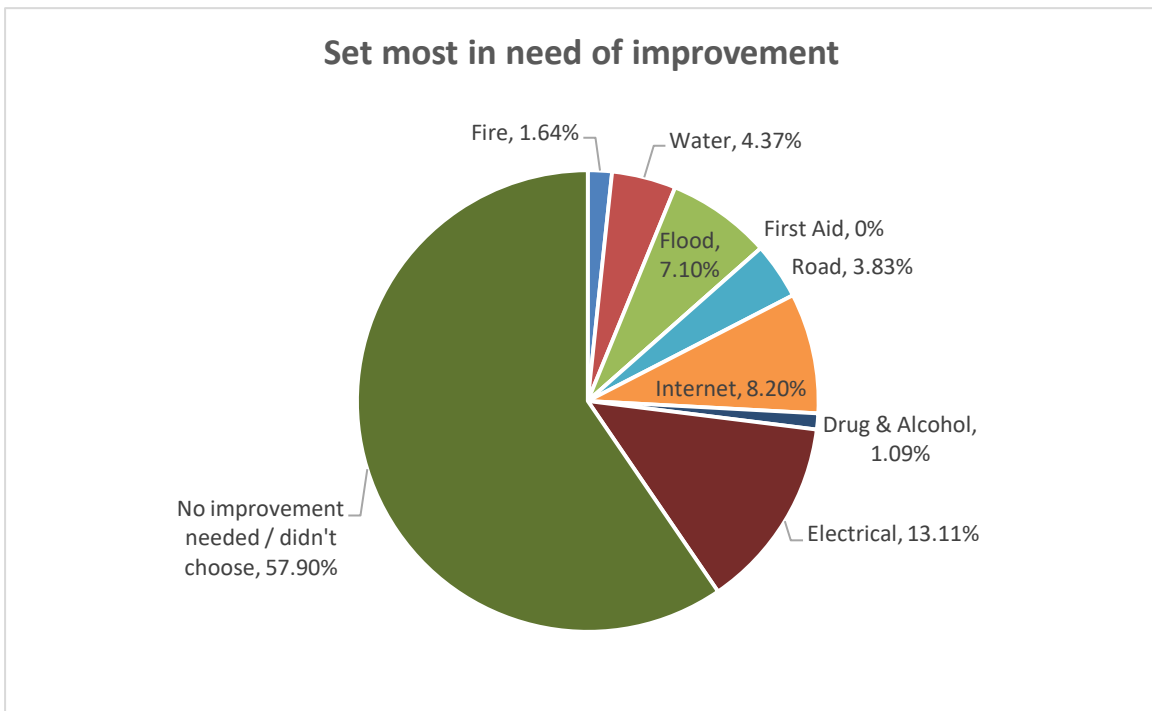


Many pupils commented on the lack of interaction at the Electrical safety set, and felt it was little more than watching a video.

