

Young People at a Crossroads

Information Sheet for Parents/Guardians of Young Researchers in the UK

You and your child are being invited to take part in the research project 'Young People at a Crossroads'. The research is being led by Catherine Walker at University of Manchester and involves researchers at three universities in the UK and Australia (the Universities of Manchester, Melbourne and Wollongong).

Before you and your child decide whether to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being conducted and what it will involve. Please read the following information carefully and discuss any questions you have with your child and then with the researcher who sent you this information sheet.

This information sheet is aimed at the parents or guardians of young people who may become young researchers.

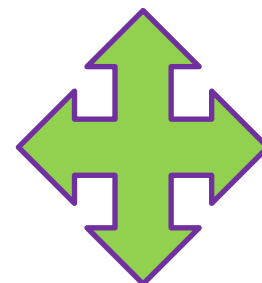
For this project, 'young researchers' should be:

- Aged 14-18 at the time of starting the research (June 2021)
- Living in Manchester or Melbourne
- A second-generation immigrant, that is, the young person was born in Australia or the UK, but one or more parents/guardians migrated to the UK or Australia before they were born. We are particularly interested in families where parents migrated from a country in **Africa, Asia, the Middle East, the Pacific or Central/South America.**

If you are not sure if the research applies to you but you are interested in taking part, please contact the researcher who sent you this information.

What is the 'Young people at a Crossroads' project about?

Many people have said that humanity is at a 'crossroads' in terms of the path we take to tackle climate change. Yet often people do not speak to young people about their ideas about climate change, or if they do, they only speak to 'big name' campaigners like Greta Thunberg. In addition, people in countries like the UK and Australia who are trying to find solutions to climate change may not consider that some people living in their cities have migrated from countries where they already had to learn to adapt to climate change and other environmental challenges.



We are inviting young people aged 14-18 whose parents have migrated to Manchester or Melbourne (up to 15 young people in each city) to play a key role in this project as 'young researchers'. Young researchers will play a very important part in the research project – as well as sharing their own experiences of learning about climate change and the environment, they will interview a parent or guardian about their experiences of climate change and the environment, and they will help the researchers and a group of teachers to think about the findings from the project.

Why is this research being done and will it be published?

The project aims to find out how families are talking about and adapting to climate change, particularly families where one or more parents migrated and may have experience of responding to climate change or other environmental challenges in the country where they grew up.

Research findings will be published in journals and presented at conferences for academics and teachers. Findings may also be written about in blogs, teaching materials or in newspapers. Participants will also contribute to a book of stories, which will be available on the project website and will be shared with all families and teachers who are part of the project. The book of stories may also be published as a teaching resource and stored in a community library.

Who is organising and approving the research?

The project has been reviewed and approved by The University of Manchester Research Ethics Committee 5 (reference 2021-11462-18689), the University of Melbourne Research Ethics Committee (reference 2021-21640-17977-3). The project is funded by the UK Government's Economic and Social Research Council (grant ES/T015594/1).

How does this research affect me, and what do I need to do?

If your child is under 16, you will need to give your consent for them to take part in the research. Please read the information sheet that your child has been given which includes full details of the activities they will be invited to do as a 'young researcher'.

If your child is aged 16 or over, they do not need your consent for them to take part in the research. However, your child will not be able to take part in the research unless one parent or guardian agrees to take part in the following activities with them:

- **Interview 1**, led by your child, about environmental challenges or experiences that could be linked to climate change. The interview will be recorded by a researcher with your permission and will last up to one hour. Your child may choose to interview one or both parents/guardians, if they live in the same household.
- **Interview 2**, led by the researcher, who will ask you and your child to reflect on interview 1 together. This interview will last up to one hour.
- **With your child, select some stories of living with climate change or looking after the environment** to share in the project book of stories and decide how you wish to present these stories.

How and where will research activities take place?

The full list of activities with young researchers are shown on page 2 of your child's information sheet. These activities will be led by Catherine Walker **online via Zoom, outside of school/college hours**. Catherine has undertaken an enhanced DBS check for working with under 18s.

The two interviews with you, your child and the researcher will either take place over Zoom, or at your home if Government regulations about Covid-19 allow for this at the time of the interviews, and you feel comfortable with this. **Please be aware there is no obligation for you to agree to a researcher coming to your home.**

Will people know I have taken part in the research?

If you do decide to take part, you and your child can tell your friends, family, teachers or any others.

The researcher will ask you how you wish to be identified in any publication from the research (for example, using a fake name or using your first name only). The researcher will also talk to you and your child about how you wish to represent yourselves in the project book, and you will have the option of being named as an author of the project book.

How will personal information be kept safe?

What personal information will you collect?

If you do take part in the research, you and your child will be sharing some personal information, specifically:

- Your name
- Your ethnicity
- Your gender
- Your child's age

In addition, the researcher will ask for the following information in order to keep in contact with you:

- Your email address and your child's email address
- Your home address, if the researcher visits your home for an interview

Audio or video recordings taken of interviews, are considered as personal information as they contain your voice and image. The same applies if you choose to share photographs for your family's contribution to the book of stories.

Under what legal basis are you collecting this information?

We are collecting and storing this personal information in accordance with UK data protection law which protect your rights. These state that we must have a legal basis (specific reason) for collecting your data. For this study, the specific reason is that it is "a public interest task" and "a process necessary for research purposes". If you would like to know more about your rights or find out the legal reason we collect and use your information, please read through the [Privacy Notice for Research](#).

What will happen to my personal information, and the personal information of my child?

