

TOGETHER * **FOR** * **CHILDHOOD**

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are contacting you to ask for your permission to invite your child to take part in an NSPCC research project that will be taking place in your child's school. We have provided some information below to help you decide if you would be happy for us to invite them to take part. We have also provided your child with some information about this project so that you can discuss it with them.

What are you asking me to do?

Please read through the information below. **If you are happy for your child to take part, you do not need to do anything.**

If, for any reason, you **do not** wish for your child to be invited to take-part, then **please complete the opt-out form at the bottom of this letter and return it to your year team.** We will work with your child's school to ensure that an alternative activity is available for your child while the survey is taking place.

If we do not receive an opt-out form from you, we will assume that you are happy for your child to be invited to take-part. Your child will then be able to decide if they would like to take part or not.

What is this research about?

The NSPCC are working in partnership with local organisations on a project called Together for Childhood. The project is based in Ernesettle and aims to support families, communities and professionals to help keep all children safe from sexual abuse. To help us do this we are inviting young people aged 12-14 years from schools with a catchment area covering Ernesettle to take part in a survey to find out what they already know and think about healthy relationships and sexual abuse, and where they might get help if they need it. This information will be important in helping Together for Childhood develop the right support and activities for children. **We will not ask children about their own experiences.**

Who is conducting this research?

The research will be carried out by Dr. Claire White Research & Evaluation Officer, who has significant experience of working with children and young people and has the relevant disclosure checks.

What will my child be asked to do if I say they can take part?

If your child is also happy to take part, we will ask them to complete an online survey on a computer/tablet. The survey will take place in school time and will take around 20 minutes to complete.

The survey will contain questions designed to understand what young people know and think about healthy relationships and sexual abuse, what they would like to know more about, and where they might get help if they need it. **We will not ask children about their own experiences.** The questions will include:

- If they feel they know enough about sexual abuse, other kinds of abuse, and related topics such as healthy relationships, grooming, consent and online safety.

- If they know where to get more information about these topics.
- Their beliefs about different situations where sexual abuse may occur including online and between young people.
- Their help seeking behaviours e.g. what they think they might do if they were concerned about or were to experience sexual abuse.
- There will also be some questions to find out if they feel they have safe, supportive contexts where they feel secure and where professionals and trusted adults take responsibility for protecting children.

To help us understand who has taken part in the survey we will ask participants for some information about themselves: their age, gender, ethnicity and if they live in Ernesettle. We will not ask them for their name, so no-one will know their answers.

What will happen to my child's answers?

We will combine your child's answers with those of all the other children who take part. We will use these answers in reports and presentations and to help us provide the right support and activities to help keep more children and young people safe in the future.

We will not ask for your child's name as part of the survey, and we will not name your child's school in the report. The report will not contain any information that might mean that someone else might be able to tell who they are.

We will keep the answers your child gives us until after the final report for this work has been published. This will be after we complete the next round of data collection in 5 years' time. We will then securely delete your child's answers.

We will not know who has completed the survey and will not share your child's answers with anyone. However, if when we visit the school, your child tells us something or if we learn something that makes us think that they or another child or young person might get hurt or is not being looked after properly, we have to report it.

You can find out more about how we will look after your child's data in the NSPCC's Privacy Policy – www.nspcc.org.uk/privacy-policy.

What are the benefits and risks of taking part?

Taking part in this survey will give young people the chance to have their voices heard by the people who make decisions about Together for Childhood. This will help them to understand what more could be done to help keep young people safe, so they can provide the right support and activities.

We will not ask your child to tell us about anything that has happened to them, but there is a chance that some of the questions in the survey might make them feel unhappy or upset. If this happens support will be available for them.

Does my child have to take part?

No. You can complete the opt-out form below to tell us if you do not want your child to take part. This will not stop you or your child from taking part in any other projects we might run in the future, or from getting any help they might need. **Your child can also choose not to take part, even if you say they can.**

Even if your child decides to take part, they can skip any questions they do not want to answer and stop completing the survey at any time. They can change their mind about taking part for up to one week after completing the survey and ask us to delete their data (we will ask them to create a unique ID code so they can do this).

Support information

If reading this letter has made you think about your own experiences, or those of children and families you know, and you would like some support you can contact the organisations listed below.

Worried about a child or your own experiences?

If you or a child are in immediate danger, please call the Police on 999.

If there is no immediate danger but reading this letter has made you think about your own experiences, or those of children and families you know, you can contact the **NSPCC helpline** on **0808 800 5000** or email help@NSPCC.org.uk for advice and support.

If you are worried a child may be at risk of harm, you can also contact local services such as Plymouth Gateway on 01752 668000 or email gateway@plymouth.gov.uk

If you are worried about a child or young person's emotional well-being or mental health you can call **Young Minds** on **0808 802 5544** or call the Plymouth Gateway on 01752 668000

If you experienced abuse as a child and would like some support, you can also contact **NAPAC** (National Association for People Abused in Childhood) on **0808 801 0331** or visit <https://napac.org.uk/>

Worried about domestic abuse?

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse you can contact **Refuge** for free, 24 hours a day on **0808 2000 247** <https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/>

If you are in immediate danger, please call the Police on 999.

Worried about your own emotional well-being or mental health?

If you are worried about your own emotional well-being or mental health you can contact:

- Your **own GP**
- You can also contact **Samaritans** on **116 123**.

Worried about staying safe online or want to learn more?

If you're worried about something that's happened to you or your child online, you can contact:

Report Remove - a tool on the ChildLine website that helps anyone under 18 to remove a nude image or video of themselves from the internet. <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/remove-nude-image-shared-online/>

CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online

Protection Command): <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

If you are worried about online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating with you or a child online, you can make a report to CEOP and get support.

Netaware - <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> - has lots of information about how to keep your children safe online.

Thinkuknow – <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> - has lots of information about how to keep your children safe online.

Worried about sexual abuse?

If you are worried about child sexual abuse, your own behaviour or that of someone you know you can contact **Stop It Now!** anonymously for support and advice www.stopitnow.org.uk or on **0808 1000 900**

What if I want to complain about this research?

If you would like to complain about any aspect of this research, the NSPCC has established a complaints procedure. You can talk to any NSPCC member of staff, volunteer or local office, or email researchcomplaints@nspcc.org.uk. You can also call the NSPCC Supporter Care team on 020 7825 2505.

To help us respond to your comment or complaint effectively, please tell us that it relates to the Together for Childhood Young People’s Survey in Plymouth. Also, please include your full name, contact details, and let us know how you would like us to contact you.

What happens next?

If you are happy for your child to be invited to take part in the survey, then you do not need to do anything.

If, for any reason, you **do not want** your child to take part, please fill in the opt-out form at the end of this letter and return it to your **school reception** no later than 09/05/22. If we receive a form from you, we will make sure your child is not invited to complete the survey.

If we haven’t received an opt-out form from you by this date, we will assume that you are happy for your child to take part.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the research or if you would like any additional information, please contact Dr. Claire White at claire.white@nspcc.org.uk or 01752 422577

Yours faithfully,

Claire White



CONSENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE SURVEY

Complete and return to YEAR TEAM no later than 10/05/22 **only** if you **don't** want your child to take part in the survey:

We will keep this form until after the data collection has been completed to make sure that only children whose parent/carers are happy for them to take part are invited to complete the survey.

Dear Researchers,

I have read through the information above, and I **do not want** my child to take part in this survey.

Name of child (please print):.....

School:.....

Class:.....

Date:.....

Name of parent/carer (please print):.....

Parent/carer signature:.....

If you are happy for your child to be invited to take part in the survey, then you do not need to return this form.