

## **Education Research for Teachers Survey**

Dear parent,

The [Education Research, Innovation and Consultancy \(ERIC\)](#) Unit at the University of Portsmouth is running a research-methods training program for teachers at West Norfolk Academies Trust. Part of the training involves analysing data from a student experience survey which West Norfolk AT students will complete.

The survey aims to provide teachers with a real-world dataset that they can use to learn the skills needed to robustly interrogate data and understand what West Norfolk AT students think about being at school. The teachers will then use the survey findings to develop ways to improve the student experience.

This document provides some information about your child's participation in the survey, so you can decide whether you are happy for them to be involved. If you have any questions about the project, please email the ERIC team at [eric@port.ac.uk](mailto:eric@port.ac.uk), who will be happy to help.

**If you do not want your child to participate, please inform Edwina Harvey (Trust Assistant Headteacher) by emailing [e.harvey@stclementshigh.org.uk](mailto:e.harvey@stclementshigh.org.uk).** If you are happy for your child to participate, you do not need to do anything after reading this document.

### **The survey**

The survey asks students about their perceptions of being (who do they think they are?), belonging (how do they feel connected?) and becoming (who do they want to become?) at school. Students complete the survey online, and **their participation is anonymous and confidential**. West Norfolk AT teachers will be given a copy of the dataset to analyse for the research methods training workshop. Your child's anonymous data will also be added to a wider dataset encompassing all schools participating in the training. University researchers may use the wider dataset to investigate student experience on a national level.

### **Why has my child been invited to take part?**

We hope to get as many students from West Norfolk AT as possible to participate in this research so that the dataset is representative of all West Norfolk AT students' views.

### **Do they have to take part?**

No, participation in the study is entirely voluntary. If your child does not want to participate, they do not have to. If you do not wish for your child to participate, please follow the instructions highlighted in bold further up this page.

### **What are the possible disadvantages of taking part?**

It is very unlikely that your child will experience any disadvantages because of this research. However, there is a mild chance that some questions about their school experience may make them upset, anxious or worried. If this happens, they have been instructed to inform their teacher, who will work with Edwina Harvey and the ERIC research team to provide appropriate support.

Although your child's responses will be submitted anonymously, there is a risk that they may provide us with information that presents well-being concerns for them or somebody else. In such a case, ERIC have a duty of care to share that information with the school's safeguarding team so they can take appropriate action.

### **What are the advantages of taking part?**

By taking part in this study, your child is contributing to an evidence base that the school can use to find out what is good about their students' experiences and what can be improved. The information your child provides will also help university researchers understand student perceptions of school life across the UK.

### **Can my child withdraw from the survey after agreeing to take part?**

Your child can withdraw from the survey for any reason up until the point at which they submit their responses. After this point, we will not be able to link individual answers to individual respondents.

### **Additional information**

If you have a question, concern or complaint about any aspect of this survey project, you should first inform the ERIC research team by emailing [eric@port.ac.uk](mailto:eric@port.ac.uk).

If your concern or complaint is not resolved by ERIC, please use the following contact details to inform should contact the University of Portsmouth's School of Education and Sociology:

Head of School, School of Education and Sociology, University of Portsmouth, 141 High Street, Portsmouth, PO1 2HY, [edsoc-headofschool@port.ac.uk](mailto:edsoc-headofschool@port.ac.uk)

If the complaint remains unresolved, please contact:

The University Complaints Officer, 023 9284 3642, [complaintsadvise@port.ac.uk](mailto:complaintsadvise@port.ac.uk)

This project is unfunded - no one in the ERIC team or at the school will receive any financial reward for conducting this study (other than their normal salary).

Research involving human participants is reviewed by an ethics committee to ensure that the dignity and well-being of participants are respected. This study has been reviewed by the Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Ethics Committee at the University of Portsmouth and has been given favourable ethical opinion.

**Thank you for taking the time to read this information.**