

19th March 2019

RE: EEF PSQM Trial – Year 3 & 4

Dear Parent,

I am writing to inform you that we are participating in a national research project during 2019-2021. We anticipate this will offer opportunities to develop our teaching of science for the benefit of pupils, enabling us to access new methods, initiatives and resources. The project is funded by the Educational Endowment Fund and the Wellcome Trust and sets out to trial the effectiveness of The Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM), a developmental accreditation programme. PSQM enables primary schools to improve science teaching and learning through effective science leadership and supported school self – evaluation.

Full details of the research project, provided by RAND Europe, independent evaluators, and the University of Hertfordshire, the PSQM delivery team, can be found here:

http://redocuments.org/PSQM/Information_Sheet.pdf

Our school's involvement could be as part of an 'intervention' group or a 'control' group, allocated randomly. However, whichever group we are in, the project does require the sharing of pupil data as follows:

2018/19

Basic information for all current year 3 and 4 pupils: name, sex, date of birth, free school meal status, and unique pupil numbers. All reporting will be anonymised.

2019/20

Children from one year 5 class will sit a brief science knowledge and science attitudes assessment. All reporting will be anonymised.

2020/21

Children from one year 5 class will sit a brief science knowledge and science attitudes assessment. All reporting will be anonymised.

A report of the findings of the research will be published in 2022. No school, class or child will be identifiable. The privacy notice can be viewed here:

http://redocuments.org/PSQM/Privacy_Notice_Parents.pdf

You have the option to withdraw your son/daughter from this research project. If you do so, should we be in the 'intervention' group, your son/daughter will still experience the same science teaching and enrichment opportunities, but his/her data and results will not be shared or used as part of the research.

We hope you are happy to support us in this project but should you wish to opt out, please could you either download a withdrawal form here and return it to the school: <http://redocuments.org/PSQM/Withdrawal.pdf> or complete an online withdrawal form here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/KP8W0/> by Tuesday 2nd April.

If you would like hard copies of the documentation and withdrawal form, they are available from main reception.

Yours sincerely,



Jonathan Bishop
Executive Headteacher