

Dear Parent/Guardian

Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS)

Your child's class is being invited to take part in an important research study being undertaken at their school. I am writing to provide you with some information on the survey so that you can decide whether you are happy for your child to take part.

Pupils who take part in this survey will be asked to fill in a paper questionnaire during class time – it should take around 30 minutes. The questions cover health and lifestyle, including attitudes towards smoking, drinking and drug use among young people. The survey has been running since 1982 and the **results have helped in the planning and development of services for young people in Scotland aimed at reducing smoking, drinking and drug use.**

The Scottish Government have asked Ipsos MORI, an independent research agency, to run the survey within schools. More than 30,000 pupils in S2 and S4 at a large number of schools across Scotland are being asked to take part - your child's class is one of those which have been invited to take part.

Completed questionnaires will be kept in the **strictest confidence and stored securely**, and will be used for this research project only. **Pupils will not be asked to write their name on the questionnaire** so they cannot be identified in the results. Your child's answers to the questions will be looked at alongside those of lots of other pupils. To help us look for any patterns in the results across different parts of Scotland, we will ask pupils to type their postcode into the questionnaire. However, they do not have to provide this information if they would prefer not to. Only the survey research team at Ipsos MORI will have access to individual responses.

If you have any questions or concerns about this survey, please contact me on 0131 226 8677 or by email salsus2018@ipsos.com. The research is being carried out in accordance with data protection guidelines and the MRS Code of Conduct.

The data privacy notice for this project is available at www.gov.scot/Topics/Research/by-topic/health-community-care/social-research/SALSUS

Participation is voluntary and your child will be asked if they wish to take part. If you are happy for your child to take part in the research, **you do not have to do anything**. However, if you **do not** wish for your child to take part in this survey, please complete the tear-off slip below and return it to the school **within the next 7 days**.

Thank you for your help with this important study.

Yours faithfully



Lucy Setterfield, Project Manager, Ipsos MORI

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I **do not** wish (Print name of child in capital letters) to take part in SALSUS 2018.

Signed

Date

Name (capital letters)

Relationship to child

Child's year group: