**Parent Information Sheet: Year 10**

**Study Title**: Safety in Schools: Exploring boys’ views about their own and girls’ safety.

**Researcher**: Anna Burnett

**ERGO number:** 90843

If you are the parent of a Year 10 boy, your child is being invited to take part in the above research study. To help you decide whether you would like them to take part or not, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the information below carefully and ask questions if anything is not clear or you would like more information before you decide if you would like your child to take part in this research. You may like to discuss it with others, but it is up to you to decide whether or not your child takes part. If you wish your child to take part in this study, you will need to complete the Opt-In Consent form which can be accessed here [insert link to Microsoft forms version of consent form].

**What is the research about?**

My name is Anna Burnett, and I am a Trainee Educational Psychologist at the University of Southampton, completing a Doctorate in Educational Psychology. I am carrying out a research project which is part of my thesis and aims to explore boys’ views about their own and girls’ safety in schools. I am inviting your child to participate in this research.

The Department for Education’s Keeping Children Safe in Education Guidance (2023) indicates that abuse from peers has become normalised and frequent in schools. Based on these findings, this research aims to understand boys’ perspectives on safety, so that we can develop a greater understanding of their views around their own and girls’ safety in schools. The data collected will help me to understand this issue, which, in turn, will support schools to better support both all pupils to feel safe in school.

**Why has my child been asked to participate?**

Your child’s school has agreed to help collect data for this research. Therefore, the parent or carer of every Year 10 boy has been given a link to an opt-in consent form asking consent for their child to take part. I am hoping to recruit 20-25 Year 10 boys to participate in this research. Year 9 boys may also be invited to participate in this research.

**What will happen to my child if they take part?**

Firstly, **your child will not be able to take part unless you complete the consent form**. However, if they do take part, then, after watching a short presentation explaining more about the research, your child will be invited to participate in a focus group with 5-6 other Year 10, and possibly Year 9, boys. They will be able to choose whether or not they wish to participate. If they choose to participate, they will be given the opportunity to indicate friends who they would like to be in the focus group with. I will try to allocate them to groups with friends, although this may not be possible.

During the focus groups, your child will be asked to read a series of short made-up stories based on situations that girls have identified as making them feel unsafe in school. Your child’s group will be asked to discuss aspects of safety within each of the stories, reflecting on how a typical Year 10, or Year 9, boy might respond to each. This research will allow a deeper understanding about what boys find safe about school and what improvements can be suggested to make school safer for all pupils.

**Are there any benefits in my child taking part?**

Taking part will allow your child to have their say about what a safe school means to them and will allow me to understand more about what secondary school boys find safe about schools, along with what improvements can be suggested to make school safer for all pupils. A summary of the findings will be sent to both your child’s school and to the Local Authority, who may use it to suggest changes that could be made across schools locally to make them safer for all pupils. In addition, the research may be published in an academic journal or other publication that would allow other educational staff to reflect on the findings and consider changes in their own settings. All information about your child will remain confidential and anonymous.

Upon completion of the discussion group, your child will also have the opportunity to vote for a charity. Whichever charity has the most votes by the end of the research will receive a donation of £50 from the researcher on behalf of all the participants. This is optional and your child’s choice will not be recorded as part of the study.

The charities your child will be able to vote for are:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| White Ribbon  *A charity which engages men and boys to end violence against women and girls* | Friends of the Earth  *A charity dedicated to sustainability* | RSPCA  *Protecting pets and wildlife* | Cancer Research  *Funding research into beating cancer* |

Your child’s school is also receiving a collection of books relating to healthy relationships as compensation for their participation.

**Are there any risks involved?**

Considering safety within school for themselves and girls could bring up topics of a sensitive nature that could lead to some upset. If this happens, I will ensure that your child is supported at school. I will also provide them and key school staff with details of organisations outside school that can support them if needed. It is your and your child’s choice to take part; your child is free to change their mind before or during the group discussion.

**What data will be collected?**

Your child will be invited to answer questions about their ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity. In each case, they will have the opportunity to choose not to respond. This information will be collected anonymously. It will not be traceable to your child and is being collected in order to contextualise the analysis of the data.

**Will my child’s participation be confidential?**Your child’s participation and the information I collect about your child during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential. All personal information collected will be stored securely at school until it can be uploaded onto the university’s secure servers. The focus groups will be audio recorded and the recording will be kept on the university’s secure server. However, at the point of transcription, all focus group responses will be anonymised and will not be able to be traced back to the individual pupils. Upon completion of transcription, the audio data will be destroyed. The transcriptions will be stored on the University's secure server for 10 years after completion of the study.

