

**PARENT INFORMATION:
ONLINE SURVEY TO EXPLORE PARENTS'/GUARDIANS' AND CHILDREN'S
EXPERIENCES OF "SCHOOLING AT HOME" DURING COVID-19.**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are inviting you to take part in an online survey which is being carried out by researchers in the School of Education at NUI Galway and the National Parents' Council. Please read this information first so you can understand why the research is being done and what it may involve for you.

What is the purpose of this study?

This study aims to explore your experiences of and thoughts about "schooling at home" resulting from school buildings closures due to COVID-19.

Who is being invited to participate in this study?

All parents/guardians of a primary or post-primary school-aged child who was schooled at home as a result of COVID-19 are being invited to share their experiences. During the survey, your oldest school-aged child will also be invited to answer some questions (if interested). We feel that it is extremely important to listen to the experiences and views of young people.

Do I have to take part?

No. It is completely your decision and your child's decision whether to take part or not. You can decide that both you and your child will take part or only you will take part. If after giving your consent, should you decide that you no longer wish to take part, you can withdraw from the research without giving any reason simply by closing your web browser, and your child can do the same.

What will the study involve?

Taking part in the study involves completing an online survey which will take about 20 minutes. The child section of the survey will take about 10 minutes.

Will there be any benefit or risks to me or my child if I take part?

It is unlikely there will be any direct benefit to you from taking part in this research. However, we hope that the information will provide useful insights into "schooling at home" during COVID-19 that might help schools if we are in a similar situation in the future.

We feel that there are few risks from this study as no personal details (e.g., names, addresses etc.) will be collected, and the questions only ask you about your everyday life. However, there is a slight chance that you may feel some discomfort or upset when completing this survey. It is important to remember that if there are any questions that you do not feel comfortable answering, you can skip them, as can your child. If while completing the survey, you become upset, we advise that you leave the survey. If you remain upset after leaving the survey, we advise that you seek support from the following:

Adult support:

- AWARE: Freephone support line 1800 80 48 48 Mon - Sun, 10am to 10pm. Support email service: supportmail@aware.ie
- SAMARITANS: Helpline: 116 123; Everyday, 24 hours a day. Email: jo@samaritans.ie. Text: 087 260 90 90

If you agree to your child taking part in the study, we would ask you to watch them for any levels of discomfort and/or upset. If you see signs of this, please end the survey for them. If your child remains upset, support can be sought from:

- For child: <https://www.childline.ie>.
- For parent to support child: <https://childmind.org/audience/for-families/>;
<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/mental-health/anxiety-disorders-in-children.html>

It is important to note that this research has been granted ethical approval from the NUI Galway Research Ethics Committee.

What will happen to the information I provide?

No personally identifying information (e.g., names, addresses etc.) will be collected in the survey. All data will be treated confidentially in line with GDPR requirements. Your survey responses will be added together with those of hundreds of other parents. The results of the study may be published in various academic outlets but you or your child will not be individually identified in any report or publication. You can request copies of any publications arising from the study by contacting the named researchers below. Further, if you have any questions or complaints about this research, please contact the researchers or the Research Office at NUI Galway (vpresearch@nuigalway.ie).

Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to read this participant information sheet. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at any time at the email addresses below.

Best regards,

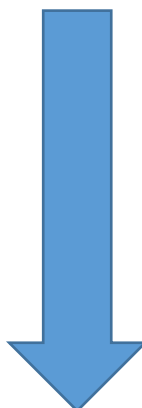
Áine Lynch, CEO, NPC Primary

With

Dr. Niamh Flynn, Dr. Elaine Keane, Dr. Veronica McCauley, Emer Davitt , and Prof. Gerry MacRuaric, School of Education, NUI Galway.

nflynn@nuigalway.ie; elaine.keane@nuigalway.ie; veronica.mccauley@nuigalway.ie;
emer.davitt@nuigalway.ie; gerry.macruairc@nuigalway.ie;

**PLEASE
SCROLL
DOWN TO THE
NEXT PAGE
FOR
INFORMATION
FOR YOUR
PRIMARY
SCHOOL-
AGED CHILD.**



INFORMATION FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL-AGED CHILD

Hello there!

We would like to invite you to help us with a research led by the NPC and a team of researchers in the university in Galway. We are doing some research on learning at home while the schools have been shut and would really love to hear your thoughts on this!!



- We want to know what it has been like for you; what you liked and what you didn't like about learning at home.



- If you agree to take part, you will be doing an online survey which will take about 10 minutes.



- No-one will know that the answers you gave are yours because we won't ask for your name or address. The researchers will be getting answers from lots of children and parents around Ireland, and they will all be put together!



- Your parent will be asked some questions first and then will pass their tablet/phone/computer to you so that you can answer your questions. You can do them yourself and call your parent if you get stuck, or you can do them together.



- You don't have to take part. It's ok not to do it. Even if you start the survey and then change your mind, you can click out of it at any time.



- If you start to feel uncomfortable at any time, you can stop the survey and that is absolutely ok!

THANKS FOR READING THIS!