

An investigation of relationships and sex education in schools: Information for Parents, Children and young people

General information

What is the project about?

This project is about children and young people's views on their relationships and sex education (RSE). We are interested in their views about the value of this kind of education and what they believe might be done differently.

What is involved?

If both parent and child/young person agree to participate in this study, both will be asked to sign a consent form to say so. Once agreement is secured, the child or young person will participate in a group discussion about this issue with others of the same age (year group in school). This group discussion will be recorded on an audio-device and transcribed. The group discussions will be led by highly skilled and experienced experts who have worked in education and with young people for a long time. These transcripts will be made anonymous and quotations from these will be used in academic activity, such as articles for other academics, conference presentations, books and other related forums. You or your child can withdraw up until the point where we publish the first set of results.

Is the information kept confidential?

The recordings will be kept on an encrypted device and stored safely. Transcripts will require a password. No child will be identified during academic activity. There are limits to confidentiality and we are obliged to disclose if there is any risk of harm disclosed, to self, to others or from others.

For parents/guardians

What am I being asked to do?

As the legal guardian for your child we are seeking your permission to approach them about this project. We are asking two things. First, we are asking you to consent to allow us to talk to your child. Second, we are asking you to sit with your child and go through this information with them.

What are the possible benefits and risks?

We are asking that your child takes part in a group discussion with their peers to talk about their relationship and sex education. We believe that it is very important that children and young people are heard and have opportunities to voice their perspectives, which is a key benefit. The risks are minimal but include our responsibility to protect the data on encrypted devices and follow safeguarding policy should it become necessary.

Who has approved this study?

As a research team we had to explain our study to a committee who oversee our obligations to you. We have the approval of the University of Leicester and as such are obliged to follow their guidelines and GDPR.

For children and young people

Why have I been invited?

You have been asked to talk to us because you are a child or young person attending school and we are interested in what you have to say about your education.

What do I have to do if I say yes?

If you agree and say yes, we will ask you to sign a form for us. You will then be asked in school to join a group of other children or young people from your year group to talk to us. You do not have to answer every question. This conversation will be recorded so that we can listen to it again. We will type up what you say to include in reports and papers but will not use your name. We will give you a fake name or a number.

Do I have to take part?

No, absolutely not. If you do not want to join a group discussion, then tell your parents or teacher.

Sources of support if you need them:

If you feel you need to talk to someone about anything then you can call:
ChildLine 0800 1111



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