



Department  
for Education

# Parent, Pupil and Learner Panel

Technical report

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# Overview

The Department for Education (DfE) commissioned the Parent, Pupil and Learner Panel (PPLP) to collect robust and quick turnaround research to support policy development during recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. The PPLP aims to help DfE make evidence-based policy decisions and see how views and experiences of parents, pupils and learners change over time.

This technical report covers each element of the PPLP data collection and delivery process during the 2022/23 academic year, across the recruitment phase for primary parents; secondary parents and pupils in years 7 to 11. Please see the [technical report covering the 2021/22 academic year](#) for information about the 2021/22 PPLP. The report is divided into the following sections:

- Section 1: Overview. Includes an overview of the aims of the panel and what this document covers.
- Section 2: Methodology Overview. Summarises the timescales for each wave and the reasons for the method selected.
- Section 3: Sampling. Outlines the size and structure of the starting sample and a summary of the recruitment phase.
- Section 4: Questionnaire. Provides details of the questionnaire development and cognitive testing of the questionnaires.
- Section 5: Fieldwork. Details the process for inviting panel members to participate and subsequent communication processes with panel members.
- Section 6: Response Rates. Outlines how many people took part in each wave; the breakdown of responses by key respondent groups as well as how many waves panellists took part in on average.
- Section 7: Weighting. A summary of the weighting approach.
- Section 8: Data Processing and Analysis. An outline of the process for processing and analysing data, including which key subgroups were looked at and how significant differences were tested.
- Section 9: Appendices. Communications sent to panel members and additional ad hoc analysis.

# Methodology overview

## Overview of Phase 1 and Phase 2

The research was structured into 2 broad phases:

- Phase 1: the September 2022 recruitment wave (September 2022-October 2022) invited pupils in years 6-10 and parents of pupils in reception to year 10 in the 2021/22 academic year to take part in a 15-minute online survey and join the PPLP. Panel members were sampled from the National Pupil Database (NPD) and contacted by letter, inviting them to take part in an online survey (push-to-web approach).
- Phase 2: subsequent waves involved emailing panel members and inviting them to take part in regular short 10-minute surveys.

In Phase 1, fieldwork lasted 4 weeks between 23 September 2022 to 21 October 2022. Potential participants were sent an initial invitation letter and a reminder letter which was sent two weeks into the fieldwork period. Participants were offered a £5 incentive in the form of a Love2Shop voucher.

Phase 2 surveys were open for five days. Panellists who opted in to receiving a prenotification email received an email roughly a week before each research wave began informing them a survey would be coming. All panel members were sent an initial email invitation and panel members who provided a mobile number in the recruitment survey were also sent an SMS invitation when fieldwork began. SMS and email reminders were sent on day three and a second reminder email on day five of fieldwork.

A £2.50 incentive, in the form of an Amazon voucher, was offered to parents and pupils at the first research wave in Phase 2 and in subsequent research waves, respondents were offered a choice of a £2.50 Amazon voucher or to complete a further survey and receive a £5 Love2Shop voucher, offering respondents flexibility in their rewards. Incentives were paid after the completion of fieldwork.

Key unweighted demographics for respondents at each research wave are shown in Appendix E. Only a subset of the original panel of parents and secondary aged pupils took part in each subsequent wave of the survey; however, at each wave, results were weighted to be representative of the full panel.

Table 1 gives a breakdown of each wave of fieldwork completed, including the recruitment wave. The table outlines the number of responses achieved, the dates of the fieldwork period and the fieldwork reference used to refer to each wave in PPLP reports.

**Table 1: Parent Pupil and Learner Panel (PPLP) waves in 2022/23**

<b>Wave</b>	<b>Number of responses</b>	<b>Fieldwork period</b>	<b>Fieldwork reference</b>
Recruitment wave	5,564 total parent responses and 4,950 pupil responses (years 7 to 11)	23 September 2022 – 21 October 2022	September/October 2022 recruitment wave
November wave (Research wave 2)	2,976 total parent responses and 2,245 pupil responses (years 7 to 11)	9 November 2022 – 14 November 2022	November 2022

# Sampling

## Target populations

There were three target populations for the PPLP:

- (i) Parents of pupils educated in the maintained sector, years 1 to 6
- (ii) Parents of pupils educated in the maintained sector, years 7 to 11
- (iii) Pupils educated in the maintained sector, years 7 to 11

Pupils and parents of pupils in independent schools, special schools, pupil referral units, and those who are home educated, were excluded from these target populations.

## Sample frames

The National Pupil Database (NPD, compiled following the Summer Census 2021/22) was used as the sample frame. This sample was drawn in September 2022.

For parents and pupils up to year 11, the school year was rolled forward due to the point the NPD extract was taken. This meant, for example, that a sample of pupils in reception year (R) at the time of the Summer Census was taken to cover pupils in year 1 in the 2022-23 academic year. As a result, there will be a small degree of non-coverage affecting these samples, due to population churn between NPD compilation and the PPLP recruitment survey. In particular, this will affect coverage of parents of pupils in year 1 because the sample is limited to those that attended year R (it is not compulsory); and pupils in reception during academic year 2022-23 were not covered. All surveyed pupils and parents are referred to using the year group the pupil was in during the 2022/23 academic year.

## Stratification

The NPD was explicitly stratified by pupil population (i), (ii) or (iii) and, within population, by the intersection of three binary variables: SEN status, free school meals (FSM) status, and children in need status (CiN). Different sampling fractions were applied to each explicit stratum.

The following subgroups were oversampled to improve the precision of survey estimates for these subgroups, and to reflect lower response rates achieved during previous Parent and Pupil Panels (academic years 2020/21 and 2021/22) and illustrates how they were defined. All subgroups were identified based on data from the NPD or ILR:

- SEN (NPD variable: SENprovision\_SUM22): A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for them. A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if they:
  - have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the



same age, or

- have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.
- Many children and young people who have SEND may also have a disability under the Equality Act 2010 – that is ‘...a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities’. Where a disabled child or young person requires special educational provision, they will also be covered by the SEND definition.
- For more detail, please see the SEND Code of Practice.
- CiN (NPD variable: CINAnyPoint): This is a broad definition spanning a wide range of children and adolescents, in need of varying types of support and intervention, for a variety of reasons. A child is defined as ‘in need’ under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, where:
  - They are unlikely to achieve or maintain, or to have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision for them of services by a local authority.
  - Their health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision for them of such services; or
  - They are disabled.
- FSM (NPD variable: FSMeligible\_SUM22): Eligibility for FSM is used as a proxy for socioeconomic status for those eligible based on means testing rather than universal entitlement in years reception to year 2. Pupils eligible for FSM were considered to be living in greater socioeconomic deprivation than those pupils who were not eligible for FSM.

Within each explicit stratum, the pupils were sorted hierarchically before a systematic random sample was drawn from the NPD. The NPD sorting variables – ranked from first to last - were:

- school year
- age
- sex
- ethnic group
- primary SEN type (SEN strata only)
- local authority
- school unique reference number (URN)

- Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) rank based on home address Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA)

## Issued sample sizes for the September/October 2022 recruitment survey

In total, a sample of 86,814 pupils was drawn, and then divided into two replicates (called the 'original' and 'mirror' samples) of near-identical size and profile. The original sample of 43,407 was issued for the first recruitment survey.

A breakdown of letters sent are summarised below in Table 2.

**Table 2: Recruitment wave September/October 2022 invitation letters**

Invitation type	Number sent
Parent only	16,540
Parent and pupil	19,192
Pupil only	7,663

The issued sample sizes for each explicit stratum are given in Table 3 below.

Only two samples were drawn *directly* from the NPD: for parents of primary aged pupils and secondary school pupils. The sample for parents of secondary school pupils was drawn from the secondary pupil sample, i.e., in every case where a parent was invited to join the PPLP, the pupil was too, but there were some cases where a parent was *not* invited to join the PPLP but the pupil was. This approach was taken because DfE wanted to recruit a larger panel of secondary pupils than secondary parents. Using this approach also means that we maximise the proportion of paired interviews achieved – which allows for analysis based on both parent and pupil responses.

Sample volumes to draw were calculated based on likely response rate for each group. These estimates were based on the response rates achieved for the 2021/22 Parent and Pupil Panel (PPP).

