Department of Education



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**Ethics Approval Reference: ED-CIA-19-113**

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Focus Group on Assessment on Monday 18th March (Year 4) & Tuesday 19th March (Year 6)**

My name is Shailen Popat and I am a research student at the University of Oxford reading for a PhD in Education. The title of my thesis is ‘How have primary schools interpreted and enacted Assessment without Levels?’ as I have been interested as to how schools have been creating their own assessment systems since levels were removed 4 years ago. I am seeking a few parents of Year 4 and Year 6 pupils to share their experiences of receiving feedback about your child’s progress and what it means to you. The interviews will be audio recorded and transcribed by me. I have spoken with the Headteacher and will speak with class teachers, governors and pupils so that I develop a snapshot from different perspectives.

*Ethics*

My research will be consistent with the strict guidelines required by Oxford University. This study has received ethics clearance through the University of Oxford’s ethical approval process for research involving human participants. Your child’s school has agreed to participate in the research. Taking part in this research is completely voluntary. You are free to say you do not want to participate. You are free to withdraw from the research at any point, without giving any reason. This would not affect your child’s education in any way. I will endeavor to make the data I collect in the study anonymous. Audiotapes, my notes, and all other data will be stored securely. I will also maintain confidentiality consistent with current UK law. Your child’s school will not have access to the data, and no one other than me, and my supervisors, will see the data. I will send a brief report on the research to your child’s school at the end of the project, and you are welcome to see this. I will not identify the school, teacher or any students in any reports or articles linked with the research but will use pseudonyms.

If you have any questions about the research, please contact me on [Shailen.popat@education.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Shailen.popat@education.ox.ac.uk). This is my webpage <http://www.education.ox.ac.uk/people/shailen-popat/>. At the top are contact details for my supervisor whom you are welcome to contact to discuss any concerns with.

If you would like to take part, I would appreciate you informing Mrs Barton.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Shailen Popat