

#BeeWell

Parent and Carers Information Sheet

Why am I receiving this letter?

Your child is being invited to take part in a research study.

Before you decide whether they can take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being conducted and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully. If anything is unclear or if you would like more information, please contact us (see 'further information' section below). Thank you for taking the time to read this.

If your child is in Year 9 in autumn 2026, their year group are part of a cohort of pupils that we are asking to complete the survey on an annual basis, starting in Autumn 2024. You will have received this information sheet last year if your child's school signed up to take part.

If you chose to opt-out of the research study for your child last year, then your decision to opt-out is still recorded on our system and your child will **not** be taking part in the survey this year. You do not have to return the form again. If you have previously chosen for your child to opt-out of the survey but would like them to take part in autumn 2026, please contact lawrence.wo@manchester.ac.uk.

If your child is in Year 7 or 10 in autumn 2026, this is the only academic year that your child will be eligible to take part in the research study.

Please make sure to read this information carefully to understand what the research study is and to decide if you would like your child to take part or opt-out.

About the research

Who will conduct the research?

Professor Neil Humphrey, Manchester Institute of Education, The University of Manchester, is leading the study. The project is a collaboration between The University of Manchester, Anna Freud, Child Outcomes Research Consortium, Gregson Family Foundation, and Greater Manchester Combined Authority. Only a small group of researchers from University of Manchester and Anna Freud will have access to the project dataset outlined below; the remaining organisations support the project in other ways (for example, the Child Outcomes Research Consortium provide guidance to schools on their wellbeing provision).

What is the purpose of the research?

The aim of our study, the #BeeWell programme, is to look into the wellbeing (e.g. happiness) of young people across Greater Manchester. We also want to know what influences their wellbeing (e.g. relationships, physical activity).

Who is being asked to take part?

Your child's school has signed up to the #BeeWell programme, in which pupils complete online surveys once a year, as follows:

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Autumn 2024	Yes	No	No	Yes
Autumn 2025	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Autumn 2026	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

Will the research be published?

We will publish our findings in journals, blogs, conference presentations, doctoral student theses, and summary reports on websites and social media. Participating schools, Local Authorities, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority will receive summary feedback reports/dashboards.

These publications only use aggregated data (e.g. summary tables and figures that always represent at least 10 survey responses). Your child will not be identifiable in any of them.

A de-identified copy of the project dataset will also be made available in the UK Longitudinal Linkage Collaboration's (UK LLC) trusted research environment (a highly secure digital lockbox). "De-identified" means that all direct personal details (e.g., names, dates of birth) are completely removed before any researcher can see it. Approved researchers will be able to analyse these de-identified data alongside other information such as health, education, employment and/or place-based data (see '*How will the information gathered be used?*' Below). By linking these together, researchers can produce major new insights for the public good. Access to the data is very strictly controlled. Only UK-based researchers who have been approved by the Office for National Statistics, the UK LLC review panel, and the #BeeWell study team will be permitted to access it to conduct research.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check

Members of the research team have each had DBS checks at the Enhanced Disclosure level.

Who has reviewed the research project?

The project has been reviewed and approved by The University of Manchester Research Ethics Committee 1 (Ref: 2026-11133-48302).

Who is funding the research?

The project is funded by The University of Manchester, The National Lottery Community Fund, and the Gregson Family Foundation.

What would my child's involvement be?

Your child will be asked to complete a survey in Autumn 2026, which will take them 20-30 minutes. This will be done online at school.

There are no significant risks or disadvantages to taking part in the survey. However, we will let your child know about a range of sources of support that they can seek out if any of the questions make them feel sad, worried or upset (e.g. parent/carer, Childline, member of school staff). There is no guaranteed benefit in taking part, but completing wellbeing surveys can help some young people to reflect on their lives.

Will I or my child be compensated (e.g. receive money or vouchers) for taking part?

There is no compensation available for participating.

What happens if I do not want my child to take part or if I change my mind?

It is up to you to decide if you want your child to take part or not. If you give permission, your child will also be asked if they want to take part. You can both back out at any time, without giving a reason. If after your child has taken part, you decide that you want us to remove their survey answers, you can contact us to delete their record in full (including the copy that UK LLC hold, if your child's data has already been deposited). You can do so at any point up until the end of 2029. This does not affect your data protection rights.

This does not affect your data protection rights. If you decide that you do not want your child to take part, please complete the short 'opt out' form at the end of this sheet and return it to us using the FREEPOST address by the specified date. If you prefer, you can telephone or email us using the information provided on the opt-out form.

Data protection and confidentiality

What information will you collect about my child?

For your child to participate in this survey we need to collect information that could identify them, called “personal identifiable information”. We will need to collect:

- Forename, surname
- Ethnicity
- Unique pupil number
- Date of birth
- Residential postcode
- Free school meal eligibility
- Year group
- Sex
- Special educational needs
- English as an additional language

This information will be provided by your child’s school or local authority.

