

Lancashire Educational Psychology Service

Emotionally-Based School Avoidance Working Group

Hearing the stories of pupils who find it difficult to attend school and those of their parents/carers

Parent/Carer Information & Consent Form

This is an invitation to take part in a project by Lancashire Educational Psychology Service on *Hearing the stories of pupils who find it difficult to attend school and those of their parents/carers*.

Before you decide whether you wish to take part, it is important for you to understand why this project is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully.

What is this project about?

Lancashire Educational Psychology Service are currently exploring the issue of barriers to school attendance and 'emotionally-based school avoidance' for children and young people in our local area. We are very keen to speak to young people and their parents/carers about their experiences of these difficulties so that we can understand more about this and so that we can better support schools to help pupils who experience this issue.

What does this involve?

We are inviting parents/carers of children and young people who experience difficulties with attending school to participate in our online focus groups for our research. If you participate, you will be asked to share your views as a part of a group of parents/carers with members of our Educational Psychology Service team. The questions we would like to ask parents are:

- Why do you think your child has difficulty attending school?
- Has the pandemic had an impact on your child's attendance?
- What key messages would you like schools and/or the LA to know and understand about your experience/the impact of this issue on families?
- What has been the most helpful thing anyone has done so far to support your child with this issue?
- What support would you like to see available for parents for this issue in Lancashire?

Please note: this session will not involve case discussion or problem-solving for individual children/families. The purpose of this session is to research parent/carers views about how support could be improved in Lancashire for pupils who face barriers to their school attendance and their families.

What happens with the information I share?

The focus groups will take place online. The session will be recorded so that we can later analyse the information shared. The information we gather from parents/carers and young people will be used to develop resources to help schools in Lancashire to support pupils who face barriers to their school attendance. All data used in this way will be kept confidential and anonymous and neither your name nor your child's name will appear anywhere. Information will be stored safely and securely in line with UK GDPR. Further information is available on the SEND privacy notice <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/transparency/access-to-information/service-and-project-specific-privacy-notice/lancashire-inclusion-service-send/>

Do I have to participate?

Participation in this project is totally voluntary and you do not have to take part if you do not want to. You are free at any time to withdraw should you change your mind about wanting to participate.

What happens next?

Please decide whether or not you would still like to participate in this project. If you would like to participate, you can join the online meeting for the focus group at your preferred time using the link provided.

Please note that your attendance at the session indicates that you consent to the following:

Consent Form:

- I consent to share my views for this research.
- I consent that the views I share may be used anonymously to develop training/resources for schools in Lancashire
- I consent to the recording of the focus group session for data gathering and analysis purposes
- I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I can withdraw at any time

What if I have more questions?

If you have any questions or concerns about your involvement or the use of your data, please contact the project coordinator:

Elaine Looney (Lead Specialist Educational Psychologist)

Email: elaine.looney@lancashire.gov.uk Phone: 01772 539132

Thank you for considering your participation in this project!

We hope that this will help to make a difference for children and young people in Lancashire who face barriers to their school attendance!