**Table 3: Stratum level issued sample sizes and recruitment levels**

Stratum	Issued sample size	Target panel members	Recruited to panel
<b>Total: Population (i)</b>	16,540	2,578	2,777
Parents of primary pupils - CiN & FSM	2,541	326	399
Parents of primary pupils - CiN & SEN	973	110	125
Parents of primary pupils - CiN only	1,369	165	186
Parents of primary pupils - CiN, FSM & SEN	1,830	229	242
Parents of primary pupils - FSM & SEN	596	93	101

Parents of primary pupils - FSM only	1,512	256	262
Parents of primary pupils - SEN only	1,189	183	210
Parents of primary pupils – None	6,530	1,216	1,252
<b>Total: Population (ii)</b>	<b>19,192</b>	<b>2,547</b>	<b>2,787</b>
Parents of secondary pupils - CiN & FSM	2,000	272	273
Parents of secondary pupils - CiN & SEN	1,398	149	167
Parents of secondary pupils - CiN only	1,478	188	192
Parents of secondary pupils - CiN, FSM & SEN	1,759	218	182
Parents of secondary pupils - FSM & SEN	1,130	101	119
Parents of secondary pupils - FSM only	2,218	202	243
Parents of secondary pupils - SEN only	1,195	198	225
Parents of secondary pupils – None	8,014	1,219	1,386
<b>Total: Population (iii)</b>	<b>26,855</b>	<b>4,903</b>	<b>4,950</b>
Secondary pupils - CiN & FSM	2,778	391	448
Secondary pupils - CiN & SEN	1,620	214	183
Secondary pupils - CiN only	2,010	270	318
Secondary pupils - CiN, FSM and SEN	3,464	313	392
Secondary pupils - FSM & SEN	1,811	226	249
Secondary pupils - FSM only	3,147	652	645
Secondary pupils - SEN only	2,082	375	423
Secondary pupils - None	9,943	2,462	2,292

Table 3 also shows both the target and achieved respondent sample sizes per stratum. In most strata, the achieved sample size was slightly higher than the target sample size.

## Sample checking

At each wave, the sample file was updated. Before launching each survey, the updated sample file was spot checked against the original NPD sample file. All questions which were routed based on sample variables were also double checked. Where respondents had requested not to be contacted again, their data was removed. Before sending invites, the extract from the master sample profile was checked to ensure that it corresponded to the specific audience that the wave was targeting (e.g., parents only).

## Questionnaire

For each wave, DfE gathered provisional questions from policy teams across the Department, reviewed submissions and sent provisional questionnaires (one questionnaire for parents and one for pupils) to Kantar Public. Kantar Public and the DfE then worked together to develop and refine the questions until they were ready for cognitive testing. Questions to be cognitively tested were decided jointly by DfE and Kantar Public, depending on the complexity of the question/answer codes and whether the question was new for the particular wave.

## Cognitive testing

Kantar Public conducted 16 telephone interviews with 6 parents and 10 pupils lasting 30 minutes per respondent. Interviews were conducted by members of the Kantar Public research team. Respondents were given a £40 Amazon voucher to thank them for their time. A free find recruitment approach, where respondents were sourced from recruiter databases, was used for cognitive testing the recruitment wave and subsequent research waves.

## Questionnaire checking

After cognitive testing, a report from Kantar Public was delivered to DfE with recommended changes and the final questionnaire was signed-off by DfE. The length of the questionnaire was also reviewed to ensure it was no longer than 10 minutes. Once the questionnaire was signed off, it was scripted into the web survey. This web survey was checked extensively by the Kantar Public research team. Once initial checks were complete, “dummy” data was run through the online survey and downloaded as a raw data file. The routing of each question was then double checked using this data. Finally, after all amends had been made, the survey was signed-off by a senior researcher in the Kantar Public team.

# Fieldwork

## Phase 1 September/October 2022 recruitment: Initial invites

Individuals were invited to complete the initial recruitment survey to join the 'Parent, Pupil and Learner Panel', via a survey weblink using unique log-in details.

On 23 September 2022, Kantar Public sent invitation letters to parents and pupils, explaining what being part of the panel would involve, why the research was important and that it was being carried out by Kantar Public on behalf of Department for Education. The letters provided further information about how respondents were chosen, incentives, instructions on how to complete the recruitment survey (including log-in details) and the contact information for Kantar Public. Additionally, the letter also explained that upon joining the panel, they could expect to be invited to further short surveys until July 2023.

There were several versions of the initial invite letters sent out to potential panellists:

1. Secondary Pupils: An invitation letter for secondary pupils (year 7 to year 11 in the 2022/2023 academic year) asking them to join the panel, with full copies available in Appendix B and Appendix C
2. Secondary Parents (joint): An invitation letter for parents of secondary pupils (year 7 to year 11 in the 2022/2023 academic year) asking them to join the panel. Additionally, the parent invite letter asked the parent to pass on the letter (Letter 1) to their child if they consented for them to join the panel, with full copies available in Appendix B and Appendix C
3. Primary parents: An invitation letter for parents of primary pupils (year 1 to year 6 in the 2022/2023 academic year) with full copies available in Appendix A
4. Secondary pupils: If pupils were invited to join the panel and the parent was not, a letter was sent to the child's parent/guardian, which informed them about the panel and asked them to pass on the invitation letter to their child if consented for them to join the panel, with full copies available in Appendix B and Appendix C

Where households were sent both parent and pupil invite letters, these were sent in the same envelope. A slightly different version of the letters were sent to pupils and parents of pupils in year 7-8 and those in year 9-11 because of the different topics covered in the recruitment survey for these groups<sup>1</sup>. Examples of these initial invite letters are included in the Appendices of this report.

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<sup>1</sup> Pupils in years 9-11 were asked about their sexual orientation, whereas pupils in years 7-8 were not.

## **Phase 1 September/October 2022 recruitment: Reminder invites**

On 10 October, Kantar Public sent reminder letters to all individuals who had not completed the initial recruitment survey. The reminder letters were tailored based on who from the household had responded. For example, if the parent had completed the survey but the pupil had not, the letter thanked the parent/carer for their response and asked them to remind their child to take part. The reminder letters provided the same information as the invite letters and included instructions to complete the survey (including log-in details).

## **Phase 2: Invites to subsequent research waves**

For each research wave in Phase 2, panellists received an invitation email alerting them to the fact that a new survey was ready to be completed. The email invites reintroduced the research to the respondents, thanked them for their time, gave them information about the incentive and the contact details for Kantar Public and the DfE.

Panellists were asked during the recruitment survey whether they wanted prenotification of an upcoming survey wave. Where panellists opted in for prenotification, an email was sent up to a week before each research wave advising another survey would begin shortly. An example of the invitation email is included in Appendix D of this report. The content of the email was largely consistent for each research wave.

## **Helpdesk support**

Kantar Public set up a project email mailbox which was shared with panel members in the Phase 1 initial invite, reminder invite and all subsequent communications with panellists. A freephone number was also set up, with a recorded voicemail box for panel members to use which was monitored frequently. Mailbox activity was checked daily by a member of the team at Kantar Public. All queries were dealt with in 1 to 2 working days.

## **Escalations**

The Department for Education and Kantar Public have an agreed process for escalating any concerning responses recorded in the panel surveys. A list of terms which could raise concern was agreed between DfE and Kantar Public. Subsequently at each wave, Kantar Public review any open text responses recorded by respondents against this list of terms. If any responses mention a term, they are reviewed by the research team at Kantar Public and flagged up to the Kantar Public project manager and director for review. These checks are conducted daily during research waves and daily for the first ten working days of recruitment waves and at least once a week for the remainder of recruitment fieldwork.

In cases where a response has mentioned one of the agreed terms but Kantar Public does not identify evidence of direct harm or threat of harm to the respondent, Kantar Public send an email with support links to the respondent. In cases where a response from pupils,

learners or parents discloses safeguarding concerns or other evidence of direct harm or threat of harm to the respondent, then Kantar Public contact DfE. DfE contact the respondent's school or college via the designated safeguarding lead within 24 hours of receiving the response from Kantar Public.

In the rare occurrence a respondent presents an immediate threat to harm themselves or others, then Kantar Public will contact the emergency services.

The survey communications with respondents and the privacy policy inform respondents that these steps could be taken by Kantar Public and DfE. A page with links to support services is also presented to all respondents at the end of each survey.

## Opt outs

Panellists were able to opt out of the research at any point by contacting Kantar Public via the email mailbox or freephone number.

