Lesley Munro
Service Director
Education and Lifelong Learning

Parent & Carers
Of P5 to S6 Pupils
Scottish Borders Schools

Please ask for: *Lesley Munro*
Our Ref: *LM/EH080322*
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Date: *10 March 2022*

Dear Parent / Carer

HEALTH AND WELLBEING CENSUS 2021/22

We aim to improve children's services within Scottish Borders. To help with this, we are asking schools to take part in the Health and Wellbeing Census 2021-22 which asks all children in Primary 5 (P5) to Secondary 6 (S6) about their lives and wellbeing.

Your child will be asked to complete an online questionnaire by their teacher in class.
Answers to further questions you may have, in the form of a FAQ sheet, can be found on the Scottish Borders Council website: https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/HWBcensus

Alternatively, the FAQ sheet can be issued to you through your school if requested.
Your child or young person will also be given an electronic leaflet, giving information about the survey, via their iPads.

Why are we asking children to take part?
The results will be used to understand the health and wellbeing needs of children. This will help to improve the way children's services such as education, health and voluntary organisations are planned and delivered.

What questions will be asked?
The questions will cover a range of Health & Wellbeing topics, appropriate to the child's age. These questions have been reviewed by: Education Officers; a group of Elected Members and a small group of Parent Council Chairs to ensure they are appropriate.
The Relationships and Sexual Health questions, which received some national press coverage in December, have been removed following this consultation exercise. These would have been included in S4/S5 and S6 surveys.

Keeping your child's information safe
The results will not look at children's responses individually or enable an individual child to be identified. The answers provided by your child will be linked to other information already held about your child. For example, information already held by us such as your child's sex, ethnic background, the area they live in. This will only be for statistical and research purposes. Please see the frequently asked questions for more information.

Your child will not be asked to provide their name. However, they will be asked to enter their Scottish Candidate Number (SCN).

Your child's name will not be linked to your child's answers.
However, if while looking at the data, our Scottish Borders team see anything that concerns them, they may need to do something to help a child. This would be the only time that we would match the identity of a child using a separate database we have access to that includes children's names and their Scottish Candidate Number. This will only happen in exceptional circumstances.

Do I have to do anything?
You **do not** have to do anything if you are:

- Happy for your child to take part in the survey and for their answers to be linked to other data for statistical and research purposes and
- Aware that your child's identity will remain confidential unless a concern is identified which your local authority may need to act on to help your child.

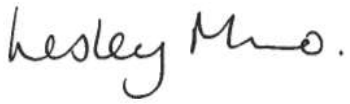
If, however, you do **not** wish your child to take part in this survey, please complete the survey link below:-
https://forms.office.com/r/eBuHLXsY4J

This information will be passed to the schools before the surveys are undertaken.
Alternatively**,** contact your school directly and they will record you do not want your child to take part.
Your child is also able to choose not to take part, even if you say they can.

You can find out more by visiting the Scottish Government's website:
www.gov.scot/publications/health-and-wellbeing-census-2/

Alternatively, you can contact your school or email SeniorMgtSupport@scotborders.gov.uk for additional information.

Yours sincerely



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