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# Participant information sheet

Date: 10th March 2023

## Section A: The Research Project

**Title of project: Sensory loss and experience in the classroom**

1. **Purpose of study**

This study will examine children’s experience of the classroom environment. We are particularly interested in whether children with sensory loss including children with hearing, visual impairment and deaf-blind experience mental fatigue as a result of the interaction between the classroom environment and their sensory loss. In addition to examining mental fatigue in children who have sensory loss, we are also recruiting children without sensory loss. This is done in order to compare how different the experience may be for children with sensory loss and those without.

1. **Who are the researchers?**

Our names are Dr Elena Sakkalou (Senior Lecturer/ Developmental Psychologist) and Dr Saima Rajasingam (Senior Lecturer/ Audiologist) and this research is part of a recent small grant we received from our institution, Anglia Ruskin University.

1. **Why have I been asked to participate?**

You have been invited to take part in this research because your school is participating in this study, and we are aware that you are a teacher with a child with sensory loss in the class or a parent/carer of a child with sensory loss. We are asking parents/carers and teachers/ to participate because we want to examine mental fatigue from the child’s perspective but we also require further information from the teacher about the class environment and child behaviour in school, as well as the parent about their child. To better understand the experience of children with sensory loss, we need to compare it to that of children without sensory loss, so you may have been randomly invited to take part in the study because your child does not have sensory loss but is in the same class as a child with sensory loss.

1. **How many people will be asked to participate?**

We are planning to recruit children across various schools in the UK between the ages of 9 and 11.5 (school years 4-6). We aim to recruit around 48 children with sensory loss and 48 children without sensory loss (controls, to compare mental fatigue if sensory loss is not present).

1. **Do I have to take part?**

You can refuse to take part without giving a reason.

1. **Has the study got ethical approval?**

The study has got ethical approval from the Faculty Research Ethics Panel (FREP) at Anglia Ruskin University.

1. **Has my child’s school where the research is being carried out given permission?**

The head teacher and governors of your child’s school have agreed to the school taking part in the survey in principle. However, every person has the right to decide if they want to take part or not. Neither I nor the school can expect participation from anyone. All participation is entirely voluntary and participation may be withdrawn at any stage.

1. **Legislation relating to this study**

This study fully complies with the UK GDPR, Data Protection Act (2018).

1. **Source of funding for the research, if applicable**

This research is funded by Anglia Ruskin University.

1. **What will happen to the results of the study?**

The research may be written up for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

1. **Contact for further information**

Elena Sakkalou, Saima Rajasingam

[Elena.sakkalou@aru.ac.uk](mailto:Elena.sakkalou@aru.ac.uk), [Saima.Rajasingam@aru.ac.uk](mailto:Saima.Rajasingam@aru.ac.uk)

## Section B: Your Participation in the Research Project

1. **What will I be asked to do?**

Any participants agreeing to take part will only be required on one occasion to complete a couple of short online questionnaires. Each question will be a statement with multiple choice options. You will only have to choose if you have experienced the various statements, “Difficulty keeping his/her attention on things (Never, Almost Never, Sometimes, Often, Almost Always). The entire process should only take 30 minutes. To thank you for your time, each parent and teacher participating in the study will receive £15 of Amazon vouchers.Children will receive a certificate to thank them for participation.

All parents/carers and teachers will complete a questionnaire on the child’s behaviour and some demographic questions. The teachers will also complete a short questionnaire on the classroom environment. Children will also fill out a questionnaire about how they feel in the classroom e.g., ‘Difficulty thinking quickly.’ Once completed, every participant’s engagement is over and there are no further tasks to be completed.

We will firstly collect consent from parents/carers and collect their data. The children and their teachers will complete their questionnaires in the days afterwards, while in school.

We will also request an email address so that we can send you your voucher after you complete the study. We will delete the email address when we pseudo-anonymise the data, one week past study completion.

