



The Place Standard tool

A Version for Children

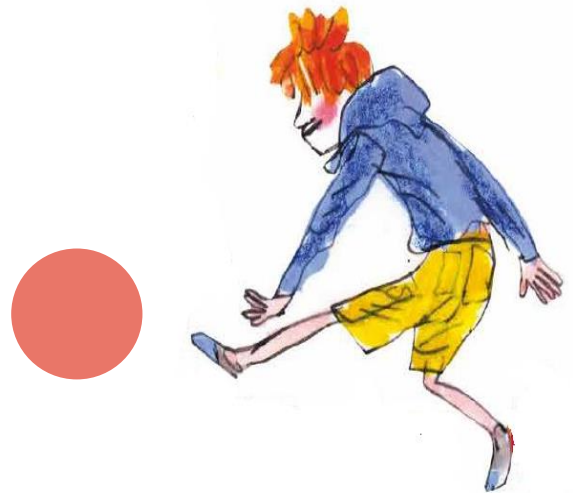
How good is my place?



What is the Place Standard tool?

The Place Standard tool is a fun and interesting way to help you answer the question, **“how good is my place?”**

How good is my place?



The Place Standard tool can be used by anyone but this version has been made especially for children.

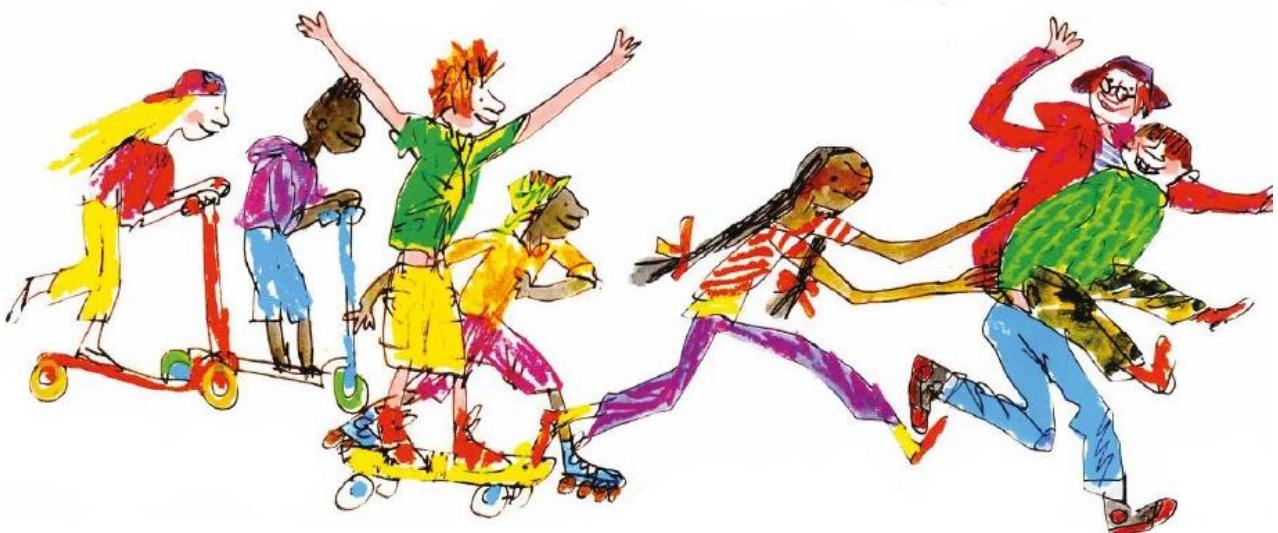
This tool helps children to talk about the things that matter to them in a way that can allow their views to make a difference. It asks questions about what children need to live well in a place and what changes might make things better.

Where do we go and what do we do?

What do I need to live well?

How do we get around?

What makes us feel safe or unsafe?



Why is the place around me important?

The places where we live and play are important because they help us live healthy, happy lives and help us take care of the environment.

When we walk, wheel or cycle around, we are taking exercise which is good for our health. It also means that we are not using cars, which helps to keep the air clean and the streets safe. When we have good outdoor spaces and places to play, it makes us happy and healthy and helps us to spend time with friends and family.

When there are places like shops, libraries, cafes, schools and nurseries close by, we are able to walk to these places and use them easily.

The places where we live and spend our time can also make us feel close to our friends and neighbours and help us to feel proud of a place and take care of it.

The places where we spend our time are important in lots of ways. Using this tool will help you to think about **what is important to you** in the place where you live and play.



Using the Place Standard tool is easy!

The Place Standard tool ask 14 questions about the place where you live and spend your time. All you need to do is think about what your place is like now and decide what score you want to give for each one of the questions– **1, 2 or 3.**

A score of **1** is not good

lots of improvement needed!



A score of **2** is okay

some improvement needed!



A score of **3** is great

it's good or as good as it can be!



If you're working as a team and are having trouble deciding on a score then see if you can agree on an 'in-between' score. There are some extra questions that might help you to make up your mind about the score. Your group can also agree to change a score as you chat more.

