



Department  
for Education

**Growing Up**  
in the 2020s

# Data linkage information leaflet



## What are administrative datasets?

Government departments and agencies collect information about us and the services we use, such as school and hospitals, to help improve those services. This information is stored in administrative records. During the survey we will ask you whether you are happy to let us securely and confidentially link such data when processing your survey answers.

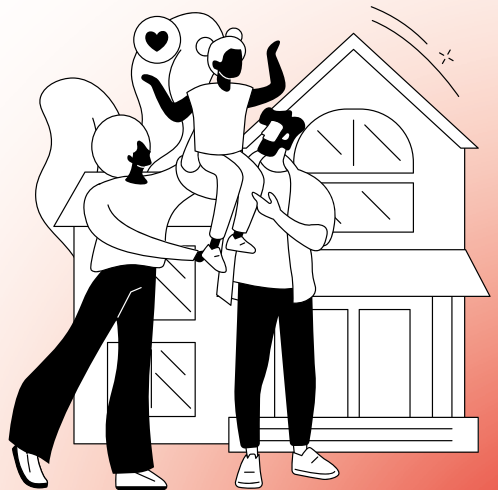
## Why we want to link your survey responses to administrative records

Adding information from administrative data for both the young person and parents or carers to your survey answers helps the Department for Education and researchers build a more complete picture of young people's experiences and circumstances. This helps us understand the most important factors that affect young people's development as they move through secondary school and beyond, and will help us develop better policies. **It adds value to the data collected during the interviews and surveys, without taking up any more of your time.**



**Your linked survey data will be treated as confidential and only be given to approved researchers. Direct identifiers, such as names and addresses, will have been removed.**

**Your decision about whether to allow us to add information from records will not affect your services, rights, treatment, or any health insurance. It will not affect your benefits or tax. Your information will not be used for any commercial or profit-based purpose and you will not receive any marketing information.**



# The administrative records we would like to use for data linkage

## Education records (DfE)

The Department for Education (DfE) already holds details about participation and achievement in school and further education as well as details about the school, college or training centre attended. Where applicable, DfE also hold information about any higher education applications and offers. Growing up in the 2020s is commissioned by the DfE, and education records for the study young person and their parents/carers will be added to your survey answers as a standard part of the study. **If you do not want this to happen, you can let us know using the contact details at the end of this leaflet.**

## Health records (NHS)

Health is an important factor in young people's wellbeing and development. To help us understand this relationship more fully, we will ask permission to add information from NHS records of the young person and their parents or carers. These records include information about admissions or attendances at hospital, visits to a GP or other health professionals, specific conditions and prescriptions or treatment given.

You do not have to agree to this, and if you choose not to, you can still stay in the study.

## Employment and tax information (HMRC)

Understanding how families get on financially is an important part of understanding young people's experiences. We will therefore ask permission to link your records held by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to the study. HMRC records include information on employment, Income Tax, Tax Credits, and Child Benefits. The records also hold information on pensions and National Insurance contributions. You do not have to agree to this, and if you choose not to, you can still stay in the study.

## Employment programs, benefits and pension schemes records (DWP)

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) records hold information about participation in employment programs, benefit receipts, and pension schemes. Linking these data records to the study would help researchers understand, and account for, the various situations that our participating families are in. During the survey, we will ask permission to link your DWP records but, again, you do not have to agree to this. If you choose not to, you can still stay in the study.

# Who will use the information and how?

The combined survey and administrative information will remain confidential and will be used for research purposes only. The information will only be shared with approved researchers **for statistics purposes only**. Your data will not be used for marketing or commercial purposes. The information will be made available securely by DfE to researchers via the UK Data Service (UKDS), Office for National Statistics Secure Research Service (ONS SRS) or a similar trusted research repository. Access to the data will only be granted to approved researchers after a successful application to DfE. This is to make sure the information is used responsibly. Personal data identifying young people and parents/carers taking part in the study are never given to these researchers.

All information is treated in the strictest confidence in accordance with the Data Protection Act and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The privacy notice explains how we keep your information safe and can be found here: [growingupinthe2020s.org.uk/privacy](http://growingupinthe2020s.org.uk/privacy)

We may link to combinations of the datasets where you have provided consent for each. For example, education, income, tax and benefit records are already connected together by government departments, so we might draw on these pre-matched data bases.

## What if you change your mind?

Because this study is trying to understand how young people get on in the long term, we would like to add these health and education records on an ongoing basis. You can tell us to stop doing this at any point without giving us a reason. If you do want us to stop adding information from your records, any data already added will continue to be used unless you ask us to delete it. This information will remain confidential, and used for research purposes only.

## Contact details

For questions about data linkage, or to withdraw any permissions, contact the team by emailing [gu2020s@natcen.ac.uk](mailto:gu2020s@natcen.ac.uk) or calling Freephone **0800 652 4574**.