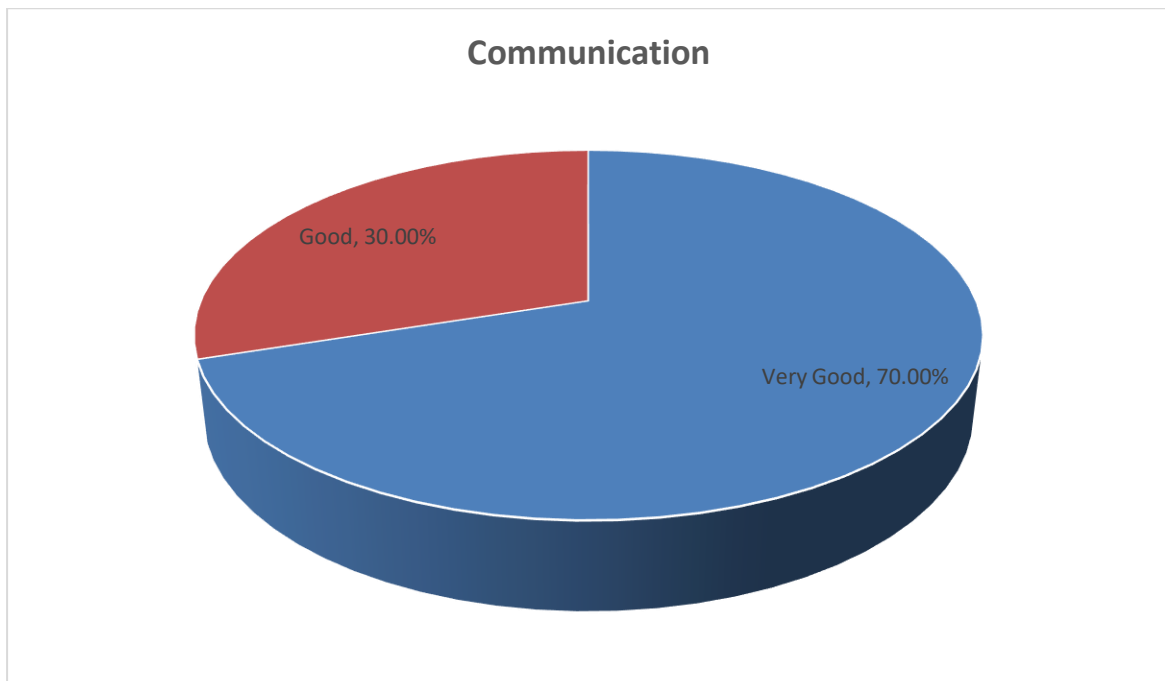


A change from recent years, the new approach from the Caithness Drug & Alcohol Forum clearly created an impression due with 34% of pupils feeling that their set had the most impact. Road Safety is still popular with almost 22% rating it highest. Many pupils chose more than one option, and of those, several chose Drug & Alcohol, and Road Safety together.

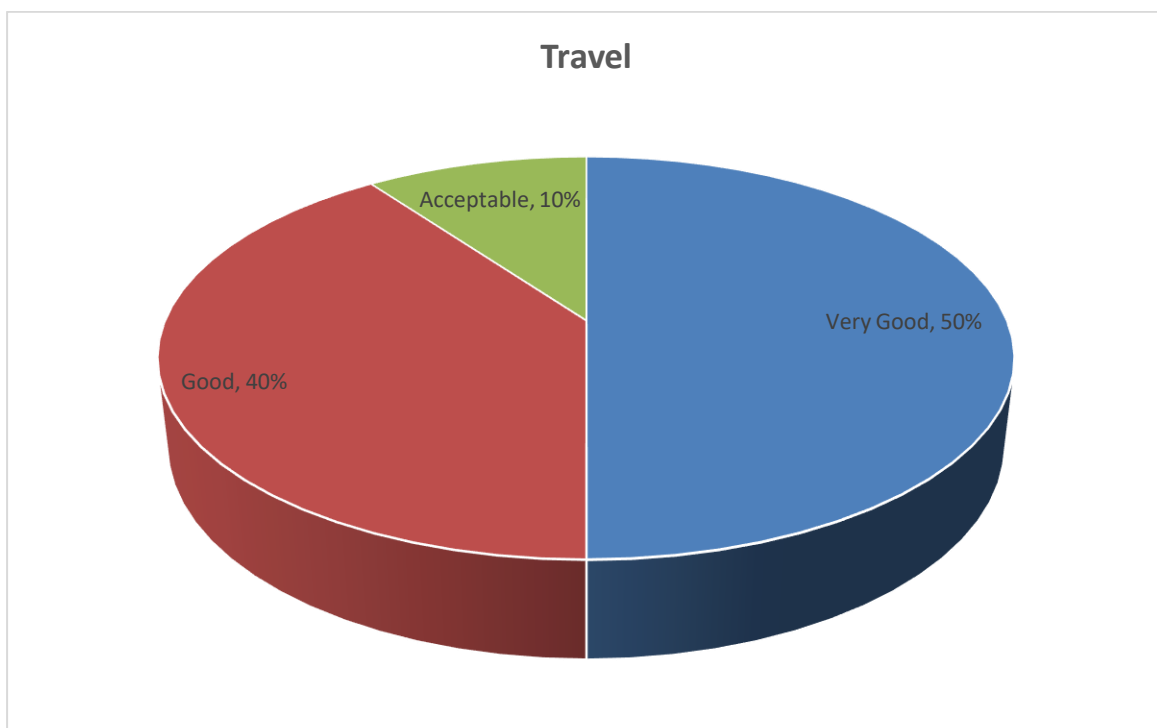
Almost 58% of pupils either didn't choose a set for improvement, or specifically said that they felt no improvement was needed. 13% felt that Electrical Safety was in greatest need of improvement, with many of those commenting on its lack of an interactive activity.



