



5 October 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

In partnership with Merseyside's Police and Crime Commissioner and Liverpool City Council, as a school, we have agreed to take part in a consultation to give our students a voice on their views and experiences of violence.

As a region, we have seen first-hand the devastation that violence and acts of extreme violence cause. A lot of work continues to take place between authorities like the Police and Crime Commissioner, Police, Councils, health services, Probation services, Fire and Rescue Service, schools and community organisations to try to prevent violence. However, it is also important to keep questioning what more can be done or what can be done differently.

This consultation will ask students to take an online survey with a maximum of 14 questions. We would like you to understand why the survey is being done and what it will involve. Please see the information sheet attached to this letter.

Does my child have to take part?

No. If you do not want your child to take part in the survey, please contact the school office as soon as possible and before the 18th October.

Can I take part?

Yes. At the end of the attached information sheet, there is a link to a public survey for anyone over 16 who lives, works or studies in Merseyside. Your participation in this would be appreciated.

Many Thanks,

Mrs M Barclay

PSHE co-ordinator

Information Sheet for Parents, Carers and Guardians

What is the survey trying to find out?

Local data shows us that violence is reducing year-on-year, but this may not be how it feels for everyone living, working and studying in Merseyside. This survey will ask:

- What are your views on the problem of violence?
- What causes violence in our communities?
- How does violence affect you and your community?
- What can we do to reduce violence?

Why has my child been invited to take part?

As a school, we think it is important to give students opportunities to have their voices heard in a way which will influence decisions made that affect them, their families and their futures. Our school is participating in this survey for students aged 13+. The survey is open to all of our students over 13.

What happens if my child takes part?

During a designated school class lesson, students will be invited to take 15 minutes to complete the survey online. It will not ask for your child's name. However, we will ask what school they go to and their age. This is so that if there are any safeguarding concerns raised in the survey, they can be communicated back to the school and they can be explored with the appropriate group. It is important to note that if safeguarding concerns are raised, the school may only be made aware several weeks after the survey has been collected (as the data needs to be prepared for analysis).

There are a maximum of 14 questions on views, experiences, behaviours and solutions. Some of these questions address sensitive issues (e.g. feelings of safety, experiences of violence as a victim or witness). Your child can say 'prefer not to say' to any question they do not want to answer, and they can choose to stop answering the survey at any time. At the end of the survey, advice and guidance is provided with links for support. After the main 14 questions, there are 6 questions which ask your child some diversity and inclusion questions. This is so the Council makes sure responses reflect our local population.

What are the advantages / disadvantages of taking part?

One potential risk is that your child will be asked a question about a topic they don't know much about. This is why each question has a 'prefer not to say' option, so that they can skip a question if they don't know how to answer it.

The main advantage is that your child has the opportunity to say what they want to say. Their responses will influence the plan for the city and the region.

What happens to the data provided?

Your child's responses to the survey will be analysed and used to inform a Serious Violence Response Strategy (a document which sets out a plan of where efforts to reduce violence

will be focused). Any data from which your child can be identified is known as personal data. In this survey, it will not ask for personal data (names, addresses, dates of birth, etc.). The Council and partners do not want to identify students. The survey responses will be stored electronically on Liverpool City Council's secure network for up to 5 years and will then be securely destroyed. Any information which could identify your child will be removed or changed before information is shared with other partners in this consultation. Only a small team of staff in Liverpool City Council and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) will have access to all the survey responses. Summaries of the responses will be given to schools, Councils, Police, Integrated Care Boards, Probation Services, Fire and Rescue Service, OPCC, and prisons as they are the legally responsible and relevant authorities for the reduction of serious violence.

Who is running this survey?

The survey is organised by Liverpool City Council, in partnership with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), each of the Community Safety teams in the 4 other Merseyside Councils (Knowsley, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral), Merseyside Police, Probation Service, the Integrated Care Board (ICB), Fire and Rescue Service, prisons and education authorities. The strategy being produced will be published on these organisations' websites in January 2024. This strategy will comply with the government Serious Violence Duty.

What if there is a problem?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this survey, please contact info@merseysidepcc.info with the subject line 'Serious Violence Survey 2023'.

Data Protection

Liverpool City Council is hosting the survey and so is the data controller. You can find more information in the Liverpool City Council's Safer and Stronger Communities Service Privacy Notice : <https://liverpool.gov.uk/privacy-notice/service-area-privacy-notices/safer-and-stronger-communities-service-privacy-notice/>

What should I do next?

Please contact your child's school if you **do not** want your child to take part in this study.

Is there a way I can participate in the survey?

Yes. We are running a survey for anyone who lives, works or studies in Merseyside and is over 16-years-old. This will be open between 5 September and the 1 October. As with the school survey, Liverpool City Council are hosting this survey, but it is open to anyone across Merseyside. You can complete this 15-minute survey by visiting: <https://smartsurvey.co.uk/s/your-safety-matters/>