

Religion, Values and Human Rights

**A project among Year 11,
Sixth-form and College students**

Coordinated in England and
Wales by the St Mary's Centre



Invitation

You and your school/college are invited to participate in a survey being conducted in secondary schools throughout England and Wales.

Aims of the survey

The project is being sponsored by the St Mary's Centre to help us hear what young people are really saying about religion, values and human rights today.

Who is conducting the research?

The questionnaire has been designed by Professor Hans-Georg Ziebertz (Wuerzburg University, Germany) and Professor Leslie J Francis (St Mary's Centre, UK) specifically for use among 15-18 year old students attending Year 11, sixth-forms and colleges across Europe. The first project ran between 2008 and 2012 and resulted in three books belonging to the series *Empirical Research in Religion and Human Rights* published by Brill. The second project began in 2012 and involves 18 nations across Europe. We hope that England and Wales will be well represented in this new study.

How does the research help my school/college?

The research can help your school or college in two ways. First, the questionnaire has been designed to stimulate active thinking among your students. When one lesson has been dedicated to completing the questionnaire, follow-up lessons can reflect on the experience. Second, the research team is happy to make available to you key findings from the earlier surveys so your students can reflect on how other young people of this age responded to similar questions.

How confidential is the research?

The students complete the questionnaire anonymously. They are asked *not* to write their name on the booklet. Once the responses are stored in the computer there is no way to link them back to your individual school/college.

How can my school/college help?

Participating schools and colleges are invited to administer the questionnaire (as far as possible) throughout all their classes to ensure a thoroughly representative sample of young people. The questionnaire should be administered in exam-like conditions. Most students find that they can complete the exercise within 40 minutes.

What are the next steps?

If you are interested in finding out more about the project, seeing a copy of the questionnaire, or taking part, please contact Margaret West at the St Mary's Centre (contact details below). Once you have let us know the number of students in your

Year 11, sixth form or college classes, we can arrange to have the right number of questionnaires sent to you. We will also cover the costs of returning the questionnaires to us. Once the questionnaires are completed we will arrange to pick them up.

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