**The Big Summer Survey**

***FAQs for schools***

**What is The Big Summer Survey?**

The Children’s Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, wants to hear more from children about their summer holidays. This is to create a unique picture of children’s lives over the summer, how they have spent time with their families during the holidays, and how this compares to term time. There is very little currently known at a national level about how children spend their time over the summer break and this new research will really add to that picture.

There will be questions about the child (like their age and gender). This is to ensure that the answers represent the children properly. The survey will then ask children some questions about how they spent their summer holidays, and the time they spent with their family. **We won’t ask for any identifiable information** like names or phone numbers,and **everything children tell us will be kept completely anonymous**.

**What is the Family Review?**

The Children’s Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, is conducting a review of family life in England. The Big Summer Survey will form part of that review.

Last year, the Children’s Commissioner ran [The Big Ask](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-big-answer/), the largest ever survey of children, in which children told her that family is really important to them. But children also said they don’t always get to spend enough quality time with their families.

Now, the Children’s Commissioner wants to hear more from children, especially how they feel about family life and how they have spent the summer holidays. We will use the answers to inform the Government about the best ways to support families.

**Do children need to respond to every question?**

The survey requires an answer to every question. However, if a child does not want to provide any information in response to the question they can select ‘prefer not to say’.

**Are you able to provide translations of the survey in other languages?**

Unfortunately, we aren’t able to provide translations. The surveys have been designed to be appropriate for a wide range of literacy ability however some level of English is required to complete the survey independently.

**Will I be able to get the data for my school?**

A national report will be available, which will include analysis of the data overall, broken down by things like age, gender, and ethnicity. Because it would not be possible to provide comparable statistics, data will not be published at the local or school level and the CCo will be unable to provide school level reports back to school leaders.

**Why are we asking for the name of the school the child attends?**

We are asking for school name for two main reasons:

1. As this is an online ‘opt-in’ survey, we know that some groups are more likely to fill in our survey than others. Research conducted by ImpactEd and SchoolDash with schools showed that school characteristics were useful for understanding where responses may have been lower for certain groups. So, we will look at the school characteristics as well as the characteristics of the respondent to understand where the survey has good coverage.
2. We want to understand the relationship between the high-level school characteristics such as the type of school and the percentage of children in receipt of free school meals and the opinions and experiences of the young people who respond to our survey. This will help us to make informed recommendations where additional, targeted support may be required.

We won’t publish or release any data at the school-level or identify any schools in any of our publications.

If children don’t want to provide the name of the school that they attend, then they can select ‘prefer not to say’ in response to the question ‘do you attend school or college’?

**Is the survey appropriate for children with SEND?**

The survey has been designed such that it can be completed independently by children aged 7 – 16. The survey is powered by Smart Survey which is compatible with the most used screen readers and uses accessible design. The survey should be appropriate for children with mild to moderate learning difficulties or disability however children with complex additional needs will need additional support to complete the survey.

Teaching assistants, teachers, SENCOs and parents are very welcome to support their children to complete the survey and can fill out the survey on a child’s behalf.

For children using a mobile screen reader, the survey will work with both Voiceover (IOS) and Talkback (Android) but error messages may not be announced correctly using these readers. An error message will only occur where a question has not been answered. All questions require a response, however if the child doesn’t want to provide any information in response to the question they can select ‘prefer not to say’.

**Can I see the survey questions offline?**

A word version of the survey questions is available [here](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-big-summer-survey/).

Unfortunately, we are unable to receive completed paper copies of the survey.