**UCL DIVISION OF PSYCHOLOGY AND LANGUAGE SCIENCES**

**Research team**:

Professor Essi Viding 020 7679 5874

Ms Ruth Roberts 020 7679 5394

**Learning about social and emotional processing in adolescence**

**Information sheet for parents or guardians of participants under 18**

We would like to invite your child to take part in our research study. Before you and your child decide whether you would like to take part, it is important for you to know why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read this information sheet carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. If there is anything that is not clear, or if you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Ruth Roberts (r.roberts@ucl.ac.uk), or Professor Essi Viding (e.viding@ucl.ac.uk).

**The aim of the study**

As children go through their teens, they become more independent and have to negotiate a complex social world while their brains are undergoing big changes. We are interested in how social reasoning and emotional processing develop between ages 11-16. The aim of our research programme is to understand better individual differences in these abilities and how these relate to children’s behaviour. We therefore are interested in teenagers with a range of behaviours. This project is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

**What will happen if your child takes part?**

If you decide that you are happy for your child to take part in this study, we will be conducting this research at his school. Members of the research team would spend one hour with your child doing some computer-based and pencil and paper tasks. These tasks are very simple and involve things like deciding how to share points with another player. The points they gain would be converted into a gift voucher that they receive after the tasks. Most children find the tasks quite enjoyable. We would also ask a teacher who is familiar with your child to complete a questionnaire about his temperament and behaviour. All members of the research team have a full DBS enhanced disclosure, and all information we collect is kept strictly confidential. We will liaise with teachers at the school to ensure that we find a suitable time that fits around your child’s lessons to complete the research.

**As a parent/guardian, will I be involved in the study?**

We would like you to complete some questionnaires to tell us more about your child’s behaviour. To thank you for your time in completing the booklet we will provide you with a **£20** Amazon voucher. These are generic questionnaires that are used in many research studies. If you feel uncomfortable answering any of the questions, please feel free to leave them blank. Your questionnaire responses will remain anonymous and will be treated with complete confidentiality.

*Please turn over…*

**What will happen to the information you collect?**

All of the information we gather is confidential. The school will not have access to the information we collect. Please note, however, that in certain circumstances the researchers have a duty of care to report to relevant authorities possible harm or danger to you, your child, or others. Your data will be given a number and all names will be removed so neither you nor your child could be identified. The information we collect will be treated as strictly confidential and handled in accordance with the provisions of the GDPR.

The findings will be used to help write reports for scientific journals, but they will be about how children do in general **- *no individual data will be reported, nor will your child be identified in any publication resulting from the study.*** In other words, we are interested in how children do in general, but we will not look at your child’s profile alone.

**Is there any risk of discomfort?**

We do not anticipate any risks to the individuals taking part in this study. This study has been approved by the UCL Research Ethics committee (number 0622/001).

If you decide for your child to take part and feel, either during or after participation, that either of you have been treated unfairly or would like to raise a complaint please contact the study’s Principal Investigator, Professor Essi Viding (e.viding@ucl.ac.uk). Should you feel that your complaint has not been handled to your satisfaction, please contact the Chair of the UCL Research Ethics Committee (ethics@ucl.ac.uk).

**What are the potential benefits of this research?**

Whilst there are no immediate benefits for those people participating in the project, we hope that the knowledge gained from this study and our research programme more generally will help us to better understand how behavioural difficulties develop in children and adolescents. A long-term goal of this research is to design targeted interventions that could help children to better deal with socially complex situations.

**Does my child have to take part in this study?**

*If you DO NOT want your child to take part in this study, please complete and return this form to the school, using the stamped envelope addressed to (INSERT School Name) (or email / call) to indicate that you do not want him to take part in this research by (INSERT Date)****.*** If you do not return the consent form we will assume you are happy for your child to take part. There is no obligation to take part, and your decision to participate or not participate will not disadvantage your child in any way. Even if you are happy for your child to take part, he will still decide for himself. It will be explained to your child that he can choose to withdraw from the study at any time, without giving a reason. We want to make sure that everyone who takes part in this research project is happy to do so.

**How to contact the researchers?**

You can ask any questions or tell us about any concerns that you have about the study. Do not hesitate to email Ruth (r.roberts@ucl.ac.uk) or call her on 020 7679 2539. You can also contact Professor Essi Viding at 020 7679 5874 or e.viding@ucl.ac.uk. If you have a question that you didn’t think of now, you can ask it later.

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

*Your help makes our research possible*.

**Data Protection Privacy Notice**

**Notice:**

The data controller for this project will be University College London (UCL). The UCL Data Protection Office provides oversight of UCL activities involving the processing of personal data, and can be contacted at data-protection@ucl.ac.uk. UCL’s Data Protection Officer is Lee Shailer and he can also be contacted at data-protection@ucl.ac.uk***.***

Your personal data will be processed for the purposes outlined in this notice. The legal basis that would be used to process your personal data will be *task in the public interest*. This means that you do not need to provide your consent for the use of your personal data in this project.

***Your personal data will be processed so long as it is required for the research project***. If we are able to anonymise or pseudonymise the personal data you provide we will undertake this, and will endeavour to minimise the processing of personal data wherever possible.

If you are concerned about how your personal data is being processed, please contact UCL in the first instance at data-protection@ucl.ac.uk. If you remain unsatisfied, you may wish to contact the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO). Contact details, and details of data subject rights, are available on the ICO website at: https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/data-protection-reform/overview-of-the-gdpr/individuals-rights/

**Opt-out Form**

**I do not want my son to participate in this UCL research study.**

Parent’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Child’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Child’s year / class: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Thank you again for your time. Please return this completed form to your son’s school only if you DO NOT want your son to participate in this study.***