



Cambridge Student Advisory Council

Frequently Asked Questions (for parents and guardians)

What is the Cambridge Student Advisory Council?

The Cambridge Student Advisory Council is a global, online community that brings together students from registered Cambridge schools to share their perspectives on education, learning and global issues. Through research activities such as surveys, focus groups, panels and discussions, students help inform Cambridge's thinking, strategy and product development, ensuring student voice plays a meaningful role in shaping the future of education.

Who runs the council?

The council is run by the International Education group at Cambridge University Press & Assessment. We are part of the University of Cambridge. Activities are organised and facilitated by experienced Cambridge colleagues, sometimes alongside external subject experts, and follow Cambridge's [safeguarding](#) and [privacy & data protection policies](#).

Who can take part?

The Cambridge Student Advisory Council is open to students aged 16 and over; we may decide to extend to younger students over time. Participation is global and inclusive, with students from different regions invited to ensure a wide range of perspectives.

Parental or guardian consent is required for all participating students, who must be part of an approved Cambridge International School to take part. Your child's school will be able to confirm whether they are registered with us and can provide their centre number, which is needed when signing up to join the council.

How can my child join the council?

Students are invited to sign up by completing a form, where they indicate which topics they are most interested in. All students who apply may be invited to take part in research activities, with smaller groups selected for specific sessions depending on the topic and format.

What kind of activities will my child take part in?

Activities may include:

- Online surveys and market research activities open to all interested students
- Small online focus groups or discussion panels with students from different regions
- Expert-led Q&A sessions on specific themes

Sessions are designed to be age-appropriate, inclusive, and supportive, with no requirement for students to have prior experience.

How often will my child be asked to take part?

Opportunities to participate vary. Some activities are open invitation, while others involve selected small groups. Participation is flexible, and students can choose which activities they would like to join. There is no obligation to attend every session; they can choose which ones to join depending on their areas of interest and availability.

Is participation voluntary?

Yes. Participation is entirely voluntary. Your child can choose which activities they would like to join. When taking part in an activity, they may choose not to answer any question and can withdraw at any time, either from the activity or from the council, without providing a reason.

How will virtual sessions be run?

Most virtual activities take place online, typically using Microsoft Teams or Zoom. Sessions are facilitated by trained Cambridge colleagues and follow clear ground rules to ensure discussions are respectful, inclusive and emotionally safe. There are no 'right' or 'wrong' answers - students are encouraged to share their honest views if they feel comfortable doing so.

How is my child's wellbeing supported?

Student wellbeing is a priority. Sessions are carefully moderated, participation is optional, and discussions are designed to be balanced and supportive. Students are encouraged to engage at a level they are comfortable with. This includes choosing whether to keep cameras on or off in virtual sessions, for example.

How will my child's input be used?

Student insights are used to:

- improve teaching, learning and assessment resources
- inform research, thinking and product development
- strengthen Cambridge's understanding of student experiences globally.

Insights may also contribute to wider communications or campaigns, but only with appropriate safeguards and consent in place.

Will my child be identified publicly?

By default, student contributions are anonymised in any public facing materials. Learners will not be identified by full name, school or other identifying details unless explicit additional consent is provided for a specific use.

Will sessions be recorded?

Some sessions may be recorded for internal use only, to help accurately capture themes and insights. Any recordings or notes are handled in line with Cambridge's [safeguarding](#) and [privacy & data protection policies](#) and are not shared externally.

How is my child's data protected?

Cambridge follows strict data protection, privacy and safeguarding policies. Personal information is stored securely in line with sensitive data rules, accessed only by the relevant project team, and never shared outside the organisation. All consent and data handling processes comply with applicable regulations for working with minors.

Does my child receive recognition for taking part?

Yes. Students who participate in online research surveys or other activities will receive formal recognition, such as Certificates of Participation. There may also be optional opportunities to contribute to other Cambridge activities, such as blogs or events, with separate consent processes.

Cambridge Student Advisory Council FAQs (parents) continued

Who can I contact if I have questions?

If you have any questions about the council or a specific activity your child has been invited to join, you can contact the Cambridge team at info@cambridgeinternational.org. We are very happy to answer any questions before you decide whether to give consent.