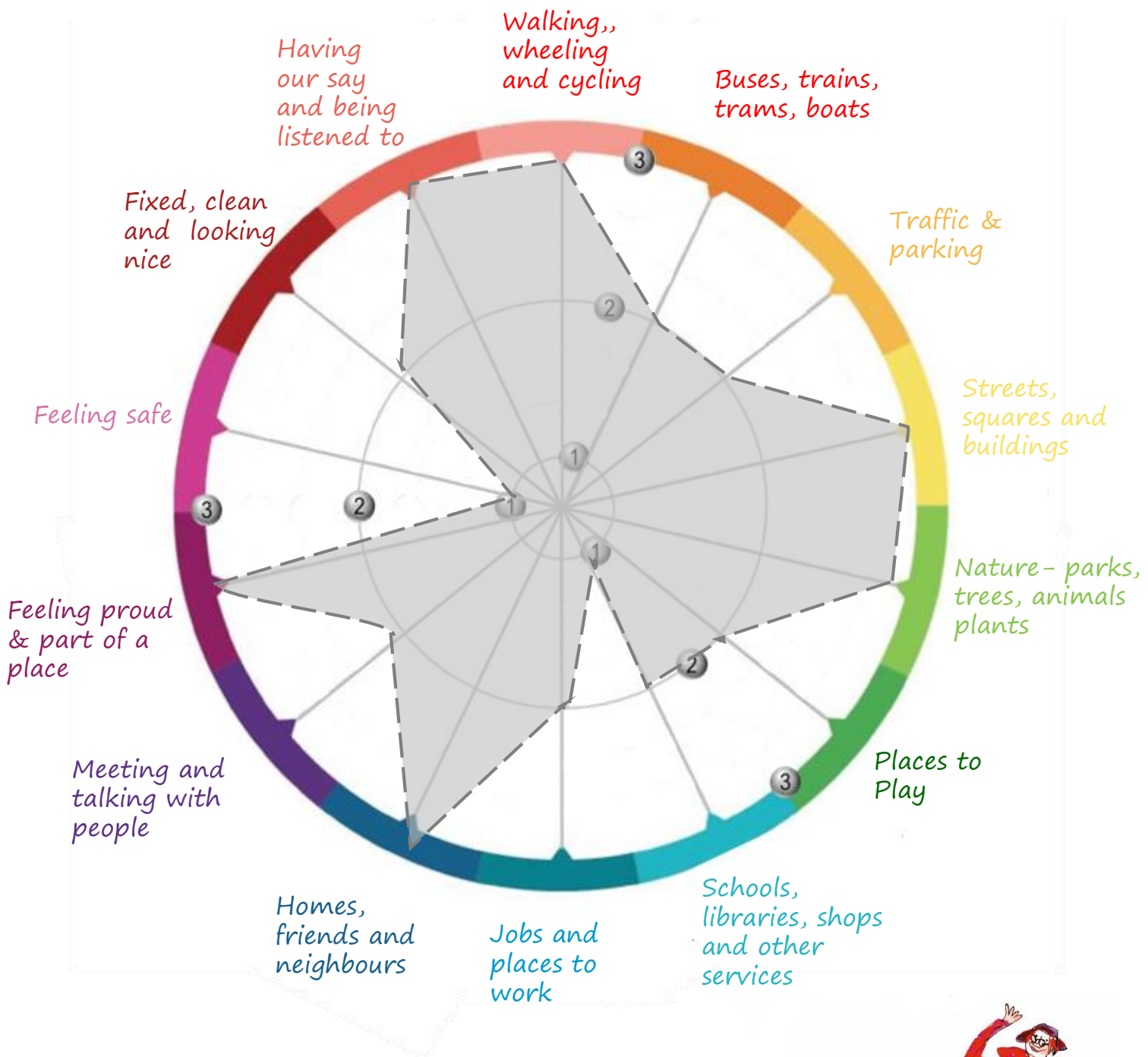
You can write the answers yourself, or ask an adult to help you if you need. You can even do a drawing of things you like or don't like.

You can also think about what you would change about your place if you had a magic wand?



How to draw your Place Standard shape

When you decide on a score for a question you can mark it on the Place Standard wheel. Once you have marked all of your scores then you can join the dots to draw your Place Standard shape. You can then compare shapes with anyone else who has also completed the wheel. You can see an example of how the scores make a shape on the wheel below.

