**Teacher Assessment in Primary Science (TAPS)**

 **Information sheet for interview participants, May 2016 – May 2018**

**What is the Teacher Assessment in Primary Science (TAPS) project?**

The TAPS project was launched in 2013 by Bath Spa University and the Primary Science Teaching Trust. One of its key aims was to exemplify an assessment framework for using formative assessment (also known as assessment for learning) towards a summative judgement of children’s progress in primary science. A key output of the research was an assessment framework, which became known as the **TAPS pyramid** due to its distinctive shape.

**Structure and aims of the research**

This study seeks to understand the social learning processes which facilitate or inhibit the adoption of new frameworks in schools.

**The research team**

* Isabel Hopwood-Stephens is an associate lecturer in primary science and doctoral student with the Institute for Education at Bath Spa University (i.hopwood-stephens@bathspa.ac.uk). She is leading the research.
* Dr Kendra McMahon is a senior lecturer at Bath Spa University and a member of the TAPS project team (k.mcmahon@bathspa.ac.uk). She is supervising the research.

**The research process**

1. You will be given an Information Sheet about the research to read beforehand.
2. You will be asked to sign a consent form before any data is collected (you will be posted a signed copy). You can ask any questions at this point, or decide to withdraw.
3. You will be asked a series of questions related to social learning opportunities and changing assessment practice in primary science. The researcher will make an audio recording of your answers so that she can listen carefully to what you say and follow up any interesting points during the interview.
4. After the interview, you will be given a copy of the signed consent form for your records. If you think of anything further which you wish to add to your responses, you can contact the researcher by email or phone (see contact details below).
5. The researcher will produce a transcript of the interview, which will be used for analysis. You will be sent a copy, which you can annotate and return with further comments.

**Data to be collected**

* Audio file of responses to interview questions

The collection of any other data will be negotiated between the school and researcher.

**Storage and confidentiality**

* Paper copies of interview data will be stored in a locked cabinet in a private office and assigned a numerical code, the key for which will be kept separately
* Electronic copies of interview data will be kept on the researcher’s laptop in a password-protected folder. The laptop will be kept in a private office
* Records will be de-identified once the interviews have been transcribed by the researcher
* Any quotations from transcripts in published material resulting from the research will be given a pseudonym (false name) so that individuals and schools cannot be identified
* All data will be destroyed three years after the end of the collection period
* No future research is planned at this time utilizing the data gathered during this research
* Consent can be withdrawn at any time

**Funders**

The course fees for this PhD are being paid by the Primary Science Teaching Trust.

**Contact**

Isabel Hopwood-Stephens, at: i.hopwood-stephens@bathspa.ac.uk