

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 often lower than boys' and this can be a barrier to participation.¹ We want to test the impact of a new intervention, CodeStars: a set of 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 automatically included in the project.

What does CodeStars involve?

Teachers will deliver a computing lesson on artificial intelligence (1 hour long) and a short-follow up lesson (30 minutes long). These lessons have been designed by the CodeStars team to increase pupils' sense of belonging in computing. Teachers will also receive an action guide with tips on inclusive teaching.

As part of the project, you will also receive a series of text messages from CodeStars (unless you choose to withdraw) related to your child's computing education. There will be one text message per week over a 12 week period.

What will my child have to do?

The project will run over a 12-week period from September 2021. To participate, your child simply attends 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.

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

In the event of further school closures due to COVID-19 restrictions, schools will be encouraged to deliver any classroom based activities online and you will continue to receive text messages related to your child's computing education.

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

We will be using legitimate interest as the lawful basis for processing data about your child that they provide on surveys they take as part of the project. We will also be using legitimate interest as the lawful basis for processing your contact details (your mobile telephone number). 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 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.

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 or the National Centre for Computing Education's Data Protection Officer at 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, and you will not receive the series of text messages. Your child will still be able to participate in computing lessons but no data about them 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 at 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.

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.....