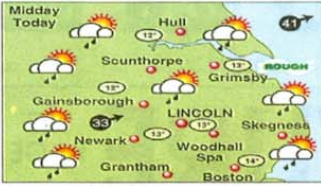


WEATHER

Lincolnshire Today

A very strong south-westerly wind with damaging gusts possible. Bright spells this afternoon but also showers. Showers are likely this evening. Max temp 11-14C (52-57F). Tonight, clear spells developing. Min temp 6-8C (43-46F).



Lincolnshire outlook

- Tomorrow**
Dry, but mainly cloudy throughout the day with limited sunshine.
- Saturday**
Dry, but cloudy with few brighter spells expected during the day.
- Sunday**
Dry and fine with plenty of blue sky and sunny spells.

UK yesterday

- Warmest** London 12C (54F)
- Colest** Aboyne -4C (25F)
- Wettest** Shap 22mm
- Sunniest** Boulmer 5 hrs

Tides

today	ht	ht	ht	
Boston	5:24	5.7m	17:39	6.0m
Gainsborough	7:43	6.4m	19:56	6.7m
Skegness	5:22	6.3m	17:34	6.5m
tomorrow	ht	ht	ht	
Boston	6:09	6.0m	18:19	6.4m
Gainsborough	8:26	6.7m	20:34	7.0m
Skegness	6:09	6.6m	18:14	6.9m

Sun & Moon Today

	rises	sets
Sun	8:08am	4:23pm
Moon	8:22am	3:06pm

YOUR ECHO

IF YOU have a comment or complaint to make about your newspaper write to:

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SCOUTING FOR OPINIONS: 10th Lincoln (Waddington) Scouts (left to right) Paul Manders (15), Alexander Bowyer (13), Cameron Chalmers (10), Lucy Lowery (12) and Cat Tyler (16) chat about the survey results. Picture: Chris Vaughan. Picture reference: 7-0157_14.

What do you think of youth today?

Keith Elms

North Kesteven School headteacher, North Hykeham

I've been a teacher for 35 years and the work which kids do now impresses me even more than when I started out. This idea that young people today are more badly behaved is rubbish. Most of the children I encounter are positive, hard-working people who want to help each other.

Chief Inspector Paul Elliott
Lincolnshire Police head of community safety

Only 171 people under the age of 18 were arrested between January 1 and December 31 last year. Only a small minority of teenagers ever become involved in crime or anti-social behaviour. Most have immense respect for other people and the environment they live in.

Sally Parker (47)

Mum-of-three of Brant Road, Lincoln

It really annoys me as a mother when they talk about teenage thugs as though every young person is involved in that type of thing. It's time we started being positive about young people.

'This horrible stereotype just makes us sick'

by James Newall

james.newall@lincolnshireecho.co.uk

FLICK through the pages of a tabloid newspaper or turn on the TV news and the chances are the terms **Asbo**, **hoodie** or **school bully** will crop up.

Whether it's some new initiative to tackle anti-social behaviour, happy-slapping in schools or angry residents making a stand against gangs of young boys, there is usually at least one story.

Political parties are competing to address the ills of Britain's youth. Some want to "hug a hoodie", others want teen hooligans electronically tagged and the more extreme would lock them up and throw away the key.

But according to a new study, youngsters in Lincolnshire are sick of it.

None deny some of their fellow teenagers cause trouble and deserve to be punished, but most

agree that they do not want to be tarred with the same brush.

The survey, carried out by the Scouting Association in Lincolnshire, quizzed teenagers on a range of subjects including the way adults view them, community spirit, education, the family unit and their general aspirations.

And one of the key findings was their anger at being lumped in with a minority of bad apples in society. They say the idea that most young people are layabouts who regard an Asbo as a badge of honour and have no respect for adults is "total rubbish".

A whopping 70 per cent thought adults were making massive, inaccurate generalisations.

Paul Manders (15), from Bracebridge Heath, goes to the

Priory LSST School in Lincoln and attends 10th Lincoln (Waddington) Scout Group.

He said he strongly supported the findings of the study.

"We are sick of the horrible stereotype," he said. "People have this image in their head of us hanging around street corners, getting drunk and causing havoc. I don't know anyone with a criminal record."

"Adults concentrate on the negative stories of Asbos and hoodies and never the positive stuff."

The survey also found 81 per cent of respondents respected their teachers, 87 per cent were eager to do well at school and 93 per cent believed in treating others how they themselves would like to be treated.

Along with this, most of the 13 to 18-year-olds questioned said their mum was the best role model in their lives and drug-using celebrities like Pete Doherty were the worst.

And 10th Lincoln (Waddington) Scout Group leader Stan Davis said he believed the findings were accurate. "I have a lot of experience with dealing with young people and on the whole they are nothing like the picture that is painted of them," he said.

County teachers have also backed the findings of the study.

Priory LSST deputy headteacher Steve Davies said: "In the course of my work I get to know large numbers of young people. I wouldn't refer to a single one of them in a derogatory manner because they don't deserve it."

"Our young people are very concerned with their futures and focused on their education. The vast majority are civilised, likeable individuals."

Do young people deserve their bad reputation?



I agree with most of the study and especially with the fact that people shouldn't say all young people are bad. It's just not fair.

Cameron Chalmers (10), Lincoln



Young people are stereotyped by the press and adults generally. But it is only a tiny minority that get into trouble. This survey is good because it actually asks us what we think for a change.

Paul Manders (15), Bracebridge Heath



We are not hoodies or hooligans. I believe that education and family are the most important things.

Alex Bowyer (13), Waddington



I agree with the study - young people get a bad name they don't all deserve. I just care about my family and friends.

Lucy Lowery (12), Bracebridge Heath



School, education and family are what's important to me - not drinking on street corners.

Cat Tyler (16), Lincoln

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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