

The impact of COVID-19 restrictions on breaktimes in primary special schools in England.



Dear Colleague,

My name is Emma Eynon and I am conducting an online survey as part of ongoing research that seeks to increase our understanding of breaktimes in schools and focusing on the changes and implications that may have occurred following the reopening of schools after COVID 19 lockdown. This research is being supervised by Dr Ed Baines of UCL Institute of Education and is allied to a national study of breaktimes by Ed Baines and Peter Blatchford (see <http://www.breaktime.org.uk> and <https://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/project/a-follow-up-survey-of-break-and-lunch-times-in-schools>).

This study will be unique in trying to understand for the first time the nature of breaktimes in special schools. As far as we are aware there has been very little research undertaken in special schools on these important times in the day and there is very little understanding about the distinct issues faced by special schools in terms of organisation of these times for children with special educational needs, especially in the light of the current COVID pandemic.

The research involves the completion of a short online survey, which **will take no more than approximately 15 minutes to complete.** It consists of 19 tick box and short answer questions in which you share your knowledge and opinions. I understand the demands on your time but this survey will provide unique and valuable data and will help us understand breaktime organisation, perceived values and challenges faced in particular by special schools. This may help schools to evaluate their current practice and improve provision in the future.

At any point you can choose to opt out of the survey however we would very much appreciate you completing the whole questionnaire. Your participation in this research is confidential and anonymous. Only aggregated data will be analysed and no individual educational setting will be identifiable from the study report. If you would like to receive a summary of the research findings, please do provide a valid email address in the final question on the survey and we will only use this to provide the summary.

We do hope you will consider taking part in this project. If you have any questions or wish to discuss the study further, please feel free to contact us (details below). Many thanks for your help and time with this project.

Kind regards,

Emma and Ed

Email: emma.eynon.20@ucl.ac.uk or ioe.breaktimeresearch@ucl.ac.uk

Data Protection Privacy Notice

There is some important information we must tell you about the way we will use the information you provide to us during this research project. This information is explained fully in the UCL Research Participant Privacy Notice, which you can access here: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/legal-services/privacy/ucl-general-research-participant-privacy-notice>. This explains, for example, how our UCL Data Protection Office oversee UCL activities in which personal data are processed (as in this research). If you want to contact them, or if you have any concerns about the way your personal data is being used, you can email data-protection@ucl.ac.uk.