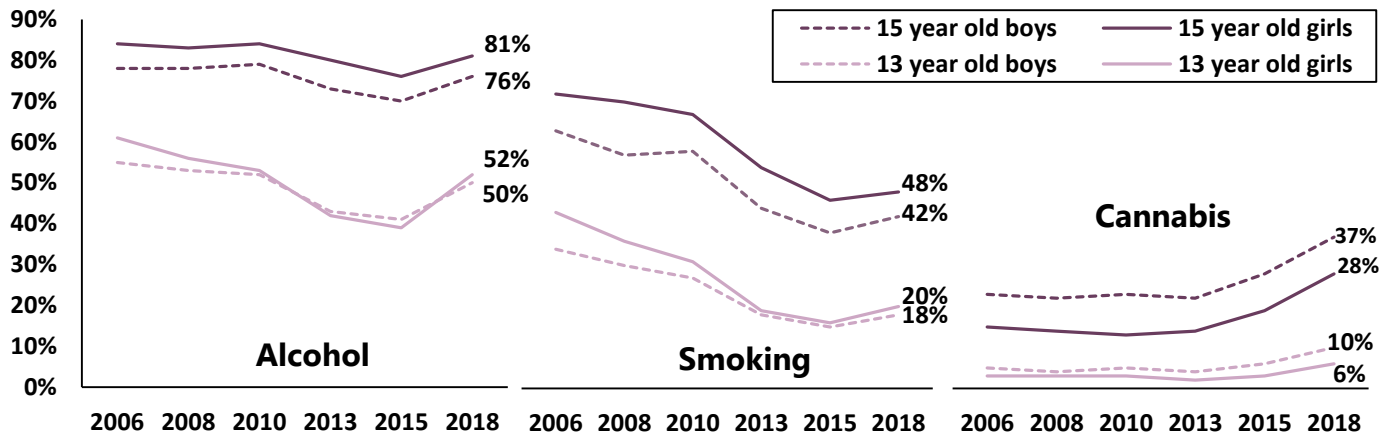




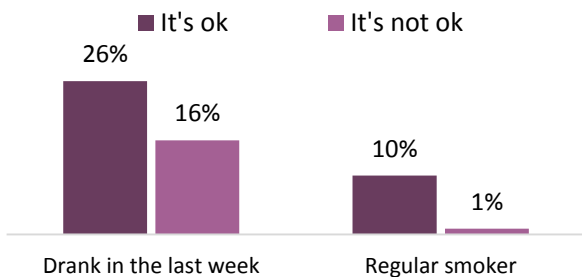
ATTITUDES TO SUBSTANCE USE FACTSHEET

% of pupils feeling who think it's OK to try smoking, drinking or taking drugs, over time:



- The proportion of pupils who think it's OK to try **drinking** has shown a **marked increase** between 2015 and 2018. There has also been a **small increase** in the proportion who think it is OK to try **smoking**.
- Although it was much **less common** for pupils to say that it was OK for someone their age to try drugs, there has been an **increase** since 2015 in the proportion of 15 year olds who think it is OK to try cannabis, cocaine and glue sniffing.
- 15 year olds were more likely than 13 year olds to think it is OK** for someone their age to try all substances, apart from sniffing glue.
- Girls** were more likely to think it was OK to try smoking a cigarette, drinking alcohol, getting drunk and sniffing glue, whereas **boys** were more likely to think it was OK to try taking cannabis and cocaine.

Is acceptability associated with use?



There was a **strong correlation** between thinking it was OK to try something and actually trying it.

Does learning about substance use make it less acceptable?

Generally, having had lessons on substance use at school **was not associated** with a drop in the proportion of pupils who felt it was OK to try them.

Smoking was the exception: those who had received lessons about smoking were 3% less likely to think smoking was OK than those who hadn't.