

Student Spiritual Life Survey

Information for Student Participants

Dear Student,

You are invited to take part in a survey for secondary students called the 'Student Spiritual Life Survey'. This information sheet tells you about the survey.

The aim of the survey is to find out about the spiritual beliefs, views and actions of students. It will help your school to support students' spiritual exploration and growth. Your answers will be anonymous. Results will also be used for wider research to inform educational leaders, policy makers and researchers.

What do I have to do?

All students in Years 7 to 12 are invited to take part in the survey. You will be given a link to an online survey during a class period which will take about 10 minutes to complete. The survey is anonymous which means your name or other information that identifies you is not included.

There are questions about your religious or spiritual identity, beliefs and practices, your involvement in the community, how you feel about life, the people you go to for guidance and what you think about your school.

Here are some examples:

Which of the following terms, if any, would you use to describe yourself?

Christian
Religious
Spiritual
None of the above

How happy are you with your life as a whole?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Very Not happy Very
sad or sad happy

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about this school?

'I feel this school's rules are fair'
Strongly disagree
Disagree
Unsure
Agree
Strongly agree

Do I have to do the survey?

No you don't. It will only take 10 minutes, but if you feel uncomfortable you can stop at any time. If you feel you need support because of this survey, please reach out to the school chaplain or school counsellor. If you ever need help, you can also call the Kids Helpline at any time. Their telephone number is 1800 55 1800.

If you start the survey, but don't finish all the questions, that is okay as well. This will not affect your relationship with your school or your teachers. The survey is anonymous and your teacher won't know whether you did it or not. Once the survey has started, we won't be able to withdraw your answers as there is no way to identify them.

Who are the researchers?

Chief Investigator: Ruth Powell, Director, NCLS Research,
Associate Professor, PACT Research Centre, Charles Sturt University

Co-investigators: Miriam Pepper, Senior Researcher, NCLS Research
Fleur Hourihan, Researcher, NCLS Research
Carole Gan, Researcher, NCLS Research
Sam Sterland, Senior Researcher, NCLS Research

How will my privacy be protected?

No information will be collected which will identify you. Results will be reported as a group. NCLS Research won't share your individual answers with your school. All survey information will be kept safely for at least 5 years at the offices of NCLS Research. The information may be used for other research projects.

What will happen to the information that I give you?

The information will be used to create reports for your school for each year group, and other short reports for school staff. The information may be used for other research projects and presentations. The data will be kept securely in the offices of NCLS Research for at least 7 years.

Who should I contact if I have any questions or concerns?

If you have any questions about the study before participating please reach out to the school Survey Coordinator. You can also ask your parents or carers to talk to the researchers admin@ncls.org.au

Research in Australia involving humans is reviewed by a group of people not involved in the study called a Human Research Ethics Committee. Charles Sturt University's Human Research Ethics Committee has approved this project [Ref No:24010].

Please talk to your parents or carers if you are worried about this survey, or you have a complaint about how the survey is being run. You, or your parents or carers may contact the Committee through the Research Integrity Unit via the following contact details:

The Presiding Officer, Human Research Ethics Committee, Research Integrity Unit, Locked Bag 588, Wagga Wagga NSW 2678. Phone: (02) 6933 4213. Email: ethics@csu.edu.au

Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated thoroughly and you will be informed of the outcome.

This information sheet is for you to keep.

Survey FAQs: ncls.org.au/ssls-faqs

Thank you for thinking about this invitation.

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