Community of Design

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Community of Design

Research Participation Information

Research Title

Community of Design: Exploring autonomy, creativity and design practice in secondary Design & Technology education

Researcher

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Master of Education (Transforming Practice)

University of Cambridge

1. Purpose of the Research

This research forms part of a Master's degree in Education at the University of Cambridge.

The study explores how sharing design work, reflecting on the design process, and connecting classrooms across schools may support pupil and teacher autonomy in Design & Technology education.

To support this research, an online platform called Community of Design has been developed. The platform allows teachers and students to share design ideas, projects and reflections on the design process.

2. Why have I been invited?

You have been invited to participate because you are a teacher or department involved in secondary Design & Technology education.

The research aims to gather perspectives from teachers and explore how collaborative sharing of design work may support teaching and learning in D&T classrooms.

Participation from a range of schools helps provide insights into different teaching contexts and approaches.

3. What does participation involve?

Participation is voluntary and flexible. Schools may choose to participate in a number of ways, including:

- exploring the Community of Design platform

- engaging with design challenges or teaching tools

- optionally sharing examples of student design work or prototypes

- reflecting on aspects of the design process

- providing feedback on the platform or approach

Participation does not require significant additional workload, and schools may choose the level of involvement that suits them.

4. Will student work be shared?

Schools may optionally choose to share examples of student design work or prototypes through the platform.

Any student work shared should not include student names or identifying information.

The focus is on the design process, ideas and reflections, rather than individual student identities.

5. How will the data be used?

Information gathered from teacher feedback, reflections, and participation may contribute to the research analysis within the Master's dissertation.

Any data used in research outputs will be:

• anonymised

• reported in a way that does not identify individual teachers, students or schools

Participation in the platform itself may involve sharing design ideas publicly with other participating schools, but research reporting will protect anonymity.

6. Confidentiality and anonymity

All information collected will be handled confidentially.

In any written research outputs:

• teachers will not be identified by name

• schools will not be named

• any quotes or examples will be anonymised

7. Do I have to take part?

Participation is entirely voluntary.

If you choose to take part, you are encouraged to remain involved for the duration of the study where possible in order to support the research process. However, participants may withdraw at any time during the process without providing a reason.

8. Are there any risks?

There are no anticipated risks associated with participating in this research.

The research focuses on professional practice in Design & Technology education and the sharing of ideas related to design learning.

9. What are the potential benefits?

Participation may offer opportunities for:

- sharing student design work across schools

- exploring new design ideas and approaches

- connecting with other Design & Technology educators

- contributing to research exploring autonomy and creativity in D&T education

10. What will happen to the research?

The findings will contribute to a Master of Education dissertation at the University of Cambridge.

Insights may also inform future discussions about teaching practices in Design & Technology education.

11. Contact information

If you have any questions about the research, please feel free to contact:

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