

Consent Form

Exploring school staff mental health and wellbeing during the COVID-19 Pandemic

These questions ask you to think about the research interviews you have expressed an interest in being involved in, having read the information sheet and asked any questions of the Principal Investigator, Dr. Josie Maitland (details on page 2 of this **two page** form)

Whilst all key information was covered on the information sheet, please check you read and understood the following aspects. If not, check back with the information sheet, or contact Dr. Josie Maitland.

It is very important that those participating in these interviews are fully aware of the **aims of the research study** and **research questions**, the **format of the interviews** and **expectations of participants**, **procedure for data management**, **inclusion criteria** and **participant right to pause or withdraw** from the study. A reminder that **we are not looking to recruit participants who may be experiencing distress, or who feel that participating in the interview may cause additional distress**, since this would pose an unnecessary risk to participants. *We are keen for you to take part only if you are currently employed by a UK school and have been working during COVID-19, and do not feel that participating would cause you any distress.*

Even after you give consent, you will still be free to withdraw from the study at any time and without providing a reason, up until data has been anonymised and transcribed for analysis (at which point a final check will be made with all participants).

Participant Consent

Please tick each box to confirm your understanding / agreement with the statement, and then sign the form to provide your consent.

I have read the information sheet and understand the aims and research questions of the study. I understand that this study intends to explore school staff experiences of the COVID-19 Pandemic, understand the impact on staff mental health and wellbeing, and identify the factors that may have helped sustain or improve mental health and wellbeing during this time ☐

I understand that there is no requirement to take part, I have not been coerced to take part and do so completely of my own free will, with the full knowledge that I can withdraw from the interview at any time and for any reason. ☐

I provide my consent to take part in an online Skype interview of around 45 minutes in length with Dr. Josie Maitland, who I understand will ask me questions related to the research aim. I give permission to the researcher to audio record what I have said in this interview and analyse this data as part of the study once fully anonymised. I understand that a full transcript will be created and shared with me. ☐

I know that I will be given 10 days to read and comment on the transcript, and that every effort will be made to correct the transcript to ensure clarity, accuracy and to protect my privacy. I know that after this time, no further changes will be possible and it will not be possible to withdraw my transcript. ☐

I understand that what I say will be kept fully confidential unless the researcher feels that there is a risk to my own safety or the safety of others, in which case confidentiality may need to be broken in order to inform the relevant authorities. ☐

I understand that after data analysis, findings from the study (in which I will never be referred to by name or by anything that could identify me or my school) may be shared widely. **I give my permission for anonymised findings to be shared (tick all that apply):**

In academic journal articles ☐

Journalistic media articles ☐

At academic conferences ☐

In training, professional meetings, or workshops ☐

Online (via a blog for example) ☐

I understand that any data referring to me by name will be destroyed once findings are ready to share, and that audio files will be deleted at the end of the study (October 2020) but that anonymised results of the study (transcripts and findings) will be retained for at least 10 years and made available to other researchers. ☐

Name of Participant

Participant signature

Date

Contact information for the Principal Investigator of this study: Dr. Josie Maitland, Research Fellow, School of Applied Social Sciences, University of Brighton. J.maitland3@brighton.ac.uk Tel: 01273 644539

This research study has been reviewed and approved the University of Brighton's Ethics Review Panel. If you have concerns regarding this study, or questions regarding your rights as a study participant and wish to speak to an independent point of contact, please contact either Rachel Page, head of Data Compliance:

dataprotection@brighton.ac.uk or Lucy Redhead, Chair of the Life, Health and Physical Sciences Cross Research Ethics Committee: L.Redhead@brighton.ac.uk Tel: 01273 644 539