

## Exploring children's geographies

John McKendrick and Lauren Hammond, Autumn 2020

The questions below can be used alongside the activities suggested in the article.

### 1. Control over children's use of space

#### **Suggested geographical questions:**

- How is the place represented in this image?
- Might the place change at different times of the day (e.g. at night or school pick-up time)?  
What impacts might the time of day have on how this place is used and by whom?
- How, and why, might different people use or view this place? You might consider social categories such as age, gender, class, ethnicity and (dis)ability in your response.
- Might some people feel more included or excluded here? If so, how and why?
- Would you use this place? If so, how?
- What rules do you think exist in this place? Who makes these rules and why?
- Would these rules impact on how you use this space? Explain your perspective
- Would you change this place? If so, how and why?
- How and why might lockdown have affected how different people access and use this place?  
What impacts might changes in access have had on different people?
- Considering the example of public space, how do the concepts of place and space help us to better understand people's lives and geographies? Is this important – if so, why and to whom?

### 2. What children value in their neighbourhood

#### **Suggested geographical questions:**

- What is a neighbourhood?
- Are neighbourhoods important? If so, how and why, and to whom?
- Can you describe your neighbourhood and how you feel about it?
- What public spaces exist in your neighbourhood? How are they used and by whom?
- Are there any inequalities in your neighbourhood? If so, why do you think they exist and how do they impact on different people?
- What do you like best about your neighbourhood and why?
- What, if anything, would you like to change about your neighbourhood, and why?
- How can you contribute to change in your neighbourhood? Are there any challenges to making changes? How might these be overcome?

### 3. Experiencing public space

#### **Suggested geographical questions:**

- How and why do young people's experiences of public space matter, and to whom?
  - Is it of value to examine how different people use, and experience, public space in geography?  
Explain your perspective.
  - What did the research find out about young people's experiences and perceptions of public spaces in Scotland? What do you think are the reasons for this?
  - Are your experiences of public space similar/different to those in the study? Explain your response.
4. How and why has young people's use of public space changed during COVID-19? What impacts have these changes had on young people and other sectors of society?