We are asking if you would like to take part in a project. This sheet will tell you all about it. Before you decide if you want to take part in this research project, please make sure that you understand:

• Why the research project is being done
• What taking part in the project would involve

Take your time to read through this information sheet before you decide if you wish to take part.

Who is doing this research project?

My name is Emma and I work as a researcher at Liverpool John Moores University. Lucy, Amel, Carrie, Joanna and I would like to ask you to take part in a research project about what it has been like for you during the COVID-19 pandemic and what you think could help children with special education needs and disabilities in the future.

What is the purpose of the study?

• The COVID-19 lockdown means that your day-to-day lives may have changed. We want to find out any good things for you about the last year and what things you may have found hard.
• We also want to find out what you think could help children and young people with special education needs and disabilities in the future.
• We want to find out these things from children all across the UK, so we can help support other children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.
Why have I been asked to take part?

We are asking you to take part as we think that you can tell us what it has been like for you over the past year during the COVID-19 lockdowns. Your mum/dad/carer have said it is okay for you to take part.

Do I have to take part?

- No! It is completely up to you if you want to take part or not. No one will mind if you do not want to take part.
- You can stop the survey at any time without giving a reason.
- You do not have to answer any questions you don’t want to.

What would I be asked to do if I take part?

- You will be asked to answer a few questions in the survey. You can do this on your parent/carers computer, phone or tablet.
- You can write or draw pictures or use emojis to answer the questions.
- Your mum/dad/carer can help you with the survey. You can tell them what to write for you and they can help you upload any pictures you do.
- There are links and contact details at the end of this sheet and the survey if you would like any further support or information.

How long will it take for me to do the study?

The questions should take you about 15-20 minutes to do.

Where will the study take place?

You can do the survey in your home.

What if I change my mind about taking part or do not like the questions?

You do not have to answer any questions that you do not want to and you can stop doing the survey at any time.

What is the survey like?

- The survey has been designed to be suitable for you and we think you will feel okay when answering the questions.
- We will ask you about the difficult things about being in lockdown, the good things about being in lockdown and what it has been like going back into school.
- If you like you can draw and label a picture of what lockdown looked like for you.
- Or you can use emoji’s to tell us how you felt about COVID-19 and lockdowns.
**Will anyone else know I am taking part?**
- Your mum/dad/carer will know you are taking part.
- We will be able to see your answers, but we won’t know that they belong to you.

**What will happen to the results of the project?**
- We will write about what we find out and share it with lots of people across the country.
- We will also make a child-friendly report for you, and a report for your mum/dad/carer and will put this on our webpage.
- You will not be identifiable in any of the documents.

**Who is funding and approving the research?**
This project is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). This project has been checked by the Liverpool John Moores University Research Ethics Committee, a group of people who work to protect your safety, rights, wellbeing and dignity.

**What do I do if I am happy to take part?**
- If you feel happy to take part you can begin the survey.
- If you have any questions about the information in this sheet, please ask your mum/dad/carer to let me know:

Researcher: Dr Emma Ashworth
- e.lashworth@ljmu.ac.uk
- 0151 904 1052
- James Parsons Building, Liverpool John Moores University, Byrom Street, Liverpool, L3 4AF

Thank you for reading this sheet
If you are experiencing any worries or distress at any time before or after completing the survey please talk to a parent/carer, or other trusted adult. You may also want to get in touch with/or ask your parent/carer to get in touch with the relevant organisation below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I Feel Like…</th>
<th>Who to Contact</th>
<th>How to Contact Them</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://via.placeholder.com/150" alt="" /> I might have symptoms of COVID-19</td>
<td>NHS</td>
<td>The NHS <a href="#">website</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>![??] I am struggling with my MENTAL HEALTH</td>
<td>Childline</td>
<td>Call 0800 1111 Use their live chat feature (9am-midnight)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A free, private and confidential service for under 19s where you can talk about anything. Calls do not show up on phone bills.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>![herits] I am in an UNSAFE ENVIRONMENT</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A free, private and confidential service for under 19s where you can talk about anything. Calls do not show up on phone bills.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>![ inherits] I am experiencing a MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS or am having thoughts about harming myself</td>
<td>YoungMinds</td>
<td>Text “YM” to 85258 (24/7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Free, anonymous 24/7 support across the UK if you are experiencing a mental health crisis. If the volunteer believes you are at immediate risk of harm, they may share your details with people who can provide support.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>![ inherits] I am close to ACTING ON THOUGHTS, or have attempted to harm myself or end my life</td>
<td>Hospital/999</td>
<td>Call 999 Visit your local Accident and Emergency department (you can find your nearest <a href="#">here</a>)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>