Dublin City University
RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF A PROJECT
INVOLVING **HUMAN PARTICIPANTS**

Application No. *(office use only)*   DCUREC/2020/____

Please read the following information carefully before completing your application. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will make your submission ineligible for review.

☐ **Applications must be e-mailed to the DCU Research Ethics Committee at rec@dcu.ie** –no hardcopy required**.**

☐ **Student applicants must cc their supervisor on that e-mail** – this applies to all masters by research and PhD students. The form should be checked, approved and signed by the supervisor in advance of submission to REC. *NB – Taught Masters and Undergraduate students apply for ethical review via their local review panels, not via REC.*

☐ **The application should consist of one electronic file only,** with an electronic signature from the PI. The completed application must incorporate all supplementary documentation, especially that being given to the proposed participants. It must be proofread and spellchecked before submission to the REC**.**

☐ **All sections of the application form must be answered as instructed and within the word limits given.**

Applications which do not adhere to all of these requirements will not be accepted for review and will be returned directly to the applicant.

Applications must be completed on the form; answers in the form of attachments will not be accepted, except where indicated. No hardcopy applications will be accepted. **Research must not commence until written approval has been received from the Research Ethics Committee.**

Note: If your research requires approval from the Biosafety Committee (BSC), or review by the School of Nursing and Human Sciences Ethics Advisory Committee (SNHSEAC), this must be in place prior to REC submission. Please attach the responses from these committees to this submission as directed below.

PROJECT TITLE	CA326 Year 3 Project - micro:bit learner
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S) *The named Principal Investigator is the person with primary responsibility for the research project. In the case of Taught Masters projects the supervisor is the Principal Investigator.*	Dr Monica Ward
START AND END DATE	February 2019 - April 2020
LEVEL OF RISK *Please indicate whether this project requires (a) notification (b) expedited **or** (c) full committee review. Justification for your choice is required under section 3.1*	Expedited - As we will be testing with primary school level students in their classroom testing a teaching resource with their teacher.

Please confirm that all supplementary information is included in your application (in electronic copy). If questionnaire or interview questions are submitted in draft form, please indicate this by putting (draft) after YES. A copy of the final documentation must be submitted for final approval when available.

My application has been collated as one electronic file which includes the following documentation:	INCLUDED (mark as YES)	NOT APPLICABLE (mark as N/A)
Bibliography	YES	
Recruitment advertisement		N/A
Plain language statement/Information Statement	YES	
Informed Consent form	YES	
Personal Data Security Schedule		N/A
Evidence of external approvals related to the research		N/A
Questionnaire/Survey	YES	
Interview/Focus Group Questions		N/A
Debriefing material	YES	
Other (e.g. BSC approval, SNHSEAC review letter)		N/A

Please note:
1. Any amendments to the original approved proposal must receive prior REC approval.
2. As a condition of approval investigators are required to document and report immediately to the Secretary of the Research Ethics Committee any adverse events, any issues which might negatively impact on the conduct of the research and/or any complaint from a participant relating to their participation in the study

1. ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

PROJECT TYPE: (mark Y to as many as apply)	Research Project	…	Funded Consultancy	…
			Clinical Trial	…
	Student Research Project (please indicate level, e.g. PhD/MSc Research)	Y (B.Sc	Other - Please Describe:	…
	PhD / Other Doctorate	…		
	MSc Research	…		

1.1 INVESTIGATOR CONTACT DETAILS

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S): *Doctoral researchers and Research Masters or their supervisors may be listed as Principal Investigators, depending on the conventions of the discipline and on the individual case. It should be made clear, in subsequent sections of this application, who is carrying out the research procedures.*

NAME	SCHOOL/UNIT	EMAIL
Dr. Monica Ward	Computing	monica.ward@dcu.ie

OTHER INVESTIGATORS:

NAME	SCHOOL/UNIT	EMAIL
James Patrcik Farrelly	Computing	james.farrelly69@mail.dcu.ie
Emily Whyte	Computing	emily.whyte6@mail.dcu.ie

1.2 WILL THE RESEARCH BE UNDERTAKEN ON-SITE AT DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY?

YES or NO
No

(If NO, state details of the off-campus location – provide details of the approval to gain access to that location in section 2.7.)