## Recruitment survey incentives

To thank respondents for completing the September/October 2022 recruitment survey, respondents were offered a £5 conditional Love2Shop voucher as an incentive. Love2Shop was offered to provide respondents with flexibility about where vouchers could be redeemed, including a variety of retailers such as Argos, John Lewis and Just Eat.

Once participants had completed their survey, they received their Love2Shop voucher within 7 to 10 working days. The voucher was sent to their email address, which they had provided in the recruitment survey. The email thanked respondents for joining the panel, signposted information about where respondents could go to for support if the survey had touched on sensitive issues for the respondent and provided them with their voucher code and information about how to redeem it.

Respondents were directed to go to the Love2Shop website (<https://www.love2shoprewards.co.uk/login.php>) and enter their voucher code to redeem their incentive. They could then choose from a catalogue of retailers to spend the voucher.

## Research wave incentives

To thank respondents for completing each research wave, respondents were offered a £2.50 conditional incentive. From research wave 2, respondents were offered a choice between receiving a £2.50 Amazon e-gift card immediately after fieldwork or the option to receive a £5 Love2Shop e-gift card if they completed a subsequent wave.

## Response rates

Table 9 shows the number of parents and pupils who have taken part in each wave including the recruitment wave. Table 10 shows what response rate this equates to, specifically what proportion of those who joined the panel went on to complete each wave.

At each wave, response numbers were capped based on pupil year group targets. This ensured a spread of completed surveys per year group and contained costs. The target numbers per wave were based on estimates of the likely response rate if all those wishing to respond were allowed to.

### Response rate for the initial panel recruitment

The overall response from contacting 35,732 parents and 26,855 pupils was 17%. The response rates by major subgroups for each subsequent research wave are shown in Table 4 below.

**Table 4 Number of parents and pupils who completed each wave**

Wave	Fieldwork period	All parents	Primary parents	Secondary parents	Secondary pupils (year 7 to year 11)
Recruitment	23 September 2022 – 21 October 2022	5,564	2,777	2,787	4,950
Research wave 2	9 November 2022 – 14 November 2022	2,976	1,468	1,508	2,245



**Table 5 Percentage of parents and pupils who completed each wave**

Wave	Fieldwork period	All parents	Primary parents	Secondary parents	Secondary pupils (year 7 to year 11)
Recruitment	23 September 2022 – 21 October 2022	16%	17%	15%	18%
Research wave 2	9 November 2022 – 14 November 2022	53%	53%	54%	45%

Note: the response rates for the recruitment wave is calculated from all who were invited to join the panel. The responses rates for the research waves are based on those who joined the panel.

### Demographic profile of recruited respondents

5,564 parents joined the panel comprising 2,777 parents of primary school pupils and 2,787 parents of secondary school pupils. The profile of these parents is shown in Table 6 and Table 7.

**Table 6 Profile of parents surveyed, year group and eligibility status**

	All parents	Primary school parents	Secondary school parents
Base	5,564	2,777	2,787
Pupil year group			
Year 1	7%	13%	
Year 2	8%	17%	
Year 3	9%	18%	
Year 4	9%	18%	
Year 5	9%	18%	
Year 6	8%	17%	
Year 7	11%		23%
Year 8	10%		20%
Year 9	10%		21%

Year 10	9%		19%
Year 11	9%		18%
FSM eligibility			
Yes	33%	36%	29%
No	67%	64%	71%
SEN status			
Yes	25%	24%	25%
No	75%	76%	75%
CiN status			
Yes	32%	34%	29%
No	68%	66%	71%

Base: All parents (5,564). Source: NPD

**Table 7 Profile of parents surveyed, ethnicity, gender and region**

	All parents	Primary school parents	Secondary school parents
Base	5,564	2,777	2,787
Ethnicity			
White	80%	80%	79%
Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups	2%	2%	2%
Asian / Asian British	9%	8%	9%
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	4%	4%	4%
Other ethnic group	2%	2%	2%
Prefer not to say	1%	1%	1%
Other ethnic minority groups (excluding white minorities)	17%	16%	18%
Gender			
Female	85%	86%	84%
Male	14%	13%	16%
I identify in some other way	*	*	*
Prefer not to say	1%	1%	1%
Region			

East Midlands	9%	9%	9%
East of England	9%	10%	10%
London	11%	11%	12%
North-east	5%	5%	5%
North-west	14%	14%	14%
South-east	17%	17%	17%
South-west	10%	10%	11%
West Midlands	12%	13%	11%
Yorkshire and the Humber	11%	11%	11%

Base: All parents (5,564); all parents. Source: NPD/PPLP 2022 recruitment parent survey, Which of the following best describes your gender?

In total, 4,950 secondary school pupils joined the panel. Their profile is shown in Table 8 and Table 9.

**Table 8 Profile of pupils surveyed, year group and eligibility status**

	Secondary school pupils
Base	4,950
Pupil year group	
Year 7	19%
Year 8	19%
Year 9	20%
Year 10	21%
Year 11	20%
FSM eligibility	
Yes	35%
No	65%
SEN status	
Yes	25%
No	75%
CIN status	
Yes	27%
No	73%

**Table 9 Profile of pupils surveyed, ethnicity, gender and region**

	<b>Secondary school pupils</b>
Base	4,950
Ethnicity	
White	74%
Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups	7%
Asian / Asian British	10%
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	5%
Chinese	<1%
Other ethnic group	2%
Missing	2%
Other ethnic minority groups (excluding white minorities)	24%
Gender	
Female	49%
Male	48%
I identify in some other way	2%
Prefer not to say	1%
Region	
East Midlands	9%
East of England	11%
London	13%
North-east	5%
North-west	13%
South-east	17%
South-west	10%
West Midlands	11%
Yorkshire and the Humber	11%

Base: All secondary school pupils (4,950). Source: NPD/PPLP 2022 recruitment pupil survey, Which of the following best describes your gender?

# Weighting

## September/October 2022 recruitment wave

For the September/October 2022 recruitment wave, the pupils and the parents sampled were weighted to be representative of pupils in state schools in England.

Table 3 in the Sampling chapter shows how many panel members were recruited in each stratum. Sampling probabilities varied between strata due to the disproportionate sampling design described in the Sampling chapter. In addition, sub-populations responded to the recruitment survey at different rates. Consequently, the recruited panel from each population was not fully representative of the population. To compensate for this, Kantar Public created a 'base weight' for every recruited panel member. Application of this base weight should convert the recruited panel from being unrepresentative of the target population to being approximately representative.

Weighting was based on characteristics of the pupils only, as the NPD does not hold information about parents.

Separate weights were calculated for the three populations (and for paired pupil and parent secondary responses). The calculation of the weights for the recruitment stage involved two stages:

- A design weight. This corrected for the fact some strata were over-sampled relative to their incidence in the population. The design weight was equal to the inverse of each cases sampling probability.
- A non-response adjustment was used to compensate for systematic non-response. A raking algorithm was used to make the sample margins a close match to the population margins for key NPD variables. The design weight was input as the base weight for the raking. The variables included in the weighting were: sex, school year, SEN status, FSM status, CiN status, (major) ethnic group, region, home address IDACI band (out of 4), and KS1/KS2 overall band (KS1 for population (i), KS2 for populations (ii) and (iii)).

This weight was then used as the 'base weight' for every panel member. Application of this base weight should convert the recruited panel from being unrepresentative of the target population to being approximately representative by accounting for the likelihood of the respondent being sampled relative to the probability the respondent would be recruited.

## Weighting Y7-11 ongoing panel surveys

For each ongoing panel survey, an additional stage of weighting was required to ensure that the responding sample at each wave was representative of the population. This stage of weighting compensated for systematic differences in attrition/response rates between sub-groups of the recruited panel.

For each respondent, the probability that they responded to each ongoing panel survey was estimated using a logistic regression model with the following structure:

Outcome = responded/not responded to the survey (binary status)

Base = all members of each target population ((i), (ii) or (iii)) that were recruited to the panel at research wave 1

Weight = the 'base weight' calculated for the recruitment survey (as outlined above)

Predictor variables = sex, school year, SEN status, FSM status, CiN status, (major) ethnic group, region, home address IDACI band (out of 4), and KS1/KS2 overall band (KS1 for population (i), KS2 for populations (ii) and (iii))

Different models were produced for each of the three target populations. An additional model was also produced to generate a base weight for those cases where *both* parent and pupil were recruited.

