

# NOTE D'INFORMATION

n° 18.33 – December 2018

## Results of the school climate and victimisation survey among high school students for the 2017-2018 school year

- In 2018, 94% of high school students say they feel good at their school. This rate has been stable since 2011, regardless of the population surveyed (high school students or middle school students). However, the school climate index has fallen slightly, partly due to a slightly less favourable opinion of girls. The decline in positive opinions is observed for questions relating to safety outside upper secondary schools. The nature of the violence suffered does not change: thefts of supplies, ostracism and unpleasant nicknames are still the most frequently cited offences. Overall, the percentage of students reporting moderate to severe multiple victimisation has remained stable since 2015 (around 5%).

The high level of multiple victimisation is more common among students in vocational secondary schools, but is equally prevalent among girls and boys.

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e-ISSN 2431-7632

► Since 2011, the DEPP has been conducting a regular school climate and victimisation survey among secondary school pupils. This survey provides information on how students perceive the school climate and provides statistical indicators on acts of which students are victims, whether or not these acts have been reported. In spring 2018, a sample of approximately 30,000 high school students in France was surveyed.

### A generally positive school climate

In 2018, the majority of high school students have a positive opinion of the school climate: 94% of them say they feel good in their school, [↘ figure 1](#). Overall, this proportion is stable over time, regardless of the population surveyed (secondary school students in 2011, 2013 and 2017 and high school students in 2015), [↘ figure 2](#).

Students' opinions are summarised by counting the positive responses given to 17 questions on school climate common to both surveys of high school students (see "Definitions - school climate index"). The index thus constructed shows that the climate expressed in 2018 is still very positive, but slightly worse than in 2015. In particular, almost 76% of students answer positively to at least 13 out of 17 questions, compared to

### ↘ 1 Students' opinion of the school climate in their upper secondary school (%)

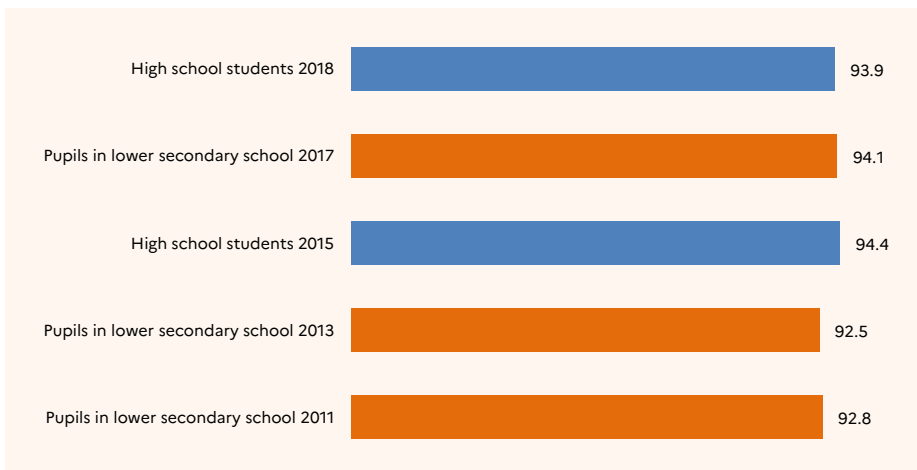
School climate	High school students 2015	High school students 2018	Gender		Type of high school		
			Girls	Boys	Vocational	General	Polyvalent
Quite well or rather well in his school	94.4	93.9	93.0	94.9	91.0	94.8	94.3
Very good or rather good atmosphere among the students	89.2	88.7	85.6	92.0	81.7	91.0	89.3
Relations with teachers are very good or good	88.8	83.6	85.0	82.1	78.1	85.1	84.5
Quite well or rather well in his class	92.4	90.9	89.0	92.8	90.1	91.2	90.9
The buildings (classrooms, schoolyard, etc.) are pleasant or rather pleasant	78.9	72.2	72.0	72.4	68.5	74.5	71.1
Relations with "school life" staff are good or very good	87.9	88.5	87.9	89.2	88.5	87.7	89.7
Relationships with other adults are good or very good	90.0	94.2	94.3	94.1	95.0	94.1	94.0
Not at all or not much violence at school	94.5	89.6	89.6	89.6	81.8	94.1	87.8
We learn quite a bit or rather well in the high school	89.8	87.5	89.2	85.8	84.0	89.2	87.1
The punishments given are very fair or rather fair	70.1	72.0	75.2	68.7	64.8	73.8	73.6
Was not punished in the year	52.2	65.2	74.3	55.7	53.5	68.4	67.3
Finds that the notes are very fair or fairly fair	86.5	85.0	86.4	83.6	86.8	83.4	86.2
Quite or rather safe in the school	94.9	92.2	91.3	93.2	87.8	94.7	91.1
No absence due to violence	96.7	95.4	94.4	96.5	92.7	96.6	95.4
Never absent without permission	58.4	55.9	58.9	52.6	51.0	58.8	54.6
Quite or rather safe in the vicinity of the school	82.6	77.2	73.5	81.1	73.1	79.9	75.6
Safety on school transport	84.1	82.5	76.8	88.5	78.5	82.8	84.3
Having rather many or many friends at school		87.7	85.8	89.6	82.8	89.2	88.2
There is little or no aggression between students and teachers		87.1	87.1	87.1	79.0	90.3	87.1
There is little or no aggression between students		79.4	76.1	82.8	68.5	84.7	78.1
The punishments given are rather severe or very severe		48.7	49.6	47.8	46.2	48.9	49.9
The grades given are severe or very severe		46.6	46.5	46.8	45.3	45.4	49.0

