# Dandelion data collection platform user group

## Introduction

As part of the overall Dandelion programme of activity, the data collection app project aims to create a bespoke software system to enable schools to record data from their growing experiments. We are seeking a group of around 10 volunteers from the teaching community who would be able to give some time to work with the development team to help ensure that the final product is fit for purpose. To be representative of the eventual user group, we would like the volunteers to be widely distributed geographically.

## System design

The design stage is planned for December 2021, and in order to fully understand user needs, we would like the teacher group to take part in two workshop activities during that time. Each workshop would last around two hours and would take place online.

The first workshop will focus on the functional requirements of the system. That is to say, the things that the users would like the system to do. We envisage that the system will allow users to

* manage users within their school
* define experiments and record observation data
* view/visualise data that has been collected

The second workshop will focus on the user interface for the system including page layout, navigation, visual appearance, terminology, etc.

The workshops would ideally be about a week apart. For example, the first could be held on Mon 13th Dec, and the second on Fri 17th Dec.

## Feedback during development

The software will be built using the Agile approach (<https://www.atlassian.com/agile>) in which regular user feedback helps to ensure that the project does not drift away from its defined objectives. The main development period would run from 10th Jan until 25th Feb, and we would like to hold regular two-weekly meetings during that time where we can demonstrate the current working prototype to a small group of three or four people. The people taking part in this activity do not have to be the same each time which allows a degree of flexibility.

## Beta testing

Once all of the main development is complete and the team has tested the system as a whole after the various elements have been combined, we would like the teacher group to take the role of early adopters and to start to use the system in their schools. The purpose of the beta testing stage is to discover hidden or otherwise unpredictable problems before the system is released to the rest of the user population. During this time, we envisage frequent communication with the early adopters so that we can resolve any issues that are discovered. A critical success factor for the beta testing is that the early adopters schedule a set of activities for that period. The development team can help to plan those activities with each teacher individually if necessary.