

Our Ref: KIW/EMH

21 February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

HEALTH RELATED BEHAVIOUR SURVEY

Our school, along with many others, has agreed to participate in a very important health related behaviour survey of children and young people. This survey supports the work of Children and Families Newcastle of which Newcastle City Council is a partner.

We stand to benefit through our participation in the survey in several ways. For example, the survey results may prompt us to review the Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum. It will also help as a:

- Starting point for classroom discussion and activities
- Guide in choosing resource materials to support healthier lifestyle choices
- Guide for staff training requirements
- Starting point for discussions between parents and schools
- Valuable source of information to help support our COVID recovery programme

The survey method that we are using has been developed by the Schools Health Education Unit and has been in use for over 40 years, with Gosforth Academy students completing the survey in previous years.

The questions concern a wide range of health behaviours, for example:

- Relationships, Mental health and emotional wellbeing,
- Tobacco, alcohol, drugs, and medicines
- Online safety
- Healthy eating
- Exercise

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- Sexual health (Secondary schools only)
- Dental health
- Home and family

As a result of the survey Children and Families Newcastle will have reliable information from which it can better plan to meet the health needs of children and young people. They and the school find the content of the questionnaire acceptable. We hold a copy of the questionnaire in the school office. You are welcome to view it; please ask at the School Office.

Each questionnaire is anonymous and confidential, and no pupil will be identified when the data is returned to school. The City Council's Public Health team will receive a summary of schools' results and data for use in further analysis. They will use this to help in planning and targeting resources and services. Any data protection concerns are covered in the 'Privacy Notice for Pupils', which can be found with this letter.

I hope you will agree with us that this is an exercise in which we wish to co-operate fully. I will assume you do approve unless I hear otherwise, and I look forward to working with you to support improved health and wellbeing for our pupils.

As part of the survey, it will be helpful if your child brings their full home postcode to school to enable statistics to be produced for larger areas such as wards. No individual's answers will be linked to your child's name or address. The survey will probably be carried out on 9th March.

Yours faithfully



Mr P. Chahal
Principal

Privacy Notice – school surveys

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1. Who are you?

We are a research unit in South-West England. We have been asked by the school or the Council to help collect information from young people. www.sheu.org.uk

2. What will I be asked?

You will be asked about your habits and feelings, and other important things about you.

You will not be asked for your name or address, and please don't tell us!

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3. Why do you want to know this?

The reports are used to plan lessons and services for young people, and to see what has changed since the last survey.

The school will see if your lessons fit in with what you and other young people tell us. We want to be sure what we are doing is right.

4. How will you use my information?

We will send reports to schools and the Council, showing them how many pupils gave different answers. The reports might say things like:

- 30% of pupils in this school had cereal for breakfast, but in the whole County the figure was 40%



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5. How will you collect this information?

We are going to ask you questions in a questionnaire, on a website or in a printed booklet.



6. How do you keep this information?

Your answers will be kept safe on our computers. We keep records for many years, so that we can see how young people's lives are changing.



7. Are you allowed to do this? ('legal basis for processing')

The Council is allowed to collect information to help it plan and monitor things it does to support young people's education, health and wellbeing-the sorts of things it has to do ('legal functions' and 'public interest').

SHEU is allowed to use information to produce its reports as long as no-one can tell what answers you gave ('legitimate interests').



8. Who gets to see the information?

Only staff from SHEU and from the Council who need to see the information to do their job are allowed to see your answers. They won't show your answers to anyone else. Everyone else sees only percentages. No-one in your school sees your answers.

BUT if you tell us something that makes us think you are in danger, we will have to tell your school that someone has said it, even if we can't find out who you are.



9. What's next?

If you agree with all this, please tick the box at the start of the survey. If not, don't take part.

You can leave out any questions you don't want to answer, and you can stop at any time.

Later, if you want to see what we know about you, you can ask, and you can tell us to delete it. But remember, we might not be able to find your answers.

