



Assessing the SmartLearning Project

INFORMATION SHEET FOR SMARTLEARNING LEADERS, SCHOOL DISTRICTS, TEACHERS, AND PARENTS / GUARDIANS

Thank you for showing an interest in this project. Please read this information sheet carefully before deciding whether or not to participate. If you decide to participate we thank you. If you decide not to take part there will be no disadvantage to you and we thank you for considering our request.

What is the Aim of the Project?

The aim of the University of Otago's study is to better understand the classroom teaching and learning activities used by students and teachers in the SmartLearning Project and to measure the difference this makes to student learning and achievement.

What Type of Participants are being sought?

Any students and teachers involved in the SmartLearning Project are invited to participate.

What will Participants be Asked to Do?

Should you agree to take part in this study, teachers and students will not be asked to do anything other than participate in regular instructional activities that are part of the SmartLearning Project during the 2012-2013 school year and allow information about their teaching and learning to be used for research.

Please be aware that you may decide not to take part in the project without any disadvantage to yourself of any kind.

What Data or Information will be Collected and What Use will be Made of it?

Results from classroom teaching and learning activities will be used to document and assess the outcomes of the SmartLearning Project. Information collected from participants will include: samples of class work and assessment activities completed by students, records of planning and reflection from teachers, reflective narratives and aggregated school level assessment data from inquiry leaders, reports of student achievement and policy documents related to teaching and learning from school district administrators, and SmartLearning

documents and reflective narratives from SmartLearning Project leadership team. This information will be sent through secure electronic file sharing to the research team working at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand in order to analyse the data.

The results of the project may be published and will be available in the University of Otago Library (Dunedin, New Zealand) but every attempt will be made to preserve the anonymity of participating teachers and students.

You are most welcome to request a copy of the results of the project should you wish.

The data collected will be securely stored in such a way that only those mentioned below will be able to gain access to it. Data obtained as a result of the research will be retained for **at least 5 years** in secure storage. Any personal information held on the participants, such as the audio and video recordings, may be destroyed at the completion of the research even though the data derived from the research will, in most cases, be kept for much longer or possibly indefinitely.

Can Participants Change their Mind and Withdraw from the Project?

You may withdraw from participation in the project at any time and without any disadvantage to yourself of any kind.

What if Participants have any Questions?

If you have any questions about our project, either now or in the future, please feel free to contact either:-

Megan Anakin

and/or

Professor Jeff Smith

University of Otago

University of Otago

Telephone Number: +64-3- 479-3785

Telephone Number: +64-3-479-5467

Email megan.anakin@otago.ac.nz

Email jeff.smith@otago.ac.nz

This study has been approved by the University of Otago Human Ethics Committee. If you have any concerns about the ethical conduct of the research you may contact the Committee through the Human Ethics Committee Administrator (ph +64 3 479 8256). Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated and you will be informed of the outcome.