

Dear Parent/Carer

We are academic researchers, working at the University of Cardiff and King's College London and we would like to invite you and your child(ren) to participate in our global study on children, Covid-19 and the media. The project is led by Dr Maya Götz, Director of the International Central Institute for Youth and Educational Television (IZI) at the Bavarian Broadcasting Corporation in Munich, Germany (<https://www.br-online.de/jugend/izi/english/home.htm>). **The survey will remain open only until Friday, 24th April 2020 at 20.00 (8.00 pm).**

The purpose of this research survey is to learn more about children's knowledge, understanding and coping strategies during the pandemic and how adults (such as media producers and teachers) can best support them during the COVID-19 crisis. About 1500 children around the world will take part by filling in an anonymous, online questionnaire. Your child can participate in this study if they are between the ages of **9-13-years-old**. We want to get as many responses as possible, so we'd be grateful if you would circulate this email with the link to families with children aged 9-13 who you think might be interested in taking part in the survey.

The main benefit to children from their participation in this study is knowing they will be helping researchers like us and media producers to better understand how children are feeling during the crisis. It will also show what media sources (TV, radio, press, social media, games) they are using and finding to be helpful (or not) in coping with the pandemic.

The survey is anonymous. We won't know the name of any child or the address where they live. Other information about the children (age, gender) will be kept private and held on a secure server. Only authorized personnel will have access to the answers. Any publications about this survey will not reveal their identity at any time.

If your child wants to know more about Coronavirus/Covid-19, they may find it useful to visit the CBBC Newsround website at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround> If they are anxious or upset, Newsround has "Advice if you're worried about Coronavirus" with additional child-friendly information and support – please click on this link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51896156>

We sincerely appreciate your willingness to consider letting your child participate in this study. On the first page of the questionnaire (see link below), you will find further information regarding the study. There will be a question at the bottom to indicate that you give permission for your child to participate. After you answer that question, please pass the questionnaire to your child(ren) to complete. Your child will also be asked to complete a similar question indicating their willingness to participate. Your child may decide not to participate, and that is OK. If they do decide to participate, they then will be directed to the questionnaire.

If you or your child has any questions or concerns about this study, please contact Dr Cynthia Carter, School of Journalism, Media and Culture, Cardiff University, at cartercl@cardiff.ac.uk UK participation in this project received full ethical approval through the School of Journalism, Media and Culture, Cardiff University (Reference JOME005) on 14 April 2020.

- <https://www.soscisurvey.de/corona-uk/> (this is a live link to the questionnaire)

Thank you for your interest in participating!

PLEASE NOTE:

We are considering a follow up UK study building on the results from the current global project. If you and your child would be willing to consider participating in our future study (there is absolutely no obligation to do so), please email Dr Carter to let us know. Thank you.

Best wishes,

Dr Cynthia Carter (Cardiff University), Prof Jeanette Steemers (Kings College London),
Prof Máire Messenger Davies (Freelance Consultant)