

Information Sheet for Parents

Research Project: What do students value in key stage three Music and how does this affect GCSE Music uptake?

Project Team Members: Mrs Abigail Tylden-Pattenson

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I would like to invite your child to take part in a study exploring pupils' opinions of Music at secondary school. The findings from this study will be written up as part of my Master's dissertation. The aim of this project is to understand what Key Stage 3 pupils value about Music lessons, how they value music in comparison to other subjects and why they choose/don't choose Music as a GCSE option. Findings from this project will provide important knowledge that can help Music teachers improve their teaching.

Why has my child been invited to take part?

Your child has been invited to take part because they are in Key Stage 3 and studying music.

Does my child have to take part?

Participation in this study is voluntary, and your child can withdraw at any time without giving a reason. Please contact me if your child would like to withdraw from the study.

What will happen if my child takes part?

If they choose to participate, your child will be sent a link to a 5 minute survey about what subjects your child values, and what they value in school Music lessons. This survey will be anonymous, and participants will be asked to create a "unique identifier" – a codename which can be used to invite them to participate further if selected.

Some participants will be invited to participate further in the study. If selected, your child will then be invited to an interview where they will be asked questions about what they value in Music lessons. The interview will take 30 minutes. Due to covid-19 restrictions, the interview will take place via an online video call. The interview will be video recorded so that it can be transcribed at a later date. Nobody except for me will see the video, and it will be destroyed after transcription. Further participation is voluntary, and your child is under no obligation to take part in the interviews if they have completed the survey.

Will what my child says be kept confidential?

Any data collected will be held in strict confidence and no real names will be used in this study or in any subsequent publications. The records of this study will be kept private and not seen by school staff. No identifiers linking you, your child or the school to the study will be included in any sort of report that might be published. Children will be assigned a number and will be referred to by that number in all records. Research records will be stored securely in a locked filing cabinet and on a password-protected computer and only the research team will have access to the records. The data will be destroyed securely once the findings of the study are written up, after five years. The results of the study may be presented at national and international conferences, and in written reports and articles.

What are the benefits of taking part?

By taking part, your child will have the opportunity to share their opinions about Music lessons. Your child's answers will help Music teachers to understand the best ways to teach Music.

What are the disadvantages of taking part?

The survey will require 5 minutes to complete.

If taking part in the interviews, your child would need to give up an additional 30 minutes.

Who has reviewed the study?

This project has been reviewed following the procedures of the University Research Ethics Committee and has been given a favourable ethical opinion for conduct. The University has the appropriate insurances in place. Full details are available on request.

What happens if I change my mind?

You can change your mind at any time without any repercussions. During the research, your child can stop completing the activities at any time. If you change your mind after data collection has ended, please contact me giving your child's unique identifier by using the contact details below and I will discard your child's data.

What happens if something goes wrong?

In the unlikely case of concern or complaint, you can contact Dr Fiona Curtis at University of Reading by email on f.r.curtis@reading.ac.uk.

Where can I get more information?

If you would like more information, or would like to know the results of the study once completed, please contact Abigail Tylden-Pattenson by email at a.tylden-pattenson@student.reading.ac.uk

What do I do next?

I do hope that you will agree to your child's participation in the study. If you are happy for your child to take part please complete the attached consent form. I will then email you the link to the online survey, along with an information sheet and form for your child to read and complete if they would like to take part in my study.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Abigail Tylden-Pattenson