**Interpretation:** 93.9% of high school students surveyed in 2018 say they feel good or fairly good in their high school.

**Scope:** pupils in upper secondary schools in France 2018 (metropolitan France + the French overseas departments) + pupils in upper secondary schools in France 2015 (metropolitan France + the French overseas departments).

**Source:** DEPP, National School Climate and Victimisation Survey of High School Students in 2017-2018 and 2014-2015.

## 2 Changes in the feeling of well-being among secondary school students since 2011 (%)



**Interpretation:** 92.8% of secondary school students surveyed in 2011 say they feel good or fairly good in their secondary school in 2011.  
**Scope:** pupils in secondary schools in France 2018 (metropolitan France + the French overseas departments) + pupils in secondary schools in France 2015 (metropolitan France + the French overseas departments) and pupils in secondary schools in France 2013, 2017 (metropolitan France + the French overseas departments) and 2011 (metropolitan France).  
**Source:** DEPP, National School Climate and Victimisation Survey of Secondary School Students in 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2018.  
 Réf. : Note d'Information, n° 18.33. DEPP

## 3 Positive climate index (%)

Positive Climate Index - Construction for High School	High school students 2015	High school students 2018	Gender		Type of high school		
			Girls	Boys	Vocational	General	Polyvalent
Very bad climate (from 0 to 4 positive responses)	0.4	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.1
Bad climate (5 to 8 positive responses)	2.5	3.5	3.4	3.6	6.1	2.4	3.6
Good climate (9 to 12 positive responses)	18.4	19.7	19.7	19.6	26.4	17.2	19.4
Very good climate (13 to 17 positive responses)	78.7	75.9	76.1	75.6	66.2	79.7	76.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Interpretation:** 75.9% of students have a well-being index between 13 and 17, which means that they have ticked at least 13 positive answers out of the 17 questions proposed.  
**Scope:** high school students in France 2018 + high school students in France 2015 (metropolitan France + the French overseas departments).  
**Source:** DEPP, National School Climate and Victimisation Survey of High School Students in 2017-2018 and 2014-2015.  
 Réf. : Note d'Information, n° 18.33. DEPP

79% in 2015, [figure 3](#). On the other hand, to a lesser extent, more of them report a poor school climate than in 2015 (5% report less than half positive responses compared to 3% in 2015).

The decline in positive responses is marked for questions relating to safety in the vicinity of the school; 77% of students feel safe outside the school in 2018 compared to 83% in 2015. On the other hand, despite a drop of 3 points since 2015, the feeling of safety within the school is still very high, with 92% of students feeling safe inside their school.

There is also an unfavourable trend with regard to the feeling of violence within the school. While almost 90% of the students feel that there is little or no violence in their school, about 10% of high school students think the opposite; this share is twice as high as in 2015. However, this feeling does not lead to more absence for

fear of violence. More than the feeling of safety, it is the perception of the context in which students study (quality of buildings) that is deteriorating, losing almost 7 points compared to 2015. Relations with teachers seem to be deteriorating: 16% of the students judged them to be bad or rather bad, compared with 11% three years earlier. However, relations with other adults in the school (+4 percent points) and school life (+1 percent point) are improving.