The research will take place in primary schools around Dublin.

1.3   IS THIS PROTOCOL BEING SUBMITTED TO ANOTHER ETHICS COMMITTEE, OR HAS IT BEEN PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TO AN ETHICS COMMITTEE?

YES or NO
No

(If YES, please provide details and attach copies of approval(s) received etc.)

DECLARATION BY PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S)

The information contained herein is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, accurate. I have read the University's current research ethics guidelines, and accept responsibility for the conduct of the procedures set out in the attached application in accordance with the form guidelines, the REC guidelines (https://www.dcu.ie/researchsupport/researchethics.shtml), the University's policy on Conflict of Interest, Code of Good Research Practice and any other condition laid down by the Dublin City University Research Ethics Committee. I have attempted to identify all risks related to the research that may arise in conducting this research and acknowledge my obligations and the rights of the participants.

If there exists any affiliation or financial interest for researcher(s) in this research or its outcomes or any other circumstances which might represent a perceived, potential or actual conflict of interest this should be declared in accordance with Dublin City University policy on Conflicts of Interest.

I and my co-investigators or supporting staff have the appropriate qualifications, experience and facilities to conduct the research set out in the attached application and to deal with any emergencies and contingencies related to the research that may arise.

Electronic Signature(s):

Principal   investigator(s):_____ Monica Ward
_____

Print Name(s) here:_____

Date: _____

2. PROJECT OUTLINE

2.1 LAY DESCRIPTION *(Approx. 300 words)*
Please outline, in terms that any non-expert would understand, what your research project is about, including what participants will be required to do. Please explain any technical terms or discipline-specific phrases.

Our project involves primary school students using an app to learn how to program using a micro:bit with their teacher in a classroom setting. The app is a computer program made for mobile phones on the Android operating system.

The app (micro:bit learner) contains multiple quizzes. Users will be asked to select a programming language to learn. The users will then select a quiz which increases in difficulty as the user progresses through them. The user will then be asked a number of questions in each quiz and then must select a block (possible answer) and then confirm their choice **(see Figure 1)**. Users will be notified of what is correct and why. The learning objectives are closely aligned with the official BBC micro:bit's teaching objectives. Participants will then be asked to fill out an anonymous survey specifically designed for young people. No personal data will be sought.
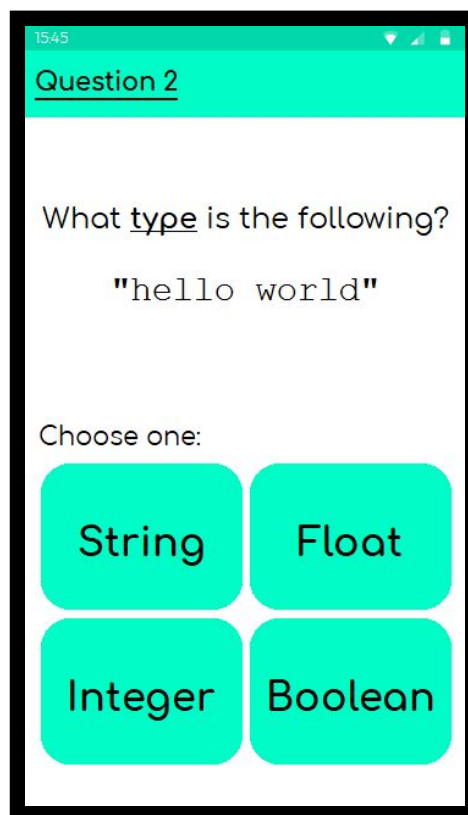

Figure 1

2.2 AIMS OF AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THE RESEARCH *(Approx. 400 words)*
State the aims and significance of the project. Where relevant, state the specific hypothesis to be tested. Please provide a brief description of background research, a justification as to why this research project should proceed in that context and an explanation of any expected benefits to the community. NB – all references cited should be listed in an attached bibliography.

