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Dear Headteacher

2026 GROWING UP IN NORTH YORKSHIRE SURVEY - SUMMER TERM 2026

There is no cost to the school and the survey is available for all state funded schools and academies in North Yorkshire.

The North Yorkshire Children and Young People's Service (CYPS), Public Health and North Yorkshire Police have again commissioned a survey of children and young people covering aspects of learning, safeguarding and well-being, to take place in the summer term 2026. The survey will continue to provide key information about the learning, safety and wellbeing of children and young people across Years 2, 6, 8, 10 and 12, in mainstream schools and in special schools and PRUs. The outcomes from the survey can be used to inform schools self-evaluation and planning as well as the strategic planning for the Children and Young People's Service and partners. Participation in this survey hugely supports our understanding of children and young people's wellbeing and any safeguarding-related issues across the whole of North Yorkshire.

The majority of North Yorkshire primary and secondary schools, covering over 15,000 children and young people, participated in the 2024 Growing up in North Yorkshire Survey. Information gained from individual school and county level analysis provided knowledge and understanding about the wellbeing, lifestyles and learning of children and young people and influenced school, locality and county planning and evaluation of provision. As the survey has now been running for 20 years it provides us with a wealth of trend data which enables the funding of many projects to support the wellbeing of children and young people across the county.

Every school that participates receives their own individual school report with the data from their pupils alongside comparative data with the North Yorkshire averages for each question. Schools and partners can also access the North Yorkshire County and Locality Reports to support them with further identification of key priorities. The 2024 reports are available [here](#)

Feedback from schools who participated in the GUNY surveys about the benefits of participating include:

- *“Understanding our students better; a confidential forum to elicit reliable information”*
- *“Additional information and student voice that we would otherwise not have”*
- *“To support identification of contextual safeguarding”*
- *“Useful information about our pupils and helpful comparisons to others and larger cohorts”*
- *“A reliable source of data to inform planning re: PSHCE and Safeguarding and valuable information to support school development”*

The survey methodology continues to be through school based questionnaires developed by the Schools' Health Education Unit (SHEU) in close consultation with the North Yorkshire Children and Young People's Service and Local Authority Partners. I am keen that all schools participate in the survey and very much hope that after reading the details, you will feel that you will take up this positive opportunity for your school to participate in the 2026 Survey. Please see below for key information about the survey.

I hope that the benefits for your school in terms of safeguarding children and young people and the evaluation across a broad range of pupils' personal and social development as well as supporting your school with school improvement, Ofsted requirements, curriculum planning and target setting will encourage you to participate in the 2026 survey.

If you require more information, please contact Clare Barrowman, Senior Health and Wellbeing Adviser, 07969 103741 or by e-mail: clare.barrowman@northyorks.gov.uk or School Improvement Business Support team, 01609 798864 or by email Schoolimprovementservice@northyorks.gov.uk

As you will appreciate, we need to confirm which schools would like to be involved as soon as possible and would therefore be grateful if you could complete and return the reply form attached to School Improvement Business Support team, Schoolimprovementservice@northyorks.gov.uk by **Friday 27th February 2026** to indicate whether you wish your school to participate, and to provide the further details from your school to support the process.

Yours sincerely

El Mayhew

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Key Supporting Information about the survey is set out on the following pages

Key Supporting information for the 2026 Growing Up in North Yorkshire Survey

Four different questionnaires targeting various age ranges are available, free of charge, for all stated funded and academies in North Yorkshire schools

For primary schools, the questionnaires will only be offered as online versions. This will enable a swifter return of data to schools and for many schools is a preferred way of conducting the surveys. We appreciate this may require some planning to enable pupils to be able to access the technology so they can complete the questionnaires. Schools will be able to immediately access the raw data from collated pupils' responses.

Arrangements and instructions to **access the online survey will be sent directly to schools to the named email contact** provided when signing up to participate in the survey. For secondary schools that request paper copies of the questionnaire and special schools these will be sent and collected by courier for delivery to SHEU, Exeter.

Primary Schools are encouraged to participate in both the Key Stage 1 and 2 questionnaire	
Key Stage 1 questionnaire (Y2 - and Y3 for schools with fewer than 30 Y2 pupils)	Online survey only
Key Stage 2 questionnaire (Y6 - and Y5 for schools with fewer than 30 Y6 pupils)	Online survey only
Secondary schools with a sixth form are encouraged to enable Y8, 10 and 12 pupils (where applicable) to participate in the survey	
Secondary questionnaire (including PRS) (Y8, Y10 and Y12 – if applicable)	Online survey and paper version available
Sixth Form Colleges (Y12 only)	Online survey
Special schools are encouraged to enable all pupils who are able to access the questions to participate (guidance is provided for some of the questions)	
SEND questionnaire (Special school/ PRS only)	Paper version only

Small primary schools will receive their own school report provided there is a minimum of 7 pupils participating across the school (to protect pupil confidentiality). For very small primary schools who would not meet this requirement, Year 4/5 pupils may also participate in the Key Stage 2 questionnaire, but may need support to access the questions (schools may also want to consider the appropriateness of some questions for younger pupils). We will continue to offer our smallest schools the opportunity to have a joint school report with a partner school, to enable our smallest schools to participate whilst securing the anonymity of pupils.

Outcomes and use of data

The outcomes will be a set of countywide data at key points in children and young people's development.

Schools and Commissioning Authorities receive summaries of the processed data. CYPS will receive data at county and locality level and reports from each school. The results from your school will only be shared within agreed data sharing protocols. Where comparative analysis is thought desirable schools will only be identified by a code, not by name. Schools will receive their school report, and of course schools are free to share their own data with colleagues, governors, pupils, parents/carers and the wider community including other local organisations who can offer support.

Arrangements to participate

If you wish your school to participate in the 2026 survey, we will need the following arrangements to be made:

- A member of staff to be nominated to manage and supervise the questionnaire
- **To allocate up to 70 minutes of lesson time, between 21st April -22nd May 2026 for pupils in your school to complete the questionnaire.** The session must include an introduction and time for questions and for all pupils to be reminded that the questionnaire is anonymous so if it raises any issues or concerns for them where to find support within school. Adequate time and supported exam conditions are essential. The questionnaire should not be sent home with pupils to complete it must be completed on the school site.
- The questionnaire can be completed any day of the week EXCEPT a Monday (some questions are about 'yesterday') and not during a week following a school holiday (some questions are about 'last week')

Growing up in North Yorkshire briefing seminar

For schools that are participating in the 2026 Growing up in North Yorkshire survey that may have a new member of staff managing and supervising the questionnaire or for any schools with a member of staff would like an update of how to effectively implement the survey and making the most of the data we recommend attending a free online briefing session:

- Monday 23rd March 2026, 3:45pm-5pm, Course code: SI-0326-T016

Book your free place through NY Education Services <https://nyestraining.co.uk/>

Updating of questionnaires for 2026

It is not intended that there are significant changes to the 2026 questionnaires to enable benchmarking against 2024 data, though feedback from schools and partners has been considered in order to ensure that the survey is as informative as possible. All questionnaires have been shortened and the Year 2 survey has been made more accessible for this age group. If schools wish to remind themselves of the areas reported please find the county and area reports [here](#)

Model letters to be sent to parents & carers advising them of the survey are provided [here](#)

Each school participating in the survey will receive, free of charge:

- Their results in tabular form and access to the raw data once all pupils have completed the online survey
- A report containing a summary of key aspects of the data
- Comparison data with North Yorkshire averages for each question
- Own school trend data from 2024 (if the school participated in 2024)
- Guidance on using the data.