[](https://www.swindon.gov.uk/)

**Changes to the Swindon Pupils’ Voice Surveys**

This is a briefing to secondary schools about changes to the provision of the Swindon pupils’ voice survey.

Your school will have previously been involved in supporting pupils to complete the How are You? survey, led by Chameleon PDE. Data from the How are You? survey has been invaluable for us to understand more about the needs of a large sample of local children and young people, to champion these, and to inform commissioning decisions.

We are extremely satisfied with how Chameleon PDE coordinated the survey, and I’d imagine those of you who received bespoke reports for your school would agree.

You can view the results, and videos created by Chameleon PDE on the [Swindon Healthy Schools website](https://www.swindonhealthyschools.org/schools/school-surveys/).

If you have not done so yet, we would encourage you to use the 2-3 minute videos with perception/social norms data from the survey in your PSHE lessons; the data is very interesting and a powerful reminder to young people that the behaviour of their peers is less risky than they believe it to be, therefore reducing peer pressure around some risky activities.

There are three main changes to the Swindon pupils’ voice survey:

1. **Bringing the survey in-house from Autumn 2024**

Due to budgetary constraints, Swindon Borough Council has made the to coordinate the pupil voice survey in-house as opposed to commissioning an external organisation. We will still provide a bespoke data report for each secondary school that provides at least 100 responses and the amalgamated report.

1. **Running an emotional and wellbeing-specific pupil voice survey in Autumn 2024 and alternating this each year with the wider health and wellbeing survey (similar to the previous How are You? survey)**

This recognises the increased need to understand the mental health needs of pupils in light of concerns around:

* School attendance rates;
* Swindon’s higher than average rate of hospital admissions relating to self-harm than the South West and national rates[[1]](#footnote-1) ;
* a higher rate of school-aged children in the South West (including Swindon) with Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties (SEMH) than the national average[[2]](#footnote-2).

1. **Extending the age ranges completing the survey**

This year, years 4, 6, 7, and 10 will complete the survey. Previously, we’ve focussed on years 8 and 10. This is to better understand the needs of pupils around the time of transition from primary to secondary school. These age groups will be kept under review for future years.

We want to ensure we have the right environments, support and services in place in Swindon to promote mental health and emotional wellbeing effectively and to meet the needs of children and young people. To do this, we need to hear from children and young people about their experience. The larger the number the more confident we can be in the findings.

**How you can help**

* Please engage with the Swindon-wide survey, as the amalgamated results are extremely useful for the reasons detailed above.
* Please allow time in PSHE lessons (or another appropriate time during the school day) for pupils to complete the survey.
* The survey will be open after the October 2024 half-term until the Christmas holidays. Links and QR codes will be provided.

**For more information:**

If you have any further questions about the survey, please email [SwindonHealthySchools@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:SwindonHealthySchools@swindon.gov.uk)

1. BSW ICB data [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. LG Inform. Number of pupils in state-funded secondary schools in England [Internet]. Available from: https://lginform.local.gov.uk/reports/lgastandard?mod-area=E92000001&mod-group=AllRegions\_England&mod-metric=2205&mod-type=namedComparisonGroup&mod-period=1 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)