**Information sheet school - focus groups**

This study is looking into teen communication through mobile technology.

We want to talk with your child about their experiences as users of technology for personal communication.

The researcher is Helen Hewertson HHewertson@uclan.ac.uk

I am studying a Masters degree at the Child Computer Interaction Lab at the University of Central Lancashire. The Child Computer Interaction lab at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston is the largest of its kind in Europe and is well known around the world for cutting edge research into how young people interact with new technologies. For more information about the Child Computer Interaction Lab, see the website. www.chici.org

Your child is invited to take part in a short (30 minute) focus group with other children in their class at their school. This will be in groups of around 4-6 children.  We will be asking about what products they use and why they use them, and what would make their communication with friends easier or better.

The benefits to taking part in this study; they can make a contribution to knowledge about the ways teenagers communicate emotional content via mobile devices, which could help build better apps and give insight into the necessary peer support structures teens have in place. This should enable teenagers to explore ways of communicating and suggest improvements which would make their lives easier or more enjoyable using mobile technology.

They have the right to withdraw from the study at any time. The data collected which is anonymous will be used as part of my MRes project and possibly in research publications in anonymised form.

The recorded focus groups will be permanently deleted after 5 years of secure storage or upon formal verification of the research findings.

Please sign here if you consent to the children taking part.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------