



**Information Sheet for Interview participant.**

***Professional Master's in Education (Home Economics).***

**Research title:**

An Exploration of the Perspectives of Teachers and Parents on the inclusion of autistic students in the Home Economics classroom.

**Researcher:**

This research will be conducted by Rachael Maloney, a Professional Masters student in Education (Home Economics) from St Angela's College Sligo.

**What is this research about?**

In recent years there has been an increase in the number of students with autism attending mainstream educational settings. However, the inclusion of autistic students in a mainstream classroom continues to spark on-going debates within the Irish education system.

The rationale for this study was formulated last year when I was completing my fourth- year school placement in a mainstream autism class. From this experience, I noticed how these students enjoyed being included in aspects of the mainstream environment. As a Home Economist, I am passionate about how Home Economics is essential in teaching all students necessary life skills, while also providing this feeling of inclusion within the school, the home and wider community.

Therefore, for this research study, I want to explore parents' and teachers' perceptions on the inclusion of autistic students in mainstream classes and whether or not they believe Home Economics would support the inclusion of autistic students in the mainstream school.

**Who can participate for this study?**

- A qualified Home Economics teacher who has been teaching for a minimum of two-years and has had experience teaching autistic students.
- A qualified Home Economics teacher in an autistic class within a mainstream school at post-primary level.
- Parents of students with autism attending a mainstream educational setting at post- primary level.

### **What is involved?**

If you consent to part- take in this study, you will be asked to participate in an interview. Interviews will be conducted using a semi- structured approach. Each interview will be recorded and last approximately thirty to forty-five minutes in length. Interviews will mainly consist of open-ended questions with additional follow up questions if required. Interviews will begin with general background questions which they will then lead to more specific information about autism and mainstream inclusion, with a particular focus on Home Economics.

### **My rights as a volunteer:**

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. If you decide to take part in this research project, please note you have the right to withdrawal at any stage prior to the interviews being conducted. If needed, participants can also pause the interview at any stage to take a break. When the individual feels comfortable to proceed, verbal permission will be required.

### **Confidentially:**

Throughout the research, I will ensure all data collected from participants will be kept anonymous and confidential. When necessary, names will be changed and unidentified in order to protect the privacy of each individual involved. Any educational institutions or affiliations mentioned will also be undisclosed.

### **Data protection:**

All data collected throughout this research will be in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulations. Permission from participants will be gathered before any information is obtained and processed. All data will be treated as private and confidential and stored on a password protected electronic device. Any written reports will also be stored in a safe and secured location.

### **How will my information be used?**

Data will be stored for the required amount of time and then it will then be permanently destroyed. All information gathered will be used for the intention of this study only.

**Contact details:**

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