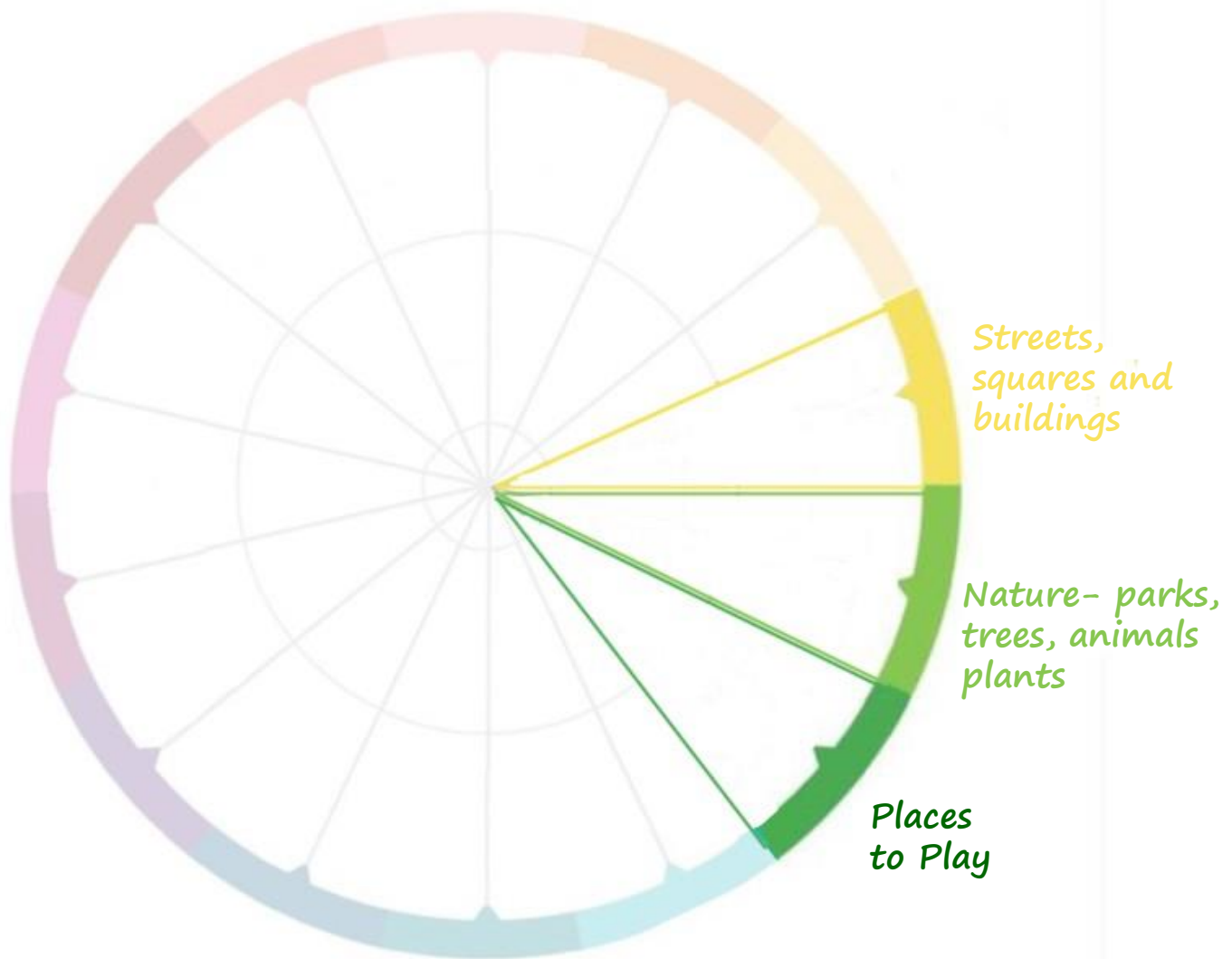


*That's all you need to do.
Lets get started!*



Lets ask some questions about:

Where I go and what I do



What are the streets, squares and buildings like in my place?

You might want to think about things like:

- Do the streets, squares and buildings look and feel nice?
- Does my place have landmarks? If so, what are they like?
- Is it easy to know where I am in my place?
- What things could we change to make the streets, squares and buildings better?
- What else is important about streets, squares and buildings in my place?



colourful dull statues old new special buildings
public gardens square good surfaces signposts

What is good now?

What would you use your magic wand on?

What score would you give to this question?



1 - not good

lots of improvement
needed!



2 - okay

some improvement
needed!



3 - great

it's good or as good as
it can be!

Nature – parks, trees, animals plants

How much nature is there around my place and is it easy to get to?



You might want to think about things like:

- Can I see and access nature every day when I am out and about
- How easy is it for me to find a nice natural space to be in?
- Are there parks where I can enjoy trees, nature and grassy places.
- Are the natural places well taken care of?
- Where are the best places for nature?
- What could be done to make my place better for wildlife, birds, and plants
- Are there important places for nature which we should protect?
- Does my place needs more trees and plants? Where?



What is good now?

What would you use your magic wand on?

What score would you give to this question?



1 - not good

lots of improvement needed!



2 - okay

some improvement needed!



3 - great

it's good or as good as it can be!

What spaces are there for me to play and have fun in and around my place?

You might want to think about things like:

- Where are the places to play?
- Are there enough?
- What are the worst things about playing in my place?
- What are the best things about playing in my place?
- What else is important about play and other things I do in my free time in my place?



easy to find spaces seats sports areas playparks
places to relax making your own fun stuff play for everyone
organised fun stuff somewhere to go to the toilet
mix of activities

What is good now?

What would you use your magic wand on?

What score would you give to this question?



1 - not good

lots of improvement
needed!



2 - okay

some improvement
needed!

