

1. WHO ARE WE?

Your child's school has partnered with the University of Leeds, School of Dentistry, to take part in our Citizens Science project: **RAISED In Yorkshire (RiY)**. We are collecting information about the health of your child's teeth, the bugs in their mouths that cause tooth decay, and their health behaviours. The aim is to empower young people with the skills and knowledge to improve their own oral health and toothbrushing habits. Qualified dental professionals have been working with keen sixth form students from your child's school as part of the RiY programme to train them to become Oral Health Educators. The sixth formers gain invaluable work experience and community service, teaching students in their own and local schools about the importance of oral health care and sharing their skills and knowledge.

2. WHY ARE WE DOING RAISED in YORKSHIRE?

12-year-olds in Yorkshire & Humber suffer the worst oral health in the UK, with nearly half of students starting secondary school with rotten teeth. Poor oral health leads to rotten teeth, toothache, bullying, low self-esteem, and time off school. Tooth decay is preventable but reaching adolescents and teenagers at-risk of oral health inequalities is not easy.

RAISED in Yorkshire will help your child to: **1)** understand the importance of looking after their oral health, **2)** gain skills in how to brush their teeth well, and **3)** understand the science behind tooth decay by looking at the bugs in their saliva (spit). Everybody has good and bad bugs (bacteria) in their mouths which feed on sugar to cause tooth decay. We hope RAISED in Yorkshire will help children to have fewer bad bugs in the mouth and improve their oral health.

3. WHAT WILL THIS INVOLVE?

If you consent for your child to take part in RAISED in Yorkshire:

Trained sixth form students will deliver engaging workshops to teach toothbrushing skills, explain the science of tooth decay, and raise awareness about oral health.

Your child's school will be randomly assigned to one of three groups. **Group 1** will receive a summer term workshop on oral health. **Group 2** will attend the same workshop in the spring term followed by an additional lesson about oral hygiene, and the science of tooth decay. **Group 3** will participate in both the workshop and a lesson, and will also be invited to join an Oral Health Society within school to further reinforce good oral health habits.

When your child is in **Year 7** (spring and summer terms) and **Year 8** (spring term) they will:

1. Have a trained dental teams look into their mouth and do a dental check.
2. Complete surveys about their oral health, lifestyle, and behaviours.
3. As part of the YUK project they will provide a sample of their saliva (spit), by dribbling into a small tube. This helps us explain the science behind tooth decay.



There are **no risks** involved in taking part in RAISED in Yorkshire (RiY). The RiY dental check should not replace your child seeing their own dentist. You should always maintain visits to your own dentist.

Children with immunosuppression & bleeding conditions e.g., Haemophilia, are more vulnerable when having a dental check and therefore should not take part. **We would ask you to alert us if your child has such a condition**



Optional consent for photography:

We would like to take some photographs/videos of children participating in RiY to show and promote the importance of the project.

We will strictly follow the school's policy on taking and the use of photos/videos.



Optional consent for the parent/guardian interview:

We would like to hear your thoughts on changes in your child's oral health habits during their participation in the RiY project. We invite parents/guardians to participate in two to three short (5-min) phone interviews with our research team. To take part, please tick the relevant box on the consent form and provide a mobile number. All information discussed will be kept strictly confidential.

5. CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE



If you are happy for your child to take part in RiY, please complete and sign the consent form and return it to your child's school.

6. WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH MY CHILD'S DATA?



Data will be handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018, and securely stored on University of Leeds secure drive. No information will be published that identifies your child. Your child will be given a unique ID number to link their information. The school will provide your child's details and information on free school meals and broad educational attainment category (e.g., low, medium, high, or streaming group). This data will enable us to assess if the oral health knowledge gain is delivered inclusively to children of all abilities.

Saliva samples and dental check data will be kept for 5 years after the end of the study. After this any remaining samples and data will be destroyed securely.

For more information about how the University of Leeds uses personal data for research:
<https://dataprotection.leeds.ac.uk/research-participant-privacy-notice/>

7. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY?

In the future, we hope to publish the findings. We also intend to provide group anonymous feedback to the schools your child will not be identifiable data in any of the reports we write up about the findings of the research.

8. ANY QUESTIONS?

If you would like to discuss anything further, please contact:



Professor Sue Pavitt (Director of the Dental Translation & Clinical Research Unit)
Email: dencru@leeds.ac.uk



Yasmen Elsadek (Dental Hygiene Therapist, University of Leeds) dnyeee@leeds.ac.uk

For more information (also available in other languages), please go to the Parent page on your school website/[DenTCRU RiY Webpage](#) .