**INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS**

**What are we doing?**

The Educational Psychology Service (EPS) at Neath Port Talbot (NPT) Local Authority are doing some research to explore children and young people’s experience of the COVID-19 school closures. Currently, there appears to be a lot of information about how we (as adults) feel children are being affected but we have limited views from children and young people themselves.

**Why are we doing it?**

We hope that by gaining a better understanding of children and young people’s experiences first hand we will be in a better position to support them, particularly with returning to education. We also hope that gathering children and young people’s views on the current situation will be useful for informing future practice, if a similar crisis were to happen again.

**What does participating in the project involve?**

Your child will be asked to complete a short online survey about their experience of the COVID-19 school closures. The survey comprises of both multiple choice and open-ended questions and will take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete.

**How will their information be used?**

The data collected will initially be used to inform the practice of the EPS in NPT. We also intend to use the data to write a research article with the hope that it will be published in an academic journal. All data collected will be anonymised and securely stored.

**What if my child changes their mind?**

Given the anonymity of the data, we are unable to withdraw participants’ data once they have submitted their responses. In giving their consent to participate, children and young people are confirming that they understand that once they have submitted their responses, there is no way of tracing them (unless the pupil chooses to share their contact information for support purposes) to remove them from the data set if they change their mind. Therefore, we urge all children and young people to think carefully before submitting their views.