

3rd March 2020

*Graduate School of Education*

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am writing to inform you of a project I am undertaking with the University of Exeter as part of my Post Graduate Certificate in Education in Primary Teacher Training. I am currently on placement teaching in year one and as part of my PGCE I have to undertake professional research.

The project looks at exploring whether ***changes to sensory stimulus improves performance in class.***

Findings will help provide feedback on whether the introduction of certain resources can help with focus and performance during teaching input for this, I am going to observe the children and ask them to produce a picture to describe how the resource made them feel. Both the observation and drawing activity will form part of a normal school lesson (during the teaching input) and will be familiar to the students as they are familiar with myself making notes on teaching as part of my studies towards my PGCE. It will not affect the daily routine of the classroom. All observations will remain confidential and anonymous and there will be no mention of individual children or the school.

**For the research please could your child bring in a personal teddy/ soft toy (of a small size) in a labelled bag, they are able to sit with for a teaching input of a lesson (approx. 20 minutes) on Wednesday 18th March 2020.**

If you would prefer that your child **does not take part**, please contact the office as soon as possible and your child will be excluded from the project. If there is no reply, I will assume permission has been given for your child to take part.

Please feel free to get in contact with myself (C. Mansell), through A. Roff or D. Hunwick if you would like more information or to discuss the project further.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter,

Yours sincerely,

C. Mansell

**INFORMATION SHEET**

**What is this study about?**

I am exploring whether *changes to sensory stimulus improves performance in class,* with the intentions to provide students and teaching staff with purposeful feedback.

**How will my child be involved?**

Your child will be working in a normal lesson and your child’s learning will not be affected in any way. Your child will partake in a normal lesson and be accompanied with a resource (such as their own teddy bear/ soft toy); I will ask students how they feel the resource(s) have made them feel (for example: focused, helps to concentrate). Notes and observations will be recorded anonymously and confidentially.

**Who will have the access to the research information (data)?**

In line with the 1988 Data Protection Act, I will not keep information about your child that could identify them to someone else. I will ensure complete anonymity of student names within the written report by altering these to a pseudonym such as ‘child a’. Any annotated observations and any responses and references to people and places will only be known by myself and A. Roff due to involvement. The work I collect from students will receive the same level of anonymity and no names will be revealed.

**Who has reviewed the study?**

The research study has been approved under the regulations of the University of Exeter School of Education.

**Who do I speak to if I have questions about this research?**

If you would like more information, as stated above, please get in contact with myself (C. Mansell) through the school, A. Roff or D. Hunwick.

**What do I do next?**

If you are happy for your child to be involved in my research you do not need to do anything. Please keep this information for reference.

If you **do not** want your child to be involved in this research, please contact the office as soon as possible and your child will be excluded from the project. Please keep the letter and information sheet for your information.

**Can you change your mind?**

You and your child have the right to withdraw from the research at any time.