

Consent form

We (Sara and Sian) are students from Linköping university, and we are hoping to complete a research project which focuses on exploring the relationship between online social interactions and adolescents' perceptions of their relationships. We would like to see if and how friendships are changing with the use of the internet, social media platforms, and messaging apps for example, but also see if there is any change to friendships offline too. We will explore whether there are any benefits or challenges to online friendships and try to discover what understandings and feelings you have about these friendships.

We would like to carry out some focus groups with those of you aged between 12 and 14. A focus group is a type of interview, where you will sit in small groups and talk about your experiences. We have some questions to ask you too, but we're mostly interested in hearing what you want to say. The focus groups shouldn't last any longer than one hour.

It is really important to us that you feel comfortable talking to us, so we'll ask you before the group discussion starts whether you are still happy to continue talking with us, and if you decide not to, that's completely ok. You can also decide to leave at any point during the group conversation. This is called your 'right to withdraw' and it's very important that you know that if you feel uncomfortable talking, or just don't want to participate anymore, you are welcome to leave at any time.

It is also very important that we respect your confidentiality, which means we will not share anything you say with anyone other than our teachers at Linköping university. We will never use your names in anything we type up either – instead, you will be given a pseudonym (a fake name) and we will not write any personal details about you, like the name of the school you go to, or the city you live in. This is all to make sure we ensure your confidentiality. It is also important that you respect the privacy of the friends and classmates you'll be talking to within the focus group, so we ask that you don't share any of the information you hear in the conversation with any other people.

Our university, Linköping University, processes your personal data. Your personal data is:

- Your name and email address
- A voice recording of our conversation

We want to process this data so we can:

- Better understand how you see the value of your relationships
- To understand how you see the benefits and challenges of online interactions for relational closeness
- To explore what might influence your views of relational closeness in your social interactions.

Information:

The personal data we collect from you will only be stored on storage services approved by Linköping university, and no one else other than Sian, Sara, our teacher Lena Sotevik, and an external examiner, will be able to access the data. Your personal data will be kept until we get a grade for our work, but we will never keep it any longer than December 31, four years after we've collected it. So, it will be deleted by 2028-12-31 at the latest.

Contact:

If you want to contact us about the study, our email addresses are:

Sian Meenan: siame054@student.liu.se

Sara Fränneby: sarfr375@student.liu.se

Consent :

Remember your 'right to withdraw' which we talked about on page one? Well, you have a right to withdraw at any time, even after the actual conversation is over. So, if you want to withdraw your consent after the focus group is over, please tell us as soon as possible. Your guardians also have the details of how to do this, so you can ask them if you need help, or you can email Sian or Sara to let us know at the email addresses above. You don't have to give us any reason, and we will stop using your data immediately. If you want to have all your data deleted, we will do so wherever we can.

So, if you're happy to take part in one of our focus groups, you can sign in the box below to give your consent to participate in the study!

I hereby consent that Linköping University processes my personal data according to the information above:

Place	Signature
Date	Name