Youth Perspectives on the STEM Ambassadors programme

What do I need to do with this document?

This document provides some information about our research into young people’s perceptions of the [STEM Ambassadors programme](https://www.stem.org.uk/stem-ambassadors). Please read it to assure yourself you are comfortable to proceed.

Purpose of the research

This research project will seek to find out what young people think and feel about any experiences they have had with STEM Ambassadors or other STEM enrichment and enhancement activities. This data will be used to reflect on future directions for the STEM Ambassador programme. Please be assured that this research project is not an assessment or evaluation of you, your students, your school and its STEM provision, or even of any individual STEM Ambassadors who may have visited. The data we will collect, by its nature, cannot be used for assessment.

Procedure

We are asking schools to engage in Focus Groups (FG) where two researchers from Sheffield Institute of Education (SIoE) will facilitate a discussion with students about their experiences of STEM Ambassadors. We anticipate two FG at your school during the second half of the Spring term or the first few weeks of the Summer term. One FG with students who have engaged with a STEM Ambassador and one FG with students who have not engaged with a STEM Ambassador. The exact dates will depend on when is convenient for you. With your permission, FGs will be audio recorded and may be transcribed. The FG data will only be shared with the people involved in the project from the SIoE, and, if used, the appointed transcriber. All further analysis will use anonymised data.

We are also asking schools to conduct a pre-FG activity. This activity should occur no more than a week before the FG, will last for 30-45 minutes and involve producing a poster. Further details are given in the activity briefing sheet.

Participation

By participating in the research you agree to your data being used in an aggregated and anonymous form in reporting. At the beginning of the FG we will ask you to sign a consent form to confirm this and to say that the purpose and procedures of the research has been explained to you.

Participation in the project is voluntary and please accept our thanks in advance if you choose to become involved. In our experience most people enjoy being involved in projects like this but if, at any time and for any reason, you would like to withdraw from the process you can do so without having to justify your decision to us. Any data you have contributed would then be removed from any future analysis.

All reports for STEM Learning and any academic research publications produced from the project will anonymise both organisations and individuals so no individual participant or school will be identified or identifiable.

Data protection

All digital data will be stored in secure, password-protected computers in SHU. Paper-based data will be stored in locked cupboards within secure offices. Any transfer of data will use secure portals.

SHU undertakes research as part of its function for the community under its legal status. Data protection allows us to use personal data for our work with appropriate safeguards in place under the legal basis of public tasks that are in the public interest (GDPR clause 6 (1) f). A full statement of your rights can be found at https://www.shu.ac.uk/about-this-website/privacy-policy/privacy-notices/privacy-notice-for-research.

All University work of this nature is reviewed to ensure that participants are treated appropriately and their rights respected. This work was approved by the University Ethics Committee. Further information can be found here:

<https://www.shu.ac.uk/research/ethics-integrity-and-practice>

If you have any general queries about the information provided please contact the SIoE Project Business Support Louise Glossop or the Project Lead, Dr Stuart Bevins (details below).

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