Dear Teachers and Headteachers,

We would like to invite your school to participate in a research project on ‘The formation of values in primary school’, which is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF).

In our project **VALISE (Values in School Education)**, we are researching how primary schools shape children’s personal value development, by employing a longitudinal design in Switzerland along with a comparative study in the UK. We focus on children’s developmental trajectories in value priorities, value structures as well as on those factors that affect children’s values in school (e.g., school climate, teachers). This is a collaborative project between the University of Westminster, the University of Basel, and Royal Holloway, University of London.

The results of the study will provide novel insights into value formation of primary school pupils and show ways of promoting the value-related competences of children in the school context.

The project in Switzerland has started already, and we are very happy that over 100 Swiss schools have already agreed to participate, and over 1000 Swiss pupils and their teachers have completed the first data collection. We are now starting the recruitment in the UK. As we are aware of the very challenging situation in UK schools and the very recent reopening, **we are inviting current Year 2 teachers to participate now and Year 3 teachers together with their pupils to participate in early 2022**.

The project has been approved by the ethics committee of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Westminster. We will ask all participating people (the headteacher, the teachers, the parents/guardians, and the children) to provide informed consent. Data will be anonymous.

Due to the current situation around the pandemic, the first studies will be conducted online. Of course, we will abide by the safeguarding policy of your school

We are kindly asking if you would like to support our project and would be very happy if you forwarded this letter and the enclosed flyer with further details about our project **to the teachers of pupils currently in Year 2.**

**If your school would like to participate, please get in touch with us!** We are more than happy to answer further questions you may have.

We would like to also refer to our project homepage:

(<https://bildungswissenschaften.unibas.ch/en/research/value-formation-in-school/> ).

With kind regards and many thanks for your support,

Dr Anna Doering & Project Team

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Project Webpage: <https://bildungswissenschaften.unibas.ch/en/research/value-formation-in-school/>