

## RESEARCH PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Westbourne Academy is taking part in a research project over the next two academic years (2018-19 and 2019-20). The school has agreed to the project, and the activities are being planned within normal class time and as part of children's scheduled maths homework tasks. Below, we describe why we are doing this research project, and what is involved for you and your child.

Please read the information carefully and keep this sheet for future reference. If you decide that you do **NOT** want your child to be involved in the research, then please follow the link at the end of this letter to withdraw your child from the project or alternatively, sign the attached form and return to the school by 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018. **If you are happy for your child to be involved, you do not have to do anything.** You are free to withdraw your child from this project at any time by contacting us using the details at the end of this letter.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT?

The purpose of the research is to study the effectiveness of an online maths programme 'Eedi' on pupil achievement and teacher workload in a 'real-life' school setting. The programme is used to set weekly maths quizzes as homework. The quizzes will replace part of the existing maths homework for your child rather than being set in addition to it. The programme provides both pupils and their teachers with feedback on the answers they have given and helps them to address common misunderstandings in maths via both individual and group feedback. Parents also have the opportunity to receive feedback on their children's performance and activities via text messages and/or by logging in to the Eedi website.

We are conducting this study across 176 schools in England, as a Randomised Controlled Trial. This means half of the participating schools will be randomly chosen to use the Eedi programme with their pupils. These are the 'intervention' schools. The other half will not use the programme. These are the 'control' schools. The random allocation of schools is essential to the evaluation as it is the most rigorous way to evaluate the effects of the programme. **At this stage we do not know whether your child's school will be an intervention or a control school**, however, we will be collecting data on the pupils from all schools in the study, regardless of whether they are intervention or control schools, including KS2 and GCSE results as well as related background data such as free school meals eligibility.

### WHO IS UNDERTAKING THE RESEARCH?

The research is undertaken by AlphaPlus, an independent educational consultancy, in partnership with the Policy Evaluation and Research Unit (PERU) at Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU). The project is funded by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF). EEF is an independent charity that funds research to test various ways of raising attainment in English schools. The project is being delivered by Eedi in partnership with the Behavioural Insights Team (BIT). Eedi are an educational technology company who have developed the Eedi programme that your child will use, and BIT are a research company.

### **WHAT IS INVOLVED IF MY CHILD TAKES PART?**

If your child's school is selected as an intervention school then your child will be using Eedi in Year 10 and Year 11 and data about each pupil will be collected through the Eedi platform covering their usage of the platform and their performance in the quizzes. If the school is a control school, your child will not be using Eedi as part of this research. Regardless of whether the school is an intervention or control school, data on the current Year 9 pupils will be collected to assist with studying the impact of the programme. This information is vitally important so that the research team can link their study records to national data that stores the results of pupils' performance in maths and English examinations. These national data are known as the National Pupil Database.

We are asking for your permission to obtain information about your child from the school, including their name, sex, date of birth, Free School Meals status and Unique Pupil Number. We (AlphaPlus and Manchester Metropolitan University) will use the information provided to link with the National Pupil Database (which is held by the Department for Education) to collect your child's Key Stage 2 results and eventual mathematics GCSE grade in 2020. Further matching may be undertaken with NPD data for subsequent research. Information provided will be shared with a small group of researchers at BIT, with the Department for Education, Education Endowment Foundation (EEF - the funder of this project), EEF's data contractor FFT Education and in an anonymised form to the UK Data Archive for research purposes.

Once your child's information is included in the data set, the data will be anonymised and no one will be able to identify individual pupils. We will not use your child's name or the name of the school in any report arising from the research.

All personal data will be treated with strictest confidence by the evaluators in accordance with the requirement of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018.

### **WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT?**

The results of this project will be reported by the Education Endowment Foundation. The report will be freely available on their website. The anonymised results may also be written up for publication in academic journals.

### **WHO HAS APPROVED THIS RESEARCH?**

The study has been approved by the AlphaPlus Ethics Advisor, the Manchester Metropolitan University Ethics Committee (for activities involving its researchers) and the Education Endowment Foundation.

### **CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

If you have any questions about how we will use your child's data or about the way this study is conducted, please contact AlphaPlus by email: [eeevaluation@alphaplus.co.uk](mailto:eeevaluation@alphaplus.co.uk), or by phone: 0161 249 9249.

If you have any queries about the Eedi maths programme and your child's use of this, please contact Eedi by email: [eeef@eedi.co.uk](mailto:eeef@eedi.co.uk), or by phone: 020 3176 4875

Thank you very much for your time!

## RESEARCH PROJECT WITHDRAWAL SLIP

Please only complete if you do NOT want your child's data to be used in this research project

Details of the research project are included in the attached information letter. **If you are happy for your child's data to contribute to this project, then you do not have to do anything.**

If you do **NOT** want your child's data to be used for this evaluation, then please withdraw your child from the project online or via the below slip:

To withdraw your child online go to [www.bit.ly/eedi\\_form](http://www.bit.ly/eedi_form)

Alternatively, you can withdraw your child via the below slip and return it to the reception area at your school by 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

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I do NOT want my child's data to be used for the purposes of this evaluation.

Child's full name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Class/form \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian  
name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian  
signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Completed slips can be returned to the reception at your school.