



# Icknield Community College

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Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to inform you that Icknield Community College has agreed to take part in a research project called Developing Healthy Minds in Teenagers along with 34 other secondary schools across the UK. The project will run for 5 years with lessons being taught each week starting during September 2013, until the end of year 10. This letter is to inform you about the project and research and give you the option to withdraw your child from the research if you would like to.

The schools involved will be teaching a specific curriculum, one hour per week, that will cover the statutory requirement to teach Personal Social Health Education (PSHE). The PSHE curriculum includes lessons on building resilience, learning to use the internet and technology safely, understanding the importance of healthy relationships as well as drug and sex education. Your child will be learning skills during the lessons that will be relevant to them now and transferable beyond school.

Your child will be asked to take part in classroom based tests that will measure their academic levels and their health and emotional wellbeing. The first time will be at the start of term in September 2013 and then each June for the duration of the project.

## The academic test

Your child will be randomly assigned to take either a Maths or English test lasting for no more than a normal lesson. Students are used to taking tests in lessons so this won't feel unusual or different for them. The results will only be used for the research and will not influence your child's place in school, teaching or academic career. Individual results will not be available to the school or anyone else outside the research team.

The test responses will be automatically and securely sent to the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR), where they will be stored securely and confidentially, in accordance with the Data Protection Act. The data will be used in the evaluation by NIESR and will be matched to pupils' records in the National Pupil Database. The data will be stored without pupils' names.

## The health questionnaire

Each student will also be asked to complete a questionnaire taking no more than a normal lesson. The questionnaire will ask health related questions. Your child will be given the option to opt out of completing the questionnaire on the day. This will not impact them in any way other than not to be involved in the research. They will still take part in the PSHE lessons. In order that you and your child are aware of what the questionnaires involve and what your rights are under the Data Protection Act, please see the privacy notice below.

The research will not identify individual students or schools. At the end of the project, in 2018, an anonymised version of the dataset will be made available on the UK Data Archive. This version will contain no characteristics which could be used to identify individual students or schools.




Specialist Schools  
and Academies Trust  
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY



As with any research, your child does not have to participate in any of the testing if they do not want to, and this will be made clear to them before they are asked to complete the tests. Parents are also entitled to refuse permission for their children to participate. If you do not want your child to participate, please fill in and return the slip below.

If you would like to find out more about this project, or if you have any questions, please contact Claire Foster, Head of PSHCE (e-mail : [cfos9369@icknield.ocnmail.net](mailto:cfos9369@icknield.ocnmail.net), or telephone 01491 612691 Ext 223).

Yours sincerely



**Mat Hunter**  
**Headteacher**

**If you DO NOT wish your child to participate in the research testing, return this form to your child's class teacher.**

**Child's name:** .....

**Child's class Teacher:** .....

**I DO NOT wish my child to participate in the research**

**Parent name (BLOCK CAPITALS)** .....

**Parent signature:** .....

**Date** .....

**Privacy notice Developing Healthy Minds in Teenagers Project**

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

The Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) curriculum that has been designed for the Developing Healthy Minds in Teenagers project is going to be taught in 34 secondary schools in the UK. The aim of the curriculum is to teach evidenced based lessons, taught by teachers who have been given specific training and have the expertise in the subjects. The PSHE curriculum includes lessons on building resilience, learning to use the internet and technology safely, understanding the importance of healthy relationships as well as drug and sex education. Your child will be learning skills during the lessons that will be relevant to them now and transferable beyond school. Other research studies focusing on individual parts of the four year curriculum, suggested that certain skills can help students avoid stress and anxiety, and allow them to make more informed decisions around risk behaviour such as drinking and smoking.

The London School of Economics (LSE) and National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) will be analysing the data collected through the project to assess the impact and effectiveness of the programme.

**What personal data will be collected?**

Each participating student will take an academic test (either maths or English) and complete a health questionnaire. They will be asked to do this before they are taught the PSHE curriculum and at the end of each year (in July) for the four years of the project. The health questionnaire will measure general health and wellbeing such as how they feel, their anxiety and mood levels and how they usually respond to particular situations. Access to a copy of the questionnaire can be made available to view in school if you wish. The academic test will measure their levels in maths and literacy. Students will be randomly assigned to take either a maths or an English test. These are similar to standard testing used in schools.

**How will the personal data be processed?**

The National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) will be processing the academic data and the London School of Economics (LSE) will be processing the health data. Only the LSE and NIESR will have access to the data collected. The LSE or NIESR will not store any data against a student name. They will analyse the anonymised answers given by your child. The analysis will form the basis of a report on the overall effectiveness of the PSHE curriculum. No-one at your child's school will see the answers given by your child and the LSE or NIESR will not store any answers given by your child against their name.

There are 2 situations when it might be necessary for someone from the LSE to discuss the data collected from the health questionnaire only: (1) if a request is received from your child to have access to the information held about them; (2) if the information collected raises concern about your child's safety or if your child's response indicates that they are very distressed. Where this is the case the LSE will contact the designated staff member at your child's school so that you child can receive the appropriate support needed. The school will not see your child's specific answer, they will just know that a concern has been raised.

**Will the personal data be disclosed to anyone else?**

The LSE and NIESR will have access to the personal data for the purpose of conducting the evaluation of the impact of the PSHE curriculum. The academic data will not be disclosed to anyone else. Personal data from the health questionnaire will not be disclosed to any other parties, except (a) the subject of the data, upon the child's request; or (b) to inform the designated staff member at the school/setting if a child is believed to be unsafe or very distressed, as described above.

**Opting out of the research**

A full explanation of this will be given to your child before they begin taking part in the academic test or completing the health questionnaire. The opportunity to opt out of the research will be explicit from the onset. Any child can request they are not involved in the research. This would not exclude them from participating in the PSHE lessons.