**Forest school INterventions for Children’s Health (FINCH): a feasibility cluster randomised control trial**

**Interviews: Participant Information Sheet (Intervention School Staff)**

Version 1.0: 29 November 2024

**Introduction**

You have been invited to take part in an interview. The purpose of the interview is to explore your experience in taking part in the research study. This includes gathering your views and experiences of being asked to deliver the Forest School sessions in your school, including any potential impacts you feel it had on the children, teaching and any other strategic decisions, and your thoughts and opinions on the study processes (filling out the questionnaires, engaging with parents etc). Before you decide whether to take part, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Please take the time to read the following information carefully. Talk to others about the study if you wish. Please ask us (using the contact information given below) if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information which may help you decide whether you want to take part.

**What do I have to do?**

To find out your views about the research study we would like you to take part in an interview. These interviews can be done in a way that is most convenient for you; either in person at a mutually convenient location, or online (over Zoom) and at a time that is preferable for you.

Depending on mode, the interview will be **audio and visually recorded**. This recording will be transcribed into written text and any reference to names, or other identifying information will be removed. The audio recordings will be permanently destroyed after this process.

The interview will last around **30-45 minutes** and will be arranged at a time convenient to you. You do not have to answer any questions that you do not want to, and the interview will be stopped at any point if you do not want to continue.

**Do I have to take part?**

You do not have to take part if you do not wish to do so. If you agree to take part and later change your mind, you have the right to withdraw without providing a reason.

**What are the possible benefits and risks of taking part?**

Your contribution will also help us understand more about how Forest Schools may be implemented in the school context, and how acceptable conducting research is in this context too; this will guide and benefit any future research that we do.

We do not think that there will be any risks if you take part. You can pause or stop the interview at any time, and you do not have to answer any questions you do not wish to.

**Will my taking part be kept confidential?**

We will not make reference to your name or anything that would make you personally identifiable in any outputs from the study, and all data in any publications will be anonymised. Your data will be stored safely in a password-protected folder at the University of York and will only be accessible by the research team. The University of York and its data storage procedures are fully compliant with General Data Protection Regulation.

**What are my choices about how my information is used?**

You can stop being part of the study at any time, without giving a reason, but we will keep information about you that we already have. The University of York is a publicly funded organisation that conducts research in the public interest to improve health and healthcare services. The ability to change the data that we have collected, however, is limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. To find out more about the use of your data in this study, please visit the following websites:

* <https://www.york.ac.uk/records-management/dp/>
* <https://www.york.ac.uk/records-management/dp/guidance/gdprcompliantresearch/>
* <https://www.york.ac.uk/records-management/dp/your-info/generalprivacynotice/>
* <https://www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/research/trials/trials-gdpr/research-partcipants/>

You can also email the University of York’s data protection officer at: dataprotection@york.ac.uk. Please let a member of the research team know if you need assistance with this.

**What will happen when the study ends?**

The anonymised data will be stored securely at the University of York and then destroyed after 10 years.

**What will happen to the results of the study?**

The results of the study will be published in a final report. A peer-reviewed article may also be prepared for publication in an academic journal. You will be sent a summary of the study findings unless you request for us not to do so (please email us if you do not wish to be contacted).

**What will happen if I don’t want to carry on being part of the study?**

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary. Declining to participate will not affect you in any way. If you do agree to participate, you are able to withdraw this at any time, and there will be no consequence of doing this. You have the right to withdraw from the study completely and decline any further contact by study staff after you withdraw. If you withdraw from the study, we will need to keep and use the data collected up to your withdrawal.

**Who has reviewed the study?**

This study has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by the University of York’s Department of Environment and Geography Ethical Review Committee . The Committee’s approval was given on **<insert date>**, Reference number: **<insert reference number>**

**Who should I contact if I wish to make a complaint?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should ask to speak to a member of the research team who will do their best to answer your questions:

Dr Hannah Armitt Professor Peter Coventry

Email: [Hannah.armitt@nhs.net](mailto:Hannah.armitt@nhs.net) Email: [Peter.coventry@york.ac.uk](mailto:Peter.coventry@york.ac.uk)

If you are unhappy with the way your personal data has been handled, you have a right to complain to the University’s Data Protection Officer at [dataprotection@york.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@york.ac.uk).

**Thank you for taking the time to read this Participant Information Sheet.**