



Department
for Education

Growing **Up**
in the **2020s**

Your views matter!

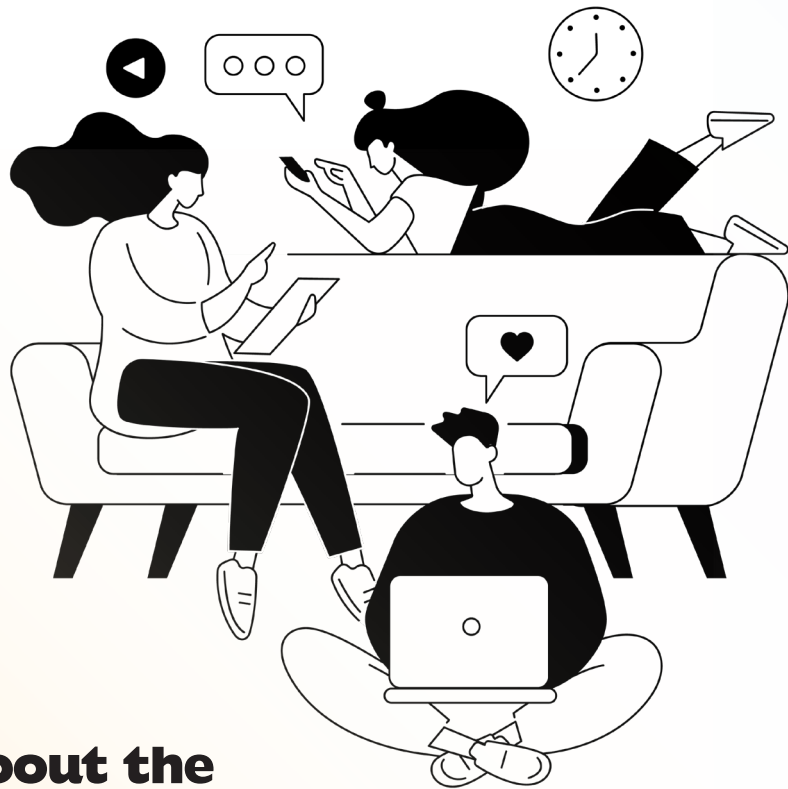
Join our major new study following young people growing up in England in the 2020s



Anna Freud
building the mental
wellbeing of the
next generation



24-015523 / AL



About the study

Growing Up in the 2020s is a landmark national study which will follow thousands of young people in England as they go through secondary school.

The study will provide crucial insights about young people's wellbeing and education outcomes. It also aims to find out why some young people have fewer positive experiences and outcomes than others.

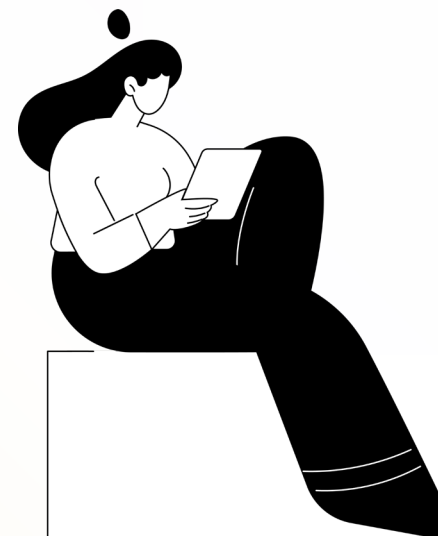
The findings will help researchers, governments, and policy makers develop systems and policies in schools and elsewhere to support young people and their families.

Growing Up in the 2020s is a unique study that follows young people as they get older to understand how they are getting on in our changing world. We will invite families to take part each year. It will always be up to you to decide if you want to take part.

Why are you writing to me?

The study will look at the experiences of young people all over England. The young person mentioned in the letter has been selected at random from the young people who are in Year 8 in the 2024/25 academic year. They will be part of a group that will represent all young people in their age group.

Each young person and their family selected for the study is unique and we can't replace you with anyone else!



How will the study make a difference?

By participating, you will help us gather important evidence about how young people's experiences at school, home, and in their relationships influence their grades, qualifications, wellbeing, and employment.

The findings from Growing Up in the 2020s will provide decision-makers with a clearer understanding of the challenges young people face. This will help to design support services and educational approaches that will benefit families and young people for years to come.

How long will it take?

Taking part involves an interview with the selected young person and with a parent/guardian. The interviews will be carried out during a visit to your home which will last just under an hour. There is also a short web survey for parents/carers.

What's involved for parents/carers?