We will also be collecting information about your child’s wellbeing, and the factors that influence their wellbeing. This includes questions about:

- Additional demographic information: Gender identity and sexuality, migration status
- Domains of wellbeing, including: Life satisfaction, mental wellbeing, self-esteem, stress and coping, mental health difficulties, and emotion regulation
- Drivers of wellbeing, including: Health and routines (e.g., sleep, physical activity), hobbies and entertainment (e.g., creative hobbies, gaming), school (e.g., relationships with staff, school belonging), environment and society (e.g., neighbourhood safety), relationships (e.g. friendships, bullying), and wellbeing support (e.g., having a place to seek support).
- Life readiness and the future (Y10 only)

If you want to see the exact questions that we ask, go to:

<https://beewellprogramme.org/research/survey/> (scroll down to the GM section)

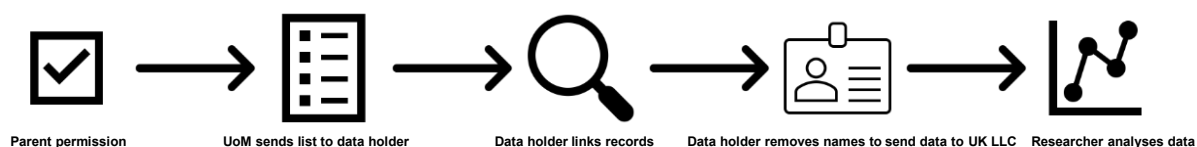
How will the information gathered be used?

We will link the information provided by your child’s school or Local Authority to their survey answers. Other planned linkage, including via UK LLC, includes:

- Place-based data (e.g. air and noise pollution);
- Educational data (e.g. academic attainment in the National Pupil Database);
- Employment and earnings data (e.g. annual income in the Longitudinal Educational Outcomes database);
- Health data (e.g. referral/access to NHS-funded community and mental health services in the Community Services and Mental Health Services Datasets).

How will data be linked and why is this beneficial?

The basic process for data linkage is outlined below:



Linking our project data in this way significantly improves what researchers can learn about young people's wellbeing and how it influences (and is influenced by) what is happening in other aspects of their lives.

Under what legal basis are you collecting this information?

We are collecting and storing personal identifiable information in accordance with UK data protection law. This states that we must have a legal basis (specific reason) for collecting your data. For this study, the specific reason is that it is "a public interest task" and "a process necessary for research purposes".

What are my rights in relation to the information you will collect about my child?

You have rights under data protection law with reference to your personal information. For example, you can request a copy of the information we hold about your child. If you would like to know more about your different rights or the way we use your personal information, please consult our Privacy Notice for Research: <https://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=37095>

Will my child's participation in the survey be confidential? Will their personal identifiable information be protected?

In accordance with data protection law, The University of Manchester is the Data Controller for this project. This means that we are responsible for making sure your personal information is kept secure, confidential and used only in the way you have been told it will be used. All researchers are trained, and your data will be looked after in the following ways:

- All information will be treated strictly confidentially. Only our data managers access directly identifiable data (e.g. name, date of birth)*, except in instances where it is being securely provided to the organisations that hold the above-named datasets to enable data linkage. The rest of the #BeeWell research team access a pseudonymized dataset in which it is not possible to directly identify your child.
- All survey data will be stored on a secure, encrypted and password-protected server which only named members of the #BeeWell research team can access.
- All data will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) law.
- If you agree for your child to take part in this study and with your permission, the non-identifiable survey data provided by your child will be accessible to approved researchers in UK LLC's Trusted Research Environment. This is to support additional research carried out for the public good, in accordance with The University of Manchester's Research Privacy Notice (see above link). As already noted, it will not be possible for researchers accessing the data to identify your child.

* Please also note that individuals from The University of Manchester or other authorities may need to look at the data collected for this study to make sure the project is being carried out as planned. This may involve looking at identifiable data. All individuals involved in monitoring the study will have a strict duty of confidentiality to you/your child as a participant.

What if I have a complaint?

If you have a complaint to direct to members of the research team, please contact:

Professor Neil Humphrey
Ellen Wilkinson Building, Manchester Institute of Education, The University of Manchester,
Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL

Email: neil.humphrey@manchester.ac.uk Telephone: 0161 275 3404

If you want to make a formal complaint to someone outside of the research team or if you are not satisfied with the response you have gained from the researchers in the first instance, then please contact:

The Research Ethics Manager, Research Office, Christie Building, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL

Email: research.complaints@manchester.ac.uk **Telephone:** 0161 306 8089

If you wish to contact us about your data protection rights, please email dataprotection@manchester.ac.uk or write to The Information Governance Office, Christie Building, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, M13 9PL and we will guide you through the process of carrying out your rights.

You also have a right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office about complaints relating to your child's personal identifiable information:

Online: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/> **Telephone:** 0303 123 1113

If you have any questions, you can email us at beewell@manchester.ac.uk or call us on 0161 275 3415.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.

Agreeing for your child to be part of this research

- We hope you will allow your child to take part in this research.
- In providing permission, you are agreeing for your child to participate in the #BeeWell survey, for their survey data to be linked to background information about them, and for future linkage of their data to other information held about them (outlined above in 'data protection and confidentiality').
- If you do not give your permission, you need to **return the form below as soon as possible, and no later than Wednesday 28th October 2026.**
- Choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you or your child in any way.
- It will be made clear to all children that it is up to them if they take part. They will also be reminded that they can skip questions if they don't want to answer them.

You only need to complete and return this slip if you **do not** wish your child to take part. Please either email lawrence.wo@manchester.ac.uk (or ring 0161 275 3415) in order to provide the below information, or post this slip back to the following address:

FREEPOST RLYU-KAAB-AXRC
Lawrence Wo
Manchester Institute of Education
B4.10 Ellen Wilkinson Building
University of Manchester
Oxford Road
Manchester
M13 9PL

You do not need to include a stamp.

If you are happy for your child to take part, then you do not need to do anything.

Dear Lawrence,

I wish to withdraw my child from taking part in the #BeeWell study.

Child's name:	
Child's school:	
Child's year group (e.g. 7, 9 or 10):	
Parent/carer's name:	
Parent/carer's signature:	
Date:	

Please return by 28th October 2026.

UoM #BeeWell ref: GM2026