



Climate Superpowers in the Classroom

Plain Language Statement for Parents of Children Under 17 Years

Our names are Phoebe Quinn, Dr Katitza Marinkovic, Professor Dianne Vella-Brodrick, Dr Helena Bender, Claudine Lagier, Professor Lisa Gibbs, April Harrison, Prof Ann Sanson and Nabreesa Murphy. We are researchers at the University of Melbourne. We would like to invite your child to be part of the Climate Superpowers in the Classroom project, funded by the Climate CATCH (Collaborative Action Towards Transformative Change in Health and Healthcare) Lab at the University of Melbourne. If your child is interested, please read this information carefully, and decide if you are happy for your child to participate. We have also prepared a Plain Language Statement and consent form for your child. You can ask us questions if there's something you don't understand or want to know more about.

What is this project about?

The interactive, strengths-based Climate Superpowers website (climatesuperpowers.org) was created with and for young people in 2022. It helps young people understand their superpowers and use them for learning about climate change, self care and taking action. You can learn more about the project [here](#).

We want to make it easy for teachers and young people use the Climate Superpowers website in school classrooms and universities. To do this, we will work with young people, teachers and other adults to develop lesson plans and teaching materials. These will be included on the Climate Superpowers website and shared with people across Australia and internationally.

At the same time, we want to study how researchers and young people can work together to design resources like this. So, if your child participates in this project, we would like to ask for your and your child's permission to use the information gathered during our work so that we may analyse it and share it in reports and academic publications.

Does my child have to participate?

Participation is completely voluntary, and your child has the right to withdraw from the project at any time, without it affecting them in any way.

If my child decides to participate, what will they do?

Your child would take part in two workshops of 60-90 minutes each. These research workshops will take place at the University of Melbourne or online. Each workshop will

include 4-10 other participants (young people and their teacher(s)), and researchers. In some cases, your child may be invited to provide input separately to these group workshop (e.g. if you are unable to attend).

We will ask for your child's input into the design of lesson plans and teaching resources based on the Climate Superpowers website. After the first workshop, we will develop initial versions of these resources which will be piloted at least once in a teaching context (e.g. a school or university classroom). Then in the second workshop, we will ask for your child's input so the teaching resources can be further improved.

To make sure we don't miss anything of what your child says during the workshops, we would like to record our meetings together. If the workshop is carried out in person, we will only record the audio of our meeting. If we meet on Zoom, we will record both the video and audio, but your child can choose to keep your camera off if they don't want their face to appear in the recording.

Your child may also be involved in using the lesson plans and teaching resources, but that would not be part of this formal research project. In 2024, we will also hold some events such as webinars or workshops to share the resources and develop plans for future work. In some cases, your child may wish to take part in such events, but again, this would not be part of formal research participation.

What are the possible benefits?

We expect this project to benefit children, young people and adults such as teachers, supporting wellbeing in the context of climate change. Additionally, taking part in this project may help your child gain useful experience, enhance their skills and make connections with other people who care about similar issues. If you want, we can provide your child with a letter of reference at the end acknowledging the contributions they made to this project. Finally, because your child will invest time and energy in working with us, we will compensate them with a small gift for each workshop they attend.

What are the possible risks?

It's possible that talking about climate change could make your child feel sad, angry or distressed. If this happens, your child can choose to talk about it with the team or some of its members, or not. Your child can also withdraw from the project at any moment.

Our focus will be on developing resources that help others build their strength and resilience, and we won't ask your child about difficult experiences in their life. However, we recommend that they do not participate if they are experiencing a lot of distress relating to the climate emergency.

Will I hear about the results of this project?

Yes. Throughout the project, as we develop resources based on your child's input, we will ask for their feedback. Then, we will share the final resources with your child via e-mail. If we produce any other publications based on the study, we will also share these with your child.

Will the things that my child says in the workshops be kept private?

Yes, only the researchers and the other **participants** in the workshops will know what your child said and did during our activities. Any identifiable information (e.g. name and email address) will be stored securely in password-protected folders so that only the researchers will have access to it. We will only contact your child's emergency contact person if we are concerned for their safety. When we make the final report and other publications, we will group the results so no individuals can be identified. However, since there will be a small number of people taking part in this project, it is possible that someone who knows your child might recognise their contribution. Additionally, we cannot control what other workshop participants tell other people outside the project.

Your child also has the right to choose to be acknowledged for their role in contributing to the codesign of the resources, if they wish. Therefore, we will ask your child if you would like to be publicly acknowledged as a contributor. If they want to, they can also choose a pseudonym. We'll ask your child about this as we are preparing to share the resources, and they can change your mind right up until the public acknowledgement has occurred (e.g. the resource is published, or their name is mentioned in a presentation).

We will only take pictures of your child with their permission, and we'll also ask your child for permission before we use any pictures taken during the project's activities in our publications, presentations and online materials.

We will keep the materials and notes from the project for at The University of Melbourne 15 years from when your child turns 18 and then we will destroy them. The information your child provides will only be used for this project or related projects about young people and climate change.

Where can I get further information?

You can contact us at any time to discuss the project.

Phoebe Quinn (Responsible researcher), +61 3 8344 3097, phoebeq@unimelb.edu.au

Available support

If your child experiences distress or discomfort during the workshop or discussion groups, they can always take a break, and if they would like, feel free speak to us (Phoebe or Katitza). Your child can also decide then whether or not you wish to continue.

Here are some other supports that are available to your child:

Youth Beyond Blue	1300 22 4636	https://www.youthbeyondblue.com/
Lifeline	13 11 14	https://lifeline.org.au

Kids Helpline

1800 55 1800

<https://kidshelpline.com.au/>

All of these are free and offer 24-hour, private telephone and online chat* services.

Youth Beyond Blue online chat hours are 3pm-12am

Kids Helpline is a free phone support service for young people up to 25 years old.

Who can I contact if I have any concerns about the project?

This research project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of The University of Melbourne. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Manager, Human Research Ethics, Office for Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 3 8344 2073 or Email: HumanEthics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au. All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence, please provide the name of the research team or the name or ethics ID number of the research project: 27604.