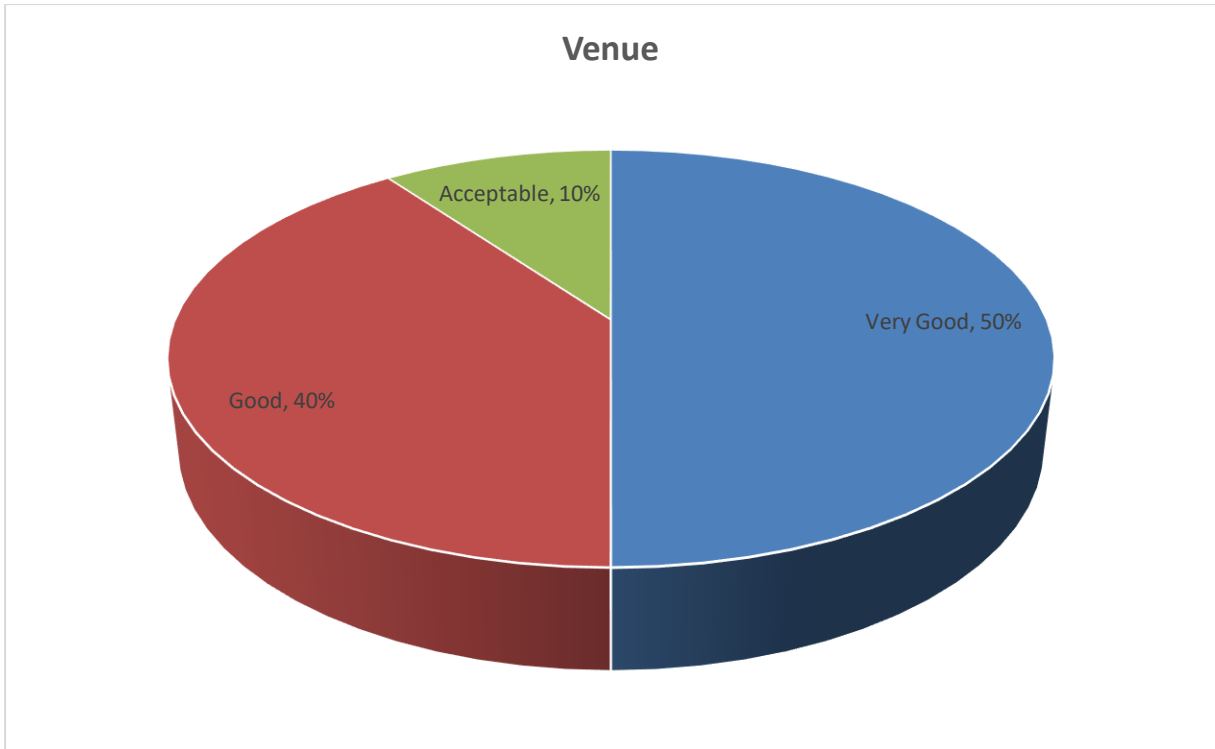
APPENDIX 2 – TEACHER RESPONSES



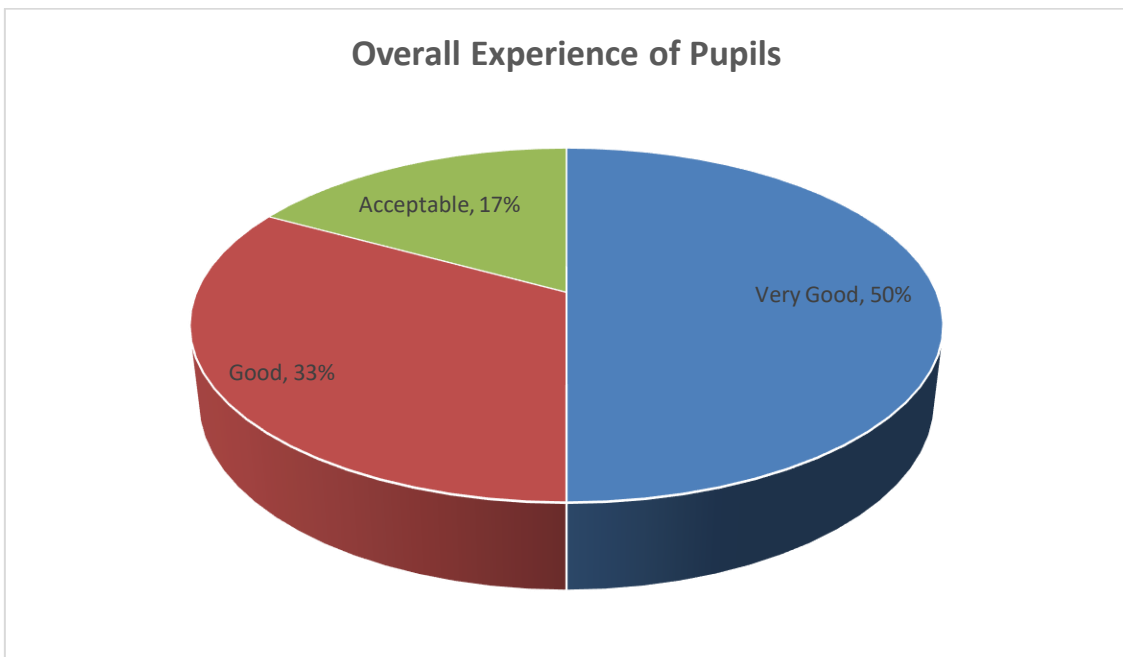
Communication was praised by all responding teachers, with all rating the committee’s communication as “Good” or “Very Good.” The only teacher to not respond to this question incorrectly