

My Ref: EH
Contact: Emma Henry
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Date: 16/3/26



Dear Parent/Carer,

Mental Health and Wellbeing Survey 2026

One of the priorities for Children's Services is to improve the mental health and wellbeing of young people across Renfrewshire. To help with this, we want to gather some mental wellbeing data to support us to identify priorities for improvement. We will use 'The Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing scale' (WEMWBS) which was developed to enable the monitoring of mental wellbeing in the general population and the evaluation of projects, programmes and policies which aim to improve mental wellbeing. Find more information [here](#).

All young people in S1-6 will be asked to complete a short online questionnaire during class time. This will be administered via Microsoft Forms and consists of 14 questions. It should take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

The attached Privacy Notice (pages 3-6) provides you with additional information about the short survey and how your child's information will be used by Renfrewshire Council. It also explains what to do if you do not want your child to take part in the survey. Your child will also be given a leaflet explaining the survey.

The results of the survey will be used to understand the mental wellbeing needs of children in Renfrewshire. This will help to improve the way children's services are planned and delivered by Renfrewshire Council and our partners, such as education, health, and voluntary organisations. The results will not look at children's responses on an individual basis, and any published results produced will not enable an individual child to be identified.

You should be aware that the answers provided by your child will be linked to other data already held about your child. For example, data already held by the local authority (such as your child's sex, ethnic background, the area they live in, etc.). However, any data linkage will only be done for statistical and research purposes, and will also ensure that your child remains unidentifiable within any analysis and publication of the data. For more information on data linkage, please consult the attached Privacy Notice.

Your child will be asked to enter their Scottish Candidate Number (SCN) for any data linkage for statistical and research purposes to take place. Your child's data will only be accessed by a small group of analysts and no linkage will be made to your child's name in analysis or outputs.

You **do not have to do anything** if you are:

- happy for your child to take part in the survey and for their answers to be linked to other data for **statistical and research purposes**; and
- aware that your child's identity will remain confidential

If, however, you **do not** wish for your child to take part in this survey, please contact the school within the next **5 days**. Please note that pupils aged 16 or over who do not wish to participate will require to let their teachers know themselves.

Your child will also be able to choose not to take part in the survey if they do not wish to, even if you say they can.

Yours sincerely

Emma Henry
Head of Education

See Privacy Notice below

MENTAL WELLBEING SURVEY 2026 PRIVACY NOTICE

We are aiming to improve children's services in Renfrewshire. To help with this, we want to gather some wellbeing data to support us to identify priorities for improvement. All young people in secondary schools across Renfrewshire from S1 to S6 will be asked to participate in a short survey about their mental wellbeing. This Privacy Notice provides further information on the survey, why your child's information is required, and how it will be used by the Council.

Why are you asking my child about their lives and wellbeing?

By law, local authorities and their partners are required to plan for children's services for their local area. To ensure that this is done effectively, it is important to understand the wellbeing and needs of children in each local area. Renfrewshire Council will use the results gathered from this survey to help identify priorities for improvement.

What is my child being asked to do?

We are asking S1 to S6 young people to complete a short wellbeing survey on Microsoft Forms during class time that will take around 10 minutes. Your child's school will organise and arrange for young people to take part.

Are you allowed to ask for this personal data about my child's mental wellbeing?

Yes, as local authorities are required by law to plan for children's services in their local area, they have a legal basis to ask children and young people about their lives and wellbeing to help them with this.

The individual data about your child is collected by Renfrewshire Council for **statistical and research purposes only** for the performance of a task carried out for reasons of public interest.

Why do you need this data about my child's wellbeing?

We need this information about your child/children in order to:

- plan and deliver better policies for the benefit of all children and families, or specific groups
- better understand some of the factors which influence the outcomes for children
- target resources better
- enhance the quality of research to improve the lives of people in Renfrewshire
- provide a window on society, the economy and on the work and performance of local government

Will anyone see my child's answers?

