

Information for Pupils and Parents

Research Study: 'Exploring the experiences of girls in secondary education'

University research is being undertaken in the school, having commenced October 2013, and will continue until the end of the school year 2014.

What is the research about?

The research is exploring the experiences of girls (in the 14-16 years age group) in secondary school and the challenges and dilemmas that girls might face in school. This is an interesting study as there is a large amount of research about boys' experiences in school; the experiences of girls, however, is an under researched area.

How will the research be done?

The researcher will be joining and observing the students in the 14-16 year age group in class and will have informal discussions in groups. The aim is to understand how students view themselves in school and to listen to girls' views and stories about their experiences in school. This will also involve discussions with others who know them well, such as the boys in the school.

Later in the year, the researcher would like to interview a small group of girls, boys, school staff and parents, which will be tape recorded, and will ask these individuals to sign a consent form and parental consent form which would indicate their agreement to take part in interviews for the study. Individuals are free to change their mind at any time, without giving a reason.

What will happen to the research?

The information gathered will be used for the researcher's PhD thesis, and may be used in publications or academic conferences or seminar presentations. All data will be treated confidentially and all participants will be given pseudonyms and the school will not be identified. Every effort will be made to keep the information anonymous and data will be securely held and available only to me on a password protected computer. It will be safely destroyed once no longer needed.

Thank you in advance for your help with this research.