

Dear Parents and Carers,

2021 School Satisfaction & Climate Survey

Each year, the Directorate surveys all parents and carers, school staff and students in Years 4 to 12 about their experience of public education. The 2021 surveys will be available online from 13 August to 3 September.

I am writing to inform you about the **student survey**. Information about how to opt out is also contained in this letter.

Why are we doing the survey?

The data collected are used to inform government policy and underpin school improvement practices. The results will also help us to identify what we do well as a school and where we can improve.

What is involved?

The **student survey** is administered as a classroom task and takes 15-20 minutes to complete. In addition to items developed to measure satisfaction, the survey includes a school climate module that forms part of a longitudinal study being conducted in partnership with researchers at the Australian National University (ANU).

Key elements of school climate include school identification (a sense of belonging and connection to school), academic emphasis (support and encouragement of learning and success), relationships (feeling valued and respected in dealings with others) and a sense of shared mission, rules and processes in the school, which are important indicators of educational outcomes and quality of the learning environment.

How will privacy be managed?

At the start of the survey, student identification numbers will be used to confirm the identity of students and enable survey responses to be linked over time and with administrative and performance data. Connecting data in this way will help researchers to assess relationships between improvements in school climate and educational outcomes and enable a better understanding of patterns over time.

All personal information will be handled in accordance with the *Information Privacy Act 2014*. Details about how personal information is stored and used are available in our *Privacy Policy* (available at education.act.gov.au). **No personal identifying information will be provided to any school or college.**

What do I do now?

If, after reading this letter, you do **not** want your child to do the survey, please contact the front office by 9 August 2021.

Thank you for considering this request. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Cindie Deeker