

Parent/Student Information Sheet

Consent Form

Dear Parent/Student,

Students alongside their teachers are invited to participate in the **DreamSpace TV** research project this year. The project is based in Maynooth University. The principal investigators are Dr Katriona O'Sullivan, Dr Serena Clark, and Amy McGrane, MSc.

The overall aim of the project is to understand the benefits of STEM learning and the impact of Microsoft Ireland's DreamSpace TV. The DreamSpace TV programme, which you may be participating in, will take place throughout the year. Teachers will deliver 10 DreamSpace weekly episodes from 29 September 2020 to 8 December 2020 to your student(s). For more information on DreamSpace TV please see, <https://education.microsoft.com/en-us/resource/26636aed>.

Research Participation

In order to demonstrate the effectiveness of the programme, researchers from Maynooth will collect information about students' and teachers' experiences at various stages during the programme. During focus groups students and teachers may be video or audio recorded. Students and teachers will be asked to complete surveys or reflections at various intervals during the programme and a sample of students and teachers will be asked to participate in interviews and focus group discussions.

All information that is collected by the researchers will be anonymised and stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act at Maynooth University. In the unlikely event that information about illegal activities should emerge during the study, the researchers will follow the school's Child Protection policy and inform the relevant authorities. There may be lectures, Ph.D. theses, conference presentations and peer-reviewed journal articles written as a result of this project, however the students and school will not be identified. All MU staff involved in the research undergoes Garda Vetting procedures to receive clearance to work with minors.

Voluntary nature

Participating in this project is voluntary. You may change your mind and stop at any time. You may also choose to not answer a question for any reason.

Benefits

We hope that this project will result in the improvement of STEM engagement in the classroom and aid students in developing 21st century learning skills.

Risks and discomforts

Answering questions about one's experiences may be uncomfortable. You can choose not to answer a question at any time. You may withdraw from the study at any time without penalty. You may withdraw permission for your participation at any time.

Confidentiality

We plan to publish the results of this study. Our report will not include any information that would identify you, your pupils, or your school. To keep information safe, we will move the audio file from the recorder to a password-protected server. We will remove or change names in the interview transcripts. We cannot absolutely guarantee confidentiality because the participants will share

information in front of each other during the interview. We will address this by asking that students and interviewed teachers not repeat what others said.

Please sign below to indicate your consent and return the form as soon as possible. If you have any questions in relation to this, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please return the forms to your student(s)' teacher.

Kind regards,

Kind regards,

Dr Serena Clark
Post-doctoral Researcher
ALL Institute
Maynooth University
Serena.Clark@MU.ie

I agree to my child participating in this project.

Print name (Parent) _____

Print name (Student) _____

School name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

I give my permission for any interviews to be recorded by audio or video

Signature _____ Date _____