

Participant Information Sheet

Study Title: Acceptance and belonging- Parents perspectives on experience of inclusion of their child with ASD in mainstream primary schools in Ireland- a qualitative study.

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Supervisor: Dr. Chris Barnes at c.barnes1@derby.ac.uk.

We would like to invite you to take part in our research study. Before you decide if you would like to consider taking part, we would like you to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. I would be happy to discuss the study with you and answer any questions you have or clarify anything as needed.

What is the purpose of the research?

This research is being carried out as part of my studies in the MSc in Psychology at the University of Derby. This study is being undertaken to gain a better understanding of experiences of inclusion on the part of children with ASD in the mainstream primary education system. The aim is to explore the factors that positively or negatively impact inclusion of children with ASD in mainstream primary schools from their parents perspective.

Why have I been invited to participate?

You have been invited to participate in this study as the parent of child with an ASD diagnosis who is currently attending a mainstream primary school in Ireland.

Do I have to take part?

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. You are not obliged to take part however your input into this research will be extremely valuable. If you decide to take part you will be asked to keep this information sheet and to complete a consent form, which says you are happy to take part. If you decide to take part you are free to withdraw (stop taking part in the study) at any time up to two weeks after taking part and without giving a reason. If you do take part in the study and you change your mind afterwards, you can just contact us and we will destroy all the information you gave us and your data.

To do this you will need to inform your unique participant code, which you will be asked to create once you start the study. Make sure you keep a copy of this code. You will be asked to provide the code during the study so that the researcher can easily recognise and withdraw your data.

What will happen to me if I take part?

You will be asked to provide details of your child/children's age, gender ,ASD diagnosis type (Level 1,2,3) ,class level and school size and setting (i.e. urban or rural). You will then be asked to participate in a one off ,semi-structured interview with the researcher which will take

place online via Microsoft teams and should last between 30 and 40 minutes maximum. You will be provided with the list of questions in advance of the interview.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

The risks or disadvantages to taking part that have been identified are deemed to be very low. These risks include possible distress from revisiting unpleasant memories and feelings, fatigue and effects of screen time during video interview.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

By taking part you will be helping to further understanding of the factors that impact experiences of inclusion in mainstream primary education for children with ASD.

What will happen to the results of the research?

The information you give us will be analysed by the research team and written up into a report; this will form part of the MSc in Psychology and may consequently be published and presented at academic conferences. In some cases, such as journal article publications, the researchers might be asked to share anonymized data or upload it in databases. Any identifiable information, if available, will be removed from reports and databases.

Who is organising or sponsoring the research?

The present study has not received any research funding. The study is being conducted by Melanie Mc Cafferty and Dr. Chris Barnes as part of the MSc Online in Psychology at the University of Derby.

Further information and contact details:

If you have any questions before deciding to participate in this study, please contact us.

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Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet