

**Project title: Tackling Plant Blindness Through Art-Science Public Engagement**

**INFORMATION SHEET FOR CHILDREN AGED 11 TO 15 YEARS  
[HIGH SCHOOL AGE]**

**To be shown and read by parent/guardian if required**

**Research Ethics Committee Reference Number: 260127LJMUREC319**

My name is *Samantha Cooper* and I work at Liverpool John Moores University. I am doing a research project and would like to invite you to take part.

Before you decide if you would like to take part, it is important to understand what the project is about, why we are doing it and what it would involve for you. Please read and think about this leaflet carefully. Please feel free to talk to your family, friends, or the investigators about it if you want.

If anything is not clear or you have more questions you can ask your parent/guardian to give us a call and we can discuss it with you and your parent/guardian.

**1. Why are we doing this project?**

We're doing this project to find out if creative activities whilst learning about plant conservation can help people understand more about science and nature. We want to see if these activities help children and young people feel more connected to plants and the environment, and whether they learn something new about how important plants are, especially medicinal ones.

**2. What will happen to me if I take part?**

If you decide to join in, you will:

- Take part in a **fun workshop** where you'll learn about:
  - Medicinal plants and how they are used to make medicines
  - Why plants are collected and protected for science
  - How plants connect to history and archives
- Make some **creative artwork** during the workshop
- Have your artwork shown in a **public exhibition** (only if you and your parent/carer

say yes)

- Be invited to a **special exhibition viewing event** to see the work on display
- Answer a few **simple questions** in short questionnaires:
  - One before the workshop
  - One after the workshop
  - One during the exhibition visit (if you attend)

The questions might ask about:

- What you already know about plants
- What you learned during the project
- How you felt about the workshop and exhibition

You don't have to answer any question you don't want to.

## **Will anyone be watching me?**

Yes, the researcher will be **watching what happens in the workshop and exhibition**, like how people take part and interact. This is to help understand how the activities work.

They will **not secretly watch you**, and they won't focus on you as an individual.

## **Where and how long will it take?**

- The activities will take place in places like:
  - Museums
  - Gardens
  - Schools
  - Community centres
- Each session will last about **1-3 hours**

## **Do I have to take part?**

No. Taking part is **up to you**. Your parent or carer will be asked to give permission. You will also be asked if **you agree (assent)**. Even if you say yes at first, you can **change your mind at any time**. You can stop taking part without getting into trouble or having to explain why.

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## How long will I be involved?

This is a **one-time activity**.

If your artwork is included in an exhibition, your parent/carer may be contacted later with updates, but **only if they agree to this**.

## Who can I talk to if I have questions?

You can:

- Ask the researcher
- Talk to your parent or carer
- Ask questions before, during, or after the activity

## 3. Will I be photographed or video/audio recorded and how will the recorded media be used?

During the project, we might take **photographs** to show what the activities are like. These could include:

- Pictures of **hands while making artwork**
- **Group photos** of people taking part in the workshop

## Do I have to be in photos?

No. Being in photos is **your choice**.

- If you don't want your photo taken, just tell us
- You can still **take part in everything** even if you say no to photos
- You can also change your mind at any time

## What if I say yes to photos?

If you and your parent/carer both agree, photos that include you might be used in:

- The final project report
- Public exhibitions or displays
- The project website or social media
- Talks, presentations, or written research about the project

## Will my name be used?

No. Your name will never be used with any photos.

However, even without your name, there is a **small chance** someone might recognise you. If this worries you, you or your parent/carer can talk to the researcher about:

- Not using certain photos
- Limiting where photos are shared

## 4. What are disadvantages of taking part?

Taking part in this project is not expected to cause you any harm or discomfort. The activities are designed to be fun, creative, and similar to things you might already do at school or in clubs like drawing, learning about nature, or using science equipment.

However, if at any point you feel uncomfortable, confused, or upset, you can stop straight away. You don't have to explain why, and no one will be upset with you.

