



Tuesday 26th February 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing to you because I am currently studying for an MA in Education at the University of Winchester. The intention behind my studies is to increase my knowledge of recent research in education and to further develop my teaching practice. The next phase in the course is to complete my dissertation which is the reason for my writing.

For my dissertation, I plan to conduct research into an area of Mathematics teaching focusing on the use of the bar-model method to enhance children's problem-solving approaches. As part of this research, I will need to work closely with your children and collect some data alongside them for analysis. This would include recording lessons, conducting pupil interviews and analysing work samples and test results. For data-collection, I would require your permission to record interviews or lessons and to use work samples produced by your children. More details about how the data collected would be used can be found on the attached information sheet.

I can assure you that any references your children will be anonymised and confidentiality will be guaranteed during all use of the information up to and including submission of my assignment. Any recordings will be kept in protected files and only accessed by myself for purposes of note-taking and reflections only. In addition, Mr Rix has granted me permission to conduct my research in school and, given that the focus lies within the everyday curriculum, there will minimal impact on the everyday teaching and learning in Eagle Class.

Please find attached an information sheet concerning my upcoming project. It contains facts about my intended methods for research, the role I would like your children to play and the intended information to be collected as data. Please read this carefully and if you have any questions resulting from this do not hesitate to ask.

Also attached is reply slip. Please complete to indicate whether you give your consent for me to work with and collect data with your child for this assignment. At this stage it is important to say signing the consent form does not guarantee me permission throughout the project and you are able to withdraw consent at any time up until it is impractical to do so given deadlines for data-collection and submission.

I appreciate your time taken in reading this letter and thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

Yours Faithfully

Mr Wakelin





Parent / Carer Consent for Class-based research

Name of Researcher: Richard Wakelin

Title of Research Project: Investigating the impact of the bar-model of children's mathematical problem solving

I have read (or had clearly explained to me) and have understood the information about the project outlined on the attached letter and information sheet. I understand that my child's participation is completely voluntary and that my consent may be withdrawn at any time, without repercussions.

I acknowledge that arrangements have been made to ensure my child's anonymity and confidentiality and am aware I have the right to see what has been written about my child and/or their work. Arrangements for secure storage of data, and its disposal upon completion of the project, have been explained clearly to me.

Based on the information provided (tick as appropriate):

I give my consent for my child _____ to take part in this research project with Mr Wakelin.

I do not give my consent for my child _____ to take part in this research project

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Relationship to child: _____

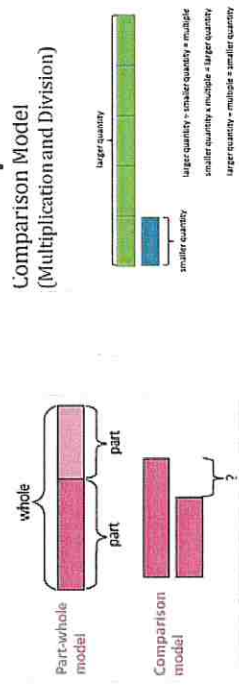


Proposed Methods for Research

- Pre-test
- Specific teaching of bar-model method
- Post-test
- Pupil Interviews
- Video-recording of Lessons
- Systematic observation and analysis of responses in lessons

Project Title:

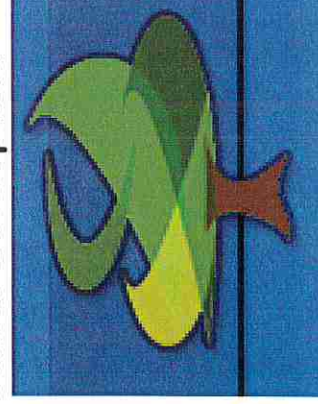
Investigating the impact of the bar-model method on children's mathematic problem-solving



Project Aims:

1. To assess potential impact of a specific teaching method on pupil problem-solving
2. To research with children into the bar-model method and its potential use
3. To improve and develop pupil reasoning and problem-solving in Maths in line with our

School Development Plan



Information to be collected

- Pupil responses to worded maths problems (written and verbal)
- Work Samples
- Numerical data concerning correct / incorrect answers to test questions
- Answers to interview questions

Timing of the Project

- Submission deadline is January 2020
- Aim for data be collected by July 2019
- Project will run alongside usual curriculum in Eagle Class so there will be minimal impact on children's time in school.

All conclusions will be made available prior to submission of the final piece.

Role of the Children

- Most of the data can be collected from normal lessons so no extra work required there
- To complete tests during lesson time
- Should they wish to participate, interviews which will involve questioning them to find out thinking behind their responses and/or completing further questions to understand their approach