Aim - The aim of this research project is to evaluate the micro:bit learner app and learn how useful it is to young learners and what should be improved or simplified. Our hypothesis is that students will enjoy using the app to learn programming for the micro:bit. It will help improve their programming and problem solving skills and introduce them to programming concepts at a young age. The aim of the micro:bit learner app is to make programming much more enjoyable and accessible but also to encourage learners to keep practising on a daily basis.

Justification - Very little primary schools in the country currently offer any sort of programming as a subject but that is beginning to change. The current primary school curriculum for programming

already includes the use of the micro bit and we believe our app may assist in the teaching of it. (https://www.ncca.ie/en/primary/primary-developments/coding-in-primary-schools/support-materials-for-schools) Many young learners do not have access to a physical micro:bit at home but chances are most will have access to a mobile phone. There are many benefits that may arise from our research. It is possible the app may be deemed useful by teachers and students alike. The app will also allow students who enjoy the subject to practice in their own time under the supervision of their parents. We also want our app to be as friendly and learner friendly as possible, using inviting and accessible colours and simple user interface.

Students will be asked about their current knowledge of programming as well as questions about the micro:bit app

Primary question - Does micro:bit learner help in the learning process?

Sub questions
Would students use micro:bit learner outside of school?
Do students enjoy using the micro:bit learner app?
Is the micro:bit learner app easy to navigate?

2.3 DESCRIBE THE METHODOLOGY BEING USED TO ACHIEVE YOUR STATED AIMS
Provide an outline of the proposed method and state who is doing which task – include details of data collection techniques, the tasks participants will be asked to do, the estimated time commitment involved, and how data will be analysed. If the project includes any procedure which is beyond already established and accepted techniques please include a description of it. There should be enough detail provided to facilitate ethical review, but applicants are encouraged to keep it as succinct as possible.

The teacher will ask students to attempt a quiz of a certain topic. The students will then complete an anonymous survey in which they will be asked their opinion on the app. This should take no longer than 5 minutes. Results will then be collected and analysed to get the general opinion of students throughout their usage of the app.

2.4 PARTICIPANT PROFILE
Provide the number, age range and source of participants. Please provide a justification of your proposed sample size. Please provide a justification for selecting a specific gender, age, or any other group if this is done in your project.

The participants for this project will be primary school students from 4th to 6th class. The number of schools tested will depend upon the number of schools that agree to partake. The age range will be from 9 - 13 years old.

2.4(a) PARTICIPANT VULNERABILITY
Are some or all of participants vulnerable in any way? (e.g by virtue of the group they belong to, people who have undergone traumatic or adverse emotional events, people with diminished cognitive ability, power relations between researchers and participants etc.)? If they are, state what this vulnerability (or vulnerabilities) is and justify why this research is being done with such participants.

The participants taking part in the study will be students of a mainstream primary school, so while this does not imply they are not vulnerable, they are no more vulnerable than students of any other primary school in Ireland.

2.4(b) CHILD PARTICIPANTS (anyone under 18 years old)
*If your participants include children, you **must** confirm that you are in compliance with the research specific guidelines as detailed in "Keeping Children Safe - Policies and Procedures supporting Child Protection at DCU" - available at: https://www4.dcu.ie/sites/default/files/policy/157%20-%20child_protection_handbook_rev1%282%29%281%29.pdf*

Please indicate your compliance with the following guidelines:	**Mark here**
We confirm that we have read and agree to act in accordance with the DCU Child Protection policy and procedures	**YES**

We confirm that we have put in place safeguards for the children participating in the research	**YES**
We confirm that we have supports in place for children who may disclose current or historical abuse (whether or not this is the focus of the research)	**YES**

2.5   EXPLAIN HOW PARTICIPANTS ARE TO BE RECRUITED
Please provide specific details as to how you will be recruiting participants. How will people be informed that you are doing this research? How will they be approached and asked if they are willing to participate? If you are mailing or phoning people, please explain how you have obtained their names and contact details. If a recruitment advertisement is to be used, please ensure you attach a copy to this application.