No one other than a small team of analysts within Renfrewshire Council will see your child's answers. These staff are trained to keep data safe, confidential and anonymous. Your child will not be asked to type in their name into the survey. Once data matching processes are complete for statistical and research purposes, your child's Scottish Candidate number will be removed from the data. This means that responses can no longer be directly linked back to an individual child.

All information will be confidential and secure. Renfrewshire Council **will not** publish or make publicly available any information that allows for your child to be identified, nor will data be used to take any direct actions on your child as a result of the information they provide.

What topics will my child be asked about in the survey?

Your child will be asked the 14 questions in the Warwick Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS) that covers optimism, autonomy, agency, curiosity, clarity of thought and

positive relationships; feelings, confidence, feeling relaxed, cheerful, having energy to spare. Find more information [here](#)

Will the information about my child's mental wellbeing be shared with others?

No the information will be used by Renfrewshire Council only to identify priorities for improvement in children's services. At all times your child's rights under Data Protection Law (including the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018) will be ensured. ***Your child will never be identified from any published findings as a result of any linked data.***

How do you store the data about my child's mental wellbeing?

Data held about your child by Renfrewshire Council is managed effectively by secure systems on secure servers.

How long will you keep the data about my child's mental wellbeing?

Once data matching processes are complete for statistical and research purposes, your child's Scottish Candidate number will be removed from the data. This means that responses can no longer be directly linked back to an individual child. The anonymised school and local authority level reports will be stored for longer periods as the data will be processed solely for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes and is subject to implementation of the appropriate technical and organisational measures required by the UK GDPR in order to safeguard the rights and freedoms of individuals.

Will my child's answers affect the services they receive?

No. Your child's answers will be combined with what other children have said, to produce statistical summaries that, in turn, help plan services in the future.

Does my child need to take part?

No. It is up to you and your child to decide to take part. If your child is under the age of 16, you can opt your child out of taking part by contacting the school. Your child, regardless of age, can also say to their teacher that they do not wish to take part at any time. If your child is over the age of 16 and do not wish to participate, they must opt out themselves by telling their teacher.

Not taking part will have no impact on your child's schooling or any services used.

What are my child's individual rights? Can I object to the processing of my child's mental wellbeing data?

The UK GDPR gives you the right to object to the processing of your child's personal data. However, where the processing of personal data is for scientific or historical research, or statistical purposes, these rights to object are more restricted. So whilst taking part is optional, if your child chooses to take part in the survey, consent is not required to process personal data because the lawful basis for processing is 'public task'. The processing of this statistical data is necessary for the performance of a task carried out for reasons of public interest.

Can I ask for my child's mental wellbeing data to be deleted?

No. If your child takes part in the survey, then the processing of this statistical data is necessary for the performance of a task carried out for reasons of public interest (and for no other purpose, such as direct marketing), we are not required to erase your child's personal data as we need to retain this data for this purpose. Once data processing is complete and the Scottish Candidate number has been removed from the data, it will not be possible to identify and remove an individual's responses.

Can I ask to see what data you hold about my child’s mental wellbeing?

No. If your child takes part in the survey, as the data we will then be processing is lawfully gathered and processed for Research, Statistics and Archiving in the public interest. As any results of the research or resulting statistics are not made available in a form which identifies your child, you do not have a right to request access to the data we hold about your child.

How can I find out more?

You can find out more information about the questions that will be asked [here](#)

What if I have concerns about the way in which my child’s information will be used?

If you have any concerns or are unhappy with the way in which Renfrewshire Council has handled your child’s personal data, you have the right to complain. Any complaints regarding your child’s data should be addressed to the Council’s Data Protection Officer, Allison Black: dataprotection@renfrewshire.gov.uk You can access the Council’s Privacy Policy here: www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/privacypolicy

If the matter is not resolved, you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office, who can provide independent data protection advice. The address and contact details for the Information Commissioner's Officer are:

The Information Commissioner’s Office – Scotland
Queen Elizabeth House
Sibbald Walk
Edinburgh
EH8 8FT

Telephone: 0303 123 1115

Email: Scotland@ico.org.uk