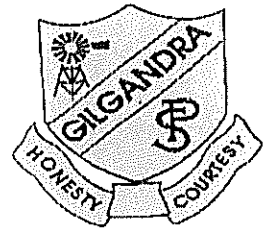




Gilgandra Public School

Honesty & Courtesy



Safe, Respectful, Learners

Principal
Patricia Howard

P.O Box 19
Gilgandra NSW 2827
Email: gilgandra-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Tel: 02 6847-2043
Fax: 02 6847-2304

22 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

The University of NSW is conducting research for the Gonski Institution to compare the outcomes of a standard reading/numeracy test to a version of the same test that takes into account the cultural background of the children.

Students in Years 4 and 6 will undertake the reading/numeracy test in Week 9 (22-26 March). The students are de-identified and the data is stored after analysis for a period of 7 years at the University of NSW. Schools are not informed of individual students and school results.

Please read the attached information sheets and if you have any concerns please ring Tricia on 68472043.

If children do not return a non-participation note then they will be included in the numeracy/reading testing.

Yours Sincerely

Patricia Howard

Principal



PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT AND CONSENT FORM – Parent Guardian

HC200692: Culturally and context specific student assessment

1. What is the research study about?

You and your child are invited to take part in this research study. The research study aims to understand how to better support children to do well in their tests through context relevant tasks that are culturally appropriate and with which students can relate.

Throughout the life of the project, your data will be always collected, accessed and used *in a way that will not identify you – we refer to this as de-identified data.*

2. Who is conducting this research?

The study is being carried out by the NSW Department of Education and the following researchers: Professor Adrian Piccoli, Professor Richard Holden, Associate Professor Isabella Dobrescu, Associate Professor Alberto Motta (UNSW Sydney) and Associate Professor Philip Roberts (University of Canberra).

3. Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

Before you decide to allow your child to participate in this research study, we need to ensure that it is ok for your child to take part. The research study is looking for children who meet the following criteria:

- children attending school in Year 6, and
- children attending school in Year 8.

4. Do I have to take part in this research study?

Participation in this research study is voluntary. If you don't want your child to take part, you don't have to.

If you **agree** to have your child's de-identified data used for the research into improving student experience, you do not need to do anything. Your consent will be implied, and your de-identified data may be used for research in a format that will not individually identify your child and you.

If you **do not agree** for this to happen, please return the completed 'Opt-Out Form' attached at the end of this document to your child's school. If you complete the opt-out form, the information about your child will not be used to conduct this research.

If you agree for your child to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw your child from the study at any stage.

If you decide you want to take part in the research study, you will be asked to:

- Read the information carefully (ask questions if necessary); and
- Take a copy of this form with you to keep.

5. What does participation in this research require, and are there any risks involved?

If you agree for your child to participate in this activity, the steps are as follows:



The aim of the research is to compare the outcomes of those receiving a standard numeracy/reading test as opposed to a version of these tests that takes into account the cultural background of the children.

To ensure that each participant has an equal chance of being placed in any group to start with, a computer assigns each study participant into a group randomly, like the flip of a coin.

Once randomised, participants will be allocated to one of the following participant groups:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Intervention (Group A) | Control (Group B) |
| Culturally appropriate test | Standard test |

Depending on which group will your child become part of, he/she will have access to the corresponding test version that will be administered in class, during school hours by his/her teacher. Specifically, the children assigned to Group B will receive a standard numeracy and reading test (in the same style as NAPLAN). The children assigned to Group A will receive a revised version of the standard test that will take into account their context and cultural background. We stress that there are no differences in the educational content of the two tests (just merely in their form) and each of the numeracy and reading tasks will take 50 minutes regardless of their (standard or contextualised) form.

If your child does not wish to answer a question, they may skip it and go to the next question, or they may stop immediately. If they become upset or distressed as a result of their participation in the research project, their school will be able to arrange for counselling or other appropriate support. Counselling or support will be provided by qualified school staff, free of charge.

If you have opted out and your child does not participate in this study, they will continue with work related to their normal lessons provided by teacher as part of their school involvement.

The types of data related to you or your child that might be used in relation to this research include basic demographics and enrolment information, school performance including in the Group A/B tests, and school engagement and participation indicators.

6. What will happen to information about me?

By accepting these terms, you consent to the research team accessing and using de-identified information about your child for the purpose of data analysis and writing the research study. The information will be provided by the NSW Department of Education who will administer the tests, de-identify the data and only then pass it to the research team.

The research team will store the data collected from you or your child for this research project for a required minimum of 7 years after the completion of the research.

The information about you or your child will be stored in a *non-identifiable format* where your identify will be unknown. Data will be stored electronically in double-password protected secure drives in password-protected computers, located on a floor solely accessible via electronic access cards in the UNSW Business School building at the University of New South Wales.



The information you or your child provides is personal information for the purposes of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW). You have the right of access to personal information held about you by the University, the right to request correction and amendment of it, and the right to make a complaint about a breach of the Information Protection Principles as contained in the PPIP Act. Further information on how the University protects personal information is available in the [UNSW Privacy Management Plan](#).

7. How and when will I find out what the results of the research study are?

The research team intends to publish and/ report the results of the research. All Information will be published in a way that will not identify you.

If you or your child would like to receive a copy of the results, please let the school know and they will provide a report.

8. What if I want to withdraw from the research study?

You or your child may withdraw from this study at any time. You can do so by returning the completed 'Opt-Out Form' attached at the end of this document to your child's school. Your decision not to participate or to withdraw from the study will not affect your relationship with NSW Department of Education, NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group or The University of New South Wales. If you decide to leave the research study, the researchers will not use any identifiable data from you.

9. What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the research study?

If you have a complaint regarding any aspect of the study or the way it is being conducted, please contact your child's school.

10. What should I do if I have further questions about my involvement in the research study?

The person you may need to contact depends on your query. To require further information regarding this study or if you have any problems that may be related to your involvement or your child's involvement in the study, you can contact the following member/s of the research team:

Research Team Contact Details - Chief Investigator

| | |
|----------|----------------------------|
| Name | Richard Holden |
| Position | Professor, UNSW Sydney |
| Email | richard.holden@unsw.edu.au |

Support Services Contact Details

If at any stage during the study, you or your child becomes distressed or require additional support from someone not involved in the research please contact your child's school.



Opt-Out Form

I wish to **WITHDRAW** my consent for my child to participate in this research study described above and understand that such withdrawal **WILL NOT** affect mine or my child's relationship with the NSW Department of Education, the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group or the University of New South Wales.

I am withdrawing my child's consent and I would like any identifiable information about me or my child be withdrawn from being used in this research study.

Participant Name

| | |
|--|--|
| Name of Participant (please type) | |
| Name of Parent/Guardian (please type) | |
| Signature of Parent/Guardian | |
| Date | |

Please complete the Opt-Out form and submit it to your child's school.