1. **In relation to this specific research project, we need to make you aware of the following:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ☐ | We do not need your personal data at any stage of this research project | | |
| We are responsible for the personal data you give to us as a: | | | |
| * ☐ | **Data Controller**  (We are in sole control over the research) | Who are we?: | Anglia Ruskin University |

1. **I will be asking you for the following information:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Special Category Data** | | | | | |
| **Personal Data** | | | | **Sensitive Personal data** | |
| √ | Initials | √ | Email address | √ | Racial/Ethnicity data |
| √ | Age | √ | Postcode | ☐ | Political/Religious beliefs |
| √ | Socioeconomic status | √ | Opinions | ☐ | Trade Union membership |
| ☐ | Employment & Earnings | √ | School year | ☐ | Genetic/Biometric data |
| ☐ | ID Numbers (e.g. NHS) | √ | Gender | ☐ | Health |
| ☐ | Online identifier | √ | Level of formal education | ☐ | Sex life/orientation data |

1. **What will happen to my data?**

|  |
| --- |
| **Our general privacy notice explaining our use of your personal data for research purposes is available here:**  [**https://www.aru.ac.uk/privacy-and-cookies/research-participants**](https://www.aru.ac.uk/privacy-and-cookies/research-participants)  **Please visit this link for information about how long we keep your data, how we keep your data secure, how you can exercise your rights over your data, and make a complaint over our use of your data.**  **Gorilla:** <https://gorilla.sc/privacy> |

Once collected, your data will be pseudo-anonymous.

* Pseudo-anonymisation means that identifiable information, such as people’s initials and school names, will be removed from the data and a code will be assigned. The data will, however, still be able to be linked together by the researcher should this be required.

We will work with personal data to meet the research objectives, but I will use only the minimum amount.

The processing of any personal data will comply with the UK law, and where participants are in European Economic Area (EEA) countries, this will be viewed as equivalent law to their own. The EEA includes EU member states and also Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

Data will be securely held.

Gorilla Privacy Policy can be found here: <https://gorilla.sc/privacy> and the data will be held by the survey provider.

Anonymised data may be made available in an open access format if published.

1. **Will I be reimbursed travel expenses?**

No travel expenses are required and so will not be reimbursed.

1. **Will I receive any payment to take part in the research?**

Parents will receive a £15 Amazon voucher for participation. Teachers will receive a £15 Amazon voucher for participation.

1. **Are there any possible disadvantages or risks to taking part?**

There will be no risk involved in participating in this study, beyond that experienced in day-to-day life. All standard health and safety regulations will be adhered to, and a risk assessment will be completed prior to testing. There are no special precautions that you need to take before, during or after taking part in the study. Agreement to participate in this research does not compromise your legal rights should something go wrong.

1. **What are the likely benefits of taking part?**

The study will not have any direct benefits to participants. The main benefit is to be educational and may contribute to policy changes in the future.

1. **Can I withdraw from the study at any time, and how do I do this?**

* For online study: If you decide to take part in this study and wish to withdraw, you are free to do so without prejudice, by closing the browser.

You do not have to answer any questionnaire or interview questions that you do not wish to.

1. **Can I withdraw my data from the study?**

For pseudo-anonymised data and when using the minimum amount of personal data required:

* We will be able to remove your data up to a week after it has been collected. After the week it will be pseudo-anonymised and we will not be able to track them back to you.

1. **Are any special precautions I must take before, during or after taking part in the study?**

There are no special precautions required before, during or after the study.

1. **Will you pass onto anyone else what I have told you?**

Individual participants’ results from this research will be accessed only by the researcher team.

1. **Summary of research findings**

You will be provided with a debriefing note at the end of the study.

1. **Contact details for complaints**

If you have any complaints about the study please contact the Chair of the Faculty Research Ethics Panel (FREP), by email at [fse-ethics@anglia.ac.uk](mailto:fse-ethics@anglia.ac.uk) .

Otherwise, according to Anglia Ruskin University’s complaints procedure, you can email: [complaints@aru.ac.uk](mailto:complaints@aru.ac.uk)

Postal address: Office of the Secretary and Clerk, Anglia Ruskin University, Bishop Hall Lane, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1SQ.

Date 17 September 2019

V1.15

Updated 7th December 2022

Version 1.16