> School heads will be contacted to see if they wish for their school to participate in the study. If so the participants will be students of the schools whose teachers have agreed to participate.

2.6   PLEASE EXPLAIN WHEN, HOW, WHERE, AND TO WHOM RESULTS WILL BE DISSEMINATED, INCLUDING WHETHER PARTICIPANTS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH ANY INFORMATION AS TO THE FINDINGS OR OUTCOMES OF THE PROJECT?

> Overall findings will be given to teachers, who will then make the students aware of their contribution. This will be done after the survey is carried out of results analysed.

2.7   ARE OTHER APPROVALS REQUIRED TO GAIN ACCESS TO ANOTHER LOCATION, ORGANISATION ETC.?

YES or NO
No

(If YES, please specify from whom and attach a copy of the approval documentation. If this is not yet available, please explain when this will be obtained.)

2.8   HAS A SIMILAR PROPOSAL BEEN PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE DCU REC?

YES or NO
NO

(If YES, please state both the REC Application Number and Project Title)

3.   RISK AND RISK MANAGEMENT

3.1   JUSTIFICATION OF STATED LEVEL OF RISK TO RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS
You must provide a justification for the stated level of risk, as indicated on the cover page of your application. Note that the level of risk may be influenced by the vulnerability of the research group, the methods employed and the nature of the research itself.

> The research participants will be children who will evaluate an app's learning resources. An anonymous survey will then be used to collect their non-personal data.

3.2   DOES THE RESEARCH INVOLVE:

	YES or NO
● use of a questionnaire? (attach copy)?	YES
● interviews (attach interview questions)?	No
● observation of participants without their knowledge?	No
● participant observation (provide details in section 2)?	Yes
● audio- or video-taping interviewees or events?	No
● access to personal and/or confidential data (including student, patient or client data) without the participant's specific consent?	No
● administration of any stimuli, tasks, investigations or procedures which may be experienced by participants as physically or mentally painful, stressful or unpleasant during or after the research process?	No
● performance of any acts which might diminish the self-esteem of participants or cause them to experience embarrassment, regret or depression?	No
● investigation of participants involved in illegal activities?	No
● procedures that involve deception of participants?	No
● administration of any substance or agent?	No
● use of non-treatment of placebo control conditions?	No
● collection of body tissues or fluid samples?	No
● collection and/or testing of DNA samples?	No
● participation in a clinical trial?	No
● administration of ionising radiation to participants?	No

3.3   POTENTIAL RISKS TO PARTICIPANTS AND RISK MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES
Identify, as far as possible, all potential risks to participants (physical, psychological, social, legal, economic, etc.), associated with the proposed research. Please explain what risk management procedures will be put in place to minimise these risks.

> There is a risk that some participants will not be able to use the app, but the teacher will be in the room at all times to manage any possible situation that may occur.

3.4   ARE THERE LIKELY TO BE ANY BENEFITS (DIRECT OR INDIRECT) TO PARTICIPANTS FROM THIS RESEARCH?

YES or NO
YES

(If YES, provide details.)

> If students enjoy the app and teachers observe that there is a benefit. Students could use the micro:bit learner app as a resource to enhance their learning processes.

3.5   ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC RISKS TO RESEARCHERS?
Examples include use of dangerous materials, asking certain types of questions, research being undertaken in certain locations, researchers working alone in isolated areas, etc.

YES or NO
NO

(If YES, please describe and explain what risk management procedures will be put in place to minimise these risks.)

3.6   DEALING WITH ADVERSE/UNEXPECTED OUTCOMES

If there are any unexpected outcomes it will be dealt with by the teacher present or head of the school.

3.7   HOW WILL THE CONDUCT OF THE PROJECT BE MONITORED?

The principle investigator will adhere to the procedures set out in this application.

3.8   SUPPORT FOR PARTICIPANTS

The school will provide support systems for participants who may experience difficulties.

3.9   DO YOU PROPOSE TO OFFER PAYMENTS OR INCENTIVES TO PARTICIPANTS?

YES or NO
NO

(If YES, please provide further details.)

