

Key Hints for Researchers

It is important to recognise that conducting research in Independent schools is different to working with Government or systemic Catholic schools. Authority for participating in research stays with the Principal or Head of each school and approval needs to be sought directly with them.



Follow school processes to approve participation – in a majority of cases this will require sign off by the school Principal.



Provide adequate detail – provision of clear, succinct and detailed information about your research can assist schools in deciding whether to participate in your research.



Ensure ethical clearance – the sensitive nature of school environments makes ethical clearance essential. Where possible obtaining ethics and having all documentation ready prior to connecting with a school is beneficial.



Communicate benefits – provide clarity about how the school will benefit from participation, outputs, outcomes and impacts.



Review design – consider participatory design elements to ensure school voice and opportunities for educators to take part in conducting the research.



Collaborate – consider opportunities for schools to contribute to the research focus, including the development of research questions and participation in data analysis.



Engage with context – know your schools before approaching them. Independent Schools are unique entities. Use the AISNSW School Finder to assist - <https://www.aisnsw.edu.au/finding-a-nsw-independent-school>



Share – work with the school team to develop a strategy for regularly sharing knowledge gained from the research to stakeholders through the project and at its conclusion. Consider collaborating on these outputs.