## Design effects

Mean design effects for each wave of the parent survey can be found in Table 10 below. This is the mean design effect (taking into account the weighting and pre stratification) across five survey variables per research wave. The questions used to calculate the design effects are listed in F.

**Table 10 Design effects for all parent surveys**

	Base (unweighted)	Design effect
Recruitment - Research Wave 1	5564	1.52
Research Wave 2	2976	1.71

Mean design effects for each wave of the Y7-Y11 pupil survey can be found in Table 11 below. This is the mean design effect (taking into account the weighting and pre stratification) across five survey variables per research wave. The questions used to calculate the design effects are listed in Appendix F.

**Table 11 Design effects for Y7-11 pupil surveys**

	<b>Base (unweighted)</b>	<b>Design effect</b>
Recruitment (Y7-11) – Research Wave 1	4950	1.36
Research Wave 2 (Y7-11)	4950	1.36

## Data processing and analysis

Kantar Public produced a data processing specification for how the raw survey data should be processed into an SPSS file and Excel tables. Open questions were coded to a coding specification also created by Kantar Public.

The table specification contained a list of cross breaks corresponding to key sub-groups of interest, such as 'Pupil Year'. These cross breaks were agreed in discussion with DfE. The specification also detailed the base that should be used to analyse each question.

The Excel data tables were used for analysis that fed into report writing, both for reporting headline results for each question and for investigating variations by specific sub-groups. The SPSS files were used to supplement this analysis, for example when findings from the data tables suggested a need for additional analysis. The data tables contained both weighted and unweighted totals and displayed percentages corresponding to weighted responses for question codes. The data tables and SPSS files are not publicly available.

When determining a minimum base size for reporting headline findings, each question was looked at individually, although the majority of the charts or significant differences flagged in the report did not include differences between subgroups where there was a base size of less than 100. Where indicative findings were reported from a small base size, this was flagged in the report, and these findings should be treated with caution. Significant differences were always reported across the following sub-groups:

- pupil/learner year group
- FSM eligibility
- SEN status
- CiN status

## Data checking

The Kantar Public research team checked all data outputs for the research. For the SPSS file, each variable in the SPSS output was checked against a raw SPSS download and the SPSS specification. Amends were recorded in the specification, marked as completed by data processors, then marked as checked by the research team. Checks included:

- all variables were present and in the correct order
- for each variable, the number and percentage giving each response matched the raw SPSS
- derived variables were correctly calculated
- base sizes were as specified
- question wording matched the table titles



- recoding of numeric questions correct (for example to recode some ineligible answers)
- data sense-checks/looking for outliers.

Researchers also carried out the same checking process for the Excel tables. The tables were compared to raw SPSS files with any amendments logged in the specification form. Cross-breaks were checked for correct bases and sense checked against the variable they were derived from. Summary tables containing multiple variables were also checked to ensure they matched against the variables they derived from, while all numeric questions, re-coded or back coded questions were also fully checked. Table titles and fieldwork dates were checked to ensure they matched the specification.

Verbatim coding was checked independently of the SPSS files and Excel tables. This included checking that responses were appropriate for the question, whether question codes matched-up between different audiences and that the answers given had been assigned the correct code. At least 10% of each new code frame was checked by the Kantar Public research team mid-way through fieldwork when there was a substantial number of completes, and again at the end of fieldwork. Coding was added once all other data edits had been made. Frequencies of coded variables were then checked against the final agreed code frame.

Kantar Public carried out additional checks once both tables and SPSS were finalised. These checks focused on base sizes and cross-break checking, but also included spot checks of all data tables and back coding. A senior team member then carried out final spot checks on the tables.

## Statistical tests

The data tables use two statistical tests to highlight significant differences. For categorical data, the z-test for two proportions is used on column (sub-group) percentages. For numerical data, the t-test for independent means is run on column means. Both tests use the weighted figures. Differences are only marked when the tests show that a difference is statistically significant at the 95% confidence level, or higher.

The tests used show only statistically significant bivariate differences: no multivariate testing of main effects or interaction effects is routinely conducted for the published survey reports. For this reason, reporting does not highlight instances where significant differences for a tested variable may partly capture mediating or interaction effects.

## Accompanying data tables

A set of data tables for each research wave have been published alongside these reports. The tables have been designed to meet accessibility guidelines. They include data for pupils, parents and learners for each recruitment and research wave. They include statistical testing,

total responses and responses by key subgroups for each data set. For further guidance on how to interpret these tables, please see the covering pages of the data tables.

# Appendices

# Appendix A: Invite to the PPLP to individual parents



Department  
for Education

KANTAR PUBLIC

FAO: Parent or guardian of {First name} {Last name}

{Address Line 1}

{Address Line 2}

{Address Line 3}

{Postcode}

{Date letter sent}

Ref: {RESP SERIAL NUMBER}

Dear Parent / Carer of [Pupil name],

**Join the Parent, Pupil and Learner Panel: the Department for Education wants to understand the experiences of families like yours.**

We would like you to join the panel. The initial registration survey covers a range of topics including your child's experiences at school. You will then be invited by email to take part in more short surveys in this school year.

**The surveys are quick and easy: you will receive a gift voucher for each one you complete.**

- ✓ You will receive £5.00 for completing the initial registration survey (around 15 minutes)
- ✓ You will receive another £2.50 for each shorter survey (around 10 minutes)

Completion of this survey is voluntary. You don't have to take part if you don't want to. The surveys will cover some sensitive and personal topics, such as mental health, but these questions are optional. By taking part you are agreeing for survey answers to be linked to [pupil name]'s future data held by the Department for Education about education, employment and earnings.

Your survey responses will be treated confidentially in line with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. More details about the research and about your privacy can be found on the back of this letter.

**The panel can only accept a limited number of members so please sign-up soon!**

## How to take part

- 1 Go to REDACTED or scan the QR code on a smartphone
- 2 Enter your username: [username]
- 3 Enter your passcode: [passcode]



If you have difficulty taking part online, please contact Kantar Public on REDACTED or email REDACTED

I very much hope that you will be able to take part in this important research.

Yours sincerely,

Page 1 of 2

Vicky Petrie, Chief Social Researcher, Department for Education



### Why have I been invited to join the panel?

You have been invited to take part in this important research as a parent or guardian of a child who attends a school in England. Your child's contact details were selected randomly from the National Pupil Database. This database is maintained by the Department for Education. Kantar have been given permission to use the contact details for research.



### What if I do not have access to the internet or need help taking part?

If you would like to join the panel but cannot complete the survey online please contact us using the details at the bottom of this letter and we will help you to take part.



### Is this research confidential?

Yes. Survey answers and personal details will be kept in the strictest confidence and stored safely. Only researchers at Kantar Public and the Department for Education will know what you have said. All statistics will be reported anonymously, meaning that it will not be possible to identify you in any published reports.

However, if we believe someone is in direct threat of harm as a result of something that's been disclosed, we may email to advise on where to go for support, or – in some exceptional circumstances – contact the school.

You will not receive any 'junk mail' as a result of taking part.



### Why are my views important?

We need people from all backgrounds and parts of the country to take part. Your views are important to help the government to understand how they can better support pupils and families.



### What kind of questions will I be asked?

The surveys will cover topics like behaviour in school, childcare, mental health and wellbeing and school attendance as well as some sensitive or personal topics like ethnicity. You might be asked questions like, "How often do you feel lonely?", "Which qualifications have you heard of?" or "How well has your child settled in at school?".



### How do I know that this is genuine?

The Department for Education (DfE) has commissioned Kantar Public to carry out this survey on their behalf. Kantar Public is an independent research agency. [www.kantarpublic.com](http://www.kantarpublic.com).



### Who is conducting this research?

The research is being conducted on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE) by Kantar Public, an independent research agency ([www.kantarpublic.com](http://www.kantarpublic.com)).



### What have others said about being part of the panel?

*"It has been brilliant to have a voice and be a part of something which I consider to be extremely important"* - Parent

For more information, please visit the website FAQs at REDACTED

To talk to someone about the research or ask not to be contacted further about this research, please contact Kantar Public on:

Email: REDACTED

Telephone: REDACTED

# Appendix B: Invite to the PPLP to parents and pupils in year 9+

## Parent letter, where parent is invited to join



Department  
for Education

KANTAR PUBLIC

FAO: Parent or guardian of {First name} {Last name}  
{Address Line 1}  
{Address Line 2}  
{Address Line 3}  
{Postcode}

{Date letter sent}  
Ref: {RESP SERIAL NUMBER}

Dear Parent / Carer of [Pupil name],

**Join the Parent, Pupil and Learner Panel: the Department for Education wants to understand the experiences of families like yours.**

We would like **both** you and [pupil name] to join the panel. The initial registration survey covers a range of topics including your child's experiences at school. You and [pupil name] will then be invited by email to take part in more short surveys in this school year.

