

Supporting the pragmatic and social communication skills of deaf children and young people: a survey

Participant Information Sheet (Survey)

You are being invited to take part in a research study. The **main purpose** of this study is to understand more about the development of pragmatic and social communication skills in deaf children. We are trying to find out more about this from a survey of teachers of the deaf and parents of deaf children and young people.

Before you decide whether to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being conducted and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully before deciding whether to take part and discuss it with others if you wish. Please ask if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

About the research

➤ **Who will conduct the research?**

The research is being done by a team of researchers at the University of Manchester led by Dr Helen Chilton. The team are: Professor Anna Theakston, Dr Catherine Adams, Jacqueline Gaile, Dr Antje Heinrich and Ibtihal Sambah

➤ **What is the purpose of the research?**

The main purpose of the *overall* research is to produce a new resource for teachers and parents of deaf and young people that will focus on developing the children's pragmatic skills. The part of the project that this information sheet refers to is **a survey of teachers of the deaf and parents of deaf children and young people**. The purpose of the survey is to sample knowledge about pragmatic and social communication skills in deaf children amongst potential users of the resource and their preferences for its content and format.

When we say "pragmatic and social communication" we are thinking about whether children can understand language appropriately and use it well in social interactions. Social communication skills also include other ways we communicate, such as gesture and facial expression.

Here are examples of some pragmatic skills needed in order to use and understand language appropriately:

- Conversation skills, such as, responding to interactions with another person and asking questions
- Asking for clarification when confused and explaining clearly when someone else is confused

- Speaking in a different style to different people, for example children may speak differently to their friends than they would to their headteacher.
- Understanding what other people mean from the way they say it. This might include phrases we use which are not really true such as “it’s a piece of cake” meaning “it’s very easy” or might include the tone of voice such as when people are being sarcastic.

Pragmatic and social communication skills of deaf children have been less well researched than other aspects of language development and there is little guidance for teachers and parents of deaf children. In our team we have experts in pragmatics intervention, language and pragmatic development and educating teachers of the deaf to create the optimum learning context for the deaf child. To help us create the flexible content in the new resource we also need input from parents and teachers who are the experts in the real world experience of the deaf child.

Parents of a deaf child or young person and teachers of the deaf from all educational settings will be invited to participate. Teachers of the deaf will be recruited through direct contacts made by Dr Chilton. Parents of deaf children/young people will be invited to participate through local schools/resource bases, teachers of the deaf and through the researchers’ existing networks. We hope to include up to a maximum of 100 participants in the survey.

To take part in this research you will need to live or work with at least one child who is deaf.

➤ **Will the outcomes of the research be published?**

Survey findings will be published in a postgraduate student thesis and journals relevant to the education of deaf children. The new resource created to support parents and teachers will reflect the information that participants give us in the project.

➤ **Who has reviewed the research project?**

This project has been reviewed by The University of Manchester Proportionate Research Ethics Committee. Approval number: 2020-8885-15734

What would my involvement be?

What would I be asked to do if I took part?

You will be invited to participate in completing an e-questionnaire. If you consent to take part in the research, you will be provided with a web link address to access the questionnaire that you can open at any time during the survey period. The e-questionnaire can be completed on any compatible computer with email facilities and will be available to complete from 1st July 2020 until 7th August 2020.

You can open the survey on any device available to you that supports web browsing. The questionnaire will be developed using Select Survey software and hosted by the University of Manchester. The survey should take around 30 minutes to complete. Instructions for completing

the survey will be contained within the survey pages themselves along with information about support if you have any difficulties with completion.

When you have completed all your response, the survey is then submitted to the research team via a completion button.

Content of the survey

You will be asked some questions about what sort of work you do if you are a teacher or if you are a parent of a deaf child. The questions in the survey will be focused on your role as a teacher or parent. You will receive only the question set relevant to your role.

All your responses will be anonymous and no potentially identifying information will be used in any publication of findings.

Once you have opened the survey, you will be asked to provide responses to a set of questions about pragmatic and social communication development in deaf children and in hearing children. You will also be asked questions about what you would like to see in a resource that could support the pragmatics and social communication development of deaf children.

Teacher question examples are: “How long have you been working as a Teacher of the Deaf”, and “Do you perceive any barriers to supporting the development of pragmatics and social communication skills for deaf children?”. This will allow us to gain an idea of how practitioners are currently working with this group of children.

Parent question examples are: Parents will be asked questions such as, “how does your child communicate in school?” and “Have you received any training in understanding and managing the pragmatic and social communication needs of deaf children?”.

For both teachers and parents, some questions will ask about your knowledge of pragmatics. This is to help us include the right focus and the right amount of information in the new resource.

➤ Will I be compensated for taking part?

No expenses will be provided. In addition to this you may request to be sent a brief summary of the findings of the study once the research study has been completed. Participation in this survey may also contribute to your own professional development.

