



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



 **National Centre  
for Social Research**

 **NATIONAL  
CHILDREN'S  
BUREAU**

 **NFER**  
National Foundation for  
Educational Research

# What is Growing Up in the 2020s?

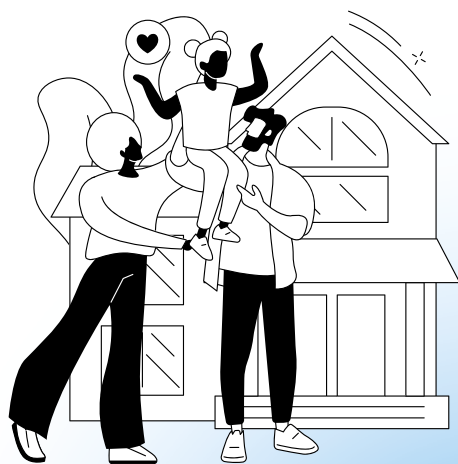
Growing Up in the 2020s is a national study of around 8,500 young people attending secondary school in England. It is funded by the **Department for Education** (DfE). By following young people and their families over time, the study aims to understand how young people's school, home life and relationships shape their education and development. **This will help DfE improve schools and education for all young people in England.** We will interview families each year as the young people go through secondary school, and possibly beyond.

## Who is carrying out the study?

This study is being carried out by the **National Centre for Social research** (NatCen), the largest independent social research organisation in Britain. We work in collaboration with the **National Children's Bureau** (NCB) and the **National Foundation for Educational Research** (NFER). The study has been reviewed by the NatCen Research Ethics Committee, an independent group of people, to protect your safety, rights, wellbeing and dignity. (Reference no. P17541)

## Why are you writing to me?

The study will look at the experiences of young people all over England as they go through secondary school, and beyond. We are inviting selected young people who are in Year 8 in the 2022/23 academic year. **They will be part of a group that will represent all young people in their particular age group.** Most young people have been identified through the National Pupil Database (NPD) which holds details of all pupils in English state education. Young people who attend independent schools have been identified directly through their schools.



**We rely on each family selected for the study to take part, we can't do it without you!**

## What's involved for parents/ carers?

We will ask one father, mother or other parental carer to take part in a **household interview** that will take around **20 minutes**. This will include the interviewer asking some general questions about family members. We will also ask for contact information so we can send a link to a web survey and keep in touch about the study.

We will ask up to two parents or carers in your household (where applicable) to complete a short **web survey**, including the father, mother or other carer who completes the household interview.

The web surveys will take around **15 minutes**. They will cover topics, such as parents' education and employment, health and wellbeing, behaviours and family relationships.

If the study young person is in contact with a birth or adoptive parent who lives in a different household, we would like them to complete a short web survey too. The interviewer will ask for contact details for the 'parent living elsewhere' so that we can invite them to be part of the study. We will only contact them about the research and we won't tell them what anyone else has said, or pass on any other information.

## What's involved for the young person?

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 laptop.



This will take around **25 minutes**. The questions will cover a range of topics including health and wellbeing, school, friends and family, and how they spend their time. We will also ask for their mobile number and email address, if they have this, so that we can keep in touch about the study.

The young person will also be asked to complete some **short tasks** that help us to understand how young people process information at different ages. These will take around 15 minutes.

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

**All the information you provide us will be used for research purposes only, and contact details will only be used to contact you about this study.**

## What else is involved?

**We will combine information you give in the survey with information already held by DfE**

to build a much rounder picture of families' lives. We will also ask your permission to add information held by public bodies outside DfE including NHS. This will make the study even more valuable. The interviewer will explain more when they visit.

To help us understand how schools impact young people's experiences, there is also **a short survey for the young person's school**. This will include questions about the school and the young person's year group as a whole, for example about things like how the school supports pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

If you agree, **we will also contact the young person's teacher** to ask them some questions about how the young person is getting on.

## Do I have to take part?

You do not have to take part. If you do, you are free to withdraw from any part of the study at any time. If you do not wish to take part, please contact us, using the details provided on this leaflet.

## 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: [growingupinthe2020s.org.uk/privacy](http://growingupinthe2020s.org.uk/privacy).

## Where do I find out more?

We will keep in touch with study families and will send you updates about what we have found out so far. You can also find information on the study's website:

**[growingupinthe2020s.org.uk](http://growingupinthe2020s.org.uk)**.

You can also email us at **[gu2020s@natcen.ac.uk](mailto:gu2020s@natcen.ac.uk)** or call us on **0207 549 8595**. Please quote the reference number on the letter accompanying this leaflet.