



STRANMILLIS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE  
A College of Queen's University Belfast

**‘Perceptions of Vocational Qualifications in Northern Ireland’**

**Parent/Carer Information Sheet and Opt Out Consent Form**

1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are a research team from Stranmillis University College and we are undertaking a research project on behalf of the Department for the Economy to explore what different pupils/learners think about vocational qualifications in Northern Ireland.

As part of our research, we are distributing online surveys to pupils in years 10-14 to explore the opinions of current vocational learners but also those prospective vocational learners who might (or might not) be considering vocational qualifications in the future. Questions will explore their level of awareness and understanding of vocational qualifications as well as their perceptions of the value, attractiveness and usefulness of these qualifications.

The surveys will take no more than 10-20 minutes and will be completed in school. All answers are anonymous and confidential and your child and their school/college will not be identified in the final report. All data will be deleted on completion of the project. The research study has been approved by the Stranmillis University College Research and Ethics Committee.

If you have any further questions about this research, please feel free to get in touch with Dr Mark Ballentine ([m.ballentine@stran.ac.uk](mailto:m.ballentine@stran.ac.uk)), or the Principal Investigator whose details are available below.

If you do not wish your child to complete the short survey, we would be grateful if you could return the attached opt-out form to the school as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Noel Purdy  
[n.purdy@stran.ac.uk](mailto:n.purdy@stran.ac.uk)

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**PARENT/CARER OPT OUT FORM**

I have read all of the above and I DO NOT CONSENT to my child completing the online survey.

Your Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_