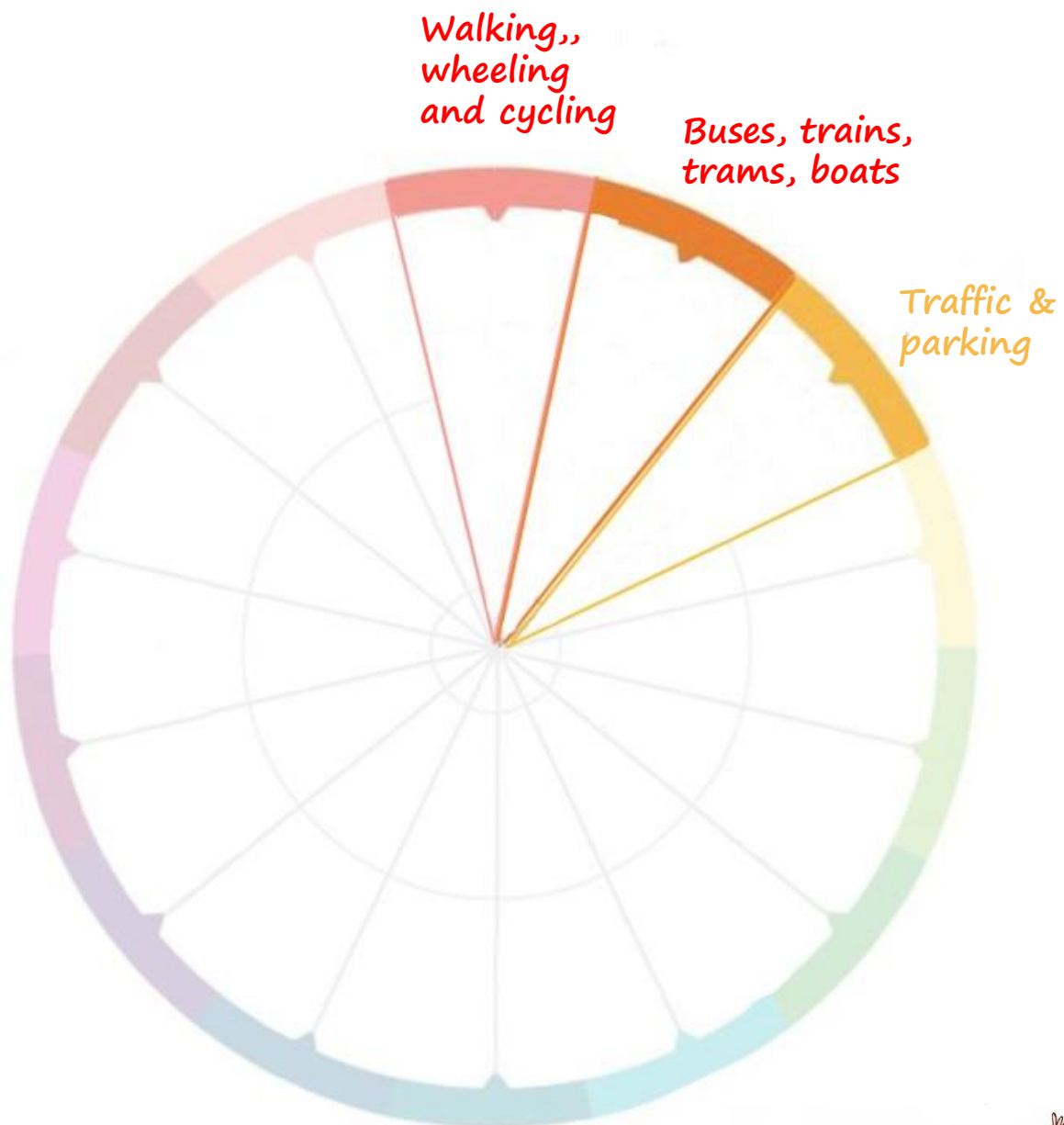


3 - great

it's good or as good as
it can be!

Lets ask some questions about:

How I get from one place to another



How easy is it to walk, scoot, wheel or cycle to places you need and want to go?

You might want to think about things like:

- Can I walk, wheel, cycle or scoot easily and safely to school or the places I play?
- What things would I change to make it easier and safer to walk, wheel, cycle and scoot to school or around my place?
- Is there a difference in how easy it is to walk, wheel, cycle or scoot around?
- What would make it a better place for everyone to get to where they want to go?
- What else is important about walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling in your place?



signs to find your way easily

places to stop

bright lighting

seats for a rest

feel safe

more plants and nature

no cars

interesting walking and wheeling routes

What is good now?

What would you use your magic wand on?

What score would you give to this question?



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some improvement needed!



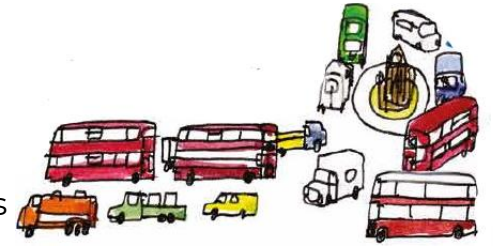
3 - great

it's good or as good as it can be!

Is it easy for me to get where I need to go to by bus, train (or other public transport)?

You might want to think about things like:
How often do I need to get a bus or train (or other public transport)? (everyday, once a week, every month?)

- What changes to public transport would make my journeys easier?
- Do I feel comfortable using the public transport in my place? (happy, scared, on-edge, frustrated?)
- What else is important about public transport in my place?



one ticket/card to cover all types of public transport

bright lighting

feel safe

better information

shelter from weather

the environment

What is good now?

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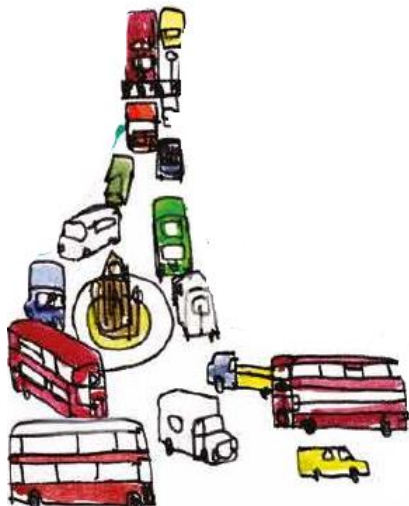


3 - great

it's good or as good as it can be!

How does traffic in my place affect me when I'm out and about?

