

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to let you know about a survey that we are planning to use for Years 2-6 that forms part of our assessments to measure the mental health and wellbeing of children in this age group.

Why are we conducting the survey?

Research consistently shows that children's mental wellbeing has a very strong impact on their ability to thrive and to learn. We regard the development of positive mental wellbeing as essential to all pupils and we want to do everything we can to promote this for all children in our school. The survey is one of a range of activities we are doing to support children's mental wellbeing.

To help us get a meaningful 'health check' of children's wellbeing from Years 2-6, we will be using a recognised and validated survey called the Stirling Children's Wellbeing Survey (SCWBS).

What does the survey involve?

Children will be introduced to the purpose of the survey and invited to take part. We'll explain to them that they can choose not to take part and they do not need to answer any questions they do not wish to.

When inviting the children to take part, the teacher will explain that all their answers will be anonymous.

At no point is it possible for a child to include any personally identifiable information in their survey answers, nor will it be possible for teachers to identify an individual child's answers in the survey results.

Surveys are completed online and the data will be managed by children's charity Coram Life Education SCARF. No personally-identifiable data will be stored anywhere online or in any other format.

The 15 questions in the survey focus on the positive aspects of wellbeing and children choose their answers from a five-point scale. They're not required to write anything.

Children who might have difficulty in reading the questions will have support from a member of staff who will read the questions to the children but who will not see the answers that children give.

What are the benefits of doing the survey?

Our aim is to boost the mental wellbeing of our pupils. The results of the surveys will be used to inform our work and our future plans in relation to children's wellbeing.

The children's charity Coram Life Education and SCARF provide us with guidance about how to interpret the collated results, based on the Stirling Children's Wellbeing Scale guidance. We will use this knowledge to enhance wellbeing across our school, where possible, through a range of tools also provided by Coram Life Education and SCARF as well as any other activities and actions that we decide to take following the survey.

We wish to emphasise that none of the data in our results will be able to be traced to an individual child.

The survey is valuable because it allows pupils' voices to be heard. Having this opportunity to influence changes in the school helps pupils to feel valued and listened to – and pupil voice is known to improve wellbeing by helping to develop pupils' self-esteem and self-confidence as well as helping them to feel heard.

We will discuss the results of the survey with the children, and share and discuss plans and actions that we propose to make, based on the results.

If you have any questions about the survey or do not want your child to take part in it, then please get in touch with info@maidens.dudley.sch.uk or your class teacher.

Thank you

Mrs K Thomas

Sent via

School Life