Information sheet for teachers

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

You are invited to participate in this project due to your current role as a teacher.

What is the purpose of this research?
This project forms part of the Innovative Learning Environments and Teacher Change (ILETC) project, based at the University of Melbourne. It brings together the expertise of leading researchers in education and learning environments and partner organizations in education, 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, involving critical thinking and reasoning, be supported?
- Do differences in how teachers approach their practice in ILEs influence the learning approaches adopted by their students?

The New Zealand Ministry of Education is partner in the ILETC project.

What is involved?
Your participation will entail completing a short survey about your teaching beliefs and practices.

This will measure the degree to which you hold 'teacher 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).

What are the 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. (*continued over*)

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

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 when you take the survey. (If you click 'Yes' you will be asked at the end of the survey to provide an email address; this information is kept separate from the survey responses and cannot identify you with your answers).

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

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.

Are there any risks and how will my privacy be protected?
The University of Melbourne takes the confidentiality and rights of research participants very seriously. You cannot be identified personally with the answers you provide

The confidentiality of your 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.

This questionnaire is being conducted using Qualtrics survey software. The company employs high level security systems and encryption approved by the University of Melbourne.

How do I proceed?
If you agree to participate, please indicate that you have read and understood this information by clicking 'I agree' on the first page of the survey.

Please be advised that your participation in this study is completely voluntary. Should you wish to withdraw at any stage, or to withdraw any unprocessed data you have supplied, you are free to do so without prejudice.

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).