



## Creating a survey

Part of auditing what is already happening around a particular issue in your school or community is to find out what people's behaviours are like. For example, you might undertake a simple audit of water usage in different buildings around your school, then go a step further. To understand why there are differences, you might ask staff and students in each classroom and area to complete a survey on their water use.

Before you decide to create a survey, there are a few key questions to ask yourself:

- 1. What is the purpose of your survey?**
  - Is it to capture people's actions, thoughts, or feelings?
  - Is it to find out more information on a subject?
- 2. Is a survey the best way to achieve your purpose?**
  - How many responses do you need for the information to be valuable? *(This will help you figure out what kind of survey you will use and how you will promote it.)*
  - How will you get people to respond to your survey?
  - How will you collate the information? What will you do with it once you have it?
- 3. What are the alternatives to a formal survey?**
  - Would it be easier to just talk to people and write down their responses?
  - Are there other ways to find out the information you're looking for?

These questions are not meant to completely discourage you from creating a survey but should help you think about the most effective use of your time in trying to gather information. You might answer each of these questions and find that a survey is definitely the best way to go about your project. If so, keep reading below!

### Useful links and resources

There are numerous resources and tools available online which will help you design a good survey. For example:

- [Types of survey and examples](#)
- [Tips for creating a survey](#)
- [How to write good survey questions](#)
- [Creating a survey with Survey Monkey](#)
- [Creating a survey with Google Forms](#)