

## School Life during Covid-19 Study

### Parent/Carer Information Sheet

#### What is the purpose of this study?

To investigate the mental wellbeing of pupils and staff as they adapt to school life during COVID-19. We also want to hear views on school measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and find out about approaches taken to support mental health in schools. Anonymous findings will be used to support senior leaders in education and those producing guidance for schools regarding how best to support pupils, school staff, and parents, particularly vulnerable groups.

#### Why has my child been invited to take part?

Your child's school is one of a number in Bristol that have agreed to take part in the study. We are inviting pupils from all year groups (7-13) to take part, and some of the school staff.

#### What will taking part involve?

Your child will be invited to take part in an interview with a researcher from the University of Bristol (Dr Sarah Bell or Jane Williams). This interview will be arranged for a convenient time and can be over the phone or using a secure online video platform. Your child has the option to do the interview alone, with 1 or 2 friends (from their year group in school), or supported by their parent/carer.

During the interview, we will ask your child to share views on school life during COVID-19, including any concerns and ways that their school can address them. Your child does not need to answer every question, and the interview can be paused or stopped at any time.

#### How long will it take?

The interview will last up to 45 minutes.

#### Does my child have to take part?

No, it is up to you and your child to decide to take part.

#### What if my child or I change our minds?

You and/or your child can change your minds at any time, without having to tell us why. If you want to leave the study, let us know and we will delete your child's interview data. However, once we have reached the stage of anonymising your data usually within a week of the interview, we will no longer be able to remove your child's data.

### Will the interview be confidential?

Yes. We will digitally audio record and then transcribe your child's interview and remove anything that might identify them or their school. What your child tells us will be treated as confidential. This means we will not be able to discuss with you what you or your child said in the interview. All information collected will be held securely at the University of Bristol and will only be seen by the research team and auditors authorised by the University of Bristol. However, if your child tells us something that suggests they may be in danger or are being harmed, we will follow the school safeguarding processes.

### Are there any benefits to taking part?

Some people like to help with research and enjoy talking about their experiences in an interview. Understanding what young people think of this issue may help improve the experiences of school for young people in the future.

### Are there any disadvantages or risks to taking part?

Talking about experiences of the coronavirus pandemic may raise issues that are personal to your child. We will conduct the interview in a sensitive and respectful way. Your child does not have to answer a question if it makes them feel uncomfortable. If your child gets upset at any point, we can pause or stop the interview.

### Will we receive anything for taking part?

If your child agrees to take part, they will receive a £20 Amazon voucher as a thank you. Friends that are interviewed with them, will also receive a £20 Amazon voucher.

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

We will send the school a summary of our results, which we hope they will share with you. Results from this study may be published in scientific journals and presented at scientific conferences. Everything will be fully anonymised: it will not be possible to identify your child from any report, publication or presentation. Anonymised interview data will be securely stored by the University for up to 20 years. If you take part, we will ask if you are happy for us to share your anonymised interview data with other researchers working on relevant studies. You can still take part in our study if you prefer that your data not be used for other studies.

### Who is organising and funding the research?

The research is led by Dr Sarah Bell and Jane Williams, under the supervision of Dr Sabi Redwood and Dr Jeremy Horwood from Bristol Medical School at the University of Bristol and is funded by the Medical Research Council (MRC). The University of Bristol is the sponsor for this study. We will be using information from your child in order to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your child's information and using it properly.

### Who has reviewed the study?

Ethical approval for this study has been given by the Health Sciences Faculty Research Ethics Committee at the University of Bristol.

### What if my child wants to take part, I have questions or want further information?

If your child is interested in taking part, please [fill out this form](#). If your child is under 16, you need to give permission on this form, before they can take part in the interview.

For more information you can visit our [study webpage](#) and watch the [study video](#).

If you have any questions or want more information you can get in touch with the researchers Sarah Bell or Jane Williams by email: [school-life-study@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:school-life-study@bristol.ac.uk).

If you have any concerns or would like to make a complaint about the study, please contact the Research Governance team, University of Bristol: [research-governance@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:research-governance@bristol.ac.uk).

**THANK YOU**