### A good school climate index for both girls and boys

For the first time since 2011, girls and boys have a fairly similar perception of the school climate: 76% are in the highest band of the index. This situation is the result of a deterioration in the climate expressed by girls (4 points less than in 2015), while that of boys varies by only one point (77% in 2015

compared with 76% in 2018). Girls have a slightly less positive view than boys on safety issues: 74% of them feel that they are safe in the vicinity of the upper secondary school compared to 81% of boys. In addition, twice as many girls as boys think that they are not completely safe in the transport system to come to the school (23%). This feeling of a less favourable atmosphere for girls is also present in relations between pupils (6 percent points difference with boys). The fact that three quarters of the girls are in the highest bracket of the school climate index is due to their better opinion of relations with teachers and to the atmosphere, which more of them considered conducive to learning. Girls are also less likely to be absent from school and less likely to be punished than boys. Since 2015, the deterioration in the school climate felt by girls can probably be explained by the decline in the feeling of safety outside the school and on the transport to the school.

### A better perception of the school climate in general upper secondary schools

Students in general upper secondary schools have a better perception of the school climate. Eighty per cent of them have a high index, compared to 66% in vocational upper secondary schools. Only 3% of students in general upper secondary schools give less than half of the positive responses, compared with 7% of students in vocational upper secondary schools. The latter are less enthusiastic than the former. Their feeling of safety on school transport, in the vicinity and within the school is less strong. In addition, more of them feel that there is violence in their school (18%). Seven per cent of them also already does not go to school for fear of violence, compared with 4% of other students. About 82% of them find the atmosphere among students very good or rather good, 9 percent points less than in other upper secondary schools. Slightly more than one in five students think that there is aggressiveness in relations with teachers. The more negative perception of the school climate by students in vocational upper secondary schools is found in other dimensions, such as the feeling of learning well or the opinion on the quality of the premises. Despite these findings, it is important to note that there is little variation in the sense of well-being in the classroom. Students in vocational schools also report better relations with other adults and "school life" staff.

## One in three students affected by theft of school supplies and ostracism

In addition to measuring the school climate, the survey asks students about 28 different types of verbal and physical abuse.

In general and on a constant scope basis, the profile of reported victimisations has not changed between 2015 and 2018 [↗ figure 4](#). The four most common offences are the same as for their counterparts in lower secondary

schools, but the percentage of students affected is significantly lower and the order is slightly different. Theft of school supplies and ostracism are still the most common offences (one in three students). Physical violence is much less frequent than for secondary school pupils. Shoving is cited by only 9% of secondary school pupils and hitting by only 3%. The most serious forms of violence, such as injuries caused by weapons, threats with weapons, racketeering and serious sexual violence, are very rare (around 1%).

Violence suffered *via* new technologies tends to take a significant place in the picture of victimisation. Nine per cent of high school students say they have been insulted on the phone or on social networks and 14% say they have been attacked on the internet (spreading rumours, sending photos or videos, impersonating someone). In all, just under one in five pupils reports at least one attack on the Internet during the school year.

