

You are invited to participate in this study. My research is interested in looking and understanding the use of social media in children and adolescents. I am also interested in how children and adolescents communicate through social media sites, how often they engage in this and whether this helps with making and maintaining friendships and relationships. It is predicted that groups with ASD will use social media more often to communicate, make relationships and maintain relationship compared to groups who are typically developing. It is further predicted that anxiety scores and autistic traits will be related to the amount of time spent using social media platforms.

In this questionnaire, approximately 20 people between the ages of 13-19 years old will be asked to complete a questionnaire that asks questions about their usage of social network sites. It will take approximately 15 minutes to complete the social media questionnaire.

There are a further two questionnaires following the Social media one. This is the Spence Children's Anxiety Scale (approximately 10 minutes to complete) and the AQ Questionnaire (approximately 10 minutes to complete). Both questionnaires are to further explore anxiety and autistic traits in relation to using social media sites. All questionnaires are voluntary and you can withdraw at any time during any question.

If you are interested in reading more about this topic then please read:

*Van Schalkwyk, G. I., Marin, C. E., Ortiz, M., Rolison, M., Qayyum, Z., McPartland, J. C., ... & Silverman, W. K. (2017). Social Media Use, Friendship Quality, and the Moderating Role of Anxiety in Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, 1-9.*

The link for this current study is provided below;

<http://www.questionpro.com/t/ANYNWZa2U8>

What is the purpose of this study?

The purpose of this study is to explore social media use in adolescents with and without Autism.

Why have I been chosen?

You have been chosen to take part in this study because you are an adolescent with or without autism who uses social media.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason.

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you decide to take part, you will be asked to fill in questionnaires on your social media usage and what you particularly like doing on social media. This questionnaire is looking at what social behaviours you do online and what relationships or friendships you form. There are a further two questionnaires to complete which will help explore anxiety and communication levels in social media use.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

There are no disadvantages. The questions are not timed and you can leave any questions blank if you don't know or don't want to answer. All information will be kept confidential and there is no pressure to complete them.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There are no immediate benefits of taking part, it is hoped that researchers can gain an insight into the use of social media in adolescent groups.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

All information collected from you will be stored, analysed and reported in compliance with the Data Protection Act (1998).

What will happen to the results of the research study?

They will be written up for a dissertation and may possibly be published as a scientific article/poster/talk. The data will not include any personal details or identifying information. All information collected from you will be stored, analysed and reported in compliance with the Data Protection Act (1998).

Who has reviewed the study?

MCS Ethics Committee

MCS-UG-PSY-Bell-27-05-17

Contact for further information

If you require any further information, please contact:

Kayleigh Bell

University of the West of Scotland,

High Street,

Paisley,

PA1 2BE

UK

Telephone:

Email address: B00312118@studentmail.uws.ac.uk

Dr Karri Gillespie-Smith

Lecturer in Psychology

University of the West of Scotland,

High Street,

Paisley,

PA1 2BE

UK

Telephone:(+44) 0141 849 4020

Email address: karri.gillespie-smith@uws.ac.uk