



THE  
JUBILEE CENTRE  
FOR CHARACTER & VIRTUES

UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

# The Good Teacher Understanding Virtues in Practice Research Report

**Supplementary Online Appendices**

**Information Sheet  
Consent Form  
Debriefing Sheet**

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# The Good Teacher: Understanding Virtues in Practice

## Supplementary Online Appendices: Interview Schedules

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## **Information Sheet**

### **Virtues and Values in the Professions**

This research is taking place within the **Jubilee Centre for Character and Values**, an interdisciplinary research centre focussing on character, virtues and values, based at the University of Birmingham.

The research explores the role of character, virtues and values in medicine, law and teaching. We are interested in the role of character in professional practice: by that we mean the kind of personal characteristics or qualities needed to be a professional.

Versions of the survey will be completed by around 3,000 new trainees, graduating trainees and established practitioners in medicine, law and teaching. We are also interviewing a sample from the main survey to gain a more in-depth understanding of the issues. We are interested in comparing the responses of students, trainees and established practitioners across the three professions and in exploring how research participants' views might change as their training progresses and as they gain practical experience in their profession.

This document provides further information about the study which you may wish to read before deciding whether to take part. Part 1 tells you the purpose of this study and what will happen to you if you take part. Part 2 gives you more detailed information about the conduct of the study.

#### **PART ONE**

##### ***What is this study about?***

This project is designed to deepen understanding of the place of virtues, or character strengths and values in initial education, training and subsequent professional practice in three professions (medicine, law, and teaching). We will work with entrants to the professions (students and trainees), their educators and those who have been in practice for five years or more.

With entrants we will investigate how their initial academic and professional education is informed by conceptions of the virtues and how this influences their values and beliefs. With their educators we will explore how and to what extent formal and informal curricula and their assessment are explicitly informed and underpinned by concepts of professional virtues and values.

With experienced practitioners we will examine the virtues they identify as important and how these influence everyday practice. Recognising that professionals work within institutional, regulatory and disciplinary frameworks, we will explore how these restrict and/or allow space for individual agency.

##### ***Why have I been asked to take part in the study?***

We are asking you to take part in the study because part of the project is investigating the values and character strengths held by teachers, as well as how these values and strengths influence practice.

##### ***Do I have to take part in the study?***

It is up to you to decide to join the study. If you agree to take part, we will ask you to complete a consent form. If you change your mind later, you will be able to withdraw your response. However, you must let us know within six months from the time of this interview.

### ***What will happen to me?***

You will be asked to take part in an interview, to further explore points of interest resulting from the survey. Participation in such an interview is entirely voluntary, and you will be thoroughly briefed about it before you choose to take part.

### ***Are there any costs involved?***

Taking part will not cost you anything apart from your time. We are unable to pay you anything for taking part in the study.

### ***Why should I take part in the study?***

We think that the information we get from this study will help improve the professional training of teachers.

### ***Will the information I share be kept confidential?***

Yes. We will follow ethical and legal practice and all information about you will be handled in confidence. The details are included in Part 2. The only people to see the information you provide will be the researchers at the University of Birmingham who work on the project. Prior to analysis, they will assign a random number to the data so that your identity will be protected at all times. All the data will be kept securely in password protected computer storage.

*If the information in Part 1 has interested you and you are considering participation, please read the additional information in Part 2 before making any decision.*

## **PART TWO**

### ***With whom will my information be shared?***

Only anonymised data will be made more widely available so that neither you, nor your employer, can be identified. This applies to reports and publications made available by the researchers and the John Templeton Foundation. The data may be archived at a Data Centre such as the UK Data Archive. This will allow other registered researchers to have access to the data in this anonymised form.

### ***How will the information I share be used?***

The researchers on the team may use your words in publications, reports, working papers and other research outputs, always preserving the confidentiality outlined earlier. Other researchers who may access the anonymised data through data archives may also use your words in their publications.

