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**TEMPLATE ETHICS APPLICATION FORM**

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| **Important Notes:**  **1.** Please also upload an information sheet and a consent form as supporting documentation.  **2.** If you intend to conduct a study with UNDERAGED (under 16 years of age) participants you MUST fill in the Children Research Ethical Plan form and ensure that you obtain all the necessary permissions described in that form. Please fill in the form and submit it as PDF together with your ethics proposal. |
| 1. DESCRIBE THE BASIC PURPOSES OF THE PROPOSED RESEARCH.  The application for testing in this research is a tool for students that allows them to practice solving problems step by step where a detailed explanation of the way of thinking involved at each step is provided. Such a tool has been proved to be efficient in a previous research project. After redevelopment of the tool as a web-based application, the basic purpose of the proposed research is to evaluate whether it is more easily accessible than the previous version, and whether it is more likely to be used in schools as a regular educational tool, i.e. to what extent the tool is applicable in real schools. |
| 2. INDICATE WHO IS FUNDING THE RESEARCH (IF COMMERCIALLY FUNDED, ENSURE THAT PARTICIPANTS ARE INFORMED).  The research doesn’t require any funding. |
| 3. DESCRIBE THE DESIGN OF YOUR EXPERIMENT (E.G. CONDITIONS, NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS, PROCEDURE AND EQUIPMENT WHERE APPROPRIATE).  The experiment will be run in schools during usual classes. The teacher will use a special teacher’s interface to generate a unique random 7-digit number as an identifier of the school together with a password to obtain the results from their group of students. They will give the school number together with a 3-digit pupil number of their choice to every student. Students then need to enter these numbers and use the tool for the remaining time of the class.  The teachers can also choose not to generate any numbers and the data will be collected on a session basis with no way to map schools to any of the data.  For the purposes of the experiment, the teachers and students would need an electronic device with an internet connection. |
| 4. DESCRIBE HOW THE PROCEDURES AFFECT THE PARTICIPANTS.  The procedure will be conducted as a regular class for students. They will be expected to go over several of the examples in the tool and gain some knowledge/learn new techniques for solving a particular problem. |
| 5. STATE WHAT IN YOUR OPINION ARE THE ETHICAL ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE PROPOSAL.  In my opinion, the ethical issues that are involved in the proposal concern mostly students of the class that are absent on the day of evaluation. This would mean that they wouldn’t have received equal experience on a particular set of problems as their classmates. |
| 6. SPECIFY THE NATURE OF THE PARTICIPANTS. INDICATE IF THE RESEARCH INVOLVES CHILDREN OR THOSE WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES OR HANDICAP. IF SO, EXPLAIN THE STEPS TAKEN TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FROM L.E.A.s, HEADTEACHERS, PARENTS, ETC. GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION HERE AND FILL IN THE CHILDREN RESEARCH ETHICAL PLAN. THE FORM MUST BE UPLOADED TOGETHER WITH THE CONSENT AND INFORMATION FORMS.  The participants will be computing science students in schools. |
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| 7. STATE IF PAYMENT WILL BE MADE TO SUBJECT.  No payment will be made to the subject. |
| 8. DESCRIBE THE PROCEDURES FOR ADVERTISING, FOR RECRUITING PARTICIPANTS, AND FOR OBTAINING CONSENT FROM PARTICIPANTS.  We will be calling schools to look for teachers who would agree to use the application in one or more of their classes. |
| 9. STATE WHETHER THE PROPOSAL IS IN ACCORD WITH THE BPS CODE OF CONDUCT OR THE ESRC FRAMEWORK OF RESEARCH ETHICS.  ??? |
| 10. DESCRIBE HOW THE PARTICIPANTS' ANONYMITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY WILL BE MAINTAINED.  Optionally, teachers will generate a 7-digit unique random number via an interface provided. They may also give each student a 3-digit pupil number. It will be the teacher’s decision of whether to give us the 7-digit number so that we associate it with this school. They wouldn’t tell us the individual 3-digit numbers they gave to pupils so there would be no way of associating a student with any number. If we don’t receive consent from teachers to associate the number with the school, we will not use any data tagged with that school number in any way. In this case, we will be able to analyse data on a session basis, but we wouldn’t have any way of connecting sessions together in any meaningful way. |
| 11. DATE ON WHICH PROJECT WILL BEGIN AND END.  The project is intended to start on 15th January and end on 15th March. |
| 12. LOCATION AT WHICH THE PROJECT WILL BE CARRIED OUT.  Schools in Scotland. |
| 13. DESCRIBE HOW PARTICIPANTS WILL BE DEBRIEFED AT THE END OF THE EXPERIMENT (THIS MUST INCLUDE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTACT THE EXPERIMENTER - OR SUPERVISOR - FOR FEEDBACK ON THE GENERAL OUTCOME OF THE EXPERIMENT).  I will give them the opportunity to ask me any questions they may have concerning the project. Furthermore, I will provide my contact number and email if they need further information. |