



Parent/Guardian Information Sheet

Civic Virtues Through Service to Others

Child's questionnaire to be used as data in a University of Birmingham Research project

The Reading School has agreed to take part in a research project about civic virtues, citizenship and youth social action. The research is being conducted by the University of Birmingham.

What is the purpose of the study and why is my child being asked to participate?

This project is entitled 'Civic Virtues Through Service to Others' and is being conducted by the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues. Civic virtues are defined as those positive and stable character traits that allow citizens to participate in the life of their communities – local, national and global. In a democracy, civic virtues enable participation in the various institutions and organisations of political and civil society. The project is interested in discovering more about how these civic virtues are understood and how service connects young people to others, enabling both individual and societal flourishing. Schools play a central role in developing civic virtues, whether through their citizenship education, the school culture or by encouraging youth social action in the local community.

As part of the project your child will be asked to complete a survey about their experiences of community service and citizenship inside and outside school, as well as what character strengths they value in a good citizen.

As a result of this project we aim to provide a snapshot of what pupils are already doing in relation to citizenship, civic virtue and youth social inside and outside the school gates, what character strengths they value in a good citizen, and how their school should reflect these strengths in the future. For further information on the Civic Virtues Through Service to Others project please visit our website: <https://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/2934/projects/civic-virtues-through-service-to-others>

What will my child do?

Pupils taking part would complete one survey made up of four sections on the following themes:

- Questions about the kind of citizenship activities – debating issues, serving the local community etc. – they have undertaken inside and outside the classroom.
- Questions about the character strengths or qualities that they think embody a good citizen
- Questions about what their school should be doing in relation to citizenship.



- Demographic questions relating to age, gender etc.

What happens to the answers my child gives?

All of the information collected is fully confidential. Your child is not required to provide their name on the survey and therefore will remain anonymous. Your child will be able to withdraw before or during the survey but will not be able to once they have submitted their answers as the research team will be unable to identify their response. Data may be stored for up to ten years, in line with University of Birmingham guidelines. Data will be stored in secure electronic form, on university servers within password-protected domains. If paper copies are submitted these will be stored in secure, locked storage within the Jubilee Centre. Only the research team at the Jubilee Centre will have access to the data.

Who is carrying out the study?

This study is being carried out by the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues. The Project Lead is Professor Andrew Peterson, a Professor of Character and Citizenship Education at the Centre. Dr David Civil is also working as a Research Fellow on the Civic Virtues project.

Does my child have to take part?

If you are happy for your child's completed questionnaire to be used as data in this research project then you do not have to do anything. If you do not want your child to take part please complete, sign and return the attached form. There is no financial reward for taking part in this research.

If the School does not receive a completed form by [INSERT DATE – will be at least two weeks after the form is sent out] requesting that your child be withdrawn from the study then we will presume that you are happy for your child to take part.

If you have any questions about the questionnaire or the research project please contact: Dr David Civil by email (d.civil@bham.ac.uk). This new project is one of many being launched by the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues in the School of Education. If you would like to keep up to date on the progress of this project and its findings (as well as the other projects run by the Jubilee Centre) you can do so by visiting the Centre Website: www.jubileecentre.ac.uk.

Thank you for your time and help,

Kind regards,

Professor Andrew Peterson

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