



WISDOM Research Network – Information Sheet for Schools
V1.2 13.03.2026

We would like to invite your school to become a member of the WISDOM Research Network.

What is the WISDOM Research Network?

The WISDOM Research Network aims to bring together primary and secondary schools, sixth form and further education colleges in England and academic researchers to enable high quality mental health research that meets the diverse needs of school communities. Schools that join the network will benefit from engaging with, and learning from, cutting-edge mental health research, alongside opportunities to connect with other schools and help shape future mental health research.

The WISDOM Research Network is part of a wider project called [Mental Health in Development](#) (MHID). MHID is part of the Oxford Health Biomedical Research Centre (BRC), funded by the NIHR and is a partnership with the University of Oxford, alongside the Universities of Birmingham, Reading, Liverpool, Oxford Brookes, and York, and the Oxford Health, Berkshire Healthcare and Birmingham Women’s and Children’s NHS Foundation Trusts.

What we do

We are inviting primary and secondary schools, sixth form and further education colleges in England to join the WISDOM Research Network and aim to recruit more than 400 member schools from across the country.

The WISDOM Research Network partners with mental health researchers conducting research studies, PPI (Patient and Public Involvement) activities and practice evaluations, which from here onwards we refer to as “research activity/activities”. We share information about these research





WISDOM
Research Network

NIHR | Oxford Health Biomedical
Research Centre

activities with school members via regular newsletters and our website. Schools that have joined the Network can choose to participate in any, or all, of the research activities advertised through the Network.



MHID
Mental Health
in Development

www.wisdomnetwork.org.uk
wisdom.network@psy.ox.ac.uk

We aim to partner with a range of different types of research activities that vary in the degree of school involvement required. Contact details for each WISDOM research activity will be made available so interested schools can get in touch with the research teams directly.

The WISDOM Research Network also aims to provide member schools with evidence-informed resources and networking and professional development opportunities.

The WISDOM Research Network team

Primary school Leads: Professor Lucy Bowes, Dr Tessa Reardon

Secondary school Leads: Professor Mina Fazel, Dr Julia Badger

Postdoctoral Researcher: Dr Zoe Ryan

Research Assistant: Clare Stothart

University of Oxford, Department of Experimental Psychology, Life and Mind Building, South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3EL

Website: wisdomnetwork.org.uk

Email: wisdom.network@psy.ox.ac.uk

Which schools can join

The WISDOM Research Network is open to all schools and colleges in England. We are looking for primary and secondary schools, sixth form and further education colleges with pupils aged 4 to 18 years and hope at least 400 schools from different geographic regions in England will join.

If you work across a number of schools that may be interested in joining (e.g. multiple schools in a local authority or Academy Trust), we'd also love to hear from you, so please do get in touch

(wisdom.network@psy.ox.ac.uk).

What will WISDOM Research Network membership involve?

Expression of Interest:

Please contact the WISDOM Research Network team at wisdom.network@psy.ox.ac.uk if:

- your school would like to join the WISDOM Research Network AND/OR
- you would like to be kept up to date on Network activities and events AND/OR
- you would like to find out more

If you work with, or across, multiple schools that may want to join, we would also love to hear from you so please do email us and we will arrange a time to talk to you.

School Agreement:

- If your school would like to join the network, the school headteacher (or another nominated member of the school leadership team) will need to complete the 'WISDOM Research Network Memorandum of Understanding for Schools'
- We will ask the headteacher (or nominated alternate) to assign a School Network Lead who will be our main point of contact. You can change the named Lead at any time, we just ask you to let us know. The headteacher (or nominated alternate) will be given a basic information and consent form for the Network Lead to complete. Until the point where the Network lead completes these forms, the headteacher (or nominated alternate) will act as our main point of contact.
- We encourage schools to provide additional points of contact (i.e. an additional Network Lead and a member of the school administration team), however this is optional. Additional consent forms can be provided for the additional Network Lead and/or School Admin to complete upon request.

