

Project Ember

Research into Children and Young People's Online Experiences

Survey Information Sheet for Schools & Colleges

What is Project Ember? The online environment offers endless possibilities to connect, learn, and explore. But it can also expose children and young people (CYP) to harmful behaviour, like online child sexual exploitation and abuse. We know that when something hurtful or unsafe happens online, it can be hard to know what to do or who to talk to. That's why we are conducting this research: to understand the kind of help and support that CYP need to feel safe and confident when reporting harmful behaviour online.

The [South West Grid for Learning](#) (SWGfL) has received a research grant from [Safe Online](#) to conduct a project, called 'Ember'. In this project we are trying to learn:

- How CYP feel about reporting online harmful behaviour, and
- What would make it easier for them to reach out for help.

How can your organisation help? For tools and resources to be truly helpful and easy to use, we need them to be based on CYPs experiences and opinions. By listening to their voices, we hope to build better ways for CYP to report harm and get the help they deserve.

We are seeking your support to share the survey link with staff (who might have children that fit the eligibility criteria), students and their parents/carers/guardians. This could be done through school newsletters, emails or other communication channels you use.

What will happen with the research? The findings from this research will be used to improve:

- Support services for children, young people, and families.
- Tools and systems for reporting harmful behaviour online.
- Policies to make the internet safer for everyone.

Everything participants share, will remain private and no one will know it came from them.

What does the survey involve? The survey is open to young people aged 13-24 years and is:

- Anonymous and age appropriate.
- Designed to take approximately 15 minutes to complete.
- Accessible via a computer, tablet or smartphone.

Please note that students <16 years will require consent from a trusted adult (e.g., parent, carer or guardian) to complete the survey. Details of [support organisations](#) are provided throughout the survey.

Is participation voluntary? Yes, participation is entirely voluntary. Students and parents, carers or guardians can decide whether to take part and they can withdraw at any time (up to 14 days after completing the survey) without giving a reason. To do this, they can email the research team ember@swgfl.org.uk, quoting the unique identifier they created in the survey. The research team will respond to their request within 48 hours. After 14 days, we won't be able to remove responses as they will be anonymously combined with other survey responses. Even if parents, carers or guardians consent for the child (<16 years) to take part, children can choose not to take part or stop at any time without giving a reason. You can find more information on the topics of the survey [here](#).

How is confidentiality handled? All responses are confidential and anonymous. You can find more information on SWGfL's privacy notice [here](#). We do not include any free-text boxes to avoid the risk of identifying anyone or receiving sensitive information that we cannot follow up on.

What are the benefits of this research? The study will provide valuable insights to inform better support and safety strategies for CYP online. It will in particular give us a better understanding of the support CYP need in order to report harmful online behaviour.

What support do we provide for you/your school? We will supply:

- A survey link and QR code for the survey.
- An email template for you to communicate with parents/guardians/carers.
- Information sheets to inform students and parents/guardians/carers.
- Details of support organisations for CYP and their trusted adult.
- Contact details for the research team for any queries.
- A debriefing moment in the format of a workshop/webinar with schools and other stakeholders interested in hearing about our findings (details to follow).

Who can we contact for more information? If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact us at ember@swgfl.org.uk.

Who is running this study? This study, called Project Ember, is being carried out by SWGfL, a not-for-profit charity dedicated to ensuring everyone can benefit from technology free from harm, and funded through Safe Online.

Thank you for helping us gather valuable insights to enhance online safety for children and young people.