Dear Principals and Teachers

I am writing to let you know about the ongoing campaign, Creating Our Future, which is a government-led national brainstorm that will involve the people of Ireland in a conversation on the role research can and should play in addressing opportunities, challenges and hopes for the future. The campaign will ensure that the direction of research in this country is informed by the people of Ireland. To ensure this is a true representation, it is vital that we capture the ideas of students and teachers right across the country.

The creativity of our children and young people knows no bounds, and we would be very grateful if you took some time to speak with your students about what they believe researchers in Ireland should explore to create a better future. From science, the environment, health and education to poverty, the arts, diversity, and inclusion – all ideas are welcome that can inspire researchers to help make a better future for Ireland.

It would be very helpful to this project if you could hold a discussion or brainstorm with your pupils/students and ask them what they care about. You can then record their ideas and submit them directly here <https://creatingourfuture.ie/submit-your-idea/>.

Lesson resources on the topic of Creating Our Future are available for primary and post-primary schools. Each resource will incorporate some different ideas for introducing the topic in your classroom, with trigger questions to aid discussion, a related science investigation or design and make project and some ideas for carrying out your own research on the topic. You can find all the details on <https://www.sfi.ie/engagement/science-week/resources/> .

The **deadline** to receive submissions is midnight on **30 November 2021**. All the ideas/suggestions will then be compiled, filtered, and analysed by independent experts from a broad range of backgrounds. This work will result in the public inputs received being shaped into a report for Government.

This is a really positive opportunity for children and young people to be involved in shaping the future of Irish research. In addition to in-school activity, students may wish to extend their conversation with their families.  For convenience, I attach a sample message which could be sent out to parents of your school to support this activity at home.

Thank you for your support with this initiative and for your help in ensuring students’ voices are heard.

Kind regards,



Norma Foley TD

Minister for Education

**Sample message for parents**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

You may have heard of the Government of Ireland campaign “Creating Our Future”. The idea is that members of the public engage in a dialogue on research and to submit their ideas on what they would like researchers to explore. The ideas can be anything from the environment and technology to arts and humanities. You can find all the details on [www.creatingourfuture.ie.](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.creatingourfuture.ie%2F&data=04%7C01%7CCiara.Cotter%40sfi.ie%7Cb42d24c4ad9a4021fb1408d98a581beb%7C9e707300867045639cbbbb5a79bc4a22%7C0%7C0%7C637692933287869572%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=3OEY%2FvB4L6TPsWPxOEsNl6SZNNrXSy45X6jrPVcbQNI%3D&reserved=0)

The Government is very keen to hear from children and parents throughout the country. Parents/teachers are encouraged to talk about research topics with children and then to submit ideas that come up. Every idea will be reviewed by a panel of experts it will go towards a final report to Cabinet as well as a book of inspiration for researchers.

This is a great initiative for encouraging input from our children on the future they wish to see for themselves and promotes critical thinking and citizenship skills. It would be a great way for the entire family to spend some time together this weekend.