

Cohesion in Schools – Research Project

Dear parent/carer,

Alperton Community School, along with approximately 60 other schools, has signed up to participate in an exciting research project with the Behavioural Insights Team (BIT), commissioned by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). BIT is a social purpose research company specialising in the application of behavioural science and will trial and develop a new evidence-based curriculum for Personal, Social, Health, and Economic Education (PSHEE) in schools. The aim of the project is to promote integration, by reducing prejudice and increase openness. The curriculum is being designed in collaboration with leading academics from Stanford, Yale and Oxford Universities, and will equip young people with the cognitive and emotional skills that we believe will enable them to thrive in a diverse society.

As part of the evaluation of the impact of the project, different year groups will be randomly selected to receive the lessons in either the first term or third term of the year, and your child will also be asked to complete a short survey three times throughout the year. The findings from this project will be published in a report at the end of 2020 and will be shared with the participating schools.

What does this mean?

- Your child will be asked to fill out three surveys that relate to concepts of social cohesion (including critical thinking, prejudice and openness) throughout the year.
- Alperton Community School will share some information about your child from its central records with BIT.

What will happen to the data?

- Please read the BIT Privacy Notice for full details which is available at: <https://bit.ly/2PgwRDJ>. If you cannot access the link, please speak to your school who will be able to provide you with a copy of the Privacy Notice.
- BIT takes your child data security seriously and will be working closely with Alperton Community School to ensure that data is handled appropriately and securely. Data will be shared and processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018.
- If you have any questions about Alperton Community School sharing data with BIT, please contact the school at office@alperton.brent.sch.uk
- A final report is expected to be published in 2020. No individual student or school will be identifiable in this report - all details will be fully anonymised.

Would you like to withdraw from the sharing of personal data?

It is not mandatory for Alperton Community School to share your child's personal data with BIT as part of this project. It is voluntary to take part in the study and there are no wider consequences of withdrawing. If you would like to withdraw so that the personal data is not shared, please complete and return the form below. You can also write to withdraw your child's data from the research project at any time by emailing office@alperton/brent.sch.uk. Please note that your child may still receive the new curriculum, as this will be delivered in their usual lessons. **Withdrawal relates solely to the collection of survey data, and the sharing of personal data with BIT.**

If you are happy to participate, no action is needed.

If you DO NOT want your child to take part in surveys and the sharing of personal data with BIT, please sign and return the attached form to Alperton Community School within a week of receiving this letter. If you prefer you can also email the school at office@alperton.brent.sch.uk.

Parents/carers: I do not want my child's personal data to be used as part of this project:

Name of parent/carer: _____

Name of student: _____

Form Class: _____

School: Alperton Community School

Date: _____

Signature: _____