**The surveys are quick and easy: you will receive a gift voucher for each one you complete.**

- ✓ You will each receive £5.00 for completing the initial registration survey (around 15 minutes)
- ✓ You will each receive another £2.50 for each shorter survey (around 10 minutes)

**If you are happy for [pupil name] to take part, please give them the other letter in the envelope.**

Completion of this survey is voluntary. You don't have to take part if you don't want to. The surveys will cover some sensitive and personal topics, such as mental health, but these questions are optional. By taking part you are agreeing for survey answers to be linked to [pupil name]'s future data held by the Department for Education about education, employment and earnings.

Your survey responses will be treated confidentially in line with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. More details about the research and about your privacy can be found on the back of this letter.

**The panel can only accept a limited number of members so please sign-up soon!**

### How to take part

- 1 Go to REDACTED or scan the QR code on a smartphone
- 2 Enter your username: REDACTED
- 3 Enter your passcode REDACTED



If you have difficulty taking part online, please contact Kantar Public on REDACTED or email REDACTED

I very much hope that you will be able to take part in this important research.

Yours sincerely,

Vicky Petrie, Chief Social Researcher, Department for Education



### **Why have I been invited to join the panel?**

You have been invited to take part in this important research because you attend a school in England. Your contact details were selected randomly from the National Pupil Database. This database is maintained by the Department for Education. Kantar Public have been given permission to use the contact details for research.



### **Why are my views important?**

We need people from all backgrounds and parts of the country to take part. Your views are important to help the government to understand how they can better support pupils and families.



### **What kind of questions will I be asked?**

The surveys will cover topics like behaviour in school, mental health and wellbeing, and school attendance, as well as some sensitive or personal topics like sexual orientation. You might be asked questions like, "How often do you feel lonely?", "Which qualifications have you heard of?" or "How well have you settled in at secondary school?".



### **Who is conducting this research?**

The research is being conducted on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE) by Kantar Public, an independent research agency ([www.kantarpublic.com](http://www.kantarpublic.com)).



### **What if I do not have access to the internet or need help taking part?**

If you would like to join the panel but cannot complete the survey online please contact us using the details at the bottom of this letter and we will help you to take part.



### **Is this research confidential?**

Yes. Your answers and personal details will be kept in the strictest confidence and stored safely. Only researchers at Kantar Public and the Department for Education will know what you have said. All statistics will be reported anonymously, meaning that it will not be possible to identify you in any published reports.

However, if we believe someone is in direct threat of harm as a result of something that's been disclosed, we may email to advise on where to go for support, or – in some exceptional circumstances – contact your parent or the school.

You will not receive any 'junk mail' as a result of taking part.



### **How do I know that this is genuine?**

The Department for Education (DfE) has commissioned Kantar Public to carry out this survey on their behalf. Kantar Public is an independent research agency. [www.kantarpublic.com](http://www.kantarpublic.com).



### **What have others said about being part of the panel?**

*"The surveys are a great idea and are easy to complete."* – Pupil/learner

*"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice my opinion about issues and things affecting my life"* – Pupil/learner

For more information, please visit the website FAQs at REDACTED

To talk to someone about the research or ask not to be contacted further about this research, please contact Kantar Public on:

✉ Email: REDACTED

☎ Telephone: REDACTED

## Parent letter, where parent is not invited to join



Department  
for Education

KANTAR PUBLIC

FAO: Parent or guardian of {First name} {Last name}

{Address Line 1}

{Address Line 2}

{Address Line 3}

{Postcode}

{Date letter sent}

Ref: {RESP SERIAL NUMBER}

Dear Parent / Carer of [Pupil name],

**Encourage (pupil name) to join the Parent, Pupil and Learner Panel: the Department for Education wants to understand the experiences of young people like them.**

We would like [pupil name] to join the panel. The initial registration survey covers a range of topics including their experiences at school. [Pupil name] will then be invited by email to take part in more short surveys in this school year.

**The surveys are quick and easy: [pupil name] will receive a gift voucher for each one they complete.**

- ✓ They will receive £5.00 for completing the initial registration survey (around 15 minutes)
- ✓ They will receive another £2.50 for each shorter survey (around 10 minutes)

**If you are happy for [pupil name] to take part, please give them the other letter in the envelope.**

Completion of this survey is voluntary. They don't have to take part if they don't want to. The surveys will cover some sensitive and personal topics, such as mental health, but these questions are optional. By encouraging them to take part you are agreeing for survey answers to be linked to [pupil name]'s future data held by the Department for Education about education, employment and earnings.

[Pupil name]'s survey responses will be treated confidentially in line with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. More details about the research and about your privacy can be found on the back of this letter.

**The panel can only accept a limited number of members so please encourage them to sign-up soon!**

I very much hope that [pupil name] will be able to take part in this important research.

Yours sincerely,

Vicky Petrie, Chief Social Researcher, Department for Education

Page 1 of 2





**Why has my child been invited to join the panel?**

Your child has been invited to take part in this important research because they attend a school in England. Your child's contact details were selected randomly from the National Pupil Database. This database is maintained by the Department for Education. Kantar Public have been given permission to use the contact details for research.



**Why are my child's views important?**

We need people from all backgrounds and parts of the country to take part. Your child's views are important to help the government to understand how they can better support pupils and families.



**What kind of questions will be asked?**

The surveys will cover topics like behaviour in school, mental health and wellbeing and school attendance. Your child might be asked questions like, "How often do you feel lonely?", "Which qualifications have you heard of?" or "How often have you physically attended school or college?".



**Who is conducting this research?**

The research is being conducted on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE) by Kantar Public, an independent research agency.



**What if my child does not have access to the internet or needs help taking part?**

If your child would like to join the panel but cannot complete the survey online please contact us using the details at the bottom of this letter and we will help them to take part.



**Is this research confidential?**

Yes. Survey answers and personal details will be kept in the strictest confidence and stored safely. Only researchers at Kantar Public and the Department for Education will know what your child has said. All statistics will be reported anonymously, meaning that it will not be possible to identify your child in any published reports.

However, if we believe someone is in direct threat of harm as a result of something that's been disclosed, we may email to advise on where to go for support, or – in some exceptional circumstances – contact you or the school.

Your child will not receive any 'junk mail' as a result of taking part.



**How do I know that this is genuine?**

The Department for Education (DfE) has commissioned Kantar Public to carry out this survey on their behalf. Kantar Public is an independent research agency. [www.kantarpublic.com](http://www.kantarpublic.com).



**What have others said about being part of the panel?**

*"The surveys are a great idea and are easy to complete."* – Pupil/learner

*"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice my opinion about issues and things affecting my life"* – Pupil/learner

For more information, please visit the website FAQs at [REDACTED](#)

To talk to someone about the research or ask not to be contacted further about this research, please contact Kantar Public on:

Email: **REDACTED**  
Telephone: **REDACTED**

## Pupil invitation letter



Department  
for Education

KANTAR PUBLIC

{Date letter sent}

Ref: {RESP SERIAL NUMBER}

Dear [pupil name],

**Join the Parent, Pupil and Learner Panel: the Department for Education wants to understand the experiences of young people like you.**

We are asking thousands of pupils to share their experiences by completing a short survey which covers a range of topics including your experiences at school. You will be invited by email to take part in more short surveys in this school year.

**The surveys are quick and easy: you will receive a gift voucher for each one you complete.**

- ✓ You will receive £5.00 for completing the first survey (around 15 minutes)
- ✓ You will receive another £2.50 for each shorter survey (around 10 minutes)

Completion of this survey is voluntary. You don't have to take part if you don't want to. The surveys will cover some sensitive and personal topics, such as mental health, but these questions are optional. By taking part you are agreeing for your survey answers to be linked to your future data held by the Department for Education about education, employment and earnings.

Your survey responses will be treated confidentially in line with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. More details about the research and about your privacy can be found on the back of this letter.

**The panel can only accept a limited number of members so please sign-up soon!**

### How to take part

- 1 Go to REDACTED or scan the QR code on a smartphone
- 2 Enter your username: [username]
- 3 Enter your passcode: [passcode]



If you have difficulty taking part online, please contact Kantar Public on REDACTED or email REDACTED

Thank you in advance for your help.

