

Appendix 9a

Letter and consent form for pupils to take part in the group interview

School address

Date

Dear...

Thank you for taking part in my research project, which has been approved by University procedures, and for volunteering to meet with me in a small group to discuss your responses to the questionnaire in more detail. The experiences that you are able to share with me may be very important in enabling teachers to provide a better transition package for pupils wishing to return to mainstream education after having been in hospital.

I will meet with you in school on (date to be arranged). I should like to record the discussion that takes place between us. I shall be the only person to listen to the recording and the transcript I make of the recording will observe full confidentiality. You must also regard anything that you hear in the discussion as confidential.

There will be no right or wrong answers to the questions that I may ask and you will only have to tell me as much as you want. You do not have to answer all my questions, you may leave the discussion at any time and you may ask for parts of the discussion not to be used in the writing of my report. You may also ask to read any part of the report in which data from the discussion is used.

Please ask your parents/guardian to sign the attached consent form and return to (name of mainstream teacher) by (date to be arranged).

I look forward to meeting with you.

Yours sincerely

Tricia Waples (Miss)

Research project consent form

I give consent for my son/daughter* to meet with Tricia Waples

Student's full name: _____ Form: _____

Signed: _____ (Parent/Guardian*)

Date: _____

**Delete as applicable*

Appendix 9b

Group interview schedule

Interview schedule;

What did you think to the questionnaire?

Why did you choose the captions that you did?

Could you explain why you have chosen different/same captions for the cartoons representing the three characters?

Could you explain why you have kept/changed your responses as you found out more about Bee?

What is your understanding of experiencing mental health problems?

What do you think causes mental health problems?

What might happen if someone is said to have mental health problems/illness?

What might you see/notice? How might they behave?

What is your understanding of a psychotic breakdown?

Where did you get these ideas?

What do you think about the way mental health problems are portrayed on the T.V.?

How do you think that knowing/not knowing someone who is or has experienced mental health problems has influenced your attitudes?

Why do you use the words... to describe someone experiencing mental health problems?

Why do you think your friends would use such words as... to describe someone experiencing mental health problems?

Appendix 9c

Extract from annotated group interview transcript-

Interviewer /pupil	<p>...in this section I look at the young people's understanding of a mental health problem and how the group process enables the participants to explore their ideas and to challenge each other.... key words</p>	Notes
interviewer	<p>All of you said that you understand what experiencing a mental health problem meant. Could you explain to me what it means to each of you to hear that someone has experienced a mental health problem?</p>	<p>depression was mentioned more than any other mhp but I question whether the young people understand the impact it can have on the 'sufferer's' life - or do they mean sad?</p>
pupil	<p>It can be lots of things can't it, like depression, sometimes it's a bigger deal than others so I don't assume too much when I hear that someone has a mental health problem. Might be something that has happened to their state of mind or it, they might not be a freak, or it might be something that they can get over or something that they can live with.</p>	<p>they use the word 'freak' a word I class as derogatory - none of them had mentioned it in the questionnaire</p>
interviewer	<p>I am interested in something that I thought I heard you say. What do you mean by "they might not be a freak"</p>	<p>culture</p>
pupil	<p>Lots of connotations - that's one of the phrases you associate with... I don't think that's fair because it can mean all sorts of things, having mental health problems.</p> <p>I think that its just that people don't encounter other people that have mental health problems or like everyday so it's an immediate phrase that they turn to like freak and stuff because they don't understand.</p>	<p>judgemental</p> <p>Personal experiences</p> <p>they appear to understand that there is a broad range of mhps and that words can have more than one meaning</p>
interviewer	<p>I wouldn't have a problem with them it just depends what sort of mental health problem it was</p> <p>We have heard the word depression and you have all said that mental health problems could be many different things, but can you name any mental health problems?</p>	<p>degrees of tolerance with respect to different mhps</p>
pupil	<p>Schizophrenia. My uncle has got epilepsy.</p>	<p>this young person would appear to have varying degrees of tolerance with respect to different mhps</p> <p>this pupil is challenged by the other members of the group for considering</p>

