

Youth Safety Survey

Information sheet for parents

Your child has been invited to take part in this survey. Please take some time to read the following information carefully. If you have any questions, please contact your child's school.

Who is this survey for?

This survey is for children and young people aged 11 and above living and going to school in West Sussex (geographic area covered by West Sussex County Council). We also want to hear from children and young people who go to school in West Sussex, even if they do not live in West Sussex.

What is this survey about?

This survey of children and young people across West Sussex will aim to understand living and growing up in their local area, what they're concerned about in their day-to-day lives, how they feel about where they go to school, where they feel safe and unsafe and their experiences of serious violence and drugs/alcohol. **Please see a copy of the survey here to give you an indication of the type of questions being asked.**

<https://linktr.ee/WestSussexSurvey>

Will the survey questions be the same for all age groups?

No. Children and young people will be asked to give their age at the beginning of the survey online and depending on whether they are age 12 and under or 13 and over, they will respond to an age-appropriate version. If they are under 11, they will not be able to complete the survey. If necessary, children and young people will be able to complete a hard-copy version of the survey (this will also be age-appropriate).

Will my child's response be anonymous and confidential?

While we will be collecting some personal data, we will not be collecting names or contact details of you or your child. Therefore, we will not be able to link their responses to them. Due to the collection of some personal data in the survey, our researchers will take steps to anonymise it, meaning it cannot be linked back to any individual. Please see the attached privacy notice for more details.

When will this take place?

The survey will be launched on Monday the 11th of March and will be open until Monday the 25th of March. It will be the school's decision as to how and when they ask children to complete the survey during this time.

You are being asked whether you would like to opt-out from taking your child taking part in this survey. Please sign the parental opt-out form if you wish to do so.

How will children and young people respond to the survey?

The survey can be completed digitally and accessed online via a link/QR code which we will provide. It should take no longer than ten to fifteen minutes to complete, although it may take some children and young people longer - if children and young people are unable to finish the survey in this time, they will be able to continue the survey at a later point.

Why is this survey being done?

The West Sussex Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) is looking to further its understanding of serious violence, as part of the response to the new [Serious Violence Duty](#). The Duty requires the police, probation, fire and rescue, health partners and local authorities to collaborate and plan to reduce and prevent serious violence in their local areas. As part of this work, the VRP has commissioned [Crest Advisory](#), to support them in researching the relationship between risk factors and the involvement of children and young people in violence and county lines. Crest Advisory has been asked to develop a strategic commissioning strategy for West Sussex, reviewing the local response to serious violence. It will help inform the allocation of funding and resources in West Sussex towards tackling violence. The survey of children and young people will contribute to this strategy.

Who are the Violence Reduction Partnership?

The West Sussex Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) is a group of public organisations that have come together to tackle violence. They are keen to understand the nature of violence in West Sussex, its drivers, and the experiences of young people to help inform how they commission work to reduce serious violence in the area.

Who are Crest Advisory?

[Crest Advisory](#) is an independent crime and justice consultancy based in London. Our work focuses on improving the criminal justice system by working with partners such as the police, government and charitable trusts to create positive change. Crest Advisory has conducted similar surveys locally for the London Borough of Newham and nationally for the Youth Endowment Fund, and have applied an ethical framework to ensure the well-being of children and young people when taking part in the survey. **If you have any questions about the survey, please contact your school.**

Why is the survey of children and young people so important?

The views and experiences of children and young people are often excluded in conversations around serious violence, and in doing so we miss out on their valuable insight. The survey provides the opportunity for the voices of children and young people to be included in this work.

What will happen to the results of the survey?

Once the survey is complete, Crest will analyse survey results and share a summary of our key findings with schools. Findings from the survey will then be written up into a report with recommendations for the VRP to consider. Any published reporting by Crest or the West Sussex VRP will only contain aggregated findings, and anonymised references to individual schools.

What will schools and local authorities get from the survey?

Our aim is to give each school insights into their students' perspectives, experiences, and concerns. If over 100 students from a school participate, Crest can share anonymous insights with that school outlining how their young people responded; giving schools a clearer picture of the views and experiences of their students of serious violence. Each school will only receive their own anonymised results rather than all results.