

Part 1: Schools, teachers and pupils

Part one of this Directive is about your reflections and perceptions of primary and secondary education. We are specifically interested in your thoughts and personal experiences of school, teachers and pupils and how attitudes towards education may have changed over the years.

About you...

Please start by listing the schools and colleges you attended up until the age of 18. You don't have to provide the full names of the places but it would be useful if you could indicate what kind of institution they were. If you were educated at home or did not attend formal education please give details.

Are you, or have you ever been, employed in education (in any capacity)? What sort of job do/did you do? What is/was it like?

Your perceptions of teachers

What are the first five words which come to mind when you think of a teacher?

What do you remember about your own teachers? Can you describe your favourite teacher? Can you describe your worst?

What kind of people do you think choose to become teachers? Why do you think they teach?

Images of teachers

Can you think of any examples of representations of teachers in books, films, or television? Please give details and say whether you think these images are positive or negative.

What about how teachers are represented in the news? Are teachers and the issues relating to their profession represented adequately?

How do you think the public image of teaching has changed over the years? Is it better or worse?

What do you think has influenced these changes?

School pupils

What do you think school is like for children and young people today? How different do you think these are compared to your own experiences?

What kind of education should children experience? What should they be taught? How should they be taught? Who decides? Who should decide?

Please start each part of your directive reply on a new sheet of paper with your MO number, sex, age, marital status, the town or village where you live and your occupation or former occupation.

Remember not to identify yourself or other people inadvertently within your reply. It is probably best to use initials instead of real names.

Are there any subjects/topics that you consider to be vital to a child's education? Or is there anything currently taught in schools that you consider to be 'old fashioned' or unnecessary? Is there anything that you weren't taught at school but wish you were?

Assessment and qualifications

What do you think about assessment (exams, coursework, qualifications etc) in schools? Are school pupils over assessed? Or perhaps they are not assessed enough?

Do you think examinations are harder or easier? What impact do you think examinations have upon pupils? Do you think this is similar or different to your own experiences?

Schools in your area

What types of schools are near you? Who runs them? Are they selective or comprehensive? Are they an academy? Independent? Are the physical buildings in good shape or in poor condition?

Have you ever had to make a decision about where to send a child to school? What factors influenced your decision? Were you/are you happy with your decision? What advice would you give to adult/carer when they are making a decision about where to send a child to school?

Part 2: Siblings

The focus of the second part of the Directive is sibling relationships (including full, half, step and adopted siblings and those who are 'like' siblings). We are interested in your views and experiences of having brothers or sisters, particularly in terms of how these relationships adapt and change as you grow older.

Please start part 2 of your Directive reply on a new sheet of paper with your MO number and a brief biography.

The first section of this Directive is aimed at people who have siblings. If you don't have a sibling we would welcome your thoughts and observations about friends, family members or acquaintances that do have siblings.

If you have a sibling:

Please start by listing your siblings. How are they related to you? We would like to hear about full, half, step and adopted siblings and others who may be 'like' siblings in some way.

Please describe your siblings (without identifying them by name) – how old are they? What do they do? What are they like?

Your relationship with your siblings

How would you describe your relationship with your siblings? How often do you see/speak to your siblings? Has this changed over time?

Have there been times when you have been very close or experienced rivalry or resentment with your siblings? Please give as much detail as possible.

Do you and your siblings ever help each other out? This could be in the form of emotional support, advice, financial help or something similar. Can you imagine a time in the future when you might give or receive this type of help?

Have you ever lost contact with a sibling? What happened?

Similarities and differences

Are you similar or different to your siblings? This could be in terms of appearance, personality, health, character and so on.

Have you got any theories about how these similarities/differences came about? Have these similarities/differences changed over time?

If you have more than one sibling....

Are you closer to one particular sibling? Why is this? Has this changed at all over the years?

Have there been times when age differences or birth order have seemed important to you and your siblings.

Finding siblings in later life

Do you have any experience of finding out about siblings in later life? Please share any experience that is relevant to you or other people that you know.

For everybody:

What do you think the advantages and disadvantages of growing up without siblings are? Have you ever wished you had/did not have any brothers or sisters?

Do you think your life would be any different if you had/did not have any siblings?

Do you have any thoughts and opinions on how siblings 'turn out'? For example, do you think that eldest children, people from large families or people with no siblings tend to 'turn out' differently? What makes you think this?

Part 3: The Diamond Jubilee 2nd – 5th June 2012

Please start Part 3 of your Directive reply on a new sheet of paper with your MO number and a brief biography.

How will you be spending the Diamond Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend? We would like you to keep a diary between 2nd and 5th

June. Please record the details of how you spend the Bank Holiday weekend. We are interested in whatever you do, regardless of whether it relates to the Diamond Jubilee or not. Remember to record your own thoughts and feelings as well as actual events.

Some additional points for you to observe:

- Please give details of any events relating to the Jubilee happening in your neighbourhood. Please say if you attend these events.

- Note down any interesting conversations you have with anyone regarding the Jubilee or royalty in general.
- Take a photograph or describe any impressive shop displays, graffiti, or posters relating to the Jubilee.

Don't forget to submit your response to the Mass Observation Diamond Jubilee blog!

The Mass Observation Project is investigating new ways to record everyday life in Britain. Please go online to http://www.massobs.org.uk/diamond_jubilee and submit your response online!

The responses will be available for everyone to read and archived by the UK Web Archive at the British Library.

Please post your response to: **The Mass Observation Archive, FREEPOST BR 2112, The Library, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 1ZX** Or by email to: moa@sussex.ac.uk
JS/Summer Directive/No. 95