### ↗ 4 Proportion of pupils reporting violence (%)

Attacks	High school students 2015	High school students 2018	Gender		Type of high school		
			Girls	Boys	Vocational	General	Polyvalent
Theft of school supplies	33.2	35.8	34.7	37.0	34.1	37.7	34.2
Ostracism	30.6	35.2	42.2	27.8	33.2	36.9	34.1
Unpleasant nickname	28.7	27.0	26.6	27.5	28.7	26.2	27.3
Mockery for good behaviour in class	18.4	22.4	22.5	22.4	24.1	22.1	22.0
Insult	22.1	21.7	24.1	19.2	26.2	19.6	22.1
Theft of personal items	13.5	12.9	13.2	12.6	15.8	12.0	12.6
Sexist insult		10.5	18.4	2.2	8.3	12.1	9.7
Feeling of humiliation	14.0	10.1	12.5	7.4	10.7	10.2	9.5
Victim of humiliating videos, photos or rumours on the internet	4.1	9.0	9.9	8.1	8.6	9.6	8.5
Jostling	9.9	8.8	9.1	8.6	11.4	7.9	8.7
Insulted or mocked on a social network	7.5	7.6	8.2	7.0	7.6	7.5	7.6
Insult on the basis of origin or skin colour		7.1	6.6	7.7	8.6	6.6	7.1
Threat	7.9	6.6	6.6	6.7	8.6	6.0	6.4
Victim of inappropriate sexual behaviour		6.6	10.6	2.4	5.1	7.5	6.2
Stealing money	6.1	6.4	6.2	6.6	8.9	5.2	6.8
Target for throwing objects	6.1	4.4	3.6	5.3	6.2	3.8	4.2
Damage to personal accessories	4.5	4.1	3.0	5.1	5.6	3.4	4.2
Homophobic slur		3.9	3.7	4.1	4.9	3.8	3.5
Insult in relation to place of residence		3.5	3.0	4.0	4.3	3.2	3.4
Hit	3.7	3.2	2.5	3.9	4.7	2.3	3.6
Insult about religion		3.1	3.1	3.2	4.4	3.3	2.3
Identity theft on the Internet	8.6	2.4	2.4	2.4	3.5	2.2	2.0
Victim of serious sexual violence		1.6	2.3	0.8	2.4	1.5	1.3
Assaulted or hit for gender-related reasons		1.6	1.8	1.3	3.2	1.0	1.4
Threat with weapons	1.7	1.4	0.6	2.3	2.3	1.2	1.2
Racket	1.7	1.2	0.9	1.4	2.1	0.9	1.0
Gunshot wound	0.9	0.9	0.5	1.2	1.5	0.8	0.6
Assaulted or beaten on homophobic grounds		0.8	0.6	1.1	1.7	0.5	0.8

**Interpretation:** 35.8% of high school students report theft of school supplies.

**Scope:** high school students in France 2018 (metropolitan France + the French overseas departments) + high school students in France 2015 (metropolitan France + the French overseas departments).

**Source:** DEPP, National School Climate and Victimisation Survey of High School Students in 2017-2018 and 2014-2015.

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### ↗ 5 Proportion of students who have experienced cyberbullying by gender and type of high school (%)

Internet or telephone violence (text messages, etc.)	High school students 2018	Girl	Boys	Professional	General and polyvalent
Unpleasant nickname via the Internet or telephone	4.8	5.4	4.2	5.1	4.8
Insult by Internet or telephone	4.5	5.3	3.8	5.7	4.3
Insulting people's origin or skin colour via the Internet or telephone	1.2	0.9	1.5	1.8	1.1
Insulting because of his religion via the Internet or telephone	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.4
Sexist insult via the Internet or telephone	1.3	2.3	0.3	1.2	1.3
Homophobic insult via the Internet or telephone	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.3	0.7
<b>At least one unpleasant nickname or insult by phone or internet (1a)</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>8.6</b>
Dissemination of humiliating videos, photos or rumours on the Internet	9.0	9.9	8.1	8.6	9.1
Dissemination of insults or mockery on social networks	7.6	8.2	7.0	7.6	7.5
Identity theft	2.4	2.4	2.4	3.5	2.1
<b>At least one of the above three forms of violence via the Internet or telephone (1b)</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>14.1</b>
<b>At least one violent or insulting name or unkind nickname by phone or on the Internet<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>18.2</b>

**Interpretation:** 8.9% of secondary school students report at least one insult or unpleasant nickname via the Internet or mobile phone.

**1.** The proportion of pupils affected by one of the types of violence mentioned in the figure (18.2%) is lower than the sum of lines 1a and 1b because some pupils experience both types of violence.

**Scope:** high school students in France 2018 (metropolitan France + the French overseas departments).

**Source:** DEPP, National School Climate and Victimisation Survey for High Students in 2017-2018 and 2014-2015.

Réf. : Note d'Information, n° 18.33. DEPP

## Different patterns of violence for boys and girls

As with other surveys, in upper secondary schools, as in lower secondary schools, the 2018 survey shows that boys are still more likely to be victims of physical violence. They are more likely to be hit, to have objects thrown at them and to be threatened with a weapon. Girls are more exposed to psychological violence (ostracism, feeling humiliated), insults (sexist, via social networks or mobile phones) and sexual violence. Indeed, during the 2018 school year, a quarter of female students claim to have been victims of insults, compared to 19% of male students. While more girls than boys report gender-based insults, boys report more insults in relation to their origin or skin colour and in relation to their place of residence. Girls are five times more likely than boys to be the target of inappropriate sexual behaviour (11%). They are also twice as likely to be confronted with serious sexual violence (2% compared to 1% for their male counterparts). Boys and girls (4%) equally cite homophobic insults, measured for the first time in this survey. Homophobic physical assaults are rare (1%) but are slightly more likely to be directed at boys.

