



Dear Parent or Carer,

We would like to make you aware that we are taking part in **St Helen's survey of children's well-being 2019**, which aims to learn more about how children feel about their lives in St. Helens.

The research is being carried out jointly with the Children's Society who have been involved with this study since 2005 and they will be helping to prepare a borough report for the Council on what it feels like to be a child or young person living, learning and potentially working in St Helens.

Children in Years 8 & 10 will be asked to take part in an age appropriate survey over the next month, but no child has to take part if they do not want to. They can also choose to not answer questions should they decide not to. The survey takes about 20 minutes during form time and it is online.

The survey is confidential. It doesn't ask for children's names and no one will be able to identify individual children's answers.

In preparation for the survey being completed by children and young people, we have worked with colleagues from the Local Authority Information Governance (IG) Team and the Children's Society IG Team to ensure that this piece of research complies with the General Data Protection Legislation and Data Protection Act 2018. All responses from pupils will be anonymous at source and the legal basis for processing the information will be:

- 6 (1) (e) necessary for a task carried out in the public interest
- 9 (2) (j) necessary for statistical purposes

We hope that your child will be able to help us with this important research project. However, if you would like your child to opt out of participating, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Kenyon via email (j.kenyon@rainford.org.uk) by Friday 17th October 2019.

We have also included an information sheet with this letter giving you more information about the survey and also key contact details if you would like to discuss with the researchers.

Kind regards,

Mr Kenyon
Assistant Principal

Information for parents and carers

Since 2005, The Children's Society has been researching into children's subjective well-being. Annually producing our state of the nation report, The Good Childhood Report, for the last eight years.

We are working with St Helens council and the integrated children's commissioning group to conduct a well-being inquiry into how children in the local area feel about their lives. To do this we will be running an online survey and focus groups.

The purpose of the survey is to hear from children on a number of topics about their lives including; how they feel about their lives as a whole, their relationships with friends and family and how they feel about their local environment.

What the survey involves

- The survey consists of an online questionnaire which children themselves are asked to answer during lesson time. It takes about 20 minutes for children to complete and the content of the questionnaire has been extensively piloted.
- All survey responses are confidential and anonymous, and no information will be published which could identify individual schools or children. The questions are in tick box format.
- The questions have received ethics approval through our research partner, the University of York.

What the survey covers

The survey will ask children about their thoughts and feelings about different aspects of their lives. The themes included in this survey relate to subjects that are covered under the national curriculum for PHSE. Topics that are covered in the survey include:

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|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ▪ Feelings about life overall | ▪ Optimism and the future |
| ▪ School | ▪ Local area |
| ▪ Health | ▪ Money and possessions |
| ▪ Family & home | ▪ Resilience |
| ▪ Friendships | ▪ Relationships |
| | ▪ Safety |

What will happen after the survey has been carried out in your school

We will be analysing the data as part of the project to understand children's well-being in St Helens, producing a report for the local authority. We will let the school know when the report will be published.

We anticipate that the findings from the survey will be published during spring 2020 and we will ensure that the school receives information about this at the time of publication. Additionally, a brief report on findings for the school can be provided on request.

Further information

If you need any further information on the survey, please contact:

Dr Alexandra Turner, Researcher, The Children's Society

E-mail: Alexandra.Turner@childrenssociety.org.uk

Telephone: 020 7841 4633

Julie Dunning

Children's Commissioner

Email: juliedunning@sthelens.gov.uk

Telephone: 01744 671097

We hope that you and the children in your school will be interested in taking part in this survey and helping us to learn more about children well-being.