



## Subject: Information Letter – KLAS Research Project

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Your child's teacher and school are participating in the KLAS research project at Utrecht University. We would like to ask your permission for your child to take part in this study. In this information letter, you will find details about the research, how we ensure your child's privacy, and how you can provide consent.

**NB!** We made a video explaining everything about KLAS. Scan the QR code to watch the video or visit the following link: <https://klas.sites.uu.nl/voorouders/>. Here, you will also find this information letter in different languages. Feel free to visit our website for more details.



### What is the goal of the KLAS project?

The KLAS project aims to understand how teachers can ensure that all students, regardless of their social and cultural backgrounds, have equal opportunities in school. We study how teachers can enhance students' motivation, engagement, and academic performance. The results of our research will help teachers improve their teaching for students from diverse backgrounds. Your child's participation is important to achieving this goal.

### How is the research conducted?

In grades 6, 7, and 8, a researcher from Utrecht University will visit your child's classroom once (Spring 2025, Winter 2026, Fall 2026). During this visit, your child will complete a questionnaire about their teacher's instruction, their motivation, and engagement in class. Most questions focus on the lessons at school. A few questions also concern classmates and parents, such as: *"Which classmates receive the most explanation from the teacher?"* and *"My parents give me many choices in what I do."* Additionally, we will record a regular classroom lesson (about two hours) to analyze how the teacher interacts with the class. Your child may be visible or audible in these video recordings. Finally, we will collect your child's standardized test scores and, later, their (preliminary) school advice from the teacher. The teacher will also complete a questionnaire about their teaching approach for the whole class and individual students. The questionnaire will take approximately 45 minutes and takes place during school hours. As a token of appreciation, the class will receive a group gift.

### Privacy

One of the tasks of Utrecht University is to conduct scientific research. This is a task of general interest. That is why we are allowed to use your personal data. We handle all data *confidentially* and use them solely for scientific research. Dutch universities have strict regulations for data storage. The teacher and school will never know your child's individual answers. Teachers will only receive general feedback about the entire class. Personal information (such as your child's name) is only used to link their responses across different school years and will be deleted afterward. Video recordings are stored on a highly secured server at Utrecht University and used exclusively for research. Anonymous questionnaire data may be shared with other researchers with similar research objectives, but only in a way that ensures your child is not identifiable (e.g., excluding names and school information). The anonymous results of this study will be published in scientific journals and used in teacher education programs.



### Consent

Since your child is under 16 years old, we require your consent for their participation. It is possible to agree to the questionnaires but not to the video recording. *NB!* If you do not hand in your consent, your child will not participate and will not complete any questionnaires. Your child will then attend class as usual during the day. This may mean that your child may sometimes be (partially) in the recording. If you do not want your child to be in the recording, please complete the attached form.

We will also ask your child during the first classroom visit if they want to participate. If you or your child no longer wish to participate, you can withdraw until November 2026 by emailing us at [klas@uu.nl](mailto:klas@uu.nl). You do not need to provide a reason, and we will delete your child's data upon request. After November 2026, all personal information (name, class, and school) will be deleted, making it impossible for us to remove data afterwards.

We kindly ask you to complete the attached consent form, even if your child will not participate. We also request some background information from you (occupation and education), but providing these details is optional. This information will be handled confidentially and anonymized, just like your child's data. Your child's name is only used to link the information.

### Questions?

For more information, please visit our website: [klas.sites.uu.nl](https://klas.sites.uu.nl) or email us at [klas@uu.nl](mailto:klas@uu.nl). We are happy to provide further explanations or discuss the study with you. For complaints, please contact: [klachtenfunctionarisfetsocwet@uu.nl](mailto:klachtenfunctionarisfetsocwet@uu.nl).

Thank you in advance!

Best regards,

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and the team: Dr. Lisette Hornstra, Dr. Barbara Flunger & Dr. Heleen Pennings