

**Restorative Practice in Schools Research**  
Funded by the Sir Halley Stewart Trust  
**Participant Information Sheet**

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**The purpose of the study**

This study is being undertaken by Lancaster University Educational Research Department in association with the Sir Halley Stewart Trust who have funded the research. In addition, the study has been approved by the Research Ethics Committee at Lancaster University. The aim of the study is to understand more about how to support children in primary and secondary school, through the use of Restorative Practice as a practical approach that aims to equip children with the skills and language to find solutions to every day conflicts, and to reflect more on their own behaviour. We are conducting the study in ten schools throughout the North West; five of which who have previously implemented Restorative Practice; and five of which who have yet to invest in Restorative Practice as a method of engaging with conflict and problematic behaviour in school. The findings of the research will assist in improving support for children and their families.

**What participation involves for the school, pupils, parents/carers**

Participation in the study involves three visits to each school. On these occasions we will discuss the Restorative provision with the Head teacher and with other relevant staff including the staff who run this service. We aim to evaluate Restorative Practice in action through direct observation and conducting Focus Groups with children, staff and parents.

**Providing consent to participate in the study**

Staff, parents and pupils who are invited to participate in the study will fill in a consent form explaining exactly what they consent to. Parents will be asked to consent to participation on behalf of their children if they are not old enough to consent for themselves. The consent form will also remind participants that they can withdraw from the study at any time.

**Protecting data**

**What will happen to the data?**

‘Data’ here means the researcher’s notes taken during their observations and during focus groups with pupils, staff, and parents who have been experiencing Restorative Practice as an intervention.

It also included any related school documentation that may help us to gain a rounded understanding of the affects of Restorative Practice in school.

A group of approximately eight children in each school setting will be selected through discussion with school staff members, to take part in a focus group designed to help us answer our RQs about Restorative Practice as an intervention. Similarly, approximately eight parents in each school setting will also be selected through discussion with relevant staff members, to take part in a focus group designed to answer our RQ's about parental involvement in the Restorative Practice intervention.

It is recommended that withdrawal from the study should take place no later than two weeks after the focus group has taken place; any data that has been collected up until that point will be deleted upon withdrawal from the study. During the course of the study audio recordings will be transferred and stored on the researcher's personal laptop and deleted from portable media. The data will be kept for ten years after the report has been written as per Lancaster University requirements, and after that time any personal data will be destroyed.

Identifiable data (including recordings of participants' voices) on the researcher's personal laptop will be encrypted. With devices such as portable recorders where this is not possible identifiable data will be deleted as quickly as possible. In the mean time portable devices will be kept safely on the personal computers of Dr. Jo Warin, Senior Lecturer at Lancaster University and Dr. Rebecca Hibbin, Research Associate at Lancaster University, until the data is deleted. Only those individuals who are directly involved in data collection and analysis will have access to the data to enable the production of the interim and final report, as well as any future publications (see below).

You can request to view any of the above data before the report is submitted. You have the right to request this data is destroyed at any time during the study as well as having full protection via the UK Data Protection Act. The completion of this study is estimated to be by 31st December 2019.

### **Protecting the identities of participants and maintaining confidentiality.**

Data may be used in the reports that Dr. Jo Warin and Dr. Rebecca Hibbin will be producing for the Sir Halley Stewart Trust to evaluate Restorative Practice across ten different school settings. In addition, further peer reviewed academic papers may also be produced from this evaluative study. In the unlikely eventuality of any participant disclosing any highly sensitive information staff will act as gatekeepers for this information. We may also want to quote some of the things you have told us in writing academic papers or conference presentations. Please note that if your data is used, it will not identify you in any way, unless you otherwise indicate your express permission to do so. A **fictional name** will be given to protect the identity of all participants including pupil participants so that any information you give us is **confidential**. Information that clearly identifies participants will be removed from the report.

### **Who to contact for further information or with any concerns**

If you would like further information about this research or have any concerns about the project please contact Dr Jo Warin (contact details above), or Professor Paul Ashwin Head of Department:

**Email:** paul.ashwin@lancaster.ac.uk

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**Thank you for reading this information sheet.**

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