



University of Brighton

Participation Information Sheet: PARENTS

Research Project: To what extent do AI-based marking and feedback tools reduce teachers' time spent on marking, without negatively impacting feedback quality or teachers' confidence?

We would like to invite your Year 10 child to take part in our research project. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for them. Please take the time to read this information sheet. Talk to others about the study if you wish and contact the research team if anything is unclear. You will be given time to think about whether you wish to give permission for your child to take part. You can keep this information sheet for your records.

What is the purpose of the study/project?

Your child is invited to take part in a pilot study of a new browser-based coding tool called Kita. The study aims to investigate how using Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools can help with teaching and learning in secondary schools. The work is funded by the Department for Education (DfE) and is being trialled in Y10 Computing classes in your child's school over about 3-4 weeks in the Summer term 2026.

Kita is a coding platform used for Computing lessons. It is a shared workspace where the teacher can see your child's code as they write it and monitor the class's progress. A main feature of Kita is its AI system, which helps the teacher give feedback. **Important:** The AI does not give feedback directly. Your child's teacher must check, edit, and approve all AI-generated feedback before it is sent to your child.

Researchers from the University of Brighton are evaluating the AI-based tool. In particular, we want to find out if it reduces the time teachers spend on marking/feedback. We also want to know if it has an effect on the quality of teachers' feedback to students and teachers' confidence. We are interested in the experience of using the tool – what is it like, from students' perspectives.

Why has your child been invited to take part?

Your child has been asked to take part because s/he is in a Computing class that is piloting Kita Education's AI-based tool.

- We would like to speak to a group of children in the class, to find out what it's like to be in a class which is using it, and to ask their opinions. **We are asking for your permission to ask your child to take part in a group discussion, which will be audio-recorded.** This discussion will last c. 30 minutes.
- Researchers will observe a single class in which Kita is being used. This might be your child's class. The observation will focus on the teacher and their use of Kita's tool and will not directly involve your child.

The researchers all hold Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.

Does my child have to take part?

No. If you agree that your child can take part, we will also ask your child if they want to take part. Your child will also be asked to complete a consent form to confirm that they understand what is involved.

If you or any family member have an on-going relationship with the University of Brighton or the research team, e.g. as a member of staff, as student or other service user, your decision on whether to take part (or continue to take part) will not affect this relationship in any way.

Can my child change their mind about taking part?

Yes, your child can stop taking part at any time and without giving a reason. This will have no impact on them, and all the data collected from them will be deleted. If this is more than 2 weeks after the focus group discussion, deleting the information may be more difficult and we may say that withdrawal is not possible.

You can read more about this in the [Research Privacy Notice](#).

What will happen to my child if they take part?

Researchers will arrange a time to speak with a group of about 6-10 children, during the school day. With their agreement, we will audio-record the conversation. Classroom observations will not be recorded but researchers may take notes of what they notice – focusing on the AI-tool.

Will my child be reimbursed for taking part?

Your child will not be reimbursed for taking part. This is because you will be taking part during the working day, and because your school has agreed to take part in the Kita pilot.

What are the benefits and potential disadvantages of taking part?

There are no immediate benefits for anyone taking part in the research project. It may be interesting for your child to discuss their views and experiences of AI in education. We do not anticipate any risks to children in taking part in this study.

How will my information be managed?

The University of Brighton has overall responsibility for this study and is the Data Controller of your personal information, which means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it appropriately.

We manage research data strictly in accordance with:

- Ethical requirements; and
- Current data protection laws. These control use of information about identifiable individuals, but do not apply to anonymous research data: “anonymous” means that we have either removed or not collected any pieces of data or links to other data which identify a specific person as the subject or source of a research result.

The university's [Research Privacy Notice](#) provides information about how we fulfil our responsibilities as a data controller and about your rights as an individual under the data protection legislation. You can also scan this QR code.



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Research data will be used only for the purposes of the study. To safeguard your rights in relation to your personal information, we will use the minimum possible amount of personally-identifiable information and control access to that data.

Security and access controls

Research data will only be accessible to the research team. We will hold hard copies of consent forms in locked cabinets at the university, and electronic data in password-protected secure university Onedrive.

We will transcribe (type up) the focus group discussions. We will remove or change information which could identify your child (e.g. their name, the name of the school). Information which has not been anonymised will be accessed and used only by appropriate, authorised individuals and when this is necessary for the purposes of the research or another purpose identified in the Privacy Notice.

Further use of your information

The information collected from your child may be used anonymously to support other research projects in the future and access to it in this form will not be restricted. It will not be possible for your child to be identified from this data.

Retention of research data

Project governance documentation, including copies of signed consent forms will be kept for a long period after completion of the research, so that we have records of how we conducted the research and who took part. The only personal information in this documentation will be your name and signature, and we will not be able to link this to any anonymised research data. Research data is normally held for a minimum of 10 years.

What will happen to the results of the project?

Research findings will be written up as a research report, which will be publicly available and shared with schools that took part (without identifying individuals who took part). We will write up the findings for publication in an academic journal. We may also present results at education conferences.

What if I have a question or concern?

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Dr Catherine Aicken, Senior Research Fellow, c.aicken@brighton.ac.uk.

Any concerns about the study should be directed to Prof Michael Jopling, m.jopling@brighton.ac.uk. If your concerns have not been answered by Prof Jopling, you should contact you should contact Lucy Redhead, Chair of the Cross-School Ethics Committee: L.Redhead@brighton.ac.uk.

Who has reviewed the study?

The study has been reviewed and given a favorable ethical opinion by the University of Brighton Cross-School Research Ethics Committee.