3.10   DO ANY OF THE RESEARCHERS ON THIS PROJECT HAVE A PERSONAL, PHILOSOPHICAL, FINANCIAL OR COMMERCIAL INTEREST IN ITS OUTCOME THAT MIGHT INFLUENCE THE INTEGRITY OF THE RESEARCH, OR BIAS THE CONDUCT OR REPORTING OF THE RESEARCH, OR UNDULY DELAY OR OTHERWISE AFFECT THEIR PUBLICATION?

YES or NO
NO

(If YES, please specify how this conflict of interest will be addressed.)

4.   INVESTIGATORS' QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS *(Approx. 200 words)*

*List the academic qualifications and outline the experience and skills <u>relevant to this project</u> that the PI, other researchers and any supporting staff have in carrying out the research and in dealing with any emergencies, unexpected outcomes, or contingencies that may arise. **State specifically who will be carrying out the research procedures***

Dr. Monica Ward is a leading researcher in the area of Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) for the School of Computing in DCU. She is an internationally recognized expert in the area of CALL for less commonly taught languages (LCTL's). She has high quality international publications in the area and is a founding member in the LCTL's special interest group at EUROCALL. She has presented her research findings at many international conferences. She has worked with young learners of primary school age and is comfortable dealing with issues that arise.

The classroom teachers are experienced teachers who have dealt with emergencies and unexpected outcomes on previous occasions during their teaching careers.

PhD Thesis: The Integration of Computational Linguistics in Computer Assisted Language Learning for Irish in the Primary School Context
Master's Thesis: A Template for CALL Programs for Endangered Languages

5.   CONFIDENTIALITY/ANONYMITY

5.1   WILL THE IDENTITY OF THE PARTICIPANTS BE PROTECTED?

YES or NO
YES

(If NO, please explain why.)

IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO 5.1, PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

5.2   HOW WILL THE ANONYMITY OF THE PARTICIPANTS BE RESPECTED?
Please bear in mind that where the sample size is very small, it may be impossible to guarantee anonymity/confidentiality of participant identity. Participants involved in such projects need to be advised of this limitation in the Plain Language Statement/Information Sheet. If you intend to fully anonymize the data, please provide details

No identifying information will be collected, on the survey or otherwise.

5.3   LEGAL LIMITATIONS TO DATA CONFIDENTIALITY
Participants need to be made aware that confidentiality of information provided cannot always be guaranteed by researchers and can only be protected within the limitations of the law - i.e., it is possible for data to be subject to subpoena, freedom of information claim or mandated reporting by some professions. This information should be included in your Plain Language Statement and Informed Consent Form. Depending on the research proposal and academic discipline, you may need to state additional specific limitations.

State how and where participants will be informed of these limitations

Participants will be informed in the plain language statement.

6. PERSONAL DATA - COMPLIANCE WITH THE GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

*Personal data is data relating to a living individual (i.e. the 'Data Subject') who is, or can be, identified either from the data itself or from the data in conjunction with other information that is in, or is likely to come into, the possession of the 'Data Controller' (i.e. DCU and its constituent units e.g. research teams etc.). **Further information on personal data is available from the DCU Data Protection Unit at https://www.dcu.ie/ocoo/dp/guides.shtml***

6.1 IS PERSONAL DATA BEING PROCESSED AS PART OF THIS PROJECT?

YES or NO

NO

If YES, Please indicate your compliance with the following guidelines:	Mark here
We confirm that we have read and agree to act in accordance with DCU Data Protection Unit guidance and procedures regarding personal data	
We confirm that we have put in place a Personal Data Security Schedule (PDSS) for the project and have attached it to this application	

Please see the GDPR and the Research Ethics Process section of the REC main webpage for guidance

IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO 6.1, PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

6.2 WHAT KIND OF PERSONAL DATA IS BEING PROCESSED?

Note special categories of personal data include health data, genetic data and/or data relating to ethnicity/race of participants, their sex lives and/or sexual orientation

6.3 WILL ANONYMISATION/PSEUDONYMISATION OF THE PERSONAL DATA BE UNDERTAKEN?

YES or NO

(If NO, please explain why.)

