



# Holy Family Catholic High School

Virgin's Lane, Thornton, Liverpool L23 4UL.  
Tel: 0151 924 6451 Fax: 0151 932 1417  
Headteacher: Mr M Symes BSc (Hons), NPQH

Dear Parent/ Carer,

As a school, our year 10s will be taking part in the MAPSS suicide prevention trial, working alongside Liverpool John Moore's University, Grassroot Suicide Prevention and Papyrus UK, a charity to prevent suicide in young people. **MAPSS is a school suicide prevention programme for Year 10 pupils that aims to reduce suicide risk and increase help-seeking.** MAPSS has undergone a randomised controlled trial in Australia and is now piloting studies in Cheshire and Merseyside. The trial is funded by Merseyside Public Health Collaborative. As a school, we have been chosen for the intervention arm of the trial. It consists of three components:

- a 2-3-hour universal suicide alertness workshop for all Y10 pupils, delivered by an external professional (co-ordinated by Grassroots Suicide Prevention);
- screening of all Y10 pupils to identify those at high risk of suicide ideation; and an 8-week online cognitive behavioural therapy intervention for those deemed high risk.
- training is also provided for staff and parents (delivered by Papyrus), and pupils complete a survey online in school at four time points.

Your child is being invited to take part in a research study. They do not have to take part if you do not want them to. Please read the participant information sheet below, which will help you decide. If you **do not wish for your child to participate**, please fill out page 4 on the information sheet and return to school. You can also watch a video about the MAPSS programme on our YouTube channel at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=09e\\_YjINRsM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=09e_YjINRsM).

If you have any further questions, you can contact myself at school, by emailing [l.skillen@holyfamilyhighschool.co.uk](mailto:l.skillen@holyfamilyhighschool.co.uk) or calling 0151 924 6451. Or, the Principal Investigators at LJMU, Dr Emma Ashworth and Dr Pooja Saini, by emailing [E.L.Ashworth@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:E.L.Ashworth@ljmu.ac.uk) / [P.Saini@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:P.Saini@ljmu.ac.uk) or calling 0151 231 2121.

Kind regards

**Lucy Skillen**

Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead  
Pastoral Manager (POD)



**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET [Parents for Child Surveys]**

**Research Ethics Committee Reference Number: 23/PSY/003**

**Title of Study:** *Multimodal Approach to Preventing Suicide in Schools (MAPSS): A regionally-based feasibility study of an integrated response to suicide risk among secondary school pupils*

Your child is being invited to take part in a research study. They do not have to take part if you do not want them to. Please read this information, which will help you decide.

**1. What is the purpose of the study?**

Your child is being invited to take part in a study which is looking at the feasibility of a school-based suicide prevention programme, known as MAPSS [Multimodal Approach to Prevention Suicide in Schools], in secondary schools in Merseyside. MAPSS is currently being delivered in schools in Australia, and we would like to know whether it would be possible to deliver this programme in schools in the UK, and if it could be effective here. We are looking to evaluate the feasibility and potentially effectiveness of MAPSS in secondary schools. Following this study, we will apply for further funding to trial the intervention in schools across England.

MAPSS is being delivered to Year 10 pupils in some secondary schools in Merseyside by Cheshire and Merseyside Public Health Collaborative. Your child's school has opted to take part in this study. The school will be randomised to either deliver MAPSS or continue with their usual practice. If they are allocated to the usual practice group, teachers will still receive training on suicide prevention, and the school will be offered the opportunity to deliver MAPSS once the research is complete.

MAPSS is being delivered to Year 10 pupils in some secondary schools in Merseyside by Cheshire and Merseyside Public Health Collaborative (Champs). Your child's school has opted to take part in this. We (at LJMU) are conducting an independent evaluation of MAPSS. **Please note that this information sheet and consent form relates only to the research and evaluation component of MAPSS – you will need to discuss directly with your child's school if you have any queries about their involvement in the MAPSS programme.**

This study hopes to answer the following question: what is the feasibility, acceptability, and utility of MAPSS for reducing suicide risk, improving risk recognition, and increasing health service use among young people aged 14-15 in Northwest England?

