



MAIDEN ERLEGH SCHOOL

Headteacher: Paul Gibson
MSc (Educational Leadership), BA (Economics)

- Silverdale Road, Earley, Reading, RG6 7HS
- 0118 926 2467
- MESoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org
- www.maidenerleghschool.co.uk
- @MaidenErleghSch

27 June 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

The school has agreed to take part in research conducted by the University of Southampton, investigating school provision of mental health support. As a year 9 student, your child is invited to take part in the study taking place in school in July. Children and young people spend a significant amount of their time at school, so schools therefore have an important role in supporting good mental well-being and preventing or supporting any mental health difficulties. Our hope is that the results of the study will help us to improve the mental health provision within the school.

The study conducted will involve a 60–90-minute focus group with 6-8 year 9 students. The focus group will include drawing, writing and discussion facilitated by the researcher, with myself present for supervision, centred around the topic of an ideal school for promoting good mental health. Full information about the study itself, how to give and withdraw consent for participation, and all other ethical considerations are in the parent information sheet attached.

The session will take place during lesson time, on **Tuesday 16 July** at 9.00am. If your child participates then they will be expected to go to their lesson period 1 to register, before heading to the nominated room to take part in the research, and then return to their period 2 lesson after completion.

If you and your child are happy for them to participate in the research, please return the following documents to myself as soon as possible.

- The demographic questionnaire
- Your signed consent form
- Your child's signed assent form

These can be returned either electronically (with a typed or digital signature) FAO Miss Robbins by emailing mesreception@maidenerleghtrust.org or paper copies can be handed to reception/your child's form tutor to be returned to me directly. If a paper copy is required, students can collect these from the head of year's office in L-block.

Yours Sincerely,

Miss A Robbins
Teacher of Psychology and Mental Health First Aider