7. DATA/SAMPLE STORAGE, SECURITY AND DISPOSAL

For the purpose of this section, "Data" includes that in a raw or processed state (e.g. interview audiotape, transcript or analysis). "Samples" include body fluids or tissue samples.

7.1 HOW AND WHERE WILL THE DATA/SAMPLES BE STORED?
Note that the REC recommends that all data be stored on campus – please justify any off-site storage.

> Data will be stored on the university student google drives for use with google sheets for processing.

7.2 WHO WILL HAVE ACCESS TO DATA/SAMPLES?
If people other than the main researchers have access, please name who they are and explain for what purpose.

> Only those associated with the module will have access to the data.
> Monica Ward - Principle investigator
> James Farrelly - Sub-investigator
> Emily Whyte - Sub- investigator
>
> As well as those who correct the module such as school of computing lecturers and external examiners.

7.3 HOW LONG IS THE DATA TO BE HELD/RETAINED FOR?
*Note that with very few exceptions **personal data** may not be retained indefinitely. It is up to the unit or research team to establish an upper retention limit for each category of personal data under its control.*

> Data will be held for a maximum of 6 months before being destroyed.

7.4 IF DATA/SAMPLES ARE TO BE DISPOSED OF, PLEASE EXPLAIN <u>HOW</u>, <u>WHEN</u> AND <u>BY WHOM</u> THIS WILL BE DONE?
*Note that simply deleting files is not sufficiently secure. The additional steps to be taken to maintain data security should be given. **Personal data** must be disposed of in a safe and secure manner at the end of its retention period. If the data is stored in a: a) paper based format then shredding or disposal via a secure bin is recommended; or b) if it is stored in an electronic based format then deletion of the record or full anonymization of the data is recommended.If data/samples are NOT being disposed of, please justify this decision.*

> Data will be completely deleted from the google drive by the principle and sub-investigators upon completion of the module which will be by end of March 2020.

8.   FUNDING OF THE RESEARCH

8.1   HOW IS THIS WORK BEING FUNDED?

N/A

8.2   PROJECT GRANT NUMBER *(If relevant and/or known – otherwise mark as N/A)*

N/A

8.3   DOES THE PROJECT REQUIRE APPROVAL BEFORE CONSIDERATION FOR FUNDING BY A GRANTING BODY?

YES or NO
NO

8.4.1   HOW WILL PARTICIPANTS BE INFORMED OF THE SOURCE OF THE FUNDING? *(e.g. included in the Plain Language Statement)*

N/A

8.5   DO THE FUNDERS OF THIS PROJECT HAVE A PERSONAL, FINANCIAL OR COMMERCIAL INTEREST IN ITS OUTCOME THAT MIGHT COMPROMISE THE INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY OF THE RESEARCH, OR BIAS THE CONDUCT OR REPORTING OF THE RESEARCH, OR UNDULY DELAY OR OTHERWISE AFFECT THEIR PUBLICATION?

YES or NO
NO

(If YES, please specify how this conflict of interest will be addressed.)

9. PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT *(Attach to this document. Approx. 400 words)*

Plain Language Statement - Child

This user research study is being completed for a non commercial app we have helped create called micro:bit learner. The app contains quizzes that teach you how to program for a micro:bit. This is a project for the School of Computing in DCU. Dr Monica Ward is the principle investigator, with James Farrelly and Emily Whyte being the sub-investigators.

The app will be used while completing programing lessons for the micro:bit. You will have a chance to answer some questions and test your skills. We will then ask you to fill out a brief survey after the lesson so you can tell me what issues you found with the app,which can then be used to improve it. We are not testing how good you are at using the app, only how easy to use the app is.

Please do not put your name on any part of the survey as it's anonymous (so no one will know who wrote each survey). This means your answers are confidential, although if you tell me something that is bothering you that has nothing to do with the app, We might have to pass this information on to somebody else. You do not have to fill out the survey, but it'd be a great help in making the app better. We will let you know about the results when the project is complete. The results will then be destroyed in 6 months time.