You might want to think about things like:



- Can I cross the roads safely?
- Have there been many accidents in my area recently? If so, what happened?
- Where are the dangerous roads? Why are they dangerous? How can we make them safer?
- Is parking in a good place? Does it ever get in my way when I am out and about?
- What else is important about traffic and parking in your place?

busy

quiet

slow

fast

places to cross

pollution

scary

paths not wide enough

need to take a longer route

What is good now?

What would you use your magic wand on?

What score would you give to this question?



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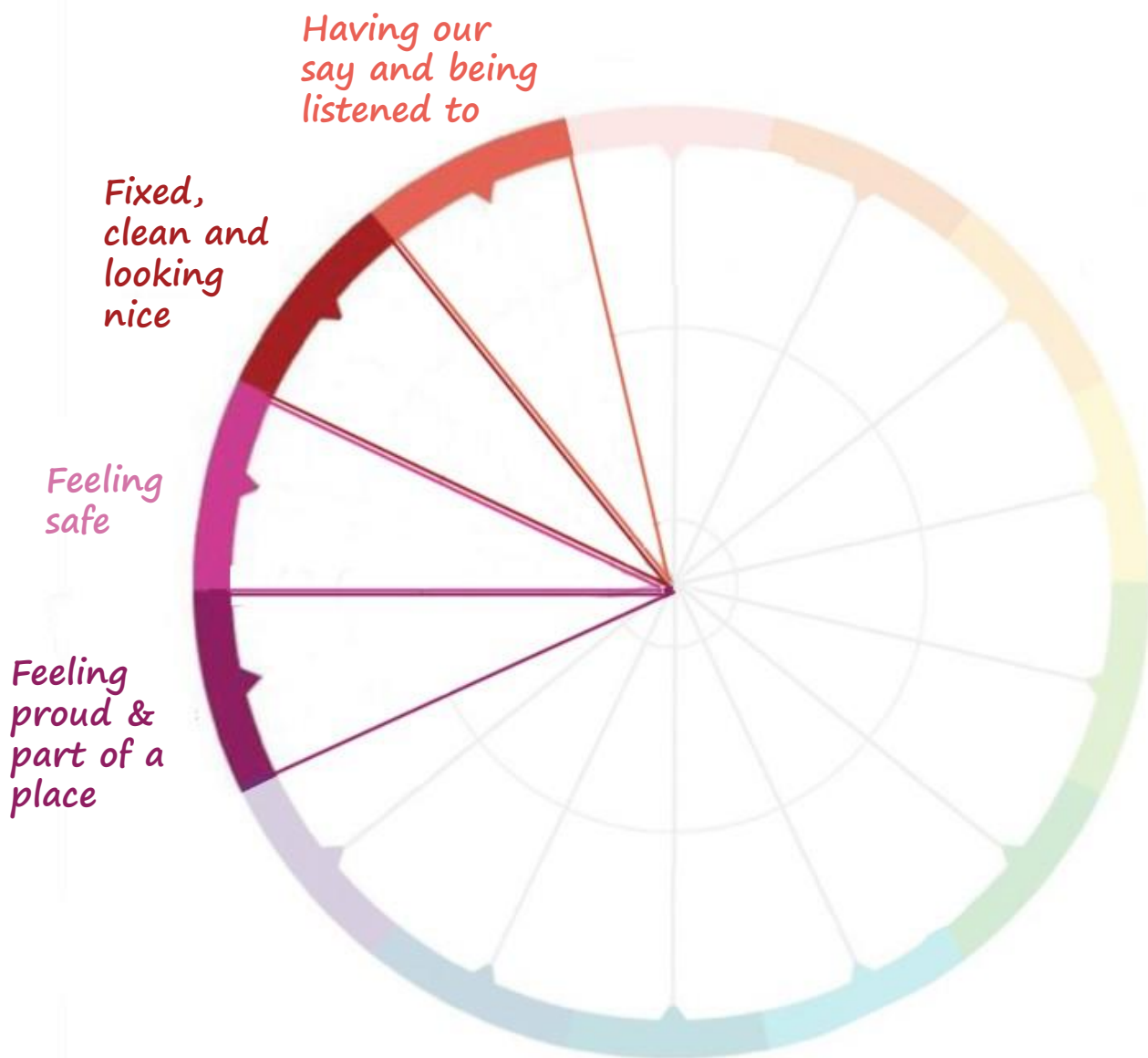


3 - great

it's good or as good as it can be!

Lets ask some questions about:

How I feel and how I care



Having our say and being listened to

When things happen in my place do people include me in decisions and listen to what I say?

You might want to think about things like:

- Have I been asked about I want in my place before?
- Do I like to have my say, and would I like to have my say more?
- Do I feel adults actually listen to me when they make decision changes?
- Am I listened to and asked about big or small changes in my place?
- What are good ways to ask me views about your place?
- Do I ever fell like adults think my opinions about my place are wrong?



easy to take part

feeling ignored

my views are important

not taken seriously

listening to what I think is important

parents

feeling included

What is good now?

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Fixed, clean and looking nice

Is my place clean and are things well cared for?

You might want to think about things like:



- What things could change so that they are always clean, tidy and looking nice?
- How would you like those places cleaned up?
- Does not looking after your place ever make it dangerous for people? and if so, why?
- What do you and other people do to take care of your place?
- What else is important about looking after your place?
- Is my place safe for everyone?

repairs done quickly

unfixed

overgrown

vandalism

recycling

broken

litter picks

more bins

What is good now?