Yours sincerely,

Vicky Petrie, Chief Social Researcher, Department for Education



**Why have I been invited to join the panel?**

You have been invited to take part in this important research as a parent or guardian of a child who attends a school in England. Your child's contact details were selected randomly from the National Pupil Database. This database is maintained by the Department for Education. Kantar Public have been given permission to use the contact details for research.



**What if I do not have access to the internet or need help taking part?**

If you would like to join the panel but cannot complete the survey online please contact us using the details at the bottom of this letter and we will help you to take part.



**Is this research confidential?**

Yes. Your answers and personal details will be kept in the strictest confidence and stored safely. Only researchers at Kantar Public and the Department for Education will know what you have said. All statistics will be reported anonymously, meaning that it will not be possible to identify you in any published reports.

However, if we believe someone is in direct threat of harm as a result of something that's been disclosed, we may email to advise on where to go for support, or – in some exceptional circumstances – contact you or the school.

You will not receive any 'junk mail' as a result of taking part.



**Why are my views important?**

We need people from all backgrounds and parts of the country to take part. Your views are important to help the government to understand how they can better support pupils and families.



**What kind of questions will be asked?**

The surveys will cover topics like behaviour in school, childcare, mental health and wellbeing, and school attendance, as well as some sensitive or personal topics like sexual orientation and ethnicity. You might be asked questions like, "How often do you feel lonely?", "Which qualifications have you heard of?" or "How well has your child settled in at secondary school?".



**How do I know this is genuine?**

The Department for Education (DfE) has commissioned Kantar Public to carry out this survey on their behalf. Kantar Public is an independent research agency. [www.kantarpublic.com](http://www.kantarpublic.com).



**Who is conducting this research?**

The research is being conducted on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE) by Kantar Public, an independent research agency ([www.kantarpublic.com](http://www.kantarpublic.com)).



**What have others said about being part of the panel?**

*"It has been brilliant to have a voice and be a part of something which I consider to be extremely important"* - Parent

*"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice my opinion about issues and things affecting my life"* – Pupil/learner

**For more information, please visit the website FAQs at REDACTED**

To talk to someone about the research or ask not to be contacted further about this research, please contact Kantar Public on:

✉ Email: REDACTED  
☎ Telephone: REDACTED

# Appendix C: Invite to the PPLP to parents and pupils in years 7 and 8

## Parent letter, where parent is invited to join



KANTAR PUBLIC

FAO: Parent or guardian of {First name} {Last name}  
{Address Line 1}

{Address Line 2}  
{Address Line 3}  
{Postcode}

{Date letter sent}  
Ref: {RESP SERIAL NUMBER}

Dear Parent / Carer of [Pupil name],

**Join the Parent, Pupil and Learner Panel: the Department for Education wants to understand the experiences of families like yours.**

We would like **both** you and [pupil name] to join the panel. The initial registration survey covers a range of topics including your child's experiences at school. You and [pupil name] will then be invited by email to take part in more short surveys in this school year.

**The surveys are quick and easy: you will receive a gift voucher for each one you complete.**

- ✓ You will each receive £5.00 for completing the initial registration survey (around 15 minutes)
- ✓ You will each receive another £2.50 for each shorter survey (around 10 minutes)

**If you are happy for [pupil name] to take part, please give them the other letter in the envelope.**

Completion of this survey is voluntary. You don't have to take part if you don't want to. The surveys will cover some sensitive and personal topics, such as mental health, but these questions are optional. By taking part you are agreeing for survey answers to be linked to [pupil name]'s future data held by the Department for Education about education, employment and earnings.

Your survey responses will be treated confidentially in line with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. More details about the research and about your privacy can be found on the back of this letter.

**The panel can only accept a limited number of members so please sign-up soon!**

### How to take part

- 1 Go to **REDACTED** or scan the QR code on a smartphone
- 2 Enter your username: [username]
- 3 Enter your passcode [passcode]



*If you have difficulty taking part online, please contact Kantar Public on REDACTED or email REDACTED*

I very much hope that you will be able to take part in this important research.

Yours sincerely,

Vicky Petrie, Chief Social Researcher, Department for Education



### Why have I been invited to join the panel?

You have been invited to take part in this important research as a parent or guardian of a child who attends a school in England. Your child's contact details were selected randomly from the National Pupil Database. This database is maintained by the Department for Education. Kantar Public have been given permission to use the contact details for research.



### Why are my views important?

We need people from all backgrounds and parts of the country to take part. Your views are important to help the government to understand how they can better support pupils and families.



### What kind of questions will be asked?

The surveys will cover topics like behaviour in school, childcare, mental health and wellbeing, ethnicity, and school attendance. You might be asked questions like, "How often do you feel lonely?", "Which qualifications have you heard of?" or "How well has your child settled in at secondary school?".



### Who is conducting this research?

The research is being conducted on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE) by Kantar Public, an independent research agency ([www.kantarpublic.com](http://www.kantarpublic.com)).

For more information, please visit the website FAQs at REDACTED

To talk to someone about the research or ask not to be contacted further about this research, please contact Kantar Public on:

✉ Email: REDACTED

☎ Telephone: REDACTED



### What if I do not have access to the internet or need help taking part?

If you would like to join the panel but cannot complete the survey online please contact us using the details at the bottom of this letter and we will help you to take part.



### Is this research confidential?

Yes. Your answers and personal details will be kept in the strictest confidence and stored safely. Only researchers at Kantar Public and the Department for Education will know what you have said. All statistics will be reported anonymously, meaning that it will not be possible to identify you in any published reports.

However, if we believe someone is in direct threat of harm as a result of something that's been disclosed, we may email to advise on where to go for support, or – in some exceptional circumstances – contact you or the school.

You will not receive any 'junk mail' as a result of taking part.



### How do I know this is genuine?

The Department for Education (DfE) has commissioned Kantar Public to carry out this survey on their behalf. Kantar Public is an independent research agency.

[www.kantarpublic.com](http://www.kantarpublic.com).



### What have others said about being part of the panel?

*"It has been brilliant to have a voice and be a part of something which I consider to be extremely important"* - Parent

*"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice my opinion about issues and things affecting my life"* – Pupil/learner

## Parent letter, where parent is not invited to join



**KANTAR PUBLIC**

FAO: Parent or guardian of {First name} {Last name}

{Address Line 1}

{Address Line 2}

{Address Line 3}

{Postcode}

{Date letter sent}

Ref: {RESP SERIAL NUMBER}

Dear Parent / Carer of [Pupil name],

**Encourage (pupil name) to join the Parent, Pupil and Learner Panel: the Department for Education wants to understand the experiences of young people like them.**

We would like [pupil name] to join the panel. The initial registration survey covers a range of topics including their experiences at school. [Pupil name] will then be invited by email to take part in more short surveys in this school year.

**The surveys are quick and easy: [pupil name] will receive a gift voucher for each one they complete.**

- ✓ They will receive £5.00 for completing the initial registration survey (around 15 minutes)
- ✓ They will receive another £2.50 for each shorter survey (around 10 minutes)

**If you are happy for [pupil name] to take part, please give them the other letter in the envelope.**

Completion of this survey is voluntary. They don't have to take part if they don't want to. The surveys will cover some sensitive and personal topics, such as mental health, but these questions are optional. By encouraging them to take part you are agreeing for survey answers to be linked to [pupil name]'s future data held by the Department for Education about education, employment and earnings.

[Pupil name]'s survey responses will be treated confidentially in line with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. More details about the research and about your privacy can be found on the back of this letter.

**The panel can only accept a limited number of members so please encourage them to sign-up soon!**

I very much hope that [pupil name] will be able to take part in this important research.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vicky".

Vicky Petrie, Chief Social Researcher, Department for Education



**Why has my child been invited to join the panel?**

Your child has been invited to take part in this important research because they attend a school in England. Your child's contact details were selected randomly from the National Pupil Database. This database is maintained by the Department for Education. Kantar Public have been given permission to use the contact details for research.



**Why are my child's views important?**

We need people from all backgrounds and parts of the country to take part. Your child's views are important to help the government to understand how they can better support pupils and families.



