

## **Information for parents: Police officers in the classroom supporting the PSHE curriculum**

### **Why have I been sent this letter?**

This letter is for parents of children attending one of the schools involved in a research project being conducted by the College of Policing and Durham University. This project evaluates the use of police officers in the classroom supporting the PSHE curriculum. The project tests the effect of these lessons on pupils' understanding of sexual consent and the law, and their perceptions of the police.

As part of this research project, year 9 or year 10 pupils will be taught three lessons on sexual consent and the law within their normal curriculum PSHE lessons. The lessons will be taught by teachers.

We have sent you this letter because your child is being taught these lessons and we are interested to understand their experiences. We want to give you the opportunity to know about this research and to withdraw your child from being involved if you do not feel comfortable.

### **What is the College of Policing?**

The College of Policing helps the police forces in England and Wales to do their job. Part of our work includes doing research, where we ask people to share their opinions on different things about policing.

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

We want to test out some lessons on sexual consent and the law to see how effective they are. The lessons will either be taught by teachers, or in some schools, by teachers and police officers together.

Further information about the research is available on our Research Map, available here:

<https://www.college.police.uk/research/projects/police-officers-classroom-supporting-pshe-curriculum>.

## **What does taking part involve for my child?**

### *Questionnaires*

Your child will be asked to complete three questionnaires about their knowledge of consent, their opinions on the law and their trust and confidence in the police. The first questionnaire will be completed before any lessons on sexual consent and the law take place. The second questionnaire will be completed after all the teaching has taken place and we will follow up 2 months later to ask your child to complete the final questionnaire.

The questionnaires will take around 10 minutes to complete each time. Your child will be able to opt out of each questionnaire.

### *Interviews*

We also want to talk to 15-20 young people who have been taught all three lessons about their experience of the lessons, their understanding of consent and what they think about the police and the law. The interviews will be held in person at their school and will each last around 30 minutes. The interviews will be audio recorded to help the interviewer remember what your child has said. Your child will have the opportunity to volunteer to take part in these interviews when completing the second questionnaire.

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

The lessons are conducted as part of your child's everyday learning and is therefore mandatory. However, participation in the questionnaires and interviews is completely voluntary. We are asking all children to consent to take part in the research and they can choose to not be involved or stop taking part at any time. In addition, you can refuse for your child to take part in the questionnaires and interviews. If you do not wish your child to take part, please contact your child's school to let them know to ensure they don't receive the questionnaires or interviews..

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

Your child's name and where they go to school will be private and will not be linked to the answers they give in the questionnaire or what they say to us in the interviews. The exception to this is if they tell us something that suggests that someone is at risk of harm. If this happens, we will need to raise it with those responsible for safeguarding as appropriate.

Findings from the questionnaires, and themes and quotes from the interviews will be used by the researchers in their reports and research talks. The names of the pupils and where they go to school will not be shared (their identity will be protected).

### **Support services**

Some of the questions and content in the lessons are about experiences with the police and knowledge of sexual consent. Due to these topics being sensitive, your child will be provided with contacts to support services and reminded to speak to a trusted adult.

### **Any questions?**

If you have any questions about the research project, please contact [ClassroomsEvaluation@college.police.uk](mailto:ClassroomsEvaluation@college.police.uk)

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## **About the College**

We're the professional body for the police service in England and Wales.

Working together with everyone in policing, we share the skills and knowledge officers and staff need to prevent crime and keep people safe.

We set the standards in policing to build and preserve public trust and we help those in policing develop the expertise needed to meet the demands of today and prepare for the challenges of the future.

[\*\*college.police.uk\*\*](https://college.police.uk)