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| 1. Respectful Relationships Evaluation 2021-2024 Information Sheet and Consent Form – 2. Parent/carer information sheet for Student survey |  |
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* + 1. Introduction

Your child has been invited to take part in a survey as part of the state-wide evaluation of Respectful Relationships. This is because your school is participating in the Respectful Relationships initiative.

This **information sheet** tells you about the research project. It explains the purpose of the research, and the activities and risks that may be involved. It also describes information that will be collected, how that information will be used and with whom it will be shared. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want your child to take part in the research.

Please read this information carefully.

* + 1. What is Respectful Relationships research project?

The Royal Commission into Family Violence identified the role that schools have in creating a culture of respect to change the story of family violence for future generations. In 2016, respectful relationships education became a core component of the Victorian Curriculum from prep to Year 12, and is being taught in all government and Catholic schools and many independent schools. In 2017, the Department of Education (the department) began implementing the Respectful Relationships initiative, which provides schools with strategies and tools to implement a whole-of-school approach to Respectful Relationships education.

This project is for the department. The department has contracted ACIL Allen to evaluate the Respectful Relationships initiative.

* + 1. What does the research involve?

As part of the evaluation, ACIL Allen researchers are inviting students who have participated in Respectful Relationships to complete a short survey. The researchers would like to hear students’ views on what a respectful relationship looks like, how gender equality is modelled and how confident they feel to identify unhealthy relationships and behaviours.

The surveys have been set up by the researchers on an online platform, which will provide the data directly back to ACIL Allen. The surveys will be completed in class on school computers and will take about 5 minutes to complete.

* + 1. Does my child have to participate in the research? Can they change their mind?

Participation in this evaluation is voluntary and there is no obligation for your child to be involved. It is your decision whether your child participates or not. Your child can stop participating at any point during the survey, and they don’t have to answer any of the questions if they don’t want to.

If you decide your child can participate in the research and they later feel that they no longer wish to be part of it, they may withdraw from the research at any time. Your child will not be penalised for non-participation.

If you decide you would prefer your child does not take part in a survey for the evaluation, you are asked to sign the attached opt-out consent form.

By signing the opt-out consent form, you are telling us that:

You **do not** wish for your child to take part in the survey and confirm that you **do not** give permission to ACIL Allen to collect data from your child for the evaluation.

* + 1. Are there any risks for my child if I participate?

The approach has been purposefully designed to avoid risks to your child.

Prior to, and upon completion of the survey, students will be reminded about where they can go in their school to get help, such as school wellbeing staff, counsellors or teachers and a parent/guardian, in case any of the questions causes them distress.

Your child is able to stop participating in the survey at any time if they don’t feel comfortable. Your child will not be penalised for deciding not to participate.

* + 1. What are the benefits if my child participates?

Your child’s participation in this evaluation will help to inform the Victorian Government’s continuing work in delivering respectful relationships education. There is no payment for participation.

* + 1. Are there any costs involved in participating?

There are no direct costs involved in participating in this research.

* + 1. How will my child’s information be stored? Will it be confidential?

In collecting your child’s personal information within this research, ACIL Allen must comply with the Australian Government’s *Privacy Act 1988*.

ACIL Allen staff participating in the project will have access to your child’s anonymous responses. The responses will be kept strictly confidential. This information will be deleted after seven (7) years.

Only these staff will know what your child has said. Your child’s views may be included in the project report provided to the department, but your child’s identity will not be revealed and confidentiality will be protected. No personal information that would enable you or your child to be identified will be included in the report.

If your child provides information to the researcher that describes suffering or harm that has been caused, or is likely to be caused, to children, or other offences, the researcher may be obliged to follow Victoria’s laws and guidelines, including the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (as amended 2014). This may include reporting to the Victorian Government’s child protection services.

* + 1. How will I find out about the outcomes of the project?

If you would like to hear about the outcomes of the project, please speak to the department. You can also contact Amy Mehrton and the other people listed below if you would like more information about the outcomes of the project.

* + 1. Who can I contact for more information?

If you have any questions about the project or would like any further information, please contact the project manager at ACIL Allen, Amy Mehrton, on [a.mehrton@acilallen.com.au](mailto:m.gould@acilallen.com.au) or 03 8650 6056.

You can also contact the Respectful Relationships Unit in the department about the project ([respectful.relationships@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:respectful.relationships@edumail.vic.gov.au)).

* + 1. Who can I contact if I have any complaints?

The Bellberry Human Research Ethics Committee has reviewed and approved this study in accordance with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007) – incorporating all updates. This Statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies.

If you would like to discuss the project or view a copy of the Complaint procedure with someone not directly involved, particularly in relation to matters concerning policies, information or complaints about the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, please contact the Committee Chair, Bellberry Human Research Ethics Committee on 08 8361 3222.

If you think there has been a breach of your privacy you can contact the Commissioner for Privacy and Data Protection by telephone on 1300 666 444 or in writing via:

Commissioner for Privacy and Data Protection

PO Box 24014

Melbourne VIC 3001

* + 1. Who do I contact if I need support?

If you or your child needs to talk to someone, you can call:

* + 1800Respect on 1800 737 732
  + Lifeline on 13 11 14
  + Beyond Blue on 1300 22 4636.

These services provide free national counselling, information and support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

* 1. Opt-out Consent Form

I have read the Information Sheet provided for the Respectful Relationships Evaluation 2021-24 and have had the opportunity to seek clarification about what participating might entail for my child.

I **do not** wish for my child to take part in the Respectful Relationships evaluation student survey and confirm that ACIL Allen researchers **do not** have permission to collect data from my child for the Respectful Relationships evaluation.

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| Name of student: |  |
| Name of parent/carer: |  |
| Signature of parent/guardian: |  |
| Date: |  |
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