

Listen Imagine Compose Primary 2

Participant Information 2025-2027

The purpose of this information leaflet is to inform you about the project so that you can decide whether you want to take part. Please contact Dr Victoria Kinsella victoria.kinsella@bcu.ac.uk if you have any further questions.

Research title: Listen Imagine Compose Primary 2 (LIC-P2)

Aims of the study: Listen Imagine Compose Primary Project aims to develop teaching and learning composing music with children and young people in primary schools. The research component of (LIC-P2) will investigate what is taking place during the composing aspects of this work on teaching and learning. To do this I would like to invite you to participate in a series of research activities.

Invitation to participate. I would like to invite you to participate in this evaluation. I am a researcher in the Centre for the Study of Practice and Culture in Education (CSPACE) within the College of Education at Birmingham City University. I may have already worked with you on other music-based research projects. For those of you I have not worked with before, I am a researcher who has worked on large range of music education research projects and a former classroom teacher.

What happens next if I agree to take part? For the research you will be asked to participate in a number of activities including:

- Reflective interviews exploring your experiences before, during and at the end of the project as well as young people's musical progression.
- Surveys reflecting on your learning and the educational outcomes for young people and practices both in your school, and beyond.
- Reflective focus groups to explore pedagogical approaches, learner and teacher development and educational outcomes.
- Observation of sessions with composing as the focus. Specifically, exploring pedagogical practices and shared learning between different settings.

The reflective interviews and focus groups should take around 30-60 minutes to complete. These activities will be conducted via an online video-link on Microsoft Teams or at suitable location once face to face contact for research is permitted. Observations of sessions will take place once face to face contact is permitted by the university, this is following insurance and health and safety guidelines. Surveys will be conducted online and should not take longer than 20 minutes.

What if I do not want to take part? What happens to your data if you withdraw depends on the activity:

- **Interviews:** If you withdraw before the analysis begins (one week after), we will delete your recording and transcript.
- **Surveys:** These are anonymous. Once submitted, it will not be possible to identify or remove your responses.

- **Focus groups:** You may withdraw before the session. However, because focus group data is based on shared group discussion, it is not possible to remove individual contributions after the session has taken place.
- **Observations:** These are of teaching practice, not individuals. If you ask to withdraw after an observation, we will ensure that no identifiable reference to you is included in any reporting, though we may retain generalised field notes to maintain the integrity of the data set.

We will make every effort to honour withdrawal requests up until the point that data analysis begins. After this point, it may not be possible to remove data, as it may have already been anonymised and integrated into findings.

What happens to the information collected during the research project? All data collected in the course of the research project will be available to the research team involved. Nothing will be disclosed outside the project in any way that will identify any individual. All information will be anonymised, and will be held in a secure area of the BCU computer research network.

Data Retention. In line with Birmingham City University's Research Data Management Policy, all research data will be retained securely for a minimum of 10 years from the end of the project.

Benefits of being part of the research? This evaluation will be of benefit not only for your own personal and organisational development but for the wider arena of music education. Whilst findings cannot be anticipated, they will contribute to discussions of composing music provision in schools. This research therefore offers potential benefits to young people, music teachers and practitioners, composers, music organisations and music hubs. It has the potential to extend the research base which policy-makers use for their decision-making.

Potential risks of being part of the research? All research carries risks and there is a risk that the interviews, focus groups or observations may raise sensitive issues. If sensitive issues are raised these will be discussed with you and a mutual decision made as to the inclusion of such issues in research data. If you feel uncomfortable at any point during the research activities you are welcome to take a comfort break or to end the activity.

Confidentiality Arrangements: You have the right to withdraw from this research, up to the point of data analysis. All information provided is confidential and anonymised, nothing reported will be identifiable. If needed, any safeguarding issues will be addressed through the appropriate channels.

Informed consent: You can provide consent by signing and completing the attached 'Project Participant Consent Form'.

Review of the research: The research process will be continuously reviewed by the BCU music education research group (BMERG) and the Research Director for the Centre of the Study of Practice and Culture in Education (CSPACE) at Birmingham City University.

What happens at the end of the research study? At the end of the research, the findings will be shared with you in a research report. Findings will also be shared in future academic publications and educational research and music educational practice conferences.

What if I have more questions or do not understand something or have a complaint? You may contact Victoria Kinsella-Hadjinestoros victoria.kinsella@bcu.ac.uk at any time. If you have complaints during the research please contact HELS_Ethics@bcu.ac.uk. **Thank you for reading this information leaflet. If you have any questions, please contact me using the email address above.**

PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM

Please complete this consent form within two weeks of receiving it, to notify us of your involvement. Your signature below indicates that you have decided to give voluntary informed consent for yourself and that you have read and understood the information provided in the participant information leaflet.

Initial box

1. I confirm that I have read the information sheet for this study. I have had the opportunity to consider the information, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily.	
2. I agree to take part in an interview	
3. I agree to take part in a focus group	
4. I agree to take part in survey's	
5. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time without giving any reason, without my legal rights being affected.	
6. I understand that relevant sections of my data collected during the study may be looked at by individuals from Birmingham City University and from regulatory authorities, where it is relevant to my taking part in this research. I give permission for these individuals to have access to my records.	
7. I understand that personal data about me will be collected for the purposes of the research study including my name and school and that these will be processed in accordance with the information sheet.	
8. I agree to audio recording and the use of anonymised quotes in research reports and publications.	
9. I agree to take part in this study.	

Name of participant:

Date:

Signature:

Name of person taking consent:

Date:

Signature: