



Family Information Letter

Creating new, Welsh, standardised tests for literacy and literacy difficulties

Your child has been invited to take part in a research study. So that you, as parents/ guardians understand why the research is being done and what it will involve, I have put together the following information.

What is the purpose of the study? The overall purpose of the study is to research and design new standardised tests based on the Welsh language which can be used to help identify possible reasons for difficulties with reading and writing in Secondary school-aged pupils.

This phase of the project is a Pilot Study, where I will be trying the new tests out on pupils from years 6 and 7 only, to see if the tests work as they should.

Why has my child been invited to participate? I have asked your school to help me with the pilot study as some of your teachers have already been helping me to write the tests.

The study is also looking at whether home language affects the scores, so because your school has pupils who speak English at home and who speak Welsh at home (and possibly other languages too) it will give me the opportunity to see if there is any difference between the scores of different home language groups.

Does my child have to take part? Taking part in this project is entirely voluntary.

Your child has a right to withdraw from this research. If they want to do this then they can use this email address to let me know:

ESSHethics@cardiffmet.ac.uk

A Participant Withdrawal Form is available for them to use. If they do withdraw, either before or during the data collection phase then any data they have provided will be deleted. If they withdraw after that period, then I will withdraw any data which would allow them to be identified.

I will explain these rights to all pupils and ask them to sign a consent form if they agree. If you do not want your child to take part, please email me using this address: st20214993@outlook.cardiffmet.ac.uk

What will participation involve?

There are 8 parts to the overall assessment:

- Spelling test
- Speed of handwriting test
- Reading accuracy test

- Reading speed test
- Blending sounds tests
- Isolating sounds test
- Missing sounds test
- Rapid Naming test

The first four tests look at how well you read and write. The second four tests ask you to think about the sounds of words in your head, and look at how quickly you can process these sounds.

The tests will be done one pupil at a time with a teacher from your school. Each part of the test takes between 2 and 8 minutes, apart from the speed of writing part, which takes 10. Your teacher will note down the marks as you go.

I will also need to collect information on what language(s) you speak at home, so there is a short survey at the end of the consent form to collect this information from you.

What if the tests reveal something new about my child?

These tests are designed to measure four things:

- How fast a pupil writes or reads in Welsh compared to other pupils the same age
- If there are any patterns to the types of mistakes pupils make when writing in Welsh
- How well a pupil can spell or read in Welsh compared to other pupils the same age

- If there are any underlying skills which may not be as well developed as other pupils the same age, and which would impact the pupil's literacy development.

If, when I mark the tests, it looks as though your child might have a problem with literacy which has not been picked up by the school, I will speak to the contact from your school about what the tests show. The ALNCo will be able to deal with this information according to school policies and let you and your parents / guardians know.

How will my child's data and privacy be protected?

Confidentiality will be maintained throughout the study. No names will be attached to any reporting in the study. All data such as name, date of birth and test scores will be stored within Cardiff Met's secure Cloud account for the duration of the project and for ten years. After this, the data will be deleted.

Who is involved in the project?

This research is being conducted as part of a PhD project which has been funded by Coleg Cymraeg and hosted by Cardiff Metropolitan University. The research team are:

Marjorie Thomas - PhD student

Dr Rhiannon Packer – Lead Supervisor, Cardiff Met

Dr Mirain Rhys – Supervisor, Cardiff Met

Prof Enlli Thomas – Supervisor, Bangor University

This survey has been approved by Cardiff Met Ethics Committee.

If you or your child feel that you need to speak with someone else after taking part in this project, here are some numbers which will provide help:

The Dyslexia Association

The Dyslexia Association provide support and services for dyslexic children and adults of all ages, their parents/families, educators, employers and the wider community.

0115 924 6888

www.dyslexia.uk.net

British Dyslexia Association

As well as campaigning for better help for people with dyslexia, the BDA provide impartial advice and support to dyslexic people and those around them.

www.bdadyslexia.org.uk

Dyslexia Wales

Dyslecsia Cymru/Wales offers advice and support about dyslexia to individuals, third sector organisations, public bodies and private businesses.

0808 1800 110

www.walesdyslexia.org.uk

Meic

Bilingual helpline and online service about any subject, if you're between 0 and 25.

08080 23456
www.meiccymru.org

NHS Direct Wales

NHS Direct Wales is a 24 hour helpline, which can give advice about health and health services across Wales. It is staffed by experienced nurses specially trained to give advice over the phone and provide information about all your local services.

0845 4647 (24 hours a day)
111.wales.nhs.uk

Source: <https://www.s4c.cymru/en/help/page/36068/dyslexia/>

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me, Marjorie

Thomas: st20214993@outlook.cardiffmet.ac.uk

Any information you provide will be treated in accordance with data protection principles for the purposes specified within the Participant Information Sheet. Cardiff Metropolitan University will process your personal data in line with Article 6(1)(a) and Article 9(2)(a) of the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 which specifies that your personal data can only be processed with your explicit consent. By signing this form and answering the questions contained within it you are confirming that you have understood the reasons for obtaining your data and you are happy for the study to proceed. Please note that you have the right to withdraw consent at any point. Should you wish to invoke that right please **Email ESSHethics@cardiffmet.ac.uk**

Here is a link to the consent form:

https://cardiffmet.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8kLR9KtEVvYBxZk

Alternatively, here is a QR code link:



If you need to contact us for any reason, please use the following addresses:

Marjorie Thomas: st20214993@outlook.cardiffmet.ac.uk

Dr Rhiannon Packer: RAJPacker@cardiffmet.ac.uk

Thank you very much for your help with this project.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Thomas".

Marjorie Thomas