Cartoon image of young girl

What would you use your magic wand on?

What score would you give to this question?



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Do I feel safe in my place?

You might want to think about things like:

- What makes me feel safe or unsafe?
- Do I ever feel scared in my place?
- Are there areas where lots of people feel unsafe?
- Are some places less safe than others; where are they, and when they unsafe?
- What could change to make me feel safe in my place all the time?
- Are there places where bad weather ever makes me feel unsafe? Where are they?
- What else is important about feeling safe in my place?



feeling safe at night

paths

feeling safe during the day

empty buildings

places I'm frightened to go

dark areas

anti-social behaviour

side streets

lighting

in the winter

crime

What is good now?

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Feeling proud and part of my place

Do I feel proud and a part of my place?

You might want to think about things like:



- Do I feel welcome in my place? Why?
- What makes me proud about my place?
- Do I have any monuments, statues or museums in my place? What are they about and what do I think of them?
- Are there traditions in my place? How do I celebrate them?
- What would make me feel prouder and part of your place?
- Do I feel more or less proud and a part of your place than when you were younger? If so, what has changed to make you feel this way?



statues

festivals

arts

crafts

history

gala day

local museums

music

heritage trail

culture

What is good now?

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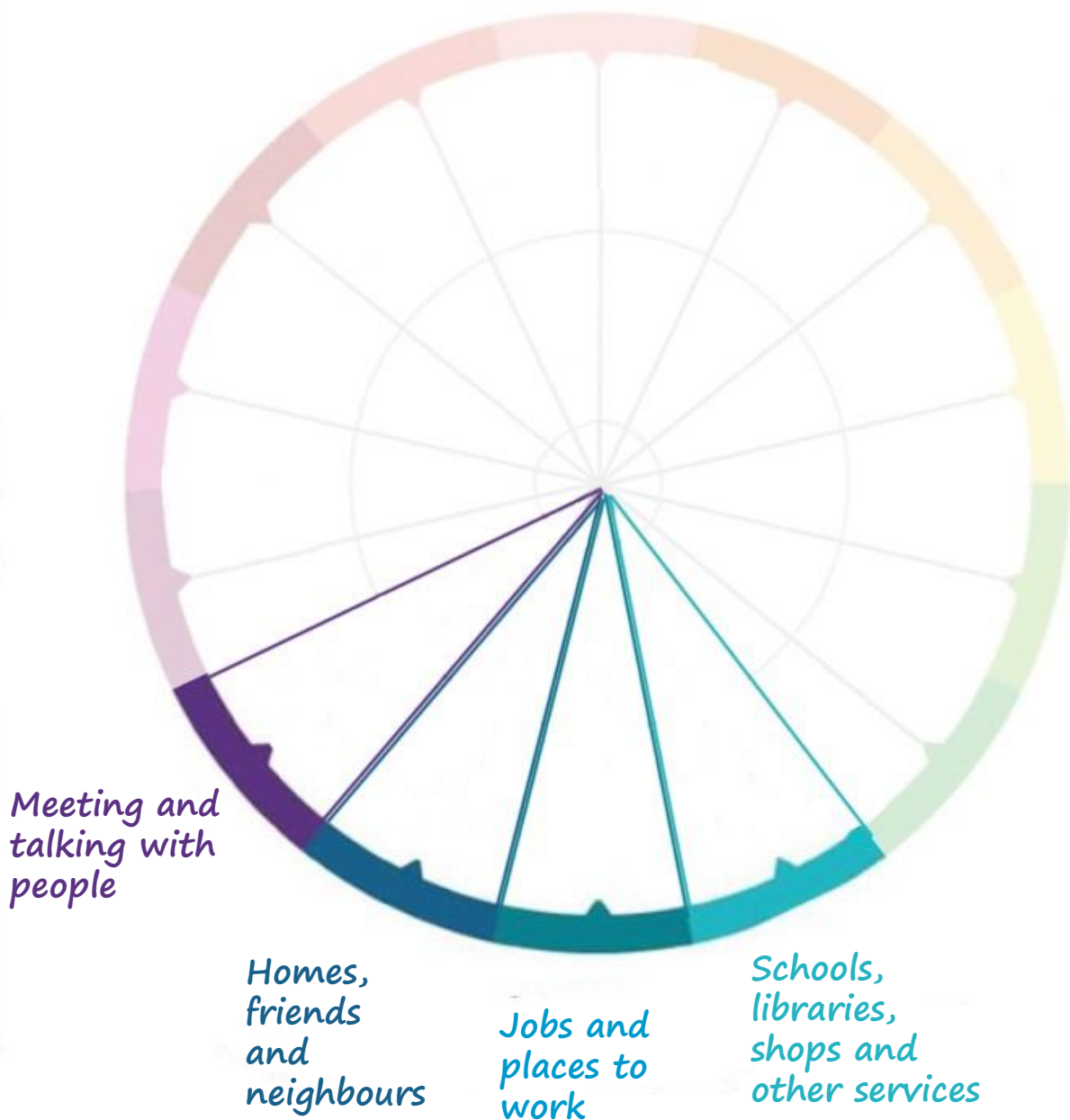


3 - great

it's good or as good as it can be!

Lets ask some questions about:

What I need to live well



Schools, libraries, shops and other services

What are the schools, libraries, shops and places to get what I need like?

