

TRUST in Schools

Information for Parents

Researchers:

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Project Title: TRUST in schools: Trauma, Understanding and Sensitive Teaching.

General Outline of the Project:

Description and Methodology:

The aim of this project is to assist all school staff to develop a better understanding of the way that potentially traumatic experiences, and other life difficulties, impact on the way that children engage and learn when they are at school. The project involves providing training to all school staff on these impacts. All school staff will also receive skills based training and workshops on improving relationships with all children and positive ways to respond to difficult behaviours. We believe that by teachers receiving this training, there will be improvements in the classroom for all children, which will result in improved literacy and numeracy, less disruptive behaviours and improvements in the social and emotional wellbeing of all children. This project does not include any direct intervention with children.

Participants:

The project will take place in four primary schools across the ACT and will include information from all school children where parental consent has been given.

Use of Data and Feedback:

The data collected from this project will be used confidentially in journal publications and conference presentations. The findings from this project will also be provided to the Education and Training Directorate as part of the project reporting. All parents and carers of participants will be provided with a summary of the research regarding the study.

Project Funding:

This project has been funded through the Australian Child and Adolescent Trauma, Loss and Grief Network, Australian National University, with funding from the Department of Health and the ACT Education and Training Directorate.

Participant Involvement:

Voluntary Participation & Withdrawal:

We can only collect information about your child if you provide your consent. You can withdraw your child from the research prior to the preparation of data for publication and / or reporting. You can withdraw without providing any explanation. As all questionnaires and survey information collected is confidential and de-identified, if you do choose to withdraw your child from the study, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to destroy prior information that we have collected.

What does participation in the research request of you?

By agreeing for your child to participate in the research study this means:

- Literacy and numeracy levels for your child will be collected prior to the teacher training and approximately 6 months after the teacher training.
- If your child is in Year 2 – Year 6: your child will be asked to complete a measure of their social and emotional wellbeing. They will complete this before the teacher training takes place and approximately six months after the training takes place.
- If your child is in Kindergarten or Year 1: your child’s teacher will be asked to complete a measure of their social and emotional wellbeing. They will complete this before the teacher training takes place and approximately six months after the training takes place.
- Information on the number of behavioural disruptions and school suspensions will be collected. This will include your child if they are excluded from class for behavioural reasons, or are suspended within or from school. This information will be collected throughout the 2015 school year.

The survey of social and emotional wellbeing that will be used is the Social and Emotional Wellbeing Survey, developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). This survey has been used widely in Australia with over 32 thousand children. The survey collects information on children’s resilience, attitudes and coping skills, social skills and values, work management and engagement skills, and their perceptions of school, home and community life.

Location and Duration:

All information on your child will be collected on the premises of his / her school and during school hours. It is anticipated that it will take children around 30 minutes to complete the questionnaire with the information we require on each occasion.

Risks:

All information collected on your child will be confidential and any information that may identify your child will be removed. The study will be looking at the information collected on all children within a school, rather than considering the information of individual children. Any concerns that you may have can be discussed with the Project Investigator listed below. It is anticipated that this study will not lead to any distress or discomfort to your child. However, if your child does become distressed, or if any other issues arise out of the questionnaire, the school Psychologist, Counsellors and other welfare staff will be fully informed and available to provide assistance.

Implications of Participation:

There will be no implications for your child if do not wish them to participate in this study.

Confidentiality:

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All questionnaire information collected will be strictly confidential and de-identified during the collection phase of the project and the publication of the results. Confidentiality will be protected as far as the law allows.

Data Storage:

Where:

All paper based copies of questionnaire and survey data that is collected will be kept within a locked filing cabinet in a secure office at the ANU Medical School. Any data stored electronically will be stored in a password protected file on an ANU computer. Only researchers and project staff directly involved in this project will be able to access this data.

How long:

Data will be stored for at least 5 years following the publication of material relating to this project.

Destruction of Data:

After a period of five years, all de-identified data will be archived.

Queries and Concerns:

Contact Details for More Information:

If you would like any further information regarding this study, please contact Nicola Palfrey, Co-investigator on this project.

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The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee. If you have any concerns or complaints about how this research has been conducted, please contact:

Ethics Manager

The ANU Human Research Ethics Committee

The Australian National University

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