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# Your Child and The SHRN Student Health and Well-being Survey 2025

## What Parents and Carers Need to Know About Data Linkage

This leaflet explains how your child's survey answers may be used in research, how their data is protected, and your rights as a parent or carer.



# What Is The SHRN Student Health And Well-Being Survey?

Every two years, learners attending secondary schools across Wales take part in a national survey on young people's health and well-being. The survey is developed by The School Health Research Network (SHRN) at Cardiff University, in partnership with Welsh Government and Public Health Wales. The survey is carried out by Ipsos on behalf of SHRN.

The survey covers a range of health and well-being topics including diet and nutrition, physical activity, mental health, smoking, alcohol and drugs, school life and relationships. This wide approach fits well with the Welsh Government's Whole School Approach for supporting mental and emotional health, which looks at all parts of school life to help learners feel well and supported.

At the end of the survey, learners are invited to give permission for their answers to be used to support data linkage research.

## What Is Data Linkage Research?

Data linkage research connects your child's survey answers with other data already held about them by trusted organisations like the NHS and Welsh Government. This might include hospital appointments, GP appointments and GCSE results.

Before any data is linked, it is anonymised—this means no one can identify any individual from the data.

This type of research helps us understand more about young people's health and well-being in Wales. For example, we can explore how experiences like bullying relate to GP visits or exam results. The findings help schools and policymakers improve support for young people.

## **What Information is Needed to Enable Data Linkage Research?**

To carry out data linkage, we ask your child to provide their:

- Name.
- Date of birth.
- Postcode.

We also ask for their permission to use this information to enable data linkage research.

## **What happens to this information and how is it kept safe and private?**

We take data privacy very seriously. Here's how we protect your child's information:

- Personal details (name, date of birth and postcode) are stored separately from survey answers in secure, password-protected files.
- For each child, personal details are matched to a unique, non-identifiable ID number within the SAIL Databank (<https://saildatabank.com/>).
- This ID is used to anonymously link your child's survey answers to other routine data held by SAIL.
- Access to the SAIL Databank is strictly controlled - researchers never see any personal details and cannot identify any child.

## **Can Children Who Participate in the Survey Choose Not to Take Part in Data Linkage Research?**

Yes. Taking part in data linkage research is completely optional.

At the end of the survey, each child is asked whether they give permission for their answers to be used in data linkage research.

- If a child does not give their permission, their answers will still be used for other types of research and to help create their school's bespoke report, but they won't be connected to any other research.
- Parents and carers can also withdraw their child from data linkage research by contacting their school.

## Ethical Approval

The SHRN Student Health and Well-being Survey has been reviewed and approved by the Cardiff University School of Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee. This ensures the research is conducted to the highest ethical standards.

If you have any questions about ethical approval or how the study is carried out, please contact us at [shrn@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:shrn@cardiff.ac.uk).



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Casglu Data 2025

2025 Data Collection