

Relationships and Sex Education Study - Information for Students

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

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

The questionnaire includes questions about your: 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 your friends' attitudes to relationships and sex. Some students may find some questions upsetting. The school knows about the questionnaire and support will be available for any students who are upset by any questions.

What you tell 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 you provide. We are based in the UK and all information will be stored in line with the UK's strict data protection laws including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The answers you give will be stored securely in our offices on a computer database that only the researchers can access. Your name will not appear on the database. This will instead have an identity code for each student. We will keep a separate list of student names and identity codes. This list will be securely stored on a different computer to the database of student answers. No single researcher can access both of these.

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. No-one will be able to identify you. 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 you. Our methods have been approved by a research ethics committee.

However, if you report that you have had sex before the age of 13 years, have experienced forced sex, would like to be contacted by your school safeguarding lead, or if you write on the questionnaire that you have experienced any form of abuse, we will need to take action. If this happens, we would request special access to the list of student names linked to identity codes. We would then pass your name to your school's safeguarding lead so that they can help you.

You will only fill in the questionnaire if you agree to. On the day of the questionnaire a researcher will go through this information sheet and explain what is involved. You will be able to ask questions before you decide whether or not to take part. If you choose to take part, you may stop taking part at any time so that we destroy your questionnaire. We would keep any data collected from you previously. You can also choose not to answer particular questions. There will be no negative consequences for not taking part.



If you are happy to complete the questionnaire, you do NOT need to do anything right now.

If you are not happy 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 XXXX by calling or emailing XXXX. Or you can tell the school directly that you do not want to participate by informing XXXX. (telephone: XXXX or email: XXXX). You can also decide not to take part on the day of the survey. Feel free to discuss how you feel with your family or friends before you decide. It is fine not to take part and this won't have any bad consequences for you.

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 and Tropical Medicine Research Governance and Integrity Office at rgio@lshtm.ac.uk or 020 7927 2626.

A list of organisations you can contact for information, advice and support is provided below. If anything in the questionnaire causes you to feel concerned or upset, you should speak to a trusted adult such as a parent/carer or member of staff at your school. You can also speak privately to the researcher present on the day. If you would like to talk to someone at your school about how you are feeling you can contact [XXXXX] who is your school's safeguarding lead. If you ask for their help, the safeguarding lead will meet with you to find out more about your concern and how to respond. If you need help outside of school time you can contact [local safeguarding referral utilised by the school if available over school holidays] by calling XXXX.

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

- **Sexual health clinic local to school**
- **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. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/our-services/childline/>
- **Brook:** Provide help and advice about relationships and sex for under 25s: 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 (10am-10pm every day) or visit www.switchboard.lgbt
- **Rape Crisis:** Provides information on nearest services for people who have experienced sexual violence. Call 0808 500 2222 (24/7) or visit their website 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
- **The Mix:** Essential support for young people under 25 on a range of issues including mental health, relationships and homelessness. If you need help now text THEMIX to **85258** or visit their website www.themix.org.uk

Many thanks for your time,

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SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
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Professor Chris Bonell (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)