**The Net4Health study: student information**

We would like you to help us with our research study, Net4health. This sheet will tell you about the study and what you will do if you want to take part. Please read this and take time to decide whether you want to take part. You can discuss the study with your parent/carer or teacher, or get in touch with the Net4health team if you have any questions,.

# What is Net4health and why are we doing this research?

Net4health is a study about young peoples’ health and friendships in Scotland over the last 25 years. We want to find out:

* How healthy and happy are secondary school students?
* What things are most important for young people’s health and wellbeing?
* What influence do friendships, families, and school have on how young people feel?

This information will help us work out how to improve health and wellbeing in secondary schools.

# Why have I been asked to take part?

Your school has agreed to take part in this study. All S2 and S4 students in your school have been asked to take part.

# What will I be asked to do?

During school, all S2 and S4 students will be asked to complete a survey using a computer, tablet or phone. The survey will ask questions about health and wellbeing, peers and friendships, clubs and activities, family life and school. The survey should take no more than 40 minutes. We will come back in a year to see how things have changed. We will ask if you would like to take the survey again when you are in S3 or S5.

# Do I have to take part?

No, it is entirely up to you. You don’t need to give a reason for not taking part, and you can stop taking part in this study at any time.

**What will happen to my information?**

We will follow legal and ethical requirements for all information in the study, this will protect your personal data and makes sure that your information is confidential, and that your answers are anonymous.

Confidential means that the research team won’t tell anybody else your name or what you say, it will be kept secret between you and the research team. The researchers who help you log into the survey, answer questions you might have, and who will make your survey answers anonymous won’t tell parents, teachers, or other people about the study. If you tell us that you or someone else is in danger, then we will contact someone to help (like a teacher, the police or ambulance). This is the only time we would tell someone else about who took part in the study. Everything else will always be confidential.

Your school has given us some information about you, like your name, and your classes. We use this information to make the survey anonymous (student names will be replaced with numbers) and makes the survey shorter (you don’t need to tell us which classes you are in). This information will always be kept confidential as well. In the survey, we will also ask for your permission to get more information from the school about your family/carers, how many days off sick you have had, and ethnicity information.

Anonymous means nobody can tell who you are or what answers you write from information about the study. After you finish the survey, senior members of the research team will delete all confidential personal information in your answers (like names, places, or clubs and societies), to create anonymous survey data. Only the anonymous data will be used by other researchers to study health, but it will be impossible to tell who said what, or to find the names of who filled in the survey.

The senior research team will keep all personal information and store it securely, separate from the anonymous data, for at least ten years. This is so we can keep in touch about next year’s survey, and to keep accurate records of who took part. We would delete all personal information after and keep only the anonymous data after the end of the study.

The anonymous data will be used to prepare reports and scientific journal articles, these will never contain information about your name, your family/friends, teachers or the school. Other researchers interested in health, social research or teaching can ask the Net4health team to use the anonymous data. We will always make sure it is used properly.

**What’s the benefit for you?**

We have found that young people often enjoy taking part in research. The information you give will help us to promote positive health and wellbeing in young people in the UK, and your school will use the report to help improve wellbeing in your school.

**Who is responsible for Net4health?**

Researchers from the University of Glasgow have designed and will deliver the study. The study is funded by the MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit and approved by the University of Glasgow, College of Medical, Veterinary & Life Sciences Ethics Committee.

**Thank you for reading. If you would like more information, please contact:**

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