



Student Plain Language Statement

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 (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 current research on LGBTQ young people in Ireland. This is important as educational policy and school resources are often based on this kind of research. 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 will be able to help the creation of guidelines for organisations to support all LGBTQ young people. Those who choose to participate in the research study will be making a significant contribution to this research area.

Potential Risks to Participants from Involvement in the Research Study

As discussed, this research study will ask questions which may relate to experiences you have had at CTYI, or in school. This is a sensitive topic and you may have personal experience of the issues discussed. Links to resources and support for anyone who needs support about being LGBTQ, or is experiencing bullying, are included at the end of this statement and within the information letter.

Involvement in the Research Study is Voluntary

Participation is voluntary. You 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 your 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. Orla has completed the online Data Protection for Staff course.

- In terms of personal data, the questionnaire will ask only for your age and gender. You will not be asked for your name, where you live, or any course or educational information relating to CTYI, as this could compromise anonymity.
- Data will be stored on a password protected file on DCU Google Drive, which only the PI (Orla Dunne) will have access to.
- **Data Destruction:** Data will be kept until the research study is published, after this all data created during the project will be destroyed.
- **Confidentiality of Data:** Any information entered into the questionnaire, or discussed during interviews, can only be kept confidential within the limitations of the law. If any information was disclosed that a participant (or another person) were at risk or in danger, the PI (Orla Dunne) would need to report this to the appropriate bodies and/or your parents/ guardians.
- Questions about the data protection process can be directed to Ms. Orla Dunne (PI) (orla.dunne@dcu.ie, Ph: 017007051) or the DCU Data Protection Officer – Mr. Martin Ward (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

Bullying Support Services

Barnardos: Works with vulnerable children and their families and campaigns for the rights of all children. W: barndardos.ie T: 1850 222300.

BeLong To: Supports lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans young people in Ireland. W: 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 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 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