

More information for the community

This project title:

The most remote menu.

Understanding what rights matters to children through the World Café on St Helena

About me

I am currently completing a Doctorate in Education (EdD) with the University of Winchester. As part of this I am exploring creative ways of supporting children's participation in research to understand their lived experiences. I have previously worked in several British Overseas Territories, including St Helena. During this project I am completing this research independently of St Helena Government.

As part of my studies, I would like to hold a World Café event with children/young people aged between 10 and 16 years old. All young people in this age group will be invited and if more than 30 agree to attend, young people will be chosen at random within those. Participation is completed voluntary, if children or professionals do not want to take part there is no commitment which means anyone can leave at any time. All young people will need to agree to participate and consent from parent/guardians will be sought.

As part of this project four islanders will also be supporting me in hosting the World Café. They will be already employed or volunteering with children and young people on island. They also are volunteers and can withdraw consent to participate at any time. I hope the following pages provide you with more information about this project.

What are the aims of the project?

Aims guide what I will be trying to achieve in my research. The first part is to complete a pilot study which aims to explore the World Café Model as a method to analyse participation with children on St Helena Island.

Within this I will be looking at:

- How The World Café can be used in participatory research on a remote island.
- How we can further knowledge and insight into the lived experiences of children on St Helena, about what matters to them.
- To build knowledge on how children can be supported in decision making through the World Café.

International findings show that where there is the mobilisation of the local community and collaboration in multi-agency planning and implementation, there are benefits in development. For children's views to be within decision making they need to be heard and it is hoped this project will support this into international research.

How will this work?

We will meet with the local hosts and agree hosting the World Café. We will set up a large room with tables. The purpose of the table hosts is to encourage those on their table to talk, listen, contribute and to keep the conversation on track. This facilitator type role is also intended as a safeguard to encourage participants to

adhere to ground rules and to encourage cafe' conversations to develop. Cafe' menus will be available on each table, with questions for discussion and exercises listed as 'Starters', 'Main course' and 'Dessert'. Each table will have pens, flip chart paper and a small bowl of sweets.

The World Café format is flexible, there are seven principles:

1. **Set the context** – The host introducing the menu and sets the parameters for the discussion. As the participants rotate this includes an overview of the previous discussions.
2. **Create hospitable space** – the host is welcoming and inclusive.
3. **Explore questions that matter** – towards powerful questions that *matter* the host encourages questions that 'travel' and help collective energy, this may involve one question or many.
4. **Encourage everyone's contribution** – the hosts are leaders and therefore hosts will skills in engaging with children and young people to support their contribution is essential.
5. **Connect diverse perspective** – The Café provides opportunities for ideas to build and for connections to be made by participants which need to be captured within the tables.
6. **Listen together for patterns and insights** - the host facilitates active listening and pays attention to themes.
7. **Share collective discoveries** – The last phase is called the harvest involves a large group discussion and reflection. Themes and deeper questions are encouraged from the table groups. This may involve additional postit notes being added to the table flip charts.

There are no specific risks from taking part in the World Café. But if anyone would like support this will be sought out within the school for a young person or we might have to tell someone if we think the child or young person is at risk of harm or has harmed someone else.

What will happen with the information gathered?

I am the only researcher and will have access to the data which is secure and is stored safely in an encrypted computer. I will be transcribing group discussions and analysing information with a password protected computer which will be safely stored. All contributions will remain confidential and anonymous unless I am under a legal obligation to disclose a possible safeguarding issue. All data collected will be anonymised. I may use statements made or drawings in presenting the information as part of this research. The data collected may be included in my final thesis and possibly included in papers later. I will be completing an evaluation which will also be shared with St Helena Government.

Information will be stored in line with UK Data Protection and GDPR regulations. In completing this research proposal I have sought ethical clearance through the University of Winchester and by the St Helena Research Council. I am a registered Social Worker and am also subject to ethical obligations through Social Work England.

What if there is a problem?

If you have any concerns about the World Café please let Rebecca Cairns Wicks, Co-ordinator for The St Helena Research Institute. Alternatively you can contact:

- my supervisor at the University of Winchester by email on Victoria.randall@winchester.ac.uk
- or the University Data Protection Officer: Stephen Dowell at: Stephen.Dowell@winchester.ac.uk