Department of Education



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**Project: How have primary schools interpreted and enacted**

**Assessment without Levels?**

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

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Pupil Focus Group**

My name is Shailen Popat and I am writing to invite your child to take part in my research study with 3 other classmates tomorrow during school. I have been interviewing the headteacher, class teacher and others connected with the school to try and understand how pupils are being assessed for their progress and I wanted to ask the children in a group of 4, of their understanding of the system and the feedback that they are receiving. Your child has said that they would like to take part and so I attach a consent form for you to complete.

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. Please also discuss the research with your child.

*What will your child be asked to do?*

I will ask each of the 4 children in the focus group to explain how they are assessed and talk me through examples in their books or displays of how they have been assessed and what that means to them. I will also ask them if they know about Year group expectations and what that means to them. The conversation will be audio recorded and I may take photos of the examples that they show me but not of the child themselves.

*Ethics*

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 and you and your child are free to say you do not want to participate. Your child will be 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. 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) or my supervisor’s contact details are at the top of this letter.

If you are happy for your child to partake, please complete the Pupil Focus Group Consent Form. If for any reason you do not want your child to be included in the research, please return the form stating this and I shall not involve them. You can also withdraw your child from the research at any stage.

Yours faithfully,

Shailen Popat