Only members of the research team and responsible members of the University of Southampton may be given access to this data for monitoring purposes and/or to carry out an audit of the study to ensure that the research is complying with applicable regulations. Individuals from regulatory authorities (people who check that we are carrying out the study correctly) may require access to the data. All of these people have a duty to keep your child’s information, as a research participant, strictly confidential.

**Does your child have to take part?**

No, it is entirely up to you to decide whether or not you want your child to take part.

If you decide you want your child to take part, you will need to sign the opt-in consent form to show you have agreed for them to them take part.

**What happens if I change my mind?**

You and your child have the right to change your mind and withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without your participant rights being affected. Your child’s data can be withdrawn from the project any time until data analysis begins, after which time they will not be able to withdraw their data from the research. In the analysis phase, the information will be completely anonymised and will not be able to be traced back to your child. If your child decides to withdraw from the study having already taken part either you, they or a member of school staff can email: [a.burnett@soton.ac.uk](mailto:a.burnett@soton.ac.uk)

**What will happen to the results of the research?**

All information collected for this study will be stored securely on a secure server. Anonymous data will be kept on the University data repository (ePrints Soton) for use in future research and for people to check the validity of this research.

The information collected will be analysed and written up as part of my thesis. It may be published in a journal. Your child’s personal details will remain strictly confidential. Research findings made available in any reports or publications will not include information that can directly identify your child without your specific consent.

The University of Southampton conducts research to the highest standards of ethics and research integrity. In accordance with our Research Data Management Policy, data will be held for 10 years after the study has finished, when it will be securely destroyed.

**Where can I get more information?**

If, after reading through this information, you have any questions about the study, please contact Anna Burnett: [a.burnett@soton.ac.uk](mailto:a.burnett@soton.ac.uk)

**What happens if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should speak to the researcher who will do her best to answer your questions.

If you remain unhappy or have a complaint about any aspect of this study, please contact the University of Southampton Head of Research Ethics and Clinical Governance (023 8059 5058, [rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk](mailto:rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk)).

**Contact Details of the Research Team**

Research Supervisor: Dr Tim Cooke ([t.cooke@soton.ac.uk](mailto:t.cooke@soton.ac.uk))

Researcher: Anna Burnett ([a.burnett@soton.ac.uk](mailto:a.burnett@soton.ac.uk))

**Data Protection Privacy Notice**

The University of Southampton conducts research to the highest standards of research integrity. As a publicly-funded organisation, the University has to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information about people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, we will use information about you in the ways needed, and for the purposes specified, to conduct and complete the research project. Under data protection law, ‘Personal data’ means any information that relates to and is capable of identifying a living individual. The University’s data protection policy governing the use of personal data by the University can be found on its website (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page>).

This Participant Information Sheet tells you what data will be collected for this project and whether this includes any personal data. Please ask the research team if you have any questions or are unclear what data is being collected about you.

Our privacy notice for research participants provides more information on how the University of Southampton collects and uses your personal data when you take part in one of our research projects and can be found at <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/assets/sharepoint/intranet/ls/Public/Research%20and%20Integrity%20Privacy%20Notice/Privacy%20Notice%20for%20Research%20Participants.pdf>

Any personal data we collect in this study will be used only for the purposes of carrying out our research and will be handled according to the University’s policies in line with data protection law. If any personal data is used from which you can be identified directly, it will not be disclosed to anyone else without your consent unless the University of Southampton is required by law to disclose it.

Data protection law requires us to have a valid legal reason (‘lawful basis’) to process and use your Personal data. The lawful basis for processing personal information in this research study is for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest. Personal data collected for research will not be used for any other purpose.

For the purposes of data protection law, the University of Southampton is the ‘Data Controller’ for this study, which means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The University of Southampton will keep identifiable information about you for 10 years after the study has finished after which time any link between you and your information will be removed.

To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personal data necessary to achieve our research study objectives. Your data protection rights – such as to access, change, or transfer such information - may be limited, however, in order for the research output to be reliable and accurate. The University will not do anything with your personal data that you would not reasonably expect.

If you have any questions about how your personal data is used, or wish to exercise any of your rights, please consult the University’s data protection webpage (https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page) where you can make a request using our online form. If you need further assistance, please contact the University’s Data Protection Officer ([data.protection@soton.ac.uk](mailto:data.protection@soton.ac.uk)).

**Thank you for taking the time to read the information sheet and considering taking part in the research.**