

THE BIG FUTURE

Guide for adults completing *The Big Future* on behalf of children

The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, has a statutory and independent role to promote and protect the rights of children, and to make sure that their voices are heard by those who make decisions about their lives.

To help her do this, Dame Rachel has launched her biggest survey yet. *The Big Future* is open to all children in England and asks about childhood today. About the things that worry them, the things they love, the ways they have fun, and the changes they want for a better future.

At a time when there is a mood of doubt across Westminster and the nation at large about how we raise our children today – from screentime to schooling, from future jobs to AI – we will be granting many of those same children the right to vote for the first time. Yet, children consistently say they're not heard and excluded from the debate.

That's why *The Big Future* will offer a new and comprehensive look at what children have to say about childhood today, and what they think needs to change for a better future.

Completing the survey

Some children may not be able to complete the survey on their own, but it's important that the Children's Commissioner can hear from them too.

All parents and carers – as well as childminders, nursery and childcare staff, special school staff, social workers and all others working with children – are welcome to help any child to complete the survey.

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How to answer the survey with a child:

- You could either work through the questions with them and write down their responses, or you can answer on their behalf.
- If you are answering on their behalf, please answer all questions from the child's perspective. For example, please answer the question about the child's age with their age, rather than your own.
- The survey can be completed on a wide range of devices (tablets, laptops, smartphones, etc).
- It takes about 5 minutes to complete the survey.
- The survey is open until 23 October 2026.
- There are questions about school, your local area, online safety and space for you to tell us what you think is important. For 12- to 18-year-olds, there are two extra questions on voting and any worries about the future.

What should the government do to make your future better?

Take part now



Survey: childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture

Resources & FAQs: childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-big-future

Socials: #TheBigFuture

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