

Online Pupil Survey on Health and Wellbeing 2020 - Home Edition

Important Research Ethics Information

(Ethics Reference: R62366/RE008)

Background/scope: This survey is part of a project run by Mina Fazel and Karen Mansfield at the Department of Psychiatry, University of Oxford. The project aims to monitor the mental wellbeing of the school-age population, and to make the data accessible to participating schools, the local authority and their partners, so that they can respond to the needs of the pupils and tailor their support:

<https://www.psych.ox.ac.uk/research/schoolmentalhealth>

June 2020 Edition: This year the survey has been adapted for the current challenges with University of Oxford COVID-19 Research Response funding. Pupils can log in to the survey either from school or from home, to provide anonymous responses to questions that address mental wellbeing, home/school learning, social isolation, support-seeking behaviour, and a range of relevant life-style factors that are most likely to impact or protect their mental health: <https://www.psych.ox.ac.uk/news/effects-of-social-isolation-and-lockdown-on-adolescents-in-oxfordshire>

Research Ethics: The study protocol and associated documents have been reviewed and approved by the University of Oxford Research Ethics Committee (reference: R62366/RE007) and therefore the survey must be conducted in accordance with this approval:

- Communication with parents and pupils about the survey must be in the form of the approved documents provided by the research team
- Parents must be sent the approved information on the research
- Parents of pupils under 16 must be given a week to notify the school if they wish to opt their child out of the research.
- Schools must keep their own records of pupils whose parents have opted out and not invite those pupils to take part.
- Students over 16 years old may decide for themselves whether they take part and schools do not need to await a response from their parents
- Young people who fall under the Mental Capacity Act may not be invited to take part. Pupils must be able to understand the information on the survey and decide for themselves whether or not to take part (to give active assent / informed consent).
- It must be clear in all communication with pupils that this is research and participation is voluntary, not mandatory

Confidentiality: The data are collected anonymously and questions that could make the data identifiable to the research team are excluded (e.g. ethnicity, postcodes or part of them, etc.). The responses are mostly checkboxes or scale responses, with just one free text response within the 'hidden' questions on self-harm (years 8-13 only), where we remind participants that we are collecting anonymous data and not to write anything that might identify themselves or anybody else.

Information Governance (IG): The data will be controlled by the research team at the University of Oxford. Schools will not have access to individual-level data,

only summaries with suppression rules (level 5), where they can see their own results and compare them to the county average (but not identify other schools). Local authorities and their partners will be able to access their aggregated county data and to compare regions/schools. Any individual-level data to be shared with participating local authorities and their partners will be under the terms of data-sharing agreements (university templates). The data will be reviewed by the research team and/or IG officers at the university and measures will be taken to ensure that the new context in which the data are to be shared does not make individual responses identifiable.

Safe-guarding: In the information given at the beginning and end of the survey, pupils are advised that if they are very worried they can contact a trusted adult (e.g. parent/carer/teacher) and links are provided to appropriate websites (e.g. Childline). The research team will review the data on a weekly basis for responses to the question "how safe do you feel at home?". If there are any pupils reporting that they feel unsafe at home then the responses will be reviewed, and if there is concern for the safety of a pupil then the relevant school will be notified immediately. Although we will not be able to identify the individual, the safety of CYPs comes first and we will be able to inform the school of the year group, gender, and any other relevant information, so that schools can respond quickly.