

To the addressee

06 October 2020

**Essential Experiences in Science  
Epistemic Insight Project Information Sheet for  
Head Teachers, Senior Leaders and Schools**

Epistemic Insight Initiative  
Tel. +44 (0)1227 923 103  
E-mail [lasar@canterbury.ac.uk](mailto:lasar@canterbury.ac.uk)

Dear Head Teacher,

I'm writing to request your consent for [teacher's name] to gather data as part of the *Essential Experiences in Science* (EES) Epistemic Insight research project. The data will be gathered by the teacher researcher via a survey and (for selected students) an interview – around learning activities that are part of their school curriculum through investigation cards and equipment for use in class or at home. The name of the school and pupil's names and any personal identifiers will be removed from the materials at the point of collection. All names and the name of the school will be kept anonymous in any analysis reports and research publications.

Parents of children taking part can choose to opt in or out of having their child's anonymised survey data used by the research. If in addition the teacher plans to interview some students for the research, a follow-up opt-in permission form will go home to the parents of these children. Pupils will provide assent.

### **The Epistemic Insight Project**

The Epistemic Insight project encourages pupils and teachers to think about how we ask and investigate questions through single-discipline, cross-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary perspectives. The project intends to support and enrich the school's curriculum by engaging pupils in learning activities that develop their understanding of disciplinary knowledge.

Epistemic insight – or 'knowledge about knowledge' – refers to pupils' capacities to think about how knowledge is formed and tested in different subjects. Canterbury Christ Church University is particularly interested in researching and developing pupils' ability to think about Big Questions that span science, religion and the wider humanities. The work we do in schools informs our published research, and through your pupils taking part in this project, you will help us produce materials that will inform effective teaching and learning for the curriculum of the future.

An example of an Epistemic Insight approach to learning might involve exploring a question such as 'why did the Titanic sink?' from both a scientific and an historical perspective. Such an approach may help students better understand how knowledge is formed and tested in each of these subjects and how these ways of knowing interact. You can find more information on the Epistemic Insight initiative – including *Essential Experiences in Science* learning resources we have developed at <https://www.epistemicinsight.com/ees/>.

Please complete the attached consent form to confirm that you have been made aware of, and consent to the analysis of pupils' anonymised data by EI research project team.

Yours Sincerely,  
The Epistemic Insight Initiative Team



**CONSENT FORM**

**Essential Experiences in Science: Epistemic Insight  
(Consent Form for Head Teachers/Senior Leaders in Schools)**

**Name of EI Associate Researcher conducting research:**

**Contact details for Epistemic Insight Team:**

Lead:	Prof Berry Billingsley (Principal Investigator) Canterbury Christ Church University North Holmes Road Canterbury
-------	---

Email:	Berry.Billingsley@canterbury.ac.uk Office: LASAR@canterbury.ac.uk
--------	--

**Please initial box**

1. I confirm that I have read and understand the information sheet for the above study and have had the opportunity to ask questions.
2. I understand that my school’s participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw consent for my school at any time until the end of the data collection phase, without giving any reason.
3. I understand that any personal information provided by pupils / staff at the school to the researchers will be kept strictly confidential and will be anonymised at the point of collection and any personal identifiers will be removed.
4. I agree that anonymised data collected during the activity can be used to inform the wider Epistemic Insight research outcomes.


Name of Head/Senior Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature