

Predict the outcome of the UK Childhood Commissioner's survey

Summary Answer?

The survey will find that there are many ways in which the lives of children in the UK can be improved. The two main actions that are proposed will be:-

- A restructuring of the schooling system to take advantage of the benefits of online learning while still providing protection and care of children;
- Introduction of a scheme in which children get access to free organised activities of their choice in exchange for good behaviour, good school attendance and good parental participation. This deal is based on the "Iceland Model". [1]

What is the survey?

The UK Childhood Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, has begun an in depth survey of the children of the UK. She intends to use this to "rebuild childhood after the disruption of the pandemic." [2]

What findings do we expect the survey to produce?

- Alcohol and drug abuse is common.
- School and education is often seen as a chore.
- Children spend a significant amount of time bored.
- Many parents aren't well engaged with their children's development.
- The pandemic has led to a mental health epidemic.
- There is a correlation between socio-economic status and degree of engagement in education and society.
- There is a correlation between time spent on organised group activities and degree of engagement in education and society.
- There is an inverse correlation between time spent on organised group activities and degree of mental health problems.
- Time spent playing computer games does not have the same positive effect as time spent on organised group activities.
- Kids don't have good access to organised group activities outside school.

What recommendations will the survey come up with?

- Free school meal schemes should be extended throughout all holidays.
- Schools should be restructured so that:-
 - More learning is online and self-paced (but the student is still usually located at the school).
 - Holidays are shorter.
 - Attendance is more flexible if agreed with parents/guardians.
- The UK should invest in a scheme based on the Iceland Model in which children get access to organised group activities of their choice in exchange for good behaviour, good school attendance and good parental participation.

References?

[1] <https://mosaicscience.com/story/iceland-prevent-teen-substance-abuse/>

[2] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-56408643>

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