

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

Research Ethics Committee Reference Number: 260127LJMUREC319

**INFORMATION SHEET FOR CHILDREN AGED 6 TO 11 YEARS
[PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE]**

To be shown and read by parent/guardian if required

Hi, my name is Samantha Cooper and I work at Liverpool John Moores University. I am doing a research project and would like you to join in.

Research is a way we try to find out the answers to questions. We are doing this project to find out if fun activities with plants can help children learn more about science and nature. We want to know if these activities help you feel more interested in plants and how they help the world.

You can talk to your family, friends, or the investigators if you want to before you agree to join in.

1. Why have I been asked?

We are asking you if you would like to take part because you are [between 6 and 11 years] old. We are asking a number of children to help us.

2. Do I have to join in?

No you don't have to if you don't want to. You can ask questions before choosing whether you want to join in. You can change your mind at any time by telling the investigator or your parent/guardian. You do not have to say why.

If you decide to stop, no one will be upset with you.

3. What will happen?

If you choose to join in, you will:

- Take part in a **fun workshop** where you will:
 - Learn about **plants used to make medicine**
 - Learn why we **look after plants** for science
 - Find out how plants are linked to **history**

- Make some **artwork or creative things**
- See your artwork in a **public display or exhibition**
(only if you and your parent/carer say yes)
- Be invited to a **special event** to see the artwork on show
- Answer a few **easy questions**:
 - One before the workshop
 - One after the workshop
 - One at the exhibition (if you go)

The questions might ask:

- What you already know about plants
- What new things you learned
- How you felt about the workshop

You can **skip any question** you don't want to answer.

Will anyone be watching me?

Yes. The researcher will be **watching the activity** to see how it works and how people join in.

- They are **not secretly watching**
- They are **not judging you**
- They are **not watching just you**

Where will it happen and how long will it take?

The workshop will happen in places like:

- Museums
- Gardens
- Schools
- Community centres

Each session will last about **1 to 3 hours**.

Do I have to take part?

No. It is **your choice**.

- Your parent or carer will be asked if it's okay
- You will also be asked if **you want to join in**
- You can say **no**
- You can say **yes and then change your mind**
- You can stop at any time
- You won't get into trouble and you don't have to explain why

How long will I be involved?

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

If your artwork is shown later, your parent or carer might get updates, but **only if they say yes**.

Who can I talk to if I have questions?

You can:

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

Will photos or recordings be taken?

We might take **photos** to show what the workshop is like, such as:

- Pictures of **hands making art**
- **Group photos** of people taking part

Do I have to be in photos?

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

- If you don't want photos taken of you, just tell us
- You can still join in **all the activities**
- You can change your mind at any time

What happens if I say yes to photos?

If **you and your parent/carer both agree**, photos with you in them might be used:

- In the **project report**
- In **exhibitions or displays**
- On the **project website or social media**
- In **talks or writing** about the project

Will my name be used?

No. **Your name will not be used** with any photos.

Sometimes, even without a name, someone might still recognise you.

If this worries you, you or your parent/carer can talk to the researcher about:

- Not using some photos
- Only using photos in certain places

4. Will anything about the project upset me?

We don't think anything in this project will upset you. The activities are meant to be fun and creative, like drawing, looking at plants, and learning new things.

But if anything makes you feel confused, worried, or upset, that's okay. You can stop at any time, take a break, or talk to an adult you trust. You can also tell the person running the activity, and they will help you feel better. You don't have to do anything you don't want to do.

5. Will joining in help me?

The project will not help you but it might help other children in the future.

6. Will anyone else know I am doing this?

The people in our project team will know you are taking part. No one will know that you have helped us with this project - unless, of course, you tell them yourself!

7. What happens to what the investigators find out?

When we collect information from you, we will keep it in a safe place, and only the people working on the project will be able to see it.

We will use what we learn to help with a research project that helps people learn more about science and how to teach it in fun ways. We might also share what we find out in talks, exhibitions, or reports, but we will never use your name or anything that could show who you are.

Your answers and drawings might help other children learn more about plants and science in the future.

8. Is this project OK to do?

Before any project involving people happens, it has to be checked by a group of people known as a Research Ethics Committee to make sure that it is fair. This project has been checked by the Ethics Committee at Liverpool John Moores University.

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

If you are not happy because of something that happened in the project, please talk to your parent/guardian who will let the investigator know.

Thank you for reading - please ask us any questions.

Appendix

