



Ref: MS/ES

11 May 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

On the week beginning 22 May students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will have access to a special workshop during one of their humanities lessons. We ran this last year with huge success, which is why we would like to offer it again. It is part of a project supported by prayer spaces in schools, and rather than being specifically religious it aims to give students a space to reflect, think and relax regardless of their spiritual, religious, humanist or atheist perspectives.

Prayer spaces is something which is happening in schools around the country and is now the focus of a research project run by Professor Julian Stern of York St John University. Students will complete anonymous questionnaires to evaluate their perception of prayer spaces and some students may be asked some questions verbally.

If you give your permission for your child's anonymous questionnaire to be used as part of this research project please could you complete the attached consent form and return to school. It would be most appreciated.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Snape
Headteacher



Professor Julian Stern, York St John University, York YO31 7EX
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Evaluation of Prayer Spaces in Schools

Consent Form for the Parents/Carers of Individual Young People

There is a survey (a questionnaire and for some an interview), as part of a project evaluating the work supported by Prayer Spaces in Schools (www.prayerspacesinschools.com). Your child's school is setting up a temporary prayer space which involves various activities and experiences. This survey provides an opportunity for your child to take part in evaluating the prayer space and to tell us what they think could make it even better. I am Julian Stern, a Professor at York St John University. I am working with colleagues to write a report, a book, and other materials about the work. This survey will help those inside and outside school to understand more about these prayer spaces. I will make sure that anything your child tells us is confidential, which means that no-one who reads the report will be given their name or be able to identify them. Your child does not need to take part in the survey unless you and they are happy to do so, and there is no need for your child to answer any question if they feel unhappy about it.

I, of

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hereby give consent for my son / daughter / dependent
to be a participant in the study to be undertaken by a team led by Julian Stern, and I understand that the purpose of the research is to evaluate the work supported by Prayer Spaces in Schools. The research involves a questionnaire and, for some, an interview. Taking part in the survey is educationally beneficial and can be completed as a normal part of the school curriculum.

I understand that

1. the aims, methods, and anticipated benefits, and possible hazards/risks of the research study, have been explained to me;
2. I voluntarily and freely give my consent to my child's/dependant's participation in such research study;
3. a report based on the results from all the children and adults across a number of schools, will be used for research purposes and may be published in journals or books, but no-one will be named or able to be identified in the book;
4. individual results **will not** be released to any person including medical practitioners;
5. I am free to withdraw my consent at any time, during the study in which event my child's/dependant's participation in the research study will immediately cease and any information obtained will not be used.

Signature: Date:

The contact details of the lead researcher are: Professor Julian Stern, York St John University, Lord Mayor's Walk, York YO31 7EX, tel 01904 876520, email j.stern@yorks.ac.uk