The University of Manchester is the 'Data Controller' for the project, which means that under UK Data Protection Law, they are responsible for keeping your information safe. Data collected in Manchester will also be securely transferred to University of Melbourne for the duration of the project.

The researchers on the project have received training to keep your information safe and will do so as follows:

- For the focus groups that your child takes part in, video recordings and audio recordings will be taken with your consent. The video recordings will be used to create a written record of what was said, then they will be deleted.
- For the interviews with parents/guardians, an audio recording will be taken and this will be sent to a professional transcriber (someone who listens to recordings and writes down everything that was said). They will keep your information confidential and will delete the recording when they finish their work. You and your family will receive a copy of the transcript of the child's interview with parents/ guardians.
- Your data be kept on the University of Manchester computer server for five years from the end of the project in February 2023, and then it will be safely destroyed. There will also be a copy of your data on the University of Melbourne computer server until the end of the project.
- Only Catherine Walker and one researcher working on the project in Melbourne (Ellen van Holstein, whose contact details are at the end of the information sheet) will have access to the original recordings containing all the things you have said, and any photographs you share for the book of stories. The two researchers will send your information to one another using a secure (cloud-based) service with a password.
- Catherine will create versions of your interview transcripts that have your name and any other personal details removed to share with researchers who are advising on the research project. The advisors will access this information through a secure (cloud-based) service with a password.
- If you give agree to be contacted for future research studies on your consent form, your contact details will be stored securely on University of Manchester computer server for five years from when the project ends. You can take part in the research without agreeing to this.
- If your child is under 16, you will also be asked if you give consent for them to be contacted for future research studies, and if you consent to this, their data will be stored in the same way.
- If you agree on your consent form for the things you shared in the project to be sent to the UK Data Archive, your name and any other identifying details will first be removed before the data are sent to the UK Data Archive. You can take part in the research without agreeing to this.

Covid-19 and data protection

Owing to current restrictions to face to face meetings, most or all of the activities for this research will take place using Zoom, and your personal data will be processed by Zoom, which is based in the USA. University of Manchester will ensure that data transfers between countries are compliant with UK Data Protection Law. The recordings will be removed from Zoom and stored on University of Manchester managed file storage at the first opportunity.

Do I have to take part in the project?

You are not under any obligation to take part, however, please be aware that your child can only take part if at least one parent or guardian agrees to be interviewed for the study.

If you decide not to take part you do not need to do anything further. Details about what to do if you decide to take part are at the end of the sheet.

What if I change my mind?

You are free to withdraw from the project at any point without having to give a reason. This does not affect your data protection rights. If you decide to withdraw, it may not be possible to remove data you already shared, but you will not be identified in any project publication.

How could taking part in the project benefit my child and others?

The project will you and your child to develop new skills, including interviewing and creating content for a project book. These are skills that could help your child with your school projects, applying for jobs and university applications. Your contributions to the project may also mean that a more diverse range of perspectives are included in how some students learn about climate change and how people around the world are responding to it.

Will I or my child receive anything for taking part in the project?

At the start of the project, each young researcher will receive a one-off voucher so they can buy mobile data to support participation in online research activities. At the end of the project, young researchers will be given a £50 book voucher in recognition of the time given to the project. Your family will also receive a copy of the project book when it is printed, and young researchers will receive a certificate of participation in the project.

Help and support

This research project is designed to help you and your child to recognise valuable knowledge you have about climate change and environmental challenges. It is **not** designed to upset your child by thinking about climate change. However, if your child finds that taking part in the research makes them anxious about climate change, they can contact the following organisations:

[Help - Eco-Anxiety](#) - A dedicated website by young people for young people containing information about eco-anxiety, advice and organisations that can help.

[Childline | Childline](#) - 08001111, free helpline in the UK for anyone under 19. You can confidentially call, email or chat online about anxiety

Likewise, if **you** experience any distress during or following research interviews because of anything that was discussed, we encourage you to contact your General Practitioner or call Samaritans on 116 123 (free from any phone) 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. You can also find information about multilingual support services in this NHS guide to mental health support for migrants: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mental-health-migrant-health-guide>

Complaints or questions

If you do decide to take part, the researchers will do all we can to make you and your child feel comfortable. However, if at any point in the research you or your child wishes to make a complaint, please contact the lead researcher:

Dr Catherine Walker, University of Manchester, Booth Street West, Manchester M15 6PB, UK
catherine.walker-2@manchester.ac.uk / +44 (0)161 275 8907

If you wish to make a formal complaint to someone outside of the research team then you or your parent can contact The Research Ethics Manager, University of Manchester using the following contact details:

Research Ethics Manager, Research Office, Christie Building, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL / research.complaints@manchester.ac.uk / +44 (0)161 306 8089.

If you wish to contact us about your data protection rights, please email: dataprotection@manchester.ac.uk or write to **The Information Governance Office, Christie Building, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, M13 9PL, United Kingdom** and we will guide you through the process of exercising your rights.

What do I do now?

If you and your child are interested in taking part in the study, or want to ask questions before making a decision, please contact Catherine who will then arrange a time to talk through any questions with you and your child. It would be helpful to the researchers if you could reply within **one week** of receiving this information sheet.

Contact details

Lead researcher (Manchester): Dr Catherine Walker, University of Manchester, Booth Street West, Manchester M15 6PB, UK catherine.walker-2@manchester.ac.uk / +44 (0)161 275 8907

Research Assistant (Melbourne): Ellen van Holstein, ypac-project@unimelb.edu.au

Please keep a copy of this information sheet for your reference.