

DATE:

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Re. Study: Bullying, Sexting, and Peer-Support in Adolescence.

My name is Dr Simon Hunter and I am a Senior Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Strathclyde. I am writing to request permission to invite young people in your school to participate in a study on young people's sexting (their behaviour and attitudes) and their understanding of the power dynamics in aggressive interactions. This research has been funded by the Scottish Police Authority's Violence Reduction Unit, and it will examine the impact of their Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) program which over 100 Secondary Schools have implemented over the past four years.

I have received permission to conduct this study from the Local Education Authority and from your child's Head teacher. Any adult researcher who visits your school will have also been checked by Disclosure Scotland or an international equivalent.

The study will involve pupils in S1, S2, and S3. If your child takes part, they will be asked to respond to questions concerning their attitudes toward sexting, their sexting behaviour, involvement in or knowledge of bullying, parental/guardian support, and school ethos. They will also be asked to say how they would respond in three hypothetical bullying situations (one physical, one relationship-based, and one cyberbullying). Participation will be anonymous. We aim to recruit a minimum of 500 young people, half with experience of the MVP program and half without.

The study should take no longer than 40 minutes to complete. No school or individual pupil will be identifiable in any written reports.

All responses your child gives will be confidential. In addition, all information provided on the consent form will be kept confidential and will not be linked to the responses your child gives. The University of Strathclyde is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office who implements the Data Protection Act 1998. All personal data on participants will be processed in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998.

I hope that you will allow your child to participate. However, this study is entirely voluntary, and you or your child can opt not to take part. All young people will confirm whether or not they wish to take part, and it will also be made clear to your child that they can stop taking part even after they have started completing the tasks without giving a reason and without any consequences.

If you are **not happy** for your child to be invited to take part in the study please complete the attached consent form and return to the school. If you are happy for your child to take part, you are not required to take any action. If you do not wish your child to take part, and have returned the opt-out consent form, your child will not be invited to take part in the study. If you give consent for your child to be approached about taking part in the study, they will be asked to give consent. Only young people who themselves give consent will take part.

This investigation was granted ethical approval by the School of Psychological and Health Sciences Ethics Committee. If you have any questions about the study, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you wish to contact an independent person to whom any questions may be directed or further information may be sought from, you can also contact the Chair of the School Ethics Committee, Dr Diane Dixon.

Yours sincerely,



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PLEASE ASK YOUR CHILD TO RETURN THIS TEAR OFF SLIP TO THE SCHOOL IF YOU DO NOT WISH THEM TO TAKE PART IN THIS RESEARCH. THANK YOU.

Department: School of Psychological Sciences and Health

Title of the study: Bullying, Sexting, and Peer-Support in Adolescence

I DO NOT wish my child to take part in the the study on Bullying, Sexting and Peer Support in Adolescence

CHILDS NAME:	
PARENTAL SIGNATURE:	
PRINT NAME:	
DATE:	