



INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Your 13-year-old was one of more than 11,000 children and their families who first took part in the ***Growing Up in Ireland (GUI)*** survey when the children were nine months of age in 2008/09. ***Growing Up in Ireland*** follows the progress of the same group of children over time. Government and others are using this information to help improve our understanding of all aspects of the lives and needs of children, young people and their families.

We would like to interview you and your child again in the next few weeks (at a time which suits your family) to find out how they have grown and changed over recent years. Unlike previous phases, an interviewer will not visit your home. All parts of the survey will be carried out over the telephone or online.

Who is running the study?

Growing Up in Ireland is funded by Government through the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA). It is overseen and managed by the DCYA in association with the Central Statistics Office (CSO). The study is being carried out for DCYA by a group of independent researchers led by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and Trinity College Dublin.

What is the purpose of the study?

Growing Up in Ireland is the first and most important study of its kind ever to take place in this country. The purpose of the study is to improve our understanding of all aspects of children and young people and their development. It will build a bank of information about the lives of children in Ireland today and into the future which will:

- Tell us how children and young people develop over time.
- Help us to find out what factors affect a child's development.
- Look at what makes for a healthy and happy childhood and what might lead to a less happy one.
- Help us to discover what children think of their own lives and learn what it means to be a child growing up in Ireland.
- Provide information which will help Government to make good decisions about issues relating to children and young people.

What does taking part involve?

This phase of **Growing Up in Ireland** will be different in that an interviewer will not visit your home. Instead they will telephone you and ask you to complete a survey over the 'phone. Your interviewer will record your responses on a computer and return them to Head Office after your interview. The interview will take approximately 30 minutes.

You will then receive an email with a link to a short online survey which contains some additional questions. You will also receive an email with a link to an online survey for your 13-year-old. The online surveys will be hosted for **Growing Up in Ireland** by the Central Statistics Office (CSO).

Whether you take part in the survey or if you decide not to take part, it will in no way affect any health, educational or social care which you or your family will receive from the State.

How we deal with issues of confidentiality

Information in the GUI survey is collected under section 24 of the Statistics Act (1993). This Act provides a legislative basis for the compilation and dissemination of official statistics by the Central Statistics Office. It ensures that the information you provide can only be used for statistical purposes. Your personal data will remain strictly confidential and will not be disclosed to anyone outside of the GUI Study. Reports based on the information collected by GUI will not include any information that would identify you or your family.

However, if an interviewer is told something outside the answers given to the direct survey questions which causes them to have serious concerns for the welfare of a child, or other vulnerable person, they may have to tell someone who could help.

The answers to the survey questions can be used only for statistical research purposes. The information given by your 13-year-old in answer to the questions on the survey will not be seen by anyone else in your family – not even you will have access to it. The study's Respondent Privacy Statement is available [here](#).

In order to make the best use of the information you provide, the Central Statistics Office, operating under the strictest controlled procedures in line with the Statistics Act and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), may match your data to other types of information. This would only be done for statistical research purposes and the results of the analysis will not in any way allow you or your family to be identified.

For more information see www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/informationfordataproviders.

What kind of questions will my family be asked?

The types of questions we ask will be similar to before. There will be questions about things like your 13-year-old's health, education and play. We will also ask you some questions about your own health, relationships, socio-emotional life and family life.

The questions are straightforward, though some are quite detailed. You will be asked about how COVID-19 has affected your family. Some questions will address relatively sensitive issues, like your family's income, your relationship with your spouse or partner (if relevant) and family life. You can choose to skip over any of the questions if you do not wish to answer them.

With your permission, your 13-year-old will be asked questions about their home and school life; their interests and the activities they enjoy; and their relationship with you, siblings and friends. They can choose not to answer some (or all) questions if they want to. Click [here](#) to see videos about the questions your child will be asked. We want to make sure that as many 13-year-olds as possible take part and have a voice in the ***Growing Up in Ireland*** study, but you can choose not to have your 13-year-old complete more sensitive questions if you prefer.

Following up in a few years' time

As this is a longitudinal study taking place over time, we may wish to return to your household again in a few years' time.

Who are the interviewers?

The interviewer who will telephone you is from the ESRI. Each interviewer has been specially trained for ***Growing Up in Ireland*** and has been vetted by An Garda Síochána and appointed as an Officer of Statistics by the CSO. Procedures relating to child protection in ***Growing Up in Ireland*** are informed by the Children First National Guidance, 2017.

You can check the identity of your interviewer or let us know if you were unhappy with the way the interview was conducted by emailing growingup@esri.ie.

What are my rights if I take part?

- You and your family may choose to withdraw from the study at any time.
- If there are any questions which you do not wish to answer, you do not have to do so.

The study's Respondent Privacy Statement is available [here](#).

Your participation counts

- Just as before, taking part in the study is voluntary.
- Your participation will play a major role in the success of **Growing Up in Ireland**.
- We hope that you can support us with this important work, and we would like to thank you, in advance, for your help.

Where can I find out more information?

- **Email:** growingup@esri.ie
- **Website:** Visit www.growingup.ie
- **Social Media:** To find out about what researchers have found out so far please follow us on social media:



https://www.instagram.com/growing_up_in_ireland/



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