1. Who are the Careers & Enterprise Company?

The Careers & Enterprise Company (CEC) are the national body for careers education in England, supporting schools and colleges to deliver modern, 21st century careers education. The CEC does this by working with a range of education settings - primary and secondary schools, colleges, specialist settings - to improve careers education and secure better outcomes for young people.

2. What is the purpose of this questionnaire?

Your Child's Future – a questionnaire for parents and carers, has been designed to gather your views on your child's careers education and how well you feel they are being prepared for their next steps after school/college. Your feedback will help education settings improve their careers programmes and better support students and families.

3. Who should complete the questionnaire?

This questionnaire is intended for parents or carers of young people in Years 7 – 14 who attend secondary school, sixth form, college or a specialist setting, including special schools and alternate provision.

4. What if I have more than one child at this school/college etc?

Please answer the questionnaire thinking about your oldest child. This helps the education setting to gather the most complete feedback, as families tend to experience more of a careers programme in higher year groups. If you would like to share feedback about another child, you are welcome to complete the questionnaire again.

5. How long will it take to complete the questionnaire?

The questionnaire should take no more than 10 minutes to complete.

6. Do I need to know anything in particular to answer the questions?

No – we're just interested in your personal views and experiences as a parent or carer. There are no right or wrong answers.

7. Will my child's school/college etc know if I have answered the questionnaire?

The questionnaire doesn't ask for a name or contact details but it's possible that the education setting may be able to recognise some parents/carers based on how the questions have been answered. The education setting will only see responses grouped together by question, and cannot view an individual's answers to any of the questions.

8. How will my data be used?

The data you share will be used for research purposes only - to improve careers education nationally, and to help your child's education setting understand overall trends and areas for improvement in careers guidance.. The demographic data you choose to share, and your other responses, will NOT be used for marketing or other commercial purposes.

Demographic data is information about your background, such as age, ethnicity, and other personal characteristics. These questions are included at the end of the questionnaire but are entirely optional – you don't have to answer them if you don't want to.

Demographic data allows researchers to see whether responses vary between different groups of parents and carers. Please see The Careers and Enterprise Company's Privacy Notice for more information about use of personal data.

If you want to view the Privacy Notice for your child's education setting, this is usually available via the website's homepage

9. How will the results be used?

The education setting will use the results to improve its careers education programme. Your feedback will help identify what's working well and where more support may be needed. Your responses, including any demographic information you choose to provide, will be analysed with responses from other parents and carers. The Careers & Enterprise Company will explore responses from parents and carers across the country to spot patterns and trends. This will help to improve careers education and parental involvement across the country, helping every young person find their best next step.

10. Can I skip questions or stop part way through?

No – you won't be able to skip questions related to your child's careers education, although you are free to stop at any point. You don't have to answer the demographic questions at the end of the questionnaire if you don't want to as these are optional.