

# The impact of COVID-19 restrictions on breaktimes in primary and secondary schools in England: A national survey.

Dear Colleague,

We are inviting you to take part in this ongoing research study on the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on breaktimes in mainstream primary and secondary schools in England. This project will provide much needed descriptive information on the nature of school breaktimes in England and how these may have changed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The research will consist of a 15-minute online survey that can also be completed on your mobile.

Little systematic information on these important times in the school day is officially collected by the Department for Education, or any other organisation. We know that recently, schools have faced many challenges and undertake varied and interesting approaches towards the organisation of break and lunch times in the school day, and we are keen to collect an overall understanding of the changes made and challenges faced by schools across the country.

**We would be very grateful if you or a colleague could complete this questionnaire.** The only requirement is that you are a member of staff in a mainstream primary or secondary school in England with knowledge of breaktime arrangements in your school. Participants that complete and return the survey in full by the deadline and provide a valid school email address will be entered into a prize draw and have the opportunity to win for their school one (of four available) £50 Amazon voucher.

This study, following on from three previous national surveys (undertaken in 2017, 2006, and 1995 – see our website for more information: [www.breaktime.org.uk](http://www.breaktime.org.uk)), aims to find out more about any changes in school breaktimes, most likely due to the COVID-19 restrictions, in relation to areas such as the frequency, duration and supervision of breaktimes, and activities and resources available to pupils during these times. Results from this research will inform a national and international picture of the role of breaktimes in school and could potentially inform policy decisions and educational policy about school break times.

All information collected will be confidential and held in accordance with data protection regulations. Results will be anonymous, for example, no identifiable details will be disclosed in the reporting of results. Please see the data protection privacy notice at the bottom of this page for more information. **It is important to note that participation in this study is voluntary and you have the right to withdraw at any time.**

We do hope you will consider taking part in this project. If you have any questions or wish to discuss the study further, please feel free to contact us (details below). Many thanks for your help with this project.

Yours sincerely,

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## Data Protection Privacy Notice

There is some important information we must tell you about the way we will use the information you provide to us during this research project. This information is explained fully in the UCL Research Participant Privacy Notice, which you can access here: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/legal-services/privacy/ucl-general-research-participant-privacy-notice>. This explains, for example, how our UCL Data Protection Office oversee UCL activities in which personal data are processed (as in this research). If you want to contact them, or if you have any concerns about the way your personal data is being used, you can email data-protection@ucl.ac.uk.

**Thank you for taking the time to read this information; we do hope you consider taking part.**