**What kind of questions will be asked?**

The surveys will cover topics like behaviour in school, mental health and wellbeing, and school attendance, as well as some sensitive or personal topics like sexual orientation. Your child might be asked questions like, "How often do you feel lonely?", "Which qualifications have you heard of?" or "How often have you physically attended school or college?".



**Who is conducting this research?**

The research is being conducted on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE) by Kantar Public, an independent research agency.

**For more information, please visit the website FAQs at REDACTED**

To talk to someone about the research or ask not to be contacted further about this research, please contact Kantar Public on:

Email: REDACTED

Telephone: REDACTED



**What if my child does not have access to the internet or needs help taking part?**

If your child would like to join the panel but cannot complete the survey online please contact us using the details at the bottom of this letter and we will help them to take part.



**Is this research confidential?**

Yes. Survey answers and personal details will be kept in the strictest confidence and stored safely. Only researchers at Kantar Public and the Department for Education will know what your child has said. All statistics will be reported anonymously, meaning that it will not be possible to identify your child in any published reports.

However, if we believe someone is in direct threat of harm as a result of something that's been disclosed, we may email to advise on where to go for support, or – in some exceptional circumstances – contact you or the school.

Your child will not receive any 'junk mail' as a result of taking part.



**How do I know that this is genuine?**

The Department for Education (DfE) has commissioned Kantar Public to carry out this survey on their behalf. Kantar Public is an independent research agency. [www.kantarpublic.com](http://www.kantarpublic.com).



**What have others said about being part of the panel?**

*"The surveys are a great idea and are easy to complete."* – Pupil/learner

*"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice my opinion about issues and things affecting my life"* – Pupil/learner

# Pupil invitation letter



Department  
for Education

KANTAR PUBLIC

{Date letter sent}  
Ref: {RESP SERIAL NUMBER}

Dear [pupil name],

**Join the Parent, Pupil and Learner Panel: the Department for Education wants to understand the experiences of young people like you.**

We are asking thousands of pupils to share their experiences by completing a short survey which covers a range of topics including your experiences at school. You will be invited by email to take part in more short surveys in this school year.

**The surveys are quick and easy: you will receive a gift voucher for each one you complete.**

- ✓ You will receive £5.00 for completing the first survey (around 15 minutes)
- ✓ You will receive another £2.50 for each shorter survey (around 10 minutes)

Completion of this survey is voluntary. You don't have to take part if you don't want to. The surveys will cover some sensitive and personal topics, such as mental health, but these questions are optional. By taking part you are agreeing for your survey answers to be linked to your future data held by the Department for Education about education, employment and earnings.

Your survey responses will be treated confidentially in line with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. More details about the research and about your privacy can be found on the back of this letter.

**The panel can only accept a limited number of members so please sign-up soon!**

## How to take part

- 1 Go to REDACTED or scan the QR code on a smartphone
- 2 Enter your username: [username]
- 3 Enter your passcode [passcode]



*If you have difficulty taking part online, please contact Kantar Public on REDACTED or email REDACTED*

Thank you in advance for your help.

Yours sincerely,

Vicky Petrie, Chief Social Researcher, Department for Education

Page 1 of 2



# Appendix D: Invite email to the PPLP research wave

## Parents



### Why have I been invited to join the panel?

You have been invited to take part in this important research because you attend a school in England. Your contact details were selected randomly from the National Pupil Database. This database is maintained by the Department for Education. Kantar Public have been given permission to use the contact details for research.



### What if I do not have access to the internet or need help taking part?

If you would like to join the panel but cannot complete the survey online please contact us using the details at the bottom of this letter and we will help you to take part.



### Is this research confidential?

Yes. Your answers and personal details will be kept in the strictest confidence and stored safely. Only researchers at Kantar Public and the Department for Education will know what you have said. All statistics will be reported anonymously, meaning that it will not be possible to identify you in any published reports.

However, if we believe someone is in direct threat of harm as a result of something that's been disclosed, we may email to advise on where to go for support, or – in some exceptional circumstances – contact your parent or the school.

You will not receive any 'junk mail' as a result of taking part.



### Why are my views important?

We need people from all backgrounds and parts of the country to take part. Your views are important to help the government to understand how they can better support pupils and families.



### What kind of questions will I be asked?

The surveys will cover topics like behaviour in school, mental health and wellbeing, and school attendance, as well as some sensitive or personal topics like sexual orientation. You might be asked questions like, "How often do you feel lonely?", "Which qualifications have you heard of?" or "How well have you settled in at secondary school?".



### How do I know that this is genuine?

The Department for Education (DfE) has commissioned Kantar Public to carry out this survey on their behalf. Kantar Public is an independent research agency. [www.kantarpublic.com](http://www.kantarpublic.com).



### Who is conducting this research?

The research is being conducted on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE) by Kantar Public, an independent research agency ([www.kantarpublic.com](http://www.kantarpublic.com)).



### What have others said about being part of the panel?

*"The surveys are a great idea and are easy to complete."* – Pupil/learner

*"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice my opinion about issues and things affecting my life"* – Pupil/learner

For more information, please visit the website FAQs at REDACTED

To talk to someone about the research or ask not to be contacted further about this research, please contact Kantar Public on:

✉ Email: REDACTED  
☎ Telephone: REDACTED

Subject line: Parent, Pupil and Learner Panel – the next survey is now open!



Department  
for Education

KANTAR PUBLIC

Ref: {indiv\_id}

Dear {name},

**Help the Department for Education understand the experiences of families like yours this term by taking part in the next Parent, Pupil and Learner Panel survey**

Thank you for joining the Parent, Pupil and Learner Panel. **The next short survey is now open.** You will have until Sunday 13th November to complete the survey so please take part as soon as you can! The survey covers a range of topics including childcare, inclusive education and the cost of living.

You will receive £2.50 for each survey you complete. You will have a choice of how to receive your gift voucher at the end of the survey.

Your answers help the Department for Education (DfE) better understand the lives of children and families like yours so that the government can provide stronger support.

**You can complete the survey online here:**

[Start Survey](#)

**Taking part in the survey is voluntary.** If you do take part, your answers will only be used for research. If you have any questions about the research, please contact Kantar Public on **REDACTED** or email **REDACTED**, or you can find our FAQs and privacy notice at **REDACTED**.

If you have difficulty taking part online, please contact Kantar Public on **REDACTED**.

We very much hope that you will be able to take part in this important research. Thank you in advance for your help.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vicky'.

Vicky Petrie  
Chief Social Researcher, Department for Education

**Frequently asked questions:**

**Why am I being invited to take part?**

You have been invited to take part in this important research because you recently joined the Parent, Pupil and Learner Panel.

**Who is conducting this research?**

The research is being conducted on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE) by Kantar Public, an independent research agency. For more information on what Kantar Public do please have a look at their website ([www.kantarpublic.com](http://www.kantarpublic.com)), or if you would like to speak to someone about the research or confirm it's genuine, please contact Kantar Public using the details above. The Department for Education (DfE) is the government department responsible for education and children's services.

**Is this research confidential?**

Yes. Your answers and personal details will be kept in the strictest confidence and stored electronically on a secure server. Your answers to the questionnaire will be used for research purposes only. Only researchers at Kantar Public and the Department for Education will know what you have said. However, if we believe someone is in direct threat of harm as a result of something that's been disclosed, we may email to advise on where to go for support, or – in some exceptional circumstances – contact the school.

All statistics will be reported anonymously, meaning that it will not be possible to identify you in any published reports. You will not receive any 'junk mail' as a result of taking part. Kantar Public comply with a range of security policy requirements, including those set by the Market Research Society Code of Conduct, the Data Protection Act and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

**What are my rights?**

Completion of this survey is voluntary. We may ask you for some sensitive information but you don't have to answer these questions. For more information see <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/>.

For more frequently asked questions, please click [here](#).



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Department  
for Education

KANTAR PUBLIC

Email subject: Parent, Pupil and Learner Panel – the next survey is now open!

Ref: {Indiv\_ID}

Dear {PUPIL\_FIRSTNAME},

**Help the Department for Education understand your experiences this term by taking part in the next Parent, Pupil and Learner Panel survey**

Thank you for joining the Parent, Pupil and Learner Panel. **The next short survey is now open.** You will have until Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November to complete the survey so please take part as soon as you can! The survey covers a range of topics including your experiences at school, your well-being and extracurricular activities you take part in.

The survey will take around 10 minutes to complete.

You will receive £2.50 for each survey you complete. You will have a choice of how to receive your gift voucher at the end of the survey.

