

**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 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 simply 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](mailto:supportmail@aware.ie)
- SAMARITANS: Helpline: 116 123; Everyday, 24 hours a day. Email: [jo@samaritans.ie](mailto:jo@samaritans.ie). Text: 087 260 90 90

If you agree to your post-primary school-aged child participating in the study, we would ask you to monitor them for any levels of discomfort and/or upset. If you see signs of this, please encourage them to end the survey. If they remain upset, support can be sought from:

- For young person: [www.jigsaw.ie](http://www.jigsaw.ie); <https://spunout.ie/health/category/mental-health/>; [www.teenline.ie](http://www.teenline.ie); <https://www.alustforlife.com/>; <https://www.childline.ie/>;
- For parent: <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](mailto: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.  
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**PLEASE  
SCROLL  
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FOR  
INFORMATION  
FOR YOUR  
POST-  
PRIMARY  
SCHOOL-  
AGED CHILD.**



## INFORMATION SHEET FOR POST-PRIMARY STUDENTS: ONLINE SURVEY ON 'SCHOOLING AT HOME' DUE TO COVID-19

Dear Student,

We are inviting you to take part in an online survey about 'schooling at home' due to COVID-19.

<p><b>Why are we doing the research?</b></p> 	<p>We want to find out what learning you did at home while the school buildings were closed and how you felt about this. Your parent/guardian will be asked questions first, and then we want to hear your ideas! You are being invited to take part because you are the oldest school-aged child in your home.</p>
<p><b>What will you be doing?</b></p> 	<p>If you agree to take part in the study, you will do a short online survey which will take less than 10 minutes.</p>
<p><b>Do you have to take part?</b></p> 	<p>No, only if you want to! After your parent/guardian gives their permission for you to take part and passes you the laptop/phone/tablet, you will be asked to tick a box to say that you agree or don't agree to do it. Remember that you do not have to complete the survey if you don't want to. Also, you can change your mind at any time by exiting out of the survey.</p>
<p><b>Are there any benefits or risks from being in the study?</b></p> 	<p>We think it is very important to hear from students, not just parents, about 'schooling at home' as this may help schools in making plans for the future. We don't think there are any big risks from being in the study. We won't be asking for any personal information like names or home addresses. The questions are all about your 'schooling at home' and your return to school in the future. Also, if you feel uncomfortable about any questions, you can just skip them. However, we understand that thinking about changes that have happened might be upsetting and if this happens, you should close the survey. If you remain upset, you should talk to your parents/guardians and/or look for support from:  <a href="http://www.jigsaw.ie">www.jigsaw.ie</a>; <a href="https://spunout.ie/health/category/mental-health/">https://spunout.ie/health/category/mental-health/</a>; <a href="https://www.childline.ie/">https://www.childline.ie/</a>; <a href="http://www.teenline.ie">www.teenline.ie</a>;  <a href="https://www.alustforlife.com/">https://www.alustforlife.com/</a></p>
<p><b>What will happen to the information I provide?</b></p> 	<p>Your survey answers will be kept private and will be added together with answers from hundreds of other young people. This means it will not be possible for any one person to be identified. The results of the study will be published but no-one will know the answers you provided.</p>

**Thank you for taking the time to read this and think about doing the survey!**

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