

Parental Consent Form 2018-2019



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child is taking part in a research project being carried out by Royal Holloway, University of London, to investigate whether learning about nature and science in the outdoors could help to improve their wellbeing, mood, educational attainment, connection to nature, and whether background characteristics might influence this.

Emotional and social difficulties in children and young people are becoming increasingly more common. In this project we will visit your child every week, to work with your child, and their class/group, in the school grounds/ local green urban area on projects designed to help them learn about the species and habitats in the grounds in a fun and interactive way.

During each visit, we will measure how they feel about being outside and how much they enjoy it by answering a mood survey.

Additionally, the children will answer validated surveys on how they feel about their physical health, mood, feelings, family, free time, friends and school. We will also conduct random interviews to see how the children feel the project has helped them and what knowledge they have gained. All data collected will be stored in a safe and secure location with an anonymous code with no way of tracing it back to your child.

This project has been approved by the University Research Committee. Your child's involvement in this study is important as it will help us to learn more about how schools can help to support emotional, psychological and physical development during the educational process.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any aspect of the project, please feel free to contact us. The project is being carried out by Dr Deborah Harvey, Dr Dawn Watling, Louise Montgomery (PhD student).

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Thank you very much for your support in this project. Please note that to answer this consent form you should be the parent or primary carer (e.g. grandparent/legal guardian) of a child taking part in our outdoor learning study.

If you are not sure whether this applies to you, please contact Dr Deborah Harvey by email (d.harvey@rhul.ac.uk) or phone (01784 443188).

All your child's information will be kept completely anonymous, and your decision to give consent will not affect your child's education in any way. You are free to withdraw your or your child's responses at any time during or after the project.

School:

Date:

Name of participant:

Name of school:

Name of person giving consent:

Please circle yes or no

I confirm that I have read the information sheet:

yes no

I understand that my child's participation is voluntary, and they are free to withdraw at any time:

yes no

I understand that you will use your reasonable endeavours to preserve anonymity:

yes no

I understand that this information will only be used by the researchers stated above and any collaborations they make for publication:

yes no

I agree to my child taking part in surveys:

yes no

I agree to my child giving a recorded interview:

yes no

I agree my child's words can be deposited in an archive:

yes no

I agree to my child to take part in the research on the above conditions:

yes no

All of your and your child's information will be kept completely anonymous, but it is important that we are able to associate your and your child's responses. To help us to do this, we ask that you please provide the initials and the day (number) if your child's birthday (**e.g. for a child called Anna Brown born on 1st January 2007 in class 4W, the code would be AB014W**):

Please answer the following questions about yourself.

Please circle whether you are:

Mother

Father

Grandmother

Grandfather

Other

Please circle your ethnicity:

White British

White other

Black British

Black other

Asian British

Asian other

Other

Rather not say

Please tick your age bracket:

18-24 years **25-34 years** **35-44 years** **45-54 years** **55-64 years** **65+ years**

Please tick the highest level of education that you have completed:

School/college to age 16

School/college to age 18

Vocational training (apprenticeship/technical qualification)

- Undergraduate (bachelor's) degree or equivalent
- Postgraduate (master's or higher) qualification or equivalent
- Did not finish school
- Other (please specify):

What is your current employment status (tick all that apply):

- Working full time
- Working part time
- Studying full time
- Studying part time
- Childcare full time
- Childcare part time
- Other caring responsibilities full time
- Other caring responsibilities part time
- Not currently employed, looking for work
- Not currently employed, not looking for work
- Retired
- Other (please specify):

Which category best describes your annual household income (i.e. combined income of all adults living in your household)?

Less than £15,000 £15,000-24,999 £25,000-£34,999 £35,000-49,999

£50,000-£74,999 £75,000+

How many people live in your home apart from you?

No. of adults:

No. of children:

Do you have a garden attached to your house:

yes no

Do you live close to a public park or woodland:

yes no

How often do you take your child to an open natural space such as a park or woodland as a recreational activity?

At least once a week

Several times a month

Once a month

Several times a year

Once a year

Less than once a year

How important do you think it is to spend time outside with nature?

Please circle: 0 (not at all important) to 100 (extremely important)	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
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How would you feel about your child's school dedicating more time to outdoor learning for science?

Please circle: 0 (not at all happy) to 100 (extremely happy)	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
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Thank you very much for your participation in our survey. If you have any questions or comments about the study, please contact Dr Deborah Harvey by email (d.harvey@rhul.ac.uk) or phone (01784 443188).

