

Child information sheet

What is the study about?

Teenagers lead busy and exciting lives, and we would like to understand more about your everyday experiences – like what your school is like, how you get on with your friends, and how you're doing at school. In this phase of the study, as we have done before, we will measure cognitive ability, your home and school environment, and your general wellbeing.

As you have now completed your last compulsory year of school this is our last chance to ask about your school and classroom experiences.

Why are we doing this study?

You've been a member of the TEDS project your whole life and have contributed to major scientific findings about the role of genes and environments in learning, development and behaviour. For example, how our education and training work together with our genetic background. With your help we've been able to assess which learning environments, in and outside of school, are the best for grades, health and happiness. Our ultimate aim is to improve the lives, education and experiences of future generations.

Why should I take part?

Have you ever wondered why we are all different?

Twins are uniquely helpful in scientific research that tries to understand why people are so different from one another. In particular you can help us to understand how these differences are influenced by the genes you inherited from your parents, and the experiences you have had throughout your life. Our research so far has shown that both genes (nature) and environments (nurture) are important. Now we're searching for which genes, and which environments are critical as you move from adolescence into adulthood, and increasingly live independent lives.

How do the results make a difference?

To be able to do this research properly, and to get good, reliable results, we need to have information from thousands of teenagers. Every teenager's life is different, so we need to ask lots of you to take part so that we can see patterns in the data to answer our research questions. Every bit of information you give us is useful, and will be used to investigate genetic and environmental influences on young people's behaviour.

The results are published in scientific journals, and are used by teachers, parents, researchers and politicians. The goal is to promote environments that improve people's lives.

You will be making a difference to science, and providing information that will change the way society thinks about education and development.

How long will it take?

We know that you are all very busy, so we have tried our best to keep the study as short as possible, while still assessing the things we think are important in teenagers' lives.

Each web activity takes, on average, 10 minutes – but some activities are shorter than others, and you can complete all of the activities at a time convenient for you. The whole study should take no longer than 2 hours.

Confidentiality

All the data that you provide is strictly confidential, and you are identified only by a number in the datasets. The TEDS data are sometimes shared with other researchers, but only after removing identifying information about the participants. We will not pass your information on to any other organisations. You are free to withdraw from the study at any time.

We are so grateful for all of the time and effort you and your families have given to the TEDS project over the years. Thank you so much for helping us to answer the big questions in science of the influence of genes and environments on learning and development!

If you have any questions please email us at teds-project@kcl.ac.uk, call us on FREEPHONE 0800 317029 or write to us at TEDS, PO83, FREEPOST LON7567, LONDON SE5 8YZ