



Dear Parent/s and Carer/s,

Our school is currently involved in research focused on improving the participation, belonging and wellbeing for every student at school. The interviews and focus groups took place earlier this year and the survey phase has now commenced. We would like to hear from your child or the young person you care for about what helps them to feel like they belong at school, what doesn't help, and what needs to change.

All students in Years 7-10 have been invited to take part in this online survey during class. The survey takes 10-15 minutes and the class teacher will be on hand to support the students at this time.

Participating in the survey is voluntary and your child or person you care for can choose to leave the survey at any time by closing the survey window. All answers will be anonymous, so no one will know whether your child did the survey or not or how they answered the questions. Their name and the name of our school will not be known or used in any reports from the research.

Findings from the survey will be made available to all schools in an easy-to-read summary and will also be published in a report and academic journals. The survey results will also inform professional learning for teachers. No individual will be identifiable in any information published. All data collected from the survey will be stored safely and securely at Southern Cross University for a minimum of 5 years.

The study has been approved by Southern Cross University Human Ethics Committee (approval number: **ECN 2021/146**) and the NSW Department of Education (approval number **2021/434**). In the unlikely event any survey question makes your child feel uncomfortable, they are free to skip that question, take a break or opt out by closing the survey window.

If you have concerns about the ethical conduct of this research or the researchers, you may contact the Committee through the Ethics Complaints Office, Southern Cross University, PO Box 157, Lismore NSW 2480; Email: ethics.lismore@scu.edu.au. All information is confidential and will be handled as soon as possible.

Students have also been advised they **can choose to participate or not in the survey**. You also have the option to decline the invitation (opt out) on behalf of your child by completing the attached 'opt out' form.

If you would like to contact the researchers to find out more information, please get in touch with:

Catharine Simmons, SIFE Project Officer, Centre for Children and Young People, Southern Cross University: catharine.simmons@scu.edu.au

Project information on the Centre for Children and Young People website: [SIFE - Southern Cross University \(scu.edu.au\)](https://www.scu.edu.au/sife)





Decline for my child or person I care for to participate in survey

Dear PARENT/S and CARER/S: Please sign the 'opt out' consent form, if you **DON'T** want your child or young person you care for to participate in the survey, and return it to Coonabarabran High School. Once you sign this form their teacher/s will be notified.

I, have read and understood the attached information.

I **decline** for my child, to take part in this online survey.

Your signature:

Date: