

Dear parent(s)/guardian(s)

The school of your child recently informed you that your child is selected to participate in the PISA study in Flanders. As well as your child, we would like to ask you to complete a questionnaire. Read the most important information about this parent questionnaire in this letter.

*What is PISA?*

PISA stands for Programme for International Student Assessment and is the largest educational survey in the world. It tests the knowledge and skills of more than half a million 15-year-old students from 91 countries. Your child is one of approximately 7,000 pupils in Flanders who have been selected to participate in the study.

The PISA2025 survey is conducted in Flanders by Ghent University, commissioned by the Flemish Ministry of Education and Training and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

*What is the purpose of the parent questionnaire in PISA?*

PISA examines what 15-year-old pupils know and can do in mathematics, science, reading, digital learning and English proficiency. To better understand differences in performance between pupils and schools, we use questionnaires to collect background information on pupils, parents and schools. The **parent questionnaire** includes questions on **family, school choice, school involvement and other school aspects**.

*How do I fill in the parent questionnaire?*

Your child was given the parent questionnaire on paper, along with this letter, in a white envelope with a UGent logo. Completing the parent questionnaire takes approximately **35 minutes**. If there are any questions you feel uncomfortable with, you may simply skip them.

Your participation in the survey is important to evaluate and optimise Flemish education. Participation in the study is voluntary. If you do not want to fill in the parent questionnaire, please return it blank with your child. You do not need to provide any further explanation. Non-participation won't affect your child's grades at school or your or his/her relationship with teachers, other school staff or the researchers.

**Upon completion, please put the questionnaire back into the white envelope**, close the envelope and return it with your child to school. There, the envelopes are collected and sent to the National Project Centre at Ghent University. This way, schools won't have access to what you filled in in the parent questionnaire.

*What about data collected in the parent questionnaire?*

In the parent questionnaire, some background data on you and your family (e.g. level of education, home language) will be collected. The processing of these personal data is necessary for the performance of a task in the general interest and for the purpose of scientific research. Specifically, we want to better understand differences in performance between pupils based on the personal data.

Personal data are processed under the legal basis 'public interest'. We always treat personal data confidentially and take measures to protect your privacy and that of your child. No one outside the research team will be able to link answers from the questionnaire to your child or to you personally. Data will not be passed to external parties. PISA will keep anonymized data indefinitely to enable further PISA research in the future.

Further questions?

- Send an email to [pisa@ugent.be](mailto:pisa@ugent.be)
- If you want to exercise your rights under privacy laws, such as reviewing or modifying responses, you can also contact us at [pisa@ugent.be](mailto:pisa@ugent.be).
- For more information on the protection of your personal data, contact the OECD's Data Protection Officer ([dpo@oecd.org](mailto:dpo@oecd.org)) and Data Protection Commissioner ([dpc@oecd.org](mailto:dpc@oecd.org)). A complaint can be filed with the Data Protection Authority or Flemish Supervisory Commission.

Thank you very much in advance for filling in the parent questionnaire!

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