



Participant Information Sheet - pupils

**Title of project and researcher details**

Investigating children’s views on collaborative learning in a P6 classroom

Researcher: Ms J Smith

Supervisor: Dr A Brown

Course: Master of Education.

You are being invited to take part in a research project into collaborative learning in school, along with about 20 other pupils from your class. A research project is a way to learn more about something. You are being asked to take part because your class often uses collaborative learning.

Before you decide if you want to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the information on this page carefully and discuss it with others in the class and your parent/carer if you wish. Ask me if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

**What will happen if you take part**

The purpose of this study is to find out whether or not pupils enjoy collaborative learning, what they like or don’t like about it, and whether they feel that it helps them to learn better.

If you decide to take part I will ask you some questions about what you think about collaborative learning. You will be in a group with other children from our class. You do not have to answer any questions that you don’t want to. This will take about 20 minutes and we will do this during class time. I will record your answers on a voice recorder so that afterwards I can listen carefully to what you said.

I will also ask you to keep a learning log of how you feel about your learning, similar to the one we fill in after many of our lessons. I will also be looking at, and taking some notes during class about how the different groups work and how different children work with each other in different lessons. I will be finished gathering information by March 2015.

You do not have to take part in this study, and if you decide not to, or your parent/carer does not wish you to take part, you will still be part of the class exactly the same as you are now. If, after you have started to take part, you change your mind, just let me know and I will not use any information you have given me.

**Keeping information confidential (private)**

I will keep the information from the group discussion and from my notes about your learning in a locked cabinet or in a locked file on my computer. When I have finished writing my study I will destroy all the information.

When I write about what I have found out, your name will not be mentioned. If you like you can choose another name for me to use when I am writing about what you said. No-one else will know which name you have chosen. Only the others in the focus group will know what you said.

However, if during our conversation I hear anything which makes me worried that you might be in danger of harm, I might have to tell other people who need to know about this.

**The results of this study**

When I have gathered all of the information from everyone who is taking part I will write about what I have learned in a dissertation, which is a long essay, which I have to complete for the course I am studying on. This will be read and marked by my teachers at university. I will tell you and the other children who have taken part what I have found out about what you think about collaborative learning. I will also tell other teachers in the school. I will destroy all of my notes and recordings when the project is finished.

**Review of the study**

This study has been reviewed and agreed by the School of Education Ethics Forum, University of Glasgow

**Contact for further Information**

If you have any questions about this study, you can ask me, Ms Smith (xxxxxxxs@glasgow.ac.uk) or my supervisor, Dr Brown ([xxxxxxxx@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:xxxxxxxx@glasgow.ac.uk)) or the Ethics officer for the School of Education: Dr Margaret McCulloch: [margaret.mcculloch@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:margaret.mcculloch@glasgow.ac.uk)

Thank you for reading this!