



South Dartmoor Community College

Executive Head teacher | Mrs J Veal

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9 November 2023

Parent / carer opt out consent form.

Information sheet: Student leadership and school culture

As part of ongoing professional development, a member of our staff, Kate Hutchings, is currently undertaking a Masters degree with Newman University, which involves research into two areas which are important to her, her teaching and our school improvement plan: student leadership and school culture. As part of this process, she is required to write a dissertation, for which she needs to conduct research in our school setting. Our students in Years 7 – 10 are therefore invited to take part in this study and related research by obtaining their views on the subject area.

Please take time to read the following information. If anything is unclear or you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact Kate Hutchings whose details are given at the end of this information sheet.

What is the purpose of this study?

To investigate how senior student leaders can positively influence school culture.

What does pupil's participation involve?

All pupils will be asked to participate in a survey, which will be shared on ClassCharts at the beginning and the end of the research project. This will consist of a small number of multiple-choice questions to gather their opinion on our school culture. Additionally, there will be focus group interviews conducted during the normal school day, which will involve several students; these students will receive an additional consent form containing further information about their involvement. These focus group interviews will last approximately 30-40 minutes. Some of the findings will be used to develop the project, but everything participants say will remain anonymous and participants will not be individually identified in anyway.

What will pupils be asked?

Each participant will be asked questions regarding to school culture, our own school culture, and our senior student leaders.

Do pupils have to take part?

No. Participation in this study is voluntary and participants are free to withdraw at any time. Along with this opt out consent opportunity, all pupils will be asked for their consent to take part in the focus groups.

Who do I contact if I have any further questions about the research?

Kate Hutchings
Email: khutchings@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk

If you are happy for your child to take part in this study, no further action needs to be taken.

If you **DO NOT** want your child to take part in this study, please sign and identify the pupil's name and return this form either electronically to the email address above or to the school office/PE office, before Friday 17 November 2023.

Parent / Carer Name:

Signature:

Date:

Pupil Name: **Tutor group:**

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