Household interview

We will ask one father, mother or other parental carer to take part in a household interview that will take around 20 minutes. The interview will include general questions about family members, household circumstances and relationships, and the young person's education, health and experiences. Some questions will be asked by the interviewer, and some will be for parents/carers to answer on their own using the interviewer's tablet.

Web survey

We will ask up to two parents or carers in your household (where applicable) to complete a short web survey, including the parent who completed the household interview and one other parent or carer.

The web surveys will each take around 15-20 minutes. They will cover topics such as parents' education and employment, health and wellbeing, family relationships, and views on children's schooling.



What does the young person interview involve?

The young person will be invited to take part in an interview. Some questions will be asked by the interviewer, and some will be for the young person to answer on their own using the interviewer's tablet.

This will take around 20 minutes. The questions will cover a range of topics including:

- health and wellbeing
- school
- friends and family
- how they spend their time

The information you provide will be used for research purposes only.

What is the young person thinking activity?

The young person will also be asked to take part in a short activity on the interviewer's tablet. Alongside the information you provide in the interviews, this activity will help researchers understand how young people's thinking skills develop as they go through adolescence, and how this relates to education, the support received in school, and wellbeing.

The activity has been developed for research with young people and is widely used, and our interviewers have been given special training in how to carry it out. It should take less than 10 minutes. Young people will be asked to look at some visual puzzles and fill in the blanks by spotting the patterns in shapes, colours, or arrangements.

We find that young people tend to enjoy taking part in this activity.



Feedback

Our interviewers cannot give any feedback about the young person's performance in the activity. This is because the activity is designed to measure the range of skills that all young people at that age have, rather than the ability of each individual.

The activity is also not a diagnostic test and performance cannot be used for diagnostic purposes.

What if I need support?

If you need help to complete the interview or the survey, please speak to your interviewer. The interviewer will be able to help with reading out the questions on the tablet, or, if you prefer, someone else in the household can help too.

Who is carrying out the study?

The study is funded by the Department for Education (DfE). It is being led by the organisation Anna Freud, working in collaboration with University College London and Ipsos. Ipsos will be carrying out the interviews.

How will the interviews and thinking activity be carried out?

In order to make sure we hear from each person individually it is best if each family member answers their questions on their own, without being overheard or interrupted by others.

Ideally, the interview and thinking activity should be carried out in a quiet and well-lit room, away from distractions and disruptions (if possible, at a table). Your interviewer will speak to you about what will work best for everyone.



What else is involved?

Survey for teachers: If you agree, we will also contact the young person's form tutor/teacher.

The teacher survey covers topics such as how the young person is getting on at school and in lessons, and how they get on with other students at school.

We will never share the answers of one person in the study with anyone else. All the answers will be looked at together, anonymously.

Data linkage: Data linkage is the process of adding information to your study responses. We will combine information you give in the survey with information already held by DfE to build a much rounder picture of families' lives. For parents, we will also ask your permission to add information about you held by public bodies outside DfE including the NHS. This will make the study even more valuable without taking up more of your time.

The interviewer will explain more when they visit and will be able to answer any questions you might have.

What happens to the information I provide?

All information you provide will be treated in the strictest confidence in accordance with UK data protection legislation. The data is collected and used for research purposes only.

The answers you provide as part of the study will be anonymised and made available securely by DfE to researchers conducting legitimate research on young people's education and wellbeing. You can read the study's Privacy Notice here: www.growingup2020s.ipsos.com/privacy. DfE will hold identifiable data for as long as it is needed to contact you for research and statistical purposes. Identifiable data will be kept separate from your study responses.

The study has been reviewed by the UCL Research Ethics Committee, an independent group of researchers, to protect your safety, rights, wellbeing and dignity (reference no. 28343/001)



Do I have to take part?

You do not have to take part. If you do take part, you are free to withdraw from any activity or part of the study. If you do not wish to be contacted about this study, you can contact us using the details provided on the back page of this leaflet.

If you choose to opt out from participating in the study after initially taking part, you will be withdrawn from that point forward. However, any data collected up to the point of withdrawal will remain in the study records unless you explicitly request for it to be deleted.

What if I'm concerned about something in my life?

Sometimes people can become upset about something that they answer during questionnaires like this. If you do feel upset, it is best to speak about it rather than keeping it to yourself. You should tell your parent or carer, teacher, or another adult who you trust.

We also provide you with the contact details of organisations that can provide you with additional support.

Where do I find out more?

You can find more information on our website. You can also email us or call us. See details in the box.

When contacting us, please quote the reference number on the letter accompanying this leaflet.

 growingup2020s@ipsos.com

 growingup2020s.ipsos.com

 **0800 182 2137**

We will keep in touch with study families and send you updates on what we find out along the way – we look forward to speaking to you!

