



## TEACHER INFORMATION SHEET

**Research Project:** Teachers' Beliefs concerning the Integration of Children's Literature in Mathematics Teaching and Learning  
**Researchers:** Dr. Mark Prendergast, Dr. Lorraine Harbison and Ms. Sue Miller

We would like to invite you to take part in an international study exploring teachers' beliefs on the integration of children's literature in mathematics learning and teaching.

### What is the study?

The study aims to explore teachers' beliefs on the value and use of children's literature in mathematics teaching and learning with the intention of using the survey data to develop a questionnaire instrument that will be used to investigate whether there are any significant differences in the aforementioned beliefs as espoused by teachers of different gender, age, teaching experience, and socio-economic setting in which their school is located. The study will involve teachers across the early years and primary age ranges.

### Why have I been chosen to take part?

You have been invited to take part in the project because you teach at primary school level in one of the countries that is a focus of this project. The teachers who are invited to participate in the study represent a wide range of characteristics, including but not limited to gender, qualification level, age, teaching experience level and subject specialism.

### Do I have to take part?

It is entirely up to you whether you wish to participate. **By completing the questionnaire you are giving your consent to be part of the research.** You may also withdraw your consent to participation at any time during the project, without any repercussions to you, by contacting us via email on [mark.prendergast@tcd.ie](mailto:mark.prendergast@tcd.ie), [lharbison@cice.ie](mailto:lharbison@cice.ie) or [smiller@cice.ie](mailto:smiller@cice.ie).

### What will happen if I take part?

You will be asked to complete a survey about your beliefs on the integration of children's literature in mathematics learning and teaching. You will be asked to provide contextual data about yourself, your class and your school. You will also be asked to identify the first five thoughts that come to your mind when you think of the research topic and to briefly explain the reason for choosing each of those thoughts and a few other questions about other aspects of the integration. This survey will likely take around 15-20 minutes of your time.

We might subsequently send you one or two more follow-up e-mails if we found some of your response to be very interesting and thus would like more details, or if we needed clarification on some of your response.



### **What are the benefits and risks of taking part?**

We anticipate that the findings of the study will be useful for teachers in reflecting on their own practices concerning the use of children's literature in mathematics learning and teaching. There are no known risks involved as part of your participation in this study.

### **What will happen to the data?**

Any data collected will be anonymised and no real names will be used in this study or in any subsequent publications. Participants will be assigned a pseudonym, which will be used at all times and in all records and reports. Research records will be stored securely in a locked filing cabinet and on a password-protected computer. The records of this study will be kept private. The anonymised results of the study may be presented at national and international conferences, and in written articles. The data will be collated with data from a range of other countries around the world for a comparison study. If you are interested in reading the publications, please contact us.

### **What happens if I change my mind?**

You can change your mind at any time without any repercussions. During the research, you can stop completing the activities at any time. If you change your mind after data collection has ended, your data will be discarded.

### **Who has reviewed the study?**

This project has been reviewed following the procedures of the University Research Ethics Committee and has been given a favourable ethical opinion for conduct. The University has the appropriate insurances in place. Full details are available on request.

Thank you very much for your time.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Mark Prendergast  
Lecturer in Education  
Trinity College Dublin

Dr Lorraine Harbison  
Lecturer in Education

Ms Sue Miller  
Head of Library Services  
Church of Ireland College of Education (CICE)