

Dear Parents/Carers

My name is Dr Lynne Wood and I am a researcher and lecturer in Psychology at the University of Bedfordshire. I would like to invite your child to take part in a research project in the autumn/spring term, which aims to evaluate the effectiveness of a role-play intervention to reduce alcohol consumption in adolescents.

**Why am I doing this project?**

Research suggests that young people who start drinking early are more likely to continue to drink and to drink more as they get older. There is also research to suggest that it is often the first substance of use and is linked to risk-taking and accidents. Traditional education seems to have a positive effect on knowledge but has less effect in delaying drinking or reducing consumption. The current project therefore aims to fill this gap, and evaluate the effectiveness of an interactive method that could be a useful school curriculum resource.

**What will your child have to do if they choose to take part?**

Your child is under no obligation to take part but should they choose to, they will be asked to complete a short questionnaire on their thoughts and opinions of adolescent drinking and their own drinking behaviours. The questionnaire will be completed in the form of an online survey, delivered through a secure database called Qualtrics, during school hours, on school computers. Your child will be asked to complete the questionnaire at three time points, at the beginning of the study, towards the end of the term and again at the end of the study in the Spring Term. They will also be asked to take part in a role-play session that is based on social scenarios where alcohol could be present, and consider how they might refuse alcohol in these situations. The role-plays will take place in a normal lesson time and be facilitated by myself with support from the safeguarding staff at the school.

**Will their participation remain confidential?**

The responses on the questionnaires will be completely anonymous and confidential. No names will be used, but instead they will be asked to choose a 4 - digit code to protect their anonymity. This code will help me to match the responses on the questionnaire only. It is also the number to use if contacting me, to withdraw your child's data at a later stage. All completed questionnaires will be deleted at the end of the study, following analysis.

**What will happen to my child's responses?**

The responses will be analysed to compare changes within the data over the time points and also compared with other responses from other schools. This is purely to see if the intervention works with a wide range of pupils. The results of the study will be written up for publication in an academic journal and shared with the school's taking part in a format that combines all of the data. No individual data will be included, and individual participants will not be able to be identified, nor will their school.

**Does my child have to take part?**

No, participation is entirely voluntary. Your child will be reminded about confidentiality, anonymity and the right to withdraw at the start of the questionnaire. They can withdraw at any time during the questionnaire by quitting the browser. They can still take part in the role plays with no penalty. You have the right to withdraw your child from the study at any time by contacting the investigator Lynne Wood (lynne.wood@beds.ac.uk) and quoting their unique code. Their data will then be withdrawn from the analysis. It should be noted that once the data has been analysed and reported it will not be possible to withdraw the individual data.

If you have any questions relating to the study then please feel free to contact me at lynne.wood@beds.ac.uk.

**A role-play intervention to prevent alcohol misuse Consent Form**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Reg: \_\_\_\_\_

I confirm that I have read and understood the information for the above study.  
I have had the opportunity to consider the information and ask questions.

I understand that my child's participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw my child at anytime from the study without giving any reason.

I understand that my child's data will be treated confidentially and any publication resulting from this work will report only data that does not identify my child.

I freely agree that my child may participate in this study

Signed

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Name

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Date

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Signature

**IMPORTANT: IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR CHILD TO TAKE PART PLEASE INDICATE IN THE BOX BELOW**

I do not wish for my child to be involved in project

Signed

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Name

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Date

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Signature