

UniSA, School of Education

Positive Education in school communities on scale and over time. What makes it stick?

INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS – PARENTS AND CARERS

1. About the research

The purpose of this research is to consider Positive Education in school communities which have successfully implemented wellbeing and resilience strategies across their whole community, to ascertain what measurable and sustained impacts has the application of Positive Education had on teacher, student and parent wellbeing behaviours. The results of this research will be used by the researcher, David Meziniec, to obtain a Doctor of Philosophy degree and is being sponsored by the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI), The Wellbeing and Resilience Centre.

2. What are the possible benefits of taking part?

We cannot guarantee or promise that you will receive any benefits from this research, however it is anticipated that each individual participant will have an opportunity to reflect on their wellbeing and resilience by completing the SAHMRI PERMA+ (Adults) and EPOCH (Child and Adolescents) based surveying tool. It is also anticipated that this research will more broadly:

- Assist your school and your school's sector to understand the impacts of their work in schools and what conditions promote sustained impact over time.
- Offer an approach to analysing wellbeing initiatives in your school and other schools.
- Add to the collaborative endeavour of Positive Education in the Australian schooling context, placing the selected six sites at the forefront of such endeavour.
- Offer participant schools an engaging professional network to share contemporary learnings and insights across school sites, sectors and states.
- Help inform educational policy in relation to Positive Education in Australia.

3. What does participation in this research involve?

There are no costs associated with participating in this research project, nor will you be paid.

A survey

All members of your school community; students from the age of 9, parents and staff will be invited to participate in a survey in term 2, 2018. The PERMA + (for adults) and EPOCH (for children and adolescents) instruments will ascertain your overall wellbeing and resilience according to internationally recognised measures and will take 15 minutes for students and parents to complete.

A possible focus group interview

Those members who complete the survey will be asked as part of the survey whether they would like to participate in a focus group interview in term 3, 2018. These focus group interview interviews, of one hour duration, will be conducted with the following groups: students; parents; staff; the team which championed the initiative in each school. A maximum representative sample type of eight participants for each focus group will be identified in collaboration with the leadership of your school community. The first eight respondents that represent the profile of the student, parent and staff community in terms of the various areas or sub-schools of your school community will be selected to participate.

4. Are there any risks involved?

We do not anticipate any risks arising from your involvement in the research beyond those encountered during everyday life, and your participation in, or withdrawal from, the research will in no way affect your role as a parent / carer member of your school. If at any stage your involvement in the research causes any emotional discomfort or distress, the researcher and school are able to advise you about counselling services immediately available to you.

5. What are your rights as a participant?

As a participant there are important rights that we make you aware of:

- The right to participate voluntarily – you should not feel obligated in any way to participate in the research.
- The right to withdraw from the research at any time, up until 31 July 2018, and for any reason you see fit. Your decision to withdraw and to not have your data included in the study, will not affect your relationship with staff or your relationship with other members of your school community.
- The right to have any information that you disclose remain confidential and anonymous throughout the research process and when published.
- The right to be properly informed about the research process.

6. Project Findings

After the researcher has analysed all the research data, the findings will be published as part of a thesis for a Doctor of Philosophy degree, and possibly also in some journal articles. At all times the researcher will ensure that any information you have provided remains confidential and anonymous. Upon completion of the study, you will be emailed a summary report that details the findings of the study for your school.

7. Confidentiality and Secure Storage of Data

The researcher will keep your information confidential and data from the study will be securely stored in the following ways:

- While data from the study may be published, all records containing personal information will remain confidential and no information which could lead to identification of any individual will be released, unless required by law or you have provided additional permissions for use of media containing your image.
- Collected re-identifiable coded data, (audio and text files) will be securely stored for 7 years in digital format on the School of Education, University of South Australia's secure ICT infrastructure.
- All data collected (digital files) will be password protected and only accessible by the researcher.
- The online PERMA+ survey is intended to be confidential with researcher taking every care to keep data confidential. However, confidentiality or anonymity of material transferred by email or the internet, cannot be guaranteed. The research team will delete data from the online platform as soon as possible after data collection completion, unless participants request otherwise.
- The student survey is also confidential. Your child's name will be separated from the research data and will only be re-matched with your child's survey and used to support your child if the results from this survey show that their wellbeing is critically at risk. In the interests of their safety and as a duty of care to your child, you as parents will be notified, your child will be invited to seek support from appropriate support agencies, and the wellbeing staff of your school will be informed so that they can support your child at this time.
- Signed consent forms will be kept in a separate location from the collected data in digital format on the School of Education, University of South Australia's secure ICT infrastructure.
- It is a requirement of the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research that data from research studies be securely stored for a minimum of 5 years, however it is a requirement of South Australian Government agencies that we keep the data collected for 7 years.
- You can view a copy of the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of research at this web address: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/r39syn.htm>
- After the 7-year period, all original digital files and electronic copies will be securely destroyed.
- Only the researcher and supervisor will have access to collected, analysed and stored data.

8. Who is organising and funding the research?

This research project is being conducted by David Meziniec and is being sponsored and funded by University of South Australia and the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI), The Wellbeing and Resilience Centre. The researcher and SAHMRI research team will not receive a personal financial benefit from your involvement in this research project other than their ordinary wages.

9. Questions?

If you have any further questions regarding this study, please contact:

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This project has been approved by UniSA's Human Research Ethics Committee. Participants or third parties who wish to lodge a complaint about either the study or the way it is conducted should contact the Executive Officer of UniSA HREC in the first instance:

Ms Vicki Allen UniSA's Ethics and Compliance Officer

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