

16 May 2008

Dear Parents

HEALTH RELATED BEHAVIOUR SURVEYS

Our school, along with several others, has agreed to participate in a very important Health Behaviour Survey amongst young people. We have been asked to support the work of the Health Authority and we stand to benefit substantially through our participation in the survey.

The survey data in schools may prompt review of the curriculum and has also been used in a variety of ways including:

1. As a starting point for discussion in classroom activities
2. As a guide in the choice of resources
3. As a prompt for appropriate timings of courses
4. As a beginning for further enquiry to strengthen existing programmes e.g. in PE
5. As a starting point for discussions between parents and schools.

The survey method that we are using has been developed by the Schools Health Education Unit, Exeter and has been in use now for over 20 years. Over 2500 schools have used the survey, many of them regularly repeating the survey.

The questions concern a wide range of health behaviours, for example:

Home and family	Relationships, mental health, HIV
Nutrition	Leisure and money
Drugs	Exercise

The Health Authority will also have a reliable database upon which it can objectively plan health care provision for young people. Links between the school and the Health Authority can be strengthened.

Both the Health Authority and the school, including representatives from the governing body and the parents, find the content of the questionnaire acceptable. Each questionnaire is anonymous and confidential, and no pupil will be identified when the data is returned to your school. The Health Authority will receive a total summary of all schools in which individual schools are not identified.

I hope you will agree with us that this is an exercise in which we wish to co-operate fully. I will assume you do approve unless I hear otherwise and I look forward to sharing with you in planning improved health promotion for our pupils. We hold a copy of the questionnaire in the school office, and if you would like to examine it, you are welcome to do so by appointment.

As part of the survey it will be helpful if your son/daughter brings the following information:

- a) Their postcode (only part of this will be used your house will not be identified)
- b) A personal code of four letters or numbers which could not be recognised by other pupils in the class, and which would be easy to remember. The teacher will explain later how to choose this code and how it will later be used.

The survey will probably be carried out in the next week.

Yours sincerely

G M Soper (Mrs)
Deputy Head