

Information Sheet Parents/Guardians



Title of study: Validation of the 'Suicidality: Treatment Occurring in Paediatrics (STOP) Suite of Measures' in Clinical and Non-clinical Child and Adolescent Populations

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are inviting your child to take part in the STOP research study. Before you decide whether you would like your child to participate, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read this information carefully and discuss it with your family.

Please do not hesitate to contact us, if you have further questions or if anything seems unclear.

What is the purpose of the study?

Our research team set out to evaluate a web-based questionnaire, that can be used for the assessment and monitoring of self-harming behaviour in children and adolescents. The research is called 'The STOP Project' and it is being carried out in different countries across Europe.

We are inviting healthy children and adolescents, to help us with this work and complete a set of questionnaires using the web-based tool called HealthTracker™. There are three versions of HealthTracker™: one for children aged 8-11 year olds and one for adolescents between 12-18 years.

Our aim is to see how easily young people are able to navigate and complete this online assessment tool. If HealthTracker™ proves useful; it will make it easier to monitor well-being in children with a variety of mental and physical problems.

Why has my child been invited to participate?

Your child has been invited to participate because they are representative of a healthy population of young people aged between 8 and 18 years old.

What kind of questions will my child be asked about?

The Healthtracker™ includes questions that provide us with a 'snapshot' of how your child feels at this moment in time. Most questions ask about your child's mood and feelings. Please note that some questions may specifically focus on suicidal ideation and self-harm. This is because we want to see if the web-based tool will capture these feelings, should they arise.

There is a possibility that some questions will touch on areas that are particularly difficult or sensitive. You may even find the questionnaire raises issues or concerns that you hadn't previously thought about, and these might also be useful to talk to your child about. If your child becomes anxious upset from answering the questionnaire, they can stop completing the questionnaire at any moment. In addition, we may recommend and offer you assistance with locating sources of help or support.

Does my child have to participate?

Whether your child takes part in this project is entirely up to you. If you decide to be involved, you may change your mind at any time without giving a reason. If you decide not to take part or to withdraw, it will not affect your relationship with the school.

What will happen if I want my child to participate?

If you and your child agree to take part in the study, we will ask you to sign the enclosed consent form. The researcher will ask your child to complete set of questionnaires using a web-based tool called HealthTracker™ and the whole process should take less than 40 minutes. If there are any items that your child feels uncomfortable answering, they can answer '*I don't know*'.

If you agree, we will ask your child to complete the same set of questionnaires at three different time points over the course of 12 months.

Who is going to be reading these questionnaires and how can I be sure the information I give remains confidential?

All information that is collected about you during the course of the project will be kept strictly confidential. The responses that you give will not be able to be traced back to you (*the questionnaires will be anonymised, by using a code and will not contain your name*). Once the responses have been collected and coded, the anonymous data will be analysed centrally.

Will we be compensated for taking part in this research project?

We really appreciate your help, and you and your child will be compensated £40 in vouchers for the time you spend completing the online questionnaires.

If you have any further questions or concerns about the project, please feel free to contact us:

Dr Regina Sala	regina.sala_cassola@kcl.ac.uk	0207 848 0756
Dr Federico Fiori	federico.fiori@kcl.ac.uk	02 07 848 0172
Laura Selema	laura.selema@kcl.ac.uk	0207 848 5416
Nathan Parnell	nathan.1.parnell@kcl.ac.uk	02 07 848 0172
Kate Lievesley	kate.lievesley@kcl.ac.uk	02 07 848 0172

Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London
Box PO 85, 16 De Crespigny Park
London SE5 8AF