



## Supporting students with medical needs in secondary schools

### Information sheet for school staff, parents and carers

My name is Erika Payne and I am inviting you to take part in my research project titled "Supporting students with medical needs in secondary schools".

I am hoping to find out about secondary schools' current practices to empower their students with medical needs to succeed. I am particularly interested in exploring what policies are in place, how students' transition into secondary school and their inclusion is ensured, how schools collaborate with parents and medical professionals and what measures they take to enhance the social emotional wellbeing of students with medical needs. This information sheet will try and answer any questions you might have about the project, but please don't hesitate to contact me if there is anything else you would like to know.

If you are a parent or a carer of a child or young person with a medical need, please explain the research to your child and discuss whether or not they want to take part. I will also ask the children before they complete the survey or participate in the focus group interview and make it clear that they can drop out if they wish with no negative consequences.

#### Who is carrying out the research?

Erika Payne Trainee Educational Psychologist at UCL Institute of Education

[Erika.payne@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:Erika.payne@ucl.ac.uk)

#### Why are we doing this research?

Currently, the educational outcomes of students with medical needs are not as good as the outcomes of other students. Adolescents with a health condition are more likely to end up not in employment, education or training after the age of 19. I would like to find out how schools can better help their students succeed. I would also like to find out what currently works well and what areas could be improved.

#### Why am I being invited to take part?

Your and/or your child's participation will inform schools about practices that are currently working and support that could be improved. I will be talking to school nurses and other members of school staff, parents and carers as well as students. Some participants will only be invited to complete a survey. Others will be invited to participate in a group discussion after completing the survey.

#### What will happen if I choose to take part?

First, as a school professional you will be asked to complete an online survey. This will take approximately 15 minutes. If you wish to participate in a focus group interview, subsequently you may get an invitation. Not all participants who complete the survey will be invited, only approximately six school nurses or other members of school staff, six parents and six students.

If you are a parent or a carer and you agree for your child to take part, they will also be asked to complete an online survey. I am interested to find out whether schools and students view current practices the same way. Next, if they agree to be invited to the focus group interview, you and your child, or perhaps just one of you will receive an invitation. The focus group interview will take approximately 40 or 50 minutes. The location, the date and the time will be agreed on with the participants. The interviews will be recorded, so they can later be transcribed. Nobody other than the researcher will see the videos. They will be

stored in an encrypted folder on a password protected computer and deleted according to the GDPR regulations.

### **Will anyone know I have been involved?**

All data will be confidential. If I may have to disclose information, for example if I have concerns about the welfare of a participant, then my obligation to do so will be made clear. All contributions will be anonymised, although specific medical conditions may be mentioned. This will be done while ensuring that no participants can be identified. For instance: *Boy, aged 16, Type One Diabetes*

### **Could there be problems for me if I take part?**

No. If at any point you or your child feels uncomfortable to continue, they can stop. If difficult subjects are discussed (for instance bullying), it will be ensured that all participants remain safe and guidance will be provided to manage potential emotional distress.

### **What will happen to the results of the research?**

The findings of the research will be presented in the form of a doctoral dissertation to UCL Institute of Education. The findings will also be shared with all participating schools as well as other schools in Hertfordshire. Additionally, the findings may be presented at trainings for educational professionals and perhaps will be published in a professional journal.

The data gathered for this research will be stored securely for 10 years.

### **Do I have to take part?**

It is entirely up to you whether or not you choose to take part or consent for your child to take part. We hope that if you do choose to be involved, then you will find it a valuable experience. If you decide not to take part, there will be absolutely no consequences for you or your child.

### **Data Protection Privacy Notice**

The controller for this project will be University College London (UCL). The UCL Data Protection Officer provides oversight of UCL activities involving the processing of personal data, and can be contacted at [data-protection@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@ucl.ac.uk)

This 'local' privacy notice sets out the information that applies to this particular study. Further information on how UCL uses participant information can be found in our 'general' privacy notice:

For participants in research studies, click [here](#)

The information that is required to be provided to participants under data protection legislation (GDPR and DPA 2018) is provided across both the 'local' and 'general' privacy notices.

The lawful basis that will be used to process your personal data are: 'Public task' for personal data.

Your personal data will be processed so long as it is required for the research project. If we are able to anonymise or pseudonymise the personal data you provide we will undertake this, and will endeavour to minimise the processing of personal data wherever possible.

If you are concerned about how your personal data is being processed, or if you would like to contact us about your rights, please contact UCL in the first instance at [data-protection@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@ucl.ac.uk).