

Consent form for *Tackling misinformation and disinformation for Scottish school librarians*

- I freely and voluntarily consent to be a participant in the research project on the topic of Scottish school librarians and mis- and dis-information to be conducted by Bruce Ryan, who is a staff member at Edinburgh Napier University.
- The broad goal of this research study is to understand the 'how, why and what could/should be' of Scottish school librarians' work to help pupils become better able to handle mis/disinformation.
- Specifically, I have been asked to answer relevant survey questions. This should take no more than 20 minutes. Also, only if I volunteer to do so, I may be asked to take part in a focus group or interview which will take no longer than 1 hour.
- I have been told that my responses will be anonymised. My name will not be linked with the research materials, and I will not be identified or identifiable in any report subsequently produced by the researcher.
- I also understand that if at any time during the data-gathering of any sort I feel unable or unwilling to continue, I am free to leave. That is, my participation in this study is completely voluntary, and I may withdraw from it without negative consequences. However, after data has been anonymised or after publication of results it will not be possible for my data to be removed as it would be untraceable at this point.
- In addition, should I not wish to answer any particular question or questions, I am free to decline.
- I have been given the opportunity to ask questions regarding the interviews/focus groups, and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction.
- I have read and understand the above and consent to participate in this study. My signature is not a waiver of any legal rights. Furthermore, I understand that I will be able to keep a copy of the informed consent form for my records.

In place of your signature and the date, we will collect your consent if you select the 'yes' option in the online survey.

Researcher's statement

I have explained and defined in detail the research procedure in which the respondent has consented to participate. Furthermore, I will retain one copy of the informed consent form for my records.

Researcher's signature: *Dr Bruce Martin Ryan* 2025_02_01