



## **Parent Plain Language Statement (Questionnaire)**

### **Introduction to the Research Study**

This research project seeks to explore the effects of organisation/ school climate and culture on the experiences of gifted lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) post-primary students in Ireland. The project is being conducted by Orla Dunne, as part of an Educational Doctorate thesis, with CTYI and the Institute of Education at Dublin City University. Orla Dunne is the CTYI Residential Coordinator and Garda Vetting Officer and will be working under the supervision of Dr. Colm O'Reilly (Director of CTYI) and Prof. Joe O'Hara (School of Policy and Practice, Dublin City University).

### **Details of Participant Involvement in the Research Study**

The study will have two parts, the first will be an online questionnaire which will ask about how often students hear negative remarks toward or about LGBTQ peers. The second part of the study will be interviews, conducted either in person or over Zoom (depending on Covid-19 restrictions). This Plain Language Statement refers to the online questionnaire.

Students will respond to an online anonymous questionnaire, about how often they hear negative remarks toward or about LGBTQ peers. The questionnaire will be anonymous and will not ask for any information which may identify a student. Should a student enter any information which would potentially identify them (e.g. school name, location) this will be erased. The questionnaire is designed for all students who currently or previously have attended a summer programme at CTYI, **regardless of whether they identify as LGBTQ**. Negative remarks about LGBTQ people may be overheard by or directed toward any student (regardless of whether they are LGBTQ or not) and similar research studies have shown that this impacts the overall climate of acceptance and safety in schools and organisations.

### **Benefits to Participants Involved in the Research Study**

Findings from this research project will contribute to the national body of research on LGBTQ adolescents in Ireland, which informs related educational policy and school resources. While there has been some research with gifted LGBTQ adolescents in the United States, there is none so far in Ireland. The study's findings can be utilised to create guidelines to support organisations working with all LGBTQ young people. Participants can benefit from the satisfaction they may have in making a significant contribution to this underserved research area.

### **Potential Risks to Participants from Involvement in the Research Study**

As discussed, this research study will ask participants questions which may relate to experiences they have had at CTYI, or in school. This is a sensitive topic and participants may have personal experience of the issues discussed. Links to resources are included at the end of this statement and within the information letter.

### **Involvement in the Research Study is Voluntary**

**Participation is voluntary.** Participants may withdraw from the survey before completing it, however once a response is submitted it will not be possible to withdraw without compromising anonymity. The choice to participate, not participate, or withdraw during the process will not affect a student's current or future relationship with CTYI.

### **Data Protection/ Privacy Notice**

The Data Controller for this project will be CTYI, which is a unit of DCU. The Principal Investigator will be Orla Dunne, an employee of CTYI. The PI has completed the appropriate online Data Protection for Staff course.

- In terms of personal data, the questionnaire will ask for participants' age and gender. However, participants will not be asked about course or educational information relating to CTYI, as this could compromise anonymity.
- Data will be stored on an encrypted file on DCU Google Drive, accessible only to the PI (Orla Dunne).
- **Data Destruction:** Data will be retained until publication of the research study, after which all data created during the project will be destroyed.
- **Confidentiality of Data:** Confidentiality of information can only be protected within the limitations of the law- i.e., it is possible for data to be subject to subpoena, freedom of information claim or mandated reporting by some professions.
- Questions about the data protection process can be directed to Ms. Orla Dunne (PI) ([orla.dunne@dcu.ie](mailto:orla.dunne@dcu.ie), Ph: 017007051) or the DCU Data Protection Officer – Mr. Martin Ward ([data.protection@dcu.ie](mailto:data.protection@dcu.ie), Ph: 7005118 / 7008257).

**If participants have concerns about this study and wish to contact an independent person, please contact:** The Secretary, Dublin City University Research Ethics Committee, c/o Research and Innovation Support, Dublin City University, Dublin 9.

T: 01-7008000 E: [rec@dcu.ie](mailto:rec@dcu.ie)

#### **Bullying Support Services**

**Barnardos:** Works with vulnerable children and their families and campaigns for the rights of all children. W: [barnardos.ie](http://barnardos.ie) T: 1850 222300.

**BeLong To:** Supports lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans young people in Ireland. W: [Belongto.org](http://Belongto.org) T: 01 670 6223

**ISPC/ Childline:** Ireland's 24-hour national listening service for all children and young people (under the age of 18) in Ireland. W: [Childline.ie](http://Childline.ie) T: 1800 66 66 66

**SpunOut:** Ireland's youth information website created by young people, for young people and their mental health. W: [Spunout.ie](http://Spunout.ie) T: (01) 675 3554.

**TackleBullying:** Ireland's national anti-bullying website run by the Anti-Bullying Centre. W: <http://tacklebullying.ie/>

**Transgender Equality Network Ireland (TENI):** Supports trans and gender non-conforming people and their families in Ireland W: <https://www.teni.ie/supports/> T: (0)1 873 3575