



Dear School Leader/Principal,

We wish to invite you to take part in the following study entitled *New Foundations: Exploring Gender Identity and Gender Norms in Primary Schools*.

This study has been funded by the Irish Research Council and it is a partnership between the University of Limerick and the Transgender Equality Network of Ireland (TENI).

This is the first study of its kind in Ireland and we would be very grateful if you were willing to be a part of this new and ground-breaking research. Please find more detailed information about this study below.

What is this study about?

This study will:

- explore the experiences of transgender and gender-diverse children (children who reject traditional gender norms) and their families in negotiating everyday school life in primary schools
- Gain new insight into the experiences and approaches of primary school leaders and teachers in addressing the needs of transgender and gender-diverse students
- Map how gender identity and gender norms are understood and approached in the everyday of primary schools

What are you being invited to do?

You are being invited to participate in one interview of approximately one hour in length with the Principal Investigator of this study (details below).

Where will the research take place?

The research will take place in your school or at a location agreeable to you.

What are the benefits of the research?

There are no direct benefits to you. However, this project will:

- Be a ground-breaking piece of research from which TENI can advocate for change and future actions to address the needs of transgender and gender diverse young people in primary schools.
- Create groundwork for future work focusing on providing necessary professional development opportunities for pre-service and in-service school leaders/principals and teachers.

Are there any risks?

It is not envisioned that this study will pose any risk to you personally as it relates to your professional practice and your school. The support services of Catherine Cross, Education and Family Officer at TENI and/or Vanessa Lacey, Health and Education Manager at TENI will be available in the event that this interview causes upset. Both are qualified in counselling and support related to gender identity diversity.

What happens to the information?

You will be anonymous within the final report. All identifying information will be given different names.

What if I do not want to take part?

Participation is voluntary. If you agree to participate in this study, but later change your mind, you may withdraw at any time without giving a reason. If requested by you, all data collected will be deleted. If you wish to withdraw, please contact the Principal Investigator (details below).

What do I do if I'd like to participate or if I have any questions?

If you'd like to participate or if you have any questions please contact one of the following:

Dr Aoife Neary, Principal Investigator

School of Education, Faculty of Education and Health Sciences, University of Limerick.

Tel: +353 (0)61 202075 or (0)86-8647474

Email: aoife.neary@ul.ie

Ms. Catherine Cross, Research Partner

Education and Family Support Officer,
Transgender Equality Network of Ireland (TENI)
Address: Unit 2, 4 Ellis Quay, Dublin 7, Ireland
Tel: 01-8733575, 087-0637933
E-mail: Catherine@teni.ie

What if I have any concerns about this study and wish to contact someone independent:

This research study has received Ethics approval from the Education and Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee (2017_03_12_EHS). If you have any concerns about this study and wish to contact someone independent you may contact:

Chairman Education and Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee
EHS Faculty Office
University of Limerick
Tel (061) 234101



CONSENT FORM FOR SCHOOL LEADERS/PRINCIPALS

Study Title: New Foundations: Exploring Gender Identity and Gender Norms in Primary Schools.

- I declare that I have been fully briefed on the nature of this study and my role in it and have been given the opportunity to ask questions before agreeing to participate.
- The nature of my participation has been explained to me and I have full knowledge of how the information collected will be used.
- I fully understand that there is no obligation on me to participate in this study.
- I fully understand that I am free to withdraw my participation at any time without having to explain or give a reason
- I am also entitled to full confidentiality in terms of my participation and personal details.
- I am also aware that my participation in this study may be recorded (audio). However, should I feel uncomfortable at any time I can request that the recording equipment be switched off. I am entitled to copies of all recordings made and am fully informed as to what will happen to these recordings once the study is completed.

Consent to audio-recording

Do not consent to audio-recording

Participant Name (Print): _____

Signature of Participant: _____

Signature of Principal Investigator: _____

Date: _____