School Welcome Pack:

- The WISDOM Research Network team will email the School Welcome Pack to the headteacher (or nominated alternate) and the Network lead once we have the school agreement and consent in place.

- The School Welcome Pack contains the latest newsletter, information about resources available on our website and access to the Members Area, a certificate confirming your membership and a copy of our logo for use on your letterhead/email signatures

Engagement with researcher activities:

- Research activities will be detailed in our newsletter and on our website.
- You can pick which research activities you are interested in and contact the research teams directly.
- The research teams will be able to advise you what is required of your school; some research activities are more involved than others.

Research teams will let us know if your school participates in a research activity so we know when to upgrade a school's membership!

Does my school have to join? Do I have to join?

No. Network membership is voluntary and you can choose whether to join. If the headteacher (or nominated alternate) agrees and completes a Memorandum of Understanding and consent form but then changes their mind, they are free to withdraw the school or themselves from the Network at any time without giving a reason, and without any adverse consequences or penalty, as can the WISDOM Network Lead(s). You can just email us to let us know. We will remove any names and contact details for schools and/or staff who no longer wish to be members of the Network from our records. Schools can formally remove their membership of the Network via an email from the headteacher (or nominated alternate). If the school has engaged in any research, school data will be retained against the research activity (school name, post code, number and type of participant).

How membership to the WISDOM Research Network could benefit your school

Possible Benefits of taking part in research activities

- WISDOM Partnered Research Activities aim to bring benefits for school communities
- Schools receive bespoke feedback or resources from researchers after taking part in research activities.
- Research activities may provide opportunities to address or improve understanding of mental health and wellbeing needs in your local school or training for your staff in conducting research activities
- Schools will have the opportunity to feedback on their experience of being part of the network and inform future network activities

Possible benefits of being part of a large network of schools run by mental health experts

Member schools will:

- Be able to share their **WISDOM Research Network Graded Membership**, e.g. on their school website, school letterhead/email signatures (see “Graded Membership” section for further detail)
- **Receive a termly newsletter**. This will include a list of research activities your school could engage in, information about the WISDOM Research Network and current news on children and young peoples’ mental health and wellbeing. You will also have the opportunity to share your school or Local Authority’s relevant work and initiatives in our newsletter
- Have access to a **Members Area of our website**, with selected evidence-informed information and resources related to youth mental health
- Receive invitations to **Networking/professional development opportunities**, e.g. seminars/webinars on current topics in youth mental health

Graded membership

To recognise contributions to WISDOM Research Network activities, we offer a graded membership. By becoming a member, your school will be able to display the WISDOM Research Network logo, with your graded membership on your letterhead/email signatures.

The graded membership has 3 levels and is awarded as follows:

- ★ Member status
 - ✿ School is a member of the network
- ★ Active Member status
 - ✿ School is a member of the network AND has participated in a network activity
- ★ Advanced Member status
 - ✿ School is a member of the network AND has engaged in multiple network activities.

We will review school membership status on a termly basis and will issue upgrades to membership via email to the School Network lead. This will include an updated membership certificate and updated logo for your letterhead/email signature.

Data privacy notice

Please see our privacy notice [here](#).

How to raise concerns/make complaints

If you have a concern about any part of this project, please speak to the WISDOM Research Network team (email: wisdom.network@psy.ox.ac.uk) who will do their best to address your concern. The team should acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how they intend to deal with it.

Ethics and Safeguarding

Research teams who have had their research activity accepted by the WISDOM Research Network have agreed to:

- Seek appropriate ethics approval and have safeguarding procedures in place (where applicable)
- Adhere to the [Framework for School Mental Health Research Network](#)
- Ensure any data is processed in accordance with requirements of data protection law, with appropriate approvals in place (where applicable)

All team members of the WISDOM Research Network have been vetted and received approval through the enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service checking process for working with children.

What next?

Thank you for reading this information. If you work in, or across, schools that may be interested in joining the network or would like to find out more, please email us at

wisdom.network@psy.ox.ac.uk