Through this process, you will be assigning copyright of these words to Professor Hywel Thomas as the Principal Investigator to this project.

### ***What happens if I have a problem?***

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should contact the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions (see below).

***Who is doing this research?***

We are researchers from the Jubilee Centre for Character and Values ([www.jubileecentre.ac.uk](http://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk)) at the University of Birmingham and are happy to talk to you more about the project or answer your questions. You can contact us by telephone or via email:

Professor Hywel Thomas, Principal Investigator, [h.r.thomas@bham.ac.uk](mailto:h.r.thomas@bham.ac.uk), 0121 415 8288

Dr Sandra Cooke, Research Fellow, [s.cooke@bham.ac.uk](mailto:s.cooke@bham.ac.uk), 0121 414 5770

***Who has approved this work?***

This study has been reviewed and approved by the Humanities & Social Sciences Ethical Review Committee of the University of Birmingham. You can email [ethics-queries@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:ethics-queries@contacts.bham.ac.uk) with any queries.

## *Participant consent form*

### **Virtues and values in the professions**

This project is exploring the place of virtues and values in education, training and practice in three professions, Medicine, Law and Teaching. We are asking you to take part in an interview or focus group about your values and character strengths, both as a person and a professional, your ideas about the character strengths and values needed in your profession, and how these are influenced in your working environment.

We may wish to include content from your interview or focus group responses in our analysis and therefore we are asking you to sign a consent form. **Should you wish to withdraw, we will destroy any content already gathered. However, once data has been included in material for publication, withdrawal will not be possible. Therefore, the deadline for withdrawal will be six months from the date of this form.**

Your survey, interview or focus group responses will be treated confidentially. You will be allocated a pseudonym or reference number known only to the research team. You will not be identifiable by any content from the survey or interview included in material for publication. All data will be stored securely on University of Birmingham premises or in password-protected electronic systems. We aim to make our data, totally anonymised, available to relevant public databases in line with University policy. Your details will not be identifiable to you.

Please read, and indicate your acceptance of (by ticking the box) the following statements:

1. I confirm that I have read and understood the information sheet for the above study. I have had the opportunity to consider the information, ask questions and have these answered satisfactorily.
2. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw within six months of the date of this form without giving reason.
3. I understand that data collected during the study may be looked at by all members of the research team, where it is relevant to my taking part in this research. I give permission for these individuals to have access to these data.
4. I understand that my name and distinguishing features will not be included in any material for publication.
5. If I take part in an interview or focus group, I agree that it may be audio-recorded.
6. I agree to take part in the above study.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name of participant*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name of person taking consent*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

## Debrief Sheet

### Virtues and Values in the Professions: what happens now?

#### What is this research for?

The aim of this research is to explore the role of virtues and values in professional practice in England in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The research will contribute to the development of initial and continuing professional education and to understanding how professional practice can be developed.

This project is one of many that are being undertaken by the Jubilee Centre for Character and Values in the School of Education. If you would like to keep updated on the progress of this project and its findings (as well as the other projects run by the Jubilee Centre) you can do so by visiting the Centre Website: [www.jubileecentre.ac.uk](http://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk)

#### What will happen now?

The data from your contribution will be combined with those of other participants for analysis. They will be stored separately from your consent form. From this point onwards you will be referred to by an anonymous reference. Only the researcher will be able to link your specific data to your identity.

If you have participated in an interview or focus group, we will send you a transcript of the conversation so that you can check that you are happy for us to include it in the study. You will be able to amend your contribution to the transcript at that point.

#### Keeping in touch

Please feel free to ask any questions about the experiment or the data management. If you wish to contact the researchers involved with this study you can email or phone:

Hywel Thomas, Principal Investigator, [h.r.thomas@bham.ac.uk](mailto:h.r.thomas@bham.ac.uk), 0121 415 8288

Sandra Cooke, Research Fellow, [s.cooke@bham.ac.uk](mailto:s.cooke@bham.ac.uk), 0121 414 5770

**Thank you for your participation in this study.**