

Green Schools Project and NUS | Pupil attitudes towards, and experiences of, environmental sustainability in schools | Research brief for schools

1.0 About the research

[Green Schools Project](#) and [NUS](#) are working together on a research pilot to better understand the views and experiences of pupils on environmental sustainability in their school. NUS has been carrying out [research](#) with students in higher and further education (aged 16 and over) for the past eight years on the same topic (in relation to their university or college). Through this research we'd like to see how experiences and views of younger students compare with tertiary education students, as well as more generally establishing the importance of sustainability to young people in primary and secondary schools, and looking at variations between different types of school. It is intended that the survey will become a longitudinal, national study that allow the tracking of changes in attitudes towards sustainability over time. This work is being self-funded by NUS and the Green Schools Project.

2.0 How you can participate in the study

We're asking head teachers and teachers to support the research by overseeing completion of a short digital survey with pupils, designed to capture information on their views of their school and their learning in relation to sustainable development and the environment.

To thank teachers and schools for their support with the research, we will provide each school that receives over 50 responses with a bespoke report with the data from their pupils.

There will also be an opportunity to receive a cash prize as part of a prize draw. There will be two prize draws, one for primary schools and one for schools or colleges offering secondary education, reflecting the different capacity to participate in the study (i.e. only two year groups, years 5 and 6, are eligible from primary education). The prize draw for primary schools will randomly select three winners of £500, £250 and £100 from all schools that receive 40 responses or more. The prizes for secondary schools will be based on responses achieved as a proportion of overall school population, with prizes also being £500, £250 and £100 respectively for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. These prizes can be used to deliver sustainability projects within the school or college.

In this pilot year, we hope to engage c30 schools in completing the survey, and c5,000 individual responses, from across the UK.

3.0 Research consent

NUS Insight team are members of the [Market Research Society](#). In order to comply with their Code of Conduct, and also to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR, 2018), we are required to secure consent from a responsible adult in order for pupils to be able to participate in the research. This might be the headteacher, or a nominated staff representative. The following information sets out the information we will collect, as well as how we will store and process the data.

Key topics

- Demographics (year group, school name, subjects and qualifications (years 12 and 13 or equivalent only).
- Perceptions of learning about the environment.
- Perceptions of and desire for school action for the environment.
- Concerns about the environment.
- Experience of the environment in their spare time.

Data protection

- All responses are anonymous – participants are not asked to provide their name at any stage of the survey.

- No contact details are collected from participants at any point during the survey.
- Other information that could be used to identify participants individually (e.g. school, year group, gender, ethnicity) will only be seen by the research staff at NUS who will be completing the analysis.
- In reporting the research, no named identifiers will be used (e.g. school name). The responses from pupils across the UK will be accumulated and reported together. We may report against other factors (e.g. year group, gender) but again this will be presented as data from across the UK.

We will also ask individual pupils for their consent at the start of the survey, before they progress to any questions. Pupils have the option of not completing the survey if they do not feel comfortable doing so after having read the information provided to them about how the information they provide will be used. They will also be given the opportunity to retract their data at the end of the survey if they so wish.

To provide your consent for the study to take place in your class / school / college, please visit this [online form](#). This form must be completed before undertaking the survey with your pupils.

4.0 Completing the survey with pupils

The survey can be completed with all pupils in year 5 and above. It is not suitable for pupils in year 4 and below, and anyone completing from these year groups will be routed out of the survey. There is a Welsh language version available through the first question.

It is envisaged that the survey will most often be completed as part of a lesson, with IT lessons being an ideal opportunity, though each school can decide what is most appropriate for them and their pupils. The survey will take between **5 and 15 minutes** to complete, depending on the age of the pupils. The survey is described as being about their school and the things they have learnt during their time there.

The survey can be found online here: <https://bit.ly/2JUmduk>

It can be completed on desktop or laptop computers, tablets or smartphone devices.

5.0 Key dates

Deadline	Activity
Mid-September – 14 December 2018	Fieldwork period – surveys completed by pupils. All schools must confirm participation in the research through completion of the online consent form . Weekly updates on responses achieved will be sent to all contacts who have completed the online consent form.
31 January 2019	Winners announced and individual school/college reports sent.
March 2019	National report published.

6.0 What to do next

Please complete the [consent form](#) on behalf of your school. Please then liaise with staff in your school to ensure the survey is completed before Christmas. The link to the survey for you to share with your colleagues is <https://bit.ly/2JUmduk>

7.0 Contact

If you have any questions about the research, including how data will be used and processed, or any feedback on the survey design or content, please contact Rachel Drayson, Insight Manager at NUS (rachel.drayson@nus.org.uk).