## Less ostracism for students of vocational upper secondary schools but more jostling

Students of vocational upper secondary schools more often cite verbal abuse such as insults, unpleasant nicknames or mockery for good behaviour. However, these students less often mention ostracism, sexist insults and the spreading of humiliating rumours, videos or photos. The difference with other pupils is mainly in the case of more serious acts of violence. Thus, more pupils are pushed than in general upper secondary schools (11% compared with 8%). There are also more pupils threatened with a weapon (2% compared with 1% in the general upper secondary schools).

Bullying, which affects 1% of students, affects girls and boys equally. A synthetic victimisation index, reflecting the frequency of events and their seriousness, is created for upper secondary school students (see "Definitions"). Physical violence are distinguished from verbal and psychological violence. Physical violence is very rare: 96% of pupils state that they have never experienced repeated physical violence and 75% have never experienced repeated verbal violence [↘ figure 6](#). The two types of violence are

strongly correlated: 99% of pupils who do not report psychological violence do not report physical violence either. This rate is only 42% when the pupils report five psychological acts of violence. It is therefore the accumulation of violent acts that is worrying. For 1.3% of the pupils, there are at least five major incidents of violence, considering both types of violence. These situations can be considered as harassment. The percentage of upper secondary school students in a situation of moderate (between three and four incidents) to high (five or more incidents) cumulative violence is 5%, a level that is stable compared with 2015 [↘ figure 7](#). Girls are as much

affected by strong multiple victimisation as boys (1%), whereas in 2015, there were almost twice as many boys (2% of boys in 2015). This is explained by a slight decrease among boys concomitant with a slight increase among girls.

In general, pupils in vocational upper secondary schools are more likely to report a repeated number of incidents of violence that can be construed as harassment. These pupils are twice as likely to experience moderate to severe victimisation (8% compared with 4% for students in other upper secondary schools). ■

### ↘ 6 Number of reported victimisations (%)

	Number of incidents of psychological violence	Number of incidents of physical violence				High school students 2018	High school students 2015
		0	1	2	3		
	0	74.5	0.8	0.1	0.0	75.4	75.2
	1	13.5	0.8	0.2	0.1	14.5	15
	2	4.9	0.7	0.1	0.0	5.7	5.4
	3	1.9	0.4	0.2	0.1	2.6	2.8
	4	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.1	1.4	1.2
	5	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.4
High school students 2018		95.8	3.0	0.8	0.4	100.0	
High school students 2015			3.5	1.0	0.3		100.0

**Interpretation:** 14.5% of students report having experienced one of five significant situations of psychological violence. 3.5% had experienced one of the three significant situations of physical violence.

**Scope:** high school students in France 2018 (metropolitan France + the French overseas departments) + high school students in France 2015 (metropolitan France + the French overseas departments).

**Source:** DEPP, National School Climate and Victimization Survey of High School Students in 2017-2018 and 2014-2015.

Réf. : Note d'Information, n° 18.33. DEPP

### ↘ 7 Multivictimisation by gender, type of school and level (%)

	High school students 2015	High school students 2018	Gender		Type of upper secondary school		
			Girls	Boys	Vocational	General	Polyvalent
Absence of victimisation	74.0	74.5	71.6	77.5	72.1	75.3	74.7
Low victimisation	20.6	20.1	22.9	17.1	20.3	20.4	19.6
Moderate multivictimisation	4.1	4.1	4.3	3.9	5.3	3.4	4.5
High multivictimisation - Harassment	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.4	2.3	0.9	1.2

**Scope:** high school students in France 2018 (metropolitan France + the French overseas departments) + high school students in France 2015 (metropolitan France + the French overseas departments).

**Source:** DEPP, National School Climate and Victimization Survey of High School Students in 2017-2018 and 2014-2015.

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