

FARINGDON INFANT SCHOOL

Faringdon Learning Trust

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Our Vision for FIS –

Future of Faringdon; Including all; Supporting everyone to grow

Monday 19th April 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Gender Balance in Computing Research Project

We are very pleased to announce that our school has been selected to be part of a national research project run by the National Centre for Computing Education and Raspberry Pi called Gender Balance in Computing Research Project. This project aims to see if interventions in Computing lessons can help encourage and enthuse girls into Computing and STEM subjects later in life.

All Year 2 children, girls and boys, will be accessing the lessons using the Scratch Jr app to explore developing programming skills through storytelling during our weekly Computing lessons.

As part of the project we are required to submit data so that the research team can assess the effectiveness of the intervention/ lessons in promoting Computing and STEM subjects. You can opt out of your child's data being shared with the project, but they will still have the opportunity to participate in the sessions and learn new skills.

There is more information on the letter from the research team explaining what is involved.

Apologies for the quick turn around but please **return your slips to your child's class teacher by the end of Thursday 22nd April 2021 if you choose to opt out of your child's data being shared with the project**, so we can check it on the Friday and begin the project the following week.

Thank you for your help and support.

Yours Sincerely

Miss Cossey

Computing Subject Lead

Teaching Approach project: Storytelling

Parent/carer information

What is the Teaching Approach project?

The Raspberry Pi Foundation is working within the [National Centre for Computing Education](#) on a project funded by the Department for Education. Together, we are exploring ways of engaging more female pupils in computing in order to increase the number of girls who select Computer Science at GCSE and A level. It has been suggested that addressing this issue early in a child's education is important. In this project, we are aiming to trial some teaching approaches that have been used successfully in other subjects to increase girls' engagement in lessons.

How does this relate to my child?

Your child's school has agreed to participate in our project. This means that your child will be involved in the project unless you choose to opt out on their behalf (see below). If you are happy for your child to take part in the project, you do not have to do anything, and they will be automatically included in the project.

What will my child do in the project?

The project will run over a 12-week period between April and June 2021. Your child will participate in computing lessons as usual. As part of the project, all pupils will be asked to complete a short survey at the beginning and end of the 12-week period. Teachers will deliver computing lessons by linking tasks to storytelling and story-writing, which has been found to be engaging for older pupils. Although the research relates to girls' engagement, the teaching approach and resources can be used with both girls and boys. This project has been designed accounting for the current context that schools face during the global pandemic. All lessons will be conducted in line with the school's health and safety policies.

What questions will my child answer in the survey?

Before and after the 12-week project, your child will fill in a survey about their attitudes towards computing. The survey questions will ask about their attitudes and confidence, rather than more personal information such as their marks. For example, questions might include 'Are you good with computers?' and not 'What marks do you get?'. As part of the survey, we will collect your child's name, date of birth and gender. This is so that we can compare the surveys at the start and end of the project to see if the teaching approach used has made a difference to their attitudes towards computing.

What will happen to my child's data?

We will be using legitimate interests as the lawful basis for processing your child's data. All data collected in this project will be stored in line with the National Centre for Computing Education's [Privacy Policy](#). The Department for Education will be data controller of personal data of pupils

obtained from schools. They will share personal data with trusted processors (such as the evaluation team, partners, transcribers, and research assistants) solely for the purposes of proper delivery, management, and evaluation of the project. The Behavioural Insights Team will be data controllers for survey data collected from pupils and any qualitative data collected through interviews with teachers and/or pupils.

All parties barring the evaluation team will securely delete all personal data within 6 months of project completion. The Behavioural Insights Team will retain the data until June 2023 to permit further analysis.

Your child's data will be treated with the strictest confidence and will be transferred securely and saved in secure locations only accessible by the project team in line with GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. We will not use children's or schools' names in any report or reports arising from this project. If you have any queries about how your child's data will be handled, please contact the Behavioural Insights Team Data Protection Officer at dpo@bi.team, or the National Centre for Computing Education Data Protection Officer at datasecurity@stem.org.uk.

What if I don't want my child to take part in the research?

Your child's participation in this research is entirely voluntary, and you can opt out of having any data collected about your child as part of the project. Your child will still participate in all computing lessons as usual, but no data about them will be collected or stored. If you wish to opt out of the project, please complete the form below and return it to your child's school by Friday 26 March.

Questions

If you have any questions, please contact Katharine Childs (our Project Coordinator) at genderresearch@raspberrypi.org.

If you DO NOT want your child's data to be collected as part of the Teaching Approach: Storytelling project, please complete the following form and return it to your child's school by Thursday 22nd April 2021.

I have read and understood the information sheet provided and **DO NOT** wish for my child's data to be collected and analysed as part of the project.

Name:.....

Signature:.....

Child's name:.....

Date:.....