

ETHICAL RESEARCH CODE

[Research project details]

Ethical code

This Code is informed by the principles established in the Revised Ethical Guidelines for Educational Research (2004) issued by the British Educational Research Association (BERA).* All researchers participating in this project will be required to sign a declaration of their agreement to abide fully by this ethical code.

The researchers** recognise the rights of all professional colleagues, governors, parents/carers and learners who participate in the research to have their confidentiality protected at all times.

Voluntary informed consent will be sought before any interviews are conducted with any respondent as part of the research process. In the case of school students this consent will be sought through schools and obtained before any direct contact is made with the learner. Parents and carers have the right to refuse participation and will not be pressured or coerced into taking part in the research.

Participants in the research have a right to withdraw from the process at any time and will be informed of this right.

The researchers will work in accordance with Articles 3 and 12 (see below) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and will ensure that the best interest of children is served at all times. Children will be facilitated to give informed consent and this will be in addition to the consent given by parents or carers.

In circumstances where children or adults use non traditional orthography or alternative modes of communication, the researchers will take full account of this in seeking informed consent and will endeavour to provide support and full access to information.

The researchers are under an obligation to describe accurately, truthfully and fairly any information obtained during the course of the research.

There is an obligation to incorporate accurately data collected during the course of this research into the text of any report or other publication related to the research, and to ensure that individual opinions and perceptions are not misrepresented.

The researchers will protect the sources of information gathered from interviews, observations and other data collection methods.

The researchers will communicate to the [research commissioner] the extent to which their data collection and analysis techniques and the inferences drawn from these are reliable, valid and generalisable.

Data collected as part of the research process will be securely maintained and will be accessible only to the researchers engaged in this project. For information about storage, see below.

The researchers have an obligation to report truthfully the findings of the research in any written or verbal report.

The researchers will report the procedures, results and analysis of the research accurately, and in sufficient detail to allow all interested parties to understand and interpret them.

The researchers will inform the [research commissioner] through its representatives and the study schools of any intention to publish findings from the research through journals, books, or any other publication, including cyber domains, and will discuss the proposed content of any such publication before proceeding.

The researchers will make themselves available to discuss the procedures, conduct, or findings of the research with any party involved in the research process.

A research report will be produced and will be made available in both paper and electronic format to the [research commissioner] and the headteachers and governors of participating Schools on completion of the project.

Data collected during the course of the research project which names individuals or institutions will be available only to the researchers (except where it forms part of the school domain) and will be made secure both during and after the term of the project.

The researchers are obliged to communicate the findings of their research to other members of the educational research community through research seminars, conference presentation and proceedings and publication taking account of all issues of confidentiality and protection of research participants.

The researchers assert their right to participate in any publication of the research findings in academic journals or other media, which may ensue from the research.

*BERA (2004) *Revised Ethical Guidelines for Educational Researchers*. Southwell: British Educational Research Association [Follow this link for the 2011 guidelines: <http://www.bera.ac.uk/publications/guidelines/>]

** The researchers refers to those individuals named as part of this research process and will include the Project Advisory Group and Administrator.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child:

ARTICLE 3

1. In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

2. States Parties undertake to ensure the child such protection and care as is necessary for his or her well-being, taking into account the rights and duties of his or her parents, legal guardians, or other individuals legally responsible for him or her, and, to this end, shall take all appropriate legislative and administrative measures.

3. States Parties shall ensure that the institutions, services and facilities responsible for the care or protection of children shall conform with the standards established by competent authorities, particularly in the areas of safety, health, in the number and suitability of their staff, as well as competent supervision.

ARTICLE 12

1. States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.

2. For this purpose, the child shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law.

[Research project details]

Research and Ethics Form for Researchers

The [research project], supported by the [research commissioner], will be working with staff and children from schools to develop a framework to support the development of effective teaching and learning strategies to engage children with CLDD in learning.

Over the course of this research project, you will be involved in the collection of data in schools for this research. Researchers will work to a code of ethics which guarantees the anonymity of individuals participating and the safeguarding of data. The code conforms to the recommendations of the British Educational Research Association.

Participants in the research – children, families and staff – have a right to have their identity and any data relating to them protected through the project. This research project guarantees their anonymity in relation to this data outside the school staff and research team domains. Within the school domain, the information will be kept in accordance with school policy. In order to maintain the ethical requirements of this project you are required to sign the form below.

You are under no obligation to sign. However, should you choose not to do so it will not be possible for you to participate in this process.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact

[contact details supplied]

[Research project details]

I have had the purpose of the research and the collection of information related to that research explained to me.

I have been given a copy of the code of ethics.

I understand the requirements of the code of ethics and I agree to abide by this code.

Name (please print):

Signature:

Date: