

# The Belonging Project Parent/Carer Information

## What are we doing and why?

The Belonging project is one of five projects being delivered by the Gender Balance in Computing programme, funded by the Department for Education. In this project we are exploring ways of tackling girls' sense of belonging in computing, to increase their interest and engagement in the subject.

Girls' sense of belonging in STEM subjects is sometimes lower than boys' and this can be a barrier to participation.<sup>1</sup> We want to test the impact of some new evidence-based resources we have created to increase pupils' sense of belonging in computing.

Your child's school has agreed to participate in the study and so children attending computing lessons will be involved in the research unless you choose to withdraw. More details of the withdrawal process are provided below. If you are happy for your child to take part, you do not have to do anything and they will be included in the project.

## What will my child have to do?

The project will run over a 12-week period from September 2021. To participate, your child simply needs to attend their normal computing lessons throughout this period. All children participating will be asked to complete a short survey at the beginning and end of the 12-week period. This survey will collect data on children's attitudes towards computing.

## What will happen to my child's data?

We will be using legitimate interest as the lawful basis for processing your child's data, which is collected through the questions they answer in two surveys. All data collected will be stored in line with our [Privacy Policy](#). For the purposes of conducting the evaluation to assess the impact of the updated resources, the Department for Education will be the data controller of personal data of pupils obtained from schools. They will share personal data with trusted processors such as the evaluation team, partners, transcribers and research assistants solely for the purposes of proper delivery, management and evaluation of the project. The Behavioural Insights Team will be data controllers for survey data collected from pupils.

All parties barring the evaluation team will securely delete all personal data within 6 months of project completion. The Behavioural Insights Team will retain the data until June 2023 to allow for analysis.

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<sup>1</sup> Cassidy, R., Cattán, S., Crawford, C., & Dytham, S. (2018). How can we increase girls' uptake of maths and physics A-level?

Your child’s data will be treated with the strictest confidence and will be transferred securely and saved in secure locations only accessible by the project team in line with GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. We will not use children’s or schools’ names in any report arising from this project. If you have any queries about how your child’s data will be handled, please contact the Behavioural Insights team Data Protection Officer at [dpo@bi.team](mailto:dpo@bi.team) or the National Centre for Computing Education’s Data Protection Officer at [datasecurity@stem.org.uk](mailto:datasecurity@stem.org.uk).

**What if I don’t want my child to take part in the research?**

You and your child’s participation in this research is entirely voluntary. You may withdraw from the project - this means we will not collect any data on your child. Your child will still be able to participate in computing lessons but no data will be collected or stored. If you wish to withdraw from the project, please complete the form below and return it to your child’s school by the 16th July.

**Questions**

If you have any questions then please contact Shoshanna Freedman (a member of the Belonging Project) at [codestars@bi.team](mailto:codestars@bi.team).

**If you *DO NOT* want to be part of the Gender Balance in Computing: Belonging project, please complete the following form and return it to your child’s school.**

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I have read and understood the information sheet provided and ***DO NOT*** wish to be part of the Gender Balance in Computing: Belonging project.

**Name:**.....

**Signature:**.....

**Child’s name:**.....

**Date:**.....