OxWell Student Survey 2025

PRIMARY SCHOOL INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS / GUARDIANS

Ethics Approval Reference: R62366/RE017

Your child's school is participating in the OxWell study, which is investigating student health and wellbeing. This information sheet explains why the study is being conducted, what it involves, and how your child's data will be handled. Participation in the study is voluntary. If you do not want your child to take part, please inform the school directly before the scheduled survey date. There is no need to respond if you are happy for your child to participate.

What are we trying to find out?

This study aims to better understand the health and wellbeing of young people by asking students directly about their school life and their health. This information will help schools and local services improve mental health support.

For more information about the study, visit our website (https://oxwell.org/) or contact the research team at: oxwell@psych.ox.ac.uk.

Why has my child been invited to take part?

Your child has been included because their school has agreed to participate and they are aged 9 years or older and currently in school years 5 or 6.

Does my child have to take part?

No. Participation is voluntary. If you do not want your child to take part, please inform the school as soon as possible. You do not need to do anything if you are happy for your child to participate.

What will happen if my child takes part?

If your child takes part, they will complete an online survey during a designated time at school. The survey includes approximately 50 questions about school experiences, lifestyle and health. At the start of the survey, your child will be asked to confirm that they are happy to participate. They will also be provided with links to resources for additional support if needed. (e.g., http://www.childline.org.uk).

What are the disadvantages and risks of taking part?

Some survey questions may touch on sensitive topics such as bullying and access to mental health supports. While this can be uncomfortable, links to support services will be provided.

We do not wish to identify students and therefore do **not** ask for names, addresses, date of birth or use individual logins. Data will be collected using Qualtrics, a secure online tool approved by the University of Oxford.

Are there any benefits in taking part?

There are no direct benefits to your child. However, their participation will contribute to valuable research that can help schools and services understand the challenges students face and improve provision of support.

What information will be collected and why is the collection of this information relevant for achieving the research objectives?

We are interested in information on your child's health and well-being and collect information when they complete an online survey. While some questions may cover sensitive topics such as bullying, your child can skip any questions they do not wish to answer. The information your child provides is considered research data. Any data from which your child could be identified is known as personal data. In this study, we do not wish to identify students and have taken measures to minimise this risk. For example, we do not collect names, addresses, dates of birth, parent professions, IP addresses, or use individual logins for the survey. Students will use a school login to access the survey, and records of parental opt-outs will be held by the school. While the survey includes some sensitive questions related to mental health, your child can leave any question blank. The OxWell Study team will have access to the research data.

We would like to use your child's data in future studies and to share this with other researchers through secure databases. Before sharing or publishing any results, all information that could identify your child will be removed or changed. An up-to-date list of researchers with access to the data is available on our study website.

All data is stored securely on password-protected servers at the University of Oxford. It will be kept for 20 years to support ongoing research. Summaries of the findings will be shared with schools, school trusts, local authorities, NHS clinical commissioners, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, public health, third sector and education teams. These organisations may use the results to improve the support and services they provide. Some may also be given access to summaries of the data via an online platform (OxHub) which will allow for deeper analysis and comparisons. No individual survey responses will be accessible.

Data Protection

The University of Oxford is the data controller with respect to your child's personal data, and as such will determine how your child's personal data is used in the research. The University will process your child's personal data for the purpose of the research outlined above. Research is a task that is performed in the public interest. If we identify a safeguarding risk in our research results, we will process your child's personal data where it is necessary to protect their vital interests in relation to their health and safety and we process their health data where it is considered to meet a substantial public interest in safeguarding children at risk. Further information about data rights is available from the University's Information Compliance website at: https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/individual-rights.

Who has reviewed this research?

This research has received ethics approval from a subcommittee of the University of Oxford Central University Research Ethics Committee (reference: R62366/RE017).

Who is funding this research?

It is funded by the NIHR Applied Research Collaboration Oxford and Thames Valley.

Who do I contact if I have a concern about the research or I wish to complain?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, contact Shreena Patel, the OxWell administrator, at oxwell@psych.ox.ac.uk or call 01865 613191, and we will do our best to answer your query. We will acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how it will be dealt with. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the University of Oxford Research Governance, Ethics & Assurance (RGEA) team at rgea.complaints@admin.ox.ac.uk or on +44 (0)1865 616480.

Further information and contact details

If you are happy for your child to participate, you do not need to do anything. If you do not want your child to participate, please contact your child's school or use the school's usual methods for

parental opt-out. If you would like to discuss the research with someone beforehand (or if you have questions afterwards), please contact:

Shreena Patel (Project Manager) or Professor Mina Fazel (Principal Investigator)
Department of Psychiatry
Warneford Hospital
Oxford
Tel.: 01865 613191
Email: mailto:oxwell@psych.ox.ac.uk.