	<p>But is that mental? It does effect your brain or something</p> <p>Yeah but epilepsy is a medical condition rather than a mental one</p> <p>Is it different?</p> <p>Yeah</p> <p>You can have fits and stuff</p> <p>Yeah but that's not really mental, you can't see depression on a brain scan</p>	<p>epilepsy as a mhp (Krueger 1994)</p> <p>one pupil considers epilepsy as physical because it can be detected on a scan - it seems that they understand a mhp as not being visual in any form - making a diagnosis difficult</p>
interviewer	You have named depression and schizophrenia' any more?	
pupil	I don't know if this is one but is a hypochondriac considered as having a mental health problem maybe?	
interviewer	What do you mean by a hypochondriac?	
pupil	Someone who imagines they have problems or something	<p>Medical versus mental?</p> <p>Imagination/real/truth? signals?</p>
interviewer	What do you mean by imagined?	
	They think that they are ill all the time or something - they see something and they have it.	
	Things like eating disorders are mental health problems because you can think you are like over weight but you're actually not and like you can have that thing where you think that you are really ugly but you're not - bodydismorphic syndrome?	
	Different sorts of depression, when you're pregnant - I was just thinking of that thing when you have just had a baby and stuff.....	<p>group interview allows for open discussion and exploration of ideas</p> <p>an interesting concept - is a mhp imagined or real - as a group they seem to have a good idea of the names of some of the most common mhps - again alluded to imagining/not real - depression mentioned yet again - do they understand when sadness becomes depression?</p>

Appendix 9d

Questionnaire responses of the three pupils who participated in the group interview

Cartoon captions



	Aay	Bee	Cee
Cartoon 1	Aay is putting her hand up	Bee is asking for help	Cee is asking for help
	Aay is putting her hand up	Bee is working for her GCSEs	Cee is working for her GCSEs
	Aay is asking for help	Bee is asking for help	Cee is asking for help
Cartoon 2	The teacher is giving Aay a maths book	Bee is getting extra maths work to help her catch up	Cee is getting extra maths work to help her catch up
	Aay is talking to her maths teacher	Bee is handing in her maths homework	Cee is handing in her maths homework
	Aay is talking to his maths teacher	The teacher is giving Bee a maths book	Cee is getting extra maths work to help him catch up
Cartoon 3	Aay is sitting down by herself	Bee is sitting down by herself	Cee is sitting down by herself
	Aay is sitting down by herself	Bee is sitting down by herself	Cee is sitting down by herself
	Aay is sitting down by himself	Bee is lonely as he has no friends	Cee is sitting down by himself
Cartoon 4	Aay is not listening	Bee is covering up her ears	Cee is covering up her ears
	Aay is playing a game	Bee is covering up her ears	Cee is covering up her ears
	Aay is not listening	Bee is not listening	Cee is not listening
Cartoon 5	A girl is threatening Aay	A girl is threatening Bee	A girl is threatening Cee
	A girl is threatening Aay	A girl is threatening Bee	A girl is threatening Cee
	A boy is threatening Aay	A boy is picking on Bee	A boy is pointing at Cee
Cartoon 6	Aay is bullying a girl	Bee is bullying a girl	Cee is bullying a girl
	Aay is bullying a girl	Bee is bullying a girl	Cee is bullying a girl
	Aay is bullying a boy	Bee is messing around	Cee is bullying a boy

Social distance scale

Would you be prepared to...	Yes	No	Don't know
sit next to Aay in class?	3		
lend Aay a C.D.?	1	1	1
go home with Aay?	2		1
have Aay in your group of friends?	3		
have Aay as your best friend?	1	1	1
Would you be prepared to... (limited information)			
sit next to Bee in class?	2		1
lend Bee a C.D.?	1	1	1
go home with Bee?	1	1	1
have Bee in your group of friends?	2		1
have Bee as your best friend?	1	1	1
invite Bee to your home?	1	1	1
Would you be prepared to... (additional information regarding diagnosis)			
sit next to Bee in class?	3		
lend Bee a C.D.?	1	1	1
go home with Bee?	1	1	1
have Bee in your group of friends?	3		
have Bee as your best friend?	2		1
invite Bee to your home?	2		1

Familiarity Scale

Statement	Yes	No	Don't know
I understand what is meant by mental health problems	3		
I know the difference between experiencing mental health problems and learning difficulties	3		
I have watched a T.V. programme (documentary, soap, films etc) that included someone experiencing mental health problems	2	1	
I know/knew someone who is/was experiencing mental health problems	2	1	

Words or phrases

Words I might use to describe someone who has experienced a mental health problem and has returned to school	Words I might expect other pupils at my school to use to describe someone who has experienced a mental health problem and has returned to school
Brave In need of support Getting her life back on track Has had a problem but has now sorted it out He seems OK	Disabled Weirdo Looney Most would describe her as having had a problem but has now sorted it out Difficult Weird