thought that their school coordinated this.



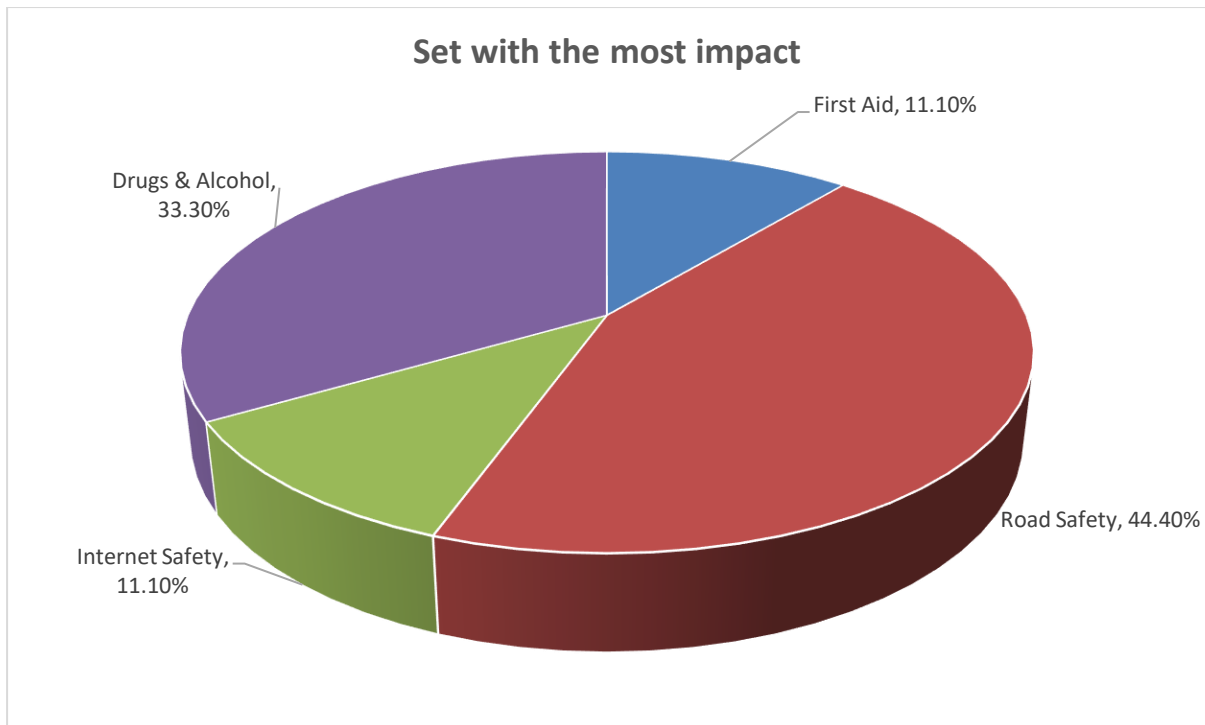
As with Communication, one teacher incorrectly thought their school coordinated transport, so didn’t answer this question. Most others rated it as “Very Good” whilst one teacher felt their coach was too big.



