



Young people's Research Ethics Committees: Educating Science, Citizenship and Ethics

Young REC



YoungREC....

is a two year project which will teach young people more about science and citizenship by training them as a research ethics committee and then presenting them with material developed from actual REC application forms (past and present) submitted by scientists.



Young REC Objectives:

- to prepare young people for decision making in a REC framework;
- to teach young people about biomedical science through involvement in research ethics decision-making processes;
- to help teachers support their students when discussing scientific issues and their social and ethical implications;
- to show parents, school peers and teachers how decisions are made in biomedical research and its governance;
- to illustrate to scientists and REC members the value of listening to other people's views about ethical issues;



Young REC objectives:

- to prepare scientists and REC members for discussion with young people about ethical issues;
- to produce resources in collaboration with students and teachers that are useful for other schools;
- to produce training resources, in collaboration with scientists and REC members, that can be used nationally;
- to suggest ways that students' voices might be heard in the REC process in the future, locally and nationally.

The Children

- Year 8 (12-13 year old) pupils
- Four comprehensive schools:
 - Two 11-18 mainstream
 - One 11-18 C of E
 - One 11-16 mainstream
- Four classes of 25-30 children
- 12 training lessons
- 1 REC session in the university

The REC Training

- key ethical theories
- approaches to ethical dilemmas
- examples of conflict:
 - confidentiality
 - anonymity (proxy) consent,
 - autonomy
 - beneficence
 - non-malificence
 - justice



The Young REC Process

- Training the school pupils
- Identifying the collaborating scientists
- Working as a REC
- Evaluation
- Dissemination

Audiences

- Young people, their families and peers
- Teachers - 11-16, post-compulsory, HE
- LEA Advisers
- Scientists
- REC members - local and national



Young REC Dissemination

- Presentations to science community, including HE
- Teacher in-service training and resources
- Workshops for REC members
- Academic conferences and publications

Young REC - a collaborative, interdisciplinary project



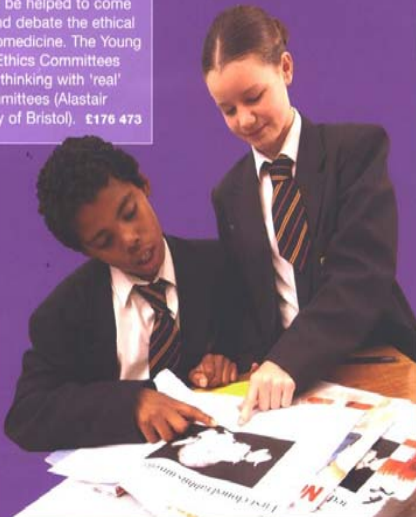
- education;
- ethics;
- childhood studies;
- research and development;
- science communication.

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YOUNG PEOPLE'S RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

In an innovative project in Bristol, groups of school pupils will be helped to come together, discuss and debate the ethical issues relating to biomedicine. The Young People's Research Ethics Committees will then share their thinking with 'real' research ethics committees (Alastair Campbell, University of Bristol). £176 473



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Professor Kathy Sykes
Dr Linda Baggott la Velle+
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Young REC is a collaborative, interdisciplinary project over two years. Starting in September 2005, the project will teach young people more about science and citizenship by training them as a research ethics committee and then presenting them with material developed from actual REC application forms (past and present) submitted by researchers in the field of medicine. The deliberations of the Young Research Ethics Committees will be subject to qualitative analysis for what they might reveal of the development of moral reasoning in this group.



Asthma proposal



Lung Function and Bronchial Responsiveness in children aged 8 years

Comparative cohort study of metacholine-induced bronchoconstriction challenge to measure lung function in asthmatic and non-asthmatic 8-year old children.

Young Research Ethics Committees given:

- Copy of proposal
- Consent Sheet
- Copy of Letter to GP
- Information Sheet for Parents/Carers
- Information Sheet for Children

Asked to discuss and decide to a) approve, b) approve with minor amendments, c) refer for major revision or d) reject.

Anaemia Proposal

Aim: to create tissue typed, genetically tested and selected embryos to be used in IVF to produce a live offspring whose stem cells and other tissues/organs may be used in the treatment of a sibling who has the disease *Zeta Type X Anaemia*.

Young Research Ethics Committees given:

- Copy of proposal
- Information and Consent Sheet
- Information Sheet

Asked to discuss and decide to a) approve, b) approve with minor amendments, c) refer for major revision or d) reject.

YREC Decisions

YRECs Decisions

