

September 2021

Decline in D&T Participant Information Sheet for Informed Consent

What Factors do Teachers of Design and Technology Feel may have Contributed to the Decline in England of GCSE Entries within this subject?

Many thanks for your interest in participating within the above research project, which I am currently completing for the final dissertation of my Masters in Education (EBP) through Buckingham University. In addition to completing my Masters, I am also the head of design and technology (D&T) in a rural secondary school within South West England and a subject specialist at the local teacher training consortium. Therefore, this project has been long in the making and I am keen to connect with other teachers of the subject, listening to their experiences, views and perspectives, which will enable me to make an informed contribution to the body of research within Design and Technology Education.

There are three aims of this research project which are:

- To undertake a formative evaluation which seeks to diagnose factors which may have contributed to a decline in D&T GCSE entries within England.
- To gain an insider's perspective and to learn from the real-life experiences of D&T teachers within England.
- To consider solutions which could be implemented to increase D&T GCSE entries at a local level.

The information that follows seeks to outline how you can participate within the project, so that you are able to consider the method of participation which is right for you. If you have further questions after reading this information, then please do not hesitate to contact me by emailing claire@sonderandmeraki.co.uk

You can help with this research by opting to choose your method of participation. In phase one of the research project, participants are invited to air their views by joining a private Facebook group, individual or group interviews. The private Facebook group will act as a discussion forum which, will be facilitated by myself who will post discussion prompts that should appear regularly on your feed, so that you are able to interact on your own terms, as and when you so wish, as part of your normal daily routine. This platform has been chosen to ensure your participation within this research is simple and that it seamlessly integrates into your personal lives without been onerous or requiring a substantial time commitment. Of course, if you find that you would no longer wish to be a member of the private group on social media, you are free to leave at any time or can request to be removed by myself. Any contributions made up until this point may still be used within the project unless a specific request is made not to do so.

You can join the private Facebook group by searching '**Decline in D&T - Online Focus Group**' or following the link provided here. I would encourage all interested parties to join the private group (including those who wish to contribute using another method of participation), even if at first you do not seek to contribute, as this will encourage your own thoughts and reflections as part of your own continued professional development. Please also encourage colleagues and other connections you may have within Design and Technology education, as the more opinions, views and perspectives we can collect, the greater the diversity of the project, which will more closely reflect the subjective and varied experiences we all would have had as teachers.

Private Facebook Group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/566504411332794>

Additionally, I am offering the chance to participate by airing your views in an individual interview with myself or group interview with up to six participants. You can book either an individual or group interviews on Eventbrite by following the links provided here:

Individual Interviews - <https://decline-in-dt-individual-interview.eventbrite.co.uk>

Group Interviews - <https://decline-in-dt-group-interview.eventbrite.co.uk>

If you wish to participate in an interview, however there is not an appropriate timeslot available, please do contact me with suggested dates and times that you are able to do and I will try to accommodate, as it is really important that we collect as many views/opinions as possible.

All participants must complete a short online form, confirming they are giving their informed consent to participate, prior to joining the project. You can access this form by following the link provided here:

Informed Consent - <https://forms.office.com/r/jir4ht0mYH>

Participants of all methods of data collection will be sent a brief profile to complete via email, which asks for general information such as geographical location, specialism, number of years teaching etc, so that the final report can consider any similarities or differences that may occur between participants. For example, '63% of teachers who trained before 2005 felt.....' or '20% of teachers in the North-West considered.....in comparison to 80% of teachers in the South-West'

The data which is collected will be stored and used in accordance to GDPR guidelines and neither yourself, nor school would be identified in the final reports. Indeed, as this project

focuses on the personal view of teachers, I shall not seek to identify your school at any point.

If you would like further information, please visit the research website www.sonder&merakiresearch.co.uk which includes frequently asked questions and links to join the project. Alternatively, once again, please do not hesitate to contact me by emailing claire@sonder&merakiresearch.co.uk

Thank you again for your interest in this project, I look forward to hearing your experiences and views.

Claire Vickery