



Growing Up in Ireland – the national longitudinal study of children

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

PRINCIPAL'S QUESTIONNAIRE

School ID School Roll No.

Date _____ day _____ mth Int Name _____ Int. No.

Growing Up in Ireland is a major new government study on children. The purpose of the study is to improve our understanding of all aspects of children and their development. It will examine how children develop over time and identify which factors affect a child's development and make for a healthy and happy childhood or for a less happy one. The results of the study will be used by government to develop policies and interventions to support children and their families in the future.

The Department of Health & Children is funding the study through the Office of the Minister for Children (OMC) in association with the Department of Social & Family Affairs and the Central Statistics Office. The Department of Education and Science is represented on the Steering Group which oversees the study. A group of researchers led by the Economic & Social Research Institute (ESRI) and The Children's Research Centre at Trinity College Dublin is carrying out the study.

Your school is one of those randomly selected to participate in the study. **All information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence.**

An information sheet outlining in more detail the objectives of the study accompanies this questionnaire.

- Are you male or female? Male ₁ Female ₂
- To which age group do you belong?
20 - 29 yrs..... ₁ 30 - 39 yrs.. ₂ 40 - 49 yrs.. ₃ 50 - 59 yrs. ₄ 60 yrs or older.. ₅
- For how many years have you been Principal:
(a) in this school? years (b) in other Primary Schools? years
- How many boys and how many girls are enrolled in the school?
Boys _____ Girls _____ Total Pupils _____
- In addition to your duties as Principal, do you have a teaching class assigned to you?
Yes..... ₁ No..... ₂

6. How many **full-time** and **part-time** teachers work in this school? Please indicate how many are male and how many are female.

| Teachers | Full-time | Part-time |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Male | | |
| Female | | |
| Total | | |

7. Excluding yourself, how many **full-time** and **part-time** administrative staff work in your school?

Full-time admin. staff _____ Part-time admin. staff _____
[If none, please write none. Do not leave blank]

8. Approximately how many staff does your school currently have in the following capacities? Please indicate the number employed on a full-time and part-time basis.

| | Full-time | Part-time |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Learning support / resource teachers | | |
| Language support teachers | | |
| Special needs assistants | | |
| Other teaching assistants | | |

- How many rooms (including prefabs etc.) are used as classrooms in the school? _____ classrooms
- Of these, how many portable classrooms (prefabs) are there in the school? _____ portable classrooms
- How many classes (across all year-groups) are there in the school? _____ classes M

12. Approximately how many pupils is the school designed for? children

13. In which year was the school built? Year

14. Compared to other Primary Schools in the country how adequate to the needs of the school and the pupils are the school's resources in each of the following areas?

| | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. Number of teachers | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| b. Number of classrooms | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| c. Books and worksheets | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| d. Computing facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| e. Arts and crafts facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| f. Sports facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| g. Music facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| h. Playground | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| i. Mathematics resources / facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| j. Library / media centre | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| k. Staff room | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| l. Toilet facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| m. Learning support provision | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| n. After-school facilities (e.g. homework clubs) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| o. Administrative support | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| p. Condition of the school building, classrooms etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| q. Facilities for children with disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |

15. Does the school provide

a) a 'breakfast club' Yes, every day 1 Yes, some days 2 No..... 3

b) free school meals at lunchtime Yes, every day 1 Yes, some days 2 No..... 3

16. Approximately how many computers in total does the school have? computers

17. Of these, how many can be used by the pupils, i.e excluding those used solely by administrative or teaching staff:

..... used by the pupils

18. Does the school have a dedicated computer room for pupils? Yes..... 1 No..... 2

19. In your opinion, how important is each of the following to the ethos of the school?

| | Very important | Fairly important | Not important | Not sure |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. Sports..... | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| b. Religion..... | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| c. Music..... | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| d. Drama | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| e. Involvement with the community | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| f. Involvement with parents / guardians | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| g. Social justice / concern for disadvantaged ... | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| h. Environmental awareness | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| i. Irish language and culture | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |

20. Are the school buildings and other facilities (playing fields etc. if relevant) open to the local community (a) in the evenings during the week; (b) at weekends; or (c) out of term time?

a) in the evenings during the week Yes 1 No..... 2

b) at weekends Yes..... 1 No..... 2

c) out of term time Yes..... 1 No..... 2

21. Approximately how many of each of the following groups of pupils do you have in your school?

If none, please write 'NONE' – do not leave blank. – the same child can be recorded more than once.

Foreign-national pupils (Number)

Pupils of families from the Travelling Community (Number)

Pupils with language difficulties (where native language is other than English / Irish) (Number)

Pupils with physical / sensory disabilities (Number)

Pupils with learning / intellectual disabilities. (Number)

22. Approximately, what is the **Average Daily Attendance** for your school this year (2006 / 2007)?

_____ % Average Daily Attendance OR _____ Average number attending daily

23. What percentage of pupils missed 20 days or more in the 2005 / 2006 academic year (as per the NEWB figures)

_____ %

24. Approximately what percentage of the pupils in your school would you say come from the immediate area, that is, live within about 20 minutes walking distance of the school?

