

INSTITUTE FOR EFFECTIVE EDUCATION, THE UNIVERSITY OF YORK

PowerTeaching Maths with Year 4 and Year 5 Pupils

Information Sheet for Parents/Guardians

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We would like to request your permission for your child to take part in an educational research study. The following information explains why the research is being done and what it would involve for your child.

What is the Institute for Effective Education?

The Institute for Effective Education (IEE) is part of the University of York. It aims to find out what works in teaching and learning and why, and then use the evidence to improve education. In collaboration with the Success for All Foundation, we have developed an innovative mathematics programme for Years 4 and 5.

What is the purpose of this study?

This study is being done to see if the combined use of co-operative learning with the interactive whiteboard in mathematics lessons helps students achieve better results in mathematics.

Why is my child's class participating?

We will conduct this study with Year 4 and Year 5 classes in 40 primary schools in England. The schools have been randomly assigned to use *PowerTeaching Maths* in their mathematics lessons starting in September, 2011. The headteacher of your child's school has agreed, together with your child's teacher, to participate in this study.

Does my child have to take part?

The use of co-operative learning with the interactive whiteboard will be part of the teacher's instruction. Your child's test scores will be confidential and will not count towards your child's maths level. However, you may choose not to permit your child to participate in the testing. If you do not want your child to participate, please complete and sign the attached opt-out form by 3:00 pm on 19th September, 2011. A pupil's right to withdraw from the testing will be respected.

What will happen in the study?

In September 2011, teachers will administer mathematics tests to all of the Year 4 and Year 5 pupils in the participating schools and again in July 2012. After the testing in July 2012, all participating schools will be able to use *PowerTeaching Maths* if they wish.

What will your child's participation be?

Your child will take a mathematics test at the beginning of the study in September 2011 and at the end of the study in July 2012. Throughout the year, pupils will be assigned to four-member mixed-ability teams, which will change approximately each half-term. In each lesson, after initially teaching a target concept, teachers will pose a series of problems for pupils to solve in a "team huddle". One child, chosen at random from each team, will present and explain their answer. Towards the end of the each lesson, pupils will be individually assessed and teams will get team points based on the performance of all team members. In this way, pupils will work with each other to help ensure that everyone knows how to solve the maths problems.

What should you tell your child about the study?

It would be helpful if you could tell your child that the research study is trying to find out whether using a combination of working together in teams and the use of videos on the interactive whiteboard helps them learn maths better.

What are the disadvantages and risks of taking part?

There are no known disadvantages or risks in participating in this study. The tests will be scored at the IEE and will not be shared with anyone. Teachers will continue to teach to the usual lesson objectives throughout the research period.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

By participating in this study your child will experience a new strategy for learning mathematics. The information gained from this study may influence how your child will learn mathematics in the future.

What happens when the research stops?

IEE researchers will analyse the mathematics test scores to determine the overall effectiveness of *PowerTeaching Maths*. Scores for individual pupils and classes will be kept confidential.

When the research is over, the school will receive a report that will show if using *PowerTeaching Maths* in mathematics lessons makes a difference to pupils' mathematical achievement. The school can then decide whether and how best to use co-operative learning supported by the interactive whiteboard in its mathematics lessons.

Will my child's information be kept confidential?

Yes. Pupils' names will be replaced with code numbers. No individual pupil's data will appear in any report.

What if there is a problem?

If you have a concern or question about your child's participation in this study, please contact *Mary Sheard* (IEE, e-mail: mary.sheard@york.ac.uk Tel: 01904 328159) or the head of the Humanities & Social Sciences Ethics Committee (Dr Robert McMurray, email: robert.mcmurray@york.ac.uk Tel. 01904 433432) about the study.



INSTITUTE FOR EFFECTIVE EDUCATION

Parent/Guardian opt-out form

If you **do not** permit your child to participate in the study, please complete this form and return it to your child’s teacher by 3:30 pm on September 19th, 2011.

I **do not** wish my child to take part in the research project.

Pupil’s name:

(Please print clearly)

Year (Please delete as appropriate) Year 4 Year 5

Parent’s/Guardian’s name:

(Please print clearly)

Parent’s/Guardian’s signature:

Date.....