



Subject: Information Letter – Project Homework That Works

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

This letter provides information about our research project, '[Homework That Works](#)'. My name is Lotte van Kesteren. I was trained as a primary school teacher and now work at Utrecht University. With this project, we aim to better understand what makes homework effective and how we can improve it. We ask students from grades 6, 7, and 8, their teachers, and their parents/guardians about their experiences with homework.

Your child's school is participating in our project. With this letter, we:

- Explain the purpose of the research,
- Ask for your permission for your child to participate,
- Invite you to participate as well and share your experiences with homework.

### **What is the goal of this project?**

Homework is part of children's school life, but it can cause stress for students and parents/caregivers. However, we know that homework doesn't always help with the learning of primary school students, but we don't know why. For older students, motivation and learning strategies play a role. Does this also apply to primary school students? That's what we want to investigate. Therefore, we are asking students, teachers, and parents/caregivers what they think about homework in primary education. With your help, we can better understand how homework can be improved and made more enjoyable for everyone involved.

### **What does participation look like?**

One or more colleagues from the project team will visit your child's classroom once. This visit will last a maximum of 60 minutes. During this time, your child will complete a questionnaire. The questions will cover topics such as homework behavior, motivation, learning strategies, and the role of teachers and parents.

Examples of questions include:

- *"Even without doing my homework, I can follow the lessons at school well."*
- *"My parent/guardian has explained to me why doing homework is important."*

Additionally, the teacher will be asked to estimate your child's academic performance in math, reading comprehension, and Dutch language. These assessments will **not** be based on data from the school's tracking system.

### **Sign up to participate!**

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary for both you and your child. You can stop filling out the questionnaire at any time without providing a reason.

Your child will only take part if you give permission. During the visit, your child can also decide for themselves whether they want to participate. Your child can still participate even if you choose not to participate yourself.

We ask you to fill out the consent form, even if your child is not allowed to participate. If you choose to participate yourself, you can complete a short questionnaire, which takes about 15 to 20 minutes. This questionnaire is in Dutch.

Thank you in advance for your interest and contribution to our project! With your help, we are one step closer to our goal: making homework more effective for children, parents/guardians, and teachers.

Kind regards,

Lotte van Kesteren MSc

*And team:*

*And master students:*

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This study has been approved by the Faculty Ethics Review Board – Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences (FETC-FSW) of Utrecht University. Do you have a complaint about how this study is being conducted? Please contact the FETC complaints officer at [klachtenfunctionaris-fetsocwet@uu.nl](mailto:klachtenfunctionaris-fetsocwet@uu.nl). For questions about privacy, you can contact Utrecht University's data protection officer at [privacy@uu.nl](mailto:privacy@uu.nl). Please mention the reference number: 25-0116.

### **Privacy**

We comply with privacy regulations (General Data Protection Regulation; GDPR) and the ethical guidelines of Dutch universities. This means that we handle data (results and names) carefully. Your child can only participate if both you and your child give permission. Participation is voluntary, and you can stop at any time without explanation. Personal information, such as student and school names, will only be used to create a participant code. This allows us to link the results of parents, teachers, and students together. Only the researchers have access to this data. It will be securely stored and deleted after 2025.

If you or your child later decide to withdraw from the study, the data can be deleted until the end of 2025. You can send an email to Lotte van Kesteren ([c.t.vankesteren@uu.nl](mailto:c.t.vankesteren@uu.nl)). You do not need to provide a reason, and the data will be deleted immediately. After October 2025, the names will be removed, and we will no longer be able to identify which results belong to you or your child.

Because everyone fills in a participant code, the results remain anonymous. Children's learning outcomes are collected on paper, and names are removed. These anonymous data are securely stored and cannot be traced back to a child, teacher, or parent.

The anonymous results from this study will be shared with other researchers and published in scientific journals. No one will be able to identify individual participants. The results will always be reported for the entire group, not for individual students or classes. You will receive the study results through the school.

### **Questions?**

For any questions, you can email Lotte van Kesteren ([c.t.vankesteren@uu.nl](mailto:c.t.vankesteren@uu.nl)) or visit the website: <https://huiswerkdattwerkt.sites.uu.nl>. For complaints, please email [klachtenfunctionaris-fetsocwet@uu.nl](mailto:klachtenfunctionaris-fetsocwet@uu.nl). Do you have questions about participating in the study but prefer not to speak with someone from the project team? Contact Margot van Wermeskerken ([m.m.vanwermeskerken@uu.nl](mailto:m.m.vanwermeskerken@uu.nl)). She is an independent researcher with extensive knowledge of research but is not involved in this project.