

Thursday 5th March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Re: Student Wellbeing Survey

The wellbeing of all students at St Marys District School is important to us.

Students in our school have been invited to take part in a wellbeing survey being conducted in Term 1 2020. We are doing this as part of the Department of Education's *2018 – 2021 Child and Student Wellbeing Strategy*. This letter provides key information about the survey.

Purpose of the survey

Young people's sense of wellbeing is an important part of how they learn at school. The purpose of the survey is to seek students' views about their wellbeing and their engagement with school. Students in Years 4 to 12 will be invited to participate in the *Student Wellbeing Survey*. The information collected will help our school, the Department of Education and our school community to support young people's wellbeing.

What is the survey about?

The survey asks students about their social and emotional wellbeing; school relationships and engagement and learning in school; physical health and wellbeing; and after school activities. Students' answers will be kept confidential – no one (including school staff) will use the results to identify individual students.

What is involved?

Teachers will arrange for students to undertake the survey during class time. Students will be asked if they would like to participate and are able to withdraw at any time. **If you do not want your child to participate, please complete the form at the end of this letter.**

Will students' information be kept confidential?

The Department takes measures to ensure students' personal information and their identities remain anonymous when participating in the survey.

Participating schools with fewer than five (5) students undertaking the survey will not receive a school report in order to protect the confidentiality of students.

What will happen if a student is distressed during or after the survey?

Whilst the survey questions are not expected to distress students, the survey includes questions that ask about topics such as students' happiness and experiences of being bullied. Teachers will inform students that:

- if they find the survey uncomfortable or distressing, they should leave the survey screen immediately
- that it is not compulsory to take part in the survey as a whole, and
- students may also skip individual survey questions if they wish.

Students may want to speak to an adult about concerns or issues raised and will be supported to do so.

What do I have to do?

If you agree for your child to participate in the wellbeing survey, you **do not need to do anything**. If you **do not agree** for your child to participate in the wellbeing survey, **please complete the form attached** and return it to the school by Friday, 13th March, 2020.

Where can I get more information?

More information about the survey, including examples of the survey questions, can be found in the attached Frequently Asked Questions.

If you would like further information on the Student Wellbeing Survey, this can be found at www.education.tas.gov.au/about-us/projects/child-student-wellbeing-strategy/ or can be collected from the school.

For questions or concerns, or to view the questions, please email schoolsurveys@education.tas.gov.au or contact our school office on 63723900.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Watson
PRINCIPAL

STUDENT WELLBEING SURVEY

Decline to participate in activity form

If you agree for your child to participate in the Student Wellbeing Survey, you do not need to do anything.

If you **DO NOT** agree for your child to participate in the wellbeing survey, please complete the form.

I,

[PRINT NAME], DO NOT agree for my child/ren,

[PRINT CHILD'S NAME]

[PRINT CHILD'S NAME]

[PRINT CHILD'S NAME]

from

[PRINT SCHOOL NAME] to participate in the Student Wellbeing Survey.

Signature of Parent/Carer: _____

Date: _____