



SMART Spaces Revision Programme

Information for Parents/Carers

What is this about?

Queen's University Belfast and Hallam Teaching School Alliance (the "project team") are working together on SMART Spaces, a project funded by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and the Wellcome Foundation, which aims to improve revision skills in chemistry and raise GCSE science grades. The effectiveness of the project will be researched by a team from UCL Institute of Education (the "evaluation team"). This research has been reviewed and approved by the research ethics committee of UCL Institute of Education. The headteacher of your child's school has agreed that the school will take part in the research programme.

What will the project look like?

The project investigates the effect of SMART Spaces revision programme, run by the project team. The project team will work with teachers and schools to teach a revision programme that we think will benefit your child's learning in science.

We plan to work with around 125 schools, and their Year 11 "double award" science classes during 2018-19. Teachers in 'intervention' schools (see below) will receive training and materials for the SMART Spaces revision programme and will then teach the programme over two weeks during May 2019 just before your child's GCSE science examination.

What are 'intervention' and 'comparison' schools?

An important element of EEF-funded projects is that schools are randomly chosen either to be in the intervention group, who will receive the training this year, or a comparison group, who contribute to the data required for comparison (and might choose to teach the revision programme in future).

Whether your child's teacher will receive the training this year ('intervention' schools) or not ('comparison schools') will be randomly decided by evaluators from UCL Institute of Education to help them understand how effective the training has been. If your child's school is not selected to take part in the SMART Spaces programme this year, they will receive a payment. After the evaluation has finished, comparison schools may purchase the *SMART Spaces* programme from QUB/HTSA for use from January 2020.

What does this mean for me as a parent?

As part of measuring the success of this training programme, your child will be asked to complete a survey towards the end of the year. This will take about 15 minutes. Your child's name and other data held by the school, alongside their KS2 test and GCSE science scores, will be collected by the evaluation and project teams. We are collecting this information for the purposes of the research project, to help us understand if the SMART Spaces programme helps children like yours to revise chemistry for their GCSE science exam. No information that can identify individual children will be made available to anyone outside these teams and your child's school. Your child's data will be treated with the strictest confidence and will be kept securely under password protection. We will not use your child's name or the name of the school in any report arising from the research, and no information that could otherwise identify your child will be made public.

We will also obtain your child's UPN (Unique Pupil Number) to allow us to link the data with the National Pupil Database (held by the Department for Education, part of the UK Government) and other official records in order to understand the impact of the project on GCSE grades and on other test scores. This involves us sharing data with the Department for Education, the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF, who funded the trial), EEF's data contractors Fischer Family Trust Education, Durham University and storing the data in an anonymised form in the UK Data Archive. We link the data with the National Pupil Database for the purpose of research. Further matching to National Pupil Database may take place during subsequent research. All use of data will be compliant with the GDPR and data protection legislation.



If you have any questions you would like to ask, please contact Jeremy Hodgen at the UCL Institute of Education by email at ioe.smartspaces@ucl.ac.uk

Because we are doing this research to improve understanding about what works in improving pupils' education, **if you are happy for information about your child to be used in the SMART Spaces research project you do not need to do anything.** Thank you for your help with this research, your support is much appreciated.

Although we think the project may help your child, you have the right to ask us not to use your child's data in this way. If you **DO NOT** want information about your child to be used to understand whether the SMART Spaces programme can help improve revision in science, please complete the enclosed form and return it to your child's school by 13 November. If you do this, then no information about your child will be shared with the evaluation or project teams at any point during the project. In addition, you can ask for your child's data to be withdrawn from the project at any time until 31st August 2019, without giving a reason, by contacting us via email at ioe.smartspaces@ucl.ac.uk

SMART Spaces research programme

(If you are happy for your child to participate in the research on whether this programme improves revision in science, you DO NOT need to return this form.)

I **DO NOT** wish my data about my child to be collected as part of this research.

Child's name:Date of birth:

Child's class Teacher:

School:.....

Parent name (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Parent signature:

Date

(Please detach and return the completed form to reception, FAO Data Manager by 13 November)