➤ What happens if I do not want to take part or if I change my mind?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do not want to take part then you do not have to follow the link to complete the survey. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and will be asked consent to completion online. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without detriment to yourself. If you would like to withdraw your involvement after completing the survey you can contact Dr Helen Chilton either by phone or by email. However, it will not be possible to remove your data from the project once it has been anonymised as we will not be able to identify your specific data. This does not affect your data protection rights. If you decide not to take part you do not need to do anything further.

Data Protection and Confidentiality

➤ **What information will you collect about me?**

In order to participate in this research project we will need to collect information that could identify you, called “personal identifiable information”. Specifically we will need to collect:

You name

Your email address or other contact address such as address of school

Your role: parent or teacher

➤ **Under what legal basis are you collecting this information?**

We are collecting and storing this personal identifiable information in accordance with data protection law which protect your rights. These state that we must have a legal basis (specific reason) for collecting your data. For this study, the specific reason is that it is “a public interest task” and “a process necessary for research purposes”.

➤ **What are my rights in relation to the information you will collect about me?**

You have a number of rights under data protection law regarding your personal information. For example you can request a copy of the information we hold about you.

If you would like to know more about your different rights or the way we use your personal information to ensure we follow the law, please consult our [Privacy Notice for Research](#) at

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=37095>

➤ **Will my participation in the study be confidential and my personal identifiable information be protected?**

In accordance with data protection law, The University of Manchester is the Data Controller for this project. This means that we are responsible for making sure your personal information is kept secure, confidential and used only in the way you have been told it will be used. All researchers are trained with this in mind, and your data will be looked after in the following way:

All information will be treated in the strictest confidence. The software used is Select Survey and it will not be possible to identify participants who complete questionnaires. All identifying information is removed irrespective of how you access the survey (security setting: ‘Force anonymous’). More information about Select Survey and its security settings can be found here: <https://www.classapps.com/Documentation/SelectSurveyNETUserManual.pdf>

If you use a shared computer then any responses you have provided could be seen by others accessing the questionnaire until you click 'Done' at the end of the questionnaire. Therefore to maintain your confidentiality please complete the questionnaire in one sitting if using a shared computer.

Only the study team at The University of Manchester will have access to your personal information. Your consent form and contact details will be stored securely in the research area on the University of Manchester server. This information will be used for solely to obtain consent to participate and to distribute the survey findings.

Descriptive and summary statistical analysis will be carried out on final survey data. The data collected will be used to develop the content of the new resource. The data will be published in journals and at conferences. The data collected will not contain any identifiable information e.g., actual workplace, names of people, addresses etc. or any other information that could potentially identify the contributor.

Your name and any other identifying information will not appear on the survey at any point. Each response will be identified only by an ID assigned to each entry by the research team. The research team will not be able to identify you from your survey entry. Survey data will be stored and analysed by the project team and Dr Chilton's PhD student. Data summaries, anonymous quotations and graphs may be downloaded onto encrypted hard drive and stored for further analysis. At the end of the survey you will be asked whether you might be interested in taking part in further similar research such as focus groups regarding the development of social communication and pragmatic language. If you are contacted regarding this you will be given an opportunity to opt out of further communications at each point. Your contact details will only be stored for this purpose during the duration of the project if you agree to this.

Data will be kept securely for no more than five years from the date of the start of the project (22/06/2020). No research data will be shared with other organisations.

Potential disclosures:

If, during the study, you disclose information about misconduct/poor practice, we have a professional obligation to report this and will therefore need to inform your employer/professional body

Individuals from the University, the site where the research is taking place and regulatory authorities may need to review the study information for auditing and monitoring purposes or in the event of an incident.

Please also note that individuals from The University of Manchester or regulatory authorities may need to look at the data collected for this study to make sure the project is being carried out as planned. This may involve looking at identifiable data. All individuals involved in auditing and monitoring the study will have a strict duty of confidentiality to you as a research participant.

What if I have a complaint?

➤ Contact details for complaints

If you have a complaint that you wish to direct to members of the research team, please contact:

DR HELEN CHILTON, SENIOR LECTURER IN DEAF EDUCATION

B2.9, Ellen Wilkinson Building, Oxford Road, University of Manchester M13 9PL

PIS Survey Version 2; 22/06/2020

Helen.chilton@manchester.ac.uk

0161 275 3384

If you wish to make a formal complaint to someone independent of the research team or if you are not satisfied with the response you have gained from the researchers in the first instance then please contact

The Research Ethics Manager, Research Office, Christie Building, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL, by emailing: research.complaints@manchester.ac.uk or by telephoning 0161 275 2674.

If you wish to contact us about your data protection rights, please email dataprotection@manchester.ac.uk or write to The Information Governance Office, Christie Building, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, M13 9PL at the University and we will guide you through the process of exercising your rights.

You also have a right to complain to the [Information Commissioner's Office about complaints relating to your personal identifiable information](#) Tel 0303 123 1113

Or via the website: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

Contact Details

If you have any queries about the study or if you are interested in taking part then please contact the researcher(s)

DR HELEN CHILTON, SENIOR LECTURER IN DEAF EDUCATION

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