



## **Relationships and Sex Education Study - Information for Parents/Carers**

We are researchers from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). We are working with your child's school to evaluate relationships and sex education in secondary schools in England.

As part of this, we will be inviting all year-11 students at your child's school, including your child, to fill in a questionnaire. We cannot promise that the questionnaire will directly benefit your child. But the information will be used to improve relationships and sex education for young people. We would like your child to take part but this is up to them and you. If your child decides to take part, they will complete the questionnaire privately in a classroom or hall at school. The questionnaire should take about 45 minutes to complete. A trained researcher will be available to explain and answer any questions your child has about the questionnaire.

The questionnaire includes questions about your child's: family and background; relationships and sexual experiences; experiences of violence in dating relationships; health and wellbeing; knowledge and skills needed for sexual health; attitudes to gender and relationships; and their friends' attitudes to relationships and sex. Some students may find some questions upsetting. All students who are invited to participate will receive information about sources of advice and support both within and outside their school, should they want to speak to someone about relationships, sex or any issue they or someone they know are going through.

What your child tells us in the questionnaire will be treated as confidential and anonymous. Only approved researchers and authorities who check that the study is being carried out properly will be allowed to look at the information. All data will be stored in accordance with data protection laws, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The answers your child provides will be stored securely in our offices and uploaded on to a computer that only the research team can access. Your child's name will not appear on the database. This will instead have an identity code for each student. We will keep a list of student names and identity codes, but this list will be stored securely on a computer completely separately to student questionnaire answers. No single researcher will have access to both sets of data.

When we analyse the answers to the questionnaire and write scientific reports based on the data we will look at the results from lots of participants together not individual answers, so no one will be able to identify students' personal responses. We are required to keep all data for 20 years, and then it will be destroyed. We may share data with other researchers based in the UK but this will not include names or other information which could identify participants. Our methods have been approved by a research ethics committee.

However, if a student reports that they have had sex before the age of 13 years, have experienced forced sex, would like to be contacted by their school safeguarding lead, or they write on the questionnaire that they have experienced any form of abuse, we will need to take action. In such instances, a member of the research team would request access to the file containing student names and codes so that they can match the questionnaire to the student

name. A member of the research team would then pass this information on to the school's safeguarding lead so that young person can be protected.

Your child will only fill in the questionnaire if they agree to. Your child will receive written and verbal information about the questionnaire and be able to ask questions before they decide whether or not to take part. If they choose to take part, they may stop taking part at any time so that we destroy their questionnaire. We would keep any data collected from them previously. They can also choose not to answer particular questions. There will be no negative consequences for not taking part.

If you are happy for your child to complete the questionnaire, you do NOT need to do anything.

If you are not happy for your child to take part or if you would like to ask any questions about this research before it takes place, please contact the research team by XX/XX/XX by emailing Ruth Ponsford (ruth.ponsford@lshtm.ac.uk). Alternatively, you can tell the school directly that you do not want your child to participate by contacting XXXX (telephone: XXXX or email: XXXX). If you tell the study team or school that you do not want your child to participate, your child will not be asked to fill in a questionnaire on the day.

If you have any concerns or complaints about this research, please contact the research team (contact details above). If you would prefer to speak with someone outside of the research team about your concern or complaint, please contact XXXX who is leading on the project for your school. Or you can contact the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Research Governance and Integrity Office at [rgio@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:rgio@lshtm.ac.uk) or 020 7927 2626.

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine is the sponsor for the research and has full responsibility for the project including the collection, storage and analysis of your data, and will act as the data controller for the study. This means that we are responsible for looking after all participant information and using it properly.

As a university, we use personally identifiable information to conduct research to improve health, care and services. As a publicly funded organisation, we have to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally identifiable information from people who have agreed to take part in research.

We need to manage all data including from students in specific ways for the research to be reliable. This means we won't be able to show data to participants or change it.

You can find out more about how we use participant information

- At <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/files/research-participant-privacy-notice.pdf>
- by sending an email to [DPO@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:DPO@lshtm.ac.uk)
- for UK studies at <https://www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/>

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine holds insurance policies which apply to this study. In the extremely unlikely even of harm to participants as a result of taking part in this study, they may be eligible to claim compensation.



Below is a list of organisations that provide help and advice for young people and parents:

- **NSPCC Childline** are also available on **0800 1111**, 24 hours a day, every day of the year if you are concerned for any reason about a child you know.
- **Brook**: Provide help and advice about relationships and sex for under 25s: [www.brook.org.uk](http://www.brook.org.uk).
- **Switchboard LGBT+ Helpline**: Provides information, support and referral services for lesbians, gay men and bisexual and trans people, and anyone considering issues around their sexuality or gender identity. Call 0800 0119 100 or visit [www.switchboard.lgbt](http://www.switchboard.lgbt)
- **Rape Crisis**: Provides information on nearest services for people who have experienced sexual violence. Call 0808 500 2222 or visit their website [www.rapecrisis.org.uk](http://www.rapecrisis.org.uk)
- **The Samaritans**: Someone to talk to, available 24 hours a day for confidential, non-judgmental support. Call 116 123 or visit [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

Many thanks for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Bonell', written in a cursive style.

Professor Chris Bonell  
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine