



## Further information about the survey

### Background

Tellus is a national survey which gathers the views of children and young people in Years 6, 8 and 10, on their life, their school and their local area. Findings from the survey are used to inform policy development and to measure progress and performance, at a local and national level, across the five Every Child Matters (ECM) outcomes. The survey was originally developed by Ofsted as an online survey in 2007 (Tellus2) and run again in 2008 (Tellus3). The Department for Children, Schools and Families is now responsible for the survey and has commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to further develop and deliver Tellus4 in autumn 2009.

### Consultation

We are keen to actively engage key stakeholders in the review and development of the survey to ensure it gathers the information needed to inform local and national planning and policy development. As a first step, we are hosting a series of regional workshops in January 2009 for representatives from Government Offices, local authority officers and their children's trust partners to attend. The NFER team are also meeting with local headteachers via headteachers' termly meetings to consult on the survey development and content of supporting materials. We are also running a wider e-consultation with all interested parties via the Tellus4 portal. Please go to the [consultation page](#) and share your views.

### Tellus4 portal

Local authorities and schools will be able to access regularly updated survey information, resources and reports via the 'one stop Tellus4 portal'. The portal and the survey are being developed in partnership with RM. Please see the key [activities timetable](#) for further details of development timescales.

### Improving access for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities

As part of the development of Tellus4, NFER is working with Triangle - an independent organisation which works with disabled children, their families and inclusive groups of children and young people in a range of contexts. Triangle will help develop the visual design and content of Tellus4 to ensure the survey is more accessible to all children and young people.

## Using Tellus4 as part of the curriculum

Experienced PSHE and Citizenship consultants are also working with NFER to develop lesson plans and supporting materials which teachers may wish to use pre- and post-participation in the survey. These materials, which will contribute to curriculum requirements, will be developed in consultation with citizenship and PSHE networks.

## The survey

Tellus4 will be piloted and tested during the first half of 2009. LAs and schools will be able to personalise their surveys by selecting additional questions from a question bank. LAs will be able to select the additional questions they would like to include from May to mid-June 2009. Schools will be able to choose their additional questions from June to mid-July 2009.

The survey will be available for children and young people to complete from mid-October 2009 for a period of five weeks.

## Feedback

Findings from the survey will be useful to children and young people, participating schools and LAs in England, as well as central government, inspectorate bodies and other statutory and voluntary organisations.

National-level findings will be available from January 2010. Participating schools and local authorities will receive feedback showing their top-line results in the first half of spring term 2010. LAs and schools will also have access to a web-based analytical tool enabling them to further analyse their own data.

For further information about Tellus4, please email the project team at [tellus@nfer.ac.uk](mailto:tellus@nfer.ac.uk)