**2. Why has my child been invited to participate?**

Your child has been invited to take part in this evaluation because they are a Year 10 pupil at a secondary school where MAPSS is being delivered.

**3. Do they have to take part?**

No. You can ask questions about the research before deciding whether you are happy for your child to take part. If you do not want your child to take part that is OK. If you do agree to their involvement and your child does want to take part, there is nothing more you need to do. If you **DO NOT** want your child to participate in this study, YOU MUST INFORM THE INVESTIGATOR by returning the opt-out form to your child's school. Alternatively, you can do this by returning the opt-out consent form or contacting the investigator using the contact details copied below.

Your child can also decide whether they would like to take part, and will be offered the opportunity to decline. They will be given an information sheet, have the research explained to them, and will



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be asked to tick an assent form if they agree to participate. They can stop being part of the study at any time, without giving a reason, but we will keep information about you that we already have. You/they may withdraw from the study at any time by contacting a member of the research team. Your child's data will then be deleted.

#### 4. What will happen to my child if they take part?

Your child will be asked to complete a survey online at four separate time points during the spring and summer term of 2023. This is not anticipated to take more than 30 minutes and will be done online during school time, with a member of school staff present. The survey will cover the same themes as the MAPSS programme, including questions about themselves and their mental health and wellbeing, and their perceptions of myths around suicide (you can view the survey questions online here: <https://tinyurl.com/mapsspilot>). As part of MAPSS, they will also be asked some questions about their current levels of suicide ideation. However, for logistical reasons, these questions will appear as part of our evaluation surveys; we will then pass this data over to your child's school who will provide appropriate care and implement their usual safeguarding procedures. Your child's school will allow us access to this data for evaluative purposes, but the responsibility to provide appropriate care will remain with the school.

Prior to taking part, the young people will be given an overview of the study by a research assistant, including the types of questions that will be asked, and they will be given the opportunity to decide if they want to complete the survey (we will ask the school to provide an alternative activity). They will be told they can skip any questions that they do not wish to answer. They may ask you for help if they wish.

#### 5. Are there any potential risks in taking part?

Participating in the research is not anticipated to cause your child any disadvantages or discomfort. The potential physical and/or psychological harm or distress will be the same as any experienced in everyday life. This study has already been conducted in Australia, and no adverse events have been reported. However, please be advised that some survey questions discuss the theme of suicide. Evidence suggests that there is no detrimental impact of talking about suicide with children and young people, and that it does not increase their own risk of suicide in any way. However, as a precautionary measure, we will have full distress and safeguarding protocols in place, and the questions have been designed to be age-appropriate. Nevertheless, if you feel that your child will be negatively impacted by these questions, we advise that you do not allow them to take part. If you are worried about your child's mental health, we would advise that you speak to their GP or school. You can also call Papyrus (<https://www.papyrus-uk.org>) on 0800 068 4141 to discuss a young person that you are worried about for advice.

We also advise that you discuss your child's participation with them, advising them of the nature of the study and the types of questions that will be involved. If they do not feel comfortable participating, or feel they might find it distressing, please opt them out of the study.

We will ask your child's school to tell you when the surveys will be taking place so that you warn your child beforehand, and can be vigilant to changes in their mood after participation. We will provide your child with a 'sources of support' document afterwards, in case they feel they need it. If you have any concerns regarding your child's mood, we advise that you discuss this with your school's safeguarding lead or head of pastoral care.

#### 6. Are there any benefits in taking part?



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There will be no personal benefit to most children from taking part in this study. However, the information that you share with us could help us to work out how to support children and young people experiencing suicidal crisis in the future.

For children who score highly on the measure of suicide ideation, they will be provided with access to support from their school. If they are in a school that has been allocated to deliver MAPSS, they will also receive an online young people's cognitive behavioural therapy programme, which will be completed during school time with a member of the school's wellbeing/pastoral team. This will be arranged and delivered by your child's school. As such, any queries you have regarding this should be raised directly with the school.

### 7. Payments, reimbursements of expenses or any other benefit or incentive for taking part

There will be no payment or any benefit or incentive for taking part in this study. Unfortunately, we cannot reimburse any expenses incurred.

### 8. What will happen to information/data provided?

The information you provide as part of the study is the **study data**. Any study data from which you can be identified (e.g. from identifiers such as your name, date of birth, audio recording etc.), is known as **personal data**. Your child's participation in this study will involve the collection/use of personal data. We will keep all information about your child safe and secure. People who do not need to know who you/your child are will not be able to see the information. Once we have finished the study, we will keep some of the data so we can check the results. We will write our reports in a way that no-one can work out that your child took part in the study.

Your child's name and survey data will be identifiable to the research team so that we can link their survey responses across time points. However, as soon as all data is collected, we will remove or anonymise any identifiable information and your child's data will be stored anonymously using codes or pseudonyms.

### 9. Who is organising and who is funding/commissioning the study?

This study is organised by Liverpool John Moores University and funded by Cheshire and Merseyside Public Health Collaborative. There is no conflict of interest.

### 10. Whom do I contact if I have a concern about the study or I wish to complain?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please contact Dr Emma Ashworth, and we will do our best to answer your query. You should expect a reply within 10 working days. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the Chair of the Research Ethics Committee at Liverpool John Moores University who will seek to resolve the matter as soon as possible:

Chair, Liverpool John Moores University Research Ethics Committee; Email: [FullReviewUREC@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:FullReviewUREC@ljmu.ac.uk); Tel: 0151 231 2121; Research Innovation Services, Liverpool John Moores University, Exchange Station, Liverpool L2 2QP

### 11. Data Protection

Liverpool John Moores University is the data controller with respect to your personal data. However, personal data collected for the purpose of identifying suicide risk will be passed to the school for safeguarding purposes and to determine pupils' eligibility for participation in further elements of MAPSS. Information about your rights with respect to your personal data is available from:

- <https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/legal/privacy-and-cookies/external-stakeholders-privacy-policy/research-participants-privacy-notice>



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- By asking one of the study team or contacting us using the information below

### 12. Contact details

Principal Investigator: *Dr Emma Ashworth and Dr Pooja Saini*

Member of LJMU staff

LJMU Email address: [E.L.Ashworth@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:E.L.Ashworth@ljmu.ac.uk) / [P.Saini@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:P.Saini@ljmu.ac.uk)

LJMU School/faculty: *School of Psychology, Faculty of Health*

LJMU Central telephone number: 0151 231 2121

# PARTICIPANT OPT-OUT CONSENT FORM

## [Parents for Child Surveys]

**Study title:** *Multimodal Approach to Preventing Suicide in Schools (MAPSS): A regionally-based pilot study of an integrated response to suicide risk among secondary school pupils*

**Research Ethics Committee Reference Number:** *23/PSY/003*

Principal Investigator: *Dr Emma Ashworth and Dr Pooja Saini*

Member of LJMU staff

LJMU Email address: [E.L.Ashworth@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:E.L.Ashworth@ljmu.ac.uk) / [P.Saini@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:P.Saini@ljmu.ac.uk)

LJMU School/faculty: *School of Psychology, Faculty of Health*

LJMU Central telephone number: 0151 231 2121

To be completed by a parent or guardian who **DOES NOT AGREE** to their child taking part in the above study

		Please initial boxes if you agree
1.	I confirm that I have read the information sheet dated 31/01/23 (version 1.2) for the above study, and have had the opportunity to ask questions.	
2.	I <b>DO NOT</b> wish my child to take part in the above study	

Name of Parent/Guardian

Date

Signature

Name of Child

**PLEASE RETURN THIS TO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL, OR GET IN TOUCH WITH THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (DETAILS ABOVE).**