

## Instructions for the Child Survey for 8 to 14 year olds

### Dear church survey coordinator,

Thank you for ordering Child Surveys as part of the 2021 National Church Life Survey. We want to hear from all voices including children and young people and have developed a specific Child Survey. This survey asks **church attenders aged 8 to 14** about their spirituality and experience of the church.

Participation in the survey is on a voluntary basis. Please make it clear to both parents and children that there is no obligation to complete it. There is also an information sheet to circulate to parents and carers before the survey. Parents can advise the church if they do not wish their children to participate.

We hope that this survey assists your church in ministering to children. Soon after completing your surveys, your church will receive a summary of your Child Survey results.



The NCLS Research team

### The Child Survey:

- is for children aged 8 to 14, who attend your church activities
- takes around 15 to 20 minutes to complete
- is optional and confidential
- can be completed alongside the adult Attender Survey during a church service; or in any children's activity of spiritual nurture e.g. Sunday school, kids club, youth group; or at home.
- can be completed on a paper survey or an online survey using a device such as a phone, tablet or computer, accessed via your NCLS Church Code.

[childsurvey.ncls.org.au](https://childsurvey.ncls.org.au)

### Your NCLS Church Code

Your Church Code should be written on the top of all your survey forms, entered in online surveys and used in any correspondence with NCLS Research.

Sample

Your Church Code here

Resources to help you run the survey e.g. Parent Information Sheet, Letter or Email Templates, Young Children's Activity Sheets and PowerPoint slides are available at [2021ncls.org.au/administer](http://2021ncls.org.au/administer)

### Before the Child Survey

1. **Select** the best time for your church to complete the survey  
 -either alongside the adults, or in a dedicated kids program, or at home.
2. **Notify** children and parents in advance and **distribute** Information Sheets to parents and carers. We recommend distributing the Information Sheets at least one week before the survey.
3. **Supply** those leading the services/activities with Child Survey forms and a copy of these Instructions.
4. **Plan** to allow enough time (approx 20 mins) for the survey at each church service or children's activity.
5. **Write** the NCLS Church Code on the top right hand corner of each survey form.
6. **Bring** sufficient blue or black pens for all children. Please do not use pencils as the surveys will be scanned.

### During the Child Survey

#### If Child Survey is completed at church activities

1. **Distribute paper or online surveys.** Children can complete a paper survey or use a device, such as a phone, to complete it online.
2. **Read** out the following Instructions. If children are completing the survey in the Worship Service or Mass alongside adults, read these instructions to children, after the instructions to adults.  
*"Today we'd like to ask you some questions about your faith and about church. This is a special survey for people aged 8 to 14. There are no right or wrong answers. We want to hear what you think. Don't write your name on this survey. All of your answers are private. Nobody else should read them. You don't have to do this survey if you don't want to. To answer a question please cross the box next to the answer that is closest to what you think. If you don't understand a question you can ask for help from an adult. Thank you."*
3. **Explain** the meanings of any words that are unclear to a child. Leaders can explain a question if needed, particularly applying it to their own context e.g. "Answer that question about Kids Zone because we don't call it Sunday School here."
4. **Assist** children with specific needs (e.g. disabilities, literacy or translation needs). An adult can read questions aloud and record their answers. Ethically, answers need to come from children.
5. **Check** the Church Code is written on the top right of each survey.

### childsurvey.ncls.org.au

#### If Child Survey is completed at home

1. **Distribute paper or online surveys.** Provide copies of the paper survey to the home or instruct children to use a device, such as a phone or computer, to complete it online.

[childsurvey.ncls.org.au](http://childsurvey.ncls.org.au)

**To start the online survey the child will need to type in your NCLS Church Code (see p1).**

The online instructions will read:  
*"Today we'd like to ask you some questions about church. All of your answers are private. You don't have to do this survey if you don't want to. Ask your parents if you have any questions."*

2. **Send reminders** to the household during the survey period to encourage survey completion.

### After the Child Survey

1. **Collect** all completed paper survey forms in the Confidential Collection Envelopes and seal to safeguard confidentiality. Child Surveys can go in the same envelopes as the adult Attender Surveys.
2. **Return** the Envelopes containing Child Surveys to your Church Survey Coordinator, to post back to NCLS Research with the rest of your church's surveys.

**Note: For NCLS Research to provide confidential and credible results for your local church we require a minimum of 10 Child Survey forms returned.** If less than 10 children complete surveys at your church, please assure the children that their answers have been added to the answers from all children in churches across the country.