

Information sheet for principals

Investigating relationships between student approaches to learning and teacher mindframes in innovative and traditional learning environments

Dear principal,

Your school is invited to take part in a study of how students learn across different classroom environments.

This project forms part of the Innovative Learning Environments and Teacher Change (ILETC) project, an Australian Research Council-project funded for four years from 2016-2020. It brings together the expertise of leading researchers in education and learning environments and partner organisations in schooling, learning environment design and technology.

It seeks to address two research questions:

- Are different types of learning environments associated with differences in how students learn? In particular, can claims that more open and flexible classrooms are conducive to the development of deeper learning approaches be supported?
- Do differences in how teachers approach their practice in ILEs influence the learning approaches of students?

What will my school's involvement entail?

Teachers being emailed a link to complete a 5-minute survey on their teaching beliefs and practices. This will measure the degree to which teachers hold 'mindframes' identified by University of Melbourne Professor of Education John Hattie as likely to have positive impacts on learning (Professor Hattie is a Chief Investigator on the ILETC project).

Who is conducting the research?

PhD Researcher Dan Murphy under the supervision of Associate Professor Wesley Imms. This project has been approved by the University of Melbourne's Human Research Ethics Committee, and the Queensland Department of Education.

(Further information overleaf)

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Investigating relationships between student approaches to learning and teacher mindframes in innovative and traditional learning environments(cont.)

What are the expected benefits of this research?

Over the past decade, billions of dollars have been invested in more open and flexible classrooms. This has been driven by a belief among some education authorities, teachers, researchers and architects that ILEs can facilitate '21st century' learner attributes such as critical thinking, problem solving and collaboration skills.

There is an urgent need to test this belief, and to better understand the influence of teachers on students' learning approaches in different types of learning environments.

How will the results be reported?

Once the report arising from this project has been completed, a summary of the findings will be available to your school. If you would like to receive a copy of the report, please indicate 'yes' on the consent form.

Results will be published in academic journals and presented at conferences. Publications of the ILETC team are available on the project website www.iletc.com.au

Are there any risks and how will participants' privacy be protected?

The University of Melbourne takes the confidentiality and rights of research participants very seriously. Respondents cannot be identified personally with the answers they provide. The confidentiality of all responses will be protected to the fullest possible extent, within the limits of the law. Survey responses will be kept securely for five years from the completion of the larger ILETC project (including publication and public release) and will be destroyed after this time.

How do I proceed?

If you agree to your school's participation, please indicate that you have read and understood this information by clicking 'I agree' on the online consent form. Or, fill out the consent form sent to you by email and return to daniel.murphy@unimelb.edu.au

What if I have concerns or complaints?

Should you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Manager, Human Research Ethics, Office for Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 3 8344 2073 or Email: HumanEthics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au. All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence please provide the name of the research team or the name or ethics ID number of the research project (1750441).

Further information

Should you require further information, or have any concerns about the project, please contact Associate Professor Wesley Imms (email: w.imms@unimelb.edu.au) or Dan Murphy (email: dmurphy3@student.unimelb.edu.au)

If you have any queries about the ILETC project, please contact its Project Manager, Joann Cattlin, (telephone number: +613 9035 8694, joann.cattlin@unimelb.edu.au).