INFORMATION LETTER FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN PARTICIPATING IN THE QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

February 2014

Dear parent,

Invitation to take part

Net Children Go Mobile is a two year study supported by the European Commission's Safer Internet Programme. It is designed to provide new evidence about children's use of mobile internet. The project is led by the Catholic University of Milan (Italy) and includes partners in the UK (LSE), Denmark (IT University) and Romania. Ireland has been invited to join the study under the support from Dublin Institute of Technology, Department of Education and Skills, and Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

This leaflet explains more about the project and asks you for your consent for your child to take part in the "Net Children Go Mobile" study

What is the "Net Children Go Mobile" survey?

The research will be conducted as part of the Net Children Go Mobile investigation of children's use of mobile internet devices, divides in usage and skills, the incidence and nature of risks and safety associated with mobile internet. The aim is to gain an insight into the online experiences, opportunities, risks and safety of children aged **9-16 years old** and living in different European countries.

More specifically, this new project is aimed at understanding whether the changing conditions of internet access and use – namely, via convergent mobile media, such as smartphones and tablets - bring greater or lesser risks to **children's online safety**. This will provide the basis for developing effective e-safety measures in each country.

The project aims to identify and disseminate key evidence- based recommendations relevant to the development of safety awareness initiatives in Ireland. The information gathered will be the base for advancing children use of ICT, for taking action to improve and to promote online opportunities and a safer internet environment.

What will happen if I agree that my child can take part?

This research runs in March and April 2014 if you agree to your child taking part in this research, please mark the answer on the consent form. The focus group discussion/ individual interview will implement within the school's vicinity, under the facilitation of our member of the research team.

How will the information be used?

The results will only be presented for the whole group of children and no children or families will be named or identified in the report. All information will be held in the confidence of the research team and **no identifying information on individual children or families will be reported or published.**

The findings will directly contribute to education and awareness raising within Ireland's Action Plan on Bullying.

Who are the research team members?

The Net Children Go Mobile network works closely with the EC Safer Internet Programme (http://www.netchildrengomobile.eu/) and an International Advisory Panel of experts in child psychology, internet safety, education and policy-making.

The Irish research team is part of Net Children Go Mobile network of researchers and policy makers in 6 European countries. They have worked with and researched children national and international and they have been trained to study young people. The team includes:

- Dr. Brian O'Neill, Principle Investigator, Head School of Media, Dublin Institute of Technology.
- Dr. Thuy Dinh, post-doctoral research fellow, Centre for Social and Educational Research, Dublin Institute of Technology.

If you have any questions about the project or the survey you can contact Dr. Brian O'neill, at 01-4023038 (brian.oneill@dit.ie) and/or: Dr. Thuy Dinh at 01- 402 4173 (thuy.dinh@dit.ie)

The project has been approved by the DIT Research Ethics Committee. For any complaints about the project ethics, you can contact Rafaella Salvante at 01- 4027529 or raffaella.salvante@dit.ie

For any additional information on the project, please consult the website.

Thank you for your time and support