



The University of Oxford, in partnership with Oxfordshire Public Health at the County Council, is conducting the **2019 Oxfordshire Online Pupil Survey (OPS)** on children and adolescents' well-being, as part of the Pathfinder project – informatics Solution to Adolescent Mental health (iSAM).

This is an important survey for two reasons. Firstly, it will **gather evidence** on pupils' mental health throughout adolescence, and these **results will be available in full to schools** as well as to policy-makers and the research community. Secondly, it will directly enable us to develop **better support**, to **track the progress of interventions** run in schools, and to attract **essential future funding for pupils' mental health**. This current work is funded by a University of Oxford research project called *Pathfinder*.

The survey is **anonymous** and **free** for all schools, academies and colleges in Oxfordshire, for pupils in years 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 12. This survey has already been conducted in Gloucestershire for the last 12 years, where 96% of schools participate. We are anticipating that the majority of Oxfordshire schools and colleges will take part, helping to form a comprehensive picture of the needs of young people between the ages of 8 and 16+.

Results from the OPS will be made **available to schools in September** via the easy-to-use online data summary tool LodeSeeker (<http://www.fabresearch.com/onlinereports.htm>), including **reports for Ofsted** inspections. Participating schools, the county council, researchers at the University of Oxford and partner agencies, can use the results to prioritise the needs of children and to support the evaluation of the curriculum and services. **Schools can compare their results to other schools** using the data tool, where the identities of the other schools are suppressed.

The survey is **engaging, easy for pupils to use**, and asks questions across a range of health-related issues. The survey takes most pupils about **25 minutes**, can be comfortably fitted into a lesson period, and the different versions for primary, secondary and FE are **age-appropriate**. Information for parents and pupils, approved with the survey by the ethics committee at the University of Oxford, will be provided to schools by the research team. We will also be running twilight information sessions at the University of Oxford. You can register for an information session at: <https://oxonopsmonitor.fabsurveys.co.uk/SchoolsAdmin/EventSignUp/>

To sign up to take part in the survey, please complete the online form (<https://oxonopsmonitor.fabsurveys.co.uk/SchoolsAdmin/SchoolSignUpForm>) or

email paule@fabresearch.com providing a contact name, email, telephone number and which school or college you are from. Please ensure that you can book the use of computer rooms to run the survey for each of your relevant year groups. The Oxfordshire OPS2019 will be live for participating schools to access from mid-March 2019.

We really hope that you will be part of this important opportunity to help us understand the mental health needs of school pupils in Oxfordshire.

Sincerely,

Karen Mansfield and Mina Fazel

MRC Mental Health Data Pathfinder
Department of Psychiatry
University of Oxford