You might want to think about things like:



- What is my school like? What things would I change about my school to make things better for children?
- Do I have to go far to visit a doctor or dentist?
- Are there places and spaces where I can join clubs and enjoy hobbies?
- What are the shops like in my place? Can I, or an adult, get most things I need without travelling too far?
- Are there libraries and community halls nearby? What are they like?
- Are the people there to help you kind and friendly?
- Is it easy to get healthy food and take part in healthy activities in my place?

What is good now?

clubs support good shops dentist library easy to find who you need sports hall community hall healthy food doctors people to help me and my family

What would you use your magic wand on?

What score would you give to this question?



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Jobs and places to work

Are there places for people to work and get a good job in my place?

You might want to think about things like:

- Are there places for people to work nearby?
- What kind of work does my family have, and what do I think about it?
- Are the people I know happy with the jobs they have? When I am older, do I think I could get a job I like here? Why?
- If people in my family are at work, who takes care of me? What is the place I stay or people I stay with like?
- Are there places where people can train and learn new jobs
- What else is important about work, shops and local jobs in my place?



good jobs

jobs for my family

training to learn new things

volunteering

jobs are far away

jobs nearby

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Homes, friends and neighbours

How well do the homes in my place meet my needs and my family's needs?

You might want to think about things like:



- Does the home I live in meet my needs? Is it warm and comfortable? Is there enough space?
- Do I live near other family members? If not, how does that make me feel?
- Do the homes in my place look nice? What would make them nicer?
- Does my place need more homes? What kind of homes would I like to see in my place?
- What things could we change to make my neighbourhood better?
- Are people nice to each other in my place?
- How far away do my friends live? Can I visit friends and family without an adult?

a variety of shapes and sizes

homes that look good

more families

flats

small houses

big houses

green gardens

houses that feel safe

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Meeting and talking with people

How nice are the nearby places where I meet with other children and trusted adults?

You might want to think about things like:

- What are these places like?
- Are there enough of them?
- What would make them better to go to?
- Do I meet or talk with friends often enough? How does that make you feel?
- Do I see friends often in places outside school?
- What else is important about meeting people in your place?



weekends

too quiet

feeling lonely

meeting my friends

cafes

child friendly spaces

places to hang out

how often do I meet friends?

What is good now?

What would you use your magic wand on?

What score would you give to this question?



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3 - great

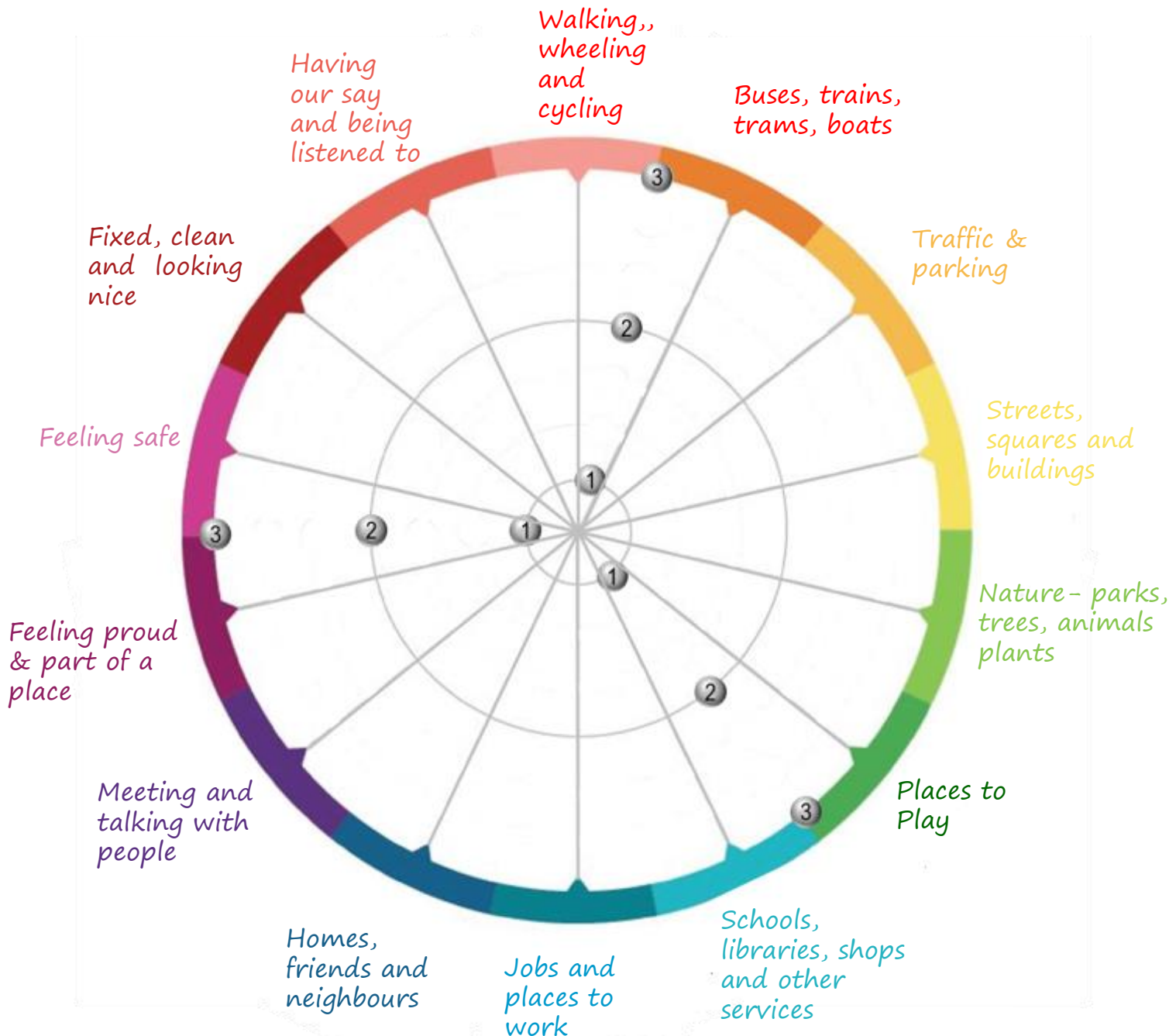
it's good or as good as
it can be!

