

## Student Spiritual Life Survey

# Information for Parents and Carers

*“Education plays a vital role in promoting the intellectual, physical, social emotional, moral, spiritual and aesthetic development and wellbeing of young Australians.”*

*(Council of Australian Governments Education Council, 2019, p. 3).*

## Dear Parents and Carers,

This letter is to let you know about the Student Spiritual Life Survey, in which students in Years 7 to 12 will be invited to participate. This survey is anonymous and will take around 10 minutes to complete.

### About the survey

The Student Spiritual Life Survey (SSLS) is designed to provide an annual snapshot that explores secondary students’ attitudes and practices around spirituality in general, and Christianity in particular, including their intersections with wellbeing and contributions to the common good.

The school will receive a combined report about the views of all students. All individual responses are anonymous. The data will also be used for wider research to inform educational leaders, policy makers and researchers.

### What will my child be asked to do?

The school will invite your child to complete an anonymous online survey during class time using a survey tool hosted by NCLS Research. Prior to the survey, your child will be given information about its purpose.

Students will be asked about how they feel about their life and attitudes and practices around spirituality in general. There will be questions addressing students’ religious or spiritual identity; spiritual beliefs, experiences and practices; community involvement, personal wellbeing, supportive relationships and the role of the school.

### What are the benefits?

The survey will give the students the opportunity to have their say about their experience of spirituality and faith in the context of their school. The school will use the survey results to inform activities to support spiritual exploration and growth.

### What are the risks?

Aside from the inconvenience of completing a survey, there are limited risks to participation. Students are free to skip questions or withdraw at any stage if the survey makes them feel uncomfortable.

## Does my child have to participate?

The decision to participate is entirely your choice and that of your child. Your choice not to participate will not disadvantage your child in any way.

- **If you do not want your child to participate, please notify the school** before the survey period commences. If there is no notification, your child will be invited to complete the survey.
- **If you are comfortable for your child to participate, you don't need to do anything.** Your child will be invited to complete the survey.

## Can my child withdraw after the survey has started?

Student participation in the survey is voluntary and students may withdraw at any time without affecting their relationship with the school or their teachers. Once the survey has started, we won't be able to withdraw your child's completed responses as the survey is anonymous.

## How will my child's confidentiality be protected?

The school will provide your child with a secure link to complete the survey. The survey is anonymous and no information will be collected that will identify your child. The survey responses will be collected on a secure server accessed by NCLS Research staff. The data will be kept securely in the offices of NCLS Research for at least 5 years.

## How will results be reported?

The survey results will be used to create reports for your school in an aggregated form. No individual responses will be released to the school. It is also possible that these findings will contribute to research that may be published or presented at conferences.

## Who do I contact for more information or if I have concerns?

If you would like more information, please speak to the school Principal or contact NCLS Research on [info@ncls.org.au](mailto:info@ncls.org.au) or (02) 9139 2525.

Charles Sturt University's Human Research Ethics Committee has approved this project [Ref No:24010].

If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this project, you may contact the Committee through the Research Integrity Unit via the following contact details:

The Presiding Officer, Human Research Ethics Committee, Research Integrity Unit, Locked Bag 588, Wagga Wagga NSW 2678. Phone: (02) 6933 4213. Email: [ethics@csu.edu.au](mailto:ethics@csu.edu.au)

Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated thoroughly and you will be informed of the outcome.

Survey FAQs: [ncls.org.au/ssls-faqs](https://ncls.org.au/ssls-faqs)

Yours sincerely,

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