If you do feel worried or upset during or after the activity, please tell the adult leading the session or someone you trust. We're here to help and make sure you feel safe and supported.

## 5. Are there any benefits in taking part?

There may not be a personal benefit to you, but we hope that by taking part in this project, you'll enjoy learning about plants in a fun and creative way.

Your ideas and feedback will help us understand how to make plant science more interesting and accessible for other children and young people. What you share could help improve future workshops and exhibitions, and help more people learn about the importance of plants and nature.

## 6. What personal data will be collected and what happens to the results of the project?

If you take part in this project, we might collect some information about you. This could include things like your name, your drawings or answers to questions, or a photo of your hands doing an activity (if you agree to it). This kind of information is called **personal data**.

We will keep all your information **safe and private**. Only the researcher and a small team helping with the project will be able to see it. We will not share your name or anything that could identify you in any reports or exhibitions unless you and your parent/guardian say it's okay.

We might use your answers or artwork to help us understand how to make science more fun and interesting for other children. When we write about what we've learned, we will make sure **no one can tell it was you** who took part.

If you change your mind and don't want us to use your information anymore, you can tell us. We'll do our best to remove it, unless we've already used it in a way that can't be changed (like in a published report or exhibition).

## 7. Data Protection

Liverpool John Moores University is the data controller with respect to your personal data and as such will determine how your personal data is used in the project. The University will process your personal data for the purpose of the project outlined above. Research/evaluation is a task that is performed in the public interest. Further information about your rights with respect to your personal data is available from the LJMU [Privacy Notice for Research Participants](https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/legal/privacy-notice-and-cookies/external-stakeholders-privacy-policy/research-participants-privacy-notice) (<https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/legal/privacy-notice-and-cookies/external-stakeholders-privacy-policy/research-participants-privacy-notice>). The LJMU Data Protection Officer can be contacted via email: [DPO@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:DPO@ljmu.ac.uk).

**8. Who is funding the project?**

This project is funded by LJMU Vice Chancellor PhD Scholarship Award.  
In the event of the development of a new product or service there will be no personal financial gain.

**9. Who has reviewed the project?**

Before any project involving people can start, it has to be checked by a Research Ethics Committee to make sure that it is OK for the project to go ahead. This project has been approved by the Liverpool John Moores University Research Ethics Committee.

**10. What if there is a problem or something goes wrong?**

Please tell us if you are worried about any part of this project, by contacting Samantha Cooper or Mark Roughley. You may also talk to your teacher/parent/guardian who will let the investigator know. If you are still unhappy or wish to make a complaint, either you or your teacher/parent/guardian can contact the chair of the Research Ethics Committee Liverpool John Moores University: Chair, Liverpool John Moores University Research Ethics Committee; Email: [FullReviewUREC@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:FullReviewUREC@ljmu.ac.uk); Tel: 0151 231 2121; Research Innovation Services, Liverpool John Moores University, Exchange Station, Liverpool L2 2QP

**11. Further information and contact details**

If you would like to discuss the research with someone beforehand (or if you have questions afterwards), please contact:

Principal Investigator: *Samantha Cooper*

LJMU postgraduate research student

Email address: [s.cooper1@2022.ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:s.cooper1@2022.ljmu.ac.uk)

LJMU School/Faculty: Liverpool School of Art and Creative Industries/Faculty of Society and Culture

LJMU Central telephone number: 0151 231 2121

Supervisor Name: *Mark Roughley*

LJMU Email address: [M.A.Roughley@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:M.A.Roughley@ljmu.ac.uk)

***Thank you for reading this – please ask any questions if you need to.***

*Please consider keeping a copy of this information sheet for your future reference. However, it may not be in your best interest to keep a copy of this information sheet or*

*the record of consent. If you think this may be the case, please discuss with the investigator alternative mechanisms to allow you to access at any time this information sheet and your record of consent.*

#### Appendix

