**How have primary schools in Oxford interpreted and enacted Assessment without Levels?**

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

1. ***Background and aims of the study***

Since September 2014, schools in England have had to create their own assessment systems to capture the ongoing progress of pupils throughout the year. The old measurement scale of Level descriptors had been used in all schools since 1988 and was not replaced by a national framework (DfE 2015). There is very little research data detailing how schools are implementing Assessment without Levels (AwL), and so this study attempts to provide an insight into this aspect within maintained primary schools in Oxford through semi-structured Skype interviews with head teachers and face-to-face interviews with class teachers conducted in 2017. The research questions for this DPhil are:

1. How are primary schools assessing pupil progress without using level descriptors?
2. Do teachers perceive that these systems are effective for classroom assessment?
3. Why have these schools enacted AwL in that way?
4. ***Why have I been invited to take part?***

You have been invited because I am seeking to gain information and insight from staff about the process of interpretation and enactment of AwL in primary schools in Oxford for my DPhil at the University of Oxford.

1. ***Do I have to take part?***

No. You can ask questions about the study before deciding whether to participate. If you do agree to participate, you may withdraw yourself and your data from the study at any time, without giving a reason and without penalty, by advising the researchers of this decision.

1. ***What will happen in the study?***

If you are happy to take part in the study, you will be asked to answer interview questions either individually or in a focus group. This should take approximately 1 hour. The transcript of the interview will then be sent to you to check accuracy. The answers will be confidential and aggregated with participants from other schools in Oxford. There may be a follow-up interview if anything interesting emerges or should something require clarification.

1. ***Are there any potential risks in taking part?***There shouldn’t be any risks in taking part other than good sound quality for the recording. Thus, the interviews should be conducted in a quiet private room. The aim of this study is to gain information about the assessment without levels system rather than to evaluate the school or staff members. The answers that you give will be anonymised and aggregated and checked by my supervisors.
2. ***Are there any benefits in taking part?***

It is hoped that the study will assist in your evaluation of your assessment systems, and also provide some insight into what neighbouring schools are doing and how they are finding it.

1. ***What happens to the data provided?***

The **research data** will be stored confidentially using password protected files.

Your responses will be aggregated and anonymised.

**Personal data** will be stored confidentially using password protected files.

The researcher and supervisor will have access to personal and research data.

We will ask all participants for their permission to use direct quotes.

All research data and records will be stored for a minimum retention period of 3 years after publication or public release of the work of the research.

1. ***Will the research be published?***

The research will be published as part of a student thesis both online and print; and could also be included in some journal articles.

The University of Oxford is committed to the dissemination of its research for the benefit of society and the economy and, in support of this commitment, has established an online archive of research materials. This archive includes digital copies of student theses successfully submitted as part of a University of Oxford postgraduate degree programme. Holding the archive online gives easy access for researchers to the full text of freely available theses, thereby increasing the likely impact and use of that research.

If you agree to participate in this study, the research will be written up as a thesis. On successful submission of the thesis, it will be deposited both in print and online in the University archives, to facilitate its use in future research. The thesis will be published open access.

1. ***Who has reviewed this study?***

This study has been reviewed by, and received ethics clearance through, the University of Oxford Central University Research Ethics Committee.

1. ***Who do I contact if I have a concern about the study or I wish to complain?***

***a) For studies reviewed by a University research ethics committee only:***

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please speak to the researcher, Shailen Popat, on [Shailen.popat@education.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Shailen.popat@education.ox.ac.uk) or 07443433938; or his supervisors Dr. Velda Elliott on [velda.elliott@education.ox.ac.uk](mailto:velda.elliott@education.ox.ac.uk) and Dr. Therese Hopfenbeck [therese.hopfenbeck@education.ox.ac.uk](mailto:therese.hopfenbeck@education.ox.ac.uk)

, who will do their best to answer your query. The researcher should acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how they intend to deal with it. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the relevant chair of the Research Ethics Committee at the University of Oxford who will seek to resolve the matter in a reasonably expeditious manner: Chair, **Social Sciences & Humanities Inter-Divisional Research Ethics Committee**; Email: [ethics@socsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ethics@socsci.ox.ac.uk); Address: Research Services, University of Oxford, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD

If a participant in University-sponsored research is ever considered to have suffered harm through their participation, the University has arrangements in place to provide for compensation. If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please speak to the researcher, Shailen Popat on 07443433938 who will do his best to answer your query. The researcher should acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how he intends to deal with it. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the University of Oxford Clinical Trials and Research Governance (CTRG) office on 01865 572224, email [ctrg@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ctrg@admin.ox.ac.uk), who will also inform the chair of the Research Ethics Committee at the University of Oxford.

1. ***Further Information and Contact Details***

If you would like to discuss the research with someone beforehand (or if you have questions afterwards), please contact:

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