

## **Classroom Relationships and Social Attitudes**

### **INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS / GUARDIANS**

Ethics Approval Reference: R52944/RE001

In partnership with researchers at the University of Oxford, your child's school has agreed to take part in a study investigating classroom relations between members of different groups. We would like to invite your child to be part of this study. All children aged 11 to 14 at your child's school are being invited to participate. We very much hope you would like your child to take part, but before you decide, it is important that you understand why the study is being done and what it will involve.

#### **What are we trying to find out?**

This project is looking at children's relationships with members of different ethnic groups within the classroom and the impact of these relationships on their attitudes towards different groups. More information about the project can be obtained by contacting the research team (contact details overleaf).

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

We are inviting your child to take part because they are a young person, aged between 11 and 14 years attending Waterhead Academy or Hathershaw College. We are inviting 1200 young people to take part.

#### **Does my child have to take part?**

No. You can ask questions about the study before deciding whether or not to allow your child to participate. If you do agree to participation, you may withdraw your child and their data from the study at any time, without giving a reason and without penalty, by advising the researchers of this decision.

#### **What will happen if my child takes part?**

If your child takes part, he or she will complete one 30-minute questionnaire per half term this academic year. The questionnaire asks about the relationships they have formed with other students in school, as well as their contact with and attitudes towards members of different groups. We will also obtain information on your child's tutor group, age, gender, religion and ethnicity to establish group membership regarding each of these dimensions. Your child will complete the questionnaire during a regular class hour, along with his or her fellow pupils. The researchers will be present during completion of the questionnaire. Your child will be free to choose not to take part in the study or to withdraw from the study at any time.

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

People who form good relationships with members of different ethnic groups tend to be less prejudiced, have better social and emotional skills, and even improved academic performance. While there are no risks involved in your child's participation, the understanding gained from the findings may lead to the development of projects that benefit both the school and wider community.

### **What happens to the results of the study?**

Results for each child are kept strictly confidential. Paper questionnaires containing identifying information will be kept in a locked filing cabinet in the University and destroyed once data is entered to computer. During data entry a code number will be assigned to each child and used as the only method of identification, thus all electronic data will be fully anonymised. No data concerning non-participating children will be entered. Third parties may be given access to research data for monitoring and/or audit of the study, or for data storage purposes. The data will be analysed and the findings will be written up as part of a student's thesis. On successful submission of the thesis, it will be deposited both in print and online in the University archives, to facilitate its use in future research. We also aim to publish our findings in scientific journals. All research data and records will be stored for a minimum retention period of 3 years after publication or public release of the work of the research. A summary of our findings will be given to the school and will be available to interested families.

### **Who is conducting this research?**

The research project is organised by Professor Miles Hewstone of Oxford University, who is a Professor of Social Psychology. The research project is primarily conducted by Chloe Bracegirdle, a postgraduate student at Oxford University. This study has been reviewed by, and received ethics clearance through, the University of Oxford's Central University Research Ethics Committee, [insert CUREC reference number].

### **What if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this project, please speak to the relevant researcher ([chloe.bracegirdle@some.ox.ac.uk](mailto:chloe.bracegirdle@some.ox.ac.uk)) who will do her best to answer your query. The researcher should acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how she intends to deal with it. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the chair of the Research Ethics Committee at the University of Oxford who will seek to resolve the matter in a reasonably expeditious manner.

Chair, **Medical Sciences Inter-Divisional Research Ethics Committee**; Email: [ethics@medsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ethics@medsci.ox.ac.uk);  
Address: Research Services, University of Oxford, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD

### **What should I do next?**

Please fill in the enclosed form and return it to your child's class teacher if you **would not** like your child to take part in this study. If **would** like your child to take part, you do not need to do anything – your child will simply be asked to complete the questionnaire in school, along with his or her fellow pupils. Please remember that you may withdraw at any time, without penalty and without giving a reason, by notifying the researcher. If you would like to discuss the research with someone beforehand (or if you have questions afterwards), please contact:

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