Has your research taken full account of ethical issues?

1. Do participants understand the nature of the activity or investigation and why they have been asked to participate?

2. To what extent will the research impinge on the lives of other people?

3. Will the research cause participants any discomfort, distress or inconvenience?

4. Are participants aware of the right to withdraw at any stage of the process? Do they know how to do this?

5. Do participants know how and why information is stored, how it is used and to whom it may be made available? Is the information stored securely? Are participants aware of their rights to look at any data stored about them?

6. Have participants been debriefed and provided with copies of any reports and publications?

7. Does the research use incentives (e.g. sweets for children) that may change relationships and cause unacceptable bias in responses?

8. Does the research avoid interventions and research methods which cause advantage to one group and not another.

9. To what extent are the data collection and analysis and inferences drawn fully reliable(would happen again in the same circumstances)) and valid (true)

10. Is the research accurate?

11. Are data and methods available for people to look at (mindful of confidentiality agreements)?

12. How is research and development work in progress going to be reported clearly to different audiences / stakeholders?

13. Who is going to be the author of documents, case studies, materials and other publications? Is everyone who has made a substantive contribution included and acknowledged?

14. Is the school (which usually means the headteacher) aware of ethical guidelines and processes involved: purpose, research methods, access to participants, ownership of data and publication arrangements?

Judy Durrant, Canterbury Christ Church University. 18th January, 2010.

Action Research to support Curriculum Innovation and Pupil Participation

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