

### **Age group**

Our research aims to gather perspectives from a diverse group of individuals aged 13 to 21. This age range encompasses various stages of education, ranging from middle school to high school and even college/university. We believe it is essential to include a wide range of school grades to obtain comprehensive insights into the experiences of young people across different educational levels.

### **Sample size**

In order to gather a robust set of data for our research, we are aiming to obtain a sample size of around 50-100 participants. While we acknowledge that a sample size of 50-100 participants may be considered small in research, given the tight deadlines, we hope it is achievable. We have carefully designed our study to gather a diverse range of perspectives and ensure representative and insightful findings within the given timeframe.

### **Collecting consent**

In order to ensure that we have proper consent from both parents or guardians and children participating in our research, we have implemented a straightforward procedure. Parents are required to provide their consent by actively checking a designated checkbox on our online form. This checkbox serves as an indication of their approval for their child's participation in the research project. Similarly, children are also asked to provide their assent by checking a separate checkbox on the same online form, confirming their willingness to participate.

### **Overview of research topic**

The primary focus of our research is to gain a comprehensive understanding of how social media platforms influence the lives of young people. We aim to explore this topic from the unique perspective of the participants themselves. In order to gather the necessary insights, we are interested in learning about the specific topics and trends that young people actively follow on social media. This information will greatly contribute to our collection of relevant data for future research. The purpose of this survey/project is to lay the groundwork for the development of automated systems that can effectively prevent online harm among teenagers. By obtaining the views and perspectives of young people, we aim to gain a deeper understanding of the types of mean or hurtful content they encounter on social media platforms, including images, videos, text, audio, and more. This knowledge will inform the development of strategies and technologies to mitigate online harm and create safer digital spaces for teenagers.

While we understand the importance of obtaining comprehensive responses, we have taken care to ensure that the survey length remains **less than ten minutes**, so that it is manageable for participants. We have designed the survey to be thorough but not overly time-consuming, respecting the participants' valuable time and commitment.

### **Link to Survey**

[https://dcueducation.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9vFzCeUPyOBGw4e](https://dcueducation.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9vFzCeUPyOBGw4e)

## **Plain Language Statement**

**About this research study**

Young people use social media apps like TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, and other such apps in different ways. We want to know what young people think about using these apps. These social media apps are also trying to get rid of mean and hurtful things people share or post online. These apps say mean or hurtful things will be taken down automatically once they are shared or posted. We want to know what young people think about the automatic take down of online content.

**Taking part in this research means?**

You will be taking part in an online survey, where you'll be answering some questions. These questions will be about the types of online content you view frequently on social media apps and what you think about some statements. Please note, we will not be asking for any personal details and all your answers will be kept anonymous. Nobody will know that your answers came from you. Don't worry, this survey should only take five minutes. There are no right or wrong answers, and we want to hear your honest thoughts and opinions.

**Benefits of participating?**

Your honest thoughts and opinions can help us create better guidelines to keep everyone safe online. You'll be helping us develop tools to respond to hurtful online content, which can contribute to a better and safer future for young people.

**Voluntary Participation**

Participation in the survey is entirely voluntary, and you can withdraw from the survey at any time.

**Who are we?**

We are researchers working on the project [DTCCT](#). Our project includes a group of experts, Kanishk Verma (PhD Student), Dr Brian Davis, Dr Tijana Milosevic from Dublin City University, and Dr Rebecca Umbach at Google. This project is supported by the Irish Research Council and Google, Ireland under the grant number ESPSG/2021/161.

We hope you'll consider participating in our study to help make the online world a better place for everyone!