



Participant Information Sheet

Children's Participation in Schools

We are inviting your child to take part in research being led by University of the West of England and in collaboration with Swansea University, University of Wales Trinity Saint David and Cardiff Metropolitan University. Before you decide whether your child will take part, it is important for you to understand why the study is being done and what it will involve. Please read the following information carefully and if you have any queries or would like more information please contact

Dr Sarah Chicken Sarah.Chicken@UWE.ac.uk or

Dr Jacky Tyrie j.tyrie@swansea.ac.uk

Who is organising and funding the research?

The research is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

The project lead is Dr Sarah Chicken from the University of the West of England, and the team of co-investigators are:

Dr Jennifer Clement, Cardiff Metropolitan University

Dr Alison Murphy, University of Wales Trinity Saint David

Professor Jane Williams, Swansea University

Dr Jacky Tyrie, Swansea University

Dr Jane Waters-Davies, Swansea University

The team's biographies and details of their work are available at <https://childrens-participation.org/>

What is the aim of the research?

Our involvement in your child's school forms part of a wider project looking at how Welsh Government policy translates into the classroom. We are focusing on the rights of the child to be an active participant in all aspects of their life, specifically in classroom contexts.

This specific part of our project is investigating the following research questions:

- 1) How are young children's participative rights in Welsh primary schools understood and experienced by young children themselves?
- 2) How do primary teachers in Wales conceptualise and support young children's participative rights and what are perceived enablers and barriers to practice?

3) How can findings from this work be drawn together to understand the process by which pedagogies can be transformed in order to embed participative rights?

In this study, children's participation is understood from the perspective of the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The Welsh Government adopted the UNCRC as the basis of its policy making for children and young people in 2004 and we want to see how this translates into the classroom environment. Participation in this study therefore **includes the right of the child to be heard, to be respected as persons in their own right, to be able to make choices and communicate their feelings, ideas, and wishes in numerous ways including through non-verbal means.**

The findings of our study will be analysed and used to inform the wider research project. They will also be included in reports for the funding body, used in dissemination events, housed on the project website, be presented as part of conference papers and written up in peer-reviewed academic papers.

What am I being asked to do?

You will have no formal involvement in the project, but we ask you to consent on behalf of your child for your child/children to be involved in a focus group, which is an informal discussion with a researcher, to discuss their experiences of the project

Why has your child been asked to take part?

Your child's teacher is taking part in the research project and carrying out a classroom project about children's rights.

Does my child have to take part?

The discussions with researchers about the classroom project are voluntary and therefore your child does not have to take part. If you do consent for your child to take part, you will need to sign a Participant Consent Form on behalf of your child. If you give your consent we will also be asking your child to consent. The voices of children are especially important in this study so if your child does not want to take part, they will not have to.

Both you and your child have the right to withdraw from the study at any time. If you chose to withdraw after 1st July 2024, it will not be possible to extract your child's specific data. If you want to discuss this with anyone, please email:

Dr Sarah Chicken Sarah.chicken@uwe.ac.uk or

Dr Jacky Tyrie j.tyrie@swansea.ac.uk

What are the benefits of your child taking part?

We hope this will be a valuable experience for your child that empowers them by either introducing them to, or furthering their knowledge about their rights.

What are the possible risks for your child if they take part?

We do not foresee any risks when taking part in this project. If you or your child need any support during their participation in the project, the researchers will be happy to talk through any concerns or queries.

Dr Sarah Chicken Sarah.chicken@uwe.ac.uk

Dr Jacky Tyrie j.tyrie@swansea.ac.uk

What will happen to your child's information?

All data will be fully anonymised so that your child cannot be identified. The data will be handled and analysed by the research team only. The data will be held securely for 10 years and then will be permanently deleted. Data will be explored by the research team to help support the research questions and for this purpose only.

Where will the results of the research study be published?

Results of the study will be published on the research project website and will be included in academic publications and presentations within which anonymous quotes may be used. The funding body, the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) will also publish the final report.

Who has ethically approved this research?

The project has been reviewed and approved by the University of the West of England Research Ethics Committee.

Any comments, questions or complaints about the ethical conduct of this study can be addressed to the Research Ethics Committee at the University of the West of England at:

Researchethics@uwe.ac.uk

What if something goes wrong?

If you wish to discuss anything regarding the study, please contact:

Dr Sarah Chicken Sarah.Chicken@uwe.ac.uk or

Dr Jacky Tyrie (j.tyrie@swansea.ac.uk)

What if I have more questions or do not understand something?

If you would like any further information about the research, please contact in the first instance:

Dr Sarah Chicken sarah.chicken@uwe.ac.uk or

Dr Jacky Tyrie j.tyrie@swansea.ac.uk