Cyber Friendly Primary Schools Project

Parent Information Form

We are conducting the *Cyber Friendly Primary Schools* Project to better understand parents' thoughts and concerns around their children's use of digital technology, and what information and support they would find helpful. (Examples of digital technology used by primary school aged children include computers/laptops, tablets/ipads, smartphones, gaming consoles, smart TVs and smart speakers.) This project will be developing resources to support parents and schools to reduce the risk of harm to children in the online environment and to help children use digital technology in a positive way.

What are you being asked to do?
You are invited to participate in the project by participating in a group discussion (about one hour) with other parents. The data you provide will help to ensure the developed resources include the information and support that parents would prefer and find helpful.
This invitation is for parents/carers of Year 4-6 students. We are interested in the sorts of information Western Australian parents would like to support their children keep safe when they are online using digital technology, the skills they would like to develop and how they would prefer to receive this information. We would also like to know whether parents are concerned about their child's safety when using the Internet.

Why is this project important?
Children today grow up in a world immersed in digital technology. Although access to digital technology can have enormous educational and social benefits, use by children is not without risk, especially as children are still developing socially and emotionally, and in their ability to make sound decisions.

Who is doing this study?
The study is being conducted by the Telethon Kids Institute in collaboration with the Office of the eSafety Commissioner (OESC), the WA Council of State Schools Organisations (WACSSO) and the Parents and Friends Federation of WA (PFFWA). The research team comprises Prof Donna Cross and Dr Kevin Runions from the Telethon Kids Institute; Associate Prof Matt Byrne, Edith Cowan University; and Dr Shirley Knight, Curtin University.

What are the possible benefits of this project?
Should the resources developed in this project be found to be helpful, they will be made available to all parents with children in Western Australian primary schools, and help to support parents keep their children safe.

What are your choices?
The decision to participate in the study is completely voluntary and entirely up to you. You may withdraw your consent to participate at any time without reason and without consequences. Note that if you did choose to withdraw once the group discussions have occurred, we will not be able to delete your data as we are not able to link your name with

what you may say during the discussions. Your decision will not affect your child's grades, or your or their relationship with their teacher(s), or with the school or with the Telethon Kids Institute.

Is the information I give private and confidential?
All the information we collect from you will remain strictly confidential. Your name will not be linked to what you say and will not be included in any reports written from this project. It is important to state that at no time will anyone external to the project be able to identify what you have personally said unless this is a legal requirement. We maintain confidentiality of information in our discussions except when there is a risk of harm to yourself or others. In such circumstances we would be obliged to forward this information to appropriate agencies to appropriate support services to provide assistance.

With your permission the group discussions will be recorded to make sure we have an accurate recording of what was said. We will ask that participants do not refer to their child or anyone else by name during the discussions. All information will be stored securely (in locked cabinets and electronically in password protected files) at the Telethon Kids Institute for at least seven years before being destroyed.

We plan to present findings from this study at various health and education conferences, and to publish results from the data in scientific journals. Your data will remain confidential and no one's name will be included in any of the reports or papers, or in the presentations produced as a result of this research.

What are the possible risks of being involved in this project?
We do not anticipate any significant risk to you by participating in this study. Most parents who have participated in similar research have enjoyed the experience.

Who do I contact if I wish to discuss the project further?
If you would like to discuss any part of this study with the research team, please contact Candice Browne (08) 6319 1812 or email at cyberprimary@telethonkids.org.au.

Yours sincerely,

Prof Donna Cross
Telethon Kids Institute

Approval to conduct this research has been provided by the University of Western Australia, in accordance with its ethics review and approval procedures. Any person considering participation in this research project, or agreeing to participate, may raise any questions or issues with the researchers at any time. In addition, any person not satisfied with the response of researchers may raise ethics issues or concerns, and may make any complaints about this research project by contacting the Human Ethics office at UWA on (08) 6488 4703 or by emailing to humanethics@uwa.edu.au. All research participants are entitled to retain a copy of any Participant Information Form and/or Participant Consent Form relating to this research project.