



On Monday 19 April 2020 the recently appointed Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, launched her Big Ask, the largest ever survey of children and young people in England. The survey runs until Wednesday 19 May.

Details are available on her website:

The Big Ask | Children's Commissioner for England
<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask>

The survey had different sets of questions for the following age groups: 4-5, 6-8, 9-12, 13-17 & Adults. There was however no way to review the questions before answering every question non the first two of three pages.

In response to a Freedom of Information Request her office provided five text files, one for each age group.

These files were made available to the HE Byte team, so that home educated young people would be able to review the questions before deciding if they wanted to participate in the Big Ask.

Further copies of this and all the other files can be downloaded from:
<https://he-byte.uk/the-big-ask>



Questionnaire 1: 13 – 17

We're going to ask you about what you think is important for your future and what is holding you back.

For some questions, we'll ask you to choose from a list of options, with others we'll ask you what you think in your own words.

Remember, this is not a test. There are no right or wrong answers. Just answer honestly!

Everything you tell us will be kept private, and you don't have to answer any question if you don't want to.

Your life now

1. (SHOW EACH IN TURN) How happy are you with these things in your life now?

Statements:

- a) My friendships
- b) My experiences online
- c) My personal safety
- d) My access to somewhere outside to have fun
- e) The choice of things to do in my local area
- f) Life at school or college
- g) My progress in education
- h) My mental health
- i) My physical health
- j) My family's health
- k) My family life
- l) My family's ability to buy things we need
- m) My life overall

Rating:

- 1 – Very unhappy
- 2 – Unhappy
- 3 – Neither happy nor unhappy (neutral)
- 4 – Happy
- 5 – Very happy
- I don't know
- I don't want to say
- Not applicable

Your future

2. When you grow up, which things, if any, do you think will be most important for you to have a good life?

Choose up to 5 things from the list below.

- a) Having a good education
- b) Good friends
- c) A good job or career
- d) Enough money to buy the things I need
- e) Getting on well with my current family
- f) Starting my own family
- g) A nice home to live in
- h) Good mental health
- i) Good physical health
- j) Being part of a good local community
- k) Living in a nice area with things to do
- l) Everyone being treated fairly
- m) A healthy environment and planet
- n) Something else (Select this option to tell us what you think in your own words)
- o) I don't know (exclusive)
- p) I don't want to say (exclusive)

3. When you grow up which of these, if any, are you most worried that you won't have?

Choose up to 5 things from the list below.

- a) A good education
- b) Good friends
- c) A good job or career
- d) Enough money to buy the things I need
- e) Getting on well with my current family
- f) Starting my own family
- g) A nice home to live in
- h) Good mental health
- i) Good physical health
- j) Being part of a good local community
- k) Living in a nice area with things to do
- l) Everyone being treated fairly
- m) A healthy environment and planet
- n) SHOW TEXT ENTERED UNDER 'SOMETHING ELSE' IN QUESTION 1
- o) I'm not worried about anything (exclusive)
- p) I don't know (exclusive)
- q) I don't want to say (exclusive)

4. When you grow up, how likely do you think it is that you will have a better life than your parents?

- Very likely
- Fairly likely
- Neither likely nor unlikely
- Fairly unlikely
- Very unlikely
- I don't know
- I don't want to say

5. What do you think stops young people in England achieving what they want to achieve when they grow up?

I think

-
- I don't think there is anything stopping young people achieving what they want to achieve
 - I don't know (exclusive)
 - I don't want to say (exclusive)

END OF MAIN QUESTIONS

START OF TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF (CHILD CHARACTERISTICS)

Please tell us about yourself

1. How old are you?
 - a) 13
 - b) 14
 - c) 15
 - d) 16
 - e) 17
 - f) I don't want to say

2. What is your gender?
 - a) Male
 - b) Female
 - c) I identify as...(Select this option to tell us how you identify)
 - d) I don't want to say

3. Please choose one option that best describes your ethnic group or background
- a) White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British
 - b) White: Irish
 - c) White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller
 - d) Any other White background
 - e) White and Black Caribbean
 - f) White and Black African
 - g) White and Asian
 - h) Indian
 - i) Pakistani
 - j) Bangladeshi
 - k) Chinese
 - l) Any other Asian background
 - m) African
 - n) Caribbean
 - o) Any other Black/African/Caribbean background
 - p) Arab
 - q) Other ethnic group (Select this option to tell us what best describes your ethnic group or background)
 - r) I don't want to say

4. Who helps you or gives you support? Select all that apply:

This could be practical advice, emotional or mental health support or help for a physical illness.

- a) My parent(s)
- b) My relative(s) e.g., grandparents, aunt, uncle
- c) My foster parent(s)
- d) A youth group
- e) A teacher
- f) A teaching assistant or SENCO at school
- g) A youth offending team
- h) A counsellor, therapist or other health care worker
- i) A social worker
- j) A young carer's project
- k) Someone else – Select this option to tell us who else helps or gives you support
- l) I don't want to say (exclusive)

5. Where do you live most of the time at the moment?

Remember we will keep what you tell us safe and confidential, no one will know that these answers have come from you.

- a) With my parent(s)
- b) With foster parent(s)
- c) With relatives other than my parent(s) e.g., grandparents, aunt/uncle
- d) A children's home
- e) A residential school
- f) In independent or semi-independent accommodation supported by the local council
- g) A mental health hospital
- h) A Young Offender Institution
- i) A secure training centre
- j) A secure children's home
- k) I live on my own
- l) Somewhere else (Select this option to tell us where you live most of the time)
- m) I don't want to say (exclusive)

6. What school or college do you go to most of the time?

If you are educated in two different places, provide your answer for the one you attended for the most time in the last term.

- a) (AUTOFILL SCHOOL RESPONSE)
- b) Other/my school isn't in this list (free text box to input name of school)
- c) I am home educated
- d) I don't take part in any education
- e) I don't know (exclusive)
- f) I don't want to say (exclusive)

6. Please tell us your home postcode if you know it.

Your postcode won't be used to identify you and we will keep it completely confidential. You can also select 'I don't want to say' if you don't want to answer

- a) POSTCODE LOOKUP TEXT BOX
- b) I don't know
- c) I don't want to say (exclusive)

6A. IF ANSWER 'I DON'T KNOW' OR I DON'T WANT TO SAY to Q6: What is your local council?

Your local council will have the same name as your nearest town or the county you live in. For example Essex, Camden, Manchester and Blackpool are all names of local councils. Start typing and your local council should be suggested

- a) AUTOSUGGEST LOCAL COUNCIL
- b) OR
- c) My council isn't in the list
- d) I don't know
- e) I don't want to say