

## **KidCoder: Teaching Computational Thinking Concepts Through Stories, Apps, and Play**

### **Participant Information Sheet (PIS)**

You are being invited to take part in a research study that will contribute to my degree in MEng Software Engineering. I am working on a project over the course of the academic year called 'KidCoder: Teaching Computational Thinking Concepts Through Stories, Apps, and Play'. I recently created a mobile application that allowed children to learn the basics of Computer Science through various concepts, and now I am looking to create a resource pack teaching the same concepts. Before you decide whether you wish to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being conducted and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully before deciding whether you wish to take part, and discuss it with others if you wish. Please ask if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

### **About the research**

#### **➤ Who will conduct the research?**

Naomi Felix, a student within the school of Computing at the University of Manchester.

Sarah Clinch, a senior lecturer within the school of Computing at the University of Manchester.

#### **➤ What is the purpose of the research?**

To explore new and effective ways of teaching Computer Science to children aged 4-10.

I intend to recruit primary school teachers and community group leaders of children in the appropriate age range.

#### **➤ Am I suitable to take part?**

The anticipated participants of this research are teachers and community group leaders, like yourself, with the aim of gaining as much feedback as possible regarding the effectiveness of the resource pack. Having your feedback would greatly contribute to my research.

#### **➤ Will the outcomes of the research be published?**

A successful project would result in a publication, which would outline the research that has been conducted.

#### **➤ Who has reviewed the research project?**

The project has been reviewed by The University of Manchester Department of Computer Science Ethics Committee.

## **What would my involvement be?**

### **➤ What would I be asked to do if I took part?**

The research will consist of a session, run by you and guided by the KidCoder resource pack. How you wish to conduct the session is entirely up to you as the resource pack has been made with adaptability in mind.

At the end of the session, you will then be asked to complete an online survey of questions regarding the session activities and how they could support your teaching and the children's learning.

If you are happy to answer some further questions following the online survey, a brief phone interview will be scheduled and conducted by the researchers. Please note that this is optional.

### **➤ Will I be compensated for taking part?**

No compensation will be offered for the duration of the research, however the knowledge gained will contribute to the children's understanding of not just the KS1/KS2 computing curriculum, but concepts they use daily.

If you are a community group leader, the activities should form part of a balanced programme and may help you to complete badges (e.g. the Scout staged Digital Maker badge).

As well as this, I hope running these sessions will be convenient for you, giving you some spare time. Your participation will go a long way and is greatly appreciated.

### **➤ What happens if I do not want to take part or if I change my mind?**

It is up to you to decide whether or not you wish to take part. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and your consent will be implied through submitting the online survey. If you decide to not take part, you do not need to do anything further.

If you decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without detriment to yourself. To facilitate this, you will be allocated a unique participant ID that only you are aware of. This participant ID will be the first 3 letters of your surname, followed by the day in their date of birth in the format: XXXdd.

## **Data Protection and Confidentiality**

### **➤ What information will you collect about me?**

In order for you to participate in this research project, we will need to collect information that could identify you, called "personal identifiable information". Specifically, we will need to collect:

Regarding the online survey, this will consist of your age, gender (required) and email address (optional).

### **➤ Under what legal basis are you collecting this information?**

We are collecting and storing this personal identifiable information in accordance with UK data protection law which protect your rights. These state that we must have a legal basis (specific reason) for collecting your data. For this study, the specific reason is that it is “a public interest task” and “a process necessary for research purposes”.

➤ **What are my rights in relation to the information you will collect about me?**

You have a number of rights under data protection law regarding your personal information. For example, you can request a copy of the information we hold about you.

If you would like to know more about your different rights or the way we use your personal information to ensure we follow the law, please consult our Privacy Notice for Research.

<https://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=37095>

➤ **Will my participation in the study be confidential and my personal identifiable information be protected?**

In accordance with data protection law, The University of Manchester is the Data Controller for this project. This means that we are responsible for making sure your data is kept secure, confidential and used only in the way you have been told it will be used. All researchers are trained with this in mind, and your data will be looked after in the following way:

Please also note that individuals from The University of Manchester or regulatory authorities may need to look at the data collected for this study to make sure the project is being carried out as planned. This may involve looking at identifiable data. All individuals involved in auditing and monitoring the study will have a strict duty of confidentiality to you as a research participant.

## **What if I have a complaint?**

➤ **Contact details for complaints**

If you have a complaint that you wish to direct to members of the research team, please contact:

**DR SARAH CLINCH**

**EMAIL:** [sarah.clinch@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.clinch@manchester.ac.uk)

**PHONE:** +44 161 275 7190

**If you wish to make a formal complaint to someone independent of the research team or if you are not satisfied with the response you have gained from the researchers in the first instance then please contact**

The Research Ethics Manager, Research Office, Christie Building, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL, by emailing: [research.complaints@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:research.complaints@manchester.ac.uk) or by telephoning 0161 306 8089.

If you wish to contact us about your data protection rights, please email [dataprotection@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@manchester.ac.uk) or write to The Information Governance Office, Christie Building, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, M13 9PL at the University and we will guide you through the process of exercising your rights.

You also have a right to complain to the [Information Commissioner's Office about complaints relating to your personal identifiable information](#) Tel 0303 123 1113

## **Contact Details**

If you have any queries about the study or if you are interested in taking part, then please contact the researcher(s)

### **MISS NAOMI FELIX**

**EMAIL:** [naomi.felix@student.manchester.ac.uk](mailto:naomi.felix@student.manchester.ac.uk)

### **DR SARAH CLINCH**

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