

20 July 2023

Dear Ms Butcher,

I hope you are well.

I am writing today to update you on the upcoming launch of NHSE Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use in Young People survey in September, and to ask for any support you can provide in encouraging schools and staff members to register their participation.

As you may know, the survey has been running since 1982, and is an important national study on young people's experiences and attitudes towards smoking, drinking and drug use. It is the main source of information for the Government on young people's behaviours and attitudes and is used by various departments, local authorities, education settings and charities, therefore playing an essential role in the development of health and education policy.

This year's survey will look to capture changes and developments from the last survey which took place in 2021, including questions on vaping, illicit drug use and wellbeing. It will be undertaken by schools digitally for the first time, to help increase the ease and efficiency of participation.

As part of this research, NHS England, supported by Ipsos, are calling for more than 12,000 students across 200 schools in England to complete the short survey, to ensure that the latest rates of, and attitudes towards, smoking, drinking and drug use are accurately captured.

We would appreciate your support by sharing this survey with your network and contacts and consider resharing [this tweet](#) on your organisation's social media. As the Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services in Slough Borough Council we are aware that your expertise is highly valued by trust and school leaders across the country.

We have included some further details below setting out the survey and the value that it can add for schools, particularly in helping understand the behaviours of their own pupils and the development of their PSHE provision. Any participating schools will also benefit from two lessons plans, created by the PSHE Association, to help incorporate participation in the survey into curriculums.

You may have seen that the Government recently announced plans to clamp down on children using vapes as it renews focus on how to address the rise of vaping among young people. As part of this plan, the Government has endorsed the inclusion of education on vaping to be included in PSHE lessons. Schools participating in the survey will receive two supporting lesson plans and can use the anonymous data on vaping specifically to tackle the rise in vaping amongst their own pupils.

I would be very appreciative if you would be able to let me know if you are happy to share the survey with your network, and of course if you would like to discuss this further or require more information, please do not hesitate to ask.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Smoking, Drinking, Drug Use Survey among Young People in England

- This is an anonymous survey, commissioned by NHS England, which gathers an accurate picture of the prevalence, trends, and attitudes towards smoking, drinking and drug use amongst students in Years 7-11 across schools in England.
- The survey is the main source of information for government departments, local authorities, and charities on young people's behaviours regarding smoking, drinking and drug use and therefore plays an essential in informing national health and education policy.
- The survey can be undertaken at any point within the first academic term (2023/24), starting from September.
- It will require three, mixed ability classes (Year 7-11) to complete the survey. It is online, should be administered in exam style condition, and will take around 20-30 minutes to complete.
- Participating schools will receive two supporting lesson plans designed by the PSHE Association which incorporate the survey into wider PSHE lessons. Teaching the lessons to KS3 or KS4 students will contribute towards addressing aspects of the Department for Education's statutory guidance for Relationships, Sex and Health Education.
- Participating schools will also receive a school level report which allows them to see how their school compares to national averages which they can use to help plan their PSHE curriculum for future years.
- For participating schools, the survey provides an opportunity to share significant insights with decision makers whilst gaining a valuable understanding of the behaviours and habits of their own students.
- Schools can also draw on the insights from the survey to strengthen their own PSHE offering, demonstrating how the curriculum and content within lessons plans are designed around students, including fulfilling Ofsted's requirement for high-quality personal development support.
- If schools are interested in registering, they can contact the Ipsos team on SDDsurvey@ipsos.com.

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