

**Practical Work in Science Project  
In-depth telephone interviews**

Dear Colleague

We very much appreciate the time that your school has given to completing our Practical Work in Science survey. This term we are also carrying out telephone interviews to gather in-depth views from heads of science, teachers and technicians. The study is led by Durham University's Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring (CEM) and School of Education and is funded by the Gatsby Charitable Foundation, the Wellcome Trust and the Nuffield foundation.

We are interested in understanding in more detail the experiences of you and your staff relating to practical work in science. If you choose to participate, a researcher will telephone your school to carry out the interviews which will take no more than half an hour each. Ideally we would like as many staff involved with the teaching of science from your school to participate including where possible, the head(s) of science, teachers and technicians.

The telephone interview will be audio recorded and transcribed so that responses/views can be analysed, however, neither the participants nor your school will be identified in any report. All information given to us, including all personal details, will be treated in the strictest of confidence in accordance with the Data Protection Act. The information collected as part of the telephone interviews (with all personally identifiable information removed) will be made freely available at the end of the study, and will help researchers, funders, and policy makers to understand the views about practical work in science in the UK. When the telephone interview responses and results of the study are published, your responses will be included with data provided by other people, no individual or institution will be identifiable from the research findings. The study has ethical clearance from Durham University's School of Education Research Ethics Committee and is conducted in accordance with British Educational Research Association (2011) guidelines. Completion of the telephone interviews is on a voluntary basis and you may withdraw at any time. An example of the consent form for participants is included with this letter.

If you wish to participate, please reply to the accompanying email selecting convenient date(s) from the options provided. If you have any questions please contact the research team at [research@cem.dur.ac.uk](mailto:research@cem.dur.ac.uk) or telephone 0191 334 4232.

Practical work is a long-standing component of science education. We thank you for your help in documenting how science practical work is delivered, and any changes occurring over the lifetime of the study.

Thank you again for your support.

**Vanessa Kind, Per Kind, Karen Jones, Francis Ndaji, Helen Gray and Helen Cramman  
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**Durham University School of Education and CEM  
Practical Work in Science Survey  
Telephone Interview  
Participant Consent Form**

The purpose of the telephone interview and the nature of the questions have been explained to me. I consent to take part in a telephone interview about my experiences relating to practical work in science. I also consent to being recorded during this telephone interview discussion. My participation is voluntary. I understand that I am free to leave the interview at any time. If I decide not to participate at any time during the discussion, my decision will in no way affect me or my employer. None of my experiences or thoughts will be shared with anyone outside of the study partners without removal of all identifying information. The information I provide during the telephone interview will be included with responses from other people so that I cannot be identified. I have been informed that information gathered during the discussion will be stored securely, under password protection. I understand the project has received ethical clearance from Durham University School of Education and is being conducted in accordance with British Educational Research Association (2011) guidelines.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Signed on behalf of the Project Team by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature