

School Name

06 October 2020

Essential Experiences in Science Epistemic Insight Project Information Sheet – for interview study

Dear Parent/Carer,

I'm writing to let you know about some learning activities and research we are designing in collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University as part of the *Essential Experiences in Science* (EES) Epistemic Insight research project.

The learning activities are being designed and given to students as part of their school curriculum and include investigation cards and equipment for use in class or at home. These activities will consider ways to teach the nature and role of science in questions that students can investigate across curriculum subjects.

Our research usually begins with a survey. When we want to survey students in a school we ask for permission from the head teacher or senior leader. We provide an information and opt-out letter to go home. Students can choose whether to submit their responses into the survey by choosing whether or not to respond to each question. The data we gather through surveys has any names removed.

The next step is often an interview or focus group study. Currently we are recruiting students to take part in interviews and focus groups and we hope you would like your child to be included. As such this letter is to give you the opportunity to opt in or out of taking part. If you decide your child can take part – an interview/focus group will take place with a researcher in our team and/or the teacher. The interviews and discussions are recorded and then transcribed. Any names, including your real name and the name of school are taken out at the point of transcription. We sometimes replace names with pseudonyms and sometimes make the comments anonymous. No real names are used in our reports and publications. We hope the discussion will expand and enrich students' thinking on the nature of science. At the same time, this work does not contribute to or affect students' grades.

The Epistemic Insight Initiative

This encourages pupils and teachers to think about questions – including Big Questions – from single-disciplinary, cross-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary perspectives. Through engaging learning activities, your child will develop their disciplinary knowledge in ways that support and enrich the school's curriculum. 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 tutors and researchers are particularly interested in researching and developing pupils' ability to think about Big Questions that span science, religion and the wider humanities. The activities and research in schools informs publications and policy reports, and through your child taking part in this project, you will help us produce materials that will inform effective teaching and learning for the curriculum now and in the future. You can find more information on the Epistemic Insight initiative at www.epistemicinsight.com.

Yours Sincerely
Teacher's name:

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www.canterbury.ac.uk

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OPT IN – OPT OUT FORM

**Essential Experiences in Science Epistemic Insight Interview study
(Consent form for parents of students under 16)**

Name of Teacher-Researcher:

Contact Details:

Contact details for the Epistemic Insight Research Team:

Name
and
Address:

Prof Berry Billingsley (Principal Investigator)
Prof of Science Education and Director of LASAR
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 I am free to withdraw consent for my child at any time until data have been collected and identifiers removed without giving any reason.
3. I understand that any personal information provided to the researchers will be kept strictly confidential.

4. I DO NOT consent to my data being used in the above study.

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OR

- I consent to my data being used in the above study.

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Full name of student: _____

Name of Parent/Carer

date

Signature

Please send the form as an attachment to your teacher or simply email, "I have read the information provided about the Epistemic Insight research and my decision is to [opt in / opt out]"