

Survey FAQs with thanks to Professor John McKendrick

Why do we need this school grounds census?

Not enough is known about the nature and use of school grounds in Scotland. Information on your school's grounds, as part of the survey, will be of use to school leaders, teachers, and policy-makers.

Why should you become involved?

It may provide useful information for your School Improvement Plan, allowing you to benchmark your school against others. It is also a great opportunity to be a part of research which can help inform policy and best practice in outdoor learning and the use of school grounds now, and in the future.

We are also running a prize draw, with prizes generously donated from a range of outdoor learning specialists. This is open to any school which completes the survey. Please opt in to this draw at the end of the survey. You can find a full list of prizes here: [LINK TO PDF](#)

What do we need you to do?

Complete the survey or nominate someone from within your school to complete this on behalf of the school. It takes 10-15 minutes to complete. We would like to receive one answer per school, so please check with your Headteacher if you are unsure if this has already been completed.

I have been sent a paper copy - which should I complete?

Whatever works for you is fine by us. Please complete either the online or the paper version. If you choose to complete this online version, please recycle the paperwork. There is no need to send this back to us.

Will it be confidential?

Yes. All answers given in the survey will be entirely confidential. No information relating to any individual school will be shared anywhere, including in presentations and written outputs.

If it is confidential, why do you need to ask for the name of the school?

There are four main reasons. Firstly, knowing your school's name allows us to link the survey responses to publicly available information so that – for example – we can compare urban and rural schools. In addition, we will send a reminder to those who have not completed the survey as the deadline approaches; knowing that you have already responded will ensure that we can cut down on your e-mail traffic. Thirdly, if you opt in to the prize draw, we need to know who you are. Please note that there is a short GDPR statement below specifically about the prize draw. Finally, if you request your own copy of the final report, we can send it to you.

Will my details be shared for marketing purposes if I enter the prize draw?

No. Learning through Landscapes have worked with our trusted equipment providers who have generously volunteered a range of prize incentives to support this important work. If you choose to enter the draw, by ticking the relevant box at the end of the survey, you agree to your name, email address and your school's address being shared with the providers. These details will only be shared in the event that you are selected for a prize, for the purposes of enabling delivery only. Your details will not be passed on for marketing.

When should you complete the survey?

Please respond by Friday 14 February at the latest. We will compile a report based on the survey findings, expected to be prepared in Summer 2025

What if you need more information?

Please do not hesitate to contact Professor John McKendrick – jmke@gcu.ac.uk