
Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline

Title: The value of music to develop Preparation for Adulthood skills for students with severe learning difficulties (SLD).

Creator: Elizabeth Smith

Principal Investigator: Ben Evans, Elizabeth Smith

Affiliation: Open University

Template: Open University DMP

Project abstract:

This project aims to capture the development in Preparation for Adulthood skills through the experiences of music making for students with severe learning difficulties at a secondary special school in London. It is a participatory project, whereby students will participate in a variety of music activities including drumming club and choirs, and will be supported to keep a reflective journal of their experiences. Performances in the community and collaboration with other schools and music groups will also form part of the project.

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The value of music to develop Preparation for Adulthood skills for students with severe learning difficulties (SLD).

Administrative Data

ID

The value of music to develop Preparation for Adulthood skills for students with severe learning difficulties (SLD).

Co PIs - Liz Smith and Ben Evans

1st Dec 2024 - 1st Sept 2025

Project Name

The value of music to develop Preparation for Adulthood skills for students with severe learning difficulties (SLD).

Project Description

This project aims to capture the development in Preparation for Adulthood skills through the experiences of music making for students with severe learning difficulties at a secondary special school in London. It is a participatory project, whereby students will participate in a variety of music activities including drumming club and choirs, and will be supported to keep a reflective journal of their experiences. Performances in the community and collaboration with other schools and music groups will also form part of the project.

Music is a powerful medium in which students can develop a range of skills as well as musicality skills. Our school curriculum policy describes these areas as the following:

Musical skills	Personal development
● Rhythm, Metre and Tempo ● Pitch and Melody ● Structure and Form ● Harmony ● Texture ● Dynamics and Articulation ● Instruments and Playing Techniques	● Student voice ● Independence ● Personal, social emotional ● Communication and Interaction ● Participation in society ● self-expression and self confidence

This project explores the impact of music making on students’ skills relating to ‘Preparation for Adulthood’. Preparing students for adulthood is a significant focus for students with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) all of whom have a Special Educational Need and Disabilities (SEND). It forms a statutory part of the SEND code of Practice (DfE, 2015). The four priority areas for the Preparation for Adulthood are:

- ☐ Independent Living

- ☐ Participating in Society
- ☐ Education, Employment and Careers
- ☐ Good Health

Ben Evans (co-PI) is the researcher primarily responsible for carrying out fieldwork with staff and liaising with other stakeholders and parents/carers. Ben is a music education researcher with a secondary teaching background. They bring a postdoctoral track record of leading, managing and carrying out participatory research with vulnerable groups. Ben holds a PGCE and QTS and has an enhanced DBS checked by The Open University.

Liz Smith (co-PI) is the researcher primarily responsible for carrying out fieldwork with students. They are an experienced secondary music teacher, who has coordinated music in special schools for over 20 years. Liz is also Headteacher at Marlborough School and an experienced teacher of students with severe learning difficulties (SLD) and complex needs. Their doctoral research investigated holistic assessment for students with SLD. Therefore, this researcher finds themselves in a unique position to participate directly with music groups, conduct interviews with SLD students and facilitate the co-production of their experiences.

PI / Researcher

Ben Evans, The Open University

PI / Researcher ID

Liz Smith, Affiliated Researcher OU and Headteacher Marlborough School.

Project Data Contact

Ben Evans

Date of First Version

6th November 2024

Date of Last Version

29th January 2025

Related Policies

Detail which guidelines will be followed by the researchers.

BERA (2018), Ethical Guidelines for Educational Research, fourth edition.

<https://www.bera.ac.uk/publication/ethical-guidelines-for-educational-research-2018-online>

Specific to research with children:

DfE (2024), Research with children and young people. Guidance and ideas to help you plan and conduct research with children and young people successfully, safely and ethically. <https://user-research.education.gov.uk/guidance/ethics-and-safeguarding/research-with-children-and-young-people>

NSPCC (2024), Research with children: ethics, safety and promoting inclusion. Guidance about managing the risk of harm, obtaining informed consent and what researchers should do if they have concerns about a child. <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/briefings/research-with-children-ethics-safety-promoting-inclusion/>

Save The Children (2004), So You Want to Involve Children in Research? A toolkit supporting children's meaningful and ethical participation in research relating to violence against children. <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/content/dam/global/reports/education-and-child-protection/so-you-want-to-involve-children-in-research.pdf>

Description of Data

Give a brief description of the data which you are planning to collect.

Part 1 - weekly music clubs at Marlborough School: February 2025 - July 2025

A. Students will participate in weekly music clubs including choir and drumming club.

1. Students will participate in LSO Creative Project with London Symphony Orchestra:

1. Visit 1: Thursday 6 March, 09:45-11:30
2. Visit 2: Tuesday 11 March, 09:45-11:30
3. Visit 3: Tuesday 18 March, 09:45-11:30

C. Students will be supported to keep diary reflections of their experiences of being part of the group in a medium that suits them e.g., photographs, videos. Students will be supported to capture their thoughts on their musical development as well as other areas such as confidence, communication.

D. Towards the end of this project or after a performance, students will be interviewed using a variety of photos and videos to seek their views on the musical progress they have made, or progress in the 4 areas from PfA.

Part 2 - Community performances: February 2025 - July 2025

A. Performance and interactive workshop at Disabled Christian Fellowship group that meets monthly on the 2nd Saturday (afternoon) of each month. Date TBC.

B. Performance with 'Percussion Supersonic' including another special school, London Symphony

Orchestra and a local mainstream school. Date and venue TBC
C. Performance with LSO Creative Project 18th March 2025

Part 3 - Staff reflections: February 2025 - July 2025

1. Interviews - including school staff, Bexley Music staff and other professional Musicians e.g., from London Symphony Orchestra
2. Assessment data from staff e.g., Evidence for Learning - photo and written comment
3. Padlet of staff anecdotal comments and reflection on progress

What will be the format and scale of the data?

Approximately 5 students and 5 staff
Learning journal
Padlet for each student and generic Padlet.
Interviews and transcriptions x 10

Storage and Backup

Where will you store your research data throughout the course of your research project?

School server - for students work and teacher/ta assessments that would be completed as regular school data. Once consent has been obtained and the student data becomes research data, it will be copied to the OU Teams channel. The original student data will be kept and stored as per school policies.

Any original data e.g. interviews will be stored on the oU Teams channel and the original transcript deleted.

Padlet - data will be exported to OU Teams channel and original deleted

What steps will you take to ensure your data is stored securely?

Learning journal - follow school systems and policies. Any research data will be

Interviews and consent forms - stored on OU Teams - private to research team.

Interview data - original transcripts will be deleted.

Padlet - staff with link only can access students Padlet. Use first name only of student in Padlet. Once completed, Padlet data will be exported to Teams Channel and the original deleted.

Documentation and Metadata

What documentation and metadata will accompany the data?

The research team will be working on the same Microsoft Teams Channel, to analyse data and write up the research project.

Ethics and Legal Compliance

What ethics issues will you encounter? How will you manage them?

A full HREC application was submitted on 7/11/24 and will be resubmitted approximately 31/01/25 following feedback and amendments.

A DPIA submission was made on 7/11/24. This research has been approved by DPIA with reference 1199-2024 on 29th November 2024.

This research has been added to the IAR with reference number 373.

All participants will complete a signed consent form.

The right to withdraw will be explained in the information sheet, and verbally at the beginning of interviews.

In the consent and information leaflet it will be made explicit that choosing to either take part or not take part in this study will have no impact on staff evaluation and progression at work, nor student experience at school.

Guidelines will be followed by the researchers.

BERA (2018), Ethical Guidelines for Educational Research, fourth edition. <https://www.bera.ac.uk/publication/ethical-guidelines-for-educational-research-2018-online>

Specific to research with children:

DfE (2024), Research with children and young people. Guidance and ideas to help you plan and conduct research with children and young people successfully, safely and ethically. <https://user-research.education.gov.uk/guidance/ethics-and-safeguarding/research-with-children-and-young-people>

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Data Sharing

How will you share your data?

At the end of this project a number of outcomes will be produced:

- A research paper will be written demonstrating the power of music and impact on the lives of young people with severe learning difficulties to enable them to 'prepare for adulthood'.

- A summary report will also be created to share with parents/cares, and stakeholders including LSO and Bexley Music.
- A written summary of the main findings will be shared with all staff who participate, and parents/cares of student participants.
- A student friendly version (for example using symbols and photos) will be created and shared verbally with students.
- A summary will also be shared with our local music hub and other organisations involved such as the LSO.
- Liz and Ben plan to publish in appropriate journals and using alternative forms of dissemination such as using teacher magazines to share ideas for practice.
- Liz and Ben will present on this research in The Open University events e.g. research day and for Early Career research groups events, and other university/music conferences.

What obstacles may limit data sharing? How will you overcome these obstacles?

The interview transcript will be created using MS Teams, and the transcript will be checked for accuracy. The transcript will also be read and listened to during data analysis and any further corrections will be made. At all times information security policies will be followed.

Anonymisation and Withdrawal process - participants have the right to withdraw until 11th July 2025. Anonymisation consent is included in the consent form, and has various levels. Proof reading carefully by both researchers will ensure a data breach does not happen.

Selection and Preservation

Which data are of long-term value and should be retained, shared, and/or preserved?

No data collected will be retained for longer than 10 years, or shared.

Anonymised data will also be deposited on the Open University - Open Research Data Online (ORDO) site until April 2035.

The data will be stored for 10 years until 2035. We will not be adding an access option for other researchers at this time. Sufficient metadata will be assigned to the data upon deposit into ORDO to ensure preservation and appropriate access for the retention period of 10 years.

What is the long-term preservation plan for the dataset?

Between Feb 2025 - July 2025, the data will be collected through learning journals stored in school. The learning journals will belong to the students and will be sent home with them at the end of the academic year in July 2025.

All data on the Teams data collection channel will be deleted in July 2035.

All data on Padlet will be downloaded and saved in the teams channel by July 2025. The Padlet data

will then be deleted.

All data on the Teams data collection channel will be deleted in July 2035.

The data will be stored for 10 years until 2035. We will not be adding an access option for other researches at this time. Sufficient metadata will be assigned to the data upon deposit into ORDO to ensure preservation and appropriate access for the retention period of 10 years.

Responsibilities and Resources

Briefly describe the responsibilities for data management and curation within the research team.

Ben Evans Co PI:

Responsible for keeping the DMP up to date and ensuring researchers adhere to the plan, and storing securely interview data and transcripts on research team channel.

Responsible for exporting Padlet data via PDF and storing securely on the private research team channel and storing securely interview data and transcripts on the private research team channel.