_____ %

25. Please indicate which of the following get involved in supporting children with emotional / behavioural problems in your school. [Please tick all that apply]

- Principal..... ₁
- Classroom Teacher..... ₂
- Learning support / resource teacher..... ₃
- Other staff member..... ₄
- External assistance [please specify] _____ ₅

26. In your assessment, approximately what proportion of pupils in the school would have such literacy, numeracy, or emotional-behavioural difficulties as to adversely impact on their educational development? Please tick one box on each line to indicate approximate percentage.

Approximate percentage of children with each problem

- | | None | less than 10% | 10-25% | 26-40% | More than 40% |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a) Literacy Problems..... | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₅ |
| b) Numeracy Problems..... | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₅ |
| c) Emotional / Behavioural problems..... | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₅ |

27. Does the school have a Home-School Community Liaison Co-ordinator? Yes..... ₁ No..... ₂

28. Over the past five years, has the number of pupils coming to this school....

Increased..... ₁ Decreased..... ₂ Remained fairly stable..... ₃

29. Are all of the pupils who apply to this school generally accepted? Yes... ₁ → Go to Q.31 No.. ₂ → Go to Q.30

30. What criteria are used to admit pupils [Please tick all that apply]?

- | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Proximity to the school | Other siblings in the school | Parents attended the school | Performance on tests | Date of application | Religion | Other (Please specify below) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₅ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₆ | _____ <input type="checkbox"/> ₇ |

31. Are there any other local schools to which pupils in your school might go? Yes..... ₁ No..... ₂

32. In general, do more pupils apply to come to this school than there are places available?

Yes..... ₁ No..... ₂

33. If there is more than 1 class in any year-group, on what basis are pupils in the school allocated to classes?

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Randomly / alphabetically..... | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | Performance on tests..... | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ |
| Only 1 class per year-group..... | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | Other [please specify.....] | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |

34. Does the school hold formal parent-teacher meetings at least once per year? Yes..... ₁ No.... ₂

35. Approximately what percentage of parents attend parent-teacher meetings? _____ per cent

36. How important is each of the following in the school as a **curricular** activity?

- | | Very important | Fairly important | Not important | Not sure |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a. Physical Education / Sport..... | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |
| b. Music..... | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |
| c. Speech and Drama..... | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |
| d. Environmental Awareness..... | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |
| e. Awareness of Social Justice..... | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |
| f. Scientific education..... | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |

37. And how important is each of the following in the school as an extra-curricular activity?

| | Very important | Fairly important | Not important | Not sure |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a. Physical Education / Sport..... | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |
| b. Music..... | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |
| c. Speech and Drama..... | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |
| d. Environmental Awareness..... | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |
| e. Awareness of Social Justice..... | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |
| f. Scientific education..... | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |

38. To what extent are the following forms of discipline used in your school:

| | Often | Occasionally | Rarely | Never |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a. Suspension | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |
| b. Expulsion / permanent exclusion..... | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |
| c. Extra classwork..... | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |
| d. Extra homework..... | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |
| e. Writing of 'lines' | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |
| f. Detention | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |
| g. Exclusion from sports or other popular activities..... | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |
| h. Verbal (phone or otherwise) report to parents | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |
| i. Written report to parents | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |
| j. Cancellation of popular lesson e.g. art..... | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |
| k. Warning card system..... | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |
| l. Other (specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |

39. Does the school have a written discipline policy? Yes... ₁ No..... ₂ Go to Q.41

40. To what extent were the following involved in developing this policy?

| | To a great extent | To some extent | Not at all |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a. Teachers..... | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ |
| b. Parents | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ |
| c. Pupils | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ |
| d. Board of Management | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ |

41. To what extent is bullying a problem in your school?

A major problem..... ₁ A minor problem

42. Does your school have an explicit anti-bullying strategy? Yes... ₁ No..... ₂

43. Does your school have a written policy on bullying? Yes..... ₁ No..... ₂

44. Please indicate the extent to which you believe each of the following to be true of teachers in your school.

| | True of nearly all | True for more than half | True for less than half | True of only a few |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a. Teachers are positive about the school | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |
| b. Teachers get a lot of help and support from colleagues | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |
| c. Teachers are open to new developments and challenges | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |
| d. Teachers are eager to take part in in-service training | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |

45. Compared with other Primary Schools of your size would you say that the scale of day-to-day problems in running the school are? [Please tick one box only]

Much greater than in other schools ₁ Slightly greater than in other schools ₂ About the same as in other schools ₃ Slightly less than in other schools ₄ Much less than in other schools ₅

46. What makes you say that? [Please describe as fully as possible]

47. Compared with other Primary Schools of your size would you say that, in general, the environment in your school is happier, as happy or less happy for pupils as in other Primary Schools

Happier..... ₁ As happy..... ₂ Less happy..... ₃

48. In general terms (a) how *stressed* do you feel by your job and (b) how *satisfied* do you feel with your job?

| | Very | Fairly | Not Very | Not At All |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a. How stressed do you feel by your job | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |
| b. How satisfied do you feel with your job | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |

Thank you very much for having completed this part of *Growing Up in Ireland*