If you have concerns about this study and wish to contact an independent person,
please contact:

The Secretary,
Dublin City University Research Ethics Committee,
c/o Research and Innovation Support,
Dublin City University,
Dublin 9.

Tel 01-7008000,
E-mail rec@dcu.ie

Plain Language Statement - Parent

This user research study is being completed for a non commercial app we have created called micro:bit learner. The app contains quizzes that teach you how to program for a micro:bit. This is a project for the School of Computing in DCU. Dr Monica Ward is the principle investigator, with James Farrelly and Emily Whyte being the sub-investigators.

Your child will use the app while learning to program with a micro:bit, where they will have the chance to learn some new programming skills. We will then ask him/her to fill out a brief survey telling me what he/she thinks of the app. The participants skills are not being tested, we are only testing our app so we are able to make improvements. There are no envisioned risks for these tests.

Your child will NOT put their names on the survey - it is anonymous. Your child does not have to fill out the survey and can stop at any time without penalty. However if your child does, it will make for a better app. The survey data will be completely anonymised and your child's response will be unidentifiable. The signed consent form will be shredded once the research has been completed. The school will be informed of the results upon completion and the data will be destroyed within 6 months.

If you have concerns about this study and wish to contact an independent person,
please contact:

The Secretary,
Dublin City University Research Ethics Committee,
c/o Research and Innovation Support,
Dublin City University,
Dublin 9.

Tel 01-7008000,
E-mail rec@dcu.ie

Consent Form - Parent

Project title - micro:bit learner

Researcher - Dr Monica Ward, Dublin City University

The purpose of this project is to find out how an app can help kids learn programming for the micro:bit. The Plain Language Statement (separate page) explains more about the project.

Do you understand the information provided?   Yes/No

Participants may withdraw from the Research Study at any point. There will be no penalty for withdrawing before all stages of the Research Study have been completed.

The data will be stored anonymously. Note that the confidentiality of information provided is subject to legal limitations.

_____
I have read and understood the information in this form. My questions and concerns have been answered by the researcher, and I have a copy of this consent form. Therefore, I consent that (child's name) takes part in this research project.

Parent's/Guardian's Signature: **_____**

Name in Block Capitals: _____

Date: _____

A Plain Language Statement (PLS) should be used in all cases. This is written information in plain language that you will be providing to participants, outlining the nature of their involvement in the project and inviting their participation. The PLS should specifically describe what will be expected of participants, the risks and inconveniences for them, and other information relevant to their involvement. Please note that the language used must reflect the participant age group and corresponding comprehension level – if your participants have different comprehension levels (e.g. both adults and children) then separate forms should be prepared for each group. The PLS can be embedded in an email to which an online survey is attached, or handed/sent to individuals in advance of their consent being sought. See link to sample templates on the website: https://www.dcu.ie/researchsupport/ethicsapproval.shtml

        PLEASE CONFIRM WHETHER THE FOLLOWING ISSUES HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED IN YOUR PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT/ INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS:

	YES or NO
Introductory Statement (PI and researcher names, school, title of the research)	**YES**
What is this research about?	**YES**
Why is this research being conducted?	**YES**
What will happen if the person decides to participate in the research study?	**YES**
How will their privacy be protected?	**YES**
How will the data be used and subsequently disposed of?	**YES**
What are the legal limitations to data confidentiality?	**YES**
What are the benefits of taking part in the research study (if any)?	**YES**
What are the risks of taking part in the research study?	**YES**
Confirmation that participants can change their mind at any stage and withdraw from the study	**YES**
How will participants find out what happens with the project?	**YES**
Contact details for further information (including REC contact details)	**YES**
Details relating to GDPR Compliance if Personal Data is being sought	**YES**

If any of these issues are marked NO, please justify their exclusion:

10. INFORMED CONSENT FORM *(Attach to this document. Approx. 300 words)*

NB – IF AN INFORMED CONSENT FORM IS NOT BEING USED, THE REASON FOR THIS MUST BE JUSTIFIED HERE.