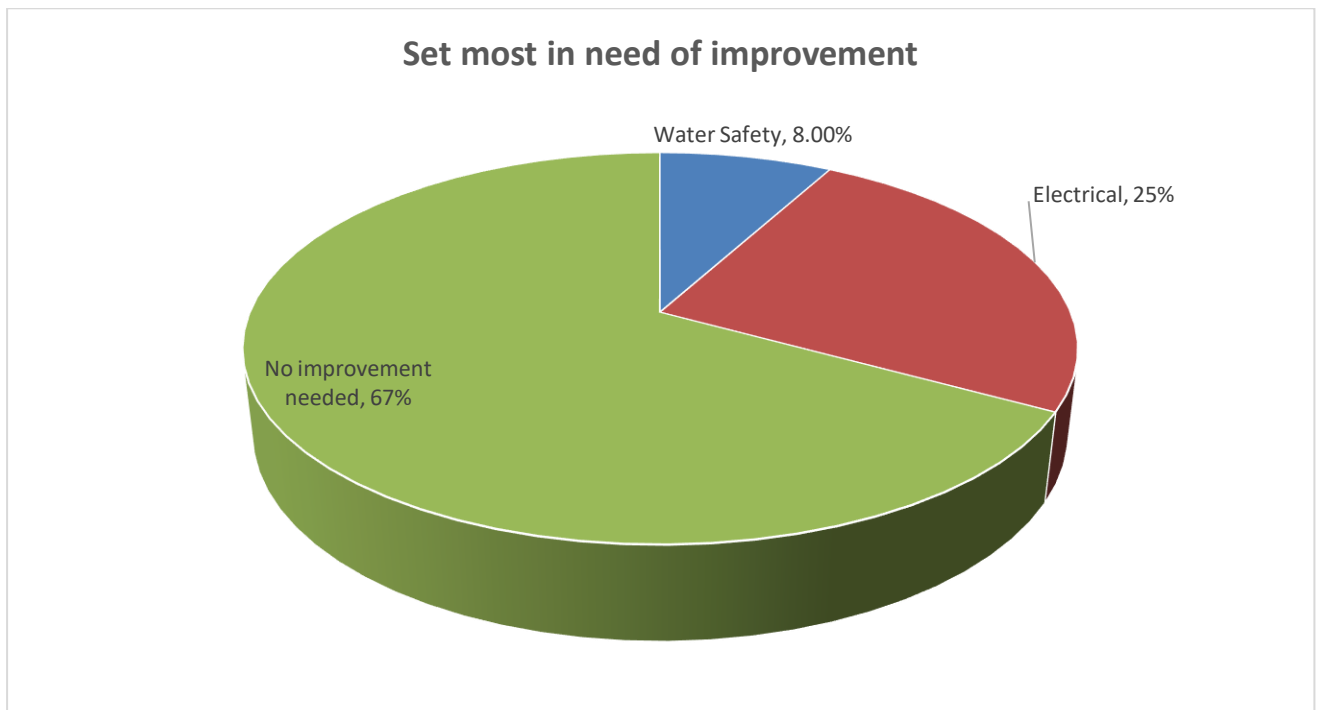
Twelve teachers responded to the question of the venue, and all found the Assembly Rooms to be either “Good” or “Very Good.” Special adaptations were made for one school to make the event fully inclusive, but no evaluations were returned by this school.