Place Standard tool

Children's Version

Well done! Now you have all your scores you can draw your Place Standard shape!

Remember, all you need to do is mark your scores on the diagram and then join the dots to draw your Place Standard shape. You can then compare shapes with anyone else who has also completed the wheel. You can ask an adult to help if you like.



Which theme has scored the highest?

Which theme has scored the lowest?

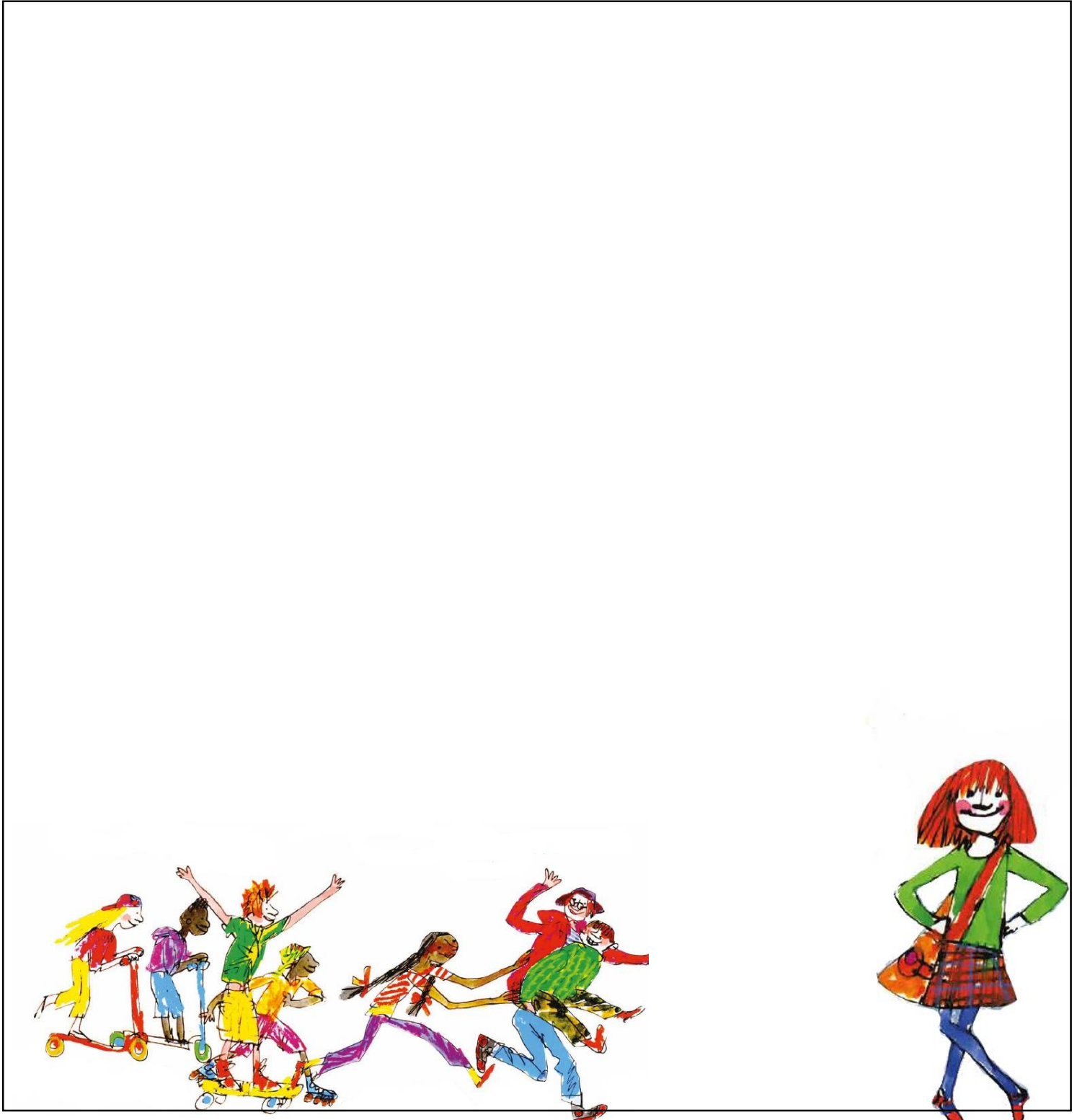
My top list of things to change!

Thinking about all the questions, themes and everything we have talked about, what are the things you think need to change most in your place?

TIP

It's good to use your imagination here as this helps everyone get creative about making your place better.

How would use your magic wand to change your place and make it better?



The Place Standard tool
A Version for Children

Adapted / developed by:



In consultation with children and young people

Special thanks to Tim Archbold for the use of illustrations from
'Play this way' publication

Place Standard Partners:

