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| Everyday Drone Stories  0.2a Parent information letter |

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

Pupils at < INSERT SCHOOL NAME > have been invited by Dr Anna Jackman at the University of Reading and the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) to take part in the Everyday Drone Stories research project, exploring what children and young people think about drones.

Drones are a growing feature of UK skies. In addition to growing recreational drone use by hobbyists, drones are increasingly deployed in a range of civil and commercial applications, from emergency services and infrastructure inspection to the delivery of goods. While associated with a range of benefits and opportunities (such as increasing safety and reducing costs and carbon emissions), drones are also associated with challenges and risks (including safety and security concerns, and privacy and noise disturbance).

Our school is taking part in this project which is designed to develop a deeper understanding of how children and young people understand and view drones, and their thoughts on how we might use and live with these technologies in the future. The researchers have designed two activities enabling children and young people to share their views on drones. The first activity, designed for pupils at key stage 3, encourages pupils to develop a map depicting a chosen location or area familiar to them (e.g. home and garden, town centre and shops, or a local park) and to mark out where they think drones are currently or could in the future be used, what the drones are used for, and who or what they think this drone use might benefit and impact (people, environment, wildlife). The second activity is designed for pupils at key stage 5 and encourages them to share their views on drones, including what drones are and can do, their responses to particular current drone applications (including potential benefits, considerations, and risks), and views on how drones might be used in the future.

**Participating pupils will have the opportunity to share their responses to the activities with the research team.** If parents or guardians and pupils give their permission (via completing consent forms), teachers will share a copy of the pupil’s responses with the researchers. A selection of these responses will be shared on a project page on the Royal Geographical Society website and may also be featured in other outputs (e.g., a project report, blog posts, academic journals). Any responses featured will be anonymous (i.e. no identifying information such as pupil names or school names will be included).

Participation is voluntary and information is provided below to assist you in making the decision of whether or not you’d like your child to participate.

**What information about the pupils will be shared?**

If the pupil’s responses to the activity are shared with the researchers, teachers are asked to provide: a copy of this parent / guardian consent form, the pupil consent form, and the pupil’s name, school’s name, and year group. This information will be collected via a secure online survey tool and will only be visible to the researcher (for the purposes of checking all the consent forms have been provided). Where the responses (map, answers) are shared with the wider project team (the Royal Geographical Society or research assistants), these will be assigned a label (a number) and no personal or identifying information (name, school etc) will be shared. Personal data will be stored separately from the responses, which will be anonymised. The project will adhere to all relevant UK data law. In its collection, storage and dissemination of data, the project will follow the UK General Data Protection Regulation’s (GDPR) principles of lawfulness, fairness and transparency. The project will also adhere to the requirements of the UK Data Protection Act (2018). Personal data will be obtained lawfully, will be obtained only as is appropriate (not excessive) for the project, will be kept for a limited period (destroyed within six months of the project ending), will be used for the stated purpose, will be processed in accordance with the above laws, and will be captured, stored and communicated in a way that protects it against unauthorised or unlawful processing, accidental loss or destruction. Participants have certain rights under data protection law which are: Withdraw your consent; Access your personal data or ask for a copy; Rectify inaccuracies in personal data that we hold about you; Be forgotten, that is your details to be removed from systems that we use to process your personal data; Restrict uses of your data; Object to uses of your data, for example retention after you have withdrawn from a study. The organisation responsible for protection of your personal information is the University of Reading (the Data Controller). Queries regarding data protection and your rights should be directed to the University Data Protection Officer at imps@reading.ac.uk, or in writing to: University of Reading, Information Management & Policy Services, Whiteknights House, Pepper Lane, Whiteknights, Reading, RG6 6UR, UK.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

Drones are an increasing feature in UK skies. While attention is growing to the public perception of drones, national studies exclusively focus on the views of adults. By sharing their perspectives, the participation and contribution of pupil views is really valuable in deepening our understandings of how children and young people perceive drones.

**What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

This research is interested in how children and young people perceive drones. Some pupils may have or express concerns about sensitive issues such as noise or privacy. The researcher has included a blurb and to accompany each activity, as well as wider resources, to facilitate a balanced conversation on both the benefits and opportunities, challenges and risks of the growing use of drones.

**How will the responses be used?**

Where pupils and parents/ guardians give their consent to share the pupil’s responses to the activity, the researcher will collate these and feature a selection of them on a project page on the Royal Geographical Society website, and/or in other outputs (e.g., a project report, blog posts, academic journals). Any responses featured will be anonymous (i.e., no identifying information – such as names or school names – will be included). Anonymised project data will also be archived, so that it is available for other academic researchers to access and re-use. You can learn more about the Everyday Drone Stories research project by visiting the project website at [https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/everyday-drone-stories/](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.rgs.org%2Fschools%2Fteaching-resources%2Feveryday-drone-stories%2F&data=05%7C01%7Ca.h.jackman%40reading.ac.uk%7C454851d2e7354fe12a0f08db70dd53dd%7C4ffa3bc4ecfc48c09080f5e43ff90e5f%7C0%7C0%7C638227868122063554%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rysVOSoA32EreCf9Xj8p0IvdtG%2Fd%2BRwm4rwP1Uc79Q8%3D&reserved=0).

**What will happen if I want to withdraw my child and their responses from the project?**

Participation in this study is voluntary and you are welcome to allow your child to take part, or not – you do not need to provide a reason if you choose not to take part. If you choose to take part and consent for your child’s responses to be uploaded by their teacher, you can request the removal of specific responses until 29 April 2024, after which time it may not be possible to guarantee the removal of the submission.

**If you are happy for your child to take part in this research, please complete and return the attached consent form.**