

ADEYFIELD SCHOOL

PART OF THE EAST DACORUM CO-OPERATIVE LEARNING TRUST

Longlands, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. HP2 4DE

t: 01442 406020 f: 01442 406025

e: admin@adeyfield.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: **Scott Martin**



23 March 2017

www.adeyfieldschool.org

Dear Parent or Carer

We have been invited to participate in a study investigating 'Best practice in setting for learning'. This is an exciting opportunity as part of educational research being carried out by the Educational Endowment Foundation.

The purpose of the study is to evaluate the impact of different groupings on students' experiences and learning outcomes. Schools group students in different ways; for example in groups based on their prior attainment, or in mixed attainment groups. The research wants to find out how the grouping arrangements in schools affect students' experiences and attainment. The study seeks to draw conclusions about which types of student grouping best improve students' learning outcomes and experiences. The study is intended to inform education policies and practices in England – and ultimately to benefit students in schools across the country.

The research is focussed on children in Year 8. Participation is voluntary. Choosing not to take part will not disadvantage your child in any way.

The study requires a large sample of schools so that the various types of school in England are represented in the research. All Year 8 students in school and the other schools participating in the study are being invited to take part in the research.

The research will involve the following:

- Providing information about your child to the University College London (UCL) who are carrying out the research (including your child's name, date of birth and unique student number) will be linked with information about your child from the National Pupil Database (held by the Department for Education).
- National Foundation for Educational Research may administer a GL Assessment standardised test in English and/or mathematics to your child towards the end of Year 8. In this case, your child's name, date of birth and gender will be provided to GL Assessment, who will report results confidential to your child's school for educational purposes.
- UCL Institute of Education will ask your child to complete a short online questionnaire about their experiences of learning English and mathematics once in Year 8. Their teacher will give them an opportunity to complete the questionnaire during school time. It will take your child about 30 minutes to complete the questionnaire. The online questionnaire ensures that their responses are confidential.

Look smart. Be polite. Work hard.



Data from the tests, questionnaires and interviews is regarded as strictly confidential and will be held securely until the research is finished, at which point it will be deleted. Your child's participation is entirely voluntary. If you change your mind, you are free to stop their participation. All data for analysis will be anonymised. In reporting on the research findings, we will not reveal the names of any participants or the school. There will be no possibility of any individual being linked with the data.

The UK Data Protection Act 1998 will apply to all data gathered from the tests, questionnaire and interviews. This data will be held securely within the organisations listed above. No data will be accessed by anyone other than the research team or the evaluation team. It will not be possible to link any data back to any individual participating in the research.

You may withdraw your child's data from the project at any time during the project, specifically until 31 August 2017. If you ask us to withdraw your child's data at any time before then, we will ensure all traces are removed from the records.

If this study has harmed you in any way or if you wish to make a complaint about the conduct of the study you can contact UCL Institute of Education using the details below for further advice and information: ioe.researchethics@ucl.ac.uk

If you decide that you do not want your child to take part, please complete the enclosed form and ask your child to return it to Student Services by Monday 27 March. If we do not receive a completed form from you, we will assume that you are happy for your child to take part.

If you have any further questions about this study please do not hesitate to contact me directly at school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Walker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Naomi Walker
Assistant Headteacher



Institute of Education

OPT-OUT FORM FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Best Practice in Grouping Students

*Please note that you need only return this form to your child's school if you do **not** want your child to participate in the research project.*

I do **not** want my child to take part in the UCL Institute of Education research project:

Best Practice in Grouping Students.

Your Name

Name of child

Tutor group:

Signed (Parent/Carer)

Date