

NON – RESIDENT PARENT’S INFORMATION LEAFLET

What is the Growing Up in Ireland study?

Growing Up in Ireland is a national Government study of children and young people in Ireland. This exciting study is the first and most important of its kind ever to take place in this country.

The purpose of the study is to understand all aspects of children, young people and their development. The study helps us:

- to understand how children and young people develop over time.
- to find out what factors affect their development.
- to understand the issues and problems facing children and young people in Ireland today and what can be done to help them to avoid these problems and to support them if they encounter difficulties in their lives

What will it tell us?

The study is helping us to investigate young people’s social, emotional and physical development.

The information is helping the Government to make decisions on what future policies and services will be most beneficial for children, young people and their families.

How did you get my name and contact details?

Growing Up in Ireland includes 11,000 young children (currently around 7 years of age) and 7,000 teenagers, currently around 17 years of age.

Your teenager was selected into this study when they were at school. Your name and contact details were provided by the other parent/guardian of your child, who has agreed to participate in the study.

As part of the study he/she was asked for your contact information.

Why should I take part?

We would like to ask you for your help in completing a picture of your teenager’s daily life.

This information will help us to give the Government advice on how to improve things for all children and young people in the country

Who is running the study?

Growing Up in Ireland is a Government study. The Department of Health & Children is funding it through the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in association with the Department of Social Protection and the Central Statistics Office.

The Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs is overseeing and managing the study, which is being carried out by a group of researchers led by the Economic & Social Research Institute (ESRI) and Trinity College Dublin.

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What do I do next?

We would ask you to complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it in the envelope provided.

The questionnaire asks you about your relationship with your teenager and some questions on yourself. It is very straightforward and involves ticking boxes.

Will this information be kept confidential?

All the information that you provide is treated in the strictest confidence and will not be seen by your teenager or his/her other parent/guardian or anyone else outside the immediate study team who could identify you or your family. The information you provide will be used exclusively for statistical and research purposes.

Under no circumstances could anyone in Government or any government agency be able to identify information given by you.

The Study is being carried out under the Statistics Act (1993). This is the same legislation as used to carry out the Census of Population and ensures complete confidentiality of all information collected.

What are my rights if I take part?

The information you provide will have your name, address and other identifying information removed. It will then be stored on a computer so that it will be available to researchers. The information can be used only for statistical and research purposes. It would be an offence to use it for any other reason. If there are any question(s) on the questionnaire you do not wish to answer you do not have to.

Your participation counts.

Taking part in ***Growing Up in Ireland*** is voluntary. Your participation will play a major role in the success of the study.

It is only by carrying out studies such as these that we can understand the role of all caring adults in the lives of children and young people and find out how we can improve the future for all young people and families in Ireland.

We hope that you can support us in our work and we would like to thank you, in anticipation, for your help.

Where can I find out more information?

Phone:

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or contact Ms Elizabeth Burke on 01-863 2199

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