



The University
of Manchester

Opportunity to Participate in Research Study: Parent/Carer Information Sheet

A random selection of Year 10 students is being invited to take part in a research study as part of a doctoral thesis (parents/carers of selected students will have received a letter about this). Before you decide whether or not you would like your child to participate, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss this with your child. The research is being undertaken to consider how students interpret the behaviour of teachers and how this affects their feelings. It is hoped that the results might add to the knowledge base on positive management of students in schools (including via informing communications and interactions between teachers and students).

Who will conduct the research?

Julie Basnett (Educational Psychologist with St Helens Council).

Title of the research

“The causal attributions that secondary aged students make for the perceived negative behaviour of teachers”*

*Note: Causal attributions/attributions are defined as the interpretations that we make about the causes of the behaviour of others (and ourselves).

What is the aim of the research?

The main aims of the research are to discover:

- The causal attributions that students make for the perceived negative behaviour of teachers.
- The emotions reported by students, following these causal attributions.
- How responsible students consider teachers are for this negative behaviour.

However, please note that a scenario will be presented to each student (as opposed to your child being asked to provide any information about a real-life incident).

Why has your child been chosen?

A random selection of Year 10 students has been selected for participation in the research.

What would your child be asked to do if he/she took part?

Your child would be asked to complete a simple questionnaire (containing five questions, three of which involve circling or ticking the chosen response and the remaining two requiring writing a few words), following being presented with a scenario by the administrator. This should take approximately ten minutes and will take place during school time. The administrator is likely to be either me or a member of school staff. The instructions and questions will be read through step by step to guide children. It is anticipated that this will take place after half term. Steps have been taken to avoid disruption to lessons or examinations.

What happens to the data collected?

The data will be incorporated into a doctoral thesis which will, then, be submitted to the University of Manchester. This might include anonymous quotes taken from the completed questionnaires (if student permission is granted).

How is confidentiality maintained?

Questionnaires will be returned to me when completed. Data will be stored on a personal computer (password protected) in order for analysis to take place and for data to be incorporated into the thesis. However, following this, no identifying data will be recorded on any computer equipment. Identifying data (e.g., names, recorded on the front sheets of questionnaires and signed consent) will no longer be needed and will be destroyed. Children will be identified by a number for the purposes of collating/analysing data. (Please note that names of children will be necessary, in the first instance, to ensure that only those whose parents/carers have not objected to their involvement will have their responses used in the data analysis.)

What happens if my child does not want to take part or changes his/her mind?

There is no obligation to participate at all and your child may withdraw from the research at any time, including on the day that the research takes place. However, when data is ready to be analysed, it will not be possible to identify individual children and, then, it will not be possible for this to be withdrawn.

To avoid potential feelings of discrimination (and as recommended by the University), all Year 10 students in a class group may be handed questionnaires to complete although only those who give informed consent to participate (and whose parents/carers have not objected) will have their responses included in the data analysis.

Will my child be paid for participating in the research?

No. However, if school agree, students who complete the questionnaires and who give their own consent (and whose parents/carers have not objected) will be offered a chance of winning a £10 voucher of their choice (e.g., JJB Sports, W H Smith) via their names being included in a raffle. This is likely to take place later in the term.

Where will the research be conducted?

In school.

Will the outcomes of the research be published?

There is a possibility that the results of the research will be published in relevant journals and/or incorporated into reports (e.g., to be given to participating schools). The results of the research may, also, be included in presentations (e.g., to participating schools and to other professionals). However, no school or student will be identified.

When the research is completed, the results will be provided to the year group via school. This is likely to take place during the Summer Term or Autumn Term 2012. However, as other schools are participating, no school or student will be identifiable.

Criminal Records Check (CRB)

As my employment (Educational Psychologist with St Helens Children and Young People's Service) involves me working with children and young people on a frequent basis, the relevant Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks have been undertaken and the confirmation of this is held with my employer.

What if something goes wrong?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should ask to speak to me (see below for contact details) and I will do my best to answer your questions. If I am unable to resolve your concern, or you wish to make a complaint regarding this study, please contact a University Research Practice and Governance Co-ordinator on 0161 275 7583 or 0161 275 8093 or by email to research-governance@manchester.ac.uk.

Who has reviewed the study?

This study has been reviewed by the University of Manchester Senate Ethics Committee One which has given this study a favourable opinion.

Contact for further information and results of research

Julie Basnett (Educational Psychology Service) (01744 671125)



Student Information Sheet

You (together with some other members of Year 10) are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether or not you would like to take part it is important for you to understand why this is being done and what you will be asked to do.

Aims of the research

The research will look at how you interpret (or understand) the behaviour of teachers in school and how this affects your feelings. This is an opportunity to give your view. It is hoped that the results might give us new information on (for example) how teacher and student behaviour might affect others in school. The results of the research will be included in a thesis (which is like a very long essay) which will then be submitted to the University of Manchester.

Who is taking part

A selection of Year 10 students have been invited to take part.

What you will be asked to do

The research is due to take place in November during school time. This will involve you completing a simple questionnaire containing five questions. Three of the questions involve circling or ticking a response. The other two questions just need you to write a few words. If you are not sure what a question means, you can raise your hand to ask for help. This should take about ten minutes.

Permission from you and your parents/carers

Some of your answers might be very useful and I will be asking your permission to quote these (if necessary) in the thesis. Of course, all your answers will be confidential and I will take away your completed questionnaires. There will be no way of knowing how you answered the questions once all the information is put together as names of students will not be kept.

You do not need to take part if you don't want to. You might be given a questionnaire to look at – and fill in if you want – with the rest of your class but this won't be used in the research if your permission hasn't been given.

What happens if I change my mind?

It is okay if you change your mind and decide that you no longer want to take part. However, once papers containing your names have been destroyed it will no longer be possible to identify which is your questionnaire and I won't be able to remove your answers from my results.

What happens after the questionnaires have been filled in

If you complete the questionnaire and give your consent to be involved in the research (and your parents/carers don't object) you will be offered a chance of winning a £10 voucher of your choice (e.g., JJB Sports, W H Smith) by your name being included in a raffle (if school agrees). This is likely to take place later in the Autumn term.

When the research is completed, the results will be provided to the year group via school. This is likely to take place during the Summer Term or Autumn Term 2012.

What if something goes wrong?

If you have any concerns about the research, you should ask to speak to me and I will do my best to answer your questions. If I am unable to help, please speak to your parents/carers who have information about who to contact.

Who has reviewed the study?

This study has been reviewed by a group of people at the University of Manchester who sit on a committee called an Ethics Committee. It is their job to make sure that people who take part in research aren't harmed in any way. They gave permission for this study to go ahead.

Thank you for reading this information.

J Basnett
Educational Psychologist (St Helens Children and Young People's Service)