**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET – ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Introduction**

This questionnaire is being conducted as part of the research phase of a professional Doctorate in Education (EdD) at the University of Bath, UK. The researcher is exploring the impact of the ADEK Inclusion Policy published in 2023, and subject to compliance from August 2025, on support provided to children with additional learning needs/ Students of Determination attending mainstream classes in Abu Dhabi private schools offering the British curriculum.

**Name of Researcher and Supervisor**

This research is being conducted by Ginette Moore, a doctoral researcher at the University of Bath, UK, as part of the Doctorate in Education programme. Ginette can be contacted by email at ghm34@bath.ac.uk.

The research is supervised by Dr Tristan Bunnell, email tb541@bath.ac.uk.

**About the research project**

This information sheet forms part of the process of informed consent. It tells you what the research is about and what taking part will involve. Please read it carefully and ask one of the researchers named above if you have any questions.

**What is the purpose of the project?**

Before the ADEK Inclusion Policy was published, there was no policy or legislation in Abu Dhabi concerning how support was provided or funded for children who were unable to attend mainstream school without 1:1 adult support to access education. In practice, many schools asked parents to hire a 'shadow teacher', a dedicated 1:1 assistant selected by parents who accompanied the child to lessons and may also provide personal care, where needed.

This research explores how those working as a Shadow Teacher before the Policy was introduced, and are now working as an Individual Assistant, view and experience the changes to their responsibilities that occurred as a result of the Policy, and how they form part of a wider team to support a student with additional learning needs.

**Who can take part in this project?**

Individual Assistants who are now, or have recently been, working in Abu Dhabi private schools that offer the British curriculum. They must also have been working in the role of Shadow Teacher in Abu Dhabi private schools before the 2024-5 academic year.

**Do I have to take part?**

Your participation in this research is completely voluntary. Before you decide, you should read this information sheet carefully and ask any questions you may have. If you agree to take part, you will be asked to sign a consent form. You can skip any question or stop taking part at any time without giving a reason and without any consequences.

If you decide after completing the questionnaire or interview that you do not want all or part of your response to be used in the research, you can notify the researcher of your decision and the data you have provided will be destroyed.

**What does taking part involve?**

If you agree to take part, you will be asked to complete a questionnaire to establish whether the research is applicable to your current role and if so, to find out more about your experiences in that role. The questionnaire covers: background information about you; your role and responsibilities; your professional identity and skills; your working relationships and collaboration; your reflections on inclusive education. It will take around 15 minutes to complete.

After completing the questionnaire, you will be asked if you are willing to participate in a face-to-face or online interview lasting 45-60 minutes so that you can talk about your experiences in more depth. This is voluntary and you are not obliged to agree to do so.

**What are the exclusion criteria?**

The focus of this research is the role of the Individual Assistant in Abu Dhabi private schools offering a UK/British curriculum. You should not take part in the research if you are not working as an Individual Assistant in a UK curriculum private school in Abu Dhabi at the time of completing the questionnaire, or were not doing do during the 2025-6 academic year.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

There are no specific benefits of taking part in the research. However, the information that you and other participants provide will help to broaden understanding of the Individual Assistant role and how its creation supports inclusive education in Abu Dhabi private schools.

**What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

We do not anticipate any disadvantages to you taking part in the project. If the questionnaire or interview includes a question that you do not want to answer for any reason, you can choose not to answer.

Your participation is confidential. No identifiable information will be shared with the school, the family you work with, or any employer. Your visa status, sponsorship

arrangements, and employment details will not be collected as data and will not appear in any research records. Your sponsor will not be informed that you have taken part in the research, and you are not required to share your sponsor's, school or student's details with the researcher.

**Limits of confidentiality**

There is one exception to confidentiality. If you disclose information indicating that you or someone else is at immediate or serious risk of harm, the researcher may need to seek advice from the University of Bath safeguarding team. They will advise on the appropriate next steps. The researcher will not share identifiable information with the school, families, or employers unless you explicitly request this or the University safeguarding team determines that it is legally required.

**If you disclose something concerning**

If you disclose something that suggests risk of harm, the researcher will not ask probing questions or attempt to investigate the situation. Only minimal factual information will be recorded, and the University of Bath safeguarding procedures will be followed.

Because the researcher is not a member of school staff, they are not part of the school's safeguarding reporting structure. The researcher will not report directly to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead unless you explicitly request this. Any safeguarding concern will be handled through the University safeguarding team.

**Who will have access to the information that I provide?**

Only the researcher and supervisory team will have access to raw data. All transcripts will be pseudonymised, and any contextual details that could identify you will be removed or altered.

**What will happen to the data collected and results of the project?**

We will treat all information that you provide as confidential and store it on the University's secure servers. Storage of data will be done in accordance with current UK data protection legislation. Recorded data will be stored securely and confidentially in the University archives for a minimum of 10 years. Your name or any other identifying information will not be disclosed in any presentation or publication of the research.

After the project has finished, we can provide you with a summary of the project results if you would like. This summary will not include any identifiable information and will only show the overall findings of the project.

**Who has reviewed the project?**

This project has been given a favourable ethics opinion by the University of Bath, Social Sciences Ethics Committee.

**How can I withdraw from the project?**

If you wish to withdraw your participation after completing the questionnaire, and interview if applicable, you can tell the researcher in person or by email at ghm34@bath.ac.uk. You can withdraw without needing to give a reason.

If for any reason you wish to withdraw your data, please contact the researcher within two weeks of your participation. After this period, it will not be possible to withdraw your data as some results may have been analysed. Your individual contributions will not be identifiable in any presentation or publication.

**University of Bath privacy notice**

The University of Bath privacy notice can be found here: https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/university-of-bath-privacy-notice-for-research-participants/.

**Who should I contact for more information?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of the project, you should ask to speak to the researcher who will do their best to answer any questions. If they are unable to resolve your concern or you wish to make a complaint regarding the project, please contact the Research Governance and Compliance Team at research-ethics@bath.ac.uk.

Please do not hesitate to contact the researcher, Ginette Moore, at ghm34@bath.ac.uk if you would like more information.