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‘What is a country?’ Exercise

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS / GUARDIANS

Ethics Approval Reference: SOGE1A2021-202

In partnership with researchers at the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge, St Mary’s Catholic Primary School has agreed to take part in a research study. We would like to invite your child, along with the rest of their Geography class, to be involved in this study, which is focussed on the teaching of political geography, not individual students. We very much hope you would like your child to be involved, but before you decide, it is important that you understand why the study is being done.

What are we trying to find out?

This project aims to develop materials that help primary school students think about issues facing some of the most marginalised communities in the world and enthuse them about how we can think differently about equality and diversity in the global governance system. Innovative teaching materials are being developed that will enable teachers to run exercise about stateless communities. Students will think about communities who are excluded from the international system and reflect on issues of justice and human rights.

More information about the study is available by contacting the research team (contact details overleaf).

Why has my child been invited to be involved in this research?

We are inviting your child because they are in Year 5/6, studying geography. All pupils in their class are invited to be involved in this research.

Does my child have to be involved?

No. You can ask questions about the study before deciding whether to allow your child to be involved. If you do agree to their involvement, you may withdraw your child at any time, without giving a reason and without any effect on their education, by advising the school or researchers of this decision.

If your child is not involved in the research, they will receive alternative provision of equivalent educational value, or be placed where they cannot be observed. This will involve learning about stateless communities and putting together a poster.

What will my child be asked to do?

Dr Liam Saddington will visit your child’s school on 15/9/2023. He will run an activity that will last

approximately one hour. During the class, your child will be asked to think about what a country is. They will discuss this in pairs and as a class. Your child will read information about communities who are not represented as countries. In small groups, they will put together presentations to the rest of the class. Dr Saddington will take notes. Your child will not be recorded. These written notes will be transcribed and stored on the University One Drive. Your child's name will not be included, and they will not be identifiable. These notes will form the part of academic publications written by Dr Liam Saddington and Professor Fiona McConnell.

What are the advantages / disadvantages of taking part?

Your child will learn about other communities from around the world, and it is hoped they will enjoy this session. There are no disadvantages to taking part.

What happens to the data provided?

Any information your child provides during the study is the **research data**. No personal data about your child will be stored beyond the duration of the study. Your child will not be recorded but notes will be made of general discussions during the class. These will not be identifiable as your child. These notes will be securely stored in a password protected, encrypted file and will only ever be shown to over members of the research team. The researcher will retain consent forms for 3 years after publication of the work of the research.

I will ensure all other data I collect in the study is de-identified as soon as possible after collection. The notes, and all other data will be stored in a locked cabinet in a locked office in the University of Oxford. After transcription, the paper notes will be destroyed. The researchers will have access to the research data. Responsible members of the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge may be given access to data for monitoring and/or audit of the research.

I will send a brief report on the research to your child's school at the end of the study, and you are welcome to see this. I will not identify the school, teacher, or any students in any reports of the research.

Will the research be published?

The research will be published in academic journals.

Who is conducting this research?

The research is organised by Professor Fiona McConnell of the University of Oxford, who is a Professor in Political Geography and Dr Liam Saddington of the University of Cambridge who is a Teaching Associate in Human Geography. The research is funded by a Cambridge Humanities Research Grant.

Ethics

This study has been reviewed by, and received ethics clearance through, the University of Oxford's Central University Research Ethics Committee, (SOG1A2021-202) and the Ethics Review Group Chair in the Department of Geography within the University of Cambridge.

Any research with students will be conducted with care and sensitivity. Some students might feel shy about having a researcher in the classroom, and they might feel concerned about being observed.

What if there is a problem?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please contact Dr Liam Saddington at lrs46@cam.ac.uk or Professor Fiona McConnell at fiona.mcconnell@ouce.ox.ac.uk and we will do our best to answer your query. I/we will acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how it will be dealt with. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the Chair of the Research Ethics Committee at the University of Oxford who will seek to resolve the matter as soon as possible:

Chair, **Social Sciences & Humanities Inter-Divisional Research Ethics Committee**; Email: ethics@socsci.ox.ac.uk; Address: Research Services, University of Oxford, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD

Data Protection

The University of Oxford is the data controller with respect to any personal data collected, and as such will determine how this personal data is used in the study.

The University will only process personal data for the purpose of the research outlined above. Research is a task that is performed in the public interest.

Further information about your rights with respect to personal data is available from

<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/compliance/gdpr/individualrights/>.

What should I do next?

If you are happy for your student to take part, you do not need to do anything.

If you would not like your child to take part, please fill in the enclosed form and return it to your child's class teacher. Please remember that you may withdraw your child at any time, without affecting their education and without giving a reason, by notifying the researcher.

If you would like to discuss the research with someone beforehand (or if you have questions afterwards), please contact:

Dr Liam Saddington

lrs46@cam.ac.uk