

APPENDIX A

BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE RESEARCH

Master-ing the profession?

The effects of Masters level study in a PGCE secondary course on re/shaping trainee teachers' professional identities.

I am currently undertaking Doctoral research into trainee teacher identity (as described below). As part of this research, I would like to interview you in your role as a head teacher with PGCE trainees on placement at your school in order to triangulate data gathered from trainees themselves, teacher educators and two other heads in the course of one academic year (2010-11).

Background to the study

Trainee teachers now have to undertake M level study during their PGCE course if they are to be awarded the Post Graduate Certificate of Education. If they do not, they will be awarded a Professional Certificate of Education. Whilst both will have the acronym of PGCE, there are fears that a PGCE at two levels could lead to a two-tier teaching profession, that it could impact upon trainees' teachers ability to secure jobs and may dissuade potential teachers from joining the profession.

Taking part

The data collected will be through the medium of an interview, digitally recorded with myself. It is anticipated that this will be approximately one hour in duration and will take place at a mutually convenient location. I would be happy to share with you a summary of my interviews if you so wish.

This research is quite separate from my role of Group Tutor for the PGCE [subject named] course at [HEI named]. As such, your decision to participate or not, any comments that you make, your responses to questions will all be discrete to the research.

Interview recordings and transcripts will be kept confidential, and when data is analysed, names of participants, schools and organisations will be anonymised.

If you are happy to participate, please sign the consent form. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. I am happy to discuss any issues or questions you may have; my contact details are [email address was here].

This research has been approved by [HEI] Faculty Research Ethics Sub Committee.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.

Yours sincerely

Jayne Woodbury

[Role in HEI was here]