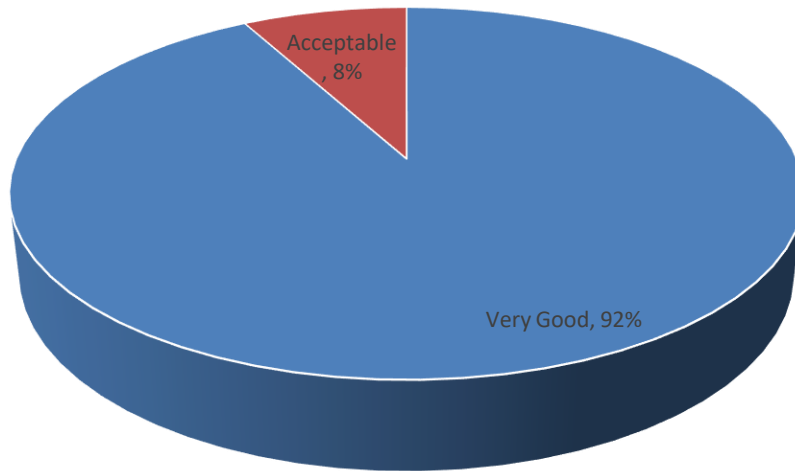
Most teachers felt that the overall experience for pupils was positive. Two teachers said the experience was “acceptable” with one commenting about having to wait a while, though it wasn’t stated what this related to. The issue of time is better understood by most teachers now that the reasoning behind 8minute sets has been explained (to fit with afternoon school buses), however two teachers still commented on it “Keep saying more time per set.” The other said “kids felt time was too strict.”



Nine teachers answered this question. Most teachers felt that Road Safety had a significant impact. Some of those rating Road Safety as best, also wanted to say that they felt the Drug & Alcohol session was very well delivered. Electrical safety, as was also commented by pupils, was felt to be the set in most need of improvement.

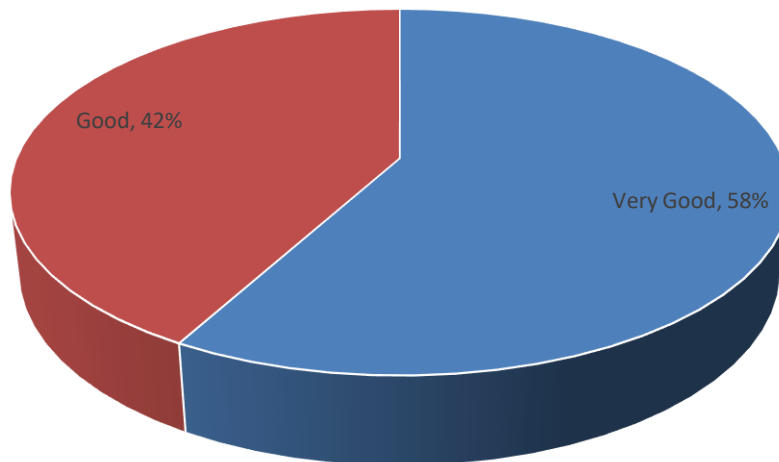


How Worthwhile



92% of teachers felt that the experience was very good. Teachers found the sets appropriate to the theme of "Safe Highlanders." One teacher commented "very well organised" whilst another said, "it's a good age to receive this information."

How appropriate were the sets?



All teachers felt the sets were either appropriate or very appropriate, with one teacher commenting that the information was "very relevant" and another commenting that all the information was "really age appropriate."