

Participant Information Sheet: 'Parents' Perceptions of Beaches as Safe Spaces for their Children'

I am a Human Geography undergraduate student at Cardiff University and I am currently carrying out research for my dissertation. My dissertation research is being carried out between July and early September 2019. The aim of my project is to find out about parents' perceptions of beaches as spaces for their children in North Devon. I am interested to find out whether parents believe beaches are safe spaces for their children, or whether they view them as highly dangerous, and how this varies from perceptions of green spaces such as woodland and fields. I will also investigate whether parents own experiences of beaches when they were young have affected how they perceive beaches for their own children. This research will be valuable as it will provide some insight into blue spaces (beaches, lakes etc) as spaces for children, which currently lacks any substantial academic research.

You have been contacted as a potential participant of this research. Participation will involve taking part in a semi-structured interview, to find out about your views on the topic. The interview will last roughly 30 minutes and can take place face-to-face or over the telephone, in a venue and at a time of your convenience. However, if you would prefer to discuss the topic in a group with fellow parents, a focus group could be arranged. The aim is to record all interviews in digital format for later transcription and analysis, but you have the right to refuse this recording if you choose. Data collection in this study will be anonymised and securely stored on a password protected laptop.

Please note that you are welcome to ask questions about the study before you decide whether to participate. Your participation is entirely voluntary, and if you do agree to take part, you may withdraw from the study at any time. This project has received ethics clearance through the University of Cardiff Research Ethics Committee.

If you have any comments, questions or concerns about the research please contact myself, Hannah Beggs, by email: BeggsH@cardiff.ac.uk ; or by telephone on 07807 770662. If you wish to ask my supervisor any questions about the dissertation project please contact Dr Enticott at: EnticottG@Cardiff.ac.uk.

I do hope that you agree to participate and look forward to working with you. There are minimal personal risks to participants involved in this research, although I do appreciate that I am asking for some of your valuable time at the expense of other activities.

Kind Regards,

Hannah Beggs