Your answers will help the Department for Education (DfE) better understand your experiences so we can improve the support and services we provide for young people.

**You can complete the survey online here:**

[Start survey](#)

**Taking part in the survey is voluntary.** If you do take part, your answers will only be used for research. If you have any questions about the research, please contact Kantar Public on **REDACTED** or email **REDACTED**, or you can find our FAQs and privacy notice at **REDACTED**.

If you have difficulty taking part online, please contact Kantar Public on **REDACTED**.

We very much hope that you will be able to take part in this important research. Thank you in advance for your help.

Yours sincerely,

Vicky Petrie  
Chief Social Researcher, Department for Education

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The research is being conducted on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE) by Kantar Public, an independent research agency. For more information on what Kantar Public do please have a look at their website ([www.kantarpublic.com](http://www.kantarpublic.com)), or if you would like to speak to someone about the research or confirm it's genuine, please contact Kantar Public using the details below. The Department for Education (DfE) is the government department responsible for education and children's services.

**Is this research confidential?**

Yes. Your answers and personal details will be kept in the strictest confidence and stored electronically on a secure server. Your answers to the questionnaire will be used for research purposes only. Only researchers at Kantar Public and the Department for Education will know what you have said. However, if we believe someone is in direct threat of harm as a result of something that's been disclosed, we may email to advise on where to go for support, or – in some exceptional circumstances – contact the parent or the school.

All statistics will be reported anonymously, meaning that it will not be possible to identify you in any published reports. You will not receive any 'junk mail' as a result of taking part. Kantar Public comply with a range of security policy requirements, including those set by the Market Research Society Code of Conduct, the Data Protection Act and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

**What are my rights?**

Completion of this survey is voluntary. We may ask you for some sensitive information but you don't have to answer these questions. For more information see

<https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/>.

**For more frequently asked questions, please click here.**

## Appendix E: Unweighted demographic profile of respondents at each research wave

### Research wave 2

Table 12 Unweighted demographic profile of research wave 2 respondents<sup>2</sup>

	Number of parents	% of parents	Number of pupils (years 7-11)	% of pupils (years 7-11)
All	2,976	100%	2,245	100%
Primary	1,468	49%	0	0%
Secondary	1,508	51%	2,245	100%
PUPIL: FSM	875	29%	701	31%
PUPIL: SEN	704	24%	533	24%
PUPIL: CiN	867	29%	535	24%
Ethnicity (of pupil): White	2,425	81%	1,726	77%
Ethnicity (of pupil): Asian	188	6%	180	8%
Ethnicity (of pupil): Black	69	2%	110	5%
Ethnicity (of pupil): Mixed	212	7%	140	6%
Ethnicity (of pupil): Other	28	1%	43	2%
Gender (of pupil): Female	1,472	49%	1,283	57%
Gender (of pupil): Male	1,504	51%	962	43%
Region: East Midlands	281	9%	229	10%

<sup>2</sup> Note percentages do not always sum to 100% due to some respondents not providing demographic data, or demographic data not being held on the NPD.

Region: East of England	315	11%	240	11%
Region: London	280	9%	258	11%
Region: North-east	161	5%	101	4%
Region: North-west	394	13%	286	13%
Region: South-east	533	18%	393	18%
Region: South-west	344	12%	256	11%
Region: West Midlands	328	11%	225	11%
Region: Yorkshire and Humber	335	11%	256	11%

Source: Pupil/learner information (year group, FSM or FME, SEN, CiN, Ethnicity, Gender, Region) sourced from information held on the National Pupil Database

## Appendix F: Questions for design effect calculations

### Parents

#### Recruitment (Research Wave 1)

- Q003 - PP2022\_1\_ATTND\_1\_PA: How often, if at all, has [PUPILNAME] physically attended school or college in the past two weeks of term time?
- X\_BullyingNetYes\_Recruitment Derived variable - Whether Pupil Was Victim of Bullying - NET: Yes<sup>3</sup>
- Q017 - PP2022\_1\_FHUBS\_1\_PA: Before this survey, had you ever heard of a family hub?
- Q022 - PP2022\_1\_COL\_8\_PA: Would you say that you are better off or worse off financially than you were a year ago (September 2021)?
- Q050 - PP2022\_1\_EAL\_1\_PP: Is a language other than English used every day in your home?

#### Research Wave 2

- Q005 - PP2022\_2\_ATTND\_1\_PA: How often, if at all, has [PupilName] physically attended school or college in the past two weeks of term time?
- Q007 - PP2022\_22\_2\_NBS\_1\_PA: Thinking about the past week, how often would you say [PupilName] has enjoyed going to school?
- Q047 - PP2022\_2\_PPP\_4\_PA: Are you aware of the behaviour and exclusion policy at [PupilName]'s school?
- Q025 - PP2022\_2\_FORCE\_2\_PA: Are you aware of the policy at [PupilName]'s school covering when, where and how reasonable force and physical restraint should be used?
- Q028 - PP2022\_2\_SAFEGUARD\_1\_PA: How confident are you that you understand the amount of sexual harassment and abuse experienced by children and young people of school age, including where it happens online?

---

<sup>3</sup> Responses of “Don’t know” were recoded to be a valid category



## Pupils

### Recruitment (Y7-11) Research Wave 1

- Q006 - PP2022\_1\_ATTND\_1\_PL: How often, if at all, have you physically attended school or college in the past two weeks of term time?
- Q016 - PP2022\_1\_WB\_1\_PL: Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?
- X\_BullyingNetYes\_Recruitment Derived variables - Whether Pupil Was Victim of Bullying - NET: Yes<sup>4</sup>
- Q005 - PP2022\_1\_SCHOOL\_1\_PL: Did you move to a new school in September this year?
- Q027 - PP2022\_1\_HOME\_1\_PP: How many people are living or staying at your current address? - Adults

### Research Wave 2

- Q028 - PP2022\_2\_WB\_1\_PL: Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?
- Q001 - PP2022\_2\_ATTND\_1\_PL: How often, if at all, have you physically attended school or college in the past two weeks of term time?
- Q011 - PP2022\_2\_NBS\_1\_PL: How motivated, if at all, would you say you are to learn?
- Q033 - PP2022\_2\_FLEX\_1\_PL: Thinking back to the start of the last academic year (since September 2021), have you ever been taught by two teachers working in a job share arrangement?
- Q043 - PP2022\_2\_MHKNOW\_1\_PL: Are you aware of any mental health and wellbeing support available through your school or college?

---

<sup>4</sup> Responses of “Don’t know” were recoded to be a valid category

## Appendix G: Glossary

**CiN – Children in Need.** This is a broad definition spanning a wide range of children and adolescents, in need of varying types of support and intervention, for a variety of reasons. A child is defined as ‘in need’ under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, where:

- They are unlikely to achieve or maintain, or to have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision for them of services by a local authority.
- Their health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision for them of such services; or
- They are disabled

**FSM or FME – Free School Meal or Free Meal Eligibility.** Eligibility for FSMs/FME is used as a proxy for socioeconomic status. Pupils and learners eligible for FSMs/FME were considered to be living in greater socioeconomic deprivation than those pupils and learners who were not eligible for FSMs/FME. FSM refers to data from the National Pupil Database (NPD) and FME refers to comparable data from the Individualised Learner Record (ILR).

**IDACI – Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index** – An index that measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families. It is a subset of the Income Deprivation Domain which measures the proportion of the population in an area experiencing deprivation relating to low income. The definition of low income used includes both those people that are out-of-work, and those that are in work but who have low earnings (and who satisfy the respective means tests).

**LSOA – Lower Layer Super Output Areas** – Small geographic areas that are designed to be of a similar population size, with an average of approximately 1,500 residents or 650 households. There are 32,844 Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in England. They were produced by the Office for National Statistics for the reporting of small area statistics

**NPD – National Pupil Database** - The National Pupil Database is a register data set of all pupils in state schools in England, compiled by the Department for Education. It contains attainment data as children progress through school, as well as information on pupil background, absences and exclusions from school.

**SEND – Special Educational Needs and Disability.** A child or young person has SEND if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for them. A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if they:

- have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
- have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.

Many children and young people who have SEND may also have a disability under the Equality Act 2010 – that is ‘...a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities’. Where a disabled child or young person requires special educational provision, they will also be covered by the SEND definition.

For more detail, please see the [SEND Code of Practice](#).

**School URN (unique reference number)** – a unique reference number that is allocated to all schools.



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